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Artisans Collective - let's do it

by A.J. LeBars

Expressions of interest are sought from artists from Nimbin and surrounds with a view to forming an artisans' collective representing the broad culture and talents that are within our community.

We hope to create a platform for artists of all type to exchange ideas, collaborate and investigate ways to fund/market these talents to a broader audience while giving support to current and emerging artisans.

The collective would be open to all ages, and

all cultural and artistic disciplines that would be willing to contribute to a new innovative community project to reinvigorate the culture and arts of the Nimbin district.

It is intended to be all inclusive in the area of the arts i.e. visual, performing, music, written, textile, weaving, audio, film, emerging (IT) etc.

To do this we need to have a meeting to gauge interest, formulate aims and objectives and to look at forming a working group to form an incorporated body as a not-for-profit community organisation.

A survey will be provided at the meeting to inform the working group on the support and viability of making the Nimbin Artisans Collective a reality.

In the working group we will be looking for people interested team players committing to the project in the areas of admin, media/promotion and IT, until incorporation and a committee is formed.

The main aim of the first meeting, is a general idea of the people who would be interested in contributing on a regular basis to the

collective i.e. committee, fundraising, admin, event volunteers, IT (web design and maintenance, app design), grant writers etc.

Meeting dates, over two sessions at the Bowling Club, will be Sunday 11th March and a second meeting Wednesday 14th March, both meetings starting at 11am.

If you can please bring a notepad and pen, an open heart and mind and your artistic in-visions and ideas.

Please contact either Ember or AJ at: nimbinartscollective@gmail.com or phone 0456-913-129.

Women standing up for nature

This year's Lismore Women's Festival will kick off at The Quad on Sat 3rd March, 10am-2.30pm. Auntie Thelma James will lead a Bundjalung Welcome and opening ceremony, followed by a range of workshops and talks, including a youth zone, singing at the Conservatorium, sewing and a discussion by the Remembering and Healing group.

"There will be 34 performances, talks, workshops by women who want to share their skills and ideas with the community," says festival coordinator Emma Newman. "Over 8 days, you can celebrate, be inspired and connect through everything from art to aromatherapy, environmentalism to circus, from yoga to car maintenance, nutrition and more. We hope that people can find things to challenge or delight them, plus discover the diversity of women living in our community."

Maddy Braddon will host 'Standing up for Nature' which will provide a space for local women to learn, connect and be inspired by other women working and volunteering in environmental causes. With a panel and breakout sessions, participants will have the opportunity to gain new skills and discover new ways to get involved.

Maddy attended the Women in Environmental Leadership Australia (WELA) program in 2017, and wanted to find a way to gather and connect with



Photo: Mathew Townsend

women in her local community.

"WELA was an incredible experience, we learned a lot of practical skills about how to be more effective leaders in what we do," she said.

"Often women in rural areas don't get as many opportunities to attend workshops, gain skills and network; I'm hoping that this event will bring us all together and do that. Putting 'Standing up for Nature' together has been a hugely collaborative, inspiring experience. The idea was to put the word out to the networks I have, or women I who I know are doing good work for

our environment. It was so wonderful to receive as much support as I have for the idea."

"There are some fantastic women on the panel and presenting break-out sessions. It's all about creating a place to feel inspired and leave filled with hope about different ways you can be involved in standing up for nature," said Maddie.

'Standing up for Nature' will be held on 7th March as part of the 2018 Lismore Women's Festival at the Lismore City Bowling Club, from 5.30pm until 8.30pm. Register via Eventbrite.

Volunteers needed for Monuments Project

by Trevor Reece

The January/ February period has been extremely busy for the Nightcap Monuments project. There have been many meetings and lots of paperwork and communication to be undertaken.

A presentation has been made to the National Parks Regional Advisory Committee and the Regional Director of National Parks. An expression of interest for a project government grant has been submitted, and also hours of research of *The Northern Star* archives undertaken. Collaboration with Southern Cross University continues. The project has been invited to participate with the 45th Aquarius Festival, and has attended its planning

meetings.

There has been a small delay to the initial project community engagement and information tents at the Mullumbimby and Channon Markets, but these will hopefully be operating soon. The project is calling for more volunteers to assist at the market community engagement tents. Please assist with a little time. The tents mostly just need safety supervision, are self-explanatory and project information sheets are also available for volunteers.

During March/April the project is calling out to Primary and Secondary school teachers and Principals for input to educational activities and programs to possibly take into schools for regional students to become more

aware to the legacies and historical events that lead to the creation of Nightcap National Park.

This is an important event in not only regional history but also national history, with a legacy that extends around the world. The project educational planning phase for schools and teachers and students is about to commence for school activities into 2019. After 40 years there are strong indications that unfortunately many students and even residents of the region now have little knowledge of the legacy and events of the Terania and Mt Nardi environmental protection actions and the creation of Nightcap National Park.

There is significant aboriginal connection to

land and sacred places in these rainforest areas that is also little known to the wider public. The educational and information program and goals of the project are aiming to also help further expand this area of knowledge of regional history. Each week more and more regional organisations, institutions and members of the public are lending their support to the project and working collaboratively with the project.

For contact and further information: Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc and Mullumbimby Museum – open Fridays 10am to 12pm, phone (02) 6684-4367, email: bvhs88@yahoo.com.au or project co-ordinator Trevor Reece: treece545@gmail.com

Rainbow Cafe to rise again

by Megan James

Yes, folks, the Rainbow Cafe will rise: it is really, really about to rise out from all the paper plans, dreams, discussions, dramas and dialectics we have been engaging in for the past almost four years.

We are about to apply to Lismore Council for our construction certificate and then will be seeking tenders for the building of what is turning out to be a fairly modest structure, with good lighting and ventilation and a lovely new garden.

The small residence at the western end of the block will be screened from the café by the garden and the small shop fronting the main street will be much as it was in days gone by.

In the process of to and fro from the book of regulations (revelations), we have changed the internal layout of the café somewhat from the plans we put on exhibition for community feedback almost two years ago.

In order to accommodate access to the toilets on the northern wall of the building from the small shop attached



Artists impression

to the café, the kitchen and servery have been moved to our southern boundary (next to the old museum site).

Interior design and fit-out of the kitchen and café will remain the responsibility of the tenant, who will be chosen once the building is completed. There will be no major changes to the main structure of the building.

During the construction phase, the site will be fenced off and there will be

absolutely no access to it except for licenced builders and contractors carrying out the rebuild.

Once the building works are complete, we may seek community input for beautification of the garden and outside of the building.

We have been working very hard with our consultants, architects, and quantity surveyor to ensure our very limited budget will cover the work.

Special thanks go to those employed who have put in extra effort to do this, especially Toni Appleton, Julie Lipssett, Alex Faulder and Karlin Bracegirdle – and to those of us on the committee who are still standing (Jonathon Spain, Ren Waterfall, myself and Tully Ward).

Any offers to print us some "I'm Over the Rainbow" t-shirts will be gratefully accepted.

Rail trail funding frustrates train advocates

Page MP Kevin Hogan has announced federal funding of \$6.5 million for Stage 1 of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail. Mr Hogan said this project will, "revitalise small communities along the route, underpin the tourism industry as well as boost destination appeal encouraging visitors to stay longer and inject more money into our local economy".

This funding comes on top of an earlier announcement by the NSW Government of \$6.5 million funding contingent on matched funding from the Commonwealth.

But Beth Shelley, spokesperson for the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group, says the group is deeply disappointed in the news of federal funding for the Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek Rail Trail/bike path and says the proposal is shortsighted.

It seems many people believe the NRRT group's statement that their rail trail proposal will protect the corridor. However David Oxenham, Tweed Shire Council director of engineering told *The Northern Star*, "Preliminary planning for the project would now commence... There's a number of steps we need to take and

the state needs to take including the changing of the legislation allowing the train tracks to be removed and the rail corridor closed as a train corridor."

In an *SMH* article in 2015, Jacob Saulwick reported that legislation was passed in parliament closing the heavy rail line in Newcastle and that Premier Mike Baird had confirmed that much of the land used for the rail corridor would be open for development.

"It has been stated very clearly in the Minister's speech to the parliament over the Tumarumaba Rail Trail legislation that closing the railway line means the land would become crown land. As seen in Saulwick's article, it is possible that the State government could then decide to open the Casino to Murwillumbah railway for development," Beth Shelley said.

"State Rail owns a large section of Byron CBD and is already attempting to sell some of that land despite needing to take it to parliament first, so it's not hard to see that once the government gets the chance, they would happily sell the whole corridor."

Beth reckons the popularity of the Byron Bay train is proving how many people would like to use trains in this

area. There has never been any public consultation on whether the local community wants to keep the Casino to Murwillumbah railway line for future trains in the region.

The Byron solar train's development director Jeremy Holmes told the *Northern Star* that train travellers had included plenty of visiting and local families, as well as locals aiming to beat the heavy traffic on Ewingsdale road and some workers travelling to and from work.

"The people of this community need to understand that it would be affordable, viable and save lives and if they want regular trains running from Casino to the Gold Coast they need to speak up. If the politicians who are meant to represent us in this area allow us to lose this important piece of transport infrastructure we believe they will regret it in the future," Beth said.

The rest of the world and even other regions in our own country are turning back to rail as the most viable solution to developmental planning, trade, social justice, economic sensibility and common sense. "We have to speak out about it now," Beth said.

Community engagement develops plans for Aquarius Anniversary

by John Tozeland, Secretary
Nimbin Aquarius Foundation

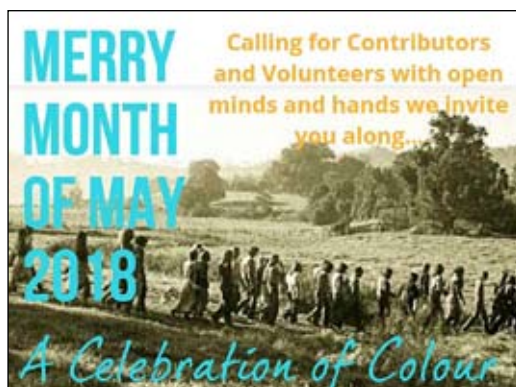
In February, the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation engaged the Nimbin community in a meet and greet for the conceptual framework for the coming celebration during 'The Merry Month of May'.

This will provide an umbrella for a month-long splash of colour, incorporating MardiGrass (May 4-6) together with the Aquarius

Festival 45th anniversary theme 'A Celebration of Colour' (May 13-27).

The four pillars of the anniversary theme are: Wilderness, Bundjalung Tribe Clans, Pioneers and rejoicing the legacy of the New Age.

Global, Australian, regional and local speakers will



provide a variety of colourful concepts and events over

the three weeks, and contributors are being actively sought.

With the successful community engagement at multiple levels in Nimbin, the next is set for Byron Bay Community Centre on 7th March, then Murwillumbah Community Centre on 14th March, both 10am-noon, and then in Lismore at Southern Cross Uni on 21st March, 10am-4pm.



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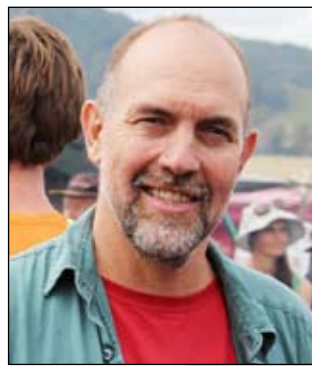
Power, decadence and the politics of distraction

From Brexit, to Trump and closer to home the awful reality TV show that our federal government has become, we are beset by a corrosive political and intellectual malaise.

We face a clear and present danger from climate change and other environmental risks but public and political debate has been sidetracked by the politics of decadence and distraction. For a society that owes much of its political, economic and social success to its historic embrace of secular rationalism (science), our collapse is being accelerated by our descent into distraction and delusion.

Belief in science has become optional for many. We will rely on it to engineer our car, but ignore it when it tells us our planet is in deep distress. Any problem that is too inconvenient to face up to, whether it is climate, refugees, rising inequality, or a long term shift in global power relations, is being ignored as we embrace populist politicians, conspiracy theories, fake news, or simply hide in our social media echo chambers where the algorithms simply confirm our existing beliefs.

The last month has seen our national politics sidetracked by the Barnaby Joyce affair. The affair itself distracted us from much bigger issues like the plight of the Murray Darling basin, closing the gap, and much



by Aidan Ricketts

more, but a sexual affair was much more newsworthy. Even within the affair itself, there were real issues such as the misuse of public funds, conflicts of interest, rank political hypocrisy and power imbalances, but the best the federal government could come up with was a bonk ban. Classic politics of distraction. The sex wasn't the issue, so let's ban the sex.

We need to have laws in place to protect people from bullying, harassment and power abuse at work, but whenever as a society we have gone down the path of outlawing private consenting behaviours between adults it has been pretty much disastrous. I would include alcohol and drug prohibition, sex industry prohibition and the historic criminalisation of homosexual sex as three salutary lessons about the perils of such legislative forays.

The Nineteenth century philosopher John Stuart Mill gave us well-argued

boundaries for state intrusion into our lives with his 'harm principle'. Basically the state is only justified in intruding into people's lives to stop them harming others, (assault, rape, harassment, bullying, etc) but not to enforce private morality. It is part of our current political and intellectual malaise however that principled arguments like these get lost in populism.

Laws that target private consensual behaviours have rarely if ever achieved their aim, but they have usually unleashed collateral consequences far more destructive than the 'problem' they targeted.

Once you prohibit private consensual behavior, how you will enforce it? Drug prohibition has delivered us a panopticon of surveillance, home, car and body searches, phone tapping, sting operations, helicopter raids and worse. I recall in the 1970s when homosexual sex was still a crime, police would set up sting operations at known beats, and sting operations also commonly targeted sex workers.

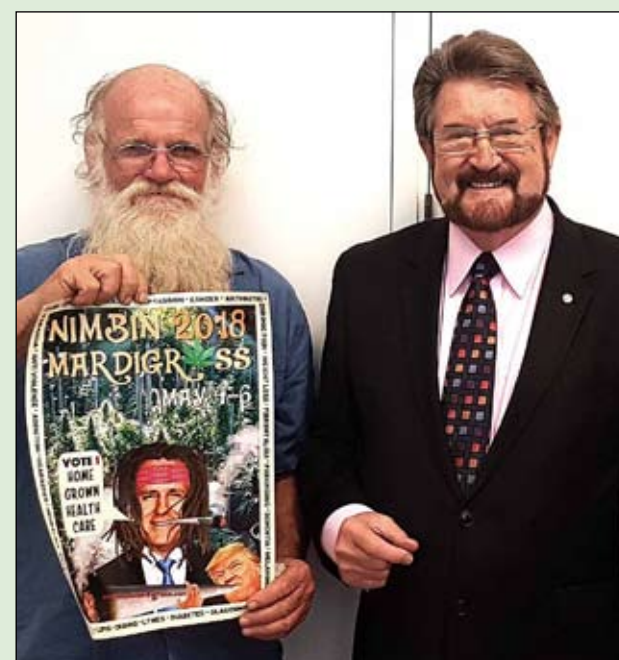
As a society we have seen the error of our ways, and removed the bonk bans against gay people, and decriminalised the sex industry. Sadly, we have not yet come to realise that drug decriminalisation could help end the vicious circle of organised crime, official

corruption, imprisonment, deaths, overdoses and invasive policing that prohibition has unleashed.

The bonk ban is distractive politics at its worst. It actually skips the substantive issues that need addressing (power imbalance, conflicts of interest, harassment) whilst distracting attention to individual relationships. Worse still it would probably only worsen power imbalances, because in most cases, if the relationship were to continue, it would be the less powerful partner who would be leant upon to resign or move to another position.

It's not about the bonk ban though, it's about the bigger issue of where we are going as a society. Is politics all about a 24-hour news cycle, and knee-jerk responses to distract attention, or can we begin to refocus on the great challenges of our time, judge politicians for their ability to move the society forward in responding to those challenges, and discipline ourselves (particularly on social media) to engage in sensible, rational debate about issues.

We know what the big issues are: climate change, mining industry corruption, extinction, home affordability, poverty, inequality and many more. These are the issues we need to stay focused on, and we need to demand that our political leaders also focus upon them.



HEMP meets Hinch

by Michael Balderstone, President Nimbin HEMP Embassy

Nimbin's HEMP Embassy once again sent a delegation to Canberra for the nation's first day of parliament for the year, on 5th February.

The giant inflatable joint and tincture bottle dominated the skyline, next to a thousand or so Adani protesters.

We want them to know we will not quit until we are no longer criminals and allowed to grow our own medicine.

Derryn Hinch was the most welcoming and is right behind us agreeing it's actually quite disgusting what the government is doing at the moment, pretending to be legalising medical cannabis.

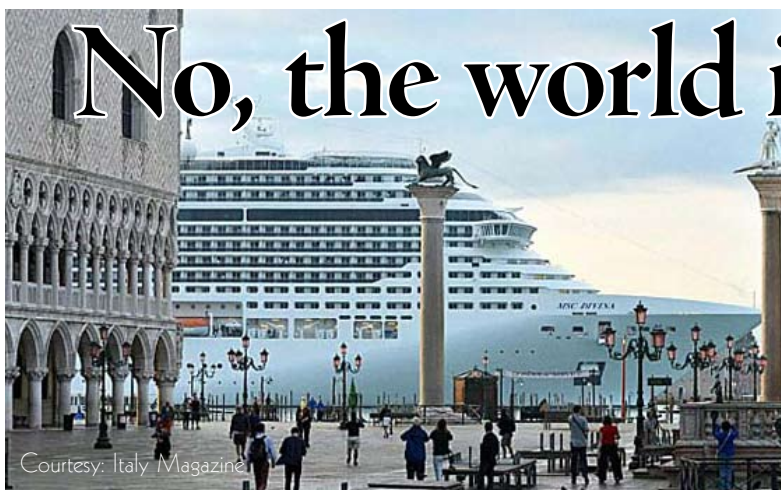
He said it's ridiculous that we have nine permanent police in Nimbin, and we told him we are now being policed harder than we can ever remember.

That's pretty retarded, when at the same time the world is re-discovering what an amazing medicine the cannabis plant really is.

The sheer greed to control the huge profits to be made from relieving people's pain is the bottom line. We agreed it's a sick business.

Derryn is planning on coming to MardiGrass again this year, with several other politicians expected as well.

No, the world is actually *not* your oyster



by Bernadine Schwartz

2017 set another record with the highest temperatures globally but last year also set a record with international travel.

Over a billion foreign trips were taken by us in 2017 and it appears that to be thought of as cultured these days you have to be well travelled, but this is killing culture all over the planet!

The tourism industry is now the biggest employer in the world, employing 1 in 11 people but this growth in jobs comes at a cost.

This acceleration in international tourism has happened so rapidly that UNESCO and conservationists are calling for controlled numbers.

Animosity is also growing in nearly all popular locations, with unwelcoming signs and tourist buses hijacked regularly in Barcelona.

The reason for this resentment is, the cost of living has risen so much

that most people cannot afford to live there. They are confronted by massive crowds, and most feel like they have lost or are losing their sense of community.

The beautiful city of Venice has always been an attraction for travellers but is now battling with tourist numbers that cannot be sustained. This floating city has a population of 55,000 but its visitors exceed over 28,000,000 ever year with huge cruise ships bringing thousands daily. Other ancient cities such as Timbuktu and Damascus are also experiencing a frenzy of travellers and have no authority to protect these ancient, historical sites.

The Maldives is another poor nation whose environment is being sacrificed to benefit tourists. There are over 87 exclusive resorts scattered across islands that were once uninhabited, supplying over 16,000 beds. I was shocked to learn that the Maldives burn 300

tons of rubbish daily on an island called Thilafushi, filling the sky with highly toxic fumes. Waste created from tourism is increasingly becoming problematic in all of these popular destinations especially the more isolated locations.

Angkor Wat is a prime example of the catastrophic results of tourism. This religious monument, that is the largest on the planet, has now become the number one World Heritage listed site to visit. UNESCO and conservationists are highly concerned that irreparable damage has already happened to the temples and relics as well as the environment. In 1993 a mere 7,650 people visited Angkor Wat but that figure had exploded to 3,000,000 in 2010.

What was once dense rainforest has now been replaced by a Las Vegas style shopping mall and a theme park. This is all within sight of Angkor Wat and in addition to that, two 18 hole golf courses. The resorts and water-hungry golf courses are pumping directly from the water that Angkor Wat sits on, causing the temples to slowly sink, as well as untreated sewerage from these resorts goes directly into the Siem Reap River.

Every evening three thousand tourists make their way up the ancient staircase of Phnom Bakheng temple, just to get a clear view of sunset over Angkor Wat.

On the other side of the globe, the once tranquil Machu Picchu, that sits in one of the most spectacular locations on earth is now accessible to everyone, transforming this isolated archaeological site into a noisy and crowded place. Over 5,000 travellers visit daily and because of this, the Inca Trail, that has survived for well over a thousand years, is slowly being eroded away. I question whether many of the people who visit these ancient sites have any real understanding and appreciation of their historical significance.

Most of us would remember the movie *Beach?* It was filmed on Phi Phi island, a spot that was virtually unknown. Since the release of this movie, this once heavenly island has totally been destroyed. Luxurious yachts and boats fill the entire area and the beach is overcrowded with people. The majority of small craft are operated by poor Thai locals, in unseaworthy vessels that are causing oil and petrol spills. The smell of the ocean breeze has been replaced by the smell of petrol and the beach itself is littered with garbage. Conservationists are highly alarmed at the level of environmental damage that is occurring, with no authority to protect this paradise.

In Italy, five tiny villages in Cinque Terre are representative of this growing bitterness towards tourists. These villages are situated

between Genoa and Pisa and were hidden from the world until an English newspaper discovered them. That was fifteen years ago and the residents are now calling for a reduction in visitors. Their relaxed lifestyle has become mayhem with tourists disembarking from huge cruise ships several times a week and the approaching roads are congested with coaches.

Closer to home is Bali and I know most Australians have visited this little island on more than one occasion so you cannot claim ignorance on the transformation that has taken place. This tropical paradise has unquestionably been destroyed and replaced with shopping malls and hotel chains. Denpasar is now crammed with traffic and pollution fills the air.

This is just a small sample, and these unique destinations have totally lost their charm and do not resemble what made them attractive in the first place. The finger can only be pointed at you, the tourist, because you are responsible for this dangerous trend that's taking place.

All I can conclude is the average tourist's main concern is their own experience regardless of the devastation being caused. The world is not yours or anyone's oyster and if this persists all that will remain is snapshots and memories of these once truly amazing sites.

'Reckless' restructure of National Parks imminent

Our national parks receive more than 40 million visits in New South Wales each year, and an overwhelming 94 per cent of visitors describe themselves as satisfied or very satisfied with their experience.

Parks like Nightcap National Park and Mebbin National Park are an important part of the community, environment and public space.

Since 1967, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has looked after our National Parks and wildlife, worked for the conservation of native and threatened species, educated generations of school children and played host to countless camping holidays and bushwalks.

Greens NSW environment spokesperson Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC (pictured) says that their ability to perform these essential public services is now under serious threat from a series of cuts and job losses proposed by the NSW Liberal/National Government.

"Whistleblowers have come forward with stories of hidden budget cuts,



while staff have been blindsided by restructures that see experienced experts pushed out the door.

"The government's claim to have added jobs at the NPWS is a smokescreen: demotions, redundancies and resignations have seen the departure of skilled career staff. New hires are made at a lower pay level, with fewer skill requirements," Dr

Faruqi said in a statement.

Hundreds of staff are reportedly being affected, including those responsible for invasive species and fire management.

The erosion of NPWS staff numbers and expertise may explain the glacial pace of new national park declarations.

"Clearly the government sees NPWS rangers, firefighters, ecologists and pest control officers as liabilities, not as the assets they are," Dr Faruqi said.

"They don't see them as protectors of nature with conservation at the heart of their responsibilities – and perhaps that is the reason the government wants to get rid of them," she said.

The Greens claim that if the NPWS restructure goes ahead, the NSW community will soon notice the consequences: fewer rangers, closed tracks, less maintenance of visitor facilities and encroaching invasive species will become the unfortunate norm.

"There will be a knock-on effect on local jobs, tourism and the local economy," Dr Faruqi said.

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NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Cath Smith, President

Another busy month in the world of environmental activism, and more to come!

Last month, on 2nd February, a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) stakeholder meeting was held in Lismore, with the EPA, DPI and concerned members of environment protection groups and the public.

NEC was well-represented, and Nat from NNIC represented WIRES.

Submissions had been required, though the general feeling was that this process was only paying lip service to the consultation process.

The EPA was ineffectual, even when there had been breaches, and they had met with the timber industry representatives separately.

Information at: www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/have-your-say/regional-forest-agreements-rfa

A Save Koalas protest on 2nd February was well-attended, with around 100 people. Friends of the Koala and Greens were represented, proceeding to the meeting venue and assembling outside the room, with some representatives going inside.

A Strategy to Save the Forests workshop has been organised by Ruth Rozenhek on Sunday 4th March from 1-4pm at Lismore Workers' Club, to write submissions regarding the RFA.

Update on Limpinwood: The temporary voluntary halt on logging is over: logging will most likely resume in March, prompting probable blockading. This is private logging, and the ideal outcome would be if



Cath and Cass

the owner's forestry license was withdrawn. Regulations are being flouted, koala trees cut down, and the EPA is not being effective. Tweed Council is investigating what they can do.

In the meantime, in preparation, a Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA) skills-share workshop will be co-ordinated by Alan Roberts and Ruth from 10am-3pm on Saturday 10th March near the rotunda in the park opposite the Sunnyside Shopping Centre in Murwillumbah. The session is free and information can be gained on the NRG website or FB page.

NEC hosted the premiere of the documentary #StopAdani: A Mighty Force! in February. For copies of this informative film, visit the NEC shop.

A rally to protest the loss of trains on the Casino to Murwillumbah line has been organised by NRRAG on Thursday 15th March at 3pm in Murwillumbah. Meet at the old Murwillumbah railway station, to march to Council offices.

Some people plan to convert the train track to a bike trail. It is a major concern, and train activists



Members of Stop Adani Lismore

are determined not to lose the transport corridor.

A pipeline from the Pilliga to Sydney is being constructed. Farmers are disgusted. There is information on the websites of the Great Artesian Basin Protection Group and Pilliga Environment Group. David Paull, an ecologist, is testing soils and conducting ecological surveys.

Front Line Action Camp (FLAC): Alan recently travelled north, and reported that FLAC have purchased a 40 hectare property for a headquarters. The farm house is used for the office. The setup there includes veggie gardens and workshop space. There have been activities and demonstrations undertaken at Airlie Beach Market to further this campaign.

If you are interested in becoming active in the Stop Adani movement locally, the Stop Adani Lismore group holds its meeting every second Tuesday at 6pm at the Butterfly Room, on the corner of Hindmarsh and Orion Streets. They can be contacted on:

stopadanilismore@gmail.com or phone Steve on 0477-010-899.

Just a reminder that the #Time2Choose rally is happening in Sydney on Saturday 24th March. A 30-seater bus, subsidised by NEC, will take Northern Rivers folk to and from the rally. Visit the NEC shop for further information.

The NEC shop is a treasure trove of local products and fair trade items. Among the locally-produced items are T-shirts and tea towels screen-printed with the artistic NEC symbol of the forest lady (see pic). These are great for gifts or for yourself.

If you're interested in being part of the workshops that produce them, come to the meetings to find out when the next screen-printing workshop is being held.

The next NEC meeting is at 5pm on Wednesday 14th March at the Community Centre Comskool room.

Come along, meet the friendly folks and see what part you could play in protecting our precious environment.

Channon Craft Market Inc.

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Mark Ridout

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Tuntable Creek Landcare & Hall

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7 Sibley Street update

At last the building works have commenced. Hooray! For safety reasons, there will be some interruptions to the footpath access along Sibley Street at the front of the site while the work is in progress. We apologise for any inconvenience.

The whole site is also now fenced off, for safety reasons, until the work is completed. This means folks will not be able to walk across or hang out on the front lawn for the time being. But once the work is complete we will finally be able to take down all of the fences after almost six years, so the temporary pain will be well worth the long term gain!



Photos: Chibo Mertineit

15th Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner & Comedy Gala

Thursday 8th March at Nimbin Town Hall, in celebration of International Women's Day, featuring a bunch of local funny gals and special guests from Canada, Brisbane and Russia! \$30 dinner and show. (\$25 concession). All women welcome. Tix from NNIC or at the door.

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

The next meeting is on Thursday 15th March at 2pm, at NNIC. We are looking for volunteers to help us carry our banner and placards in the MardiGrass parade on Sunday 6th May. Interested? Contact: admin@nnic.org.au

Nimbin Integrated Services

This is a clinical and therapeutic service based at NNIC and delivered by Nurse Practitioner, Genevieve Beggs. The service is for people in the Nimbin district

who have both mental health and drug/alcohol issues. If you or someone you know is struggling with drug/alcohol use and/or mental well-being, NIS is here to support you. For appointments/more info contact NNIC on 6689-1692. NIS is funded via the North Coast Local Health District and the North Coast Primary Health Network.

Struggling with household bills? Got unpaid fines?

We may be able to assist with electricity and telephone bills, and you may be eligible for a Work Development Order enabling you to pay off your fines via volunteer work. Phone us on 6689-1692 or just drop in to make an appointment with Vicki our Community Case Co-ordinator.

Mental health tip: Building resilience in children

Resilience is important for children's mental health. Children with greater resilience are better able



Enova Energy information session

to manage stress, which is a common response to difficult events. Stress is a risk factor for mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, if the level of stress is severe or ongoing.

Building children's resilience is everyone's business, and it's never too early or too late to get started. We've got some simple things that you can do in your own home.

As a parent, carer, or significant adult, you can help to develop essential skills, habits and attitudes for building resilience at home by helping your child to:

- build good relationships with others including adults and

- peers
- build their independence
- learn to identify, express and manage their emotions
- build their confidence by taking on personal challenges.

Source: <https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/healthy-homes/building-resilience>

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals to support the community to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome. Lots of useful local and other info is available on our website. For appointments, phone 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.

Nimbin Hospital information



Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 13th March. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments phone 6620-7687.

Women's health nurse services

One Thursday a month. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6689-1400 for appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

Cannabis clinic

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

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

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

Nurse practitioner clinics

- Diabetes Clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 15th March.
- Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 13th March. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Community Registered Nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1288 – leave message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and Syringe program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see Community Registered Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 14th March. New members welcome.



Crypto Currency Seminars

Decentralised crypto currency is produced by the entire crypto currency system collectively, at a rate which is defined when the system is created and which is publicly known.

Blockchain technology, by which the ledger of various cryptos' sales and acquisitions are accounted for, is changing the monetary systems worldwide at a rate of knots. Get on board at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

The monthly crypto currency sessions at the Nimbin Bush Theatre are gaining a lot of interest, and they continue this month on Saturday 3rd March at 11am for all levels.

At 11am every Wednesday there is also an advanced session for those already trading. Both sessions are free to attend. Come

along to the auditorium to learn more and exchange advice and guidance from others currently surfing the waves of this game-changing currency system. The Bush Theatre Cafe will be open serving great locally-sourced food and award winning coffee.

New public transport connection

Waller's Bus Company is submitting a Bus Service Alteration Request to Transport for NSW to request a variation to a school route in order to meet the new service Route 661 at Uralba Street transhipment point.

This change to the school service will allow it to meet Route 661 (Buslines) at Uralba Street transhipment point, where the students will be able to travel through to Wollongbar TAFE to arrive by 9am.

Bonalbo MPS Stage 1 set to open



Bonalbo Hospital Auxiliary members meeting in the local Scout Hall. Front row (left to right): Merrill Carr (Secretary), Paddy Kirkley (President), Dianne Carr (Treasurer).

by Noelle Lynden-Way

In Bonalbo the new Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) is alive and progressing well. Cheryl Ducat, Nurse Manager (NM), advises that staff have been given an orientation to the layout of Stage 1 of the building and education on the new systems. They are now looking forward to the handover of the keys.

The Stage 1 construction comprises 15 residential aged care beds, a 24-hour emergency department, inpatient beds and outpatient consultation rooms. When the MPS opens next month, only the existing services currently provided at the Bonalbo Hospital, namely the emergency department, doctor and community/allied health services, will be transferred across to the new MPS.

Stage two will commence once the existing hospital services are transferred across to the new MPS, and will comprise the kitchen and laundry facilities required to operationally open the residential aged care facility and the acute care beds. It also comprises staff facilities, the mortuary, ambulance bay and staff accommodation.

At this time there is no happier group in the region than the members of the Bonalbo Hospital Auxiliary. This loyal band of fundraisers have for years now continued their monthly meetings at 2pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Bonalbo Scout Hall. They are looking forward to eventually holding their meetings in a room at the new MPS.

Merrill Carr, secretary of Bonalbo Auxiliary and member for twenty years, has represented her organisation at the new MPS planning meetings and regularly reports back to members. They are then able to pass on correct information about the progress of the building to friends, relatives and neighbours.

The closing of the hospital actually generated new Auxiliary members. The Bonalbo community never gave up hope and after a new doctor was recruited by North Coast Health to open up a GP clinic operating out of the hospital, funding was received from the government to establish an MPS to service over 5000 people in the area.

The Auxiliary have raised funds with regular raffles, bingo, street stalls, book fairs. They have established a considerable term deposit ready to be spent on equipment and necessities for the new facility. Cheryl Ducat, NM, who regularly attends the Auxiliary meetings, confirms that patients' comfort and care has really been helped by the purchase of important equipment over many years and simple acts of kindness like providing toiletry bags for those people who arrive at hospital without their own. Over Christmas and on Boxing Day, the Auxiliary delivered a basket of fruit for nurses who were working on the public holidays.

A regular presence is important for fundraisers, and on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, the Auxiliary run the bingo at the Bowling Club at 7pm. Street stalls are held on Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day featuring homebaked goods, chutneys, relishes and a raffle. The Spring Book Fair on a Saturday in October 2017 was for all ages and held at Old Bonalbo Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Plants and seedings and handicrafts were available alongside the books. There was even a pop-up Auxiliary cafe with sandwiches, slices, cakes, coffee and tea.

Recently the Mountain Blue Blueberry Farm responded to a letter and agreed to provide crates of blueberries for fundraising for the MPS, so now the street stalls are featuring blueberry crumble, blueberry cakes, blueberry jam, relish and chutneys.

The patron of the United Hospital Auxiliaries (UHA) NSW is Linda Hurley, wife of the NSW Governor. She has written a song for UHA branches, and at the December meeting Dianne Carr, treasurer, "bluetoothed" the words and music to her laptop and those there sang it wholeheartedly.

At the beginning of each meeting the members recite 'Let us Hold High the Lamp of Service for the Welfare of our Hospitals'. The Bonalbo Auxiliary certainly embodies this UHA Motto.

Phone Merrill Carr on 6665-3233 if you wish to join the Bonalbo Hospital Auxiliary and help your new local medical facility.

Today is a good day to die*

The Mourning News
by Megan James

The moment when my mate died, passed over, gave up the ghost, were a revelation to me, as no doubt to anyone who has been present at a death.

The slow, inevitable dissolution of all the intricate life-support systems within his body was profound, heavy and deep to witness. But not frightening, though it made me sad.

The hours before death were like a sombre requiem while the breathing eventually slowed like a final passage of music. The release of spirit energy was as sweet as any birth.

Being very present and close with someone dying made me so very aware of many things, not least of which were the similarities between the physical processes of birth and of death. Soft lighting, gentle music and sensitive care are needed in both birth and death.

Inhibitions about bodily functions become totally irrelevant. The patient waiting, the sense of timelessness at the moment of birth or death.

For my friend, dying in the last stages required a labour no less intense than birth and, I feel, just as rewarding

in the final outcome, though I may never fully know just how that will be until my own time comes.

Other similarities came to mind also. When I was a young woman in Asia, I was walking home along a jungle road at night alone and a young man followed me, attacking me and asking 'Do you want to die?' This was later explained to me by locals as meaning 'do you want to have sex?' (Fortunately a rare vehicle came by which frightened my attacker away).

I do suspect that the transformative and uniting quality of sex and orgasm equates to that of death and dying also. So we are bound at all moments of our life to this life force that especially shows us its massive transforming power at the moments of procreation, of birth and of death.

The fragile self that our family, society and our own desires have so painstakingly built up and nurtured over a lifetime, is then subject to this massive force of nature – of God – of transformation. And the body we have likewise nurtured returns to dust, with the ego held within it.

Possibly the only thing we can be sure of is that we only get one chance at life on earth in the physical body we now

possess – and that body will most probably wear out and certainly ultimately decay.

Our consumer culture relies on us to swallow the lie that happiness is only possible for the young and beautiful, perpetuating the myth of endless growth that powers capitalism. This same culture is so eager to encourage us to pursue the demands of ego for success, gratification and all the other temporal pleasures and pains – and to avoid mentioning or being present with death.

And yet, paradoxically, we in the West are blessed, by the advances in medicine of the very same culture, with the opportunity to grow old.

Through this we have been given a choice to gain in wisdom, experience and understanding of real spiritual values. The extension of our lives by medical means both foul and fair, is available – which sadly also many times decreases our quality of life while it increases our fear of death.

But there is truly nothing to fear. Spirit is strong, uniting us and all the creatures of this beautiful world, in birth and in death and all moments in between and beyond.

* The full quote from Crazy Horse is: "Today is a good day to die, for all the things of my life are present."

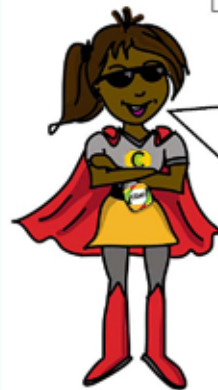
THE ADVENTURES OF Reckless Rita & Freddy Foolhardy Featuring: Clued-Up Claudelia

10



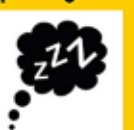
This stuff is great! I have been awake for days & days could keep right on going!

Wow...cool! Imagine how much partying we can do if we can stay awake for so long!



BUT WAIT FREDDY AND RITA!
NO SLEEP CAN MAKE YOU CRAZY!

Sleep is very important for your mental health. Lack of sleep may cause anxiety, depression and memory loss. It can also cause you to behave erratically, or aggressively or in other ways that are not normal for you. So give your mind and body a break and remember to get some sleep.



Brought to you by Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (Nimbin CDAT)
c/- NNIC P.O. Box 20168, Nimbin NSW 2480. www.nnic.org.au

Positive feedback

I'm writing from down south to congratulate the editorial staff, Sue Stock and Bob Dooley for their amazing work in producing the unique *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

I only have one request: please try to coax Undacuva out of retirement to continue that hilarious column.

**Tim Aiken
Bellingin**

Gungas Road disaster

When will the development stop!?

Our roads are in bad shape, our bridges single lane, our agricultural land is being snavelled up for massive development from big-time investors, most of us don't see it until it's too late: are we not a village?

This sort of development affects all of us village people including aboriginal culture/heritage, our wildlife, water supply, roads and the list goes on.

Take a trip up Gungas Road and see the devastation just before Weismantel Road on the right, this is only the start. It's just not good enough for these big out-of-town spenders.

They're trying to snavel up more land, about 300 acres I'm told, from the Tuntable turn-off up to Weismantel Road. This itself is a disaster, but it still doesn't end there.

They have already bought land on Crofton Road, buying whatever they can get their hands on, moving machinery from one property to the next. In 5 to 10 years, the traffic will multiply, decreasing the life of our simple village infrastructure.

Just imagine another 200 vehicles in and around our village. Our local council has big plans – next it will be the big shopping centres competing against each other, then comes the fast food franchises, all this to cater for the overflow of people.

I myself think they should build another town instead of stripping our unique village of the goodness we have left, leaving us in ruins and making it harder to recognise the history this village beholds. It's already diminishing and we need to all join together and stop this land grab before it's too late.

**Bradly Davey
Nimbin**

Consorting, a way of life

I'm not up on a consorting charge but was always happy to talk to the Lane Way Boys and any other local in Cullen Street. I feel like every local I know, me included, are on consorting laws in town now.

We are being targeted just like the LWBs. It's the saddest thing I've ever seen take place in this town. Every real local feels the same.

They don't want to come to town any more. Where can we meet? It used to be town. Now it's "I'm not coming in" or "there's cops everywhere". Like today. It looks like the police and real estate agencies have won.

What the government has made police do is pathetic and I hope every one of you who agrees to these barbaric methods gets to know someone who really benefits from the beautiful God-given herb marijuana. For food and health and well-being.

The government is wrong and the police are happy to support them. Marijuana will be here a lot longer than any of them.

Never, never stop Nimbin. Never give up. Long live the Lane Way Boys.

Live and love life.

**Ant
Nimbin**

Hemp milk

I am writing to congratulate Thom Culpeper on his recent article in the February NGT on healthy milk alternatives.

It is incredible the ever-broadening uses that the Hemp plant offers to the community, and Hemp Milk is now being discussed by a number of families that have managed to secure the product overseas, but not so readily available in the High Streets of Sydney.

Lactose intolerance, nut allergies and the simple objections to the taste of some of the other milk alternatives, have left a surprising number of families with four or five different milk products in the fridge at any one time.

Hemp Milk may be the answer to consolidate all of these needs. There appears to be an ever-increasing case for the more broad-scale legalisation of the plant.

**Thomas Stock
Balmain**

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

Coral not coal

I recently received an email from Federal Labor Deputy Opposition Leader Tanya Plibersek in response to my concerns about Labor's support for the Adani coal mine. Here are some extracts:

"Climate change and environmental protection are among the most important challenges facing this country. I do not believe that the (Adani) Carmichael mine project stacks up economically or environmentally. Businesses are even refusing to finance the project...."

"The Great Barrier Reef is Australia's greatest natural resource and requires the strongest possible environmental protection. It is already under great stress. We must do everything we can to ensure that it is preserved for generations to come. Not only is it an environmental asset, it also supports tens of thousands of jobs for Australians...."

"Labor is committed to zero net pollution by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement. We believe that Australia can be a leading clean energy superpower...." "Renewables are Australia's future. We need a clean energy policy that gives us certainty and encourages further investment in renewables.... Having a plan for renewables is not only good for our environment; it is good for our economy, too.... Renewables are becoming cheaper than coal. They create decent, sustainable jobs."

Research undertaken by the Australia Institute reveals that only 1,494 jobs will be created by the Adani coal mine, not 10,000 as falsely claimed by Adani and the Queensland Labor Government. However, 69,000+ tourism-related jobs are at stake if the Great Barrier Reef is not protected.

Even though Queensland Labor has honoured its election promise to veto a taxpayer-funded loan for Adani to build a 388km rail line from the mine to the shipping port, they support the biggest coal mine in Australia's history being built in the Galilee Basin, ignoring the impact it will have on the Great Artesian Basin and the Great Barrier Reef. And Federal Labor has not publicly stated their opposition to the

Arms exports obscene

I write regarding the Liberal/National Coalition government's recently unveiled 'Defence Export Strategy' (January 29, 2018) with its ten-year ambition to make Australia one of the top ten arms manufacturers and exporters in the world.

This newly declared policy initiative can only make Australia and our region less safe, and will inevitably cause untold human misery, suffering, morbidity and death. Such a policy initiative demonstrates a profound spiritual malaise and disconnect, and exemplifies a reckless disregard for the basic values of peace and justice.

Australia is already one of the top twenty arms exporters in the world. Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne said Australia would focus on growing sales to its biggest markets, including the United States, Britain, Canada and New Zealand, along with the 'Middle East', South Korea, Japan and others.

These states, identified by the government as priority recipients of Australian military hardware, have been chosen for what is considered to be their strong human rights records and support for the rules-based international order.

If the government's criteria for what constitutes a strong human rights record is applied, then I suppose anyone with the money to pay will be a recipient of

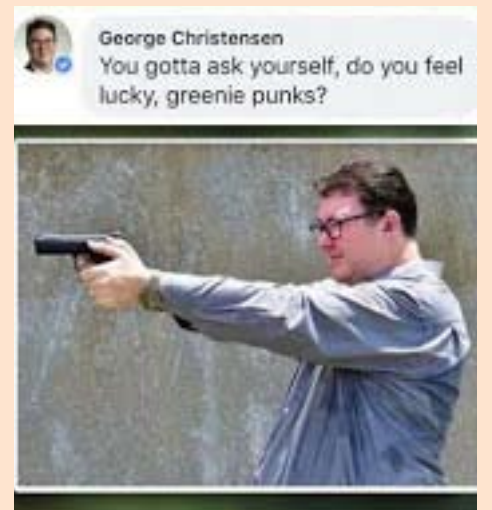
Australian arms sales.

In March 2017, Australian companies signed military contracts to provide weapons to the House of Saud, amid that regime's ongoing brutal and unjust military intervention in neighbouring Yemen.

Yet Australian law prohibits military exports that are inconsistent with Australia's international obligations or national interests.

As a starting point, the government should immediately ban all Australian arms sales to the Saudi Arabian regime.

**Robert Bruce Lonetree
Nimbin**



llyAdani coal mine or changed their policy to "no new coal mines" as we transition to 100% renewables.

How can Labor achieve their zero net pollution target by 2050 and how can we believe that they are committed to effective and immediate climate change action when they support the dirty, outdated fossil-fuel intensive coal industry?

**Dave Norris
Pottsville**

Global rule

My fellow countrymen of European origins, if you worry about jobs and immigrants and hope political parties will help, consider the following.

The world is run by robots called corporate entities and their human controllers. Problem is, these artificial entities possess only the imperative of the bottom line, and are devoid of human emotions and ethics. Problem No 2, capitalist 'business confidentiality' means we have little knowledge of the competing networks of their controllers. Problem 3, the moral/ethical codes of the controllers are not those of the spiritual teachers of the ages.

Many corporate budgets have long surpassed those of many nations, and have grown too strong to be confined and directed by them. Competing puppet masters of corporate entities also control all world governments, and dominant political parties. In South Africa this is called State Capture.

The real capitalist ethics

at the highest levels are unfamiliar to most mortals. The highest virtue is to make ever greater profits. Losses and trending losses are a mortal sin. Networks of the 0.0001% of super rich controllers of the world are in mortal combat with each other. 'Survival of the Fittest' principles encourage corporations to devour each other, or eliminate individual human competitors for the greater good.

A few near the top, possessing remnants of human ethics, find it extremely hard to do good.

The world 'elite' infiltrate and contaminate all human institutions with capitalist ethics and moral debasement. Take abuse in religion and education. Well-evolved capitalist qualities refused compensation for victims.

White 'trash' of Britain were dumped in penal Oz. Expendable lower class guards and military were to contain them. They then learnt the place could be colonised and plundered for profit. Our unfortunate ancestors produced great offspring.

The greatest tools for keeping the planetary masses in servitude are privately controlled central banks and inflation. In the late 18th century, a private central bank was established in USA: free no more! Similarly, when Oz set up its interest free bank, the London heavies arrived after WWI to claim control. Compare all major countries and resultant rich/poor divides.

1945 saw the Roman

Empire reborn as the secret US Deep State. While other countries were weakened, the power brokers decided to seize global dominance. They knew they could control all presidents sufficiently to smooth the way for US based corporations. Throughout America south of the border, easily manipulated dictators replaced fledgling democracies.

The US sells a third of weapons globally. There are no profits without arming both sides in constant conflicts. Wherever the US goes, death and refugees increase tenfold.

The military industrial complex produces a constant flood of toxic substances into food, air, and water. The resultant toxic soup inside all humans and animals weakens immune systems, unleashing a rush of deadly illnesses. Many natural foods and medicines are disallowed in favour of patentable toxic imitations of nature by Big Pharma.

Now that globalised corporate robots are planet sized, they have no need for expensive labour in the US or Oz. So wake up everyone. Next time you vote, make it independents and small parties, and place the captive ones last. We can take our planet back only by teaming up with every shade and class of people.

Learn from the native peoples. They hunted, grew and gathered food with time to relax, all included. Could banks be the problem? Please think on it.

**Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby**

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NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin

**NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 28th March**

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



Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

The saddest thing about the fall of Barnaby isn't that it happened – but why it happened.

He didn't have to fall on his sword because of his insider land purchases and his promotion of coal seam gas; he wasn't hounded by the media because of his role in the demise of the Murray Darling river system and the corrupt water distribution he was the architect of; even

the divisive hate-inspiring diatribes he emitted during the marriage equality debate were not why he was forced to the back bench. Bananaby is guilty of everyone else's marriage failure and infidelity.

Tragically, that's the only kind of story people understand.

The vast majority of us have had brutally painful relationship breakdowns, and many of us have either been guilty of, or on the wrong end of infidelities.

And here is this tomato-in-a-hat politician, fresh from lecturing us on family morality, impregnating his staff. Pass me pitch fork and the flaming torch, while we string him up – for our suffering and for our guilt.

It's just another kind of dog whistle politics – sex crime – Orwellian in its scope and brutality.

I won't bemoan his passing but be assured he will be replaced with worse; they have a party full of bigots and semi-literate goons to



choose from.

OK it's a scalp, OK it'll keep the government mired in negative poll territory,

but the way and the reason for his demotion is a savage indictment of our entire culture.

Pitfalls in leasing mobile tower sites

by Helen Hill, on behalf of Nimbin Tower Community Information Network

Telstra's Blackspot Mobile Tower project is an on-going blight for this rural region and has the pro- and anti-movements jumping up and down, but what are the actual consequences of agreeing to have a Telstra tower on your land, other than a big fat cheque in your mitts?

Firstly, Telstra admits that EMF is a real thing, and has an entire webpage dedicated to reassuring you that the towers are safe, based on statements

from WHO published in 2015. However, there have been a number of studies since demonstrating the need for the precautionary principle when considering human health and also the health of our wildlife, given the results of the UNCEF Mount Nardi study amongst others, easily confirmed by a visit to the area revealing an absence of wildlife near the tower.

What do you care if you are getting big dollars to host a tower on your land? Well, we all know someone who is EMF sensitive, in fact many people who have found

themselves living in the hills have done so to escape the bombardments of city life. Yet the electromagnetic city soup is hot on our heels. The question is – are you insured if your neighbours become sick because of your tower? The answer to that is NO, although Telstra will lie to your face to get the lease of your land.

Lloyds of London is the 'go to' insurer if you're seeking insurance against almost anything, apart from the deleterious effects of EMF on health, since 2015. If Telstra can't get insurance, you can be sure that you won't either, and if you have already signed up I would check the small print on your contract.

EMF sickness is a recognised health condition with biological markers, so you can be sure that your neighbours will visit their 'Specialist' for some before-and-after tests to make suing you that much easier, in fact a support group is currently being created to assist people with EMF sensitivity and in fact healthy folks, to do just that. Like a lightning bolt, the penny drops that \$200,000 won't even cover your legal fees, never mind compensation.

Which brings us to the next major downfall: Telstra towers make fantastic conductors so you can be sure your property, up on the ridge, will be the first to be struck by lightning, and when those electrical substations catch fire they burn extremely well. I wonder whether the liability insurance will cover the extensive bush fires and the loss of your neighbours' houses?

Speaking of which, the value of both yours and all of your neighbours' houses will instantly drop by at least 15% if not more. So if you are making them sick, they will lose money trying to move away from you. It would be devastating to be forced to sell up at a loss and move away from this beautiful area. We are literally surrounded by World Heritage national parks, so yet another consideration is the destruction of the natural environment by your massive blot on the landscape.

Very few people want to live on the same property as a mobile phone tower or NBN tower. This has been one of the biggest factors for property owners in considering whether to sign a deal with NBN or Telstra. This has especially been true for families with young children, who are suspected to be more vulnerable to the effects of the electromagnetic emissions.

There will always be the 'one' who is won over by the dollar sign despite all of their neighbours altruistically refusing Telstra. Although you can be fairly certain that the altruistic neighbours probably won't be so altruistic when it comes to your party invites, and all the ways that you once enjoyed their company.

It's a lonely life being a Telstra tower land leaser, so you might just find yourself spending more time in your EMF-ridden home wondering where those aches and pains and lumps and bumps are coming from, but you will have enough money for 'groceries' though, so can't be all that bad, right?

Notices

Preschool support needed

Cawongla Playhouse is seeking a community member to join our Management Committee. We are looking for someone ideally with experience with running a business and some knowledge of early childhood education to donate their time and expertise to our much-loved preschool. You would need to be available to attend meetings twice during the school term and to assist with small projects during the year. If this interests you, we look forward to hearing from you at: cawonglaplayhouse@yahoo.com or phone 6633-7167.

Tunable Preschool AGM

Tunable Early Childhood Centre annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, 5th April, 9.30am at the Tuntable Falls community shop.

Koala watchers needed

Friends of the Koala is calling for Tweed Shire locals to become Koala Watchers, and will be holding a free workshop on Saturday 17th March, 9.30am-12.30pm at the Murwillumbah Civic and Cultural Centre. For information or to register, contact Maria Matthes on 0467-855-990, email: maria@healinghistory.com.au or contact Friends of the Koala on 6621-4664.

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DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

As the consent authority, Lismore City Council has received the following development application for consideration.



DA NUMBER: 18/34

LOCATION AND DP LOT: 39, 41, 45, 47, 51, 51a, 53, 62 and 64 Cullen Street, Nimbin; 7 and 9 Sibley Street, Nimbin; 7 and 49 Alternative Way, Nimbin; and 29, 33, 37, 40, 49 and 61 Cecil Street, Nimbin (Lot 10 DP 1221355, Lot 3 DP 1179176, Lot 2 DP 1179176, Lot 1 DP 726841, Lot 1 DP 122292, Lot 3 DP 310019, Lot 2 DP 310018, Lot 13 DP 5446, Lot 2 DP 212360, Lot 25 DP 5446, Lot 1 DP 305607, Lot 53 DP 858241, Lot 32 DP 1233771, Lot 1 DP 520105, Lot 3 DP 573575, Lot 2 DP 774889; Lot 65 DP 1013043, Lot 3 DP 774889, and Lot 12 DP 841157).

APPLICANT: MardiGrass Organising Body.

DESCRIPTION: Nimbin MardiGrass Protest Rally 4-6 May 2018 with a five-year consent for the temporary event up to and including 2022.

CLOSING DATE: 14 March 2018.

The above development application and Statement of Environmental Effects may be inspected at Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah, during ordinary office hours or via DA Tracking at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Further information relating to written submissions is available on Council's website. There are laws regarding the mandatory disclosure of political donations in relation to planning matters. Political donations disclosure reporting forms are available from the Department of Planning at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au

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