

## Nimbin Roots Fest

Well, it was great to see Nimbin so vibrant on a Saturday when I went in to check out the Roots Festival.

I was a bit disappointed that minimum was a day pass, but with the way the acts and venues are structured I can see why, and will plan better next year.

Much to my pleasure were the local musicians playing in Allsopp Park, donating their time and collecting for the local RFS.

How great it is to have such talented musos amongst our community and with such a sense of community too.

They would have easily held their own with the best of the artists on that weekend.

Thanks to you all!

Stan Palmer  
Nimbin

## Lambs to the slaughter

New laws banning the hosting on the internet of violent content, like the Christchurch mosque event, are mostly designed to prevent cluey and experienced sleuths from ripping the official narrative to shreds in no time.

We are expected to believe that the system that tells us that 911 was a bunch of goat herders, somehow turning buildings into dust, can be trusted with these matters.

We are expected to not know about the drills and exercises that take place for just the same thing, and just the same place, like the RACS Medical Conference in Hobart that finished up its drills on terror event trauma (on a Sunday) 30 minutes before the Port Arthur event, and whose staff attended to the injured.

In the absence of the evidence to decide for ourselves, I will have to assume that most of these events, maybe all, are staged, with or without real victims, by the wolves that have the power to pull the wool over our eyes and expect us to go like lambs to the slaughter.

If I hear of any of these drills happening near me, I will run far away in the opposite direction. Violent crisis? That is how they run the whole show, as this guy knows: <http://milesmathis.com/xchurch.pdf>

Peter Godden  
Nimbin

## National Parks neglect

I took a couple of women friends to Protesters Falls yesterday for lunch and healing. As we walked the path we noticed a lot of fallen trees, palms and combustible dry palm leaves were in many places along the walk to the falls.

It was very disappointing to see this lack of maintenance in the forests our community saved back in 79' - 82'. It

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.

looks like a war zone in some places, unrecognisable from what I remember in the 80's. The wooden walkway for the disabled and elderly was still caved in, in the same place I saw two years ago, and hazardous to avoid.

Just recently, we celebrated the Terania Creek protest, but just thinking of the sight of what I saw yesterday, makes it all a bit unreal.

I rang NP&W today and received the expected reply. They've had their funding cut, were currently attending fires and had their staff cut by half thanks to the anti-environment government we have.

Sophia Hoeben  
Nimbin

## 5G issues

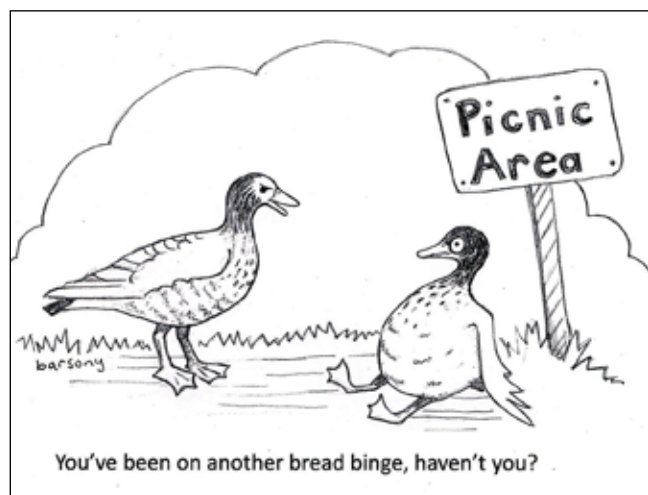
Bravo Alan Roberts (NGT Sept 19). Once again I enjoyed the fireworks as your massive linear brain took on three opponents at once and brought them all down in flames. Spectacular!

Unfortunately, your final, slightly smug sentence irked me and after a day or two of muttering, has forced me to put finger to keyboard. Did you miss anything? Well, in my humble opinion, the point.

Reading your letter reminded me of the story of the three blind men and the elephant. Each one could only feel a small part of the beast and couldn't describe the whole. Meanwhile, a fourth blind man (that's you Al) has a highly detailed model elephant in his hands and is busily correcting the other three without ever coming to grips with the fundamental problem – why is this bloody elephant in the room? Who left the ion gate open?

Because as I see it, the greatest danger from 5G is how it aids the escalating dissociation between humans and their planet. We both know that all that extra speed and bandwidth will be utilised to stream HD VR first-person shoot-em-ups, fully-tactile porn and personally immersive advertising while still leaving enough for the government to add sound and vision to the positional data they already collect from us.

Just imagine gangs of mainly young men roaming our streets, heads encased in VR helmets, e-weapons clutched in their sweaty hands,



playing World of Warcraft or something similar. Eww.

And before I go, just a couple of corrections. It's ~50 lightning strikes / sec. globally, not 200. There are a number of Schumann resonances; 7.83Hz simply being the fundamental, with the rest, like harmonics, filling that spectral band between 2Hz and 100Hz. Just like our brain.

Conceit? Nah, just what it is. And I haven't even mentioned how 5G = more new smart phones = increased child slavery in rare-earth mines = mountains of e-waste...

I know, I've missed lots. Maybe next time.

Bob Tissott  
Lillian Rock

## 5G EMR dangers

Really Alan Roberts (NGT Sept 19), you haven't even read the Bioinitiative Report comprising 1800 independent, peer-reviewed studies making a case for biologically based exposure standards for low intensity electromagnetic radiation (EMR) including 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G and beyond? (See: [www.bioinitiative.org/conclusions](http://www.bioinitiative.org/conclusions))

These studies report gene abnormality, single and double-strand DNA damage, stress proteins, melatonin reduction (increased risk of Alzheimers), free radical scavenger reduction, neurotoxicity, carcinogenicity, sperm motility and morphology (leading to fertility and reproduction issues), etc. Symptoms include headaches, insomnia, depression, poor memory and concentration, hyperactivity, learning disorders, behavioural problems.

A single two-hour exposure to cell phone radiation can result in increased leakage of the blood brain barrier (BBB) and 50 days after exposure, neuronal damage. The levels of radio frequency radiation (RFR) needed to affect the BBB have been shown to be as low as 0.001 W/kg, or less than holding a mobile phone at arm's length. The US FCC standard is 1.6 W/kg; the ICNIRP standard is 2 W/kg of energy (SAR) into brain tissue from cell/cordless phone use.

Bioeffects occur within minutes at very low levels of

exposure to EMR and RFR from cell phones, wifi, towers, ipads, wireless devices, smart meters etc. BBB effects occur at about 1000 times lower RFR exposure levels than Australian and ICNIRP limits allow.

Public safety standards are 1,000 – 10,000 times higher than levels commonly reported in mobile phone base station studies to cause bioeffects. If you have a RF meter that means effects are established at 0.000001 V/m (or  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ). That doesn't even show on my meter!

Epidemiological studies show a consistent pattern of increased risk of glioma and acoustic neuroma (brain cancers) associated with use of mobile phones and cordless phones. The list goes on.

Alan claims to 'show' 5G to be incapable of breaking DNA bonds, but the website he refers to does not show any such study. If he indeed wrote a study, is it published in a peer reviewed journal?

He says he does not promote 5G while happily pronouncing that it is safe! Clearly he is ignorant if he thinks our right to privacy will not be considerably less with 5G surveillance.

Re 'energy resonance' he should watch 'Resonance – Beings of Frequency' on youtube. That video also shows how insects are repelled by RF EMR.

Super-intelligent Alan claims to be far above the likes of Professor Emeritus Martin Pall who said, "Putting in tens of millions of 5G antennae without a single biological test of safety has got to be about the stupidest idea anyone has had in the history of the world."

Perhaps Alan disagrees? In a display of unbelievable arrogance, he implies Dr Pall is a scammer who lacks a basic understanding of Quantum Physics and arithmetic.

Apparently Alan is too lazy to look for evidence of millions of trees felled to make way for 5G, so here it is: <https://tinyurl.com/5G-FellTrees>

Finally, 5G is millimeter wave which was invented for military use i.e. Active Denial Systems for crowd dispersal so they already know it is not safe and in fact way

# Notices

## Annual General Meetings

- Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group AGM, Friday 25th October, 11am at Nimbin Community Centre grounds. New members welcome.
- Nimbin Independent Media AGM, Thursday 14th November, 5.30pm in Community School Room in the Community Centre. All welcome.
- Nimbin Hemp Embassy AGM, 11am on Saturday 16th November 2019 at Nimbin Town Hall, 45 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Nominations for an elected position must be received by the president at least one week before the meeting.
- MardiGrass Organising Body AGM, 12pm on Saturday 16th November 2019 at the Nimbin Town Hall, 45 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Nominations for an elected position must be received by the president at least one week before the meeting.
- Australian HEMP Party AGM, 2pm on Saturday 16th November 2019 at the Nimbin Town Hall, 45 Cullen Street, Nimbin. Nominations for an elected position must be received by the president at least one week before the meeting.
- Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc AGM, Wednesday 19th November, 2019, 4-6pm at Bottlebrush Studio (rainbow building opposite Oasis Café). A celebration will be held after the AGM. Become a member for only \$3 and support this vibrant community organisation. RSVP 6689-1709 or call in and see us.

## 2020 Summerland Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Competition

Auspiced by the Kyogle Tidy Towns Committee, an initiative is an inaugural Art Competition – a Still Life painting featuring a pumpkin as the main subject of the work. Entry forms are available from Kyogle Art Gallery, Gateway Office Supplies or Kyogle Farmers Market and must be submitted by 31st October.

The completed artwork is to be brought to the old IGA building or Gateway Office Supplies in Summerland Way by 3pm, 31st December. Works will be displayed in the old IGA building for the month of January.

The competition is organised in two classes – Junior school age: prizemoney \$250; Senior 19 years+: prizemoney \$500. Further information phone R Dwyer 6632-3352 or Joan Hayman 6633-9143.

more dangerous than current generations.

Yes Alan, you have missed a lot and no you have not cleared any confusion on 5G, only added to it. Time to come out of fairyland into the real world before it vanishes into an electromagnetic armageddon.

Menkit Prince  
Uki

## Political dinosaurs

I've had eight decades plus of polity watching. Hitler and Stalin were real-time villains in my life; Donald Trump and Boris Johnson are present-time scoundrels.

Australia's Scott Morrison, Canada's Justin Trudeau, Russia's Vladimir Putin, France's Emmanuel Macron, Phillipines' Rodrigo Duterte... the full list of current corrupt political leaders needs too much space... each one of these abhorrences is or was elected by consensus.

Each one represents or represented the dominant mass of people in their nation. Each one is or has been supported by a significant political party.

Morrison and Trump, with their predilections for untruth, are merely

representatives, just salesmen – why they are spokespersons is a fascinating conundrum. Understanding, rather than documenting, the wrongs they do is vitally important; discernment is the only way we'll change their/our behaviour.

I say 'our' because they are us – we cede them the power they have, and they speak for us. How politicians behave is all too human, primal, primitive, as ape-like as we, all of us, are.

I'm reminded of Alvin Toffler, who described with great insight the conflicts in society that happen when change befalls and change is denied. Toffler argues it is change that engenders social confusion and the breaking down of *comme il faut* decision-making processes.

My eight decades plus of polity watching lead me to believe he is right.

I am convinced dinosaurs are not extinct but have simply changed their form: they have become conservative politicians, attempting to retain what is old and believed safe (changeless), struggling to abnegate what is new and progressive (change embracing).

The contrast between the



## About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley  
Assistant editor Sue Stock  
Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley

Photographers Sue Stock, Bob Dooley, Omega Breakspear  
Distribution Peter, Coralie, Sue, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Daniel, Dominique, Aengus, Rosie, Trevor and Dave, and Soul Kindle (Bellingen)

*The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.*

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson  
Web [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)  
And find us on Facebook

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

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**Wednesday 23rd October**

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

shenanigans of Trump and Morrison and the passions of Thunberg and Attenborough are stark – one senses, with horror, it is the wrestling of life and death.

Michael Brooke  
Kyogle

### "Re-tram-ing...."

Once upon a time, many years go, the public caravan park on the edge of the beach at Goolwa, on the mouth of the Murray River, had available for rent, a number of de-commissioned "drop-centre" trams as well as caravans.

The trams, as their name suggested, had a lower level section in the middle protected from the weather only by pull-down canvas blinds. At each end of the tram, behind the enclosed driver's cab, was a raised and enclosed section with bench seats running the length of each side.

The seats had been removed from the central section and replaced with a sink, bottled gas stove, wooden table and two benches.

The long seats down each side of the glazed and enclosed end sections were long enough for three people to sleep, head-to-foot, on each side.

People who wanted to "cuddle-up-a-bit-closer", had to make other arrangements.

The caravan park also offered for hire, de-commissioned VW beetles, with no roof or doors and roll-over bars, as beach buggies.

...Aaaahhh... the long-gone days of our youth!

Peter Leith.  
Bogangar

### Rubbish poetry decision

I have been in the audience at the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup for years, and it is true to say that over this time the standard of poetry and performance has stepped up, with increasingly outstanding poems performed.

This year was no exception in this, nor was it an exception in the usual inclusion of lesser works.

Unfortunately for the audience of Heat 2, we

were subjected to a poet who shouted so loudly and relentlessly and in such a badly done American accent that we could not understand most of what he was saying for his eight-minute slot.

Sitting up the back, some people had their hands over their ears, and speaking after the session, people thought the level of yelling pointless in the performance, especially as it rendered the poems substantially incomprehensible.

Personally, in addition to these appraisals, I thought this concentrated bombardment was a sign that this person did not have a basic understanding of adapting performance to space and equipment, nor a sense of the attentive, appreciative audience he shouted senselessly to, nor awareness that society is by and large fatigued by the broader barrage of shouting men.

Yet amazingly he got through to the semi, and god knows why, got through to the final, and outrageously, won the cup.

A number of poetic, artful, far more skilful poets and poems were passed by, and this shouting poet rewarded for his abrasive, tacky, over-confident delivery of spoken word that was mostly unintelligible.

WTF judges, please explain this alarming outcome. Seriously, please explain your solidly rubbish decision.

In anticipation of your reply,

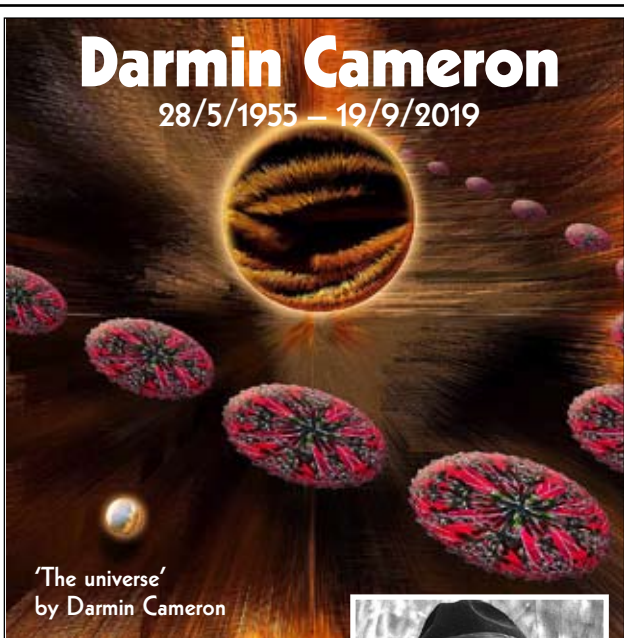
Sarah Whitehall  
Byron Bay

### Thought I'd seen it all

My adult son and I live on a very isolated property surrounded by bush.

At around 5.30am we were woken by the dogs barking. My son got up and saw a man in army uniform cut the chain on the gate and run back into the bush. I heard my son call out and ran outside.

There were maybe 10 to 15 men in army uniforms with masks on their faces, all had guns. They had my son on the ground yelling get on the ground, stay down. One guy had his boot on the back of



'The universe'  
by Darmin Cameron



A very sad time, hearing the passing of Darmin Cameron. He truly was iconic in the art world.

Each year Darmin would enter in the Bentley Art Prize and each year he would take out a major prize.

At the 2019 Bentley Art Prize his entry "If I could turn back time" received a HC.

On behalf of the Hall Committee from the Bentley Art Prize I would like to pass on our deepest sympathy to his family. He will be sorely missed. RIP Darmin.

Helen Trustum

Co-ordinator Bentley Art Prize

### Darmin Cameron celebration and memorial

Billen Cliffs Hall, Larnook, Saturday 5th October.  
Arrive 1.30pm, Ceremony 2pm till 5pm. Sharing food and stories afterwards. Children welcome.  
Please RSVP to [paris.naday@gmail.com](mailto:paris.naday@gmail.com)

my son's neck and has guns pointed directly at him.

As I came out of the house they started yelling at me to get on the ground, stay there and then a heap of the masked guys started yelling put your hands up.

I immediately asked who they were and what did they want. Their response was just stay there, don't move. Is anyone else on the premises.

My son and I continued to ask who they were and what did they want.

The masked men just kept saying stay on the ground, don't move.

Several masked men checked all dwellings and sheds with guns pointed with the red dot. While four or five stood around my son making childish comments. This whole incident went on for 15 minutes or more.

We thought we were being home invaded. At no time did these men identify themselves. My son asked if they were the police and was he under arrest again. No response.

My son and I were held hostage at gun point and terrorised. My youngest son and I have no dealings with criminal activity or illicit drugs. We only leave our property for supplies.

So the first wave of men in army uniforms came in three to four vehicles with dogs.

Eventually came 10 or more police in uniform. Maybe six

or more police vehicles. An officer with a drone, then another officer with two more dogs. A search was conducted which turned up nothing.

How much taxpayer's money was spent? Shame on the NSW police and shame on the laws of our country.

Apparently the police are allowed this behaviour. Their mothers must be so proud.

Lesley (surname withheld)  
Drake

### Grow native plants

It takes relatively little water to establish native plants in your garden if you bury plant pots in your garden and bucket or hose water into them.

Some take a long time to establish, but my garden is always full of native birds, flying foxes, native bees and other native insects which pollinate the plants.

As well, my garden supplies oxygen for at least two other houses, and is a haven for birds which fled the recent bush fires and may go back if the forest recovers.

You can also hose your car and boat on the lawn and use clothes washing water to flush your toilet and rinsing water to water your lawn.

You can buy native plants at the Benowa Botanic Gardens or in the native plant section of plant nurseries and enjoy our wildlife.

A Sutherland  
Robina

Water is life...

**NIMBIN WATER BEARERS**

Bulk water cartage to  
Nimbin & surrounding areas.  
Fresh, drinkable water  
delivered to your tank.  
**0491 700 105**  
[nimbinwaterbearers@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinwaterbearers@gmail.com)

**KAMBO CEREMONY**  
Sacred Frog Circle

FOCUS  
DETOX  
RESET

Dharma Centre, Lillfield  
Oct 13th & Nov 17th  
INFO: [KAMBOCEREMONY@GMX.COM](mailto:KAMBOCEREMONY@GMX.COM)

## POSITION AVAILABLE



**ELECTRICIAN  
SOLAR  
INSTALLER**

Rainbow Power Company has been a leader in the renewable energy sector for over 30 years.

We are seeking an experienced electrician to join our installations team.

- Use your electrical licence to install renewable energy systems
- Full Time, Part Time or Casual roles
- Join a supportive, experienced team
- Nimbin location

For full details and application information:  
[www.rpc.com.au/positions-vacant](http://www.rpc.com.au/positions-vacant)

Please share this information with your family, friends, community and networks.

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](mailto:nimbin@lismore.nsw.gov.au)  
[visitnimbin.com.au](http://visitnimbin.com.au)



**TRIBAL MAGIC**  
Alternative Department Store  
**NEW STOCK ARRIVING ALL THE TIME**



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

**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**



**HAPPY HIGH HERBS**  
NIMBIN

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN NIMBIN

[www.happyhighherbsnimbin.com](http://www.happyhighherbsnimbin.com)



**DR TRAY**  
CRANE TRUCK  
UTE & TRAILER

Est. 2019

**1300 DR TRAY**



**– 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




**TERETRE Cabins – NIMBIN**

Four cozy 1 bedroom timber cabins nestled on 33 acres of natural bushland with abundant wildlife, within easy walking distance of local restaurants and shops. Pet friendly, free wifi and air-conditioned. Overnight or weekly. Wheelchair Access.

5 High St, Nimbin, 2480 Australia  
Ph: (02) 6689 1908 Mob: 0427 891 626  
Email: [info@teretre.com.au](mailto:info@teretre.com.au) Website: [www.teretre.com.au](http://www.teretre.com.au)



# Remembering our rainforest warriors

by Janelle Saffin  
Member for Lismore

This year marks 40 years since the historic rainforest logging blockades and protest action at Terania Creek which led to the creation of the World Heritage-listed Nightcap National Park.

The protests at Terania Creek in 1979 and at Mount Nardi in 1982 rank as one of the great environmental awakenings, but the great gain of the National Park was not achieved without some pain on both sides of that epic battle.

To ensure that the stories of our early rainforest warriors are not lost with the passage of time, a new children's book, *The First Rainforest Warriors Terania Australia*, has been published.

This educational story book was written by retired teacher Trevor Reece and illustrated by local artist Jacque Marks with archival black and white photographs from the time by David Kemp.

I was glad to recently mark the occasion with the Richmond-Tweed regional public libraries during a book hand-over at the Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc/Mullumbimby Museum in Mullumbimby.

David Lees, who is President of the North Coast Public Primary Schools Principals Association, has been involved in this project.

I'm sure *The First Rainforest Warriors, Terania Australia* will become a valuable resource for teachers and



Valuable resource: Lismore MP Janelle Saffin with a certificate of appreciation for her book support.

students for local history and environmental studies.

I also spoke at the Terania Anniversary Day at the Channon Markets on 11th August, and earlier this year viewed *The Quad's* exhibition, *The Terania Creek Protest: David Kemp, Michael Murphy, Hugh Nicholson, Paul Tait and Jeni Kendall*.

## Stay safe this summer

I urge everyone to be prepared for the bushfire season, which has come early this year.

The recent major bushfires south of Tenterfield (Mount Mackenzie Road) and

between Drake and Tabulam (Long Gully Road) have had a devastating impact on those communities.

I am doing my best to support and represent my constituents in Tenterfield Shire as these resilient communities recover from natural disaster.

I cannot speak highly enough of our fireys and all of our emergency services – on the ground and in the air – who swung into action to keep people safe from harm and to protect as many properties, livestock and pets as they could.

In Parliament, I have been lobbying NSW Emergency

Services Minister David Elliott on a range of issues raised by constituents in the wake of these fires and those experienced in Tabulam and Wallangarra in February this year.

I lodged a notice of motion that the Lower House:

1. Congratulate the huge effort of volunteer firefighters, all other volunteers and all emergency services personnel regarding the September bushfires raging across New South Wales;
2. Notes the early onset and nature of these bushfires;
3. Notes the issue concerning water availability as it relates to the bushfires;
4. Notes the need to hear from those with expertise in preparedness, prevention and adaptation, so that agencies and authorities who manage land and local communities can make sure best practice adaptive plans exist to protect land holdings on properties.

Nimbin district residents, particularly those living on multiple occupancies or rural land sharing communities, might have bushfire prevention and evacuation plans in place, but if not, review your preparedness.

The NSW Rural Fire Service's website: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) has a wealth of useful information, and its app *Fires Near Me* allows people to keep an eye on fires which may be burning across the Lismore City LGA.

The RFS also recommends listening to ABC North Coast radio (94.5FM) for updates on the fire situation locally, regionally and statewide.

# Greens to introduce pill testing Bill

Greens MP and spokesperson for Drug Law Reform and Harm Reduction, Cate Faehrmann gave notice on 26th September to introduce a bill that would allow pill testing at music festivals and at fixed sites in the community.

Service providers would also be required to provide drug counselling to those who use the service.

"This bill will provide pill testing and drug counselling services in an effort to save lives. This is exactly what an increasing number of experts are urging the Berejiklian Government to do before the summer festival season begins," said Ms Faehrmann.

"I know the Premier likes to think that 'just say no' when it comes to drugs works, but it doesn't and it never will. So it's up to decision makers to put in place measures to reduce any harm associated with taking illegal drugs.

"Pill testing has been a success in the ACT where there have been no deaths at music festivals where pill testing has been provided and drugs with unsafe substances have been thrown away.

"Heavy-handed policing is not going to keep young people at music festivals safe this summer. Pill testing works, and it's time the Premier had the courage to acknowledge that. If they won't act



before this summer, then I'm hoping the Parliament will," said Ms Faehrmann.

Under the plan, organisations will be able to apply for a licence to conduct pill testing services either at a mobile site (music festivals and other events) or at a fixed site in the community.

• Licence applications will be determined by the secretary of the

health department;

- Drug counselling will be provided as part of any pill testing service, counselling will be tailored for each individual based on the substances present in the pill they have brought in;
- A review of the effectiveness of the pill testing trial will be undertaken after two years.



# The drought and biodiversity management

I'm writing this in the town hall in Baradine, I'm away for a couple of weeks working on a few projects with LightnUp and getting back to my community theatre roots.

This week I'm part of the Moorambilla Voices project, an incredible project that brings professional musicians and composers together with country kids to create new work and perform it as part of a world class ensemble featuring around 350 kids.

These kids come from all over, from Lightning Ridge to Walgett to Gunnedah and everywhere in between. It's an inspiring project to be part of, as it's clear how meaningful the experience is for the kids, and for their families. Especially now, during the drought, I can see that these communities really value a project that inspires and helps them to connect with each other.

We see the photos and we think we understand what it is like for these communities, but we don't really. It is so incredibly dry, and I have a constant discomfort and awareness of the dryness in the environment that doesn't go away. I don't pretend to have any real understanding of what it is like to live here just by being here for a week, I can only witness, empathise, and contemplate what it must be like to live here.

Mostly I am full of admiration and respect for these kids and their families. I respect their endurance as the massive trucks laden with feed thunder through town, and tractors and farm vehicles drive by carting water.

The man at the hardware store asked us if we brought any rain with us, as he showed us a video of a huge fish they caught (and released) last week. He told us that there are still some cod in his local waterhole but he's not sure what will happen to them if the rains still don't come.

"We have to save them," he said. "we just have to."

It's heart-breaking stuff, and I really hope it rains soon because it's very bad out here and the people, the animals and the environment are suffering.

Before I left I was lucky enough to do a day of training with Tarwyn Park Training, where I was introduced to the principles of Natural Sequence Farming. With that learning fresh in my mind as we drove out of Lismore and travelled further west, all I could see the whole way was a degraded landscape that desperately needs repair.

It opened my eyes to a whole new way of looking at our landscapes and deepened my understanding of the scale of the problems we are facing.

But we must remain hopeful,

## Word of the Bird by Cr Elly Bird

and in the midst of all this we are lucky to have some real leaders in environmental repair amongst us, people who are doing incredibly important work to retain and restore biodiversity across our region.

I was privileged enough to witness a small portion of their work at the recent Biodiversity awards. The biennial event is part of Lismore City Council's Biodiversity Management Strategy and provides the opportunity to recognise and reward people in the community who are acting to increase and protect local biodiversity, catchment health and demonstrate sustainable agriculture.

I was seriously impressed by the cumulative effort of all of the groups and individuals that were represented on the night. There is so much work being done across our region to protect and restore biodiversity, and our Biodiversity Management Strategy is a fantastic program that is helping our community to do that work.

I have a new found respect and admiration for anyone who is working in this space. The rewards for our whole community are immeasurable, so if you are engaged in that work, thank you.



Dr Leigh Davison (centre) winner of the North Coast Local Land Services Rural Landholder Award, with Award Sponsor Ella Rasmussen from NCLLS (left) and Cr Bird.

## Village focus at Lismore Council

It's a privilege to have been elected Deputy Mayor to represent our community at Council, and I want to thank the many people who have congratulated me on this appointment.

I see the role as allowing me to be more visible and available to the community; to people who want someone to listen to their concerns, and someone to be their voice at Council.

I am one of only two Councillors who live outside the Lismore / Goonellabah urban area. I live in Dorroughby, where I have been for nearly 40 years.

I have a small property with my partner, where we have slowly removed lantana and camphor and other weeds and rejoice to see the rainforest regenerating and growing.

I know many rural people feel that their voices are not heard in Lismore and that many of Council's decisions are very Lismore urban area focused.

While this can be true – money will be allocated where there is greatest demand – I try to get out and about to our villages to find out first-hand the issues and concerns in those village and farming communities.

### Nimbin matters

At Council in September, we voted unanimously to approve the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce's proposals for funds to complete a number of projects in the village.

These projects include the Buy Local campaign, the Rainbow Cafe mural, sponsorship of the Poetry Cup and the Roots Festival and the restoration of the Welcome sign at Mulgum Creek bridge.

These monies are raised from a levy on Nimbin businesses and are spent entirely on projects to benefit and promote the village, encourage residents to support their local businesses, and to enhance the experiences of visitors to the village.



by Darlene Cook, Deputy Mayor, Lismore City Council

information and produce stalls – something for everyone!

I personally love the small Shows like Nimbin – it's a more intimate and friendly environment than the crowded big city shows.

### Special Rate Levy

The big item affecting all ratepayers is Lismore Council's recent consultation on a proposal to introduce a special rate levy to fund additional road works and increase economic development activities.

Like almost every Council in NSW, Lismore is struggling to balance community expectations for services with the current level of funding available. Costs rise each year faster than CPI and the State Government continues to ask more and more of local government while capping rate increases to an average of 2.5% annually.

The reality is that Council cannot continue to provide its current level of services without increased revenue.

There have been many information kiosks held at local markets, in CBD, in libraries, as well as an online survey and a telephone survey to get the information out and to allow input from as many people as possible.

I attended the ones in Nimbin CBD and the Show and listened to the feedback from many people; everyone is concerned about the already high cost of living and the difficulty of affording increased rates. At the same time most wanted improvements to the roads and more investments in our town and villages.

The results of the consultations will be presented to Council on 5th November and a vote on whether to proceed with an application for the SRV will be held at the Council meeting on 12th November.

I can be contacted at: [darlene.cook@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:darlene.cook@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or on 0427-895-316.



by Kevin Hogan MP  
Member for Page

As Deputy Speaker, I led an Australian Delegation to the 40th ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly in Bangkok recently (pictured).

Australia's two-way trade is now \$225 billion per year with ASEAN countries. Our own region exports beef, macadamias, education, blueberries and more to this important part of the world.

It was an honour to represent our wonderful country at this assembly.

### Sex offender laws

In Parliament, we are introducing legislation for mandatory jail time for child sex offenders.

28% of child sex offenders convicted in

2018-19 did not spend one day in jail. This is not OK.

This means a jail term becomes the starting point for all child sex offenders.

Maximum penalties will also be increased, including a new life term for the worst offenders.

Police received almost 18,000 reports of child exploitation involving Australian children or Australian child sex offenders last year.

### Nimbin Country Show

The 100th Nimbin Show was held recently. It was great to see Jean Stephens officially open the show by cutting the cake.

Congratulations and thank you to President Phillip Williams and the entire Nimbin A&I Society committee.



# We are leaving the children of the world with such a heavy load

by Bernadine Schwartz

There was a time when I could simply enjoy my garden and watch it flourish and keeping up with the lawn through summer was always a never ending job, but how I wish I was starting up the ride on. It feels like a distant memory, that lovely sound of rain on the roof and no matter how much I hope and pray, those times are gone and I can never bring them back.

Nothing is what it should be anymore, there's no significant rain in sight again, not a drop, smoky conditions all around and I find myself counting my blessings when I get through another day unscathed. This isn't how I want to live my life and I certainly don't want our children to live this way but this is it, this is the world we now have to live in and if we continue on this crazy path of self destruction, it will be here for thousands of thousands of years to come and there will be no survivors.

In April this year the most comprehensive analysis of the world's future climate was undertaken, for the UN's 2021 assessment, using forty different models with a host of improvements, including eddies in our oceans and the heat carried by the Gulf Stream.

They were created by leading centres in the UK,

Canada and France, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in the US, the birthplace of climate modelling. Every single model showed an undeniable trend of the planet running much hotter compared to previous models, that have always given consistent predictions of 2°C to 4.5°C.

These new models are showing an increase in the high 5c's, which initially left scientists baffled but after the summer the northern hemisphere just experienced, where close to 9,000 weather stations recorded temperatures never experienced before, it's probably confirmation enough that the new models are correct.

If this is the case, we have very little time left, if any and extreme conditions will only intensify throughout summer and winter as each year passes.

Scientists already believe crossing 2°C is a threshold too dangerous to cross and this is why staying below this figure has become a matter of life or death. And yet, here we are heading towards more than double that number and the sun comes up and the sun goes down and it's another day wasted.

Our scientists developed these models for a purpose, to help the world understand global warming and devise the most effective strategy to



tackle this planetary problem ASAP but that's not what we got. Instead politicians and dignitaries every few years, flew from all corners of the world, where they stayed in the most luxurious hotels, wine and dined on the finest cuisine and discussed the destiny of the world.

Then they had the audacity to construct a timetable to suit themselves and as usual, society never appeared to be overly concerned, and left the door wide open for governments to continue doing basically nothing.

Now we have summers that aren't becoming deadly, they are deadly, and all over the world, droughts and no rain in sight, are having a profound impact on ecosystems, that is quickly leading to their collapse, especially when conditions persist year after year.

Our planet is on fire, our oceans have now absorbed

93% of greenhouse gas emissions and baseline ocean temperatures are rising so fast that scientists are finding it near impossible to keep up with the measurements and the net result is, it has left marine life struggling to survive, from blue whales to our tiny plankton.

There's either insufficient food supplies or alarming levels of neurotoxins found in the food chain, caused by algae blooms, that has left sea lion and walrus pups stranded in their thousands on the shores of California and Alaska, starving, sick or dying. Entire populations of songbird chicks in many areas throughout Europe, died of starvation because their parents couldn't hunt for food in the oppressive heat.

Millions upon millions of trees across Europe are ablaze or battling to survive the infestation of pests that are slowly killing them. Young

salmon entering oceans that are empty of food, emaciated polar bears straying 100's of kilometres from home going through garbage bins in search of food and the unique Galapagos Islands, the home of evolution theory and the only location on Earth, where penguins and pink flamingos feed side by side, is under attack from warming oceans.

We have lost 41% of our insects globally in the last decade, with a total mass of 2.5% lost annually and in the Rocky Mountains rain samples taken at their highest altitude contained microscopic pieces of plastic. Nothing on Earth has been left untouched, not a thing.

How does society manage to live with itself, being responsible for all these innocent victims of global warming?

I'm tired of being diplomatic and choosing my words carefully, it's time to call a spade a spade. Our planet is struggling to live and despite all the ominous signs, planes are still flying overhead and they're definitely not empty and people are still sitting back relaxing in cafes after shopping to their hearts' content.

I've been patiently waiting for decades, for someone or something but the tide just never turned and no matter how much I tried to do my bit over the years it was never going to be anywhere near enough and now I think it's far too late.

Why is it that Greta Thunberg refuses to fly, and travelled in a solar powered boat from England to New York to attend the UN climate summit? She knows that if she has any chance of growing old she HAS to live within the means of Mother Earth. Our children have no preconceptions or any restraints, when thinking of global warming and what needs to be done, their clarity is crystal clear.

Madeline Graham is a teenager climate activist from Maryland and it pulls at my heart-strings when reading her words; 'I'm living in a dystopian novel, to grow up seeing the world fall apart around you and knowing it's going to be the fight of your life to make people stop. Fear is a commodity we don't have time for if we're going to win this fight.'

I have scratched my head so many times, wondering why it is that society has done so very little. My only conclusion is, many selfishly thought they would be safe in their own lifetime and never saw the need to make any adjustments to their lifestyles or urgently act. Well sorry to disappoint you, but it's here and there's no escaping!

So on behalf of all the innocent children, newborn babies and babies to come and species that are now extinct or on the brink of extinction, WTF do you think you're doing? Can't you see, enough is enough!

## Solar makes economic sense, too

by Paul O'Reilly,  
Rainbow Power Company

Last month's student strike I was asked to speak about how renewable energy and RPC can help people take action to solve the climate crisis.

In Australia the current government has not been supportive of change. The good news is change is going to happen not "because" of our government but "despite" our government.

Scientists tell us we have less than eight years to dramatically reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to limiting temperature rise to < 2°C. We cannot afford to wait for our next green government, we must take action ourselves now.

For many years climate change deniers have argued that we cannot address emissions without risk of economic and social collapse. The challenge of decarbonising our economies is large but don't let anyone say it can't be done.

Since the invention of electricity we have had the technology to solve climate change. The question has been the cost.

Thomas Edison 100 years ago said "I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle it"

In Australia the majority of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from two sectors of the economy.

- 53% emissions comes from stationary sector. This is from burning coal and gas for electricity generation.
  - 15 % comes from transport sector. This is our use of petrol and diesel.
- The good news is we have a technical solution to 70% of our emissions dilemma. This can be solved through transitioning electricity generation to 100% renewables and our transport fleet to electric vehicles.
- The challenge is that replacing infrastructure takes time. Once an asset is purchased it remains in the fleet for many years.
- Cars/trucks 20 years;
  - Building 50-100years;
  - Coal/gas generator 50 years.
- This means we must act now. All new infrastructure needs to be zero emissions. The cost of renewables is one of the good news stories of climate change. Up until now fossil fuels have been the cheaper option. The tide has now turned. Economies of scale have seen a dramatic reduction in the cost of solar and batteries.
- In 2008, I purchased my first 135w solar panel for \$1500. In 2019 a new 310w solar panel is only \$230. This represents a 95% cost reduction in 10 years.
- We now see wholesale pricing of electricity generated on the Australian grid as follows.
- 3c per kWh new solar;
  - 4-6c for existing coal fired plants;
  - >10c for new build coal.

Don't trust anyone that says renewables cost too much. People are not up to date with their figures.

We don't need new subsidies for solar. We need to stop government propping up fossil fuels.

We must stop government building new coal fired power stations and subsidising mines such as Adani.

### At a more local level

We all use electricity. In our homes, at our schools in our workplaces. What if I said not only could you reduce your emissions but you could also save money?

At RPC we currently see solar payback timeframes as low as three years for residential/small commercial customers.

You are currently faced with a choice. Buy coal and gas power for 25-30c per kWh or install solar at 10c per kWh.

If you don't believe me, "follow the money".

Companies such as Facebook, Google and Ikea are all going 100% renewable.

In Australia, UNSW, Carlton & United Breweries, Mars chocolates, Whyalla steel works, Sun Metals and Telstra are all going 100% renewables. Yes there is an element of good corporate governance but also these companies are watching their bottom line.

100% of new generation built on the Australian grid is now renewable. Banks won't touch fossil



Photo:  
Omega Breakspear

fuel generators. Solar is now the cheapest form of electricity.

So what can you do to help the transition to 100% renewables?

Ask your parents, principal, boss why they are paying twice the price for the privilege to ruin the environment? This is nuts! Appeal to their hip pocket.

Get three quotes for solar. These quotes should outline the cost savings of different system choices. A well designed solar system pays for itself in under five years.

Have a plan to reinvest the savings in upgrading the system in the near future.

In eight years you should be able to produce enough power to cover not only your house's consumption but generate enough to support your transport needs as well.

Look seriously at purchasing an electric vehicle as your next car. At the moment choice is limited but this will soon change.

In 2019 we are finally seeing the availability of practical electric vehicles on our shores. Tesla model 3 have started delivery. The second generation Nissan Leaf and Hyundai Kona are all great looking vehicles with ranges to suit the Australian market.

All car manufacturers have aggressive EV plans, so the choice will only get better. This is critical for all new car purchases.

Give RPC a call. Our job is finding cost effective ways to reduce your emissions.

By going 100% solar and electric we can make large inroads into your emissions.



How to keep going - what can we do?

Lives in ecology

by Aidan Ricketts

A friend asked me this recently: “How do we continue to fight for this planet in the face of climate denial and crackdown?” and this was my reply:

“Once our basic needs are met the only worthwhile thing to do is try to make the world a better place. Let go of linear thinking and the idea of success or failure. There is no end point to history just a series of uncomfortable presents that need attention. The struggle against fascism is eternal. Can you imagine how frustrated fascists feel at the perpetual nature of resistance?”

This society is gripped by a collective psychosis of disconnection from ecological reality and the only antidote is re-connection to nature, the universe and love and a path that serves these.

We may not succeed, accept that, and then keep trying. Every day you awake with energy and in every moment it's a choice between serving the planet or falling prey to the psychosis of disconnection. The deniers and attackers are addicted to the psychosis, they are angry and afraid because it is crumbling. In physics the status quo is the most temporary and vulnerable thing of all, so those who are attached to it are permanently anxious and aggressive”

The recent climate strikes have shown us that we are not alone and that there is a rising mass movement globally and in Australia waking up and demanding action on the climate emergency and the extinction crisis.

The bullying and backlash being directed at the schoolkids and at Greta Thunberg in particular show the panic in the minds of the



fossil fools. As frightening and overwhelming as it can be, the politics of backlash, denial, and authoritarianism is maladaptive.

Real resilience is adaptive, not reactionary. The authoritarian response (rising global fascism, anti-protest laws) is a real and present danger but it is also a sign of brittleness in the power structure as a whole.

The problem is global but the fight to survive needs to be local. We are a powerful region and we have fought off the fossil fuel industry and protected our old growth forests in the past.

As a region we may be too far away from the parliaments or from the financial districts to engage in mass civil disobedience there (but go ahead by all means), but we have in our very region the most pressing front-line in fighting climate change and resisting the extinction crisis in our local forests, and we have a duty to be good custodians and protectors.

Forests are one of the best forms of carbon capture and undoubtedly the best way to preserve biodiversity. But our state government has gutted the environmental protections for forests, is intending to massively expand logging quotas and to mine the forests for biomass to burn unnecessarily to produce electricity when the sun could do that job for us. It's madness and it needs to be resisted, yet again.

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has a long history of protecting the region's forests, a well-established history of having its facts right, and of identifying the hotspots. NEFA has identified an exceptional population of koalas in Braemar State Forest, just 24km south of Casino, home to a nationally significant koala population.

From scat searches, NEFA estimates that there are more than 100ha of Koala High Use Areas, which is unprecedented in State Forests.

Also identified in Braemar include vulnerable or threatened species such as the hollow dependent Squirrel Glider, Powerful Owl, Masked Owl, Swift Parrot and Turquoise Parrot. There are also records of vulnerable Rufous Bettong, Grey-headed Flying Fox, Barking Owl, Brown Treecreeper, Dusky Woodswallow, Diamond Firetail and Black-chinned Honeyeater in the logging area. Our public forests are the front line in the battle to resist the extinction crisis.

Logging is due to start in weeks. We can stop this but we need your help! This is the frontline and it is in the Northern Rivers patch, we are called upon again to be its protectors.

To become involved, text your email to 0403-679-641 to receive campaign updates and calls to action.

Let's join together and protect this vital wildlife habitat.

For more information, see: [www.nefa.org.au](http://www.nefa.org.au)

by John Scales Avery

I would like to announce the publication of a book which reviews the lives and thoughts of some of the women and men who have addressed the crucial problems of ecology and sustainability that we are currently facing.

I have tried to let them speak to us in their own words.

The book may be freely downloaded and circulated from the following link: <http://eacpe.org/app/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Lives-in-Ecology-by-John-Scales-Avery.pdf>

### Facing ecological crisis

The Industrial Revolution marked the start of massive human use of fossil fuels. The stored energy from several hundred million years of plant growth began to be used at roughly a million times the rate at which it had been formed.

The effect on human society was like that of a narcotic. There was a euphoric (and totally unsustainable) surge of growth of both population and industrial production.

Meanwhile, the carbon released into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels began to duplicate the conditions which led to the five geologically-observed mass extinctions, during each of which more than half of all living species disappeared forever.

Industrialism and the rapid development of science and technology have given some parts of the world a 200-year period of unbroken expansion and growth, but today this growth is headed for a collision with a wall-like barrier: limits set by

the carrying capacity of the global environment and by the exhaustion of non-renewable resources.

Encountering these limits is a new experience for the industrialised countries. By contrast, pre-industrial societies have always experienced limits. The industrialised world must soon replace the economics of growth with equilibrium economics. Pre-industrial societies have already learned to live in equilibrium – in harmony with nature.

It is assumed by many people in the industrialised North that if the developing countries would only learn mass production, modern farming techniques and a modern lifestyle, all would be well.

However, a sustainable global future may require a transfer of knowledge, techniques and attitudes in precisely the opposite direction – from pre-industrial societies to highly industrialised ones.

The reason for this is that the older societies have cultures that allow them to live in a sustainable way, in harmony with nature. This is exactly what the highly industrial North must learn to do.

We need their voices today!

How can we avoid the ecological megacatastrophe that is currently threatening both human society and the biosphere? How can we achieve a stable and sustainable global society?

Voices from those who have thought deeply about the problems can help us. We need their voices today!

Some of my other books and articles can be found on the following link: <http://eacpe.org/about-john-scales-avery/>



## Expression of Interest

Tuntab Creek Landcare Incorporated is seeking expressions of interest from appropriately qualified bush regenerators to work on a three-year project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust Fund.

The project sites will be situated within the Nimbin valley primarily along the four major waterways: Calico, Mulgum, Goolmangar and Websters creeks. The works are anticipated to start in mid-late October 2019 and continue through to April 30th 2020 (to complete stage 1), with the possibility of extension through to June 2021, depending on performance.

Duties will include removal of large weed infestations, natural regeneration, liaison with landholders, large plantings, river bank stabilisation and participation in workshops and field days. A certain level of fitness is expected to undertake the work, and successful applicants will be overseen by a Project Manager from Tuntab Creek Landcare Inc.

The following selection criteria needs to be addressed and evidence of compliance provided. Hourly rates should be included; rates must include all operational costs such as transport, chemicals, equipment and tools. Rates must exclude GST and contractors should specify if they are not registered for GST.

Bush regeneration contractor selection criteria:

1. Qualifications in Conservation and Land Management (Minimum Cert III) or equivalent and demonstrated bush regeneration skills and experience
2. Chemical use certificate
3. Own transport and current drivers licence
4. Good plant ID skills and knowledge of the major North Coast weed problems
5. Experienced in the use of the splatter gun technique for lantana control
7. 132C licence to work near threatened species (desirable but not mandatory)
8. Work Health and Safety policies in place
9. Hazard and risk assessment process in place
10. Understanding of Safe Work Method for all activities
11. Insurance – Public Liability
12. Ability to complete Daily Record Sheets, invoicing and tracking hours worked
13. Knowledge of the Nimbin Valley (desirable but not mandatory)

Please send addressed selection criteria to: [vanessapelly@westnet.com.au](mailto:vanessapelly@westnet.com.au) by 20th October 2019

## Yoga teacher training

**Seeking a practice beyond Yoga poses?**  
**This training might be of interest... Yoga Paramgati.**

We study Yoga poses, meditation, pranayama, cleansing, fasting,

mantras and much more.

If you're wanting to teach Yoga, or even just get to know yourself more and personally develop a healthier happier version of yourself, it's perfect.

Applications being received NOW. If not now, then

when? See details below.

Contact Chrissy, email: [roseapplied@gmail.com](mailto:roseapplied@gmail.com) for questions and more details.

It takes discipline to be free – mind, body, spirit connection

AUS\$500 Deposit to hold your space now!

MODULE ONE: 50 HOURS YOGA TEACHERS TRAINING (NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED)  
5 DAY RESIDENTIAL  
DATES: OCT 28TH-NOV 1ST 2019 (CHECK IN ON OCT 27TH)

MODULE TWO:  
DATES: 2020 TBC BY GROUP AFTER 1ST MODULE

FEE: AU\$1500 INCLUDES ACCOMMODATION\* (CAMPING) ALL MEALS AND TRAINING MANUAL  
\*CABINS WITH ENSUITES FOR 2 AVAILABLE AT AN EXTRA COST.

VENUE: SEE [HTTP://WWW.MTWARNINGRAINFORESTPARK.COM/](http://WWW.MTWARNINGRAINFORESTPARK.COM/)

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW VISIT [WWW.YOGAPARAMGATI.COM](http://WWW.YOGAPARAMGATI.COM)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: [SUDEVI2@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUDEVI2@GMAIL.COM)/ [CHRISSEY:ROSEAPPLIED@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CHRISSEY:ROSEAPPLIED@GMAIL.COM)