



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

I had a great time at the Nimbin Country Show catching up with lots of people.

It was wonderful to see so many people attend the free show after a three-year break.

My congratulations to the Nimbin A&I Society, and

Nimbin workshop for Small Business Month

its new president Denise Whitney who did an outstanding job.

As you may have heard or read by now, Council has had to introduce Level 2 water restrictions in Nimbin. We have had to do this because of the falling water level in Mulgum Creek, with no end in sight to dry weather conditions.

I know many in the community have already reduced their water usage, and I thank them for that. However, if we don't introduce restrictions now, we may be forced to introduce stricter Level 3 restrictions sooner.

Please make sure you are aware of how you can and cannot use our precious

water by going to Council's website at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and searching for water restrictions. (See also p.13 in this edition)

October is Small Business Month and Council will be working with the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce to deliver a NSW Government-funded Small Business Month event.

The workshop will focus on branding and marketing with participants learning how to harness Artificial Intelligence for content generation and to streamline social media efforts.

An expert facilitator will provide tips, strategic tricks and alternatives

to traditional methods that will save businesses time and help their brand stand out.

Participants will get hands-on experience using tools like Canva to develop marketing and promotional materials and an opportunity to connect and network with other local business operators.

The workshop will be at the Nimbin Bush Theatre on 27th October from 8am to 4pm. Registrations will be opening shortly via Lismore City Council's Your Say page. Interim enquiries can be directed to: business@lismore.nsw.gov.au

And in more good news, at Council's last meeting we signed off on the tender



Denise Whitney introduces Neville Plush to open the Nimbin Show Photo: Sue Stock

for the way-finding signs that are part of the Nimbin Road Walking Track.

The signs will be strategically located throughout the track to

orientate users, highlight points of interest and tell local stories.

The concept designs are in progress and will have a unique Nimbin feel.



Northern Rivers young sporting champions

On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan,
Federal Member for Page

In September, I held an event in Lismore to celebrate the Northern Rivers Young Sporting Champions.

They were each presented with a certificate and \$550.

They have all excelled at their sport and represented us at a State, National or International level.

Congratulations especially to Riley Flood from Goolmangar Rugby Union.

The Local Sporting Champions program provides financial assistance for competitors aged 12-18 participating in state, national or international championships.

If you visit: www.sportaus.gov.au and go to Grants and Funding you can apply there.

More grants for Nim-FM

It was fantastic for Nimbin Independent Media Inc (Nim-FM) to receive two grants recently under the Community Broadcasting Fund, for \$63,350.

This was to assist with broadcasting and transmission support and programming for First Nations people.

It was great to see Nim-FM receive this funding and for them to be recognised for their great work within our community.

Celebrating and supporting the Nimbin community

I want to start by passing on my congratulations to Denise Whitney, the President Nimbin Show Society and her hard-working team, for running such a fantastic 2023 show.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and was so impressed with the wide range of interesting events and displays. It was a gorgeous day and a record crowd. Shows are country communities at their best.

Community Infrastructure Grants

Now is the time for community organisations to apply for funding in the latest round of the Community Building Partnership (CBP) program.

Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations and local councils are eligible to apply for grants of between \$5000 and \$150,000 to help make their town or suburb a better place to live, work, learn and play.

Community groups rely on grants to fund repairs, upgrades and infrastructure projects and this program has funded projects in Nimbin in the past.

The program is for small infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental, and recreational benefits while promoting community participation and inclusion.

In past rounds local organisations have been



by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

funded for projects ranging from extending the roof at Blue Knob Hall, to fixing drainage at Nimbin Headers sports fields, to building repairs for Birth and Beyond.

I'm sure there are local organisations with worthy projects waiting for funding, so get those applications in. Applications close on Friday 27th October at 5pm.

Grants must be for building, refurbishing or repairing community infrastructure, or for buying freestanding equipment or vehicles.

Each state electorate receives a maximum of \$300,000 in funding and applications are assessed against other proposed projects within the same electorate.

To apply, visit the Community Building Partnership website: nsw.gov.au/cbp

Increased risk of drought

The Bureau of Meteorology has confirmed that Australia is now in an El Niño weather pattern, which means an increased risk of drought.

My office has been receiving

a lot of calls from people concerned about the dry conditions. There are no drought-declared areas in the Lismore electorate at this stage, however the whole area, including Nimbin, is currently listed as 'drought affected' (intensifying).

Nimbin is already experiencing the impact of the dry conditions, with Lismore Council announcing Level 2 water restrictions for the town due to reduced flows at Mulgum Creek.

The Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) is working with industry, regional councils, and community leaders to prepare for the next drought.

Local Land Services (LLS) offers direct support to farmers and landowners on the ground and has reported a doubling of enquiries from producers from July to August.

LLS services include Drought Adoption Officers to help producers adopt tools and drought innovations at local, on-farm and community levels.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries continues to invest in the latest climate research and is implementing a range of programs to support farmers to be prepared.

If you want to keep up to date with the seasonal conditions the DPI website has lots of information at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/climate

Flood petition presented to Parliament

Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan has tabled a petition in the parliament calling on the Federal Government to fully fund the Resilient Home Program as promised to allow for the buyback, relocation and lifting of flood-affected homes.

Signed by thousands of residents of Lismore and the lower Richmond region, the petition is a clear statement of the frustration felt by many residents feeling left behind.

Mr Hogan said, "The money promised for the Resilient Homes Program by the Federal and State Governments was cut in half.

"Many of those hoping to get funding for a buyback, relocation, house raising or retrofit will now miss out."

"The Prime Minister promised to stand by communities and fully support all necessary funding requirements, and this needs to happen urgently," he said.

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First Nations Justice

by Sue Higginson,
NSW Greens MLA

On 14th October you are being asked to Vote YES by the overwhelming majority of First Nations People and allies who work on the front lines of First Nations Justice.

Make no mistake, when you vote YES, well actually, when you write YES, on the referendum ballot paper you will be voting for First Nations Justice. You will also be one of the positive people who cut through the shockwave of misinformation, division, gross political opportunism, including from local Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan, outright racism and some genuinely ignorant confusion.

The polls are suggesting that the referendum will fail. I am hopeful things will turn around and the quest for this small but significant step on the path to First Nations Justice will succeed.

The referendum is simply what it purports to be, constitutional recognition of First Nations people and a Voice to Parliament. It is of significant note that many staunch activists within the Blak Sovereignty movement have now shifted their position from NO to YES because of how awful NO will be and that the Voice will not impact upon sovereignty.

Sovereignty can't be taken, stolen or inadvertently overridden, it can only be ceded! First Nations people are sovereign people of this land and are one of the oldest living cultures on this planet. The referendum can't change that. Constitutional recognition and the Voice is about policy, law and justice, it is about improving the design and the machinery of 'the system'.

As an ally I have worked on the edges of First Nations Justice for decades. As an environmental lawyer I've worked inside and outside the Courts with Elders and communities across NSW as they have given their all to protect Cultural Heritage and Country, particularly in the face of destruction.

The laws that exist to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage are woeful, Juukan Gorge is one recent national example of how laws actually facilitate wanton destruction. They are literally designed to desecrate objects and places that are culturally valuable and part of First Nations peoples living

culture.

This is not because First Nations people and allies haven't been advocating for the needed change, it's because their Voices are not well positioned in the machinery of the system, particularly where competing vested interest voices are at play, such as the Minerals Council, the property developer industry and multinational agribusiness and irrigator lobbyists. A First Nations Voice would seek to level the playing field in cultural heritage policy, law and justice.

As a criminal lawyer, I have worked alongside Elders and communities in the face of systemic police racism that results in the gross over-policing of First Nations people, which is the cause of the disproportionate rate of First Nations people in the criminal justice system and prison. First Nations people are still 10 times more likely to die in custody than the general population.

Two years ago, the number of Aboriginal deaths in custody was the highest on record since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. It's unfathomable that the rate of First Nations deaths in custody is still rising rather than falling, more than 32 years after the Royal Commission. A First Nations Voice would seek to level the playing field in criminal policy, law and justice.

As a Greens MP, I have worked alongside First Nations families who have been denied access to health services resulting in unavoidable and tragic deaths. First Nations people die younger than non-First Nations people. Health standards in Australia let almost half of First Nations men and over a third of women die before they turn 45. The average First Nations life expectancy is about 8 to 9 years earlier than non-First Nations Australians. A First Nations Voice would seek to level the playing field in health policy, law and justice.

Last year in the NSW Parliament I worked alongside First Nations advocates as we tried to implement the recommendations of the Family is Culture Report into law because First Nations children are around 10 times more likely to be removed from their families than non-First Nations children. They make up around 37% of the total out of home care population yet are only 6% of the total child



Photo: Sue Stock

population. Some 81% of First Nations children are on long-term guardianship orders, meaning until they are 18 years old they are at high risk of being separated from their family.

The Coalition Government at the time did not legislate what First Nations communities and Aboriginal Controlled Organisations were asking for, which were actual measures that will effect change for First Nations children, families and communities. I witnessed first-hand the sidelining of First Nations Voices. A First Nations Voice would seek to level the playing field in children, family and community policy, law and justice.

Does constitutional recognition of First Nations people and the Voice go far enough in achieving First Nations justice, obviously not. Is that a reason not to vote YES, absolutely not.

The referendum is a chance for us all to turn up for Truth, Treaty, Voice and Self Determination on the road to First Nations Justice. The referendum is also a chance for us to reject the politics of injustice because this is about shooting through politics and focussing on First Nations justice.

It is the politics of injustice that is being pushed by the Liberal National Coalition, because that's what they do for themselves and each other, like they did when they fought against Mabo and Native Title, like when Peter Dutton walked out of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations and as the Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan is doing right now.

Kevin has mailed every post box in the Page electorate with harmful No vote propaganda, and even used attempts made to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage from harm as a reason not to vote yes.

I once thought Kevin Hogan and I simply had different politics, I now know it is so much more than that. This is about First Nations justice.

Let's do this:

Turn up and vote YES.

Labor needs to step up on flood funding

by Tamara Smith,
Member for Ballina

We are no strangers to the compounding impacts of a warmer planet.

The black summer bushfires and the 2022 floods in the Northern Rivers exposed us directly to the consequences of climate change. Loss of life, displacement and dispossession, poverty, and lasting trauma are the legacy of extreme weather events, and we are now locked in a cycle of these kinds of events with no end in sight.

So often when we see the devastating impacts of extreme weather events and extreme heat in other parts of the world through the lens of media it doesn't seem real – no more real than anything else we view on screens.

The horror of living in and through these extremes as so many in our community have, demands bold action from those in power to support affected people to recover and better prepare for the future. It is also a direct call to action for those of us who can take up the charge to deliver change before it truly is too late.

But what do we see from Labor governments at state and federal levels? Small target leadership, 116 new fossil fuel projects on the books nationally, miniscule investment to redress rising homelessness and housing stress, and almost no financial assistance or incentives for families to embrace the green technology that will assist them to survive the weather cycles we are now locked in.

Who in their right minds thinks that we have time to ease slowly into reducing our emissions or switching to

renewable energy across the board? Who in their right mind thinks we can pretend that the cycle of storms, floods, droughts, and fires we are locked in isn't going to bring down those same elected leaders that are idly sitting on their hands right now?

If I were the Premier of this state, or the Prime Minister of this country I would suspend all other business and spend every minute of every sitting day of parliament working across the aisle to deliver the two most pressing needs of our time: 1) house everyone in every community in safe and secure housing that is out of flood zones, and has solar and battery to reduce the life-threatening impacts of the climate change already in motion; and 2) lower fossil fuel emissions across every sphere of our lives and switch our country to renewable energy as quickly as humanly possible.

NSW Labor's 2023 budget delivered one eighth of the additional funding required for flood survivors in our region. Last year, the government entered a clear covenant with our community when they promised 6000 buybacks, retrofits and house raises to assist impacted families and to protect them from future floods. The federal Labor government has contributed nothing to date toward additional spending as a Tranche 2 for this program.

The clock is ticking, and we must demand more. Please sign our petition at: tamarasmith.org.au/FloodFunding and join the many movements across the nation – political and non-political – to demand immediate and drastic action to lessen the cycle we are in.



Authorised by Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA

GET IN TOUCH

- 02 6686 7522
- tamarasmith.org.au
- ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au
- Shop 1/7 Moon Street, Ballina

STAY UPDATED

- Tamara Smith MP
- [tamara_smith_mp](https://www.instagram.com/tamara_smith_mp)
- GreensTamara



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More progressive councillors needed for Lismore LGA

by Margaret Seydel and Vicki Ross, Lismore Greens

Have you been watching or listening to some of the recent Lismore council meetings?

Wouldn't it be good to have more progressive councillors?

The regions and villages in the Lismore City Council area are not always well-represented, and we believe that it's largely due to its majority of Lismore-centric business councillors. Ask yourself how aware are our current councillors of the issues beyond Lismore?

We need more progressive councillors – at least



six! Agree? Let's run Council better – consider environmental concerns in decision-making, perhaps take climate change seriously, and what about preserving our wildlife and natural heritage?

The cultural and social aspects of Lismore and

surrounds are really special and we need to ensure that it keeps its unique character, to stay in touch with local people and speaking up for them. We need to work fiercely for the underprivileged in our communities too.

Councillors should think

for themselves, not take the easy way out and vote in a block. Many decisions that are being taken by the current councillors are due to the overpowering numbers of this unaligned block that does not consult, and almost always votes in chorus, despite calling themselves 'independents'.

If you want a local, progressive democracy, it takes people power and true consultation with all members of the community. We encourage you to get involved in the lead-up to the Council elections next September, no matter how much or little you know or have time for. Find a way.

What's happening at Flourish Sanctuary?

by Jagad Samuel and the Flourish team

In the heart of Nimbin, where the vibrant spirit of community dances with the mystical rhythms of spirituality, Flourish Sanctuary continues to be a beacon of light.

As the seasons change, we're excited to bring you the latest happenings, events, and plans in our humble abode.

Enchanting music performance by Shunya and friends

In a recent spellbinding spectacle, Shunya and his talented cohorts graced Flourish with a magical music performance. Their harmonious melodies transcended boundaries, uniting the community in a shared experience of artistry and transcendence.

Social Dharma: A continual quest for mindfulness

The flame of Social Dharma still burns brightly at Flourish. It's a haven for those seeking mindfulness, compassion, and connection. Join us on this path of self-discovery and communal growth.

Zebedie's Stay: A visit to remember

We had the honour of hosting the friendly Zebedie for a few days. His presence added a unique layer of energy to our community, fostering deeper connections and memorable experiences.

Healing sounds with Michael Deanshaw

Every Thursday morning, from 10.30 to 11.30am, Michael Deanshaw graces Flourish with rejuvenating

sound healing sessions. These gatherings offer participants a profound sense of relaxation and well-being. Don't miss the chance to recharge your spirit.

Taoist masters' arrival: 6th October

Flourish welcomes two esteemed Taoist Masters from overseas for an exclusive session with our very own Jagad and Julian. Prepare for an enlightening and transformative experience.

What's on our horizon?

Flourish is a hub of constant activity and growth. Here's a glimpse of what's in the pipeline:

- 1. Silent meditation retreat (mid-November):** Prepare for a profound journey within during our upcoming silent meditation retreat.
- 2. More meditations and kirtans:** Experience the peace of meditation in our classes and the bliss of devotional singing with our regular kirtan gatherings.
- 3. Grail retreat (October 21st-22nd):** Join us for a magical weekend retreat organised by the incredible team at SheMatrix. It promises to be an enlightening experience.
- 4. Two-day New Year festival:** Get ready for an unforgettable celebration as we welcome the new year. We're looking for individuals interested in running events and catering. Keep an eye out for early bird ticket releases.
- 5. Raga music retreat (around New Year):** Due to popular demand, we'll be partnering with Shivam Rath to host another raga music retreat.
- 6. Social dharma retreat**
- 7. Sustainable garden project:** We're dedicated to making our garden a sustainable food supply. Join us in this eco-conscious effort.
- 8. Jagad's Nim-FM show:** Tune in to Nim-FM (102.3 FM) every Monday from 7.30am to 9am to catch Jagad's spiritually-inspired show, featuring his favourite beliefs and music.
- 9. Weekly support group in town:** Flourish, in
- 10. WWOOFer opportunities:** Despite receiving applications, we are still on the lookout for more WWOOFers to join our community. If you're passionate about spirituality, sustainability and community, we'd love to hear from you.



(January 19th-22nd): Start your new year with a transformative retreat focused on mindfulness and compassion.

collaboration with Danny's Place in Cecil Street, has initiated a weekly support group in town. We invite you to join us for healing and connection.

For more details on these events and initiatives, please visit our Flourish website: www.flourishsanctuary.com.au

We encourage you to stay connected with us, as we continue to grow and evolve as a community. Together, we thrive.

Thanks to the Nimbin community for its on-going support, and we look forward to seeing you at Flourish soon!

Love and light.

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Water restrictions start

Level 2 water restrictions have been introduced in Nimbin.

Nimbin's water supply is sourced from Mulgum Creek, and is operated by Lismore City Council. Acting Manager Water and Wastewater, William Lee said the restrictions were necessary as the water level in Mulgum Creek continued to fall.

"Due to reduced flows in Mulgum Creek and no end in sight to dry weather conditions, it has become necessary to implement water restrictions within the Nimbin water supply for both residents and businesses in the village," he said.

"For some time, we have been adjusting the operation of the water supply to manage this situation. However, with the long-term forecast showing little signs of consistent rainfall, these restrictions are now necessary.

"We know many people have already reduced their water consumption, and we thank them for that.

"It's important everyone continues to do their bit to conserve water as making small changes in how we use water will really help our water storage supplies last longer."

Mr Lee said by introducing Level 2 now, the Council is hoping to delay implementing Level 3 restrictions.

Under Level 2 water restrictions:

- Micro-sprays and drippers/sub-surface irrigation can only be used for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- Hand-held hoses with an on-off nozzle can only be used for half an hour every second day, between the hours of 4pm and 9am on odd or even days matching your house number.
- Other irrigation, such as sprinklers, and unattended hoses are banned.
- Filling of new swimming pools is permitted, but topping up is allowed only between 4pm



and 9am using a hand-held hose with on-off nozzle.

- Top up of fountains and water features is not permitted except to maintain fish life.
 - Washing of driveways, paved areas, walls, windows, roofs and paths permitted prior to sale or lease of property only with council approval. Not permitted for any other reason, except for health and safety. Must use high-pressure low-flow rate cleaner
 - Washing of cars permitted with buckets or hand-held hose for ten minutes only between 4pm and 9am on odd and even days matching your house number.
- The same restrictions apply to commercial premises with the exceptions that:
- Sprinklers can be used for up to 30 minutes per day for sports fields between 5am and 7am.
 - Market gardens, orchards, nurseries can use sprinklers or sprays for one hour a day between 5am and 7am, or 5pm and 7pm.
- For a Q&A on the restrictions, water hints and tips, and a factsheet please go to the news section of the council's webpage: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au



Daylight saving (I am still determining what we are saving) is with us again.

Another tourist season, it's time to ready ourselves for the influx of visitors to our beautiful village.

Preparation is necessary whether you are a business owner, employee, resident or all the above.

People come to Nimbin with such unbridled expectations.

Some have visited previously and have fond memories of past experiences, wanting to reconnect with the community.

Overseas visitors have Nimbin on their must-do list because it is a groovy town with a worldwide reputation as an easy place to immerse themselves in counterculture.

We don't have a Visitor Information Centre, but a solid community willing to engage and provide insight into the magnificence beyond the obvious.

Many can proffer varying interpretations of what newbies might expect.

We are all ambassadors. The more we interact with the people visiting the village of Nimbin, the more our feeling of community will permeate the world.

Everything we can contribute to enhancing the visitor experience will make a difference in someone's life.

Where are the best walks, waterfalls, and swimming holes?

What's happening in the town today, tonight, this week, next week?

Where is a good place to stay, eat, or experience the alternate culture?

Providing answers to these questions makes a difference in the visitor experience.

Events

September in Nimbin was

lively, with the Spring Art show at the Nimbin Town Hall, which rolls through to early October, curated by the School of Arts, featuring our community's amazing artists' work.

The Poetry World Cup with a first prize of \$2000, drawing some of the nation's best talent to the village. Congratulations go out to Alasdair Carter, the winner, and to the people's choice, Andrew Spencer.

Liquidelic, an Avant-Garde performance of Dance, light show haunting vocals and electrifying guitar, was enjoyed by an appreciative crowd at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

The Nimbin A&I Society folk provided another splendid Country Show at the Nimbin Showgrounds with free entry to all and an exciting programme of events.

Following the show, it was the weaver's turn to display the skills that exist in our community with the Weave and Mend Gathering, which attracted people from afar.

What a fantastic effort from the village of Nimbin!

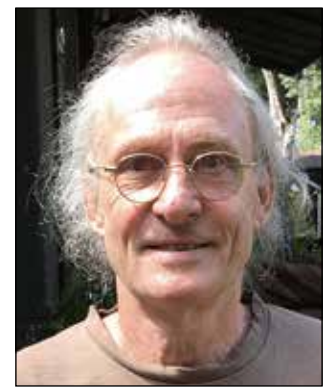
If you thought September was a happening month, look out for October with the trendy Nimbin Roots Festival from the 13th to the 15th of October.

Significant acts include the Heart Collectors, Shane Howard of Goanna fame and Reg Mombasa's band Dog Trumpet, to name a few premium performers.

Local musicians can also apply for a slot at the Nimbin Bush Theatre by contacting: david@nimbinbushtheatre.com

Small Business month

In conjunction with Lismore City Council, the Chamber is presenting a business workshop on the on-line graphic design tool Canva and AI for small businesses



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

scheduled for Friday, 27th October.

If you would like to attend, contact: visitnimbin.com.au Bookings are limited to 30 participants.

Murals

The call out for artists for the mural restoration work received an excellent response, and 16 Artists came forward. Thank you to all those who offered their skills.

We are now working on a plan of action.

Women in Business

The Chamber-sponsored Women in Business group has decided to hold quarterly meet-ups.

Details will be provided to members via the Women in Business Facebook group.

Tourism awards

Congratulations to Nick and Nicole Lindner of Contained in Nimbin for not only cleaning up at the Northern Coast Tourist Awards with three awards under their belt, but the venue is also a contender for NSW State and National awards.

Annual General Meeting

The Chamber's AGM is scheduled for Monday, 20th November, at 5:30 p.m. If any members are interested in joining the executive committee, signal your intention via email at: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au

Together, we are stronger! If you own or run a business in the Nimbin area, please consider joining the Chamber and adding your voice to support good outcomes for the village we love.

Community Centre AGM



by NCC management committee

The Nimbin Community Centre Inc will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16th November, 5-8pm at the Birth and Beyond meeting room, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin.

We invite all members to attend, participate and

find out who the new management committee for 2024 will be.

During the AGM, reports will be tabled and presented, the old committee will resign and a new committee nominated and voted for.

There is some planning still happening to get a guest speaker and to finalise the agenda. All members will receive the reports and agenda 21 days before the AGM.

If you have been thinking about becoming a member, please get your applications in asap via the link on our website so you can be approved by the committee

meeting on 12th October.

For all our members this is an opportunity to speak with the committee, ask questions about the current changes occurring at NCCI and anything raised by the regular newsletters and minutes provided to members.

We are happy to share our visions about the future of our amazing Community Centre and welcome your interest and feedback.

The Nimbin Community Centre belongs to us all, and together as a community we can work to make it serve our community needs even better in the future.

While not everything, and everyone, is back where they want to be, Lismore is really starting to thrive again. Let's celebrate how far we've come together and reignite the huge pride we all have in our region. If you live, work, visit and play in Lismore we want you to fall in love with our amazing region again.

So come and back Lismore and its people by getting out there and supporting local businesses, activities, attractions, and events. See how at backlismore.com.au

Whistleblower to speak in Lismore

by John Jiggins

Afghan War Crimes whistleblower David McBride (pictured), supported by Julian Assange's father John Shipton, will do a Q&A at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore on 12th October, following a short documentary about David McBride called *Declassified*.

McBride is facing a secret trial on 13th November that could result in him serving a life sentence for leaking classified information that formed the basis of *The Afghan Files*, a 2017 ABC exposé revealing allegations of misconduct by Australian special forces in Afghanistan.

During his tours to Afghanistan as a legal officer, McBride became increasingly concerned that the war was being dictated by politics rather than the best interests of Australia and Australian soldiers.

The rules of law and war were not being followed and were being breached with complete impunity because of the indifference of command. While some soldiers were

committing war crimes, others were being wrongly prosecuted to cover up for higher-ups.

McBride's own Winston Smith experience began when he became involved in a case where it seemed the military were trying to put decent soldiers in gaol to protect bad soldiers.

The only reason they did this, he reasoned, was because the really bad soldiers were famous people and if they went down, politicians could go down with them, so they needed scapegoats. It was all for PR.

"And that sickened me," said McBride. "To see good soldiers sacrificed in order to protect bad soldiers, so as to protect the minister's popularity.

"We've learned from the United States, where everything is just a PR exercise. If we go on like this we're going into another war, another unjust, unjustified, unwinnable war, where more Australian soldiers are going to die, and that is wrong. You don't do that. You don't sacrifice the lives of

Australians, you don't send

them to places where they can't win, for political goals. So I'm not fighting about the last war, I'm also worried about the next."

Afghanistan was Australia's longest war, another war in the long tradition of US-led wars like Iraq, Vietnam and Korea where our soldiers were not defending Australia, but were thousands of kilometres off-shore, acting as auxiliaries for the US. Australia was the Lackey Country, and this truth was kept hidden behind secrecy laws and PR about the nobleness of the Afghan war.

"We were just making stuff up," says McBride. "We were making heroes that weren't heroes. We were making villains that weren't villains. We were pretending to win a war when we were losing the war. We were lying to the public at the drop of a hat. That bothered me."

In 2013, McBride made internal complaints about certain SAS soldiers, though he expected it would go nowhere because effectively he was complaining to the very people who had committed the cover-ups. As expected,

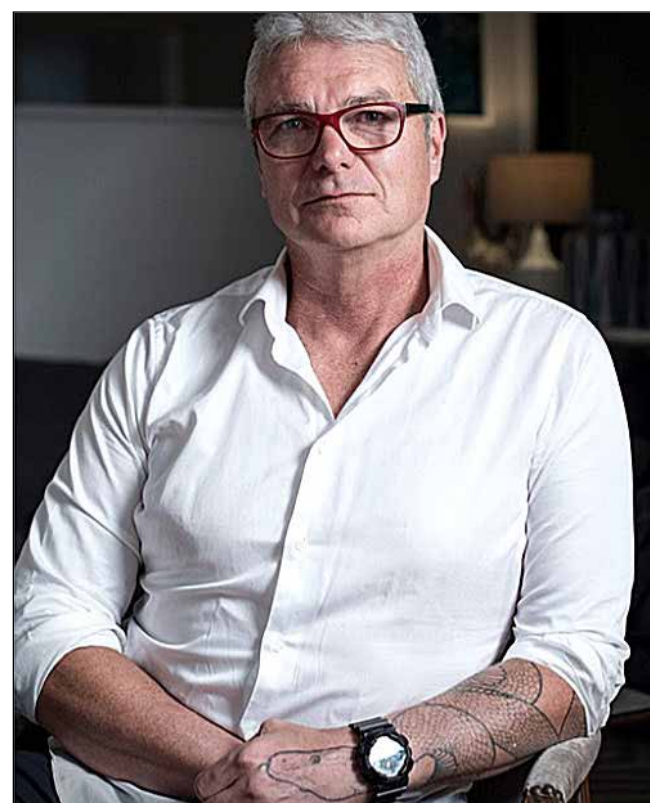
the internal complaint failed, but it took eight months in which McBride busied himself, gathering documents marked secret that he would give to the ABC.

"Everything in the Afghan War was marked secret, whether it was, or it wasn't," says McBride. "Not much of it is truly secret in the sense that it would affect Australia's national security. Most of it would detail crimes and cover-ups, and that is not classified information in the true sense of the word.

"Under the definition of classified information, you cannot use it. It's illegal to use classifications to stamp something secret when actually you know it's a crime and you just want to keep it in the archives forever.

"That is an offence, but of course the people who decide whether it's an offence or not are the same people that are abusing the system to cover it up."

Whether the documents are genuinely about national security, or are simply hiding war crimes and cover-ups is something the Army and



Defence will be strenuously trying to hide at David McBride's trial in November. Under the National Security Act, they have extraordinary powers to clear the court and present evidence that no-one apart from the judge can see – not even the accused or their lawyers!

You can hear David McBride speak about this

at the Star Court Theatre, Lismore on Thursday 12th October at 6.30pm.

He will be supported by the globe-wandering John Shipton, back from France, Switzerland and Brazil, to speak about the world-wide campaign of support Julian Assange's family have been building as extradition to the US nears.



Photo courtesy ABC News

by Bobbi Allan

Early this year, I revealed that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) does not publish the Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the world's biggest industrial emitters – the military-war industries and their supply chains – as it is not mandatory for countries to report these to the IPCC ('IPCC's Missing Military Emissions', NGT May 2023).

Despite the hidden or fuzzy data, it is clear the world's militaries now produce nearly 6% of global emissions. This is very slightly less than the total annual emissions for all of India.

Australia, like most countries, does a sketchy job of reporting its military emissions. It only reports fuel used in military training exercises. The Australian Defence Force has not published complete energy use or emissions data since 2012.

In the years for which data has been made public, the ADF was responsible for 66% of the Australian Government's emissions.

The Australian Military, like

a camouflaged octopus, hides in plain sight. Its tentacles reach into Australian life in many ways from manufacturing, mining, and even our schools. All this is at great cost to our foreign policy, ethics and reputation as a good neighbour in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The political-military-industrial complex flourishes here. The Australian Strategic and Policy Institute which, advises the Government on defence matters receives a significant part of its funding from arms manufacturers, and a good chunk from the US Government.

Last month, the Home Affairs Minister's chief of staff, Andrew Downes, resigned to immediately take up a job with arms manufacturer, Thales. We even have a Defence Industry Minister, Pat Conroy.

Emissions from military manufacturing and export

The government is ramping up the sale of military equipment under an ambitious plan to make Australia a global weapons-making powerhouse.

There are now 250 private military

Australia's military and climate change

manufacturing and exporting companies in Australia according to the 2023 'Defence Sales Catalogue', which reads like a giant K-Mart catalogue of military capability.

All sales must be approved by the Defence Department in the form of a Defence Export Permit.

Back in 2019/20, defence officials approved the sale of an estimated \$5 billion worth of military equipment – more than the typical yearly export value of Australian wine, wool or wheat.

Despite our leaders knowing full well that climate change poses a far greater security risk than China, Australia's recent Defence Strategic Review concludes the need for Australia "to project more power further from its shores."

The Defence Department, with support from US Government under the AUKUS agreement, is now building a 'Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Enterprise' (GWEO), partnering with Raytheon Australia and Lockheed Martin Australia to develop initial mining, manufacturing and maintenance initiatives for the GWEO.

Defence Industry Minister, Pat Conroy stated "at the end of this process, we'll go from an Australian army where the maximum range is 40 km, to being able to fire missiles over 300 km. And with the acquisition of the precision strike missile, ranges in excess of 500 km."

It seems rising sea levels may not be the only way to sink the Torres

Straits Islands!

While we don't know the emissions from all this military manufacturing and testing, we can be sure that new coal and gas mines are not being approved for the sole purpose of 'keeping our house lights on.'

The decision to build nuclear submarines raises a new set of issues about the emissions involved in uranium processing, fuel fabrication and waste management, as well as the associated mining and manufacturing processes and their projected 8,500 strong workforce.

How are these emissions counted and reported? Perhaps the South Australian Government could report them under a line item headed "The Federal Government's \$386bn subsidised Community Development Employment Project."

If only the Holden car plant had been subsidised by half that amount, we could have been manufacturing homegrown electric vehicles for the past fifteen years!

Given the Department of Defence's intimate connections with and support for defence manufacturing companies, all their emissions should be counted and reported by the Department.

Military exports end up in dirty hands

The UN arms trade treaty was something the Australian government claimed as an achievement during its time on the UN Security Council.

Since that time, it has increased arms exports while decreasing transparency about those exports. It also appears to do very little tracking of arms exports once they leave the country.

The Middle East is listed as a 'priority market' for our weapons. Despite US President Biden's ban on sales of weapons to Saudi Arabia and the UAE because of their involvement in the very dirty war in Yemen, our Defence Department continues to approve weapons sales to these two countries.

This war has caused the world's largest humanitarian catastrophe, forcing millions of children into hunger.

Australia has also been selling military equipment to countries that recruit child soldiers: Somali, Libya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

In 2021, the SBS Dateline program revealed that the Australian government had approved military sales to at least 18 countries in Africa since 2015.

This includes Burkina Faso, where state forces are accused of executing hundreds of prisoners, and Uganda where the government is accused of secretly diverting weapons to warring factions in drought-ridden South Sudan.

That's just two of 18 African countries where climate change and military dictatorships are equal threats to stability and the well-being of civilians.



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin



Nimbin launch of Pitt Street Bankers

by Gwen Trimble

The Richmond Tweed Mobile Library hosted its first book launch in Nimbin on Thursday 14th September.

For an hour, author Gary Davis spoke about the writing and publication of his first novel: *Tom Mortimer, Pitt Street Bankers*.

It's an Australian story, based on actual events and informed by Gary Davis's own experience, brought up on his family's farm in the Northern Rivers and then a career as a Sydney lawyer.

Starting on a dairy farm in Georgica NSW in 1959, the novel takes us on a journey to the privileged world of the Pitt Street bankers in Sydney during the 1980's and demonstrates how the lives of farmers and small businesses are impacted by the greed and ruthless decisions made by privileged bankers and powerful politicians.

The novel culminates in a David and Goliath courtroom showdown in the NSW Supreme Court.

Copies are available from the Richmond Tweed Library, the Book



Gary Davis launching his book

Warehouse in Lismore or from the author's website: www.garydavis.com.au

Gary Davis is already working on another 'Tom Mortimer' manuscript.

The legacy of Mary Gardner

For over a decade, *The Byron Echo* published 'Tangles of Life', Mary Gardner's popular weekly column which documented her observational walking and snorkelling adventures among the Shire's creatures, plants, waterways and towns.

With *The Echo's* kind permission, these nature essays have been collected into a beautifully designed book, accompanied by glorious illustrations from local artist Katie Bridge.

Plant a Tree Grow a Fish - nature essays from Byron Bay heralds a new style of nature writing, unapologetically

fashioning poetry, science, history and Mary's marine biologist perspectives into a shimmering mosaic.

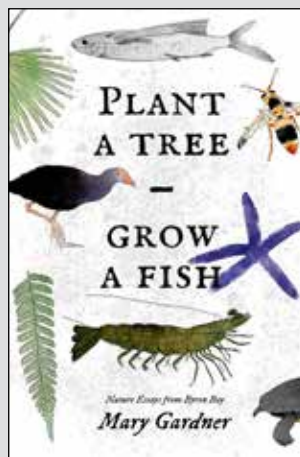
Editors Jeni Caffin, Rosy Whelan and Jo Immig have spent years collating and crafting the work, and the book was presented at Byron Writers Festival 2023 at the beginning of 'The Mungo Panel: The Future of Journalism'.

Said Jeni Caffin, "This was such a fitting environment for *Plant a Tree Grow a Fish* to find its way into the world. Mungo and Mary were friends, and while neither of them still walk among us, their legacies

endure." Mary Gardner landed on the shores of Byron Bay with two degrees in natural science tucked under her belt. In the confluence of waters where the forest meets the sea, she immersed herself in a deep sense of place and wonder.

Her fascination for local knowledge and water cycles led to a Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science and ultimately to *Plant a Tree Grow a Fish*.

It is both a love story and a call to action from a marine ecologist's perspective, relevant to anyone whose



imagination and curiosity are piqued by Byron Bay's treasury of coastal and hinterland riches.

This beautiful book is now available for purchase at Nimbin's Hemp Embassy. RRP \$39.95.

New book on death and dying

Review by Jagad Samuel

Death is a topic shrouded in social taboo, a subject we often avoid discussing until it inevitably touches our lives.

Saskia Kouwenberg's book, *Dying, Death and Beyond*, offers a fresh and invaluable perspective on this profound phase of existence, serving as a comprehensive self-help guide to navigating the complexities of death.

With its first edition freshly printed, Saskia's work builds upon the foundations laid by Leah Munro's brochure *Do it yourself, Dying, Death and Funeral Book* (2017), which Leah wrote in collaboration with members of the Nimbin Death and Beyond group.

Saskia's book will be an indispensable resource for anyone facing their mortality or supporting a loved one through this journey. The book is thoughtfully divided into two sections, each addressing critical aspects of the death experience.

The first part delves into the practical matters surrounding death, from preparations for the inevitable to the logistics that follow. Saskia provides a clear roadmap for readers, discussing what to do when death is imminent or distant, as well as the intricacies of paperwork and various types of deaths. The book extends its reach to the post-death phase, covering topics like funerals, rituals, and the options surrounding burial and cremation.

The second part of the book shifts the focus to the emotional and spiritual aspects of the death journey. It offers valuable guidance on how to support oneself and others during this challenging time. Topics explored include spirituality, the fear of death, and the often-overlooked importance of caring for the caregiver.

This dual approach, balancing the practical and emotional facets of death, enhances the book's overall effectiveness in addressing the needs of readers.

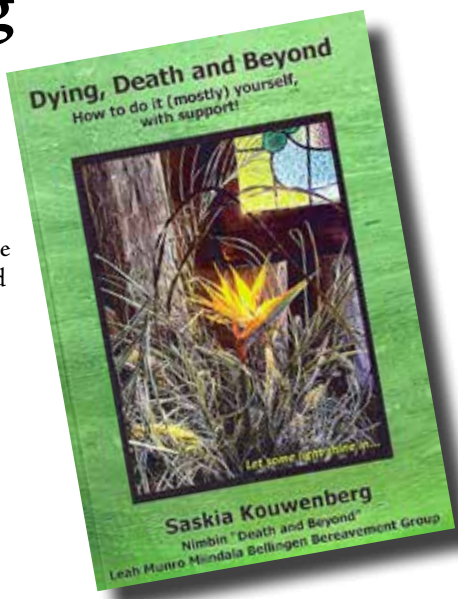
One aspect where the book left me yearning for more is the exploration of spirituality in the context of death. While the book covers spiritual matters, I found that it could have dived deeper into this profound part of the human experience. It's worth saying that the personal inclination toward spirituality varies widely among individuals, and the book admirably attempts to strike a balance that can cater to a diverse audience.

One of the book's notable strengths lies in its accessibility. Saskia masterfully presents complex and sensitive topics in a reader-friendly manner, making them seem manageable and approachable.

This accessibility is especially crucial in a subject as emotionally charged as death. The language used is clear, and the content is structured logically, making it easy for readers to follow along and engage with the material.

The inclusion of many real-life quotes throughout the book is a brilliant touch. These quotes provide authentic and relatable perspectives, grounding the content in the lived experiences of individuals who have faced death in its various forms. They add depth and a human touch to the book, helping readers connect with the material on a personal level.

In the realm of self-help literature on death and dying, *Dying, Death and Beyond* shines brightly. Saskia's work is not only informative but also highly practical, offering concrete guidance for those navigating the intricacies of end-of-life matters. It serves as a beacon of support for individuals facing death



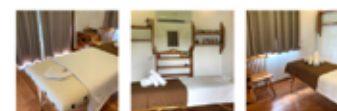
themselves and those tasked with caring for their loved ones during this challenging time.

It's reasonable to share my connection to the book, having provided minor assistance at the end and contributed a quote to the work. While this connection may introduce some bias, it also demonstrates the utility and authenticity of the book, as someone actively involved in end-of-life support found value in its content.

In short, *Dying, Death and Beyond* is a five-star resource for its informative content, practical guidance and accessible presentation. It tackles an often-overlooked aspect of life with sensitivity and wisdom, empowering readers to approach death with greater understanding and readiness.

The book launch of *Dying, Death and Beyond - Do it (mostly) yourself, with support* will be on 22nd October at 2pm in the Nimbin Aboriginal Culture Centre. For more info, phone: 0499-382-668.

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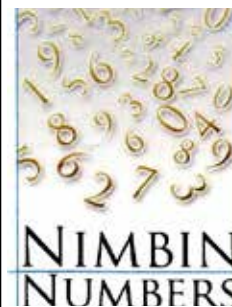
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Celebration of this nation

The Voice should've been a celebration of this nation's indigenous roots, their place as the prior custodians of our country, as the oldest continuous culture on earth.

Instead there has been a concerted effort to dissolve it into a dystopia of division with a barrage of bigotry, misinformation and conspiracy theories at a level this nation's people have rarely witnessed.

And what has prompted this precipitate descent into acrimony, division and deranged narrations? The prospect of the inclusion in this nation's foundation document that we recognise the first peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The preposterous narratives that have emerged, since the First Nations Constitutional Convention in 2017 produced their Statement from the Heart, beggars belief.

And although I'm immensely saddened by many of these responses, as a student of Australian history and sociology I am also profoundly intrigued. The range and vehemence of these attacks have been as diverse as they have been vicious.

The earliest and most scurrilous attacks emerged from Sky News who have been campaigning against the Voice since the statement was written.

According to Peta Credlin *et al*, why should a minority as small as the Australian indigenous peoples (3%) be given an extra voice? They're already over-represented in parliament.

It wasn't long after that, that the National Party made their opposition clear as they won't have Koories tell them where to build their roundabouts.

The Liberal Party soon joined them under the pretext that the money that would be spent on a referendum would be better spent 'closing the gap' between indigenous and non-indigenous people's health and wealth.

One would need to look back to the Tampa crisis for a deluge of crocodile tears so drowning.

The other gambit they used was the 'not enough detail' lurk. It's a very simple statement: it's a separate voice to parliament. That's it. Do they have to be listened to? No.

It's primarily a symbolic gesture of recognition of prior custodianship. How we might show respect for the 60,000 years of continuous occupation and think maybe they might have some insights as to how to survive in this place.



Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

Constitutional changes in Australia are notoriously difficult to achieve, so the opposition of two of the three largest parties in the country was probably its death knell. However the attacks didn't halt there... indeed the opposition to the Voice became as contradictory as it was ludicrous.

Black Sovereignty campaigners, despite widespread legal advice to the contrary, have made out that a Yes vote would extinguish their sovereignty claims. It's just not true. You need a treaty to cede sovereignty. So even some indigenous voices have been opposed to their own recognition in the nation's constitution. Sounds berserk, right?

But this wasn't even the craziest of the attacks; now I hear that it's a huge international conspiracy to dispossess us, funded by the United Nations no less. Surely soon it will be the evil plan of a mega-wealthy corporation of reptile people from another world here to sauté our livers. The feeding frenzy on social media has been withering.

I've just thought 'let it go', this is another Gallipoli, why die on this beach head? I will still be voting Yes but I am one of the privileged few who don't think the world is out to steal my land, my rights or my liver.

I just think we live in a pluralistic society where people power can fight and occasionally succeed against transnational corporate giants.

Where the rule of law can restrict the excesses of executive power.

Where constitutions provide a framework for a civil society so that we are not over run with violence and deceit.

Where acknowledging the prior custodianship of the most ancient culture in the world of our shared lands seemed obvious.

I'm crazy though... I'm a loon... what would I know?

A moment

by S Sorrensen

The world is mad. I'm looking at him as he talks to a woman, who nods as he speaks. I don't know if she agrees with him. I hope not. I hope she is just being polite. He is enthused, talking loudly and excitedly. I hear phrases like "government trick" and "an Aboriginal fella who is totally against it, so..."

It's a party in the hills. I live in my shack under the cliffs not too far from here, but I do have to drive, so I won't drink too much. I feel like drinking, though. The world is mad. Just one more glass...

I've known him for decades. I've always appreciated his intelligence and his empathy. But now, he is championing the 'No' vote in the Voice to Parliament referendum.

I take a sip. Hmmm. Lively, without much substance.

Globally, the situation is dire: the climate is changing, population exploding, extinctions increasing, pollution... And I feel the planet's pain. Why wouldn't I? Homo sapiens had been intimately connected to the planet for more than 200,000 years.

Though mostly wrenched from that intimate connection in our modern life, we still feel the planet's pain. It unsettles us, makes us sad, frustrated

and even angry, whether we recognise the cause or we push the cause onto other targets – like governments or black people or the guy next door with the barking dog.

In the Northern Rivers, I have always found refuge from the melancholy that the planetary situation creates. It has always been a community sharing a respect for human and environmental rights. Tonight though, I'm witnessing another light of reason dimmed by insidious forces that algorithmically infiltrate a person's rationality and poison their empathy.

He takes a break from speaking and wanders over to me, smiling, holding up a bottle of whiskey in offering. I make myself smile back and shake my head no, pointing to my bottle of shiraz. He shrugs and moves away.

I don't know how to counter the madness. The world is both crazy mad and angry mad. There's no going back once you've dropped down that cyber rabbit hole of conspiracy.

There are those who don't want Aboriginal people advising the government on matters that concern Aboriginal people. For a start, it may highlight issues for Australia's next mining boom, which will be in critical and rare-earth minerals, essential for modern living – and modern war.



The USA is detaching itself from China's huge worldwide control of these minerals. Again, Australia will be the quarry. But that quarry is the land of the Indigenous peoples. Always was. Always will be.

Mabo vs Queensland in 1992, brought out the fear-based arguments we're hearing now in the 'No' movement. The same arguments were trotted out for the *Native Title Act 1993*, and again for the *Wik Decision* in 1996. "They'll take our land" etc...

But the echo chambers of social media conspiracy didn't exist then. The people in my community were united in their approval of these acts of Indigenous recognition.

Now this smallest of goodwill gestures – recognising the importance of listening to Aboriginal people on matters that concern

them – has seen the same old arguments dragged out again. This time, however, they're enhanced by social-media algorithms, making them much more powerful in their ability to turn the frustrations and fears that come from living on a critically ill planet into a negative force that will continue that destruction and serve only the interests of the corporate few.

I drain the last of the wine from my glass and pick up the bottle. The nodding woman comes over to me.

"Leaving?" she says.

"Yes," I say.

She hugs me and says quietly, "Thank God there was no Facebook in '67."

"Yeah," I say. "The world is mad."

"It's the chemtrails, you know," she says with a serious expression.

Then we both laugh.

Miriam Margolyes to judge docos

Well-loved film and television actor Miriam Margolyes will judge the Best Documentary category at the Byron Bay Film Festival (BBFF) in October.

The 82-year-old character actor, British by birth but an Australian citizen since 2013, is no stranger to the Byron Bay Film Festival. She appeared as an eccentric but inspirational teacher in the feelgood Australian film *H is for Happiness* at the Festival in 2019.

Margolyes is well known to Australian audiences for playing Prudence Stanley in the TV series *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and has become familiar to the citizens of her new home for her frank and fearless explorations of the Australian psyche in two series, *Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian*, and *Miriam Margolyes: Australia Unmasked*.

Making her first screen appearance in 1969, Margolyes has become world famous for her roles in television series such as *Blackadder* and as Professor Sprout in the *Harry Potter* film series. In 1994 she received a BAFTA Award for Best



Movie still from 'H for Happiness'

Actress in a Supporting Role for her performance in Martin Scorsese's *The Age of Innocence*.

Taking the job of judging films seriously, Margolyes believes "it's about the maintenance of standards and the pursuit of excellence." So much in our lives is second-rate; let us protect our imaginations from decline and be proud judges," she said.

BBFF Director J'aimee Skippon-Volke says Margolyes is "a unique and inspirational actress who has always trodden her own path".

"She stands as a beacon of individuality in the world of film and theatre.

Her contributions to acting are undeniable, but it's her unfiltered approach to life that truly sets her apart," he said.

"As a documentarian, Miriam dives deep into subjects, blending her distinctive wit with a profound empathy. Her quest to uncover and share stories resonates with the ethos of the Byron Bay Film Festival and it's fitting that she graces BBFF this year as a judge for the documentary award," Skippon-Volke said.

Margolyes is the latest in a long line of entertainment icons who have supported the Byron Festival, which also includes, Australian

cinema giant Jack Thompson; music industry powerhouse, the late Michael Gudinski; surfing legends Layne Beachley and Bob Hurley; and Madman Entertainment's Paul Wiegard.

"The unwavering support from these industry trailblazers elevates the Festival's stature and reinforces its dedication to fostering creativity, diversity, and excellence in the cinematic world," Skippon-Volke said.

The 17th Byron Bay International Film Festival runs 20-29th October, with screenings at Byron Palace Cinemas and other North Coast venues.

ENTERTAINMENT PLUS

The Nimbin School of Arts final Blue Moon Cabaret for 2023 will be held on Saturday 4th November.

The big program will feature singers Bella Frankie, Myki Jay and Pandora's Karavan from Brisbane. Performance artists Menage and Gee Gee; poets Andrew Spencer and Irish Joe Lynch from Maleny; stand-up comedians S Sorrensen and Peter Willey from Sydney; mime artist Jean Paul Bell; Nimbin Hills Trio; Coalescence dance; blues harmonica maestro Billy James; a fashion show whirl by Juliska Rado; and poet/MC David Hallett.

Bookings and table reservations are essential for this sell-out show which is fully catered by Rain, and there is a cabaret bar (no BYO).

Tickets are \$40/ \$35 concession at



Perceptio Bookshop (phone 6689-1766).

The cabaret is a major fundraiser for the School of Arts.

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Science in the Pub

Richmond Landcare presents 'Science in the Pub: Celebrating the Science Behind Ecosystem Revival' an enlightening evening of science and discussion at the Eltham Hotel on Wednesday 11th October, from 5pm to 8.30pm.

This event will host distinguished speakers Jim Hallett PhD and Professor Jerry Vanclay, who are at the forefront of the science of ecosystem restoration, making it a must-attend for anyone interested in environmental conservation and restoration.

Jim Hallett is an international scientist and contributor to the Principles for Ecosystem Restoration to Guide the United Nations Decade

2021-2030. His expertise in this global initiative will shed light on the critical principles shaping the UN's mission for ecosystem restoration and how they are being applied globally.

Jerry Vanclay is a renowned authority in the field of forest restoration. Professor Vanclay will share his extensive knowledge and insights into the science and practice of restoring our precious forests at a local level.

The event will take place in the welcoming ambience of the Eltham Hotel, where guests can enjoy the lively atmosphere of a pub while diving deep into the world of ecosystem restoration.

This initiative is supported by Inspiring Australia. Admission to this

event is free, making it accessible to everyone interested in learning and engaging with these important topics.

Join us for an evening of enlightening talks, engaging discussions, and an opportunity to network with fellow enthusiasts and experts in the field.

Food and drinks will be available to buy at the venue, Eltham Hotel, 441 Eltham Road, Eltham.

Please arrive early to enjoy a meal before the talks get underway at 6pm.

Space is limited, so to reserve your spot please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/science-in-the-pub-celebrating-the-science-behind-ecosystem-revival-tickets-718292902407?aff=oddtcreator>

Trivia at Nimbin Bowlo

by Claire Delacey

The Nimbin Bowling Club and Sibley's Bistro host a community fundraising trivia night on the third Saturday of each month.

September's fundraising partner was the Headers Football Club. Community businesses donated some great prizes – thank you Nimbin Newsagency, Nimbin Emporium, Nimbin Hemp Embassy,



Aquarius Cafe, Black Dog Honey, Sibley's Bistro and the Nimbin Bowling Club. A fun-filled evening of trivia and raffles was had by all. The Headers Football Club auctioned an autographed football ball.

The trivia team, Claire Delacey, Rene

Norwie and Lisa Czapnick, and the fundraising partner made \$565.

The next trivia fundraising partner will be the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary on Saturday, 21st October at 6pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Nimbin Rural Fire Brigade
70th Anniversary
Sat 28th of October 11:00am
A day to celebrate
70 years of local Fire Fighting
Free - All welcome - Lunch provided
@The Nimbin Showgrounds
We welcome any family of past members or current members themselves to come forward with stories, photos or old memorabilia. please email info@nimbinfirebrigade.org

Ballina Contemporary Art Market

The Ballina Contemporary Art Market is a one-day, fun-filled arts and cultural event taking place on Saturday 14th October from 10am to 7pm at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG) and Ignite Studios creative precinct, showcasing the creative talent of the region. So, after you've voted.

Free to attend, the event will feature over 50 arts and crafts stalls located within the Gallery, Ignite Studios, and surrounding gardens, selling a range of artworks, products, and wares by local and regional artists.

Throughout the day, an exciting program of free creative workshops will be available for market goers.



Ignite Studios Workshop. Photo: Natalie Grono

BCAM will also feature live music, food trucks, and roving performances by internationally acclaimed immersive theatre company

Erth Visual & Physical Inc, renowned for their innovative, and community-driven productions as seen at festivals and events across

the country.

Local visual artist Kate Stroud has also created a range of site-specific installations, for market attendees to engage with and discover.

Sign up for the Paradise-FM Busking Competition for the chance to win a recording in their studios.

The event will close with a twilight laneway party from 5pm, featuring local 6-piece Byron favourite band, the Versace Boys.

The Ballina Contemporary Art Market is a fun-filled fiesta for everyone.

For more information, go to: www.ballinacontemporaryartmarket.com.au

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• Trivia Night, Saturday 21st October, 6pm
• Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome