

# Nimbin Servo

02 6675-7906



- Fuel, oils, automotive needs, ice, gas refills & Swap'n'Go
- Nimbin Bakery pies & sausage rolls, drinks, icecreams
- Bread & milk, newspapers, cigarettes, Nabropure water
- Stock food, horse & cattle food, lucerne, pet food & bones

**NIMBIN SERVO SHOP**

Open 7 days: Mon-Fri 7am-6pm, W/E 8am-5pm, Pub Hols 8am-4pm

## HAPPY HIGH HERBS

NIMBIN

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN NIMBIN

www.happyhighherbsnimbin.com



Four cosy one-bedroom timber cabins nestled on 33 acres of natural bushland with abundant wildlife, within easy walking distance of restaurants and shops.

Overnight or weekly - wheelchair access

### TERETRE Retreat - NIMBIN

5 High Street, Nimbin NSW 2480 AUSTRALIA

Ph: (02) 66 891 908 - Mob: 0427 891 626

Email: info@teretre.com.au - Web Site www.teretre.com.au

## - FLOOR SANDING -

New & old floors, verandahs, decks



- Free quotes & advice
- Prompt service
- Quality work assured



• All areas serviced

Rob Clark ph 6632-3342 or 0410-016-694

ABN 93 105 831 192

whatever  
you're looking for



we can help you find it

nimbin

more than you can imagine

nimbin visitor information centre

46 cullen street nimbin nsw 2480

02 6689 1388

nimbin@lismore.nsw.gov.au

visitnimbin.com.au

# Legal cannabis could save billions

The latest police raids and arrests in Nimbin and the upcoming MardiGrass highlight the absurdity – and injustice – of the laws making cannabis illegal.

The over-zealous enforcement of these laws in our region has blighted the lives of thousands of people – while the reality of its popularity is displayed by the merry pranksters of MardiGrass, and the usually good-humoured approach of the police.

It's often our youth and other vulnerable people who get busted, often for trivial amounts. Criminalising pot has proven to be ineffective as a deterrent, but has proven very effective in harming people from low socio-economic backgrounds. Someone who can't afford good legal representation can end up with a criminal record and even jail time.

The most casual user is at risk of entering the criminal justice system under current state and federal laws, as are those taking or possessing medical cannabis, even for their children's chronic illnesses.

The Greens are committed to focusing on the real health issues surrounding drug use and ending the criminalisation of a substance that is widely used in Australia. The legalisation and regulation of marijuana being bought and sold currently within the "free market" would also re-direct billions of dollars annually from the drug trafficking underworld to governments to better support health and drug education programs.

Greens leader Richard Di Natale has committed to introducing a bill into Federal Parliament by the end of this year, allowing adults to buy and use cannabis and to grow a small amount for personal use, while imposing strict penalties on unlicensed suppliers.

Millions of dollars are expended every



by Tamara Smith  
NSW Greens MP for Ballina

year in enforcement – all the while eroding public respect for the police as squads of officers take dogs onto the streets of our towns to sniff out and arrest people for possession of a substance that is readily available and arguably less harmful than legal drugs such as alcohol and benzos.

The war on drugs has clearly failed, and will continue to fail. More than a third of Australians have admitted using cannabis, and about 10% of them do it regularly. Nationally, arrests continue to grow, from just over 75,000 in 2014-15 to nearly 80,000 in 2015-16. The "problem" is not going away and the cost to the public purse through police time and the court and prison systems means we can't continue with business as usual.

The Greens believe that the use, or misuse, of drugs is a health issue, not a criminal one. By legalising cannabis and creating a tightly regulated market for adult users we could redirect the colossal resources into treatment and rehabilitation.

According to the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), legalising marijuana

for recreational use would boost the budget by up to \$1.8 billion a year. An independent costing of the policy has shown a tobacco-style 25% excise on each sale with a 10% Goods and Services Tax and a reduction in law enforcement would net \$3.5 billion by 2020-21.

The policy would allow the Australian Federal Police to re-allocate a proportion of the resources currently directed at cannabis to strengthen law enforcement around other illicit substances.

Regulatory income used to fund drug education and treatment programs could also focus on recovery programs for people addicted to the more destructive drugs such as heroin and ice, at places like the highly effective local treatment centre, The Buttery.

The fact that prohibition of cannabis has never worked is being recognised by a growing number of countries where it has been decriminalised or legalised. Canada is set to legalise it by August and nine US states have already made the move. New Zealand is to have a referendum on it before the next election in 2021.

Australians' support for legalisation is growing every year, leaping from 26 to 35% in the three years between 2013 and 2016.

It's time we had a fresh and mature political debate about the subject, free of the "reefer madness" scare tactics of the Nationals and Liberals and the sneering of Labor. Communities are always way ahead of the old parties, and we are responding to broad views.

Our policy is a bold move, but getting real about cannabis means accepting that it is here to stay – an inevitable and growing presence in Australian society.

In the meantime, best wishes to all those at MardiGrass, and a reminder to stay safe.

# Council budget issues for 2018-2019

Over the next few months, Council is working on our operational budget for 2018/19 and we have some very difficult decisions ahead of us.

There have been some unfavourable variances reported to us as part of the last two quarterly budget review statements, resulting in a cash deficit position of \$1.6 million. We will have to adjust and make cuts to our budget.

In broad terms, the variance is a result of achieving less income than projected across asphalt production, waste and quarry operations, and a \$500,000 accounting error in the 17/18 budget. It's a grim state of affairs. Last year we applied 5% cuts across most areas to achieve \$2 million in savings, and now we are faced with doing that again.

I encourage you to read the business paper for upcoming meetings and either attend meetings or watch online, as it's an important process for our community and will give you insight into the financial position of Council.

Last term, as part of the State Government 'Fit for the Future' process, Council committed to a number of actions to achieve financial sustainability. The first part of that strategy was to cut budgets, and find as much as

## Word of the Bird by Cr Elly Bird

we can internally while still maintaining our service levels – and now we will have to go further in this year's budget.

The second part of the strategy was to consult with the community about a Special Rate Variation to raise \$3 million annually for Roads. There will be a lot of debate and media commentary in coming months about this consultation. There is opposition from some Councillors to this proposal, and they will vote against including the consultation in the upcoming budget – preferring to slash budgets without consulting the community.

My position is that our community needs to have a voice in this process so that Councillors can make an informed decision. Yes, Councillors were elected to make decisions for the community, but this decision is extremely significant and I think the community needs a voice. You should have the opportunity to know and understand the situation and to be consulted fully before we take out the razors and red pens.

The decision that we have before us to address

our financial sustainability issues is to either cut more from our budgets, which will significantly impact our ability to provide services, or to consider a special rate variation. I know that a rate increase is unpalatable to our community, but I believe we need to have this difficult conversation so that Councillors can consider the informed views of the community.

And, while we are forced to do this, it is also important that we talk about the impacts on Council of State government cost shifting. Cost shifting describes a situation where the responsibility for, or merely the costs of, providing a certain service, concession, asset or regulatory function are 'shifted' from a higher level of government on to a lower level of government without providing corresponding funding or the conferral of corresponding and adequate revenue raising capacity.

Contributions to Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Services and NSW State Emergency Service, lack of adequate funding for public libraries and the failure to reimburse councils for mandatory pensioner rebates are major examples of cost shifting that are impacting

local government.

The last report from Local Government NSW, based on 2013/14 data, identified a \$670 million cost shifting impact on NSW Councils. The galling reality of this whole situation is that without this cost shifting Council would be financially sustainable, a hard pill to swallow when we see billion dollar upgrades to Sydney stadiums.

At the Federal level, Council receives money from the Federal Annual Grant Scheme. Lismore is supposed to be receiving \$30 million from these grants but last year only received \$6 million. Apparently the FAGS can and have been frozen at the discretion of the Treasurer. But, as things are unlikely to change in the short term, we have tough times ahead and hard decisions to make.

I encourage you to inform yourselves, and engage with Councillors over the next few months and beyond as we work to represent you. And, I strongly encourage you to remember the overarching situation when the next State and Federal elections roll around.

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



# From the mayor's desk



by Cr Isaac Smith

May is a big month for Nimbin with the MardiGrass kicking off tomorrow, assuming you grabbed this hot off the press, and the 2018 Aquarius Festival on later this month. These are major events that bring people here to learn, grow and change, which is always a good thing. We should all be seeking to find balance in our life-long learning.

Balance is also something that I find challenging at Council as there are always competing demands and opinions. I would like to say that the facts don't change, but in this day and age with Facebook bubbles that only show you what you already want, more and more people replace facts with opinion. Facts do not change, but people's perception of the facts is always in flux (insert bad Trump accent here saying, "fake news").

There have been a lot of recent discussions around Nimbin developments such as Gungas Road, Blue Knob and the shopping centre site on Sibley street. Council has

also been working hard on the parking strategy, which is a constantly evolving process, along with managing the events and happenings around town. Which takes me back to my discussion on balance.

Nimbin and the surrounding communities are amazing, vibrant and diverse, which is why people want to be a part of their future. So how does council allow that to happen but preserve the unique culture we love so much? We all know what NIMBY stands for (not in my back yard – for the few who don't know), but when is it valid to say this cannot happen here?

The challenge is listening to all sides and I mean really listening. Making sure people feel heard. Consultation is something we pride ourselves on at council these days, but we are always looking to grow and get better. Citizens juries are a method often used now where randomly selected people (still demographically representative though) are given all the information and asked to give their feedback.

This unsolicited advice is often a better representation of the community views. While this doesn't negate the strong opinions that come in on both sides of an issue, it does add a balancing influence that is well considered.

So more people want to be a part of the Nimbin community. Where is the balance?

We have plans such as

the Growth Management Strategy, which limits growth to areas nearby existing development. We don't want to sacrifice our environment and push unsustainable developments into areas where more transport is required. Sustainability is about coming together, minimising impacts and maximising sharing.

But (isn't there usually a but?) this means anything that happens will be beside existing residents who are entitled to have their say. Humans being what we are, generally don't like change. Who really wants that beautiful open paddock they have lived beside for years, turned into someone else's living area? Whose views are to be believed? Where do we find the balance? I believe asking the question is always a good first step. Too many don't question anymore.

So I want to thank those who ask questions, who offer opinions and seek answers. We may not agree when our conversation takes place, but we leave that conversation with more awareness and understanding. What we choose to do with that is up to each individual.

I choose to make every conversation a positive one where I learn, grow and find a balance in the decisions I need to make. I cannot wait to have more of those conversations, and make more connections this month as I spend time in and around Nimbin.



by Kevin Hogan MP, Member for Page

I would like to wish everyone a happy MardiGrass. It is also a great weekend, with a distinctly Nimbin twist.

The Federal Government was recently successful in encouraging state governments to set up a one-stop shop for accessing medicinal cannabis.

This means the decision to prescribe medicinal cannabis is in hands of medical professionals. Once that decision has been made, access will be then provided within an expected 48-hour period.

I believe better and faster access to medicinal cannabis is crucial for those who need it, and is something I have often spoken to the Health Minister about.

There will be much to celebrate this

year with the legalisation, and now easier access to medicinal cannabis, which the Nimbin community have been at the forefront of.

I visited Nimbin Valley Dairy Cheese last month, and would like to congratulate cheesemakers Kerry and Paul for winning the dairy category of the prestigious NSW Delicious Produce award for their St Billie goat cheese.

I have just given Northern Rivers Food a grant to promote Food Tourism in our region, and Nimbin Valley Dairy Cheese products will be part of this trail.

Part of the grant will promote the Harvest Festival Food Trail which is a wonderful event, running from 3rd to 6th May. For more information, visit:

[www.harvestfoodfest.org](http://www.harvestfoodfest.org)

## Kyogle Council notebook

This month saw a couple of exciting funding announcements including \$1.4m being allocated to Kyogle Council under the second round of the Stronger Country Communities fund.

This money will help Council deliver the projects identified by the community during the Community Strategic Plan process and the Visions of the Villages.

- The Bonalbo Showground will be sewerred.
- Murals are planned in public areas.
- The Kyogle caravan park will receive an upgrade and the Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall has been funded for much needed improvements.
- Mummulgum will get a unisex/disabled toilet.
- Tabulam, Woodenbong, Old Bonalbo and Wiangaree will also get a boost.

For more information, please see the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th April for a full list of projects.

The Kyogle's refurbished water treatment plant was opened last month by

by Cr Danielle Mulholland, Mayor of Kyogle

Thomas George and myself.

The upgrade means a higher quantity of water that is of a better quality being available for existing and future residents.

The water treatment plant upgrade was the last of a series of projects including the off-stream water storage dam and the award winning fish weir in the Kyogle Water Augmentation Project.

The Kyogle Youth Centre will be able to upgrade its facilities to include a disabled toilet and greater open space with a recent grant from the State Government.

The announcement was made by Minister for Social Housing Pru Goward who was here during a flying visit.

I'd like to congratulate Chris and his team from Kyogle Together for attracting the funding to a much needed resource in the community.

An agribusiness seminar was recently held in Bonalbo, teaching producers how to market their stock online.

Council partnered with

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to deliver the seminar and the feedback from those who attended has been fantastic.

Also delivered by DPI, was a "Getting Started" seminar through the Young Farmer Business Program which covered issues which help young farmers enter the industry or expand an existing business.

The Lions Road finally reopened on 6th April.

The six new bridges will see the tourist route to Brisbane reopen and provide much needed relief to the residents of Lynches Creek Road who have put up with the dust from increased traffic as the detour route.

With the Federal and State elections coming up next year, I am meeting with all candidates as they nominate.

We have an ambitious works program and need funding to deliver it, without even mentioning our infrastructure backlog.

If we can get funding for the backlog, we will be better positioned to maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure.

So fingers crossed!

## Moving towards #ZeroWaste

In Australia, we produce more per capita waste than the US or Canada. Here in NSW, we are the second biggest waste producer in the world. Over the last 20 years, while our population grew by 28%, waste generation increased by 17%. That's an astounding compound growth rate of about 8% a year.

While the rate of recycling has certainly increased over the years, by no means does it match the rise in waste production. Moreover, and perhaps unknown to most Australians, we have been dumping large amounts of rubbish overseas. But China has now closed the door to imported garbage on environmental and public health grounds. This ban will put a stop to twenty-four separate categories of Australian solid waste, including scrap plastics and mixed paper. Out of sight, out of mind just won't cut it anymore.

How will we deal with this mounting waste problem? Neither landfilling nor incineration is the answer. Both these approaches lie near the bottom 'least preferable' end of the waste hierarchy.

These are just slapdash band-aid fixes that don't address the real problem – that we can't keep producing and consuming the way we are in the hope of burning, burying or recycling our way out of this mess.

Let's remember: just because we throw it away, doesn't make it go away. We need to urgently move towards the top of the waste hierarchy to minimise waste production.

Now is a good time to completely rethink how we view and manage material, resources and waste. An effective strategy must place responsibility for the full life cycle of a product on the producers themselves. The industry needs to be pushed into changing the way they approach issues such as packaging. This can only be done through strong and effective laws that trigger an about-turn in the approach to packaging and waste, and our mantra should be, "If we can't



by Mehreen Faruqi, NSW Greens MP

repair, re-use or recycle it, we shouldn't make it."

For this, we need strong leadership. The Federal Government has passed the buck on to the States. And, unfortunately, they simply aren't up to the job.

Embarrassingly, NSW remains the last state in Australia to resist a ban on plastic bags. The NSW Premier has completely shrugged off her Government's legislative responsibility by proclaiming no laws were needed because supermarkets were phasing out plastic bags. It is a sad state of affairs when environmental management is handed over to the whims of big business.

Queensland has refused to re-introduce a waste levy which sees hundreds of thousands of tonnes of waste shipped and dumped in Queensland to avoid paying the waste levy in NSW, which was designed to drive recycling rates up.

With waste, no state is an island. We need a national approach. We don't need landfills or garbage incinerators being touted as renewable energy. They do nothing to reduce waste production.

In 2018, we have to get serious about moving to zero waste – or we will find ourselves buried in a pile of garbage.



## POSITION VACANT

Local renewable energy company, Rainbow Power Company, is looking for a full time experienced Electrician to oversee all aspects of the installation of Solar PV systems acting as Nominated Supervisor. The position is Monday to Friday based at our offices in Nimbin.



Essential skills and qualifications

- Current Electrical license
- Management/supervisor experience and leadership skills

Full details can be found on our website: [www.rpc.com.au](http://www.rpc.com.au)

Please send a resume and covering letter to Csilla Foraita at: [cf@rpc.com.au](mailto:cf@rpc.com.au)

## Eco T-Shirt Printing



Short run printing for artists, events, projects, business  
Made with wind and solar energy - CMYK Textile ink - No setup costs  
[www.izwoz.com.au](http://www.izwoz.com.au)

## Kyogle Plumbing

Lic No. 121906C

Servicing the Northern Rivers



For all your plumbing needs

Hot Water - Installations - Repairs

Septic Systems - Blocked Drains

Phone Rob 0410 469 765

## FRED'S EXCAVATOR 3t & 4t TIP TRUCK

- clearing and rubbish removal
- culverts and drains
- tank pads
- service trenches
- driveway repairs

## HANDYMAN SERVICES

- painting
- kitchen and bathroom renos
- paving & concreting
- carpentry
- decks and patios
- plastering
- tiling
- general welding

02 6689-9493 0427-367-664

Email: [fredhubby2u@me.com](mailto:fredhubby2u@me.com)

FREE QUOTES FULLY INSURED

ABN 14 523 027 083

## Fashionating!

46 Cullen Street Nimbin

## Johnny Mc Towing

Lic No. 10004

- Any Old Cars
- Any Old Metals
- Caravans
- Batteries



Ph: 66897 322 Mob: 042 99 44 571

SPECIALISING IN UNWANTED CARS



#homemade

[homemade.org](http://homemade.org)



[frsinternational.com.au](http://frsinternational.com.au)

# Environment Day festival at Mur'bah

This year's United Nations World Environment Day Festival theme is: Beat plastic pollution. If you can't reuse it, refuse it.

Speakers at Knox Park in Murwillumbah on Sunday 3rd June will talk about social change, environmental justice and protection. Included is Sue Higginson, former lead solicitor for the Environmental Defenders Office. Sue believes the law is an institution that can and should deliver environmental justice, and she knows what needs to happen to achieve this.

Also Aidan Ricketts, academic, NGT columnist and author of the *The Activists Handbook: A Step by Step guide to Participatory Democracy* and Jeremy Tager, formerly with Greenpeace. Jeremy sees the potential to unite various social justice and environmental movements in ways we don't currently see.

Also appearing will be Mark Swivel, comedian/activist/lawyer.

Music will be provided by Shai Shriki (pictured) and band who with sound, emotion and dance, will take you on an eclectic gypsy journey around the world.

Also on the bill are Out of Range, a quirky Northern Rivers band who have been gathering momentum with their irreverent, upbeat, foot-stomping shenanigans.

For more info go to: [calderenvironmentcentre.org](http://calderenvironmentcentre.org) or 'Caldera Environment Centre' on Facebook.



## Renew Fest taps the festival magic

Renew Fest, an annual zero-waste sustainability festival in Mullumbimby, has recently announced its 2018 program, with a clear agenda to create a full festival experience. You could find yourself listening to Canadian social-permaculturalist Jillian Hovey in the morning, Economics of Happiness' Helena Norberg-Hodge in the afternoon, share a samosa with Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon for dinner, and then dance it up to conscious hip-hop legends Hugo and Treats.

Held at the Mullumbimby showgrounds, beneath the beautiful fig trees, with a youth and children's program, food and information stalls, installations and music through the day, Renew Fest works hard to create an weekend that is as nourishing as it is stimulating.

"There's a magic that happens at festivals," Creative Director Ella Rose Goninan told the *Nimbin Good Times*. "It's unpredictable and unscripted. That's

the energy we're working with, and we recognise that festivals have been central to the way the Northern Rivers Region has evolved.

"Renew Fest is not just about coming along and getting a download, no more than Aquarius was just about coming along and listening to some music."

But how do you bring that 'magic' and 'high vibes' when the central mission is renewal and saving our species from the bleak prospect of planetary extinction?

"We're walking that line all the time," says program director Thomas Keily.

"This is the challenge humanity faces, and we need to stay engaged with that mission. But as individuals, we can only stay engaged if we are nourished and inspired. Almost, if we make it fun.

"That's one of the reasons why there's a strong focus on panel discussions and idea jams. We want to get our 'experts' out of lecture mode and into real conversations. So when we invite Helena Norberg-Hodge to a panel and group-

work session on 'Staying Sane in an Insane System' for example, it's as much about her ability to inspire and connect as it is about the wealth of experience she carries," he said.

Creative Director Ella Goninan agrees. "As a festival, we are very mission-focused. We are zero waste (so bring your mug) and solar-powered, and all proceeds go to Community-Owned Renewable Energy Mullumbimby (COREM).

"But we also want to create an experience that nourishes and juices people up. I think that's something that Tom and I both took away from Bentley. The power of our movement is the people, and connection is everything," she said.

The festival takes place at the Mullum Showgrounds, May 19-20, with a special Friday night performance May 18 of This is My Brave at Wildspace, Mullumbimby. To buy tickets and for more info go to: [www.renewfest.org.au](http://www.renewfest.org.au)

## Vinnies save 50,000 plastic bags in three months

Sales figures from Vinnies shops throughout the North Coast show that in the first three months after plastic bags were phased out, a total of 49,997 single-use bags were removed from circulation.

All 28 Vinnies shops in the region ended plastic bag use from 1st January 2018. The eco-friendly policy applies to St Vincent de Paul Society's retail outlets between Tweed Heads in the north and Laurieton in the south, including the new shop in Bellingen that opened recently.

Kim Boyd, the Society's North Coast Retail Operations Manager said, "From the start of this year our shop volunteers have been asking people to either bring their own bags or to buy one of the Vinnies-branded cloth bags that are on sale. The proceeds from these bags will also be used to assist local people in need."

Ms Boyd highlighted the negative impact of plastic bags on the environment, especially the damage done to marine life.



"Vinnies is pleased to be in the forefront of the push to end plastic bag use in retail

outlets, and welcomes recent moves by major businesses to follow suit."

Vinnies shops have an environmental focus on the rescue and re-use of quality clothing and household items that might otherwise go to landfill. Providing good value to customers is the other part of the equation.

In addition, lesser quality clothing items are bundled in the processing centre in Goonellabah, and exported to developing countries. Clean 'bags of rags' are also produced, which are popular with painters, mechanics, car detailers and others.

Each year Vinnies recycles and reprocesses hundreds of tonnes of clothing and sundry goods that would otherwise be wasted. Along with helping the environment, this earns precious funds to assist people doing it tough in our region.

"The move away from plastic bags reflects our commitment to being good environmental citizens of the North Coast," Kim Boyd said.



# The Northern Rivers is under threat

by Scott Sledge

Private Native Forestry Agreements, pushed by the NSW Government, allow landholders to log native forest on their properties regardless of environmental heritage values.

PNFAs are allowing the destruction of Koala habitat in Limpinwood, including a 324 ha property owned by Hewittville Pty Ltd that is part of a regional wildlife corridor which connects to the Lost World Wilderness Area.

The property being logged at Limpinwood provides critical connectivity between regional wildlife corridors. (It is a major part of regional wildlife corridors.) It also has high scenic and cultural heritage values, especially predictive Aboriginal cultural heritage.

It's a biodiversity hotspot and the largest remaining corridor for wildlife in the area, facilitating movement among world renowned National Parks (Wollumbin, Mt. Jerusalem, Nightcap, Border Ranges National Park, Couchy Creek Nature Reserve and Limpinwood Nature Reserve) and providing lifesaving habitat for threatened and endangered species such as Koalas, the Marbled Frogmouth, the Masked Owl, and the Glossy Black Cockatoo. These Border Ranges parks contain the highest concentration of marsupial, bird, snake, and frog species in Australia.

Crucially, environmental surveys have never been done at Limpinwood to record rare species even though it has been identified as having significant fauna and flora habitat values and high ecological significance.

A Private Native Forestry Agreement was granted with no community consultation, with no ecological surveys, without a DA, without a ground site visit, and without authorisation from Tweed

Shire Council. (Council is the consent authority for the ecological zones that cover approximately a third of this property and is pursuing legal action.)

Issues with this logging include:

- logging trucks, dangerous on narrow, winding roads;
- sediment-laden runoff into Hopping Dicks Creek from the unauthorised roadworks;
- repeated offences by the owners, including five breaches of the logging code;
- over 3.5kms of unauthorised roads built on Crown Land;
- ongoing pollution of two water catchments; and
- logging activities over 18 ha of koala habitat in Environmental Zones.

Despite all that, the EPA recently closed the investigation into the logging, alleging that no significant environmental harm had been done. No fines were issued, only formal warning letters, and the EPA even allowed the landowner to remove eight truckloads of logs taken from koala food trees in the Environmental Zone..

Logging of koala habitat could soon start up again. The NSW Environment Minister and the EPA have failed to revoke the logging license and have also refused to do environmental surveys of the property.

Had the EPA acted on the first reports, much of the damage could have been averted. Now the EPA has closed its inquiry leaving the Tweed Shire Council to deal with the problems.

Tweed Shire Council voted to pursue action against the Hewittville logging operation in Limpinwood in relation to unauthorised works, and Councillors voted to take steps to require Hewittville to stop using the property for forestry operations.

Despite koalas being listed



as vulnerable in NSW in 2012 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, they still have virtually no protection from land clearing and habitat loss. In fact 99% of koala habitat on private land is not protected.

No surprise that Koala populations have crashed by 50% on the north coast of NSW over the past twenty years (Dailan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance). They are unlikely to survive the next twenty years unless there is effective

regulation. This tragic collapse of koala populations across public and private lands is just one consequence of the accelerating degradation and fragmentation of native forests.

Koalas and many other species are impacted by logging because logging opens up the canopy and takes out all the largest habitat trees, including important hollows required for nesting. Only the largest logs are taken. Much is left on the forest floor, adding an increased fuel load and risk for bushfires.

Furthermore, logging is the primary initiator of Bell Miner Associated Dieback which is becoming a serious problem in eucalypt forests.

Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton's office says the NSW Government is working to improve koala protections. However, Koalas already have to contend with stress-induced chlamydia, retrovirus, urban expansion, roads and infrastructure and simply can't survive the stress of logging in what remains of their habitat.

The local humans also have had their peaceful existence disturbed with the noise and dust of logging trucks. Some properties lose value. Waterways are becoming increasingly polluted with platypus and other aquatic life disappearing.

Tweed Shire Mayor Katie Milne says that the Tweed has a diverse range of ancient Gondwana Rainforest remnants that are vulnerable to Private Native Forestry operations and Climate Change. Let's back her up. Help save the environment for future generations.

Please write or call your parliamentary reps and tell them we want the environment protected. Handwritten letters addressed to Parliament House Sydney are said to be the most influential.

Lismore MP Thomas George: [lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au) Phone 02 6621-3624

Tweed MP Geoff Provest: [tweed@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tweed@parliament.nsw.gov.au) Phone 0755-234-816

North Coast MLC Ben Franklin: [ben.franklin@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ben.franklin@parliament.nsw.gov.au) Phone 02 9230-3793

Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton: [office@upton.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@upton.minister.nsw.gov.au) Phone 02 8574-6107  
Shadow (ALP) Environment Minister Penny Sharpe: [sharpe@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sharpe@parliament.nsw.gov.au) Phone 02 9230-2741

## Habitat trees damaged in plantation clearing



by Jim Morrison, President  
North Coast Environment Council

I was an eyewitness to the significant damage to a group of important habitat trees at Busby's Flat near Casino during April.

I was driving past when I noticed piles of burning debris that had been pushed around a group of habitat trees, probably more than a hundred years old, as part of a massive plantation clearing operation.

While NCEC supports a transition from native forest logging to a plantation based timber industry, the industry needs to be responsible and abide by the law.

Those trees were retained as part of the initial approval for plantation establishment. Habitat trees are those with hollows in their branches that provide vital habitat for many animals that are threatened with extinction.

There are 37 known threatened fauna species on the adjacent property, many of which depend upon hollows for their survival. A number of Aboriginal scar trees are also known to occur across the area, and could easily be damaged through poorly managed plantation harvesting.

Not only have they broken the Plantation Code by destroying the habitat trees, but closer inspection suggests they are not implementing adequate erosion control guidelines on steep slopes and across the extensive flood plain. If we have an intense

rainfall event in the coming weeks, the clearing could result in serious pollution of downstream creeks in the small sub-catchment.

Locals have told me the machinery doing the clearing is going almost 24 hours a day to meet contractual deadlines and local roads are suffering badly from the resultant truck traffic.

There is very little transparency about what is going on. We know some wood from another nearby plantation that was recently cleared was burnt at the Broadwater power station owned by the Cape Byron Power Company. Whether this wood is going to Broadwater or is being exported to China from the port of Brisbane we're not sure. But it's not being value-added in Australia.

These plantations were established as part of Managed Investment Schemes – MIS – that were taxpayer subsidised. A lot of native trees were cleared at the time to make way for them. Now, more vital habitat is being destroyed as the plantations are prematurely cleared.

If taxpayer subsidised plantations are to be a viable alternative to native forest logging, they need to be well-managed to provide sawlogs to supplement the impending shortfall in native forest logs. It's pretty clear this is yet another example of the taxpayer not getting value for money when it comes to the timber industry.



# Fight fracking, save money and resist corporate corruption

The Northern Rivers has a lot to be proud of for how we mobilised across our entire community to eject Metgasco and force the state government to cancel its licences. United, our community is a formidable force for good.

But many may not be aware of how our region is still under the thrall of energy and resource companies that are fracking in QLD and eager to crack the Northern Territory and threatening Mataranka Hot Springs and the Beetaloo Basin with massive shale development in the NT. Origin Energy became the successor in title to Country Energy and as a result virtually inherited the bulk of the Northern Rivers' retail electricity market. As a result, many of us are unwittingly handing our money over to a company that is implicated in the expansion of fracking as well as a powerful part of the energy retail oligopoly. The Northern Rivers need to break this abusive relationship.

Our energy market is distorted by the three big players: Origin Energy, AGL and Energy Australia. They're called gentailers because they are both generators of electricity and retailers. This vertical integration means they have huge market power to squash competition and control the wholesale price, driving up the cost of your electricity. The pernicious influence of this powerful oligopoly has been noted

by the ACCC and Choice magazine. If you worry about how electricity prices are hurting families and industries, tell everyone to ditch these big players and switch to a reputable, ethical company.

Both gas and electricity prices have been forced up by the combined actions of the big corporations.

Before the construction of the Gladstone export gas terminal, the east coast gas market had plenty of cheap conventional gas, flowing from Bass Strait and Moomba. But Origin, Santos and QGC changed all this.

Gladstone is now a giant Hoover that sucks up our conventional gas as well as CSG, and sends it to Asia. There is no gas shortage. Instead, the gas corporations profit from an unlimited export demand at higher prices, that has starved the domestic market and forced our prices up. To make it worse, the gas industry even contrived to manipulate the public's understanding of this gas shortage by arguing that domestic CSG was needed to increase supply and lower the soaring prices. This was misleading economics and political mischief at its worst. No matter how much CSG is produced in QLD and the Northern Territory it won't dent the international price or alleviate Australian prices. It was always a bogus use of the simplistic supply/demand equation.

by Aidan Ricketts

So, there's the swindle, we pay more for less domestic gas, whilst watching the scourge of fracking destroy SE QLD, and alarmingly soon maybe the Northern Territory, as the Labor government there has just removed the moratorium on fracking that had been a key promise in their election to government. What did we say about not trusting Labor (or the LNP) when it comes to mining and gas?

Not content with the gas swindle, Origin is one of three big players that drive up the price of electricity. If we want to bring the cost down, and fight the fracking behemoth, our region needs to stop doing business with the oligopoly (Origin, AGL, Essential Energy). When you consider how Origin hurts us all through their cartel practices, buying from them is akin to an abusive relationship.

We know the story well enough; unconventional gas mining and fracking is wreaking havoc on farmers and communities wherever it goes. We have seen the tragic deaths of farmers like George Bender, after years of struggle with fracking companies. We see the gas bubbling out of the Condamine river, the lowering of water tables throughout the gasfields and the pollution and de-pressuring of farmer's water bores. The social, economic and ecological impacts are massive and now this disease is threatening to move into the

beautiful Northern Territory, with massive implications for the environment, Indigenous communities and the water table in this dry continent.

But fortunately for us here in the Northern Rivers, there is a ready and much more ethical solution for consumers wanting to stop funding the frackers. Get out of Origin and other large gentailers and embrace locally owned companies that support renewable energy.

The day that Metgasco's licences were cancelled, auspiciously, was also the date that our region launched Enova, Australia's first community-owned renewable energy retailer, based in the Northern Rivers.

Where our direct action protests against the powerful mining and petroleum industry represented our community defence, Enova embodies the spirit of rebuilding a pro-active alternative. Its ground-breaking model is designed to meet our needs, rather than the needs of the huge profit-hungry companies that have driven up costs via their stranglehold. Enova has gained attention around the country, and won the NSW Green Globe Award.

I have personally embraced Enova by buying a share parcel when they were raising funds to launch and by switching my home retail account to them, and here are some of my reasons.

Enova Energy is a

community-owned electricity provider. It's a social enterprise that keeps your money circulating in our local economy (currently \$300m from domestic power bills gets siphoned off outside our region). Enova has two arms: the retail arm, and the non-profit community arm.

Through its community arm, Enova Energy directs 50% of profits into projects to benefit communities, helping people take control of their energy by reducing consumption and increasing access to solar power. Their Energy Coaches deliver energy literacy and efficiency programs. Working with community organisations, Enova helps 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. Other social benefit projects include support for RED Inc (young people with disabilities) and North Coast Community Housing.

And with their retail arm, Enova sells electricity to your home, and offers a way out of the oligopoly of the big gentailers. Enova seeks to promote the use of renewables and when I switched, paid me substantially more for the solar I produce than the dirty old energy corporations ever did.

I was thrilled to be able to switch to Enova from

Origin. In one single move, I could save money, promote rooftop solar, stop funding the dangerous and destructive fracking industry and begin to dismantle the oligopoly of the big energy companies. That is some powerful consumer led direct action just there.

As energy consumers, we have a responsibility to ask where our power comes from and where our hard-earned cash goes when we pay those ever-increasing power bills.

As a community that put ourselves on the line to kick out the gas industry, our job is not yet done.

We may not be able to go the NT to help fight fracking there, but we can stop implicitly supporting it right here right now by ending our region's relationship with Origin and other big retailers, and talking to all our neighbours and friends and spreading the news, both about the problem and about the solution that is already available.

We need individually, household by household to pick up the phone and find out how to use our power for the common good. By all means do your own research, I'm a big fan of Enova, but you make your own decisions, but whatever you do, take action to end the stranglehold of the big frackers and energy companies on our beautiful ethical and empowered region.

Once again the Northern Rivers can be a leader in sustainability.

## Global warming and the plight of the third World

by Bernadine Schwartz

We in the developed world can ignore global warming, while we still have running water, electricity and shops to buy food and things that aren't even needed! We also have services such as the SES to aid us in times of need. For the Third World though, life has always been a struggle and global warming is compounding the problem.

I have been sponsoring children for 14 years, but the four I sponsor now will never be able to survive without outside help. This is because of our planet's changing climate.

Firstly, I'd like to clarify why these countries are poor. Many people believe that these countries have only themselves to blame for their poverty, but this is a fallacy. Throughout history these nations have been exploited and treated savagely with the seizing of their lands for coffee, sugar and tea plantations as well as enslavement. Mining companies have also played a big role in robbing them of their resources and more often than not leaving irreversible environmental damage.

An agreement was made in 1970 with the UN that all wealthy countries would contribute 0.7% of their GDP as foreign aid, but greed has grown over the years and only a handful of nations meet their obligation. There is also a huge

misconception as to what these poor nations really gain from foreign aid. Unfair trading practices such as having to use overpriced goods and services from prospering countries and protection measures, are nearly always part of the conditions, with the donor gaining far more than the nations receiving.

The World Bank has a history of funding grand proposals that have failed to accomplish any true beneficial changes. Instead, these poor countries are left with a debt they can never reduce and perpetually struggle just to pay the interest.

Melanie is 14 and she lives in Burundi where 58% of the population live on less than a dollar a day, making it one of the poorest countries in the world. She loves dancing and wants to be a teacher, but her future doesn't hold much in the way of opportunities.

Melanie lives in Gashoho which is far from any city, and soil erosion is becoming a huge problem due to increasing heavy rain. Melanie's area has no power or running water and because of this, the felling of trees for fuel is commonplace and is contributing to landslides. The weather has always been erratic in Burundi but the seasons cannot be depended on any more, with longer dry periods.

Like 95% of Burundi's population, all families cultivate their own crops in Melanie's village with some



Nancy



Annesha

being employed in the local coffee plantations. Extreme weather is causing infestations of pests that destroy the crops rapidly.

Alex is 8 and dreams of being a pilot. He lives in a remote area in Kenya called Wema that's drought stricken, and there is still no prediction for rain. His latest letter told me that once again their shamba lost all its tomatoes, maize and beans because the rain failed to come. This has occurred four years in a row now. His family, through sponsorship, are able to buy maize in a nearby town, but this isn't an ideal diet for anyone, especially children. Being malnourished makes them more vulnerable to sickness and disease.

Most Kenyans are used to a harsh existence, but the land is gradually being transformed into a desert, making the task of providing food difficult. For centuries many Kenyans have led a semi-nomadic life as herdsmen, but global warming has brought an end to this ancient

culture. Rivers and waterholes that once existed are gone, making it impossible to raise cattle. These families now live in towns and cities, creating slums all over the country.

Nancy is 14 and lives in Aboke, in Uganda and wants to become a nurse. Her family sells a portion of their crops and cooks food to be sold so they can make a meagre income. 80% of the people of Uganda grow food and are dependent on rain to water their crops. Climate change is causing destructive heavy downpours and landslides that destroy crop fields. Outbreaks of water-borne diseases are also becoming more prevalent.

Nancy's most important chore is to fetch water for the family, and this can mean walking up to six kilometres to a bore. Water security is a monumental challenge with droughts becoming more frequent and lakes and rivers drying up that will never return.

Annesha is 14 and lives in

Bangladesh in a district called Assasuni. Annesha loves school and her ambition is to become a doctor. She lives 350kms from any major town and this area is under severe threat of natural disasters because of its close proximity to the coast. 230 rivers converge into the massive delta plain of Bangladesh, and floods are a part of life, but with rising sea levels and more severe cyclones, the fresh water rivers are turning salty and salinity is seeping into wells.

Global warming is also causing glaciers in the Himalayas to melt and exacerbating the danger of floods. These people have learnt to be resilient, but a lack of nutritious food and clean water is a common problem, with dysentery and typhoid on the increase.

Globalisation has created a connected world economically, but when it comes to globally being united as one race, this is where we fail. We are so far removed from these people that they have become non-existent and the world has swept them under the carpet.

This is the world that uses a third of its crops to feed livestock so we have meat on our plate, while a billion people are malnourished or starving. My children and their families are the victims of global warming. They have taken the least, but will be affected the most.

This is the kind of society we are all living in, one that plays God, but unfairly!



# A different kind of African safari



Rikki Fisher in the kinder class

by Rob Fisher

Rikki and I recently visited the Agolomuok community in southwest Kenya near Lake Victoria. This is an annual visit to check on projects funded by our charity Kenya Kids International. Nimbinite Peter Ptschelinzew came with us to visit his sponsored student.

## Feeding Program

One of the most exciting and satisfying experiences was to see the Feeding Program in action. This community has been in drought for three years and many people only eat one meal a day.

Last year a feeding program started at Agolomuok Primary School. Students receive breakfast of millet porridge and lunch of porridge and beans. The results are outstanding with the school being judged the most improved in the sub-county in 2017. The District Education Officer also met us and confirmed the importance of the feeding program.

The amazing thing is how little the feeding program costs. Just \$135 gives 451 children two meals a day for five days a week. Just 30 cents feeds a child breakfast and lunch for a week. We're looking for people to sponsor more feeding programs in nearby schools.

News of the work of Kenya Kids International has spread far and wide. The local member of the County Assembly, Mr Brian Osodo MCA provided a vehicle and driver for our use whilst we covered the cost of petrol. Brian hosted a meeting of students, parents, guardians and mentors and complimented us on the wonderful work of KKI.

## Water Project

The Agolomuok Community Water Project is designed to provide potable water to 8,000 households (about 50,000 people). The system consists of an artesian bore pumping clean underground water using a submersible pump, powered by solar panels. Water is piped to four distribution points called Water Kiosks.

The project was originally funded by



foreign aid but inferior piping was used to connect the Water Kiosks. Over time many pipes broke until water was only available at the pump. Our goal is to replace piping to re-connect the existing four kiosks and then build and connect two additional kiosks.

We met the committee of the Agolomuok Community Water Project and advised them we were now able to provide funds to reconnect the water supply for 2,000 households through Water Kiosk Number One. They were overjoyed with the news and the Chairman shed a tear as he thanked us.

We are so grateful to those who donated the \$5,000 needed. If you would like to help restore water to this community please get in touch.

## Sponsored students

Many students cannot afford secondary school fees so we set up a sponsorship program. KKI currently sponsors 12 bright, needy students to attend Secondary School. We met ten of the students but two students were in the middle of exams and could not leave their schools. However we did meet many of the parents, guardians and mentors of all 12 students.


We are looking for more people to partner with us to sponsor a student. Secondary school is for four years and sponsorship is \$40 per month. If you are interested to know more, please email or call (see details below).

At the Agolomuok primary School we engaged with children and teachers, experienced the feeding program and took photos. We brought some materials and tools from Australia to repair broken chairs and reinforce the rest. In the process Rob taught some basic carpentry skills to some of the teachers and left the tools there for future use.

For more information check out our website: [www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au](http://www.kenyakidsinternational.org.au) or email: [kenyakids7@gmail.com](mailto:kenyakids7@gmail.com) or telephone Rob on 0409-413-248

Blue Knob  IT

Over 15 years professional computer experience  
Friendly local advice since 2014 - No fix no fee  
Phone: 6689-7079 Email: [blueknobIT@gmail.com](mailto:blueknobIT@gmail.com)

 **NIMBIN LAW**  
50C CULLEN ST NIMBIN  
PHONE: 02 6689 1003  
EMAIL: [NIMLAW@SPAINS.COM.AU](mailto:NIMLAW@SPAINS.COM.AU)  
[WWW.NIMBINLAW.COM.AU](http://WWW.NIMBINLAW.COM.AU)

CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY LAW  
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
TRUSTS |  
MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY LAW  
FAMILY LAW (PROPERTY)  
WILLS & ESTATES  
COMMERCIAL & CORPORATE LAW  
LITIGATION  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
JURISPRUDENTIAL THESES

**RVBYESQUE**

ALAN MORRIS  
PROPRIETOR

SMOKING PARAPHERNALIA & FINE USED BOOKS  
21 CARRINGTON STREET LISMORE 2480  
PO BOX 1184 LISMORE (02) 6622 4676

**CANNABIS**  
THE NUMBER ONE PLANT

FOOD  
BETTER PROTEIN THAN BEEF

FUEL  
CLEANER ENERGY THAN CRUDE OIL

FIBRE  
STRONGER TEXTILE THAN COTTON

MEDICINE  
SAFER EFFECT THAN PHARMACEUTICALS

RECREATION  
HEALTHIER CHOICE THAN ALCOHOL

OPEN EVERYDAY 51 CULLEN STREET 02 6689 1842

**NIMBIN HEMP EMBASSY**

80 Cullen Street 6689-0199

**NIMBIN CAFE**  
.. the OASIS  
of ..  
**NIMBIN**  
**COFFEE SHOP**

Fin de siecle fantasies  
[yantraseeds.com](http://yantraseeds.com)

**Yantra** pty. ltd.

Lic No. 91548 Ins# CMC-CPE335703

**KOKER CIVIL**  
CIVIL CONSTRUCTION AND PLANT HIRE  
QUARRY SUPPLIES & EARTHMOVING

- All Rural Earthmoving
- Service Installation
- Subdivisions
- Dams
- Dry Hire
- Road Construction
- Site Preparation
- Retaining Walls

ROADBASE \$350 Delivered

0447 10 2026 • [james@kokercivil.com.au](mailto:james@kokercivil.com.au)

**TRIBAL MAGIC**  
Alternative Department Store

WARM JACKETS & PONCHOS IN TIME FOR WINTER



Come and see what the Nimbin Spirit has created  
74 Cullen St, Nimbin. Open: 10am - 6.30pm





NORPA PRESENTS

Paul Capsis is Quentin Crisp —  
An evening with the legendary 'Naked Civil Servant'

## RESIDENT ALIEN

WED 23 – SAT 26 MAY | 7:30pm | Lismore City Hall

TICKETS  
norpa.org.au | 1300 066 772

**norpa**

## GUITAR/BASS TUITION FROM PRO.



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

Call Jeremy  
0411-436-911

**PERCEPTIO**  
**BOOKS**  
**CRYSTALS**  
**GIFTS**

47 Cullen Street, Nimbin  
66 891 766

ADVERTISE HERE

and be seen in **16,000 copies monthly** of



This size ad **FULL COLOUR**  
from only **\$60** per month

Phone 6689 1148 [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com)



### Did you know?

All our links are clickable in the web edition.  
Visit [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com) and click away!

Nimbin Flix's choice for May is the recently released movie *The Post*.

Directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks, the film is described as a thrilling drama about the unlikely partnership between the *Washington Post's* Katharine Graham (Streep), the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and editor Ben Bradlee (Hanks), as they race to catch up with the *New York Times* to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that spanned three decades and four US Presidents.

The two must overcome their differences as they risk their careers – and their very freedom – to help bring long-buried truths to light.

Of considerable relevance at a time when freedom of the press is



diminishing, the movie highlights the ability of an unhampered media to expose political deceit and corruption. Streep is a wonderful actor and in

this role she clearly demonstrates the challenges faced by a female boss in a male-dominated realm.

The film was nominated for Best Picture and Best Actress (for Streep) at the 90th Academy Awards, and also received six nominations at the 75th Golden Globe Awards: Best Motion Picture – Drama, Best Director, Best Actress – Drama (for Streep), Best Actor – Drama (for Hanks), Best Screenplay and Best Original Score.

The movie will screen on Saturday, 12th May at 7pm at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street. Doors open at 6.30pm and refreshments will be available. All are welcome. Entry is free to society members. Non-members \$10 donation at the door.

Nimbin Flix is auspiced by Nimbin Community Centre.

# MOVIES AT THE BUSH THEATRE



### The Theory of Everything (PG)

Friday 11th May 7.30pm \$10 entry.

"There should be no boundaries to human endeavour. We are all different. However bad life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. While there's life, there is hope." – Stephen Hawking

*The Theory of Everything* is a 2014 British film which is set at Cambridge University about the life of the great theoretical physicist, Stephen Hawking. Hawking is a world renowned physicist whose theories changed the scientific outlook of the world. His life was greatly impacted by his diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease, but his tenacity and determination to continue his work in the face of a great physical disability inspires millions to this day.

Hawking died on 14th March, 2018, leaving a game-changing legacy behind him. Mourners the world over lamented the loss of a great mind, and a warrior of peace. The Nimbin Bush Theatre is proud to present this great film as a gesture of love and respect for this inspiring man.

Directed by James Marsh and adapted from the memoir *Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen* by Stephen's wife, Jane Hawking, the film deals with Jane's relationship with her husband, his diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease and his groundbreaking work in physics. The film stars Eddie Redmayne as Hawking, a role which saw him win an Academy Award for his sympathetic portrayal of this complicated modern genius.

While studying at Cambridge, Stephen Hawking speculated that black holes may have been part of the creation of the universe, and decided to write his thesis on the subject. While pursuing his research, Stephen's muscles begin to fail and he learns he has Motor Neurone Disease and that he will be unable to talk, swallow, breathe, or move most of his body, and has approximately two years to live.

After a tracheotomy, he learnt to use a spelling board to communicate and received a computer with a built-in voice synthesiser and used it to write the book that changed the world, *A Brief History of Time*, which was an international best-seller.

See this movie on the big screen with big sound and be moved by the passion of one

man and how he changed the world. The Cafe will be open serving delicious meals and coffee. BYO.

### Swinging Safari (M)

Friday 18th May 7.30pm \$10 entry.

*Swinging Safari* is a colourful satire of a typical Australian beachside neighbourhood in the height of a 1970s summer. The comedy captures the innocence of an era of careless parenting, constant sunburn and suggestive adult behaviour. From director Stephan Elliott, who brought you *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Swinging Safari* is a celebration of all things brash and 1970's.

The all-star Australian cast includes Kylie Minogue, Asher Keddie, Jeremy Sims, Jack Thompson and Guy Pearce who are all clearly having a hilarious time. *Swinging Safari* is a nostalgic celebration of the Australian summer combined with a healthy dose of laugh out loud comedy.

When a 200-ton blue whale washes up on a local beach the kids think it's the biggest thing that's ever happened in their lives. Behind closed doors, the Mums



and Dads of this quiet suburban cul-de-sac celebrate in their own special way, by joining the sexual revolution. It's a time of boxed wine, big sunglasses, bad hair, bad styles, bad choices, but good times.

Celebrated by critics as an "instant Aussie favourite" alongside *The Castle*, *Priscilla* and *Muriel's Wedding*, *Swinging Safari* presents some recent Australian history with a fond and humorous approach. According to Channel 9, "the costumes and the art direction are fantastic – each frame is so visually vivid. The performances are all fine and the actors genuinely seem like they had a great time making this, and that kind of energy can be infectious."

Catch it at the Nimbin Bush Theatre for an evening of comedy and farce. The Cafe will be open serving great food and award winning coffee. BYO.

### Namatjira Project (M)

Friday 1st June 7.30pm \$10 entry.

"Getting this documentary out for the world to see will help us continue the work passed down to us by Albert. Help us to keep our culture strong, to teach the young ones and to celebrate our remarkable heritage into the future." – The Namatjira Family

Can justice be restored to the Namatjira family? From the remote Australian

desert to the opulence of Buckingham Palace – this is the iconic story of the Namatjira family, tracing their quest to regain the copyright to their grandfather's artwork.

Albert Namatjira (28th July 1902 – 8th August 1959), was a Western Arrente speaking Aboriginal artist from the MacDonnell Ranges in Central Australia. He was a pioneer of contemporary Indigenous Australian art and the most famous Indigenous Australian of his generation.

Albert Namatjira is hailed as one of the greatest Australian artists of all time and a pioneer for Aboriginal rights. Yet the fruits of his legacy have been denied to his people, with the copyright of his works posthumously sold off. The Namatjira Project aims to restore those rights to his impoverished family.

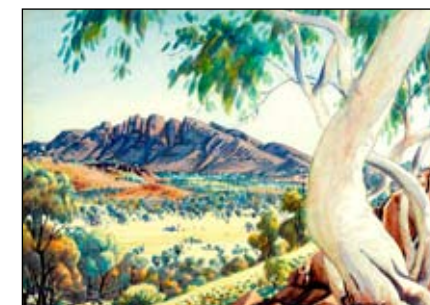
Born and raised at a mission outside of Alice Springs Namatjira showed interest in art from an early age, but it was not until 1934 (aged 32), under the tutelage of Rex Battarbee that he began to paint seriously. Namatjira's richly detailed watercolours of the outback departed significantly from the abstract designs and symbols of traditional Aboriginal art, and inspired the Hermannsburg School of painting. He became a household name in Australia and reproductions of his works hung in many homes throughout the nation. As the first prominent Aboriginal artist to work in a modern idiom he was widely regarded as representative of successful assimilation policies.

Namatjira was the first Northern Territory Aboriginal person to be freed from restrictions that made Aboriginal people wards of the state. In 1957, he became the first Aboriginal person to be granted restricted Australian citizenship which allowed him to vote, have limited land rights and buy alcohol.

In 1956 his portrait by William Dargie became the first of an Aboriginal person to win the Archibald Prize. Namatjira was also awarded the Queen's Coronation Medal in 1953, and was honoured with an Australian postage stamp in 1968.

This story tells the tale of his incredible legacy, it is moving and inspiring, and highlights the achievements of a great man and artist.

The Cafe will be open serving great food and award winning coffee. BYO.





## Local lad wins songwriter award

The recent Lismore Young Songwriters Award, presented by Social Futures in Lismore, drew many entrants from which 16 finalists were chosen to perform a showcase at Southern Cross Uni on Friday 13th April.

The announcement of Tahī White (pictured) as the winner for 2018 was a win for Nimbin as well. Tahī is 15 years old and grew up at Siddha Farm at Tuntable Creek, attending Tuntable Falls Preschool and Coffee Camp Public School and representing the Nimbin Headers Sports Club since the age of 6. He is currently in Year 11 at The Rivers Secondary College Richmond River campus in Lismore.

Tahī won the competition by wowing the judges with his original piece sung and performed on piano.

Tahī credits his piano teachers in Nimbin, Williamina and Gerard for their dedication to teaching over the years, and their support and encouragement of him in his endeavours.

Tahī has been playing the piano since he was seven years old, but has only recently begun writing songs.

The judges – including Nimbin's darling Diana Anaid – noted the high calibre of the competition this year, with the sixteen finalists showing maturity and talent aplenty.

Tahī encourages anyone who is interested to



consider entering next year's competition.

The event supports the efforts of Social Futures in Lismore, and the generous sponsorship by local businesses ensures a sizable prize pool for winners and runners-up.

For his efforts, Tahī won tickets for himself and a friend to this year's Splendour in the Grass, a professional recording session thanks to Rockinghorse Studios and SAE Byron Bay, a RODE performance kit microphone and NORPA tickets for himself and a friend.

Congratulations Tahī, you have done yourself, and Nimbin, proud!

## Luke sings up a storm in a North Coast town

There aren't many on the Far North Coast who have not heard Luke Vassella play – he's widely known and loved throughout the district and beyond as an inspirational performer and an accomplished singer/songwriter.

Luke (pictured) has released nine albums of his own material, receiving eight NCEIA Dolphin Awards along the way, including Male Vocal of the year.

At the 2017 Australian Roots Music Awards, he received the Karl Brodie Best Song trophy.

Luke has written many songs in support of a Gasfield Free Northern Rivers and won the 'Australia' category at the 2013 Australian Songwriter's Association Awards with his protest song *The Mighty Dollar*.

In 2010 he also won the 'Australia' and 'Best Live



Performance' categories with his song *Lismore Girl*.

Luke has produced several jingles and music for short films in his home studio, including the soundtrack to the influential 2013 documentary *Undermining Australia: Coal Vs Communities*.

*In a North Coast Town* is

Luke Vassella's triumphant ninth album, celebrating a love of people and places in the Far North Coast. Its twelve tracks were recorded live in halls surrounding Lismore during February and March 2016.

Luke Vassella will be playing Sphinx Rock Café on Sunday 27th May.

# Nimbin Hills REAL ESTATE

## This Gal's Got The Goods!

Stony Chute    Larnook

Bentley    Stony Chute

Blue Knob    Tuntable Creek

Nimbin    Larnook

Blue Knob    Larnook

Larnook    Blue Knob

Jiggi    Barkers Vale

Jiggi    The Channon

Nimbin    Larnook

Blue Knob    Larnook

Larnook    Nimbin

Larnook

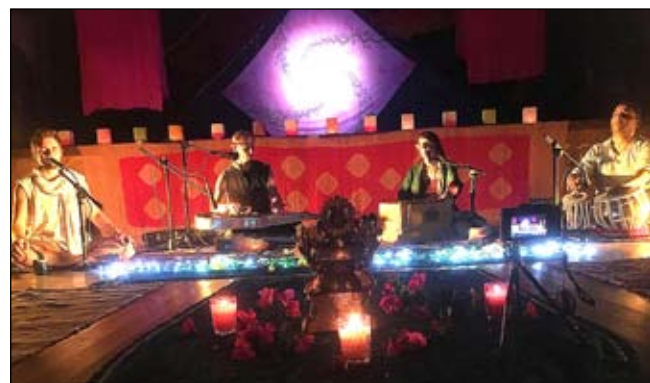
**Nimbin Hills REAL ESTATE**  
**02 6689 1498**  
**FOR SALE**  
**NIMBINHILLS.COM.AU**

Our record-breaking agent does it again. 20 personal sales in 4.5 months...When you list with Jacqui you list with the best

## Call Jacqui on 0439 15 6666

for your obligation free appraisal

## Kirtan night



The first Mantra Tribe Kirtan Night at Billen Cliffs Community Hall in April was a great success. People from as far as Mullum and Murwillumbah showed up.

The evening had moments of listening to beautiful music, of bringing the group together in mantra call and response, and of dancing and sipping chai with friends.

Most of the kirtan songs are ancient sanskrit mantras, known to uplift and connect you with your heart. There is no need to understand the mantras intellectually, just feel their effect on your body and mind.

Kirtan is the yoga of sound. It is not religious, and encourages us to see what we all have in common, instead of focussing on the differences.

The next Mantra Tribe Kirtan Night is on Friday 25th May, 7-9pm, suggested donation \$10, \$5 concession, kids free. It is an alcohol and drugs free family event for all.

Please bring a cushion and a chai mug (chairs are available if needed). For more info, go to: [ilovemyself.com.au](http://ilovemyself.com.au)

### The Last of the Long Lost Hippies

A new audio music CD by Nimbin's own Pagan Love Cult available from the Happy High Herbs shop or online @ [www.paganlovecult.com](http://www.paganlovecult.com)



# Bush Theatre gigs



## Monthly Crypto Currency Seminar

**Saturday 12th May 11am**  
\$10 Entry. All Ages. BYO.  
These meetings are suitable for both beginners and experts. Bitcoin is continuing to gain a lot of interest and is proving to be a volatile currency, with ups and downs, ebbs and flows. If you need some guidance in this area this seminar is for you. These informal meetings bring together those already trading in crypto currencies. Find out more at The Nimbin Bush Theatre from those currently trading in Bitcoin and other crypto currencies.



## Backhouse and the Back Roaders

**Wednesday 9th May 7pm**  
\$10 Entry. All Ages. BYO.  
5.30: Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony by local Elders  
6pm: The Northern Rivers Folk Choir

6.15: The Nimbin Singers on the Outdoor Stage  
7pm. Backhouse and the Backroaders in the Auditorium

The Legendary Tony Backhouse is coming back to the Northern Rivers! Facilitated by this incredible innovator of all things choral, Backhouse will bring together a 55-person choir who will cover a wide and inspirational repertoire to uplift and entertain, with all funds raised going to the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural centre to assist with the Pay the Rent scheme.

Tony Backhouse is widely regarded as the national expert in a cappella production and performance. He founded Australia's foremost a cappella gospel choir Café of the Gate of Salvation in 1986, and directed it for 21 years. He arranged and composed the bulk of their repertoire and still writes music regularly for them.

He founded a cappella choir the Honeybees and has directed and sung with reclusive male a cappella group the Heavenly Light Quartet since 1996.

In demand for his inspiring teaching style, Tony has run more than 2000 vocal workshops throughout the world for the public, for festivals, schools, universities, churches, organisations and corporate training events.



## Jazz and Gumbo with The Magnificence

**Friday 25th May 7.30pm**  
Entry by donation. Kid friendly. BYO.

We are excited to welcome back to The Nimbin Bush Theatre the amazing Magnificence. This band know how to have fun! Enjoy the show on our outdoor stage under the stars as you try our totally yummy in-house Gumbo, (veg and non veg available), and let a little bit of New Orleans enter your life. These events are great family nights, with folk of all ages grooving to the music and children happily enjoying the gardens lit by fairy lights and candles.

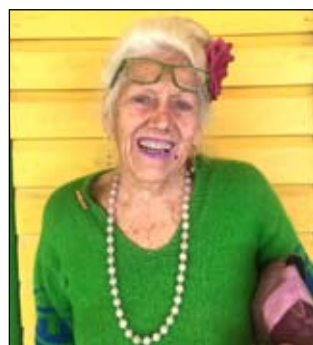
Trumpet player and singer Cam Smith is the band leader of this troupe of enthusiastic fun loving jazz musicians who make up The Magnificence. Playing almost-traditional jazz and New Orleans inspired music for over a decade means these cats create music that is played with so much raw passion and enthusiasm that audiences cannot help but feel uplifted and happy! Watching them play you cannot help but smile and move to the music. New Orleans Jazz is informal

street jazz, it has an anarchistic and defiant essence as it was an outlet for repressed people and its central ingredient is raw and soul-filled improvisation. In the late 19th century New Orleans was dancing to Voodoo rhythms, the blues, gospel and European folk. All of these musical styles informed the evolution of New Orleans jazz. Musicians took the sounds they heard in church and created a new fun and rebellious form of jazz.

This is music for dancing in the streets! Spicy and yummy Gumbo will be on the menu for this special evening celebration of all thing N'awlins. Don't miss this magical night of Jazz under the Stars and let yourself shine!

## Dragathon Cabaret

**Saturday 26th May, 4-10pm**  
Tickets \$40, an 18+ event.  
Starring the legends of Drag – Monique St John, Deanna Blake, Dame Stan Munro with MC the legendary Julie London.



Jazmin Theodora  
AKA Julie London

These globe-trotting international legends of Drag Queen performance will be hosting an evening of fabulous entertainment, as Drag Queens and Drag Kings from all over Australia vie for the prize of Nimbin's inaugural Best Drag Queen or Drag King. Between them they have had a huge impact on the world of drag, having performed in thousands of shows, including the revered Les Girls.

Incorporating traditional Drag Queen performances, this is a cabaret-style event, with the one winner achieving a prize from local fashionista Judy Who plus other great prizes. Expect a world class standard of drag performances, including the traditional lip synch to the stars, a fashion show and hilarious stand up comedy.

Come along and be a part of this exciting event, which will become a regular feature on the Nimbin Bush Theatre's calendar of events. To enter the competition contact Jazmin Theodora on 0427-822-128

## Thor Phillips

**Sunday 27th May 12.30pm**  
Entry by donation. Kid Friendly. BYO.

A professional musician for over 12 years, playing guitar and supporting artists in the blues, rock, country and folk scenes, Thor has recently been stepping into his own force.

His original music draws



inspiration from Blues greats like Robert Johnson and Stevie RayVaughn, and from more contemporary roots artists like John Butler, Jeff Lang and many more. Because of his unique sound, Thor's music refuses to be pigeon-holed; most call him 'Blues and Roots'... but with a nod to folk, a touch of bluegrass and a dusting of country.

What sets Thor apart is his dynamic energy, his confidence with the guitar, his rich voice, and his willingness to be both powerful and vulnerable within the same song.

Thor's audiences, from the small halls on dirt country roads, to the mains stages of city music festivals, connect with his integrity and depth. He makes music which gets straight to the heart, and stays with you long after his guitar strings have stopped humming.

Catch him on the outdoor stage in the gardens for an afternoon of rootsy blues played by a champion!

B	I	N	G	O
74	22	7	25	77

**BINGO EVERY MONDAY 6PM**

*Live Music Thursday to Saturday from 7pm*

## May 2018

THE NIMBIN HOTEL

**MARDI GRASS 2018**

FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> 8PM  
THE 4X4 BAND

SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>  
4PM – FAT ALBERT  
8PM – OCCA ROCK

SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> 4.30PM  
DRIFT

TRIVIA NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>  
Surf Report 7pm

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>  
Rumble Fish 7pm

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sling Shot 7pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>  
Q 7pm

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>  
Mammoth Tooth

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>  
TBA

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>  
Adam Brown 7pm

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Thorazoo 7pm

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>  
TBA

Poker Night Every Tuesday 6pm

POOL COMP 10-WEEK TOURNAMENT PLAYED EVERY SUNDAY 5PM

THE MENDED DRUM BISTRO

SERVING UP GREAT MEALS FROM

11.30AM – 3PM  
5.30PM – 8.30PM

53 Cullen Street Nimbin NSW (02) 66891246





## SOUL'D IN KYOGLE

Kyogle and District Arts Inc. is bringing soul to the town with a performance by SOUL'D at the Kyogle Memorial Hall on Sunday 20th May, kicking off at 2pm.

This amazing big band of musicians from the Northern Rivers is set to entertain with recreated sounds of the golden era of big band music from Soul, Funk, RnB, Blues, Swing and more.

SOUL'D is an 11-piece band with horn section, female and male vocalists and a cooking rhythm section.

Tickets on sale at the door from 1pm, \$20 adult and \$15 under 16 years. Afternoon tea will be provided by donation, thanks to Kyogle & District Arts and the Kyogle Evening branch of the Country Women's Association.

## Mish Songsmith launches fifth album

Local independent songwriter, Mish Songsmith's fifth Album Be Yourself is being released with two fabulous, community-spirited shows.

The first launch is on Saturday 19th May at Club Mullum, supported by Parissa Bouas. The second launch is on Saturday 26th May at The Gollan Hotel Lismore, supported by Essie Thomas. Peter Lehner's 'Northern Rivers Folk Choir' opens the shows at 7pm. Doors open at 6.30pm and kids are free.

Tickets are \$25 at the door, or available online at: [www.mishsongsmith.com](http://www.mishsongsmith.com) for only \$20 (all tickets include a free CD!)

Following the death of her beloved father, 42-year old Mish was moved to leap into the studio and record as many songs as she could. The only time is now, why wait? "Ya gotta live ya life," her father would always say.

Along with the grief of such a great loss, Mish welcomed a feeling of fearlessness, with a number of major life changes occurring simultaneously. Mish found herself homeless, moving around in her van, to then unexpectedly fall in



love with an acquaintance that she'd known for years. This was quickly followed by building a new home together, while also heading into the studio to record 21 of her songs.

Mish sings all the vocals and plays piano, guitar and trumpet on the album. Mish was grateful to have one of Australia's finest guitar players, Julz Parker, from the Hussy Hicks, play on her album that sparkles with love, life and inspiration.

Singer Parissa Bouas said, "I love Mish Songsmith's

new album. Mish adorns her catchy, piano based, heartfelt pop ballads with an authentically beautiful, powerful and soulful voice." "Mish Songsmith's album is like a gathering of old friends who meet to encourage, express gratitude, and remind each other that the world is a joyous place, all the while conversing over cups of tea in backyard garden settings."

– Donna Dyson (APRA-ASA 2016-17 Australian Songwriter of the Year)

Mish's music is very much her own with a unique mixture of genres. Combine Missy Higgins' pop folkiness, Nina Simone's jazzy-ness, KD Lang's classy style, and Ricki Lee Jones' versatility and you're getting close. Mish's heartwarming music bursts with soulful, moving lyrics, having blossomed from a young poet into a captivating and uplifting songwriter.

Mish has won a handful of awards including two Dolphin Awards and an ABC North Coast Songwriters Award, and has played hundreds of venues and festivals over the past 15 years. On that list is Woodford Folk

## Diana Anaid 'My Queen' album launch



Text and pic by Melissa Williamson

Local singer/songwriter Diana Anaid held her latest album launch at the Bush Theatre in front of a large, predominantly local, crowd.

She lived up to her rock n' roll queen status, belting out songs from her new album to an enthusiastic crowd, plus of course playing some of her older hits that first garnered her attention and acclaim some 20 years ago.

Former local, Essie Thomas supported in very fine fashion, and also gathered herself some new fans.

Diana is currently on an East Coast tour promoting her new album, if you missed her in her hometown.

Festival, Palm Creek Folk Festival, GIRLFEST 2009, Gold Coast Gay Day 2010, Nimbin MardiGrass, Lismore Lantern Festival 2017 and Lismore Women's Festival, 2018.

Mish is thrilled to share her music with you, and is excited to be surrounded by a band of talented musicians, who are playing alongside her for both launch shows. Go to: [www.mishsongsmith.com/music](http://www.mishsongsmith.com/music) to hear and buy her music. You can Follow and 'Like' her on: [www.facebook.com/mish.songsmithmusic](http://www.facebook.com/mish.songsmithmusic) and at her Instagram site 'mish\_songsmith'.

BYO 2 Blue Knob Rd, Nimbin

Café open from 9am every day + Friday Nights & Special Events

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

**+ CAFÉ OPEN FRIDAY NIGHTS & FOR ... SPECIAL EVENTS:**

FRI 4 - SUN 6 MAY	*Mardi Grass*	
Fri 2.20pm	CYPHER SESSIONS	FREE
Sat 12.30-7pm	OPEN STAGE	FREE
Sat 7pm	Hip Hop Fest	TLE CREW [BRIZ]
ALL AGES		\$15 OR WRISTBAND
Sun 9-10.30am	SONIC BLISS	FREE
Sun 11am-9pm	OPEN STAGE	FREE
WED 9 MAY	Benefit Night	BACKHOUSE & THE BACKROADERS
6pm		Tony Backhouse directs a 55-strong gospel choir
\$10		
FRI 11 MAY	Movie Night	THEORY of EVERYTHING
7.30pm		Stephen Hawking bio
\$10 PG		
SAT 12 MAY	Monthly Seminar	CRYPTOCURRENCIES
11am		Discuss Bitcoin & more - All levels welcome
FREE		
+ also @ 11am EVERY WEDNESDAY		
SUN 13 MAY	Mothers' Day	DORIAN DOWSE QUARTET
12.30pm		Cruisy jazz w/ Briz male vocalist
FREE		
FRI 18 MAY	Movie Night	SWINGING SAFARI
7.30pm		Raunchy '70's - Oz-style
\$10 M		
FRI 25 MAY	Jazz & Gumbo	Under the Stars
7pm		THE MAGNIFICENCE
DONATION		New style trad jazz
SAT 26 MAY	Glamorous Cabaret	DRAG-A-THON 2018
4pm - 10pm		Lip-Sync to the Stars
MA/18+		judged by legends of drag + Standup comedy & Fashion Show - TO ENTER SEE WEBSITE
FRI 1 JUNE	Movie Night	The NAMATJIRA PROJECT
7.30pm		Can justice be restored?
\$10 M		
SAT 2 JUNE	Monthly Seminar	CRYPTOCURRENCIES
11am		Discuss Bitcoin & more
FREE		

**COMING UP!**  
 JUNE - Sebastian Winter - Piano maestro  
 AUG/SEPT - Battle of the Bands  
 SEPT - Nimbin Roots Festival

**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 May?

- Sunday 6th – Visiting Club: Tweed Heads
- Sunday 20th – Northern Rivers Fishing Club
- Sunday 3rd June – Burleigh Camels
- Social Bowls – Sundays 9am
- Courtesy Bus – Enquire at Bar
- Membership – \$5 Social

**KENO** First-timers and novice bowlers welcome

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

- Friday 4th, 6pm Rob Cass
- Friday 11th, 6pm Srah Stando
- Friday 18th, 6pm Freowin Harper
- Friday 25th, 6pm Sayad Duo
- Open Mike – Weds 9th & 23rd

**Lunch & Dinner Wed – Sat**  
**Sunday lunch specials**  
 Catering for functions of all budgets and tastes