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# Yatras, ants and feedback

## Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

I had a lovely mini-break in May, and went on a Yatra to Girraween and Bald Rock National Parks. A Yatra is a group retreat that involves meditation, nature immersion and silent mindful bushwalking. They are fantastic.

We did some really big walks and I had a nourishing time offline and disconnected, giving myself much needed space to reconnect with myself and with our magical world. It's so important that we take time out occasionally and after the intensity of the last few months leading up to the budget it was much needed respite.

If you haven't heard about Yatras before and it sounds interesting to you, have a look at: [yatra.org.au](http://yatra.org.au) They run a couple a year locally, and they also run some in the NT and in Tasmania. They come highly recommended by me.

I came back from the Yatra to the news that Yellow Crazy Ants have been found in the Lismore CBD. It's the first time this highly invasive species has been found in NSW in 10 years. The ants are around 5mm long with long antennae, an erratic gait, and a distinct yellow colour with bits of brown.

They are listed as one of the world's 10 worst invasive species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and as a community we are going to need to be vigilant if we are to contain them and prevent them from spreading.

The DPI and LLS are undertaking an extensive containment program that will take around three months. Yellow Crazy Ants tend to walk rather than fly and are generally very slow in expanding their range by themselves. However, they can hitchhike in organic materials, or on people's belongings, resulting in the infestation spreading. This is why it is so critical for people to be aware and check for Yellow Crazy Ant before moving equipment and materials.

The most important thing is that the ants are not transported out of the CBD to other areas, particularly into our rural and farming areas where they would cause serious damage to ecosystems. It is now prohibited to move soil or plant matter within or outside of a newly established restricted zone which



covers most of Lismore. That means residents cannot move these materials off their property, except to take them to the Lismore Recycling and Recovery Centre.

It is definitely OK to visit the CBD, but please check that your vehicle, clothing and personal items are free of ants before you leave. If you find them, brush them off before leaving the area. Please immediately report any sightings to the DPI either online at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/antreport](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/antreport) or to the Biosecurity Hotline 1800-680-244. For more information about how our community needs to work together to prevent the spread of the ants there is a detailed fact sheet available on the DPI website: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

In last month's paper I wrote about our budget process at Council, and now that Councillors and staff have done our part, it's over to you. The draft operating budget for 2018-19 is now on public exhibition and you can make a submission by going to: [yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au)

While you are there you can also take part in our community consultation as part of the national conversation about changing the date of Australia Day. The online community survey is just one part of a broader consultation that Council has been undertaking as a result of Councillor Ekins' motion last year. That survey is open for your responses until 15th July, so please get involved and add your voice to this important conversation. There is a registration process involved, but once you have done that once, you are well placed to participate in future community consultation.

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



# Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, president

We are now already half way through the year, and it seems that time is flying. So much to do, so little time. Apologies to all for missing last month's Chamber Chat, I have had some personal family stuff happening, and last month it overwhelmed me.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) have been working together to repair/restore/replace some of the murals in Cullen Street. We are working together to fix two murals (the mural above NLRE and at Soward's Garage), with Elspeth and Julie as artists, and silicone-sealing to protect the one in Allsopp Park. Both of the building owners have also agreed to contribute to the mural work.

NAG now receives a small amount of annual funding from LCC from which they have agreed to contribute \$3980 towards the murals. NCOC is matching the NAG funding with a request for the Special Business Rate Variation Funding to ensure that the work will be completed.

We have managed to raise a bit over \$680 from the mural collection tins distributed around the village. We will soon have more tins out around the town, so please consider donating to this very worthy cause so we can continue to maintain the iconic face of our main street.

We have had a meeting with LCC regarding the pedestrian crossing in Cullen Street which has been identified by locals as a safety concern. Discussion was centred around the sightline constraints and distractions in the area.

Possible solutions forwarded included: requesting pedestrians not to loiter inside the blisters; brighter fluoro lighting; replacement of iron in awning roofs with translucent PVC; banners re reducing

speed; making surface more even; painted zig-zags on approaches.

Council is considering these suggestions and has also identified signage placed around the crossing as a distraction. They have asked that the businesses on either side of the crossing ensure that any signage placed on the foot path be positioned so it does not distract or block views to passing traffic.

A number of interested parties from Nimbin, including the Chamber, attended a meeting to discuss the Rainbow Walking Trail. Currently some issues still exist around the proposed route and the existing right of way. LCC Councillors and Staff have been invited to walk the new trail route, so a date is planned for July-August.

LCC management staff expressed concerns about the ongoing cost of maintenance. We have suggested that local groups (such as Headers, RPC, School of Arts) could take responsibility to maintain sectors of the walk that adjoin their properties to reduce costs. Engaging Jungle Patrol to do routine clearing and rubbish collection may also reduce the annual expenditure on maintenance.

This is a major infrastructure project that will benefit the whole community by increasing tourist activity in the town, and providing a great pedestrian space for the locals to enjoy and safely travel from Alternative Way and Cecil Street without having to negotiate the streets, which lack safe pedestrian access to the main street.

The Chamber Committee has committed funds and considerable volunteer time to revamp our website and logo. We are seeking to improve the accessibility and function of the site and have engaged some local web developers to improve search engine optimisation and give the site a whole new clean modern visual design. We are improving the member's directory so their businesses can enjoy a clear visual presence on the site and

to enable members to access information and update profiles easily.

We will have an opening very soon as we are busy creating the content. We would welcome any images that showcase our beautiful village or the wonderful events that occur here. Images can be emailed to the Chamber: [chamber@nimbin.nsw.au](mailto:chamber@nimbin.nsw.au)

I have had the privilege of attending some free workshops offered by Council over this year. Topics ranged from partnerships between Council and the community, WHS, fundraising for not-for-profit organisations, governance issues, time banking and more.

I have had the opportunity to network with a number of organisations from the area including the Department of Fair Trading, SES and other emergency service organisations. I am looking to organise some community meetings with these organisations to provide information and resourcing for the village.

We are holding another general members meeting at B+B Hall 6pm on Monday 16th July. We have invited Paula Newman, the LCC Strategic Planner, to give us an update on the Nimbin parking strategy and address the community about LCC plans affecting Nimbin in the next 12 months, its growth management strategy, the relationship of the DCP to the LEP, progress with John Callinan's Alternative Way development, and commercial waste development.

This is a great opportunity to directly question council around the issues affecting our village and express your ideas and concerns. Council does take note of the feedback they receive at these meetings and the Nimbin Parking Strategy is one example of that process. Many of the ideas contained in the document reflect feedback from Chamber, PCCC and NAG meetings held over the last two years that council staff and Councillors attended.

I hope to see you all there, your feedback is important and informs our planning as well as Council's.

# From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith

With all the action in Nimbin last month, I have made a well-worn trail between Lismore and our biggest village. Halted only by the mobile drug test van that was parked in Goolmangar and a few very sad spots where the road is in very poor condition. I can't do much about the first, but I can tell you that we are doing everything possible to get more investment from the NSW government in their state road network so the Nimbin Road can be improved.

Roads aside, this is one of the times I want to focus on the destination, not the journey (though it goes against my better nature). So I loved spending time over the past month enjoying MardiGrass and the 45th anniversary of Nimbin Aquarius.

It was really good to see that both events were focused on the future with discussions around sustainability and what a Nimbin of the future can contribute to that conversation. With so many visitors in town, this was the best opportunity to spread the message that everything we do needs to be about having a more sustainable look at our impact of the planet. So what better place in the whole of Australia to show people there is a different way of looking at life?

I also had the honour of meeting Nathan and Shelly from Woodstock, New York, Nimbin's sister village. Having made the journey to our hub of alternative culture, it



was interesting to hear their perspectives on life in America and the role that both our villages can play in promoting sustainable living.

Nathan and Shelly (above) come every five years on the Aquarius anniversary dates, so I hope that locals or even a delegation from council can make that journey to Woodstock in the future to repay the favour and maintain our connection.

That may also be useful, as we are having trouble finding any official council documents on the relationship. So we will be looking to strengthen that connection in the coming years.

If anyone is travelling to Woodstock, please let me know as you can grab me some organic shoelaces which they proudly manufacture locally. Of course the tie-dye is the biggest seller, so I might even see if I can get a supply to stock in our Nimbin Visitor Information Centre as the only non-local product on the shelf. I think we can make an exception, as they are really family!

It is so important that we maintain these bridges and

cultural connections, as these moments remind us of the best in others. This is to contrast, in America's case, with the worst in what we see at a more national or global level. Much like our battle against CSG, we know that good people around the world at a community level are still fighting for change.

I still find that idea inspiring, that we can change things as individuals and when we come together, in a way that governments couldn't hope to accomplish. It is one of the reasons I am interested in our sister City relationships. We are looking to connect with Lincang in China, as we both share a connection with macadamia production and agriculture.

Some people are not happy with this new connection as they see China as a nation that lacks democracy and human rights protections. But I would argue that the only change we have seen in China over the past two decades, can be put down to cultural and economic exchange, not governmental action. So once again people connecting as individuals is improving the lives of so many.

## Kyogle Council notebook

by Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Kyogle

It's been another fast-paced month with the State Government's Fit for the Future reforms around the joint organisations (JO) coming to fruition.

It has been announced that Kyogle will be joining the five other member Councils (Tweed, Richmond Valley, Lismore, Byron and Ballina) of NOROC to establish the new JO. We will meet at the end of the month to discuss our transitioning arrangements, including the establishment of a new charter and voting model. The JO will enable member Councils to collaborate, plan and deliver regional projects.

ANZAC Day was a lovely day. I headed up to Mallanganee and watched the last performance of local Yvonne Gay, who has performed at Mallanganee ANZAC days since the first event. Gail Bester who has the run the BBQ since 1982 also stepped down. Ms Gay and Ms Bester were awarded certificates of appreciation by Master of Ceremonies, Neville O'Malley. Kyogle, Old Bonalbo, Bonalbo and Woodenbong ANZAC events were also well attended.

We opened the six bridges that were replaced on the Lions Road. These bridges were of special importance because they heralded a change in the grant criteria. Council had experienced some challenges in seeking funding under the Bridge Renewal Program, which was designed to help Councils like Kyogle with their timber bridge backlogs.



Our federal member, Kevin Hogan, worked his magic and got us through the Deputy Prime Minister's door to discuss our proposed criteria which would make it easier for us to successfully apply.

Long story short: the criteria were changed and the six bridges on Grady's Creek and the bridge at Upper Duck Creek were the first to be funded under the new criteria and replaced. This is a win, not only for us but for all rural Councils across Australia.

The Bonalbo Show was, as always, a great day out. On the same day, the MPS open day was held and isn't it impressive?! I'm so pleased to see this facility completed and congratulate Thomas George on his advocacy. See you all next month!



On the same PAGE

by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

On 5th June, I announced a grant of more than \$7000 to Kyogle Preschool to install 20 solar panels.

This is great news for the preschool. Instead of spending money on its electricity bill, the preschool will be able to spend their money on their students.

The funds will be used to install a 20-solar-panel 5 kilowatt PV system with inverter, generating enough power for use throughout the day.

I spoke in Parliament last week about this year's wonderful 15-day Aquarius Festival anniversary celebrations.

I congratulated the organisers in Parliament: John Tozeland, Katie Cawcutt, Bob Dooley, Binnah Pownall, Benny Zable and Teddy Davis, who put in many hours organising the celebrations.

I also spoke about the unique, diverse and vibrant community that is Nimbin, and the significance of the Aquarius Festival, which not only changed the future of the town but made its mark on Australia.

Full text here: [https://www.aph.gov](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/5e1ba35d-04d0-4337-971c-99a86eafcc28/&sid=0000).

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Karen is looking forward to attending the Nimbin Hospital's Auxiliary Fashion Show later this month.

This is a great annual fundraiser to purchase much needed equipment for the hospital.

I would like to thank the new president Robyn Roos, secretary Margaret McQuilty, treasurer Louise Donadel, assistant treasurer Maureen Lombard and assistant treasurer Bruce Hamilton.

The Government is investing \$2.4 billion to make life-changing medicines more affordable.

A script for Spinraza, which treats the devastating illness Spinal Muscular Atrophy, will now cost a maximum \$39.50 (and just \$6.40 for pensioners and concession card holders) instead of \$367,850 a year.

We have also listed Kisqai for women with breast cancer, which previously cost patients \$71,820 a year.

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# Tackling wild dogs and pest animals

by Tony Heffernan

Whian Whian community and North Coast Local Land Services have initiated a public meeting to provide information, knowledge, leadership to assist in the coordination of effective action management plan regarding Wild Dogs/ Pest Animals in your own community.

The meeting will be facilitated with guest speakers from DPI, Local Land Services, Sporting Shooters Assoc of Australia and hopefully a speaker from NPWS or Wildlife/ RSPCA.

The meeting is in the Dunoon Hall Friday 22nd June, 5.30-7.30pm, refreshments provided.

Dunoon Sports Club is nearby for you to enjoy a meal after the meeting. Please register to allow for catering.

The goal is to understand and raise awareness of the problems and full impact of wild dogs/pest animals in your community. And to also offer effective management plans for local landholders.

To assist in making best use of time with the Q&A, and to offer the whole community an input, we ask you to share any questions you may have or specific enquiries so they can be collated and ready at the meeting. Email and contact numbers below.

The broad objective is to provide landholders and

the general public with knowledge and options under the North Coast Local Land Services Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan which provides stakeholders with a pathway to meet the General Biosecurity Duty as required by the Biosecurity Act 2015.

A key component of the plan is to implement effective, long term solutions to a national problem within your own community.

This information night (not debate) will hopefully encourage an engaged co-operative approach for your community.

An effective plan starts with identifying:

- the actual (not perceived) problem
- who is affected and who else is involved
- the extent of the problem and impact/s it is having.

Defining the problem can be difficult however it is essential to know exactly what the plan is seeking to address so that appropriate management can be carried out efficiently and effectively.

If the problem is not correctly defined, then all the planning that follows is likely to be off track.

We're all affected. It is the sole responsibility of landowners, land managers and anyone leasing a property, to take ownership of this problem.

From a community concern, domestic dogs are most at risk around 1080 baiting.



Involving people/ community in the development of a pest management plan ensures that it is relevant and practical and also helps to give everyone ownership of the plan and its recommendations.

By working together to define the problem, the community can be better prepared to discuss ways they can effectively manage the problem co-operatively.

## Tools to control wild dogs

There is a variety of different lethal and non-lethal tools available to control wild dogs.

These include poison baits, traps, shooting, fencing, guard animals and aversion techniques (such as lights, alarms and flagging).

Control tools vary in their effectiveness depending on a range of factors specific to the local situation. Use of

many of the available control tools is also subject to various laws and regulations, and users should also take into account cost-effectiveness, humaneness and efficacy.

Applying the right tool/s in the right circumstance is paramount to effective wild dog management. An important objective of a Management Plan is to help identify and adopt safe, effective and humane methods for wild dog control.

Come along and get fully informed on the issue.

Please message Sandra 0488-293-235 or Anna 0423-143-120, or email Tony at: [tony.t.heffernan@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tony.t.heffernan@lls.nsw.gov.au) with your intention to attend, and with any questions you may have for the night.

Thanking you in advance for a successful outcome.

## Muktinath – A bloody blessing

by Simon Thomas

I wake to the haunting drone of Buddhist monks performing their morning ritual, as has happened in the nearby mud and stone temple these past 800 years.

I pull back the curtain in my simple mountain guesthouse to view the wonder of a clear Himalayan sky. The parched alpine landscape around me glows with countless shades of ochre and earth.

My lungs smart as I haul breaths of freezing air, and my heart pounds like a mallet to feed my limbs as I climb a rocky path leading up to a huge painted statue. At this heady altitude, oxygen is a precious commodity.

I am surrounded by splendour. This place is so deep within the Himalaya that scant rain makes it to this vertical world. I struggle to comprehend the sheer scale of the majestic landscape.

Below me, barren hillsides plummet thousands of metres to a wide stony riverbed, and above, crystalline peaks soar kilometres into the sky.

Lustrous shafts of light beam from behind a jagged ebony peak like searchlights, heralding the imminent arrival of the sun. In the west, a wondrous full moon is framed by a pyramid of ice which rises to the very edge of space.

Sky is one of the five elements for which the nearby complex of temples



has been revered by Buddhists and Hindus for millennia. Likewise, is the air that streams up the valley in the form of bracing wind, as well as clear, frigid water which pours inexplicably from the barren hillside.

Fossil shells, which abound so far from the ocean represent the earth, and within a crevice, housed in a dedicated temple, is a natural gas flare which has burned there for time immemorial.

The sun's power, barely compromised by the thin layer of atmosphere, fills the valley with gentle warmth by mid-morning, and I puff my way up a hand-hewn stone staircase to the temple gates.

In the heart of the rustic complex stands a beautiful pagoda, surrounded on three sides by walls which house 108 bull-head shaped brass spouts which shower holy water.

Legend has it that one need only pass under these sacred streams to cleanse away all evil deeds. With plenty of bad

karma to burn, I decide to take part in this ritual.

The glacial water from the first faucet slams frigid needles into my skull, and I scurry, hunched over, to complete the circuit before my brain is consumed by the mother of all ice-cream headaches.

I am half-way around when I see Aniko with a camera in her hand. I must stand and pose for the shot to display my bravery to the world. My back is chilled numb,

and I lurch myself erect like a new-born foal.

Slam! I feel the brutal bite of a brass bull tear my scalp open, and hurry to complete the circuit with my palm pressed against the aching wound. As I leave the final shower, I realise that I am covered in scarlet blood, and around me is gathering a very concerned crowd.

A policeman and a medical student usher me to sit down, while they bathe the gushing gash in iodine, while trying to stem the bloody flow.

With a gauze pad tied to my head by two donated handkerchiefs, I am nursed back down the rocky path to the tiny town clinic. The medic, who looks no more than 18 years old, carves six painful stitches into my head to suture the jagged wound.

It is the holy full moon time of *Saga Dawa*, and I hope that I have at least learned some kind of lesson – pride comes before a fall maybe?

# If you go down to the woods today..

by Scott Sledge, President  
Northern Rivers Guardians

The NSW Government has clearly stated that it is committed to continuing logging of our native public forests for decades to come, despite any lack of scientific evidence that current logging agreements have been successful in meeting their objectives or that logging is the best use of our forests in the 21st century.

In fact, it is now abandoning any pretence of sustainable logging by proposing dramatic erosions of environmental protection to meet timber supply shortfalls resulting from commercial mismanagement.

In May 2018 the NSW Government released its draft Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs). These IFOAs regulate how logging of our native public forests takes place and the impacts upon our environment and wildlife.

The outcomes continue to get worse as conservation provisions are increasingly wound back in order to get at more timber supplies and the regulation of forestry operations is transferred from the Department of the Environment to the Department of Industry whose primary focus is on the production of timber



Old growth Antarctic Beech in a Northern Rivers forest  
Photo: Meg Nielson

and meeting wood supply agreements. A classic case of putting the fox in charge of the chook pen.

The National Parks Association of NSW has been leading the analysis of the IFOA along with North East Forests Alliance (NEFA) and the NSW Nature Conservation Council (NCC) who help member groups such as Northern River's Guardians, Nimbin Environment Centre, Caldera Environment Centre etc to

understand the proposed changes which are often couched in language which assures us of equal protection for wildlife conservation as for timber harvesting.

Analysis shows that sweeping retrograde changes are proposed that prioritise timber extraction over environmental protection, including:

- Increasing logging intensity throughout public native forests, including allowing high-intensity logging in

140,000ha of coastal forests between Taree and Grafton, enabling virtual clear-felling of areas up to 45 ha in one go. Even the least intensive 'selective' logging will require that a mere 0.1% of trees be retained per hectare logged. Replantings would convert biologically complex, natural forests into monocultures of blackbutt – in order to provide sawlogs for the industry's future.

- Permitting logging in stream buffer zones that are currently out of bounds for logging. Buffer zones around streams will be reduced from 10m to 5m- from the centre of the watercourse (in many situations that means no exclusion at all!) These areas are the most important refuges for threatened species left in many forests, including gliders and quolls, and contain some of the most ecologically important trees in our forests.
- Opening previously protected old-growth forest to logging by changing the maps for these high-conservation-value areas to make up timber shortfalls. Old-growth forests are rare and provide vital refuges for threatened species, including large owls and gliders.
- Permitting the logging of trees up to 140cm in diameter, and 160cm for blackbutt and alpine

ash, and removing the requirement to protect recruitment trees (the hollow-bearing trees needed for wildlife into the future) during logging operations. Only five hollow bearing trees – which are incredibly important habitat for wildlife – need to be retained per hectare. These important habitat trees will be essentially useless if all the trees around them are felled.

- Replacing the need to look for koalas with a habitat model that will require the retention of a maximum of 10 feed trees of just 20cm diameter per hectare in mapped koala habitat.

The new IFOAs require changes to legislation in order to be implemented. These changes are contained in the Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, which is currently before Parliament.

This Bill transfers regulation powers of private native forestry to the Local Land Services from the EPA and makes changes that will allow the new draft Coastal IFOA to be implemented.

The NSW Government is undertaking public consultation on the draft IFOA commencing this week with a series of invitation-only information sessions starting in Sydney and then moving to the regions – the north coast

next week and then the south coast the following week.

The Government may also offer meetings to obtain stakeholder feedback. Closing date for written submissions is 5pm on 29th June 2018.

NEFA and NCC won't be participating in the information or any feedback meetings but they will be making submissions. I strongly encourage you to do so too.

The link to the inquiry is here: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2493#tab-members](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2493#tab-members)

As forest /wildlife advocates, NEFA will be working with the National Parks Association of NSW and regional/local environmental groups to organise a series of information sessions to raise community awareness about the destruction associated with current public forest logging and promote a better alternative for our public forests – one fit for the 21st century.

Stand Up 4 Forest meetings will be held as follows:

**Nimbin:** Wednesday 13th June, 6.30 – 10pm, Birth & Beyond Hall

**Lismore:** Tuesday 19th June, 5.30 – 8pm, Lismore Workers Club

Thanks for standing up for our forests!

## NSW govt can't get wood

by Dr Sarah Antill

In 1998, the NSW government guaranteed large quotas of public timber to private sawmills. But now it's in a fix. There's not enough wood to fulfil all the guarantees, and sawmillers are demanding compensation. \$13 million has already been paid, courtesy of NSW taxpayers. And in an effort to find more timber, the state government is overseeing a smash-n-grab of NSW's public native forest resources.

Our public native forests are valuable assets. They have the potential to support thriving nature-based tourism. Plus, if harvested sustainably, they *could* support a timber industry in perpetuity, without the chemical spraying required by monocultural plantations. However, because no harvesting regime since colonisation has achieved sustainability, and native forests provide more than just timber, tourism looks a better option. Intact native forests reduce the need for downstream dredging. They're home to a multitude of threatened and endangered species, including trendy ones like koalas. The older the forests, the more valuable. They capture more carbon than young forests or plantations, provide more filtered water for downstream catchments, more nectar/seeds/hollows for animals, and nutrients for downstream ecosystems (including fisheries).

Disconcertingly, post-logging surveys by South East Forest Rescue (SEFR) and North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) show the Forestry Corporation – the state-owned logging company – regularly breaks the logging rules. These rules, known as "IFOAs", are supposedly designed to ensure a sustainable timber industry as well as the preservation of NSW's public forests. Over-logging, logging protected areas and damaging

retained trees are common breaches.

In 2011, even Justice Pepper of the NSW Land and Environment Court said Forestry Corporation's record suggests "either a pattern of continuing disobedience in respect of environmental laws generally or, at the very least, a cavalier attitude to compliance...".

The official body charged with enforcing the IFOAs is the EPA. According to its own info line, the EPA is a NSW government department headed by the NSW Minister for the Environment. Its website says "The EPA maintains an active native forestry compliance program to help ensure compliance with the IFOAs."

Despite that claim, voluntary community groups regularly discover compliance issues the EPA has overlooked. In order to alert the EPA, they must lodge a detailed complaint reporting the breach. "Farcical" is the word most often used by community group members to describe the EPA's response to complaints.

A recent example is Royal Camp State Forest, where NEFA audits found clear evidence – plentiful scats (see photo) – of multiple "koala high-use" areas. Under the IFOAs, these are protected from logging. However, the Forestry Corporation failed to search for evidence of koalas before starting work, as the IFOAs require. Then, cheekily, they claimed that they hadn't found evidence of koalas, so no protections applied. And they logged.

After ministers and the media were alerted to the first incident, logging stopped in that area. However, the EPA took a full year to penalise the Forestry Corporation for failing to search, during which the Corporation repeated the same trick in other important koala habitat. The EPA eventually issued fines of \$900, likely far less than the protected



Ian Gaillard displays some of the koala scats the Forestry Corporation says don't exist.  
Royal Camp State Forest, 6th May 2018

logged timber brought in.

NEFA has countless similar stories. One logging rule is that a specific set of healthy, undamaged trees in each logged area must be left standing. Post-logging surveys regularly find such retained trees have been damaged by logging machinery, or even by piling and burning of broken branches around the base of the tree – clear contraventions of the IFOAs. To one NEFA complaint detailing hundreds of breaches, the EPA justified taking no action by claiming that while it was likely "the damage to the trees and the debris were as a result of harvesting operations", it was impossible to prove the damage was caused by the Forestry Corporation (the harvester).

In 2017, NEFA combined Google Earth with extensive groundwork to prove Forestry Corporation had logged protected areas in

Cherry Tree State Forest. They compared NEFA ground data with the EPA and Forestry Corporation's own maps, and with the harvested areas visible on Google Earth. The combined evidence sent to the EPA clearly showed 54.5ha of endangered forest illegally logged. The EPA waited until just before the deadline for prosecution expired before telling NEFA they didn't intend to take legal action.

It's about to get worse. The NSW government, perhaps feeling that even laxly-enforced forest protections inhibit its scramble for quota-filling timber, intends to remove many of the restrictions currently encoded in the IFOAs. Many previously protected areas, including old growth, will be open for logging. And more aggressive logging methods will be allowed – methods such as clear-felling that destroy the ability of native forests to regenerate.

These are desperate measures to scrape more wood from NSW's dwindling reserves – measures that degrade NSW's native forests and destroy their ability to supply timber, jobs and ecosystem services into the future. The drivers of these measures are the unrealistic guarantees, known as "Wood Supply Agreements", made 20 years ago by the NSW government to private sawmillers.

Astoundingly, the government intends to renew the Wood Supply Agreements for another 20 years. If they succeed, we'll be locked into another two decades of "smash-n-grab" that spells disaster for NSW's native forests. This is a policy that trashes NSW's publicly-owned resources for the benefit of a small number of private sawmill owners.

Does it look to you like someone's got a mate somewhere?

NEFA is part of a network of people aiming to protect NSW's public native forests. If you'd like to find out more (or better, get involved!) come to one of the upcoming public meetings.

# The Linc Stink: Queensland's biggest environmental disaster

by John Jiggins

In April, following a 10-week trial, Linc Energy Limited was found guilty by a jury of five counts of wilfully and unlawfully causing serious environmental harm at its underground coal gasification plant at Chinchilla in the western Darling Downs.

The five counts of causing serious environmental harm related to various gasifiers operated by Linc Energy on its site at Hopeland near Chinchilla. The company, which was already in liquidation, did not defend the action.

Qld Premier Palaszczuk has described Linc's Hopeland mine as potentially the biggest environmental disaster in Qld history. Appropriately, Judge Shanahan handed down a \$4.5million fine, the largest environmental penalty in Qld history, but still well short of the enormous clean-up costs.

The mining technique which Linc practised at Hopeland was an extreme form of fracking known as Underground Coal Gasification. Judge Shanahan described it thus:

*"Underground Coal Gasification is an aspect of the fracturing of coal seams colloquially known as fracking. The term fracking also covers a number of other processes. This actual process involves the setting fire to a coal seam underground and production of various gases that are used in particular processes, particularly the generation of power or, in relation to the Linc system, the conversion of the gas to liquid products, including fuel."*

Linc Energy was aware of contamination dangers from fracturing both the coal and the adjacent overburden and allowing

contaminants to escape. They said they knew the principles to be applied to ensure the safe operation of the project, but they frequently failed to follow these procedures.

The result was the Linc Stink: clouds of methane, hydrogen, nitrogen and carbon monoxide generated by the burn that escaped from the gasifiers and afflicted the animals, the workers and the farming families of this beautiful agricultural area for six years between 2007 and 2013.

The first two counts of the indictment involved the operation of a site known as Gasifier 2 or G2 between 30th March 2007 to June 2008. (The chambers that are dug in the coal seam and set alight in Underground Coal Gasification are known as gasifiers.)

Linc said they knew of the need for appropriate site selection, including assessing the nature of the overburden, and the presence of any pre-existing fractures in the landform, yet the operation of G2 resulted in damage to the landform that spanned up to two kilometres, loss of containment and escape of contaminants, including bubbling of gases to the surface.

In October 2007, continuing loss of containment meant that G2 was recommended for closure, but Linc continued to operate G2 until December 2007.

The manager of operations reported to the CEO of the disastrous operation of G2, and the company replaced this failure with another gasifier, G3, which was sited only some 100 metres from the G2 site. The G3 seam was ignited in August 2008. Once again, there were widespread well failures, gas bubbling at wellheads and a significant concentration

of contaminants in monitoring bores.

Decommissioning of G3 was recommended in March 2009, but it went on operating until the end of May.

Linc's technical team advised in April 2009 that the Chinchilla site was not a feasible site to operate a fourth gasifier due to damage to landform of the previous gasifiers. Nonetheless, management directed the technical team to find another site there.

Gasifier 4 operated between 2nd February 2010 and 20th February 2012 with the same faults: monitoring bores detected high concentrations of contaminants; gas was escaping in puddles from one of the water bores, so it was nicknamed Mr Bubbles. When a regulator visited the site, Mr Bubbles was covered by some sort of crusher dust so that the bubbling could not be seen.

The last gasifier, G5, operated between two years from October 2011 to December 2013, despite a report from senior staff that the site was unsuitable because of significant fracturing. Before the operation of G5, the company applied to the regulator to extend the limits of possible contamination to a much larger area than had been previously acknowledged. Judge Shanahan said:

*"Also, a decision was made to stop the voluntary testing of groundwater samples for an extended period of time. It seems to me that that was a clear indication that Linc was well aware of the damage that was being done and was attempting to hide it from the regulator. It seems to me that that is a particular aggravating feature."*

*"...during the operation of G5, the defendant was made aware of significant concentration of contaminants being detected in monitoring bores*

*and shallow wells during its operation. It was advised of a detection of benzene, a product of the UCG process, being found in a shallow well ... G5 continued in operation to December 2013. In my view, the defendant was plainly ignoring the information it was receiving and continued with its operations."*

Judge Shanahan concluded that Linc frequently ignored the advice it was getting from its own team of scientists. The offences were serious and extensive and proceeded over seven years. Judge Shanahan said:

*"Each gasifier was operated in a manner that resulted in explosive and toxic gases, tars and oils escaping into parts of the landform ... The offences have resulted in a contamination of the groundwater system that will require monitoring and remediation for many years to come. The land also faced ongoing explosive and toxicity risks in relation to the escape of contaminants."*

Tens of millions of dollars have been spent, dealing with the impact of the contamination offences. Judge Shanahan concluded that the company put its commercial interests well above its duty to conduct its processes in a way to safeguard the environment. He said:

*"My view is the purpose of this ecological vandalism was purely commercial."*

It remains to be seen if the company will pay any of the \$4.5 million fine, as it is in liquidation. CEO Peter Bond is reportedly selling off his assets, including Dunk Island. In July, Peter Bond and other Linc Directors are due to face criminal charges under new legislation. Affected farmers are organising a class action against the government for approving the technology.

The Linc Stink is spreading.

## The Beaufort Sea

by Bernadine Schwartz

The Arctic is heating up fast and the alarm bells are ringing and loudly!

The Arctic ice is nearly at vanishing point with temperatures up by 17 degrees centigrade, and Summer hasn't even begun. The Beaufort Sea near Canada and Alaska now has only 900 polar bears remaining, when a decade ago there were 1,500 and this is because the sea ice is disappearing.

The Beaufort Sea has always been entirely covered in permanent sea ice, but three years of record high temperatures have had an unprecedented impact, and a new phenomenon that scientists never anticipated has occurred: waves!

These waves are as big as five metres and they're decimating the ice rapidly.

Something just as worrying is also happening. The Atlantic Ocean's circulation is slowing down and these are all serious symptoms of climate change. Scientists predicted this event would occur decades ago and have been speculating on what the outcome would be, and now we are all about to find out.

The theory of global warming had been discussed as long ago as 1896 when the first scientific study was conducted by Svante Arrhenius.

The burning of coal led him to conclude that the planet's surface temperatures would increase, but he thought this wouldn't be felt for at least a 1,000 years. Over 50 years later, scientists were debating whether carbon dioxide was capable of warming our planet and altering the climate until 1960, when Charles David Keeling proved just that.

Since then, scientists around the world have repeatedly been warning all of us about global warming and

the consequences of not acting.

Concerned scientists from all over the globe formed the IPCC in 1988 and had their first meeting in 1990, when they declared unequivocally to the world that the Earth was warming up and future warming was likely.

Since then we've had international summits, with the first being in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro when the US immediately blocked any need for action. The US have continued over the years to neither acknowledge the threat or co-operate, and because of this they have hindered the process. When the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 was held, the US senate arrogantly rejected the plan in advance of the meeting.

A decade later the world staged the Copenhagen Summit and, even though the IPCC stated that the reduction of fossil fuels would cost far less than the damage being caused, the whole event was a huge disappointment.

In 2008 scientists continued to make press announcements and stated that even if all emissions ceased immediately and were never produced again we would still be suffering from global warming for another 1,000 years.

Then five years later, a landmark report from the IPCC, that was supported by 93 governments, was released. It explained very clearly that climate change had already impacted every continent and threatens severe, pervasive and irreversible future consequences.

Since then we've had the Paris Agreement, which was the first time that America attended with the intention of actually participating in the process. Treaties were signed, but what have we really accomplished since then?

Last year the world witnessed the



irreversible break in the Larsen C shelf from the Antarctic Peninsula. Years earlier in 1995, Larsen A collapsed and then in 2002 Larsen B also collapsed. Scientists are in conflict over why this occurred because ice shelves do break away naturally, but the peninsula has warmed quickly in recent years and many scientists believe there is a link.

The international community had high hopes when Obama became US President, but constant obstruction in Congress prevented him from taking the necessary measures.

Why does the US time after time appear to be going backwards when it comes to taking any action and why is our own government hell bent on serving mining companies? The answer is *lobbyists*.

This is an industry that is totally unregulated and represents powerful corporations including the fossil fuel industry. Internationally lobbyists have colluded with mining giants and governments and are deeply entrenched in our political world.

Because of this power, they've been successful in representing the mining sector's cause and in doing so have prevented the world from taking the necessary steps to fight climate change.

When Kevin Rudd came to power he was the most popular PM in Australia's political history with a rating of 73%, but when he proposed to hit the mining sector

with a 40% tax, he was scrupulously undermined by lobbyists who were acting on behalf of this highly profitable industry. They might be Australia's resources, but 80% of these mining giants are owned by foreign companies and that's where the money goes, overseas.

This tax could have created huge benefits for Australia, but BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto and Xstrata, the giants of this industry and small players such as Clive Palmer and Gina Rinehart, joined forces and created a slush fund to employ the most capable lobbyists in the country.

One of their strategies was convincing Labor MPs, especially those who held marginal seats, that this tax would lose them votes. They had even conducted their own polling to prove this and carefully selected certain journalists and radio announcers to sell their spin.

We are all aware of Kevin Rudd's demise and this demonstrates how capable they are at making or breaking governments with their skilful manipulation.

The majority of lobbyists are former government officials and politicians, and the control they have is affecting our democratic system enormously.

The mining industry receives internationally between \$775 billion to \$1 trillion in subsidies every year from governments with the help of lobbyists. How could anyone possibly say our governments are genuinely committed to phasing out

fossil fuels?

In 2012 the fossil fuel industry spent \$674 billion developing new reserves to secure future supplies and governments are doing the same. These new supplies will be coming from Greenland and eventually the Arctic, which means more environmental devastation.

The mining sector has been spending phenomenal amounts of money to ensure their future by employing lobbyists to influence governments and the public.

Currently in the US ExxonMobil are being investigated for manipulating and obstructing the process of reducing greenhouse gases, but the case isn't about the environmental damage they have caused. It's under investigation because they have misled their shareholders!

It doesn't appear to matter that they've conspired and plotted to deceive the entire world or the fact that they're responsible for so much destruction. This world we live in places far too high a value on money and totally ignores the most valuable asset we have, our home called Mother Earth!

For 26 years we've been having summits on global warming and we are still waiting for action. The real powers that be will never tackle climate change until all our fossil fuels are completely gone.

This would have to be the gravest, most heinous crime ever committed in the history of mankind and they should be held accountable. Not just the fossil fuel industry but government officials, politicians and the lobbyists themselves!

Nothing can ever compensate for the loss of habitat on our planet with all its diversity and natural wonders! These greedy people have had the planet in the palm of their hands and have slowly crushed her, all for the sake of money, and now every living thing on the planet has to suffer the consequences!

# Casino Environment Centre moves on and up

by Sarah Antill, Secretary CEC

When Philippe Dupuy first floated the idea of an Environment Centre in Casino, I laughed. I thought "Casino Environment Centre" was an oxymoron. I was really wrong.

For four years PB (post-Bentley), the CEC shopfront has been an oasis of sanity where like-minded people can drop in for a tea and a vent, or just for some chemical-free local produce.

In the same four years, CEC has built links with Casino businesses and Council, run regular radio shows, participated in Beef Week, kickstarted the restoration of the Jabiru Geneebeinga wetlands, and more.

On May 18, CEC moved to its next stage. Members packed up the shopfront, and now the Centre will operate a stall at Casino's bimonthly market – plus stalls at markets around the entire Northern Rivers.

There will be info on all the big issues, like Adani and the new logging rules,



CEC stalwarts Dominique Rampal, Geoff Reid, Liz Stops, Meg Nielsen, Ian Morris and Philippe Dupuy, with empty shopfront shelves

plus local produce, posters, a raffle and friendly people.

So now I am picking pieces of my hat out of my teeth. Thanks to past presidents Philippe Dupuy, Jhabel

Downie and Geoff Reid, and the extraordinary band of committee members and volunteers who got us here.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the markets!

# Magic afoot in industrial hemp

by Gerald Taylor

While everyone has been distracted by the prancing ponies of medicinal and recreational cannabis, deeper rumblings from the entity we call hemp have gone almost unnoticed.

It's become common to see politicians, big pharma and struggling aluminium companies circling around, looking to monetarise cannabis; regulate and tax it. Good luck with that.

Meanwhile the industrial aspects of cannabis have truly come of age, and they have come of age in Nimbin.

Industrially cannabis is made up of three parts: seed, long fiber (bast) and pith (hurd) and in Nimbin a quiet revolution has taken place; the hippies have found a way to simply utilise all parts of the plant in a planet-saving manner that also makes a generous income for a cottage farmer.

First the seed. Hemp seed is expensive, industrial seed costing \$30 per kilo. This price will eventually drop, but for the foreseeable future demand will outstrip supply and the price will remain firm.

A hectare of land will produce one ton of seed in poor conditions and as much as three tons under good conditions. You do the maths but I'll give you a hint, it's a



Martin Ernegg's moulded objects from hemp fibre

lot more than you get from cotton or wheat, a lot more. In fact, enough to make a fine living from one hectare and its easy and legal to grow.

Now the hurd, the white core of the plant. Unknown to most people, Klara Marosszky, a local girl, is Australia's leading expert on making the hurd of the cannabis plant into a usable building product. Using nothing but water and a handful of minerals, Klara mixes and presses a quite remarkable material – ant-proof, fireproof, light and incredibly strong.

The building blocks she makes have one other important quality, the blocks are a carbon sink. Making the blocks binds carbon

up in a permanent storage unit, but it doesn't stop there. In a process similar to fossilisation, the blocks continue to sequester carbon from the environment for several hundred years, becoming stronger and denser with time.

Blocks of this superior building material cost the earth nothing, and can be marketed for little more than a standard besser block. A hectare of cannabis will produce between 2000 and 5000 blocks.

Now the bast, the long fibre. Until recently the bast was a problem: we no longer have the ability to process raw materials. We have lost our production chains that take a raw fibre to clothing. We could grow the bast, but we couldn't process it.

Enter Martin Ernegg. Recently of Mullumbimby, Martin is now a resident of Nimbin and, in a way, Martin is the last piece of the puzzle. You may have seen some of Martin's remarkable work already; hemp didgeridoos probably being his most famous pieces.

Martin is a scientist, inventor and artist, and he has created a material from bast that he can use in his artworks, making his musical instruments. In a very simple process using only bast and water and a

little molecular jiggling, Martin turns the problem bast into a carbon fibre of unsurpassed quality.

"Hemp fusion" Martin calls his creation, and although devised to make musical instruments, it turns out to be a replacement for, well, just about everything. It is a viable and sustainable replacement for steel, timber and plastics moulded in all their forms.

At this time Martin is selling his raw product for \$10 per kilo, from there it's up to your imagination what you will build with it, simply press it into shape then let it cure. Clean, ready to use carbon fibre at \$10 a kilo and no cost to the planet. A typical hectare will produce up to five tons of hemp fusion material.

So, here in this strange little town of Nimbin, once again the hippies have provided local answers to global problems and simultaneously created a sustainable yet profitable cottage industry from the hemp plant. The time to plant industrial hemp on a small scale is now.

If you have an enquiry or interest in farming hemp or using any of its products contact Gerald at The Hemp Club in the Nimbin Community Centre or email: [info@topicalhempcream.com.au](mailto:info@topicalhempcream.com.au)

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# Bush Theatre gigs



## Sebastian Winter's Sublime Piano

Sunday 17th June 12.30pm  
Entry free.

Piano maestro Sebastian Winter is returning to the outdoor stage of the Nimbin Bush Theatre for a free show on Sunday 17th June at 12.30pm.

Sebastian Winter was born on a cargo ship in the port of Amsterdam.

At a young age he accidentally drank a glass of tequila sunrise and began to play the piano. A little later in life he found the piano again and has been playing everyday since.

Drawing influence from the likes of Philip Glass, Ludovico Einaudi and Yann Tiersen, Sebastian's music is both powerful and subtle, inspiring those who listen to take a journey into their imagination and create landscapes of their own.

Join him in the gardens by the magical Mulgum Creek for an afternoon of exquisite piano playing that is

guaranteed to move your soul and take you away.

The Cafe will be open serving delicious meals, award winning coffee, cakes and treats.

## Dinner Under the Stars with Glenn Cardier and Christian Marsh Streaming

Saturday 23rd June, 7pm  
Entry by donation.

The Nimbin Bush Theatre is delighted to announce another night of world class music as part of our Dinner Under the Stars series featuring Glenn Cardier.

Glenn will be joined onstage by one of Australia's and indeed the world's best Harmonica players, Christian Marsh. This concert will be streamed live by River-FM, Lismore for those who cannot make it in person.

In the 1970's, Australian singer-songwriter/guitarist Glenn Cardier produced three albums of highly original folk/rock songs. He played the first two Sunbury festivals and worked with the likes of Frank Zappa, Spike Milligan and Fairport Convention. He wrote songs for Olivia Newton-John. He broke through in the tough UK folk circuit.

His hard-strumming, quirky onstage persona was always at odds with his recorded work, and through the 80's and 90's Cardier's recording



career stalled and he became increasingly reclusive. He surfaced occasionally – as front man for the Sydney pub band The Bel-Aires as well as playing rockabilly on his '59 Gretsch around the Central Coast of New South Wales.

Post-2000, Glenn Cardier's re-emergence as a songwriter and performer of real distinction has been nothing short of extraordinary. In typical single-minded fashion, he writes, performs and produces his music from his adobe home studio on the Hawksbury River. Cardier usually plays all the instruments on his CDs.

Onstage, there are the trademark flashes of dark humour in his songs, of stark beauty and thumping rockabilly/blues. There's a touch of Beefheart in his voice, a hint of Cohen in the lyrics, a pinch of Elvis here and there.

But underlying it all are the songs. Happy/sad songs. Sweet/crazy songs. Cardier songs. His song 'A Case Of Mistaken Identity' was a first place winner in the 2016 International Song Comp

and features Christian Marsh on harmonica. It is a great testimony to his talent, in that he plays Blues, but it is not like anybody else's Blues, he is a total original.

It's stunning music, played by two legends of the Australian music industry. Catch them on the outdoor stage in the gorgeous gardens for a night of great music.

The Cafe will be open serving amazing meals from the Bushfood-Asian Fusion menu, award winning coffee and sweet treats. BYO.

## Calling all musicians!

Entries are open now for Australia's biggest band competition at the Nimbin Bush Theatre

The Passport to Airlie Battle of the Bands competition, in its sixth year, boasts being the largest Battle of the Bands competition of its kind in Australia.

Passport to Airlie Battle of the Bands will see emerging artists from NSW, Victoria, SA, Queensland and beyond to compete to take their prize position on a stage at this iconic Festival.

The Nimbin Bush Theatre has been selected to host the competition, and is the only venue to do so between Tamworth and The Gold Coast.

This band competition differs from most in that it is free for bands to enter, and also free for punters to attend. The competition is open to most genres: rock,

pop, blues, folk, acoustica etc.. and can feature large bands (a maximum of 5 artists), solo performers and duos, all genres, ages (must be 18+) and ensemble sizes are welcome to apply.

(Due to the nature of the Airlie Beach Festival of Music heavyrock/thrash/metal and other such "hard" genres are not suitable for the competition as they would not sit well with the festival.)

The winner 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 Rainbow Region 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. Other performers at this year's Festival include Smashmouth, The Church, Ash Grunwald and Diana Anaid.

Want to enter? Go to this website and follow the prompts, it is too easy! <http://passportairliebeach.com.au>

The Nimbin Heats start in August with only 16 available places for interested musicians and bands.

Deadline for entries is 31st July.

Last year, local duo Salt and Steel (pictured at right) won the Nimbin competition, and Nick Hanlon asked them a few questions about their

experience.

## 1. How were your shows at Airlie Beach Fest 2017?

Each one was great. Because the festival is spread over the town, there are lots of different people at each show.

## 2. Did they look after you well when you were at the Fest?

Yes! Free accommodation was provided, we had access to the VIP section where we met many connections for more gig opportunities, had a great view of the main stage and were provided with free food and drinks!

## 3. What connections and opportunities have come from you winning Nimbin's BOTB?

Since winning Nimbin's BOTB we have gained more opportunities to play different shows, venues and festivals.

## 4. What would you say to any musicians considering entering the comp?

Competitions are a great way to work on the finer things in your show. You'll learn a lot, meet many new connections and friends and most importantly, have a tonne of fun!



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**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Brommers 7pm  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Blah Boi 7pm  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Tba

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Surf Report 7pm  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**  
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TBA 7pm

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Khan 7pm  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Salt and Steel 7pm  
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6pm

53 Cullen Street Nimbin NSW (02) 66891246

# Nimbin's inaugural Drag-A-Thon

Text and pic by Melissa Williamson

A small but lovely crowd turned out for the first Drag-a-Thon, held late May at the Bush Theatre.

Part drag Queen/King competition, part Drag Legends show, there was sauciness, comedy, colour, flamboyance, and high glamour – audience and performers alike.

Winner of the competition was Nimbin local Foxy Brown-Eye, superbly channelling her inner disco diva; special mention to Lytex (pictured) for a wonderfully vivid and creative costume.

The legends performances from Dame Stan Munro, Deeanna Blake,

and Monique St James, segued from steam-punk to elegant shimmer and sparkles.

This is to be an annual event, so look out for it next year and make sure you partake in the fun.

Also keep your eye out for an event starting at the Bowl in mid-July (thereafter a fortnightly event), where MC Brendan will be hosting SunGAYZE on a Sunday. A queer, and friends of, afternoon of music, comedy, prizes and a drag act or two.

The afternoons will be held from 2 – 7pm, and the kitchen will be open. See the July edition of the *GoodTimes* for more information, or contact Brendan on 0487-834-980.



# The Channon Open Mic

by Ray (Rayzor) Flanagan

With the passing of daylight saving, The Channon Open Mic is (officially) back to a 2pm start.

In practice it was a 2.30pm start on Sunday 27th – no doubt due to the inclement weather. The morning grey skies threatened rain, so we set up under cover on the veranda of The Tavern.

This proved to be a wise decision, as it rained much of the afternoon.

There was a good roll-up of performers with Glen, Ken and myself starting proceedings with an impromptu jam. Saadi followed, then R Tee.

Anne McKenzie (pictured) did an Irish ballad with guitar accompaniment and harmonies from Di, and followed with a couple of a-capella tunes.

Toby was nearing the end of his set when the power died – thanks to maintenance work by Essential Energy.



Not to be deterred, we kicked on acoustically with Di and her friend doing a couple of numbers and then Norm kept us entertained as we packed up.

Our June Open Mic will fall on Sunday 24th. I do hope to see you there.

## Wax Lyrical in Lismore

Wendy Ford co-ordinates a songwriter night called Wax Lyrical – a regional branch of the Australian Songwriters Association – that meets on the 4th Mondays at The Gollan Hotel in Lismore.

Performers are welcome to book a 15-minute spot. An added feature is written feedback (all positive, of course) provided by the audience.

The next event is 25th June, 7pm start. Email Wendy at: [wendy.j.ford@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.j.ford@gmail.com) for more info.

# Mish is still riding a high

Mish is still riding a high from her two fabulous album launch shows at Club Mullum on Saturday, 19th May and in Lismore at the Gollan on 26th May. She's feeling so happy and proud to have accomplished her double album launch mission!

Mish was in heaven, playing her 10 songs with a seven-piece band! WOW!

"It was such a buzz having my precious babies played by my talented muso friends; Vonnstar on tenor Sax and cajon, George Urbaszek on double bass, Joe O'Keefe on electric guitar, Peter Lehner and Julie Wattus on backing vocals and Dave Ellamor-Collins on backing vocals, alto sax and as the wonderful MC."

'I get by with a little help

from my friends... mmmmm I get high with a little help from my friends...!!

"It was so-ooo delicious with 3 and 4 part harmonies, 3-part horn lines and melodious guitar over sensual piano and double bass.

"A big love-filled thank you hug goes out to all involved and to those who came to see the shows."

The Lismore launch was certainly the highlight with about 100 people squeezed into the intimate 70 people capacity room upstairs at the Gollan Hotel.

The band played amazingly the second time around, and seemed to wow the crowd, with the audience leaving rosy cheeked and smiling praises to all of us.



Photo: Jaka Adamic ([www.adamic.com.au](http://www.adamic.com.au))

Mish was honoured to get some beautiful feedback from a member of the audience at the Mullum launch, who said, "Thanks for your lovely energy and inspiration at your launch on Saturday." Mish's new album *Be Yourself* is now available on iTunes and Spotify.

Mish also made her very first music video in May, so check out 'A Cup of Tea Official Music Video' on YouTube!

'Like' her facebook page 'Mish Songsmith Music' and check out her website: [www.mishsongsmith.com](http://www.mishsongsmith.com) for the next exciting chapter of Mish Songsmith's musical journey!

# NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1250



Home of the Big Bowler

# BISTRO LOUNGE

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1473

## What's On in June?

- **Sunday 10th** – STATE OF ORIGIN BOWLS
- **Open Mic Nights** – Wednesdays 6th & 20th
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** – Enquire at Bar
- **Membership** – \$5 Social



First-timers and novice bowlers welcome



## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

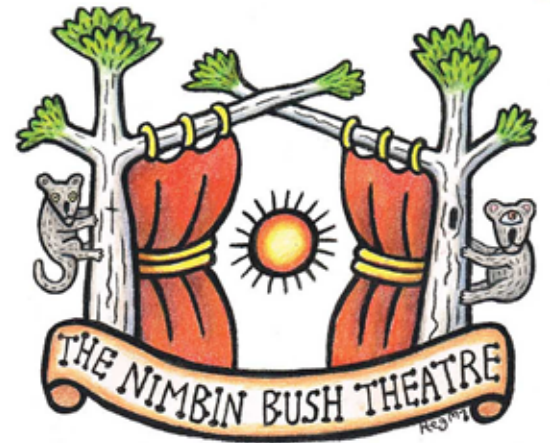
- **Friday 8th, 6pm** Rob Cass
- **Friday 15th, 6pm** Sarah Stando
- **Friday 22nd, 6pm** Brommers
- **Friday 29th, 6pm** Sayad Duo

Lunch & Dinner Wed – Sat  
Sunday lunch specials

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**FREE LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND ON OUR OUTDOOR CAFE STAGE:**  
12.30-3.30PM SATURDAYS  
10AM-3.30PM SUNDAYS

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

**EVERY FRI 2.20pm FREE** Open Stage 14:20 CYPHER SESSIONS Chilled-out HipHop sessions: Just rock up!

**FRI 1 JUNE 7.30pm \$10 M** Movie Night **THE NAMATJIRA PROJECT** From remote Oz desert to opulent Buckingham Palace: Can justice be restored to the Namatjira family?

**SAT 2 JUNE 11am FREE** Monthly Seminar **CRYPTOCURRENCIES** Discuss Bitcoin & more - All levels welcome FIRST SAT OF EVERY MONTH

**FRI 8 JUNE 7.30pm \$10 PG** Movie Night **WONDER** You can't blend in if you were born to stand out

**SAT 23 JUNE - SUN 24 JUNE 11am FREE** Public Education **MEDICAN SEMINAR** Medical marijuana info sessions RUN BY NIMBIN HEMP EMBASSY ENQUIRIES - 02/6689 0326

**SAT 23 JUNE 7pm DONATION** Dinner Under the Stars **GLENN CARDIER & CHRISTIAN MARSH** Oz blues legend touring w/ harmonica virtuoso

**FRI 29 JUNE 7.30pm \$10 MA-15+** Movie Night **SWEET COUNTRY** Award-winning Oz film set in 1929

**SAT 7 JULY 11am FREE** Monthly Seminar **CRYPTOCURRENCIES** Discuss Bitcoin & more All levels welcome

**SAT 4 AUG - SAT 22 SEPT FREE** Battle of the Muso's **PASSPORT TO AIRLIE** Enter your music now (MAX BAND SIZE 5 PEOPLE) ALL MUSIC WELCOME WINNER PLAYS 'AIRLIE BEACH FESTIVAL OF MUSIC' ENTER ONLINE: [AIRLIEBEACHFESTIVALOFMUSIC.AU/](http://AIRLIEBEACHFESTIVALOFMUSIC.AU/) BATTLE-OF-BANDS

## COMING UP!

- FRI 27 JULY** - 'Over the Fence' Comedy Short Film Festival
- FRI-SAT 7 - 8 SEPT** - 'Cock' Theatre Show (Stooged Theatre, Melbourne)
- 14 - 16 SEPT** - Nimbin Roots Festival

## TICKETS & INFO

[www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events](http://www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events)  
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# All aboard the HMS Pinafore

In June, Ballina Players is presenting a Gilbert & Sullivan classic, *HMS Pinafore*, directed and choreographed by Jaime Sheehan, with Warwick Binney and Marie Caldwell as musical directors.

Written in the 1870s, *Pinafore* was the first musical to bring together story, song words, and music into a balanced whole.

The show's popularity produced an American audience for musical theatre, and that the show has served as a model of the musical ever since. *HMS Pinafore* performed 570 times over two years in England and really put Gilbert and Sullivan on the map.

But this is not your traditional Gilbert and

Sullivan production. A much more comic and lively version was produced by Essgee Productions, which toured Australia and New Zealand in the mid-1990s with the addition of four songs from other G&S shows.

For the central character of Dick Deadeye, Essgee expanded on his original role quite substantially. He is the grim realist of the crew, offering advice to whomever, whether sought or not, with no particular concern for his station in life.

In the Ballina Players production, Deadeye is played by Peter Harding who has been with Ballina Players on-and-off since 2003. For this production




Peter Harding (centre) and the chorus of sailors. Photo: Geoff Marsh

he also co-designed the set, with a double level ship's bow and curved staircase.

Tickets are available now online at: [ballinaplayers.com.au/bookings](http://ballinaplayers.com.au/bookings) (no fee), or in person at Just Funkin' Music in River Street Ballina near the pedestrian lights (\$2/

ticket booking fee) or by phoning 6686-2440. Tickets are \$30/adult and \$22 (child 16 & under). The season runs from the 15th June until 1st July. Opening night special: canapes and free glass of champagne from 7.15pm on Friday 15th June.

**GUITAR/BASS TUITION FROM PRO.**



All styles and levels. WWC and Police check accredited. Casino/Lismore area.

**Call Jeremy  
0411-436-911**

The Nimbin Flix movie for June, *The Florida Project* is a deeply moving and unforgettably poignant look at childhood, directed by Sean Baker and starring Willem Dafoe, Brooklynn Prince, Valeria Cotto and Bria Vinaite.

Warm, winning, and gloriously alive, the film is set on a stretch of highway just outside the imagined utopia of Disney World, and follows six-year-old Moonee (Brooklynn Prince) and her rebellious mother Halley (Bria Vinaite) over the course of a single summer.

The two live week-to-week at The Magic Castle, a budget motel managed by Bobby (a career-best Willem Dafoe), yet the precocious and ebullient Moonee has no trouble making each day a celebration of life, her endless afternoons overflowing with mischief and grand adventure as



she and her ragtag playmates fearlessly explore the utterly unique world into which they've been thrown.

Unbeknownst to Moonee however,

her delicate fantasy is supported by the toil and sacrifice of Halley, who is forced to explore increasingly dangerous possibilities in order to provide for her daughter.

The movie will screen on Saturday, 16th June at 7pm at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street. Doors open at 6.30pm and refreshments will be available. All are welcome. Entry is free to society members. Non-members \$10 donation at the door.

Membership falls due on 1st July, and costs \$50 for the year. This gains admission to 11 movies per year (no showing in January) plus an annual membership of the Nimbin Community Centre Incorporated, who auspice the film society.

Nimbin Flix has a Facebook page with past movies, and is updated each month. For more information, please visit the office or phone the Community Centre on 6689-0000.

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## MOVIES AT THE BUSH THEATRE



### WONDER (PG)

Friday 8th June 7.30pm \$10 entry. *Wonder* is a 2017 American film directed by Stephen Chbosky, based on the 2012 novel of the same name by R J Palacio. The film stars Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jacob Tremblay as Auggie.

August "Auggie" Pullman is a fifth-grade boy living in North River Heights in upper Manhattan. He has a rare medical facial deformity, which he refers to as "mandibulofacial dysostosis."

Due to numerous surgeries, Auggie has been home-schooled by his mother Isabel, but as Auggie is approaching middle school age, Isabel decides to enroll him in Beecher Prep for the start of middle school. Auggie must face and endure the social jungle that is the school playground. At first, Auggie is ostracised by nearly all the student body but he eventually teaches his peers to transcend his facial deformities and to see him as he really is, a young man of great heart and fortitude.

This powerful film is a study in children's bullying, and the effects of

bullying on the victims. Auggie is brave, but it's heartbreaking to watch the cruelty he encounters at school. With the help of a small group of supporters Auggie eventually finds his place at school, and feels it is a safe place rather than a sentence to be suffered.

This is a moving account of one young person's journey to acceptance and a fable about courage, a parent's love and about the transcendence of cruelty into compassion.



### Sweet Country (MA15+)

Friday 29th June 7.30pm \$10 entry. *Sweet Country* is a 2017 Australian film directed by Warwick Thornton (*Samson and Delilah*). It is set in 1929 in the outback of the Northern Territory Australia. It was screened in the main competition section of the 74th Venice International Film Festival where it won the Special Jury Prize award. It also won Best Feature Film at the 2017 Asia Pacific screen Awards.

It stars Hamilton Morris, Sam Neil and Bryan Brown. Stunning cinematography captures vast outback landscapes but small details resonate: a chain dragging across dirt; a bullet hole in a wall. The themes are universal but the film is unmistakably Australian.

"It resonates in a strange way with people," the Director told the *Guardian, Australia*. "It's a classic tale. It's about land grabs. It's about taking over the country. It's a basic western that people relate to on a range of different levels, based in a place they don't have access to: 1920s central Australia.

Sam is a middle-aged Aboriginal farmer in the outback of Australia's Northern Territory. He is sent by a preacher to help a bitter war veteran named Harry to help renovate the latter's cattle yards. Sam's relationship with Harry quickly deteriorates, resulting in a fight ending with Sam killing Harry in self-defence. For the murder of a white man, Sam is now on the run from the law with his wife across the deadly outback. A manhunt for the farmer is on, led by Sergeant Fletcher, but questions of justice start to surface among the community as the true details of the murder come to light.

A searing portrait of Australia's history, heartbreaking, powerful and important. The Cafe will be open (for both films) serving great meals from the Bushfoods-Asian fusion menu, award winning coffee and sweet treats. BYO.

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