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The battle is over, foes vanquished

Election reflections
by Hanabeth Luke

The reason I decided to step up and step out of my comfort zone and run as an independent Federal candidate, was because I could not sit back one more day without knowing that I'd done everything in my power to rid Australia of the former coalition government.

The lies, the rorts, the treatment of women, and the blind and reckless direction of taxpayer funds as directed by vested interests over the interests of the Australian people. Hurling us all towards climate chaos. It just had to stop.

Since training as a scientist 20 years ago I've had a pretty good idea of what climate disruption had in store, although I never imagined witnessing it in such a horrifically personal way.. not yet... Even the so-called 'alarmist' scientists didn't see it coming this quick.

I found myself in a tinny motoring up the road I drive my kids to school on, delivering food; rescuing my neighbours from roofs; witnessing the lives of my nearest and dearest being turned into something completely different, all under metres of water. The waters just kept going to the horizon, no sense of where it ended.

My town plunged suddenly into what felt like an apocalyptic movie. Cut off from the world, filled with refugees, not enough food, services first absent and then completely overwhelmed. No plan for recovery.



Only a few days after winter solstice, the village celebrated "Illuminate Nimbin".

The mini festival was designed to energise the village. Organised by The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, supported by Lismore Council and funded by the Dept of Planning Industry & Environment.

With engagement of local businesses on a chilly winter's evening, it provided a night to remember for local families.

An array of entertainment was presented in the Town Hall and on the main street, such as lighting displays, circus acts, street performance, local musicians and magic shows. Taste sensations provided by our cafés and local food vendors were enjoyed by all.

Participation in the festival by the community was amazing and exceeded



Just over a month since the federal election, my priorities have not changed. They never did. My work at Southern Cross University has always been oriented to working with communities about the things that matter. Running surveys and doing research that draws out and elevates a community voice. Working with farmers and communities to elevate our rural and regional voices. Teaching students about how we can best work with our land to build resilience for our farms and landscapes. I have always cherished my work and am proud to return to it. I now orient this work to the flood recovery.

I'm not disappointed by the local election result – I'm proud of what our community effort achieved. My hundreds of dedicated volunteers who stood firm in the rain and supported me, asking others to do the same. Nearly 14,000 people

chose to vote for me, many of whom I've never met (thank you all!). Those who understand what a difference an independent can make, those keen to see a politics that brings people together rather than marking our differences.

My theory that most of Byron has moved to Nimbin proved true – lots of people appear to know me there and as a result I won the booth! As a Byron girl, they know who I am, the substance of my determination to work hard for the greater good. Those people know they can trust me with their vote, and I won't waste it: thank you Nimbin.

Watching the election count with baited breath, I watched the number of Labor seats tick over to 77 – a majority government. Albanese said all of the right words when elected – he surprised me, gave me hope, and a profound sense of relief that the rotten

Morrison-Joyce era was over. A First Nations voice in parliament, a federal integrity commission, the end of the climate wars: yes, yes, yes!

But on the very day they got their 77th seat, the Labor government approved the Scarborough Gas Project: the very industry responsible for us not being able to meet our Paris targets. The foreign-owned industry that turns local communities and economies upside-down and sends our resources overseas while we shiver in the depth of winter.

Action is eloquence, and it is the actions I'm watching closely. Sure, some things may be too far in train we can't stop them... but if you take a walk around the streets of Lismore you can see for yourself that business as usual just isn't possible any more.

Nothing will change if the horrific misinformation of the Murdoch press is not highlighted and addressed as a priority. The mess of the former government will be quickly blamed on the mob in there now. A Federal integrity commission must be a first priority so politics can be cleaned up now and for the future. The polluters need to pay their fair share and level the playing field for energy in Australia.

The battle is over, and time will tell how our shiny new Independents and Greens beside a majority Labor government will manage our beloved Australia. I still have great hope that we can see an end to the nasty, negative politics of the past. Hold that space in Canberra, ladies and gents!



Chamber Chat
by David Hyett, president

expectations

The night was a "resounding success". There are already calls for Illuminate Nimbin to become an annual event. The Chamber continues to support initiatives that reinforce community values.

The key takeaway for me was the observation of our unique and amazing community that we are all a part of. Our young folk are so willing to embrace and enjoy the freedom available to them in the safety of wider family, whilst adults engaged in conversations with friends in a relaxed environment.

There is a new wave of

interest in upgrading the Nimbin Skate Park. In its day considered amongst the best in the region but has since fallen into disrepair and is now in need of serious maintenance. A local newly formed Nimbin Skate Park Committee is currently seeking funding to repair the concrete and provide safe space for the younger skaters and learners.

Aquarius 50th planning is charging ahead after a community meeting brought all stake-holders together to assist in formulating a programme of events whilst seeking identification of funding opportunities.

Having recently attended several meetings with Lismore Council and State Government bodies I see that the issues following the floods affecting Lismore are not necessarily the same as those impacting Nimbin.

The Chamber has been pushing to assist our recovery and our community's functionality is road repair - many local roads are either still impassable after the floods or in a state that endangers life.

To reinforce the aesthetic of

the village, the Chamber is seeking the services of mural artists to update some of the above awning art that the village has become famous for both in Australia and overseas.

Chamber members are conducting a 'walk-about' of the village in the upcoming week to conduct an audit on Nimbin's visual and utilitarian functionality with the view to improving the village's appeal to both residents and visitors alike.

Already the public toilets have been identified as a disaster zone and discussions are taking place between council and the chamber to improve this facility.

A quick reminder before closing the 2021/22 financial year:

Chamber membership renewal is due – letters are in the mail.

With our members' support we are looking forward to building a better, stronger and more vibrant village for our children and the community as a whole.

For details, visit our website: <https://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au>

Anti-protest laws, undermining democracy

The mining industry has a problem with democracy, and it has become Australia's democracy problem. Internationally the mining industry has an appalling human rights record, involving corruption of governments, oppression of local and Indigenous populations, support for authoritarian regimes and the murder and disappearance of anti-mining activists.

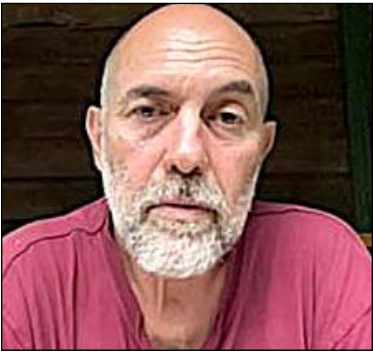
The mining industry is dominated by transnational corporations, and so we should not be surprised that they view Australian democracy simply as another cost of business to be neutralised as far as possible.

Internationally the mining industry has a name for the threat posed by democracy, they call it 'sovereign risk', the risk that populations in democratic states may choose to curtail their business interests.

In Australia, managing democracy has been going well for the mining industry. The Eureka stockade largely centred around proposals for charging fees for mining licences that would be affordable by the big corporations but unaffordable to individual diggers.

In the last 60 or more years, the successful model for the mining industry has been manipulation of the political process through donations to the major political parties, and a sophisticated lobbying industry operating in all parliaments and a revolving door of favours and after-politics jobs for its operatives in parliament.

The mining industry had its dirty hands involved in destabilising the reformist Whitlam government (when they advocated buying back



by Aiden Ricketts

our nation's mines) and were also explicitly involved in bringing down Kevin Rudd when he proposed a super profits tax on the mining industry. They were also prominent opponents of native title.

They have been the main architects of global climate change scepticism that has slowed government action and cast doubt on the work of independent climate scientists for almost a generation now.

In Australia this corruption is going swimmingly well; the value of the public subsidies enjoyed by the mining and fossil fuel industries far outweighs their substantial contributions to the coffers of both the main political parties. Money well spent.

But having gotten our parliaments under control, their next challenge has been those pesky environmental protesters.

Australia has a very long and proud tradition of non-violent environmental protest, stretching from Terania Creek through the old growth forest campaigns of the nineties and on to Bentley and beyond. In over four decades of blockades and protest there has

been a strong commitment to non-violence throughout.

The protest repertoire has not changed significantly, but in recent years what has changed is the necessary target of protests. It has moved from protesting government to needing to protest the actions of extractive corporations, particularly as governments increasingly rubber-stamp approvals.

Once environmental protest took on the mining industry in earnest with the rise of Lock the Gate and others, the modern orgy of anti-protest laws began. In each and every case, the grubby fingerprints of the mining industry are all over the anti-protest laws.

Tasmania is currently revisiting its already draconian anti-protest laws, and allowing secretive special access to legislators for the mining industry.

NSW has recently passed draconian laws, establishing fines of up to \$22k and/or two years gaol for protests that obstruct major 'infrastructure'.

Recently a botched secretive police raid on a protest skillshare meeting in the Blue Mountains saw police refusing to identify themselves or produce a warrant for trespassing on a rural property.

Non-violent direct action has a proud tradition as part of democratic practice, stretching back to include the suffragettes, the Wave Hill station walk-off, Martin Luther King and the American civil rights movement, and Australia's environment and union and anti-war movements.

The judiciary has progressively recognised the role of civil disobedience in provoking change for the betterment of society



in the longer term, and often applies sentencing discounts for those involved in democratic non-compliance.

Police and security forces however have a fundamental misunderstanding of the difference between non-violent democratic action and dangerous violent extremism. They have this discredited theory called "the spectrum of radicalisation" in which they actually see citizens who take political action in non-violent ways as somehow on a spectrum with terrorism. The common feature: being passionate about a cause.

Beyond passion, there are no other similarities. Democratic activists use the institutions of democracy to win hearts and minds through non-violent protests, while terrorists use extreme violence to terrorise a population (much like conventional militaries do in warfare).

At Bentley, we saw intelligent respectful engagement between police and protesters, and that is

desirable. Conducting secretive, possibly unlawful Rambo-style raids on peaceful protesters undermines the relationship that police need with the general community to attend to their more legitimate functions.

Strategically, I am not a fan of protest actions that unnecessarily inconvenience the general public, but a certain level of inconvenience is the price of democracy.

To the mining industry however, the price of democracy is a dollar figure, donated to political parties, backed by networks of lobbying and professional favours, and an ongoing commitment to outlawing democratic protest.

Our recent Federal election saw climate, and the need for an anti-corruption commission, rise to prominence. Let's continue to prosecute this cause, but understand that it is smaller parties and cross-benchers who we can best trust to do this.

Along with a Federal ICAC, we also urgently need donations reform and the repeal of anti-protest laws.

The Biloela family

by Jane Irene Keogh

Why has this story so captured the hearts and minds of Australia? Including mine?

Part of me resisted the pull. Why concentrate on one family when there are so many families split, rejected and cruelly detained?

One man I know has been denied his family for nine years, his young children now nine years older. He has worked seven days a week and bought a house and sent money to keep them alive.

Another is on Nauru, ill and suffering, while his wife and children have visas in Melbourne.

My two friends have been hidden away like thousands of others, kept out of sight, dehumanised. No-one sees their suffering or their humanity, few know their stories. No-one sees them at their best, surrounded by people who love them. No-one recognises their skills, their gifts, their care for each other. No-one knows their names or sees a smiling face.

But the Biloela family is really a symbol of all such families.

They have been known and loved by a whole community. Through them Australia had a chance to see asylum seekers as real people just like us. Knowing them has helped many Australians see asylum seekers in a different light.

The Biloela family are a gift to Australia. They are symbols of the ordinary, the unique and the capacity for love of each refugee.

Their inhumane treatment shone a light on the vindictive, senseless cruelty of the previous government.

Their release told us the vindictiveness and cruelty – trademarks that have reached into



After four years, the Murugappan family has returned to Biloela. Photo courtesy The Conversation

every facet of our lives these past nine years – have come to an end.

The release of this family and the joy it gives, mirrors the joy and release so many Australians feel at the demise of a government that has cast a cloud of imprisonment over our lives these past years. A cloud of corruption, incompetence, betrayal, denial, of lies and pretence.

The well-being of our nation has been at an all-time low. Australia is better than that.

I am grateful for the Biloela family. I am grateful to Angela and the Biloela community for sharing this family with us.

I am grateful for the thousands of Australians who worked and gave their all these past years in so many different ways to give us back a chance at freedom from oppression and a new humanity and hope.

We can breathe freely. We are released along with our Biloela family.

Positions Vacant at Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC)

NNIC Disaster Recovery Support Program Manager/Case Manager: Full Time– 38hrs/week for a period of TWO YEARS. Tertiary quals in relevant field required. Services/Community Development – SCHADS Award Level 6.

The Program Manager is responsible for managing the NNIC Disaster Recovery Support Program on a day-to-day basis, plus providing some case management services to clients as may be needed, depending on the overall case load and complexities.

NNIC Disaster Recovery Support Program Case Managers: Two positions, Full Time – 38hrs/week each for a period of TWO YEARS. Tertiary quals in relevant field of min Cert IV plus min two years' relevant experience. SCHADS Award level 5.

The Recovery Case Managers will provide disaster case management services to individuals and families impacted by disasters. Case Managers will be responsible for completing Needs Assessments, developing Disaster Recovery Plans in collaboration with clients and making appropriate community referrals for additional services.

Applicants for the above positions MUST address the Selection Criteria in the Job Kits, available on our website: www.nnic.org.au or via NNIC, 71 Cullen St Nimbin, phone 6689-1692.

Applications close 7th August 2022.

NNIC is an EEO employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait applicants are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will be required to undergo Working with Children and Police checks. For more info or queries, contact: admin@nnic.org.au

The Recovery Support Services program is funded by Resilience NSW

I hope everyone had a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours at The Channon Craft Market last month that 'popped up' at the Our Place: Pop-Up Precinct in Lismore.

It was a great day out under brilliant sunshine, and by the looks of it most of the usual stall-holders were there.

Our community has been through a lot since 28th February, so it was a wonderful chance for everyone to reconnect.

Thank you to everyone who came along, the stall holders and market manager Robyn Kelly who

did a terrific job pulling it together, as well as Council staff who assisted on the day.

As you all know, the natural disaster caused extensive damage across our road network. Council assessed that 90% of our 1200km road network suffered extensive damage.

I will keep the community of Nimbin and surrounds informed about the latest work Council is doing to repair this damage. Readers can also go to Council's Your Say Lismore site for updates at: www.yoursay.lismore.gov.au

Wallace Road: Geotechnical drilling was continuing last week to remedy the landslide 1.3km from



From the mayor's desk
by Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

Tuntable Creek Road.
Nimbin Road: Temporary side-track works are in place south of Shipway

Road to reduce traffic stoppages. Design is underway on this complicated site. Please drive with care.

Tuntable Creek Road: Investigation works continue to establish the feasibility of a side-track to facilitate local access to Nimbin north of Rose Road.

Keerrong Road: The bridge piling has been completed. Bridge construction works are now underway.

Repentance Creek Road: No further road closures are planned. The road is currently a gravel surface while asphalt contractor scheduled works are

confirmed. Speed has been reduced to 60km due to loose gravel. Please drive with care.

Dunoon Road: The road is open with caution to traffic. Pavement has been placed, with the final stages being the seal to go ahead last week.

Duncan Road: Funding has been approved to heavy-patch stabilise damaged sections and work has begun.

The Channon Road: Geotechnical investigations are now complete. Reconstruction will be dependent on design of the proposed embankment.

The Channon Road

(Robertson Bridge): Remediation works of the abutments is planned for the coming weeks. Traffic control will be on-site, motorists are advised to drive with caution.

Pinchin Road (embankment failure): Works are scheduled following the completion of Robertson Bridge. Possible road closure may be required which will be advised closer to the date. Works on Ross Road (culvert has been cleared) and Black Road (washed out causeway) have now been completed.

steve.krieg@lismore.nsw.gov.au

NSW Budget lags behind Queensland's on flood recovery

by Janelle Saffin MP,
State Member for Lismore

Treasurer Matt Kean's first Budget, handed down late last month, lagged behind Queensland's simultaneous \$1.7 billion allocation for disaster recovery and resilience in 2022-23.

I'm disappointed that the NSW Government did not use this Budget to unlock serious funding to 'build back better' here in the Northern Rivers region.

After all, the February flood hit both states just as hard.

I can only hope that Queensland-style funding announcements will flow once the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation stands up from 1st July.

What it underlines is the need for a New South Wales version of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

There really is an urgent need to secure a comprehensive joint NSW-Commonwealth Flood

Reconstruction Recovery Package.

I've put forward some practical suggestions to NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet and Federal Minister for Emergency Management Senator Murray Watt, based on my observations and advocacy since the flood. Hopefully, they will be actioned.

I welcome Budget confirmation of a \$132.7 million investment in the State Emergency Service as a good start, particularly for a new Incident Control Centre in Lismore and a facility upgrade for Murwillumbah SES.

I also welcome the Budget announcement of an extra \$149.5 million to expand the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS).

This initiative is long overdue, and speaking recently with leading medico Dr Chris Ingall, the man behind Our House, I know it will help many more patients and their families with the costs of travelling



Janelle with NSW Budget papers

for care.

And as NSW Opposition Leader Chris Minns did in his Budget reply speech, I congratulate the Government on putting \$743 million into palliative care and on its Closing the Gap package to co-design and support locally-focussed activities.

These are shifts in the right direction.

However, on health workforce, this Government now has made two major promises of extra doctors, nurses, midwives and support workers – one from the 2019 State election still not delivered, and a new one in this Budget – so where is 'our share' of them?

Treasurer Kean in his speech boasted that "we are the government for infrastructure", so where is our infrastructure spend?

It's an utter disgrace that there is no new money indicated for housing needs and the housing crisis right across the Northern Rivers, which was dire before the floods and is now calamitous.

I had made a special request of the Premier and Treasurer to find \$7.5 million in the Budget to enable two Landcom-assessed townhouse developments on Council-owned flood-free land in East Lismore and Goonellabah. I am still hopeful of securing funding to deliver 66 new

townhouses by late 2024.

This Budget had no continuation of the 16 weeks of rent assistance or acceleration of housing for flood-impacted communities, no jobs economic development program, no budget for fixing potholes or landslips, no river clean-up, and no school upgrades in the Lismore electorate.

We need vision and planning ... resources, not rhetoric need to flow from the Treasurer.

Assange should come home

To all the Northern Rivers residents who have written to me about Julian Assange recently, be assured that my position has not changed.

It's time Julian was at home in Australia where we can welcome him, his wife and children.

His incarceration is a torturous process and must stop. I have made my views known and I believe there are wheels turning the right way.

Soft diplomacy may well be the key to ending this sorry saga.



On the same Page

Kevin Hogan being interviewed with Lismore mayor, Steve Krieg

We need more flood recovery money

by Kevin Hogan,
Federal Member for Page

The recovery, as we know, is going to take many years. Steps have been taken, but much more still needs to be done urgently.

There was a call out today from major employers in the region for more

assistance. This echoes my call over five weeks ago for this.

Work is happening on developing industry-specific packages, including one for landlords who own CBD or industrial precinct property.

The report from the Flood Inquiry, to be handed down at the end of July, will assist councils in what they further require, whether it

be house moving or lifting, etc.

The flood mitigation work by the CSIRO has commenced, and over \$200 million already put aside for its findings.

We are all on a long journey together, and the money from State and Federal Governments needs to keep flowing for us to rebuild our communities.

NSW Budget: good for many, but more social housing needed

Treasurer Matt Kean delivered the NSW Budget on 21st June, claiming that it will help women, children, First Nations Peoples, and people struggling to find affordable homes.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW CEO, Jack de Groot, said, "It is these people, on the margins of society, who need more substantial support."

Most of the funding for social housing will go towards upgrading existing residences, but "we also need significantly more new social housing dwellings," Mr de Groot said.

"The number of new residences funded by this budget is in the hundreds, when there are 50,000 applicants on the social housing waiting list in NSW.

"This represents over 100,000 people, many of whom wait 10 years or longer for a home," he said.

Homelessness is no longer a phenomenon restricted to people 'sleeping rough', who

make up only 7% of the overall number of people experiencing homelessness.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State Council president, Paul Burton, asserts that more needs to be done to "reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in NSW and to do that we really need more social and affordable homes."

"This is something that is true right across the state, with housing affordability and availability creating situations where people who have jobs, that would have previously allowed purchase or rental of property, are forced into homelessness," Mr Burton said.



Photo courtesy Mission Australia



Green scene
by Sue Higginson MLC

I was sworn into the Legislative Council (the Upper House) of the NSW Parliament last month, as one of your Greens MPs. I entered Parliament a few days before the Federal election in May. For all of us on the progressive side of politics, the Federal election outcome has allowed us to breathe a collective sigh of relief and to focus on what is possible. The Greens' success federally is incredible and exciting. We now have 12 Senators and four Members

Politics – what is happening – what is possible

of the House of Representatives. This makes us the largest and most sustained third represented party in Australia's political history. We have finally loosened the stranglehold of the two-party system on Australian politics. This is a win for democracy and for what is possible. In the lead-up to the Federal election, the Greens ran strong grassroots campaigns across Australia focussed on addressing the climate crisis and the inequality crisis and integrity in politics. Entering the NSW Parliament against this political backdrop and at this stage in the NSW term has been like initiation by fire. The State election is in March, that is only nine months away, so everyone in there who is up for re-election is already in pre-election mode. It seems that everyone is assessing what is possible. Is it possible for the Coalition to get re-elected for another term, after 12 years. Will the cash splashes that are rolling out overcome the harsh facts?

Former Premier Gladys Berijiklien resigned not long ago in a filthy cloud of corruption. New coal mine approvals are still being granted with plans to open new gas fields, like there is no tomorrow. The Coalition, through the introduction of more anti-protest laws, is building the police state against the community and our frontline climate activists. They are frankly ignoring the housing crisis, maintaining unfair work, entrenching First Nations injustice and continuing their wars waged on nature. It's actually been a grim 12 years in NSW politics. From what I have seen in the bear pit so far, I am not sure what Labor thinks is possible. After 12 years in opposition perhaps it thinks it is possible for it to just slip into Government? So far I'm not convinced. I have heard Labor bang on about toll roads quite a bit. Most telling, I watched Labor support the Government's

draconian new anti-protest laws and not support our disallowance motion. Much to my horror, I watched Labor vote against our legislation to create the Great Koala National Park in the Coffs Harbour hinterland. The Great Koala National Park is a wonderful sound proposal, developed over many years by scientists and conservation organisations. It would save koalas, which are predicted to become extinct by 2050, create a national and international tourist attraction and of course, add to our protected area network in NSW, which is in desperate need of building. As we now pivot to the State election of March 2023, I think much more is possible. Like at the Federal level, we can end the two-party stranglehold on our democracy. With more Greens in Parliament we can demand more of what is possible. We can demand safe and secure housing for everyone, fair work, First Nations justice and a better justice

system for all, including legalising drugs. Here in the Northern Rivers we are on the frontier of the climate crisis. We know intimately that we must stop approving coal mines and gas fields and we must bring forward our 100% renewable energy goal. It is possible to draw down carbon through ending the industrial scale logging of our precious public forest estate, which incidentally, the Government is making you pay to destroy, through millions in subsidies. Importantly, it is time to build our protected area network. Currently less than 10% of NSW is within our protected area network. Our protected area network is key to building landscape resilience and for our survival as our climate changes. Let's set a target of 30% of NSW protected by 2030. As your new Greens MP in the NSW Parliament I am focussed on what is really possible.

2022/23 Operational Plan (budget)

by Cr Darlene Cook
Lismore City Council

There were 12 submissions received from members of our community calling for funding of a new amenities block for Peace Park; one requesting funding towards the 50th anniversary of Aquarius next year; and several calling for full funding of Lismore Council's contribution towards Richmond Tweed Regional Library (RTRL). I put up a proposal for these projects to be funded in the budget: \$160,000 for the toilet block; \$16,000 towards Aquarius, and \$140,000 for RTRL. Unfortunately, I was not successful. The toilet block funding request was rejected by councillors. Council staff advised that it had received several grants for community events for the next year and the Aquarius festival co-ordinators should apply for funding from Council under those grants. Cr Elly Bird put up a second motion just calling for the library funding to be approved, which was successful. So thankfully there will be no cuts to services for any RTRL operations for the next year. I was very honoured to be elected as Chairperson of RTRL at the library's quarterly meeting in April, so I am very pleased to see that the full contribution of funds for the library service have been included in Lismore's budget. I am also very pleased to announce that RTRL has been able to purchase a second-hand trailer for its mobile library service, to replace the one written off from flood damages. The trailer is being fitted out now and it is hoped the full mobile library service will

resume its rounds in the next few weeks. I want to thank all our library users for their patience while staff ran a very limited service to the villages in recent months. Everyone has felt the constraint of fewer resources being able to be provided and the lack of some services, including printing and computers. The new trailer will enable all these services to be provided once again. The NSW government has listened to the calls for rate relief funds to be provided for those residents and businesses affected by the floods. They have announced that residents and businesses impacted by flood damage, who have registered with Service NSW, will have their rates for 2022-2023 paid by the government. The Council is still obligated to issue rate notices. However, the state government will pay those rates on our behalf. This is such good news and a great assistance for so many thousands of residents and businesses across the region. The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation will commence operations from 1st July. It has been created and tasked with co-ordinating planning, rebuilding and construction work of essential services, infrastructure and housing beyond the immediate response to the flood emergency and ongoing recovery phase. In order to have our communities' wishes heard, Lismore Council recently conducted a survey on its website seeking input from the public on the future growth management and land use strategy. Options include land swaps; relocation of affected homes and businesses to higher flood-free ground including at the Lismore golf course; opening up new areas of industrial land in Goonellabah; engineered strategies to protect the CBD; abandonment of North and South Lismore as residential areas; and expansion of village boundaries. 253 submissions were received from users of the Your Say forum; and a further 74 emailed submissions. 70 % of respondents were in favour of abandoning North and South Lismore. They favoured land swaps, moving the old heritage homes to new land, and locating streets or neighbourhoods together so they can retain their community identity. People were very divided whether to support or not support proposals to protect the CBD. There were calls for multiple commercial centres across the city as well as a government-backed insurance scheme to boost business confidence. New flood free residential and industrial land releases were overwhelmingly supported, as long as this was not detrimental to prime agricultural lands. The establishment of a new residential/business precinct at the Lismore golf course received mixed responses, with people noting that much of this land is a recognised wildlife corridor and that the lower sections flooded. Designs would have to be visionary and pedestrian-friendly. Other options included introducing medium density zoning for East Lismore, and designing the parameters for an affordable housing contribution scheme for all new developments. A full detailed report will come to the August Council meeting.

I can be contacted by phone on either 6626-0154 or 0427-895-316; or via email: darlene.cook@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Flood recovery grant

Ballina Council recently received a Local Government Recovery (from floods) Grant of \$2.375m. At the June Council meeting I moved a motion to allocate approximately 1% of this grant towards a rent assistance package for Wardell CORE (a not-for-profit community organisation) so that they could continue to provide much needed support and resilience services to those in our community most impacted by the recent floods.



by Cr Jeff Johnson
Ballina Council

This local community-based volunteer group, borne out of the need to provide a Local Recovery Centre in Wardell, are currently fundraising in order pay rent for the building that they have leased for the next 12 months. Without funding support, Wardell could be left without a Flood Recovery Centre! The proposal was very modest (less than 1% of the total State Government grant) and crafted in a way that provided flexibility for Council staff to continue to liaise with Wardell CORE to determine what other ways (assistance with grants or direct funding) Council could provide support. Local people affected by the recent floods clearly need and appreciate the role that Wardell CORE is providing, otherwise there wouldn't be people showing up to collect the donated household items and seeking additional support services. The proposed grant breakdown approved by Council was: \$125,000 allocated to a new off-lead dog exercise area in Alstonville (not impacted by the flood); \$125,000 to enhance an existing animal shelter; \$500,000 for rural road repairs; \$1.5 mil for stormwater and \$25,000 for community education. Absolutely nothing for the people left homeless or had

their properties and personal affects left in ruin. I have contacted all local members of parliament to see what other funding might be available and will also see if this heartless decision can be reconsidered or another funding source within Council identified. Our community is more than just roads and bridges, it's the people that live here that make up our community, and their health and well-being should be at the forefront of Council decision-making. To reject a proposal, formulated with the help of Council staff, to provide less than 1% of the grant to support the people that are actually affected, was a real low point for Ballina Council. When I expressed that I felt ashamed by the decision, Mayor Sharon Cadwallader actually threatened to throw me out of the meeting unless I withdrew the comment. Apparently feelings aren't welcome when discussing funding for flood relief expenditure.

Council votes for more funds in fossil fuel investments
Another disgraceful decision (if I can use that word) at the June Council was to confirm a change to Council's Investment Policy that removed the 0.05% interest

margin preference given to investments in either Green Bonds or non-fossil fuel-aligned institutions. This retrograde change was despite 53 of the 56 community submissions supporting the retention (or increasing) the support for divesting from fossil fuel-aligned financial institutions. Ballina Council has supported the fossil fuel divestment initiative since 2015. The proposal at the time was to divest all investments from fossil fuel-aligned institutions. Mayor Cadwallader actually supported the initiative back then. It's a real shame that as mayor that support is no longer there, particularly since Team Cadwallader councillors (there are four of them) vote as a block. The last few years we have seen glimpses into the future with climate change-induced weather events including a drought, bushfires and now the devastating floods that our community is still trying to recover from. If ever there was a time to recommit to a fossil fuel-free future then now would be that time. Given the widely recognised impacts that climate change will have, even with a 1.5 degree temperature increase, it's local governments and other institutions around the world that are leading the way towards the carbon neutral future that we must achieve to avert the more extreme climate change forecasts. Globally, over 1500 institutions with funds exceeding \$40 trillion have divested from investments in fossil fuels or institutions that support them. Unfortunately, unless two of the six Councillors who voted in support of greater investment in fossil fuels reconsider their position, this policy change will remain in place for the rest of this Council term.

Djanbung Gardens – we’re open again



We got creative at the gardens during lockdown



Koalas still at risk from logging harm

North East Forrest Alliance welcomes the decision by the Land and Environment Court to impose \$285,600 in fines on the Forestry Corporation for illegally logging a Koala High Use Area, dating back to 2018, in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest, north-west of Coffs Harbour.

“The Forestry Corporation have got away for too long flouting the logging rules, so it is past time that they were prosecuted for one example of their illegal activities in north-east NSW’s public forests,” NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh said.

Justice John Robson found that “the felling of the large eucalyptus trees and the construction or operation of snig tracks were highly likely to have had an adverse impact by reducing the size and the quality of the habitat available to the breeding female and offspring” and accepted evidence from the NSW’s Environmental Protection Authority that the removal of feed trees and construction of logging tracks within a Koala High

Use Area would result in actual harm to koalas.

In light of these findings, NEFA calls for a reinstatement of the requirement for the Forestry Corporation to undertake pre-logging surveys to identify Koala High Use Areas and to exclude these from logging.

Forestry Corporation was fined nearly \$155,000 for breaches at Mogo, Olney, Ballengarra, Boyne, Bodalla, Tantawangalo and Bago state forests between April 2020 and April 2022.

Chris Gambian, Chief Executive of the Nature Conservation Council emphasises that “Forestry Corporation is a repeat offender, with six major breaches successfully prosecuted since April 2020.” “There is little evidence the corporation is meeting basic standards under the existing arrangements,” Chris Gambian said.

Independent NSW MLC Justin Field also welcomed the fine against NSW Forestry Corporation but warned plans by the state-owned corporation to log areas of critical koala habitat

over the coming months must be halted if the NSW Government is serious about protecting the species from extinction.

The destruction of koala habitat “will take 40-50 or more years to recover,” and “the real story here is why Forestry Corporation is allowed to log in koala habitat at all,” he said.

“With the koala officially declared “endangered” last month, and with the Government planning to spend over \$100 million in the next decade to purchase or protect koala habitat, why is Forestry Corporation being allowed to log public land with some of the most important remaining koala habitat in the state?”

“I’m calling on Premier Perrottet and NSW Environment Minister James Griffin to put an end to logging in koala habitat now.”

“Any koala conservation efforts in the NSW Government’s \$193 million Koala Strategy are undermined while Forestry Corporation, a state-owned corporation, is allowed to log these important areas,” Justin Field said.

by Robyn Francis

Things have been very quiet at Djanbung Gardens for a few years and it’s with great joy we are re-opening at our usual times on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am to 3pm.

It was a challenge for us to survive two years of Covid cancellations, then, just as we thought we’d get rolling again, the mega-wet hit. We had to cancel our March Permaculture Design Course and the autumn program.

The gardens held up well during those flooding rains, but I’ve never seen so much water moving over the property.

The existing drainage systems I designed worked very well and there was no direct water damage or erosion, though the

unprecedented nature of this event revealed where systems need to be strengthened or new ones created.

Many plants suffered from water-logging and the freshly planted autumn seedlings in the veggie patch melted down into brown slime.

Apart from the raised garden beds, everywhere else the ground was sodden, saturated and simply too wet to get around or do anything outdoors. To stay indoors we had to fight the mould.

The swamp syndrome was perpetuated by persistent rains through April and May, then June ushered in a reprieve from ‘La Nina’ with glorious clear sunny winter weather to dry things out, for the garden to recover and for life at Djanbung to function again.

The Work-for-Wisdom volunteer program starts

again on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am and includes a simple lunch finishing up around 2pm.

Learn as you work with us in the gardens, get some planting materials or garden surplus to take home and ask about earning credits for future workshops and courses under our Fair Share Exchange program.

In August, the annual bamboo harvest season begins and we’ll be offering the usual bamboo essentials weekend workshop and a special 10-day BAMBoot Camp for those wanting to really get some hands-on bamboo experience: harvesting, treating, crafting and making garden structures.

For more information please visit our website: permaculture.com.au or drop in when we’re open.



Coronation Park re-gen

Tunable Creek Landcare has been back on track with bush regeneration since the floods.

A combined 27.5 volunteer hours have been undertaken at Coronation Park with the latest day attended by seven people who planted 40 trees and 40 *Lomandra hystrix*. People will start to see the plantings when they visit the Channon markets or council-owned land.

The DPI-funded “Bridge to Bridge” project to regenerate and replant between Ford and Robertson Bridges at The Channon is also back on track after losing over 40 new plantings in the floods.

Bush regenerators have planted over 680 trees at Coronation Park, The old bridge site and at private landholder sites. The old bridge site was left with nothing but some tenacious Casuarinas and *Callistemon viminalis* and a sign pinned to a tree saying “Bush regeneration occurring here”.

Careful selection of plants was undertaken to ensure the best outcome from potential future flooding but finding these in nurseries wasn’t easy as all the Landcare groups were chasing the same species.

Websters Creek Landcare

This group has been undertaking works at Karawara on Stony Chute Road which included cats claw removal and planting of subtropical rainforest species kindly donated by Friends of the Koala.

The group has been a recipient of a Friends



of the National Parks and Wildlife bushfire restoration grant. Works funded by the grant have involved splatter-gun removal of lantana in the headwaters of Websters Creek at Blue Knob, and will also include rainforest plantings and natural regeneration.

This work complements adjacent works in the riparian area that have been ongoing over three years targeting tobacco, rag weed, giant devils fig, lantana, billy-goat weed, paspalum and vines.

The Landcare group will be holding a stall at the Nimbin markets and will have free booklets on guidelines to regenerating our local waterways, so keep your eye out for them in the future.





by Susie Russell

By the time of publication, the Trees Not Bombs Community Recovery Cafe in the Lismore Quad will have served up our last meal.

Since the deluge drowned Lismore, this community volunteer effort has been a beating heart that has lifted so many from a place of overwhelming despair when the official 'services' have been largely missing in action.

Trees Not Bombs is an entirely volunteer-run and funded effort to provide nourishment and comfort for the flood-affected folks of Lismore and the volunteers who came to assist.

The core crew initially came from Elands, a small village, west of Port Macquarie, and Newcastle. Funds to buy food came from crowdfunding.

We felt we had to do something, and it was obvious that there were thousands of displaced people who would need food.

Nutritious meals and a place to eat them doesn't seem to be part of the official disaster response at all. Koori Kitchen, Hearts Kitchen, Rotary, Sikh Volunteers, Ananda Marga and



Photos: Chloé Martinet

Trees not Bombs

individual people cooking at home have provided hundreds of thousands of takeaway meals to the thousands of people who no longer had a kitchen. What if we hadn't done that, is something I ask myself often.

At Trees Not Bombs, we focused on good quality coffee and somewhere to sit down and eat on plates, with real cutlery.

Dishwashing has been a major part of our operation, and gratitude to all those who have spent many hours washing dishes – you have saved thousands of plastic containers from being thrown away.

Keeping our 'cafe' going for four months has been extraordinary and gratifying. Dozens of people have contributed. We have all learnt a lot and benefitted from being part of something so chaotic and wild and yet stable and grounding at the same time.

Mutual aid is not just good for those who receive, but also incredibly

rewarding for those who can give.

The need hasn't totally gone, and the failure of governments at any level to consider and provide cooked food for people in a disaster is truly appalling.

Providing rations boxes to people who have no kitchens, utensils, crockery or cutlery shows just how out of touch the official response is.

We will all miss coming in and cooking up a storm, but what brought us to help was our connection with our forest protector mates in their hour of need. Now we must turn back to the forests and see if we can't generate enough of a ruckus to make their protection an election issue come March 2023.

You can help us by Standing Up 4 Forests. To be involved, sign on at the North East Forest Alliance website: www.nefa.org.au/standup4forests

Trees Not Bombs will no doubt rise again... maybe at a forest blockade or fundraiser.



Nightcap rainforest protest forty years on

by Trevor Reece

In 2019 the famous Terania Rainforest protection actions that first instigated the protection of rainforests from logging celebrated a forty year anniversary.

The Nightcap Action Group (NAG) was formed to protest rainforest logging that continued across the northern NSW region.

In 1982 a major protest at Mt Nardi near Nimbin brought a final halt to logging in the region and the creation of Nightcap National Park.

In late October 2022, some of the original activists of the 1982 protection actions are organising a remembrance and celebration of that crucial 1982 protest.

There have been songs written about those actions.

Over 100 people were arrested with that 1982

particular environmental protest. In 1983 then following the Mt Nardi actions, saw the Tasmania Franklin River protests and also the first Daintree protests in North Queensland arise.

Sophia Hoeben of Nimbin is co-ordinating the 1982 40-year remembrance event in October this year. Please contact Sophia if you can contribute to the event, she could probably do with some organisational assistance.

Nightcap National Park is now at the heart of many bushwalking areas and activities including camping and abseiling.

Sophia is now in her seventies, living on the pension and continues to be a strong environmentalist with sound principles to this day.

Contact Sophia by email: hoebensophia@gmail.com or phone 0428-685-698.

THE PLANET OF DR MOREAU

by Bernadine Schwartz

I was starting to think I might never see the sun shine again after being confined in my four walls for weeks on end.

Sophie, like myself, was missing her daily routine and growing more despondent every day. So I was elated to wake up to a brand new day, no signs of rain and Sophie there with an extra spring in her step.

Sophie is a gentle red-necked wallaby who came into my life during the 2019 drought, and ever since she's been popping in every morning and afternoon. She's a mother of three and has reaffirmed my belief that all creatures no matter how ugly or beautiful, big or small, feel pain and discomfort, and most certainly have the capacity to give and receive love. I believe Sophie like so many animals, goes about her day with grace, content in her natural surroundings, making no demands on life, other than what she needs.

So I ask why is it that the world seems to look upon Sophie and other species as empty and soulless, as if they're made of unbending steel?

There are approximately 471 million pet dogs in the world that people love and recognise the love they give in return.

It's been said that a dog is a man's best friend but, sadly the same can't be said for the roughly 8.7 million other species that are displaced by humans and their dogs beside them.

US cats and dogs cause 25%-30% of the environmental impact of meat production in the US. US cats and dogs eat as much meat as all the people in France.

Dogs are part of Australian culture and we have one of the highest rates of dog ownership in the world. Of the 9.2 m households in Australia, 5.7 m have one dog or more. Just think of the supermarket, where an entire aisle is stacked high with pet food catering to all those needy pets and their fussy owners. Then there's all those essentials that a modern day dog must have. The American Pet Product Association released a report back in 2018 showing \$72.56 billion were spent on pet's essentials, and last year here in Australia we spent \$21.1 billion.

Last year, \$97 billion was spent just on pet food. So where does all this meat come from? A study from the University of Edinburgh calculated that globally 49 million hectares of land is taken up to produce food for cats and dogs and therefore contributes to deforestation. It accounts for 14.5 per cent of human made greenhouse gases every year. Pet food alone emits 64 million tons, enough to equal the annual emissions of 13.6 million cars.

According to Gregory Okin from UCLA, 25 per cent of all annual meat production is pet food. This means 25 per cent of the land, water, fossil fuels, fertilisers and pesticides are exploited for pet food production,

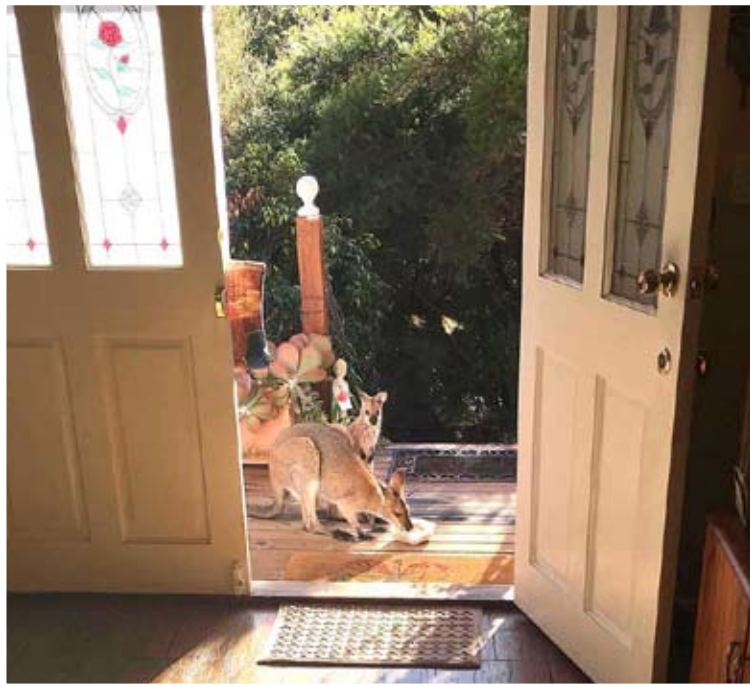
and Okin's calculations don't take into consideration the cost of production, energy, transportation, slaughtering and processing!

Then there's the problem of dog faeces. Research from the US show that 76 million pet dogs produce the same amount of poop as 90 million people, about 5.1 million tons. Dog poop is high in methane, nitrogen and phosphorus, and carries pathogens, bacteria, viruses and parasites that can persist in the soil for years. Dog waste washed into waterways can cause explosions of algae. Even responsible owners with a doggy bag cause harm when plastic and poop end up in landfill.

It's a screwed-up world when fur-babies or the latest breed of designer dog comes at the expense of 8.7 million species that desperately need our protection and care. What about giving them a little love?

The highly endangered mountain gorilla desperately needs some love and care, an incredible animal, caring for itself and the family. Placid vegetarians trying to live a quiet life, the group is protected by a silver-back. Underneath his tough exterior he's a hands-on guardian. If a mother dies or leaves the group, he may take on the responsibility and care of the abandoned baby, even allowing it to sleep with him in his nest.

For many species, females lead the family group and their young stay with them for life. When the females reach middle age and



stop reproducing they still play a big part. Whales, for example, are massive in size and work hard at sourcing food. This is when a grandmother's lasting knowledge comes in, locating food, teaching the grandchildren skills, always ensuring the survival of the pod. Isn't she just like any other grandmother?

A single whale sequesters as much carbon dioxide during its lifetime as a thousand trees, and when they die, they sink to the bottom of the ocean, serving Mother Earth and ourselves long after their dead.

At long last an historical decision was made in India, in Madras' highest court. This recognised the rights of Mother Earth.

Justice Sundaram Srimathy stated, "Mother Nature should

be granted all corresponding rights, duties and the liability of a living person, and humans are required to protect it from harm." In 2018 the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in India were classed as living entities, granting them the same rights as us and the animal kingdom. Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama have also given Mother Earth rights with their Pacha Mama treaty. But it's all on paper and still a living hell on Earth for most wild animals.

All life is sacred and I find it's extremely disturbing knowing it doesn't seem to bother most people living in a world that reads just like *The Island of Dr Moreau* with Monty Python written all over it.

But it's all too much for me and there's nothing to laugh about anymore.

We are ready to play and laugh again!

by Jenny Dowell

Lismore Theatre Company is excited to announce its next show for the 2022 season. This time the community-based company is staging a double header with two short British comedies with a dramatic element.

Alan Grimaldi and the 183 tells of a man who turns up at the office one morning but it is not the office he is expecting.

Lockdown in Little Grimley is about four stalwart actors in an amateur theatre, who have to decide what to perform after the Covid lockdown.

Greg Crane (pictured) will direct the show in August with the assistance of artistic director Bette Guy.

Greg's extensive experience includes many years as a lighting designer, sound technician and lecturer in stage management in South Australia.

Locally, he designed and ran the stage for the Nimbin Lifestyle Festival in 1983 and was stage director for the Lismore Conservatory Production of *Hair* in 1995. Greg has also performed in approximately 26 musicals with Ballina Players and LTC.

"Theatre has been one of the great passions of my life. I have endeavoured to work in every aspect of theatre. I thought that directing these plays would be a contribution, not only to LTC, but also the flood-ravaged Lismore community," Greg said.

The cast consists of well-known local



actors, Carl Moore, Jenny Craig, Stephen Bocking and Lisa Walmsley.

"Rehearsals have commenced and performance dates set for the last two weeks of August," Bette said.

Tickets will be available from: lismoretheatrecompany.org.au and via links from the Company's Facebook page for \$25/\$20 pp. Group bookings of 10 or more are available for \$15pp by contacting Jenny Field on 0402-651-394.

Shows will run from 19th August to 28th August, Friday and Saturday nights 7.30pm and Sundays 2pm.



Pizza Party with Nim-FM

by Bob Tissot

It's pizza party time! Put the 27th July in your diary. Starting at 1pm, Nim-FM 102.3 is firing up the oven in the Community Centre to share pizza, music and good times with their members, supporters and the community. Everyone is welcome.

At the heart of every community is a community radio station, and Nim-FM 102.3 is proud to have been broadcasting for 22 years to residents and visitors in this beautiful valley and beyond.

The last few years have been crazy with fire, pestilence and floods but NimFM rolls on, despite the difficult days.

The roof might leak sometimes, lucky it's stopped raining for a bit, and an effin ejit put a hole in the window with a marble, but our dedicated band of volunteers and presenters work tirelessly to keep the best little community radio station on the air.

A big shout-out and grateful thanks to the talented folk who keep the technical stuff going, maintaining and rebooting the equipment when needed, the admin and support crew who make sure the office is functioning and clean, and the presenters who turn up every day of the week to broadcast an eclectic variety of shows, all unique, to Nimbin and the whole wide world.

We have spoken-word shows, and plenty of music, music, music. Though our antenna has a limited footprint, the power of the internet takes our voice beyond our valley. We have listeners from Europe, Asia, and all over

Australia.

But wait there's more! We always welcome new members, presenters and volunteers. There are a number of on-air opportunities currently available. Have you got something to say, or want to share your favourite music with others? This is your opportunity. If you've never done radio before, don't worry, doesn't matter your age, gender, race, or sexuality, it's never too late to learn a new skill and it's actually very easy.

You don't need to be a technical wunderkind to drive the desk. Bring your own music or access the thousands of CDs in the extensive Nim-FM music library. We get new ones every month. Training and support are provided that can help you produce an excellent radio show and get your message, music, philosophy out there.

If you're shy and not ready to be a presenter but still want to be part of the crew and contribute in other ways, there are behind the scenes positions also waiting to be filled. Join the team and use your IT, admin, social, pizza-cooking skills to provide support for this important community asset. And make new friends.

If you want to find out more, the office is usually open on Thursdays. Drop in and say 'hi', and we hold a general meeting on the first and third Thursday of the month at 1pm. All welcome. We're upstairs in the Casuarina building in the Nimbin Community Centre.

Annual membership is \$33 or \$22 for unwaged; \$11 if under 18.

Music returns to the Quad



Broadfoot

Photos: Chibo Mertineit



Black Train



Monkey and the Fish

CWA centenary ball

The Kyogle Evening Branch of the Country Women's Association is celebrating the centenary of the organisation with a ball.

The ball will be held on Saturday 16th July at 7pm at the Kyogle Bowling Club.

Entertainment will be provided by the popular Cath Simes Band, and the theme is 'Blue and Gold' – the colours of the CWA.

"Whether it's a ball gown or dressing gown, we want everyone to feel welcome to come and celebrate with us," said Branch President, Lyn Croft.

Tickets are \$30 per person and include a light supper.

You can purchase them on-line at: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/917322 or visit the CWA Kyogle Evening branch on Facebook for a link to the ticketing



website.

The CWA is Australia's largest women's group and aims to improve conditions for country women and children.

Dressed ready for the Centenary Ball are Jean Kutchen (Branch Secretary), Lyn Croft (Branch President) and Odette Nettleton (Branch Vice President).

Billen taking to the skies



Fresh alt-folk duo Bella Frankie will join celtic blues and roots trio The Lonesome Boatmen for a night of folky, dancy, wild and dreamy music featuring Michael Turner (Durga Babies), on 6th August at the Billen Cliffs Community Hall in Larnook.

Bella Frankie will be joined by classical cellist Tash Kraemer to launch their new single *The Sun*, a humble and heart-warming reflection on the light found within darkness.

Bella Frankie recorded their debut record on Flinders Island Tasmania, over the summer of '21 and it is due to be released in spring this year. *Falling in the River* is a genre-crossing folk, pop, blues experience which embraces session musicians from across Australia, nestled in the sound of an old cottage and wind-swept landscape.

Their first single, *Rumi* was launched by Christine

Anu on ABC Radio, and was described by Bernard Fanning as "one of those tunes that keeps taking you by surprise. Indian/Celtic melodies... lush string parts and vocal harmonies... a beautiful soft landing at the end. Class!"

Bella Frankie are Michael Turner and Ajita Cannings, hailing from the mud flats and tide lands of the Northern Rivers of NSW. Their musical collaboration formed in 2021 when they fell into a musical and heart collaboration, merging their unique sounds into capacious harmonies and authentic folk-yarns.

Michael Turner is an ARIA award-winning musician of Wild Pumpkins at Midnight. The Pumpkins came soaring out of Tasmania in the early 1980s, conquered Melbourne's mercurial music scene and played Europe for a decade.

Michael played bass with Dan Rumour and The Drift,

was a founding member of The Cruel Sea and has played with The Romaniacs, Durga Babies, and The Ex-Isles and he co-produced Sara Tindley's album *Wild and Unknown* in 2017.

Ajita is a newcomer to the folk music scene, shifting stages from the theatre. She creates eclectic and poetic tunes on her bespoke Bunya pine ukulele.

As passionate folk musicians, they write songs to warm and transform the communities they play for, and are community cultural development artists, having created local performances in India, Switzerland and Australia's coastlines and deserts.

Bella and Frankie are Michael and Ajita's black dogs, a symbol of the simplicity of being together in the love and joy of music.

Tickets are available presale via Humanitix \$20, or \$25 at the door. Curry, chai and cakes will be available.



Free music program provides opportunities for Tweed youth

Gold Coast-based Youth Music Venture is teaming with Tweed Shire Council and Seagulls to provide a new music program for Tweed youth interested in playing in bands.

This is an exciting new opportunity is coming to the Tweed for young people who are interested in music and want to be part of a band.

Youth Music Venture (YMV) is a volunteer organisation operating on the Gold Coast since 2009. Now it's coming to the Tweed, introducing the program to young people aged between 11 and 17 years of age.

Council is partnering with Seagulls for the inaugural free program which starts on audition day, Thursday 21st July at Seagulls at Tweed Heads West, commencing at 4.30pm.

Founder of YMV, Ian Grace said he welcomed the involvement of both Council and Seagulls in launching the program south of the border.

"We started YMV with just one program a year since 2009, but we have been able to expand to four programs this year, and one of the programs will cater for Tweed youth wanting to experience what it is like to play in a band," Mr Grace said.

Participants undergo eight weeks of rehearsals, once a week, mentored by professional musicians, and then the bands will perform in a live concert at Seagulls on Sunday 11th September.

Council community development officer Sylvia Roylance said the YMV initiative was a great opportunity for young people to further develop their interest in music in a practical



and fun way.

"Council is proud to encourage this pathway for our youth and we congratulate Seagulls on providing a venue where they can rehearse and perform," Ms Roylance said.

Seagulls general manager Stuart Burrows said the club was delighted to work with YMV and Council in bringing such a successful program to the Tweed.

"We look forward to hearing some of the Tweed's young talent in action at the club in September," Mr Burrows said.

To participate or to register, visit: www.youthmusicventure.com.au or call Ian Grace on 0424-143-140.



Come and banish the winter blues with some stirring song at the Kyogle Semitones benefit concert, *Song of Songs*, on Saturday 23rd July at 2pm.

The Semitones are Kyogle's own community choir who will perform a program of thrilling variety, from jaunty sea shanties, rhythmic African and Maori folk tunes to the noble inspiration of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*.

Song of Songs refers to the Song of Solomon from the Book of Psalms. Its sensuous poetry provides the lyrics for two of the afternoon's songs, which also includes church music from the Renaissance:

a Handel aria *Where e'er you walk*, and the famous *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* by Verdi.

Ennio Morricone, composer of the popular *Gabriel's Oboe* from the movie *The Mission*, contributes a dreamy piece called *My Fantasy*.

Sharing the stage are noted Lismore tenor soloist Geoff Webb, with more Handel and a Noel Coward crowd pleaser, as well as Lismore band Black Train who will play old time Hillbilly and Gospel.

Concert proceeds will benefit the Lismore Flood Relief Effort and the Kyogle Community Centre

(formerly Kyogle Senior Citizens Centre).

Afterwards, there will be a warming supper for a gold coin donation. There will be a raffle with great prizes, including a hamper from Swan Bay Markets.

Raffle tickets will be available prior to the concert at Semitones Choir street stalls from mid-June.

The concert will be held at the Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall (corner of Summerland Way and Stratheden Street) at 2 pm, with doors open at 1.30 pm. Admission is by cash only, and will cost \$10 per person; \$20 for a family.

NIMBIN BOWLO

Sibley's Bistro

Wednesday-Saturday, 5-8pm

Experience our Winter menu

Bookings for functions and special events, please email: sibleysbistro@hotmail.com or phone 6689-1473

Gluten-free and vegan options available



Club opening hours:

Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close; Sun 8.30am to close

- Visiting bowlers, Burleigh Camels, 10th July
- Open Mic night, Wednesday 13th July, 5.30pm
- Trivia night, Saturday 16th July, 7.30pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome

Take-away alcohol available during opening hours