

Newspaper closures

First of all I would like to commend your newspaper for retaining its independence and being a true community newspaper. Your excellent lead article in the June 2020 monthly edition said it all.

I had a 14-year involvement with the *Lismore Echo* as a co-owner and financial backer. They were very satisfying times in serving the community, but the business case was always a problem.

In fact it sold to APN during a previous economic downturn, namely the global financial crisis of 2008, when it clearly was not financially sustainable.

The independence was lost at that time.

It is unfortunate for the community that the final demise of this paper under the News Corp banner has been during the present financial crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Its longer term destiny may have been sealed anyway.

The only community newspapers in print version in our region now seem to be *The Nimbin GoodTimes*, *The Byron Shire Echo* and *The Tweed Valley Weekly*.

Many people I know who can't access the Internet for all sorts of reasons have valued their free printed newspaper.

I think *The Nimbin GoodTimes* model that has evolved over 23 years will be sustainable as the distribution and readership grows.

Plus the diversity of contributors and opinion pieces are a great asset.

The advertising potential will increase. So keep up this high quality publication.

Andrew Binns,
Goonellabah

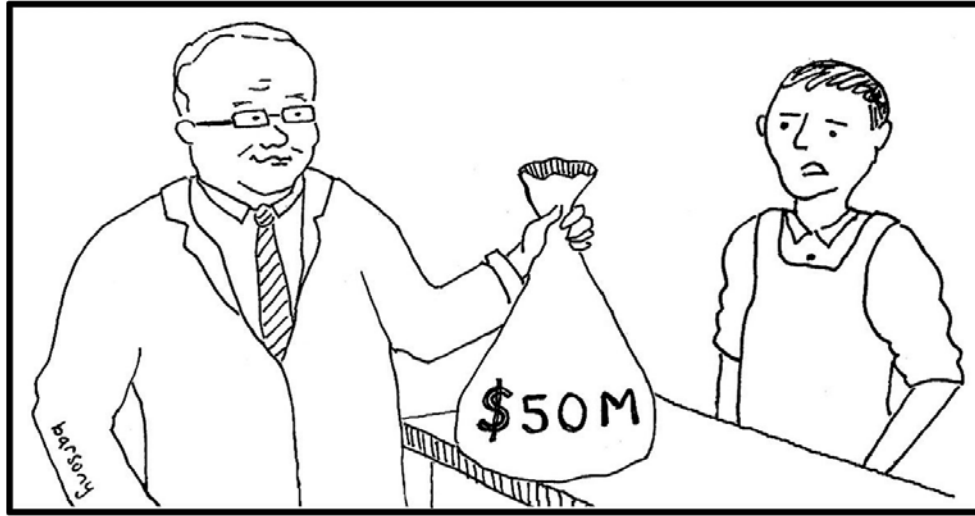
ABC budget cuts

Surely, there is a duty of care to the public who pay the taxes.

The ABC saved lives with their bushfire info: give the ABC its funding back!

During the lockdown, people would have gone insane without the ABC.

Give us our ABC back!
(Name and address supplied)



You're too late. We're all out of koalas.

Is this the last straw?

Bob Brown has donated his own land to the Environment as a Wilderness which will provide a little oxygen for all of us to breathe.

However, the Government is taking him to court to deny him his right and wishes to log this tiny remnant of our ancient forests.

They also deny the right of good citizens to give Tax Deductable Donations to organisations like Bush Heritage, whose donors buy land and protect such land.

All the charities which help people in need will also lose their Charitable Status, since they will no longer be able to receive Tax Deductable Donations to do good in this God-forsaken country.

The ordinary people give to charities generously, but our government has decided to deny them this right.

A Sutherland,
Robina Queensland

Rio Tinto destruction

Who cares about preserving ancient cultural sites?

In Australia, going on its recent archaeological track record, the answer is no-one.

Over the past ten years in the field under the direction of the relevant Elders and Keepers of Old Ways, we have been either actively or indirectly involved in trying to save or gain recognition of eleven sacred sites or artefacts.

At present we haven't scored one solitary run; to this date we have lost every fight.

In each battle to gain

recognition we have had excellent science, Elders of the highest pedigree and supporting historical records, and it made absolutely no difference because it just never stops raining silence, red tape and under no circumstances.

This most recent example of a blatant disregard for protocol and a holy site of the deepest significance is as tragic as it is so much a part of a continuous pattern of post-Cook neglect.

No-one has apologised for the destruction, no-one will be blamed or punished, and the shareholders' dividends will continue to increase.

What needs to be appreciated is that what just happened in the Pilbara, was always going to happen.

I first got involved in a similar struggle at a site very, very close to this one about five years ago.

Read more at: <http://forgottenorigin.com/who-will-stop-the-rain>

Watch here: <https://youtu.be/fU6bJyRSNOM>

Steven and Evan Strong
Brunswick Heads

Lost beauties of country rail

Watching a TV program, *Nordlandsbanen Train Journey*, reminded me of the appeal of country rail travel, aside from the obvious A to B benefits of being able to simply relax until I get where I care to go.

Along with many others who used to enjoy the Northern Rivers railway service, the word *appreciation* springs to mind in regards to looking at the beauty of Mother Nature, which is not mentioned nearly enough when describing what country rail travel does for so many.

Politicians and corporate executives (plane travellers) discuss the obvious commercial aspects of trains.

Trains in cities are about expediting people to and from work through built-up areas and suburbs, the ho hum, hum drum, clickety clack... through the city by train that probably all the bureaucratic-minded citizens of cities know of.

Those denying rail services

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 Nimbin Good Times.

for the Northern Rivers cannot be blamed for their dismissive lack of interest in our populace once again having what was taken away. Policy-makers have probably been near trains all their lives and do not feel the appeal of them, other than as a necessary function.

Sitting looking out the windows of a country train service, taking people through beautiful scenery, is just great for the soul. "Tourists" are all of us. Whether local, regional or overseas, the appreciation of the views put all on tour.

I believe the lack of appreciation of what we had removed from us is at the heart of the issue of 'Why our train services need to resume!'

Politicians shrug, saying we should just catch connecting buses. They do not understand. Not many could claim to feel great appreciation staring out the window of a bus at the vista.

The life connection that is only truly found when passing through countryside is quite simply not there on a bus.

Lionel J. Pink
South Lismore

Hymn for our times

GK Chesterton wrote this, and it was used by Iron Maiden:

*Oh God of earth and alter
Bow down and hear our cry
Our earthly rulers falter
Our people drift and die.*

*The walls of gold entomb us
The swords of scorn divide
Take not thy thunder from us
But take away our pride.*
Let's hear Scotty the Christian say this and mean it.

(Name and address supplied)

Notices

Used postage stamps wanted

I am working on a craft project and am seeking postage stamps of any condition, colour, size and country. Please send a text message to Vanessa on 0416-034-698 to arrange free postage of donations to Ballina.

Cawongla playgroup

Cawongla Playhouse is welcoming families and toddlers/preschool age children back to our drop-in playgroup from 27th July, 9.30-11.30am, \$5, at 5325 Kyogle Rd, Cawongla. Come and have a play!

Free notices

Keep it short, under 50 words, and to the point, and if your notice is non-commercial and of interest to our readers, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it for you for free.

Kyogle Country trashed

On my e-bike I'm out and about all over Kyogle Shire farmlands. I'm getting to know the country intimately.

Bike-riding is leisurely, with the rider connected by sight and sound and smell to the country in a very tactile and intimate way.

Much of the farmland I pass through is well conserved; even more of it is very poorly cared for.

I notice how monocultures damage the environment. I notice paddocks that are cropped year after year with no attempt at soil improvement – no harrowing, no crop rotation, no correct fertilising.

Monocultures do the worst damage – trees removed, native grasses removed, native fauna absent, paddock soils so compacted they do not absorb water or nutrients and so the diversity of plants in minimal.

Diverse plant life feeds the soil – don't believe me; go read the science.

To see cattle in paddocks in the middle of summer with no shade is to witness wilful animal cruelty. In the summer at mid-day cattle are always in the shade – if it is available – they need protection from the sun and they go for it.

It seems cattle to some farmers are not living breathing creatures but are no more than a commodity; their life is merely a product, their wellbeing is incidental.

It is apparent that some Kyogle farmers have no real understanding of the behaviour and fodder needs of ruminants.

Studies done of cattle feeding preferences (Knepp Estate UK) clearly illustrate that these creatures, when introduced to a diverse environment, feed themselves on a wide range of grasses, herbs, plants that we call weeds, and tree leaves and bark and even branches.

Yet many Australian farmers feed their cattle singularly on grass, much of it exotic and not suited to Australian soils and climate – protein content in many exotic grasses is quite low.

Denuding hillsides is a common practice in Kyogle Shire. This is an absolutely stupid thing to do. Nature demands that hillsides are always covered with vegetation that is stabilising.

See for yourself – look at any wild mountainous country; hillsides always carry heavy vegetation. Otherwise topsoil is lost and there is erosion which is washed into and pollutes, ponds, rivers and creeks.

Take away trees and supposed weeds from a hillside and the grasses that remain are very poor indeed and do not tolerate drought.

I was on a backroad just last week. I noticed contractors bulldozing in a paddock to make a dam. It was a paddock I'd actually walked in last year. I wandered over to watch. It was crazy. They were putting the dam in the wrong place.

I pointed out to them that at the bottom slope in a different area, there was a natural soak, that even in dry periods there might be water draining into it. As it was, they were digging out an area half-way up a dry hillock.

I was, they said, talking bullshit, and anyway the job was half done. In fact, dams in wrong places is common in Kyogle shire.

I do know this: it's risky saying anything remotely critical to some Kyogle farmers – it worked for m'dad, it's been said to me, and it worked for his dad... so why should things change?

There are good, caring and knowledgeable farmers in this shire. Sadly, they are still a minority.

Michael Brooke
Kyogle

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**NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 29th July**

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

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.



Chamber Chat by Diana Roberts, president

After a few very surreal months, life in Nimbin village is becoming more familiar as locals and visitors return and winter school holidays approach.

No doubt visitor numbers will increase so please, don't become complacent. Covid-19 is here to stay, and in the interests of the more vulnerable in our community, please ensure you practise social distancing, stay home if you feel unwell and get tested if you have any doubts.

Murals

Meanwhile, it's great to see progress on the mural that brightens up our main street over the Nimbin School of Arts. Thanks go to Oral Roberts and Gilbert Laurie, both very talented artists who were more than happy to undertake the project.

The Chamber's next focus is restoration of Burri Jerome's mural above Daisy's and possibly some of the signage around the village.

By the way, congratulations to Oral who has recently been appointed to the Pacific Highway Woolgoolga to Ballina Aboriginal Art Trail project. I'm sure his contribution will be outstanding.

Nimbin Roots Festival

We're also very pleased that the fifth annual Nimbin Roots Festival will go ahead in September (11-13).

It may be necessary to keep numbers down and cap entry to each venue, but the Festival will give a boost to main street businesses and is a great addition to Nimbin's cultural calendar.

There's an impressive line-up already, so make sure you get your ticket and show your support. A three-day ticket is \$100 and there are also day-ticket options. Visit: www.nrfest.com/tickets for more info.

More emerging events

In another exciting announcement, the Nimbin School of Arts Spring Arts Exhibition will be going ahead in September so if you'd like to exhibit, please contact: nimbinschoolofarts@gmail.com

Unfortunately, the Blue Moon Cabaret scheduled for August has been cancelled (David is working on creating alternative options) and the Nimbin Show has also been cancelled.

Monthly markets have recommenced and no doubt, over coming months, more events will appear on our social and cultural calendars.

Visitor Information Centre gone

Recent decisions of Council have resulted in significant budget cuts to the arts, tourism and events.

The pressures on local government to deliver more services with less, continue and these are always easy targets when viewed alongside community pressures for better road systems and reduced rates.

One outcome of this for Nimbin is the closure of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC), a service that had become a significant cost line in Council's budget. The VIC closed its door when Covid-19 emerged and will not re-open.

Dr Sharon Harwood, Council's Director, Partnerships, Planning

and Engagement has carriage of implementing Council's decision and her focus currently is managing the impacts on her staff.

Once that is sorted, Sharon will be seeking to meet with the Chamber and others to explore ways forward for providing information for those visiting or wanting to visit our local area.

A number of entities have expressed an interest in taking up the visitor information role, and I'm hopeful that as a community we can come up with some creative solutions that not only provide information but enhance the visitor experience.

Shop locally

Over coming months, you will notice vacant shopfronts in Nimbin – something not seen for decades – so please support local businesses and shop locally wherever possible.

Our local businesses provide employment and an income for many locals, especially our youth, and it's possibly never been more important to support them and spend your dollars there.

JobKeeper ends in September and removal of the employment safety net and other initiatives the government put in place will challenge the survival of many businesses.

Rainbow Road rebirthed

As a small step towards a more interactive visitor experience, it is pleasing to note that Council recently voted to reinstate our vision for a Nimbin walking trail, Rainbow Road, into their operational plan.

Stage 2 of the walking trail follows the creek-line from Rainbow Power Company through Aquarius Village. This area is currently being rehabilitated, and we need to ensure a walking trail is built into the regeneration planning.

The next stage will be to cost and design it into a shovel-ready project, then seek grants for the construction.

For years we have been saying we want people to stay longer than the walk up and down the main street. Our main street is unique and interesting, its murals iconic and the backdrop provided by the surrounding hills is beautiful, but Nimbin is so much more.

We want visitors to learn about the things we value such as understanding the need to protect and enhance our environment, the importance of treading lightly on this planet, the crushing need to address climate chaos, the value we place on diversity and the vital contribution indigenous people make to our community, far greater than their expression of art, history and culture demonstrated through some of the significant village murals.

Rainbow Road will provide links between our already highly visited attractions while creating new, educational visitor experiences that can also be enjoyed by locals.

Ultimately we are hoping the walking trail will feature examples of sustainability and alternative life, providing opportunities to promote and extend the values of 'Aquarius'.

CCTV Update

We recently made an enquiry to Council regarding the new CCTV cameras, specifically the one directed towards the Community Centre, and received the following response:

"The system is operational although the works are not at a 'practical completion' stage yet. We have had a few delays with installing the NBN Connection and Qld Border closures have impacted on the contractor completing outstanding works. All sites have one fixed and one PTZ

(pan tilt zoom) camera. The PTZ will provide the ability to enable the Community Centre to be a nominated 'home point' so under normal operations it will be continuously monitored.

"The finalisation of camera views will be completed prior to practical completion, which hopefully will be by the end of June."

Chamber Membership now free

Following the bushfires and Covid-19 business closures, some regrettably permanent, we see the need for a strong and active Chamber of Commerce.

Our community's unique ability to work together across community groups, businesses and organisations (as demonstrated in the fire emergency late last year) is our strength, and by working together we can continue to restore and grow our local economy.

To support this, the Chamber Executive voted unanimously to waive membership fees for the 2020-2021 financial year. We are hoping doing this will expand our membership. Current financial members will be automatically renewed.

We have identified another 90 local businesses we would love to join or re-join and we will contact these businesses direct. If you have an ABN, are based in the Nimbin district and would like to join please contact us (see below for details).

In my opinion, gone are the days when we can ask businesses to join the Chamber without offering something in return. So, what do we offer?

- We strive to provide members with up-to-date information. We took on this role during last year's fire emergency and during this current Covid-19 crisis with the regular posts via community information networks and regular updates on Chamber projects and actions via this column.

- The Chamber receives funds through the Special Business Rate Variation Levy, collected from business property owners in the main street to support economic development. We want your input into disbursing these funds. Most recently they have been directed to mural restoration, lighting up Nimbin and sponsorship of various local events.

- Your Chamber is the voice that represents the business community. We are often consulted for feedback or to give input into government decision-making. We hold meetings with and make submissions to Council on your behalf to convey concerns about developments or to lobby for services. The more diverse our membership the better our representation of community views.

- Networking in the community is an important role for the Chamber. We are available to take your concerns and issues to all levels of government. Our members are often too busy running their own businesses to devote time to such things and we are stronger as a group.

- The Chamber launched and continues to promote the Buy Local Campaign to encourage community support for local producers and businesses.

- Over the past 12 months we have worked to modernise our website. The website aims to promote the many facets of Nimbin life and every business membership can receive a free listing with images. We also post Chamber meeting minutes to the website to keep you informed.

Check out the website at: <https://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au/>

For more information about the Chamber or to feed in your ideas, please visit our website or email: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au



NIMBIN BOWLING, SPORT & RECREATION CLUB Pty Ltd

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 19th July, 9.30am
in club rooms at 25 Sibley Street, Nimbin

Business: Financial Report
Election of Office-Bearers

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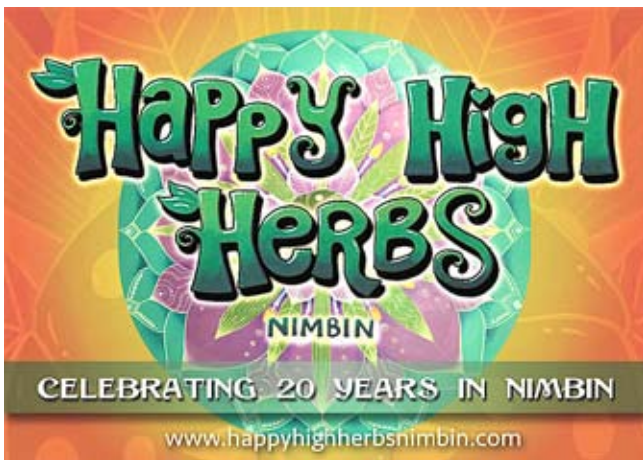
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Con a virus: global money and global re-set

by Wayne Wadsworth

There is no doubt that the coronavirus is real and highly contagious. However, the overreaction to the virus is stunning: the global economy has been virtually closed down and millions of people are now unemployed.

While the plebs run around like demented hens reacting to every new conspiracy with renewed vigour, the elites are quietly planning a global monetary reset which will wipe out trillions of dollars' worth of wealth and rob the middleclass and the poor of their wealth and assets.

So, who controls our money and our destiny? Mainly the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, European Central Bank and the banksters, stockbrokers and land speculators who depend on them.

They are not elected, and their influence can make or break countries. Greece is a good example of their stranglehold on the European Economic Community.

We have examples of how a global reset may happen: Greece, where the European Central Bank forced the then Syriza Socialist Government to take on its austerity program leading to the closure



of banks and the complete control of the Greek monetary system.

The Minister of Finance during this period, January to July 2015, was Yanis Varoufakis (pictured), who tried in vain to negotiate a rescue package with the central banks to save the Greek economy. He was destabilised by a global media campaign of lies and vilification, and his fellow party members trembled at their knees, went to water, and capitulated to

all the demands of the central banksters.

Rather than bowing his head, Yanis formed a new European and Global movement called DiEM 25 for Europe (Democracy in Europe Movement 2025).

A global movement formed around a 'New Now' and DiEM TV, which seeks to bring progressive people from around the world together to formulate global progressive answers to the current crisis of central banking and control of the elite's control of the global trading system.

DiEM 25's global policy initiatives are to develop a global network that can form unions of like-minded people to develop a 'New Green Deal' and a global green economy that guarantees individual rights and the rights of countries within the union.

Yanis has written several books to promote this concept. *Adults in the Room* goes deeply into the time he spent as Greek Minister for Finance, and exposes the hypocrisy of the European Central Bank – a must-read for anyone interested in understanding and changing the global banking system.

Viva Democracy.

Watch DiEM TV videos here:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCnMk-6Brd8rVEKWSWkwsWUg

The benefits of equality

by John Scales Avery

I have published a book which presents evidence that elimination of excessive economic inequality makes societies happier and better. The book may be freely downloaded and circulated from the following link: <http://eacpe.org/app/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Benefits-of-Equality-by-John-Scales-Avery.pdf>

The Age of Reason, or the Enlightenment, was an intellectual and philosophical movement that dominated the world of ideas from the 17th to 19th centuries. Sir Isaac Newton's rational scientific explanations, Diderot's encyclopedia and the writings of Voltaire and Rousseau paved the way for the end of superstition, feudalism, the divine right of kings, and expedited the liberation of serfs and slaves throughout the world.

In England, John Locke wrote: "Men living together according to reason, without a common superior on earth with authority to judge between them, is properly the state of nature."

Locke's ideas were reflected in the American Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Sadly, these ideals do not hold in the United States today, and perhaps they never did. Although years of slavery were ended after the Civil War, and despite the efforts of the civil rights movement, racism is widespread today, and, in fact, US President Donald Trump was elected on an openly racist platform. During his term of office, he has been a racist in both word and deed.

It seems to be possible for nations, and the majority of their citizens, to commit the worst imaginable atrocities, including torture, murder and genocide, while feeling that what they are doing is both noble and good. Some understanding of how this is possible can be gained



by watching the three-part BBC documentary *The History of Racism* at: www.africaspeaks.com/reasoning/index.php?topic=8708.0;prev_next=prev

Looking at the BBC documentary, we can see how often in human history economic greed and colonial exploitation have been justified by racist theories. Today the world spends almost two trillion dollars (\$2,000,000,000,000) every year on armaments. Politicians notoriously can be bought with a tiny fraction of this enormous amount; hence the decay of democracy.

Because the world spends almost two thousand billion dollars each year on armaments, it follows that very many people make their living from war.

Money from wealthy oligarchs in military-industrial complexes buys the propaganda of the mass media and the votes of politicians. Numbed by the propaganda, citizens allow politicians to vote for obscenely bloated military budgets. The oligarchs are further enriched, and thus the circular flow of money continues.

The poor are suffering most from the Covid-19 pandemic. While the rich can isolate themselves in comfort, working people with no savings are faced with the choice between risking their lives in unsafe workplaces or starvation, because of lack of income. Here are some quotes from an article by Jake Johnson titled 'Grotesque: While 41 Million People Lost Jobs Due to Covid-19, US Billionaires Grew Nearly \$500 Billion Richer' in *Common Dreams*, May 28, 2020:

"Statistics released Thursday by the U.S. Department of Labour show that with 2.1 million new unemployment

claims filed last week, a staggering 40.7 million Americans have lost their jobs over just the past 10 weeks as mass layoffs induced by the coronavirus pandemic continue.

"During that same 10-week period, according to a new analysis by the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), the combined net worth of America's billionaires soared by nearly half a trillion dollars, bringing their total wealth to \$3.4 trillion."

The Green New Deal can simultaneously address the climate crisis and the problem of excessive economic inequality. In this context, it is interesting to look at the social and economic systems of the Scandinavian countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.

In these countries the contrast between the rich and poor has been very much reduced. It is almost true to say that poverty has been eliminated in these countries. At the same time, the Scandinavians have strong policies to address the climate emergency. Thus Scandinavian successes are a counter-argument to those who say that the Green New Deal cannot be put into practice.

The Scandinavian countries also rank very highly on the Global Happiness Index and the Human Development Index, thus demonstrating the benefits of equality.

To achieve a happy and sustainable world, we urgently need to decrease excessive economic inequality, both within and between nations.

Other books and articles about global problems: <http://eacpe.org/about-john-scales-avery> and <https://wsimag.com/authors/716-john-scales-avery>

No place for new water mining on the Northern Rivers

by Janelle Saffin,
Member for Lismore

I recently congratulated Pat Miller and other members of the Tweed Water Alliance Incorporated on their victory in protecting groundwater in rural areas of the Tweed Shire.

In a Community Recognition Statement tabled in State Parliament, I thanked the Alliance for its grassroots activism in successfully standing up to protect Tweed Shire from any new water mining.

This represents a community victory for local farmers and families who need this water – a finite resource – for their agricultural and domestic purposes.

These are the people whose rights I will always fight for.

The Tweed Water Alliance was formed in 2017 to oppose industrial scale water mining/extraction from the Tweed Valley for the bottled water industry. The Alliance does not oppose the use of water bores.

Water mining has been an issue of concern on the Tweed for many years but it really took the activism of Pat Miller, his fellow Alliance members and others to assist me in strongly advocating against this wasteful, harmful and



Lismore MP Janelle Saffin and NSW Shadow Minister for the North Coast Adam Searle MLC joined union representatives to launch Mr Searle's petition to stop the NSW Government's unfair pay cut for the Lismore Electorate's 4363 public sector employees, many of whom are frontline workers who have kept everyone safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. People can sign copies of the petition at Janelle's Lismore Electorate Office, corner of Carrington and Conway streets.

unsustainable industry.

I made my views known to Tweed Shire councillors and the General Manager, and I also thank them and Council's planning staff for genuinely listening to and acting on overwhelming opposition to water mining.

The Council recently amended its Local Environment Plan 2014 to ban new groundwater extraction facilities within its rural areas or

RU2 zone.

I also wrote to about 800 local people in the Lismore Electorate who signed the Alliance's petition calling for this ban.

As other local councils grapple with this issue, I will continue to advocate for a state-wide ban on new water mining.

I put the following Question on Notice to NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing,

Melinda Pavey MP:

Considering the Tweed Shire Council amended its Local Environmental Plan 2014 to ban new groundwater extraction facilities in rural areas (RU2 zone), will the Government follow suit by introducing legislation to curb any future expansion of water mining, thereby protecting our fine water resources for domestic and farm use only?

One-off recovery grants for small businesses, sporting clubs

I welcome the NSW Government's new recovery grants to help eligible small businesses and sporting groups in the Nimbin area to reopen safely in a post-Covid-19 environment.

Service NSW launched the Small Business Recovery Grant online on 1st July and will accept applications until Sunday 16th August when the program will close.

Eligible small businesses can apply for a one-off \$3000 grant to help with marketing and advertising costs, office fit-outs and training staff to adapt to the new four-square-metre economy.

Contact Service NSW: service.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Office of Sport will administer a one-off grant of up to \$1000 to close to 12,500 eligible sporting clubs and associations to assist our local clubs for when sport resumes, under the \$12.5-million Grassroots Sport Fund.

The Fund will assist organisations with fixed costs incurred between March and June 2020, where they have not already received financial assistance or relief from local, state or Commonwealth governments or others.

Details will be updated on the Office of Sport's webpage: sport.nsw.gov.au

On the same Page



by Kevin Hogan, Member for Page

It was very disappointing to see *The Northern Star* and *Lismore Echo* move to online versions only.

There are people in our community who still rely on print to receive their news.

It is fantastic that we still have our very own locally written, locally produced community news. *The Nimbin GoodTimes* is proudly here to stay.

Buy Australian made

It is now more important than ever, that we support our Australian businesses.

I have been promoting locally-owned businesses on my Facebook page.

If you are locally owned and have a foreign owned competitor, please message me or email me your data and I will spread the news!

Visit this link to send me your information: <https://www.kevinhogan.com.au/>

Congratulations Nicole Bruce

Nicole received the Australian Police Medal for her distinguished service in the police force. It was part of this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

She is a Chief Inspector in our local Richmond Police District. I acknowledged her in Parliament recently.

Congratulations Nicole and thank you for your service to our community.

Push to overturn controversial sub-division in Alstonville fails

At the May Council meeting, Ballina Council approved a residential sub-division that was only 350m from the Boral Asphalt Plant (which makes hot-mix bitumen) in Alstonville.

The approval was given due to the casting vote of the Mayor (when a vote is tied as this one was at 5-5, the Mayor determines the decision and is effectively given an additional vote).

Myself and a couple of other Councillors lodged a rescission motion immediately after the meeting which means that the decision to approve gets put on hold and the matter is debated and voted on again.

I was hopeful that I could convince at least one of the Councillors to change their view on the matter given the large number of complaints that both Council and the EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) have received over the years and the obvious land use conflict that exists.

A number of years ago I was invited to experience the smell for myself. When the Asphalt plant was operating one night I received a call from a local family, and upon my arrival I was horrified that such a strong bitumen smell was in their home, including in their children's bedrooms.

This stench, which 'could'



by Cr Jeff Johnson,
Ballina Council

contain carcinogenic particles, was overbearing. Ever since then I have been campaigning to have the Bitumen plant closed down, and for it to be relocated well away from any residential area.

So the decision to approve a new residential subdivision only 350m from the Asphalt Plant is one that I take serious offence to.

With this particular DA, both the EPA and Boral (the operator of the Asphalt Plant) wrote submissions to Council stating that if this land is subdivided then the homes and the people living there will 'likely' experience issues associated with the heavy industry which is practically on their door step, namely issues associated with dust, noise and odour.

It should be noted that the NSW Government has a recommended buffer zone of 1000m around this type of facility.



Photo courtesy The Northern Star

Furthermore, the block of land in question has had a restriction on its title since 1992, which prevents development due to its close proximity to both the quarry and the Asphalt Plant. As part of the approval the restriction was removed to enable the land to be subdivided.

I'm at a loss as to why Council is choosing to remove the restriction on the land title given the well documented health impacts that the Boral plant is having on surrounding residents.

Not only is this heavy industry located next door to the residential area of Alstonville, but Ballina Council owns the land and leases the site to Boral.

Ballina Council has also allowed Boral to operate all night long for up to 60 nights per year. There is not one other example of this occurring in the whole of NSW.

Unfortunately, the rescission motion to overturn the approval failed once again on the casting vote of the Mayor. Since the application was submitted to Council, there have already been enquires to subdivide more land for residential allotments within the recommended buffer zone.

The Boral lease runs out in about four years and I will be doing all that I can to ensure that the lease is not renewed and that this heavy industry is not allowed to continue to operate indefinitely on the doorstep of Alstonville.

Whether Boral and its bitumen plant remain at the location will be decided by the next Ballina Council.

I just hope that the majority of the 10 Councillors elected next year will send Boral a clear message that it's time to move on and that the health and safety of our community becomes a higher priority.

Questioning policing priorities

When I decided to quit the bench after 21 years, a lot of people asked me what I wanted to do next. Well, one of my lifelong aspirations is to write an occasional column for the Nimbin GoodTimes.

People have been asking me why I left, and I've been writing and talking about sexual violence, and drug driving and trauma. Jane's story below shows the rank hypocrisy I was facing every day. This was a real case, not even a year ago.



Photo courtesy Byron Echo

by David Heilpern

Jane, aged 43, lives on the outskirts of a small hamlet two hours inland from the coast. The area is sparsely populated, with several state forests and abandoned farms in the locale.

She originally moved to this area to get away from a violent relationship, and stayed there because the rent was cheap, the school was small, and the isolation salved her fears and reduced her hypervigilance.

The kids moved away years ago, but she stayed, having nowhere else to go, and loving the sunsets, her pets, and beating loneliness by a continual battle with dust. She gets some part-time work cleaning at the school.

Jane recently formed a relationship with Bob, an ex-prisoner with a drinking problem. He started staying overnight and his drinking and anger became increasingly worse.

Over the last couple of weeks Bob was becoming insanely jealous, and going into accusatory rages after drinking.

One night he went "right off" and started smashing her place up – breaking windows, throwing the

television into the yard, denting her car with a pole and ripping the telephone from the wall.

Jane was scared and ran from the house to a neighbour to call the police. The nearest police station is an hour away, and as soon as they could, the police sent a vehicle out.

They went to her place, but Bob had run off into the bush, and was nowhere to be seen.

They asked Jane if she had anywhere to go, but she did not. She asked them to accompany her back to the house to check he was not around. The police agreed, but made it clear that they were not going to get additional resources to search for him for what was, at this stage, simply a charge of damaging property – a minor crime hardly

deserving of extra resources.

They counselled her to leave, but she had nowhere to go. They suggested a woman's refuge, but that was three hours away, and what would happen to her pets?

They all went back to the house, and the police had a good look around to make sure that he had, for now, left.

She sat in the remains of her lounge room. As the police were about to leave they had a small quiet discussion between themselves.

"Jane," one asked, "what do you know about those three cannabis plants in your vegetable patch?"

Jane answered "Oh, yeah, sorry, they're mine. I've got pretty bad PTSD and I use them to sleep. It's safer than buying the stuff around here. Can you just ignore them?"

The police did not. They placed her under arrest and took her back to the station and charged her. They seized the plants and sent them away for analysis. She had to hitchhike home in the morning to feed her pets.

She was charged with cultivating a prohibited plant. She is fearful for her employment which requires a working with children check for criminal records. And of course, she does not want to go to prison.

There are thousands of victims of family violence who are unable to call the police because they or other household members are engaged in what can only be described as minor victimless crime.

These are not my priorities. I'll bet they are not yours either. Whose are they?



HEMP contests by-election

The Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP) Party will provide a protest vote for cannabis law reform at the Eden-Monaro by-election on Saturday 4th July.

HEMP party president and candidate Michael Balderstone (pictured), who turned 72 during the by-election campaign, has passionately continued his protest for justice since the HEMP Party began in 1992.

If Michael wins he will move to Eden-Monaro and be closer to Canberra for work on Cannabis law reform. "You're allowed to smoke there now."

"Why can't we all grow a couple of plants like in Canberra which is surrounded by this electorate? If we were allowed home-grown for personal use across Australia, we could save billions in health care and policing costs. We could be saving money instead of wasting it."

The HEMP Party scored well in the 2019 federal election with 1.8% of the primary Senate vote. Via the privacy of the polling booth, more than 260,000 voters sent a clear message that cannabis law reform is their policy priority and voters displayed faith in HEMP to negotiate with the government on cannabis related issues.

"Better cannabis legislation will improve our health, nutrition, policing and the annual budget," Michael said.

"Cannabis can provide a better solution for medicine, food security, the environment and social harmony."

The HEMP Party has a plan to integrate the whole plant into our everyday lives.

Buy-election

The Boss has sent me to tail the deluded hippies who went to Canberra to play with the Big Boys.

It's freezing cold and they're out in the snow in thongs, which is possibly because their particular pain relief is so powerful they can't feel a thing.

Scomomo is monitoring the by-election like it's life or death so of course he wants to know what I think as well, though all communication goes through the Boss these days.

It all got a bit close with Bethany ignoring social distancing so the PM has really distanced now. Still, I know he likes me and maybe a little too much.

Anyway, maybe I smoked too much that morning, but I came up with an idea that

STREET SHUFFLE

Journal of the North Coast's longest serving covert

seemed smart at the time and it's apparently rattled Scomomo too.

He knows I write an anonymous column in the *GoodTimes* but never gave it a second thought.

"Scrappy little hippy rag I bet," were his exact words as I recall, the moment he found out. "No-one important reads that stuff."

So I wrote in my report that there was a lot of excitement in the alternative political camps up north.

APCUN I named it, because I know he loves that stuff.

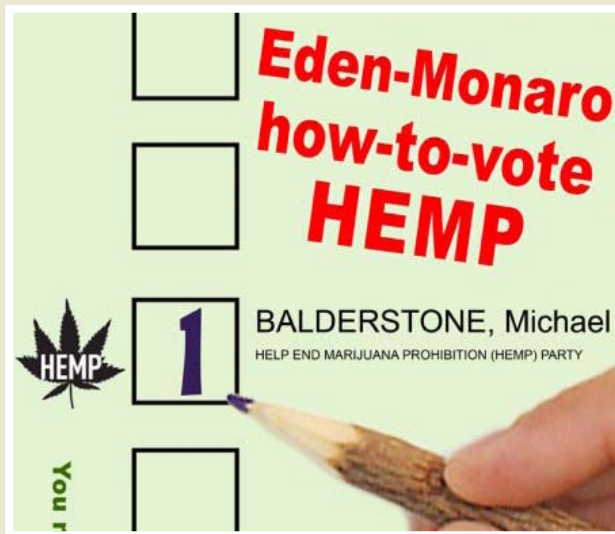
With all the local papers taken over by his friend Mr Murdoch, and now deleted, APCUN predicts the political influence of the *GoodTimes* and *Byron Echo*

will come into their own.

Early forecasting has the Greens stealing votes right left and centre, and HEMP growing a new patch of voters as well.

Someone in Scomomo's stats department did some numbers and agreed. The PM even tried to talk to Rupert himself about keeping *The Northern Star* in print, but never got past the switchboard, which upset his whole day and half the next one.

Apparently it's all headed on-line now, which leaves a big mob of ye olde Liberals out in the cold. They're screaming blue murder and phoning Scomomo in numbers, but of course Rupert has his knee firmly on the PM's neck.



So that's how I come to be hanging around Eden Monaro pre-polls handing out for the Libs. All to keep an eye on the silly hippies in thongs, who will be lucky to even get a handful of votes, but cause a stir wherever they go.

And they keep harassing the Libs at the polling booths

by asking them how old they think the Earth is. It caused some momentous arguments and splits in the blue camps with several deserting their posts and leaving.

When I realised it was a genuine tactic of the HEMP thong brigade, I had to take my hat off to them. The question was like tossing a

grenade into their camp.

It took me a while before I realised they were not their usual peaceful dreamy selves, but actually quite agro and on edge.

"They had no weed," was the answer that popped out during an altercation with some of my blue team of pimply young Libs.

One of them told the hippies to "go smoke another joint", and it hit a very raw nerve.

"We're not smoking anything down here mate. We need to be able to drive home."

That produced a bunch of blank stares from the Libkids, which annoyed the unstoned stoners even more, but explained to me their aggression.

The saliva collectors have got them cornered like snarling cats. The sooner they get back to the hills the better for everyone.

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Country, the Crown and Tenancies in Common



Legal writes
by John Adams

A purchaser, on settlement, says, "OK, I get the difference between joint tenancy and tenancy-in-common, but why 'tenancy'? I've got freehold, haven't I?" "That's the point," I reply, "You hold it." How do I explain?

I grew up on Wadjuk Nyungar country, roaming a square mile of banksia woodland on the banks of the wide, deep river. I didn't know, until long after it was gone, that it was actual old-growth forest.

But I knew why introduced weeds didn't grow there. The freesias petered after a few feet. It had that integrity. When I was 13 it was turned into a golf course. The perpetrators are long gone too.

Now we know the whole continent was a mixed farm, with forest on the hills and aquaculture in the rivers, unfenced plains for vegetables and grains, shared between nations, when the invaders (a.k.a 'The Crown') arrived and, in its imperial perception of the world, stuck a flag in the sand and started handing out Crown Grants to their mates. English Land Law and sheep had arrived.

Back in the much younger 'old country' in Anglo-

Saxon times, there were no fences either. Land was farmed collectively, but this was Northern Hemisphere country, recently glaciated, with deep, fertile soils. Society was militarised.

The king granted land to tenants-in-chief in exchange for various services, usually provision of knights (soldiers on horses) when required.

The yearly 'rent' of one Lord, I learnt at law school, was a skip, a hop and a fart before the king.

These great lords had their own tenants. "There could be as many as six or seven 'mesne lords' between the king and the tenant in actual possession of the land" (Butt, *Land Law*, 1988, p.37) – the 'lord of the manor'.

Each village was a large mixed farm. Some villagers were free, others not. But even the free held their land as tenants of the lord. 'Held', that's why it's called freehold.

Holdings once extended vertically to the heavens and to the centre of the earth. If you have property now, and do a title search, you'll see that minerals are reserved to the Crown. And trespass doesn't lie against helicopters. And the Crown can resume the land.

In joint tenancies, like the average home owned by a mum and dad, when one dies, the other gets the lot.

In a tenancy-in-common, each shareholder has title over an undivided share of the whole. Even though undivided, it can be sold or mortgaged. Or inherited.

In the 70s, some found it a cheap and simple way to set up a multiple occupancy. Some didn't ever agree on rules. The hidden trap lay in wait.

Eventually, a shareholder dies. His beneficiary wants money. Her valuer explains that the share is unsecured and, in Professor Butt's words, "each co-owner ... is entitled to use and occupy the whole of the property..." so it's not worth a lot, especially when the mental health of other co-owners, each also so entitled, might be suspect. Maybe \$35,000?

Rather less than she expected, after a friend on a nearby multiple occupancy paid a quarter million for hers. She gets her free 30-minute consultation.

The court only has two options, forced sale (of the whole), or forced partition.

It seems, on a quick glance at the cases, that the opposition of other shareholders doesn't matter a lot, the enquiry being "concerned primarily with economic benefit rather than sentimental attachment." (Citation from *Hayward v Skinner*, 1981)

I suggest she find a lawyer who does that sort of thing.

Family lore in the NT

As a family lawyer in the Northern Territory, I have found that traditional indigenous family structures are a little like Asian cultures, where women often live with their husband's family.

The relationship between mother in law and daughter is often fraught. No dowry system here, thank goodness, but the expectation is that women adopt the customs of the father's tribe or clan group and obey the mother in law. If there is trouble in the relationship, the woman is often blamed.

If a woman wants to leave an unhappy or violent relationship, her children are often taken or left with the father's family. The woman may want to see her children but might have to do so on his country.

That can be risky. The woman then has a choice: return and live with the father's family in order to see one's own children or leave them with the father's family and hope for the best. Clients are often reluctant to take court action for many cultural reasons, but also for the very simple reason that their experience of the law is their people are jailed and children taken.

As a white person with power, one learns not to expect trust. Trust has to be earned. One quickly learns to give the client time to talk. Long pauses. As time-constrained and impatient lawyers, we tend to talk over our clients. That is considered rude. Looking into someone's eyes is considered rude. Touching is considered rude.

Asking personal questions needs to be done gently and sometimes in a roundabout fashion. Often clients will nod or look down and one assumes that they understand or agree, when nothing could be further from the truth. Either they just don't understand and it's rude not to agree, or they're embarrassed that they don't understand.

Trust, after decades of the stolen generation, isn't going to happen easily. Families exposed to the recent NT intervention still recount how the army and the police raided them. Fear and terror washed over every indigenous family in the NT. Almost every indigenous person in the NT has had a relative who was stolen; or now, removed by what they call "the welfare mob".

I have travelled to work in a community with an indigenous support worker and told to go away. Why? We drive a white Toyota. I often announce, "I'm not welfare" as I alight from my car.

The relationship between certain family members is complicated. A child may have more than one mother. It's quite common in



by Aniko Papp

some groups for a girl child to be raised by the biological mother until two or three, then be cared for by the mother's older sister or cousin sister until the child turns five or six.

Once that girl child gets to puberty, then she may return to her other mother for women's business etc. When one thinks about it, it makes sense. A mother might have a baby to raise and sending the toddler to be raised by family gives her a break. Teens are notoriously difficult, but with their other mother, maybe not so much.

Most indigenous clients' sense of time is very different to white society. Recounting history using numbers and dates is quite alien. Older clients often don't really know their own date of birth let alone anyone else's.

It was practice for many decades not to register children's births... why? Because once the birth was registered, the authorities knew of the child's existence and children got removed, especially if they had a white or mixed race parent. Older clients' birth records often show 1st January or 1st July: in some stations or missions, owners pick a date by lottery. This makes accessing justice, such that it is, challenging.

I have had the privilege of being part of songs and dances of sorry business on the Tiwi islands; sitting down on a mat with a client beneath leafy trees for a yarn; seeing kids run about screaming with joy and jumping on laps feted and doted on by extended family.

Sometimes indigenous family lore is reflected in the closeness and support that indigenous families, across generations, give to each other. This law is something we can all learn from.

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