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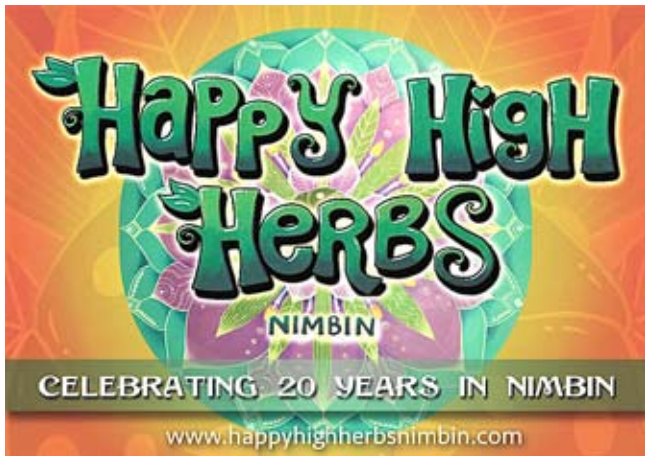
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Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

The 2018 Lismore Lantern Parade has come and gone and it was a fantastic success. I spent a couple of weeks getting back to my fiery roots working on the finale which was held at the Quad this year.

There is something so nourishing about gathering as a community to see a big bonfire go up in flames and having it in the Quad meant that everyone could get in nice and close. This year a delegation from our Sister City Yamato Takada was visiting for the parade, and they brought television crews with them who will be showing our signature event to close to eight million people in Japan.

Big congratulations to Jyllie Jackson and her crew of dedicated workers for delivering another great event, particularly in the face of adversity after having to change the venue and lose the revenue usually generated by ticket sales.

I've been talking to a few people lately about what it is that builds community resilience, and to my mind it is events like the Lantern Parade that contribute significantly to the bonds that strengthen a community.

I have been to a number of emergency management conferences in the last six months and the common theme that comes through is that resilience lies in community networks and relationships, and those relationships are formed when we do things together as a community, when we gather together or work together towards a common purpose.

As July kicks off there is a renewed



Of bonfires and waste

Photo by Natsky

focus on getting rid of single use plastics, and the Plastic Free July campaign is a good opportunity to look at our own plastic use and implement strategies to cut as much as we can.

Some simple actions to limit your plastic use include investing in a reusable water bottle, coffee cup and set of reusable shopping bags (and remembering to take them with you when you go out); not using plastic vegetable bags - if you do need a bag use a mushroom bag instead; buying or making some beeswax wraps to replace plastic wrap in the kitchen; lining your bins with newspaper instead of plastic bags; eating in instead of taking away; and generally choosing the plastic-free option whenever and wherever you can.

Last week a Senate Inquiry made 16 recommendations to address the plastic crisis, which include banning single use plastics by 2023 and putting more

effort into working with State and Local governments to improve the recycling and plastic recovery cycle.

Lismore City Council is a leader in recycling, and we are well positioned to respond to the industry shift that is happening as a result of China's refusal to take the world's rubbish. The pressure that has been created by that policy shift requires swift action from all levels of government and it is promising to see these recommendations which had bipartisan support from the inquiry committee.

Public pressure and change at the grassroots level is fundamental to seeing results, so let's take action to implement change in July and then sustain it going forward.

As always, I can be contacted for community or Council business at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au or on 0418-639-927.

From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith

The Nimbin Walking Trail (or Rainbow Road) is a great idea. I love the concept of people being able to walk around Nimbin and enjoy the landscape, being in nature, leading an active lifestyle and learning about Nimbin's history.

I know that many individuals and community groups would love to see the Rainbow Road become a reality and I love their passion for this project.

Unfortunately however, this project has some complicated hurdles to overcome and I want to be clear about Council's role and responsibilities in this project going forward. And how we got to where we are today.

Firstly, here is a timeline of the Rainbow Road:

2005: Nimbin representatives approached Council's Economic Development Unit seeking funds for a walking track and bridges. Council required a costed plan and DA, beyond the capacity of those involved at the time.

2006: Survey of Nimbin visitation, conducted through Southern Cross University Tourism in conjunction with Lismore Tourism, identified a very high number of annual visitations (150,000+) with most staying only 3-4 hours. Funding for Nimbin Visitor Information Centre was increased. Council's funding application to the NSW Government for a walking trail scoping study was

successful.

2007: Feasibility of a three-stage trail confirmed through scoping study.

2012: Council secured \$60,000 federal funding for stage one of the feasibility study through the Regional Tourism Development Program.

2013: Feasibility completed in April 2013. Land surveyed and planning issues addressed. Costed implementation plan completed. Business case developed. Draft DA prepared. Land ownership affecting DA remained unresolved.

2016-2017: Significant parcels of land key to the proposed walking trail route were sold.

2017: To remove land ownership concerns the community undertook a redesign of the route to follow a legal right of way created by a subdivision in the late 1990s. The right of way provides dedicated pedestrian access from the centre of Cullen Street through to the village expansion along Alternative Way, to the Headers Sports Fields and through to Cecil Street. The new walking trail route was re-designed and re-costed by the original landscape architect and engineer.

Ongoing maintenance costs were also reviewed. Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and Nimbin Community Centre funded this rework and rewrite of the Rainbow Road planning and implementation feasibility study. The revised

route is significantly cheaper, estimated at \$700,000, and annual maintenance costs significantly less (\$44,000).

2018: The Nimbin Advisory Group coordinated a survey of tourists to Nimbin to update the tourism information contained within the strategy. 273 visitors completed a survey. The Rainbow Road strategy is currently being updated with this new information.

So there you have it - this is the history of the project.

Now, before we go any further, it's really important for me to be clear about the issues around the right of way. The legal right of footway is not on Council-owned land. It is on private property and those landowners need to be respected. No-one should enter their private property without consent. The right of footway cannot legally be used until Council authorises its use after consultation with the landowners.

Lismore City Council's Delivery Program states that Council will undertake a study into feasibility and funding of the Rainbow Road in 2018/19 and 2019/20. Until this has occurred and we have undertaken consultations with landowners and looked at funding avenues, we cannot even begin to look at authorising use of the right of way.

This is not a case of Council sitting on its hands as some would suggest - the study is planned as part of our Delivery Program.

Council also has some concerns over creating a new asset and how ongoing maintenance costs would be handled.

So where are we at right now? Council committed to some actions at a meeting held with the Rainbow Road supporters in March 2018 to try and ensure we can progress this issue and obtain clarity on the future of the project.

These actions are as follows:

Hold a Councillor Briefing to discuss the project, including Council's potential financial support for construction, issues around the right of way and landowners, and ongoing maintenance costs. Councillors and staff will walk the trail before the briefing to ensure everyone understands the challenges and the site itself.

This briefing is likely to be held in August/September and will be followed up with a Council report in order to gain a resolution of Council on a way forward so everyone can have certainty.

I hope this article provides some insight and clarity around this important community issue. In the meantime, and until Council has come to a resolution on the Rainbow Road later this year, I urge everyone to please be respectful of local landowners and stop using the right of way, as it is not legal to do so.

Let's all walk together on this one, and find a peaceful path to a good outcome for the Rainbow Road and everyone in Nimbin.

Time to end native forest logging

Our precious native forests on public land, right here in our region, are in serious trouble. In case you are not aware, the management and well-being of our public native forests are in the hands of the NSW National Party.

The National Party's current agenda is to prop up an unsustainable part of the timber industry. Their current plan, which will be implemented over the next few months is to:

- Make the current logging rules more like guidelines, making them harder to enforce.
- Open up our old-growth forests currently protected in informal reserves for logging
- Reduce the vegetation buffers on our headwater streams from 10m to 5m.
- Remove most of the species-specific exclusion zones and protections for threatened species.
- Remove the need to look for and protect real koalas before logging.
- Increase the intensity of logging throughout public forests.
- Establish a 140,000ha North Coast Intensive Logging Zone which will convert the native forest to quasi-plantations.
- Allow ongoing logging of dieback-affected forests (these are very sick forests with many dead or dying trees and an under-storey of lantana) without requiring rehabilitation.

The National Party's agenda is to legally lock in this plan for the next 20 years and guarantee the timber industry wood from these forests for the next 20 years. The science and evidence shows the health and functioning of these forests will not survive this plan.

There is no sense whatsoever in what the National Party wants to do. This plan will cost communities money, lots of it. Over the past 10 years we have paid over \$13 million in subsidies to the industry when the timber promised is not there. It is unfathomable that we pay private corporations to trash our precious public forests. Especially when there is no need to supply timber from our public native forests, most of the timber used by communities comes from plantation forests, around 87% in fact.

It is time, we need to turn this around, take back the management and vision for our precious native forests. Let's start managing these bountiful public assets for their beneficial values, such as:

- abundant clean water



by Sue Higginson,
NSW Greens candidate for Lismore

- rainfall generation
- Aboriginal cultural, social and economic practices and opportunities
- carbon storage (this could be worth upward of \$40 million to the economy if the Federal Government opened up the emissions reduction fund)
- habitat value for our unique and threatened wildlife (we have some of the worlds most important biodiversity right here in the Northern Rivers)
- recreational and tourism opportunities - in 2010 there were nine million visitors to our North East National Parks which generated \$348 million into the regional economy and created 2500 jobs.

I have spent much of my life fighting to protect our public native forests. I am now running as your Greens candidate for the Seat of Lismore in the March 2019 State Election. Lismore is one of the State's most marginal seats, the Nationals only just hold it. We can win here and we can turn things around.

I will do whatever I can to protect our public native forests and see them managed sensibly so that they can survive, be returned to healthy functioning eco-systems that benefit us all and so future generations can enjoy them too.

I urge all of you to please watch the short video about what is planned for our forests - you can find it on the North East Forest Alliance website here: www.nefa.org.au and once you have watched it, please ask others to watch it.

Being informed is very powerful and it is the key to turning things around. We can win this!

Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, president

Another busy month ahead with lots on. I am pleased to announce that Lismore Council has released to the Chamber the money requested last month to contribute to the current mural restoration projects.

Along with the funds we have raised by donation (\$680) plus the contributions made by the building owners, two major murals will now be revived. You will see the artists and tradies working on the facades above the Nimbin Tourist Information Centre and the Lifestyle Real Estate.

We have also put out some more mural collection tins around town so keep an eye out and please give generously to this very worthwhile project.

I note the concern from residents from the Lillian Rock area around the installation of an NBN tower. Major concerns identified by residents are long term effects of exposure to microwave radiation, its proximity to the Rainbow Ridge Steiner School and the ineffective coverage offered by the system.

It has been reported that the current proposed NBN tower will only cover 300 metres around the tower and presumably will need another one for the next 300 metres etc. So not only will we be subject to radiation we are not sure is safe, we also will be subject to a proliferation of numerous towers to give coverage for the NBN, in an area that already has numerous telecommunications black spots, that will visually pollute our countryside.

This has real implications for land values, as many of the people who have moved here do so for the beauty of the Northern Rivers area, this semi-industrial intrusion into the landscape we have already been told will impact on current land values.

This issue is one that affects all rural residents in the Northern Rivers Area. Federal Government legislation seems to be in place to force Councils and residents to accept what can only be described as a second

rate solution with little or no care for the values and concerns of rural communities.

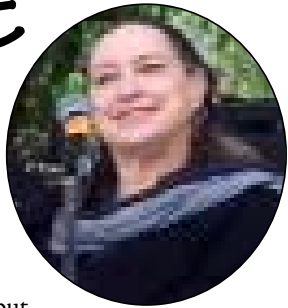
We do want the same access as the rest of Australia, but does that mean that we have to accept a plan that is more about political point scoring than delivering a safe, high quality long term service to the citizens of this country. I suspect we will need to join forces across the Northern Rivers to get any response from Government on this issue.

Our General Members Meeting this month on 16th July, 6pm at Birth and Beyond will have two key presentations:

Paula Newman, the Strategic Planning Officer from LCC, will address the meeting on the final report on the Nimbin Car Parking Strategy. This document has been developed over the last two years with consultation through the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and the Nimbin Advisory Group. Paula will present the report and attendees will have the chance to comment and ask questions about this important village issue.

We also have a short presentation and report from the Light up Nimbin project. This has been a partnership with the Nimbin Community Centre and the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce. Utilising grant funding from the NSW Department of Justice and funds from the Chambers' Special Business Rate Variation Levy, this project's scope is to install a solar-powered lighting system to light up under the awnings and the beautiful murals in Cullen Street.

The Rainbow Power Company has installed Stage 1 of the project (panels, controllers and battery) and we are now working on the lighting design. We invite you to attend this event and welcome the community's interest and feedback on this project. A light supper will be served after the meeting.



Kyogle Council notebook

by Cr Danielle Mulholland,
Mayor of Kyogle

It's been a big month for major projects with the first sod being turned on the \$5 million Culmaran Creek Road Project and the announcement of \$1 million for a new Bonalbo police station.

The old Bonalbo police station will not only be replaced but an extra officer will be stationed in the town, giving Bonalbo a total of two dedicated officers.

This is such good news for the community of Bonalbo, who have lobbied long and hard around policing issues and have achieved this great result.

As more information becomes available through the State Government, we will keep you updated on what's happening.

The development of Culmaran Creek Road is part of Council's larger strategy to support industry and business development and expansion.

Without infrastructure, we can't keep the businesses we have, let alone attract new ones. With a focus on our infrastructure needs, Council is committed to working cooperatively with existing and new business where possible, to ensure they remain in our local government area leading to a growth in jobs.

Kyogle Council recently resolved to become a member of the NSW Country Mayors' Association (CMA) and I am pleased to announce that the association met recently, and accepted our nomination. The next meeting will be later in the year.

The CMA provides us with another vehicle for lobbying and as many councils experience the same issues, we have a stronger voice together.

History was made on Friday 22 June when the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC) was formally dissolved and the

new Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) was formed.

I was honoured to be elected unopposed as chair of the new JO. The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation will comprise the six Local Government Areas of Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Kyogle and Tweed.

The former NOROC model served its purpose and I thank the Mayors of the five other Shires for their support and collegial, professional approach during its time. I have no doubt that this willingness to provide a strong regional voice will be carried into the new Joint Organisation structure.

As the new Chair, I am keen to ensure that relevant agencies truly understand our key issues and provide more resources and better access to policy makers to address them.

The NSW Government has provided \$300,000 in seed funding to establish 11 Joint Organisations across NSW.



by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

Karen and I had a great time recently at Nimbin Hospital's Auxiliary Fashion Show (some models pictured above).

The annual event raised more than \$1,600 which goes to purchase medical equipment for the hospital.

Thank you president Robyn Roos and her hard-working executive for a great day and the wonderful work they do for the community.

Well done to Mollie Strong who won the Best Retro Outfit and Narelle Flanagan who won the Best Funkiest Outfit.

Also thank you to Black Pepper and Shoes on Magellan who supplied the clothing and shoes for the event.

It was great to attend the NSW Rural Fire Service Awards recently that recognised the long and dedicated service of 28 volunteers.

Combined, they have given 628 years to protecting our community in times of need.

I would particularly like to thank Robert (Rocky) Macintyre and Guiseppe (Jingles) Taccori who received the Long Service Clasp for 21 and 22 years' service respectively as members of the Nimbin Brigade.

Also, Nicholas Adams who received a Long Service Medal for 16 years' service to The Channon Brigade.

The Government's crackdown on multinationals avoiding paying tax here in Australia has clawed back more than \$2.7 billion in just under a year.

The almost \$3 billion is a good start, but there is more to come.

A total of 318 multinational companies are now under active audit or review by the Australian Taxation Office over potential tax avoidance, including banks, energy companies, insurance firms and manufacturers.

This is great news as this money can now be invested in services for our community like health and education.

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44% reduction of solar tariff

NSW Greens MP Tamara Smith says the National Party are heading in the wrong direction on solar energy after the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) released its final determination on solar feed-in tariffs.

The determination reduces the maximum benchmark price paid for households generating solar electricity

from 15 cents per kilowatt hour in 2017/18 to 8.4 cents in 2018/19 – a 44% reduction.

This compares to a minimum of 11.3 cents per kilowatt hour for renewable electricity fed back into the grid in Victoria where the inclusion of the avoided social cost of carbon adds 2.5 cents to the price paid to solar households.

“If the National Party is serious about supporting renewable energy then they should change the criteria to assess solar feed-in tariffs to recognise the multitude of benefits solar energy brings. NSW should be ensuring that electricity retailers pay a fair price for the solar electricity that is fed into the grid from rooftop systems, which takes into account the avoided health and carbon costs.”

Budget an attack on local libraries

by Dawn Walker MP

The NSW Liberal-Nationals released their pre-election state budget with much hype and fanfare. In fact, the NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet even went so far as trying to sell it as a “people’s budget”.

But the reality is that the 2018 State Budget has a much darker underbelly that reveals the heartless and profit-driven motive of this Government. Along with the appalling failure to invest in anything that benefits the environment or shift NSW away from dirty coal, this budget has taken a sledgehammer to our local libraries.

Millions of NSW residents use our public libraries every year. Our local libraries are at the heart of our communities; they’re where young families meet for story time, seniors learn online skills and young students come to locate resources and services.

When I first moved to the North Coast, my local library was a vital source of community information and I recall visiting each week to borrow books for the kids, use the Internet and read the notice board to find out about local community events and activities.

But instead of investing in our libraries like they should have, the State Government has cut a massive \$5.2 million from library funding by eliminating an annual grants program worth \$4 million and slashing \$1.2



Dawn Walker MP is the NSW Greens Regional Arts spokesperson

million from annual subsidy payments to that local councils rely on to operate library branches. All of us will see the direct impact of these cuts at our local libraries sooner or later.

The State Government’s cuts to library funding is especially senseless given that public libraries in NSW are already so badly underfunded and many local Councils are struggling to maintain them. In fact, NSW already had the lowest level of state government library expenditure in Australia at less than 8% – the lowest level of any Australian state or territory. By comparison, the state governments of Victoria, South Australia and

Tasmania all contribute over 20% of library funding. This latest budget cut will further widen the funding shortfall in NSW.

As a result, the 128 councils across NSW will have to try and cover this growing funding gap to the best of their capacity. However funding fatigue is starting to bite, with many local councils already facing enormous strain and may now be forced to reduce library staff, cut branch opening hours, as well as reduce their collections and community programs.

We saw the stress placed on local Councils to keep funding our public libraries only last year when the Lismore Mayor proposed

cutting local library funding by \$80,000 per year. This would have resulted in a significant reduction in services for the community, including reduced opening hours for Lismore City library, the closure of Goonellabah library on Wednesdays and the sacking of student book shelveers. These cuts may soon be back on the drawing board due to State Government’s cuts.

The attack on our local libraries also ignores the recommendation of the Government’s own expert panel, the Library Council of NSW, which recommended an increase in public library funding for 2018-19.

The Greens want new regulations that deliver a fair and adequate funding model for our libraries and have called for a Parliamentary Inquiry into Public Libraries so that the Parliament can see evidence of the benefits that investing in public libraries can deliver.

At a time when the Government is crowing about having a \$3.9 billion budget surplus, it’s disgraceful that they see libraries as a soft target, rather than valuing libraries as assets for the whole community.

Public libraries are a source of lifelong education and one of a community’s greatest assets. The NSW Government must go back to the drawing board and reverse these senseless cuts that will do so much damage to our public libraries.

Regenerative farming and politics in the pub

by Graeme Gibson

Charles Massy (pictured) is a man on a mission. A mission to change the way we grow, eat and think about food. Massy is a fifth generation grazier and author who has undergone a deep and transformative relationship with the land he farms. In 2017 he published *Call of the Reed Warbler: A New Agriculture a New Earth*.

Massy is not afraid to ask difficult questions about industrial agriculture and he has come up with some solutions relevant to all of us. Using his personal experience, shifting from conventional farming reliant on chemicals and trying to cope with dead soil, to regenerative and productive agriculture, Massy delves into and finds direct links between soil health and human health. Yet agricultural chemicals have major negative impacts on human health, and Massy has lots to say on that.

Massy took eight years to research and write the book. It’s based on his life on the land with intense personal observations and a deep understanding of Indigenous land management. He’s



learnt from his farming mistakes. Ploughing a paddock before heavy rainfall had, he says, “cost the landscape perhaps a thousand years of topsoil.” Soil of course, is a finite resource. And he’s learnt that his farm, like all farms, is a complex, changing set of ecological systems. Systems that “require empathy and understanding of nature and how it

functions.”

Massy’s book is also big picture stuff, being both historical and futuristic, drawing on the latest scientific research and thinking on climate change. Massy tells of industrial agriculture and the profit-obsessed corporations behind it. But *Call of the Reed Warbler* is also a story of a grassroots revolution with a clear vision for a sustainable future. This is a future which can build healthy people, healthy communities, reverse climate change and save the planet.

Massy has found an audience for his ideas and he’s in demand as a speaker. He will be at Kyogle Politics in the Pub on Sunday 5th August. This will be at the Kyogle Bowling Club, Larkin Street Kyogle. People are invited to arrive from 2.30pm for a 3pm start. Buy a drink, finger food provided and entry by donation.

This is the third edition of Kyogle Politics in the Pub, started and supported by a bunch of interested locals. Follow on Facebook for updates. But if you eat, you should be interested in what Charles Massy has to say.

Public meetings spread awareness of logging on public lands

by Dailan Pugh, NEFA
spokesperson

The North East Forest Alliance, North Coast Environment Council and local groups have been hosting a series of public meetings to inform the community about the New South Wales and Commonwealth Government's proposals to change the rules governing logging of public lands to remove protections for most threatened species, open up protected oldgrowth forest for logging, allow intensified logging, establish a clear-felling zone, and reduce buffers on headwater streams.

With new Regional Forest Agreement and Wood Supply Agreements, the Governments are intending to lock up our public forests for loggers for another 20 years, and they are proposing to slash environmental protections to increase logging volumes.

Tens of thousands of hectares of our precious public forests are already suffering from ecosystem



collapse, being converted into seas of lantana overtopped by dead and dying trees. Their biodiversity and timber values are being destroyed.

The dieback is so severe that five State Forests (Donaldson, Mount Lindsay, Unumgar, Bald Knob and Woodenbong) are 'considered impractical to manage for commercial purposes'. There are many others similarly degraded.

This is the last chance that the community has to have a say in the management of our public forests for the next 20 years.

Successful public meetings have been held at Port Macquarie, Bellingen, Kyogle, Murwillumbah,



Over 100 interested and concerned members of the community made a really great turn out in Lismore on a cold night to listen and find out what they can do if this new forestry legislation goes through, and the impacts it will have on not only our forests but our rivers, lands, biodiversity of all fauna and flora. Photos: Jimmy Malecki

Nimbin and Coffs Harbour.

It was Lismore's turn at the end of June, when over 100 people attended and were shocked to hear what the NSW and

Commonwealth Governments have in store for our public forests.

Further public meetings are being planned for Grafton, Nambucca Heads and Newcastle.

We need to stop the Forestry Corporation from perpetuating their degradation and begin rehabilitating these valuable public assets before it is too late.

Put the Nats last or lose your rights to protest

by Aidan Ricketts

The NSW government recently gazetted a new regulation under the Crown Lands Management Act that removes the right to peaceful assembly, gathering or protest on public land anywhere in NSW.

This is a wholesale attack on the tradition of democracy that can only be described as totalitarian. Under the new law any assembly anywhere on public land, parks, town squares, beaches, forests or roadsides can be dispersed at the whim of a police officer or any other authorised official, and people who disobey can be fined up to \$1100.

This has been enacted on the quiet by a National Party minister and is a continuation of that party's revenge against our region and its subservience to corporate vested interest such as mining

and forestry and its big political donors.

The Nationals have not only left the farm, they have abandoned democracy and once again betrayed the people of the Northern Rivers.

There's a State election early next year and the seats of Lismore and Ballina will be battlegrounds between the Nationals and the Greens. In 2014 the Nationals suffered massive swings against them following public anger at their attempts to force gasfields into the Northern Rivers.

Four years later it is abundantly clear that the Nats learned all of the wrong lessons from the gasfields debacle.

They should have learned as we all did that the Northern Rivers is a proud and courageous community that values our regional lifestyle and healthy natural

environment and that we want a say in major industrial developments that threaten our region.

Sadly the Nationals have opted for revenge, backlash and bullying against our region and all of the people of NSW.

In 2016 they passed new legislation creating a tenfold increase in the fines for protests that involve minor trespass on business premises, seven-year jail terms for 'interfering' with a mine or gas drilling operation, and laws to allow seizure of blockade equipment, but the latest assault on democracy is comprehensive, it completely abrogates our long-standing right to protest throughout NSW.

The law won't mean there won't be any assemblies or protests, it just means you won't have a right to do so, you will effectively need

permission, or hope to be tolerated.

This stunning totalitarian assault completes the National Party's transmutation from a party that once represented regions into a cynical servant of big corporate extractive industries that threaten the regions.

Gasfields were only the most recent invasive industry the Nats tried to force upon us. The Deputy Premier (another Nat) in March 2018 floated the idea of a nuclear industry in northern NSW.

Then there's coal mining, toxic antimony mining, water mining, gold mining, sand mining, you name it and the big global corporations have a plan for it and the NSW National party will fall in lockstep to force it on a region near you.

We already know they have a plan to massively expand

logging of our regions with clear felling planned for many Northern NSW native forests.

Unless we kick them out next election, the next time a dangerous industry comes along you could be arrested just for holding a meeting in a local park to discuss it, let alone establish a blockade.

There is no point in having the right to vote if we elect dictators. Democracy is about more than elections it is about the right of communities to discuss, to assemble and to protest.

So don't be beguiled by the smiling faces of your local National Party candidates at the next election, it doesn't matter how many cheques they hand to kids sports clubs or primary schools or how many free sausage sizzles they put on or how many toxic helium balloons they give to your kids to lose, or

even how many understaffed hospitals they claim to have built, those smiling mugs on the coreflutes are the poster boys (and they are all men) of crony capitalism and its total disdain for democracy.

The Greens are leading the democratic charge against the Nationals in the Northern Rivers seats, and if elected stand a chance of nabbing the balance of power in parliament. Whether you vote Greens or Labor or for any minor party, make sure you number all your preferences or your vote may not end up counting at all.

I am sure we will continue to stand and fight as a region, we will stand up for forests and if we have to we will stand and fight for democracy and the right to protest itself, but when you get a chance to vote make it count for democracy and for our region.

Coalition's so-called "people's" budget does not deliver locally

Country Labor Candidate for the State Seat of Lismore, Janelle Saffin, has accused the NSW Coalition of bringing down a state budget that abandons country NSW.

"It can be called many things – but it is not a country people's budget".

"It seems we are wearing the Coalition cuts in order to fund their \$2 billion plus Sydney Stadiums and their surplus."

"It is reported by the Sydney press as a "splash cash" Election budget, but for this part of NSW and for the rest of country NSW, it is the crumbs again and worse."

Janelle said we need to look behind the few big announcements for photo opportunities and 'first sod' publicity to the real impact of the budget on the standard of living for our families.

"Where were the Nationals in the lead up to the budget? What were the budget priorities of

the Nationals candidate? What submissions did he make?" Our future is in renewables, where the Northern Rivers leads. Renewable energy never got a mention in the budget."

"The truth is that behind the smiling self-satisfaction of the NSW city Liberals and the silence of country Nationals, there are some facts they never mention."

1. 157 local public service jobs to go (3% 'efficiency dividend' imposed). Jobs of child care workers, disability workers, teacher assistants, national park rangers to be cut, but in the last seven years there has been a thirty per cent increase in public servants in the Premier's city electorate.

2. Libraries cut to the bone by 18% (\$5.275 million);

3. Local Councils cut to the bone by \$32 million via the grants and subsidies;



Labor candidates for Page, Patrick Deegan, and Lismore, Janelle Saffin.

4. Less than 15% of the roads budget is allocated to country NSW, and less than 10 % west of

the Dividing Range ;

5. No extra police are coming our way despite local communities needing "cops on the beat-boots on the ground";

6. Tourism cut of \$33 million (16 %) to Destination NSW (Destination Sydney Stadiums however are intact.);

7. 83% of families miss out on the pre-school funding – eight out of ten preschool programs are ineligible for funding – 83% of families in NSW send their children to long day care services to receive pre-schooling – long day care is a necessity for working families and reflects on real lives. These long day care services have been expressly excluded from the new funding;

8. The NSW Coalition Government has slashed TAFE over the past budgets.

Based on the 2017-18 Budget and leaked internal TAFE documents,

we know that since 2011:

- There are 175,000 fewer students enrolled;
- 5,700 teachers and support staff have been sacked.

"We need TAFE teachers and support staff, real TAFE campuses – not shopfronts, more and affordable TAFE courses, more police on the beat, better support for schools, libraries to survive, tourism supported, CBDs to prosper, farmers to be assured of strong budget support, renewables energy support and much more to keep our cities, towns, and local communities sustainable."

"It is not a budget for country families – country communities. It seems country people are expected to go on whistling cheerfully without complaint.

"I will have a lot more to say about this neglect by our politicians," Ms Saffin said.



Border Ranges Rally

by Everton, NRG Kyogle

If I had to name the toxic cocktail most likely to harm our community it'd be a mix of testosterone, alcohol and violence.

The last time I was aware of that trio ramping up in this quiet little corner of the Northern Rivers was in 2009.

The World Rally Championships (WRC) came to town and some of us discovered how motorsport seems to rely on that dangerous mix.

On reconnaissance day, as international rally drivers' cars passed by on my road, I was physically assaulted. No-one stopped to help me.

On the other side of Kyogle township another female was threatened with rape, in broad daylight, by a few alcohol-brave motorsport fans egged on by beer-can-toting spectators.

With so many police in town how could such things happen? Were they there merely to keep uppity locals in check? But not to

stop farm fences being cut by fans?

Or to book the spectators and competitors who illegally crossed double white lines to overtake on narrow winding public roads?

But stop and book a protestor whose bike rack obscured her car's number plate? Oh yes; got time for that.

The Border Ranges Rally, in 2016 and back in Kyogle in 2018, brings a more subtle kind of violence.

Its volunteers lock the gates of residents so a bunch of fugitives from adulthood can roar around in their fossil-fuelled metal boxes to get their own – and the roads' – rocks off. There's less alcohol though. Less of almost everything – except cars and noise – than the WRC.

The 2016 rally's Hillyards spectator point was hardly crowded. Maybe one hundred people. Perhaps the 2-person crews had brought a friend each to watch them drive. Not really the hugely popular event organisers have claimed.

Or perhaps they were all Kyogilians; the 1%



A child ran across between rally cars, with no-one stopping him.
A protester (right) had egg thrown on her at Kingscliff
Photos: Fiona McCormick



of locals with lives so bereft of fun that 30 cars kicking up road dust, visible for a few seconds each, is a thrilling day out.

Whenever this Queensland rally comes to town we hear how well local businesses have done from increased patronage. But no one ever produces actual, evidenced figures to back that up. No one knows (or will admit) how much the rally costs us in damage to our roads.

Council seems to accept, at face value, the event's organisers' claim that the rally cars' speed "helps even out the surface" of the road. Which would be extraordinary if true; we could all drive like bats out of hell and Council might never need to grade our roads again! Does this sound like an assault on our intelligence?

The damage done to Nambucca LGA's roads from the 2016 WRC – about the same number of cars travelling only a little faster than the cars in the Border Ranges Rally – cost that Council over \$156K in repairs.

There's one more violence I haven't

mentioned yet. It's the damage done to our wildlife by motorsport. And yes, I do know that our roads aren't necessarily littered with wallaby bodies after such an event. But when cars with a decibel rating close to the point at which human hearing can be damaged travel through core koala habitat, a kind of violence is done to these iconic animals. It's done to every creature that lives close to every road the rally uses.

Deaths may not be immediate or obvious; the victims of stress-related illness suffer and die unseen and are never counted as casualties of an event that shouldn't be here at all.

But since the rally keeps coming back, the least – the very least – the organisers should do is donate money to local wildlife organisations whose members commit much of their income and hundreds of hours of their lives to rescuing, healing and rehabilitating our native species.

They haven't so far. I'll be surprised if they ever do.

The tapestry of life is unravelling

by Bernadine Schwartz

The Gaia concept of every living thing being entangled is becoming more obvious every year as we watch natural structures being disturbed and destroyed. Everything is so delicately balanced and intricately woven together that the pull of the smallest thread can eventually result in the collapse of an entire ecosystem. Climate change is having a profound effect on every continent but nature is not responding in unison and we are beginning to see harmonious ecosystems turn chaotic.

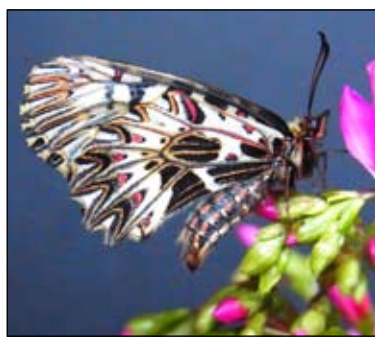
According to the U.N. we are losing species a 1,000 times more than the natural rate of extinction and annually this adds up to 5,000 species of flora and fauna gone forever!

This year marine biologists saw the effects of higher temperatures on one particular species, the Green turtle. This slight temperature change has had a dramatic effect on the sex ratio with 99% of hatchlings being female. During a certain stage of development, the temperature is the deciding factor in determining the sex of Green turtles; when the temperature of the sand is between 22c to 27c all turtles will be male but if the temperature is 30c and above then females are born. Only 28c to 29c results in both sexes. Determining sex by temperature also applies to other species of turtles, as well as tortoises, crocodiles, alligators and even some species of fish and iguanas. If temperatures continue to rise as predicted, all these animals are greatly at risk of extinction, even though many have been surviving on this planet since dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Our highly important pollinators and seed distributors are also being carefully monitored by ornithologists, who are very concerned about the effects of global warming on birds. Birds are the earliest indicators of the

seasons shifting and migratory birds are especially vulnerable. In the UK and Western Europe some species have actually stopped migrating completely because of milder winters, making it unnecessary for them to travel south. But this also means a greater number of birds are competing for the same food supply and less migrating birds are bound to affect pollination and seed dispersal in other areas. The long distance migrators can travel for well over a month, making it necessary to rest and feed at five to seven different locations along the way. For thousands of years they have departed at exactly the same time of year but this has serious implications when seasons are changing and at a fast rate. Their timing has always guaranteed them arriving at the peak of the season for food on their long journey but what happens when their food supply is well underway before they arrive? These birds travel a distance of 1,000 kilometres or more to reach their destination and a lack of food could spell disaster for the onward journey. The whole purpose of this long trek isn't just to escape the winter for food but to head to their annual breeding grounds. The return journey is far more hazardous when the flock has many fledglings and a sufficient source of food is absolutely vital if they are to reach home.

This year in Europe, unusually high Spring temperatures have caused havoc in the countryside. The hatching process has sped up for many butterflies and other pollinators in response to these warmer temperatures but the flowers they rely on haven't and in some cases the flowers are opening up far too early. It's highly critical that they coincide with each other not only for food but so they are able to play their vital role in pollinating the flowers. In Vienna one of the world's most beautiful and rarest butterflies called



Osterluzeifalter (pictured), are in peril because of this discord in nature and could easily become extinct. It's not hard to understand why a third of the world's butterflies and bees are declining and 10% of our pollinating insects are on the verge of extinction, when events similar to this are playing out all over the planet. No amount of money can replace the loss of our pollinators, without them our food security is totally threatened.

If one more person tells me that when the human race is gone the planet will just bounce right back or that this is all part of a new shift in mankind's consciousness and it will all be dandy, I'll scream! Where is your empathy for all these INNOCENT creatures? Is our cuddly koala expendable and all the others that are endangered? How can people be so blasé about a planet that took billions of years to evolve and where is their evidence? It's what many want to believe but this kind of thinking is dangerous.

Is it acceptable that we're responsible for the imminent extinction of globally iconic animals like the African elephant as well as other species of elephants, mountain gorillas, Eastern Lowland gorillas and recently discovered Cross River gorillas? Is it acceptable that the Bengal and Sumatran tigers, leopards, every remaining sub species of rhinos, hippos, sea lions, Blue whales and too many other whale species are all facing extinction?

Then we have turtles, dugongs, giant tortoises, sea otters, Tasmania devils, many species of tuna, most species of dolphins, Bonobos and chimpanzees that are also on the planet's long list of highly endangered animals. We're also responsible for the plummeting population of salmon, a variety of monkeys, cassowaries, the Great White shark and other shark species, pandas, polar bears, brown bears, Orangutans, many different species of foxes and wolves, Macaws, tree kangaroos and penguins leaving them highly endangered too. These are not rare and exotic species and I haven't included the loss of a third of our extremely endangered amphibians.

In far off British Columbia on the wild central coast an environmental disaster has unfolded and it highlights the devastation that can so easily occur when the food chain is disrupted. The population of salmon has crashed to such low numbers that it has caused widespread death of Black and Grizzly bears from starvation. Sadly it's inevitable that many other animals will suffer the same fate when so many depend on the carcasses left behind from the bears and it also has serious repercussions for the Boreal forest itself. Salmon play a very important role in so many ways, not just as food for the animals but they also provide much needed nutrients such as nitrogen for the trees when the carcasses rot. These forests will literally die without the salmon, just like the bears, it may take longer but it will happen.

The fish stocks of the world are also shrinking in every ocean, every sea, every river, every lake and every creek on our earth. Experts are convinced that our sea life is being seriously affected by global warming and that it's extremely unlikely that they can keep up with the rate of temperature rises. As the water heats up a fish's

metabolism requires more oxygen but warmer seas reduce the oxygen levels and because of this the size of fish will decrease. Scientists have calculated that for every one degree c rise in water temperature, there is a reduction of between 20% to 30% in the size of the average fish. To survive global warming these fish will have to migrate, adapt or perish.

According to NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies it's highly unlikely that we can achieve a target of 1.5 degrees c or below when statistics for 2016 averaged 1.26 degrees c increase in global temperatures. NASA also believes there is no stopping global warming and that all our emissions so far, are baked into the system.

The president of the World Bank has said that reducing emissions to prevent a catastrophe lies in the hands of the world's largest economies.

The governments of the world have continued to waste precious time by ignoring global warming and because of this they are endangering us as well. We have a political process but it's a process that creates an illusion of democracy in action, when in reality it achieves very little.

So who's left? Only us, the people of the world and we have to act now or are you all just going to wait till Climate Change is on your front doorstep and then take action, when it will be far too late to salvage anything? I don't want to see animals just in zoos or eventually only displayed in a museum.

Can't you see that our planet NEEDS US! Our culture has trained us to want far more than we need and if we don't act it won't be possible for our planet to provide what we really do need.

I believe we're approaching the hour of reckoning and our neglect and disregard for Mother Earth is finally catching up with all of us. So what are you all going to do?

Gas activists win award

by Gerald Taylor

The Ngara Institute presented its 2018 Australian Activist of the Year award jointly to Annie Kia of Lock the Gate and to the Knitting Nannas Against Gas.

This is in recognition of their outstanding work in campaigning against the development of Coal Seam Gas sites in NSW and beyond. Their work during the Bentley Blockade is particularly recognised.

Nanna Judi Summers said the award was timely, coming as the government introduces new regulations restricting protest activity on Crown Land.

“Much of our work to stop Metgasco turning the Northern Rivers into a gasfield would not have been possible under these draconian regulations,” she said.

The award was presented by former Human Rights Commissioner, Gillian Triggs, at the Ngara Institute’s Annual Lecture in Mullumbimby, NSW, on June 30.

The Institute’s inaugural award last year was presented to Adrian Burragabba and Murrawah Johnson for their work in fighting for the



rights of Indigenous people in the face of the proposed development of the Adani mine in Queensland’s Galilee Basin.

The Ngara Institute is best known

for its New Politics in the Pub initiative organised by local people for a national and international audience.

Ngara is from the Darug language and means to listen, hear, think.

Rebuilding Bolgaun after 2015 earthquake

by Helen Simpson

I have recently returned from the Village of Bolgaun, Nepal where a ceremony was held to hand over the keys for the 11 houses Nimbin has funded in collaboration with the earthquake skills of Good Earth Global.

An all-village meeting, incorporating Buddhist rituals, receipt of 11 prayer scarves, lengthy discussion regarding where we are going with this project, and smiles of gratitude and happiness with the houses, finally hit home that we had actually done it. It was decided, however, with Dn, supervisor from Good Earth Global who spent the most time in the village, that another house, house 12, was necessary to optimize the knowledge of the key builders of the village.

We were given assurance that this would be a workshop so hoping the sustainability aspect of the project now can accelerate... whoohoo! A family, without a victim card/government ticket (so getting no Govt subsidy) and with family members still suffering physically from the earthquake, were allocated House 12 at that meeting. Also talked about painting the Nimbin houses and even have consensus from the families on a colour blue, so I will fundraise for the paint.

Any volunteers interested in coming over in late October/November 2018 are very welcome to help on house 12, painting houses and maybe a toilet or two if we have the funds are very necessary... Contact me on: helensim7@gmail.com or 02 6689-1417 if interested.



I had hoped to finish the project with house 11 (continuing to fundraise for pipes and earthbags etc but reduced scale of help and not paying for supervisor) because becoming a charity is a long drawn out process, lots of hoops, administration costs etc, and more work really. Obtaining sponsorship is hard without it.


Up until now all money donated has gone directly into the houses with support from the Nimbin Health and Welfare Association as our umbrella. Another \$6000 could complete house 12, provide paint and at least one public toilet and then fingers crossed the village can continue fairly independently with the techniques. Money can be donated to the Nimbin Nepal Relief Fund, Summerland Credit Union Account No. 22305642 BSB 728728.

This project, born after the

earthquake in April 2015, has been a long and arduous undertaking, the road only opened 18 months ago so all the building has happened in that time and with two monsoon seasons to deal with since then as well, when the road closes yet again. Thanks Dn, Good Earth Global needs you.

Many thanks and much love to all those who have donated, our small fundraising team in Nimbin particularly Jan Hendrie, Nimbin GoodTimes and the 30 volunteers from our Nimbin area and beyond who have gone to the village (self-funded) helped build the houses and endured very basic conditions, and in some cases totally out of their comfort zones... you are fantastic!

Have a few going back for seconds none the less, the authenticity of the village and unique way of life plus amazing views just too compelling maybe?

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Bush Theatre gigs

Artwomb
Saturday 14th July 12.30pm
By donation.
Artwomb is back at the Nimbin Bush Theatre, after having already held two successful workshops on the Outdoor stage area.
These meetings are melting pots of glorious creativity available to all artists of all mediums, there are no limits. The idea is that it is a huge collaboration of artists of any style, be it visual art, music and more, coming together to create art within a mutually supportive and inspiring art tribe!

Imagine fresh original music as performers connect and create in a comfy live environment, creativity sparks and is woven into art upon sketch books or the large collaborative and colourful canvas.
Enjoy the relaxed setting of the Nimbin Bush Theatre Cafe and unwind as ArtWomb and their house band The Fill Inns host an open stage, providing a selection of quality instruments in a space for individuals to share their own creations and potentially see them grow into beautiful collaborative productions as others join in creating and weaving inspirations and influences.
Previous Artwombs produced some stunning music and funky and fabulous visual art! Many connections were made between artists, which are resulting in some wonderful collaborations. Artwomb is a safe and supportive space for beginners or life long artists to meet, connect and inspire.
For the audience it is hugely



entertaining, as you sit in the gorgeous surrounds of our gardens and Cafe, watching incredible and spontaneous music being played and art created right in front of you. It's a fabulous experiment that never fails to amaze!
The Cafe will be open serving meals from our popular Bushfood-Asian Fusion Menu, award winning coffee and yummy treats. BYO.
HighLife Afro Psych with special guest Bassidi Koné (Mali)
Saturday 28th July 7.30pm
\$20 online or at the door
"Virtuoso drummer and balaphonist, Bassidi Koné, now brings his shining spirit and awe inspiring musical expression to Australia." – Multicultural Arts Victoria.
The energetic and danceable HighLife Afro Psych return to the

Nimbin Bush Theatre on Saturday 28th July, with special guest the legendary Bassidi Koné from Mali, Africa.
They will be playing Afro, funk infused psychedelic groove, led by South African singer and guitarist Hayden Hack. Sharing a vibe with the likes of Fela Kuti, all the players of Highlife incorporate a 70s-circa Zappa vibe and approach Highlife as a musical experience that will make you move and smile, usually both at once.
Their sets are well known for being relentlessly high energy and commanding the attention of the audience with a unique sound that is a concoction of African rhythms, psychedelic funk and improvisational fusion, described as 'Afro Psych'.
The band is built around mighty musician Hayden Hack, who was raised in South Africa and who now resides the hinterland town of Maleny.
Completing the HighLife rhythm section is Nathaniel Combs, a percussion teacher who has just returned from studying in West Africa, well known jazz drummer Max Sportelli, Brad Wenham on 6-string bass and Paddy Kiernan on guitar. Hayden and his band have shared the stage with the likes of Dachambo (Japan) Kooii, Kingfisha and Afro-Dizzi Act and captivated audiences at Woodford Folk Festival, Caloundra Music Festival, Island Vibe and Kuranda Roots Festival amongst many others.
Bassidi Koné comes from from Mali in West Africa. He grew up beside his father's instrument, the balafon (a traditional, wooden xylophone), instilling in him his

forefathers' traditional village songs and rhythms.
Bassidi tours internationally and collaborates with diverse ensembles and musicians and has been involved in a number of milestone performances in Australia, these include The Meander Project, a unique musical collaboration between Multicultural Arts Victoria and students from the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), and Sankofa, a collaboration with Australia's leading, and internationally recognised Afro-contemporary dance company, Asanti Dance Theatre.
Bassidi's virtuoso musicianship brings a new element to the HighLife show as his rhythmic and melodic sensibilities weave seamlessly into the band's set.
During the tour, HighLife will be joined onstage by Bassidi on both balafon and djembe and will present an uplifting and original musical fusion that promises to fill the dancefloor!
Get ready to beat the winter blues and DANCE!
The Cafe will be open serving great meals and treats. BYO.
Battle of the Bands Passport to Airlie, Australia's biggest band competition!
The Nimbin Bush Theatre Outdoor Stage. Saturday 4th August 12.30pm Free Entry.
Come and witness four amazing local performers perform for a chance to win a coveted showcase at this years Airlie Beach Festival of Music, to play alongside the likes of Smashmouth, Ash Grunwald and Diana Anaid.

Our first exciting announcement of a finalist is Craig Atkins, who also entered last year and amazed everyone with his great sounds and rousing performance. All artists selected will be announced by 1st August.
These shows are always an impressive display of the musical talent of the rainbow region. With four heats every Saturday in August, this is a great opportunity to get down to the Bush Theatre to support local music, and see performers who stand a chance of winning a prize that is extremely useful to their careers and experience.
The winner of the finals in September will perform between 3-5 sets at the 2018 Airlie Beach Festival of Music, receive great accommodation for the festival and receive a \$1000 performance fee.
The winner from the Bush Theatre will compete against the other winners from around Australia, with the ultimate winner given a slot to perform on the main stage at Airlie for the 2019 festival.
The Passport to Airlie - Battle of the Bands competition is the largest Battle of the Bands competition of its kind in Australia.
The competition is open to most genres – rock, pop, blues, folk, acoustica etc... and can feature large bands (a maximum of five artists), solo performers and duos, all genres (not metal, hard core, hard rock – sorry it wouldn't suit the festival!), and ages (must be 18+) .
Want to enter? Entries close on 31st July. Go to this website and follow the prompts, it is too easy! <http://passportairliebeach.com.au>

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Live Music Thursday to Saturday from 7pm

Thursday 5th Surf Repot 7pm
Friday 6th Mammoth Tooth 7pm
Saturday 7th Shem 7pm

Thursday 12th Guy Kachel 7pm
Friday 13th ChangoTRee
Saturday 14th Thorazoo and Friends

Thursday 19th Adam Brown 7pm
Friday 20th Dreams of Indigo 7pm
Saturday 21st Slim Pickens 7pm

Thursday 26th TBA
Friday 27th Atlas & Attic 7pm
Saturday 28th Chev Wilson

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SunGAYze on a SUNDAY

The Nimbin Bowlo welcomes all queer and those they hold dear to the first 'SunGAYze on a SUNDAY'.

Join MC Brendan and the gang for an afternoon of frivolous fun, on Sunday 15th July 2 – 7pm. With Bowlo-priced drinks... chirpy chirpy, cheap cheap; and Master Mick's menu to munch on. There will be fabulous prizes, and maybe a drag act or two...

Let's join the rainbow flags together! This will hopefully be a monthly event, happening on the second Sunday of the month, after the July event.

See you all for the first SunGAYze on 15th July at 2pm.



Photo: Mel Williamson



The 11th Arakwal NAIDOC film screening will take place on Tuesday 10th July at 6.30pm at Byron Theatre at Byron Community Centre.

The screening celebrates Aboriginal storytelling celebrating this year's theme 'Because of her, we can' and showcases the lives and impact of Aboriginal women.

The programme includes, Warwick Thornton's multi award winning comedy short film 'Nana', two films by amazing writer/director and actress Leah Purcell 'She Say' (pic left) and 'Aunty Maggie And The Womba Wakgun', plus 'Nan & A Whole Lot Trouble' and 'Hush' both delightful comedies by the very talented writer/director Dena Curtis.

Tickets: The Byron Theatre and byroncentre.com.au and at door \$10/\$8 con. Programme details and info: www.iQ.org.au

Family Circus travels north

By Decre Pitt

For those of you who don't know the Pitts family, you can't miss them for long – this multigenerational family entertain by turning tricks and balancing babies all over the north coast. When they're not performing in their very own hand-crafted big top, or touring the world, they live right here in Barkers Vale.

This winter they've spread their wings and headed north. Starting off in June, The Pitts have been undertaking a gruelling month-long residency, at the iconic Daly Waters pub in the NT, performing nightly shows for the barflies and the wanderers. 600km south of Darwin and 900km north of Alice Springs, the Daly pub is in the middle of frickin nowhere, but it's still a great place to be.

In July, the Pitts head to Darwin

to entertain as part of the Darwin waterfront school holiday program, with a guest appearance at the famous Mindil Beach night markets.

August sees them in Broome, WA. They'll be teaching with the incredible Sandfly Children's Circus, and performing their show to boot.

The Pitts Family have been running circus classes in Barkers Vale for many years, with Gareth and Bronte taking over last year from matriarch Genevieve. We're incredibly lucky to have such talented and innovative folks making their skills available in rural area, so get the kids along to the classes and support these local legends. Use it or lose it!

While the Pitts are touring, they've lined up an incredible replacement teacher – Simon Adams, former artistic director at The Spaghetti Circus in Mullumbimby. Classes run Tuesdays



at Barkers Vale Primary School Hall (walk through front gate and follow paths to the right rear of school grounds), from 2-3pm kindergym (5 and under) \$15, or 3.30-4.30pm kids class (5 and up) \$15. Email: admin@thepitts.com.au or msg us on Facebook for more info.

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- **Thursday 10th** – Visiting Bowlers: Ballina ex-Navy
- **Open Mic Nights** – Wed 18th & Aug 1st
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** – Enquire at Bar
- **Membership** – \$5 Social



First-timers and novice bowlers welcome



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

- **Friday 6th, 6pm** Kobya
- **Friday 13th, 6pm** Gillian Love
- **Friday 20th, 6pm** Rob Cass
- **Friday 27th, 6pm** Sarah Stando
- **Friday 3rd Aug 6pm** Brommers

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FREE

Monthly Seminar
CRYPTOCURRENCIES
Discuss Bitcoin & more -
All levels welcome
FIRST SAT OF EVERY MONTH



THURS 12 JULY
11am
\$10 **POPCORN INCLUDED**

Kids' Film
MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO
Superbly animated
children's tale by
Hayao Miyazaki



SAT 14 JULY
12.30pm
DONATION

Live Music/Art Jam
ARTWOMB
A safe place to
unleash your creativity



THURS 19 JULY
11am
\$10 **PG**
POPCORN INCLUDED

Kids' Film
STAR WARS:
PHANTOM MENACE
Episode 1 of
Prequel Trilogy



FRI 27 JULY
7.30pm
\$10 **M**

Film Festival
OVER THE FENCE
Comedy short films
from around the world
AUDIENCE VOTES DETERMINE WINNER



SAT 28 JULY
7.30pm
\$20

Dance Night
HIGHLIFE AFRO PSYCH
w/ BASSIDI KONÉ
Funky Afro-World
dance music w/ guest
musician from Mali



SAT 4 AUG
11am
FREE

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SAT 4 AUG -
SAT 22 SEPT
FREE

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BATTLE-OF-BANDS



COMING UP!

- FRI 31 AUG - Sean McMahon**
DINNER UNDER THE STARS
- FRI/SAT 7-8 SEPT - 'Cock' [Stooged Theatre]**
LIVE THEATRE IN THE AUDITORIUM
- 14 - 16 SEPT - Nimbin Roots Festival**
- FRI 21 SEPT - Ryan Martin John**
DINNER UNDER THE STARS

TICKETS & INFO

www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events
CAFÉ BOOKINGS / ENQUIRIES
(02) 6689 1111

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THE EVENTS

FRI 20 – SAT 21 JUL | Lismore City Hall

TICKETS
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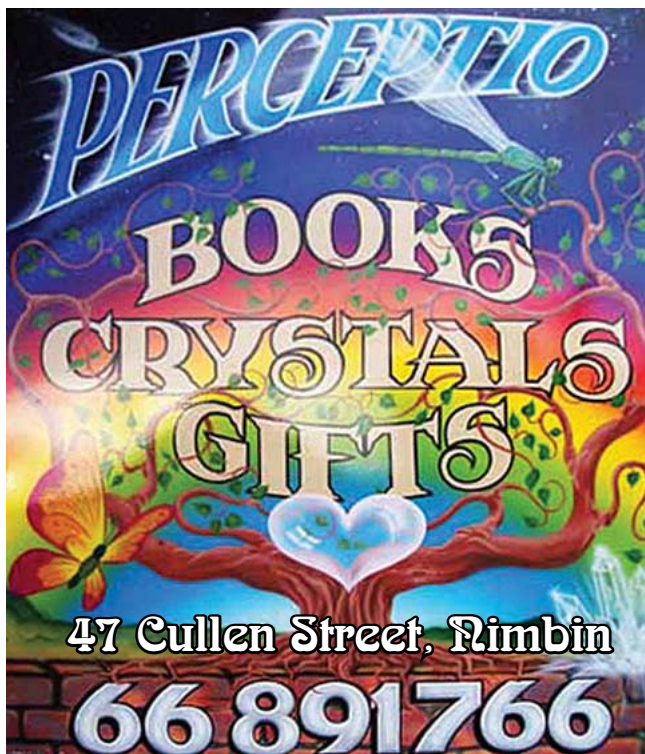
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Did you know?

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Nimbin Flix's choice for July is the recently released movie *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*. Directed by Martin McDonagh and starring Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson, the film is about Mildred Hayes, a hard-nosed mother who is seeking justice for her murdered daughter.

With no arrests after seven months, Mildred puts up three roadside signs to goad Ebbing police chief into action. But the law – and especially Sam Rockwell's hot-headed deputy – don't take kindly to the provocation. And the townsfolk are on their side. But Mildred doesn't care about ruffling a few feathers. In fact, she's happy to pluck the whole bird.

So sharply written that it cuts, the third movie from award-winning playwright Martin McDonagh is a dramedy that starts with cleverness and wit, then opens up into something truthfully human. Aptly titled, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* features superb, lyrical dialogue so good that every single cast member, no matter how little screen time, gives a superb performance.



McDormand in particular hasn't been this good since her Oscar-winning turn in *Fargo*. Yet *Three Billboards* never seems too clever for its own good. It's a stronger effort than McDonagh's *In Bruges* or *Seven Psychopaths*; beneath the sparkling verbiage are genuine, complex emotions.

There's hope here – and love – but also hate, rage, and grief, just like life. They are all mixed up in a most bracing way. At the same time, the movie tackles things like murder, cancer, and racism, but never in a

way that might seem obvious or pandering. It's not a movie about suspense or solutions; things are deliberately messy in this world, even if McDonagh presents them in a pin-neat manner.

Blessed with pitch-perfect cinematography and production design, the movie offers many great scenes and no bad ones. But nothing quite prepares you for the final scene, a thoughtful, human moment that should resonate for some time.

The movie will screen on Saturday, 14th July at 7pm at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street. Doors open at 6.30pm and refreshments will be available. Entry is free to society members. Non-members \$10 donation at the door.

MOVIES AT THE BUSH THEATRE



Kids holiday movies
My Neighbour Totoro (G)
Thursday 12th July, 11am
\$10 entry with free popcorn.

This superbly animated children's tale is directed by Hayao Miyazaki, one of Japan's most beloved animators. The story follows Satsuke and Mei, two young girls who find that their new country home is in a mystical forest inhabited by a menagerie of mystical creatures called Totoros. They befriend O Totoro, the biggest and eldest Totoro, who is also the king of the forest.

As their girls' mother lies sick in the hospital, O Totoro brings the sisters on a magical adventure but also helps them to understand the realities of life. Like most films released by Miyazaki's Studio Ghibli, this family-oriented feature has a powerful ecological message, as well as being full of fantastical magic that is enchanting to children of all ages. The cafe will be open serving kid friendly meals and treats. Our beautiful gardens are kid friendly!

Star Wars: Episode One – The Phantom Menace (PG)
Thursday 19th July, 11am
\$10 entry with free popcorn.

In 1977, George Lucas released *Star Wars*, after two successful sequels (1980's *The Empire Strikes Back* and 1983's *Return of the Jedi*) that extended the story of the first film, Lucas took



Dress up as your favourite Star Wars character for this screening of *The Phantom Menace* (PG) and get your free popcorn!

some time off to produce movies for others. In 1999, Lucas returned to the *Star Wars* saga with a new approach – instead of picking up where *Return of the Jedi* left off, *The Phantom Menace* would be the first of a trilogy of prequel stories to trace what happened in the intergalactic saga before the original film began.

Here, Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) is a young apprentice Jedi Knight under the mentorship of Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson). Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd), who will later father Luke Skywalker and become known as Darth Vader, is just a nine-year-old boy. This film explores the origins of Darth Vader, and sets up a strong foundation for the mythology of all the following films.

Our Cafe will be open serving great kid friendly meals and treats. Our gorgeous gardens are kid friendly so come and enjoy a great school holiday day out.

Over The Fence Comedy Film Festival. Get ready to laugh!

(M)
Friday 27th July, 7.30pm \$10 entry.
The *Over the Fence Comedy Film Festival* aims to celebrate new and

independent filmmakers, their comic masterpieces and their excellent sense of humour. The *Over the Fence* team are committed to encouraging and stimulating comedy film production worldwide, and to producing a festival which celebrates, entertains and inspires through comedy. In 2018 we present you the curious, cheeky and amazing views of 15 filmmakers from around the world, as they explore the peculiarities of being human with the theme for this year being, "The un-making of relationships".

2017 saw an *Over the Fence* program which had our audiences rolling in the aisles with laughter. These are very funny films, with a range of humour styles, for all tastes, made by aspiring and professional film makers from around the world. The production values are world class and the humorous journeys presented are varied and unusual!

Be a part of the voting process which will decide on the winner of the OTF Film Fest 2018. When you enter the auditorium you will be handed a voting form, and your votes will count towards a world wide prestigious win for one aspiring comedy film maker.

Over the Fence champions indie and new filmmakers – who are the starting point of a flourishing filmmaking industry. OTF aim to create of a vibrant, stimulating, inspiring environment for filmmakers and audiences, and, to bring laughter, thought, and joy to people. Their mission is to offer a refreshing challenge to people's ideas of 'what comedy is', to give their audience a whole new experience of the way in which funny stories can be told through a wide variety of filmmaking styles, genres, and, from all countries across the world!

The Nimbin Bush Theatre Cafe will be open serving fantastic fresh meals from our Bushfoods meets Asian-Fusion menu, award winning coffees and treats. BYO.

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