

From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith

Change can be hard. Sometimes it rubs us the wrong way. People are not really built of change, but it's coming whether we like it or not. One of my favourite sayings is from Georg Lichtenberg who said, "I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better."

And I believe that to be very true. Change is not always good, or helpful, but it is essential to get from where we are now, to where we want to be.

After eight years of leadership under the very capable Jenny Dowell and a progressive council, we saw a lot of change for the better. Consultation was brought to the forefront and the community had a greater say in our future direction than ever before.

But in my first few weeks on the job I have attended events too numerous to mention, from the Southern Cross University graduation, to the Friends of the Koala 30th anniversary party, From the wonderful Nimbin Show to 'Hey Hey it's The Humans of Lismore' in the back room of the Tatts.

At every event and function, there is one thing in common. Everyone wants change. There is always something people want to talk about changing for the better and I think that is very exciting!

So there was a big change following the council elections, with more than half our council sitting in on their rookie season. Congratulations to new Councillors



At the Friends of the Koala 30th anniversary, the new mayor with new councillors Eddie Lloyd and Elly Bird

Darlene Cook, Eddie Lloyd, Elly Bird, Adam Guise, Bill Moorhouse and Nancy Casson. They will join the returning and experienced councillors Neil Marks, Vanessa Ekins, Gianpiero Battista and Greg Bennett.

We have a very good balance on council, so I am anticipating a lot of meaningful collaboration and co-operation to put the needs of Nimbin and our whole LGA ahead of personal or party agendas.

One big change that has really hit home for new and returning councillors is changes to the *Local Government Act*, in particular, the new and increased responsibilities of

the elected representatives. The old 1993 Act basically asked councillors to turn up and do their best. But that won't do any more. There are no also-rans or hangers-on.

In the 2016 amendment, just passed in the last few weeks, all councillors must "be an active and contributing member of the governing body". They also need to "make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor".

There are also further clauses to ensure that councillors act co-operatively and represent council decisions accurately. While you

might assume these ideas come with the territory, it was not a requirement in the past.

There is now a legally binding obligation for our newly elected members to do more to make council a place of discussion and community decision making, where in the past it has descended into grandstanding and partisanship.

There is no place in the council chamber any more for argumentative or divisive behaviour, so I hope that all councillors can step up to the challenge, for the sake of our community.

I am really grateful to the councillors who made it to the

Nimbin Show this year. It was great to see the majority come along to share a cuppa and enjoy the atmosphere. Thank you to the organisers who have been growing the crowds over the last few years.

We also had a lot of fun at the Friends of the Koala 30th Anniversary, celebrating a very successful organisation. I look forward to continuing the good work of previous councils in supporting our furry friends.

Thank you for your vote of confidence as Lismore's new mayor. I look forward to many trips out to Nimbin and our villages to support our community.

Who's that new Bird on council?

Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

I have been lucky enough to be elected to Lismore City Council in the recent council elections, and I have been invited to continue to represent Our Sustainable Future in the *GoodTimes* by writing this column.

I have big shoes to fill, taking the place of Simon Clough both on council and here in the *GoodTimes*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon for his support and guidance during the campaign, and for his eight years of work on council, during which he helped deliver many of the sustainability initiatives that inspired me to stand.

I would also like to thank our campaign team and volunteers and my fellow candidates on our ticket. In particular I have been honoured to have Guy Stewart campaigning alongside me, he is a real asset to the community of Nimbin, and to our community more broadly. My thanks also to our retired ex-mayor Jenny Dowell and ex-councillor Glenys Richie for their support and their hard work in the previous term.

For those who don't know me,

my most recent history is my work with Gasfield Free Northern Rivers. I began my role in the movement by organising the second rally against unconventional gas in 2012 which attracted 7000 people, and from then on I was heavily involved in the campaign right across the region.

I have spent the last two years as one of the regional co-ordinators for Gasfield Free Northern Rivers. My experience in the campaign to protect our home has shown me very clearly that our community is committed and determined to participate in solutions to our energy and environmental problems. In my time on Council I hope to help facilitate that participation and help realise the vision that our community holds.

My background before Gasfield Free Northern Rivers is with LightnUp and the Lismore Lantern Parade, and the Woodford Folk Festival. I have worked on many festivals and events right across the country, and I am passionate about community cultural development. I believe that shared experiences at events build community cohesion and connection.

The new council is a good mix of community representatives from



Cr Bird at the Nimbin Show

across environmental, farming, social justice and business sectors, and I am looking forward to working with my new colleagues in the coming term. You can see us all on council's website. Isaac Smith is mayor and my fellow councillors are Darlene Cook, Eddie Lloyd, Vanessa Ekins, Adam Guise, Neil Marks, Bill Moorhouse, Greg Bennett, Nancy Casson and Gianpiero Battista. We have set a new record for gender balance on Lismore City Council with five women!

We are currently in a training and briefing stage, and with five

new councillors there is a lot to cover. Next month I will be travelling to Wollongong for the Local Government Conference to meet other newly-elected councillors from across the state and to participate in more training. Local Government covers a huge range of functions and I am looking forward to gaining a more complete knowledge and understanding of legislation, policies and processes and the important role that council plays in the community.

While I am there, as well as participating in the conference

as a whole, I will take part in particular sessions on principles of good governance and managing natural resources and environment. I will also attend a morning breakfast with the Australian Local Government Women's Association and a morning breakfast with the NSW Reconciliation Council.

The next four years will bring challenges for council, and I encourage everyone to participate whenever possible to ensure that councillors hear from the whole community. Council meetings and some briefings are open to the public, so you can come and hear directly what is being planned for our community and hear your councillors debate. You can find all the details on the council website: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and if you need to contact council you can do so on 1300-87-83-87. I can be contacted directly at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au or on 0418-639-927 for council matters.

Finally, thank you to everyone who voted for Our Sustainable Future, I am honoured to represent our community on council and I look forward to working with you to realise a future we can be proud of.

On the same Page

Rural doctors

I have been working with the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary to encourage more doctors to the village.

I spoke to the Minister about how we can attract more doctors here. Nimbin has been reclassified, and doctors will receive Government funding if they practise here.

A Nimbin GP is eligible to receive up to \$11,000 more per year than one who practises in Lismore.

This is great news, as it provides an incentive for any doctor or medical professional to move to the local community.

Book prizes

Every year I present book prizes to students at local schools. The students are nominated by their school.

I would like to congratulate Hayley Hutchin from Tuntable Creek Public School who recently received a book prize.

If you are involved in a local school P&C or a school library and would like to nominate a student, please contact my office.

Mobile black spots

The Federal Government is working on fixing mobile phone black spots in our area. There have been a number of places identified by the community.

The work around Bentley is currently being



Kevin Hogan MP
Member for Page

completed, and will be fixed by the end of the year.

Coffee Camp and Koonorigan are in the final stages of design and coverage. They will be fixed by the middle of next year.

Early next year, work will begin on improving services in The Channon.

Backpacker tax

Backpackers play an important role in farming across the Northern Rivers. I welcome the Federal Government's decision to slash the proposed Backpacker Tax by almost a half.

I had concerns that the proposed tax was too high, and this is a good compromise. The new proposal will attract backpackers to work on local farms.

I thank the Minister for taking this consultative approach and working through the issue with stakeholders.



Greens double up

While Councillor Vanessa Ekins didn't attract the mayoral vote, she was confidently re-elected to Lismore City Council for another term. Ms Ekins is elated to be joined by her Greens colleague, Councillor Adam Guise, doubling the representation of the Greens on council.

Mr Guise was previously the Greens candidate for Lismore at the last NSW election, which resulted in a cliffhanger between him and incumbent Nationals MP, Thomas George, who ultimately won by a handful of votes. So the wait for the preferences to trickle down should have been like water off a duck's back for Mr Guise.

Like fellow councillor elect, Elly Bird, Mr Guise also had a long involvement with the Lock the Gate campaign and the grassroots Bentley blockade against coal seam gas.

In the Byron mayoral race, Greens Simon Richardson achieved an absolute majority and three new Greens councillors have been voted on to Byron Shire Council.

Tweed council to lean left?

by Scott Sledge,
Tweed Community Voice

As a result of one of the candidates in the local government election dying before the September poll, Tweed Shire was required to postpone the election until Saturday 29th October.

We can anticipate a positive result, as most of the Northern Rivers local councils returned progressive majorities in the September poll.

The Tweed arguably was less involved in the Bentley struggle, and may not follow the same pattern. It has always been a 'frontier' shire, due to the contest between existing residents' interests versus Gold Coast business interests keen to cash in on the area's natural beauty and in the process destroy much of what we love about our lifestyle and environment. As goes the Tweed, so follows the rest of our NSW coastal zones.

At the 2012 election, three National Party candidates, one Green and

one Labor were elected, plus café entrepreneur Gary Bagnall and Barry Longland, who promised to protect the environment. The balanced council worked pretty well until ALP Cr Michael Armstrong was forced to resign because the three National Party councillors and Cr Longland refused him compassionate leave to look after his sick father.

Then Cr Longland seems to have forgotten his pledge to look after threatened species and voted to expand Clarrie Hall dam and in favour of putting the endangered koala colony at Black Rocks, near Pottsville on the road towards extinction.

We desperately need a council that can rise above petty personal feuds and stop sticking it up the environment for the benefit of corporate interests. We need compassion for the homeless, both animals and humans, rather than more theme parks and crowded car parks. We want councillors who respect the wishes

**Gary Bagnall, Chris Cherry,
Ron Cooper, Katie Milne,
Michael McNamara
and Reece Byrnes.**

Tweed Community Voice has reviewed these candidates in conjunction with an issues survey, and advises the voters of Tweed Shire to number these six candidates above the line.

of residents, rather than push their mates' sordid (and often secret) agendas.

Remember that your preferences will determine the outcome of this election. With only seven councillors to be elected, at least four must share community values. Do not let your vote 'exhaust', which happens if you only vote for one candidate and they don't succeed. If you vote 1 to 6 above the line then your vote stays in the game until the end.

Vote wisely. We owe this much to our collective future.

Will we get Trumped?

by Scott Sledge

I have recently returned from five weeks in the American heartland: Idaho and Washington states. The US Presidential election is a hot topic there – as it is here. A sixteen-year-old girl I have known for many years asked, "What do you find most surprising about coming back to America?" I answered, "I am astonished that anyone would vote for Donald Trump."

"Well I would," she said. "I want this country to be for our kind of people... You know, white people."

I believe that racism is the single biggest factor in this year's election. Many people might share the opinion of my 16-year-old friend, but few say it outright. Take the disgruntled white folk who are disappointed with the evaporating American Dream. The Donald is their man (kind of a modern-day Mussolini). In his effort to avoid being "politically correct" Trump has also managed to get away with being incorrect about almost everything else too! He seeks to blame foreigners for the growing income disparity, and not globalised corporate control.

Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again" works for the millions who have had no pay rise for 30 years and who are nostalgic for a time when stupid white males were in control of everything. Bring back the "happy days" when women and minorities knew their place! For gays and lesbians that place was definitely "in the closet!"



Photo courtesy
playbuzz.com

But inequality is not the biggest issue. To many voters the threat that gun violence may lead to left-leaning politicians restricting the availability of firearms, especially assault rifles. These people value their right to carry weapons as their best defense in a violent world. As a person who has watched countless movies and TV dramas where problems are solved by good-guy-kills-bad-guy I understand this culture. It is illogical that more guns equals greater safety, but many Americans believe this. Some restaurants and bars in the US offer discounts to customers carrying firearms.

We tend to see Trump as a narcissistic clown, but really he needs to be taken seriously... not for what he says, because that changes all the time, but for his chances of success. The Democrats have nominated Hillary Clinton, who has nearly as high a negative public opinion rating as Trump. I believe there has

never before been a US Presidential ballot where the 2 main party contenders have been so disliked and distrusted. So, do we vote for a third party or write in Bernie Sanders?

Sanders has wisely endorsed Hillary because he remembers how Ralph Nader spoiled Democrat candidate Al Gore's chances and tipped the contest in favour of George W. Bush, whose warmongering regime invaded Afghanistan and Iraq. Nearly every Bush appointment went to a representative of the oil industry and their wars sent the US treasury massively into debt to the international armaments companies.

Is it hopeless? Not at all. Many fine people are standing for election at other levels of government. Can we do anything here in Australia? Yes. We can get involved to ensure the best get local results – beginning at the 29th October election for Tweed Shire Council. (Alternatively, you can invest in armaments!) If you are entitled to vote in the USA – as I am – take the trouble to cast a ballot.

Will I vote for Hillary? Yes. I supported Bernie in the primaries, but a friend who worked closely with Clinton when she was Secretary of State told me, "She's tough, but she gets things done." She has a history of public service while Trump has never done anything for anyone unless it mainly benefitted him. Hard to believe maybe, but life on this planet could get a whole lot worse.

Trump that!



Of sound mind

by The Loon

It's the end of days. That's a good enough place to start. The petrochemical bubble has reached its zenith and is bursting around us in a wonderful iridescent display of gadgetry.

We can sit and watch under four-star security as the surround-sound sanitised media parades the morsels of a self-mangling world. Oh, we lucky few. Our iPhones at the ready to capture our friends as they raise a glass to their own private Branglexit or Brangelremain.

And who will we have to lead us as the oceans acidify and rise around us? Sound the horns! Trumpets blare. The golden hair and airbrushed brow of a multibillionaire. Cometh the moment, cometh the man.

Donald. So perfect. Someone we can trust to blame the weak and crush the poor. Someone who will without doubt turn up the heating and leave out the milk. A monster for the monstrous hour.

What a display we're in for. Of course we're relatively safe from the barbarity; our kids may fall prey to the ice and madness, but we can still revel in the best CGI imaginable.

We don't need a Great Barrier Reef, we can have a better virtual one made for us, where we can travel around with Sir David Attenborough himself as he describes each of the extinct species of the former wonder.

What a relief to know we can finally lie back on the couch with a glass of cold bubbly and let the stresses of the apocalypse wash over us, quite literally. It's a warm feeling isn't it?



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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au



Sibley Street Art Auction fundraiser

Come along on Saturday 15th October at 11.30am and snap up some pre-loved art (as well as new pieces) and turn it into re-loved art, and help us raise funds to save the old house at Sibley Street at the same time. Viewings commence at 10am. More details on our face book page and website. Please come along and support our biggest and best project ever – and score some gorgeous new art for your walls in the process. Not to be missed. There will be art bargains to be had. Not from Nimbin? We need your support... there are only so many of us Nimbinites to fund this project. So come along and get some art into ya.

Enhance Triple P – coping strategies

Wednesdays 26th October, 2nd and 9th November, 10.30am-noon each day. Another great training opp for people who are having trouble finding the remote control (or guide book) for the kids! Parenting, like most things, is a learned skill, and this course will help you to build new skills and sharpen up your existing ones. Venue: Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio. Brought to you absolutely FREE by the Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres' Brighter Futures Far North Coast program. No registration required – just turn up on the first day.



Nat and Gen with trophy at the North Coast Primary Health Network Excellence Awards 2016 in Coffs Harbour

Wanted: Demolition crew for Sibley Street

We are after a few sensible folks to help us (carefully) demolish the rear deck, rear section of the house and front verandah of the house. Can you help? Please contact Nat or Guy at NNIC.

2016 Community Sustainability Survey

We ask the questions that matter. We are collecting data relevant to our Community Sustainability Plan and this will be the fourth survey of its type in Nimbin since 2009. This is our own census. The data is used for the good of Nimbin and Nimbinites (e.g. to attract funding). If you only do one survey this year do this one. Available at NNIC and can also be downloaded from our website. Please return your surveys to NNIC by 30th November (for people who live within 30kms radius of the Nimbin village). <http://nnic.org.au/pub/index.php/sustainability/introduction>

Nimbin Integrated Services: finalist in Health Excellence Awards

On Friday 9th September, Nat and Gen attended the North Coast Primary Health Network Excellence Awards in Coffs Harbour. We picked up a trophy for being one of three finalists in our category. We didn't win, but we were thrilled to make the finals and pretty happy to get a trophy.

Nimbin Country Show – Sustainability Alley

The weather was great, and so was the Nimbin Show. The Pavilion was packed with exhibits, the demos and talks were popular and overall so great to see our little local country show thriving. Well done to everyone involved and especially the Nimbin Show Society. Thanks to everyone who came along. And the Winners are:

- Best show-themed shop display competition: Truffula Seeds Café; 1st Prize; Nimbin Organic Food Co-op – 2nd Prize;

The Green Bank – 3rd Prize.

- Local Film Bytes short film competition: Triny Roe First Catch Your Toad – 1st Prize (\$100); Megan James – Grappling with Gremlins – 2nd Prize (\$50).

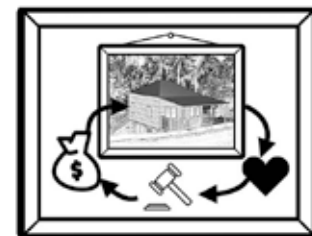
Donations needed

We are seeking donations of good quality and preferably new toys for kids aged 0-12 years, for Santa to give out at Christmas time. Contact Heidi, Ruth or Nat at NNIC.


Non-perishable food donations also needed

The demand for meals and food is ever increasing due to increasing pressures on household incomes. Next time you are out shopping, why not consider buying a couple of extra items for our food cupboards at NNIC, so we can pass them onto people in need. Contact Heidi, Ruth or Nat at NNIC.

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.



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Nimbin Hospital Information



Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held on the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic 10th October. 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 20th October. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6688-2401 to make an appointment.

Nimbin community nurses

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

Wound clinic

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

Nurse practitioner clinics

- Diabetes clinic: 3rd Thursday of the month, next is 20th October.
- Respiratory clinic: 2nd Tuesday of the month, next is 10th October. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Free health checks

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

Cannabis clinic

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

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

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

Nimbin NSP

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

Health advice line

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

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next is 14th October.



Who am I?

Amanda Sillars
Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation

I am 11, my father has taken me 15,000km away from my mum. I am distracted by new possessions, stories, places, people and a new life. My world with mum is suddenly gone. Old friends are all gone. People I trusted are gone, the places and activities I did with mum are gone.

Where is my family, my community? Does anyone care? I miss mum but I am being forced to forget everything that meant something. There are no more loving cuddles, fun loving conversations, someone to accept me, encourage me, guide me and love and adore me. I can no longer hear her laugh or see her smile. She is gone – I have to move on but I don't know how.

I see other children with their mothers. I try and find the place where my mum exists in my mind, but it hurts too much – I push it down. I feel angry but I don't have anyone to talk to that understands. I am afraid of speaking about her as I don't want to disappoint my father.

One day I answer the phone and it is my mum. She sounds excited to find my voice on the line and asks me how I am. I cannot speak, my chest is tight. I have no words – no one ever asks me how I am. I don't know how to think or feel about me, but I am hurting

"I tell my story so I can heal and so others can learn about the impact it can have when a parent isolates their child from their other parent and manipulates them to believe the other parent is a bad parent,"
Amanda said.

Parental Alienation Awareness Day is 12th October.
www.emmm.org.au

and I don't know why. Why can't I see her and everything go back to the way it was? I put the phone down, overwhelmed. Was it just a dream? I am shutting down. Why couldn't I just tell her that I love her?

I watch closely at parents talking with their children, observing how excited they are and watching them interact. I start to flood with sadness and push away from everyone as it hurts too much. Why cannot someone love me like that? Why have I become a loner and so unlovable.

The day comes where I meet her. She is now much shorter than me as I have grown up into a woman. She is frail, her chest and face flushed red. She looks alcohol ravaged but greets me with a sad smile and a soft hug. I don't know her journey and all I can think of is why did you let this happen? I watch her speak and I see tears in her eyes but all I can think about is myself. All I feel is pain and



confusion.

Mum tells me how she has been fighting in court for over seven years to see me. She tells me I am so much like my father. How could she say this? It was like a sword through my heart. Inside I scream with anger. "I am not like Dad, I am like you, and I even look like you!" She breaks off a rose and gives it to me.

I have just turned 19. Sitting on my bed, the phone rings. I answer and a voice says, "I am sorry to hear about your mum."

"What do you mean, you're sorry?"

"You better go read the paper," the voice says. I drop the phone and run to the newsagent, pick up the newspaper and there on the front page is a huge photo of my mum. I read the headline, "How the Red Tape Destroyed Nola." Racing my eyes down the page I learn that my mother had gassed herself in her car. She was gone.

"Children of high conflict divorce or separation need support and tools to cope, to put down boundaries and be free to have both parents in their life with no pressure."

Nothing my mum did was ever right in my fathers eyes and everything he did he believed was right. He thought he was the best parent and thought my mum was not worthy of anything, not even her children. He punished her and did everything he could to emotionally, financially and socially destroy her.

He made me believe he was my saviour and that everything was fantastic living with him. I didn't know who I was or where I belonged. No one could ever replace my mum.

My father could not show the same type of love towards me like my mum did, we were so close – best friends. She was the most fun loving mum that anyone could hope for. But Dad wanted to destroy her and it didn't matter to him that he was destroying a part of me too. He showed no empathy.

I grew up with no identity, didn't know what a healthy relationship was and had no guidance. I developed an eating disorder.

It has become 'normal' to grow up with only one of your parents, but this is unconscionable when there is no evidence of any harm or 'abuse' on the part of the parent left

behind, regardless of their gender. Parents must never be allowed to isolate their children from their other parent. Children are being isolated through various means including false allegations of abuse, manipulation of protection orders, abducting children interstate, overseas or even just the same suburb.

Children don't understand that what they are experiencing is emotional child abuse and mental health workers need to be educated in the dynamics of parental alienation and its sinister sister, parental abduction.

If you are a child or teenager that has found yourself disconnected from a parent you love and once had in your life – reach out and connect with your other parent. It is important to get support through a counsellor or psychologist to help you cope, put down some boundaries with both parents and help you gain confidence in yourself and control back in your life. You have the right to love, and be loved by, both of your parents equally.

If you are a parent that has been isolated from your child and you are experiencing unbearable grief or are finding it difficult to find your way in life without your child, or are having trouble communicating with your child, seek support through a counsellor or psychologist. Visit our website. Stay strong. Your child needs you more than you can imagine.

• Full article can be found at: www.linkedin.com/pulse/who-am-i-amanda-sillars More info: www.emmm.org.au

Nimbin meets council candidates

Chamber Chat
by Teresa Biscoe, President

Our Meet the Candidates evening was well attended by the community of Nimbin. The teams from the Country Labor, The Greens and The Sustainability Group fielded the most number of attending candidates, with one independent and two members of Neil Marks' team.

Each group spoke briefly about the policies that they felt benefitted both the shire and our town, and then questions were thrown open to the floor. It was great to see that Nimbin had two members of its community as candidates, including Darren



Guy Stewart addresses the meeting
Photo: Kirrah Holborn

Butcher our local baker and Guy Stewart from Rainbow Power. Unfortunately neither local candidate received enough

votes for a position on council, so we still don't have direct representation on council. However, the candidates who

attended spoke well about issues raised by the audience and we seem to have a new council that is empathetic to the needs of our community and recognises the economic and cultural contribution made by our town in this region.

Our street beautification project is going well: a number of local artists have agreed to repaint the planters,

adding art and colour to the street. You may have also noted local artist Gitto and his beautiful sculpted relief of a breaching whale on the side wall of the bakery.

We are so lucky that we have such wonderful and talented local artists who so generously give their time to make our town beautiful and create the colour and vibrancy we associate with our town and main street.



Increased funding for aged care allows more residents

by Noelle Lynden-Way
BUNK community representative

In December 2015 the Federal Government granted funding of \$146,000 for three extra beds in Kyogle MPS Residential Aged Care facility. This meant three new residents could come to live at Kyogle Aged Care.

To allow for the care of the new residents, after consultation with staff in February 2016, a proposal was made by management that there be an increase of 52 hours per week – four hours a day in Assistant in Nursing (AIN) hours and four hours a day in wardsperson/health & security assistant (WP/HSA) hours

An AIN covered the extra four-hour afternoon shift from March when the three new residents arrived because negotiations were still taking place with the WP/HSA and their union representatives. Once agreement was reached, as of 12

September, the personal care aspect of the wardsperson/security role was increased and the extra four-hour shift introduced in the afternoon into the Residential Aged Care (RAC). The Industrial Relations Commission agreed that the original plan in February 2016 could go ahead.

There has been a reaction to the follow-through of this decision from some members of the community and staff who think an AIN four-hour afternoon shift is better for the residents in the RAC because of their professional training and that the temporary AIN appointment should be maintained.

Both AIN's and WP/HSA's receive direction from the Registered Nurse or Enrolled Nurse on duty. The W/HSA are paid more per week because of their multiskilling ability. Their responsibilities now include duties (as listed in the Health Employees (State award) associated with

care of residents such as shaving, showering, transfer of residents, making beds, cleaning, security and laundry. They can set up and assist with residents' meals including prompting and supervising eating and drinking as directed by nursing staff.

Nancy Martin, Executive officer, Director of Nursing MPS Network explained to Tom Fitzgerald Community Consultation Committee representative and BUNK at a recent meeting that the services at the RAC are not being downgraded:

1. The facility already has wardpersons on morning shifts assisting nursing staff with personal care to residents. There will now be four extra hours of wardsperson in the afternoon.
2. The afternoon wardsperson has the added advantage of having security training to better protect the staff. There was previously a four-hour gap in security cover which is now corrected.

3. 8 hours extra staffing per day have been added to the RAC unit – four hours AIN and four hours wardsperson/security.
4. Work flows have been changed to include a daily laundry service for residents.
5. The casual AIN staff who have worked the temporary afternoon shifts will be offered casual work across the MPS network – there is no loss of jobs. The Kyogle MPS is currently advertising for more AIN's to form a casual pool.
6. Management have been in consultation/communication with staff for over 9 months to ensure the change is managed smoothly. Weekly monitoring by management has shown that work flows have improved.

Noelle attends the monthly Q & S Meeting with management and staff of the four MPS and writes this article to inform the community about how the MPS functions.

Riled about rally

I would like to firstly raise your attention to a photo that was used in a story about the Border Ranges Rally that I took, and was not asked permission for it to be used. Someone has just taken it off Facebook without permission.

Secondly, I hope you approach the organisers of the event to have a balanced report of the event, because I suspect Kathleen Green's story (NGT September p7) is the opinion of one person and in parts is not factual.

I have had expert advice from vet doctors that the cars would not cause any stress to wildstock or animals, as all cars meet street legal noise level requirements.

I also know that the benefit to the community is substantial, and reports from surveys conducted will support this with fact, not just made-up bullshit.

Keep in mind we (the rally community) also support your town (Nimbin) during the year when we pass through. Often we buy fuel, food from takeaways and hotels, buy stuff from newsagents and support accommodation places etc.

Colin O'Brien

• While photos posted on Facebook are deemed to be in the public domain, an attribution to Colin was included on the photo, but printed almost illegibly. Look closely, sorry. – Ed.

Condolences for Tommy

I wish to pass on my sincere condolences to Inez, Al and all the Price family. I didn't know Tommy that well but had worked with Inez at the Environment Centre and am friends with Al.

Yes, he will be greatly missed by his family and friends and the Nimbin community.

I wish his family the very best in the future.

RIP Tommy Price.

Paul Brecht
Goonellabah.

Belonging/s

As I shook hands with a fellow Tuntable Falls Co-op shareholder, we pondered the journey that pulled us to the Caldera. Later I wanted to pen the musings, and used the butcher's paper (part of my removalist package). As a grey hair, I find the riches in life are in simple things. We

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

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are blessed if we have them~family~friends, health, time, and enough stuff.

It's the love and lust for stuff, and more stuff, that keeps the beast chained to the treadmill, ever working. Never enough Super, never able to procure a sarcophagus big enough to transport it all into the afterlife.

Sobering...a rooster crows~they go off at all hours in Nimbin. It was delightful to see one on the mainstreet pedestrian crossing. Layla, the Anglican's resident dingo is another critter who belongs here. Because belonging, not belongings, is where it's at.

After sorting 15 years of stuff, in a house that held me captive to fear, depression, isolation and a mortgage (means death grip, by the way) I know experience helps teach us when the timing is right to step out.

Here the wind audibly blows in the trees, and I recall a holy text. In it we're known to be 'but a vapour... but dust'. King Solomon, the richest and wisest, in his world and time, felt and wrote that. Wisdom is the gem.

I do acknowledge the first nations' people who honour this land. I enquired of my daughter (born in the Caldera) was being called sister their identifying me as Indigenous? This also happened on mainstreet Nimbin. She replied no, that all were sister. Humility, and honour: a double blessing of belonging.

So borne, not born, I'm back~grateful and blessed. One of the first sisters to welcome me shared what she wrote of her values. Written decades before, these had not changed. I can agree. A dear friend, who also did the north/south passage called

this God's own country. R.I.P Cheryl. Sociologically, I think baby-boomers were seeking something that materialism could not buy.

I have time to read NGT, and I lined the pantry with the Spring edition after I read it. I would that the newspaper turns brown with age as I savour the best of life here. I knew I felt happy enough to depart this life when the plane left the tarmac, with my minimalised stuff already on the road ahead of me. Such was the experience of catharsis, and completion of doing my time in the city. I felt free. Coming home?

Concluding, it's good to invest in what matters, which may be less about matter (as in materialism). Few will depart in a sarcophagus, but all will need adequate housing. Perhaps it is self evident that pensioners with pets are reliable and responsible. Please discriminate wisely. Venerable people can support the more vulnerable. Warm thanks to the greyhairs who especially welcomed me.

Lunicorn (my pseudonym!)
signed Lois McWhinney

Lesser evil

With the latest survey showing more alcohol than ever is being consumed by the older generation. It is not surprising the younger generation is experimenting more as well.

Not being a regular cannabis smoker for many years now, for the second time in a 12 month period, I smoked cannabis at my own birthday and recently at a 21st birthday.

Subsequently I've been tested positive for amphetamines in my system: amphetamines are not a drug of my choice. If drug dealers are putting this kind of drug into cannabis to get our youth hooked, it can lead to destroying life's chances with criminal records affecting future opportunities such as jobs, loans for the rest of your life. Before adult life has even started!

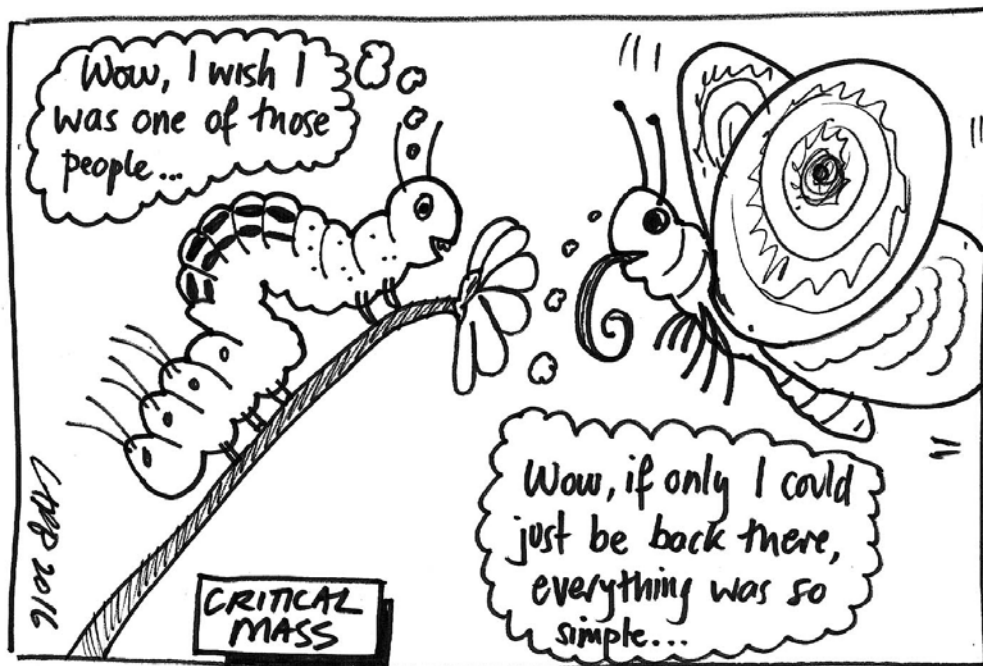
A few months ago, I was disturbed by screaming, crying and smashing of glass, coming from up the street. Young boys had smoked cannabis unaware it had been laced with cocaine and LSD.

One boy was on the floor choking himself with rope and covered in blood; another boy was smashing his head into the brick wall with blood everywhere; and a third boy was trying to suffocate himself.

All three boys ended up in Lismore Base Hospital under sedation.

We really need to educate our youth before it is too late on the very real dangers of drugs.

Fox Howard
Casino



Self-government

Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the 1967 New State Referendum for Northern NSW, which was narrowly defeated when the Askin government included the populous industrial city of Newcastle at the last moment to defeat the referendum. Excluding the Hunter Valley, there was a Yes vote of 64% in favour of a New State.

The Yes vote locally in that referendum was: Lismore 72%, Byron 67%, Grafton 66%, Coffs harbour 73%, Tenterfield 71%, Tamworth 58%, Armidale 61%, Coonabarabran 53%, Gunnedah 65%, Moree 67%, Taree/Forster 28%, Port Macquarie 44%.

In 1953, 21 Local Government Areas voted on the New State issue, producing a 76.9% Yes vote.

If you can think outside the square, you will realise that with a new state, residents will make their own decisions for their state/region, not relying on a far-distant government/bureaucracy that has historically looked after their capital city constituency first.

With economic rationalism, the return on investment always favours the capital city, in terms of economic development, thus leaving small and smaller amounts of moneys for investment in rural Australia. For many regional people, NSW stands for Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong.

Taxation data for the northern NSW regions exceeds the taxation base of Tasmania and the Territories, and population projections indicate it has the viability for future government.

Now is the time to start the conversation with Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, the regional organizations of Councils, community radio, letters to the editor, and Friday nights at the pub, about revisiting self-government for the region.

Stephen Welstead
Bangalow

Notices

For Sale

Van One: 5m Caravan and Annex suitable for a permanent site. Caravan is in fair condition, double bed (no mattress), sink, cupboards, shelves, single bed. Please note: no stove, not sure if fridge works. Vinyl Annex is in excellent condition with large screened windows.

Van Two: 5m Caravan and Annex suitable for a permanent site. Caravan is in fair condition, double bed with mattress, sink, cupboards, shelves, single bunk beds. Please note: no stove, not sure if fridge works. Vinyl Annex is in good condition, has hard roof, glass sliding door with portico, large screened windows with awnings.

Vans are both located in Murwillumbah, and are not towable, so will have to be moved by a tilt-tray truck. Price \$3,000 each (negotiable). Phone Maria 0426-197-470. Can email photos.

Expressions of Interest – Cafe

Blue Knob Hall is currently looking for expressions of interest from any local people who might like to take on the running of the Cafe from January 2017. Please contact the Management Committee on 6689-7449 or by email: bkhgalleries@aapt.net.au See Blue Knob Hall Gallery article on centre pages for more information.

Tweed election

Meet the Candidates in Murwillumbah on Thursday 13th October, 6.30pm at the Haven Bar in the main street.

AGMs

- 2Nim-FM Community Radio annual general meeting – Thursday 3rd November, 5pm in the Nim-FM office at the Nimbin Community Centre. All welcome.
- HEMP Party annual general meeting – midday Saturday 26th November at the Nimbin HEMP Embassy, Cullen Street Nimbin.

Karate Classes

Traditional Karate-do lessons, ages 10 to adult, at Nimbin on Tuesdays and Lismore on Fridays, 4–5.30pm, \$15 per class. Held during school term, starting Tuesday 11th October, led by Sensei Rachel Whiting, TOGKA (Traditional Okinawan Goju-ryu Karate-do Association) Phone 0427-778-837 to enquire and register.

Room Hire

Are you thinking of running a class or workshop? Do you need a meeting space? The Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio and the Birth and Beyond Room are available for hire at \$11 per hour or \$33 per day, with a \$20 key deposit. Information about classes is available from the calendars on our website: www.nimbincommunity.org.au Please ring 6689-0000 to make a booking. From 10th October, the office is open 8am to 3.30pm Weds/Thurs and 8am to 12pm Friday.

Free Notices

Keep it short, and if it meets our criteria, we'll run it.

About us

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

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 26th October

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

Giant tree in forest of humanity has fallen

Bill Mollison

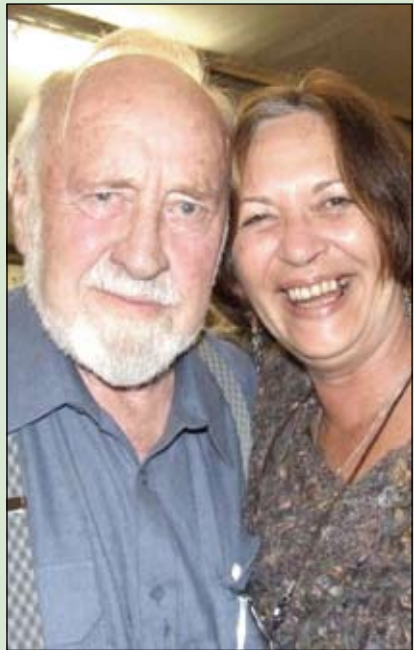
Eulogy by Robyn Francis

Bill Mollison, co-creator of the permaculture concept and founder of the movement, passed away in Hobart, Tasmania on the evening of September 24, 2016. For many it felt like a giant old growth tree in the forest had fallen. Since then, tributes have been flowing from around the world acknowledging the legacy and life's work of an exceptional man.

As David Holmgren noted, "With the passing of Bill Mollison... comes the end of an era for many thousands of people around the world whose lives were transformed by the teaching and writing of one of Australia's most influential ecological pioneers."

Bill was known as a visionary, researcher, author, academic, philosopher, teacher, mentor, motivator and legendary storyteller. He'd find your buttons and challenge your dogmas – he made you think. He took pleasure in insulting bureaucrats, famous and pretentious people, yet always had time for the "forgotten people", the cleaners, drivers and lackeys. He was a man of deep compassion and carried a burning rage for those who perpetuated destruction and exploitation of the earth and the disadvantaged.

One of Bill's greatest and most effective



legacies was the education system he created with the Permaculture Design Course (PDC), empowering people to be the change, and encouraging them to teach and empower others. "Information is a resource that grows the more it is shared."

As a result of the PDC and his books, permaculture is now being practised in over 140 countries and the on-the-ground projects would now be in the hundreds of thousands around the world. It is perhaps Australia's

greatest intellectual export.

I was fortunate to work closely with Bill through the 1980s and 90s, co-teaching the first permaculture course with him in India in 1987, providing support for the film crew making *The Visionaries* and *Global Gardener* documentary series, organising the early Earthbank conferences which brought the concept of Ethical Investments into mainstream media.

Bill moved from Tasmania to Tyalgum in the Tweed Valley in 1987 where he lived for the next decade before returning back to Tasmania.

Bill has left behind a global legacy of people and communities building reliance and creating the kind of world we want to see for future generations. A legend has passed to travel in dreams beyond the stars and lives on in the hearts, minds and hands of those he influenced.

I am writing this tribute en route to China to teach my 4th PDC in that country, where there is a growing hunger for positive solutions and change. When I last saw Bill he was heartened to know that permaculture was making inroads into China, which he called "the final frontier".

In November we will be planting a memorial food forest at Djanbung Gardens to honour this remarkable man, and to acknowledge his final request that we plant trees.

Bettina bites

I read with concern Bettina Arndt's piece in the September edition downplaying women's experience of domestic violence and citing David Leyjonhelm. It's hard enough avoiding Bettina's smarmy, reactionary opinion pieces syndicated from the Australian all across the rightwing blogosphere, without having to dodge her MRA red-pill claptrap in the local paper.

Jay Stephens
Barkers Vale

Gendered agendas

Celebrity sex therapist Bettina Arndt would have us believe that the pendulum has swung too far in favour of women, and the poor victimised men are killing themselves as a result (NGT September, p15).

I recall in an interview she gave 20-odd years ago where she asserted that there is a gap between sex drives which could best be resolved by women willing themselves into the mood more often. This, she concluded, would lead to happier households.

Bettina Arndt is a famous champion of male privilege, whilst simultaneously denying its existence. The thing about privilege is that it is so utterly pervasive that it is virtually invisible to its direct beneficiaries. This is far more the case for gender than race.

Ms Arndt has made a long and lucrative career trotting out assertions supporting gender inequality whilst

upholding men as the victims. In truth, so long as there is a gender gap, everyone but a minute cultural elite and their paymasters, loses.

Consider the Matildas, who did better than the Socceroos, but had to pay their way scrubbing toilets. What message does that send my seven-year old girl who plays soccer?

What about the speculation around Hilary Clinton's health because she collapsed with pneumonia, compared to the treatment of George W Bush when he fell down at a state function and literally threw up on the Prime Minister of Japan? Male privilege.

And Olympic women's beach volleyball uniforms: have a go at explaining that to your 9-year old boy.

The thing about privileging a whole group is that it comes at the cost of another group. When misogyny is culturally supported to an even greater extent than racism, violence is normalised.

Her use of the statistic that one in three men are also victims of violence, misrepresents the fact that in nearly all of those cases, those men are themselves victims of violence perpetrated by other men.

Ms Arndt would assert that she is a proponent of gender equality, but her staunch support for male privilege, misuse of statistics and minimisation of gender-based violence at every opportunity, proves the lie.

Just as it was with the black

slave owners who railed against emancipation, so it is with female celebrity opponents of gender equality. The slave owners got free labour, Bettina Arndt gets her prehistoric views published for fame and fortune.

Meanwhile Ms Arndt's employers, including *The Australian*, enjoy paying female staff on average 83% less than their male colleagues.

Francis O'Neill
The Channon

Council integrity

I encourage your readers to lodge a complaint with the Minister of Local Government (olg@olg.nsw.gov.au) and call upon him to intervene in relation to the following issues which have brought the Tweed Shire Council's integrity into serious question;

(1) By refusing to bring forward a report into the future use and viability of an alternative permanent site at Lot 3 Centennial Drive, Pottsville for a men's shed, Council is in breach of their resolution at the 21 August 2014 Council meeting.

(2) In accordance with the Local Government Act, before a licence can be issued on community land, the matter must be put on public exhibition. However, on 15 September Council approved a licence for a men's shed at Black Rocks without doing so.

(3) On 24 August the Office of Local Government

provided advice that during the period between the cancelled 10 September election and 29 October election, Council should 'avoid making any contentious decisions that would be binding on the incoming Council that cannot be deferred'.

An industrial-like men's shed in the middle of a koala corridor at Black Rocks is a very contentious issue, which has divided the community for over 2 years. It is unconscionable that the OLG advice was ignored and the granting of a licence for a men's shed at Black Rocks was put on the September Council agenda.

Crs Longland, Polglase and Byrne had the opportunity to diffuse public division and anger by deferring the licence (as proposed by Mayor Milne and Deputy Mayor Bagnall) and voting for a Council report into an alternative permanent site. But instead they have fueled public outcry by voting for a licence and against a Council report.

And now we are told nine days after the licence was approved that the matter has to go on public exhibition, and the public has 28 days to have their say (submissions close 22 October). All of this whilst Council is in caretaker mode. Council was flooded with letters from objectors to granting the licence prior to the September Council meeting. Will Council listen to them?

Lyn Dickinson
Pottsville

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