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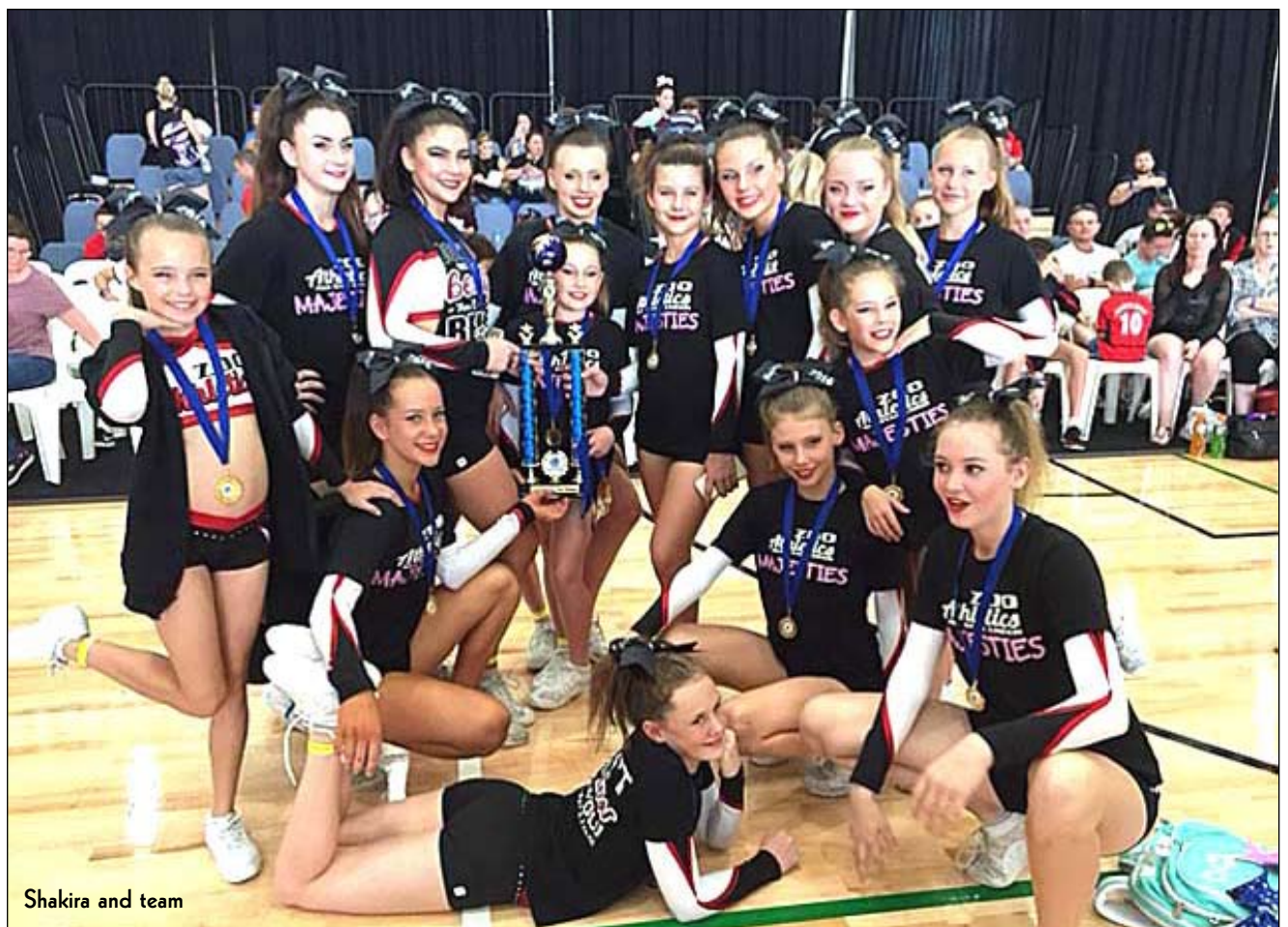
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Shakira and team

Support needed for cheerleading comp

by Shakira Jefferys

I am 12 years old and I am asking for financial donations from my community to support me in proudly achieving the very best I can in my sporting endeavours.

I commenced gymnastics when I was 8 years old, and by the age of 10 I decided on the discipline of aerobic gymnastics. For this sport I achieved both NSW State Champion as well as Australian National Champion. I was fortunate to train with outstanding coaches at North Coast Gymnastics in Lismore.

This year I really wanted to experience a team environment, and spent the

latter part of last year researching my options and deciding on the best club to suit my needs. I chose the discipline, cheerleading and tried out for Zoo Athletics in Helensvale on the Gold Coast (opposite Movie World). I chose this club as they specialised in international as well as local competition.

I have had to train extremely hard, as the skills are somewhat different to that of aerobic gymnastics.

Our team competed at the Asian Pacific Games and not only won, but as the highest scoring team. At the Spring Carnival held in Brisbane, we again won and are now the highest scoring team in Australia, with a score of 97 out of 100. We have been selected to represent

Australia at the NCA All-Stars National Championships being held in Dallas, Texas in February next year.

This is the second biggest cheerleading competition in the world.

It will cost \$4000 for my trip to Texas, and I would feel proud to know my community helped me achieve my dream of representing Australia on the international Circuit.

If you would like to see more about me, please go to my Facebook page.

I have opened an account at the Summerland Credit Union in Nimbin: Shakira Jefferys, BSB: 728-728, A/C: 22312789. Please donate, as every donation will help, no matter the size, and I appreciate any support.

Photo: Donatella Parisini



Cabaret set to return

by Tonia Haynes

This year I will definitely be attending a night that I know from past experience will be exciting, scintillating, lots of fun and sauced with just the right amount of titillation to remind us that the juices of eternal youth are never far away.

In my book of great entertainment, Fantasies Erotique, presented by Raw Designs, sits at the top of the list in Northern NSW, an area well known for

harbouring those who have world class creative abilities.

Come and experience the absolute best of extraordinary circus acts, the most acrobatic and professional of pole dancers, exclusive class burlesque, and stunning fashion and costumes.

All this will be embraced within the Crystal Grid of Tone Wonderland's brilliant lighting and video projections. And DJ Miles Jackson's music will keep you dancing in your seat until the end of the show, when everyone will be

welcome to groove their own moves on the dance floor.

So wear your hottest gear and bring your dancing shoes. Last year I missed this yearly show due to a delayed plane flight, and I was extremely disappointed.

Fantasies Erotique Cabaret will be presented by Jaz and Judy Who on Friday 2nd December at Nimbin Town Hall. Seating time: 7pm. Licensed to serve alcohol, accompanied by tasty cuisine. Limited tickets: \$40 single, \$75 double.

Decade defending environment

The Environmental Defenders Office NSW is a community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law, and offering help to people who want to protect the environment through law.

"This is such a special, vibrant region, where people are passionate about protecting our environment," EDO chief executive officer Sue Higginson (pictured) said.

"Over the last ten years, we've gone on an incredible journey with the Northern Rivers community, which has been at the forefront of public interest environmental law for many years, and it has been a privilege to serve the community more closely through a dedicated office over the past decade."

To celebrate its milestone, EDO NSW is holding a special screening of the powerful documentary film *Sonic Sea*, about the impact



of industrial and military noise on whales and other marine life.

The film, narrated by Rachel McAdams and featuring the musician and environmentalist Sting, tells the story of a mystery involving a mass stranding of

whales in the Bahamas that changed forever the way we understand our impact on the ocean.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Sue Higginson and EDO NSW clients who have been working to raise awareness of ocean noise pollution here and overseas.

Guests will also take a trip down memory lane with EDO NSW staff and friends.

"We're looking forward to celebrating our achievements working together for the benefit of this stunning region," Sue said.

The 10th Anniversary and screening of *Sonic Sea* will be held on Friday 4th November, 6.30pm at Star Court Theatre, Lismore. Tickets: \$12, purchase online.

For more about EDO NSW, visit: www.edonsw.org.au



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Our poets triumphant at Lismore poetry cup



The Lismore Poetry Cup produced a clean sweep for Nimbin poets this year, with Jane Treasure (pictured) winning a record fourth Cup, and Teresa Biscoe taking out the Geraldine Bigalow Cup.

The Budgie 9 – by Teresa Biscoe

Ambassadors of Entitlement
Sons of diplomatic privilege
Inheritors of wealth's insularity
Head boys to Parliamentarians
Overbred Buffoons Parading
Knuckle dragging, mouth breathing crassness
For cultural right
Loudly and proudly displaying
Their overfed flesh
In a frenzy of Aussie, Aussie, Aussie,
Oy, Oy, Oy
Perhaps I am mistaken,
These are Life Saving uniforms
After all
Worn perhaps in case someone drowns
Of cultural sensitivity
Neo-colonial idiots left bewildered
As the Bubble of cultural contempt bursts
Assess assume surprise
Shocked that anyone would
Dare express offence
At a larrikin expression of National pride
Someone else's flag a genital warmer
(Obviously a sign of respect)
Four days of reality check (not friendly) produces
The schoolyard assembly apology
Boys being boys
Always will be boys
Playing with their toys
'Cause they love to have fun
Not meant to bother anyone
Behind the scenes damage control
From bewildered Elitist families rolls
Privilege ultimately protects; the 9 go free
No damage to opportunity for these successors
With such perfect training for political life
Will these scions of the over-privileged
Recall such cultural sensitivity
When they have inherited the corridors of power?
Stand aside you wowers
We need these men of vision
A potential Trump in every mind
Of the infamous Budgie 9

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Stephen Page FILM
FRI 18th NOV 8pm

The Fall
FRI 25th NOV 8pm

HELEN MIRREN
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\$10 entry --> TIX available ONLINE from www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events - DINKUM BOHOS performing at 18thNov & 2ndDec film nights

Ecotourism drive to out Pottsville shed

by Menkit Prince

Locals walking in the Black Rocks sportsfield recently came across dozens of teddy bears tied to trees all looking towards the location of the the proposed Pottsville & District Men's Shed site, 20 metres away.

These teddy bears were symbolic of the koalas who quietly sleep in the eucalypts around the sports field, out of sight and out of mind. One teddy bear appeared to be lying at the base of the tree, no doubt representing koalas too weak to climb and dying from stress-induced chlamydia. The rest were gawking in the direction of the proposed shed, presumably dreading the silence soon being shattered by even more loud noises – this time from power tools, drills, lathes and petrol-fuelled model aeroplanes being tested from the men's shed (presumably in addition to hoons on trail bikes, barking dogs, paramotoring, cricket matches, doof parties and helicopters).

The stressors at Black Rocks will not be the sound of wind in the trees, rain falling on the ground or occasional thunder but loud man-made noises which prevent the koalas from getting 18-20 hours sleep a day, which they need to digest the gum leaves. Lack of sleep compromises the immune system leaving them prey to deadly chlamydia, a painful way to die. Since 2014, seven Black Rocks koalas have died from chlamydia.

Imagine if you couldn't get a decent night's sleep night after night and how that would affect your health? It's the same for these sleepy creatures, possibly even more so.

Tweed Council has the view that koalas are not affected by noise, and ignore the fact that koalas at Black Rocks are dying three times faster than what they can breed and have not recovered from the December 2014 fire. There are studies available showing that koalas have an aversive response to loud noises, tend to move away and in the process can suffer death, reduced breeding potential or stress.

Koala lovers are wondering why council is unable to recognise that these koalas are the goose laying the golden egg of ecotourism for Pottsville. If council was to revegetate this sports field (as recommended by four ecologists), augment the koala population with generically similar koalas so they

breed up, then turn it into a koala sanctuary (sensitively designed with viewing platforms, walkways and guided tours into the wetlands), imagine what a boost it would be to local businesses, not only hospitality and retail, but also ecotourism.

How rare is it that tourists get to see koalas in the wild? Mostly they are seen in zoos or koala hospitals. It would put Pottsville on the map. Since koalas bring in \$2.5 billion in tourism to Australia every year, why don't we cash in on this potential? The Japanese are particularly enamoured with our koalas. In fact, overseas visitors in general love and appreciate our koalas more than we do.

The new council candidates are all talking about helping the economy and creating jobs. Well here is

such an opportunity. Will any of them have the vision to make this idea a reality? It would help the economy and also serve to assist our endangered coastal koalas which council has admitted are in severe decline. Black Rocks is at the juncture of wildlife corridors going north-south/east-west and critically important to protect. Putting a noisy shed there runs counterproductive to what the koalas desperately need.

For those unwilling to give up the Black Rocks sportsfield, bear in mind that the upcoming Dunloe Park housing estate will need to build their own sportsfield in coming years and since there is currently an oversupply of sportsfields in the area (three in Pottsville already with Black Rocks hardly ever used) we

can afford to wait for this.

Locating the men's shed more centrally (options including Lot 3 Centennial Ave, the Barry Shephard oval or the Raiders) would be better for the shed members than an isolated location 4km from town with a long history of vandalism and arson.

Koalas v men

2,292 men took their lives in 2015. Over 10 years, 75% of people who died by suicide were male. Men who are struggling without a shed and need support or counselling can find help phoning Lifeline on 13-1114 Mensline on 1300-78-99-78 or Dads in Distress 1300-85-24-37.

Get paid helping koalas

Local youth are working with landholders, volunteers and Lismore City Council to restore valuable koala habitat. Recent works have involved the planting of over 3000 koala food trees and 15 hectares of weed control to protect existing habitat in Lismore LGA. The next project, commencing in January 2017, will be working in the Nimbin area and new team members are being recruited now.

This work has been supported by the Australian Government Green Army programme, and Lismore City Council's Koala Green Army projects. Green Army is an Australian Government initiative for young Australians aged 17-24. Participants gain 20 weeks training and experience in environmental conservation over four days per week (30 hours) while being paid an allowance between \$614 and \$996 per fortnight.

Invite Environment's Green Army supervisor Lucas Salmon said Green Army is working in identified koala corridors. "We are planting trees

to link existing habitat. We are also controlling weeds such as lantana which block koalas from accessing feed trees and from moving across the landscape."

"It is a special thing to see koalas on our working sites, it is inspiring for our young participants as it is something they do not often see," Mr Salmon said.

Through this work Green Army participants gain valuable skills and have had the opportunity to work alongside volunteer groups like Friends of the Koala. Mark Wilson from Friends of the Koala said, "Koalas are very fussy eaters, they do not choose just anything from the buffet."

"Restoring preferred koala food trees, like Tallowood, Forest Red Gum and Swamp Mahogany, is critical to the health of local populations," he explained.

Lismore City Council also has a grant from NSW Environmental Trust to restore koala habitat in the north west of the LGA including



the Nimbin area. Site assessments for the Trust and Green Army projects will be completed shortly with on ground works commencing early in the New Year.

Interviews for the Nimbin Koala Green Army project and other projects will be held in November. Young people aged 17 to 24 are encouraged to apply online at: www.envite.org.au Contact Envite on (02) 6627-2800 or email: greenarmy@envite.org.au for more information.

When rainforests burn

by Geoff Reid

To paraphrase 360.org's Bill McKibben, the most crucial issue today is addressing the disparity between how rapidly our physical environment is changing and how slowly we are responding to that change.

Averaged around the planet, July tied with August as the hottest month since records began, capping off the warmest ever five-year period – and 16 consecutive new monthly maxima. 2014 was the fieriest year short of 2015; 2016 is travelling radically above both.

Last summer, instead of an ordinary old El Nino, we had 'Godzilla', which whirled up two cyclones, trashed Fiji, churned up chilly deep water, and swept it against Byron – ironically, keeping us coo-ool.

Further north, things were hot. Drought starved Papuans out of ancestral villages, and the top third of the Barrier Reef blanched and died, along with hundreds of square kilometres of mangroves in the Gulf. Down south, Tasmanians and mainlanders alike got baked, and ancient forests burned.

El Nino lingered, keeping our autumn nicely snug, but across the puddle, Canada sweltered; its forests, sick from heat-swarming borer beetles, smouldered and burst into flames. Large areas of Siberia and Russia fared similarly. These 'boreal' woodlands are part of Earth's biggest terrestrial ecosystem, a ring of conifers, just below the Arctic Circle, through Canada, Alaska, Siberia and Eurasia. They contain almost a third of all carbon on Earth's land surfaces, enough potential CO² to inflame global warming to Hell.

Fire services today use new terms: 'mega-fires' – fires so intense they generate 'pyro-cumulus' clouds of cinder and steam.

Canada's mega-fire burned for months, forced 80,000 evacuees from just one city, and spawned thunderstorms – sparking additional blazes from lightning as well as flying embers.

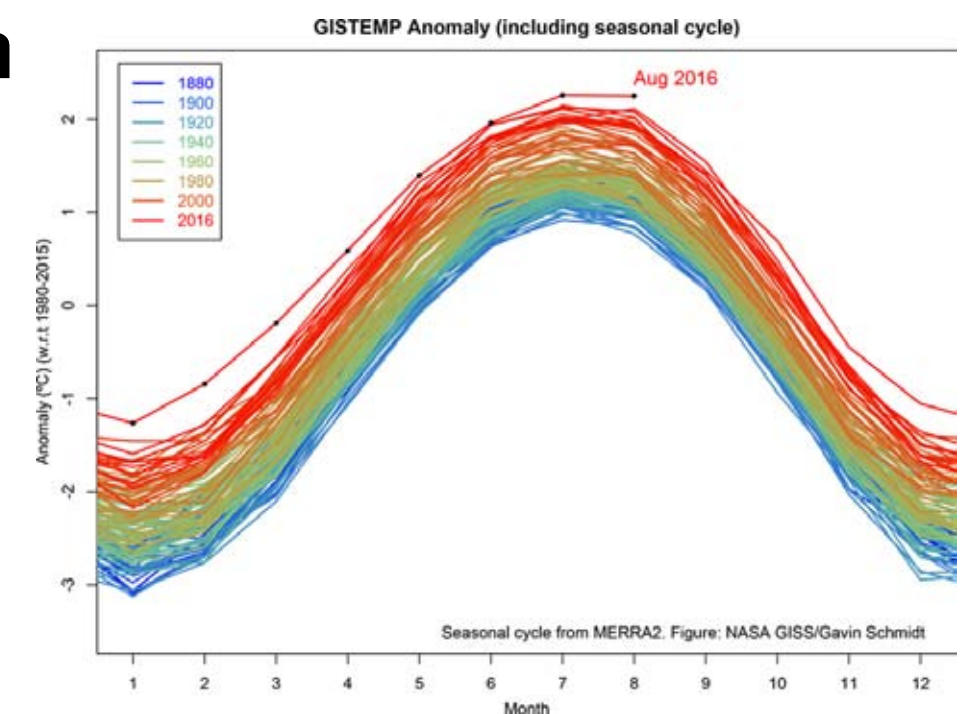
Wildfire has suddenly become a monster that stalks on almost every continent, every summer. In Western Australia this year, it took Yarloop. No human agency can combat it; Air-cranes and water-bombers nip in to sprinkle its flanks; if extreme fire conditions permit, back-burns can pilfer some of its food.

We all know eucalypts love fire, but our Rainbow Region mantra has been, "subtropical rainforests don't burn." However, as Mark Twain said, "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble; it's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

In the Amazon, an El Nino drought has preceded its dry season. Fears are this will mean wildfire, as it did in 2002, 2005 and 2010. In 2010, Tasmania, cool-temperate rainforests suffered crown fires; also ground fires smouldered a metre deep in the humus, leaving ancient trees standing dead on exposed scorched roots.

Locally, danger lurks in denial: subtropical rainforests do burn! In 1984, Dr John Turner published research indicating Whian Whian's rainforest had burned to the ground, evidenced by a charcoal stratum notable for its "consistency of occurrence" across the rainforest soil. Turner's radiocarbon and other analyses put that fire at around 1,000 years ago.

Pollution was slight a millennium ago, but a relatively warm planet helped Vikings settle Iceland in wooden longboats, without danger of sea ice. Across the globe, Whian Whian must have had a long, hot, dry summer – to have its rainforest incinerate. Eventually, it



regenerated, but mega-fires can permanently kill even eucalypt forest, re-growing only weeds. Additionally, although more-mobile animals may escape spot fires and casualty species repopulate from the edges, broad-area obliteration magnifies extinction risks.

The Big Scrub rainforest was once so expansive it generated its own climate.

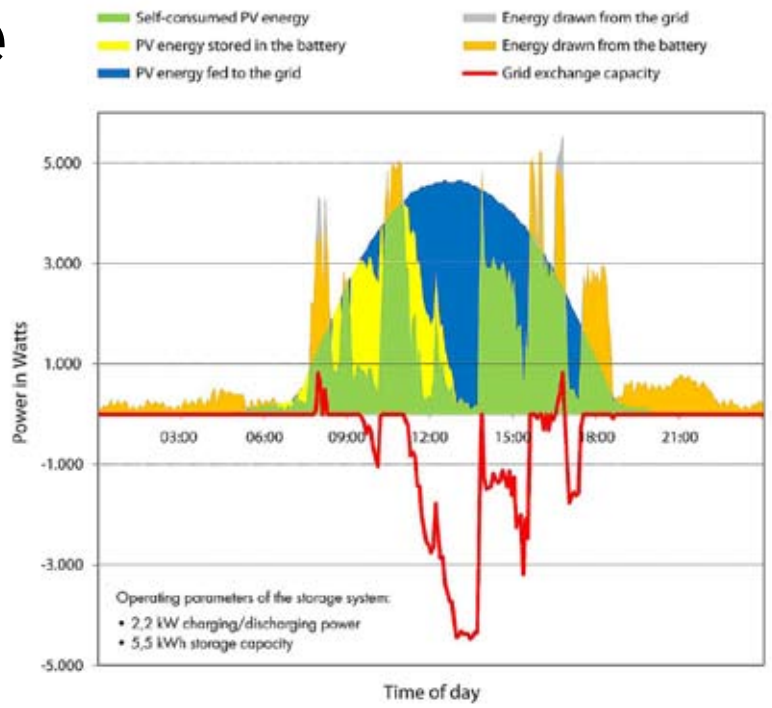
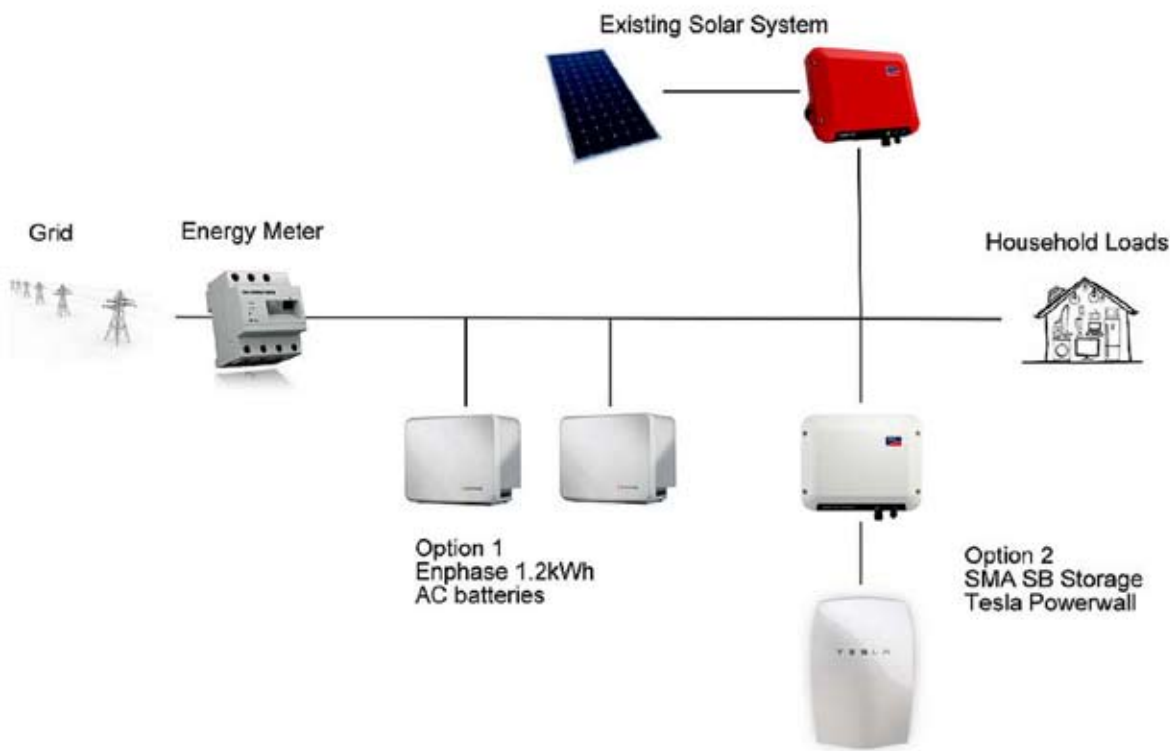
Only precious fragments remain, small and prone to drying out, surrounded by eucalypts, woody weeds, and fallen fuel. Our 'tree-change' philosophy "no fire is good fire" seemed like common sense in the 70s, but after forty years of climate change, the Northern Rivers is set for a conflagration.

Earth's temperature wanders up and down, but these last few decades of greenhouse-gas pollution have it climbing 170 times faster than average. It's a difficult world: 65 million

people displaced; the weather getting nasty; the economic model faltering; and our leaders failing – to lead. Machiavelli said, "There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things."

If we lead, our representatives will follow like it was their idea. We cannot solve the world's problems, but we are sitting on our own wildfire time-bomb and the heat-fuse is ticking hotter. The one enduring Australian management was Indigenous mosaic-burning, including eucalypt forest on rainforest verges, and even under that regimen Whian Whian burned. Our forests and biodiversity are precious, but climate change extremes are increasingly real. Only the community has the right to decide a way forward, but we must start talking.

House batteries are here



by Ken Jones,
Rainbow Power Company

The next big thing in Renewable Energy will be on-grid battery storage. With generous gross Feed In Tariffs coming to an end this year, batteries are going to be a game changer for those with solar panels.

FITs for Solar Bonus customers are dropping from 60 (or 20) cents per kWh (gross export) to around 6 to 10 cents per kWh (nett export only), from 1 January 2017. Electricity that you import from the grid costs around 25 to 30

cents per kWh, depending on your supplier and plan.

The graph above shows a typical household energy use pattern. It shows the savings (both \$ and Carbon pollution) that can be achieved with the addition of a battery storage system.

Without the batteries, you would be earning only 6 to 10 cents per kWh for the yellow area of the graph and paying around 25 to 30 cents per kWh for the orange area. With the batteries, you forego the 6 to 10 cents for the yellow but save 25 to 30 for the orange. This is a saving of around 20 cents per kWh.

But it seems as if there is a new battery technology announced every week, so which one to go for? After a thorough technical evaluation of all the batteries currently available in Australia, Rainbow Power Company has chosen two solutions to bring to market, based on quality and flexibility.

Option 1: Enphase AC Battery
For small energy users, Enphase has released a modular Lithium Battery with a built in micro inverter. Each battery can store 1.2 kWh of energy with each one able



to supply a maximum of 270 W of power.

Our recommended system also includes an Envoy S Energy Meter which is used to control the individual battery units and provides web based monitoring of the system's performance.

Option 2: Tesla Powerwall
For larger energy users we are recommending the Tesla

Powerwall/Sunny Boy Storage solution which can store up to 6.4 kWh of energy. The recommended system also includes an SMA Energy Meter which provides web based monitoring of the system's performance. Up to two Powerwalls can be installed on each Sunny Boy Storage.

For more information, phone RPC on 6689-1430 or go to: rpc.com.au

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Wider distribution for Bentley doco

Enova Energy Pty Ltd and Half Smile Productions Ltd, have agreed to co-promote *The Bentley Effect* film, which includes a series of film screenings throughout the Northern Rivers.

"*The Bentley Effect* follows the unrelenting fight between our small community and gasfield industrialisation. It's one of the most inspiring films you'll ever see and it's an important film - perhaps the most important film of our generation," said Alison Crook AO, Chair of Enova Energy.

"Enova Energy is proud to support it, because as a genuinely community-owned renewable energy retailer, we're committed to making a difference," she said.

Director of *The Bentley Effect*, Brendan Shoebridge said, "I was completely blown away by the audience reaction to the film's world premiere at the Byron Bay Film Festival.

"I knew it would be well received, but I was quite unprepared for the standing ovation that lasted the entire duration of the credits. I was honoured and humbled by such an emotional response to the film. "I was also thrilled to receive the Best Byron Film award, and I'm hoping *The Bentley Effect* will now spread to everywhere it's needed," he said.

This film and the community-owned energy company have a lot in common. Both were born in the Northern Rivers, and share a similar drive, determination, passion and commitment. Both



Alan and Alison Crook of Enova Energy, with film director Brendan Shoebridge

are advocates for the health of our environment.

But something that is not so well-known is the fact that they also share a significant moment in Australian history.

In 2015, on the same day as the New South Wales Government announced that it rescinded CSG mining licenses in Bentley, Enova Energy reached its start-up capital goal of nearly \$4 million, creating the first Australian community-owned energy retailer.

Both events prove the power and potential of this small Northern Rivers community to create change.

Brendan Shoebridge said, "With so much privilege and beauty to be thankful for, we can't afford to blow it. Everyone knows at some level that we must transition as quickly as possible to a clean energy future."

The Bentley Effect is screening in various cinemas around the Northern Rivers in the coming months. Support the ongoing national distribution of the film can be made by attending one of the screenings, or donating at: www.thebentleyeffect.com

Find out about switching your energy supply to Enova by phoning (02) 5622-1700 or email: switch@enovaenergy.com.au

Community must reassert itself

by Aidan Ricketts

Now that we are clear of what has seemed like an interminable year of elections, it's time to get back to real politics. Elections and parliamentary democracy are worthwhile institutions but there is so much more to democracy. Democracy is a 365 days of the year effort in which communities need to remain active, informed and if necessary mobilised to push decision makers in the right direction.

Here in the Northern Rivers we are fortunate to have a community that understands this. Politicians and parliaments did not save us from the horror of gasfields, our community achieved that by informing itself and mobilising in a way that forced decision makers to change course.

Elections distract us with voting systems that reward the biggest parties with the biggest bankroll of corporate donors. Elections do matter, but they are also a divisive distraction. People who are usually otherwise allies in community campaigns sometimes fall into their partisan camps and generate petty conflicts that have little to do with the real issues of our times.

There's some big issues that we as a community need to become active on. To name just a few there's the totally misguided call for shark nets on our beaches, the ongoing saga of roadside drug tests that have nothing to do with road safety or



by Aidan Ricketts

measuring drug impairment, ongoing mismanagement of native forests by the incompetent Forestry Corporation, the growing totalitarianism of Baird's wowsler state government, and of course serious issues beyond our region like offshore concentration camps for refugees, fossil fuel protectionism at every level of government, political corruption, domestic violence and the failed and socially destructive war on drugs. These are just a few of the issues on the menu, so clearly there's a role for everyone to get informed, get passionate and get active.

Shark nets! There's something to sink your teeth into. If ever there was an issue that revealed the delusional self-importance of humans (anthropocentrism) this one has it all. Mike Baird actually said it all when he recently argued that humans are more important than everything else. How ridiculous can you get? Everything else is... well it's everything else! Everything that humans are actually derived from,

dependent on and should be humbled by.

Surfing and swimming is a pastime in a natural environment that has associated natural hazards, just like rock fishing and bushwalking. We should no more net and murder sharks, turtles, dugongs, dolphins and whales just to protect humans from the inherent risks of their recreational activities, than we should install a coast long break water to stop rock fishermen being swept away, or defoliate the forests so walkers don't get lost. We need to take a strong stand, with direct action if necessary to stop the installation of shark nets. Paddlers, boats and swimmers may be needed for water based blockades in the future, for net removal or for rescuing wildlife.

Our forests need our help again as well, the North East Forest Alliance has revealed systematic non-compliance with existing regulations in our native forests and is now calling for an end to all native forest logging. Meanwhile the Baird government is proposing to wind back those very laws that are being breached, along with winding back land clearing restrictions and endangered species protections. Again it's more delusional and conceited human exceptionalism, laying waste to the world around us as though it was all just put there for our benefit.

But if trying to break humanity into a 21st century consciousness about the importance of life on earth

is not your issue, there's plenty of human rights issues. It seems despite thinking humans are so important we don't even do a good job of treating each other with respect.

The local campaign for better treatment of refugees continues to protest outside Kevin Hogan's office on a weekly basis and could do with more support.

Don't forget as well to keep reporting roadside drug testing harassment in the Northern Rivers. There's a facebook page for posting current locations (Nth Coast RDT locations) as well as a discussion group for other posts (NTHN N.S.W. & S.E QLD RDT DISCUSSION GROUP). The lawyers have had a few wins in fighting this testing regime because it is not evidence-based and has no demonstrable road safety outcome, but it will be a long fight challenging the injustices of this testing regime.

I could go on, but please don't get too overwhelmed either. There's never been a time in history when things are all going perfectly. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to activists past and present without whom the world would be a much worse place.

Try to stay in the present, accept your time and place in history and find inspiration in working with others in your community for a better world. It is a nourishing and worthwhile path, and way more interesting and engaging than any computer game ever invented.

Big Scrub named award finalists

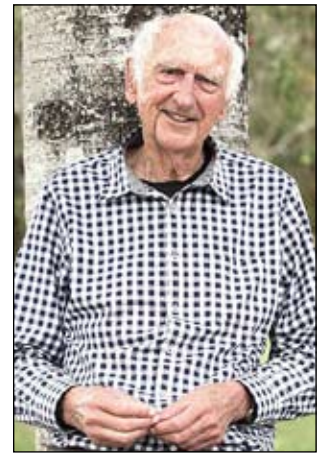
Big Scrub Landcare and its President, Dr Tony Parkes have been announced as finalists in the 2016 Banksia Awards, Australia's most prestigious and longest running national sustainability leadership award program in Australia.

Through his 23-year leadership as its co-founder and president, former scientist, business manager, investment banker and company director, Dr Tony Parkes has led Big Scrub Landcare to become one of Australia's most successful ecological restoration organisations.

Dr Parkes said, "We are delighted to be recognised in such a prestigious competition. Big Scrub Landcare is unusual in that we are a Landcare group with several hundred members that covers a whole ecosystem rather than focusing on a single locality or site. Our mission is to conserve the Big Scrub Rainforest and its magnificent biodiversity.

"We protect critically endangered subtropical lowland rainforest remnant areas of which there are about a hundred, scattered across 75,000 hectares of what was formally the Big Scrub Rainforest. They are extremely valuable, and if we don't care for them they will disappear."

Dr Parkes has been instrumental in the Landcare groups raising of more than \$5.7 million in grants and other contributions, to help owners of more than ninety properties in the Big Scrub by financing more than 6000 days of on-ground restoration work by professional bush regenerators qualified to work



Dr Tony Parkes, President of Big Scrub Landcare

in threatened species habitat.

He was a co-founder and chair for many years of EnviTE and Rainforest Rescue and co-founded the Big Scrub Rainforest Day, now recognised as Australia's largest annual Landcare community engagement and education event and he remains a member of its organising committee.

He was instrumental in the process that led to the listing of Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia as critically endangered under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act, and recently established the Big Scrub Foundation to provide permanent ongoing funding for Big Scrub Landcare's rainforest restoration work. With the help of bush regenerators he has restored 15ha of rainforest on his family's farm.

To become a member of Big Scrub Landcare to help support the protection and restoration of the Big Scrub visit: www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au



Nimbin celebrates Halloween in style



by Bob Dooley

It was the night of the living dead, and tribes of un-dead youngsters scoured the byways of Nimbin in search of victims.

Sales of organic, gluten-free lollies soared at the Emporium, where a messily-murdered girl lay slumped in her

wheelchair on the footpath.

Throwing themselves into the original spirit of the Nordic legend, there were no wimpy clowns to be seen, but plenty of vampires, axe-murderers and the occasional werewolf terrorising the village in search of treats.

It was worse at the Bush Theatre,



where even some of the adults had succumbed to their zombie alter-egos, and appeared in danger of becoming addicted to sweets.

Best on show were definitely the over-18 teenage girls, who managed to pull off a stylish take on Halloween with half-painted faces and slinky dresses.

Remembrance Day – Friday 11th

by Paul Le Bars

A short ceremony commemorating Australian forces in the Vietnam War (1962-1975) will be held on Wednesday 11th November at the Nimbin District Memorial in Allsopp Park, beginning at 10.45am with a minute's silence at 11am, concluding at 11.05am. All are welcome to attend.

The Vietnam War was the longest twentieth century conflict in which Australians participated. It involved some 60,000 Australian service men and women, and more than 1600 Australian civilian personnel. Australian involvement in the war began in 1962 with the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATV) in July and August. Personnel from all three services contributed to the war.

After the end of combat operations in 1972, a small number of Australian personnel remained in Vietnam, and parts of the

RAAF returned in 1975, carrying out evacuations and assisting refugees almost until the moment of South Vietnam's surrender. More than 500 Australians died as a result of the war and over 3000 were wounded. Source: <http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au>

The Battle of Long Tan is the most publicised Australian battle of the Vietnam War. In a decade-long war that, for the most part, consisted of small contacts with an enemy that was reluctant to engage in pitched battles, Long Tan was one of the exceptions. Australia's actual casualties were 18 killed and 24 wounded. Although that number exceeded any other single day loss in the Vietnam War, the number could have been much higher given the disparity in troop numbers between the two sides.

Long Tan is now remembered as an exemplar of Australian soldiers channelling the same attributes of bravery, teamwork and endurance that their forbears displayed in earlier



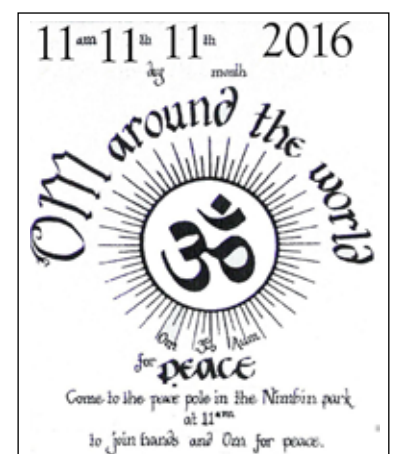
Evacuation from Operation Massey Harris, east of Xuyen Moc, 1970

conflicts. Source: www.army.gov.au

Our Vietnam Veterans were not given a soldiers send-off or regalia like previous conflicts or since, and upon return these soldiers were treated with contempt by the community, having suffered a vicious war like none before. Many returned broken with PTSD. Many returned maimed and limbless. Many returned with the lifelong effects of Agent Orange. It is only

in recent times that this recognition has been afforded to these men and women who served when called upon by their country.

The families of these soldiers should not be forgotten either. Children bullied and families shunned, they bore the brunt of the community's disaffection at home. Then when the soldiers returned, the families had to deal with the PTSD (now proved to be passed



on generationally), the myriad of tragedies created through the use of Agent Orange, etc.

So this year on Remembrance Day, give a thought to all ADF soldiers (and their families), men and women, those serving and who have served for the last 100 years and focus on the words "Lest We Forget" and ensure that the Vietnam conflicts failures to the veterans are never again replicated.