

Record \$240 million capital works budget in the pipeline

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

It's been another eventful month in the Nimbin area. With the rain finally easing (for now), road crews are back on the ground and ramping up repairs across our hinterland. Works on Stony Chute Road, Zouch Road, Whitney Road, and other landslip hotspots are picking up speed again.

After months of weather delays, you should notice a real ramp-up in activity this winter. We know how frustrating these closures and detours have been for locals and visitors alike. Rest assured, getting

these roads back open and safe remains a top priority, and Council is throwing more resources at the job now the weather is on our side.

Last month's Council meeting delivered some important outcomes for our community: Council committed to a record \$240 million capital works budget for the year ahead.

This is the largest infrastructure spend in Lismore's history and means more funding for roads, local projects, and essential services in every corner of the LGA, including our villages.

On the representation front, Council appointed new members to key advisory groups, including

the Lismore Villages group, with Nimbin's own Max Pike and Gwen Trimble stepping up. These groups play a crucial role in making sure local voices are heard where decisions are made.

Finally, Council's draft Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program are now on public exhibition. These documents set out what Council will deliver over the next decade and how we'll get there, based on what the community has told us.

Please take a few minutes to have your say; your feedback genuinely matters. View the plans and make a submission at: yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au



by Kevin Hogan
MP for Page

I look forward to continuing as Shadow Minister for Trade, Investment and Tourism.

Trade and tourism are the economic drivers for Australia's economy.

Trade itself accounts for one in four jobs in Australia, and is an enormous contributor to our economy, paying for our way of life

This is also particularly important for rural and

regional communities.

Australia exported \$650 billion worth of goods and services last year, with two thirds of this coming from the regions.

I'll keep working to support our tourism industry, grow export opportunities, and make sure Australia stays competitive on the world stage.

That means holding the government to account, backing our industries, and pushing for smart, future-focused policies.

Fresh opportunities for young people

by Janelle Saffin, MP for Lismore

The state electorate of Lismore stretches across five local government areas: Lismore, Kyogle, Tenterfield Shire, Tweed Shire and Byron Shire; and I am all too aware of the problems our local councils have filling staffing vacancies and attracting and keeping skilled staff.

So I am thrilled to see the Minns Government's Fresh Start program being rolled out to all councils in the electorate. Through this program's landmark \$252.2 million investment, the NSW Government is funding the wages of an additional 1300 apprentices, trainees and cadets in local government across the state over the next six years.

The Government recognises the particular difficulties facing rural and regional councils and more than 60% of these trainee positions are in regional and rural councils.

The program means councils can recruit and train staff in the areas they specifically need, with the NSW Government footing the bill.



Janelle Saffin with the crew from Local Land Services staff at Primex where they had information talks at their site this year.

In the first two rounds this year, a total of 44 new positions have been approved for councils in the Lismore electorate, with a third round to be announced in July.

Lismore council has filled all six of the first round positions, with new apprentices and trainees in electrical, parks and gardens, civil construction, water operations, business administration and rates.

A further seven positions have just been announced for the second round.

Kyogle Council has a new trainee IT officer, with an apprentice mechanic and planning cadet to commence after July, and another three positions approved.

Byron Shire has a total of seven positions approved, Tenterfield two positions, and 16 positions in Tweed Shire.

This means across the region there are opportunities for young people to secure training and career opportunities in

areas ranging from the usual carpentry, plumbing and electrical apprenticeships to social media content creators, and graduate cadetships in planning, engineering and building surveying.

This is great news for young people who want to stay in our region and start a career in local government. And it comes at a critical time as the local government sector has an ageing workforce, which can mean a loss of essential skills when people retire.

Through Fresh Start, councils can confidently get on with planning for services and infrastructure, knowing they will have the skilled staff to deliver.

Our local TAFE networks are a key part of this project and will be key to the training of these recruits. On this note it was a relief to see the Albanese Labor Government returned to office with its pledge to continue fee-free TAFE courses.

These fee-free courses have been popular in our region, with a total of

2,845 enrolments in fee-free courses in the Lismore electorate since the program began in 2023.

The fee-free places are offered to eligible students across a range of TAFE courses where there are skill shortages including important areas like the caring economy. This helps us get the people we need to support NDIS participants, and to work in aged care, in hospitals and a range of other areas.

TAFE also offers flexible delivery, with many courses offered online so that people can study wherever they are, and in their own time. On top of the Federally funded free places, the New South Wales Government is investing in additional fee-free places and apprenticeships.

It is great to see what can be achieved with Federal and State Labor governments working together with a commitment to education and training and a stronger, skilled workforce.

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for our next edition

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Hunger strike: Peter’s stand is a call to conscience

Pressure on the Minns Government to make good on their promise to create the Great Koala National Park is at an all-time high.

A letter signed by over 100 businesses calling on the Minns Government to establish the Koala Park was handed to the premier last night in Parliament.

In recent months, forests at Orara East, Pine Creek, Newry, Wild Cattle Creek and Mt Coramba – all part of the promised park – have been subject to industrial-scale logging, despite overwhelming evidence of their high conservation value and significance for endangered species like the greater glider and koala.

Peter Elzer of the Mid North Coast has documented these losses first-hand. He has been involved in forest protection campaigns for decades, including the historic Chaelundi blockade that protected what are now some of the highest density greater glider habitats in NSW.

A protest is underway outside the NSW Parliament and Peter is continuing his third day of a 12-day hunger strike.

Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe, visited Peter on Wednesday 28th May during his hunger strike.

Peter has spent his life defending the forests of north-east NSW. Now,



by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

in the face of continuing destruction of the forests within the promised Great Koala National Park area, Peter is taking a courageous and extraordinary step of hunger striking outside Parliament to demand the Minns Labor Government make good on their promise and establish the Great Koala National Park.

Greens MP and spokesperson for the environment Sue Higginson said, “The Minns Government’s delay has turned into betrayal and now Peter has put his life on hold and his body on the line for our forests, koalas and all of the other forest dependent threatened species. The Great Koala National Park was promised more than two years ago – yet since that promise, some of the most important forests in the Park have been logged and destroyed. “Peter speaks not only as a



dedicated environmental defender but as a father and grandfather. He knows these forests are essential for clean water, biodiversity, carbon storage and cultural survival. Some may think hunger striking is extreme, but the real extremism is continuing to log these irreplaceable public native forests while pretending to care about koalas and climate change,”

“Forestry Corporation is costing the public tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year to carry out native forest logging. They

consistently break environmental protection laws facing prosecution after prosecution. Senior legal figures have likened them to a criminal operation. Native forest logging in NSW is not just an ecological and economic failure - it’s a moral one.

“The delay has gone on too long, the time for excuses is over. Premier Chris Minns must keep his promise. The full 176,000 hectares of public State Forest must be protected immediately, before any more of the Great Koala National Park is lost.

“The Minns Government must not turn its back on people like Peter Elzer - people who give everything they have to protect what little is left. This is about truth, integrity and the future of our state’s most iconic species, the koala. Labor promised to establish and protect the Great Koala National Park. We are holding them to that promise,” Ms Higginson said.

Peter’s fast at Parliament is a powerful moral appeal – an act of peaceful resistance in defence of our shared future.

Long-term plans, strategies and budgets on show

First, I want to acknowledge that National Reconciliation Week runs from 27th May to 3rd June. It’s a time to reflect on truth-telling, justice, and walking together in a spirit of genuine reconciliation.

The theme this year, ‘Now More Than Ever’ is a reminder that reconciliation is not a one-week event, but a lifelong commitment.

I want to thank the Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung Nation for their continuing care of Country and culture, and for the generosity they show in sharing that with all of us.

As we hit winter, there’s a lot going on at Council and in our communities. The draft Community Strategic Plan, Delivery and Operational Plans, Community Engagement Strategy, Long-Term Financial Plan and Budget are all now on exhibition, and these documents shape where we’re headed over the next 10 years.

I strongly encourage everyone to have a look and see if you feel heard. Did our consultations really reflect what you asked for?

Personally, I was disappointed to see affordable housing dropped as a strategic priority. It’s been replaced with “diverse housing” only, which yes we need, but I think the community made it very clear we also want housing that’s affordable. Real homes for real people who are



by Cr Virginia Waters

struggling. It’s not enough to just say “diverse” and hope that meets the target. We need to name the crisis and respond to it directly.

I’m also raising concerns about parts of the Community Engagement Strategy, particularly the draft Community Participation Plan (CPP). Under this plan, a long list of development applications like single dwellings, dual occupancies, multiple dwellings under five, and rural subdivisions of up to 10 lots will no longer be notified to the public or open to submissions.

These are significant developments that often matter to neighbours and local communities, but they’ll now be treated as having “negligible impact.” I don’t think that sits well with the values of transparency or community input.

This is the fine print we need to pay attention to. Engagement shouldn’t mean ticking a box, it should mean genuine dialogue, especially around planning and

development. Opportunities to give feedback on all these documents are open until 12th June on Council’s ‘YourSay’ website.

On a brighter note, I was lucky enough to get out to the new Lismore Skate Park site recently, and it’s going to be amazing! A world-class facility that will deliver on one of the big themes from our Community Strategic Plan feedback: more spaces and things to do for young people.

As someone who’s more of a spectator than skater, I can still see how valued this space will be for young people, for connection, and for community.

In Nimbin, it’s great to see the new amenities block finally open and operational. After a few hiccups, it’s up and running and a big thanks to the Nimbin Caravan Park for stepping up and helping make it happen. A real example of a community backing each other when it counts.

We also have the Villages Advisory Group getting up and running in the coming months. I’ll be chairing this group, and I’m proud to say Nimbin put forward some wonderful community members through the EOI process. Gwen Trimble and Max Pike will be representing the area, and I want to thank everyone who stood up and applied.

There are still a few spots open if you’re from Clunes, Jiggi, Bexhill, Richmond Hill, Lindendale (and

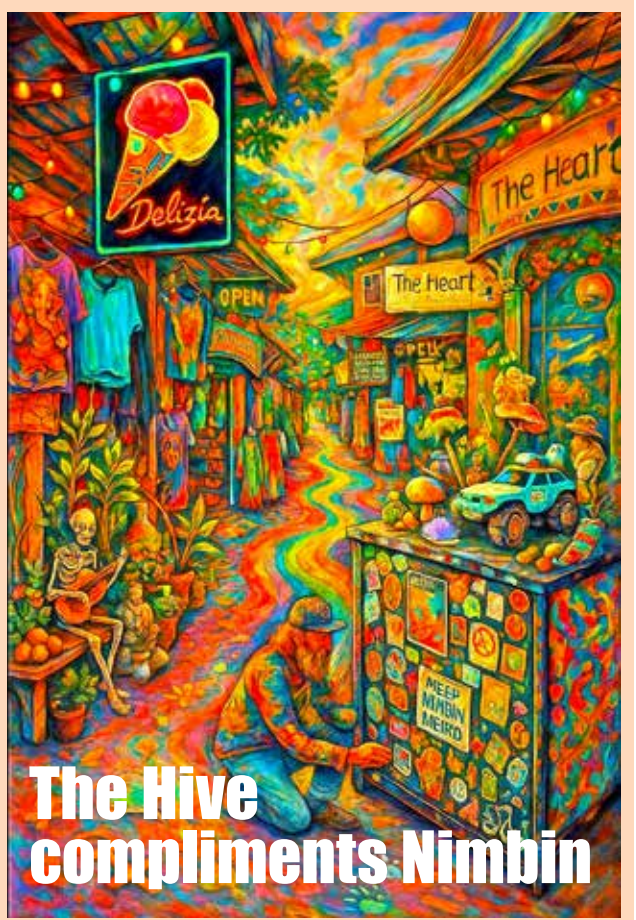
anywhere in between) and feel passionate about your place. Head to ‘YourSay’ Lismore and check out how to apply. You have until 30th June to put in an EOI.

Amongst all the policy and planning, I keep being reminded especially by my friend and fellow councillor, Adam Guise that there are so many good humans out there connected to Country, connected to community just doing good things. I’m so grateful for the ones planting seeds, literally and metaphorically.

With the sun shining, I went back out in the garden again and visited the Aquarius Landcare, it’s always such an inspiration and grounding. It reminded me that some of the best leadership comes from those quiet, persistent people growing things: food, trust and belonging, while the world wobbles around us.

As always, stay engaged, stay kind, and keep waving that rainbow flag.

Please note, the opinions expressed here are my own and not those of Lismore City Council. Feel free to contact me at: virginia.waters@lismore.nsw.gov.au



They say you can’t bottle a rainbow, but Nimbin’s done it, in tea bags, hemp hats, and protest posters that haven’t stopped yelling since ‘73.

This town is the vibe. A kaleidoscope of colour, community and cosmic sass. A place where art oozes from the walls, where shop signs talk back. Here, even the chemist sits under a hand-painted dragon. There are unicorns selling bath soaks.

This isn’t just a main street – it’s a living art gallery. A defiant, loving, rainbow-soaked *no thanks* to beige suburbia. And that’s exactly why some people can’t stand it.



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Djanbung Gardens will be closed for two months and will be announcing the Spring program in July.

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Annual Community Wellbeing Survey

Shout out to everyone living within the Nimbin footprint (approx 25kms radius around the village) to once again complete the annual Wellbeing Survey.

We used the (de-identified) data to inform our submission to the NSW Loneliness Inquiry last year, and also to inform some of our priorities for funding and advocacy since.

This survey is for the whole community and not specifically people who use NNIC services.

The link to the survey can be found on our website, Facebook page or the QR code below. Be sure to write Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre or even NNIC in the last question so we can isolate our local stats from the rest of NSW.



Membership renewals

All NNIC and Tools Library memberships expire on 30th June. Drop into NNIC to renew your memberships.

Membership to NNIC is \$5.50 per year (inc.GST)

and your membership is very valuable to us, so if you haven't ever joined before, come on down! Cheapest membership in town!

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

Excellent value when you consider the large range of tools and equipment you can borrow from the Library. To see the list of equipment, go to the Sibley Street website: www.7Sibley.org Tools and Equipment Library tab.

It's tax time

Donate before 30th June to keep some of your hard earned \$\$ within the community instead of the ATO!

NNIC is a registered DGR charity which means that donations of \$2 or more to our charitable activities, or bequests in your will, are tax deductible. Every \$ donated goes directly into families and community members in need of support.

You can donate by dropping in, or by depositing funds into our NNIC Gift Fund account: Summerland Bank, BSB 728 728, account number 22205341.

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 qualified, 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: 2nd & 4th Tues, scenic drives, cafes & site-seeing

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

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

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 19th June. 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.

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

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 19th June.

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.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and syringe 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.



SUSTAINABILITY ALLEY

NIMBIN COUNTRY SHOW

DISPATCH WORKSHOPS DEMOS FOOD

20th and 21st September 2025

Get this date into your diaries folks and be sure join us at the wonderful annual Nimbin Country Show. A family friendly and fun weekend for all!

Shout Out!



For stallholders, exhibitors, speakers, activities, workshops, music...

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Contact Steph on sibley@nnic.org.au

Be sure to include your name in the deposit reference, and to contact us on: admin@nnic.org.au for a Tax Receipt.

Community Care Team

We are still looking for CCT members in the following areas:

Upper Stoney Chute, Lower Stoney Chute, Blue Knob South, Blue Knob North, South Nimbin – (through to Boyles Road), Crofton Road, Lower Tuntable Falls Road.

In the event of a disaster, especially where residents become isolated or communications are compromised, CCT members work in partnership with the Nimbin Emergency Radio Network to communicate with local response agencies and assist by checking on the wellbeing of neighbours in their localities.

CCT members receive support and training in skills that are valuable in everyday life as well as numerous occupations.

To register your interest

please complete the EOJ form on the NNIC website (Disasters tab). Or you can pick up a hard copy from NNIC. For more info contact Anna on: cct@nnic.org.au

Stretcher use in opiate overdose emergencies

This is a last resort, only if there is an extra-long ETA for an ambulance.

Although it has been the practice in Nimbin for many years, to use stretchers to run suspected ODs up to the hospital ASAP, that was before we had Naloxone in our First Aid kits, and is no longer the best approach.

The best practice now for overdoses is to administer Naloxone, and once the person is breathing, maintain clear airways and monitor the person in the Recovery position until the paramedics arrive.

Stretcher use can cause the airway to be compromised causing more harm/brain damage. There are also significant risks of injury to those carrying the stretcher.

Meet newly-formed Richmond River Koala Parks at World Environment Day

by Scott Sledge, President

My word for this month is 'unprecedented.' I hear it a lot on news broadcasts.

Right now it is used to describe such catastrophic events as the Israeli attacks on their neighbours in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. Also the deluge, which has flooded the mid-north coast of NSW from Bellingen to Taree and inland to Gloucester.

While the rivers rose in this area because of nearly 500 ml of heavy rainfall, towns and rural habitation went under water in the same way unprecedented flooding hit the Northern Rivers in 2022. I well remember the devastation of homes and businesses in Lismore, so my heart went out to our neighbours.

In the recent federal elections, I was dismayed to find little was said by most candidates about the urgent need to rein in climate change to stop these disasters from getting worse. The cost of living was prominent, and the major parties avoided any new promises on the environment, but the Coalition (as it was then) said they would follow Trump's example and cancel Australia's commitment to achieve Zero Net Emissions by 2050.

Their leader spruiked an un-costed commitment to develop nuclear for future electricity generation. Happily, the Aussie electorate rejected this decline into savagery, probably because they remembered nuclear accidents such as at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima.

Such disasters are no longer considered 'unprecedented.' Maybe



we saw the Coalition as the Judas goat of the fossil fuel corporations who would continue to supply much of our electricity for at least another 30 years.

Instead, we have reason to believe that the Labor government (with its unprecedented majority in the House) will continue its commitment to renewable energy and to renew its commitment towards zero net emissions by 2050. USA under Trump may withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, but we will not.

As the Liberal Party takes on the role of Opposition with only 28 seats in the House compared to about 93 for the ALP, I will be curious to see who they can nominate as shadow ministers.

If the Government cabinet numbers 22, there will be shadow portfolios for almost all the remaining Liberals. As former Coalition partners, the Nationals say they won't retract their election promise to introduce nuclear power despite it having blown up in their faces.

Let's hope that the government's strength in numbers will embolden them to create the nation-wide 'nature-friendly laws' and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) they promised last term, but didn't deliver.

Their only real opposition could come from the Greens, who hold the balance of power with 11 votes in the Senate. I

doubt the Greens would block nature-friendly legislation. Their cross-bench colleagues, mostly Teal Independents, would back this approach. The Greens and Independents held or increased their primary vote and so remain vital to getting legislation through the Parliament.

Greens candidates did very well in many lower house contests although three of four sitting Greens lost their seats. Peter Dutton also lost his seat, in an unprecedented historic defeat for any Leader of the Coalition. The ALP received about 32% of the vote, and were mostly elected with preferences from other parties including the Greens.

In Richmond, Greens candidate Mandy Nolan failed to unseat Justine Elliot due to preferences from the Nationals and minor parties. In Cowper, centred around Coffs Harbour, Independent Cas Heiss, who campaigned strongly for an end to native forest logging, came within a whisker of defeating the sitting National Party member.

Like most defenders of our wildlife, Cas asked when the NSW Labor government would declare the Great Koala National Park, which they promised during their successful 2023 election campaign. We are still waiting, while Forestry Corp continues its devastating logging in our public forests.

During the run-up to the 2025 election, Dean of the Southern Cross University Law School, David



Heilpern, called Forestry Corp a "criminal organisation which should be disbanded."

Meanwhile the forest protectors in our part of the world have been busy preparing a campaign for adding public forests to the National Parks estate, to preserve our natural flora and fauna. Meetings in Lismore have made common cause between pro-nature activists and representatives of Aboriginal custodians.

NEFA President, Dailan Pugh announced to media in late May that the group will be called Richmond River Koala Parks and will have promotional materials and maps at the World Environment Day event at Murwillumbah Showground on Sunday 13th July.

Already the Northern Rivers Guardians and the Nimbin Environment Centre have donated to the cause. We will have information to give out and a

petition to NSW Parliament for festival-goers to sign.

We will also have on display a statuette of famous campaigner for peace and nature, Benny Zable. People can purchase raffle tickets to win the statuette, with proceeds going to the Melbourne metal foundry which intends to cast a life-sized statue which could be permanently placed in the forecourt of the UN building in New York.

A statuette has been bought by NEC for display at our shop in Nimbin to remind visitors and locals that the struggle for peace and the environment goes on. Without a livable environment, none of the other issues has much meaning. The wasteful nature of war should get more prominence as the world's precious resources are squandered and people suffer along with all other species on this magnificent green planet.

Private Native Forestry: Urgent reform needed, not removal of development applications

by Kyogle Environment Group

In the forests of Northern New South Wales, a quiet but alarming transformation is taking place – one with potentially irreversible consequences for biodiversity, climate resilience, and the integrity of rural communities.

At the heart of this issue lies Private Native Forestry (PNF), a practice increasingly operating in the shadows of public scrutiny, enabled by unworkable legislation, inadequate oversight, and a disturbing lack of transparency.

Local Land Services (LLS) and the Northeast Forestry Hub are promoting research to make PNF "fit for the future." But this raises urgent questions: Fit for whose future? At what cost?

Their stated goals include drawing more landholders into logging, incentivising certification under group schemes, and encouraging "active silvicultural management."

Notably absent from this agenda are stronger environmental protections, robust compliance systems, and commitments to climate resilience.

This isn't just a policy gap – it's a governance failure.



Under the PNF Code of Practice, landholders are expected to assess environmental values and maintain ecosystem health.

But in practice, there is no requirement for ecological field surveys, no safeguards for threatened species unless previously recorded, and no system for independent compliance monitoring.

This is a system designed for exploitation, not stewardship.

Current local government frameworks offer one of the few protections left. In areas like the Kyogle LGA, forestry activities require development applications (DAs), ensuring environmental, infrastructure, and community impacts are assessed.

Far from being red tape, this process provides essential scrutiny. Without it, local councils and communities are rendered powerless, as logging trucks damage rural roads and endangered wildlife lose the last fragments of viable habitat. Without a DA, no attention is given to the cumulative impact on the landscape.

LLS and the Forestry Hub claim their efforts will better support landholders. But what support is being extended to local communities watching their landscapes degrade with no recourse?



What protections exist for koalas and other threatened species whose habitats fall within these zones? Who compensates councils left to repair roads and bridges damaged by PNF operations?

The climate crisis compounds these risks. Promoting logging without updated climate modelling or biodiversity mapping is reckless – especially in high-value ecosystems like those in the Northern Rivers.

Forest resilience is declining under hotter, drier conditions, yet the system remains geared toward short-term commercial gain over long-term ecological health.

PNF, in its current form, is failing the public interest.

A complete overhaul of the PNF regulatory

framework is needed, beginning with:

- Mandatory, ground-truthed ecological assessments
- Public transparency of operations
- Effective, independent compliance monitoring
- Retention of dual consent processes at the local government level.

Until these reforms are implemented, we call on policymakers to ensure Dual Consent remains in place in Kyogle LGA.

We urge LLS to shift their priorities from industry promotion to genuine sustainability and accountability. And we call on communities to raise their voices – because without public oversight, the forests will fall, and with them, far more than just the trees.

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Stay warm over winter!

FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

LOCALLY MINDED

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As we enter June, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce remains focused on actively supporting local events, engaging with regional partners, and exploring new opportunities for growth and resilience.

Building futures from classrooms to careers

The Chamber partnered in delivering the forum at Nimbin Central School.

Presenters included Mitchell Cross, Headmaster; Tony Bellos from RIED; Mark Roberts from North Coast and Mid North Coast Training Services; Corinne Hughes from Kyogle Library, Wick and Raine from Nimbin Youth, along with insights from four engaged youth participants.

The discussions highlighted support mechanisms and sparked essential conversations about how we can better support pathways to employment for young people in our community.

Celebrating the spirit of MardiGrass

This year's event saw strong attendance, with respectful crowds and a noticeably lower police presence. Food vendors, accommodation providers, including the Showground and Caravan Park, reported good trade.

Revitalising the Nimbin Markets

This is another key focus. We are developing a comprehensive plan to boost stallholder visibility and visitor engagement for the June Chamber meeting.

Ideas include short-form video content, murals, street décor, and empowering stallholders with self-promotion tools.

Empowering women in business

This is a vital initiative driven by the Chamber. The next Women in Business meeting, titled 'Confidence in Business: Clarity is the Essential Foundation Part 1 – Clearing the Ground, Aligning with What Matters', will be held on

2nd June from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Nimbin Youth Centre, F5 Casuarina Rooms, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

We encourage all women in business to come along, share their experiences, and build the confidence and clarity needed to thrive.

Celebrating local business achievements

This remains a priority. While we've decided not to participate in the Lismore Business Awards this year due to resource constraints, we're exploring the creation of our own locally-focused Nimbin Business Awards to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our businesses.

Nimbin Bowling Club

Celebrating this community-owned club is also important at this time.

We want to acknowledge the value of this treasured asset and the dedicated work of the current executive members, particularly Don and Patty, who have not only clawed back from debt but also placed the club in a strong financial position.

It's a time for community members with the skills and time to step forward and ensure that this valuable community sports club can continue to thrive and grow under new stewardship.

Tourism trends

Understanding tourism trends is vital, and a workshop by Destination NSW that Aline and I recently attended at the Lismore Bowling Club provided valuable insights into visitor expectations and tourism trends, which will help inform how Nimbin businesses can evolve to meet the needs of visitors.

Arts tourism

The Australia Council for the Arts recently highlighted the increasing role of the arts in domestic tourism.

Australians are seeking authentic, creative experiences beyond capital cities, and they're willing to



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

travel further, stay longer, and spend more to find them.

This is a powerful opportunity for Nimbin, where our unique creative identity and natural beauty are already at the heart of what we offer.

Arts tourists stay longer and spend more, creating valuable economic impacts for our local businesses. There's also a growing appetite for First Nations arts and culture, aligning with our community's inclusive spirit.

Every day, creative experiences – from local markets to artist workshops – are becoming key drivers of tourism and community wellbeing.

As a community, we must continue to support local artists, promote cultural events, and collaborate to ensure the benefits of arts tourism flow back to everyone.

Fostering a culture of innovation and curiosity

This remains the foundation of our Chamber's work. Let's keep networking – not just within Nimbin, but by looking outside our village for ideas and partnerships that can inspire us.

Let's not remain stagnant – keep exploring new revenue streams, finding market gaps, and doing what we're passionate about. Let's collaborate with people we trust and value, creating businesses and community connections that are truly resilient.

Together, we're building a future for Nimbin that's not just about survival – it's about thriving.

Thank you for your continued support and for bringing your energy, ideas, and determination to our village.



Community icon risks closure

by Bob Dooley

At the Nimbin Bowling Club's Annual General Meeting in August this year, all Board members will step down as per the Club's rules, and none of the existing directors will seek re-election, due to changing personal circumstances.

Three years short of its 100th birthday, the Club is a community-based not-for-profit organisation, dependent on a local group of volunteers to operate it.

The Board can consist of up to a maximum of five full bowling members and three social members elected or appointed for 12 months, and will need to complete Director's ID applications on-line.

Their role is to oversee income and expenditure, purchase and disposal of assets, and be involved in the day-to-day operations of the Club within a framework

of legislative commitments, with a view to returning any surplus back to the club or community.

The directors' exit is not because the club is failing; it is financially secure. The retirements are due to ill-health, moving from the district, and work and family commitments.

The present Board remains optimistic that bowlers and the community will step up, as this great facility is too valuable to lose.

To facilitate a smooth transition, it is imperative that interested people familiarise themselves with club operations before the AGM on 3rd August. Retiring members will be happy to assist with this process.

For more information, including the relevant forms, see the Bowling Club's notice board at point of entry, or phone Pat Kerslake on 0447-890-016 or Don MacDonald on 0487-000-851.

The Protestor statue aims for a culture of peace

by Benny Zable

Friends on Facebook have asked me if a replica of a finished life-size statue of The Protester will be installed in Nimbin. Personally, I hope so. My plan is to come to Nimbin in October to restore the IMAGINE circle and discuss first with the local Indigenous mob where the statue could be placed.

The statue would be dedicated to the memory of Katie Cawcutt who both financed and started the Om for Peace 11-11-11 circles around the IMAGINE circles following the annual Armistice Day commemorations.

So far the Nimbin Environment Centre is displaying a couple of statuettes for those interested in purchasing one, and intend to raffle one off. The Rainbow Chai Tent at The Channon market is another place to find out more about The Protester statue project.

A website page has now been set up: <https://www.funderestudios.com.au/benny-zable-the-protestor>

The money raised will go 100% for the project. Cameron McIndoe, who runs the Fundere



statue foundry, is reproducing signed and numbered statuettes to offset the overall costs of the project.

The bigger picture is to eventually install a statue on the forecourt of the UN for both State leaders and visitors to see and engage with.

This is towards complementing these Culture of Peace principles as set out in this poster I picked up from a conference I attended at the UN.



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Friends of the Koala home care and koala kindy



Quatro
Little Quatro, a male joey of approximately five months old and weighing just 244g, came into our Koala hospital on the first of May 2025. His mum Suzie was severely injured when the tree she was in, fell onto the road.
Suzie sustained several fractures to her arm and hand that sadly could not be treated, the kindest thing was to put her to sleep. Suzie's little joey Quatro was in her pouch when the tree fell so he is very lucky to have only sustained minor injuries.
He has some grazes on his arms, legs and chest but is doing well in home care with Liz, who has been providing him with warmth and around-the-clock feeding.
Quatro is enjoying his milk and has very recently started eating leaf too. He is growing well and has a lot more fur since he first arrived. Aw what a cutie and so very sad about his mum Suzie RIP.

Fudge
Fudge is now fourteen months old. Her candida infection has



resolved, and she has started to gain weight and is thriving in kindy.
Fudge is getting close to being big enough for soft release. Exciting times for our little Fudge.

Higgins
Higgins who is now eleven months old is also thriving in kindy and has been weaned off her milk. She is officially a big girl eating only leaf and continues to gain weight.
What a great outcome for this little orphaned joey whose mum Missy sadly passed away following a severe allergic reaction to multiple bee stings.
It's all thanks to our amazing vet team and volunteers who do such incredible work.



Husk
Four-year-old Husk has had a bumpy ride following the injury to his leg. The infection from what appears to be a dog bite has flared up again and has spread to one of his toes.
Husk has restarted antibiotics and receives regular cleaning to the area. He is a total trooper though and is managing to move around a lot and has started to use his injured leg again.

Reef
Nine-year-old Reef continues to recover from his injuries, but his weight and body condition are steadily improving. He has been upgraded to a larger enclosure which will help him regain some muscle aiding his recovery. Reef



clearly thinks this is a great idea and loves his enclosure upgrade.
We have begun weaning him off his supplements and will monitor his weight closely to ensure he can maintain it without supplements. Best of luck Reef in the next step of your rehab journey.

Fumie
While five-year-old Fumie has improved greatly since her admission and can walk and climb using her injured leg, her progress to soft release has been delayed as we have discovered some fungal lesions on her rump and feet.
Fumie has begun treatment, and the lesions are already improving – fingers crossed she can get the all clear soon.



Wellington
While Wellington's eyes have improved immensely, they still look mildly inflamed and his bladder still looks thickened in an ultrasound. This indicates that he most likely still has chlamydia and requires more antibiotics.

Whiskey
Six-year-old Whiskey was admitted in mid-May when a member of the public spotted him in a tree with crusty looking eyes.
Whiskey has severe conjunctivitis in both eyes and mild cystitis and has begun treatment.
Thanks to this member of the public Whiskey will hopefully have a full recovery and be released home.

Gardeners and their obsession with the soil

by Peter Brooker, Nimbin Garden Club

At the moment paths are slippery, some taking on the green tinge of lawns. Lawns are pooling with water that can no longer soak into the ground, gardens are waterlogged, and once-hard earth paths are mud.
A few months back we were in the midst of a hot, humid summer that many of us wished away, and away it went, almost overnight, then the rain started.
'When the Rain Came', a poem by Anna da Silva, put the arrival of rain more gently than we may have done, when she wrote:
*This morning it rained
Even beneath the trees.
Insistent downpour,
Drumming onto canopy,
Pounding into summer's last leaves,
Collecting on burnished surfaces of green
Now tinged with rust,
Before sliding off to patter,
Spatter, in the dust.*
We, however, were not deterred. With the eternal optimism of the gardener, we made many attempts to visit a garden, including three attempts at reaching Carly and Scott's syntropic garden in Robb Road, but finally we opted for Jarlanbah's hall and a talk from Bronwyn Holm on organic soil.
The talk was wide-ranging and covered everything from micro-organisms, pathogens and macrobiotic fertilisers to trespass. She told us there is a lack of nutrition in our fresh food due to the loss of ancient microbes in the soil and the use of modern chemical fertilisers, in particular



Bronwyn Holm addresses the Garden Club's May meeting at Jarlanbah's community hall.

the use of Neonicotinoids, a pesticide known to be deadly to bees and other insects.
This chemical is absorbed by plants and found in the seeds, fruit and flowers of treated crops. It is also used in tick and flea treatments for animals and has been restricted in many countries with certain products containing Neonicotinoids completely banned.
I think we are all aware of the importance of soil, its structure and its health but there are interesting facts you may or may not know.
For instance, according to George Monbiot in his book *Regenesi*s: "Feeding the world without devouring the planet, in every gram of soil, where plants are well established, there is around a kilometre of fungal filaments."
How anyone found these filaments and then bothered to find out how far they would stretch is beyond me. The filaments form a dense network called Mycelium.

Eliseus Bamporineza is less scientific but still entranced by soil.
He wrote: "Yes, I am soil, I live beneath your feet, feeding seeds that will keep you fit. I am the world that births your worth after you have impregnated me with your toil. I am the depth from which every growth springs forth. I am the nitrogen that nourishes the roots of fruit you enjoy. I am the worm that wriggles, giving the dead life again. I am the water that carries nutrients you find in your food. I am the bacteria that make your crops rise for good. I am a rock that anchors your substance, not a toy to annoy. I am a book that carries the tales of your existence, a treasure not to stain."
And so, as a species, Tom Robbins, in *Another Roadside Attraction*, shows us how we embrace that link when he says: "Although the surface of our planet is two-thirds water, we call it Earth. We say we are earthlings, not waterlings. Our blood is closer to seawater than our bones to soil, but that's no matter. The sea is the cradle we all rocked out of, but it's to dust that we go. From the time that water invented us, we began to seek out dirt. The further we separate ourselves from the dirt, the further we separate ourselves from ourselves. Alienation is a disease of the unsoiled."
So soil and its health are both a fascination and a fundamental part of life.
Next meeting will be at Sue and John Hohnke's property at 1034 Stony Chute Road at 2pm on Saturday 14th June. Note, this is the second Saturday of the month, not the third. This property is on the Kyogle side of the landslip. Don't forget a cup, a chair and a plate to share.

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A room full of light

by Jimmy Willing

After months of hiding, The Joy Love Art Studio and Gallery was opened to the public by Sue Higginson MLC, on Saturday 10th May.

The opening was kept a secret until the last minute to deter an odious gatecrasher or two, but it was probably for the best as the turnout to Lismore's best kept secret was huge and I don't think that the small gallery could have taken anymore.

The Joy Love Studio is undoubtedly the best workspace that I have ever had. It is a far cry from the old cow bails and derelict sheds that I usually work from, and although it is a squat the building is neat and sound and the light for painting is incredible.

I do understand that it's contentious but I'm glad that I came home to North Lismore and made a stand because it is NOT ok that there are forces trying to drive out the artists and Bohemians from Lismore.

The statement from the Nationals on our local council that we should "go back to where we came from" is ludicrous as some of us have lived here for decades and others were born and bred in Lismore. This attempt by the Philistines to culturally cleanse Lismore and The Northern Rivers is a tragedy, for without our artists and musicians there would be no dances, no galleries and no festivals. We would be relegated to being a cultural void as we have collectively put our region on the map.

The Love family have given me their blessing to occupy, open up and name the gallery after Joy and their letter of



Photo: Andrew Sooby

endorsement reads:

"Joy Mary Grace Love (nee Pheeny) was born 25 Feb 1931. Settled in North Lismore at a very young age and remained a "Northy" the rest of her life.

She was so proud of the house SHE helped build with her father and mother. They also built 84 (Aidan's house) and 83 (across the road where the school car park is).

She lived through floods all her life but wouldn't have had it any other way. These houses were built for floods so you would hose

out, dry out and go again.

Joy loved a chat and music and thought it was so great when this big lanky cowboy came along and could sing as well. (Note: she also said he was good looking!) Loved his family and watched his girls Pip and Gwinnie grow up from a young age.

"As I said to Jimmy, Joy would have been chuffed you were getting some comfort out of her 'home' and naming this gallery after her! We are sure she is up there today watching down on

what's happening, still a proud Northy... a tear in her eye and a massive smile on her face!"
– The Love Family, Lismore, 10th May, 2025.

Lismore is no longer an easy place to work from and there has already been a mass exodus of my colleagues in the aftermath of The Great Flood. As such I suspect that this may be my Last Alamo of Love but please don't worry about me, as when things get too tough I will retreat to the scrub and paint the birds.

Five remarkable years of stories, creativity and community

It's hard to believe it has been five years since a small group of passionate Kyogle locals – with the support of a Country Arts Support Program Grant – came together with the ambitious goal of launching a regionally significant literary festival in their small town.

What began as a bold idea has now become one of the most anticipated cultural events in the Northern Rivers.

Since its humble beginnings, the Kyogle Writers Festival has grown into Kyogle Readers and Writers Inc. (KRAW), establishing itself as a vital part of the local arts calendar.

Over the past five years, KRAW has hosted more than 150 events, including author talks, panel discussions, spoken word poetry, and music performances – all grounded in the belief that literature should be accessible to everyone in the community.

This year, the Literary Allsorts Festival returns on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th June, bringing together an inspiring line-up of established and emerging authors, poets, broadcasters and musicians.

Events will be hosted at the Roxy

Gallery, Kyogle Library, and KMI Hall, transforming the town into a vibrant hub of storytelling, creativity and conversation.

Among this year's highlights is the 'Growing Up Memoir' panel, featuring the remarkable life stories of Hanie Abdile, Jessie Cole and David Kelly — a session that promises to inform and surprise, reflecting the diverse and changing face of Australia. This event will be hosted by SCU's Aidan Coleman.

Acclaimed author Nam Le returns to the spotlight with his latest poetry collection, *36 Ways of Writing a Vietnamese Poem* for which he won the top prize at the 2025 NSW Literary awards.

Nam will appear in conversation with Daniel Browning, beloved broadcaster and winner of the 2024 Prime Minister's Prize for Non-Fiction for his collection *Close to the Subject: Selected Essays*.

Local talent will also shine, with debut authors Maggie Waters, Sharlene Allsopp and Annika Johansson sharing insights into their first books in a panel hosted by ABC's Angela Catterns.

Their stories highlight the extraordinary literary talent emerging

from the Northern Rivers.

Renowned foreign correspondent Professor Peter Greste will take to the KMI Hall stage in conversation with Byron Writers Festival founder Chris Hanley. Greste, whose memoir *The Correspondent* was recently re-released and adapted into a major film, brings a unique perspective shaped by decades of frontline journalism.

The festival's much-loved 'Page and Stage' event also returns, offering a lively evening of spoken word hosted by Vincent Stead. Featuring celebrated poets Matt Hetherington, Angela Szczotko and JC, along with readings from the winners of the annual poetry competition, this event captures the magic of live literature.

An open mic session invites audience members to share their own words, adding to the electric atmosphere.

With a program that is bold, engaging, and deeply rooted in the spirit of community, the Kyogle Readers and Writers Festival continues to champion the power of storytelling in all its forms.

For more details, tickets and the full program, visit: <https://kraw.com.au>

KHYAL TRIO

The Church of Aquarius invites you for a concert blending the traditions of classical Indian music, flamenco guitar and jazz vocals with Bobby Singh on tabla, Damien Wright on flamenco guitar and jazz vocalist Sarah Hyland on Sunday 15th June.

A cross-pollination of musical styles, these three friends and accomplished musicians in their own right, create a truly intimate show showcasing aspects of their respective instruments and traditions.

With a genuine love and respect for all three genres, they intertwine and play with rhythm and melody to merge their individual voices into a unique soulful sound.

Expect a cosy vibe to imbibe the electrifying passion of Spanish flamenco guitar, tantalising tala rhythms from the Indian tabla with the intricate woven melodies and intervals of jazz vocals, in a uniquely intimate and enlivening setting at the church.

Tabla player Bobby was born and raised in England but studied extensively at the Sangeet Mahabharati Institute in Mumbai with tabla maestro Pandit Nikhil Ghosh and his senior student Aneesh Pradhan, one of the most sought-after tabla players in the world. Bobby has since become an internationally recognised tabla player in the classical forms of Indian music as well as working with acts that straddle the divide between tradition and modernity.

He has played with Indian luminaries such as Mohan Veena originator Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, sarod player Pandit Ashok Roy, tabla great Aneesh Pradhan, vocalist Shubha Mudgal, sitarist Purbayan Chatterjee, and has won an ARIA award for his collaborative work on the album *Djan Djan* with Jeff Lang and Mamabou Diabate.

Damien Wright is a dedicated ARIA nominated flamenco guitarist, and founding member of the flamenco ensemble Bandaluzia, who have



headlined The International Gypsy Music Festival in Sydney, The Global Carnival and performed at the Sydney Opera House as invited artists to TEDX Sydney 2014.

In 2010, Damien received a development grant from the Australian Arts Council to study flamenco guitar with Pepe Justicia in Spain, where he spent five years. As a solo artist, he performed at the Rajasthan International Folk Festival in India and in 2016 performed at The Shanghai Fringe Festival in China.

Damian recently released his debut album *Shifting Sands* (ABC Music) which was *The Sydney Morning Herald's* album of the week.

Sarah J Hyland broke onto the international jazz scene in 2004 with the release of her spirited version of the 1978 R&B classic 'Boogie Oogie Oogie'. Her storytelling abilities and honey-voice commanded international attention, with her first album *Girl*

Parts being well received throughout Europe. Since then she has been touring her unique brand of jazz, blues and folk around the world.

Sarah was invited to India to perform at the Taj venue in Delhi and at home is a regular on the jazz circuit, playing A-list venues like the Vanguard and the Basement in Sydney and the Paris Cat in Melbourne.

Sarah has sung alongside industry heavyweights including Vanessa Amorossi and Eric Clapton, performed at Wangarratta Jazz Festival and the Paramasala Festival in Sydney, while her second album *Fly into Your Arms* featured on ABC Radio's *Jazztrack* program.

The venue has a limited capacity, so we recommend that you pre-purchase tickets via Humanitix – Khyal Trio Nimbin, \$35. Doors open at 2.30pm with music at 3pm. Refreshments will be available. Call Dana on 0428-539-232 for more information.

Winter Solstice dance party

Endancement Productions crew are super excited to announce the eighth instalment of our spectacular dance music event Sonic Bloom at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

Sonic Bloom V8, will be held on Saturday 21st June, a Winter Solstice extravaganza.

Once again we will be hosting top notch local and interstate DJs with the first three DJs playing out to the vibrant garden courtyard where there will be a small Twilight Market with Rainbow Wholefoods food van, Mama Cacao Emporium, Altar of Fire fire ritual tools, Nimbin Herbs stall amongst other local artisans.

The music will start at 2pm with lounge style house beats before sunset.

After dark we will move into the indoor space where the next DJs will manifest a dance floor like no other in this region, and the beat



will bump up, banging on 'til midnight.

Our premium sound system and stunning visual projections from local wizard VJ Rubin Bingham will be topped off by the vivacious decor arrangements curated by local artiste La Fae.

We are also welcoming back the return of Altar of Fire offering a tantalising feast for the eyes igniting our inner flames with their other worldly fire performances, a magical opening ceremony

and electrifying dance choreography on stage throughout the evening.

The artist of the air – local extraordinaire trapeze artist from Tuntable, Hartje will be twirling above the dance floor with another mesmerising aerial performance.

Our theme for SB V8 is witches and luminescence/ creatures of the night, befitting this magical pagan ritualist night, so dress in your warm ceremonial threads to glow under the

THE NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE

Events Programme

Movie Nights

Murder on the Orient Express
(PG13)
Friday 6 June, 6:30pm start
Being John Malkovich
(R18+)
Friday 4 July, 6:30pm start





Cacao Ceremony

Sunday 8 June, 10am - 11am
Cacao, music, and meditation in a heart-opening ceremony with Lisa at the Bush Theatre.

Sonic Bloom

Saturday 21 June, 2pm - Late
5 DJs
Fire Artists
Body Painting Dancers
Trapeze Artists
Twilight Market





LisAmore

Sunday 29 June
(In collaboration with the LisAmore Friendship Festival)
Italian Film Festival
They're a Weird Mob (PG13)
11am - 1pm
La Vita è Bella (M)
1:30pm - 3:30pm

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Planet Music LISMORE NSW		
GIG GUIDE		
JUNE 2025		
-- WKLY	Lismore Supper Club Soul Band Lismore City Bowlo	THURSDAYS
04 JUNE	Not Quite Folk Open Mic Night Eltham Hotel	WEDNESDAY
06 JUNE	Deepdown ft. Mike Rish The Northern Byron	FRIDAY
06 JUNE	Messy Fuzz Presents Feral Frenzy Arts Factory Byron	FRIDAY
07 JUNE	Radio Free Alice ft. Gimmy + More Bangalow Bowlo	SATURDAY
08 JUNE	JB Paterson Album Launch Eltham Hotel	SUNDAY
11 JUNE	Monthly Irish Folk Jam Eltham Hotel	WEDNESDAY
12 JUNE	Spangled Thursdays ft. Dahlia + More The Northern Byron	THURSDAY
13 JUNE	Velvet Bloom The Northern Byron	FRIDAY
14 JUNE	Dave Quando The Northern Byron	SATURDAY
19 JUNE	Spangled Thursdays ft. Piscor Sour The Northern Byron	THURSDAY
20 JUNE	Matty Rogers The Northern Byron	FRIDAY
21 JUNE	The Lush Parade Lismore City Bowlo	SATURDAY
21 JUNE	Bangers & Mash ft. Abel & Reif Hand The Northern Byron	SATURDAY
26 JUNE	Media Puzzle Shop Show Planet Music Lismore	THURSDAY
26 JUNE	Spangled Thursdays ft. Doombride The Northern Byron	THURSDAY
27 JUNE	Valhalla Lights ft. Seabenz, Cerberus The Northern Byron	FRIDAY
27 JUNE	Didirri & Rowena Wise Eltham Hotel	FRIDAY

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