# **\$430M council works in the pipeline**

ouncil adopted its 2025/26 budget and integrated Reimagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2025–2035 at last month's meeting.

Over the coming financial year, it will invest a record \$244.1 million to improve capital infrastructure, including roads, bridges, buildings, water and sewerage.

This is almost double the amount that was invested in capital programs last financial year.

This budget is about investing in the right areas across all Council operations to strengthen Lismore's economy and create a city and villages that attract people to come to live, work and raise a family.

We are investing significantly more in our 750km sewer and water network and 1,215km road network, which most people don't realise is a network greater than the distance from the Sunshine Coast to Sydney.

In the next 12 months, \$184.9 million will be invested on roads and bridges, up from \$74 million the previous financial year, \$28.6

### From the Mayor's desk

by Steve Krieg Lismore City Council

million will be spent improving Lismore's sewer system assets, up from \$13 million, and \$1.04 million is being set aside to invest in drains, which represents a 25% increase in investment from the previous budget.

The total budget is \$430 million, up from \$301.1 million for 2024-2025, with a forecast to deliver a cash surplus.

This significant uplift in investment for Lismore was achieved by Council's ongoing and effective lobbying of Australian and State governments and strong advocacy efforts by civic leaders following the 2022 natural disaster.

Councillors also understand people are doing it tough with the rising cost of living, that's why we have frozen rates at the State Government's rate peg of 3.9%. If you want to read more about

the budget and Community Strategic Plan, go to Council's website at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au



#### **Flood** restoration

Council's dedicated flood restoration team recently reached a significant milestone, with 100 projects now complete, including roads, bridges and landslips; sporting venues, cultural hubs and community facilities; and vital flood resilience infrastructure, including urban stormwater drainage.

Our driving goal has been to deliver the best outcome for the Lismore community – to do it once and do it right.

The Flood Restoration Portfolio

team has been doing great work since the disaster, and following extensive emergency repairs, funding applications, and designing innovative solutions to our unique challenges, it's now shifting into an

- exciting new construction phase. Among the notable achievements so far are:
- Restoration of 55 road, bridge and landslip damages, including works on Nimbin Road and Blue Knob Road;
- Restoration of Lismore City Library, Lismore Regional Gallery and Quad, Lismore

- Municipal Building and Lismore Airport terminal;
- Restoration of Albert Park baseball complex, Lismore basketball stadium, Lismore Workers FC clubhouse and Marie Mackney netball clubhouse; and
- Clearing of more than 8km of urban stormwater drains. More than 230 additional projects are now in the advanced planning, design and construction stages, with road restorations and flood resilience upgrades to see the highest focus in the coming months and years.

The Flood Restoration Portfolio is proudly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments.

#### In memoriam

Last month also brought the sad news of the passing of our first female mayor and long-time Nimbin advocate Ros Irwin.

I extend my deepest sympathies to her husband Bill and family. I will be moving a condolence motion at the next Council meeting in her honour.

# Lantern Parade's message: time for kindness

by Janelle Saffin, MP for Lismore

was thrilled to be part of the opening of the 31st Lismore Lantern Parade's Fiery Finale at Oakes Oval last month. From the stage I looked out and made the comment that this appeared to be the biggest crowd I had seen at this iconic Northern Rivers event, in addition to the people on the streets and in cars spread far and wide beyond Lismore Square Shopping Centre and the Lismore Base Hospital precinct.

Such is the local and regional drawing power of this enduring celebration of community spirit each Winter Solstice.

I congratulate Jyllie Jackson OAM, her hard-working committee, and team of volunteers and lantern carriers, on staging another great spectacle for the City of Lismore.

Families and individuals rugged up on a cold night to watch the parade of around 2,500 participants, including students from all the schools in the region, make its way along Molesworth, Magellan and Dawson streets to Oakes Oval.

The heart at the start of the Fiery Finale was a memorial to locals who had inspired others over the history of the parade, who have passed away.

Remembered with love were Sara Tinning, John Lush, Joanne Kambourian, Karen Coyle, Paul Barrett, Suzanne Olesen, John Miller, Issy Brent, Bede Flynn, John Fox and Heather Wood.

Warming to the Finale's theme of 'The Return of the Sun', Jyllie Jackson said: "Let



the shadows, how heavy the rain, the sun always rises. So do we.'

The theme is a nod to the Chinese Year of the Snake, which represents transformation, but it can mean many things.

It has spiritual significance in many cultures, symbolising hope, renewal and the triumph of light over darkness, as Jyllie alluded to.

Here in the Northern Rivers region, where we have experienced natural disasters like the floods of 2017 and 2022 and the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20, the natural phenomena of the sunrise can also make us feel optimistic for better days in future.

In keeping with tradition, Jyllie Jackson's secret 2025 message was revealed in flames, 'Time For Kindness'. A short fireworks

Lismore Lantern Parade 2025's Fiery Finale at Oakes Oval. Photo: Peter Derrett

It had been a number of years since Oakes Oval was used as the venue for the Fiery Finale, but the grandstands and grassed area were full, making it another huge success.

I thank my friend Jyllie Jackson for founding and nurturing the Lismore Lantern Parade, a nationally and internationally recognised, award-winning festival celebrating the Winter Solstice.

This festival has grown in stature from small beginnings and brings together local artists, businesses and communities to create a magical spectacle for locals and visitors to enjoy.

The Visit Lismore Facebook page profiled Jyllie as a local legend who embodies Lismore's spirit of creativity, resilience and

superstar.

The Visit Lismore page says Jyllie has dedicated decades to fostering community engagement through art, storytelling and celebration.

Her passion for lantern making and illuminated performances has transformed the parade into a signature event for Lismore and the wider Northern Rivers region.

I also acknowledge that in attendance at the parade was a delegation from our sister city, Yamatotakada. The sister city agreement was struck with Lismore City Council in 1963.

In a world often wracked by division and conflict, we need more lantern parades to

tonight be a reminder, no matter how big display followed

community. On the night, I called her a

spread harmony and peace.



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# Protest agenda: enabling state violence against community

've been working in law and justice for decades, but what happened in Belmore Sydney last week was one of the most violent and disturbing responses to peaceful protest that I've ever seen in this state.

A community picket was held outside a company reportedly involved in the supply chain for F-35 fighter jets; jets that are currently being used by the Israeli Military as a part of its ongoing genocide against the people of Palestine.

The protest was peaceful and entirely lawful, and the message was of non-violence, justice and to stop arming genocide. But the police response was planned and coordinated. The actions of individual police officers were unlawful and the display of state violence was alarming.

A woman, lawyer and legal observer Hannah Thomas, was violently assaulted by officers during their punishment of the people at the protests, and she was injured so badly that she has had to undergo multiple surgeries and may have permanently injured vision



by Sue Higginson NSW Greens MLC

in one of her eyes. Most of us have probably seen the images of those injuries by now, they are truly horrific.

I provided legal assistance to the people who were arrested while they were in custody, I've spoken with Hannah, and other members of the community who were present and seen lots of video footage of the incident and it is clear that the actions of the police were massive overreach and an act of state violence.

This community at Belmore were exercising their human right to peacefully assemble on public lands and their civil and legal right of political expression, cornerstones of

our democracy. But NSW, under Labor Premier Chris Minns and the Coalition before him, have been eroding these rights, giving police arbitrary powers and empowering increasingly punitive actions against us.

The anti-protest laws that were rushed through by Chris Minns earlier this year in the wake of a fabricated criminal hoax that the premier described as terrorism, are a direct contributor to the dangerous environment where police feel entitled to punish dissent. The serious injury in Belmore is a consequence of Chris Minns' disregard for democracy.

This violence at Belmore isn't an isolated incident, it is part of a broader authoritarian shift that is seeing the state weaponise police powers against the community, particularly against those calling for an end to genocide.

Instead of listening to the community, heeding the warnings from legal experts and civil society groups, and working with us Greens in Parliament, Minns has stoked division and disrespect for

political differences. He has escalated the situation with inflammatory language and reckless legislative changes.

In Parliament, he has smirked while dismissing concerns from the gallery. On radio, he's talked about charging protestors for the cost of their own policing. And now, the result is Hannah and people like our friend Hannah, peaceful, principled, brave, being hospitalised by the very people meant to protect them.

To make matters worse, Federal Labor leaders have now weighed in with equally damaging rhetoric. A sitting minister took to Sky News to suggest that peaceful protestors deserved what they got, statements that are now subject to a defamation concerns notice.

When ministers and premiers feel entitled to bypass due process and prejudge people in the media, we should all be deeply concerned. These are the actions of political leaders who do not respect the democracy that elected them. No-one is above the law, particularly Labor premiers

and ministers. And the law is clear: protest is legal, and political expression is a constitutional right.

What happened in Belmore is not the end of the story. The community is standing up. Lawyers have been engaged. Legal action is underway. And I will keep fighting in the Parliament to repeal these anti-democratic laws and hold the government accountable for the violence it has enabled.

If you're reading this and wondering how far things can go, how much more police violence will be tolerated, how many more rights will be stripped away, know that the answer depends on all of us.

The best way to protect the right to protest is to protest. We must keep turning up. We must stand with

Palestine, for a safe climate, for our precious forests and for First Nations justice. And we must call out every act of injustice, whether it comes from a uniform or a Minister's office.

This Government promised compassion and transparency. Instead, we are watching it drift closer to authoritarianism by the day. But I haven't given up hope. I've seen what our communities are capable of. I've seen what it looks like when we stand together.

And I will not stop until justice is restored. Please if you want to be part of this go to my website or join me on social media.

https://www.suehigginson. org/protest\_in\_peril https://www.facebook.com/ share/p/1CjiK3cw3q

### **Time for governments to** act on flood mitigation



### by Kevin Hogan MP for Page

The CSIRO has released the hydrodynamic model that will show how engineering solutions can lower future flood levels in our community.

I believe a scenario that should be modelled is how we can take two metres off future floods through engineering solutions.

Options like building dry retention basins to temporarily hold water back, and letting floodwater get away quicker, should all be part of the solution.

After the 2022 floods, I secured the funding to get this hydrodynamic model done. This will now move us from talking about flood mitigation to making it a reality.

It covers the entire catchment - from

### Ballina.

We can't keep spending billions cleaning up disasters after they happen. We need to invest in solutions that will actually make us safer before the next flood comes.

Back-of-the-envelope estimates show that we need up to \$2 billion to deliver works that would take 2 metres off a flood. The 2022 disaster alone was a \$15 billion event. Spending money on prevention saves taxpayer money on the recovery.

I am calling on the State and Federal Labor Governments to commit to this type of investment. Our community

deserves certainty and real protection. The CSIRO has done the work, now it's time for governments to step up. Decision-makers will now

determine whether the next

## Away, but my heart is always with you

Thile I'm away overseas. NAIDOC Week will be held back home. This year's theme - The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy – is a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to nurture and uplift young people. We must ensure they are supported to dream big, speak strong, and walk proudly in culture and community.

I want to send love and deep respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and especially the Widjabul Wia-bael people, who have cared for Country here for millennia. Let's honour and celebrate the world's oldest living culture by turning up, showing up, and standing with First Nations communities and join one or more of the local events. Always was, always will be.

I'm currently travelling with my daughter through Ireland, Portugal and Spain visiting family, friends, and soaking up much needed perspective. It's a big world out here and



by Cr Virginia Waters

their connection to ecology and the natural world.

It was also challenging to hear the shared collective disappointment and disbelief in world leadership and fear for the future. There are so many good people in the world quietly doing the work of healing, making, and supporting one another; this is what we need to prosper.

While in Wexford, I joined the local Free Gaza solidarity walk accompanied by the sound of bagpipes. It was both moving and heartening to walk beside people taking a stand for peace and justice and catch up with Green



Entry to a Portugese soup kitchen

would like to work towards during this term on council. We have much to share in terms of resilience, creativity and natural beauty.

From Ireland, we've made our way to Porto where we found a collective vegan café hosting an Armenian night; they also share nourishing food with anyone who needs it. These moments, these places, are constant reminders

I was pleased to see community submitted feedback and it was supported and taken on most notably, the reinstatement of affordable housing in the plan. That said, it was disappointing to see it left out as a strategic goal, instead diluted under 'diverse housing." I remain deeply concerned

about the erosion of community notification rights in the Development Application (DA) process. While council will now notify for DAs of five or more dwellings in urban areas (and ten or more in rural), many neighbours will no longer be advised about developments happening right beside them. That's a big loss for transparency and community, all in the name of "cost savings" and alignment with CDC fast-tracking.

Travelling, and of course our own council, has reminded me how vital democracy is and how easily it can be eroded and lost if we don't stay vigilant. Real change begins in communities. It's in the voices of neighbours,

being immersed in it reminds me how interconnected we are. I'm grateful for the chance to listen, learn, reflect, make new friends and reconnect.

One of the most heartening experiences was visiting my sister at her artist residency in Ireland a warm and powerful space by the river Corrib shared by artists from Australia, the US, France and Germany. Watching them weave creativity, hope, and solidarity into their work was deeply moving, especially local members in Ireland. We also visited Ireland's own Lismore a stunning town with a staffed visitor information centre that made all the difference. And the Lismore Castle gardens? Absolutely breathtaking. It felt like stepping into a fairytale. It reminded me of how vital our own visitor centres in Lismore and Nimbin once were not just for tourism, but for welcoming, storytelling, and anchoring people in place. We need them back, something I

that community care crosses borders and reminded me of home and how we must be generous and kind. Everywhere I go, I see the power of grassroots action. Even while away, I'm keeping a close eye on what's happening back home. I missed the June Council meeting where our key Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents were adopted, including the Community Strategic Plan and Engagement Strategy.

artists, and people who dare to dream big.

Let's keep showing up for each other and dreaming a kind, loving and peaceful future.

Bungawalbin Creek through Coraki, Eden Creek through Kyogle, and Terania, Leycester and Wilsons through Lismore on to

major flooding event in this region kills people, destroys people's lives financially, or the region has been made safer.



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www.nimbingoodtimes.com



### July 13 Sun 10am-3pm Family Doof Day Aug 9-10 Bamboo Essentials Workshop Aug 12-14 Bamboo Boot Camp Aug 16-17 Bamboo Craft & Build Masterclass Sep 6 Sat 10-3.30 Open Day & Co-housing Talk Oct 11-25 Permaculture Design Course







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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

### NAIDOC Day

Celebrating 50 years of NAIDOC Week, this year' theme is: 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy'. Nimbin's NAIDOC Day will be held on Friday 11th July, 10am-3pm at Community Centre Market site on Widjabul Jagun. It will feature deadly live music (many thanks to Blakboi), free food, a Quiz (many thanks to Gilbert) with great prizes to be won, and art activities for the jarjums.

This is a free familyfriendly community event. Everyone is welcome!

### **Did you know?**

NNIC services are available to any individuals and families in our community who need them.

There are no eligibility requirements - eg you don't need to be on a Centrelink benefit.

If you need help with something drop in or call us and we'll see what we can do.

### Membership renewals

All NNIC and Tools Library memberships fall due on 1st July. Drop into NNIC to renew your membership: \$5.50 per year (incl GST).

Your membership is very valuable to us so if you haven't ever joined before come on down! (Note: anyone who joined or renewed during May or June 2025 are covered for the 25-26 year – no need to renew again).

Tools Library membership is \$22 per year (incl GST) and you must be an NNIC member to be a Tool Library member (ie total annual cost is \$27.50).

#### **Sustainability Alley**

This will again be a feature of the Nimbin Annual Country Show on 20th-21st September.



Creation mural by Lewis Walker and Gilbert Laurie in Allsopp Park

Naloxone

the front desk.

Have you got some into your

First Aid Kit yet? Available

for free at NNIC via NNIC

Nimbin Neighbourhood and

to Cultural and Child Safety.

Statements of Commitment to

First Nations People, and to

See our website for our

Child Safety.

Information Centre is committed

or AOD staff... just ask at

Feedback from last year included: promote earlier; ensure everyone gets the dates into their diaries; and call out for Sustainability Alley stalls etc earlier. Your wish is our

command. Contact: sibley@ nnic.org.au for Sustainability Alley info and bookings.

### **Nimbin Village Community Calendar**

Register your events! Community members can use the on-line Community Calendar to share Nimbin events and dates in a centralised place, so that we can all be informed and enjoy what's on in Nimbin.

This will also help organisers to plan events and avoid date clashes. Go to: www.nimbinvillage.au

#### **New to Nimbin?**

Have you moved into Nimbin recently? Or do you know someone who has? Maybe you have a new neighbour? Then the Welcome to Nimbin Kit is for you!

This kit is designed to start conversations between new neighbours and help newcomers with lots of useful info to help you find your way and ease into the amazing fabric of the Nimbin community. Hard copies of the kit are available for \$5.50 at NNIC. The kit is also available on our website - search for 'New to Nimbin'.

However, the list of volunteer organisations and contact numbers is only available in the hard copy version, which also comes in a handy folder with the great cover artwork.

### Wellbeing survey

Thanks to everyone who did the annual community survey, which closed on 30th June. We will have the results to you very soon.

### Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services

We assist frail aged people and their carers remain living at home and staying connected



Home & Community Care - our friendly, local support workers are gualified, certified, experienced, police checked, insured

SOCIAL CENTRE with air-con and Veranda: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm drop in for a cuppa, info on support services, computers, air-con

DEVICE ADVICE: Weds 9.30am-12.30pm, seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS - booking and fees apply Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea at centre

Garrimaa Café Group twice monthly Thursdays, 11-2 Wise Ones, Koonorigan Hall 4th Mon, bring plate to share Bus Outings: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tues, scenic drives, cafes & site-seeing

All NACRS aged care activities and services require MyAgedCare registration and assessment - myagedcare.gov.au 1800 200 422

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Contact NACRS: 6689 1709 enquiries@nacrs.com.au or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen St www.nacrs.com.au

# Nimbin Hospital information

### **Child immunisation**

**Drug and alcohol counselling** services available

Nimbin NSP Needle and syringe



- Sourdough bread, including white
- A range of spelt breads baked daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- · Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- · Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- · Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

### OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY at 5.30am. SATURDAY at 6am



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By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

### Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments, phone 6630-0400.

### Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next is 17th July. Phone 6688-1400 for an appointment.

### **Wound clinic**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

### Nurse practitioner clinic

Diabetes clinics: Third Thursday of the month, next is 17th July.

### **Community Registered Nurse**

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 - leave a message, will return call swiftly.

program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a community Registered Nurse.

### Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week, free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

### **Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary**

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the conference room of the Nimbin MPS. New members always welcome.



# Swan 🚱

### by Scott Sledge

### New date for World Environment Day festival

Because of persistent rain, the Caldera Environment Centre decided to postpone the event until 13th July and move the venue to the Murwillumbah Showgrounds.

NEC and Kyogle Environment Group (KEG) will share a stall with the Northern Rivers Guardians.

All these groups have come together under the Banner of North-East Forest Alliance (NEFA) to promote a campaign calling on the NSW government to declare public native forests in the Northern Rivers as wildlife refuges under the control of National Parks and Wildlife.

Most of these forests are in the Richmond River catchment, located roughly south of a line from Lismore to Kyogle and across to Old Bonalbo and inland from Evans Head to Whiporie.

Stop in to see our maps at the stall on WED and sign our petition. Or stop in to the NEC shop in Nimbin which is open seven days a week.

Here's more info from Sue Page, KKRP Secretary.

#### Help create Richmond River Koala Parks Something exciting is happening in our region.

Right now, we have a oncein-a-generation opportunity to protect 56,000 hectares of public native forest in the southern Richmond River valley and Richmond Range – and we want you on board!

These forests are more than just trees. They're home to a genetically unique koala population – distinct from those south of the Clarence River.

They're part of the NSW Banyabba Area of Regional Koala Significance, they're crucial to the health of the Richmond River and its catchment and they're refuges for wildlife still recovering after the devastating 2019/20 bushfires, which impacted 86% of the area.

Whether you're a bushwalker, a digital wizard, or someone with a big heart and a bit of time, we have a place for you!

- Love social media or graphic design? Help spread the word from the comfort of your home.
- Prefer getting outdoors? Join us at local market stalls or become a citizen scientist, spotting koalas and recording habitat health.
- Keen to learn more and meet like-minded folks?
  Come along to our next meeting! Thursday 10th July 10.30am – 12pm at Uniting Church Meeting Room, Lismore (across from Mary

### G's)

• Or email us at: richmondriverkoalaparks@ gmail.com If you would like to contribute but are short on time, donations are warmly welcomed to Northern Rivers Reserves, BSB: 728728 Account Number: 22355249

### **Lismore Lantern Parade**

Winter solstice (Saturday 21st June) was a good day to celebrate the solar new year, with the days getting longer – if not warmer – after that.

Jyllie Jackson was a neighbour at Lillian Rock before she moved to Lismore and started the lantern parade, which now has become a premier regional event with the event growing in size and popularity for more than 30 years.

#### Save Wallum

Spokesperson Svea Pitman says there is such a small amount of suitable ecology in the local area left for five endangered species that it is vital for the proposed development site to be conserved habitat.

Campaigners against Clarence Property's state approval for Wallum Estate at Bayside, Brunswick Heads, have led a high-profile local and social media movement under the Save Wallum Inc banner, and in February their legal case



in the federal court started.

Save Wallum campaigners say they have a pro bono legal team acting on their behalf, led by barristers Jonathan Korman and Richard Renyolds and lawyer Natalija Nikolvic.

This legal team recently celebrated the court's decision to allow one of their star experts, David Milledge, to share his expert evidence. The case required three weeks of hearings and final submissions were due by 27th May.

Owing to public interest in the matter, the hearings were live-streamed on the federal court's official YouTube channel.

Campaigners say the court's decision will be a defining moment, not only for Brunswick Heads but for environmental protection across Australia. A Save Wallum media

release said the outcome would

showcase whether laws like the EPBC Act can "truly safeguard biodiversity, or whether developers can sidestep them using outdated approvals and bureaucratic loopholes like being a Zombie DA."

#### State Budget

The 2025 NSW budget has been announced, and there's no good news for our forests and ecosystems.

There's no new funding for the Great Koala National Park. No plan to transition timber workers. No pathway to protect the native forests our threatened species call home.

The NSŴ budget deficit may be decreasing but the temperature, our threatened species list, habitat destruction and climate disasters are all on the rise.

The deficit will likely grow in future unless decisionmakers focus on preventing climate disasters instead of trying to repair fire and storm damage after it occurs – with increasing frequency and severity.

### No Kings in America since 1776

In cities, small towns, and rural areas all across the USA, an estimated five million people came out into the streets and parks, peacefully protesting at 2,100 'No Kings' events in all 50 states, in a massive display of the people power standing together for democracy, dignity, and hope.

Meanwhile the "President for peace" authorised a bombing raid against a country the USA is not at war against, with no approval from Congress.

We should be focused on reducing pollution instead of ramping up military action with no accounting for the massive waste of lives and resources warfare requires.

### Climate Change and Australia's future in an era of manifest dismantling

#### by John Macleay

**H un fact:** As much carbon has been put into the atmosphere over the past 30 years as has been burnt by all of humanity until the mid-1990s. (The term 'fun fact' is used advisedly.)

Labor's 'light on the hill' has become a gas flare. Murray Watts has failed his first test on the environment and has revealed his true colours as the Minister for Woodside, and the Minns Government in NSW has morphed into an authoritarian quasi coal caliphate, hell bent on not just jailing coal protestors but closing down any civil disobedience related to Rising Tides' activities at the Port of Newcastle last year. Thankfully, the courts had other ideas.

We are in an era of manifest dismantling. Pioneering US conservationist Aldo Leopold wrote long ago that "one of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives along in a world of wounds".

Much of the damage inflicted on the land is quite invisible to laymen. Only those who follow the subject closely know that climate grief is real.



country have been put to rest, but on the issue of this nation being the

planet's third biggest exporter of fossil fuels and the headlong march to giving the nod to more damaging projects that can only benefit the likes of shareholders in Santos, Woodside and a whole host of

others, climate fatalism from our political leaders who should know better makes matters worse.

Humankind has well and truly put the afterburners on the climate. Global  $CO_2$  and temperatures are rising at unprecedented rates. We are leaving now the "goldilocks' range of temperatures that fostered the birth of civilisation and agriculture and are now entering the Anthropocene where the planetary climate, atmosphere and ocean currents are being altered in ways caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

Yet the financial industry's *danse macabre* on climate continues. The world's biggest banks lent \$US869 billion to finance fossil fuel projects in 2024, and many other large financial institutions and companies have walked backwards on earlier promises to cut emissions, under pressure from populist governments – including but not only – the Trump 2.0 administration in the US. Any wonder young adults and teens are scared for their future! One of the world's foremost experts on climate change, Professor Joeri Rogelj, from Imperial College London, warned this week that the Carbon Budget – the amounts of coal, gas and oil that can be burnt and put into the atmosphere – has only three years left to run before the limits of dangerous climate change are reached.

By many estimates, the world has already soared through  $1.5^{\circ}$ C and could pass through  $2.0^{\circ}$  by the mid-2030s, the latter being the limit before dangerous climate change takes hold.

Climate scientists forecast a global climate around 3° hotter than pre-industrial levels by the end of this Century. Some outliers, such as former NASA chief atmospheric scientist James Hansen, puts the increase at 4.5 to 5°. This information is already in the public domain, but it requires careful sifting through the internet.

Local government such as Kyogle Shire Council have although meagre, at least some plans for climate adaptation, but is it just tinkering at the edges? And what does adaptation mean if, as the science tells us how towns such as Lismore, Casino and Kyogle – already hot in summer and subject to major flooding – cope with a 50° heatwave in the decades to come? How will the beef industry cope? This requires more that documents from local government that are dot points or talking points. Yes, there must be community involvement. Yes, community resilience must be more than a motherhood statement.

If climatic extremes are to become commonplace, then how does a town such as Kyogle keep functioning if it is cut off from the outside world for a week, or two weeks, due to flooding?

Joelle Gergis, an International Panel on Climate Change review author, wrote a Quarterly Essay last year that should be compulsory reading for anyone interested in what a hotter world means.

Highway to Hell, Climate Change and Australia's Future pointedly questions that while the world literally burns and suffers the hottest temperatures on record, the powers that be are still only performative in their setpiece responses through COP meetings.

Judging by this, climate adaptation diplomatically hasn't even got off the ground. Financially, the markets are walking backwards on the issue. Politically, adaptation is greenwash.

And yes, Australia is transitioning to a renewable electricity grid and the nonsense and make-believe of nuclear power in this 5 greenwash.

Yet those on the frontline know climate change is here. Try living on a floodplain or getting house insurance in a region that the Climate Council now says is among the most flood prone and fire prone in the country.





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### Have your say on health priorities



Northern NSW residents are encouraged to have their say on the strategic health priorities for the region over the next five years.

Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD) chief executive Tracey Maisey invited members of the community to provide feedback on the draft Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030.

"The Strategic Plan sets out the priorities and enablers to help NNSWLHD meet the future health needs of the region with purpose and clarity. It aligns with NSW Health priorities and responds to the unique needs of this region," Ms Maisey said.

"The plan follows extensive engagement with staff and members of the community in 2024, when we sought feedback on their health priorities over the coming five years. We've listened to that feedback and used it to inform this plan.

"Looking to the future, we will see shifts in the population, with an ageing population affected by more complex health needs, driving greater health service demand. We need to make sure we are prepared for this – and work together to keep our community focussed on being as healthy as we can."

This aspiration is encapsulated in the District's new vision: 'Together, we deliver excellent care now, for a healthier community tomorrow'.

The vision acknowledges the importance of thinking to the future and working with partners to ensure we collectively serve our can, within the resources available.

The Strategic Plan looks at ways in which healthcare is delivered, including through the expansion of virtual services and services delivered outside of the hospital setting. It also looks to the safe adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and working closely with partners to adapt and strengthen to meet this need.

Embedded with each priority is an on-going commitment to Closing the Gap and improving equitable access, experiences and outcomes for Aboriginal people, communities and staff.

NNSWLHD currently serves an estimated population of 314,905 people. By 2041, the population will increase to more than 336,000 people, with most of that growth taking place in the Ballina, Byron and Tweed local government areas.

Most of this growth will take place in the older age groups, with around one in four people in NNSWLHD expected to be aged 70 years and older by 2041.

"We're now asking staff and the community to review our plan and share their feedback before it is finalised," Ms Maisey said.

"Tell us what resonates with you and let us know if there is something more we could do to ensure we are best prepared for the years that lie ahead."

Have your say on the Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2030 by Thursday 31st July via: https://engage.nnswlhd.health. nsw.gov.au/nnswlhd-strategic-

# What could supported arts and cultural spaces look like in Lismore?

by Antoinette O'Brien

n 11th July, Converge Studios will host 'Bright Light Habits', an exhibition marking the end of a community arts residency funded by the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA).

Eleven artists, Aaron McGarry, Adrienne Kenafake, Annie Monks, Chris Lego, Karenza Ebejer, Matt O'Brien, Michelle Gilroy, Paul Walker, Scott Sinclair, Stephanie Miriklis and myself were selected for the program after a public application process. It was, in part, an attempt to support creativity in the wake of crisis. But as this chapter closes, the bigger picture it fits into is far more complicated. Just a few blocks away, the Reconstruction Authority-funded Living Lab at 11 Woodlark Street is also

reaching the end of its present iteration. Its current exhibition, Living Memory, presents oral histories, photos, and storytelling focused on North Lismore – a community being steadily demolished, dispersed, and erased under the state's buyback and relocation scheme.

The exhibition, co-created with community members, seeks to preserve what's left: memory, story, and evidence of a unique social ecology.

What Living Memory communicates is what many already know: the strength of North Lismore has never been its infrastructure. It is, and always has been, the social cohesion, neighbourly care, and creative life that allowed its residents to weather many floods.

A report from 1979, featured in the Living Lab exhibition write-up, reminds us that in times of crisis, the most effective support comes "from within the community, specifically friends and neighbours."

Yet the same authority that funds this exhibition continues to issue eviction notices in the wake of demolishing homes – many still solid, many recently renovated – before the very eyes of their residents and of community members, some who now live in tents along the river bank.

It's a challenging contradiction: on the walls of the Living Lab, we are told that community connection is essential to resilience. Yet on the ground, we experience the destruction of the communities that embody this resilience.

I stumbled upon one of the RA's official visits to Living Memory. A senior member of the RA up from Sydney asked what role government should play in such projects. The government needs to continue to fund exhibitions like the one she was engaging with. (They pay the extensive salaries of everyone who was in the room after all).

She also asked how to move forward in relationship with a community that had clearly lost faith in the government. The answer, perhaps, is obvious: show up.



exhibition, but to rallies, vigils, and grief-stricken gatherings like the one that happened earlier this year on Baillie Street as the excavators tore through homes with no warning or respect for resources, just five doors from where photographer Elise Derwin captured the Living Memory portraits.

The irony and contrast hard to witness or fathom. RA officials could be present when the trauma is raw, not just when it is framed and mounted. Trust, once broken, cannot be rebuilt through glossy programs. It requires presence, humility, and shared decision-making.

North Lismore has long been a hub of grassroots action and creative life. From the Rainforest Information Centre (shamefully and wastefully demolished) to the Blue Tongue Cafe, the Winsome, and the Serpentine Gallery.

Currently and notably, that same Serpentine building is once again serving as a grassroots gathering space, hosting communal meals, strategy meetings, and offering sanctuary to groups like the Lismore Environment Centre, Socialise Organise Arts Resist, Reclaim Our Recovery (ROR), Climate Justice Alliance, and Friday for Forests and general tangible and accessible support for the community including youth at risk.

The community initiative taking place in the old Serpentine building – non-residential, flood-safe, and deeply symbolic – has been filling a gap left by government inaction. At the end of June, those using it found an eviction notice from the NSW government RA, effective June 25. Another blow. Another attempt to dislodge the roots of a functioning community space.

People fulfilling needs in this way should not be criminalised. What is happening right now in the old Serpentine on Bridge Street is best practice. This is what the government needs be getting behind. Not cutting the water and power to people who are caring, building community, cultivating capacity for networking resilience, building local economy, this is selfdetermination.

Through every interaction, the RA has been consistent – consistently top-down, consistently opaque, and consistently deaf to the community voices it purports



Groups have met with them repeatedly over years, advocating and highlighting the need for communal spaces, asking for access to one of 700 RA-owned properties in the area for this essential purpose. Those calls remain largely unanswered.

The Converge residency, funded by the RA using an undisclosed arts allocation, offered support to a small group of artists. It was generous in some ways, but the space wasn't fit for purpose, and the program wasn't co-designed with the people it was meant to benefit. As a result, it often missed the mark. It could have reached more of the region's rich talent.

Behind the scenes, artists and their families are now being evicted by the very body that funded the residency. In the middle of a winter that follows in the wake of a cyclone, lit by the image of a burning school and to the sound of excavators... on and on we go.

In the aftermath of the 2022 flood, I was lucky enough to travel to Ōtautahi (Christchurch), Aotearoa, to observe how the arts had been embedded into postearthquake recovery. There, creativity was not an afterthought.

Artists helped reimagine public space, process collective grief, and rebuild belonging. It is not a coincidence that the impact of art in recovery is so visible there. It was deliberately cultivated. We don't need another top-down initiative. We need the state to get behind the initiatives already happening – from the ground up.

Like the Serpentine and Winsome communities, who meet basic essential human needs. Like the artists and residents of North Lismore, who have built some of the most resilient systems of mutual care in this country.

The RA's own funded outcomes reflect a global understanding: recovery is most successful when led by community. Are they an institution unwilling to

communities as best we plan

Not just to a daytime visit to the

to support.

negotiate, let alone share power?

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# **USA: ALLY OR MERCENARY?**

by Peter Brooker

he word 'Ally' has a specific meaning: it is a sovereign state formally co-operating with another by treaty for a military or other purpose.

It is different in meaning to the word 'friend' because there is no legal formality in friendship. Friendship is more organic, emotional and, because of this, it is more honest, more open and in many ways, more fragile. But in friendship fragility holds little fear, little consequence. We might grieve its loss, repair it, or simply move on.

Allies, on the other hand, are often a more disparate group bringing with them whatever they can offer for the common good, for a common advancement. There is usually common interest or self-interest at play. They are friendly rather than true friends, based on a mutual dependency between them.

During conflict, a military ally might supply troops, armaments, moral support or simply allow an ally to place troops on its soil for strategic, mutual advantage.

Allies or friends rarely bring equal parts to their relationships but that is not the point. What matters is that there is a relationship, and trust, and the knowledge and acceptance that the parts may fluctuate. What always matters is honesty, transparency, never to do harm to each other and come to each other's aid in a crisis.

This has now changed; a long-term ally is trying to destroy the economies of other democracies by forcing or coercing companies, including foreign companies, to move all their business to within its borders, thereby displacing the workforce of the abandoned country.

At the same time that ally supports, or at the very least, leaves unaffected, the economies of countries led by despots, dictators or hereditary royal lines. The question is, has this ally done similar before?

Tragically, the human animal is capable of abstract thought, has the ability to apply logic and reason, yet it is repeatedly attracted to the lunacy of war, despite knowing the appalling human

The war ended on the 11th November, 1918, by which time US's ally, Great Britain, was £7.7 billion in debt, had sold most of her overseas investments, lost most of her merchants fleet, and lost a great number of men and women, affecting her work force, industry and ability to trade.

Britain was no longer the economic giant it was and never recovered from the economic cost of the war. Its economic weakness and massive foreign debt set the stage for the US to become the world's principal economic power.

The world entered WW2 in 1939, and again the US sat on her hands with what Trump calls, 'that beautiful big ocean' separating her from destruction, while the allies fought to maintain democracy. This time it took Japan's attack on the US Hawaiian base at Pearl Harbour, in December 1941, to force the US to enter WW2, and do more than sell munitions and give loans.

By this time, Churchill informed Roosevelt that Britain could no longer pay America for supplies and suggested the concept of Lend-Lease to allow food, clothing and armaments to be supplied to Britain. The 'lending' of essential war supplies would not require repayment in dollars but in 'consideration', such as supply of 50 obsolete destroyers for 99-year leases of British bases, as it had proven problematic and fractious after previous wars to expect bankrupt nations to make full cash repayments with interest.

In addition to taking out loans with the US, Britain supplied the US with research and plans for military technology, including Sir Frank Whittle's jet aircraft engine, uranium enrichment methods, code breaking techniques, plastic explosives, sonar, submarine detection technology, superchargers, penicillin and other major advances that the US took to build its future.

Many scientists fled the ruin of Europe for the relatively unscathed and rising US economy in the first of the 'brain drains' that has continued ever since. It seems 'good ol' American knowhow is actually 'good ol' foreign knowhow. America's response to WW2 was the most extraordinary mobilisation of an idle economy in the history of the world. During the war 17 million new civilian jobs were created, industrial productivity increased 96%, and corporate profits, after tax, doubled. According to The American Prospect, "... by 1944, as a result of wage increases and overtime pay, real weekly wages, before taxes, in manufacturing were



50% higher than in 1939." When the war in Europe was over it lay in ruins, its industries destroyed, its infrastructure almost nonexistent, and its factories rubble. In contrast there were five attacks on the US mainland. The US escaped damage to any infrastructure or factories.

After the European victory, the allies helped defend America and defeat Japan in the Pacific. The loans to Britain for WW1 and WW2 were finally repaid in 2006. Other allied countries also carried American debt.

According to the independent Swedish research institute, SIPRI, the US is the largest arms dealer in the world at 43%, followed by France at 9.6% and Russia at 7.8%- Hence Trump's desire to force other countries to increase spending on armaments.

The US sells millions of dollars of weapons to nuclear armed Israel enabling them to complete the genocide of Palestinians, (and who believes Netanyahu did not have Intel on the 8th October attack?), but will not help Ukraine defend itself against a Russian invasion unless Ukraine gives the US access to its minerals, which it has now done.

Let's reflect on the US's war history: the US has been defeated militarily in every war since 1945 including by Vietnam, Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. It is clear the US under Trump will not assist the free world in fighting fascism, dictators or oligarch takeovers unless the 'allies' pay him with their natural resources, cash, expensive aircraft or provide massive deals for his family to derive equally massive profits.

It is clear, under Trump's regime, the US is no longer an ally but more a mercenary



killing civilians.

Meanwhile the US continues to sell weapons to Israel so it can target civilian infrastructure, unbothered by the fact that 86% of deaths in Gaza are women and children.

Trump is a convicted criminal, a malignant narcissist, utterly corrupt, and a failed businessman; he is childish, demented and intellectually challenged. He has surrounded himself with incompetent sycophants because he knows they will say or do what he wants.

He has placed 12 billionaires in his administration with a combined wealth of \$450 billion, more than the GDP of 175 different countries. He has a cabinet of part-time Fox News presenters and has appointed a 22-year-old garden handyman to run internal security.

Yet we pander to this moron and buy American submarines that will be



obsolete before we get them, in the belief a few submarines will keep us safe.

Despite limited access, Australia continues to allow the US spy network located at Pine Gap near Alice Springs to carry out surveillance operations that are an integral part of the US ballistic missile defense system, and makes Australia a prime nuclear target.

So, if Trump targets us with his delusional tariffs, we can either give him Gina and Clive's iron ore or target him with the cancellation of the AUKUS deal, and closure of Pine Gap.

Trump now pursues a Nobel Peace Prize. His method? Not ending the war in Ukraine, not stopping Israel starving Palestinians to death, but by assisting Israel attack Iran.

Two nuclear-armed States – one led by a pathological liar convicted of both sexual abuse and 33 fraud charges, the other a war criminal

evading domestic corruption charges – attacking a nonnuclear state.

Make no mistake, Iran should not have nuclear weapons but neither should Israel, and, while Donny Dementia is in charge, nor should the US.

Here we have three countries with three different religions all led by people declaring faith in whichever God they have chosen or inherited and none of them supported by the majority of their constituents.

The US can no longer depend on geography to protect it from attack so it needs its 'Allies' to assist the US militarily, keep battles offshore, but also flood its coffers with cash.

We should take a moment to consider what other uses that \$40 billion per year it wants us to spend could be put towards, or what we, as a society, will have to forego in order to feed this ravenous war machine.

**Nimbin NAIDOC Day** 11th July 2025 10am-3pm at the **Community Centre** 

market site Widjabul Jagun

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### **ALL WELCOME!**

and economic cost, and with the full knowledge no one really wins. Today there are 120 armed conflicts around the world.

In 1914 we thought we had entered the war to end all wars. Europe, Britain and their allies fought Germany and her allies. The US entered this war in 1917, after German submarines resumed attacking merchant ships in the Atlantic, killing US citizens and affecting US's ability to continue shipping arms to Britain and her allies.

force. It should be roundly criticised for its promotion of false narratives, conspiracy theories, lack of democratic rights and threats to take Greenland, Canada and Panama while the true and trusted allies like Europe and Australia support Ukraine. Trump famously accused Ukraine of starting the war, has falsely claimed Europe had only loaned money to Ukraine and now also claims he is 'not very happy at all' about Putin firing drones and missiles at Ukrainian cities

### This is a FREE family-friendly community event

Info: contact Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre admin@nnic.org.au or phone 6689-1692

This event made possible by funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and Aboriginal Affairs NSW



Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok

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10   Kicked-in Bick Tin + More JULY   The Northern Byron	THURSDAY
N Ruby Gill July Eltham Hotel	FRIDAY
11 Seven Drops July The Northern Byron	FRIDAY
Bright Light Habits July 123 Woodlark St Lismore	FRIDAY
13 Andrew Morris July Eltham Hotel	SUNDAY
17 TV Misery, O & Shea + More July The Northern Byron	THURSDAY
18 BLAKyard Music JULY Lismore Quad	FRIDAY
18 Nate Faker JULY The Northern Byon	FRIDAY
ne L Creasing Chings Chilter	

### **Nimbin Theatre Troupe double header**

Nimbin Theatre Troupe is bringing a double header to the Town Hall this Spring: French Grand Guignol classic *Chop Chop*, and a premier of Al Mustapha Al Shahid's *Blood Moon*.

*Chop Chop* will introduce Amy Jean as Palmyre, an outwardly respectable housewife with a terrible secret. Amy Jean describes *Chop Chop* as a "quick funny, with a sick twist", and reassures us that it's a play where she doesn't lose her head. We'll see about that. Appropriately, the chop-chop star lists piercing and tattoos among her hobbies.

*Blood Moon* introduces Nimbin native, Connor performing as Sailor

James, which he describes as an "eat your heart out romance". Connor's favourite fictional monster is Zork's Grue, and appropriately enough he has plans to travel to Transylvania afterwards.

Once again, a shout-out to Rainbow Power for their support, without which we wouldn't be making this happen.

We urgently need drop-cloths to paint as backdrops! If anyone has spare drop-cloths (at least 2m x 2m) that would suit, please get in touch!

To volunteer with us or help out with backdrops and props, email: *contact@ nimbintheatre.org* or drop your name at: *www.facebook.com/nimbintheatre* 



# A celebration of 'passion and purpose': Byron Writers Festival

Byron Writers Festival's 2025 program presents a heavyweight line-up of Australian and international writers who will explore the important themes shaping our world. From celebrated novelists, memoirists, poets and essayists to leading political commentators, academics and activists, the program promises bold and wide-ranging conversations spanning social justice, politics, the environment, crime, mortality and human connection.

The festival returns to the scenic Bangalow Showground on Bundjalung Country from Friday 8th August to Sunday 10th August and invites audiences to engage with more than 160 writers across three days of thought-provoking panels, in-depth discussions, debate and intimate conversations. In addition to the main program, the Byron Writers Festival will feature workshops, and a dedicated children's program and special feature events.

Artistic director, Jessica Alice reflects this year's theme 'Passion and Purpose', "this year's festival is an exuberant celebration of the art of reading, writing, and living with purpose featuring renowned writers and the most impressive new voices. We are honoured to present these brilliant authors and thinkers who will ignite your curiosity and passion for a life well lived, and big ideas for a better world."

From matriarchs, motherhood and memoirs, turmoil and tyranny to identity, secrets, sisters, and the power of choice, here's just a taste of what's to come at the 2025 Byron Writers Festival. Joining us from Canada is John Vaillant, bestselling author and freelance writer whose recent book *Fire* Weather was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He will join local writer Royce Kurmelovs for a journey through the unprecedented devastation wrought by modern forest fires. UK writer Esther Freud

will sit down for a compelling conversation with the ABC's Natasha Mitchell about *My Sister and Other Lovers,* her hotly anticipated new novel.

From India we welcome poet, writer and scholar Akhil Katyal (*The Last Time I Saw You*), who will be joined for a lively discussion with Mary Therese Kurkalang for the session Delhi to Mumbai: Poems. Also from India is Ita Mehrotra a graphic novelist who is author of Uprooted: A Graphic Account for Forest Rights.

Some of Australia's most beloved writers will sit down for illuminating conversations including Helen Garner (*The Season*), 2025 Stella Prize winner Michelle de Kretser (*Theory & Practice*), Di Morrissey (*River Song*), and turned writers Pauline Menczer (*Surf Like a Woman*), and Layne Beachley (*Awake Academy*) will discuss the highs and lows of professional surfing, and entrepreneur and writer Zoë Foster Blake will reassure us that things will calm down soon.

Andrew Denton and photographer Julian Kingma will come together for The Power of Choice, an important conversation about dignity, compassion and endof-life care in Australia.

Nick Bryant, Barry Jones, Emma Shortis, and author, historian, and former political speechwriter Don Watson will tackle the current state of US politics in Trump'd.

Simon Holmes à Court, Geoff Cousins and Royce Kurmelovs will dive into the hi-octane politics of nuclear energy. Investigative journalist Jess Hill will team up with Thomas Mayo and George Megalogenis for the session Radicalised: Extreme Boys an essential conversation at a time when the intersection of technology, youth culture, and extremism is more pronounced than ever. The festival's annual Thea Astley address will be delivered by Professor Clare Wright OAM, an awardwinning historian, author, broadcaster, podcaster and

public commentator who has worked in politics, academia and the media.

In an anticipated conversation with Kerry O'Brien, Wright will discuss the profound impact of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions and how they shaped the course of Australian democracy.

A powerful group of First Nations writers representing a diverse chorus of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices across literature, academia, activism, science and the arts join Byron Writers Festival in 2025. Debra Dank, Anita Heiss, Thomas Mayo, Rhoda Roberts, Delta Kay and many more will share their deep cultural knowledge and explore themes of identity, Country, and justice. The rich literary talent from the Northern Rivers region will be on full display with writers including Sonya Voumard (Tremor), Naima Brown (Mother Tongue), Denise Alison (Humans of Lismore), PA Thomas (The Beacon), Kayte Nunn (The Palazzo), Lisa Messenger and Sarah Megginson (The Power of Two) and more contributing to a festival that celebrates diverse voices and stories. For more information and tickets, visit: *https://* byronwritersfestival.com

Top row (I-r): John Vaillant, Helen Garner, Tony Armstrong, Michelle de Kretser. Bottom row: Hannah Ferguson, Robbie Arnott, Kirli Saunders and Nick Bryant.



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international crime writer Michael Robotham (*The White Crow*).

Grab your seat early for A Life in Literature – a look at the remarkable career of Tom Keneally and sharpen your political smarts with prolific writer and intellectual Barry Jones. Gina Chick (*We Are the Stars*) will talk about her free-range upbringing and connection to nature, while feminist commentator Jane Caro will discuss her crime thriller *Lyrebird*. Surfing world champions





### Nimbin Roots Festival celebrates 10 years

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Nimbin Roots Festival, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with the festival organisers to make this milestone year extra special for the local community.

They want to see more community involvement in the event, local businesses making the most of the extra visitors to our village, and more locals getting out to enjoy fantastic live music from a range of talented performers.

Local musos with dedicated time slots feature in the program. There will be a parade along Rainbow Walk on Saturday 25th October. Siesta time will be incorporated into the program to allow food venues to better prepare for the dinner rush without the time

pressure from those not wanting to miss an act.

There will be a community letterbox drop two weeks out to keep everyone in the loop and regular updates when there's news to share. Buskers are encouraged but need to be selforganised.

You can help by volunteering. Apply on the Roots Festival website for two 4-hour shifts and you score a free festival pass. Local food venues are encouraged to get a festival menu together. Businesses can join the 'Best-Dressed Window' competition and can win a double pass to the festival.

The festival will be printing 2,000 program booklets (1,000 for attendees and 1,000 distributed around the

region) which will also be available online. Your business could feature by purchasing an ad space.

You can advertise in the program booklet if you are a food outlet or accommodation provider not shown on the website. The deal includes free artwork assistance if needed and listing on: nimbinrootsfest.com

Tickets are available at Heart Connexion in Cullen Street (cash only), or on line. There is an exclusive for locals entry price of \$45 per day. For more information contact:

nimbinrootsfest@gmail.com or visit the website: nimbinrootsfest.com

Together, let's support live music and make the 10th Nimbin Roots Festival unforgettable for visitors and locals.

# Wendy Grace's singing circles

A new weekly singing group with Wendy Grace is designed to develop strength in your voice and confidence in your ability to sing, while having a good time.

Start with a little meditation as Wendy plays her celtic harp for a few minutes, then do some easy breathing and vocal exercises. From that we move into rhythmic chants, then simple rounds, and finish with a few popular songs that people are generally familiar with.

Each singing session runs for 90 minutes, we have fun, develop good energy and make new connections.

Wendy has been facilitating singing and sound healing groups in the Northern Rivers for over 30 years. She recorded her first album of original songs in Sydney in 1975, appeared numerous times on TV, and was a session singer and musician, before moving north.

Recently she recorded an original song locally in Jim Kelly's studio, titled 'We Are Not Alone'. (Jim's band Crossfire played on her 1975 album Backyard of Blue). Check out Wendy's original music

Wanna



on Spotify and: www.wendygrace.com Get together and sing, Thursdays 10-11.30am at 10 County Lane, the

new venue of Back Yard Gallery in the Lismore CBD. No booking required. \$20 or \$15 concession.



### VENTS PROGRAMME

Movies at the Bush Theatre

BEING JOHN MALKOVICH -FRIDAY 4 JULY

Step into the strange and surreal world of Being John Malkovich 6:30pm Join us at Nimbin Bush Theatre for a night of mind-bending cinema. eccentric storytelling and short films

that twist reality. Tickets: \$15 / \$12 concession



TWILIGHT TIME DIRECTOR Q&A

Experience an evening of evocative Australian cinema with **Twilight** Time – 6:30pm Join us at Nimbin Bush Theatre for

short films, a powerful feature screening, and a live Q&A with acclaimed director John Hughes Tickets: \$15 / \$12 concession

### Body and Soul





NARNIA: WINTER WONDERLAND \*CHILDREN'S SPECIAL\*-SATURDAY 12 JULY Step into the magical world of Narnia at the Nimbin Bush

Theatre's Winter Wonderland -10:00am

Enjoy snow play, marshmallow toasting, a whimsical dress-up

competition, and a screening of The Chronicles of Namia (2h 23m)

Tickets: \$15 / \$12 concession



CACAO CEREMONY WITH LISA CAMILLERI Monthly on Sunday | 10am llam

Next event: 13 July Join Lisa for a heart-opening journey with ceremonial cacao. guided meditation, and Intention-setting. Let Michael Skinner's live ambient music gently support your inward experience.



"Funerals with Heart" SACRED EARTH **FUNERALS** 

# courses are for you.



by Triny Roe

Have you ever thought about becoming a radio announcer? Yes, radio is still a thing and Nimbin's premiere community radio station, Nim-FM 102.3 has training opportunities coming up for its members. Funded and supported by the Community Media Training Organisation, courses in presentation and interviewing are offered. Whether you're a raw beginner or had some experience and want to polish your skills, find out what you're doing right and where

Three one-day (six hour) courses are being offered. They will be held on Saturdays, from 10am to 4pm with lunch and morning tea breaks. The presenter will be Kitty van Vuuren. + 19th July: Presentation. In this course participants will learn how to develop a relationship with their listeners and a style, techniques for vocal warm up and how to effectively use microphones. + 16th August: Advanced Presentation is for peeps who have completed the 'Presentation' unit and want to hone their presentation

be a

skills. This course covers self-critiquing, scripting and more about microphones. 13th September: Interviewing. Learn about different interviewing styles for both on-air or prerecorded. Also covers role of the interviewer, scripting,

broadcast law and technical issues. Contact Nim-FM at: nimbinradiomedia@gmail.com to register your interest. Nim-FM membership is \$33 pa for waged, \$22 for unwaged and \$11 for under-18s.

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you could improve, these