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From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith
Lismore City Council

It was great to be at Nimbin Central School recently to celebrate the end of another successful year. The old adage that it takes a village to raise a child, is more true than ever. So to gather with all those from the local community who have helped make Nimbin Central School a place of learning, trust and growth for students, was a real highlight in my week. Thank you for making it a special place for our kids.

There is so much happening around our villages over the Christmas break, so make sure you pop into the Visitor Information Centre for all the latest info. Locals often don't take the time to check out the VIC, as they think it is just for tourists. But there is so much happening, like seeing "Rudolf the red Nose Reindeer" at Nimbin Bush theatre, or visiting our amazing little galleries at places like Blue Knob. Find out what's on at the VIC or www.visitnimbin.com.
[au<http://www.visitnimbin.com](http://www.visitnimbin.com)



com.au>

While you are out and about at our village events, don't forget the larger gatherings in Lismore coming up. Carols in the heart on the 10th at Crozier oval should be great with Justice Crew performing alongside all our local favourites. And as always Tropical Fruits over New Years is sure to not disappoint. My holiday challenge to everyone is to see if you can visit all of our local markets over the summer.

The small rural residential development just outside of Nimbin on the Blue Knob road, comes back to council

after being out on exhibition over the past month. There were some concerns raised about the development, but generally it has been well received by the community.

Developing areas close to our villages is a central part of our sustainable development strategy at Council. A few years ago we decided that we could not keep working on green field sites that could only be accessed by cars. This was not a sustainable approach and also ate into significant farmland which future generations will need. So making sure developments close to our villages become part of the local culture is vital. I believe Nimbin's vibrant identity can take this new development in its stride and welcome some new locals into the fold.

I am really looking for next year to be a big one for our local hemp industry. While we are hearing about possible growth out towards Richmond Valley, which is good for the region, I know that we have the expertise and ability to match or better these proposals in Nimbin. The hemp forums



continue to draw good crowds and the industry continues to develop and I want Nimbin to be at the centre of that continuing evolution. I know locals will continue to help with that push for reform and production in our area.

Thank you to everyone for their love and support for council over the past year. It has been the most challenging year we have faced, so I know the break will be welcomed by all. But 2018 will be another wonderful year of working with our community and making things better for all.

Travelling out around the villages is always a highlight in my job and it occurs a little more at this time of year as groups in our community are wrapping up and gathering for Christmas. So I am constantly encouraged by how amazing you are. I hope that everyone can look back on the year with some satisfaction and joy. Have a safe a happy holidays!

Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, president

This year the AGM began with a presentation from Lou Bradley to discuss the Nimbin Roots Festival 2017. Lou introduced her husband and co-event organiser, Phil. She received very positive national and international reviews for the event, including a glowing review in *The Guardian*.

The members who attended gave very positive feedback, and many businesses reported improved trade over the weekend and a different crowd from the usual Mardigrass visitors. Lou reported that around 2000 people bought tickets for this year's festival, around 500 more than last year's event. She would like to grow the event slowly and keep its low-key village appeal, seeking local sponsorship to help her stage and publicise the event, as she and her partner work all year in order to stage it.

The Chamber has agreed to sponsor next year's event in recognition of the positive benefits to the businesses of Nimbin. If any business wants to support this event they can find more about the event and the sponsorship details at the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/nimbinrootsfest or on their website: www.nrfest.com

As president, I gave a round-up of current initiatives, including the great news that Lismore Council has agreed to the Chamber's request to release \$18,000 from the Nimbin Business Rate Variation Levy Fund, as well as \$2000 from its own funding to support the Light Up Nimbin Project. We have also obtained approval from Lismore Council to contribute \$2000 from the Nimbin Business Rate Variation Levy Fund for our sponsorship of the Nimbin Roots Festival.

Diana Roberts also briefly reported on the revision of the Nimbin Walking Trail Project. The decision has been made to scale down the size of the project and follow the existing rights of way. This will reduce the issues raised by the need to negotiate with so many landholders for access and to address Lismore Council's concerns about supporting a project with these issues.

We hope these revisions will get this very worthy, long term vision the funding and support it deserves. It will add a whole new layer of beauty and amenity to our village for all of us to enjoy.

We welcomed some new faces to the membership this year, and I would like to thank all new and long term members for their support. Thanks as well to all those who attended.



After the AGM, Simon Rose, the developer of the Museum site, gave a presentation to the meeting. He provided images of the development and a plan. The development was designed with the assistance of local artist Lee Arnold in consultation with Lismore council, and Simon expressed a strong desire to create something that is appropriate to the site and is an asset to the village.

He showed a great willingness to listen, and attempted to address the questions and concerns raised by those present. Most people seemed pleased with the visual impression of the development and basic layout of the plan. We suggested that he put the plans and images in the Nimbin Tourist Information Centre for the community to view, and Simon agreed to do so. Currently they anticipate the development to be complete by the end of next year.

Enjoy your holiday season! The Chamber has a final meeting this year for the newly elected committee and will meet soon to decide the committee positions, and I will report that soon. Otherwise we will see you all in the New Year.

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Asylum Seekers rally in Lismore

by Omega Breakspear

Over 100 people came to the rally outside Lismore City Hall on Sunday 26th November to show solidarity with the refugees on Manus Island.

Papua New Guinea authorities had forcibly removed all of the remaining 328 men at the decommissioned Manus Island detention centre to new camps during the week before.

Activists group GetUp! organised rallies across Australia to support asylum seekers over the weekend. Lismore Amnesty co-ordinated the local event with a minute's silence held while people held their crossed arms above heads as a show of solidarity.

The rally heard from a local who had been

in contact with the refugees on Manus Island. "We could never resist peacefully without you people in Australia, and I appreciate you once again," Behrouz Boochan, an Iranian journalist detained on Manus has said.

The day following the Lismore rally, Gosford Anglican Father Rod Bower and four other Christian refugee activists chained themselves to the front gates of the Prime Minister's Kirribilli House.

Police and rescue crews used bolt cutters and a grinder to cut the chains from around their necks before arresting them.

Protests will continue with the slogan 'Bring Them Here' highlighting the aim of the movement.

Big year comes to a close

I have just spent the last four days immersed in our fantastic creative community, at the inaugural Artstate conference in Lismore.

The conference also had a stellar arts program running parallel, showcasing many of the regions finest creative practitioners. The variety and quality on display was impressive, showing very clearly that our region is a leader in innovative, regional arts practice.

The Arts, like so many other parts of our regional life can suffer from a 'country cousin' perception that needs to be undone. The regions produce new perspectives and new voices that need to be heard and valued by metro audiences. The divide between the regions and the city needs to be disrupted.

It's similar to the battle for gender equality in that "one day there will be no women leaders, there will just be leaders" well perhaps, "one day there will be no regional arts – there will just be art" and perhaps we could go further and hold our intention that all art will be valued and funded equally.

My appreciation and respect to everyone involved in the event, and especially to our local arts community.

Yet again I have been reminded of the reasons that I love the Northern Rivers and our unique creative identity. I know I am not alone when I say loud and proud that I don't want to live anywhere else.

The quality of life we are so lucky to have here far outweighs the perceived benefits of city life. There are some benefits that are hard to avoid, like employment benefits, particularly for our



Word of the Bird
by Cr Elly Bird

youth, but in my opinion the good outweighs the bad.

In the regions we have a better understanding of community. We know what community cohesion looks like. We have strong networks and a strong identity, and the relationships we build with each other over the years bring trust and respect. That is what community resilience is, trusting each other and knowing that we can work together, and knowing that we can hold a common vision for a better world.

I am a little weary, so please forgive me for waxing lyrical and wandering a little as I write this column, which is my last for the year. I am not just weary from four days of quality artistic expression and community pride (although that does have a lot to do with it) but at a deeper level I am weary from a long, trying and challenging year on so many levels.

Sometimes I ponder on the artificial construct that is the end of the year, because in truth the next year just rolls on in and the work continues, life continues and nothing really abates or halts. It all just keeps on rolling. Then

I reflect on the value of a finishing point, a threshold to pause and evaluate our year, to consider it against the years that came before it, and to consider it as we contemplate the years to come.

I feel like every year lately when I get to this time, I feel a great sense of relief that the year is over. Relief that I can close that chapter and reset, and prepare myself for the new one. And, as much as part of me wants to assert that the finish is an illusion, this year perhaps more than any other I am looking forward to turning the page, and approaching the coming year with fresh perspectives.

Please remember as Christmas approaches, and if you are a present-buying type, to #shoplocal and support our local businesses. If you are in Lismore, please shop at our CBD businesses, particularly those that were hit hard by the flood. Christmas is possibly the most important time for retailers and as a community we need to rally together to support them. Shop local, shop ethical, shop with minimal waste and encourage your friends and family to do the same.

I hope you all have a relaxing break, with good food and good company, that you find some time to be still and to be present with yourself as we cross the threshold of 2017. Next week I will head to the Woodford Folk Festival as I do each year, so I will see you in 2018. I look forward to travelling into the new year together, as a community, ready to work together to shape our future.

As always you can contact me for Council or community matters at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au or on 0418-639-927.

On the same PAGE

by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

Great news for hemp! Recently the Federal Government announced the legalisation of hemp seeds and hemp seed products. This is wonderful news for our region. Hemp seed products will now be legal to purchase including hemp chocolate, hemp beer and hemp oil. Hemp products will boost our region's economy and provide more jobs for our region.

A new medical cannabis hotline has been developed by the NSW Government to fast track treatment for people in palliative care. Medical cannabis is a wonderful initiative that provides treatment to many different people. It is truly wonderful to see people in need receiving access to treatment.

I had the pleasure of announcing \$90,000 of funding to Artstate and attending the opening of their Lismore centre recently. Artstate is a fantastic regional project that brings together local artists from across our region and the broader community. I would like to thank Peter Wood and his team for all their hard work.

The return of the postal plebiscite on same sex marriage has returned an overwhelming 'yes' result which will see same sex couples have the opportunity to marry before Christmas time. Across the country, 7.8 million people voted for a yes result and in our electorate of Page almost 60,000



people voted yes representing almost 60% of the community. I voted in favour of same sex marriage to mirror the views of the community.

Nimbin Central School has seen 15 of its students successfully complete their NSW Rural Fire Service Cadet training. This is a great achievement for these students and a fantastic addition to our community.

I strongly encourage everyone in our community to shop locally for all your Christmas needs this holiday season.

Christmas time is a big time for our local businesses, boosting our region's economic prosperity.

I would like to thank our wonderful community and wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Resist the Adani megamine

by Dawn Walker,
NSW Greens MP

Imagine an area from Nimbin to Lismore, stretching east to Clunes and back up to Whian Whian. This huge area, about 447 square kilometres, is the proposed size of the Adani megamine. If built, it will be the largest coal mine in Australia.

This mine will be a disaster for our climate, our environment and for industry. Polling shows that the Australian people do not want it. But I wanted to know what locals, who will be directly affected by the project, thought about the mine. So in early December, I visited the planned site of the Adani megamine in Far North Queensland.

I spoke to local farmers and traditional indigenous owners of the land. What I heard were concerns about the impact of the mine on the climate, outrage that it was being proposed without the permission of the Traditional Owners and anxiety about how it would affect water from the Great Artesian Basin. What I heard the most was that the community felt ignored by the Government on this issue.

The Adani megamine will be a thermal coal mine. And despite what Federal politicians would have Australian's believe, coal is not good for humanity. Burning coal is the single largest contributor to harmful global warming,



threatening our climate and our environment. The Great Barrier Reef has already been damaged by global warming, with two-thirds of coral damaged by bleaching. The Reef is unlikely to survive if the Adani project goes ahead. Burning coal also places people's health and lives at risk. The pollution it produces contributes to 3,000 air pollution related deaths in Australia each year.

To function, the megamine needs an enormous amount of water – billions of litres each year. The water will be drawn from the Great Artesian Basin. This puts everyone's water security at risk. It will damage ground water systems and permanently drop the water table. It will leave farmers without the water they need to survive.

The impact of this mine will hit local communities hardest; polluting their air and land, taking their water and destroying the Great Barrier Reef and the jobs it provides.

The mine does not even have the permission of traditional owners, the Wangan and Jagalingou people, to go ahead. Both the Wangan and Jagalingou

people have rejected multiple land deals with Adani since 2012. But their rights are being ignored by both Adani and the Government as the project is pushed forward.

Visiting the Adani site was shocking. Seeing the reality of how massive this mine will be made me even more determined to ensure that the voice of the community is heard. And the locals I spoke to do not want this disastrous mine to go ahead.

They are not alone. Around the country, more than 300 local groups have formed to stop Adani – including in Nimbin. The recent Queensland State election made it even more clear, when the people voted no to dangerous climate change and no to Adani. This pressure is working. Just this week, Chinese banks confirmed that they will not finance the project, which will make it much more difficult for it to go ahead.

But there is still a political agenda to push this megamine forward. So we need to make sure that the community is heard loud and clear when they say "No" to the Adani mega coal mine. The Greens have always stood with the community, as a voice against this mine in Parliament. We will continue to stand up for our climate and for local communities until this mine is stopped.

POST SCRIPT: As we go to press, Dawn Walker and Jeremy Buckingham have been arrested for blockading the Carmichael mine rail construction site. – Ed.

Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, Co-coordinator

Nimbin Community Centre has had a very busy time with our tenant and AGM meetings, in addition to our regular committee meeting this month, and the new co-ordinators are still adjusting to all the facets of the position.

Tenant meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended Nimbin Community Centre's tenant and visitor meeting on 16th November, prior to the AGM. The NCCI committee and co-ordinators welcome the opportunity to share ideas and hear concerns. Your input informs the decisions we make.

Aboriginal Cultural Centre

A request was discussed that the Aboriginal Cultural Centre be exempted from paying rent, as a recognition of their status as first nations people. Because the NCCI's primary income is rent collection, we are unable to reduce anyone's rent without increasing rents for other tenants to cover the shortfall. We have canvassed the idea before and the feedback is clear: no-one wants their rent to increase.

Saskia has been ensuring that the current rental is up to date, with the support of regular individual donations (including from NCCI committee members) and we encourage others to do the same. If you are interested in supporting the Aboriginal Cultural Centre, please pay into Summerland Credit Union BSB 728-728, Account name: NCCI, Account number 22269889. Please mark your deposit 'Culture Centre'. All funds deposited will support the rent payments.

The Cultural Centre is working towards creating a storytelling space to work in with regular bus tours. It currently houses an artists studio space that hosts individual and community projects, and a culture sharing space. The NCCI is installing a disabled toilet in the Cultural Centre, which will support the extension of activities in the space.

Rent review

The NCCI committee is currently undertaking a review of rents, as we have lost the annual \$10,000 contribution to the co-ordinator's position from Lismore City Council. This leaves the NCCI in the position of having to make up the shortfall from our other sources of income, which is primarily rent collected. This review will not affect any current leases, but will inform new leases and lease renewals. The committee understands that rental increases may leave some current tenants from being able to afford rent, so we remain open to individual negotiation

with tenants. Unfortunately, we do need to review rents, to attempt to accommodate this shortfall and ensure that we have the funds needed to manage, maintain and develop our community space.

Maintenance issues

A number of maintenance issues were brought up by individual tenants. The issues raised were noted by the co-ordinators. We encourage tenants to bring all maintenance issues to the co-ordinators who will ensure it is recorded in the maintenance log and it is dealt with promptly by our maintenance worker.

Grounds beautification – The Truth and Beauty Committee

The subcommittee has been looking at how to best improve the aesthetic appeal, accessibility and functionality of the NCCI grounds and buildings. Projects identified include:

- Moving the market stage from its current location, to the area against the back fence, in front of the rainbow seating near Cullen Street. The Family Day Care Centre would be happy for the move, as it is regularly affected by antisocial behaviours that occur around the stage area. Neighbours near the proposed new site are also concerned with the antisocial behaviour, particularly after business hours, as they will have neither the NCCI staff or police available to help to police this area at those times. We are continuing to explore options (which include enclosing the stage or removing it entirely) and are looking forward to feedback from the new markets co-ordinator, to find the right solution for all the parties concerned.
- Removing fences and thinning some foliage from the Cullen Street perimeter. Some sections have already been removed and there has been a long term goal to remove as much as possible, as we feel it opens the visual space up along the front entrance to the Community Centre and decreases that institutional feel. This will be done in a considered fashion, as there are some garden beds that are being protected by the fences and will be factored in. Vegetation needs ongoing management, thinning and pruning to keep the air flowing around the building and to allow the Centre to be seen from the street.
- Casuarina Corridor needs a revamp, currently the space is dark and dingy looking. Once the roofing, lighting and other maintenance work has been completed in that area, we would like to see painting of the ceiling, floor and walls, perhaps a revamping of the wall murals. Improving overhead lighting in the area, removal of laserlight sheets from behind the railing and a new planter box.
- Rehabilitating the pond area is part of a Nimbin Central School student term 4

project. NCCI is contributing \$150 towards plants and materials. We are also organising some tree works for early next year to reduce leaf fall in the pond which causes many of the water quality issues.

- Beautifying the centre quadrangle. We would like to level and resurface the area with grass to create a more inviting space. We also have a long-term grand plan for the quadrangle which involves the construction of a leafy arbour over the area. This will need grant funding, as it is an expensive option and requires more research and planning.

- Acacia corridors currently looks cluttered and drab and receives a lot of visitors. Suggestion to revamp by removing clutter and hanging historical photos that explore Nimbin history. Also needs waiting spaces/seating to support tenants' activities in the space. Needs funding to scan, print and mount photos, also needs a subcommittee of volunteers to drive it.

The Truth and Beauty Committee welcomes input and volunteers from the wider community who would like to see these things happen. We can be contacted via the co-ordinators at the office.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held directly after the tenants' meeting on 16th November. The President's report was given with an acknowledgment of the loss of president and long-term community member Dick Hopkins from the committee. We will miss his commitment to community, his energy and experience and miss him personally as well for his good humour, insight and willingness to contribute.

The committee has organised a memorial stone for him near the basketball court, with carving from local stone mason Donato Rosella.

The executive was elected unopposed and now consists of Scott Sledge as President, Linnet Pike as Vice President, Diana Roberts as Treasurer and David Hallett as Secretary for the committee. Due to the number of nominations received for the other three committee positions, a vote was held, with Michael Balderstone and Daniel Vionol being re-elected and Darren Maxwell joining as a new committee member.

The new member was welcomed, with the other candidates being invited to participate in committee meetings, as we value their willingness to contribute and their input into the committee.

End of year party

Bologman Ngulingah Garimah: Belonging, Sharing and Respect

We are pleased to announce that the Aboriginal Cultural Centre is hosting an end of year party for the Nimbin Community Centre on Friday 15th December at 10am in Allsopp Park. They will hold a smoking ceremony, welcome to country, have performances of dance, music and

storytelling and hold a dance workshop. There will also be a sausage sizzle and food and drinks available to those attending.

The organisers would really love to have some volunteers on the day, we need people to help set up, help with the food, look after elders and drive the bus. If anyone is interested in helping, please let the Community Centre co-ordinators know and they will give your contact details to the organising crew.

The Community Centre would like to thank the Cultural Centre for hosting this event and generously sharing their hospitality and culture with us all.

20th anniversary celebrations

The Community Centre will be celebrating 20 years of serving our community next year. We will be staging some events in April and May of next year and welcome energy and ideas from the community on how best to celebrate this milestone.



The School Pond Project

This term we have had a fantastic group of year 9 students from Nimbin Central School, who have been working with their teacher Sonja Mitchell, on a 6-week project to restore the Community Centre Pond. It has been a little neglected over the last few years and was looking very mucky and dirty, despite some gallant efforts from volunteer Des Leyer to improve it.

After an initial assessment, the students cleaned out, removed plants and fish and refilled the pool, restocking it with plants, frog spawn and fish. The NCCI happily contributed to the purchase of fish and plants to this project and fixed the pump so that the water feature could work.

Our pond is now looking very beautiful, so thank you Sean Wood, Neem, Rio Grant, Mayla Tribolet, Akasha, Conner Lysaght, Kinahn, Kai, Boah Winston, Manaarki, Jade, Shinae, Bennett Horsfield for your wonderful contribution to our Community Centre.

It's up to you

by Gwyn Hooper

More and more people today are becoming totally disillusioned about politicians and political parties. They feel totally disconnected from and disregarded by their politicians.

This has led to an increase in small, populist parties promising things that they have no hope of providing, tapping into the dissatisfaction and alienation of the electorate. This is evident in the recent Queensland election when a party with no discernible policies can in some seats get

up to 30% of the vote. This figure is reached partly on a personal popularity vote of a leader claiming to stand up for the "battler" and more alarmingly a protest vote against the major parties. Alienated voters are making a statement to the major parties: You are so bad that we will vote for another party to show you up.

The reason for this alienation is mainly due to the average person's apathy for politics. They engage in the political process only when forced to vote at an election. We get bombarded by a constant stream of



newspaper, social media, and television advertising that numbs us with claims, counter claims, false promises, and outright lies. Constant negative statements about political foes and a seemingly endless pursuit of digging up dirt on and denigrating opponents. Is it any wonder that we shut ourselves off and pray for the day that we can get the vote

over with for another three years?

On voting day, we grab the how-to-vote card of the party we think will do the best for us, fill in the ballot, and get out as quickly as possible. The elected ones then trudge off to Canberra or Sydney, get told how to vote by their party, get their heads firmly in the trough, and begin to work really hard. Yes, that's right. They work really hard planning for their re-election. After all, a gig like this is too good to give away.

Reading this, you are probably thinking that I am a very cynical person. Just another grumpy old man venting his spleen with no idea at all about how to remedy the situation we find

ourselves in. Wrong! I have a plan! It involves you! All of you. So how are we going to change this?

Well, here is the plan. Get the Twitter handle and email address of your local politician, the prime minister, the leader of the opposition, etc. in your contact list, and every time you have a beef, give them a salvo. If everyone does this and the pollies are harassed enough, ridiculed enough, or just called out on their behavior enough, they might start to listen.

Polling shows that 77% of people surveyed are opposed to the Adani mine. So how many of you have emailed or tweeted your opposition to your political masters?

How many of you have joined or supported Stop Adani, Galilee Blockade, Get Up or any other organisation? If you can, join an organisation locally that has your interests and is actively working to achieve them. Think globally and act locally. If you can't, at least communicate your dissatisfaction.

My plan depends on you. All of you. If you are not prepared to put an effort into trying to change things, then please keep your mouth shut. Stop moaning, because you are the problem. How long does it take to tweet or email? A few minutes a day to get your voice heard or silence and just more of the same. Are you up for it?

Queensland Elections: current state of play

by John Jiggins

In August, at a bad time for the party after the resignation of Senator Larissa Waters over the dual citizenship saga, I interviewed the Queensland Greens Councillor Jonathan Sri, who achieved fifteen minutes of twitter fame as Rainbowsarfman.

Commenting on this and the way the southern mainstream media stereotypes Queensland and Queenslanders, Sri said the media gave him that name because none of the journalists covering the story knew who he was. It reflected on the lack of mainstream media visibility of the Queensland Greens, he said.

"To a lot of journalists down south, Queensland is still this weird backwater of Bob Katter and Clive Palmer and Pauline Hanson. Not to blow my own trumpet, I would have thought the fact that the Greens had broken through in Queensland was big news. This is a kind of pretty momentous occasion with the Greens starting to look like winning state seats as well."

Councillor Sri's observations seem to fit. In the recent Queensland election, the southern mainstream media were obsessed with Pauline Hanson and the prospects of One Nation, as Councillor

Sri predicted, missing the real story, the story of the rise of the Greens in inner-Brisbane.

As Queensland correspondent for Bay-FM, I devoted considerable attention to the rise of the Greens in inner Brisbane, focusing on the seat of South Brisbane where the Greens mounted an extraordinary challenge to the ALP Deputy Premier Jackie Trad.

The Greens campaigned strongly in South Brisbane. Repeating Jonathan Sri's successful people-power campaign, they had an army of volunteers and carried out an ambitious plan to door-knock the entire electorate, outlining their ideas of more public housing, a city designed for its people – not corporate greed, and opposition to the proposed one billion dollar grant by the Federal government for a railway line to the Adani mega-mine. Anti-Adani sentiment was strong in the inner-city, and anti-Adani sentiment was widespread.

Those who listened to those reports will know I predicted the Greens would not win South Brisbane and I was right. However, the Greens did a lot better than the opinion polls predicted or my expert commentator Dr Paul Williams expected.

Dr Williams predicted the Greens would get 30%, while Jackie Trad would get 40% and win on LNP preferences,

which is what the polls were showing. As it turned out the Greens almost closed the gap: Jackie Trad got 36.5% for the ALP while Amy McMahon for the Greens closed to 35%, only a couple of hundred votes behind. Jackie Trad is predicted to win after preferences with 53.5% with Amy McMahon on 46.5%.

While the Greens put Deputy Premier Trad through a political near-death experience, they killed off the Liberal National Party's shadow Treasurer Scott Emerson in Maiwar, the new seat based on the old seat of Indooroopilly in Brisbane's inner west, and they may win it.

Sitting member Emerson got only 42% of the vote and will certainly be run down, either by the Greens Michael Berkman or the ALP's Ali King, who are neck-and-neck over 27% each, with the candidate finishing second almost assured of victory on the preferences of the third-placed. With 86% of the vote counted, The Greens are now 71 votes in front.

The Greens threatened in a third inner-city seat, McConnell, where the LNP's Jamie Forster was leading with 36.4% of the vote, but was destined to be quickly run down by the ALP's Grace Grace ALP 33.7% of the vote, who will receive the bulk of the preferences from the Greens Kirsten Lovejoy,

who was not far behind with 27.3% of the vote, the same percentage of the vote that Michael Berkman obtained in Maiwar. On those figures, this seat is within reach of the Greens too.

Cameron Murray, whose book *Game of Mates* I reviewed in the *GoodTimes*, stood as a candidate in South Brisbane. He decided to stand to publicise his policy on taxing the windfall gains made through land rezoning. He finished fourth in South Brisbane with 2% of the vote. However, the Greens adapted his policy on taxing developers for windfall gains, so he achieved his goal of making this policy an important electoral matter.

As Councillor Sri prophesied, the big story in the Qld election was the strength of the Greens in inner Brisbane, where there are now three seats they can win. In these three inner-Brisbane electorates, the Greens averaged 30% of the vote, removed the shadow Treasurer and frightened the bejesus out of the Deputy Premier.

The count has become glacially slow now because of the remarkable closeness between the ALP and the Green vote and because it is progressing through the absentee votes. We are not expecting to know the result until the second week of December.

Burning our forests for electricity 'sheer madness'

by Dailan Pugh

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has described the Department of Primary Industries' (DPI) proposal to increase logging intensity in north-east NSW's forests, to provide up to one million tonnes of trees each year to generate electricity, as sheer madness.

Forests are the lungs of the earth, they take in our carbon dioxide, storing the carbon and giving us back oxygen. Left standing they are part of the solution to climate change; cut down they become part of the problem.

Burning forests to generate electricity doesn't make sense, we lose the trees' ability to take in and store carbon, and when they are burnt they release more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than burning coal.

The forestry "residues" that the DPI is proposing to use are tree trunks (down to 10cm diameter and at least 2.5m long) with the crowns, branches, defective stems, and stumps left behind in the forest. Most



of these will come from logging trees that would otherwise be retained.

While the Forestry Corporation are legally only allowed to take four out of every 10 trees using Single Tree Selection (STS), the export woodchip market encouraged them to log up to nine out of 10 trees using "heavy STS" until woodchipping collapsed in 2012.

This curtailed the Forestry Corporation's ability to log so intensively. For example, the area subject to heavy STS between Coffs Harbour and Taree was reduced from 5,000 ha in 2011 to 600ha last year.

The current proposal is all about increasing logging intensity and developing a new market to replace export woodchipping as the sawlog resource is

progressively cut out.

The reality is that logging has run down the carbon storage in vast tracts of NSW's forest by 40-60%. As logging intensity increases, the carbon stored in the trees and soil, along with the forest's structure and biodiversity, is further diminished.

We are facing a climate emergency. Burning forests for electricity is sheer madness.

If we want to address the climate chaos caused by rising atmospheric carbon, we need to quickly move to obtaining our energy from non-polluting sources, such as wind and solar, while restoring the ability of our forests to take up and store increasing volumes of carbon as they age.

We need to stop logging of public native forests, not increase it.

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Terry McGovern Scholarship for 2018

by Rebecca Ryall

Rainbow Power Company is proud to announce the inaugural Terry McGovern Scholarship.

Terry McGovern (pictured) was a founding influencer of Rainbow Power, attending early planning sessions for the new company, and working with the company for 30 years until his passing earlier this year.

Terry's attention to detail and egalitarian principles became hallmarks of the Rainbow Power reputation. He recognised the vital role

each and every employee plays in the success of the company; he was a mentor to many.

Terry was an active participant in many of our overseas initiatives, contributing to design, installation and education projects in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Brazil.

Terry was a proud supporter of alternative power sources, and all at Rainbow Power were proud of him. He is sorely missed.

As a lasting memorial to Terry and his role as mentor

for many, both within the Company and elsewhere, Rainbow Power Company this month launches a scholarship in his name.

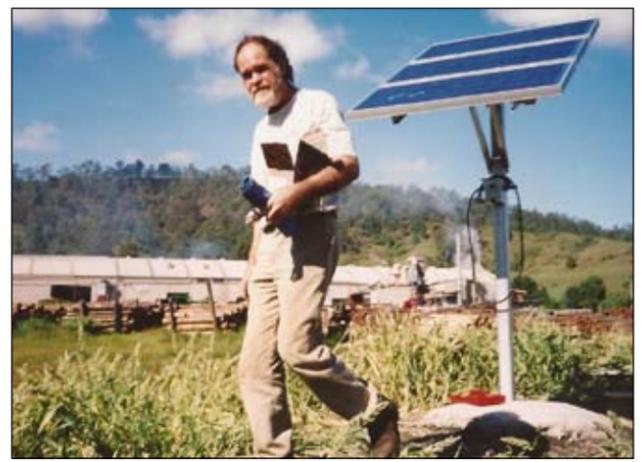
The award is \$2000 towards subsidising the successful applicant's undertaking of any recognised training course in 2018, with preference given to the Electrotechnology Industry.

Applications are invited from any interested young person who envisages a career, especially in this exciting industry, and should be received at RPC by 22nd



December 2017.

Please address your written applications to the Human Resources Officer at Rainbow Power Company, 1 Alternative Way Nimbin 2480, or email to: cf@rpc.com.au telling us, as concisely



as possible, how you believe this scholarship will benefit you, the course of study you wish to undertake, and the role you see yourself playing in the future.

Preference will be given to school leavers wishing to undertake study or training in the 2018 academic year. We look forward to hearing from you.

The coming disruption to all things Google

by Russell Lean

Google has permeated the lives of most people who use the internet. In Australia, approximately 85% of all searches on the internet happen in Google. The remainder are shared between Bing and Yahoo, with a very small percentage occurring in smaller more secure engines like DuckDuckGo.

If people want to find something on a map for travel, most use Google Maps and to a lesser extent Bing Maps. Google tracks your movements and activities through mobile apps when you are on the move and through IP addresses on home-based devices when you are at home. They store and share much of the information they know about us. They give us services in return, like "free" email (Gmail), "free" video platform (YouTube) and others. However, all of these supposedly free services come at the cost of our privacy, security and online choices.

Google have had a virtual monopoly on searching on the internet for about 18 years. There used to be many other prominent players in the search arena – remember Alta Vista and Lycos? So, with monopoly comes control. Try playing the ranking game outside of Google's 259 ranking rules (ranking signals as they are called), and see how quickly your website drops off page 1 for an industry relevant search phrase. Break their terms of service and see how quickly your business or other website is

eradicated from search in their engine.

Google endorse the erosion of privacy, playing strictly by their rules, and if they penalise you, who do you call? Try contacting anyone in Google (except their Indian call centre for Maps related issues or Ad partners) and you will find it very difficult to connect with anyone who can assist or who cares.

The blockchain technology that is the basis of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, which is driving new SMART contracts and has borne hundreds of innovative new tech startups in the past few years is about to disrupt Google's stranglehold in the search market. New search engines are on their way that unlike Google, are decentralised on the blockchain technology. They are smart, fast and may have Google looking like an outdated idea very quickly.

Imagine using a search engine and being paid. Search engines of the very near future (From as early as March/April 2018) will actually pay you a token to use their services for search. Imagine how many searches you conduct a week. I know for me in my business, it is many hundreds. Imagine at the end of the week you have accrued 400 tokens – let's call them Floogles.

Imagine redeeming your Floogles for a cryptocurrency – like Bitcoin (which costs \$13,000AUS at moment). Imagine your searches that yielded 400 Floogles can buy 0.005 of a Bitcoin. That is \$65.

So you have taken the time to open a Coinjar account (an Australian business that allows purchases and storage of Bitcoin) and your Floogle wallet and account lets you seamlessly buy the 0.005 part of a Bitcoin and send it to your Coinjar. You head to your favourite restaurant and have dinner – pay with your Coinjar Swipe card (an EFTPOS card that can be used at any EFTPOS or ATM in Australia) that has your 0.005 Bitcoin stored on it. Move over Google.

Bitclave, Presearch, Goochain and many more are coming.

In my opinion, people will shift their search habits very quickly based on the potential for payment in real and redeemable tokens or currency. Not only will there be a massive rush away from Google over time by searchers, there will be a need for business to rank well where the searchers are. This amazing reality will shift how we approach SEO.

If I can assist you to rank number 1 in Google (for now), and assist you to transition in 2018 into this new paradigm, call me on 0468-382-600.



Monthly crypto currency seminar

The monthly crypto currency seminar at the Nimbin Bush Theatre is continuing in the new year on the first Saturday of the month.

The next seminar will be held on Saturday 6th January, 2018 at 11am, free entry.

This meeting is suitable for



both beginners and experts, with the first half of the

meeting dedicated for the learners, and the second half aimed at more seasoned crypto traders.

Crypto Currencies are a peer to peer virtual currency, which means there is the removal of an intermediary from point to point transactions, usually occupied by banking

institutions who can control and manipulate the market.

Anyone can buy or sell Bitcoin or other crypto currencies, all you need is a virtual wallet and you are ready to go.

Find out more from those who are currently trading in crypto currency.

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Tips and tricks of stand-alone power: Using old gear

by Guy Stewart, Rainbow Power Company

Using equipment that isn't right for the job, because it is cheap/free. We are often asked to build systems around a particular old inverter / regulator / battery or panel array.

While good quality stand-alone equipment can last decades, it's also improving very quickly. New equipment comes with the benefit of a warranty and known history.

Building an entirely new system around one old piece of equipment often ends up costing more than buying a new part, due to configuration and research required to be confident that this will not cause other issues.

Our factory and support team is extremely efficient when they know exactly what they are dealing with, and while it might be appealing to save a few dollars using some existing equipment, it only takes a few extra hours of skilled labour for that saving to disappear.

While we encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle; a system with all new equipment provides greater reliability and is far easier to support.

Upgrades on top of upgrades

There are some system upgrades that are very common and routine. For example, a few extra solar panels, or a new battery.

However, there comes a point when all systems reach their modification limit. While we do our best to work with your existing system, we know when to say enough is enough and recommend a complete overhaul for safety and reliability.

For example, when power demands from appliances on the inverter increase, such as from hundreds to thousands of watts, we will typically move from a 12V to 24V or up to a 48V system.

This will require some other major changes, and it may be cheaper to retire the old system to a shed and start afresh.

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With Christmas now just around the corner, we have plenty of fresh ingredients, including a variety of nuts, seeds, dried fruits and flours for Christmas baking and snacks. Come and visit us in our Lismore store. ***Cheers to a healthy and happy Christmas for all.***



For those of you who may not be aware, in October this year we had the pleasure of announcing our new peanut and almond butter machines in store. These have been met with a huge response by the community.

Photo: Denise (owner) on the right with Caroline and Autumn at the grand unveiling.



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Mullum Music Festival



Moussa Diakite



Frazey Ford



Strange Daddy



Low Down Riders



Aussie acts that also impressed included William Crighton, Marlon Williams



Marlon Williams



William Crighton

by Melissa Williamson

Well, while the weather may not have been in usual Mullum Fest style, the music certainly was – and how! The 10th annual Mullum Music Festival showcased why it is the best little music festival around. There was a packed

program of a smorgasboard of musical genres – from folk to funk, jazz to world, and a lot of brass everywhere. Notable highlights were some of the overseas acts, particularly Too Many Zooz (you have to see these guys live!), Wallis Bird, Ron Artis II, Frazey Ford and Z-Star Delta.

& The Yarra Benders, Jazz Party, The Twoks, Ukulele Death Squad, Low Down

Riders, Moussa Diakite, Oka and Strange Daddy. There is something for everyone at a Mullum Fest, whether you want to dance or chill you'll find plenty to fit your bill. Also, some kudos for the eclectic mix of laid-back punters – for their enthusiasm, dancing, audience participation

that's straight on, and all-round energy that feeds the performers into producing some outstanding performances. The festival is becoming increasingly popular, but has a limit on numbers, so don't miss out next year on what remains one of my favourite festivals. www.mullummusicfestival.com

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Film festival showcases budding film-makers

by Nina Boddenberg

The 2017 Nimbin Youth Film Festival was an exciting afternoon of exceptionally high quality films. The Nimbin Town Hall came alive with the annual Pop-Up Cinema with professional sound, allowing the audience to experience the creative talent of our local youth on the big screen.

This year's festival screened 10 films that were entered into the competition, made by young people of the Northern Rivers ranging from 10 to 21 years old.

Each film was highly original and unique, and showcased the incredible creativity of young minds, with a huge diversity in theme and genre. We had mockumentary, animation, drama, comedy, and some very serious issues tackled such as climate change and sexual harassment.

There is something very important in creating these kinds of opportunities for young people to share their stories and voices. It is also very important for adults to take the time to sit back and watch these offerings from the youngest members of our community. The darkened room of the cinema becomes a meeting place for deepening connection and understanding between the generations.

With the new technologies available, it is more possible than ever for young people to express their creativity and viewpoints via the medium of film. However, a lot of support and encouragement is also necessary from adult mentors to make these films happen. Sometimes a little bit of encouragement is all that is needed to make the difference between entering a



Photo: Northbound Photography

film or not.

That is the main goal of the Nimbin Youth Film Festival; to encourage young filmmakers. This year over \$2000 worth of prizes were awarded, including a huge \$400 Sustainability Prize. Kyogle Councillor Hayden Doolan joined us on the day to present awards to the winners.

It takes a lot to make a film, from the initial idea to the final edit. It takes even more to have the courage to enter a film into a competition and share it with the world. I am extremely proud of all who entered the festival and gave us the gift of their films. They are all winners simply for entering!

The judges had a tough job this year, as the quality of films was very high; yet there were some standouts. Here are the top six winners of the festival, as picked by the judges Jeni Kendall and Paul Tait.

0-18 Section

1st prize: *Clay vs Animation* – Alako Myles;

2nd prize: *The Wilderness with Dick Richard* – Oscar Myles;

3rd prize: *Take Out the Trash* – Keisha King and Lili Rojo.

19-24 Section

1st prize: *Fired* – Jy Paterson;

2nd prize: *Jammed* – Jy Paterson, Carly Frankham and Sam Kostevc;

Sustainability Award: *The Effects of Climate Change* – Kai Prikulis.

The films will be available on the Nimbin Youth Film Festival Facebook page. For more info: www.nimbinyouthfilmfestival.com

Thanks are in order to everyone involved in organising the festival and running the event: Darmin Cameron, Paris Naday, Tim Tonkin, Grant O'Brien, Jeni Kendall, Paul Tait, and our awesome volunteers on the day. Thanks to Cr. Hayden Doolan for presenting the awards and our brilliant MC's for the festival, Lili Rojo and Keisha King.

Huge thanks also to the festival sponsors.

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This month's movie choice for Nimbin Flix is *A Monster Calls*, which comes highly recommended by locals who've viewed it, and much acclaimed by critics.

The following review is extracted from *The Guardian*: "A piercing sadness runs through this impressive adaptation, by Patrick Ness, of his acclaimed young adult novel. You ache for Conor, the 13-year-old boy at the heart of the story, as he struggles to process bereavement. The emotional authenticity, the palpable pain in a remarkable central performance from relative newcomer Lewis MacDougall, is both the film's main asset and a factor that makes it a tough sell. This is not just a film about grief; it's a film that immerses you in grief's journey."

An ancient, wild, and relentless monster guides Conor on a journey of courage, faith, and truth. Liam Neeson stars in the performance-capture and voiceover as the nocturnally visiting Monster of the title. Conor's mother is played by Felicity Jones and a less than sympathetic grandmother is played by Sigourney Weaver, while Toby Kebbell plays



Conor's father.

A Monster Calls will screen at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street, Nimbin Saturday 9th December. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm screening. Refreshments available. All welcome. Free for Flix members. Guests welcome, \$10 donation. Auspiced by Nimbin Community Centre Inc. www.facebook.com/nimbinflix



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- Saturday 9th – Womens Bowling Club Xmas Party
- Sunday 17th – Kids Xmas Party – Santa arrives at 2pm
- Open Mike Nights – Wednesdays 6th & 20th
- Friday Nights – Twilight Bowls, Raffles
- Social Bowls – Sundays, 9am
- Courtesy Bus – Enquire at Bar
- Social Membership – \$5



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 - Friday 15th, 6pm Rob Cass
 - Friday 22nd, 6pm Ruben & Friends
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Sunday Gig Guide

December 12 noon start

10th Sam Buckingham
 Sam's new album has distilled an ambitious pilgrimage into songs that confront fear, convey heartache and celebrate adventure, desire and devotion

17th Darkbluegrass
 Trio from the awesome Romaniacs, doing contemporary Celtic songs and tunes, mixed with folk and roots

24th Phil & Tilley
 Returning for the last gig of the year with their blend of alternative acoustic/folk music... they are Sooooo Good!

7th January Salt & Steel
 Passport to Airlie contest Nimbin winners, these two young women rock, with musicality and energy.

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December Gigs

TRIVIA NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7pm

Thursday 7th	7pm	Khan
Friday 8th	7pm	Richie Williams Band
Saturday 9th	7pm	Eastwood
Thursday 14th	7pm	Surf Report
Friday 15th	7pm	Blak Boi
Saturday 16th	7pm	RumbleFish
Thursday 21st	7pm	Scott Marriot
Friday 22nd	7pm	Kiara Jack Trio
Saturday 23rd	7pm	Q
Thursday 28th	7pm	Koby
Friday 29th	7pm	Neil Anderson
Saturday 30th	7pm	Thorazoo
Sunday 31st	7.30pm	NYE: Surf Report

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Fundraiser concert for Honk Oz!

HonkOz! is a street music festival held in Wollongong every year since 2015, based on a similar festival in the USA that provides free music on the streets, with a focus on horns and percussion. HonkOz is a fringe event of the long-running Illawarra Folk Festival.

Lismore's own gypsy-esque orchestra, Orkeztar Lizmoré, comprising musicians from all over the Northern Rivers, including several Nimbinites, who meet and practice in Lismore, sent a small contingent to the HonkOz! festival in 2016.

It seemed such a long way to go at the time but now they are truly addicted! They sent an even bigger posse down to the 'Gong in January this year and intend to return again next month.

HonkOz! is a unique experience for musicians, especially horn players. Street bands from all over Australia play at the festival. Not only do they do several performances as their own musical unit, they also become instant members of several huge massed bands to perform throughout the festival and at the grand finale.

Imagine being a lonely sousaphone player and suddenly finding you get to play with three other sousaphones, and 15 trumpets, and 12 saxophones, and 9 drummers, and 14 violins... etcetera?

The OrkLiz contingent has been



practising for their next tour to Wollongong in January 2018 and they're ready to test out their current repertoire on a concert audience. They'll present a special fundraiser concert in the Tatts Hotel with music from Europe, Australia and the Middle East.

Joining them for this concert will be three renowned musicians from the iconic Lismore outfit KaOZ Klezmer: Mark Bromley (double bass), Liora Claff (guitar and beautiful vocals) and Pietro Fine (clarinet, who also directs Orkeztar Lizmoré) will make a special appearance as KaOZtrio, with songs in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. While their music borrows heavily from Klezmer and

Jewish tradition, there's also the odd Bulgarian folk song or Arabic dance song in the mix.

The fundraiser concert for Honk Oz! 2018 Tour, featuring the Orillia Street band and the KaOZ Trio, will be held on Saturday 9th December, 1pm at Tatts Hotel Backroom (New Tattersalls Hotel, Lismore), entry by donation (\$10 recommended). Children are welcome and all monies raised will help the OrkLiz troupe to pay for their travels to Wollongong and their accommodation while they're there.

They are truly excellent ambassadors for the Northern Rivers/North Coast region, worth supporting.

Call for entries in Byron All Shorts

The Byron All Shorts short film competition, held annually since 2006, celebrates the film-making talent of the Northern Rivers region and encourages audiences to experience the many amazing films and local stories that are produced here each year.

Byron All Shorts finalists will screen at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall on the 27th January, 4pm; and alongside the best in Australia and the world on

28th January, 7pm at Flickerfest 2018, Australia's leading Academy® accredited International short film festival.

Filmmakers from across the region are invited to submit their short films of up to 30min in length, from all genres. If you live in the Northern Rivers, or have produced a film in the Northern Rivers, or have made a film about the Northern Rivers, you can enter Byron All Shorts.

Prizes and cash to the value of around \$3000 will be included in awards for the Flickerfest-iQ Best Short Film Award; the SAE Qantm Emerging Talent Award; the SCCU Peoples' Choice Award and more.

Entries close on Friday 15th December. For entry forms and info, go to: iQ.org.au or phone 0414-779-881. Clips of previous awarded films can be viewed on the website.

Meet inspired local musician Mish Songsmith

by Rachel Whiting

Mish Songsmith is a highly talented and award-winning local singer songwriter. She has been writing songs and performing since she left school over 20 years ago – though you'd never guess it from her youthful and energetic character!

Her songs are uplifting, mature and full of funk, jazz, blues and soul influences, her performance style a mix of Missy Higgins and Aretha Franklin. Mish sings with a powerful yet sweet, soulful voice, and plays the piano like she was born to it.

Mish also throws in the trumpet for a jazzy blast, and strums soulfully along to the guitar, not to mention playing around on those funky drums – quite the skilled multi-talented musician.

Her songs are a diverse combination of swooning love songs, which warm the heart, to energetic pulsating tunes which put a smile on your face and a jump in your feet.

Mish has a strong passion for writing meaningful songs that flicker the light of hope from deep within. She aspires to uplift and stimulate her listeners, describing wanting to share "the ecstatic joy and 'bigness' of being in touch with the universe when the songs come.

"To play them is such a powerful feeling, and to share it – the sparkle, the life that is there in the songs, the messages – is my most excited, magical



place to be. The songs seem to just come through, from out of nowhere, like a channel."

She says about her music, "I want people to be uplifted from the songs that I write, to carry the positive messages around with them all day like a treasure in their pocket. If they're feeling down they can turn to the music for a lift, to turn fear, sadness or worry into hope, trust and joy."

Regarding songwriting, Mish has this to say: "Words are very powerful, and I want to emit positive, catchy melodies and lyrics that stimulate the subconscious, because the world is already full of enough negative messages.

"I want it to be more than just a nice listening experience. I want it to be an emotive, thought-provoking experience that connects deeply with your soul and heart.

"I do that by sharing my own heart and soul authentically and fearlessly, along with the wisdom I have learnt over the years."

Mish is a prolific songwriter, with over 200 songs under her belt waiting to be recorded and released. Mish won 'Best Emerging Songwriter' in the ABC North Coast Arts Nest Award for her song 'Something Wonderful', and Best Adult Contemporary Song for 'In Love with Love', both on the album Something Wonderful, available to buy on her website.

Mish has just finished recording her 4th and 5th albums, which will be released early next year. Keep an ear out, we will let you know when they are on their way. She loves playing the local cafes, events, and assorted gatherings and celebrations, and aspires to ultimately share her heart-felt music world-wide.

You can check out her music, along with upcoming gigs, at: www.mishsongsmith.com or connect with and follow her musical story on Instagram and Facebook at 'MishSongsmith' (please introduce yourself). You can also call her on 0408-848-801 for an enquiry or booking.

Mish is excited to be playing almost every weekend during December: catch her on Saturday 9th at Lulu's Café, Mullumbimby 11am-2pm; or on Saturday 16th with her up-beat duo The Mishfits at Fresh Café, Byron Bay 7-9pm.

Summertime Sessions start up



Dinkum Bohos

The Nimbin Bush Theatre cares about live music and aims to support the local music scene! We are proud to present the Summertime Sessions – a range of music for every taste, every day from 1pm to 4pm from Boxing Day, 26th December until 10th January.

Performers will play on the outdoor stage, in the gorgeous gardens by the Mulgum Creek. The

Cafe will be open serving its famed local coffee and amazing food. It's a kid-friendly environment and BYO is OK.

The musicians playing have a diversity of styles and influences, but are predominately rootsy, folksy, bluesy performers, sometimes with a twist!

Just some of the performers playing will be Entropixx, Sticky Rock, Adrian Davis,

Bagl, Dinkum Bohos, Dave Barbara, Azrai, Brommers, Mark David, Khanage, Jolanda Moyle, Wall of Love and Battle of the Bands winners Salt and Steel.

All are wonderful, local musicians we feel proud of – and they are eager to perform for you, so there is no excuse not to catch a dose of real live music and support our local music scene.

Dinner Under the Stars with Sali Bracewell

Hailing from Wales, and sometimes singing in her native tongue, Sali Bracewell's folk-inspired ballads span a variety of different moods.

The somewhat brooding nature of her music is often an antithesis to her light and breezy manner, and her live performances are often an amalgamation of anything between heart-wrenching sadness and brash hilarity.

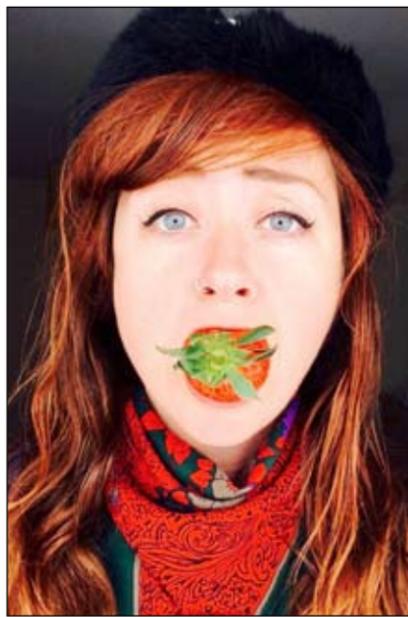
Sali started playing the piano aged 8, and has performed internationally in Canada, America, UK and Australia. Now living in Byron Bay, Sali is currently working on a debut album to be released in May through Melbourne-based Abandon Records.

Sali's heritage shows through in her music, growing up in Wales, singing in choirs and being immersed in

the ancient Welsh tongue, the folk influences are clear to see, but there are other influences that have inspired her singing style. Jeff Buckley and Fiona Apple both played huge parts in influencing Sali's vocal approach.

As a singer/songwriter, Sali's lyricism is based upon the trials and tribulations of the human experience, she sings of adventures at sea, of travel, of relationships, both with herself and her family in the UK. They are songs of loss and of love, with an old-worldly traditional vibe.

Catch her on the outdoor stage at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Friday, 29th December at 7pm. The Cafe will be open serving gorgeous meals, snacks and sweet treats to complement your sensory experience. Entry by donation, kid-friendly, BYO.



RETRO FAMILY CHRISTMAS

At 4.30pm on Friday 15th December, Santa will arrive at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on his huge motorbike to meet with children in his sparkling grotto, with photo opportunities for mums and dads and a gift for every child.

At 6pm there will be a screening of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, a 1964 Christmas stop-motion animation. The movie was based on the song 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' which was itself based on a poem of the same name written in 1939.

This is a beautifully produced animation using puppets that echo the design elements of the 1960s. The



puppets created for this film still stand up under our modern day scrutiny – they are charming with a delightful retro feel.

Since 1972, the special has aired annually on CBS in

America, with the network unveiling a high-definition, digitally remastered version of the program in 2005.

Sam the Snowman, the narrator of this epic, tells the story of a year Christmas

was almost cancelled due to a snowstorm. This is a favourite Christmas movie for many of us and a tradition that many children of the 1960's and 1970s may remember and want to show the new generation.

The movie will screen with another two specials that were released at the same time.

Get into the Christmas spirit with this Retro Christmas celebration at the Nimbin Bush Theatre! \$5 entry. The Cafe will be open serving yummy kid friendly meals, and retro Christmas treats such as rum balls, White Xmas and fruity punch.

NYE Dinner with Winter Witches

The Nimbin Bush Theatre is presenting a theatrical evening for New Years Eve with a performance on the outdoor stage by a truly remarkable experimental electronica duo, the Winter Witches.

Winter Witches is a queer love story. It is both a creative and romantic partnership between Sweeney and Em, both South Australian born. Their ancestral blood is German, Scottish, Irish and Dutch, but their souls are pagan. They make music from the heart of darkness and the city of light.

They call to mind great vocalists, such as Ian Curtis

of Joy Division, Jeff Buckley and Jimmy Sommerville, but dreamier, more subtle and very theatrical. An apt description would be Portishead meets Placebo in a dreamscape. These vocals are rich with emotion, vulnerability and honesty. They will hit you straight in the heart.

Winter Witches acknowledges the Kaurua people as the traditional and prevailing custodians of the lands on which their music is created. For a NYE with heart, emotion and beauty, join us and the Winter Witches at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Sunday 31st at 7pm. Entry by donation. Kid



"...genuine derivations of medieval, orchestral music and experimental electronica." – Cloudberry Mornings

friendly. BYO.

The Cafe will be opening serving gorgeous locally

sourced delights, as you enjoy the music in the gardens by the magical Mulgum Creek.

2 Blue Knob Rd, Nimbin **BYO**



Cafe open from 9am every day + Friday nights & Special Events

FREE LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND & EVERY DAY OF FESTIVE SEASON ON OUR OUTDOOR CAFE STAGE: 1-4PM DAILY TO 10 JAN / 10AM-4PM SUNDAYS

FRI 8 Dec All Ages Gig
8pm Cosmic Beats & Pagan Feast
\$15 'HENGE' [UK] + 'MZO!' [BRIZ] + DJ's
UK festival-faves/cosmic ravers & more ...
Get your funky space alien outfits ready now!!

FRI 15 Dec Retro Family Xmas
4.30pm – SANTA VISITS NIMBIN!
w/ presents for every child
6pm – Classic '64 Film: 'RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER'

FRI 22 Dec Cafe Open for Dinner
w/ Ambient music
Group bookings welcome

MON 25 Dec XMAS DAY - CAFE CLOSED
... Peace & love to you all ...

TUES 26 Dec BOXING DAY - CAFE RE-OPENS
Live music every day 'til 10 Jan

SAT 29 Dec Dinner Under the Stars
7pm SALI BRACEWELL [WALES]
DONATION Original poignant lyricism & ethereal folk (ENGLISH & WELSH)

SUN 31 Dec NEW YEAR'S EVE
8pm Dinner Under the Stars
DONATION 'WINTER WITCHES' [ADELAIDE]
Stunning theatrical electronic grooves & haunting vocals

FRI 5 Jan Cafe Open for Dinner
w/ Ambient music
Group bookings welcome

SAT 6 Jan Monthly Seminar
11am - 1.30pm CRYPTOCURRENCY
FREE Discuss Bitcoin & more - All levels welcome

SUN 7 Jan Dance Night!
8pm 'TIJUANA CARTEL' + 'BLACK RABBIT GEORGE' & 'DJ FUTURE ROOTS' [MELB]
\$25 East meets West electronica + soulful acoustic folk roots & dancehall/reggae roots vinyl sets

COMING UP!

13 JAN - HAPPY AFRICA Festival
20 JAN - MEDICAN Workshop by Hemp Embassy
26 JAN - SURVIVAL DAY Festival w/ Emily Wurraramara
2 FEB - JAZZ & GUMBO w/ 'The Magnificence'

TICKETS & INFO
www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events
BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES
(02) 6689 1111