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by Cr Isaac Smith

I want to pay a special tribute to Rainbow Power Company for their leadership and willingness to embrace change. They are a great example that many are now following, and when we look back over the past 30 years, we rely on those blazing the trail to guide us.

This year has started with energy... and no I don't mean the shenanigans happening at council meetings. I am talking about Lismore City Council embracing the will of residents and trailblazers by commissioning Australia's biggest floating solar farm. Using world-first technologies, we continue to find new ways to make extraordinary things happen. As we are not finished yet.

While we have state and federal governments that promote less than spectacular renewable energy policies, it is once again left to council and inventive individuals to lead the way. Our commitment to generate all our own energy within 10 years is half way through to 2023 and well on track to deliver on that promise.

Not only are we working with great local companies like Rainbow Power to deliver our community solar, we share our residents' wish for sustainability, having cut our power usage by 20% in

# From the mayor's desk



Isaac Smith (left) and Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy and Northern NSW, Benjamin Franklin plugging in the floating solar farm, with Thomas George MP, Council staff, stakeholders and local community solar farm investors.

the past five years.

I have just returned from Canberra, where we met with other member councils involved with the Cities Power Partnership. This wonderful initiative is helping communities embrace change and look at power in a different way.

We were very proud that they launched their second year, announcing all the new members, at our floating solar farm launch in January. There is much more ahead, so I look forward to seeing what Rainbow Power and companies like our local energy provider Enova can do in the years ahead.

Parking is an issue that never goes away. It is very difficult to "get it right", for any extended period of time, as things change rapidly in our communities. So the Nimbin Parking strategy is something council continues to work on, and we need your help to get it

right. A vibrant and diverse community like Nimbin has a lot of competing priorities, so feedback to council or Nimbin Advisory Group members will go a long way to making better inclusive decisions.

Some people have been discussing the Nimbin Water Supply, with council now taking on the construction role after the contractor defaulted on their obligations. The planned completion date is in April this year, so there has been very little delay and the water will flow very soon.

In August 2017, staff became aware that the principal contractor on the Nimbin site, Civil Logic Pty Ltd, had not paid their subcontractors for some work. Discussions with the contractor revealed that they had developed cash flow issues from another job in Sydney, but it would soon be resolved and progress would

continue. At the time of tender, a third party financial assessment of Civil Logic was undertaken and they passed the assessment at that time.

Staff worked with Civil Logic to try and help them through their difficulties, but unfortunately works slowed through November to the point where nothing was happening on-site. In late December, Lismore City Council issued a default notice and the contractor did not submit the required information after repeated requests. So council terminated the contract in January.

With this large project and all council jobs in and around Nimbin, we appreciate the patience of residents and are grateful for the feedback that is provided. The council call centre is always ready with an answer to resident requests, and councillors always enjoy a chat on any issue. So stay in touch!

# Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, president



In January, Diana Roberts and I attended a meeting with Thomas George to discuss and lobby his support for the revised Rainbow Walking Trail. We are hoping, as we have had indications of support from Federal, State and Local government, to successfully get funding to create Stage 1 of the project.

The Chamber Committee has had considerable discussion around moving to a plastic bag free town. We were looking at the model of the Ecobag project in Yamba and had many discussions with the project coordinator from Yamba about how it would work in our town. We also discussed this with various businesses at meetings and they raised a number of doubts with us around whether this was a sustainable project which was able to fulfil our needs, so we have been looking at other alternatives.

In the meantime our two big grocery businesses who probably use the most bags, the Emporium and the Newsagency, have already introduced some alternative reusable bags to their businesses. Congratulations and thank

you for your thoughtfulness and initiative in this matter.

We still have some other strategies we are looking at, but it's great that as a community we are moving towards the same objectives.

Council has also approached us to see if there was any interest in the

community to having a Return and Earn Collection Point in Nimbin. We will be canvassing various businesses about whether they would be interested in hosting this at their location. This could be a great way to reduce waste and increase recycling, it could also provide another means for fundraising for community groups and local people with a modest income. If your business is interested in hosting the scheme, please contact the Chamber.

This month we are holding a General Members meeting, 21st March, 6.30pm in the Birth and Beyond meeting room.

We are discussing the Draft Nimbin Car Parking Strategy at the General Members Meeting. Last year the Council sent some members of the Council executive to a General meeting to get feed-back from the community around infrastructure and services in Nimbin. The parking issues were



discussed and those that attended gave feed-back to the results of the parking survey compiled by council.

At the end of the year, a copy of the draft document was presented to the NAG group for feedback. The Council's Strategic Planning Co-ordinator, Ms Paula Newman is attending to speak to the proposed parking strategy. Getting this proposal right is very important for our town. This strategy will inform the development of traffic flow and control for many years to come.

We need to have as wide an input from the community on this as we can in order to get the best plan. The document is available from the Nimbin Community Centre for those who have not had a chance to look at it yet. It will be placed on the table in the corridor next to the office.

Our other special guest is Trevor Reece who is working on establishing a Rainforest Warriors Monument at or near the Terania protest site to honour and commemorate this important event. Trevor is keen to sound out the community for support and engagement in the project.

Hope I see you all at the meeting.

# Nationals field first candidate out of the gate for state election

by Andy Gough

While the next NSW state election is still over a year away, the major parties are beginning the preselection process for candidates and the field of those putting their hands up at this stage is already impressive.

Whoever wins the seat will have big shoes to fill succeeding Nationals stalwart, Thomas George, who has held the seat since last century (1999), and retires at the end of this term.

The Nationals have engaged in this process by opening their polls for preselection to the general public, not just party membership.

Last November 3595 people voted for one out of three candidates, including the mayor of Tenterfield, and 55% chose Austin Curtin as their representative for Lismore.

Mr Curtin described it as a "democratised process, out to the community," and said the process was a good trial run at



a proper election campaign. The macadamia farmer and carpenter lives in Tregeagle with his journalist wife and three young children. He describes his family upbringing as 'apolitical' and only joined the Nationals in 2014. He cites the influences of his father and his children for inspiring him to work to make the world a better place.

Mr Curtin said he feels that his strengths include "sitting comfortably with diverse groups of people," and "listening with compassion".

Mr Curtin also expressed a



Thomas George and Austin Curtin

positive vision of Nimbin, which, he says, "adds a wonderful diversity to the region, with opportunity and scope for tourism, as a historical and future place in our community."

When questioned about his take on cannabis and law reform he acknowledged that the issue was "not going to go away," and said that spending time in the Netherlands had impressed upon him that



better outcomes can be gained through regulation and management.

Mr Curtin said that a "new way forward" was required, and that clearly police resources could be better spent targeting drugs such as ice and other crime.

Pressed on the issue of the dormant Casino to Murwillumbah rail line he simply said, "it's not coming back". He sees the announcement of the Tweed rail trail as a positive thing and has a vision of a "solar powered bus network" servicing all

public transport needs in the future. Trains are redundant. Mr Curtin says he has been on the recently opened Byron Bay solar train with his family but was critical that there weren't many people using the service the day he went.

While Labor and the Greens have yet to undertake their internal preselection processes, two potential candidates have already announced interest in running – Lismore's mayor, Isaac Smith for the ALP and former Environmental Defender's Office CEO Sue Higginson for The Greens



Sue Higginson



Cr Isaac Smith

have thrown their hats in the ring and either would make formidable candidates.

Voting at the last state election went down to the wire with Thomas George retaining Lismore by a handful of votes after recounts against the Greens' candidate (and now Lismore Councillor) Adam Guise, largely due to the controversial CSG issue.

This campaign could be a real nail-biter.

## The scent of elections in the air

As we approach March, the year feels like it has settled into its rhythms and life has returned to normal, the regular schedule of Council meetings and briefings has resumed and life rolls on.

The scent of elections is on the breeze as candidates and parties begin to position themselves, and campaigners begin to ramp up in preparation for what will be a fiercely contested race to power at both state and federal levels.

I went to a rally recently protesting the state government's plans to extend Regional Forest Agreements for another 20 years. I was horrified to hear of the continual breaches of regulations in current forestry practices with little oversight or meaningful consequences, and that those breaches are often only uncovered by the diligence of environmental conservation groups like NEFA.

The idea that this shambolic situation should be allowed to continue to risk our biodiversity, our climate and our endangered animals is unacceptable. I encourage you to send submissions via Dawn Walker MP's page at: [www.dawnwalker.org.au/regional\\_forest\\_agreements](http://www.dawnwalker.org.au/regional_forest_agreements)

The other campaign that is starting to gather steam is the Time to Choose campaign, being spearheaded by Lock the Gate. Communities from right across NSW will be coming together at a massive rally in Sydney on 24th March to draw a line in the sand and show that we choose renewables over fossil fuels. A bus will be going down from Lismore full of Northern Rivers people – if this interests you contact:



### Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird

[amandaking@lockthegate.org.au](mailto:amandaking@lockthegate.org.au) to book yourself a seat.

I love a good rally, and I'm looking forward to joining thousands of inspirational people from right across the state, fighting to protect our land and water, and calling for decisive action on renewables.

At the Federal level, the push to limit the advocacy activities of registered charities is something we should all be watching very closely. The proposed legislation will hamstring organisations like GetUp, AYCC, SEED, Lock the Gate, and many more. Too often corporations and fossil fuel lobbyists have the ear of our politicians and the voice of the people is lost. Campaign organisations amplify our voice and we face a grim future if we lose them.

While we are on the subject of Renewables, I want to plug Enova Energy. If you are reading this and you are not with Enova, then you need to put down this paper right now and call (02) 5622-1700 to switch.

Enova offers competitive prices to consumers and impressive feed-in rates for rooftop solar at 16 cents per kWh. Currently they serve all of rural NSW and in

mid 2018 they will extend to Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

So, now that you have finished that call, you should encourage everyone you know to switch as well. If you didn't put down your paper because you are already with Enova, then good for you and thank you for using your Energy consumption for good.

One of the brilliant things about Enova is that they direct 50% of their profits into projects that benefit communities, helping people take control of their energy, and increasing access to solar power. Their Energy Coaches deliver energy literacy and efficiency programs and they work with community organisations to help people on lower incomes access renewable energy.

Their partnership with Repower Byron Shire and COREM involves door-to-door outreach to increase household control, and to decrease pollution from fossil fuels. This is just a snapshot of the incredible work they are doing and we can all support their efforts by purchasing our power from them.

I couldn't be more serious about this: with Enova we have an opportunity to shape our renewable future – and all it takes is for each one of us to pick up the phone and make the switch. Time to choose, and time to take back our power – literally.

I acknowledge the people of the Bundjalung Nation, traditional custodians of the land on which I live and work.

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



by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

I visited the Snowy Hydro recently as part of my committee work, to discuss and see first-hand how Snowy 2.0 will operate and help produce reliable renewable energy for decades to come.

Once complete, Snowy 2.0 will supply the country with an extra 2000 megawatts of reliable renewable energy: enough to power half a million Australian homes – and 350,000MW hours of storage.

This will be the largest energy storage facility in the Southern Hemisphere.

The renewable energy will be able to be drawn down when needed from what will effectively be Australia's largest battery.

This can be done when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing – providing unprecedented reliability of supply in the renewable sector.

A feasibility study is expected to be completed before the end of the year, with construction commencing soon after, creating up to 5000 jobs.

The Government has extended the Cashless Debit Card trial until mid-2019 and agreed to add the Kalgoorlie-Boulder region in Western Australia as a trial site.

The card has been operating with great success in Ceduna, South Australia, and East Kimberley, Western Australia, for about a year.

After 12 months of operation, people living in Ceduna and East Kimberley reported that drinking, drug-taking and gambling had decreased.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder was added as a trial

site after local community leaders said they wanted more tools to address the devastating impact of alcohol, drugs and gambling on their people.

This card is making a real difference to people's lives.

Last month I announced more than \$17 million of Federal Government grants for nine job-creating projects. These projects will create more than 500 direct and therefore at least another 500 indirect jobs.

In terms of wages, this will be an additional \$50 million that will be spent in local shops, and businesses, in our community. The recipients of these grants are matching the funding, taking the total value of the projects to well over \$36 million.

The projects include \$2.5 million to fast-track the construction of Solaris Nutraceuticals (formerly known as Puff Venture) Medicinal Cannabis processing facility at Casino which will employ more than 280 people.

There is also \$6.5 million to start the first stage of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail that will revitalise small communities along the route and underpin the tourism industry.

Other job-creating projects are the relocation of part of world-leading robotics firm Adaptapak's state of the art facilities to the Northern Rivers; upskilling of Northern Rivers food producers for food tourism; a new raw food hub, an expanded macadamia processing facility, more aged care beds, a major upgrade of Culmaran Creek Road and assistance to export blueberries.

# Action to stop logging

by Scott Sledge, NRG President

Direct action to protect native forests from logging is likely very soon. The NSW government should take responsibility to protect our common wealth, but instead presides over a system of self-management for the logging industry.

Logging at Limpinwood of a key link in the chain of flora and fauna reserves that is a corridor for wildlife reserves in the Wollumbin caldera has stopped, briefly, but is likely to resume in March. We want to be ready to protect our World Heritage conservation zones from destruction. It seems the government of NSW is not ready to do that.

In mid-February the NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA) issued both the landowner and contractor of the Limpinwood forestry operation with formal warnings.

"The EPA's investigation determined there were breaches of the Private Native Forestry (PNF) Code related to road and track construction and maintenance," EPA's forestry director Michael Hood said.

The EPA found the company in breach of 5 conditions of the PNF Code of Practice.

Dailan Pugh of the North East Forest Alliance, said, "NEFA welcomes the Environment Protection Authority's confirmation of breaches reported by NEFA that occurred on a private property near Mount Warning, though we are dismayed by the EPA's refusal to do anything about them. It is disturbing that the EPA was not concerned that the roading and logging had occurred across some 18ha of an

Environmental Protection Zone without consent."

Tweed Shire Council voted on 15th February to seek legal advice about the possibility of prosecuting the logging operation for potential breaches of licensing and conservation acts.

Mayor Katie Milne moved to further investigate ongoing concerns over the actions of the Hewitville Private Native Forestry at Limpinwood after an EPA report concluded: "Fortunately, these (breaches) did not lead to actual soil erosion or pollution of waters."

Describing the land in question as a "really significant" environmental corridor between the Border Ranges and Wollumbin National Park, Mayor Milne criticised the EPA for not pursuing the matter further.

Dailan Pugh says, "It is clear that the EPA does not enforce environmental laws because they don't believe breaching them has any effect what-so-ever. The best we can expect from the EPA these days are meaningless warning letters."

Susie Hearder is one of the neighbouring property owners who has been impacted by the logging. She says, "I have been reporting significant pollution events coming from the property to the EPA since 2013. Yet the EPA only bothered to come for a token look two days before the February announcement."

"The EPA are not doing anything to protect the environment. Over 3.5 kilometres of unauthorised roads have been built on Crown Land, yet EPA say that's not their problem. An Environmental Zone was logged without authorisation, yet EPA say that is Council's problem. Now they say the obvious water



pollution is also not their problem. It's the EPA that are the problem."

Angry neighbours are threatening to blockade the logging operation and NRG will support them. We have met with EPA employees and with state MPs. We are grateful for the Tweed Council officers who have not authorised logging in the E-zones and hope they will bring damaging practices to an end.

Mayor Milne says, "It's terribly unfortunate the State Government doesn't have as much, if any, enthusiasm for pursuing the matter. If we allow this to get out of control, it sets the green light for other inappropriate practices."

NRG has lobbied various State MPs who may support the community to stop logging. Environment groups will get together in March to formulate a strategy for preventing widespread destruction of sensitive habitats in NSW. Australia is second only to Indonesia for species extinction, and cannot afford to further degrade our environment.

Sometimes citizens find the system needs to be pushed to respond adequately.

## NvDA Workshop

Northern River Guardians and the Nimbin and North Coast Environment Centres are facilitating a skills-sharing day for non-violent direct action (aka NvDA) at Murwillumbah on Saturday 10th March.

Activists who have had success at stopping coal seam gas, slowing the advance of damaging mine projects, and creating National Parks where native forests are protected, etc will share knowledge. Participants will learn skills which will help them be effective and safe from violent responses.

We invite all those who want to learn useful direct action techniques and share their experiences to attend.

Attendance is free. Gather at the rotunda in the park opposite Sunnyside Shopping Centre at for a 10am start. Please bring protection from the sun, something to sit on, and preferably lunch so that you can network whilst munching.

Local shops are close at hand. We will have a lunch break about 12.30pm and finish between 4pm and 5pm.

# 'Community consultation' on RFAs turns into public stouch



by Scott Sledge, NRG President



Koala rally in Peace Park, Lismore. Left: Dailan Pugh and Scott Sledge Photos: Omega Breakspear

On 6th February I attended the "community consultation" invited by NSW government and joined several people from Nimbin and Casino Environment, plus Nimbin Neighbourhood Centres and Lock the Gate, to discuss the failings of the 20-year old Regional Native Forests Agreements (RFAs).

These agreements were meant to bring peace to the logging industry by ensuring sustainable yield while re-assuring the public that native habitat would be looked after.

Several high-ranking bureaucrats from Sydney and Canberra made

a slick presentation, probably designed to sell the idea that the current 20-year agreements could be "rolled over" with little change in forestry practices.

The community reps gave them a dose of reality by insisting they be heard and suggested the time has come to consider future sustainability ahead of business-as-usual, because the taxpayers have had to compensate the forestry industry because there are not enough trees to feed the loggers' hunger.

The public wants to see native

forests protected and a change to RFAs so that foresters are not guaranteed supply of trees from Crown reserves, but rely on farmed forestry instead.

Led by the Animal Justice Party, The Greens and North East Forest Alliance, more than 100 people gathered in a nearby Lismore park and marched to the consultation venue where they chanted and waved banners until invited in to record comments such as the summary by North Coast Environment Council Secretary Jimmy Malecki:

1. The RFA's have failed to protect threatened species and habitats.
2. Foresters were not able to meet their saw-log targets so the State Government paid Boral and now they want to repeat this over-commitment of timber.
3. NSW government wants to gut environmental protections like pre-logging surveys and change the buffer zones near streams from 10 metres to 5 metres and measure from the centre of the creek instead of the banks. They want to be able to log up the stream banks, which will trash the

- streams and cause heavy siltation that smothers fisheries.
4. Economically it doesn't stack up. Over the past decade they have lost \$76 million in taxpayer's money giving subsidies to the timber companies.
5. Not many jobs in today's mechanised logging. More jobs in nature-based tourism.
6. Time to let the public native forests grow old in peace and store carbon for us. ANU research shows there are enough plantations on line now to cover demand for timber products.

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# A glimpse into the future of hemp

by Wayne Wadsworth

There was a grand turn-out for our Virgin Hemp Farms educational Open Day in Nimbin, with around 100 people enjoying marvellous hemp foods and tours of the integrated hemp farm.

Nimbin has always been a magnet to me: it's like a microcosm of Australia, the good the bad, the ugly, the left the right and all shades in between. It is very difficult in Nimbin to be a political purest, which is a very good thing!

I started my political life as a Maoist waving around Mao's little Red book during the protest years against the Springbok's tour of NZ. Then migrating to Trotskyism, the old saying was: "You can trot 'til ya rot." Migrating from a half-mad Trot to the Greens.

As I grow older, I become more and more disillusioned with mainstream politics to the point of thinking that we need to ban political parties and have elected representatives who have to protect their local communities. Perhaps a Renewable Economy Alliance?

Probably during my lifetime there will be a photosynthesis printer which directly converts CO<sub>2</sub> to consumer goods. In other words, you wouldn't need a roll of hemp plastic to make your (PR)



Personal Robot, or Bot for short. The printer would simply copy mother nature's way of transforming a gas to a solid. Wow, imagine the political implications!

Bot would care for the pot plants, lugging the water through the lantana, no need to worry about the ticks, the coppers or the Cana thieves as Bot would be loaded with early warning anti-cop microchips and laser sting technology for zapping any would-be Cana thieves.

After an early morning check on the good weed, Bot would come home make you hemp breakfast in bed and do the housework.

The only thing humans would have to worry about would be the weekly

Bot control commission meetings, where suspicious Bot activities had to be reported to the Office of Bot Control, fortunately managed (not run) by the Bots.

No need for massive factories turning out consumer goods. No need for enormous transport systems to ship consumer junk around the world, no need for CEOs outrageously fat salaries, no need for banksters controlling the world economy, no need for corrupt politicians getting hand-outs and cushy jobs from their mates in the oligarchs. No need for huge bureaucracies and control freaks! Potentially a

Localisation Revolution.

In the meantime, I'm heading back to the land of the Long White Cloud to design and hopefully build Virgin Hemp Farms Eco Centro as a model for renewable economies.

Some additions to the next Eco Centro model will be Hemp 3D printing, perhaps a primitive Bot, and of course the beautiful Bamboo and Hemp plants.

To keep informed and re-educate yourself go to: [virginhempfarms.com](http://virginhempfarms.com)



## Nimbin Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe and Inez Price, Co-ordinators

### Tenants

Keeping tenants happy is a major part of the job of the coordinators at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Our maintenance person, Sam is currently supervising the painting of the rainbow on the Bottlebrush building which houses the Aged Care services, as well as fixing the hundred and one little things needed to keep the entire ship sailing smoothly, especially when it starts raining!

The next tenants' meeting is scheduled for 4.30pm on 8th March in the Birth and Beyond rooms.

### Markets

The Nimbin Community Centre Markets, held on the

4th and 5th Sundays of every month, have a new look with a new co-ordinator, Stephanie Seckold.

Steph's creativity is a bonus to the markets with new signage and layout. Watch this space for further developments coming up in the Community Centre grounds.

### Learning

The Comskool has begun their Open Learning Centre classes for the term - with courses in Art, Creative Writing, Yoga, Bicycle Maintenance, Astrology and Stained Glass.

For more information, contact the Nimbin Comskool office on 6689-1477.

The Start Together Babies Group in Nimbin is for all families from pregnancy to

babies 0 - 3 years of age. Each week they play with a wide range of fun and educational activities while sharing experiences of parenthood.

All caregivers are welcome - Fridays 10am to noon in the little purple building Lilli Pilli Place next to the radio station.

### Nimbin Flix

Look out for the Nimbin Flix movie this month, showings are on the second Saturday of every month at the Birth and Beyond rooms.

Nimbin Flix is a film society based in Nimbin. The aim is to show non-mainstream films in a local setting and at low cost to society members. The public is welcome and admission is \$10.

For information about past and future movies, check out their Facebook page.

### Dance Studio/Birth & Beyond

We have a full program of movement classes (yoga, dance, martial arts) to choose from in our Dance Studio and Birth and Beyond hall.

New to Nimbin is a Sevillanas dance class which has started, a drama class for young people in March, and juggling with Just Us Jugglerz is also taking off.

For information about any of these please go to: [www.nimbincommunity.org.au/index.php/calendar/month/calendar/2018/01/22](http://www.nimbincommunity.org.au/index.php/calendar/month/calendar/2018/01/22)

Alternately, if you'd like to hire any of these rooms to run a program, please contact either Inez or Biko (co-ordinators) at the Community Centre office on 6689-0000.

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Local band, Out of Range, comprises band members from Nimbin and Mullumbimby and embodies a unique swing, gypsy, cabaret and Balkan influenced sound that has been variously described as irreverent, happy, upbeat and foot-stomping.

It's been a big year for Out of Range, whose first EP, *with a bang*, won the Mullumbimby Music Festival songwriting competition as well as being nominated for three Dolphin Awards. Their music may contain traces of piano, accordion, violin, double bass, guitar, vocals, harmonies and megaphone.

Out of Range will be playing delicacies from their latest EP at the Lismore Eat the Street event on Saturday 10th March from 3-3.45pm on the main stage and will also perform at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 18th March, 12-3pm.



Northern Rivers five-piece band Wall of Love will dish out some sweet musical treats this Easter Sunday.

The band have been in the studio and are looking forward to sharing a host of new songs with their local crowd for the first time.

Wall of Love's foundation, built by four very different songwriters, brings an eclectic mix of country/pop/rock/folk and even some Buddhist blues.

The gig is free and family-friendly, and as always the fine food and beverages served by Sphinx Rock Cafe's delightful team will make for the perfect Autumn afternoon.

Wall of Love play Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 1st April, 12-3pm. Entry is free.

## Jolanda Moyle



Jolanda Moyle is a local musical treasure who creates music using a range of world music instruments, mainly Sarangi, (a many-stringed instrument, almost like the cross between a Dulcimer and a Sitar), which she has studied in India with masters of the instrument.

Jolanda has an experimental approach to music that results in a very

individual sound. Layering various sounds around her voice, Moyle creates what could be called "ambient-world" music, but it is more individual than such a label suggests.

It is other-worldly and beautiful. Her fragile and sweet-toned vocals weave around sounds like a spell being cast.

Catch Jolanda in a special and authentic performance on the outdoor stage at the Nimbin Bush Theatre at 1pm on Sunday 18th March to be enchanted by her talent. Free Entry. The Cafe will be open serving food and drinks.



[www.sadieandjaymusic.com](http://www.sadieandjaymusic.com) Facebook: [sadieandjaymusic](https://www.facebook.com/sadieandjaymusic)

## Rogue Folk SADIE & JAY

The creative combination of a deeply traditional folk musician with a jazz, blues and roots singer gives Sadie and Jay an enchanting sound.

Their alternative folk, blues and roots music, performed with exceptional vocals, intricate finger style guitar, bouzouki and double bass, is full of bottle and a tad wayward.

Influenced by Anglo-Celtic traditions and contemporary folk, Sadie and Jay are unpredictable and playfully mischievous.

The 'rogue' in Sadie and Jay has inspired some wonderfully creative, entertaining and wayward 'folk' songs as they perform lively renditions from their second album, *Rogue Folk*.

*Country Music Capital News* commented that, "The sounds of Brisbane newcomers Sadie and Jay will blow your mind. Produced by Michael Fix, their latest album is spectacular: a collection of 11 superb original tracks and arrangements that are performed and played with consummate style and abundant talent. The musicianship is superb, and the vocals exquisite."

Sadie and Jay have been performing as a duo for the past five years in venues and festivals from Maleny to Illawarra, New Zealand to the UK.

They return to the UK in April to tour as featured guests at folk clubs and two major UK festivals, Upton Folk Festival and The Great North Festival.

Catch them on home turf at the Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday 11th March, 12-3pm.

B	I	N	G	O
74	22	7	25	77
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# MOVIE AT THE BUSH THEATRE



## Bladerunner 2049

Friday 6th April, 8pm  
MA15+ \$10 entry.

*Blade Runner 2049* is a 2017 American science fiction film directed by Denis Villeneuve and written by Hampton Fancher and Michael Green.

A sequel to the 1982 film *Blade Runner*, the film stars Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford, with Ana de Armas, Robin Wright and Jared Leto.

Set thirty years after the first film, Gosling plays K, a blade runner who uncovers a secret that threatens to

instigate a war between humans and replicants or bioengineered humans. In 2049, replicants are servants and slaves in society. K, a replicant, works for the LAPD as a "Blade Runner", an officer who hunts down and "retires" (kills) rogue replicants.

At a protein farm, he retires rogue replicant Sapper Morton and finds a box buried under a tree. The box contains the remains of a female replicant who died during an emergency caesarean section, demonstrating that replicants can

reproduce sexually, previously thought impossible.

K's superior Lieutenant Joshi is fearful this knowledge could lead to a war between humans and replicants. She orders K to find and retire the replicant child to prevent the truth from coming out.

Filmed mainly in Budapest, Hungary, *Blade Runner 2049* premiered in Los Angeles in October, 2017. The film was praised by critics for its performances, direction, cinematography, musical score, production design, and faithfulness to the original film.

*Blade Runner 2049* received five nominations at the 90th Academy Awards, including Best Visual Effects and Best Cinematography, and received eight nominations at the British Academy Awards.

Catch it on the big screen, with big sound for maximum immersion into this colourful futuristic vision. The Bush Theatre Cafe will be open early for delicious meals and drinks.

## Loving Vincent

*Loving Vincent* is our Nimbin Flix film choice for your March movie viewing.

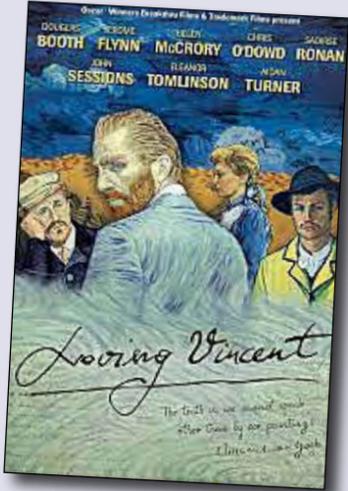
Reportedly the first fully painted animated film in history, the film is an artistic biography of Vincent van Gogh and is framed as an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death in 1890.

Seven years in the making, the film has received numerous international awards for best animated film and, by the time you read this, may have received an Oscar for the same.

The idea for the film was conceived by Polish writer-director Dorota Kobiela. With her co-director, Hugh Welchman, they first filmed a live-action version then launched a Kickstarter campaign, with 796 backers originally pledging around \$64,000 towards production of an animated version.

Teams of painters and animators then overlaid the film in van Gogh's style. Often breathtakingly beautiful, the film brings the painting and life of van Gogh to the big screen.

Screening Saturday 10th March at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin. Doors open 7pm, all welcome. Free to members or \$10 donation. Refreshments available. Come and support your local film society, auspiced by Nimbin Community Centre Inc.



Live for the first time ever in Nimbin, Shorty Main is a Hip Hop performer who has a cool West Coast style incorporating rap, hip hop and RNB. His lyrics rip with an honesty and insight, while his beat is smooth.

Shorty Main came from small town beginnings in Goodna, Queensland, and has connected with hip hop communities the world over, reaching fans in the United States, New Zealand, UK and beyond.

An independent Hip Hop powerhouse, Shorty Main has shared stages with legends like GZA From Wu Tang, Obie Trice, Swifty

McVay (D12), Tech N9ne, Krizz Kaliko, Stevie Stone, and lots of up-and-coming Hip Hop artists all over Australia.

Shorty Main has recently released an EP, *Up All Night*, sponsored and produced by Dox at Polycentral Studios, available at: [www.shortymain.com](http://www.shortymain.com)

A host of DJs will support ShortyMain including Sway Cool, DJ Sepnutz and local special guests at a Hip Hop party to remember, at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Saturday 3rd March at 8pm. \$15 entry, all ages. (Those under 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult.)



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\$10 PG True century-old tale of an Indian maths genius in Britain

**SAT 3 MARCH** Monthly Seminar  
11am CRYPTOCURRENCIES  
FREE Discuss Bitcoin & more - All levels welcome  
(Also EVERY WEDNESDAY from 11am)

**SAT 3 MARCH** Live HipHop  
8pm SHORTY MAIN  
\$15 + Sway Cool + DJ Sepnutz + local guests

**FRI 9 MARCH** Dinner Under the Stars  
7pm DEADSET FUN NUGGETS  
DONATION Deadhead folly

**SAT 10 MARCH** A Sight to Behold!  
10am WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE  
DONATION Body-paint @ 10am for 11am ride uptown

**SAT 10 MARCH** Dinner Under the Stars  
7pm DEARLY DEPARTED  
DONATION Sweet country grrrls

**FRI 16 MARCH** Dinner Under the Stars  
7pm TAILOR BIRDS  
DONATION Raw world folk led by electric violin

**SAT 17 MARCH** Special Screening  
6.30pm 'Round Oz Ride'  
\$10 M A father-&-son motorcycle odyssey

**FRI 23 MARCH** Dinner Under the Stars  
7pm TORI FORSYTH & CARL THE BARTENDER  
DONATION Alt-country angels

**FRI 30 MARCH** Dance Night!  
8pm TIJUANA CARTEL + DIGITAL AFRIKA  
\$25 + DJ FUTURE-ROOTS  
East-meets-west flamenco beats + earthy Afro EP launch + rootsy vinyl sets

### COMING UP!

- Thurs 19 & 26 April - KIDS' MOVIES
- Fri 20 April - DIANA ANAID [Album Launch] + ESSIE THOMAS
- Fri 27 April - GEORGIA STATE LINE [solo] + Patrick Wilson
- Sat 28 April - 'DANGEROUS SONG - BLUE' [Linsey Pollak & Lizzie O'Keefe]

**TICKETS & INFO**  
[www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events](http://www.nimbinbushtheatre.com/events)  
**BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES**  
(02) 6689 1111

## NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1250



## BISTRO LOUNGE

25 Sibley Street Nimbin. Phone 6689-1473

### What's On in March?

- **Sunday 18th** - Visiting Club: Iluka Nomads
- **Friday 30th** - Good Friday Bowls
- **Open Mike** - Weds 14th & 28th
- **Social Bowls** - Sundays, 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** - Enquire at Bar

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

- **Friday 2nd, 6pm** Rob Cass
- **Friday 9th, 6pm** Dave Barbara
- **Friday 16th, 6pm** Sarah Stando
- **Friday 23rd, 6pm** Brommers

**Lunch & Dinner Wed - Sat**  
**Sunday lunch specials**

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## Dining under the stars

Popular for their world-class food accompanied by world-class music the line-up this month at the Bush Theatre is as varied as it is thought-provoking.

On Friday 9th March the **Deadset Fun Nuggets** take the outdoor stage, a happy-go-lucky musical ensemble inspired by the Grateful Dead presenting other sorts of stuff that the muses find amusing.

Band leader, American-born Hanuman, the grandson of a vaudevillian, explores his eclectic artistic inspirations, incorporating experimentation, "fun-terventions" and folly. This is fun, an exploration and a journey to who knows where!

The next night, Saturday 10th March will see **Dearly Departed** perform, two women playing songs with country in their hearts and a 90's grl-rock approach, with every sweet sound following a story of sorrow, heartbreak and leaving home.

Emily Smith leads the way, with her palatial electric playing, while Natalie Henry sings with such sentiment; their mission being to drag all your emotions to the surface for a musical catharsis.

Natalie Henry's music straddles that ragged fence between country and folk/blues. Combine Nat's unique voice with Emily's harmonies and superb guitar playing, and you have a powerful duo!

On Friday 16th March, the **Tailor Birds** thrilling electric-violin world folk sound is back in Australia, returning from a fifth European summer tour to launch their new album *Stilts on the Water*, recorded in the forests of northern Holland.

Weaving through classical, experimental and folk inspirations, Tailor Birds are a fresh and engaging sound, turning traditional folk sounds into something untraditional and always surprising.

With electronics, percussion, and combining live looping and foley work featuring bubbling water, little games



Deadset Fun Nuggets



Tori Forsyth and Carl the Bartender



Tailor Birds



Dearly Departed

and toys, sound sources are transformed into creative sounds and entrancing performances.

Tailor Birds builds an audience that is as diverse as much as it is one, telling tales about love, loss, hopes, dreams, that anything is possible.

The following week, on Friday 23rd March **Tori Forsyth** returns to the Bush Theatre, an alt-country star on the rise with a voice reminiscent of Emmy Lou Harris and Stevie Nicks, and songs that are equal parts sweet and disturbing.

Tori Forsyth makes gritty roots music sound enchantingly beautiful, and had sold-out shows for her at the Tamworth National Country Music Festival.

Supporting Tori is singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Benjamin Murphy aka Carl the Bartender, who has over a decade of performance and touring experience to his name. A quirky songwriter and charismatic singer, his raffish air and gorgeous voice

makes listening to him a very sweet experience.

Both artists complement each other beautifully, and this will be a showcase not to miss: two alt-country love children playing their songs together.

Of course, the Cafe will be open for gorgeous locally sourced meals, award winning coffees and teas, and a range of healthy sweet treats and delights. No need to book, just turn up.



Photo: Mel Williamson

## New swing strikes a chord

Nimbin troubadour David Barbara has been gaining a lot of attention lately, with his swing-inspired original songs.

With such alluring rhythms, it's no wonder that hips start swaying to his boogie, jive or Latin grooves.

But don't let the old-school beats fool you – his tunes have very some contemporary themes that go way beyond the moon in June.

He also does tasty covers of classic 1940s hits, which reinforce the re-vamped retro feel of his sets.

With such broad appeal, Dave has played just about every venue in Nimbin, including two gigs in the pub last month, and is regularly seen at the Nimbin Bowlo open Mic Nights (pictured).

He has recently extended his act into a three-piece dance band, with Mark

Barber on drums and Bob Dooley on bass, and the group is looking for more gigs around the region.

During March, you can catch him solo at the Bowlo on Friday 9th from 6pm, and in his trio format at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on Sunday 25th from 12.30pm.

Swing skirts and jive dancing is allowed.

Contact David Barbara on 0448-270-836 for bookings.

# Nimbin's 26th MardiGrass

by Michael Balderstone,  
President, HEMP Embassy

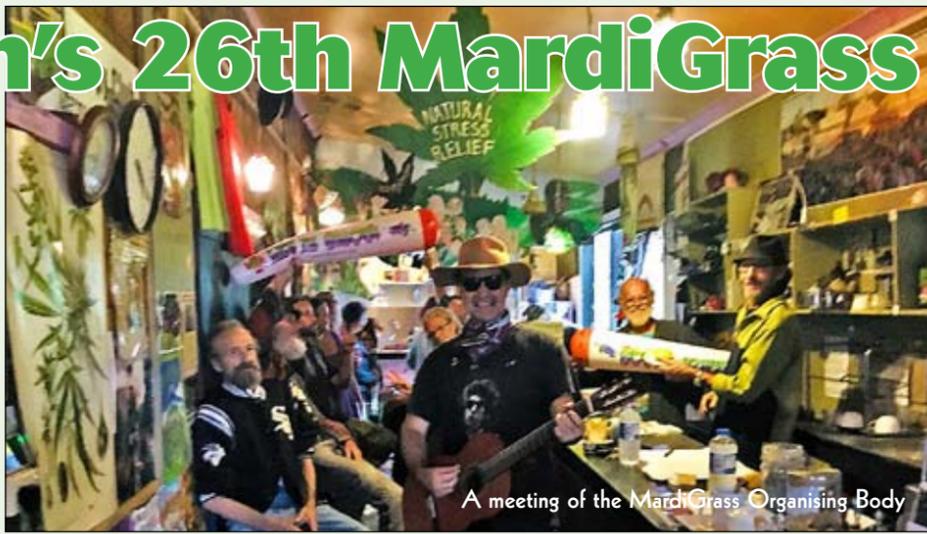
Cannabis being in the news so much these days, MardiGrass organisers are expecting plenty of interest at their 26th annual Cannabis law reform protest and gathering, in Nimbin on the weekend of May 4 – 6.

There's already a big line up of speakers, both from Australia and overseas, including Adele and Dennis from 420POW, a Californian based advocacy group for cannabis offenders spending life in American prisons, as well as returning Canadian guests Sita Von Windheim and Ajia Mae Moon.

Australian barrister, author and political commentator, Greg Barns will speak on current legal issues. From around Australia, we welcome experts and advocates for medical cannabis including United in Compassion's Justin Sinclair, Dr Teresa Towpik, Medihuanna, Carol Ireland, Epilepsy Australia, Jenny Hallam, Greens MP, Mehreen Faruqi, as well as families from the medical cannabis community.

This year we present an impressive program of women speakers. From California and Canada but also Oz. Women, or in particular mothers, are at the forefront of the movement to change the laws which is what happened at the end of alcohol prohibition too."

I think they see first-hand more than men what's happening with their children. Prohibition has created a smorgasbord of



A meeting of the MardiGrass Organising Body

illegal chemical drugs out there now, which they are right to be worried about, whereas parents are realising we've been hoodwinked with Cannabis. The re-legalisation in America which has resulted in zero problems and multiple benefits, has shown the way forward. Australia just has to play catch up now.

Politicians are keener than ever to be seen supporting medical Cannabis, which in fact is all Cannabis use. It's an amazing plant useful in thousands of ways including being an extra safe and extremely useful medicine. The big subject this year will be how to open up access to the medicine they keep saying is now legal, but isn't really.

Such theatre in Canberra from Mr Hunt and Mr "Lucky he didn't get busted when he was smoking pot hypocrite" Turnbull, deserves some theatre at MardiGrass and there will be ounces given away for the best dressed piss takers this year as well as an Aquarian Tribute Competition we are holding for famous musical identities who have inspired and influenced us all so much, and who all smoked cannabis.

As usual there is a queue of

musicians and performers, comedians in particular, lined up to appear at the several stages and a special guest this year will be the magician Nomad who is guaranteed to thrill and puzzle.

This year's MardiGrass also coincides with the 45th Anniversary of the Aquarius festival which changed the face of Nimbin dramatically in 1973 and special events are being dreamt up as you read this, including a Grassroots market in the Community Centre where speakers and stalls will showcase alternative lifestyle thinking and ideas.

The 'Grassroots' market will feature demos, workshops and talks on the many aspects of our community's counter culture vision in a presentation of our creative, solution based innovations. Although visitors to MardiGrass have a particular focus, many are also interested in what Nimbin is 'really' about and presenters are most welcome to promote their business/courses/future workshops (bring flyers/sign-up contact lists) to encourage future visits to our village.

Some of the talks and demos lined up already include earth ships, bamboo

building, biochar, hempcrete, forest re-gen, permaculture, spinning, weaving and knot tying, rocket stoves, living without money and making herbal essences.

Please contact Steph at: [mardigrassstalls@outlook.com](mailto:mardigrassstalls@outlook.com) if you would like to get involved.

Stallholders, advertisers, volunteers or performers who want to be a part of this year's MardiGrass should get in touch asap through the website: <http://nimbinmardigrass.com/participate> or come to the weekly Friday evening MOB meetings in the HEMP Bar, from 4.20, of course.

Jungle Patrol in particular are seeking local dedicated traffic control volunteers who would not only help with MardiGrass, but also with other local events during the year like NAIDOC or ANZAC Day. Contact Heidi 02-6689 7589

We also need beds for visitors and car parking space in the village over the MardiGrass weekend. If you can help please email: [head@hempembassy.net](mailto:head@hempembassy.net) or call in.

It really is time they admitted what a terrible mistake they made, eh?

## MardiGrass – Kathmandu style

by Simon Thomas

Maha Shivaratri, the great night of Shiva, is a luminous date in the annual round of Nepali festivities. I wanted to experience this event at the Pushapatinath temple complex here in Kathmandu because it is one of the most powerful Shiva places on earth. I met some local friends at the gates of Boudhanath Stupa an hour after dark, and set out on foot. Typical Nepalese, they charged off through a tangle of alleyways with me struggling along in their wake, utterly befuddled as to which way was home.

Why is Shivaratri the most popular festival in Kathmandu? Because it is the only day of the year when citizens may legally smoke dope, just like Shiva did. My friends and I partook liberally of that freedom as we traipsed the derelict remains of Kathmandu's road system.

The ornate entrance building to the temple precinct was occupied by a posse of AK47-toting officers who informed us that the gates are already closed. A quick consultation with a nearby souvenir hawker pointed us in the direction of a track leading over the spur to the not-so-secret portal. As I peered over the top of the ridge, the entire temple complex came into view on the flats of the Bagamati River. A densely packed assortment of pagoda-style roofs were lit up amidst a cloud of smoke rising from countless campfires. The steep, wide footpath leading down to the river was absolutely choked with visitors, 800,000 according to official estimates. No wonder I had to scamper to keep up with my agile local friends.

Gathered in small groups everywhere were sadhu babas; Hindu holy men and women who live as itinerant ascetics on the fringe of society. Whether chatting, chanting mantras, or singing devotional songs, each group

were passing around a clay chillum full of hash.

My friends approached a group of three babas, presumably to try and obtain some holy smoko, while I lurked in the shadows. They returned with a third eye blessing and a couple of joints packed into tailor-made cigarettes. When it was my turn, I received a blessing for my donation but no joint.

"You give dana (generosity) and ask for prasad, (holy gift) otherwise you don't get it," Sangpo later told me. Babas-1, Simon-0.

We climbed an embankment so precipitous that each step was rib height, I wished I were feeling a little steadier on my feet. Below, was a dried up bathing ghat filled with people, and beyond that, the inner sanctum; the main temple which has been continually revered as a place of Shiva since 400BC. Rival devotional music, amplified by overblown sound systems echoed around from various directions, and the sound of more than half a million stoners enjoying the night together filled the air with a muffled din.

We shared a chillum with a group of grey-haired babas and shouted, "Shiv Shambo!" to one another.

Drifting in a tide of humanity, we spilled onto the refuse-strewn banks of the Bagamati River, which is a testament to the abject failure of Kathmandu's sanitation system. Once fabled for its transparent beauty, it is now a foul stream of black sludge. On the opposite bank, three funeral pyres blazed, the residue of which was no doubt destined for the holy waters. What a night to be burned!

On the surreal journey back through that fairyland of dainty structures, I was impressed by the respect shown by the locals for these misfit sadhus who devote their lives to spiritual pursuit... and the smoking of the sacred herb.

## Icon tribute contest for merry month of May

by Billy Cliff

To celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Nimbin Aquarius Festival, this year's MardiGrass (held during the first weekend in May) will launch a tribute competition, featuring such legends as Bob Marley, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin and many more.

Festival organiser Michael Balderstone said the competition would be a celebration of counterculture ideals, as personified by the groundbreaking musicians who led the way back in the heady 60s and 70s.

"These legends inspired generations with their enduring messages, not just in terms of drug prohibition and enlightenment, but also as advocates for the environment, alternative lifestyles, civil rights and peace," Mr Balderstone said.

"It may be five decades since Bob Dylan penned *The Times They Are A-changing* but the dream still lives on and so does the music. These legends laid down the soundtrack for the turbulent times, culminating here in Nimbin in 1973 where thousands of young people gathered for the Aquarius Festival, a ten-day celebration of love, peace and music, which has since grown into legend."

Mr Balderstone said he expected a good roll up of talent with "all the big



names locked in" including Bob Dylan, Frank Zappa, Bob Marley, John Lennon and Jimi Hendrix, as well as Janis Joplin, Stevie Nicks and Joni Mitchell.

"The tribute artists will go head to head, and while we welcome dressed-up doppelgangers, we also want people to be free to reinterpret original works in their own special way," Mr Balderstone said.

The judging panel will include celebrity judge, Senator Derryn Hinch. This year will be an acoustic unplugged affair, and is open to both professional tribute artists and rank amateurs. The only criteria is the music must be associated with a counterculture icon, an artist who is strongly identified with the peace and love values of Aquarius. Sadly, that

means no Elvises need apply.

Ironically, Mr Balderstone said the tribute concept was also partly inspired by the king, specifically the runaway success of the Parkes Elvis Presley festival, which attracts over 20,000 visitors each year and injects millions into the local economy.

"If a straight little town like Parkes can pull it off with just Elvis, imagine what we can do in Nimbin with our Jim Morrisons, Neil Youngs, Chers and Marianne Faithfuls," he said.

If you would like to take part, please email: [nimbinmardigrass@hempembassy.net](mailto:nimbinmardigrass@hempembassy.net) or visit: <http://nimbinmardigrass.com/participate> or simply turn up and register before the rally on Sunday 6th May.