

# Roadworks, strategic planning and new amenities

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

Work to re-open Stony Chute Road following a recent severe landslide between Nimbin and Stony Chute is ramping up, with funding secured and crews now on the ground. Stony Chute Road suffered significant damage in 2022. Council undertook emergency works to reopen the road and has continued maintaining it since, while planning and funding for a more permanent fix was locked in. Recent significant rainfall has now worsened a slip near the junction of Stony Chute, Zouch and Whitney Roads. The size and instability of this latest slip means steel plates and other temporary fixes are unsuitable. As a result, the road has been closed for safety reasons. Council understands the disruption and inconvenience this has caused and is working hard to fast-track repairs. In some good news, the planned schedule of wider fixes along the road has been brought forward, with works to be undertaken at the same time.



Cr Krieg gives an address at the opening of the amenities block in Nimbin, with lobbyist Sue Edmonds and Lismore MP Janelle Saffin.

The road is expected to reopen in late August, weather permitting. Updates will be provided to residents via email and the Flood Restoration Portfolio section on Council's website, as well as shared on [www.livetraffic.com](http://www.livetraffic.com)

I am writing this ahead of Council's May meeting, but it is expected that Council will vote to put our new Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan on public exhibition for 28 days to get feedback from the community. We will also release the results of

our Customer Sentiment Survey. The Community Strategic Plan is what the community wants Council to deliver. It has been developed over many months of community consultation, and this is your chance to let us know if we heard you correctly. The Delivery Plan outlines how Council is going to achieve these goals and aspirations. Please take the time to have a read of the documents and give Council your feedback, via the 'Your Say' Lismore webpage. Finally, it was great to be in Nimbin recently with the Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin, to open the much-anticipated new amenities block in Peace Park. Full credit to Janelle who promised the toilets during her election campaign and delivered on that promise. Also, a shout out to Bennett Constructions which built the \$400,000 facility that includes an accessible toilet/changeroom with shower, and single toilet cubicle to service the skate park, playground, Nimbin Rainbow Walking Track and surrounding areas. While there, it was great to see so many people strolling along the Rainbow Track. These two recently completed projects will benefit locals and help to attract tourists, which will benefit local businesses.



## Win for the Macquarie Marshes as mining application withdrawn

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW has welcomed the withdrawal of a controversial mining-related application affecting the Macquarie Marshes, one of Australia's most precious wetland ecosystems. Canadian-owned Australian Consolidated Gold Holdings (ACGH) has officially withdrawn its application to vary an Assessable Prospecting Operation over land known as "The Mole," in the internationally significant Macquarie Marshes. The Macquarie Marshes, which includes areas that have been recognised under the Ramsar Convention since 1986, encompass approximately 200,000 hectares in central-west NSW, and are among Australia's largest remaining inland semi-permanent wetlands. The Marshes provide critical habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species, including the Australasian bittern, magpie goose, and Australian painted snipe. The withdrawal follows the company's decision to discontinue civil proceedings in the NSW Land and Environment Court relating to the validity of its prospecting operations under its exploration license. The NSW Regulator has confirmed that with the withdrawal of the variation application, the license is now considered expired. Should ACGH wish to proceed with any future exploration, a new application would be required and subject to fresh regulatory scrutiny. NCC Water Campaigner Mel Gray said, "This is a significant reprieve for the Marshes and all those who care about their future. This iconic wetland is too valuable to be put at risk by invasive prospecting activities that threaten its delicate ecological balance." The Nature Conservation Council will continue to monitor the situation closely, particularly as an investigation into ACGH by the Regulator remains on-going.

# Disaster recovery and mental health

by Janelle Saffin, MP for Lismore

My last column was written in the weeks following the drama of ex-Cyclone Alfred, and I thanked all for their preparedness and co-operation. This time I want to raise the issue of community mental health in the aftermath of disasters. We are still recovering from the natural disaster that hit us in 2022. Some communities are recovering from the 2019 bushfires. The Black Dog Institute says communities that have faced multiple natural disasters are more vulnerable to long-term mental health impacts. The Black Dog Institute's report on Mental Health Impacts of floods reviewed 83 studies that found the risk of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, psychological distress, depression and anxiety is heightened in flood affected areas. The National Disaster Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework acknowledges that the impacts of a traumatic event can appear months or even years afterwards. This is something that impacts our whole community as we continue our flood recovery. People can be distressed by a looming cyclone, days of heavy rain, or events such as seeing an historic school building on fire. It is at these times that I often notice an eruption of anger on social media and heightened agitation in the community as well. This is a time to remember to look after ourselves and each other, and to know that you don't have to struggle through this alone.



We know walking is good for physical and mental health, and I can recommend Nimbin's new Rainbow Walk for lifting the mood. It was great to do the walk recently with Diana Roberts and thank her for her years of hard work and advocacy to make this a reality.

There are some wonderful government-funded mental health supports in our region that have been provided to help with our flood recovery. Often one of the barriers to mental health care is that those in need of help are reluctant to seek it. There are the Safe Haven hubs in downtown Lismore, Murwillumbah, Woodburn and Mullumbimby, staffed by mental health clinicians. They support people in immediate distress and those who are feeling overwhelmed or vulnerable. These government-funded drop-in services are open 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday, and anyone can drop in if they need to talk to someone or get information on mental health or drug

or alcohol support. There is also the Lismore Medicare Mental Health Centre based at Southern Cross University. Previously called Head to Health, this hub was launched in 2022 as a mental health service for our flood-affected community. The service is based at the SCU Health Clinic and provides in-person or phone support for people to access mental health information and services from multidisciplinary care teams. Anyone can reach out for support for themselves or a loved one. The clinic is open Monday to Friday 10am to 8pm and is also open Saturday 12 to 8pm and Sunday 10am to 2pm. The phone line 1800-595-212 is open 8.30am to 5pm. For young people, Social Futures also has the Resilient Kids program that provides a range of support for flood affected schools, young people and their families. The program aims to make it easy for kids and families to access services and bounce back from tough situations. Call 1800-719-625 or go to: [Socialfutures.org.au/Resilient Kids](http://Socialfutures.org.au/ResilientKids) The Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) provides information and links to mental health support for people affected by natural disasters. RAMHP exists for regional, rural and remote people and communities of NSW to inform and connect people to mental health support. There are podcasts and self-help tools on the RAMHP website: [www.ramhp.com.au](http://www.ramhp.com.au) Links to other services are available on the NSW Government website: [www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/recovery/mental-health-support](http://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/recovery/mental-health-support)

### Northern Rivers

DRAFTING & BUILDING DESIGN

CONSULTING  
PLANNING  
DESIGN  
ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

NEW HOMES, RENOVATIONS, BARNs, WORKSHOPS  
& RETROSPECTIVE COMPLIANCE

SEAN SPAIN 0490 178 927 [NORTHERNRIVERSDBD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NORTHERNRIVERSDBD@GMAIL.COM)

I love working with our community to make a difference.

GETTING THINGS DONE

Janelle Saffin MP  
MEMBER FOR LISMORE

55 Carrington Street (PO BOX 52), Lismore NSW 2480  
[lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
02 6621 3624 | [www.janellesaffin.com.au](http://www.janellesaffin.com.au)  
janelle.saffin | [janelle.saffin](https://www.facebook.com/janellesaffinmp) | [janelle.saffin](https://www.instagram.com/janellesaffinmp)

Please call or email for information and support.

### Aches & Pains Nano Cream

Fast, quick absorbing relief

- arthritis
- back & knee pain
- bruises & sprains
- bursitis & joint pain

Non-greasy, 95% bioavailable & more effective than our best-selling Hemp, Comfrey & Arnica balm.

CALL 02 6689 1095 [WWW.BLACK-SHEEP-OILS.COM](http://WWW.BLACK-SHEEP-OILS.COM)



# Keep left, Australia presses the full flush button on Dutton

by Aidan Ricketts

Well, what a huge collective sigh of relief for Australia that election was. At the critical point in history Australians unmistakably rejected the politics of hate, division and the descent into fascism.

While Peter Dutton spent his last days in politics platforming neo-Nazis who booed the Welcome to Country, Australians collectively delivered our own welcome to common sense, compassion and hope for the future.

I have to say that in recent months I have held grave fears that the fascism sweeping the US and parts of Europe would become embedded here. The warning signs have been there, as our own fraternity of right-wing nut jobs, emboldened by the spectacle of Trump, assumed they could unleash the same vicious punch down politics in Australia.

The federal Liberal party has been consigned to the electoral sin bin, recording their lowest seat count since the end of WW2. They squandered the legacy of Menzies' centre right party with a dog's breakfast menu of right-wing talking points, divisive dog whistling and the most insane nuclear energy policy imaginable.

Seriously though, the rot really started with John Howard. It was Howard that deliberately unleashed the genie of overt racism as a political wedge; it was Howard that made bald faced lying an accepted path to victory and it was Howard who ushered in the dismal tide of neo liberalism and unethical housing policies that are an

intergenerational betrayal.

Breaking the Howard model has not proven easy, even our subsequent Labor governments have been afraid to touch the scams and rorts that Howard bestowed upon his generation. But nothing exceeds like excess, and the madness unleashed by MAGA in the US, and the clear fact that Dutton was a fascist-in-waiting finally caused one of the most seismic shifts in Australian politics in several generations.

The Liberals will not be able to easily crawl out of this hole that they dug themselves. Albanese and Labor are virtually assured of at least two terms from here if not more. While I have found the timidity of Labor to truly lead with the redistributive reforms that Australia desperately needs, I am left simply hoping that this giant mandate for change gives Albo courage to dream hard and move us on from the toxic legacy of Howard toward a modern and more egalitarian Australia.

The fact is Australians love everything about socialism except the word itself. They love Medicare, public hospitals, universal free education, pensions, the NDIS, and governments that are well enough funded to truly serve the public good, just don't mention the S word. Well, I guess we will see.

The only downside for me was the loss of lower house seats by the Greens, the only party that does not rely on corporate donations and the only party that has consistently pushed the envelope on real housing policy reform.

Of course, many dyed-in-the-wool Greens haters have been quick to



write their damning obituaries of the Greens but a quick look at the actual figures tells a different story.

The first thing to be clear about is that the Greens vote held steady at approximately the same level as the previous election at around 12% nationally. That's right at least every tenth person you pass on the street statistically is a Greens voter. But what did happen was that a seismic swing occurred that transferred votes from Liberal and other RWNJ (right wing nut job) parties towards the Labor party. This huge shift in middle Australia defines this election.

It's a very good thing that the Greens vote did hold up, because the Labor party only received just under 35% of the national primary vote, and this, combined with the 12% Greens vote pushed Labor towards its historic victory, along with preferences from Teal independents.

Our Senate voting system is based on proportional representation, (seats in rough proportion to % of vote) and accordingly the Greens held their ground in the Senate, winning a senator in every state and

holding the full balance of power in the new Senate. So, Labor will still need to negotiate with their comrades to their left. Senators serve a six-year term, so it will be a very long time before the right have any chance of controlling the Senate.

Our lower house voting system is mathematically geared to favour a two-party model because to win, a candidate ultimately needs 50.01 % of the vote after preferences in each seat, so it is a mathematical algorithm that presumes a two-horse race in the final stretch.

Third parties have always struggled to gain federal seats and the simple maths of the voting system is such that when there is a large primary vote swing to one side of the usual pendulum it makes it very difficult for third parties to gain or to retain seats.

The Teals did better because they tend to get preferences from both sides, the Greens however receive very few preferences from the right-wing parties, and not always as many as they need from Labor.

The Greens were also subjected to a multi-million-dollar attack campaign by extreme right wing lobby groups, awash with corporate donations and fossil fuel money, including a campaign by the Trumpian religious right.

If you want to know why these groups fear the Greens so deeply, follow the money, as they say. They fear the emergence of a left political party that refuses corporate donations, I mean that could lead to an outbreak of actual democracy.

As we go to print it appears the big Labor swing put two Greens seats in Brisbane out of reach,

prevented them gaining two more in Melbourne and have put Adam Bandts seat in Melbourne in danger. A terrible result in terms of lower house seats that is for sure.

In our own region the Greens did well. Mandy Nolan received a positive swing in Richmond but not enough to outrun the national swing to Labor, and Dr Luke Robinson received a whopping 6.4% positive swing in Page, but it is a safe National party seat.

In terms of history, the Greens have suffered a blow in the lower house, but one that can be recovered in less polarised future elections. The fear of Trump, his handmaiden Dutton and the rise of RWNJ's in general caused many mainstream Australians to shift their vote from Liberal to Labor, and it's not surprising those voters did not move all the way over to the Greens.

So that's the maths and the trends, but what we get at the end of it is an historic opportunity for Labor to remake the narrative of Australian politics in its own way. Hopefully this involves taking some bold reforms to address intergenerational inequity and climate change. What we probably won't see is meaningful political donations reforms.

It was inspiring to see Albo start his acceptance speech with a re-affirmation of a commitment to recognition of first nations Australians.

One cannot underestimate the giant historic significance of Australian voters having stepped in, at the eleventh hour to affirm our rejection of the politics of hate, division, racism, inequity and poisonous energy policy.

## Demolishing trust: How the Reconstruction Authority is destroying homes and community

Three years after the catastrophic floods upended our lives, the NSW Government is now demolishing homes in North Lismore. But what they are really demolishing is trust.

We were promised a recovery that would be community-led, compassionate and sustainable. The community was ready. We stepped up with grit, care and action when the systems around us collapsed.

But now, in the middle of a deepening housing crisis, the NSW Reconstruction Authority is tearing down perfectly viable homes that should have been relocated.

To make matters worse, the NSW Labor Government has tried to convince the public that the demolished homes are being "recycled". But this is not recycling. It is greenwashing. Aerial footage shows homes being ripped apart and turned into mulch.

Big Scrub timbers and historic hardwoods, materials that could have been reused or preserved, are being ground down into waste. This isn't a sustainable outcome. It is environmental vandalism dressed up with a PR spin.

The Reconstruction Authority is now trying to refute criticism through



by Sue Higginson  
NSW Greens MLC

what they call a "myth-busting" campaign.

They've published a webpage to defend their actions, claiming that over 70% of the materials from demolished homes are being recycled, and asserting that decisions about demolition are based on safety and individual circumstances, but they've refused to publish reasons for any of the demolitions.

Destroying homes during a housing crisis is unacceptable. The Government has claimed that demolishing homes is cheaper than relocating them, but this is questionable and avoids the real issue. There's a smarter path: move the homes to a safe storage site now, and give the community an opportunity to organise final relocations.

If the homes are made available without purchase costs, people can take on the additional expenses of moving and adapting them to new sites. This approach would save public money, reduce waste, and keep these much-needed homes in our region.

Instead of spending big on demolitions and then even more on new builds, let's invest in solutions that value people, homes and community. It's not just possible – it's what a just recovery demands.

This tit-for-tat response is doing further damage, not just to the reputation of the Reconstruction Authority, but to the recovery effort itself.

Communities in the Northern Rivers are deeply connected, informed and ready to work together for the best possible outcomes. They don't need to be lectured from above. They need to be listened to. The "myth-busting" approach is not just tone deaf, it's deeply dismissive. It replaces trust and transparency with defensiveness and spin. Instead of working alongside the people most affected, the Authority is positioning itself against them.

And let's not pretend this is about widespread unrest. The peaceful occupation

of a small number of government-owned homes in North Lismore, by a small number of community members, was safe and informed. It was a clear call for the Government to follow through on its original promise of relocation. The Government's heavy-handed response – including public dog whistling from Premier Chris Minns – has been political, not practical.

Rather than respond with care or clarity, the Government painted community members as trespassers, agitators and criminals (which they aren't). They politicised a peaceful plea for justice and used it to distract from their own failures.

This is not what a trauma-informed recovery looks like.

Trauma is not just the disaster itself. It is what comes after. It is broken promises. It is watching homes be destroyed when they could have been saved. It is being shut out of the

decisions that affect your future. And it is being told to wait, to trust the process, only to find that the process never included you in the first place.

We have already seen how the Resilient Homes Program and the broader recovery effort has failed to properly include and support our community. Communications have been patchy. Timelines have been blown out. Promises have been quietly abandoned. People are still living in tents and cars.

The decision to demolish these homes now, without proper explanation or accountability, adds insult to injury. It is not just a policy failure. It is a moral one.

This could have gone differently. The Government could have worked with the community to relocate homes as promised, even if this meant temporary relocations while new land was prepared. It could have invested in meaningful

consultation and embraced the local knowledge and energy that has carried us this far. It could have avoided waste, respected the homes and the people who once lived in them, and helped keep our community together.

But instead, it chose the easy path. Tear it down. Paint it 'green'. Move on. We are not moving forward together. People are being left behind, again.

It's not too late to pivot. It's time for the Government to stop the demolitions, come clean about what is really happening, and recommit to a recovery that actually reflects what the Northern Rivers deserves. That means transparency. That means real community involvement. That means no waste.

And that means treating homes, people and our environment with the respect and real recovery we are owed.

We don't need more damage. We need healing.





# DJANBUNG GARDENS

## 30 YEARS OF PERMACULTURE EDUCATION

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

*Big thanks for all the support we have received this year.*

74 Cecil Street, Nimbin Phone 6689-1755  
admin@permaculture.com.au

www.permaculture.com.au



**Nimbin  
Tattoo  
Studio**  
Walk ins welcome  
76B Cullen St  
Flash available  
Custom designs  
Open Wednesday til Saturday  
10am - 4pm  
(Sunday by app) Find us on



0435 651 581

office@johnadams.com.au

**JOHN  
ADAMS  
& ASSOCIATES**

family law, conveyancing, wills & estates, crime

**LUPA**  
Lawn & Garden

Mowing & Gardening  
Northern Rivers - All Property Sizes  
Call Tristan 0410 819 075  
lupalawnandgarden@gmail.com

**Nimbin Bakery**

**52 Cullen Street**

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls 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-SATURDAY at 6am**

**Phone 6689 1769**

# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

## Vouchers sponsorship

Many thanks to Nimbin HEMP for taking over the sponsorship of our laundromat vouchers, after our existing sponsorship by St Vinnies recently came to an end.

The laundry vouchers are invaluable for disadvantaged people, especially in wet or cold weather and on behalf of our clients we say thank you to Nimbin Hemp for their generosity.

Many thanks also to the Nimbin Branch of the CWA which recently donated \$500 towards vouchers for needy families with kids. Again on behalf of our clients we say thank you!

## Are you experiencing Climate Anxiety?

Climate Anxiety is a growing phenomenon as people are increasingly struggling with the scary new realities of climate change.

Climate anxiety is a term for feelings of worry, stress, or sadness about climate change and its impacts.

It isn't a single feeling, but rather a mix of emotions, thoughts, and actions that can show up in different ways for different people.

The Climate Council has released a FREE Climate Anxiety Toolkit, with practical tools to keep you calm, strong and engaged.

You can find the Kit by going to the Climate Council webpage and searching for the Climate Anxiety Tool Kit: [www.climatecouncil.org.au](http://www.climatecouncil.org.au)

## NEW! Nimbin Village Community Calendar

A strategy under the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan for many years, the Community Calendar has finally come to fruition!

Community members can use the on-line Community Calendar to share Nimbin events and dates in a centralised place.

Community members,



**Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre**

organisations and businesses are encouraged to add their own events to the Calendar so we can all be informed and enjoy what's on in Nimbin. This will also help organisers to plan events and avoid date clashes.

The Nimbin Village web app is 100% local, free to use and add your calendar events, business profile and marketplace listings, and can be accessed at: <https://nimbinvillage.au> on your phone or PC.

If you are interested in volunteering to help moderate the site, contact: [nimbinvillage@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinvillage@gmail.com)

The Community Calendar was made possible by funds from NNIC's Build CommUnity Project, funded by the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF), and developed by Nimbin locals and tech whizzes Wick and Rain.

## Did you know? Hep C can be cured!

HepC (and HIV) testing is available at the AOD Hub at NNIC.

The AOD Hub staff can complete a Dried Blood Spot Test at NNIC which involves collecting a tiny sample from your fingertip which is sent off for testing. The results are sent back to the Hub staff who will let you know the outcome by email or face-to-face appointment.

If you test positive to Hep C, we can help you access the treatment of which there are two options available: a seven-day course of two tablets a day, or a 14-day course of one tablet per day.



Nimbin locals in the MardiGrass crowd  
Photo: Marc LeBars

No referrals are necessary. You can drop into/call NNIC (6689-1692) and see Nicole on our front desk for an appointment, or call/email the Buttery: phone (02) 6687-1111 or email: [intake@buttery.org.au](mailto:intake@buttery.org.au)

## NNIC is a registered DGR charity

This means that donations of \$2 or more to our charitable activities, or bequests in your

will, are tax deductible.

Your donations help us to help and support our local community.

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

Be sure to include your name in the deposit reference, and to contact us on: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) for a tax receipt.

## 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** 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://myagedcare.gov.au) 1800 200 422

**Trustworthy** Respectful kind Reliable Healthy  
responsive Competent Boundaries  
Empathic personalised authentic  
Sensitive adaptive Supportive

Contact NACRS: 6689 1709 [enquiries@nacrs.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nacrs.com.au)  
or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, rainbow building at  
Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen St  
[www.nacrs.com.au](http://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 15th May. 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 15th May.

## 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.





# Serendipitous historical discovery

by Scott Sledge, president

The word 'serendipity' has been used to describe happy discoveries made by accident.

Such serendipity was my finding a publication by Judy Canales (2001) entitled *Nine Years in Nimbin: Autobiography of a Cannabis Crusader*. In it, Judy describes Nimbin as "The coolest place on the planet... the capital of the Alternative Nation."

She claimed, "The majority of Nimbin residents are not employed for money and much of the economy survives on love and cannabis, and tourism from cannabis. A true sense of community ensures the well-being of all..."

"Nimbin is not a capitalist's dream ... there are no shopping centres, supermarkets, McDonald's, taxis, trains, semi-trailers, TV addicts\*, parking meters, bouncers, traffic lights, or men in black suits.

"No prime minister has ever visited Nimbin and the Olympic flame has not passed through Nimbin. Nimbin is its own free state of being..." (Albo was here during the bushfires, but not as PM.)

(\*NB Since this was written in the 1990s, many residents of Nimbin have become addicted to their phone screens.)

Judy (now deceased) was part of the initial movement to legalise cannabis that manifested the MardiGrass protestival.

The NEC marches with its banner in Nimbin's MardiGrass parades as we promote the many beneficial uses of hemp/cannabis, which can be used to make paper and building products and help to reduce the effects of climate change.



## No Nukes wins federal election

The Leader of the Liberal/National Party Coalition (emphasis on COAL) proposed developing nuclear power for Australia's future energy needs, in spite of warnings about costs and safety, as a major plank in his election platform.

Peter Dutton lost his own seat (Dickson in Queensland) and the coalition vote declined about 10% nationwide. I believe Australia has firmly rejected the dangerous and costly nuclear option.

## Action at Forestry Corp's Coffs Harbour office

During the election campaign six North Coast women and their placards were removed by NSW Police from the roof of the Forestry Corps office.

They called attention to the urgent need to halt destructive logging in the public forests, especially those due for inclusion in the Great Koala National Park, which needs to be declared for protection.

## Wildlife conservation proposal

A new project to rescue endangered wildlife habitat has started. Veteran activists associated with the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) now advocate for a new wildlife refuge to be created in the Northern Rivers to preserve habitat for our unique and endangered plants and animals.

The campaign to establish the refuge is gaining momentum, with conservation groups and local communities calling on the NSW

Government to permanently protect 56,200 hectares of publicly owned land in the Richmond River valley and along the southern Richmond Range.

The proposed park could save one of the largest and most significant koala habitats in New South Wales. The koalas in our area are genetically different from those in the Great Koala National Park proposed for the Coffs Harbour region, which is likely to be declared by the NSW government very soon.

The need for action is critical because of:

- The devastating 2019-20 wildfires, which burnt 86% of the region's forests, wiping out over half the koala population;
- Ongoing logging operations, targeting core koala habitat and removing essential feed trees;
- The urgent need to protect the catchment of the Richmond River and restore its health;
- Increasing pressures from climate change, including rising temperatures and more extreme weather events; and
- Logging spreading invasive lantana infestations and Bell Miner Associated Dieback. (BAD)

"Our forests need time to heal – not further destruction," NEFA president Dailan Pugh emphasised.

"We are calling on the NSW Government to take decisive action to establish a refuge in the Northern Rivers forests as an urgent priority."

The campaign is urging the



Photos: Katinka Treagardener

community to support the push for this wildlife refuge by signing a petition, contacting local MPs, and spreading awareness. Please visit our stall at the World Environment Day event at Murwillumbah on Sunday 8th June or sign the petition at the NEC shop which is open seven days every week.

## Learn to burn at Kyogle

Join Kyogle Environment Group (KEG) for a cultural burning yarning circle with Uncle AJ, Wednesday 21st May 1.30-2.30pm at the Banquet Room, KMI Hall.

## Save Wallum

The Federal Court case between Save Wallum Incorporated and Clarence Property Corporation resumed in Sydney last week.

As hearings continued into Save Wallum's application for a permanent injunction against a proposed residential development

in Brunswick Heads under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), serious concerns have been raised about Clarence Property's conduct after proceedings were again delayed – this time due to the late disclosure of new evidence relating to habitat critical to the endangered glossy black cockatoo (GBC).

Closing submissions will be held 26th and 27th May, and the public can watch these via the Federal Court YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/FederalCourtAus](https://www.youtube.com/user/FederalCourtAus)

## AGM on 14th June

NEC will hold its Annual General Meeting in the Green Room at Nimbin Community Centre at 6pm on Wednesday 14th May following our regular monthly meeting which starts at 5pm. All welcome.

Annual membership costs only \$10 and fees can be paid at this meeting.

## Paddock to problem: How silage wrap chokes the landscape

by Kyogle Environment Group

Across the paddocks of the Northern Rivers, green silage bales sit like oversized marbles, neatly arranged in rhythmic clusters.

In the early morning mist, they appear as ghostly sentinels, their rounded forms softened by the haze. By dusk, they glow faintly, catching the last light of the setting sun.

To farmers, these plastic-wrapped bundles are a promise of sustenance – a carefully stored bounty to sustain their livestock through the lean months. But once their purpose is served, the plastic that preserved this vital feed becomes an enduring problem.

Discarded silage wrap is a familiar sight in rural landscapes – snagged on fences, tangled in trees, or worse, swept into our creeks and rivers. Left unmanaged, it contributes to the growing tide of plastic pollution, threatening waterways, wildlife and soil health. too easily becoming a source of lasting environmental harm.

Despite its role in modern farming, disposal remains an afterthought. Many farmers struggle with the logistics of handling used silage wrap. It's often dirty, bulky and expensive to transport to recycling facilities – leading some to burn it, bury it or



dump it in places where it eventually finds its way into our waterways.

Without proper waste management systems, this plastic degrades into microplastics, polluting our rivers and creeks. These plastics then break down over time into smaller fragments, contaminating aquatic ecosystems and entering the food chain, affecting both aquatic life and human health.

As well, microplastics from degrading silage wrap will enter our soils, affecting soil structure, water retention, and crop productivity. Over time, this has serious consequences for our food security and farm sustainability.

Silage wrap waste impacts more than just farmers. Rural communities often bear the brunt of this plastic pollution, and local councils struggle to manage the waste.

The volume of wrap that is used quite staggering. For example, a roll of wrap that is placed into the baling machine can be 1500m long and 750mm wide. This usually wraps 20 bales. Therefore, each bale that is produced uses 56 square metres of plastic. Obviously, this will vary based upon the type of machinery used in the baling process, as well as the type of silage the farmer requires.

Regardless, this is a lot of plastic!

Recycling schemes exist, but they are limited, tend to be in southern NSW and Victoria and are already operating at capacity. One example is Plastic Forests that for over a decade has provided a circular economy solution for soft plastics, including silage wrap, plastic bags and packaging – materials that would otherwise end up in landfill.

However, access remains a challenge, as recycling services are costly and limited to drop-offs in North Albury.

In Victoria, a small business – Sustainable Plastic Solutions – has reclaimed 3,000 tonnes of agricultural plastic in just over two years, pioneering a world-leading closed-loop circular economy for grain tarpaulins. Their success has recently secured \$9 million in funding to expand operations.

The technology and logistics to solve what has become an insidious problem exist. We know how to turn agricultural waste such as grain tarps and silage wrap back into grain tarps and silage wrap.

The challenge now is to act. Farmers, councils, industry leaders, and policymakers all have a role to play in transforming the way we handle silage plastic. The question is not whether change is necessary, but how quickly



we can make it happen.

A shift in approach is needed – one that turns waste into opportunity rather than an on-going environmental liability – and we begin to stop using the Richmond River and its tributaries as a drain.

Rather than paddock to problem, let's aim for paddock to protection.

Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin  
Get your winter woolies now!

FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

LOCALLY MINDED

0439333910



# Celebrating community, culture and cannabis law reform

As autumn deepens, Nimbin continues to thrive through community spirit and creativity. This month, we share updates on a range of initiatives that reflect the strength and engagement of our local networks.

Nimbin's 33rd MardiGrass Festival was another great success, drawing strong crowds despite the inclement weather. Fortunately, the rain was broken by sunny spells, allowing the wide range of activities to shine. From lively parades and speakers to musical performances and panel discussions, there was something for everyone – and plenty of fun was had.

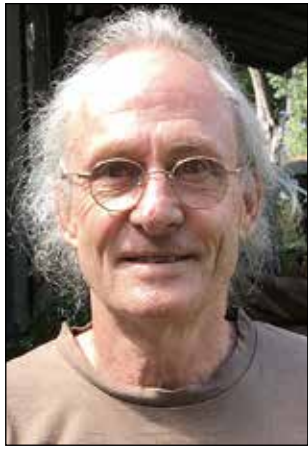
Congratulations to the Hemp Embassy for curating a diverse and engaging program that both entertained and educated. MardiGrass continues to advocate for the legalisation of recreational cannabis while providing valuable information about its medicinal use.

The Hemp Embassy reported a noticeable reduction in police presence this year, which contributed to lower levels of community anxiety and a more relaxed atmosphere overall. Visitors were respectful, well-behaved, and there were no reported incidents of bad behaviour – a positive reflection on both the event's organisers and our wider community.

The Nimbin Showgrounds played a pivotal role in accommodating festival attendees. All camping sites were booked and occupied well in advance, highlighting the demand for organised accommodation. The funds generated from these bookings significantly contribute to the Showgrounds' operational costs, ensuring its sustainability.

This organised approach not only enhanced the visitor experience but also ensured that the benefits of the festival were channelled back into the community, rather than having attendees camp roadside without contributing to local infrastructure.

Feedback from local businesses has been overwhelmingly positive. Many reported that while crowd numbers were similar to recent years, the attendees



## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

were pleasant, easy to engage with, and appreciative of Nimbin's unique lifestyle. Spending was solid, even if not reaching the peaks of past years.

The overall atmosphere was described as chill and contained, with visitors expressing genuine interest in the community. It's heartening to know that many will carry fond memories of Nimbin back to their hometowns.

### Nimbin Markets

New signage and free membership for stallholders

We're excited to be developing new signage for the Nimbin Markets to better support local traders and visitors. This initiative will improve visibility and navigation, while celebrating the energy of our Sunday market community.

In further support, we're offering free Chamber membership to regular stallholders – an invitation to join the wider business conversation and connect with local opportunities.

### Murals and signage

The Chamber is making progress in installing murals at the Nimbin hospital and replacing the mural above the newsagency as part of our broader mural preservation initiative.

We are evaluating the most cost-effective methods for placing these murals, including assessing suitable anchoring techniques and selecting the appropriate artistic presentation. Additionally, we are considering the imagery that best represents Nimbin's rich artistic heritage and community spirit.

In collaboration with



the building owners, we are working to share the costs involved in placing and renewing these murals. This partnership approach ensures that the projects are financially sustainable and that the resulting artworks continue to enhance the visual appeal of our village.

### Public toilets

On 22nd April, the long-awaited handover of the public toilet block was finalised. We thank all involved for their persistence in ensuring that visitors' and residents' needs are met with appropriate amenities.

As part of this upgrade, we congratulate Julie DeLorenzo, a talented local artist, who was selected to create a new mural for the building. Her work will enhance the site's visual appeal and reflect the vibrant creativity that makes Nimbin unique.

### Roadworks update and community advocacy

Following recent heavy rainfall, we continue to monitor the condition of local roads and have submitted feedback to Lismore City Council (LCC) regarding urgent repairs. The Chamber remains in regular contact with Council to ensure that Nimbin's infrastructure remains safe and welcoming for both residents and visitors.

In addition to our on-going advocacy, we have formally requested information from LCC regarding their processes for identifying, managing, and implementing temporary repairs of road hazards. Specifically, we seek clarity on the current works plan and schedule to better understand and communicate the timelines and priorities for road maintenance in our area.

To strengthen our engagement and ensure consistent representation of our community's concerns, we propose the creation of a Transport and Accessibility Subcommittee within the Chamber.

This dedicated group would

liaise directly with Council on matters related to road conditions, public transport, and overall accessibility, aiming to improve infrastructure and safety for all road users in the Nimbin area.

### Community safety

There have been concerns about the number of people camping in vehicles in the western car park behind Cullen Street, which separates the shopping centre from the school. While we extend our care and understanding to those facing housing difficulties, this location raises concerns.

Its proximity to the school, the absence of toilet facilities, and the need for available parking for customers accessing services make this site unsuitable for long-term camping.

The Chamber has raised the issue with the Council, who advised that it is a police matter. After speaking with the police, the issue was referred back to the Council, highlighting the on-going challenge of unclear jurisdiction.

We will continue to follow up with both agencies and advocate for the involvement of social support services. This is a delicate matter

with strong community opinions, and our goal is to help navigate a respectful solution.

### Upcoming events

#### Bridging futures: From classroom to career

Monday, 12th May, 5.30pm start at Nimbin Central School MPU, 23 Thorburn Street. Free and open to all – please RSVP for catering purposes at: [www.nimbinaustralia.com.au/event-details/bridging-futures-from-classroom-to-career](http://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au/event-details/bridging-futures-from-classroom-to-career)

Join us for an insightful evening as we explore how our community can support young people transitioning from school to meaningful employment. Through real stories, insights and collaborative discussions, we'll delve into what's currently working and identify opportunities for further support. Agenda highlights:

- Hear from students, teachers, and local employers about their experiences and perspectives;
- Discover the results of the Nimbin Business Survey, shedding light on local employment trends;
- Engage in conversations on making work experience truly meaningful for our youth;
- Learn about local job pathways, vocational training options, and opportunities for self-employment; and
- Participate in Q&A sessions to share your insights and ask questions. There will be presentations

by Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, Nimbin Central School, Training Services NSW, Regional Industry Education Partnerships, Nimbin Youth, local employers and young workers.

Whether you're a business owner, student, teacher, parent, or community member, your voice is vital in shaping the future of our youth. Let's come together to create opportunities and a thriving future for Nimbin's next generation.

### Women in Business workshop

This workshop on 2nd June at the Youth Centre will offer a safe, inspiring space for personal growth and networking – an opportunity to build confidence, share stories, and support one another in business and beyond.

### Inter-agency meeting

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is convening an inter-agency meeting on Saturday, 31st May, from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Birth & Beyond, 54 Cullen Street.

This gathering aims to bring together all community organisations to share updates, explore collaborative opportunities and enhance our collective impact within the region. (See story Page 2.)

Invitations have been sent to community organisations. If your organisation has received an invitation, please RSVP to confirm your attendance at: [chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au](mailto:chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au)

## 2025 Nimbin Annual Country Show

by Denise Whitney,  
secretary Nimbin A&I Society

The Committee is already well progressed on planning for this year's annual country show, so save the date in your calendars, put a note on your fridge and tell the family.

Be sure to follow our facebook page and website for regular updates.

Are you new to the region? Would you like to be involved with the A&I Society generally, or support the show? Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the show. Please share your interest with us at: [secretary@nimbinshowsociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@nimbinshowsociety.org.au)

Advertise your business in the show program. We need your artwork in either jpg or pdf format, pricing is on the website. Note that the program is printed in black and white, so too much detail may be difficult to read. Send your artwork to:

[secretary@nimbinshowsociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@nimbinshowsociety.org.au)

If you advertised last year and are keen to secure your place again this year, the pricing hasn't changed, please email the Secretary with either updated artwork, or a request to use last year's artwork.

This year we are opening the art competition for next year's front cover early – it's open now! We hope this longer time-frame will give all the local artists, new and experienced, plenty of time to work on their entry.

Entries must be A4 size hand-drawn in black and white, and incorporate the words: Nimbin Annual Country Show 2026.

We particularly welcome entries that reflect the nature of the A&I society, and the vibe of our small agricultural show.

Entries close on Friday 19th September. For any general enquiries, please contact: [info@nimbinshowsociety.org.au](mailto:info@nimbinshowsociety.org.au)

### – FLOOR SANDING –

New & old floors, verandahs, decks



- Free quotes & advice
- Prompt service
- Quality work assured
- All areas serviced

**Rob Clark ph 6632-3342 or 0410-016-694**

ABN 93 105 831 192



**BARCOO PLUMBING**  
PLUMBING • DRAINAGE • GASFITTING

24/7 SERVICES  
LIC NO. 320695C

**IAN HARDIE**

**0427 445 555**

GENERAL PLUMBING & MAINTENANCE • BLOCKED DRAINS  
BATHROOM & KITCHEN RENOVATIONS • RAINWATER TANKS & PUMPS  
ROOFING & GUTTERING • GAS INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS  
ONSITE SEWERAGE SYSTEM DESIGN • HOT WATER SERVICES

[barcooplumbing@bigpond.com](mailto:barcooplumbing@bigpond.com) | [barcooplumbingservices.com](http://barcooplumbingservices.com) |  

## Jayne E. Alleman

Adv.Dip.Acc., Dip.Acc.,



Tax agent  
98777003

**19 years experience**

**Phone 0457-497-011**

Email: [jayne@nimbintax.com.au](mailto:jayne@nimbintax.com.au)



# JANELLE DELIVERS FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

## GETTING THINGS DONE



## 2023 Election Commitments

- ✓ Extra police towards Murwillumbah Station having 24/7 capacity
- ✓ \$30 million for an approved Build-to-Rent project in East Lismore
- ✓ \$12 million to Kyogle Council to replace 12 bridges over two years
- ✓ \$7.5 million to Lismore Council to make Alphasdale crossroads safer
- ✓ \$5 million to Resilient Lismore to repair flood-impacted households
- ✓ \$5 million to Rous Water for improving river health in four catchments
- ✓ \$4 million to Kyogle Council for better flood immunity, Clarence Way
- ✓ \$3.12 million to Tenterfield Council for fixing Mount Lindesay Road
- ✓ \$2 million to Tweed Council to upgrade flood pumps in Murwillumbah
- ✓ Remove waste levy from Kyogle LGA, saving \$1.6 million over 4 years
- ✓ \$1.4 million to establish Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital, Wollongbar
- ✓ \$400,000 to Lismore Council for a new amenities block in Nimbin
- ✓ \$250,000 to Business NSW for a regional economic recovery plan



## The Hon. Janelle Saffin MP Member for Lismore

55 Carrington Street (PO BOX 52), Lismore NSW 2480  
02 6621 3624 | [lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.janellesaffin.com.au](http://www.janellesaffin.com.au)

Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.







## Theatre troupe needs you

by Jay Stephens, director

Nimbin Theatre Troupe looks to storm the School of Arts in September to stage a double-header of theatrical mayhem: *Chop Chop*, or *La Guillotine*, plus the premiere of *Blood Moon*, by Nimbin's very own Al-Mustapha Al-Shaheed.

A wardrobe person is urgently required – sewing skills a bonus, and most importantly, a love of rummaging in op-shops to find the perfect threads for our otherwise naked actors.

A hair and makeup helper is also needed – this could suit anyone studying for a beauty qualification who is looking to get a theatre piece on their resumé.

Finally, at least three stage crew are needed – no experience is necessary, just the energy to get up onstage when the lights go down and change the set in time for the lights to come up for act two!

To volunteer with us, email: [contact@nimbintheatre.org](mailto:contact@nimbintheatre.org) or drop your name at: [www.facebook.com/nimbintheatre](http://www.facebook.com/nimbintheatre)

## Community concert to protect the plateau

by Dot Moller

The northern section of Lismore Council's North Lismore Urban Release Area proposed subdivision is the biggest development proposal ever on the North Coast.

Since its inception in 2012, the Lismore Council plan for the development of the North Lismore plateau has run into problems.

As the years passed, we have seen the "hand back" land on the southern tip of the plateau challenged by an envious Council eager to make money from the land; and the middle section (Winten) opposite Lismore Showground, flooded during its development phase so that any efforts were totally destroyed, and the site then handed over to State government.

And currently, the Northern section, largest of all, is slated for many hundreds of houses, 45 new roads and accompanying infrastructure.

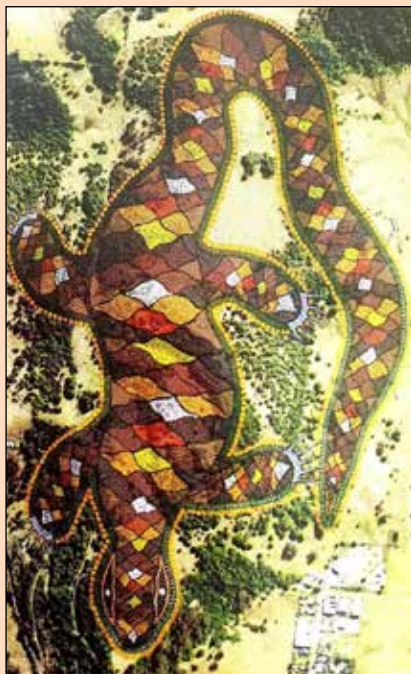
This last proposal was refused by the Independent Planning Panel, at which point the developer, Mackycorp decided to take Lismore Council and Uncle Mickey, Widjabul Wiabul Elder to court.

'Songs for the Sleeping Lizard' is our second fundraising concert to support the court case. The concert will include an update on the latest situation in the battle to save the Aboriginal cultural heritage still existing on the North Lismore Plateau. Headliners will be Blackboi, Mitch King, Isabella A Cappella and Monkey and the Fish, plus First Nation Dancers and more.

The concert will be held on Sunday 25th May, 2pm at the Lismore Bowlo. Tickets are \$20/\$10. More info at: [www.facebook.com/share/12L9KybpxF](http://www.facebook.com/share/12L9KybpxF)

Lismore Council is asking for your opinion at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/north-lismore-plateau-proposed-subdivision-further-amendment-april-2025>

Don't disappoint them.



Sleeping Lizard artwork by Gilbert Laurie

## The Toad, the Whale and the Sun

Dean Jefferys will be presenting his documentary *The Toad, the Whale and the Sun* in the region this May.

The film explores the secrets of the universe through the use of the most powerful psychedelic known to man, 5 MeO-DMT from the Sonoran desert toad in Mexico, developing a vision that the toads, the whales and the sun are offering insights to assist humanity in these critical times.

Eight years in the making, the film includes inter-dimensional ceremonies in the Sonoran desert and the ancient sun-worshipping temples of the Mayan civilisation.

The film then takes the viewer on an epic sailing adventure on Dean's marine conservation yacht, *Migaloo 2*, through tropical waters with the humpback whale migration. He experiences the power of the toad ceremony with the whales and the sun.

*The Toad, the Whale and the Sun* is a thought-provoking, visually stimulating documentary that will take the viewer



on a quest to uncover realities that most never even dreamed were possible.

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

The film is screening with Q+A at Lismore Star Court Theatre on Thursday 15th May,

Byron Community Centre on Saturday 17th May, and Mullumbimby Drill Hall on Saturday 24th May.

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

## More than a music store

Located in the heart of the Northern Rivers, Planet Music is more than just a music store – it's a cornerstone of Lismore's vibrant music scene.

Offering an extensive selection of new, used, and vintage instruments, including guitars, amps, drums, keyboards, orchestral strings, brass and woodwind, along with sheet music and accessories, the store caters to musicians of all ages and skill levels.

Planet Music's story began in 1982 when it opened as Nicholas Music on Magellan Street. In 2022, after Lismore was hit by catastrophic floods, local bass player Matt Bone purchased the business and moved it to 81 Keen Street.

His vision was to preserve and grow the musical spirit of the region. A major step forward was launching an on-line store at: [planetmusic.com.au](http://planetmusic.com.au)



giving customers across the region and beyond access to their full catalogue of instruments and gear.

Beyond retail, Planet Music plays a vital role in the local cultural landscape. The store produces a free weekly gig guide promoting live music events across Lismore and the Northern Rivers (now published

monthly here in the *Nimbin GoodTimes*). This guide has become an essential tool for artists and audiences alike, spotlighting everything from intimate local gigs to major community performances.

Planet Music also opens its doors for free, all-ages in-store concerts, offering a welcoming space for emerging artists to

perform. These events create opportunities for musicians to share their work in a supportive setting, helping to cultivate Lismore's next generation of talent.

Through its dedication to music, community and connection, Planet Music continues to help the region's live music scene recover, grow and thrive.

Planet Music LISMORE   NEW		
GIG GUIDE		
MAY 2025		
--	Lismore Supper Club WKLY Lismore City Bowlo	THU
15	Lez Karski MAY Hotel Metropole	THU
15	Marina Allen (USA) MAY Eltham Hotel	THU
16	Cerberus Album Launch MAY Howl & Moan Records	FRI
16	Rust, Gusset Rats MAY Lismore City Bowlo	FRI
17	BayFM Air Waves Festival MAY Bangalow Bowlo	SAT
17	Fly Agaric, Cerberus, Motherboy MAY Hotel Metropole	SAT
18	Brain Fuzz Belly Fest MAY Bangalow A&I Hall	SUN
18	Brad Cox (Solo) MAY Eltham Hotel	SUN
22	Monthly Bluegrass Jam MAY Eltham Hotel	THU
22	James Simpson MAY Hotel Metropole	THU
24	TV Misery, O & Shea MAY Hotel Metropole	SAT
29	Dave Barbara MAY Hotel Metropole	THU
30	Drover + Guests MAY Howl & Moan Records	FRI



Peter Greste to speak

by Sue Page

Kyogle Readers and Writers is proud to present an afternoon with acclaimed journalist, author, and media freedom advocate Professor Peter Greste on Saturday 14th June.

An Australian-born foreign correspondent with a career spanning 25 years across the world's most volatile regions, Professor Greste has reported for the BBC, Reuters, and Al Jazeera from conflict zones in Afghanistan, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

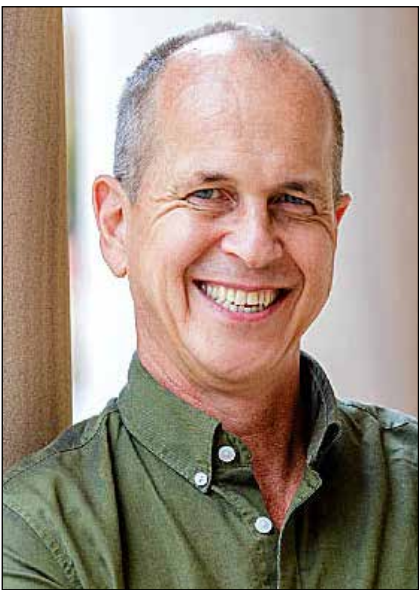
However, it was his own story that captured international headlines when, in 2013, he and two colleagues were arrested in Cairo on terrorism charges while reporting for Al Jazeera. Their wrongful imprisonment sparked a global campaign for press freedom, leading to Greste's release after more than 400 days behind bars.

Since then, Peter Greste has become a tireless champion for media freedom, earning numerous prestigious awards including the Australian Human Rights Medal, the RSL's ANZAC Peace Prize, and the International Association of Press Clubs' Freedom of Speech Award.

He is the Executive Director of the Alliance for Journalists' Freedom, UNESCO Chair in Journalism and Communication at the University of Queensland, and has recently released a powerful new film, *The Correspondent*, based on his harrowing experiences in Egypt.

Directed by Kriv Stenders and starring Richard Roxburgh in a career-defining role, *The Correspondent* is a gripping biographical thriller that opened the 2024 Adelaide Film Festival.

The film explores the risks journalists face in the pursuit of truth and the ongoing battle for media freedom in an increasingly authoritarian world.



Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear directly from one of Australia's most courageous voices for truth and human rights.

Tickets are available now at: <https://kraw.com.au>

THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN

THE EPIC JOURNEY OF A QUANTUM SHIFT

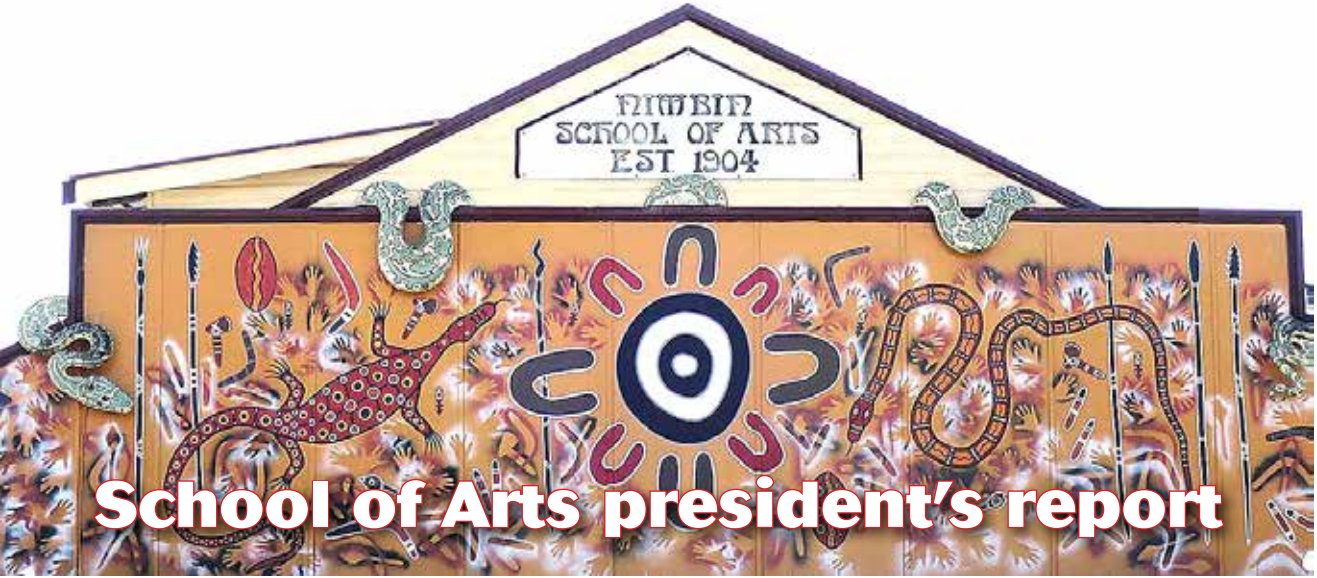
**SPECIAL ENCORE SCREENING**

of Dean Jefferys' epic 2-hour documentary, eight years in the making, plus Q&A

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

- Lismore Star Court Theatre, 15th May, 6pm
- Byron Community Centre, 17th May, 7pm
- Mullumbimby Drill Hall, 24th May, 6.30pm

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



School of Arts president's report

by David Hallett

Nimbin's grand old hall continues to be the cultural and geographic centre of the village.

Now 121 years old, the Nimbin School of Arts (NSA) is one of the biggest community facilities in the region, and with its ageing comes the rising costs of repairing and maintaining a large wooden hall in a village with its history of fires, and the related costs of electrical upgrades, plumbing and drainage, roofing repairs, fire safety, mould removal, etc, etc.

In the aftermath of the Covid restrictions, the NSA once again had a full program of events to manage: three Blue Moon Cabarets, the annual Spring Arts Exhibition and the classical piano recital featuring Stephanie Hamlet.

A very special addition to our program of events in 2024 was the popular concert by the renowned Australian pianist Roger Woodward.

Other annual events rounded out the extensive arts program at the hall: the Nimbin Art Fair (managed by the Nimbin Artists Gallery), Nimbin Roots Festival, Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup and Nimbin MardiGrass.

The School of Arts is blessed in having several long-term and on-going committee representatives. Tony Gibson, Carole Barrett and myself have been reps for some decades; Peter Brooker, Tim Tonkin and Samara Burcher for several years; and more recently Sue Landers, Mandie Raval and Caroline Todd.

This mix of older and younger reps has proven to be a great strength in the

management of the NSA.

Apart from the many nuts and bolts of maintenance, repairs and upgrades at the old hall, the main aim of the Nimbin School of Arts remains 'to foster the arts' of Nimbin; and the performance arts in more than 100 cabarets over the years and the many exhibitions of both the NSA and the Artists Gallery both stand as testaments to that critical aim of 'fostering' the arts.

I've been president of the School of Arts for over 30 years alongside Tony Gibson who's been on the management committee during all those years.

So, on behalf of the wide and diverse Nimbin community, I give special thanks to the on-going efforts and engagement of Tony, Peter, Tim, Carole, Sam, Sue, Mandie and Caroline. The history of the hall rolls on.

THE NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE

**Movie Programme**

**Blow**

Friday 23 May  
Based on a true story, *Blow* follows George Jung's rise and fall as one of America's most notorious drug traffickers. A slick, emotional ride starring Johnny Depp.

6:00pm – Snack Bar Opens  
6:30pm – Short Films  
7:10pm – Interval  
7:30pm – Feature Film: *Blow*

**Host Your Event Here - Venue Hire Available**

Contact  
[events@nimbinbushtheatre.com](mailto:events@nimbinbushtheatre.com)  
0476008278

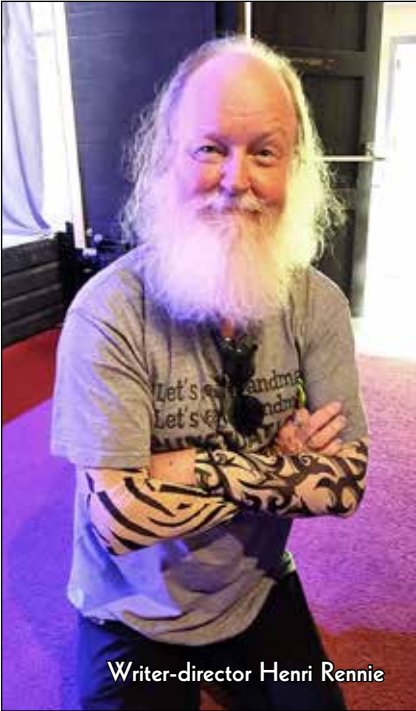
ADVERTISE HERE

and be seen in **16,000** copies monthly of

**THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES**

This size ad **FULL COLOUR** from only **\$60** per month

Phone 6689 1148 [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com)



Writer-director Henri Rennie

Hall of the Mountain King

The name: *The Hall of the Mountain King* may not be familiar to everyone, but there would be few who don't recognise Greig's music – one of the most famous classical 'riffs' ever written.

Lismore Theatre Company are bringing to the stage a world premiere of award-winning writer Henri Rennie's funny, fanciful spin on a Scandinavian classic, Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*.

*Peer Gynt* is a young man with plenty of self-confidence and an aversion to commitment. When the daughter of the troll king takes a fancy to him, he sees the chance of gaining a throne, if an unconventional one.

The culture of the stone people is an old and traditional one though, and not everyone is keen to allow a human presence in the royal court.

When the princess produces a child, who grows up un-naturally quickly, the rigid ways of the court are thrown into chaos, and nothing will ever be the same for the trolls!

*Hall of the Mountain King* is a shrewd look at what it means to be human, or not, with puns and pop culture references scattered throughout a great old legend. It should entertain audiences aged from their early teens to their nineties, and induce reflection on attitudes and assumptions.

With a cast of talented locals, this witty comedy opened at the Rochdale Theatre, 603 Ballina Road, Goonellabah, on Friday 2nd May for a ten-day season.

Tickets are \$25/\$20, available at the website: [www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au](http://www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au)

"Funerals with Heart"

**SACRED EARTH FUNERALS**

1300 585 778

Bespoke - Personal - Professional

**2 locations:**

**Funeral Home & SANCTUARY - Coraki, NSW**  
**LISMORE - 18/62 Wyrallah Rd Shopping Village**

- \*Beautiful funerals
- \*No service cremations \$2490
- \*Burials and memorials
- \*Pre-paid funerals
- \*Pre-planning

**Everyone Welcome**  
DYING MATTERS CAFE  
Lismore  
1st Monday each month  
10.30am - 12pm

[www.sacredearthfunerals.com.au](http://www.sacredearthfunerals.com.au)



# Weed warriors saving koalas and other threatened species

by WWF-Australia

When Barbara Linley discovered there were koalas on her recently purchased Tullymorgan farm she was delighted. It was a big surprise. But she was far from thrilled by a serious lantana infestation. It covered about 80% of her property in the NSW Northern Rivers region.

Considered one of the world's top 10 invasive species, lantana prevents koalas from moving freely and accessing food trees. It also increases the severity of bushfires and acts as a fuel ladder carrying flames into tree canopies.

"Finding out I had koalas was a real highlight, but lantana was strangling the place. It was so thick I couldn't even see the creek. I spent a considerable amount getting rid of some of it," Barbara said.

Her concern for the future of her beloved old growth trees and the expense of removing the remaining lantana led to Barbara signing a private conservation agreement covering nearly 51 hectares of her farm.

In return, she knows her trees are safe and Barbara can receive up to \$45,000 to fund action – like clearing weeds – to improve the quality of the koala habitat.

The funding came through a project that encourages private conservation agreements in the Northern Rivers region to protect koala habitat.

It's a collaboration between the World Wide Fund for Nature - Australia, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Envite Environment.

The project has smashed its target of protecting 500 hectares. Twenty conservation agreements have been signed, or are being finalised, that protect more than 900 hectares.

"Thanks to money from my conservation agreement we're discovering what's actually here because we're getting through the lantana," Barbara said.



"Recently, clearing away the noxious weed revealed a huge eucalypt tree I didn't even know was there. Ecologists say it's over 500 years old and has an 11-metre circumference," she said.

Barbara removed the cattle being agisted on her farm and Envite Environment planted 1,000 koala trees to reconnect habitat. Traditional Owner visitors say it is a very spiritual place.

A trail camera revealed some of the property's rich biodiversity. There, just a metre apart, were a goanna and a land mullet, Australia's largest skink species.

There is also at least one powerful owl, a pair of goshawks, glossy black cockatoos, yellow-tailed black cockatoos, little bent-wing bats, rare frogs and the Nature Conservation Council has put up 25 nest boxes for the squirrel gliders and feathertail gliders and are monitoring a resident pair of barking owls.

"I'm hoping to improve and increase the biodiversity, especially

for endangered animals, and to prevent fires getting up into our magnificent mature trees and destroying them," said Barbara.

Lola Topsom has a conservation business aimed at saving endangered animal and plants species and has been doing a lot of the lantana removal, assisted by Barbara – a very hands-on property owner.

"I really love being out in nature, so working in conservation is the perfect job for me," said Lola.

"When I see a serious lantana infestation, my first thought is usually 'Wow, that's hectic', followed by, 'I can't wait to get stuck in' and later I see that all my hard work has paid off.

"Discovering beautiful trees and freeing them of noxious weeds is so satisfying," Lola said.

Barbara has also signed a permanent conservation agreement on a second property she owns further south in Taloombi.

"I saw emus and thought that is a sign, so I decided to buy it. I didn't



know they were rare emus," she said.

What Barbara saw was the endangered coastal emu, genetically different from all other emu populations. It's estimated there are fewer than 50 left.

"Yaegl elder Aunty Elizabeth Smith said to me 'The emus brought you here'," said Barbara, who is now involved in their protection.

Using funding from her permanent conservation agreement, Barbara has employed Lola to work on Taloombi.

The focus will be on lantana removal, keeping tracks free of vegetation, and clearing around old trees. These actions all boost fire prevention.

A number of old gums were still smouldering immediately after the 2019 fires and Barbara was able to rescue some of them.

"I walk past those trees now and say 'I saved you,'" said Barbara.

Barbara works with First Nations experts who have used cool burning on both properties for five years to begin healing the land.

Tanya Pritchard, Senior Manager Koala Recovery for WWF-Australia, said private landholders are playing a crucial role to help the recovery of koalas.

"More than 50% of remaining habitat for koalas is on private land, so landholders such as Barbara are a critical for koalas long-term survival," Tanya said.

"Supporting landholders to enter a private conservation agreement and assisting with restoration costs will ensure these areas are protected as high quality habitat for future generations of koalas and other wildlife species," she said.

## Science in the Pub: a night of learning and inspiration

Richmond Landcare Inc held a Science in the Pub event at The Channon Tavern at the end of March, with over 100 people filling the venue, despite the dreary weather.

This event was the first opportunity for the broader community to hear about Richmond Landcare's *Nature-Based Solutions Project: Building Flood Resilience in the Lismore Catchment*.

Louissa Rogers, Project Manager, spoke about what nature-based solutions are, why they're an important tool for reducing the risks of natural disasters on communities, and provided an overview of what this ground-breaking project is aiming to

achieve.

More about the project is on the website: <https://richmondlandcare.org/nature-based-solutions>

Mark Dunphy, President of the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy and owner of Firewheel Rainforest Nursery, gave an entertaining presentation as to why maintenance matters.

Many a person will feel good about planting trees, but if they aren't cared for, they won't thrive. It's time for maintenance of plantings to be as appealing as a tree-planting day!

Finally, Brendan Cox of River Ecology Australia and the backbone of the Richmond River Ecological Health Scorecard, gave

an overview of ways to measure water quality, and how water-bugs are an excellent indicator of waterway health.

He stressed how improving the health of our creek banks will improve water quality – beneficial for everything downstream.

The event was also a call to action for the broader community to get behind this project, which will conduct community planting and maintenance days, as well as citizen science events.

If this interests you, or you'd just like to sign up for our newsletter to be kept informed of what's happening, please fill in this jotform: <https://form.jotform.com/250837984846071>





# World Environment Day

## 8th FESTIVAL

Sunday June ~ Knox Park, Murwillumbah

