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Cool and normal

Forestry Corp has gone past its use by date... way past their use by date. Clearly, so have the "Extinction parties", Labor, LNP and One Nation!

About only 1% of Labor's budget went to the environment. \$16 billion to fossil fuel cartels in subsidies and our contributions are climbing. Forestry corporation's destruction is losing millions in NSW and they are repeat criminal offenders.

Extinction parties say, cool and normal, business as usual despite forests being essential to our future and our precious unique species let alone capturing carbon, reduce flooding and the capacity to clean our Richmond River.

Alternatives like industrial hemp not a priority, nor hydrogen trains, buses or shipping. Hemp batteries for EVs, hemp cars, stronger than steel are another option. Remember Henry Ford's hemp car?

Have you seen and commented on the North Coast Draft Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan? See: https://hdp-au-prod-app-nsw-haveyoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/9317/7846/0472/P4P370_Draft_North_Coast_Strategic_Regional_Integratn_Transport_Plan_HYS_20260507.pdf

What do the gas cartels and forestry have in common? They don't pay for our resources or care for country. Most businesses must pay for resources, bakers, plumbers, builders, newspapers etc.

The Australian National

Bookkeeper Lyndal Gray Web & IT James Wickham Website nimbingoodtimes.com And find us on Facebook

NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 26th June

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Distributors Coralie, Chibo, Peter, Gordon & Miriam, Rob & Lisa, Linda, Marty, Bob

Ad Sales Bob Dooley

The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

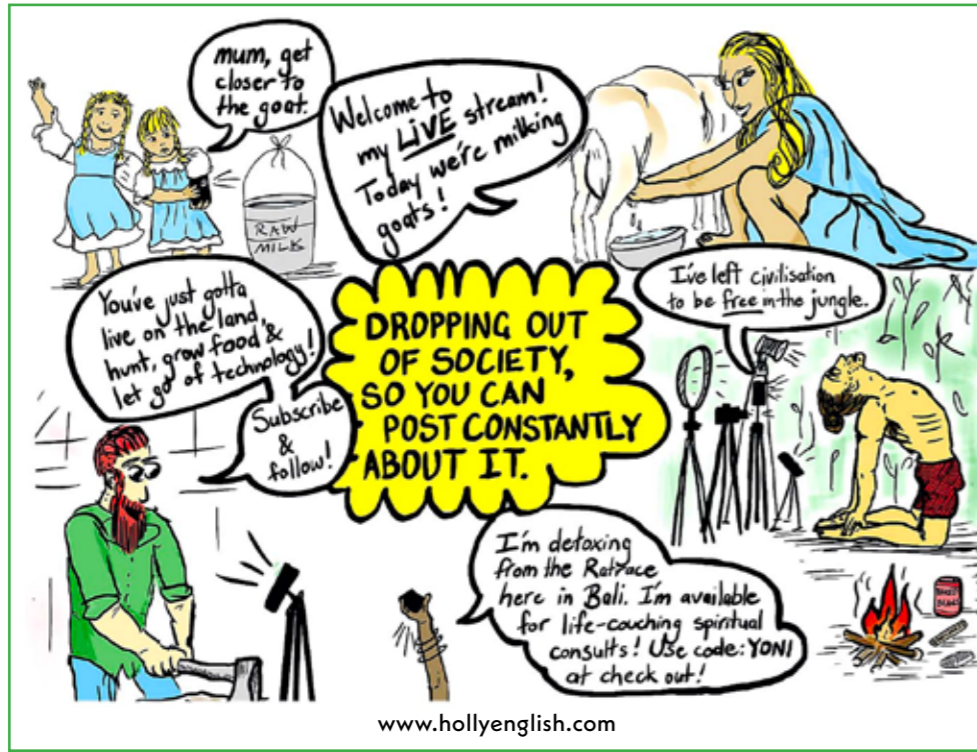
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www.hollyenglish.com

Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA) finds that no Australian community will be immune from climate risks that will be cascading, compounding and concurrent.

Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen explained each term clearly:

"Cascading – it will get worse over time; compounding – each impact of climate change will make another impact worse; and concurrent – communities will suffer the impacts of climate change in different ways at the same time."

So the Extinction parties support more fossil fuels, forest destruction, rammed through weak biodiversity protection at state and federal level (EPBC Act reforms ignored over 600 submissions, Albo), millions for Israel lobby and they refuse to tax the gas cartel bludgers a measly 25% and have gutted NDIS.

Dave Forbes Alstonville

Carbon offsets

Declines of native species in Australia are accelerating. More than two thousand species (and subspecies) are now listed nationally as threatened with extinction.

I do not believe that the Carbon Offset Policies and Standards under the present

review will address this problem. In the development of the Matters of National Environmental Significance 2025 (MNES) and Policies and Standards there is no evidence that the advice of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) has been sought and taken into account.

Proponents are highly likely to gain approvals by following the weak processes outlined in the MNES draft documents. In addition, under these reforms, the Minister may grant a "national interest approval" for specific projects that fail to meet strict MNES criteria, provided the inconsistency with the standard is deemed reasonably necessary for a national interest outcome.

Indeed, the Prime Minister recently addressed the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia to notify them that \$45m has been budgeted to guide

mining proponents through.

The Australian Conservation Foundation has said, "As now proposed, the legal test for consistency with the standards will be met if a developer merely confirms they complied with some principles and followed certain processes. There's no requirement for these processes to actually deliver the outcomes and objectives expressed in the standard."

In 2020, Professor Samuel in the foreword to his excellent review stated, "The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is out-dated and requires fundamental reform. The Act is a barrier to holistic environmental management which ... is essential for success."

The whole process should be transparent with full public clarity as to how and why decisions were made.

Ellen White Georgica (Edited for length)

Notices



Gwalia Mansions

This beautiful old building at 7 Coleman Street, Lismore is earmarked for demolition to make way for a new road. There is a growing group of people in Lismore who are dedicated to saving it.

The Richmond River Historical Society have been asked to help by way of providing historical information and images to support their campaign. There was very little in their archives, only a single newspaper article and some relatively modern photographs from 2002.

If anyone has information and/or photographs that they are willing to share about Gwalia, please contact the Richmond River Historical Society at: info@richhistory.com.au



Photos: Chibo Martinet

Katie Kiss said, "This is a heartbreaking and devastating tragedy. I stand in solidarity with Kumanjaya Little Baby's family and with the community as they grieve this profound and heartbreaking loss. Tragically, there are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people currently missing who have not been met with the same response. My greatest hope is that Kumanjaya Little Baby's short life becomes a turning point – that in this country, the life of an Indigenous child is valued, protected and pursued with the same urgency as any other child."

Lismore vigil

As part of a nationwide observance, a vigil was held at the Totem Forest park in Lismore on 7th May for five-year old Kumanjaya baby girl, whose body was found near Alice Springs on 25th April after a large co-ordinated search led by police and supported by Aboriginal community organisations and community members.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner,



In Memoriam

Andy Daley

In fond memory of Andy Daley, who passed away from natural causes at his rainforest home in Blue Knob on 25th April. He was well loved by many in Blue Knob and surrounding areas, and will be sadly missed by all his family, friends and colleagues. Rest In Peace now Andy with your beloved Jen.

– Ali Walker

Stoking hate in the Sunshine State

by John Jiggins

In March, the Crisafulli government in Queensland introduced controversial hate speech legislation, outlawing two expressions deemed antisemitic: "From the river to the sea" and "Globalise the intifada".

The Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies urged a ban on expressions that incited violence, harm or offence. They said the two phrases played a key role in intimidating Jewish people.

The proposed laws were criticised as extreme by civil liberty experts. Arif Hussein, senior lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre said, "These rushed laws will not improve community safety or reduce hate in Queensland. Instead, the Crisafulli Government is turning the temperature up by-passing laws to increase division, discrimination, and suppress peaceful political communication."

Queensland Council for Civil Liberties (QCCL) president, Michael Cope, expressed his concerns for free speech, saying, "Free speech is a fundamental right that deserves the maximum protection. Offence is a nebulous concept. Everyone is offended by something."

In the QCCL's view, offence is too low a bar to set for the criminalising of speech. These laws put the standard far too low and are a threat to the fundamental right of free speech."

Over the past months, Queensland's constabulary have been tasked with policing Crisafulli's new hate speech laws at pro-Palestinian protests. So far, 26 people have been arrested for voicing or displaying the words the Crisafulli government has declared illegal. If found guilty, those arrested face a maximum two-year prison sentence for uttering words.

On Sunday 17th May, 50 Queensland police were on hand to enforce Crisafulli's new hate speech laws as several hundred members of Brisbane's Palestinian community and their supporters gathered in Queen Victoria Park to remember the 78th anniversary of the Nakba.

The Nakba, or catastrophe, originally referred to the 1948 ethnic cleansing of Palestine. For Palestinians, Nakba has become more than an historical event; it is a continuing process of displacement that has never stopped.

The memorial began with the grandchildren of Nakba survivors, who spoke of their grandparents suffering during the Nakba.

One young man, Zac, one of the 26 arrested for uttering the outlawed words, spoke of his grandfather's expulsion from his village in 1948 during the Nakba and how this inter-generational trauma influenced his decision to oppose the hate speech laws.

At eleven-years old, Zac's grandfather was forced to carry his grandmother on his back for four kilometres to a safe house. On the way he witnessed



Protesters at the Nakba Day rally in Brisbane. Photos: Hannah Moon, ABC News

the slaughter of the people who had raised him: bus drivers, shopkeepers and tea shop owners. Ordinary people who had done nothing wrong lay dead in the streets. At eleven-years old, his grandfather was forced to bear witness to this.

His grandfather now sees the same thing happening on his phone in Gaza. A whole new generation of Palestinians experiencing the same catastrophe he did 80 years ago.

"That is why some weeks ago I chose to defy these new Crisafulli laws targeting the Palestine campaign," Zac told the crowd. "I could not sit back and watch this government spread lies and slander about the suffering of my family and the millions of other Palestinians."

"If Crisafulli is allowed to get away with this, he will not stop there. He will try to encroach further into our right to speak out for the Palestinians and our family."

Another speaker at the rally was Nick Hannay, a Sydney lawyer assisting the Hate Speech Twenty-Six, who he described as "very brave individuals who were being prosecuted for defying one of the most repressive laws ever passed in this country."

They had been told that if they called for a faraway land to be free, they would risk prison, Hannay said. Knowing the risk, they went ahead and did it anyway.

"These people defied this ban because they oppose racism against all people and not just some. Because they knew all of Palestine was occupied, not just in the West Bank, not just in the Gaza Strip, but from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, and they wanted

freedom for the land and its people." Queensland's laws are among many that have been passed during the last two-and-a-half years that restrict our freedom of speech and right to protest, Hannay said. The wording of the laws differ from state to state, but the objective is always the same: to stifle criticism of Israel and its crimes.

"We are now witnessing the most aggressive crackdown on civil liberties in living memory," he continued. "Israel is trying to shut down the debate altogether. This is why these laws are being passed in this state and in this country."

"In the past, the world was largely blind to Israel's crimes," Hannay said. "The Nakba, which we are commemorating today, was carried out in the dark. No one was aware of the massacres, of the rapes, the ethnic cleansing, until it was too late. Well, how times have changed."

"For the last two and a half years, we've been forced to witness a genocide in Gaza live streamed on our phones every single day. We've been exposed to things so horrific that we will never be able to forget them. The world has woken up, and we are never going back to sleep."

"So having lost the debate, Israel is trying to shut down the debate altogether. This is why these laws are being passed in this state and in this country."

Nick Hannay is working with other civil liberties lawyers to bring an appeal before the High Court to declare Crisafulli's hate speech laws unconstitutional because of their curtailment of free speech.

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Permanent fix for Nimbin water



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

recent heavy rainfall and seasonal conditions which increased turbidity in the raw water supply.

In simple terms, fine sediment and organic material made treatment more difficult for the temporary plant servicing the village.

Replacement equipment is on the way and Council continues working closely with NSW Health, specialist contractors and treatment experts, with restoration works expected within the coming week.

Importantly, Council continues progressing the permanent water treatment solution for Nimbin, currently scheduled for completion by December 2027.

The plant is being designed specifically for Nimbin's source water conditions and future severe weather events, with upgraded treatment technology that will improve

Council's ability to manage high turbidity events and reduce the likelihood of future boil water alerts.

Over recent weeks, many in our community have understandably felt frustrated and concerned by the on-going boil water alert affecting Nimbin's water supply.

I want to acknowledge the disruption this has caused for households, businesses and visitors, and reassure the community that Council is working toward a resolution.

The current alert followed

Road closure

I also want to acknowledge the upcoming closure of Tuntable Creek Road from 6th July, which I know will have a significant impact on local residents and road users.

While the 12-month closure between Rose Road and Young Road will be challenging, these reconstruction works are essential to replace temporary post-flood repairs with a more resilient solution.

Council will continue providing updates throughout the project and I thank the community in advance for its patience as this long-term work is carried out.

Economic development

On a positive note, thank you to everyone who attended the recent Economic Development Strategy session in Nimbin.

The session was well attended and generated valuable discussion around tourism, creative industries, agri-tourism, wellness sectors, rural enterprise and local business resilience.

This document is part of the

supporting strategies for Lismore's Strategic Planning Statement, which outlines how our region will grow over the next 20 years.

The LSPS, along with Council's Draft Operational Plan and Draft Budget, are available on Your Say Lismore for community feedback and help shape Council's future priorities and investment.

Events

The recent Norco Primex Field Days delivered a strong boost for the region, attracting more than 30,000 attendees and generating an estimated \$7 million in visitor expenditure across the Northern Rivers.

Groovin the Moo in May also delivered an outstanding result, with around 8000 attendees at Oakes Oval and strong involvement from local suppliers, contractors and hospitality providers.

Together, these events and more on the calendar for 2026 continue to strengthen our reputation as a capable and welcoming major events destination.

Tourism economy

Nimbin continues to play an



Mayor Krieg inspects the landslide on Tuntable Creek Road.

important role in our tourism economy, with local cafes, accommodation providers, galleries, retailers and markets helping to create visitor experiences and support ongoing opportunities for the community.

Thank you again to the Nimbin community for your patience and resilience, and for the creativity and community spirit that continue to make Nimbin such a unique and valued part of our region.

Labor's fracking plans Your voice matters

The Minns Labor Government pressed go on their plan to bring gas fracking back to NSW at the end of April, and to try and attract Santos and friends to the table.

Labor decided to reduce the cost of gas exploration licences by 98% – another government hand out to the corporate fossil fuel industry.

When I asked the Minister for Resources in Parliament about fracking in May, she refused to rule it out, because she knows this is exactly what the Government has put back on the table.

The areas that Labor is trying to attract gas companies to, have been assessed before. Those earlier assessments show that fracking is an inevitable consequence for the Government wanting to extract gas there.

Labor have opened up the Bancannia and Pondie Range Troughs, recharge areas for the Great Artesian Basin in western NSW, but the toxic gas fracking industry impacts all of us.

Here at home, we are all too familiar with the stress of fighting back against invasive gas fields and fracking, and the last time the Government of the day sold our water and lands to gas corporations it cost \$25 million to buy back the licences.

We're the lucky ones; we are part of a strong and sizeable regional community that used our numbers and influence to make it clear that we reject the destruction of



by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

our water table for short-term and short-sighted fossil fuel exploitation.

Unfortunately, the communities of these areas in western NSW are small, the distance between us and them makes it tempting to believe that this is a remote issue – but it's not.

The climate and extinction crises that we are fighting against are the same crises that will be put into overdrive if Labor's plan for fracking and more gas is allowed back anywhere in NSW.

Five years ago, when these areas were last assessed, 47 threatened plant species and 87 threatened animal species were within the impacted area – including three species that are listed as critically endangered under the law – the pink velvet bush, red-forever whistler and desert mouse.

That same assessment noted the significant contribution to climate change resulting from both direct and indirect emissions resulting from any gas project in these areas.

Disturbingly, buried in the Government's rationale for supporting more gas is the justification that if we don't frack for gas, then someone else will – a ludicrous and dangerous perspective.

These western areas are also part of the Dreaming stories of the Barkandji People, with living cultural sites at direct threat from any fracking of the land.

The cultural harm and genocide committed by colonial Australia should be a thing of the past, but this Labor proposal reminds us that First Nations people are still in a war for their survival.

The better policy direction is already available to the Government, with independent modelling showing that NSW can reduce gas use by 52 per cent by 2035, and that gas use in NSW is already declining.

That same modelling identifies a 17% fall in gas use since 2020 and an average decline of 2.9% each year over the last decade, largely without the benefit of clear Government targets.

We can reduce gas demand, lower costs for households and industry, support electrification, protect manufacturing jobs through transition planning, and avoid further pressure on sensitive landscapes – we can do all of this by rejecting further pursuit of fracking for gas.

It's a win-win, and somehow something that the NSW Labor party won't do. It's mind-blowingly stupid.

There's something deeply important about community that can't be measured in spreadsheets, graphs, consultant reports or glossy strategic documents.

It's conversations under marquees at Primex despite the rain. It's checking in on neighbours during another Nimbin boil water alert. It's planting trees.

It's strangers dancing together, it's sharing food, holding hands, laughing, debating ideas and feeling connected to place and each other. It's the old magic.

And it is why so many people are increasingly frustrated when decisions appear to move ahead without genuine community licence or meaningful consultation.

Over recent weeks in Council and the broader community we've seen this tension playing out repeatedly around the proposed Regional Waste Facility at Blakebrook Quarry, the Media Policy, unnecessary tree removals from Council verges and buyback properties within the North Lismore precinct by contractors undertaking demolitions for the Reconstruction Authority, flood recovery and the on-going failures of the Resilient Homes and Resilient Lands Programs.

Community licence is not just a PR exercise or consultation checkbox. It is trust. It is people believing their voices matter and that decisions are being made with them, not simply to them.

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RA audit

The recently released audit into the Resilient Lands and Resilient Homes Programs confirmed what many of us already knew. No resilient lands delivered. Not one home built through the Resilient Lands Program.

What should have been an opportunity to rebuild communities together instead became a process driven by bureaucracy rather than community.

At a time when communities are already grieving the loss of homes, neighbours and identity, the removal of established shade and fruit trees only deepened the hurt already being felt across North Lismore.

There was however one positive outcome from the concerns raised. Reconstruction Authority staff have advised that arborists will now be consulted regarding remaining tree removals associated with the buyback demolitions, moving forward.

Trees are not simply line items on an asset register or "invasive species." They provide shade, food, habitat, beauty and memory. They are part of community identity and part of the social fabric people are already grieving through the buybacks and demolitions.

Regional Waste Facility

Locally, concerns around Blakebrook Quarry continue growing because many people feel there has not been genuine transparency or community support for the proposal.

Work continues within the community opposing both the proposed Regional Waste Facility and Blakebrook Quarry as the location for such a development. People understand we need long-term waste solutions, but they also understand water catchments, environmental risk and the importance of protecting future generations.

At the recent Council meeting there was considerable debate regarding the proposed \$1.3 million budget allocation connected to further investigations into the Regional Waste Facility proposal. I strongly opposed this expenditure.

At a time when communities are struggling with housing stress, flood recovery and cost of living pressures, it feels like a complete waste of ratepayer money to continue exploring a proposal that clearly lacks social licence within the community.

If people would like to support the campaign opposing the proposal, petitions are currently circulating throughout the community. Please feel free to contact me if you would like information on petition locations or follow the "Blakebrook – Mega Tip Information Page" on Facebook for updates and community information.

Tree removals

Likewise, the removal of mature trees from Council verges and buyback properties has caused distress. These trees were removed by contractors undertaking demolition works for the Reconstruction Authority and, from my understanding, without Council approval.

At a time when communities are already grieving the loss of homes, neighbours and identity, the removal of established shade and fruit trees only deepened the hurt already being felt across North Lismore.

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Council notebook
by Cr Virginia Waters
Lismore City Council

Media policy

Even the recent debate around Council's Media Policy raised larger questions about democracy, transparency and communication.

Councillors are elected to represent their communities, speak publicly and advocate. Healthy democracy requires open conversation, respectful disagreement and community trust. Not councillor gag policy.

Consultation

There are major Council consultations currently open on YourSay and I encourage everyone to engage.

- The Draft Operational Plan and Budget consultation closes 11th June.
- The Lismore Strategic Planning Framework consultation closes 23rd June.

If people want community voices reflected in future planning, development, spending priorities and decision making, now is the time to make submissions and participate.

And maybe that's where hope still lives.

Not in glossy recovery brochures or media announcements celebrating false milestones while communities continue struggling underneath them, but in community itself.

In people continuing to show up for one another. In conversations, activism, music, shared meals, dancing and collective care. In communities refusing to give up on each other or the places they love.

So if you need a reminder of the old magic, come along to the Great Green Bushdance at Nimbin Town Hall on 13th June to the music of the Ragged Blossom Bush Band. Dance with strangers, reconnect, have a yarn and remember what community feels like.

I'm also looking forward to seeing Sue Higginson MLC, Cr Adam Guise and Dr Luke Robinson there.

And remember next time at the ballot box who genuinely speaks for community, transparency and participation. Because if we lose that, we lose far more than any single policy debate. We lose each other.

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

Boost to cattle tick program and farm safety

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

I welcomed NSW Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty to the electorate recently for the announcement of a \$7 million investment to rebuild the state's cattle tick management program to help protect our local beef and dairy herds.

A well-funded action plan, developed in consultation with stakeholders, is a key objective for us in this region, given our proximity to the Queensland border.

I have been in close consultation with local cattle farmers for years on this. I advocated strongly for an independent review of the tick management program to ensure it remains effective on the ground.

Last year, Dr Katherine Cliff was appointed as Independent Biosecurity Commissioner, and her first priority was to identify ways to improve cattle tick management in NSW.

This followed feedback from stakeholders that the Cattle Tick program had been run down under the former National Liberal Government and had moved away from eradication.

Dr Cliff's review included consultations with local farmers and her report came up with 14 recommendations. The NSW Government has



Janelle Saffin with Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty announcing the rebuilding of the cattle tick program.

committed to all of them.

Work will start immediately to get the program back on track and the budget has been boosted by 60 percent to implement the Commissioner's recommendations which include:

- delivering the first Cattle Tick Eradication Action Plan by 30 September
 - providing more support for farmers to understand prevention and management options
 - boosting access to veterinary resources
 - expanding research into chemical resistance and alternative treatments
- I note some National Party

MPs say this isn't good enough, and to that I say they have the hide of a rhino to act as though the Nats had nothing to do with the demise of the tick program.

In other farming news: SafeWork NSW is to run a new 12-month Farm Safety Training Program for about 1,000 agriculture and farming workers, to lift basic work health and safety knowledge and encourage safer habits on the job. Agriculture is still one of the most dangerous industries in NSW, with SafeWork NSW responding to 11 workplace fatalities in the sector in 2025. Farm vehicles,

including quad bikes and side-by-sides, continue to be involved in serious incidents.

- The \$1000 NSW Small Business Safety Rebate has been extended to cover measures such as agricultural drones and high-visibility line markers. Farmers and businesses can check their eligibility for the rebate at: www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/1000-safe-work-small-business-rebate
- The Minns Government has announced an extra \$15 million to keep the AgSkilled workforce training program going until June 2029, with practical short courses across livestock, horticulture, grains and fibre.

The idea is to make training easier to access in regional and remote NSW, fit it around the demands of seasonal work, and help TAFE and other providers deliver job-ready skills without workers having to sign up for a full qualification.

And congratulations to Michael Balderstone and all involved in this year's MardiGrass, which was by all accounts a great success. From discussions on cannabis policy reform to the Ganja Faeries and Kombi Konvoy, this continues to be a unique community event for happy locals and visitors.



Groovin' the Moo boosts Lismore economy

On the same Page
by Kevin Hogan MP

Groovin' the Moo made a successful debut in Lismore, with a fantastic turnout at Oakes Oval for one of Australia's biggest music festivals.

The event was a strong boost for our local cafes, businesses and the wider economy. It was great to have a major tourism activity here in the Northern Rivers.

Thank you to the Lismore City Council and everyone involved in bringing the festival to our wonderful region.



New police officers join Richmond District

Eleven new probationary constables have joined the Richmond Police District. Four officers will be based in Lismore, three in Ballina and four in Casino.

It is always great to see new police officers choosing to join regional community stations.



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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Village Way Youth Project

NNIC recently secured funds from the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Grant for a six-month project for the young people connected in with Nimbin Youth, aiming to support the participants to engage in education, training and employment by building confidence, skills and capacity.

We are pleased to welcome Rain to the NNIC team as the Village Way Project Facilitator. Many thanks to the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANCHA), our National Peak Body, for the funding.

Monthly raffle - great prizes!

NNIC has started a monthly raffle with the prize drawn on the first business day of every month. The May prize was a \$100 voucher for Nimbin Servo... many thanks to the Servo for the donation.

Look out for the June raffle, six available at NNIC or via our roaming fundraisers or catch us at the local markets. \$2 a ticket or three for \$5. All proceeds support our services and activities.

Memberships due

All NNIC memberships (including Tools Library) expire on 30th June and must be renewed as from 1st July. Anyone renewing before 30th June will automatically be renewed for the whole 26-27 year.

It's just \$5.50 to support your neighbourhood centre. Tools Library is an additional \$22 for the year. Drop by NNIC to renew, or to join - new members welcome!

7 Sibley Street updates

See the June program in this edition of the NGT. NEW! Children's gardens project - contact Steph at: sibley@nmic.org.au for more info.



Also contact Steph to get involved in our fabulous NimBINChickens plastics recycling project - happening Tuesdays.

Costs of living getting on top of you?

Or just struggling in general? We might be able to help - call us or drop by to make an appointment with our Community Workers to discuss what might be available to support you.

Weekly food pantry

Every Wednesday at 1pm rain or shine (mostly rain just lately!) you can get cheap groceries to help you make ends meet in the garage next to the Bark Hut room opposite the Neighbourhood Centre in the Community Centre grounds.

Weekly soup kitchen

Every Friday at midday, rain or shine, also at the Bark Hut garage. There are vege and meat options cooked with love by our wonderful cooking team.

It's almost tax time

If you want to divert some of your hard-earned cash from the taxman to the community you can donate to NNIC - all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

If you would like to donate, drop into NNIC or deposit directly into our Gift Fund account: Summerland Bank BSB 728 728; Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre Gift Fund a/c no. 22205341; ref: your name plus DON.



NNIC member Gwen Trimble characteristically stirring, on this occasion for the Friday Soup Kitchen.

Email us at: admin@nmic.org.au or drop in to ask for a tax receipt.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is committed to Cultural and Child Safety. See our website: www.nmic.org.au for our Statement of Commitment to First Nations People, and our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety.

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

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

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

Service available by appointment, 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 18th 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 18th 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 is 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.

NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

Much of the work carried on by the NNEC this past year has focused on climate change and saving forests as the most effective way to reduce carbon in the earth's atmosphere.

Similar concerns dominated at the Nature Conservation Council (NCC), a state-wide umbrella organisation, which helps us lobby for an end to native forest logging.

Public native forests

The timber industry has statutory responsibility for managing our public forests for sustainable timber production, but the State-owned Forestry Corporation is often described as "a criminal organisation."

They talk about sustainable yield on a rotational basis from state forests, but usually leave a clear-felled ex-forest for the weeds to take over and don't manage the space for our native wildlife. Most of our useful timber product now comes from private forestry. The myth that we need to log our public native forests comes from our colonial past and needs to be called out.

Forestry Corp is frequently fined for bad environmental practices, but it is the taxpayer who cops the fines. Furthermore, it has been many years since the Hardwood Division showed

any profit; the taxpayer has to bail them out in excess of \$20 million every year! The idea that we pay loggers to ruin our public assets is deeply troubling.

Last month The Stakeholder Consultation Report for NSW's Forestry Industry Action Plan (FIAP) was issued. It raises more questions than it answers, though with 70% of submissions expressing support for ending native forestry it confirms that most people want an end to this archaic and destructive industry.

The Stakeholder Consultation Report by the Independent Forestry Panel (two of the three consultants came from the logging industry) was intended to summarise community attitudes towards public native forestry as an input to the NSW Forestry Industry Action Plan (FIAP).

"This report demonstrates that a logging industry review is not appropriate for deciding whether we end logging of public native forests and instead protect them for wildlife, carbon sequestration, recreation, tourism and water," NorthEast Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesperson Dailan Pugh said.

Many NEC members are also activists for NEFA, who have long campaigned to protect and preserve the forests remnants in the

Northern Rivers region, especially state-owned reserves. We join with other activists to promote wildlife refuges and lobby hard for reform of land-clearing laws.

We are promoting public involvement via individual and business support. You can see the petition at: richmondriverkoalaparcs.com

Richmond River Koala Parks

Across the Richmond River catchment, some of the most important koala habitat in Australia is still being logged. These public native forests are home to one of the largest and most significant koala populations in the state - genetically different from those to the south - and over 130 other threatened species.

With logging continuing in these critical habitats, their future is uncertain unless their homes can be protected. Koalas in NSW are on a path toward extinction without urgent action.

Habitat loss from logging, in addition to the impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires, is threatening the survival of already vulnerable populations. Protecting large, connected national parks/reserves is essential for their survival.

The Richmond River Koala Parks proposal would help

create a world-class network of protected areas across north-east NSW.

By ending native forest logging in these areas, we can secure critical koala habitat, protect biodiversity at scale, and restore forest health over time.

Public forests in the Rainbow Region are home to a nationally significant, genetically distinct koala population, along with more than 130 other threatened species. They also form a vital wildlife corridor from the coast to the Border Ranges.

Just as importantly, they underpin the health of the Richmond River - filtering water, stabilising soils, reducing erosion and helping regulate flows. Since the 2022 floods, restoring the river has become a priority across the region, and protecting these forests is one of the easiest, most effective ways to do that.

Protecting these forests will help deliver on Australia's 30by30 commitment: to protect 30% of our highest biodiversity value land by 2030 while helping restore the health of the Richmond River.

Prioritise the environment

NEC is also involved in weeds identification and replacement with native species. We continue to push for the "nature-friendly laws" and an effective Federal Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as the federal Labor

PROTECT

RICHMOND RIVER KOALA PARKS
richmondriverkoalaparcs.com

government promised prior to the last election.

It seems that recent conflicts in other parts of the world have captured the attention of our elected leaders, and we need to shift the focus to the environment.

We have yet to prioritise ecology in land management, or to protect our forests and the endangered flora and fauna. We need to foment an attitude of enthusiasm for positive change on a continent where most change that has occurred in the past 200 years has been damaging to the environment.

We need to work towards a sustainable future and

support candidates who care in the State election, due before April 2027.

AGM

Last month NEC held its Annual General Meeting and re-elected the committee: Daniele Voinot, Lisa Costello, Cath Smith, Mark Palmer and Ashoka Joblin. Also re-elected were: Triny Roe as secretary and shop organiser, and Paul Scott as treasurer and me as president.

We have continued to keep our shop open all year despite many challenges, allowing us to offer information on the street level, and all profits go to help environmental causes.

NSW gas update

by Kyogle Environment Group

KEG recently screened the new documentary called *Run for Country* filmed by 'For Wild Places' at the Pilliga Ultra event held at the Pilliga Pottery last September.

The documentary focuses on the role of sports activism in the Pilliga Forest which is under threat from coal seam gas mining.

This screening gave us the opportunity to update community on the long running and critical campaign to save the Pilliga and the world class Liverpool Plains agricultural region from Santos' coal seam gas expansion.

The Narrabri Gas Project was approved by the NSW state government several years ago, but is still struggling to meet the conditions of approval. In the meantime, it has faced widespread opposition on multiple fronts.

This project would destroy vital Gomerioi cultural landscape, accelerate climate change and threaten many endangered species and the integrity of the Great Artesian Basin.

Gomerioi have fought against coal seam gas (CSG) in the Pilliga for more than 20 years, first with Eastern Star gas, and now with Santos. This opposition limited gas development to a small number of pilot wells, and Santos have not drilled a well since 2014.

Gomerioi have appealed the approval in the Native Title Tribunal twice, the second appeal was heard on 14th March and involved 14 grounds and Gomerioi only need to win on one of these grounds.

Pipelines put back

Along with this staunch action the project faces multiple challenges to all three of the

pipelines required before the company can begin the project in earnest.

- The Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline (HGP), 833 kilometres long, needs a 200m wide corridor approved but landholder opposition has stopped a valid application from being lodged by the proponent. Landholders will not let Santos on their land as a result, the NSW Premier Chris Minns has threatened compulsory acquisition of land.

- The Narrabri Lateral (also known as the Pilliga Pipeline) 55 kilometres long and proposed to run greenfield through the Pilliga Forest before joining the HGP is currently going through the submissions process. Santos are due to provide their response to submissions. It still needs approval and a licence.

- The third pipeline has been farmed out to Jemena and is known as the Hunter Lateral. It involves the construction of a 6km buried pipeline which will connect Santos' proposed Hunter Gas Pipeline at Millers Forest to the Jemena Gas Networks (JGN) Northern Trunkline at Hexham and is at the application stage.

Meanwhile, the inland rail section that was to go through the Pilliga forest from Narromine to Narrabri has had funding revoked. This is a big blow to Santos. Currently the Narrabri Gas Project is a stranded asset and they haven't drilled a well for 12 years!

The Breeza Declaration

Gomerioi Traditional Owners, NSW Farmers Association, the Country Women's Association of NSW, Unions NSW and the



Left: Kyogle Environment Group at the screening of *Run For Country*
Right: Sally Hunter, Karra Kinchella and Stu Murray hold a printed copy of *The Breeza Declaration*

Lock the Gate Alliance signed a joint declaration on the Liverpool Plains at Breeza on 21st March this year.

The Breeza Declaration calls on the NSW Government to withdraw support for Santos' Narrabri Gas Project and associated pipelines as concern escalates over unacceptable risks to prime agricultural land, precious groundwater and the cultural heritage of Gomerioi People.

Western NSW exploration fee slashed

The NSW government recently announced it will open up the Bancannia and Pondie Range Troughs which are near Broken Hill and Wilcannia for gas exploration applications, while slashing the application



fee from \$50,000 to \$1000.

In July 2021, the former NSW Coalition Government released its gas policy, which specifically ruled out gas exploration in the same areas of Far West NSW that were just ruled back in by Chris Minns. In 2021, the government cited "ongoing land use conflict in areas subject to gas exploration" as a reason not to release the area for gas exploration.

Pilliga Ultra

The Pilliga Ultra event will run again this year at the Pilliga Pottery, 18th - 20th September. The event has something for everyone and is the absolute best time of the year to visit the forest, you can check it out here: www.forwildplaces.com/pilliga-ultra