



## Zac goes commercial

Artwork mastered by local spray-can artist Zac Price has rejuvenated an ugly fence facing Nimbin's western carpark.

Lifestyle Real Estate agent Peter Robinson said, "A big thank you to Zac for his creative spirit!"

Other exemplary works by Zac include the eye-catching exterior walls of Nimbin's public toilet block.

Zac can produce murals and large-scale designs on demand. Phone him on 0456-043-818 to discuss your project.

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# Nimbin District ANZAC Day 2016

by Paul Le Bars

The 2016 ANZAC Day dawn service was well attended with some 80 people turning up. It was an intimate and moving service.

The commemorative address given by RAAF WAC Elaina Elder-Robinson was deep and heartfelt. This was the second dawn service in living memory, and given the increased attendance on last year, I see it as a permanent fixture for future ANZAC Days.

The ANZAC march and commemorative service attracted over 300, and even though we had few veterans, many marched with the medals of their kin from WWI though to the almost present day. The parade was led by RAAF WAC Elaina Elder-Robinson followed by the flag bearers from Nimbin RFS, and representation from Nimbin Central School, Coffee Camp Public School and Trinity Catholic College with many other joining on their kin's behalf.

Rev. Grant Andrews from the Salvation Army gave some heartfelt and sobering words of sacrifice, remembrance and respect followed by the prayer of remembrance, then followed by Taita Thaiday-Shinn with the poem For the Fallen. This year's stirring and thoughtful commemorative address was given by Darren Butcher from the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

Wreaths and flowers were laid followed by a reading by Nimbin Central School-School Captain, Nathan Ruggery. The Last Post and Reveille was beautifully played by Petria Dean. Light refreshments were provided by the Nimbin Hotel and two-up followed, with some big wins.



This annual event grows in numbers and respect, and it is our wonderful community that makes each ANZAC Day a memorable event. This year a new battery-powered PA donated by Peter and Janet Robinson was used, and it works a treat.

Missing this year was our resident piper,

James Alexander who regularly heads the parade with his haunting melodic bagpipes and performs the Pipers Lament at the service. Thank James for help in finding a pre-recorded lament, but you beat them hands down. We all wish you all the best in your recovery.

"Lest We Forget"

## Are Drugs in Control of You?

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team

**Bloody hell** it's hot and I can't sleep, my mind is racing, got so much to do tomorrow. I need it to stop so I can get a good night's sleep. I'll just have another cone to calm me down. That, on top of the Xanax I had before, should put me out for the night.

**I'm awake** and it's only 3am, AAAHHHHHHH! Wish I could get back to sleep! Maybe I'll have a cup of hot chocolate. No, maybe a cone would help, or maybe I'll have one of those valiums I have in the drawer next to the bed. That should put me back to sleep. Big day in Lismore tomorrow and need my sleep.

**WOW** it's morning

**already?!** Got so much to do but I'm so tired! I SO NEED A COFFEE! May as well have a joint with this coffee. Coffee and joints go so well together and it's a nice mellow way to start the day.

**Man** I dread having to go into Lismore, I shouldn't have put it off, and just got it over and done with last week. I really wanted to do the garden today 'cause it's starting to get out of control. I'll just go have a cone then I'll head off. Lismore's always easier to deal with after a few billies.

**So here I am** in Lismore! If only I had a joint, that would

**certainly make my tasks easier.** I'll just keep my eyes out in case I see someone I know who might have some - never know your luck in a big city 'ay!

**Geez** that was lucky bumping into Skeeta, and even extra lucky that he knew someone who we could get some wizz off - now I'll be able to do that gardening when I get home after all. Hope he hurries up though, I hate waiting around.

**Man** it's good to finally be home. Probably shouldn't have skipped those last few chores in Lismore but once I get this into me I'll be able to do the gardening.

**WOW** it's midnight already, I forgot to eat, but man the house looks good now that I've given it a bit of a clean. Skeeta's wizz was pretty good 'ay. Bit late to do the garden though, maybe tomorrow. Might sit down and have a few well earned cones and a cold bevvie.

**In bed** but can't sleep! Feel so totally exhausted and have been tossing and turning for ages. I've smoked nearly all the rest of my ounce. Man that was supposed to last me all week! Maybe I'll see how many valiums are left and pop a few of them so I can get some sleep.

### WARNING SIGNS

- Drugs are the first thing you consume when you get out of bed in the morning
- Can't sleep without drugs
- Need to take drugs before you leave home
- You take drugs to help you do the housework/chores
- You make excuses to use more drugs
- You skip meals for drugs/alcohol
- You spend a lot of your day thinking, finding, taking and talking about drugs.

If this sounds like you, you may have a drug dependence issue, meaning that you are dependent on drugs to function.

### For Help to put YOU back in control...

If you want to talk about getting back control, you can ring Riverlands on 66 207 608 and make an appointment with the AOD counsellor or the Cannabis Clinic counsellor who both come to Nimbin each week.

You can also make an appointment with the Nurse Practitioner based at

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, by ringing 6689 1497.

If you think your amphetamine (or Crystal meth) use is out of control and want to reign it in you can also call the Stimulant Treatment Line on 1800 101 188.

It's all free and confidential.

## Veterans Info Day

A Veterans' Information Outreach Day will be held at Nimbin Bowling Club from 10am to 12pm on Friday 20th May.

Members of Lismore RSL Sub-branch will be informing the wider veteran community on:

- The role of the RSL and volunteering,
- Pension entitlements across three

legislations and how this affects you as a veteran and ex serving member of the Defence Force,

- Access to medical and service documents through Department of Defence,
- Welfare needs: VVCS, DefenceCare, treatment cards for certain mental conditions, referrals to psychiatrists and home care requirements.

## Save energy, save money

by Theresa Biscoe

The Chamber of Commerce had its first general meeting with members on 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Rainbow Power Company in Alternative Way.

Paul from Rainbow Power Company opened the evening with a brief discussion of his organisation, and then how the Nimbin Sustainability Plan related to local members. A large part of this discussion was focussed on how an energy audit could not only reduce energy use and improve energy efficiency. It could also create substantial savings in energy costs as a result. Paul then informed the group that Rainbow Power Company offered a free energy use audit for all local businesses and organisations.

The various chamber committee members then presented aspects of the Chamber Action Plan as developed via the Sustainability Forum with an overview from the Chamber President. Of considerable interest to the meeting was the special business rate levy

variation administered by LCC, funds can be applied for via the Chamber, and discussion centred around the most effective use of the funding.

Stakeholders from the various major upcoming developments in Nimbin, (Supermarket, Cubes Motel, Rainbow & Museum), gave a brief on the current stage of the development. A number of members present expressed considerable concern and frustration about the lack of community consultation in the planning process and the increasing pressure this will create on infrastructure already at capacity with current local and visitor use.

The chamber is considering a request from Nimbin Community Centre to support a project to provide solar powered under-awning lighting and lighting to illuminate our beautiful murals beginning with the school side of Cullen Street. The costs are substantial, but government funding may be available to offset the costs. There would have to

be a commitment from the chamber if we supported this project, and so we are examining the options and would love some feedback from the community. The Chamber recognises that if it is to achieve the aspirations of the Action Plan it will take the participation of the whole community in the process, so we would like to see the formation of action groups of interested parties from the wider community.

Please contact the Chamber if you have interest in becoming part of a focus group. Local members of the chamber will also have the resources of the NSW Chamber as part of our membership. There is lots of information and resources available to support businesses.

The next general meeting will be in June and advertised via the *GoodTimes*. Please join us if you are an organisation or business in our community. It is our collective efforts that have made Nimbin such a special place and will continue to do so.



# Aquarius folk wanted for soundtrail

Lismore City Council is calling on people who attended or were involved in the 1973 Aquarius Festival to be part of the new Nimbin Aquarius Soundtrail audio walk being launched this year.

Audio documentary producer Jeanti St Clair (pictured) is currently interviewing and recording the stories of people who attended the festival, and is inviting anyone she has not yet spoken with to get in touch.

"We want the Soundtrail audio walk to be a rich and varied audio experience, and for that we need lots of voices and people with different memories of the time, and how the festival affected them and the village," said Jeanti, who also works a journalism lecturer at Southern Cross University, said.

"We'd love people to participate and tell us their stories and memories of the Aquarius Festival, an event that is unique to the time and the political environment of the day."

Jeanti is also interviewing Nimbin locals, Indigenous elders and New Settlers about life in Nimbin for the Soundtrail audio walk.

"The Aquarius Festival was a seminal moment in the alternative movement of the 70s, so we also want to hear stories



of its legacy, of how it transformed Nimbin," she said.

Accessed via the Soundtrails app, the immersive audio walk will tell the story of Nimbin, and is enabled by GPS technology.

Visitors will download the Nimbin Aquarius Soundtrail to their smartphone or iPad, and then follow the map to different sites within the village, as a rich soundtrack of memories, voices, myths and archival footage plays through their headphones.

The Soundtrail content is being

created using original compositions and local voices, bringing to life the history of the village and its transformation during and since the Aquarius Festival.

Lismore City Council hopes to launch the Nimbin Aquarius Soundtrail in October. To get involved or find out more, visit the Nimbin Soundtrail Facebook page, phone the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre on 6689-1388 or email: [nimbinsoundtrail@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinsoundtrail@gmail.com)

Other Soundtrail walks can be heard at: [soundtrails.com.au](http://soundtrails.com.au)

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## Connected seniors



In early April, local over-50s were offered the chance to try something new for free in the *Stay Active, Stay Connected* program of activities delivered by local tutors and trainers as an initiative of Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services.

A variety of activities have been trialled by nearly a hundred participants: Exploring Art with Carole Barrett, Tai chi for Beginners with Melissa, 50+ Gentle Exercise with Cassandra Jeffreys and Music & Mindfulness with Arne from B-Well.

The free Future Planning Seminar was well attended.

The Skype School class and the 1-2-1 Device Advice sessions are fully booked and will roll out in May, helping to build digital capacity amongst our seniors.



## Cilla the Shepherd returns

by Peter O'Loughlin

Cilla, a 12 year old female German Shepherd belonging to 90-year old Lorna Benson has returned safely to her owner after being lost for five weeks.

Newly arrived from the Central Coast, Cilla left her bushland home near Cawongla without her collar and ID tag when she chased a car which she thought was

leaving with Lorna in it.

While Lorna was in Cairns for a family wedding, her niece rang to say that Cilla had been found safe and well by Greg Mathes of Gabal Road, Lillian Rock, on his porch when he returned from a six-week vacation. She was skinny but otherwise in good health.

Lorna returned from Cairns and was happily reunited with Cilla.



Demolition work in progress inside the Bush Theatre in April

## Theatre renovations

Folks who attended the recent film and music events at the Bush Theatre will have seen for themselves some of the transformation that's currently taking place there.

Venue Manager, David Hyett has visions for the iconic Bush Theatre that he's in the midst of realising. In order to improve the overall capacity of the venue for a wider range of events, the old tiered seating has been temporarily removed.

Once the Theatre has been painted and decorated, the seating arrangement will be rejuvenated, including the possibility of foldable 'bleachers' for cinema and tables for theatre restaurant reviews.

David thanks everyone for their patience.



## DJ Club at Djanbung

After a few small gatherings and a lot of interest, we are launching the monthly DJ club at Djanbung Gardens as an Open DJ Night, with decks open from 5pm and Abundance Café open from 5.30-8pm.

We are inviting all DJs and dance music lovers to this fun event the 4th Friday of every month, starting on Friday 27th May.

DJs are welcome to come and play a set of their music of choice, original or just what's really hitting your groove at the moment, swap music, talk

about events, listen to some good music and have some fun!

If you're not a DJ but love to listen, then come for some dinner, to dance and enjoy – and bring your fire toys to twirl on the meadow.

Also the Djanbung Gardens annual Open Day is coming up on Saturday 11th June with lots of workshops, tours, displays and live music.

Abundance Café and Djanbung Gardens are located at 74 Cecil St Nimbin, just 300m past the showground. Phone 6689-1755.

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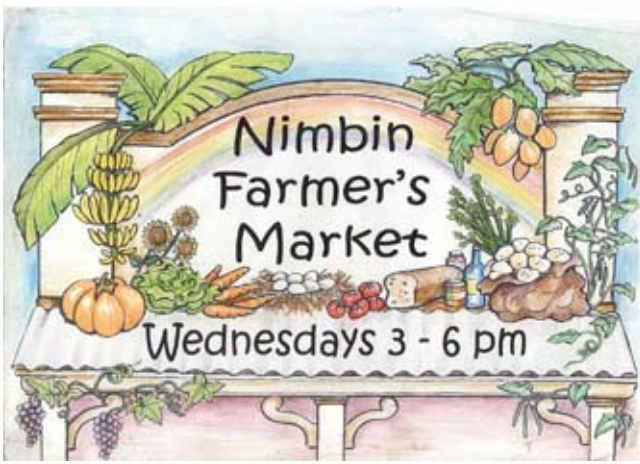
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# Harness the power of your preferences

In the coming federal election there are a few things you can do to amplify your political voice, and one of those is being smart with your preferences. Thanks to the recent senate voting reforms, it is you the individual voter (not backroom party officials) who now gets to decide where your preferences go whether you vote above or below the line, and in the lower house contests of Richmond and Page preferences will hold the key to who actually gets elected.

But first to the issues. The two-party system has provided us with a revolving door of governments and local members from the two major political parties (LNP and Labor). Whilst there are significant differences between LNP and Labor on some issues, (health, welfare, education, workplace rights and emissions trading to name a few big ones) there are other issues where the more the governments change, the more things stay the same.

Neither major party will commit to establishing a Federal Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), neither major party will support ending the corrupting practice of taking political donations from fossil fuel companies or from the pharmaceutical, gambling and alcohol industries. Both major parties have had their successive turns at government and neither has seriously tackled multinational corporate tax avoidance, or tax minimising millionaires and both support offshore detention of refugees. To get movement on these big



by Aidan Ricketts

issues, voters need to stir up politics by voting for smaller parties and independents. These are all issues that the Greens and independents like Andrew Wilkie and Cathy McGowan have strong policies on.

The preferential voting system allows you to vote for a smaller party, and then if they aren't elected, your vote carries through to the major party you prefer with exactly the same numerical value it would have had as a first preference vote. That is to say, your vote will be worth exactly 'one' when it is finally distributed to a successful candidate. So there's no danger in putting smaller parties ahead.

There is a big potential benefit though in voting for smaller parties. This election is looking like being close and we all know how important it is, that whoever forms government does not gain control of the Senate. With the new Senate voting reforms, you can vote for the smaller party or parties of your choice in the order of your choice and you can leave the major party that you loathe the most completely off your preference list. This will ensure that party simply cannot benefit from your vote.

In a close election the more Greens and independents that gain lower house seats the more numerically likely it becomes that whoever forms government (Labor or LNP) will need to rely on the support of Greens and independents to form government and pass legislation. This happened during the Gillard years and that parliament had an impressive legislative record on issues like climate change; National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Gonski school funding to name a few. Having crossbenchers holding the balance of power enlivens the parliament and holds the big parties to account. It's actually how our parliament was designed to work before the advent of major parties.

There are already several independents in the federal parliament who are likely to be returned, and the Greens already have one seat and are a good chance at gaining several more. The Northern Rivers seat of Richmond is one of those seats where the Greens stand a decent chance of winning the seat, and potentially gaining a voice in a balance of power situation. Richmond voters can use their preferences to vote for historic change whilst still making a

secondary choice as to which major party they prefer if it comes down to that. In Page, your preferences very much count as well, and there is no doubting that the seat will be decided on Green preferences. Any way you look at it, using your preferences wisely allows you to make more than one statement about the changes you want and the outcome you prefer. A second preference is worth just as much as a first preference once it's passed along so you really don't have to vote for a major party unless that is genuinely your personal first choice.

In the lower house make sure you number every square; in the senate you can list 6 or more preferences above the line or 12 or more below the line. Check to make sure you are still enrolled as well, as the rolls will close very soon.

Big shifts can happen if the smaller parties gain balance of power in both houses, and it is becoming more and more a realistic possibility. A federal ICAC would be a good reform for years to come, but it can only happen if the major parties don't run the show after the federal election. It's up to you.

# Google's 259 ranking signals explained

by Russell Lean

So what is Web 2?

The best way to explain is this. Prior to 2006 we were in a Web 1 environment. The internet was still static and not interactive. In 2006 a lot happened. YouTube started and was purchased by Google. Facebook and Twitter launched in 2006 and social media skyrocketed. Tumblr launched in 2007. Instagram and Pinterest launched in 2010, making photo sharing social, and Snapchat launched in 2011. Tinder (social dating) and Vine launched in 2012. We are now in a completely interactive and social internet where we can share pictures, sound, video and text socially and seamlessly from any device - *voila* Web 2. In fact we are probably in about Web 4 by now.

In Web 1 days, you published a website with relevant keywords and information, and you ranked in Google. It was simple. Today, Google do not rely totally on what you say about your website or business. Rather, they rely on what other people say about you. If people online like you, Google will too, and will rank you accordingly. Google rely on over 250 "ranking signals" from all over the internet to determine your *authority* in your business niche, and then place you in search results accordingly.

So what are the "ranking signals"? There are ten categories and I will mention a couple from each.

There are domain signals - including your website age, if in Australia do you have a .com.au, domain name, does your main keyword appear in your domain name.

Page level signals - do your page titles and descriptions meet Google best practice, are images optimized properly to appear in Google image search, do titles and descriptions contain relevant industry keywords.

Site level signals - Is the site mobile ready, does it have good navigation, do you have a video on your site, does the site have social media capabilities.

Backlink signals - who links to your site, how authoritative are those sources, how well set up are the websites that link to yours.

User interaction signals - do people leave your site after visiting the home page without navigating further, do people visit again and again, have they bookmarked your site and come directly from that bookmark or favoured site (this is called direct traffic).

Social signals - number of Facebook likes your Facebook page has, number of Pinterest PINS (photos from your website that are shared socially), Number of times Facebook users shared information from your Facebook page.

Brand signals - does your business have a LinkedIn profile, has business address been verified with Google My Business and have an active Google+ page.

Then there are other signals broken up into - onsite and offsite webspam signals and special algorithm signals. You can read the whole list on our website on the "First page in Google" page at: [www.convert-web2mobile.com.au/-1-in-google](http://www.convert-web2mobile.com.au/-1-in-google) Just scroll down until you see the ranking factors infographic.

It's a lot to take in. This is search engine optimization (SEO). These things need to be addressed over time if you want to be number one in your niche. If you are the only business in your industry in your town it won't matter much, because you will probably be number one in Google. However, if you have competition, whichever business addresses these signals fully over time will dominate Google Page 1 for local business search.

I will be conducting seminars in online best practice through LEXSA at Southern Cross University in the coming months at the Gold Coast and Lismore campuses and I will publish those dates in this space as the dates get closer. If we can assist your business to dominate your niche in Google, call 0468-382-600, or email: [web2trafficstrategies@gmail.com](mailto:web2trafficstrategies@gmail.com)



### Women's voices

Dana Mynard invites you to a six-week journey of sound, healing, relaxation, meditation and movement to explore your individual voice and sound, and how you meet with the world through the unique flavour of your resonance.

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During the six weeks, we'll cover essential vocal anatomy and practise specific techniques that support opening the voice and connection with the body, developing an intimate relationship with an embodied voice connection. As a group, we'll support each other's deepening understanding of how our sound resonates with the world around us. We explore

our feminine sensitivity as we connect to the earth, and how that connection can offer peaceful strength to our throat chakra and the softness of self-love. And each week, we'll enjoy some deep relaxation.

The circle will run from Tuesday 7th June to 12th July from 7-9pm at Birth & Beyond in Nimbin. Exchange is \$80 if paid at once, or \$15/week. Commitment to the six weeks is essential, as each week will build on from the week prior. Please contact DanaLee on 0428-539-232 for info.

### Trash or treasure

A trash or treasure sale will be held on Saturday, 21st May from 9am to 1pm at the Lillifield Community Centre (next door to Barkers Vale Public School), 4505 Kyogle Road, Wadeville.

Stall space will also be available to non-residents for a \$10 fee.

Anyone wishing to book a space can phone Peter on 6689-7404 or email: [secretary@lillifield.net.au](mailto:secretary@lillifield.net.au)

Get in quickly as spaces will go fast, especially the indoor ones.

There will be a coffee and cake shop open on the day. Funds raised will go towards improvements for the Lillifield Community Centre.

### Nimbin Flix

*99 Homes* is a tense drama about the 2008 global financial crisis. A desperate construction worker reluctantly accepts a job with the ruthless real-estate broker who evicted him and his family from their home.

*99 Homes* screens Saturday 14th May. Doors open 6pm for a 6.30pm start at Birth & Beyond. Food and drink available as usual.

May is the 2nd anniversary of our community-run and owned film society. For two years we've been bringing quality films to the wonderful Nimbin community.

This also means that memberships are due for renewal this month. \$50 for the year, for a year's worth of movies, is fabulous value.

### Crowdfunding campaign

*The Art of Being* is a documentary filmed over two decades by a family living in the Nimbin Rainbow Region.

Director Shraddha Star followed a vision to make a film about peace, community and family. Combining these themes into what became an epic pilgrimage, Shraddha, Gito and their three children travel from their home in the rainforest around the world, meeting many spiritual

masters and indigenous elders along the way, who speak about the urgency for peace on earth and the need to care for our environment.

The film is documenting a family's life and the alternative community around them, taking us to home birthing in a cave, protests at peace rallies, rainbow gatherings and swimming with whales.

"We are making this film because of a deep concern for our future generations," Shraddha Star said.

*The Art of Being* team is now calling for support to raise funds for post-production and to finish this unique documentary so it can be edited and screened at international film festivals and to share this message for peace around the world.

Go to: [www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-art-of-being-movie](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-art-of-being-movie) to watch the campaign video, which also gives you glimpses of the film.

## RIP John Kaye

by Sue Stock

Dr John Kaye, a much loved and respected Greens NSW MP, died on 2nd May, aged 60, from an aggressive cancer.

John was a tireless champion for public education, a pioneer on renewable energy, a widely respected member of parliament, and a highly principled member of the Greens.

He was elected to the NSW Upper House in March 2007 where his portfolios have included education, energy, consumer affairs, water and racing and gaming.

Before entering parliament, John taught and researched electrical engineering at the University of NSW where he specialised in sustainable energy and greenhouse issues. John obtained his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

John came to Nimbin on a number of occasions, speaking at Mardi Grass in the past on drug law reform and visiting the Rainbow Power Company, discussing renewable energy issues. He worked closely with local communities against the building of a dam at Byrill Creek.

David Shoebridge MP said, "Public schools and TAFE colleges in this State are stronger, better resourced and more prominent in the national debate due to the work of Dr Kaye. We have lost a brave tireless activist, and a wise fearless mind."

Greens NSW Senator Lee Rhiannon said, "John's death is a blow for the Greens and the broader progressive movement."

"The depth of his commitment to public education, climate action and strengthening democracy was reflected in his tireless work. His strong policy work and ability to turn political analysis into broad based campaigns was outstanding," she said.



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22nd April 2016

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# From the mayor's desk

by Cr Jenny Dowell  
Lismore City Council

## Cubes

The Cubes development in Cullen Street continues to cause some angst in the community, so I thought an update would be helpful. Following a report to the Council meeting in December last year, the applicant submitted amended plans and additional information in response to the Council Resolution requiring amendments to the proposal. The amended plans and additional information were put on public exhibition during March, including letters to adjoining owners and previous objectors, Council's *Local Matters* publication and an on-site sign. As a result of this re-notification of the amended plans, 25 further submissions have been received by Council. Council staff are now reviewing the submissions, amended plans and additional information submitted by the applicant. Council staff have also requested further information from the applicant in relation to the submitted Arboricultural Report and Landscape Plan. Once this additional information has been received, Council staff will finalise their assessment and forward their

recommendation to the General Manager regarding determination of the Development Application.

## Nimbin water supply

Council has been planning for an upgrade of the Nimbin water supply for several years. The main concern was fluctuating water quality for rural customers, particularly after rain. Various options and cost estimates were considered along with their relative benefits. The design and schedule of works is expected to be finalised by the end of June. To ensure there are adequate funds set aside in the coming financial year, Councillors have endorsed a revised budget allocation of \$3.5 million for the works. Work is expected to commence by the end of this year and be complete by the end of 2017.

## Community grants

Applications for the coming financial year's Annual Community Grant Scheme close on May 16. If you did not make the information session last month, please read the guidelines on the website carefully so you can maximise your chances of success. Applications must identify a theme from Imagine Lismore that reflects the intention of the project. Grants range from \$500 to \$10,000 with increased reporting requirements for larger amounts. Access the forms via 'Community Grants' in the search bar on the Council website.

## Draft NC Regional Plan

Readers may have noticed recent publicity about the Draft North Coast Strategic Plan that is currently on exhibition for comment. The Draft plan has been

produced by the NSW Planning with little consultation and has raised the ire of many, particularly those communities and Councils inland from the coast. Lismore is particularly affected in an apparent downgrading of our city's regional status. We will be presenting a combined submission with Kyogle and Richmond Valley Councils.

## Black spot funding

Last month the latest list of Federal funded road safety projects was announced and Lismore secured eight of the 13 for the Page electorate. While five projects are in the urban area, one is on Stony Chute Road between West Road and Greens Bridge and will involve line marking, guideposts and reflectors, safety barriers and new advisory signage. At this stage I cannot provide a date by which work might commence but all are expected to be done by July 2017.

## Transfer station

Several months ago the days of operation at the Nimbin Transfer Station changed to Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9am - 3pm. The previous contractor has been replaced with a council employee effective in March, following a hand-over period. There has been an upgrade to the site with a "saw tooth" bin arrangement installed to improve safety and allow additional bins on site. This also improves traffic movements and Council is now accepting similar recovery streams as in Lismore. We are also in the process of improving security at the site and customers now get a receipt for their payments. In the near future we will have a forklift on site to assist with the handling

of larger items such as fridges.

## Election

Lismore City Council and other NR Councils will go to an election on 10 September. It is important that potential new Councillors plan for your election bid now. With only four Council meetings before the election, I encourage you to attend meetings and briefings that take place every Tuesday to familiarise yourself with Council matters.

Council is particularly in need of younger people, women and those from other under-represented groups. To stand for Council in Lismore, you need at least five candidates on your 'ticket' and a good support team. Please contact me if you have any questions.

## Dogs

There has been a spirited discussion on the Nimbin Hook-Ups Facebook page about roaming dogs, off-leash dogs and incidents of dogs biting people or other dogs.

It is the responsibility of all dog owners to ensure their dogs are kept on a leash at all times, other than in approved leash free areas. There are penalties of \$160 or more for not having your dog on a leash and allowing it to roam. It is also important to check your fences to ensure your dog cannot escape, thus also preventing it from getting injured or sick.

If you see a dog roaming unattended and it can be contained, Council Rangers will pick up the dog and ensure it is safe and returned to its owner. This service is offered between the hours of 8.30am and 3pm Monday to Friday. Alternatively, please ring 1300-878-387 and report the animal

including its description, and the Rangers will incorporate locating the dog into their patrols.

It is advisable though, if an issue has arisen with a dog, to speak to the owner first and make them aware of the matter. This gives them the opportunity to address the concerns before Council becomes involved.

If you encounter an aggressive dog and report it to Council with some information to ensure action can be taken. Please make note of the date, time and location, a description of the dog and distinguishing features e.g. red collar, white face. Please tell the Council if you know where the dog comes from and if there were witnesses to the incident.

All this information will assist Council Officers to investigate and consider legal action where deemed appropriate. It is also important for a dog owner to pick up after the dog and protect our environment from pollution.

## Leash-free area

Staff have suggested that people interested in a leash-free area for dogs in Nimbin should contact Matt Kelly, Council's Compliance Co-ordinator. Finding a suitable open space and appropriate funding is often a challenge, but Council staff would be happy to be part of exploring options if there is someone willing to make contact with Matt.

## MardiGrass

This year's MardiGrass is bound to have a different tone, with news that some Australian states have approved cannabis for medical use and are establishing farms and protocols. Last year, Michael Balderstone loaned me the book *Chasing the Scream* by Johann Hari. It's a fascinating read that examines the history and impact of the "war on drugs". It's well worth the read. To everyone in Nimbin for this year's MardiGrass, I hope you had a great time.

## Green Scene

by Jan Barham MLC

### Climate issues

New South Wales has just experienced a record-breaking heatwave and we're not alone, with global temperature records tumbling in recent years. Climate change has been talked about as a major issue for decades, yet vested interests and major political parties have held back the action we need. Now it really is an emergency.

I remember in 1992, not long after the Rio Earth Summit, when 1700 of the world's leading scientists including a majority of Nobel Laureates issued a warning that "human beings and the natural world are on a collision course" and that fundamental changes were required. That warning has stayed with me.

In my time as Mayor of Byron Shire Council, I pursued action on climate change. In 2007 after the IPCC's fourth report predicting the impacts of climate change I proposed a policy for council to direct strategic planning that embedded those risks. We also developed a Greenhouse Action Strategy to guide a whole of council response to the issue.

As a member of NSW Parliament, I introduced climate change legislation last year, just before the Paris Conference on Climate Change. The Greens' Climate Change Bill would require the Government to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 and set annual carbon

budgets that lock in the trajectory toward that target, and to develop four-year greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation plans that provide certainty to the community and business leaders. These laws would provide judicial review for the public to challenge decisions that would undermine climate action.

The Paris Agreement delivered a strong statement and is an important step toward the urgent action that is required. For the first time it endorses the need to make efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and keep warming well below 2 degrees, acknowledging that 2 degrees isn't a magic threshold below which the world is safe.

Governments and elected representatives owe a duty of care to their citizens. As a Greens MP, I know and respect the responsibility that is placed upon us to represent the interests of our communities and protect future generations from inheriting the consequences of our mistakes and failures to act.

But fulfilling the Paris goals requires dedicated action from all levels of government. Unfortunately, on 23 March the Liberal, National and Labor Parties all voted against our Climate Change Bill, which would have made every public authority a responsible partner in climate action, ensuring a whole-of-government, all-of-society approach to addressing climate change with clear public accountability. The Coalition sought to assure the Parliament they are taking action, despite the fact that they've

been holding back renewable energy investment while continuing to support more coal and gas in NSW. The ALP wanted an inquiry into the impacts, as if we don't already know the urgency of the action required, which is reinforced by the Paris Agreement.

Global warming is a growing emergency for our natural environment and biodiversity, and a threat to the health and wellbeing of our communities. It poses a foreseeable risk, but a risk that we can address if we act to reduce emissions and plan for the impacts. We should recognise the opportunity and benefits to future generations that will come from making the transition to clean energy and developing a sustainable and resilient society. Otherwise, those generations to come will be entitled to feel outraged that for decades after the scientific warnings became loud and clear, we failed in our responsibility to safeguard the future.

If we're going to deal with global warming, we need governments whose actions match their rhetoric on climate change. You can't be credible about climate action while continuing to approve new coal mines and keeping the door open to the gas industry. And you can't be taken seriously about fulfilling your duty to future generations if you're not willing to support strong laws that will ensure all governments, now and into the future, are required to reduce emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. It's time to ensure that all politicians and governments are living up to their requirements to protect the wellbeing of future generations.



### Return of the Loon

by Laurence Axtens

*"One man and his forklift went, They went to lift Clive Palmer."*

Or so the Australian football hymn goes, and soccer did lift his profile. And a significant minority of the Australian populous were alienated enough to turn off their personal shit meters and elect him and his party into parliament.

Since then, his meteoric rise has been perfectly mirrored by his meteoric descent and the loose bowel splatter of his political career.

It is said that a fool and their money are easily parted, it seems the same can be said of the demoralised voter and their vote. Almost 800,000 Australians voted for him... 800,000?

As you walk the street you'll see them, they

be cursing under their breath, "Why hasn't that money from Ethiopia been deposited into my bank account? Why hasn't Nadia from Moscow been returning my emails, I sent her the price of a plane ticket? Why have we only got a two-party system?"

Only one thing remains true: if it sounds too good to be true, it isn't true and no amount of self-hypnosis, pranik balancing, reiki or head sand burial will make your dreams a reality.

When Clive proclaimed himself the future PM didn't you think, nice joke but I'd prefer the people running the country to live somewhere outside their own rectum? No.

So what will our fellow citizens do this election? Will they return cap-in-hand to the big parties that long since deserted them? Will they vote informally under the impression that Clive was the great white hope - now lost? Would they vote 1 Clive again?

I recommend that you volunteer your time and take part in the election and in the community - be part of our democracy - don't just buy any wooden nickels from the politician in the biggest suit.



# Regional issues



by Cr Basil Cameron  
Byron Shire Council

The Draft North Coast Regional Plan ('the Plan') has been raising eyebrows with its high level 'direction'

referencing coal seam gas. Elsewhere vapid gestures fill the voids around grandly stated 'goals' and 'directions'. That's partly the nature of a long term 'regional' plan where detail will be thin, however the draft skips over key items like transport with only the barest references to its vital role in our local communities.

## Industry voices trump public transport

Voices of the road freight and aviation industries dominate at the expense of local voices and interests. There is more discussion in the plan about

developing 'service centres' for the Pacific Highway than there is about public transport.

When it is mentioned, the best we can hope for is that the ageing and inactive Northern Rivers Regional Transport Plan (NRRTP) is to be dusted off with 'plans to implement' it 'being developed'.

We are told that the NRRTP 'recognises the importance of investing in public transport and services', even though it proposes only marginal recommendations for infrastructure (eg bus shelters). Nothing further can be gleaned from a range of actions that amount to prodding Councils and bus operators to make service improvements. The single suggestion for

investment in infrastructure is a revival of the bizarre idea to rip up rails for a walking trail and call it public transport.

## Roads

Unsurprisingly, the Pacific Highway dominates as a route of 'state and national' significance. Its role in local transport networks is not acknowledged. The Bruxner and Gwydir highways are at least identified as key east-west 'corridors' and the idea that regional movement patterns are dispersed has been dumped in favour of reflecting reality. However, the relationship with north-south routes, local networks and tourism is not explored.

Corridor strategies are to be

produced for state roads, but the interpretation of 'transport' as roads only is problematic. Several years ago I successfully moved that Byron Council adopt a definition as all forms of human movement. A corridor strategy based on such a definition would be far more effective in planning for the transport needs of all in the community.

Drill down further and it is clear that 'corridor strategies' are all about ensuring 'freight access' onto local streets. Yes, this reflects a reality that road based freight is increasing fifty percent faster along the Pacific Highway corridor than elsewhere in the country. However, it also reflects a situation brought about

by decades of inadequate infrastructure planning for the region.

## Rail

Tinkering with the Sydney-Brisbane rail line north of Casino, as suggested by the Plan, will prove too little too late for any meaningful lift in the amount of freight being carried by rail through the region. Despite incremental improvements over the last ten years, the share of freight handled by rail has dropped from 14% to 10%. Major investment is needed and putting it off for the life of this Plan will only exacerbate the current problems.

Comments on the Plan can be made up until 2 June.

# Simon says...

by Simon Clough,  
Deputy mayor, LCC

## CSG and the Draft North Coast Regional Plan

I put my motion to Council calling for the removal of all reference to CSG in the Draft Regional Plan and the implementation of legislative protection for the North Coast Region against unconventional mining. It was passed by Council with Councillors Marks, Scheibel and Meineke voting against the motion. It is worth remembering those names, because the local government elections will be happening on 10th September this year.

## Biodiversity, land clearing and local government

Late last year the report of the NSW Biodiversity Legislation Review was tabled. The Baird government has since announced that it intends to implement all of the recommendations in the review.

The review proposes to abolish the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, remove the requirement to improve or maintain environmental outcomes and expand the flawed biodiversity offsetting scheme. The biodiversity offset scheme is supposed to guarantee the protection of identical environments, allowing others to be destroyed. The scheme is regularly rorted by the mining/development industry which often substitutes vastly less significant land for high quality environments which are destroyed. Scrapping the Native Veg Act will lead to an increase in land clearing and further loss of native vegetation

The review recommends new agricultural developments would require consent from the appropriate authorities (often local government), as occurs for any other change in land use. This will mean local government will have significant additional responsibilities, including de facto responsibility for enforcing various provisions of the proposed new *Biodiversity Conservation Act*, and any relevant parts of other state biodiversity legislation. It should also be remembered that an Office of Environment and Heritage Compliance Officer

Glen Turner was ambushed and murdered by a farmer found guilty of large scale land clearing. This is not the role local government employee should be taking.

This would be a totally new role for Local Councils requiring many more resources and skills. But needless to say the government has not given any assurances about how it intends to support local government to fulfil these added responsibilities. Last year the NSW government shifted over \$600 million worth of expenses to local councils (LGNSW figures) and it seems biodiversity responsibilities will add hugely to this figure.

Two years ago, the Queensland government all but removed native vegetation protection rules, resulting in the doubling of land clearing, the removal of almost 300,000 hectares of bushland. Not surprisingly, there has been an upsurge in sick and injured native animals. RSPCA figures for sick and injured animals have gone from about 8,000 in 2011 to 22,000 in the past year.

When bushland is bulldozed, many animals are killed initially. Those that survive are on borrowed time. The refugees scramble to find new homes and on the way get hit by cars or killed by dogs or cats. Even if they are lucky enough to reach new habitat, they soon come into conflict with the animals already there. The stress gets to them and they succumb.

The impacts don't stop at habitat destruction. Carbon pollution released by tree clearing in Queensland in 2013-14 was the equivalent of putting an extra 8 million cars on the road for a year.

The extra pollution undid the work of carbon abatement and tree planting, from the Abbott Government's Emissions Reduction Fund, worth hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars. It's pointless to spend public funds to combat global warming and then allow the gains to be nullified by lax tree clearing controls.

Please don't forget to register to vote. It's really important if you want a balanced, progressive Council.

Contact Simon on any Council matters on 0428-886-217 or at: [simonclough@internode.on.net](mailto:simonclough@internode.on.net)

# Fixing dangerous black spots

Last month I announced almost \$3 million in Federal funding to fix dangerous blackspots across the Northern Rivers.

As you know, Stony Chute Road from West Road to Green's Bridge is a dangerous blackspot. Money will be spent to mark barrier lines and install guideposts with reflectors, a barrier on the roadside and new curve and advisory speed signs.

The money to fix these blackspots is on top of the tripling of funds the Federal Government gives to local councils to fix and maintain our local roads. Last year Lismore City Council received about \$913,000. This year, the council received \$2.52 million under the expanded programme. The decision about which roads to repair is left to the council.

We have the best Co-ops in the country in our region.

The great thing about Co-operatives is that all the benefits are returned to the members, not shareholders, which is why Co-ops like Norco have been around for more than 120 years.

Last month, I was joined by the acting Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce



by Kevin Hogan, MP for Page

to announce a \$13.8 million program that will strengthen Co-ops around the country, leading to better returns for our farmers and more jobs.

The program will be based at Southern Cross University and draw on the expertise of our local cooperatives, including Norco, the Casino meatworks, Ballina Fishermens Co-Op, Oz Group Co-op Limited and NSW Sugar Milling Co-Operative as well as Regional Development Australia - Northern Rivers.

Bushfires are a constant threat to

our community.

In preparation for the next bushfire season, I recently announced two \$40,000 grants to our regional Rural Fire Service to install new water tanks.

These tanks hold 250,000 litres of water each, and enable 80 aircraft loads to help fight fires from the air.

I would like to acknowledge the members of our Rural Fire Service who keeps our community safe.

I would like to thank everyone who dropped by the Nimbin Bowling Club last month when I held a 'Politics in the Bowlo'. It was great to catch up with so many people.

MardiGrass is a unique festival for a unique community and it seems appropriate that this year it was held after the Federal Government passed legislation allowing for the medicinal use of cannabis.

I have had numerous conversations about the need for medicinal use of cannabis with many constituents, including Michael Balderstone from the Hemp Embassy.

I would like to thank all of them for their input into the decision.

# Renewables key to sustainability

There is a Native American proverb that says we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

It's a saying that I am often reminded of when people ask me what my position on climate change or coal seam gas is and something all of our politicians should consider when making decisions that impact our environment.

When I left office in 2013, we had Federal legislation to protect the North Coast and the rest of Australia from harmful CSG mining with the Federal water trigger, increasing investment in renewable technologies and meaningful action on climate change through the emissions trading scheme.

Now, sadly, all these initiatives have been scaled back or scrapped altogether. And that's just the tip of the (now melting) ice-berg.

Since Kevin Hogan's time in parliament, we've seen investment in large-

scale renewable energy fall 88% while 15% of jobs in the sector have vanished altogether.

We as a community cannot afford to stand by and let the Kevin Hogan and the Nationals continue to cower to the city Liberals on environmental issues.

The time of sacrificing the environment for short-term political and economic gain must come to an end.

Despite what some from the Liberal National parties will tell you, climate change is not a theoretical issue - it's happening now and it's accelerating and the only way to address it is through stronger sustainable environmental policies.

That's why Labor has committed to ensuring that 50% of our electricity is generated from renewable sources by 2030 and zero net carbon emissions in the Australian economy by 2050.

Whilst here on the North Coast we are well ahead of the rest of the country



by Janelle Saffin

in terms of rooftop solar, I want to continue to see more and more solar panels being installed on homes and businesses, until solar panels are the norm everywhere in our community.

I want to see battery technology continue to improve so that electricity from solar panels can be stored in most homes and small businesses to lower power bills.

I want to make sure that investors in other renewable energy generators can be confident about investing.

These are achievable goals

and the Labor party has a plan to do it.

Importantly, if we are borrowing this land from our children, we must also protect it from CSG.

I first opposed CSG mining in our region early in 2010, when I became aware how harmful it was and would be to our water, our lands, our way of life and remain totally opposed to it now. I am also working to include all unconventional gas in the legislation.

I was proud to stand next to Bill Shorten on his recent trip to the Northern Rivers where he reaffirmed State and Federal Labor's commitment to keeping the North Coast CSG free.

Our environment is too important to trust Kevin Hogan and the Nationals with. We deserve better, our children deserve better and importantly their children deserve better.

Janelle Saffin, Federal Labor candidate for Page: [jasaffin@nor.com.au](mailto:jasaffin@nor.com.au) or phone 0418-664-001.



## 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.

### Undemocratic laws

Like the majority of Nimbin, I was horrified to read the front page story of the April edition of NGT. This definitely is not a democracy in action, and so I urge everybody to ring, write or email the NSW Police Association.

At the end of the day, it's the police force who have to do the politicians' dirty work for them, and they are the ones who will be enforcing this law.

Scott Weber is head of the NSW Police Association, and I have emailed him asking if he intends to uphold such a law and to give me justification for doing so. How can any government consider protesting a graver offence than illegal mining.

Many people won't be surprised, but it's an indication of how much power these mining companies have over our governments and political parties. Please take the time to act on this because if this law goes unopposed it will be the beginning of the demise of democracy.

The email address for the NSW Police Association is: [info.centre@pansw.org.au](mailto:info.centre@pansw.org.au)  
Address: 4,154 Elizabeth Street, Sydney 2000, phone: (02) 9265-6777.

**Bernadine Schwartz**  
Nimbin

### Bandicoots crossing

We are Rama, Mick and Xavier from Nimbin Preschool. We are writing to tell everyone about the bandicoots that live across the road at our preschool. The bandicoots are getting run over by the cars when the cars don't see the bandicoots on the road.

We want the cars to go slow. The bandicoots live next to the road near the fence at our preschool. Already two bandicoots have been run over. We planted them in our garden.

We think that maybe we could draw a little house for the bandicoots and make it for them to live in. Then the cars and the trucks will see it and not run over the bandicoots. The house would be called the Nimbin Preschool Bandicoots House, and have a slide, a ladder, and

### Mystery solved



I saw the photo of the little bug capsules by PAC in the April NGT, and whilst I don't know what they are, I too have photographed them shortly after hatching. I live at Drake, and saw these in February. Quite possibly a stink bug or similar type of bug. I saw a similar bug in early April which looks like a more grown-up version, its back is different but the antenna and legs are pretty much identical. I love your newspaper.

**Sandy Regan**  
Drake

a ramp so that they can sit on the roof and enjoy the view.

**Rama, Mick and Xavier**  
Nimbin Preschool

### All You Need Is Love

It was the shiny happy people and the breakfast cooked by sweethearts and awesome coffee that created the atmosphere at the Rainbow Cafe. To pay outsiders for designs and drawings is sketchy to say the least. The Lane Way Boys had vision when they opened up the front, and put a ramp at the back for wheelchairs. You could see through a tunnel of love out to the garden and over to Nimbin Rocks. Almost standing on sacred ground that's standing on solid rock. But that was the sounds of then. The LWBs are still there waiting for someone to cook them up some bacon and some beans. The rest of them are on holiday in Cambodia. I feel like I've been to Echo Beach, far away in time.

Others I know have been staying until midnight at the Oasis. At this point there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, but it's on the wrong side of the street. Not on the right side of the road. A secret garden down the backyard and a blister in the sun... and a wide open road in front of us. All we do is talk, talk.

Build a big love shack with a kitchen... in the middle on the street. You'll probably find me in the kitchen at parties. They're dancing on the ceiling... waiting for the world to change.

It was beautiful to see the love and the people fill Mingle Park during Mardi Grass... what a street party, what a town. Thank you Nimbin. I love you. It brought tears to my eyes.

Live and love life.

**Ant**  
Nimbin

### Non-flesh-eater

Unlike Nola Sheridan (Letters NGT April), I didn't read letter Azan Mann's letter on veganism, but it seems to have touched a few raw nerves. Let me prod a few more.

I consider myself an ethical non-flesh-eating vegetarian, as in our current society we no longer need to imprison and slaughter sentient creatures for our sustenance. Whatever the paleoliths consumed, it was mostly wild, on the hoof and there were no supermarkets within easy walking distance, and like Nav says, there was a gratitude and veneration of the beasts that provided the sustenance.

Not so today: meat is rarely killed by the consumer these days with the animals, birds and fish reduced to plastic wrapped saleable commodities (or parts thereof) in the supermarket refrigerators. Instead the creatures are kept in rustic concentration camps (farms), then moved to overcrowded barren grain-feeding feedlots, then shipped under shitty conditions to the charnel houses where they are slaughtered in inhumane horror-ridden conditions. Or dredged from the sea in immoral and unsustainable numbers.

We do have the right to feel outraged for the creature's sake, just as other humans were outraged at slavery, child labour, environmental degradation et al. And so we condemn those who organise and fund these processes, as the universe is pretty dispassionate and doesn't of its own volition take care of this by the law of cause and effect or, if you like, what goes around comes around. It is just part of us human plague acting as though we have some God-given right to plunder the earth and heap

torment and indignity on all other species.

Not to mention in the process causing immense environmental degradation of which the factory farming of animals, according to the UN, constitutes the single sector of modern life that produces more greenhouse gases, uses and in the process pollutes more water and land, and consumes more grain than the earth's human population to little return in actual food value.

And I haven't yet mentioned the harm a primary animal-food based diet, rich in antibiotics and steroids, consumed often at every meal, causes to the consumer's health (and society's health bill) in the form of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity etc.

I'll bet my "passionate dedication to life" and making "friends with the pain and despair for the world" (Joanna Macey) against your outrage any day. Bless the beasts and the children.

**Bob Hopkins,**  
New England

### Refugees and the Bible

What a pity Vyvyan Stott has misquoted the Bible in order to push an agenda of racial hatred (NGT Letters, April 16). For those unable to check for themselves, here is what is written in Matthew Chapter 5 verses 32 and 46 (I quoted verbatim from the New International Version; the King James Version says the same thing in more archaic English):

Verse 32: "All the nations shall be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats". (Note that, according to this verse, it is the people, not the nations, who will be separated into two groups).

Verse 46: "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life"

The verses in between indicate the basis for this separation into two groups: it is the individuals' kind actions (or failure to act) during life, which determine who are the "sheep" and who are the "goats". There is no mention of foreignness or religious conviction etc.

For Jesus' attitude towards foreigners, Vyvyan Stott may wish to read the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37). Samaria was an autonomous region separated from Galilee by a mountain range; Samaritans were despised by many as foreigners because they were not Jews.

Vyvyan may also wish to look at 1 John 3: 11, and 1 John 4: verses 8 and 16.

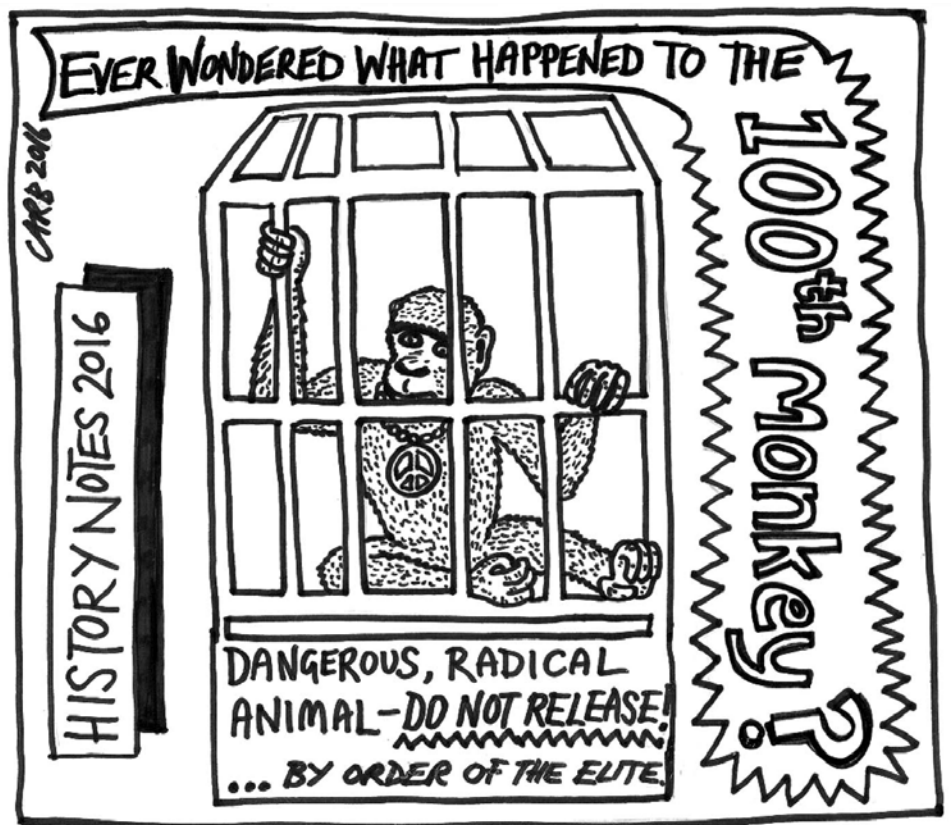
There are people seeking asylum from persecution because of their ethnicity or religious beliefs. They are "people just like us" i.e., they want to live and earn an honest living and raise their children in a safe place without risk of being assaulted, tortured or murdered.

Fortunately, there are many Christians (and others) who care and want to help.

**Beverley Aspbury**  
Kyogle

### Meaningful art connection

Looks like you are intrigued by the art world yet again, R



J Poole (NGT Letters April 16). Or perhaps just a little bored?

"Art wank?" Really?

I have found no frantic attempt to conceal skill or matter. Viewer tastes varies, artist skills develop.

Again you elude to not having a meaningful connection to an artist. You want them to tell you about themselves and what emotional journey they are on.

Surely venting your own emotional baggage in the paper, instead of approaching an actual artist for a personal experience, is showing your own "art wank".

Yours is an opinionated, yet far removed from a grassroots, point of view of an authentic human experience. No wonder you are continually let down.

**The Art Writer**  
Lismore  
(Name supplied)

### Wi-fi risks safety

Regarding 'Free CBD wi-fi creates buzz in Lismore' (Northern Star, 14<sup>th</sup> April), we should be winding back the WiFi infrastructure, not expanding it.

For wireless convenience, we are placing at risk the health of generations of children! Microwave radiation was classed as a 2B carcinogen by the World Health Organisation in 2011. Many independent scientists felt it should have been classed as a 2A carcinogen.

## About us

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And find us on Facebook

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

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
Wednesday 25th May

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



## Notices

### Respite foster carer wanted

Two days per fortnight, Nimbin area. Enquiries phone 0403-908-053.

### Annual General Meetings

- Nimbin Environment Centre Inc. AGM Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm at Community School Room, Nimbin Community Centre. All Welcome.
- Nimbin Community School Co-Op Ltd AGM, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 5.30pm at 81 Cullen Street.

### Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary fundraising day

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 9am to 1pm outside Medical Centre. Cake stall, sausage sizzle, raffles. New members also wanted, contact Maureen on 6689-1080 or Marceliena 6689-1015.

### End of school term music night

NimbinTown Hall on Friday 1st July. Nimbin Youth Music Collective is looking for young bands, solo artists, and DJs to perform on the night. Anyone interested in helping to organise the event or volunteer would be very welcome. Please contact Kieron on 0429-012-008.

### Mindfulness meditation

A morning of Buddhist Mindfulness Meditation & Teachings, with Jitindriya on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 9.15am – 12.30pm at Kuan Yin Meditation Centre, Lismore.

Please email Sonya for details and to register at: [sonyanourse@hotmail.com](mailto:sonyanourse@hotmail.com) For enquiries, phone 0450-412-196.

### Reiki events

- **Thursday 12th May:** Reiki Master Course in Lismore. Preparation required.
- **Wednesday 18th May:** Evolve event in Lismore, with Ocean Shensei and the Pineal Activation Light. \$20 presale or \$25 at the door. Tickets limited.
- **Thursday 2nd June:** Reiki Circle in Lismore. For those who have completed any Reiki level. \$10 + bring a healthy plate.

For information about all events, visit: [www.helenecollard.com](http://www.helenecollard.com) or contact Helene on 0405-656-797.

### Transport forum

NSW Greens will hold a transport forum on Saturday 4 June at 2pm at the Lismore Workers Club to discuss and share ideas about transport priorities for NSW and the region in particular, with the local community. Speakers include Senator Lee Rhiannon, NSW Upper House MP Dr Mehreen Faruqi and the Secretary of the Rail Tram and Bus Union.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Is your life being affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon may help. Murwillumbah Al-Anon family group meets every Monday 10am at ConXions Church, 19 Prince Street. For enquiries and other meetings times, phone 1300-252-666 or go to: [www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia)



## Why the Bernie Sanders campaign movement is important for us here

In downtown Kingston, New York, Bernie Sanders held a rally for "clean energy and safe climate" to build support for the presidential candidate and mobilise the Hudson Valley, Catskills and Southern Tier to fight climate change, in advance of New York's Democratic primary election on April 19.

Does that not sound familiar to the people campaigning for The Greens, following the Bentley Blockade? It does to me, because importantly the Bernie Sanders campaign is a multicultural grassroots activist volunteer-run campaign. The questions and solutions highlighted are of the same voices in the peace and environment social justice movement here.

What I have witnessed as a peace ambassador from Nimbin to Woodstock, is how that place and region is so similar to the Northern Rivers Region. Kingston city is the Woodstock village equivalent of Lismore to Nimbin. The Sanders campaign is a people power run campaign. Bernie Sanders has adopted and revitalised the Occupy Wall Street movement, calling on the 99% to take on the 1%. It is not since the 1960's that such a grassroots awakening has taken place in US history, significantly amongst the youth.

Basically, Bernie Sanders is significantly listening to voices in the Native American community. It echoes the the call and

attention for Aboriginal treaty and sovereignty here. What I have learnt most from listening and witnessed from first nations people is respect, connectedness and care for country. The movement behind the Bernie Sanders campaign resonates the voices that have so long been ignored and marginalised by the exploitative establishment.

The slogan of the climate movement is *we need one another to change everything*. The Bernie Sanders run for president is gaining momentum as the dots are being connected in this conversation of the culture of abuse of nature and encourage people to campaign and vote for a candidate who has been taking on the greedy murderous corrupted in power.

What inspires me most about the Bernie Sanders campaign is how many leaders of the peace, social justice, environment ("alternative/activist") movement, in all its diversity, are coming on board to get Bernie elected as the next president of the USA. Jane Sanders, Bernie Sanders' partner, is also important to this campaign. The synergy between them is the listening to and working it out with the communities fighting the transnational corporate elites and their political mates who are rapaciously destroying the fabric of life everywhere.

Benny Zable  
Nimbin

We have a criminal situation where younger and younger children are being exposed to this technology, and we have no idea what long term effects this exposure will have on them. In the medical field, you don't come up with a new chemical pill and give it to children without long term research. Even after this, they can get it wrong. Thalidomide is a good example of this.

There is no research on the long term effects of WiFi radiation on children; this generation is the experiment. No government or health organisation will say that it is safe for children. A recently published statistic indicated that the incidence of brain tumours in under twenties was 4 to 8 times higher than the rest of the population.

This is going to be a major health catastrophe, like smoking and asbestos. It is important to understand that the industry runs interference to confuse the public, by funding research. Denial, denial by the industry, until the numbers of people getting sick and dying can't be hidden any more! Then it's too late for those who are already affected.

There is a free Microwave Safety Guide provided by Sunshine Coast Computer Club at: <http://sccc.org.au/wifi/microwave-safety-chart.pdf> It has informative video links and a list of free practical things people can do to reduce their family's exposure to WiFi radiation.

Peter Daley  
Caloundra

### Barry ignores experts

At the April council meeting Cr Barry Longland stated that Dr Steve Phillips is the ecologist selectively quoted by the group who want to revegetate the oval. Yet who does Longland go to for advice about installing a koala grid at Black Rocks? Dr Phillips – not to council ecologists.

Yet Longland chooses to ignore Dr Phillips' advice to revegetate Black Rocks sports field, ignores his estimation that koala numbers are dwindling in the Pottsville Wetlands/Black Rocks area, ignores his study linking human noise and disturbance with chlamydia and ignore his call for a moratorium on all development at Black Rocks.

Pottsville wetland / Black Rocks koalas need to recover from the Xmas 2014 fire which Dr Phillips has stated is likely to have wiped out up to 60% of them. Furthermore, Longland has misrepresented advice given to him by Dr Phillips about replacing the existing gate at the sports field with a grid.

Tweed Council staff appear to be comfortable with the level of koala protection at Black Rocks even though the state has listed these as endangered. Longland chooses to believe that not a single koala died in the big fire, that noise at the Black Rocks sports field is a minor issue and he relies on claims that koala numbers in this koala cell are 'stable' even though the state has listed

these as endangered.

Cr Youngblutt agreed, even after being shown photos of chlamydia affected koalas at Black Rocks at the April community access session.

Cr Longland said this issue is now decided, but it is not. Koala activists will never stand idle while revegetation of the sports field could save these koalas which are threatened with local extinction. Another sports field can be established, if needed. One that is not surrounded by a wildlife reserve which would be more accessible to the public. Koalas, a keystone species, are dying at Black Rocks sports field, because of destructive decisions supported by four councillors (Longland, Byrne, Youngblutt and Polglase).

Scott Sledge,  
President,  
Northern Rivers Guardians,  
Lillian Rock

### Win for koalas

Lobbying by the Threatened Species Conservation Society Inc to retain koala protection gates at the Black Rocks sports field entrance has been successful. At the April 2016 council meeting a council report was endorsed for these gates to be replaced with solar-powered automated gates. This increases the level of koala protection by stopping koalas exiting and roaming unleashed dogs entering the site.

Cr Barry Longland's motion to replace the existing gates with a grid, which would have

significantly reduced koala protection, has been rejected. And what a debacle the whole process has been! In January 2015 his motion was passed with the support of Crs Byrne, Polglase and Youngblutt, voting against an amendment for staff to first provide a report into the suitability and efficacy of a grid at this site. In October 2015 they voted against a motion by Cr Milne for the existing vehicle access gates to be replaced with an automated gate.

He also has stated that he had consulted with koala expert and leading ecologist Dr Steve Phillips about the installation of a grid, and that the koala grid motion was written by himself and Dr

Phillips on his back verandah. However, on 26th January 2015 Dr Phillips wrote: "There is always a danger that advice – when given – is taken out of context and can often be misrepresented... If effective closure of the gates cannot be achieved/maintained, or if indeed the gates are removed completely, then the results will likely be catastrophic for the few remaining koalas'.

After ongoing consultation between the Office of Environment & Heritage and Council on the gate issue, Cr Longland finally called for a council report into entrance options at the January 2016 council meeting (one year after he voted against it).

This report revealed that a grid was the least effective in protecting koalas, had safety issues if people walked over it, and was mostly used in rural areas or private driveways. It was considered unsuitable for the Black Rocks sportsfield entrance.

Since this report was finalised, council staff were presented with and are now investigating a proposal that would see the Black Rocks sportsfield relocated to the proposed Dunloe Park urban development. The campaign for revegetation is far from over.

Dave Norris  
President,  
Threatened Species  
Conservation Society Inc




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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au



## Reports now available

• **The Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan 2016-2021** is now finalised and available on our website (or hard copies are available at NNIC). A fantastic effort by everyone who contributed to the latest version of the SNCP, and to all of you who have been involved in implementing the strategies under the SNCP since it was first developed in 2009. A Report on achievements from 2009 to 2015 is also available on our website. The SNCP and the Report both highlight the commitment and determination of Nimbinites to work together to solve some of the wicked social, economic and environmental problems arising from climate change, peak oil and the economic downturn. Good on you, Nimbinites! We are very proud to be working with you.

• **CDAT survey report** Is now available on our website and makes for some pretty interesting reading.

• **Northern Rivers Biohubs Social License report** is also available via our website. Check it out.

## Jobs, jobs and more jobs

Are you looking for a way to contribute to the community? Maybe you are retired and want to keep using your skills, or maybe you are a young person looking to gain some new skills. Or perhaps you need to do work for the dole or fulfil a mutual obligation, for Centrelink? We have quite a few volunteer positions available:

• **Sustainability Alley 2016 Co-ordinator (Nimbin Annual Country Show):** Perfect for anyone who has done e.g. Events Management and wants to build on their CV.

• **Sibley Street Fundraising Co-ordinator:** We are looking for someone to help us raise the \$70,000 needed to rescue the old house.

• **Sibley Street gardener:** We are looking for someone to garden at Sibley street at least once a month to conquer the evil weeds and start beautifying the site with some flower gardens.

• **Art in the Park:** We are looking for some arty/crafty people to join Gilbert in the park on Fridays to undertake arts and crafts activities for the general public.

## NNIC Management Committee

A couple of our MCers are off on holidays for a few months and so we are looking for some new members to help us keep NNIC running smoothly. NNIC is a vibrant organisation doing lots of interesting stuff and behind it all is the Management Committee. This involves a commitment of three hours a month for the regular meetings which are usually on a Wednesday at 5.30pm. Plus there is plenty to do depending on your interest, availability and choice.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, contact Nat or Guy at NNIC.

## Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (NCDAT)

This committee is also looking for new members to help us implement a variety of harm minimisation strategies arising from the findings of the survey we did last year. At the moment meetings are generally once per month at NNIC for about two hours on a Thursday at 1pm, but this is flexible depending on the needs of the members.

## Life after the feed-in tariff

The 60c feed-in tariff ends in December 2016 and will no longer be paid as from 1st January 2017. What does this mean for you? Well for a start, you will revert to whatever FIT is offered by your electricity supplier, if they offer one at all, which is likely to be in the range of around 0.06c per KWh. NNIC and Rainbow Power Company will be conducting a community information session (on a date yet to be set down) to assist you to understand the options available to you, the various costs involved and how best to manage your PV array in a net metered situation.

## Changes at NNIC

If you have dropped into NNIC in the past two weeks you will have noticed some renovations going on. Many thanks to Sam who spent hours filling all the gaps in the ceiling and walls of the front office and our hallway. Sorry for any inconvenience to all of you. Hopefully we will be back to normal ASAP.

## OCD Awareness Week

The week May 22-28 aims to raise awareness of the illness and help foster an understanding of what it is like for someone experiencing Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). OCD is characterised by persistent thoughts, impulses, or images that are intrusive, inappropriate, and cause distress or anxiety; and compulsions, which are repetitive behaviours (e.g. hand washing, checking) or mental rituals (e.g. counting, repeating words silently) that are performed to reduce anxiety, not because the person enjoys doing them.

For someone experiencing OCD, the anxiety around the obsessive thought and the repetitious actions they believe are necessary, can be time consuming and distressing and may stop them from leading a normal life.

*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.*

## May activities at Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services

For all elders and carers in our local communities

- **The Channon Social Group:** Thursday 18th May, 11.30am-2pm, the Civic Hotel, Lismore for lunch, all welcome, phone for info.
  - **Koonorigan Social Group:** Monday 30th May, 11.30am-3pm, Bring a Plate Lunch, Koonorigan Hall, theme 'Soup & Bread', all welcome.
  - **Nimbin Social Groups** every Tuesday and Wednesday, 9.30am-1.00pm at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, with morning tea and light lunch.
  - **Home visits** for some company or giving carers 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.
- Phone 6689-1709 for more info, or Facebook Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services

# Nimbin Hospital Information



## Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held on the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic 10th May. 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 May. 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. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home and coordination of Aged Care packages. Phone 6689-1288.

## Nimbin NSP

Opening hours Monday 9.15am-12pm; Tues, Wed & Thurs 9.15am-12.30pm.

## Cannabis clinic

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

## Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

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

## Free diabetic clinic

Every 3rd Thursday of the month. Phone 6630-0488 for appointment.

## Free respiratory clinic

With specialist respiratory nurse and a nurse practitioner, Friday of every month. Next clinic 13th May. Phone 6688-1401.

## Free health checks

In front of the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 6th and 20th May. Run by Nurse Practitioner and Registered Nurse.

Cardiac, diabetic and stroke risk assessments, weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, blood sugar levels and cholesterol levels. Referral to appropriate health professionals as required.

## 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 speak to you and assess whether or not you need to go to the emergency department at your local MPS.

Read more information about this service at: [www.healthdirect.org.au](http://www.healthdirect.org.au)

## Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next meeting: 13th May.







# Nimbin Hills REAL ESTATE



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### NIMBIN HILLS JOINS AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Come and join us at 74a Cullen Street 11a.m. on Thursday 26th May for coffee, tea, cakes & nibbles. Minimum gold coin donation for a great cause....The Cancer Council.

*Thank You to the Community for a Fabulous*

### NIMBIN HILLS 1st BIRTHDAY PARTY

A big congratulations to the staff for a HUGE celebration on 15th April. It was enjoyed by hundreds of appreciative locals, and demonstrated a sense of true community



## HOT NEW LISTINGS

- |                                       |           |                                  |             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. 472 Homeleigh Rd, Homeleigh        | \$550,000 | 4. 100 Mt Burrell Rd, Mt Burrell | \$420,000   |
| 2. 483 Davis Rd, Jiggi                | \$485,000 | 5. 494 Crofton Rd, Nimbin        | \$1,000,000 |
| 3. 824 Commissioners Ck Rd, Doon Doon | \$790,000 | 6. 689 Stony Chute Rd, Nimbin    | \$215,000   |

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**2 Belleridge Rd, Nimbin \$320,000**  
- 100 y.o. 2 bed cottage on 3.5 town acres  
- 1 acre lake. Views. Mostly renovated.



**2117 Nimbin Rd, Coffee Camp \$600,000**  
- 15 acres long creek frontage. Vistas  
- 3 bed 4 level pole home. Exotic gardens



**4/265 Martin Rd, Larnook \$249,000**  
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