

# Repair works almost complete on Nimbin Road south of Nimbin



**From the Mayor's desk**  
by Steve Krieg  
Lismore City Council

I hope everyone had a great MardiGrass. I'm happy to report that the final repair works to the landslip on Nimbin Road near Shipway Road is underway with an anticipated opening early next month.

After battling through some challenging weather and ground conditions, it is exciting to see the two major landslip sites repaired and Nimbin Road restored to two lanes between Nimbin and Lismore for the first time since the 2022 natural disaster. The works includes construction of a new retaining wall, road pavement, guardrails and improved drainage. Unfortunately, recent heavy rainfall caused extensive damage to various infrastructure assets in the region. Nimbin and neighbouring communities can expect road improvements through the grading of multiple unsealed roads with works scheduled aiming to restore safe and

accessible transportation routes for residents and visitors alike. In a heartwarming display of community spirit, the CMC team involved in the on-going Nimbin Road project recently rallied together to support the Nimbin Bowling Club. Their initiative involved recycling cans and bottles collected from their work site, with the proceeds earmarked for a noble cause: funding the installation of a BBQ area at the club. The dedicated team volunteered their time and effort to lay down the concrete slab. This act of gratitude was their way of expressing appreciation to the local community for their unwavering support during the team's time in our region.

**Walking track**  
Work is also finally underway to construct the Nimbin Rainbow Walking Track, which is expected to be completed in the middle of the year. This will be followed by installation of artworks by local artists, landscaping and way-finding signage. Work is also progressing by chosen production designer, Ross Wallace on the design of the visual material and signage on and off the track. **Place Plan**  
Council is reaching out to the Nimbin community to get involved with the development of a Place Plan that will identify a collective long-term vision for the village.

The Place Plan will focus on improving the amenity and facilities of the village (items such as upgrades to parks, shade, paths etc) as well as identifying new economic opportunities. It will include an action plan capturing key steps to be undertaken by both Council and the community to achieve the long-term vision for the village. The top priorities identified through consultation to date are:  
1. More shade and spaces for passive recreation  
2. More places to sit, relax and enjoy the village  
3. Activities for young people (15-25 y.o.)  
4. Upgraded and refreshed infrastructure in the main street (bin, planting,

seating)  
5. Activities for kids (<15 y.o.)  
6. More public gardens and greenspaces  
7. Better pedestrian and active transport connections  
8. Evening events and attractions  
9. A public library / museum  
A draft version of the Nimbin Place Plan will be available on Council's Your Say webpage from 3rd June for feedback. The project team from Council, Fourfold Studio and Vee Design will be available all day on Thursday, 6th June at the Nimbin Town Hall for people to drop in and discuss it. There will also be a more formal workshop happening from 5.30-7pm. For more information go to: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/nimbin-place-plan>

## On the same Page



by Kevin Hogan, Federal Member for Page

### ANZAC Day

It was fantastic to see large crowds gather for ANZAC Day services around our community. Thank you to all who came to honour our service men and women for their sacrifice and service to our wonderful nation.

### School leaders event

Close to 300 people celebrated our student leaders at the end of April (pictured). The guest speaker was Lyn Larsen AM, who is a former captain of the Australian Women's Cricket team. Lyn grew up on a farm just outside of Lismore and still lives locally. I would like to thank the students, teachers, mums, dads, carers and grandparents who came along to the event. I send an invitation to each school to pass on to all school leaders and SRCs to attend. Look out for next year's invite!

# Government gets behind local growers

by Janelle Saffin MP  
State Member for Lismore

There are two emerging crops that have an exciting future in our region – hemp and rice – and the NSW Government is getting behind both industries to help them move ahead. In great news for the rice industry the Government will introduce legislation in May for a new rice export marketing and trade arrangement for Northern Rivers rice growing. Up to now the local industry has been unable to export because all rice exports had to be done through the SunRice in southern NSW. The distance from the Northern Rivers to the SunRice facilities made access to export markets unviable. It is also patently unfair. I could not understand why such a system was allowed to prevail, that disadvantaged our own rice growers. I have been working with local rice growers on this for years and lobbying on their behalf, so this is a most welcome development and opens up opportunities for expansion. Tony Carusi has led the charge on behalf of local rice growers, and I know that he is over the moon. In NSW more than 97% of rice is grown in the Murrumbidgee, Coleambally and Murray irrigation areas. In the Northern Rivers, rice is grown on waterlogged land that is not well suited to other farming enterprises, and there are substantial areas of waterlogged river floodplain where rice provides a great cropping option. The legislation means that from 1st September, Northern Rivers famers will be able to organise their own arrangement for exporting rice and not have to go through the vesting arrangements binding them to southern NSW.



Janelle Saffin MP and Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty at the Natural Rice Company Kyogle with Steve Rogers, Nelson Green and Nathan Green

Yes, we have to get the legislation through the parliament, but fairness must be the primary consideration here. **Hemp Industry Taskforce**  
The Northern Rivers region has a long association with hemp growing. The annual Nimbin MardiGrass was on again this month with its ongoing campaign for cannabis legalisation. Meanwhile there are developments in the legal hemp growing industry. This year the NSW Government set up the Hemp Industry Taskforce to support the expansion of the NSW industrial hemp sector. This is part of the Government's work to future-proof agricultural production and support growers across all sectors. The Taskforce was established following the NSW Hemp Industry Roundtable last year, hosted by NSW Legislative Council member Jeremy Buckingham.

Hemp Industry Taskforce includes twelve representatives from growers and industry associations, and I am pleased to see the inclusion of industry experts and leaders from the Northern Rivers:  
• Andrew Kavasilas – the founder of Medical Cannabis Ltd,  
• Tobias Kretzschmar – Professor for plant breeding and genetics at SCU,  
• Klara Marosszeky – the CEO of Australian Hemp Masonry, and  
• Crystal White, director of Northern Rivers Hemp Growers Co-op.  
The taskforce has been meeting every month since February, and its work plan includes considering:  
• Market opportunities  
• The role of industrial hemp in transition to net zero  
• Identifying legislative barriers to expanding industrial hemp production  
• Research and development  
The taskforce will only consider cultivation and supply of low-THC hemp grown under the *NSW Industrial Hemp Act 2008*. The Act facilitates cultivation and supply of low THC hemp fibre and seed production in NSW under controlled conditions. We know that hemp also captures carbon, and the science I have read indicates at a larger rate than forestry. So, this is a welcome addition and we need all these cropping options for themselves and the by-product is carbon storage. Hemp is a great value-add product and paper, clothes, construction materials, and more can be made from it. I am pleased that the NSW Government and in particular Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty is supporting the expansion of this climate friendly industry, with great opportunities for local agriculture, manufacturing, and local jobs.

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# Anti-protest pushback: Public review of draconian laws



by Sue Higginson,  
NSW Greens MLC

Another year of MardiGrass and another year of celebrating the culture of protest in Nimbin, the Northern Rivers and beyond. Social movements, expressed through protest, are a fundamental driver of social progression and are a legitimate pathway to political change. In NSW, however, the creep of authoritarian anti-protest laws from both Labor and the Coalition have tried to suppress people from taking political action through

peaceful protest and non-violent civil disobedience. The anti-protest laws were intended to punish climate warriors and peace and civil rights activists who were putting their lives on the line for the better world they believed in. They are an attack on activists who the establishment deem to be inconvenient, and they allow for peaceful and non-violent activists to be punished by being sent to prison or fined enormous amounts of money. Anti-protest laws and their harsh penalties provide police and magistrates impunity to enforce and punish harshly. They also provide police impunity to impose harmful restrictive bail conditions including on people such as non-association orders, where protesters are not allowed to have contact with their friends, community and affinity groups. There is now a review being undertaken into these draconian laws. The review will be accepting public submissions thanks to pressure from thousands of people



A senior police officer manhandles a protester at the controversial Wallum development site at Brunswick Heads. Photo: Chibo Mertineit

and organisations that demanded the right to have their say on these terrible laws. The strength of people united against draconian governments is significant, and the right to make submissions on the anti-protest laws is critical and an opportunity that should not be

missed. The validity of the laws has already been challenged in the Supreme Court last year by two courageous Knitting Nannas, and the Court agreed that parts of the laws were unconstitutional and put an impermissible burden on

the implied right to freedom of political communication. No person should be punished by a term of imprisonment for engaging in an act of peaceful protest or non-violent civil disobedience. We must ensure a healthy and mature democracy that engages with, respects and facilitates political expression outside of the ballot box and where people are not criminalised and imprisoned for expressing themselves in peaceful and non-violent ways, even where they might be considered disruptive and inconvenient. All of us now get to have our say on whether these anti-protest laws should remain. The reviews are being undertaken by the Department of Communities and Justice, with submissions closing on 23rd May, and by Transport for NSW, with submissions closing on 1st June. If you want to see the anti-protest laws reformed or repealed, then you can make a submission with just one click on my website: [www.suehigginson.org/protest\\_law\\_review](http://www.suehigginson.org/protest_law_review)

## Greens gear up for September council elections

by Cr Adam Guise

Do you care about what's happening in our glorious backyard? I do! That's why I've been your Greens councillor for the last eight years, alongside stalwart Vanessa Ekins who's done an amazing 20 year stint. And wouldn't you know, the time has come around again to put up our hands, stand up for our community, and get our council back on track again. Council is a love and hate job. I love standing up for our community, calling out bullshit, and being a voice for reason in an often-times lunatic asylum. For this, some people love to hate us – go figure! We need more love on our council through love for our community, our environment and protecting the places and things we care about. But with this current lot, things have gone off the rails. Before the first meeting after they got elected, they sacked a General Manager they didn't like, to install one of

their own, John Walker, who didn't last long. Rather than lead the charge on flood recovery, they handed over leadership to the Reconstruction Corporation and left our fates for others to decide. Two years on we are still fighting for flood recovery monies promised after the flood and still have flood damaged infrastructure like our roads, bridges, waste facility and sewage treatment plant to repair. When I called for a community led flood recovery and vision to shape our post-flood future, they were too scared to let go of control and have our community decide our futures. Two years on we have no strategy, vision or direction as to where and how our flood impacted residents and businesses go from here. With escalating climate change, disasters and budget black holes facing council it has never been more important to have leadership that is open and transparent and has vision and direction for Lismore to thrive. In comparison to this lack of leadership, The Greens have been a voice for reason,

integrity and rationality on council. Rather than a council acting in self-interest, we want a council who listens to the community, is transparent in their discussions and decision making, and governs in the public interest. Lismore council needs to involve the community in planning decisions, and create happy, healthy and liveable communities which people are proud to live in. We need flood solutions that don't involve giant levies or mega dams, and to build housing that is ecologically sustainable and genuinely affordable. We need a circular economy which makes manufacturers responsible for the waste they create, and not continue down the path of privatisation or hare-brained waste incinerators. Through my eight years experience on council already, and my extensive knowledge of planning and local government laws, I have the necessary skills to continue as an effective and proactive councillor. And there's something you can do about it! Council elections are September this year,



Cr Ekins with Cr Guise on the job

only four months away, so it's time to get active. Come along and meet our Greens candidates at The Lismore City Bowling Club on Friday 17th May. We are really excited for you to join us and chat with the six fabulous people putting up their hands to represent! Our MC for the evening, Sue Higginson MLC, will be there to inspire and encourage as always. There will also be great music from local artists Paul Dorahy and KFlunk for your enjoyment. Make it a night to shift the tide and celebrate our wonderful creative community.

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# East Lismore DA proposal raises unanswered questions

by Louise Litchfield

Many would argue that development proposals on plots of vacant high ground are 'no brainers' for housing developments, given the acute post flood need for homes and housing shortages in general.

On the agenda at the 23rd April Lismore City Council Information Briefing was a proposal for 13 new lots in the 3.5 acre site at East Lismore (DA 21/253 37 City View Drive).

This site is located on high ground, but is far from level. Adjacent to the western boundary of the proposed

site there is a land slippage from the 2022 floods that affected a nearby sewage line. It remains in disrepair. Other house sites are proposed nearby on even steeper land. Nearby residents have expressed concerns about the inherent risks for the proposed houses, the access road and associated drain construction.

Seated in the gallery at the Briefing meeting, some of these same residents were not convinced that the stormwater provisions presented by council planning staff would be adequate. But they were prevented from contributing to the

discussions due to Briefing rules. Only two councillors appeared to have read the many informed submissions and tried to ask relevant questions. Another councillor berated and dismissed the relevance of the public submissions, many of which raised important questions that have been left unanswered.

Those residents who attended were left dumbfounded at what they saw as a serious lack of scrutiny of significant financial and legal risks to council associated with this DA.

A close examination of the details – also an arduous task for members of the public given the confused presentation of documents on the Council DA Tracker – reveal serious short-comings and possible risks to Council.

The DA is in its third revision since it first came before council in 2021. It has been significantly altered and has now been submitted under a Community Title classification. Community Title developments are not common in urban environments. They come with onerous obligations, most of which are ultimately borne by allotment owners who bear major expense burdens.

This aspect of Community Title appealed to the majority of Councillors who reasoned

that infrastructure and development costs together with compliance issues were not their responsibility.

The mandatory requirement for a comprehensive Neighbourhood Management Statement, specified in the Community Land Development Act (NSW) 2021, has not been provided by the developer.

This effectively leaves both the Council and neighbouring residents in the dark about the full intentions of the development. Will council be in breach of the legislation if approval is granted without this?

The proposal requires massive amounts of storm water run-off and drainage engineering, extensive road works on site, and alterations to an already dangerous section of City View Drive. All these works have to comply with rigorous Rural Fire Service requirements, which have not been adequately addressed in the DA submission. These are just a few points glossed over by Councillors and staff at the Briefing.

Apparently there are to be 'Conditions of Consent' if approved. Yet how and who will ensure compliance with such conditions, and who is liable if they're not met either in the near or more distant future or if the Community Title Management group goes belly up? Most likely it



View of the proposed development site. The mature hoop pines on the left are earmarked for removal. Wilson Nature Reserve is at right.

will be Lismore ratepayers. Beyond this, there are major environmental impact concerns on the site and to the adjacent Wilson Nature Reserve about which the majority of councillors appear to have zero interest.

- These include:
- removal of a stand of mature hoop pines (wrongly identified by the Developer's Consultant Arborist as Bunya Pines) and other trees,
  - weed and non-native flora infiltration into surrounding bushland,
  - soil erosion and construction damage on the site, particularly as major roadwork/drainage work is required,
  - increased hard surface stormwater runoff into the adjoining Nature Reserve,
  - erosion risks to the creek

- which flows into the Reserve,
  - noise and light pollution,
  - the potential for increased domestic animal activity in the Reserve,
  - removal of the fire protection zone,
  - removal of the buffer zone for threatened native flora and fauna that has been identified in the Reserve,
  - possible contamination of the creek and bushland from privately operated sewerage systems.
- This list is far from definitive, however it gives some indication of how the unique, last publicly-owned patch of Dry Rainforest remaining from The Big Scrub is threatened by this proposal. At least they should do their due diligence when it comes to the other issues raised here.



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## Incinerator hidden in plain sight

The exhibition of the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct Draft Master Plan has done nothing to allay fears that Casino will become the site of an energy from waste (EfW) incinerator.

Residents Against the Richmond Valley Incinerator Inc (RARVI) further claims that the draft Master Plan and the Minister for Regional New South Wales, Tara Moriarty, have deliberately avoided an opportunity for much-needed consultation on the strategic planning decision that allows for this type of development at Nammoona, potentially within one kilometre of houses.

RARVI has made these claims following its detailed analysis of the Draft Master Plan, supporting technical reports and copies of several emails obtained from the Department of Regional NSW following a Government Information Public Access (GIPA) request.

According to RARVI's Convenor, Dr Liz Stops, some of the emails revealed that both the Department of Regional NSW and Richmond Valley Council were keen to avoid the Draft Master Plan's exhibition being used for consultation on EfW.

"This could be seen as a strategy to yet again avoid asking the Northern Rivers community whether they want such development in our region," she said.

"Further, the emails included a request from Richmond Valley Council to use the term 'Alternative Waste Treatment System' rather than 'Energy from Waste incineration'. Thus, AWTs is used in the Master Plan and some of the supporting reports.

"In some of the reports, 'Alternate



Ariel view of the Nammoona Regional Jobs Precinct

Waste Treatment Solution' is used instead," she said.

"Europe is learning the hard way that burning waste – even with the most sophisticated pollution control mechanisms in place – is not a solution to our waste crisis. Europe now has legacy issues due to the pollution created by burning PFAS and other toxic material.

"They must also account for the increased greenhouse gas emissions associated with this power source, which are equivalent to emissions from coal-fired power. This is making their transition to net zero much more difficult," Dr Stops said.

According to RARVI, the key failing of the Master Plan is that it does not adequately plan for a future EfW incinerator at Nammoona.

"While RARVI realises the role of

the Master Plan is not to assess EfW or AWTs proposals, it is not credible that a large development, with such specific requirements and effects, would not be at least pinpointed in the Draft Master Plan," Dr Stops said.

She highlighted that the potential for an EfW incinerator at Nammoona could be an important factor for other businesses, particularly those producing agricultural and food products, in deciding whether to locate themselves in that part of the Regional Jobs Precinct.

RARVI has recommended exhibition of a revised Master Plan that clearly identifies the location of the incinerator and offers the community opportunity to comment.

Read RARVI's submission at: <https://norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/RARVI-Submission-RJP-MasterPlan.pdf>



# Renewables and weapons, the next mining boom

by Johanna Evans

“Our land abounds in nature’s gifts of beauty, rich and rare.”

Australia is blessed with an abundance of critical metals and minerals. These natural resources are essential to both a clean energy future and harrowingly, the manufacture of the next generation of high-tech weapons needed for 21st century munitions and warfare technology.

While there is social license for extraction for clean energy purposes, there is little to no social license for the extraction of our resources to contribute to the manufacture of weapons.

The community is faced with a moral dilemma and we need to hold government transparent and accountable. The majority of Australians may not be aware of the role that our resources will play in the coming years in regards to the ever more unstable, geopolitical events.

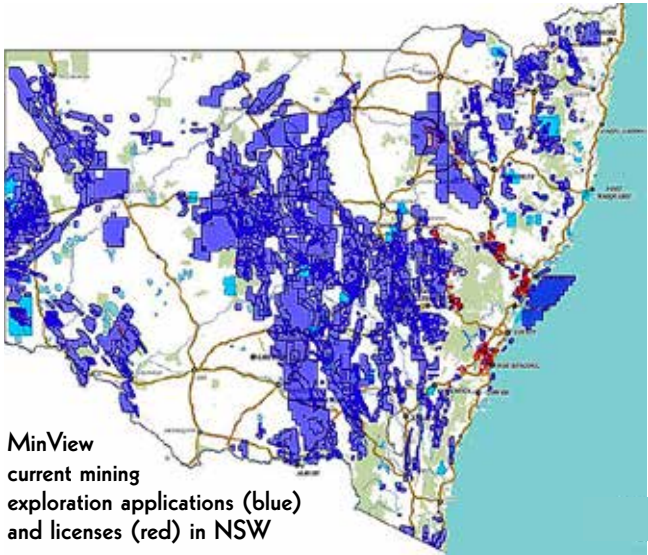
We cannot afford to have another resources boom that plays out as coal seam gas extraction has, whereby there is very little benefit to average Australians with the resource being sold back to Australians at expensive export parity with no domestic reservation agreement in place.

Already both the federal and NSW State Government are throwing money at explorers, and politicians are attending events in the US spruiking our resources. We are on track to give away the resources unless attention is brought to the issue.

Key questions need to be asked, such as how much public money is being used to entice exploration companies to the table and how much tax will companies pay once production is under way. Will the Australian public see royalties from the boom? How will our water be protected?

If you search ‘Critical Minerals Funding’ on any browser you will see countless funding announcements. It was reported in *The Sydney Morning Herald* in October 2023 that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese would double the finance available to key exporters from \$2 billion to \$4 billion to secure up the supply chain with the US for ‘renewable energy and high-tech devices’. The US are very keen to diversify their supply chain away from China.

The Honorable Kim Beazley AC, an adviser to



**MinView**  
current mining  
exploration applications (blue)  
and licenses (red) in NSW

Lockheed Martin Australia and co-author of the report ‘AUKUS and critical minerals: Hedging Beijing’s pervasive, clever and co-ordinated statecraft’ for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute has objectionably stated: “Australia has the essential minerals, which are more readily exploitable because they’re located in less densely populated or ecologically sensitive areas.”

“Some 3,300 items of US military equipment depend on rare earths, which have few known or potential substitutes. They include almost every weapon being used by combatants in Ukraine as well as every fighter jet, navy vessel and nuclear weapon on Earth. “Nor is the commercial production of green energy and electric vehicles possible without them. Rare earths matter immensely. The 3,300 figure is probably outdated but, short of a more contemporary calculation, the magnitude might reasonably be expected to be of the same broad order.”

We know that weapons technology has come leaps and bounds in the last decade. ‘Smart’ weapons are now armed. Smart weapons, or smart munitions refer to weapons that leverage computerised guidance systems to navigate to their targets.

New South Wales is particularly abundant in at least a dozen highly sought after high-tech metals. Passion was shown for the industry by the former Liberal Environment Minister Matt Kean and he worked hard to birth the industry. The Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Activation Fund was initiated and the funding has begun.

The Minister for Natural

Resources, Courtney Houssos said: “NSW has globally significant deposits of critical minerals and high-tech metals. Showcasing the state at IMARC is an opportunity to capitalise on their increasing global demand and drive investment to the state.”

The NSW Titles system “MinView” has seen an increase in Exploration Applications and Licences with more than 300 companies (some big fish and many new fish) making their way through the system in the last 12 months.

One of the most alarming factors in this up-tick is the new speedy Rapid Assessment Framework and the inability of the landowner to veto exploration and production.

The NSW Government Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Priority List includes: High purity alumina, Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Helium, Indium, Lithium, Magnesium, Manganese, Nickel, Niobium, Platinum-group elements, Rare-earth elements, Rhenium, Scandium, Silicon, Silver, Tantalum, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zinc, Zirconium.

The NSW map of exploration applications, approvals and production licences (above) shows a very large area of the state that is open to extractives.

This means that a lot of country, our wild places, our farms, towns, homes and businesses will potentially become the target of newly created \$2 exploration companies that are seeking a free or cheap-as-chips ride on the next boom.



## Moving forward to May

It is a time for renewal and celebration as we welcome the vibrant month of May, a period filled with new beginnings and community celebrations.

Let’s take a moment to reflect on recent developments and look ahead to exciting events shaping our community.

## Reflections on MardiGrass: A continuing legacy

Applause to the Nimbin Hemp Embassy for another successful celebration of our unique culture.

This year, MardiGrass poses the question: is a celebration of the cannabis harvest still relevant?

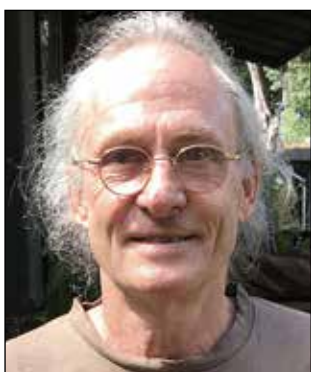
With recent shifts in the supply chain and distribution, the local economies of Nimbin and Lismore may feel the impact if green dollars are diverted.

For advocates for cannabis, staying informed about legislative changes is crucial for navigating the evolving landscape.

## Chamber committee

With new leadership at the helm, the Chamber is experiencing a refreshing shift in focus.

We are refining our



## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

objectives to serve better and support the Nimbin business community.

## Cultural preservation

Nimbin and village murals are not just art but a collective memory.

We have initiated a project to restore and refresh these murals.

You can support this effort by contributing to the collection of tins located in retail outlets.

## Empowering local businesses workshops

In collaboration with the council, we are launching workshops designed to enhance the business acumen of local entrepreneurs.

So that you know, details on how to participate will be announced soon.

## Engaging youth

We are thrilled to announce a partnership with Nimbin Central School to promote

career opportunities for young residents.

Mark your calendars for 27th May to participate in or attend the school’s Careers Day event.

## Women in business

Join us on 10th May for an empowering session with Jane Levery, a renowned business strategist.

Celebrate and learn from the achievements of female entrepreneurs in the community.

## Community and infrastructure dialogue

Our recent discussions with the Lismore Council have brought to light potential developments that may affect local traffic flow.

We are advocating for necessary infrastructure improvements to accommodate our growing needs.

## Autumn Art Exhibition

Congratulations to the Nimbin School of Arts for curating an exceptional showcase of local talent.

## Join us

I want you to know that your participation matters if you own or manage a business in the area.

Consider joining a chamber to help shape the future of our beloved village.

Let’s stay updated and share your thoughts on our social media channels.

Your feedback is valuable and will help us improve.

# Nimbin’s IMAGINE story

by Benny Zable

Once upon a time I used to fly out of Australia for New York City as Ambassador to Woodstock Town, Nimbin’s official sister town.

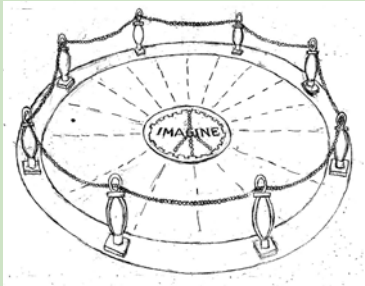
In New York City, I played creative director, helping Nanci Callahan plan, set up, decorate and perform other tasks for NYC EcoFest.

It happened that I lived a couple of blocks from Central Park where the IMAGINE mosaic is located in Strawberry Fields, a 2.5-acre (10,000 m2) landscaped section dedicated to the memory of John Lennon.

In time I would start decorating around it for Hiroshima Day, John Lennon’s birthday, and weddings, including my own special events.

On a late wet night, I decided to trace a cross-section of the IMAGINE mosaic so as to piece it together in Nimbin. This conveniently happened when I later occupied the Nimbin Bush Theatre green room area behind the stage.

I then transferred it on the bitumen I had



arranged to be laid in front of the Planet Earth mural wall at the Bush Theatre.

After vacating the Bush Theatre for a shed on the edge of Nimbin town, I started work on transferring the image on the current site in Allsopp Park, with encouragement

from the local mob and the then President of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

The dedication ceremony was led by Uncle Lewis Walker, who gave us a mental picture of the significance of this park at the crossroads in and out of Nimbin.

The IMAGINE circle has since been a place to gather after Armistice Day, 11-11-11, with an OM for Peace, and also for Hiroshima/Nagasaki memorial gatherings and following ANZAC Day dawn services.

The question is: if there is enough support for a project to have eight painted bollards chained in a circle to protect it from the traffic of people walking over it, based on the bollards painted by Oral Roberts in Lismore?

If there is interest, please let me know. It needs a collective of people to drive it, as I plan to eventually move back to Melbourne.



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# Rising Tide invites you to join the climate protest movement in Australia

by Cathie Dosba-Tomson

The Climate Council of Australia has called the 2022 flooding event “The Great Deluge” and named it the biggest climate change induced disaster in Australian history.

Time is short and the stakes could not be higher. Australia is one of the world’s largest exporters of fossil fuel and the emissions from these exports dwarf our domestic climate pollution.

“We need disruption to end the destruction. No more baby steps. No more greenwashing. No more bottomless greed of the fossil fuel industry and its enablers,” said Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres in his call to action after seeing the climate change disasters unfold globally.

Rising Tide members gather in Newcastle every November to block the Newcastle Coal Port and demand action on Climate Change. Newcastle is the biggest coal port in the world, and most of our coal is exported through that harbour.

At last year’s blockade, 3000 people on kayaks, canoes and other



The author at last November’s protest in Newcastle harbour

flotation devices took to the water for a peaceful 30-hour blockade to represent Australians everywhere who are concerned about climate change.

After the blockade some participants chose to stay on the water to demonstrate their

frustration with the lack of action from the Australian Labor Party. There were over 100 arrests of which nine were from the Northern Rivers.

Former politician and environmentalist, Bob Brown also attended the 2023 blockade and gave a stirring address, reminding

the audience of previous moments in history when groups of dedicated individuals were able to change the course of history through non-violent direct-action campaigns.

The three demands of Rising Tide are simple:

- Immediately cancel all new fossil fuel projects
  - Tax fossil fuel exports at 75% to fund community and industrial transition, and pay for climate loss and damage
  - End all coal exports from Newcastle – the world’s largest coal port – by 2030
- Rising Tide now has a number of hubs helping to organise the November blockade. The Northern Rivers Rising Tide Hub are running activities for people who want to get involved in the movement in the leadup to the November blockade in Newcastle.

### Local events

- Friday 24th May: Screening of *The First Wave* – the evening commences at 5pm at Timbre in Lismore. Food and drinks available at the venue. Film

- commences at 6pm.
  - Sunday 26th May: Some of the Northern Rivers Rising Tide crew will be joining the Mullum to Brunswick paddle.
  - Wednesday 5th June: Screening of *The First Wave* film on the Gold Coast (details to be announced).
  - Friday 21st – Saturday 22nd June: A National Tour of Rising Tide Hubs will converge on the Northern Rivers.
  - Friday 21st June: Kayak event at Tweed Heads leading to a visit to Justine Elliot’s office.
  - Saturday 22nd June: Convergence with the Rising Tide Tour in Bangalow (venue to be confirmed).
- This year, Rising Tide is expanding the November disruption in Newcastle. The People’s Blockade 2024 will incorporate 10 days of action starting from Tuesday 19th November and ending on Thursday 28th November. Come for as little or long as you like.

For more details go to: [risingtide.org.au](http://risingtide.org.au) or come along to one of our events and have a chat with the Northern Rivers Rising Tide crew.



## SNCP - Review and Update Community Workshop Dates May & June

**Sat 25th May (Energy plus Transport) 10.30 - 2pm**  
Nimbin Town Hall

**Vision - Energy:** A community which is self-reliant in our energy needs with a minimal ecological foot print & a model for other communities.


**Vision - Transport:** A carbon neutral transport system which promotes social inclusiveness by integrating a walkable village, vehicles powered by renewable fuels, cycling and horse riding.

**Sat 1st June (Arts & Culture) 10.30-2pm**  
Nimbin Town Hall

**Vision - Arts and Culture:** The community celebrates diversity and encourages participation and involvement through arts and culture.


**All folks living within 30 kms radius of the Nimbin village are warmly invited to attend**

**BYO Brains. Drinks and snacks provided.**



Supported by the Northern Rivers Community Foundation

Presented by Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre





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## Fact checkers checking out

by Warwick Fry

The deployment of conspiracy theories by the hard right and reactionary elements has become toxic, poisoning both social and mass media.

Conspiracy theorists and right-wing culture warriors (and even some survivalist hippies) do not like being fact checked. Ditto for misinformation. Hence campaigns to sideline or even shut down fact checking in Australia.

Crikey cites the experience of Associate Professor Tim Graham of the QUT. As one of the first researchers of conspiracy groups decades ago, he found a growing field of work in on-line hate speech and social media ‘bot’ (automated or ‘robot’ posts) networks.

Subsequently he was flooded with abuse, to the point where threats of violence led him to call on the police.

The Australian RMIT’s Factlab (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology), QUT, AAFP, Reuters and AFP are Australian institutions (there are US equivalents) which have set up independent accredited fact-checking researchers.

These have come under fire for their role in exposing the dissemination of false facts in various media campaigns.

Climate change denialists, anti-vaxers, QAnon conspiracists, not to mention Clive Palmer, are the least of it. Lawfare has become the most potent threat to fact-checkers but trolling, doxing, and on-line abuse is wearing them down. Tim Graham seems to be prepared to stick it out, but other high level staff are moving on.

The need for fact checking surfaced as the tip of an elephantine iceberg in the room during the Trump presidency. That’s when it got seriously seriously politicised. But there were always concerns about Facebook.

Ten years ago, the network was being exploited to disseminate racism, hate speech and ‘viral’ disinformation.

As just one example; concerns about the Myanmar (Burmese) military deploying Facebook to whip up hatred and excuse human rights abuses and massacres of the minority population.

Facebook only had four translators ‘moderating’ posts in the South-East Asia region.

When Musk took over Twitter, he sacked almost all of his moderators. After 2016, calls for obligatory moderation of large social media



Image courtesy Scientific American

networks led to outsourcing to independent fact-checking research bodies – most of them in academia – but threats of lawfare and reluctance of staff to endure heavy sledging and threats means their future is uncertain.

Since Musk’s takeover there has been such a surge of misinformation and hate speech on Twitter that most journalists (for whom it was once a valuable tool) are abandoning it as a resource and seeking alternative networks.

Fact checking, especially organised fact checking, is anathema to the anti-fact-checking brigade (and believe me, fact checking adds to the workload of the honest journalist).

So, the essential contradiction of the contrarian position on fact checking is that if you want to fact-check me then you need to be fact-checked yourself, and therefore my facts should not have to be checked. Uhh?

Some facts might need checking before they go ‘viral’. There is no excuse to go after the fact checkers.

Social Media is a brand, and the kids love it. For Musk, Gates, Zuckerberg – part of the billionaire elite 1% controlling over two thirds of the world’s economic output – it is an instrument of control.

Go figure where the anti-fact-checking brigade is coming from.

References to particular articles about the systematic attempts to harass and shut down fact checkers have been omitted by the author, to refrain from offering additional targets.



# Wildlife protection: If not now... when?

by the Kyogle Environment Group

- We know that:
- Without immediate government intervention to safeguard habitat and counter other threats, the koala population in NSW is at risk of extinction before 2050.
  - Logging in public and private native forests in NSW has progressively diminished koala habitats by reducing the maturity, size, and availability of preferred food and roosting trees.
  - The fragmentation and loss of habitat present the most pressing danger to koala populations in NSW.
  - The survival of koalas in the wild in NSW hinges on the NSW Government implementing stronger measures to prevent further habitat loss.
  - Climate change is

significantly impacting koala populations by altering the quality of their food and habitat, exacerbating the severity and consequences of other threats like droughts and bushfires.

- Inconsistencies and disconnections among various planning instruments within the NSW planning system hinder the protection of koala habitat, necessitating urgent resolution.

Yet instead of acting on these facts, we have the NSW Government intent on kicking the proverbial can down the road by requesting yet another survey to examine “the way we are delivering the NSW Koala Strategy to ensure the future of koalas in NSW.”

Don't they realise that time is of the essence? Perhaps they do.

The Kyogle LGA boasts

one of NSW's largest private native forestry estates, covering 160,000 hectares.

While the framework for private forestry management emphasises Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM), existing regulations lack stringent requirements for on-ground assessments, particularly regarding threatened ecological communities.

As a result, most private lands lack documented records of threatened species, enabling landowners to undertake forestry activities without adequate consideration of their impact on local wildlife.

Despite provisions in the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice (PNF) aimed at wildlife protection, their application often falls short, leading to unsustainable practices and threats to endangered species.

The absence of oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance exacerbates the problem. Despite regulations mandating environmental assessments, there are no monitoring or compliance checks in place, leaving ecosystems vulnerable to habitat destruction.

One wonders why Kyogle Council wish to drop the dual consent process for PNF. They claim that it is a duplication of the assessment process. This is incorrect. Local Land Services (LLS) and Local Councils do not look at the same parameters when approving a PNF application. LLS use the 2022 PNF Code of Practice. Local Councils follow the NSW Government Planning Legislation.

The LLS assessment is a desktop approval that does not have regard to existing strategies or policies relevant to the subject land or the



cumulative impact of PNF across a landscape whereas the Development Application process must consider the impact the proposed development is likely to have on the natural environment, the built environment and the local community, any submissions made by neighbours, the wider community and government agencies after the DA was advertised and the public interest.

So how does Kyogle Council intend to ensure that community interests, including impacts on infrastructure (roads, bridges and haulage routes), local amenity, water quality and areas of local environment or



heritage significance are met? It's time to attend the May Council meeting and ask.

The community is invited to review the full Planning Proposal on Council's website: [www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/council-engagement/council-business/on-public-exhibition](http://www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/council-engagement/council-business/on-public-exhibition)

You may also make a submission on the Planning Proposal until 4pm, Friday 7th June. Submissions must be in writing and addressed to the Director Planning and Community Development, PO Box 11, Kyogle. Or email to: [council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au)

## Lost in the screen – The new Generation Ultra Tech

The emphasis on high tech devices seems to be going overboard.

Are we raising a generation of youngsters with no skills apart from knowing how to turn on a device?

To acquire skills, such as reading a book can do wonders to develop an individual sense of self. Learning special skills that serve our mental and physical dexterity, that we can identify with and that identify us, helps foment our individual personality.

A life skill of any kind – making, crafting, manufacturing, tending, growing – sets us up for how we contribute to the community and gives young people self-reliance and self-sufficiency.



by Antionette Ensbey

A life of active involvement, movement and connection with the world, where the individual enquires into the world and the world responses. Where your personal input creates the outcome and makes you as the involved person special.

Where success is directly linked to how you deal with the given task. A life without computers lets your whole person in body and mind engage with your world. Especially a child's world.

The screen world is very different to that. Screens are inorganic. They lack tactile property and don't breathe life. The devices are rigid and inflexible. They contrast the organic body in an intolerant manner. They don't complement organic life.

Using the screen over many hours, the contact remains unforgiving and one-sided. No give-and-take, no transferring of sensory messages.

The content is largely stereotyping. The man-made screen world substitutes the real world. The information is selected for the viewer without the viewer's input. You only look as far as you need to in order to get an answer. It makes you a complete information consumer.

Computers do not engage the whole person. That alone must ring alarm bells around

the use of computers for children who need to process and engage with all facets of their minds and all faculties of their bodies. The stimulation that emanates from the screen is so single targeted on the cognitive brain that the rest remains undernourished.

Learning is a holistic undertaking, not a stuffing the brain activity. Experience is the epitome of the learning process. What we actively make happen and see, feel, touch, hear and smell is educating body and mind in the ultimate way available. Are we teaching children that learning from life is for dummies?

The trouble is that the internet only puts out what's been put in. That the output is comprehensive information is a deception. It cannot be otherwise, what's on the screen is washed and rinsed and the information is condensed to a few keywords.

We become so impatient with the screen that all we want is getting straight to the main point – cut to the chase – and gather information rather than selecting information. Long texts are out of fashion. The conclusive answer is now popular which can make us opinionated and narrow-minded and let us forget using our common sense.

Digital technology is in everybody's pocket. What is Generation Ultra Tech going to do next? Computers curb the opportunity of self-directed learning. It is debatable that on-line learning promotes independent thinking. The way how on-line information is presented limits self-exploring discovery. Everything is there at your fingertips.

Why should you even try to switch on your brain? Why reason or be creative and

think independently? As a resource, the internet seems so superior to the child's mind that the soul just succumbs and leaves it to the magic screen to problem solve.

To think outside the box, outside the square of the screen is risky. Screens teach approval seeking children to comply. Even if it goes against the kid's nature that only wants an environment in which playing an active role and feeling genuinely involved is the ultimate success.

Computer devices create turmoil in their young minds, undermining their natural direction and playful initiative in a serious and lasting manner. It is the way how the device keeps promising a trophy but never delivers that makes our children stay on them for hours.

Disappointed and mentally depleted, the only thing that keeps them going is the promise of starting all over again, with the same quest and the same hope for reward, while their stiff bodies ache for exercise, their fingers are cold and their minds numb.

In the end it is not the child taking control of their experience, it is the device taking control of the child. Every adult knows about the powerful lure of the internet and how we sacrifice receptivity by staying on the devices for too long and reaching for them too often. Constantly in mental over-drive, we miss so much else relevant to a fulfilled and healthy mind.

Technology is no longer advancing humanity. Digital technology is steadily shrinking the human experience by fitting the whole world into a device as big as a toenail.

*I'm available for counselling. Please contact me via email: [mlremedies22@gmail.com](mailto:mlremedies22@gmail.com)*

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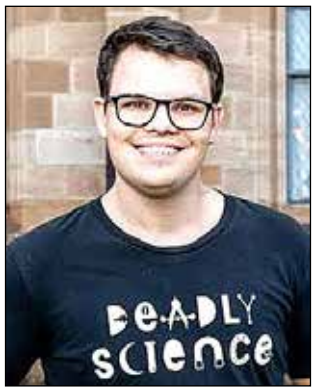
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Melissa Lucashenko



Corey Tutt

## Kyogle's literary focus

This year's Kyogle Readers and Writers Festival, to be held on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May, presents a strong line-up of First Nations authors.

'The Power of Words', an event targeted specifically at secondary school students from the region and taking place on the Friday, features Miles Franklin-award winning author, Melissa Lucashenko (*Too Much Lip*, *Mullumbimby*, *Edenglassie*), Gary Lonesborough (*Boy from the Mish*, *We Didn't Think it Through*) and Corey Tutt (*The First Scientists*, *This Book thinks Ya Deadly*).

Later that afternoon, presenter of ABC Radio National's *The Arts Show*, Daniel Browning, will be in conversation with Melissa Lucashenko, discussing Daniels' book, *Close to the Subject*.

The first day ends with 'Weaving the Voices of the Rivers and the Night Sky', which features cultural astronomer, Duane Hamacher, talking about the project and his book, *The First Astronomers*, with Corey Tutt.

Another special event included in Friday's programme will be Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali, *We Weave Together*. Presented in conjunction with Arts Northern Rivers, this workshop will showcase traditional and contemporary Bundjalung weaving.

On Saturday, 18th May, a panel, 'Writing while Black', chaired by Grace Lucas-Pennington and including Mykaela Saunders (*Always Will Be*, *This All Come Back Now*, *Gary Lonesborough*), Ellen van Neerven (*Heat and Light*, *Throat*), will bring together four perspectives on contemporary Black writing.

Later that day, Melissa Lucashenko will be talking about her latest novel, *Edenglassie*, with her friend Daniel Browning, and Ellen van Neerven will talk about her book, *Personal Score*, which explores the difficult relationships between sport, race, gender and sexuality.

Other highlights in this year's festival include a conversation between *Gardening Australia*'s Costa Georgiadis and ABC's Angela Catterns and panel discussions on alternative therapies, creating a more ethical society and writing Australia from an 'outsider' perspective.

There will also be workshops on self-publishing books, performance poetry and zine making.

The 2024 Festival is supported by the Australian Government through Regional Arts Australia, Create NSW and Arts Northern Rivers, Kyogle Council, Kyogle Together, KDAC, IndyNR, and Daley's Fruit Tree Nursery.

Tickets and the full programme are available at: [kraw.com.au](http://kraw.com.au)

## Writer in Residence chosen

Kyogle Readers and Writers Festival has announced Lismore local Charlotte O'Neill (pictured) as its 2024 Writer in Residence.

The residency, worth in total \$5000, includes two weeks accommodation in the Kyogle region, living expenses, and mentoring by Mullumbimby-based author, Jessie Cole.

More than 60 emerging writers across regional NSW applied for the residency, with Charlotte's work standing out from the crowd.

Jessie Cole, one of the judges for the residency, said, "Charlotte's writing is intuitive and engaging, deeply felt but also funny."

Charlotte is analysing the representation of bushfires in Australian colonial fiction through her candidature as a PhD student in creative writing at the University of Newcastle.

"As part of my course, I am



writing a novel based on the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfire disaster, which had a horrific impact on parts of the Northern Rivers region. "My work explores grief for things that are lost in the relationships between people and nature," Charlotte said.

"Being the 2024 Kyogle Writer in Residence will enable me to have a couple of weeks of solitude where I can focus entirely on writing."

The Writer in Residence program is kindly supported by a Create NSW.

# Discover the Hindustani slide guitar

On Friday 17th May, the walls of Nimbin's Church of Aquarius will ring with the vibrations of delightful string sounds from the Mohan Veena and the Chataurangui.

Both instruments are slide guitars specifically designed for North Indian (Hindustani) Classical Music.

The players for the evening are Poly Varghese on the Mohan Veena (a disciple of Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, creator of the Mohan Veena), and our local Shivam Rath on the Chataurangui (a disciple of Pandit Debashish Battacharya, the creator of the Chataurangui).

They will be accompanied by the skilled hands of Rodney Wright on Tabla.

The concert will present a melodious journey through early-evening Indian Raga music.

From exquisite subtleties in the Alap (meditative beginnings), to heights of rhythmic excitement and embellishment of improvisation, the music flourishes to envelope the audience.

Poly's musical career began in Kerala where he trained in the classical arts, specifically the Mridangam, a percussion instrument used mostly in Carnatic, or South Indian classical music. While undertaking further training in West Bengal, he began to pursue the Indian classical repertoire on electric guitar.

A chance meeting with Pandit Bhatt



fired his adoration for the adapted Mohan Veena. He since dedicates his time, under the tutelage of Pandit Bhatt, to pursue practise and learnings of this beautifully evocative instrument.

He has performed at many festivals around the world and composed for film and theatre.

Shivam Rath's Indian music journey began in Northern NSW, learning tabla from his father. A trip to India as a young man further informed his love for Indian classical music, yoga and mantra. He discovered the Chataurangui, and has since been playing to audiences around the world.

His interest in the fusion of electronica with Indian Classical led him to study Music Production at SAE, and he

currently works as a producer locally.

In between his performances and production, he teaches students of instrument, raga and Nada Yoga.

Rodney Wright ventured to Banares as a young man and started learning Tabla in 1992. In 1995 he was initiated into the Banares Gharana under his Guruji (late) Pandit Kedarnath Bhowmick.

Rodney maintains his tradition and enjoys collaborating and performing with artists of various backgrounds.

Pre-booking is advised for this special intimate show, where Shivam, Poly and Rodney take us on a voyage through the landscapes of India.

Tickets (including meal tickets) are available via Humanitix (Hindustani Slide Guitar). Doors open from 6pm.

## Refugee fundraiser

The fabulous Gypsy jazz band, Acid Bleed, is once again supporting Lismore Region Refugee Settlement (LRRS) with a Sunday afternoon gig at the Lismore City Bowling Club.

LRRS works with the government agency Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP) whereby refugee families are chosen by the UNHCR.

The group will shortly welcome another family to the Northern Rivers. The family is matched with a group here in Australia prepared to fund raise and support them for 12 months on their journey to freedom

and a new enriched life.

Support is welcomed to help on this journey.

This can be done by visiting our bookstalls at the Lismore Farmers Market on the third Saturday of each month or the Casino Farmers Market on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Donations of good quality books are welcome. We also accept suitable household items and monetary donations.

And of course, you can support LRRS by attending the Acid Bleed gig on Sunday 19th May at the Lismore City Bowling Club, 171 Molesworth Street, doors open 1.30pm.



Only \$15 a ticket for three hours of great music, dancing shoes optional!

Tickets are available via Humanitix: <https://events.humanitix.com/acid-bleed-jazz-concert-ggwklevk> or by cash at the door.

Donations for Shout for Good can be made at: <https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/lismoreregionrefugeesettlement> or to our bank account: LRRS: BSB 728728, A/C 22340056.

# Release of thought-provoking documentary

Byron local, filmmaker and environmental activist Dean Jefferys, is hosting the World Premieres of his latest documentary in Byron and Nimbin.

Called *The Toad the Whale and the Sun*, this expedition of the soul has been eight years in the making.

It explores a vision that Dean had, that the Toads, the Whales and the Sun are offering insights to assist humanity to achieve a quantum shift in consciousness in these critical times.

Dean says, "I invite people to embark on a mystical journey with me as we explore the secrets of the universe through the use of the most powerful psychedelic known to man, 5 Meo-DMT, from the Sonoran desert toad in Mexico, also known as Bufo Alvarius."

Discover the role this sacrament plays in humanity's awakening, including



inter-dimensional ceremonies in the Sonoran desert and the ancient sun-worshipping temples of the Mayan civilisation.

Dean's previous documentary called *Shamans of the Amazon*, which was one of the first documentaries made about Ayahuasca over 25 years ago, has become a cult classic.

Dean invites people to "Come on an epic sailing adventure on marine conservation yacht, Migaloo 2, through tropical waters with the

humpback Whale migration and experiencing the power of the Toad ceremony with the Whales and the Sun.

"We will unlock the messages of the great ancestors of the ocean, and our galactic messenger, the Sun, and gain insight into the role they play in catalysing humanity's evolution."

With breathtaking cinematography and an expert team of mystics, *The Toad, the Whale, and the Sun* is an immersive experience that will challenge your beliefs and inspire you to take positive action.

The documentary is 1 hour 53.mins long, and is screening at the Byron Community Centre on 31st May and Nimbin Bush Theatre on 8th June. There will be Q+A with Dean after the screenings.

To see the trailer and get tickets, go to: <https://toadwhalesun.com>





Photo: Saul Goodwin

Byron Writers Festival at Bangalow Showground last year

## First guests announced!



Trent Dalton Photo: David Kelly

Byron Writers Festival is thrilled to announce the first wave of authors set to grace its stages at the 2024 festival, between 9th and 11th August.

Welcoming new Artistic Director Jessica Alice, this year's Byron Writers Festival will feature international bestsellers **Trent Dalton** and **Jane Harper**; acclaimed writer and farmer **Bruce**

**Pascoe**; Booker Prize winner **Richard Flanagan**; Irish poet and novelist **Caolinn Hughes**; PEN award-winning author and poet **Nam Le**; playwright, screenwriter and novelist **Suzie Miller**; investigative journalist and debut novelist **Louise Milligan**; and local speculative fiction writer **Mykaela Saunders**.

This first announcement of celebrated guests gives a taste of things to come with Byron Writers Festival's full program of more than 100 writers, thinkers and commentators to be revealed on Wednesday 19th June.

Byron Writers Festival 2024 will be held on beautiful Bundjalung land at the Bangalow Showground. Discounted Early Bird three-day passes are on sale now via: [byronwritersfestival.com](http://byronwritersfestival.com)

## Together in Ballina



A free half-day of culture, creativity and connection is being held on Saturday 11th May at Northern Rivers Community Gallery, cnr Cherry and Crane Streets, Ballina.

The Arts & Community Wellbeing Day is presented by NRCG and Ignite Studios for the community to experience a range of playful and creative activities.

Get inventive with Roundabout Theatre's Pop-Up Play Space and the Lollipop Ladies. Try your hand at some peaceful weaving with natural fibres with Aunty Tania Marlowe and Deb Cole from Jugan Dandii.

Get creative with Claudie Frock's 'Let's Stick Together Collage' experience. Dive into a Virtual Reality Art Workshop or explore digital storytelling with Social Futures' Computer Clubhouse.

Or join in a Dance the Art: an inclusive Gallery Movement Tour with interdisciplinary performance artist Katie Cooper-Wares.

No bookings are required – come along to wander around, and dip in and out of the experiences as you like. BYO snacks or enjoy the Gallery Café next door.

For more, go to: [www.nrcgballina.com.au](http://www.nrcgballina.com.au)



### Collage Club

Thursdays 23 & 30 May, 4-6pm  
Lismore Regional Gallery Pop-up Space  
46 Magellan Street – Free, materials provided

## Nimbin Storytellers



Photo: Marie Therese

by René Norwie

At our first ever Fireside Stories at Hanging Rock Hall, we gathered under the night sky to tell stories in this timeless way on the theme of 'Enchanted'.

It was a bit touch-and-go with the stormy weather, but the rain held off and allowed us to hear some remarkable personal stories told around the fire.

Frank Taylor got the night started with a reading of the epic legend of Hanging Rock Hall's origin as written by the talented founding member, Anne Elterman.

We heard five more locals share their personal stories of: witnessing a mesmerising, other worldly New Year's ritual on the freezing Tibetan plateau (Cath Smith); experiencing four distinct moments of awareness that led him to a precious insight (Gwyllim Summers); finding enchantment in the many wonderful avenues for exploring his intellectual curiosity (Warwick Fry); how getting lost on a

remote mountainous track in the rainforest led her to stumble upon a beautiful Winter Solstice community celebration (Marie Therese); and about uncovering an opportunity to relive a childhood enchantment (René Norwie).

We were also treated to delicious Japanese fare by Andre and Kaobi, and had the pleasure of hearing music by singer-songwriter, Andra Cordell.

Our next gathering will be at Sibley's Bistro at Nimbin Bowling Club, at 6.30pm on Saturday 8th June.

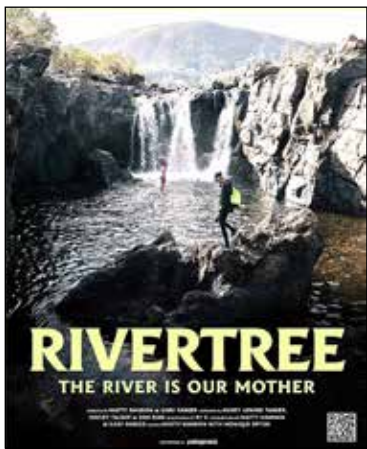
The theme for this storytelling night is 'Crossroads', and we'll be hearing tales of life's quandaries and tricky decisions.

We always have some local tellers lined up for the night, but we leave space for spontaneous stories too.

So, come along to hear a few good yarns and maybe tell one of your own.

Learn more about Nimbin Storytellers and the art of first-person oral storytelling at: [www.nimbinstorytellers.com](http://www.nimbinstorytellers.com) and get in touch if you have a story to tell.

## Of mining and water



They discover that the mining of rare-earth minerals has a long and checkered history throughout the world. The film sheds light on the urgent need to safeguard our most precious resource – water.

The evocative soundtrack by celebrated artist, Ry X mirrors the meandering beauty of the river herself, and unveils the power of a grassroots movement to save the lifeblood of the valley.

Narration is by the wise and passionate Aunty Lenore, who says, "Freshwater, saltwater people, old and new, black and white, we are all river people, she connects us all.

"We are the custodians and stewards of our great rivers, and now we must stand together, all of us, our united voices have the power to move like the river when it comes out into the ocean."

*Rivertree* will be screening at KMI Hall Banquet Room in Kyogle on Tuesday 21st May at 5.30pm, hosted by Kyogle Environment Group.

There will be guest speakers, including tales of a trip down the Richmond River by some intrepid locals in kayaks and what they saw.

The new film *Rivertree* is an adventurous tale of two lifelong friends, Hayley Talbot and Dan Ross. We follow their journey as they set off on a long-distance paddle down the Clarence River.

In between stints on the water, they ask questions to the local people and uncover the mining industry's risky plans to dig up the hills behind their home.

THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN

THE EPIC JOURNEY OF A QUANTUM SHIFT

**WORLD PREMIERE**

screenings of Dean Jefferys' latest feature-length documentary.

*The Psychedelic Toads, the Whales and the Sun are offering insights to assist humanity in these critical times.*

- Byron Community Centre on 31st May
- Nimbin Bush Theatre on 8th June

Watch the trailer and get tickets at:  
<https://toadwhalesun.com>

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**NIMBIN BOWLO**

25 Sibley Street Nimbin  
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**ADVICE FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS**

*Home of the Big Bowler*

**Club opening hours:**

Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close, Sun 8.30am to 4pm  
Sibley's Bistro open Wed-Sat 5 to 8pm, 6689-1473

- Open Mic, Wednesday 8th May, 6pm
- Trivia Night, Saturday 11th May, 6pm for 7pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome