

**The Sleeping Lizard**

Not long ago I lived opposite the North Lismore plateau. Looking up at it while bird-watching through my binoculars, I saw a pair of wedge-tail eagles circling a pair of old habitat trees. The developers say there is nothing up there.

I have since moved into town, and the mayor has returned a parcel of land at the south end of the plateau to the Wijabal Wiabal people. Out of curiosity we took my grandson to have a look, mindful of trespass.

We drove up a short distance near the water tower, and got out of the car for a stroll. We looked up and in the gum trees a couple of koalas were asleep. As we walked back to the car, a large green tree frog was sunning itself on the track.

I may not know a lot, but it looks like since the 1970s the plateau has been left alone and the bush is coming back. The tree species seem to be endemic to this area.

Nothing there? I think they should have another look.

Fiona Campbell  
Lismore

**Simplistic solutions**

There seems to be a lot of confusion amongst those agitating for a simplistic single solution to the water security issue in the Northern Rivers.

1. They seem to think that LGA councillors elected to Rous will be able to (a) override state water policy (b) ignore the investigation by the CSIRO and (c) direct Rous to overturn the water security measures that it has spent the last year planning, implementing and employing new staff to carry out.

2. They claim to be in favour of the CSIRO investigation but keep demanding "just build the dam".

3. They seem to think that asking for further investigations into a new dam but discounting all other options is "keeping options open".

4. Some of them are climate-change deniers, ie they deny human involvement or responsibility in global heating. That probably means they don't understand why climate change is going to be an increasing problem for water storage in dams.

5. They seem to be anti-science, eg a recent Facebook contributor who, when asked to provide some science supporting the Dunoon Dam, said "It is not science, it is Elementary as in sense and sensibility. Science has nothing to do with it."

6. They seem to think that a majority of the Northern Rivers community wants another dam on the same creek. This belief is based on 1000's of signatures grabbed

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.

in malls or kerb-side for a push-poll petition ("Do you want to drink poo water or do you want a new dam?"). They believe these have the same value as normal submissions supported by arguments.

Interestingly, the actual written submissions (as opposed to proformas) in Rous' 2021 exhibition of the *Future Water Plan 2060* were 72% against the dam. (p.35 of the Rous County Council Future Water Plan 2060 Public Exhibition of revised Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy Report on Outcomes, July 2021). Admittedly, there were only 193 of these submissions but it is clear that those who actually read the evidence and take the time to write a submission are mostly in favour of diverse water options and against the eggs-in-one-basket approach.

This follows Rous' first public exhibition in 2020 which also had an overwhelming majority of respondents who gave clear reasons for being pro-diversity and against the dam.

Backing this up again are the submissions recently released by NSW Water, in response to its draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy. These showed that 92.4% were in favour of diverse water options and against the Dunoon Dam.

We will just have to hope that the new councillors on Rous will be more informed and able to make decisions based on science, economics and climate predictions, not populist bluster.

Nan Nicholson  
The Channon

**Forest fracas**

Thanks to the *Nimbin GoodTimes* and S Sorrensen for making the battle to save Cherry Tree State Forest from logging a front page issue, as it should be. None of us can afford to underestimate the enormous environmental wealth our precious forests hold for the survival of life as we know it on this planet.

While 'locked on' there was ample time to reflect on the reasons for doing what we did on that day. For me it was personal.

As a member of Fridays4Forests we have



had the opportunity and privilege to carry out citizen science activities in Cherry Tree under the expert guidance of ecologist Jim Morrison whose passion for, and knowledge of, this particular forest was the kind of contagion the members could not resist. After all, we had no doubt Forestry Corporation had not earned or even maintained their social licence regarding their (mis)management of Native Forests Australia-wide, not just NSW.

Many readers are well aware of the long, depressing history of forest vandalism in this country and the absence of accountability, so when you have the opportunity as our group have had to spend days in these forests gathering data on the flora and fauna, or just being there bearing witness to the cycle of forests, it is no surprise that very soon we incorporated these activities into our collective identity, becoming advocates and defenders of Cherry Tree, investing emotionally in the future of this forest, and prepared to do whatever we felt was necessary to raise awareness to the plight of our Native Forests.

Then there was the absurdity at being labelled and treated as criminals for engaging in this non-violent direct action to defend the forest from logging by a forestry corporation which for decades has consistently broken the rules, and breached numerous environmental regulations. Forestry Corporation will continue to behave in this manner as long as pretend penalties and regulations remain in place posing no threat to their repeated destruction of our forests.

Over the years, I'm sure many of us have been asking the question: who are the real criminals? as we watch injustices unfold here and around the world. The answer became clear to me when I ended up in hospital with a fractured lumbar vertebrae after being recklessly transported to Casino police station in the back of a paddy wagon where no duty of care was forthcoming from the officers driving the vehicle, even when they saw I was injured and unable to walk. It was a nightmare ride and should not have happened.

But we don't lose hope, as history teaches us that the power of acting with intent and purpose for the collective good will eventually prevail. We might not always succeed in our goals, but it is vital that we take a stand to spark debate, and push forward to bring about positive change.

So join us at Cherry Tree and stand up for our forests. You can search #cherrytreeforest or go to: [nefa.org.au](http://nefa.org.au)

Malveena Martyn  
Lismore

**Donate to forest protectors' court costs**

Before Peter Wohlleben published his bestseller book *The Hidden Life of Trees* in 2015, there was hardly any scientific insight into their life, communications, feelings and their social networks.

While humans plan more in decades, trees plan in centuries, and we are still not appreciating the importance of their being. The youth stage of a beech tree can last two hundred years. So we are very lucky that the Star Court Theatre in Lismore is showing a 2021 documentary of the same name, based on the book, as part of the

Notices

**Police Community BBQ**

Saturday 12th February at midday in Allsopp Park. Everyone in the Nimbin community is invited.

**Free notices**

Keep it short, not-for-profit and of interest to our readers, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it for free.

Bangalow Film Festival on 20th January at 5.30pm.

How ironic that on that day the four forest protectors from Cherry Tree State Forest (NGT December, p.1) will be in Casino court facing their charges in the morning.

As I joined Fridays4Forests 18 months ago, a group volunteering to find not only koala scats in logging designated areas in Myrtle State Forest and now Cherry Tree SF, I was concerned about the work ethics of Forestry Corporation, a state-owned company managing the two million hectares of public native forests in NSW.

I learned that a wood-chipped tree has the value of 22 cents, which makes me think that taxpayers' money supports the destruction of our forests and, as in the case of Cherry Tree SF, of a biodiversity hotspot and important wildlife corridor which is connected to the Bundjalung NP and our Border Range NP.

Forestry Corporation has been fined for breaking the rules for decades, and I can only hope and pray that 2022 will bring not only change through our state and federal elections, but a change in how we value, care and look after our public forests.

The North East Forest Alliance ([nefa.org.au](http://nefa.org.au)) always has very relevant information and they are taking the government to court. I hope you can donate some money to their fundraiser for that endeavour. There is a GoFundMe page called 'Fines and court costs for Cherry Tree action' if you want to support the four forest protectors.

Please consider writing a letter or email to our new environment minister James Griffin and/or Kevin

Hogan. Best wishes to the *Nimbin GoodTimes* team and volunteers for a healthy and happy 2022!

Chibo Mertineit  
Lillian Rock

**No nukes**

Whilst the Federal Government is "rattling sabres", and spending more on so 'so called' defence, the movement to abolish nuclear weapons is gathering momentum.

There are now 58 countries, who have ratified the UN Treaty. Boston, New York City and Minneapolis have joined the ICAN Cities Appeal, along with Ballina, Byron Bay and Lismore.

New York City have begun divesting public pension funds from nuclear weapons companies, as have a major Australian superannuation fund and the first Finnish pension fund. The Financial Times wrote a story about how weapons companies, are starting to be impacted by this growing pressure from investors.

The first meeting of State Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will take place at the United Nations in Vienna, 22-24 March, 2022.

Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Germany and Norway are not yet ready to join the TPNW, but they have already announced they will attend the meeting as observers. So it is up to us to put pressure on our government, (whoever they may be) to do likewise.

For more information, check out: [www.ICANW.org](http://www.ICANW.org)  
So here's to a safe nuclear weapons-free future; they are illegal.

Mick and Deborah Stacey  
Ballina

About us

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**NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 28th January**

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto: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.*



# Nimbin Community Centre Inc President's Report 2021

by David Hallett

For many people in Nimbin, together with community organisations and businesses, the past year, in fact the past two years, have been particularly challenging.

And this period has been similarly challenging for the Nimbin Community Centre and for many of its tenants and facility hirers.

For much of 2020/2021 all rents were frozen while a number of tenants also had to request rent concessions due to personal hardship. During the past year, casual hire of Centre facilities reduced considerably, and will likely remain reduced into 2022.

There were two significant achievements in the past year. The first was the purchase of 11A Alternative Way to create a park for Nimbin, both for locals and visitors. This purchase was achieved together with the Rainbow Power Company, and was aided by major donations from a number of Nimbin community organisations, businesses and individuals.

However, the purchase meant that major capital works at the NCC had to be postponed due to reserves expended on the venture.

The second major achievement, following the purchase of 11A Alternative Way, was funding granted for the Rainbow Road project which will be



developed at 11A.

This grant, through the bushfire local recovery fund, was a tribute to considerable work and co-ordination with Lismore City Council by Diana Roberts. Rainbow Road is a long-term project which will provide a fantastic focus for Nimbin's future development and visitors.

Other grant achievements include the FRRR strengthening rural communities grant which

provided funds for ongoing work on Centre walkways, specifically from the Casuarina to Acacia to Bark Hut buildings.

The Centre also received funds from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) to install two water tanks on Centre grounds. Other funding was achieved from NSW Clubs to do an energy audit at the Centre which was completed by Rainbow

Power Company.

New signage, mural restoration and maintenance of the Lighting Up Nimbin project have been highlights of the past year. Also considerable work has been done by Diana along with Wil Polson in the scoping and detailing in preparation for the Centre's new website.

Nimbin Community Centre only functions on a day-to-day basis thanks to the work of co-ordinator Teresa Biscoe and bookkeeper Helen Lynne.

Maintenance co-ordinator Sam Herren continues to be an essential asset to the Centre, engaged in major building work, painting, repairs and in the all-important emergency callouts.

Grounds and gardens co-ordinator Robyn Berry and her team of volunteers continue to keep the Centre looking well-cared-for. Thanks are also due especially to Diana Roberts for upgrading all of the Centre's policy manuals this year.

Committee member Mark Yumol retired this year to be replaced by Wil Polson. Very special thanks to retiring committee member Linnet Pike who has been with the management for many years.

The Community Centre remains indebted to the ongoing volunteer management of Diana Roberts, Michael Balderstone, Louise Graves and Darren Maxwell.

## Community Centre housekeeping

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

After a long and often isolated year with disruptions and closures due to pandemic restrictions, we are all looking forward to a year where we can hopefully plan an event and not have it cancelled at the last minute, or visit loved ones or even get some work done around the place.

### Holiday closures

Our office will be closed for four weeks over the Xmas break with the co-ordinator returning on 17th January.

Bookings for venue hire can still go ahead via our on-line booking system, and we have lots of great information and services up on the website: [www.nimbincommunity.org.au](http://www.nimbincommunity.org.au) if you want to know more about the Community Centre and its projects.

### Expression of Interest – Grant Writer

The Nimbin Community Centre Inc is seeking expressions of interest from people with demonstrated grant writing experience to both reduce the administrative burden on the organisation that accompanies grant writing, while providing the expertise required to develop compelling and impressive funding applications.



NCCI has a number of projects identified and costed should suitable grants become available. The successful applicant will be engaged on a grant-by-grant basis and will be working with NCCI staff and occasionally be required to report to the management committee.

We are looking for people who have had experience writing grants for community organisations where the timeline is likely to be tight and the grants are likely to be smallish in nature. In your EOI please address the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrated grant writing experience – outline grants applied for, the organisation auspicing the grant, whether successful or not and, where successful, amount sought and received;

- Demonstrated understanding of the time required to undertake and complete a grant application;
  - Demonstrated ability to work to a deadline;
  - Indicate your experience, if any, with the smarty grants platform;
  - Desirable: Written examples of grant applications submitted by yourself or material that furthers our understanding of your grant writing expertise;
  - References: From at least two referees that you have worked with/for in this capacity;
  - Hourly rates should be included. Applicants should specify if they are registered for GST or not.
- Please send your EOI to: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au) by 30th January.



**POSITION VACANT**

We are looking for a violin and cello tutor for our strings program and ensemble in 2022.

Please contact the Principal at:  
[marga.helms@rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au](mailto:marga.helms@rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au)  
for more information.

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by Steve Krieg  
Mayor, Lismore City Council

# From the mayor's desk

theme to celebrate.

This year, my wife and I were exhausted, battling through Covid rules and regulations for our business, running our family home and managing an election campaign.

Contemplating the previous twelve months, we settled on the theme of 'What a Year'.

What a year 2021 has been. There have been many highlights for me personally, turning 50 being one, and being elected by the voters of

Lismore City Council to be their mayor as another.

Having never been involved in any level of government before, it was certainly a very exciting experience, and one that I am extremely grateful for.

For my first column as Mayor of Lismore, I would like to tell you a little about myself. I am married to Jules, the most important person in my life, and our children, Sam, the only son, and four

daughters, Jess, Jorgi, Annie and Gabby. We have owned and operated La Baracca for nearly fourteen years, and Ristretto for four years.

Our staff is made up of 25 wonderfully talented, diverse and unique individuals who we like to think of as our extended family. A big belief in my business life is to support local as much as possible, and both of our cafés source our produce from as close to our doorstep as

possible.

As the new year rolls in and 2021 becomes a memory, it is important to focus on the future, and the new and exciting opportunities that await each and every one of us. A new council offers a new direction, and new possibilities for all of us.

It is important to acknowledge the past, and I again would like to publicly thank the previous mayor, Vanessa Ekins, along with returning councillors Elly Bird, Darlene Cook and Adam Guise for their years of service to the community. I sincerely

look forward to working with these talented and passionate people for the next term.

To the new councillors, Peter Colby, Jeri Hall, Andrew Gordon, Electra Jensen, Andrew Bing and Big Rob, I welcome you to public life with your dedication and willingness to serve your electorate.

Together I believe we can offer a new direction and focus for all residents of our local council area, and bring exciting new opportunities for Lismore and our villages.

Wishing you all a fantastic 2022.

## New look Lismore Council

A very Happy New Year to you all. We commence 2022 here at Lismore Council with a new mayor, six new councillors and four returned councillors.

Steve Krieg is our new mayor, with Andrew Bing, Elly Bird, Peter Colby, Darlene Cook, Vanessa Ekins, Andrew Gordon, Adam Guise, Jeri Hall, Electra Jensen, and Big Rob making up the new council.

During January and February staff have scheduled a number of induction workshops for us all, to explain in detail how council works, our code of conduct, code of meeting practice, policies, finances, business units, compliance frameworks and reporting obligations, introducing everyone to the complex multifaceted organisation that is local government.

The first formal meeting of the new council will be on Tuesday 11th January where we are sworn in as councillors, and vote on various procedural matters and nominate to sit on a number of committees.

Members of the public are welcome to attend to see their new council in action for the first time.

February will see the first ordinary business meeting of the new council with the usual agenda of business matters that require decisions from the elected members.



by Cr Darlene Cook  
Lismore City Council

The new councillors got together with senior staff on 23rd December to meet each other, to have the general manager give an introductory overview of council operations, and to receive a showbag full of reading materials about council operations to keep us busy over the holidays.

The mayor and councillors come from a wide and diverse range of backgrounds and careers in small business, farming, multinational corporations, media, real estate, community services, science, and teaching to name a few.

Over time, I am sure we will all come out to Nimbin to meet with community members, the Chamber of Commerce and the Nimbin Advisory Group. I hope you will take the opportunity to come and meet and get to know us too.

With the change of council term, the membership

of the Nimbin Advisory Group is also open again for community members to nominate to join.

Expressions of Interest for the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) opened Wednesday, 8th December 2021. The NAG acts as an advisory panel to Lismore City Council. The primary objective of the NAG is to provide advice and guidance to Council on a range of matters impacting the Nimbin community.

If you are a passionate person who resides in the Nimbin area and who would like to make a difference locally, I urge you to nominate. The group meets quarterly in Nimbin, and members discuss reports coming to Council that may affect the Nimbin community.

To find out more or to nominate as a member, please visit the Your Say Lismore website using the link: [www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/expression-of-interest-nimbin-advisory-group-nag](http://www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/expression-of-interest-nimbin-advisory-group-nag)

Nominations close Friday, 4th February. I am very proud to have been re-elected as one of your representatives and advocates, and I look forward to working with the Nimbin community during this term.

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

## Engage with the processes of new Council

The new Lismore Council was declared on 20th December with 11 councillors elected. Congratulations to those councillors and to Steve Krieg who is our new mayor.

Congratulations also to those who put their hat in the ring but weren't elected. Campaigning is hard work and it doesn't always turn out the way we hope it will.

I am particularly disappointed that we didn't manage to achieve our goal of having Gwen Trimble elected to Council as a sorely-needed Nimbin representative. I know that she would have been an excellent addition to the Council and that she would have served Nimbin well if she were elected.

I am incredibly grateful to Gwen and to her partner Carl and to the many, many people in Nimbin who volunteered on our campaign in the hope that Gwen would be elected. I thoroughly enjoyed campaigning alongside you all. And, while we didn't get there this time, I hope you know that I will continue to work hard for Nimbin in the coming term, so please make sure you contact me if I can assist in any way. And, with only two years and nine months in this current term, the next election is not far away to have another go!

On a personal note, I am honoured to have been re-elected. Being a councillor is a challenging thing to do, but it is also incredibly rewarding and fulfilling to serve our community, and I am so



Word of the Bird  
by Cr Elly Bird

grateful to every one person who has put their trust in me and Our Sustainable Future. It's a humbling thing to know that we have the backing of so many of you. If anyone in another Northern Rivers LGA is reading this and would be interested in running an OSF ticket in future elections, please feel free to contact me to have a chat.

The new Council gets straight down to business in early January with training and briefings to bring new councillors up to speed. With only four returning councillors from the previous term, there is a steep learning curve ahead for new councillors and I am hopeful that we will build a strong team that can work together towards positive outcomes for our whole community.

There is some concern among people I speak to that the majority of the Council are now from the conservative side of politics, but I honestly believe that wherever you sit on the political spectrum,

anyone who puts their hand up to be a councillor does so because they have the best interest of our community at heart and they want to contribute to making this an even better place than it already is.

We might not always agree on exactly what that looks like, or what the best way to get there is, but that intention is shared and it should be respected.

There are some key decisions coming up for Council and it will be important for the community to engage with councillors, and to engage with Council processes to ensure that all councillors are hearing what the community is concerned about so we can be responsive and make good decisions on your behalf.

Make sure that you register on Council's community consultation website and take the time to participate in our processes: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au>

If you go there right now, you can see that several strategies are open for your feedback, and seeking expressions of interest for new members to join our Aboriginal Advisory Group, the Nimbin Advisory Group and the Disability Access and Inclusion Committee. The best way to engage with Council and with your community is to get involved!

Happy New Year to you and I hope to see you out and about in our amazing community. I can be contacted on 0418-639-927, or at: [elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

Wishing you all a **Happy new year**

May this year see us really turn things around for people and the planet.

TAMARASMITH.ORG.AU

I am here to help if you need it.

**TAMARA SMITH MP**  
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

02 6686 7522  
ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au  
Shop 1, 7 Moon Street, Ballina NSW 2478

Authorised by Tamara Smith Member for Ballina. Produced using parliamentary entitlements.

THE GREENS



# Turning the Page

As we move into 2022, it's a time to reflect and to think about the future.

Some of us will make New Year resolutions. More exercise? Eating better? Improving our finances? 2022 is also a federal election year and a time to consider our current government and the sort of Australia we want for the future.

As Labor's candidate for Page, I ask readers to consider the following:

Do you believe the Scott Morrison/Barnaby Joyce Government will get better in its fourth term? Is this as good as it gets? Or can we do better, aim higher, focus more on ordinary Australians and less on politicians?

The Morrison/Joyce government takes those of us who live in National Party-held seats for granted and would have us believe that we deserve less than our friends in the city.

They give us false choices: address climate change or create jobs; farmers versus the environment; good wages now or funds for our retirement later.

Labor has a plan that offers a government with a focus on the community and a better Australia. We can do better, we can aim higher.

We strive for better life for working families, improved aged care arrangements,



by Patrick Deegan

affordable childcare, stronger Medicare, an education system that benefits all our students.

We stand for fairer wages, investment in skills and training, revitalisation of the manufacturing industry in Australia, a proper national broadband network.

In the regions, real investment in renewable energy and action on climate change will create jobs and improve our economy.

We want a country in which we can be proud of our own identity. That's why we value the arts and our culture and why we will protect the ABC and the SBS.

Labor will embrace the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We are proud that we live in the land of the oldest continuing culture in the world.

We want a country where no-one is held back and no-one is left behind.

At the next election there will be a number of choices, but ultimately it will come down to the choice between more of the same, or a better future with a Labor government.

# Friends of the Koala leads the way in koala protection

by Janelle Saffin MP

It is two years since the catastrophic bushfires in Australia that killed or harmed an estimated three billion animals including more than 60,000 koalas – a devastating number for a species that was already in trouble.

In response to this huge loss, and with the world's attention drawn to the plight of our koalas, funding has flowed from around the world for wildlife welfare programs.

Lismore-based Friends of the Koala (FOK) says support for koala recovery has increased dramatically since the Black Summer fires.

In December, I visited the Friends of the Koala site in East Lismore to discuss their on-going rescue, rehabilitation and advocacy work and have a look at their plans for expansion.

Over 35 years, FOK has grown from a volunteer koala rescue group to an organisation with 400 members, 150 volunteers, eight staff and a 24-hour koala rescue hotline.

The complex includes a specialist koala hospital, education and administration centre and community nursery. Thanks to government funding and sponsorship from the International Fund for



Animal Welfare, a significant expansion is about to begin that will transform the grounds.

I strongly supported FOK's successful application for a grant under the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Program for a viewing deck off the education centre/administration building. This is just one part of the planned expansion of the site, and will provide better opportunities for education

groups and visitors to view the koalas in care.

I had a most informative tour of the facility, shown around by the new FOK president Aliison Kelly, secretary Judith Williams and operations and communications manager Claire Agnew. We met two of the koalas in care, Charlotte and Lauren, and saw big boy Themis as he was coming round from anaesthetic after a successful treatment for conjunctivitis

under the care of Vet Jackie Reed and Vet Nurse Marley Christian.

Jackie says FOK tends to more sick and injured koalas than any other rescue group and wildlife hospital in the state. Since the bushfires, FOK has worked with the Rural Fire Service to develop protocols for koala rescue during and after fires.

There are many aspects to the work of Friends of the Koala, including political lobbying and advocacy and research. This work all goes towards the conservation and enhancement of koala habitat and towards saving koalas across the region.

Friends of the Koala has built a strong reputation for their work in the community. I congratulate them for winning the Outstanding Community Organisation Award at the 2021 Northern Rivers Business Awards.

FOK is always looking for volunteers to work alongside staff to maintain the rescue hotline, care for koalas, collect leaf for koalas in care, work on habitat restoration projects and advocate for koalas and their habitat.

You can also support Friends of the Koalas by becoming a member.

We can all help protect koalas by reporting sick and injured animals to the Friends of Koala 24-hour hotline: 6622-1233.

## Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre POSITIONS VACANT

### CASUAL RELIEF STAFF (PAID POSITIONS):

Casual staff are required to provide relief for PPT staff when they take leave/are unavailable, or to provide additional staff hours when needed. \* Must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

#### • Casual Relief Community Workers:

Max 18 hrs/wk. Min qualifications Cert 4 in Community Services / Community development – SCHADS Award Level 3.

#### • Casual Relief Services Australia (Centrelink) Agency Staff:

Max 18 hrs/wk. Min quals Cert 2 in Community Services or equivalent/experience. Must be available to work on short notice – SCHADS Award Level 2.

Applicants for the above positions **MUST** address the selection criteria in the job kits, available on our website [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au) or via NNIC, 71 Cullen Street Nimbin, phone 6689-1692. **Applications close Friday 4th February, 2022.**

NNIC is an EEO employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait applicants are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will be required to undergo the Working with Children and relevant Police checks.

### VOLUNTEER STAFF ALSO URGENTLY REQUIRED:

Volunteers are key to the NNIC team. Mutual obligation placements available.

\* Must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Current Working with Children Check required.

#### • Food Relief/Food Recovery Projects:

Volunteers are needed to assist with food preparation, food sorting and food hamper packing. Must be willing to work under supervision and follow food safety protocols.

Please send Expressions Of Interest to [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

• **Front of House support volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to support our front of house services. Min Cert 2 in Community Services or very good people skills and relevant experience required.

IT skills an advantage. Please send Expressions Of Interest to [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)



Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre



# On His Majesty's service

by Simon Thomas

Despite my long connection with Bhutan, it's not every day that I get a phone call from that mysterious Himalayan kingdom. It's also not every day that I get a job offer, which is not that surprising considering I never had a job.

So, when I saw the name of my old mate and project collaborator Pawo pop up on my pocket demon, I had an immediate premonition of another crazy adventure in the making. I could smell the scent of some almost forgotten wanderlust which has been captive in me like a genie in a bottle since my dramatic escape from Kathmandu almost two years ago.

Pawo is a busy guy who doesn't just ring up for a casual chat. He is tall for a Bhutanese, with flowing black hair and a princely

demeanour which magnetises the attention of a crowd whenever he walks into a room.

I knew that he was recruiting crew for his second feature film, following the stunning success of *A Yak in the Classroom*, which recently made the shortlist for the Oscars. I wondered if perhaps he had a role for me, having worked together on the shoot for *Hema Hema* by Khyentse Norbu for which Pawo was producer.

However, Pawo's offer was nothing to do with his directorial career, but due to his close friendship with the secretary of the Bhutanese King, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk.

It is hard to underestimate the importance of the king to Bhutanese society. "K5" as he is affectionately known, is loved with almost god-like reverence, in fact it is common to see his portrait displayed in Bhutanese

temples along with the colourful depictions of terrifying and sublime deities.

While his father enacted a democratic parliament shortly before his abdication ten years ago, the monarch still wields considerable power, both through the constitutional provisions and the sway they hold over the population.

Pawo explained how the pandemic has affected the "Hermit Kingdom" as it is sometimes known. In particular, when all the Indian guest workers went back home, the country was left with a severe shortage of skilled workers, a legacy of their late and cautious entry into the process of modernisation. The nation shunned both internet and television until satellite signals beamed towards bordering India made isolating the population from such trickery redundant.



Pawo Dzong, where the lord formerly lived, now used as an administrative centre.

The next piece to the puzzle, Pawo explained, is the 'Desuung' (warriors of peace) program which the King initiated in 2011. It is something between the SES and army reserve in which thousands of young people are trained in disaster response, civil defence and other community service.

The King has launched a program called the 'Desuung Skilling Project' (DSP) which aims to hothouse a portion of the young

volunteers in all the skills found to be lacking in these Covid times, including trades and technical roles.

The Dessung group has been lauded internationally for their record-breaking effort in which they vaccinated 90% of the population in one week. You might not like the whole vaccine scenario, but you must admit that safely bringing a deeply frozen medicine to every far away village, many of which do not

have road access, was quite a feat!

My role in this DSP will be to train the newly-minted tradies in all things relating to running their lives and businesses and to mentor them as they return to their villages and begin their new lives.

It's a huge and exciting task in a fascinating and difficult to visit place. Hopefully, we will be there by April, but let's see what Covid has to say about that!

# It's a car-friendly world

by Bernadine Schwartz

When the world saw the birth of Henry's Model T Ford, it was the first affordable, mass produced car and that phrase, *from little things, big things grow*, took on a whole new meaning. Since then cars have transformed our world and now it's bursting at the seams, with overrun cities, urban sprawl and a sea of 1.446 billion cars, that rush in and out like the tide, day in and day out.

Now the world would like us to believe if we all drive a Tesla, problem solved. But the world just can't see the forest for the trees. We keep focusing on emissions, never wanting to talk about the contentious issue of cars themselves.

Well before that brand new car hits the road, even if it's electric, the cost to Mother Earth is high and according to an article in *Forbes* by Nexant, they're also riddled with plastic. Of the roughly 30,000 or so components that make up a car, a third are an assortment of plastics and polymers, including bumpers and dashboards, that ends up in landfill.

They need countless other resources and none of it is eco-friendly or sustainable, including tyres, another unresolved issue and

estimated to rise to 2.7 billion units this year.

But what is always forgotten is the all-consuming package deal that caters exclusively to cars. What's a car without roads, bridges, parking lots, super highways and petrol stations?

According to a study published in *Earth Sciences*, roads have shattered Mother Earth into roughly 600,000 pieces, with more than half of these fragments taking up less than 1 square kilometre. Roads inevitably bring what the study calls contagious development, where roads get longer and wider and then the necessary infrastructure follows.

The next thing you know, it's always been there and what was lost is forgotten. That grove of old trees and little creek full of twists and turns, erased from the landscape. They were never there.

Virtually all of Western Europe, eastern America and Japan have nowhere left untouched by roads and only 7% of roadless regions on the planet cover an area 100 square kilometres or more.

Some of these last vestiges of nature can be found in parts of the rainforests of Indonesia and the Amazon and to the north, in the tundra and boreal forests of northern Russia and Canada. Yet a mere 9% are all that's protected,

which carries very little weight in these areas. Like the tree that fell to the forest floor unheard. Did it happen? The world certainly didn't hear it.

Roads don't just carry vehicles to their destination, but also facilitate the spread of pathogens and introduce invasive species of animals and plants. They're responsible for soil erosion and the contamination of rivers and wetlands and cause disruption to the gene flow of animal populations living nearby.

They've penetrated and violated some of the remotest regions on Earth, where humans have never ventured before, leaving gaping wounds and exposing the forests to the incessant pressures of the outside world, including not only wildlife but also the people of the forest.

The Amazon is a typical example where from high above it's beginning to resemble a city, with its tangled mess of interconnecting roads, permanently tattooed on the forest floor. They've opened up vast areas for cattle pastures, soy farms, and dams. And made the crime of poaching and illegal logging far easier to commit.

Cars and roads are also death traps, and every year in Australia alone, 4 million mammals, along with 6 million birds, reptiles and



Photo courtesy Geotab

other species are killed, including animals already highly endangered, like the koala, the wedge tail eagle and the Tasmanian devil.

If we continue on this old worn out road, we'll have little or no chance of preserving what's left of our last intact wildernesses. But humans know no limits and according to Monika Hoffman, a spacial analyst at Eberswalde University for sustainable development, many estimates of road free regions are already shrinking, and roads are only expected to grow another 60% by 2050.

Already there's over a billion kilometres of roads, precious space given up exclusively for cars. Not parklands and nature reserves for wildlife and for our children to enjoy and appreciate.

Cars have infiltrated not only the

planet but our perception of life. We frown upon India's caste system but the rest of the world has its very own, where a car today determines your status, with Brahmins riding in their Mercedes, while the untouchables catch a bus or hitch a ride.

I see cars banked up at Maccas and out onto the street. Windows up, aircon on, engines all running and an empty car park just sitting there.

It's a world obsessed with cars but a car-friendly world can never be eco-friendly, you can't have both. We once said all roads lead to Rome, but today they're leading us to extinction and we won't change. We're stubborn and arrogant creatures of habit.

Sadly it seems our children, and Mother Earth, will continue to take a back seat right up to the very end.

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# What is power?



by Diana Gosper,  
Rainbow Power Co.

I want more power!  
I want free power!  
I want reliable power!  
But what is power?  
It can't just be the 240 Watt plug on your wall, right?  
Right.

Power (represented by the symbol P) is basically a calculation of the workload that an electric current can do, and that workload is measured in Watts (we use capitals here as it is the name of the person who invented the term).

There is a formula for calculating power, but first we need to look at a couple of other basics. I mentioned the electric current; Ampere (amps for short, same story here re the capital A), represented by the letter A, is how an electric current (represented by the symbol I) is measured; the current itself is being created by the movement of electrons within a conducting material of some sort (the conductor).

Something has to push those electrons though right? Right. The force that makes the electrons flow is called Voltage and is a pressure, it is measured in Volts (Mr Voltaire, same deal) and the symbol is V (also referred to as U in Europe).

As the electrical current is being forced through the conductor, it meets resistance, and that resistance is measured in Ohms, the symbol is  $\Omega$ .

Voltage, current and resistance are related in a directly proportional relationship; - if resistance is low, more electrons move, meaning a higher current. - if resistance is higher, less electrons move, meaning the current is lower. - if resistance is very high, no electrons move at all, meaning no current will be produced. So in short, the resistance of the conductor is what determines how much current runs through a material - at a given voltage. This is called Ohm's Law and is represented in this formula for you techy geeky types; Current (A) = Voltage (V) /

Resistance ( $\Omega$ )  $I = V/R$

Ohm's law is the most important law of an electrical circuit as it lays the foundations for almost all electrical calculations; it allows you to determine the current that runs through a cable (or a fuse) at different voltages.

Knowing how much current you can run through a cable enables you to select the right cable for your system.

Now that we have the basics, I can give you the formula for calculating power;  $P = I \times V$  or Watts = Current x Voltage. But also from Ohm's Law other formulas can be calculated; one often used formula is;  $I = P/V$  or Current = Watts/Volts.

This formula enables you to figure out how much current runs through a cable, when the voltage and the power are known. An example of how this formula would be used:

Problem: We have a 12V battery and it is connected to a 2400 W load, and we need to know the current that will run through the cable.

Solution:  
 $V = 12V$        $P = 2400W$   
 $I = P/V = 2400/12 = 200A$

One of the advantages of using power in calculations or for measurements is that power is independent of voltage. This is very helpful in systems where multiple voltages exist, for example, where the system has battery, mains power and solar panels, or where it is running both 12 and 24, perhaps even 48 V systems. Power remains the same across all the different voltages.

I hope this has helped demystify 'power' a little bit, and has given you some more information to assist you on your solar powered journey.

Rainbow Power Company are the leading local solar specialists, call today to make an appointment on 02 6689-1430 or just pop in to see us at 1 Alternative Way in Nimbin.

We also have a beautiful website at: [www.rpc.com.au](http://www.rpc.com.au)



**Revenge of the Loon**  
by Laurie Axtens

As Lismore readies itself to go into administration in the next 18 months, this last council election will be providing residents with a staging of the Peter Jackson classic *Meet the Feebles*; with new mayor Steve starring as Bletch the producer, Gordo as Trevor the stage managing rat and Big Rob as the fly in the sky.

Advertisers are already lining up to get their promos into the live streaming of the new council comedy capers.

Having knee-capped every other possible conservative candidate, the stokers and panzers of the Krieg blitz have swept into power, installing a team with absolutely no council experience and a

mayor who has never chaired a single public meeting.

With former mayor Vanessa filling the other lead role as Heidi and councillor Bird cross-dressing to bring us her best interpretation of the naive hedgehog Wobert; lovers of this cult classic will expect to ROFL throughout the streamings.

For those of you unfamiliar with the *Feebles*, the film depicts the last rehearsals and back-stage reality of a band of muppets as their show unravels and implodes.

Admittedly dated, this staging of the *Feebles*, despite its X rating, will be one for the whole family to enjoy. Don't miss it: <https://webcast.lismore.nsw.gov.au>

# Water on the ropes

## Shapeshifting

by Anand Gandharva

546 years ago, an ancient, 4360-plus year-old Egyptian obelisk from Heliopolis, a 25-metre tall ode to the sun god, was raised on Vatican Square. The ropes strained under the weight. A man from Genoa, who knew about ropes, supposedly yelled out, "Water on the ropes".

The heavy stone was slowly raised by teams of horses. A large crowd saw the event, and was sworn by Pope Sixtus V to silence... on pain of death.

From the cracking sounds, the ropes were about to break, shattering the monument. A sailor broke the rules and yelled. The ropes were doused with water. They held. The day was saved, the obelisk raised. A grateful Pope lauded the sailor and his home town.

Some say the story is just a legend. But it sounds plausible, and is apt for today. Humanity is heading to breaking point. It is called unsustainability: the process of environmental irresponsibility. No sense blaming a deep state, conspiracies or a secret society: blame habits. If one buys garbage, who helps fuel the machine that destroys?

One plastic bag may be handy. Billions of them is a worry: oceans clog up. A few carnivores: no problem. Millions: *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

Environmental responsibility is not taught in many business schools. Yes, on shortening ROIs (Return on Investments), but no to environmental responsibility. Like a pack of wolves stalking prey.

There is now four times more people than at the end of WWII.



Fauna extinction is at an all-time high, air polluted, water scarce, vegetation in steep decline.

Humanity can spread over the solar system, but does not know yet how to travel to other stars. And luckily so for any flora and fauna on other planets, if people deal with space habitats the way some persons and companies pollute Earth.

On current course, it is better if the galaxy stays off limits.

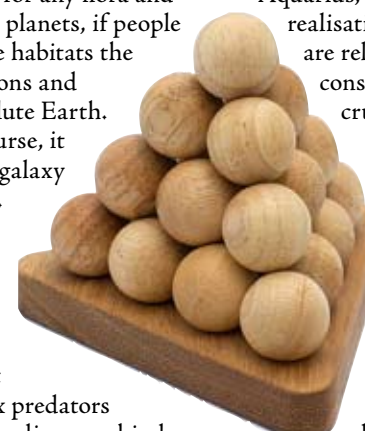
What is sustainable behaviour? It is one's footprint!

The idea that people are apex predators is false and is leading mankind into trouble. Plant protein is as nourishing as animal tissue. In fact, we know it is better, healthier. There are herbivore civilisations. Recipes are tasty, nourishing, art and science sublime, buildings exquisite, etc.

Humanity does not have to be locked in perpetual warfare with other tribes or faiths, but is one human family. A Race of Tan that intermarries, learns from one

another, integrating competition and co-operation. There is a name for this already: Global Village.

As humanity moves from the dark shadows of the Pyramid Age to the Space Age, Pisces to Aquarius, there is a scientific realisation that all genes are related, that abusing conscious animals is cruel.



Food at the bottom of the pyramid is plentiful, the sun shines for free.

The population explosion can continue if people fill up this galaxy. Peacefully.

People treasure democratic rights, predictability, freedom

to enjoy. With 7.8 billion people on destructive journeys, the ropes are about to break. It is time to realise that when a finger is pointed at others, several fingers point back at self.

Switch from omnivore opportunism to plant-based meritocracy.

Humans are no longer predators. Adopt herbivore laws.

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## Farewell to Nimbin Central Year 12

Nimbin Central School farewelled its 2021 Year 12 students by holding both a formal school assembly and school formal on Friday 3rd December.

With Covid restrictions in place, there were many times we thought we wouldn't get to celebrate the success of these wonderful young adults, but with some extra planning and a whole lot of school community assistance we made it happen, giving them a send-off in style.

A wonderful night was enjoyed at school, and everyone soon realised that with some beautiful decorations, a red carpet of our own, some great food and music, a photobooth and some amazing company it would prove to be just as special as any other venue.

The school would like to wish all the graduating students of 2021 the very best of luck, and we will miss them all dearly. Congratulations!



## Community is poetry

by Vincent Stead

After being postponed twice due to Covid, the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup was finally held on the weekend of 4th-5th December.

The event's success was testament to the determination of Gail M Clarke to run it, and the continued support of the Nimbin community in achieving that objective.

The Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup provides poets with a platform to share their work and the opportunity to share in over \$5000 in prizemoney. This money and other costs are all raised by raffle tickets sold to, and donations by the Nimbin community, whose generosity is greatly appreciated.

The event this year was a huge logistical undertaking with indoor and outdoor stages to accommodate the requirements of Covid restrictions and allow the participation of everybody.

Special thanks to the Town Hall Committee for providing the space, Hemp Embassy for providing the marquee, the team at the Hemp Bar for erecting it, Zeb Schultz and the crew from 'SeeSpace' for providing the visual technology linking the two stages, all the people who helped out



2021 Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup Winner Thomas Bailey with Finalists and Judges Photo: Lynne Kohler

in innumerable ways, and the Blue Knob Cafe for keeping everyone fed and hydrated.

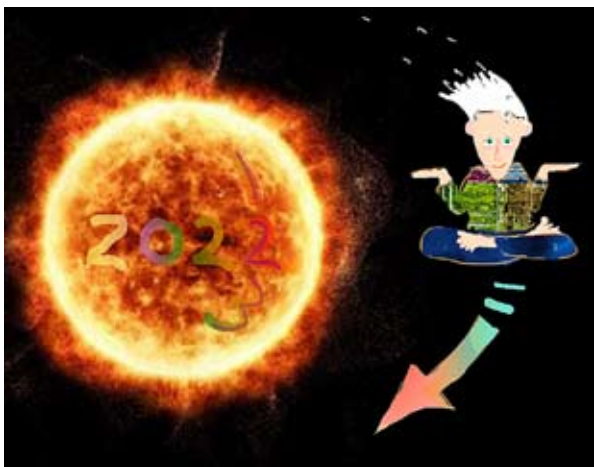
32 poets competed for the coveted Cup and the major prize of \$2000, with bush, freestyle, prose, rap, rhyming, hip hop, contemporary, theatrical and experimental styles of poetry on display. All the poets were winners, with a lot of new local poetic talent emerging, but the eventual overall winner was Thomas Bailey.

The People's Choice Award was shared jointly by Jemma Winkworth and Grace Spencer, representing the appreciation of audiences at both

stages.

Planning is already underway for the 2022 Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, 3rd-4th September. This year the event survived Covid, border restrictions, postponements, unexpected costs, road closures, technical glitches and a freak storm, but every challenge was overcome with the support of the community and its members.

2022 will hopefully be easier, but will assuredly be a poetic success, because the co-operation of the Nimbin community is beautiful poetry.



## Sonnet V

by S Sorrensen

Nearly the new year, I think it's today,  
Resolution time: a promise we make  
To not do that which we'll do anyway,  
A solemn vow that we know we will break.

No, no! Resolutions don't help us heal.  
Accept who you are, that is my theory,  
Accept the world too, because it's, like, real,  
Filled with the good, the sad and the beery.

Real is the world of love lost and love gained,  
Sunsets in winter, omicron in spring,  
Real is her smile when she smells the night rain,  
And real our tears that day of his leaving.

So, let the countdown begin: three, two, one...  
Happy New Year! Once more around the sun.



# Hotshots head for Nimbin



Look out ladies, the hunks from Sydney Hotshots are back to sizzle and seduce for one night only with a brand-new killer show.

The two-hour production is a visual feast, choreographed and developed by Australia's leading professionals. The hand-picked selection of guys will have the ladies up from their chairs, screaming for more.

With a totally interactive production, The Secret Fantasies Tour is the perfect night out with the girls.

A high energy production, the Hotshots shows boast the perfect mix of killer dance routines, eye-catching costumes, acrobatics, and jaw-dropping athletic male physiques. The guys are renowned for being extra cheeky, but always charming.

The smorgasbord of sexy guys are selected from hundreds of men nationwide and put through an intensive "Hotshots

Bootcamp", all graduating with an A+ in hip thrusting! The fellas come from various backgrounds from tradies, cops, farmers and even fireman to tour Australia and entertain the ladies.

Hosted by seasoned professional Paul Reynolds (original cast member of Manpower Australia and Las Vegas headliner), Reynold's showmanship and cheeky banter with audiences makes for an extra-entertaining evening. It's the most fun a girl can have standing up!

The Sydney Hotshots have graced television screens, appearing on *Studio 10*, *Sunrise*, *AGT* and *Good Morning New Zealand* to name only a few, as well as countless radio interviews and newspaper articles/interviews.

The Sydney Hotshots will perform at the Nimbin Hotel and Backpackers on Friday, 21st January. Tickets from: [eventbrite.com.au](http://eventbrite.com.au)

# the other side of song tour

The inaugural Regional Venue Collective tour featuring Wild Thyme has been postponed, and they will now appear at Byron Theatre on Thursday 7th April, The Regent in Murwillumbah on Friday 8th April, and at Star Court Theatre in Lismore on 9th April, all shows starting at 7.30pm.

Wild Thyme is the recently birthed and incredibly glorious love-child of three musicians at the top of their game: Arlene Fletcher on double bass and vocals, Katie Crane on guitar and vocals, and Laura Targett on fiddle and vocals.

With influences from Bluegrass, to Klezmer, to Gypsy-Jazz, to swing, to the dance music of European folk traditions, Wild Thyme have the skills to explore musical expression in innovative and exciting ways.

Experiencing a live show is to immerse yourself into their exciting, immediate and

passionate world – full of driving, high-energy music with beautiful harmonies. Wild and upbeat, tender and soulful, their virtuosic instrumental expertise and outstanding improvisational skills mesmerise and delight.

The three musicians, who come from diverse cultural backgrounds from around there world, combine influences to create an exciting brew of music which covers many genres and invents a few along the way, with an edge-of-your-seat freedom and immediacy.

Wild Thyme's infectious joy, sass, laughter, authenticity combined with their outrageous musical skills make them the must-see break-out act of the summer.

Tickets for Wild Thyme are \$25/20 and are available on-line from all three venues:

[www.the-regent.com.au/live-events](http://www.the-regent.com.au/live-events)

[www.starcourttheatre.com.au/events](http://www.starcourttheatre.com.au/events)

[www.byroncentre.com.au/whats-on](http://www.byroncentre.com.au/whats-on)

# Coming up at The Regent

The Regent in Murwillumbah is bouncing into 2022 with an astonishing array of talented performers for your entertainment.

Start the year with a well-earned laugh, with Austen Tayshus and special guest Mandy Nolan from 8pm on Thursday 6th January, tickets \$30. Enjoy Vanessa Larry Mitchell's festival smash-hit comedy show, *Tear Drops on My Dildo* (pictured) on Friday 14th January (an 18+ show), tickets \$35/30.

The Bangalow Film Festival runs in the evenings from Thursday 27th to Saturday 29th January, followed by the award-winning film, *Manus*,



with a Q&A after the film with Mandy Nolan and the director, Angus MacDonald. This is a fundraiser for the Uki Refugee Project from 2pm Sunday 30th January.

The very popular Balcony Sessions continue to present an amazing curation of talent

on the alfresco balcony with a view every Friday from 6-8pm, every Saturday from 6-8pm and World Music on Sundays from 4-6pm.

In January you can catch Felicity Lawless, Jolanda Moyle, JIM-BOB, Jesse Witney, Shivam Rath, Shani Forrester, Parissa Bouas, Sahar, Snez, Jex Lopez launching their new single 'Little Red', SoLar, Bone Lazy, Elena B Williams and Rachel Heaton, and Nimbin's own folk music wiz, Leif Larkin.

Great SE Asian food, pizzas, craft beers, organic wines and frozen margaritas await you. More details and tickets at: [the-regent.com.au/live-events](http://the-regent.com.au/live-events)

# Open Learning Centre gears up for another year

by Judy Hales

Enrol in a course at the Nimbin Open Learning Centre and come along to learn, share and meet with new interesting folk.

Classes usually run for 1½ hours once a week for eight weeks during the school term. Each course costs \$60.

New tutors are always welcome, all we ask is that tutors be reliable and organised. If you have a skill or idea to share with others,



contact the Learning Centre on 6689-1477 and leave a message.

Likely classes for first term

in 2022 will include the ever-popular creative writing class, life drawing, Tai Chi and art classes.

Enrolment will be on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd February. Classes will start on 8th February. See us on facebook at Nimbin Open Learning closer to enrolment days for more details of times and venues.

The Open Learning Centre is a Nimbin Community School project.



HAPPY HOUR: WED, THUR & FRI 5pm—7pm

RAFFLES: Every Friday night from 6:30pm

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**SHIVAM RATH**  
SUNDAY JAN 9  
"Spirited Sitar, Guitars, & Looping"

**SAHAR**  
SUNDAY JAN 16  
"Indie Pakistani Originals sung in Farsi and English"

**SOLAR**  
SUNDAY JAN 23  
"Acoustic, blues and blues guitar played with a passion that moves your feet... and heart"

**LEIF LARKIN'S REALM OF MUSIC**  
SUNDAY JAN 30  
"The Wizard of Sound - Flute, Bouzouki, Accordion, Harmonica and more!"

TICKETS \$15 / \$10 BOOKINGS ADVISED

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