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Great Koala Park – Labor’s broken promise

I have an alternative view on the Richmond River Koala Parks proposal (RRKPs).

I don't support it, I'm highly critical of the 'political strategy' behind it and there is no chance Minns will 'protect the RRKPs' before the March 2027 election.

People may believe this is possible with enough community effort, but I don't.

If Minns did promise to 'protect the RRKPs' what value would that 'promise' have when Labor's promise at elections in 2015, 2019 and 2023 to 'create a Great Koala National Park' (GKNP), has not been honoured?

The much-promised GKNP is three times larger (about 180,000 vs 56,000 hectares) and its linking of koala sub-populations, core habitats and native forests of international conservation significance, is far superior.

The RRKP proposals rudely 'jump the queue', usurp a decade-long campaign, and muddy the waters on Labor's promises. They are not 'the next big thing' in koala conservation, not 'next', not very 'big', or strategically valuable.

I object to them competing directly with the GKNP for media coverage, public attention, and activist action at the very time in the electoral cycle when media analysis of election promises sharpens, and voters decide if Labor has honoured their promises.

Most unhelpful in these processes are claims the GKNP is a 'done deal', and 'we've had win', when this is untrue.



www.hollyenglish.com

No legislation to create the Great Koala National Park has been enacted. If you believe otherwise, you've been misled.

After three years of Labor, the GKNP still does NOT exist, and more than 9,000 hectares of its prime koala habitat have been slaughtered.

If readers want to help koalas and pressure Labor, forget the RRKPs and write to Lismore MP Janelle Saffin to express your outrage at the ALP's broken promise on the GKNP, and remind her that broken promises must have electoral consequences.

John R Corkill OAM
East Lismore

Jesus is alive

Regarding Julie De Lorenzo's article (NGT June 2026), there is no genocide of Gaza by Israel.

There is an attempted genocide, annihilation of Israel by others.

Israel doesn't want dual purpose items that can be used against it going into Gaza.

Jesus is alive and is returning one day.

God bless.
Terry O'Sullivan
Tweed Heads South

The art of war

Machiavelli was a late medieval philosopher and erstwhile adviser to the

powerful Medici banking dynasty of Florentine fame.

In 1520 he wrote *The Art of War*, in which he advanced the notion that might makes right and notably advised rulers that it was better to be feared than loved if you can't be both, based on the medieval belief that fear motivates better than love.

However, he cautioned against ending up despised but not feared, for that would surely portend disaster.

Sun Tzu was a Chinese military strategist and philosopher from the Warring States period of ancient China, about 2,500 years ago.

He too wrote *The Art of War*, in which he advised, "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory you will also suffer a defeat. But if you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

He also wisely observed, "the greatest victory is won without war."

Machiavelli's political philosophy was akin to that of a psychopath, devoid of empathy, ignorant of love, indifferent to morality.

Sun Tzu, in contrast, understood the importance of knowing oneself, one's opponents and the environment in a way that requires empathy and the sort of insight gained through respect, humility

and appreciation for human nature.

In today's world, the West clings to the late medieval ways of Machiavelli, constantly waging war, heaping failure upon failure, while China flourishes in modern ways, anchored in ancient wisdom, winning without war.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Trains not trails

The North Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in New South Wales and one of the most popular tourists destinations. Millions flock here.

Rail trails were never meant to replace train services in fast growing populations with millions of tourists. Another 550 homes will be built in Byron Shire soon, we're told.

As researched and reported by the Local Government Association, for far too long state governments have been cost-shifting billions of dollars of their responsibilities onto under-resourced local government and ratepayers.

This especially applies to our train service, which would not only provide much needed sustainable public transport for locals and millions of tourists it would reduce the cost of upgrading and maintaining roads for tourists.

We need to do more to get to net zero and to reduce our vulnerability to climate

Notices

Market Day

Goolmangar Hall is hosting its next market day on Sunday 12th July, 8.30am-2.30pm at 863 Nimbin Road, Goolmangar. Entry is free. Sausage sizzle and coffee van on the day.

Contact Coral on 0428-867-111 if you would like to book a stall. Cost \$15.

NCCI grounds redevelopment plans

Nimbin Community Centre is inviting feedback on the proposed grounds redevelopment plans for 81 Cullen Street. Any future works will be dependent on community feedback, detailed costings, grant funding and the availability of resources.

View the proposed plans here: www.nimbincommunity.org.au/projects/grounds-redevelopment then complete the on-line feedback survey.

change and oil shocks. Trains run on renewable energy can do exactly that.

Byron Shire ratepayers have a right to know how much time council staff are spending, and the cost to ratepayers to date, planning the rail trail and putting together submissions for federal funding.

If the funding application is successful, the \$42m, or \$2.8m per kilometre it will cost to build a bike track from Crabbes Creek to Mullumbimby, means to complete the trail from Crabbes Creek to Lismore will cost an eye watering \$200m!

No independent assessment has been done to verify the economic, or any, benefits of the Tweed trail to the community. But locals can see from the many empty shops and cafes for lease in Murwillumbah, including one cafe directly opposite the Murwillumbah station and bike track, that there's little benefit for the millions spent.

What locals are continually calling for is better public transport. They want the

traffic out of towns to make them safe for pedestrians and cyclists again. They want councils to focus on their core responsibilities and ensure basic infrastructure and services are provided and maintained adequately, especially local roads, bike paths and drains.

Byron Shire ratepayers pay some of the highest rates in the country. In 2019 the cost of tourism to ratepayers was \$23m, or 80% of rates collected, and costs have increased massively since then. This is not fair or sustainable.

We're told rates are going up again to pay for roads, road maintenance and services for millions of tourists. Then locals are told they must pay for parking at the beach or shops.

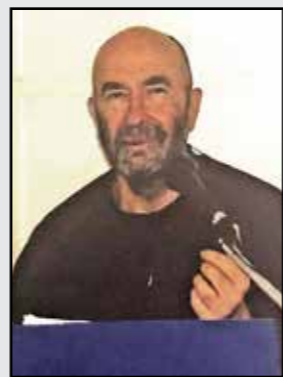
Not only is an eye watering amount of public money being wasted, the transport needs of this community, and valuable public transport infrastructure, are treated with absolute contempt.

Louise Doran
Ocean Shores
Edited for length.

In Memoriam

Farewell Marcus Makin

Jazz and classical pianist, saxophone player and singer, music teacher, guitar and puppet theatre maker and tai chi enthusiast. Beloved father of Sofia, grandfather to Lenny and Alfie and adored other person of Lilia.



by John Jiggins

Boondoggle: "An informal term for an expensive and wasteful project, especially one funded by the public." – Cambridge Dictionary.

I had come across this American word and was puzzled by its bizarre verbal mishmash. I looked it up, and found the word was used by Americans to describe wasteful and expensive government projects. It was a political word invented to critique the wasteful misuse of public funds by governments and corporations. It caused me to wonder: Was AUKUS a giant boondoggle?

The AUKUS hijack

The AUKUS Submarine Project is an enormously expensive and controversial project that will impact the Australian economy for decades, the most expensive government project ever undertaken.

It was denounced by former Prime Minister Paul Keating as "the worst deal ever." Former submariner and Senator, Rex Patrick predicted, "The AUKUS nuclear submarine project will bleed the Australian Defence Force white."

Surprisingly, the Worst Deal Ever began life in 2009 as the Future Submarine Program, a sensible and modest proposal to purchase twenty off-the-shelf conventional submarines for \$30 billion to replace Australia's ageing Collins-Class submarines, which were due for retirement in 2024.

Japan, Germany and France were identified as potential suppliers, and were given 15 months to submit their proposals, which Australia would evaluate before awarding the contract to the successful bidder to begin manufacture in 2016, with delivery starting in 2024. Tony Abbott, then PM, favoured the Japan proposal.

However, Scott Morrison and Malcolm Turnbull were busy sharpening the knives. Abbott's political assassination by their forces resulted in the Future Submarine contract being unexpectedly awarded to France, resulting in a further three-year delay.

Following the AUKUS deal, Tony Abbott's former Chief of Staff, Peta Credlin, contrasted Morrison's AUKUS deal with Abbott's Future Submarine Project. If Morrison had not betrayed Abbott in 2016, Credlin said, the Japanese submarine deal would have gone ahead, and 20 conventional submarines would be arriving at the modest cost of \$50 billion: Morrison's economy-crippling AUKUS deal cost \$368 billion for eight nuclear submarines that may or not arrive until the 2040s.

As Paul Keating argued, the advantage of nuclear submarines over conventional submarines is they can stay submerged for lengthy periods, hiding in deep ocean trenches to unleash a devastating surprise nuclear attack. They serve as part of US nuclear strategy.

Australia does not have nuclear weapons. Our defence relies on what Professor John Mearsheimer calls "the stopping power of water". We are surrounded by nations of fish to the north, east, south and west. Human invaders face the almost impossible task of transporting an army of a million or so soldiers thousands of kilometres across water.

Such a massive armada would be best repelled with missiles, drones and conventional submarines that can operate in shallow continental waters and are many times more affordable than nuclear submarines.

Buying three conventional submarines instead of one nuclear submarine would be much less expensive and more effective, Hugh White argues.

When Morrison became Prime Minister in 2019, the Future Submarine Project was running well behind time, and Americans voices were whispering about ditching the French deal and accepting the worst deal ever.

Pompeo's proxy

In his book, Morrison's Mission, Paul Kelly reveals that Mike Pompeo – the US Secretary of State in Donald Trump's first administration – was the US voice who collaborated with Morrison in planning AUKUS. Evangelical Christians both, the two men spoke every week about Jesus while plotting AUKUS.

As they drew closer, Morrison, a geostrategic lightweight, became Pompeo's protégé and was co-opted by Pompeo into the US strategic architecture. As Chair of the Strategic Advisory Board of the Hudson Institute, Mike Pompeo invited Morrison to join the Board in November 2022.

The major originator of the AUKUS strategy was Mike Pompeo, who highjacked Australia's Future Submarine Project and turned it into AUKUS. His strategy was to lock Australia into a global war allied with the US and UK against China, not an Australian-based strategy of deterring invasion.

There was little public discussion of AUKUS in parliament, or in cabinet. Australia's new security architecture was hatched largely in secret by Pompeo and Morrison. It was clearly aimed at China, Australia's major trading partner, though the name 'China' was as unmentionable as Voldemort. As ABC-TV's Utopia crew explained in 2023, AUKUS was about interrupting the trade routes of our major trading partner!

Selling AUKUS was a triumph for Pompeo. Hundreds of billions of dollars would flow to US weapon makers to fund a war against Australia's major trading partner; a war Scott Morrison, campaigned for in the 2022 election.

Presenting AUKUS as a *fait accompli* allowed Morrison to wedge Labor for being 'soft on China' ahead of the 2022 federal election. The 'China Scare' – fearmongering about China – played a significant role in Morrison's 2022 campaign.

Morrison weaponised the China Scare, accusing his Labor opponent Anthony Albanese of being "the Chinese government's pick at the election". Morrison went further, describing Labor's deputy leader as a "Manchurian candidate."

The wedge proved unsuccessful as Labor timidly folded and supported AUKUS, allowing Albanese to become PM.

Morrison departed Parliament in January 2024, disappearing through the revolving door that promotes your career from former PM to US think-tanker, and took roles on various global strategic advisory boards.

Drawing on the Pompeo connection, he joined DYNE Ventures (which employed Mike Pompeo as a strategic advisor), who said they "expected to profit" from Mr Morrison's role as architect of AUKUS.

Shortly after Morrison's resignation from Parliament, the Australian Citizens Party (ACP) wrote to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), requesting they investigate former Prime Minister Scott Morrison's decision to join private companies who will profit from the massive defence expenditure resulting from his decision to establish AUKUS.

ACP Research Director Robbie Barwick explained the NACC referral was because Morrison was climbing aboard the AUKUS gravy train to cash in on the policy he created. Smells like boondoggle!

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NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 24th July

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre

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Operational plan done



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

Winter has well and truly set in across the region, and while the mornings might be a bit sharper, there is still plenty happening across our villages as Council moves into the new financial year.

Operational plan
Council has now adopted its 2026/27 Operational Plan and Budget. In simple terms, it sets out where we are going to spend

money and what we will focus on over the next 12 months.

The priorities are familiar: roads, infrastructure, and the day-to-day services people expect Council to deliver. At the same time, we are continuing to balance this with longer-term recovery work and building resilience into everything we do.

I want to thank everyone who took the time to have a say on the Local Strategic Planning Statement and supporting strategies. Submissions closed on 26th June.

That feedback will now be considered, with updated draft strategies to be discussed at a Council meeting later this year.

Your feedback matters, because it helps shape how we manage housing, growth, land use and infrastructure across the LGA, including villages like Nimbin where people are clear about protecting local character while also dealing with pressure on housing and services.

Roads

Roads continue to be front of mind across the region, and rightly so. There is a lot of work happening, with major repair and strengthening programs now locked in for rural roads. These include connections around Nimbin and surrounding villages.

People want roads that are not just patched but actually hold up for the long term. Road updates and where Council crews are working are shared on our social media and website so people can stay up to date.

I also want to acknowledge the impact of the Tuntab Creek Road closure. Due to the scale and complexity of the landslip site, it is not safe or practical to maintain traffic or pedestrian access.

A full closure between Rose and Young Roads will be required for approximately 12 months, beginning 6th July 2026.

A detour will be in place via Pinchin Road which has been upgraded to accommodate an increase in traffic.

We understand this will be disruptive for the community and



Industry briefing on the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (and supporting strategies), held at Parliament House in Sydney.

appreciate your patience as these works are completed. We will keep people updated throughout the project, with factsheets and information also available on Council's website.

Magazine coverage

On a positive note, it was great to see Nimbin and surrounding villages featured in *Australian Traveller* recently. Most people here already know what makes this place special – the creativity,

the landscape, the people and the strong sense of community, however it is still good to see it recognised more broadly.

That mix of culture, tourism, local enterprise and community spirit is something to be proud of. It is not manufactured, it is simply who we are, and it is what keeps people coming back.

Thanks to everyone who continues to stay involved, share ideas and contribute to the direction of our region.

Kyogle Council notebook



by Mayor Danielle Mulholland OAM

Council has continued to make inroads into addressing our infrastructure backlog, with more works planned across Kyogle and our villages in the coming months.

Council is also supporting a wonderful community-driven initiative – the installation of a street piano in Kyogle.

The piano was officially launched on Saturday 13th June, with more than 300 residents attending. Congratulations to Sally Joyce for her beautiful artwork on the piano, and to the talented musicians who performed throughout the day. It was a fantastic example of our community coming together to celebrate creativity and connection.

At Council's most recent meeting, we made a number of important decisions, including:

- Requesting a report on the cost of installing a full safety fence around the play equipment at Woodenbong

- Reinstalling the fence around the toddler pool and splash park at Kyogle pool
- Lobbying the NSW and Queensland Governments regarding the current XPT timetable. A community petition is circulating and will help strengthen our case
- Beginning preparations for Council's contribution to the 2030 centenary of the first train service from Sydney to Kyogle
- Advocating for an additional dedicated four-wheel-drive ambulance to support the existing Mercedes Sprinter ambulance servicing the Kyogle local government area and other rural and regional communities across NSW
- Calling on the NSW Government to implement its own recommendations to strengthen local food systems through adequate funding and greater support for community-based food security initiatives.

For more information on these and other decisions, you can view the full Council meeting minutes on Council's website.

CWA Centenary
It was a pleasure to attend the Country Women's Association centenary celebrations in Bonalbo.

The event was extremely well attended and recognised 100 years of service to rural communities. The Bonalbo Men's Shed marked the

occasion by donating two commemorative benches to the CWA.

Congratulations to all past and present members for their extraordinary commitment to supporting local communities. The CWA has been an integral part of the history and fabric of rural Australia.

RFS fleet ownership

From 1st July, the NSW Government will finally assume ownership and management of the Rural Fire Service's red fleet, reversing the long-standing arrangement that required councils to carry the financial burden for vehicles they neither owned in practice nor controlled.

For more than 30 years, councils have been legally recognised as the owners of RFS vehicles, despite having no operational control over them.

This meant councils were responsible for depreciation, accounting and administrative costs associated with more than 6,000 RFS vehicles across New South Wales. That arrangement is finally ending.

This is a significant win for ratepayers, councils and the local government sector. It is the result of many years of persistent advocacy by the NSW Local Government Association, the Country Mayors Association and individual councils across the state, including Kyogle Council.

Good riddance to bad rubbish idea

by Cr Adam Guise



It was with great relief at the 19th June extraordinary council 'budget' meeting that the majority of councillors walked back from the brink of forcing a regional landfill ("mega dump") on the Blakebrook community. What a relief! What a victory! Let's celebrate!

At this meeting, the 2026-2027 budget included a ~\$1.3 million line item to progress a regional landfill at Blakebrook. This had never been voted on by the community, nor is it a headline item in our adopted waste strategy which prioritises waste avoidance, reuse and recycling before landfill.

Jumping straight to being the regional dumping ground without prior dialogue with the community nor a social licence doesn't cut it!

My heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to the local Blakebrook and wider Lismore communities who united, organised and campaigned against this mega-stupid idea. It's not completely dead in the water – just "paused" in the words of the Mayor – but it buys us time and a reprieve to rest, consolidate and reflect upon the question: should Lismore be the landfill capital of the Northern Rivers?

Clearly I think not, and have been vocal about this from day one. Lismore has always prided itself on being innovative, progressive and forward thinking in the waste space, having been early

adopters of vermiculture (worm farm), organics processing, recycling and phytocapping.

A series of mishaps, inadequate resourcing and mismanagement at the Wyrallah Road waste facility has seen our waste operations run down, climaxing with the 2022 flood which saw our newly built landfill cell flooded and waste strewn across the landscape. A tragedy on all accounts which resulted in us trucking waste to Queensland for the last four years.

Thankfully this has finally been rectified and we are landfilling our own waste again. But we can't landfill forever while waste generators keep creating products and packaging that can't be recycled and leave a toxic legacy which taxpayers have to pay for.

Councils are at the bottom of the waste food chain, being forced to deal with end-of-life waste problems mostly caused by multinational corporations who take no responsibility for the products or packaging they create. Ratepayers and taxpayers can't keep footing the bill for waste that is predominantly outside the control of end users.

To address the cause rather

than the symptom, we need proper cradle-to-grave laws ("product stewardship laws") which makes manufacturers, importers and product creators responsible for the products and packaging they produce. Until this occurs, councils will never be able to financially deal with the volume, type and toxicity of products and waste being generated.

This requires a whole of government response at local, state and federal levels. This is something which as a Greens Councillor – with policy and advocacy at all levels of representation – I am proud to be part of.

Intergenerational justice and ecological sustainability requires us to address the waste problem once and for all. We can't keep building landfills and think that burying our problems out of sight makes the problem go away. As with all waste and toxic products we've generated throughout history, it comes back to bite us in the end.

Let's not continue this theme to our ultimate demise. Instead let's unite, organise and advocate for the clean, green and renewable future we so strongly need and desire for health and happiness.

Budget delivers savings, safety and support for local communities

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

In the Minns Labor Government's fourth budget, the Treasurer has brought down the inherited debt and deficit, saving \$400 million a year in interest, while continuing our program of higher wages for teachers, nurses, paramedics and police to attract and keep more frontline workers.

Many items in the budget had already been announced, such as the \$7 million for the cattle tick program, \$5 million for local river health projects and major road repair and infrastructure funding.

I would like to highlight a couple of new items of particular interest to locals.

Household savings

I know many people are considering battery storage for solar power but are put off by the upfront cost. The Home Energy Saver program could be an option.

Under the scheme, eligible homeowners or landlords can apply for interest-free loans of up to \$15,000 to be used for:

- Rooftop solar PV systems and battery storage
 - Heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters
 - Reverse-cycle air conditioners
 - Ceiling insulation, draught-proofing and double-glazed windows
 - Induction cooktops replacing gas appliances
 - EV Level 2 chargers
 - Ceiling fans and switchboard upgrades
- There is also a program for homeowners and renters with an income under \$80,000 or a pension

card, offering discounts of \$4,000 on energy-saving items.

For details on eligibility and how to apply, go to: energy.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-grants-and-schemes/home-energy-saver-program

In other household savings, the Government has reduced car registration costs by \$100, with an \$80 reduction for motorbikes. This will appear on your next renewal notice.

Landmark funding for domestic and family violence services

I have a long and close association with refuges and domestic and family violence services. This sector has historically been underfunded, resulting in many vulnerable women and children being turned away from the support they need to be safe.

The budget includes a landmark \$184.1 million investment in frontline domestic and family violence services.

This major funding boost across six key domestic and family violence programs means thousands more women and children escaping violence will be able to access specialist support when they need it most.

These frontline programs include Safer Pathways, Staying Home Leaving Violence, and after-hours crisis support to help keep women and children safe. The increased funding also covers specialist support for children and young people, alongside investment in the Men's Behaviour Change program to help break the cycle of violence.

This historic funding increase is part of the broader work the Minns Government is doing to strengthen domestic and family violence laws, including:



Before heading to Parliament for budget week, Janelle Saffin viewed 'Stay Cosy', the Lismore CWA tea cosy exhibition at the Lismore Regional Gallery

- making it harder for domestic violence perpetrators to get bail
- introducing electronic monitoring and tracking of serious domestic violence perpetrators on bail
- targeting perpetrators who use coercive control
- strengthening stalking laws to target people using tracking devices or surveillance.

As I said in Parliament recently, the Government understands that abuse can be psychological, invisible and technology-enabled and our legal framework must respond accordingly.



On the same Page
by Kevin Hogan MP

Lismore Lantern Parade

The Lismore Lantern Parade once again drew crowds from across our region, with this year's event celebrating the themes of the Year of the Fire Horse, The Return of the Sun and Community Together.

The parade showcased an impressive display of handcrafted lanterns, with months of work by local schools, community groups and volunteers.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped create the spectacular lanterns and make another successful Lismore Lantern Parade possible.

Our Kids Winter Ball

The 2026 Our Kids Winter Ball raised more than \$50,000 to help purchase paediatric equipment for our local hospitals.

Celebrating its 25th year, the annual event continues to be one of the region's most significant charity fundraisers.

Thank you to Rebekka and the team, as well as the many local businesses, sponsors and volunteers who helped make the evening such a success.



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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Nimbin NAIDOC Day
This FREE event for all the family will be held on 10th July, 11am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome. Free food, live music (many thanks to Blak Boi aka Tom Avery), activities for the jarjums and a NAIDOC Day quiz with deadly prizes.
Come along to the Community Centre market site and celebrate 50 years of Deadly!

Monthly raffle - great prizes!
See our website or Facebook page for our monthly raffle prize. The June raffle winner was drawn on the first business day of July. Thanks very much to the Nimbin Organic Food Co-op for the June raffle prize of a \$100 voucher.
Six are 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. Just \$5.50 to support your neighbourhood centre. The Tools Library is an additional \$22 for the year. Drop by NNIC to renew. Or to join - new members welcome!

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Scams are on the increase. NEVER click on links from text messages or emails. Always manually enter: <https://my.gov.au> in your address bar (i.e. at the top of your browser screen) to enter the my.gov site, to ensure you are in the correct website.

7 Sibley Street updates
See the July program in this edition of the NGT (p. 6). NEW! Children's gardens project - contact Steph



at: sibley@nnic.org.au for more info. Also contact Steph to get involved in our fabulous NimBINChickens plastics recycling project - happening Tuesdays at the Showground.

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. Also, all welcome to drop into our...

• **Weekly Food Pantry** every Wednesday 1pm Rain or Shine (mostly rain just lately!) cheap groceries to help you make ends meet. In the garage next to the Bark Hut Shed opposite the Neighbourhood Centre in the Community Centre grounds.

• **Weekly Soup Kitchen** every Friday at midday, rain or shine - also at the Bark Hut Shed. Vege and meat options cooked with love by our wonderful cooking team.

Donations
If you would like to donate to NNIC, 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.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Email us on: admin@nnic.org.au or drop in to ask for a tax receipt.

Services Australia

SCAM ALERT

Centrelink We're here to help you. We've noticed some activity on your Centrelink account. Please check it to make sure you're getting the right information on time, you might lose your extra info. If you don't make sure you keep receiving the support you need, so please update your Centrelink details.

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 Boundaries
responsive Competent
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 16th July. Phone 6688-1400 for an appointment.

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

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 16th July.

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

Nimbin MSP
Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am to 12.30pm. MSP dispenses bulk injecting equipment during these hours. Come and speak to our friendly staff.

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

Bad news
The H5 bird flu has now been detected in Australia. More than 150 of Australia's native and unique bird species - including the red goshawk, shy albatross and black swan - have been assessed as being at very high risk of extinction or major decline if they catch the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain.

Worsening climate change
The world's leaders seem too distracted by other matters to worry very much about the world they share with the rest of us.

There are even ego-driven fools who would further torture the atmosphere of the planet in order to get away from it! Elon Musk, the SpaceX boss wants to sell tickets for transport to the moon, Mars and beyond. And his rockets are not fuelled by solar batteries!

But then neither are those sent towards their neighbours by aggressors in Russia, Israel, USA and Iran. We wonder how conflicts will affect prices and availability of fossil fuels and give little thought to the environmental damage caused by pollution.

Record temperatures in Europe recently point towards further difficulty for humans and other species, all of whom share this beautiful planet and must suffer and adapt. Do we think that we can burn more fossil fuel to cool our

dwelling? Can we escape to other planets if and when the Earth becomes uninhabitable?
The current American president says, "Climate change is a hoax." That could be cold comfort if it were true... but it's not. "Drill, Baby, Drill" may soon become "Burn, Baby, Burn!"

Mega Tip Blakebrook Quarry
Many objections have been raised to the proposal to transport garbage from as far away as Coffs Harbour to tip into the hole at Council's gravel quarry north of Lismore. It seems totally stupid to spend money on fuel and other costs to transport rubbish such a distance.

So far, no other councils have committed to the arrangement to dump their rubbish here. Increased traffic and biosecurity are issues, and the possibility of future incinerators could result in toxic emissions.

Please sign the petition in the NEC shop. Also send letters/email to LCC objecting to this foolish idea.

The logs are not available because Victoria has legislated an end to logging in state-owned forests. Thus, the gains for one state in protection for wildlife are being paid for by the wildlife of another state as Tasmania supplies sawmills in Victoria.

Surely the end has come for the free ride! The timber mills should buy their logs from timber plantations. The colonial-era rip-off by this privileged industry needs to stop.

Lobby politicians
We look forward to the state elections as a chance to influence the political decision-makers. Sometimes the candidates address issues of concern to environmentalists, and if they are elected, we can remind them of commitments.

Such was the case with the NSW Labor government who promised to protect some of our rare and endangered wildlife via the creation of a Great Koala National Park (GKNP) in the region inland from Coffs Harbour, mainly by protecting forests that the public already owns: our State Forests.

After being elected in March 2023, the ALP did declare an end to logging in certain public native forests for the GKNP. This government has been concerned with a great many other matters and has neglected to finish the job, and we wait for formal legislation to be approved by NSW parliament.

We hope this will occur before the next election - due before April 2027. The time to lobby politicians is now, as political conventions occur to make platform decisions well in advance.

"Waste" to energy
The NCC is currently contesting any re-start of the Redbank power station near Singleton. Verdant Earth Co wants to burn organic "waste" to create electricity.

NCC's Jacqui Mumford writes: "If we lose, it sets a horrific precedent, opening up the floodgates for the destruction of tens of thousands of hectares of Western NSW woodland - home to endangered and threatened species like koalas, pink cockatoos, and western pygmy-possums - to be burned for electricity."

This comes at a time when land clearing rates have already sky-rocketed since changes to the land clearing legislation in 2017.

Last week, the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists released a report that found land clearing rates have doubled since the last government made it easier to clear private land.

World Environment Day
Celebrated at Murwillumbah Showgrounds on 7th June, the local World Environment Day observance attracted an excellent crowd.
The event, organised by the Caldera Environment Centre and Tweed Shire



World Environment Day stall

Council, hosted a variety of stalls providing activities for children along with information on a range of topics and eco-friendly products.
NEC, NRG and KEG shared two stalls and promoted the Richmond River Koala Park designed to protect native forests and habitat for wildlife including koalas and greater gliders.

A number of speakers, including Tweed Mayor Chris Cherry, Mandy Nolan, and Portsville author Joelle Gergis spoke about the importance of protecting the planet for future generations.

Gergis, a long-time expert on climate science, refuted claims by some fossil fuel promoters who claim that shifts in the Earth's climate have nothing to do with pollution. "The evidence is clear, and we have no time to waste with such bullshit," she said.

Richmond River Koala Parks
In the southern Richmond River valley 56,000ha of State Forests are proposed to be added to 79,000 ha of existing National Parks. This encompasses the largest extent of Nationally Important Koala Areas in the Richmond, along with habitat for 130 other species

Of melting glaciers and Benedictine monks

by John Macleay, Kyogle Environment Group



What's a collapsing glacier in Antarctica and another one that's completely disappeared in Iceland have to do with Benedictine monks?
It's all to do with the tyranny of the ever-present now as concern about future generations takes a back seat in the uncontrolled experiment of late-stage capitalism that we are living through.

This isn't just another column about collapsing eco-systems and the wilful ignorance of government, industry and mainstream media playing their part in this witches' brew of awfulness; it's a nuanced look at perhaps the cultural reasons why ultra-short-termism rules the dominant economic narrative of the planet.

First the glaciers. Thwaites Glacier, in Antarctica now has the moniker of Doomsday, because according to May's *New Scientist* magazine, it's on the brink of detaching from that continent's ice sheet due to warming ocean water.

Over time, this will lead to a 3.3-metre rise in sea level. While that will drown the towns of Evans Head, Byron Bay and Ballina, and disrupt the lives of billions living in low-lying areas of the planet, it may take centuries to complete.

A plaque was placed where it used to exist, on Ok Volcano. It reads: "A letter to the future. Ok is the first Icelandic glacier to lose its status as a glacier. In the next 200 years all our glaciers are expected to follow the same path. This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it. August 2019, 415ppm CO₂"

Only those born generations into the future will know if there will be any success. Today, global CO₂ is 432 parts per million (ppm) and is expected to climb to 450 ppm by mid-Century when average world temperatures will be three degrees or more above their pre-industrial average. We are already at 1.5°.

And how do Benedictine monks fit into this? Science author Jeremy Rifkin writes in his book *Planet Aqua* that in about 1300 the Benedictines were the first to think of time as a scarce resource. For them, time belonged to God. They had to use every waking moment to pay homage to their Lord. Each day was dedicated to relentless, organised activity.

Anthropologists have suggested the Benedictines were the first cohort to adhere to schedules. But they faced the problem of how to stay on schedule and found their answer with their discovery of the mechanical clock. That invention was so alluring that it spread beyond the cloisters and into the public domain.

introduced during the 1970s.

All of this has been hyper-charged by the world wide web whose screen-based format lends itself to pictures and no more than a few dozen words per story. Tik Tok and Instagram are the very profitable talismans of this mindset. And it is not without reason that the Silicon Valley hi tech Bros have made a beeline to this technology.

Today's tyranny of the ever-present now does have a flip side. Decisions being made today radically discount the future. Not just in the traditional economic sense, where the value of money today is worth more than the future, but future generations not even getting a seat at the table.

The idea of time and responsibility is fundamentally tied up in how we should view the future, says Roman Krznaric, author of *The Good Ancestor*. Krznaric calls for the creation of relationships with those generations well into the future beyond the memory and life span that we may ever be involved with.

This includes the idea of seventh-generation decision making. How will a decision today affect those seven generations away, about 200 or so years into the future? Given the dearth of any decision-making about the future, let alone court rulings that Australia's government has no responsibility to the next generation regarding climate decisions, this is a tall order indeed.

But Krznaric says it is possible. He visualises looking left, down to the long line of your ancestors from the past and then realise how much your life depended on them; and then look right to the generations ahead and realise how much of their life will depend on yours.

It's to recognise that you're part of something that is bigger, a sense of meaning through



that relationship. It is a common factor among traditional cultures, especially among Indigenous Australians. But it is lacking in the narrative of late-stage capitalism that has captured political, economic and media spheres to the point of global dominance.

Which brings me to the Clock of the Long Now, the idea of building something that will last 10,000 years. The idea of the Clock of the Long Now symbolises multi-generational long-term thinking.

You don't have to go that far in time and place to give a sense of what we need to do. Look around you. What today will be around in 100 years, let alone 10,000?
We're benefitting from the long-term thinking from our great grandparents' generation, just a tiny strand of our past line of ancestors. The rail line from Kyogle to Brisbane, 100 years to the month since construction began, is proof of this writ large. Then there's the careful management of country for tens of thousands of years by traditional owners.

Culture and legacy doesn't always have to be in a book or on YouTube.