

Letters

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin GoodTimes.

Building compliance

Gor a dwelling tucked away in the paddock? Kyogle's Mayor has been thinking about you. On ABC North Coast radio on 5th June, Mayor Danielle Mulholland warned residents that for non-compliant buildings, "Council will get involved, there will be fines, you may end up having to tear it down."

Fair enough – statutory requirements exist for a reason. Safety matters. But here's a question worth asking: how many of Council's own buildings would pass that same test?

As a former Building Inspector at Kyogle Council, I can tell you of a couple that wouldn't: offices fitted into fire sheds, questionable accessibility, questionable fire safety...

If ratepayers can be told to tear it down, who tells Council?

Maybe it's time for an independent audit of Council-owned buildings – by an unrestricted building surveyor, not Council marking its own homework.

Mattias Nowe
Kyogle

Authoritarianism and war

John Scrivener's letter on the art of war (NGT Letters, July 2026) was spot on until the last paragraph. It should have read: 'Russian dictator Putin clings to the medieval ways of Machiavelli, constantly waging war, heaping failure upon failure.'

Putin's botched invasion of Ukraine is stalled in a bloodbath only he can end. Over one million Russian conscripts dead (almost all young men from poor, rural

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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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backgrounds) in a grinding war of attrition with no end in sight.

Only one man can end this war, but his ego and dictatorship depends on an elusive victory, so the war grinds on with little regard for the human consequences. Ukrainians are fighting for their survival. Russians are fighting for their leader. What can be more medieval than that?

Meanwhile, John Scrivener thinks that "China flourishes in modern ways, anchored in wisdom, winning without wars." Have you asked the average Tibetan or Uighur about that? Maybe get a second opinion from a Burmese, Taiwanese or for that matter, Chinese who happen to believe in the democratic ideals of free speech.

China is quietly biding its time and is especially buoyed by declining America under right-wing populist Trump, but don't be fooled that China isn't capable of the same mistakes made by Russia.

China, like Russia, has never experienced democracy. The Chinese, like Russians have only ever known authoritarianism. In Russia, Putin is the latest in a long line of violent despots. Chinese autocrats appear benevolent, but the massacre at Tiananmen Square in 1989 exposed their thin veneer.

The average Chinese is at the whim of whatever their masters think best for them. If that means starting WW3 by invading Taiwan, they'll go willingly.

The truth is, as biologist EO Wilson said, "Humans

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have Palaeolithic emotions, medieval institutions and god-like technologies".

The best our species can hope for is the rule of law and pluralistic democracy. You won't find this in China or Russia, but in Western countries not yet tainted by the deceit of right-wing populism as seen in the USA.

The art of war is a lesson why we must defend liberal democracy from those who wish to rule by the 'law of the jungle'.

Simon Alderton
Byron Bay

Christian faith

It was with utter despair that I read Terry O'Sullivan's letter ('Jesus is alive' NGT July 2026). This phenomenon of completely denying facts just beggars belief.

The facts are that over 75,000 people in Gaza, many of them children, have been killed (independent survey by The Lancet); Palestinian children have one of the highest rates of limb amputations in the world; Israel continues to encroach on Palestinian land in both Gaza and the West Bank and

In Memoriam
Andrew "Andy"
Philip Kerr

23-5-1953 to 13-7-2026

He lived in Croftons Road, Nimbin and passed away in Toowoomba.

A mass will be held for him on 8th August, 1.30pm at Lady of Lourdes Church, Newtown 4350, followed by a wake at The Southern Hotel, Kearney's Spring.

For more details, contact Robin on 0400-050-770.

illegal settlements continue to be built; Palestinians are still being killed despite the so-called ceasefire.

I could go on and on with shocking facts about this conflict, but you get the gist.

The claim by Terry O'Sullivan that Israel is being "annihilated" and is subjected to "attempted genocide" is patently untrue. Israel has occupied Syria, Lebanon, is bombing Iran and continues to force Palestinians off their land in Gaza and the West Bank – these are the acts of an aggressor, not of a nation that is being annihilated.

Terry O'Sullivan's claim that "Jesus is Alive and is returning one day," and that somehow this justifies what Israel has subjected the Palestinian people to, is baffling. While I am not a Christian, my understanding of the Christian faith is of forgiveness, kindness, charity, tolerance and humility.

I would suggest Terry O'Sullivan's Jesus would be horrified at the actions of the Israeli Government against the Palestinian people.

Sharon Whalley
Nimbin

Notices

Special General Meeting

The Nimbin Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club Inc will hold an SGM on Saturday 8th August, 9.30am for 10am at the club, to vote on proposed updated constitution.

Civilisation solutions

With all of the existential crises facing the world, it would be nice to find a solution. Most proposals involve insights that, if everyone just realised (if only...), then everything would be resolved.

Unfortunately, the interaction of evolved human nature and the societal structures that accompany urban civilisation, make escape from our current situation impossible.

Humans have evolved a potential for unconditional parental love and oneness/kinship that has been turned up to 11.

As with all evolved potentials, passed on through genetics, there is a range of variation. Some people feel the love less and have less drive towards pro-social behaviour.

In small kin/clan societies with strong authentic relationships, members who are less inclined to practice pro-social behaviour are supported to be able to contribute positively to their society. This has been the case for all of human history up until the last 10-12,000 years.

When people started living in larger abstract urban societies, the ability to identify and support those less motivated to behave pro-socially fell away.

Those whose genetics allowed for behaviour that

falls under the 'dark triad' (machiavellian, narcissism and psychopathy) were much better placed to seize/create positions of power.

Once in power, the norms of behaviour can be rewritten to valourise anti-social behaviours and denigrate pro-social ones, in-groups and out-groups are created.

Thus we end up with a society where support for negative behaviours is written at every level; language, culture, law, government, religion, business, and interpersonal relationships – authoritarian control is the air we breathe.

While most proposed answers to the world's problems involve building change across populations and making incremental structural improvements, it would seem that a relatively few people can take and hold onto power while subjugating the broader population to control through both force and cultural/institutional direction.

There may be nothing you can do. But if you want meaning and purpose, take inspiration from other wild animals who do what they've evolved to do, and follow your evolved potential – unconditional love and authentic relationships with everything.

Matt Nicholls
Jiggi

Edited for length

In Memoriam
Terry John
Bressington

27-8-1954 to 11-7-2026

It is with great sadness that I share the passing of my beloved brother Terry Bressington who passed away peacefully on 11th July.

Terry was a much-loved member of the Nimbin community, whose kindness, generosity and warmth touched the lives of many.

To all who knew him, he was a true champion – quietly, steadily, always there. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Forever remembered, forever loved.

– Leonie Bressington, for the family



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by Bernardine Schwartz

If there's one thing I've learnt, it's keep it simple, but we have this primal need to constantly tamper with things. It always has to be bigger, better and shinier, even if it functioned nicely to begin with.

When computers entered our homes, I distinctly remember the sales pitch. They were going to make our lives easier, so they said. Go paperless and spare the trees they said, and look what followed.

Technology has been thrust upon us, and what a colossal burden it is on the planet. The introduction of smartphones is a chronic addiction for many, with plenty of research to back it up.

Society is so attached that people check them on average 144 times a day like a newborn baby. Statistics from Ericsson show there are currently 7.648 billion mobile connections associated with smartphones.

According to Bryce Energy Services, on average the energy used annually charging a smartphone is comparable to the monthly consumption of a standard refrigerator. Then the constant need to update them costs one to two percent of the world's energy and this is just scratching the surface!

If you have your smartphone handy it gives you instant access to just about anything, but there are hidden costs involved.

According to Vamp there are more than 100 social media platforms. On a monthly basis the most popular are, Facebook with 3.1 billion participants, YouTube 2.5 billion, Instagram 2 billion and TikTok 1.5 billion.

The energy used yearly just to operate Facebook is equivalent to a small nation like Jordan. Then there's the added impact of regular followers who contribute on average 414kg to their annual carbon footprint. It's a repetitive story.

The exact figure for YouTube and Netflix is dependent on your device, but every hour of streaming releases approximately 42g of carbon dioxide, taking into account data centres, transmission networks and playback devices.

There are no official figures for Instagram but its continual dependence on video streaming and the energy needed to function, makes it the most

polluting. Put into perspective, there are more than 500 million people who spend around 28 minutes on Instagram daily, which equals 21,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases. Or put another way, one hour daily adds 33kg to their yearly carbon footprint.

Independent research into carbon and energy usage for TikTok shows it emits about 50 million metric tonnes of greenhouse gases per annum, and a single minute of scrolling on TikTok generates nearly three grams of emissions.

To access all of this you need apps and currently there are 8.9 million available across all major platforms, yet most are unnecessary, and worse they consume 1.5% to 3% of the world's energy daily.

What makes all this possible? It might seem like it appears out of thin air but there's a dark side: data processing centres, and they're spreading rapidly, driven by unrealistic ambitions, the AI revolution.

Australia is currently running in second place after the US, asserting and positioning itself to be the hub of the Asia Pacific region, with our wind farms and solar arrays making us a favourable location. As for our water supply, it grows scarcer by the day.

Research from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy shows an average data processing facility covers hundreds of acres, every day gulping down as much water as a city of 50,000 people. That's nearly 19 million litres of water.

Statistics from the International Energy Agency (IEA) show the storage of documents or streaming videos in a conventional data centre's think cloud, every day draws as much electricity as 10,000 to 25,000 households.

According to the Australian Climate Council, there are currently 160 centres now operating, clustered around Sydney and Melbourne, with another 90 proposed.

Now imagine the power and water a data processing facility would need when it takes up 52 hectares of land, accommodating six four storey buildings 40 metres in height, along with 936 cooling units, plus 852 diesel powered generators as back up.

That's the size of the proposed centre for the outer western suburbs of Sydney, a controversial 'Hyperscale' data centre, and if approved it will be one of the largest in the world. And it will be the greediest sole user of Australia's

electricity.

The proliferation of apps and cloud-based services are already taxing data centres, consuming roughly 5% of Australia's electricity and stealing 3.5 billion litres of water in Sydney every year.

Alex Hooper is head of climate and energy economics at Oxford Economics Australia, and according to his calculations 2.8% of the east coast's electricity consumption is taken by these climate-controlled centres and projected to reach more than 10% by the mid-2030s.

There are 11,959 data processing centres operating worldwide, and another 3,200 needed to drive the AI boom. An AI data processing centre can use up to ten times more electricity, and a basic AI internet query, uses 10 to 50 times more electricity than a standard web search.

Even a short 100-word response from AI, uses 500ml of water just for cooling systems. A report from the United Nations Regional Information Centre reveals the demand for water by AIs will reach 4.2 to 6.6 billion cubic metres by 2027 globally.

This can only lead us to an environmental catastrophe, especially when according to the IEA, 82% of the world's energy is still powered by fossil fuels, including Australia with 60.5%.

A report from the UN spells it out loud and clear. By 2030 AI's needs will equal 1.3 billion people and the energy consumed will be triple that of 650 million. Their land footprint will be more than 14,500km2, and emissions will be 400 million tonnes annually!

We're primitives living in a sugar-coated world with no instinctual compass to guide us. We've been shooting in the dark with a cannon ball and what a lasting impression we've made.

We have the planet spinning round like a wheel of fortune. "Where's my 15 minutes of fame?" they chant. "How many likes did I get today?" That's standing up and being counted. We're already in way over our heads, and no doubt we'll be dying of thirst and hunger.

So have your smartphone ready to stream live across the globe, while Mother Earth sets the scene for the final act, with the spotlight shining down upon us, the sponsors and orchestrators of her last waltz.

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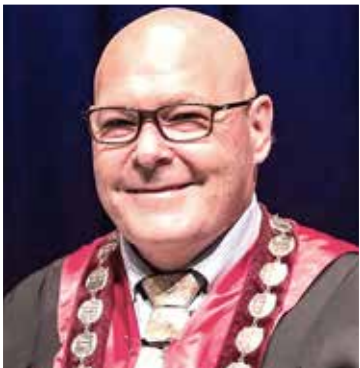
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Art and culture trail for Nimbin



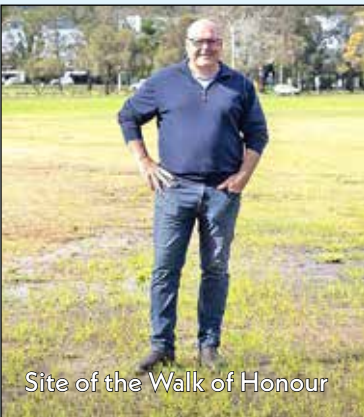
From the mayor's desk
by Cr Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

It's encouraging to see so many projects progressing, from destination marketing and road improvements to long-term planning for our region's future. We continue to invest in promoting our region as a vibrant destination, and it's exciting to see Nimbin showcased in the latest destination marketing initiatives.

Developed in consultation with the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and local creatives, the new Art and Culture Trail celebrates Nimbin's unique creative spirit. This will include its galleries, public art, workshops, events and immersive cultural experiences to inspire visitors to stay longer and explore more. The trail is designed to strengthen Nimbin's reputation as one of Australia's most distinctive arts and culture destinations while supporting local businesses and creatives. A new destination video is now screening at Ballina Byron Gateway Airport, and in August will also feature at the Gold Coast Airport, highlighting the authentic and unforgettable experiences of our region. These initiatives help to introduce new audiences to the creativity, character and community that make Nimbin such a special place to visit.

Road repairs
Positive news: work is now underway on the long-term repair of Tuntable Creek Road. Over the next 12 months, six major landslips will be repaired in the area, including the large slip between Rose and Young Roads. We know the construction period will be challenging, but the result will be worth it. Once these works are complete, the temporary traffic lights and rain-related closures should be things of the past. To keep traffic moving safely during construction, a detour has been put in place via Pinchin Road. This route was chosen because it offers better visibility and safer driving conditions. We also completed a number of upgrades to Pinchin Road before the works began to help it cope with the extra traffic. We understand that some people are choosing to use Koonorigan Road as a shorter alternative. However, that road

was never designed to carry this level of traffic and is already showing signs of wear and tear. To help manage this, Council will bring forward planned maintenance works, with a separate landslip repair project and pavement upgrades also scheduled for later this year. While there will be some short-term inconvenience, these projects will deliver lasting improvements and help create a safer, more reliable road network for our community. I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding. For more info, visit: lismore.nsw.gov.au/tuntablecreekroad



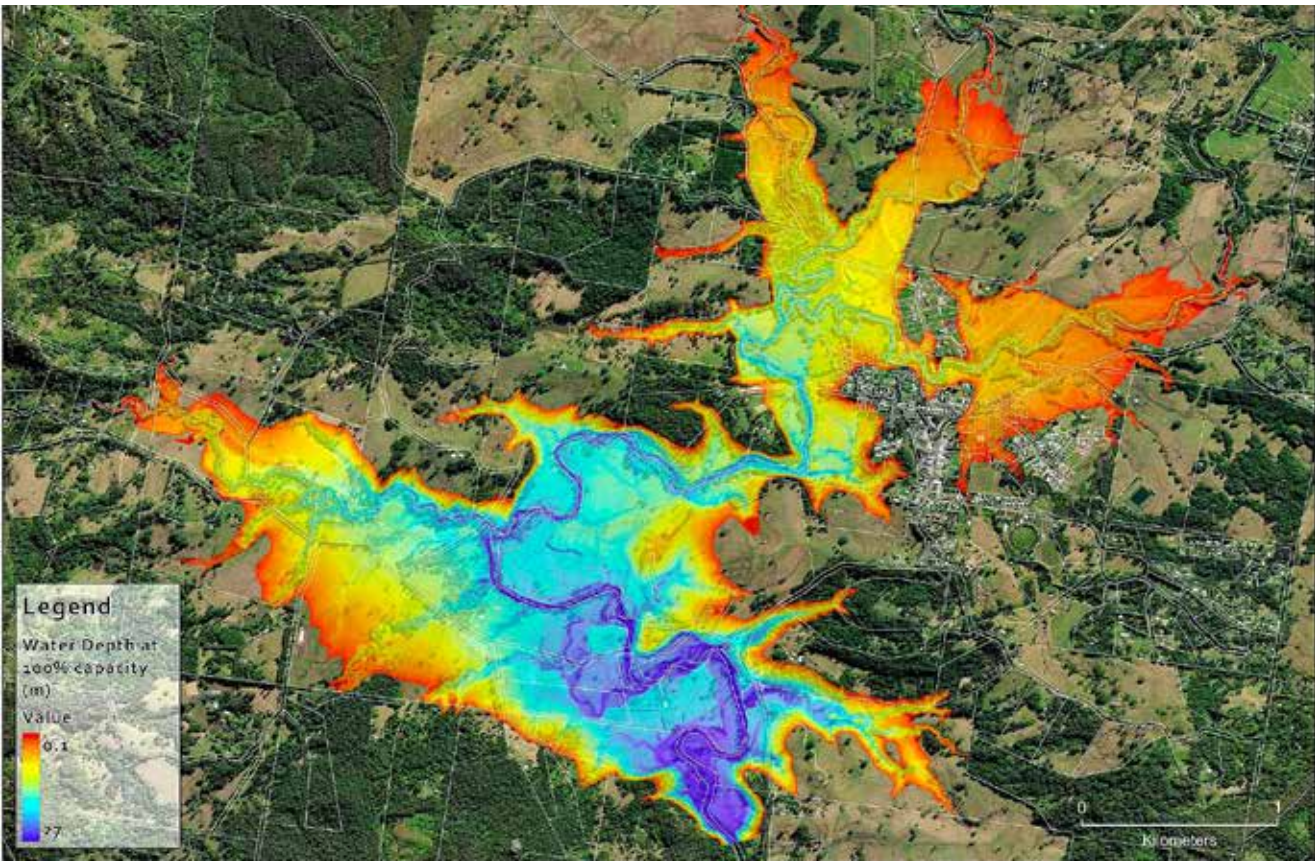
outcomes of detailed feasibility studies. **Walk of Honour**
I encourage the Nimbin community to start thinking about local people whose achievements deserve recognition in the proposed Lismore Walk of Honour, part of the future Lismore Boulevard – Shared User Path project. We'll invite nominations soon. There is plenty happening across our region, and I look forward to sharing more updates as these projects continue to take shape.

Concerns over detention dam scenarios



Council notebook
by Cr Virginia Waters
Lismore City Council

The release of the final CSIRO Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (NRRI) Report on 30th June has understandably dominated discussion across our region and in Council. The report presents high resolution hydrological modelling and explores a range of flood mitigation scenarios for the Richmond River catchment. While I welcome the science and the improved understanding of flood behaviour it provides, I remain deeply concerned by every detention dam scenario modelled for the upper catchment. I strongly oppose progressing these scenarios to a feasibility study and believe public investment should instead be directed towards climate adaptation, nature-based solutions and, where appropriate, planned retreat. The level of community engagement has been extraordinary. Hundreds of people attended recent information sessions in Kyogle, Lismore, Ballina, Casino and Woodburn, sending a clear message that people care deeply about the future of our river, farmland, forests, landscapes and communities. I hope that message is heard loudly by the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), councillors and decision makers at all levels of government. I was also disappointed that Council chose to rush through a Mayoral Minute to incorporate Bundle 2 from the CSIRO report into the Flood Risk Management Plan, which was not even the recommendation, before councillors and staff had received the scheduled workshop briefing. Given the significance of the report and the absence of the detailed inundation maps, I believe the community deserved better, and councillors deserved more time to fully understand the implications before the matter was progressed. I voted against this motion alongside Cr Guise. Restoring wetlands and



Community-developed map of Goolmangar Creek detention basin showing maximum flood level effect on Nimbin village

floodplains, protecting and revegetating our catchments, improving emergency preparedness, strengthening planning controls and supporting people to relocate from the highest flood risk areas will build resilience while working with rather than against the natural landscape. For the Nimbin community, the potential impacts are particularly concerning and require vigilance. Based on the co-ordinates released by CSIRO and the community-produced mapping, the Goolmangar detention dam scenario appears to affect one of the region's most significant Aboriginal cultural sites, the Nimbin Rocks, deeply respected and valued by the wider community. Surrounding farms, businesses, homes, forests and rural properties would also be inundated. If the community mapping accurately reflects the modelling, the consequences for Nimbin and its surrounding communities during a major flood event would be catastrophic. The absence of detailed inundation maps alongside the report has made meaningful community consultation extremely difficult, sadly a theme that continues to recur throughout the post-2022 flood recovery. We are advised that NEMA expects to release the final maps by mid-August. *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*

Working together, delivering results

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore



Janelle Saffin with Jeff Imeson at his Coffee Camp property and Jim Kinkade (left), President of North Coast Regional Landcare

communities across the state. Everyone deserves the opportunity to gain their licence, and as we know, it is particularly important in regional areas where having a drivers licence can be critical for securing a job. This Australian-first initiative has been established as part of Transport for NSW's successful Driver Licensing Access Program (DLAP) and will help more Aboriginal people access culturally safe support from within their own communities. By training Aboriginal driving instructors, the Government is investing in local leaders, creating meaningful employment opportunities and ensuring communities have trusted local people delivering driver education. The first cohort includes 20 Aboriginal participants from the Far West, Western, Northern and Southern regions of NSW. Once training is complete, the initiative will expand to more communities across the state.



Some of the revellers at LisAmore

On the same Page
by Kevin Hogan MP

No more delay
Four years after the 2022 flood disaster, the long-awaited CSIRO report has been released. The report provided flood mitigation recommendations that could significantly reduce future flood impacts across our region. The report models solutions including dry holding ponds and opening Boundary Creek to the ocean, and estimates the 2022 flood would have been lowered by around 2 metres in Lismore if the measures had been in place. Another flood is inevitable, the report provided us evidence-based solutions that will reduce flood risk, improve insurance affordability, encourage investment and help families remain in the region. I call on the State and Federal Labor Governments to commit funding and begin implementing the CSIRO recommendations.

Lismore Friendship Festival
The Lismore Friendship Festival, 'LisAmore', once again celebrated everything Italian in our community. It was a wonderful day filled with fantastic food, market stalls, pasta, pizza, prosecco, delicious desserts, the popular salami wheel, dancing and tug-of-war, creating a great atmosphere for everyone. Thank you to the committee members Gianpiero Battista, Julie De Nardi, Nancy Gava, Severino Doroit, Dan Jackson, Marie Best, Ernesto Angelosanto, Doris Rosa and Leanne Clark, along with the event sponsors, for bringing another outstanding community festival to life.

Discounted Rego
And in other motoring news, a reminder that from now on local drivers will begin receiving their vehicle registration renewal notices with a discount applied. Drivers of privately owned vehicles will receive \$100 off their rego, while motorcyclists will receive an \$80 discount.

Aboriginal Driver Instructor program
In a welcome initiative, Transport for NSW has set up a program to train Aboriginal driving instructors, boosting access to culturally safe licensing support in

So far, about 62 hectares have been revegetated, 40km of riverbank restored, and more than 84,000 native trees and sedges planted, to reduce erosion and improve the condition of creeks and river systems. Nearly 7,000 people have participated in the initiative through training, education and project delivery, helping build our local capability to continue this work. I recently visited one of the projects, at Jeff Imeson's property at Coffee Camp, where revegetation, fencing and water management are already improving the creek condition and water quality at the confluence of Bishops and Goolmangar creeks.



Labor, Liberals, One Nation - The Corruptibles!



by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

Back in 2022, I chaired a Parliamentary Inquiry into what looked like political corruption within the NSW Liberal Party ranks and dodgy developers in and around Sydney. I was quite new into the Upper House of NSW and frankly, I was appalled at what I was exposed to. It was obvious there was something really dirty going on, it had the same establishment politics vibes as the corrupt conduct of Labor's convicted criminals former Ministers Eddie Obeid and Ian MacDonald. The Inquiry focused on a ring of over privileged, entitled, deeply religious, Liberal Party men, they called themselves the Reformers, a group within the far right faction of the NSW Liberals. That faction includes Angus Taylor, Tony

Abbott and other powerful men currently in positions of power. Also implicated was a very dodgy billionaire property developer, Jean Nassif – he fled the country the day after we established our Inquiry and is now hiding out in Lebanon, and has left behind a trail of defective buildings and over \$1.6 billion in debts. There is a warrant out for his arrest. The allegations were that the Reformers were obsessively engaged in 'branch stacking' the Liberal Party ranks with their own people so that they could get 'their people' into positions of political power. The dodgy developer Nassif would "pay" for this work and in return, with "their people" in the right positions, he would get his dodgy developments off the ground with more ease. His company TopPlace has left behind 100s of victims of his defective buildings that were meant to be people's homes. In this sort of despicable politics people are collateral damage. In order to investigate the allegations our Inquiry summonsed the people involved to give evidence, to explain themselves. Jean Nassif fled the Country and the Liberal wannabe king makers, who included two brothers of former Liberal Premier Dominic Perrotto, refused to attend. In fact, a number of the people called before the Inquiry went to great lengths to avoid being served



the summons to attend – hiding in cars, hiding out on properties in Deniliquin and racing through the forest when process servers were approaching, skirting off to Fiji and crossing the border to Victoria. Our Inquiry went as far as it could; we had to wrap up because the 2023 State Election was on the horizon and the Parliament was prorogued. We didn't get to the bottom of the issues or the depth of the possible corruption. We referred the matters that we had uncovered to ICAC, the Independent Commission against Corruption. Now some three years later,

ICAC's public hearings into these sordid affairs have started. They are investigating possible offences under the Electoral Funding Act. So far ICAC is following the 'dirty money' which we now know not only comes from the dodgy developer, but also the fountain of Catholic Schools NSW. Other bankroller operatives were so right-wing, they thought Scott Morrison had gone 'woke'. While another ICAC Inquiry reveals the workings of the dark underbellies, what is already clear for all to see is that the establishment parties are corruptible. In fact, the very machinery of those parties invites and thrives on power, money, deals and corruption. I am so proud to be part of the Greens. We are the longest serving non establishment party in Australian politics. We have loosened the stranglehold establishment parties and the elite have had over our democracy. We've improved transparency and accountability in politics. We shine lights on corruption and wrongdoing, while we focus on people, the planet and justice, and we've shown that you can be principled in politics. We are the only players who do not take corporate donations, we practice grass roots democracy and as a result we are unappealing to the awful corruptible parts of politics. The most recent manifestation of establishment politics is Pauline Hanson and Gina Rhinehart's One Nation, they would like many to believe they're different, that somehow, they're anti-establishment, but they're honestly not. They are the establishment, backed by the billionaires and peddling the politics of fear, hate and division, it is Trumpian. We have a State Election on the horizon and if the polls are anything to go by, it looks like the deciding votes in the next NSW Parliament will come down to One Nation or the Greens. If you are not already, perhaps it's time to get involved!

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

NAIDOC Day
 Many thanks to everyone who helped make Nimbin NAIDOC Day another great event on 10th July. Especially:

- Gilbert – for the smoking ceremony.
- Uncle Cecil – for the lovely warm Welcome.
- Tom aka Blakboi Productions – for organising and running the sound, performances and generally keeping the good vibe going.
- Chiara – for organising activities for the Jarjums.
- Nicolette – for cooking up a storm as always – despite numerous challenges, not the least of which being the last-minute venue change.
- Ron – for BBQing in adverse conditions.
- Tahlia – for loads of help with loads of things.
- Amanda – for helping out with the Quiz.
- Rose – for last minute tea and coffee set-up.
- SCU mob – for bringing good vibes.
- CWA for the cakes.
- Bob and Peter and the NNIC Soup Kitchen crew for the soup.
- School of Arts – for last minute use of the Hall.
- Tim Tonks – for sorting out some lights at incredibly short notice so the performers weren't playing in the dark!
- Kate – for putting up with unexpected invasion of the Hall and general chaos descending suddenly upon her.

Thanks to all the wonderful performers: Blakboi, Vaan, Uncle Roy Gordon, Uncle Dave Nicholls, Steve Didge, and the Babilali Dancers – thanks for coming along and so generously sharing culture with the Nimbin community. And to everyone who came along on the day.

July monthly raffle
 Thanks very much to the Green Bank for the July raffle prize of a \$150 massage and cleaning products package. All raffle proceeds support our services and activities.

7 Sibley Street updates
 NimBIN Chickens need your plastic! We are converting your plastic waste to useful stuff (like benches!).
COLLECT IT< RINSE IT < DRY IT and BRING IT to NNIC or 7 Sibley Street.
What plastics do we collect?
 • All plastic lids
 • Milk bottles and yoghurt containers
 • Anything with the numbers: 2 HDPE, 4 LDPE, 5 PP.

Thanks to CMC Hull
 We are grateful for the donations to NNIC in July of a variety of material aid including nappies, sanitary and toiletry items, and pantry goods for distribution to people in need in our community.

Memberships
 All memberships fell due on 1st July.
 Drop in to renew your membership or to join NNIC.
 One of the things funding bodies look at when considering the community impact of an organisation is the number of members – so that merely by joining NNIC you can support us to support our community.
 A bargain at a mere \$5.50 per annum incl GST. Tools Library membership is an additional \$22 for the year. Drop by NNIC to renew or to join.

Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group (NDRG)
 NNIC, auspicing NDRG, has received funds from the Resourcing Community Resilience Project funds (via Resilient Lismore/NRMA) to upgrade, enhance and expand on our Nimbin UHF radio network, to enable community communications in the event of a disaster and any subsequent loss of ordinary networks such as phones and broadband.
 A Community Radio Day will be held later this year to train community members in



Receiving much-needed donations from CMC Hull

the use of UHF radios and the new Nimbin Community Disaster communications model. Watch this space for more info.

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.

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
Garrima 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 20th August. 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 20th August.

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
 Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am to 12.30pm. NSP 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

Damn the dams
 Last month's NGT listed meetings to ask questions about the CSIRO final report for the mitigation of flooding in the Richmond River catchment, using data from the 2008, 2017 and 2022 floods.

I attended meetings in Kyogle and Lismore, plus a resident gathering at Rock Valley called by the Dammed if You Do group. Other meetings were held the same week at Casino, Woodburn and Ballina.

Organisers said they were surprised by the large number who attended (580 counted at Lismore) and how few wanted the project to proceed even to the "feasibility study" due to commence in August. Several concerned citizens said there is no point in further study as this plan should be "thrown in the bin."

The CSIRO report models ten permanent barriers across rivers and creeks throughout the Richmond catchment. The proposed walls range from 5 to 42 metres high and 150 to 658 metres wide, stretching across entire valleys, with mechanical gates which could become compromised by mechanical failure, debris, floating logs and dead animals.

Building them would mean enormous earthworks on and around people's properties. Heavy machinery, clearing, excavation, truck movements, access roads, concrete, creek disturbance, fencing and permanent maintenance infrastructure. How many farms would be divided or partly acquired?

The report does not answer these questions. The CSIRO report failed to issue the detailed mapping which we have now seen. This failure is curious as the meetings would have been even more hostile to the proposal if the community saw the placements recommended.

The Goolmangar Creek dam, for example, would cut the road to Lismore with a wall near the Rocks that would back water up around Nimbin to flood every road access to the village, for up to two weeks. See map, p.11.

The floods would still affect Lismore, but the pain would be shared by upstream communities that normally never flood.

Annie Kia, co-ordinator of the Terania Citizen Flood Intelligence Project, said the failure to release the maps ahead of the meetings meant that upstream communities were not fully aware of effects and thus the process was fatally flawed and not proper community consultation.

Anastasia Guise from Billen Cliffs said, "For less than the cost of the detention dams you could move all of the flood prone properties in Lismore, Casino, Coraki, Kyogle, and Ballina out of harm's way." Lismore Councillor Virginia Waters wrote: "Reducing flood impacts downstream by intentionally increasing flood impacts upstream is a profound ethical, environmental and community question that deserves far greater scrutiny than it has received to date."

"We should not be asking one community to bear new and significant

impacts in an attempt to reduce those experienced elsewhere without first fully understanding the consequences and ensuring those communities have a genuine voice in the process."

Kyogle Mayor Danielle Mulholland wrote, "Prime agricultural land at Gradys Creek, Collins Creek, Eden Creek and other rural valleys appears to be directly in the firing line. Looking around my own valley, I genuinely struggle to see how structures of this scale could be accommodated without fundamentally and significantly changing the landscape."

Nature-friendly solutions have not been modelled to the same extent. When asked, the team from CSIRO said that other groups/agencies would be looking into alternatives to their proposal: they were only asked for an engineering model.

Richmond Landcare said they are studying the case for fencing off riparian zones, replanting some of the upper catchment to slow down and absorb flood waters.

The meeting in Lismore heard that "Ballina would be the big winner" of the CSIRO proposal. That didn't account for any prospects for future flooding, like heavier rain events or rising seas due to climate change and more disastrous storms.

After spending \$11M to propose 10 detention dams that would destroy upstream farms and communities and still not save Lismore CBD from major floods, we might well think this is too crazy to go any further.

Yet on the day the CSIRO

study was released, Janelle Saffin announced \$3 M state and Federal government funding for a feasibility study.

We might think that necessary geotechnical studies, detailed structural design, cost-benefit analysis, practical implementation and environmental considerations the proposal would be put in the bin.

However, just because something is crazy doesn't mean it won't happen. Think about all the strange things humans have done in the past... and some proposed for the future, like the race to establish a living colony on the moon for when the Earth becomes uninhabitable. The exhaust from "peaceful" rocket launches adds to military missile and drone damage in war.

Please contact your elected representatives to say you object to any further public money going to advance this foolish proposal.

Water for housing?

I am struck by the confluence of proposals to increase housing with ideas to dam rivers. A recent Lismore Council study recommended increasing shire population by 16,000.

They would need water and effluent control. We could consider catchment off roofs and storage in tanks and basement cisterns.

The shortage of housing for older residents is becoming an issue as many of the "new settlers" who came to the Northern Rivers in the 1970's and 80's are getting a bit fragile.

Many elderly people are finding it harder to live in the



Part of the crowd at the Lismore "Drop-in Session".

forests some distance from services. The old model of suburban development needs to be supplemented by more communal village housing.

Forests and wildlife habitat

As we are thinking to improve the health of our river catchments, spare a thought for the increased run-off from lands cleared of vegetation: mostly used for grazing.

Since the former government scrapped the *Native Vegetation Act* in 2017, more than half a million hectares of native vegetation have been cleared. That is 560,000 hectares of vital habitat gone.

Little has changed in the years since the Minns Labor Government has come to power, and despite promises to fix the mess caused by the previous government, iconic trees like coolababs and river red gums continue to be bulldozed on a massive scale.

Most habitat clearing happens on private land, out of sight and out of mind. The victims usually go unseen. The resultant low grasses increase the risk of wildfires and a hotter climate. We need new laws that protect habitat.

Fuels from "waste"

The federal government has announced a \$32 million

investment to help support a plan to convert forestry waste into Australian-made jet fuel.

The funding, made through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), will be provided to Melbourne based company HAMR Energy as it seeks to develop a series of low-carbon liquid fuels (LCLF) projects using residual forestry biomass.

Liquid fuels currently account for around half of Australia's national energy use, meaning that replacing fossil fuel-based liquid fuels with cleaner alternatives is capable of delivering a significant reduction in carbon emissions.

"Australia has an abundant supply of forest waste and turning it into fuel for hard-to-abate sectors like aviation would be a win for emissions, Australian industry and regional jobs," said Chris Bowen, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

He failed to say that the "waste" is actually the remains of logging operations which will then be allowed to claim green status, and continue their climate and environmental vandalism.

Short term vision risks long-term sustainability, seems to be the current vision of most politicians today. They need to do better.

Looking upstream

by Kyogle Environment Group

Imagine driving towards the Border Ranges. Ahead rises a seemingly endless wall of mountains and forest. As the road climbs through the valleys towards the largest expanse of subtropical rainforest on Earth, the ridges grow higher until they dominate the horizon.

For those who live around Kyogle, this is an everyday view. The dark silhouette of the surrounding ranges defines the landscape and is one of the things that makes this region unique.

Those mountains and forests also help generate the high rainfall that gives the Northern Rivers its name. Water begins here, flowing through countless creeks and rivers before eventually reaching the sea.

It is against this backdrop that many local residents have reacted with surprise to the CSIRO modelling that identified potential sites for large flood detention basins in the upper catchments as one option for reducing flood impacts downstream.

Travelling up Collins Creek, one of the valleys identified in the modelling, it is difficult to imagine the landscape transformed by a flood detention structure. Similar proposals have also been identified for the Fawcett Creek and Eden Creek valleys.



The questions many people are asking are not simply about engineering. They are about what these proposals could mean for productive farmland, homes, native vegetation, riparian ecosystems and the character of valleys that have already experienced decades of land clearing, invasive weeds and the growing impacts of climate change.

The scale of the proposed structures is difficult to comprehend. According to the published modelling, the Collins Creek structure would span approximately 469 metres and stand around 29 metres high.

The proposed Fawcett Creek structure would extend around 658 metres across and 22 metres high, while the Eden Creek proposal would be approximately 460 metres long and 27 metres high.

For residents living upstream of the proposed walls, another practical concern is access. During flood detention events, roads beyond the structures could become temporarily inaccessible until stored floodwaters are released.

These are significant changes for relatively small valley communities, and they naturally raise important questions.

While the CSIRO report examined large-scale engineering options, many people are asking whether equal attention will also be given



to landscape-scale restoration, reforestation and catchment rehabilitation as complementary approaches to reducing flood risk.

Healthy forests, well-vegetated creek lines and functioning catchments are widely recognised as helping retain water, slow run-off, reduce erosion and improve catchment resilience.

They are not necessarily alternatives to engineered solutions, but many in the community believe they deserve the same rigorous assessment so that governments and communities can understand the contribution nature-based solutions might make alongside traditional infrastructure.

One unexpected outcome of the proposals has been a growing sense of solidarity between valley communities. The familiar wave exchanged on country roads now often comes with conversations about what these proposals

might mean for neighbours, farms and future generations.

It is also important to understand what the modelling proposes. These detention basins are intended to reduce flooding in Kyogle, Casino, Coraki and Ballina. They are not expected to reduce flood levels in Lismore.

There is still much we do not know. The feasibility study has yet to be undertaken and no decisions have been made. The modelling represents the beginning of a conversation, not its conclusion.

For that reason, the community's task now is not simply to react, but to ask informed questions, examine the evidence carefully and ensure that every option – both engineered and nature-based – is assessed openly before decisions are made that could permanently reshape some of the Northern Rivers' most beautiful valleys.