Performance Poetry World Cup

by Gail M. Clarke
Co-ordinator

What an absolutely fabulous weekend of sharing, not only great poetry to inspire, excite and terrify but also the coming together of so many like-minded folk. From the old masters to the first timers, a combination of wonderful energy was shared. To all who help make this weekend such a success, a huge thanks.

Without the ongoing support of you all this would not continue to be such an inspiring, positive draw card for this wonderful little village.

Words from the visiting poets always warm my heart, such positive experiences they take away with them and share the positivity of this place, many of them will be returning.

For those who once again missed out, hopefully you now know what you have been missing: performance poetry is anything but ‘boring’ you can check out the filming (sponsored by Rainbow Power Co.) from Paris and Darwin of the finals on Youtube and soon the webpage: www.nimbintpoetry.com

Fund raising for next year has already started, the usual monthly poetry night at the Oasis (first Thursday of each month) and the raffles are ongoing and keep an eye out for our future major money making event.

With sincere thanks and heaps of love.

Pick up the ukulele at Open Learning

by Christine Strelan

The Nimbin Community School Open Learning Centre is nearing the end of term 3. The final term for the year begins on 14th October, with enrolments open on 7th and 8th October.

We’ll be offering classes in ukulele, art, creative writing, bookkeeping and more.

If you have a skill or interest you’d like to share, we are always happy to find new tutors.

For all enquiries, call us on 6689-1477.

Mooks at the Uke class.

Let us imagine – weaving and mending

by Granny Breath Weaver

Let us imagine love, beauty and harmony around our world, around Earth Mother. Let us imagine a silken web of peace, woven with our hands, around our Mother Earth.

Challenging times are upon us all. Earth Mother’s electromagnetic field (aura) is being upset, perhaps destroyed by our current technology. Millions of beings including humans are being visibly affected to the point of madness which leads to war – war with each other and war with ourselves.

When we sit and weave on Earth Mother we hold sacred ground. Stitch by stitch, row by row, we can mend the holes in our electromagnetic field and the gaping holes in Mother Earth’s aura. As we weave we will dream the seeds of our future without madness, without poisons, without mining, without the technologies that are destroying life and lives.

For all our children we will weave a web of love, beauty, harmony and balance. This is what we imagine with our minds. Mind before Matter is what matters. Our Weave and Mend Festival is on again on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) at the Nimbin Community Centre grounds. It’s a three day camp, entry by donation and continual two hour workshops. We have local and guest weavers using weaving techniques taught to us by the original traditional owners from Australia and other countries.

We will have natural dyeing demonstrations, music, a campfire, food and drink (and access to Nimbin village). Bring along a blanket to sit on, scissors and needles (metal and bone) are for sale, facilities close by. Visitors are welcome and if further information is required, ring Granny Breath Weaver on 6689-7129.

The Weave and Mend Festival is organised by the Nimbin Community Centre. Our festival is sponsored by the Nimbin School of the Arts.

Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin’s own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls including organic white and bio-dynamic spelt
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

Making our own “Hippie Bread” from local, bio-dynamic wheat, baked within hours of being ground at the Nimbin Community Grain Mill.

OPEN SUNDAY 9am – 3pm

Phone 6689-1769

CERES DELI & BULK FOODS

For a range of healthy un-packaged bulk foods, tasty cheeses, olives and continental deli delights.

Come and have a browse and see for yourself!

59 Bridge Street North Lismore (opp. 20,000 cows) Phone: 6622-8352

New Winter Stock Now In Store

TRIBAL MAGIC

Alternative Department Store

Come in and see our great range.

74 Cullen St, Nimbin. Open: 10am – 6.30pm

VEGAN FUNKY PIES

Café owner/manager? Getting asked for vegan food?

We have the answer

A delicious range of vegan food for cafes/restaurants/grocery stores delivered direct to your door by distribution, 1600+ a week free delivery.

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让我们想象——编织和修补

by Granny Breath Weaver

让我们想象爱、美丽和和谐环绕我们周围的世界，环绕地球母亲。让我们编织一个轻盈的网络，用双手编织在地球上。

面临充满挑战的时代，我们所有人。地球母亲的电磁场（气场）正被破坏，或许已经被我们当前的技术破坏。成千上万的生物，包括人类，正被明显地影响到疯狂的地步，导致战争——与彼此的战争，与我们自己的战争。

当我们坐在和在地球母亲那里编织时，我们拥有神圣的地面。一针一线，一行一行，我们可以修补我们电磁场中的破洞和地球母亲气场中的破洞。当我们编织时，我们将梦想我们的未来的种子，没有疯狂，没有毒药，没有采矿，没有破坏生命的科技。

为了我们所有的孩子，我们将编织一个爱、美丽、和谐和平衡的网络。这是我们的想象，用我们的思维。思维在物质之前是重要的。我们编织和修补的节日将继续在10月2日、3日和4日（星期五、星期六和星期日）在尼宾社区中心举行。我们的节日由尼宾学校赞助。
NBN arrives in Nimbin
by Dave Lambert

NBN fixed wireless has finally been activated. This is different technology than that used for the slower Satellite and 3G Mobile Phone networks. I am about 600m away from one of the two towers, with a few large gum trees in between, and am getting download speed of 47.84 Mbps and upload speed of 18.84 Mbps. The advertised/hoped-for download speed is 25 Mbps, but they are now trialling 50 Mbps and the tech said they hoped for 100 Mbps in future. You can check your speed here: www.speedtest.net

The ‘real’ benefit of speed is a law of diminishing returns in most cases. If you get 12-15 Mbps now, the added benefit of 45 Mbps is not triple for most applications. If you get less than 10 Mbps now, there would be a big advantage to change if you use the net a lot.

If you are now on a Telstra ADSL2 plan there is little or no cost to switch over (not sure about other providers). Many customers in the past year had to wait four weeks or so for a technician to install – however at the moment there is only a one-week waiting list.

The NBN Tech will test your site before installing your system. Line of sight to a tower is good, but fixed wireless may still work well elsewhere, depending on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent depends on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent depending on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent depending on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent depending on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent depending on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent depending on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent depending on density of trees etc. I think I recall that the signal shape sent depending on density of trees etc.

I told them I wanted to keep my existing landline on copper as we had a lot of power interruptions; or you may not need any phone if you want to use VOIP/ Skype type phone for free, or rely on your mobile phone.

If you are fortunate enough to live in the NBN Fixed Wireless footprint, I’d suggest it is the best option for most if you are a moderate or heavy user of the internet. It also will provide a huge boost to those relying on the very slow and congested 3G Mobile Phone and Satellite networks.

I promised they would test my line for free. The tech did this and then tested it for a minute or two at about double the promised speed. I was very happy with this and told him I would keep my existing landline on copper.

Many thanks are due to the organisers, headed by Cassandra Jefferys, the Showground committee and numerous volunteers for turning on a great day of healthy and rewarding fun for all. Funds raised from the Fun Run will help develop the Showground’s Physical Activity Centre.

The Nimbin GoodTimes
September 2015 Page 3
Do we want rail passenger services or not? by Stewart James

One of the most contentious development issues in the Northern Rivers today is whether or not the railway line from Casino to Murwillumbah will be used for train passenger services again. The Greens, with the support of the Clarence Valley Action Group (NRAG), and the Byron Labor government in 2004, should have a passenger service restored to it, or be put to some other use or sold off.

The controversal and unpopular closing of the daily XPT service from Sydney was justified on the (disputed) grounds that low patronage and high costs made it economically unsustainable.

The main proponents of reopening the passenger rail service are the NSW Greens, who have made opening the line part of their policy, aligned to their advocacy of public transport and away from private motor cars, and local community organisations the Northern Rivers Rail Action Group (NRAG), and the Byron Council.

The biggest danger is that neither the rail corridor nor restored passenger service will get up, and the rail corridor will instead be sold off to developers. Certainly parts of it would attract major investment, for example connecting the Lismore Railway Station to Southern Cross University and Bangalow to Tumbleroo, Fernleigh and Federal; Bangalow to Booyong to Clunes. The Greens propose to add two new stations North of Byron, partly to service the new festival precincts up there.

Beware of the CRC
do everything to cut the cost. The CRC report, released in 1994, is difficult and intrinsically slow, and will never provide the fast services (compared to car and bus) expected in the modern era, and that anyway the line is 30km too far to the west and out of reach of the populated areas running just inland of the coast, and therefore will never achieve the patronage required to make it economic.

The Greens, with the support of NRAG and the Byron Environment Centre, recently flew the length of the line by helicopter with a rail engineer on board, and reported that much of the line appears to be in near serviceable condition, while acknowledging some sections of track, especially a number of bridges just east of Lismore, need serious repair work and investment.

Still, they claim the CRC estimate is absurdly high and a convenient excuse for government inaction. Senator Lee Rhiannon is developing a 139km Line plan, which has been maintained since closure, is disputed. An official government report by rail engineering consultants ACOA puts the cost at $953M ($7.25M/km), an amount the government says is prohibitive, but the per kilometre cost of the public transport on the Far North Coast is only 50c/km. It is a comparable cost to running a passenger train.
NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may not be published. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

Medical service cuts
Like many in Nimbin, my family and I depend on our local medical services. On Saturday 22nd August I phoned the hospital and enquired if there would be a nurse practitioner on duty some time over the weekend. It was told that there would not be. It could go to Lismore Base Hospital. The nurse on duty was not authorised to offer any treatment.

The previous time I attended Nimbin hospital, earlier this year there was a NP on duty. The waiting room was full. Patients had a suspected fracture, a severe cut with a knuckle, a reaction to a tick bite, acute post-operative pain, asthma, fevers and more. Almost all were treated at the hospital. Clearly this is a much-needed service, which I believe is not at present being sustained.

This is a rurally isolated community, with a constant flow of tourists swallowing the popular guys came towards rural health needs. As a result, the local surgery only operates for four days a week.

This community, with its unique demographic, needs access to medical treatment seven days a week. I have written to Northern NSW Local Health and relevant politicians including Thomas George, Jeremy Buckingham and Justine Elliot. I hope others will do likewise.

Nathalie Buckland

Nimbin

Laneway Boys
I want to express my gratitude to Dione May for her excellent article on the Nimbin Laneway Boys in the August NGT. She has rightly exposed a hidden problem.

A consensus is emerging regarding the medical benefits of marijuana, even among former foes of the eight to "get high." Nimbin's street traders are sometimes the only safe source for desperate people who come from many other towns to buy marijuana for sick relatives. I know of one woman from the Gold Coast whose six-year-old grandson is dying of cancer in Victoria and only pot keeps him free of pain. Without it he doesn't eat and has to be fed by a rubber down his throat. Marijuana returns his appetite.

I have lived in Nimbin for more than three decades and have seen much of the cultural development in our town. The Boys in Rainbow Lane represent a generation that grew up here. They exert a positive influence that helps to keep the peace in a town that has learned how to police itself. The marijuana trade is for the most part benign -- even beneficial -- and these guys keep organised crime away. For example, there seems to be a bit less crystal meth in Nimbin than in other towns. Sometimes police act aggressively towards peaceful people with pot!

Because the boys are local, they know what's going on and can help with regular social issues. They help to keep the streets safe. If I want to feel better about parking my car with a load on the trailer or roof racks, I park it where the lane boys can see it. Safest place in town! And when the gas cans tried to destroy our water and air last year at Bentley, some of these boys came to aid the people's blockade. They were a source of great pride for all associated with Nimbin.

Some of the boys play soccer for Nimbin and they seem to be mates rather than rivals. I saw some keeping the scene clean outside the Nimbin Hall during the latest Blue Moon Cabaret on 15th August.

I think Nimbin is blessed to have such a solid group of young men in town. We should be proud of them. I am.

Scott Sledge

Nimbin

Funny one
I'd like to offer my congratulations to your columnist, MONO, for his brave, poignant and yet wickedly funny piece in the August GoodTimes. The very personal problems of perinatal prostrates are something most older gents are probably unaware only too aware of. Discomfort and embarrassment is often only the splash of a boot away. But when I read your piece of observation that his "dick is handled by more people than a long at a music festival", I just about pissed myself laughing. Articles like this which reveal the truth, the truth ingeniously are vital in helping blue's focus on their health, particularly the bits they dare not forget. Sometimes it seems only when someone is taking the piss.

Bob Tissot

Nimbin

European socialism
To suggest that Europe has been under the yoke of European socialism for 150 years is laughable. The two world wars is the most ludicrous distortion of history I have ever heard (Scott Barlow NGT Letters August 2015). This hysterical rant is typical of the right wing paranoia that rears its head in times of uncertainty and political/economic/ecological crises.

Greece's crisis is an accumulation of consecutive conservative government's failure to challenge the power of the institutions of capital and international bodies. The Greek people, especially as the local surgery is sustained.

The current Greek government Syriza, a broad left political party, has been elected on a platform of "anti-austerity" and is struggling to maintain credibility with the Greek people, especially after the referendum "no" vote got up. Huge internal political divisions are opening up within Syriza as it tries to steer its way out of the political paralysis besetting the country.

Scott Barlow

Keshe revelations
NGT readers will be interested in developments taking place in Italy, where the Keshe Foundation is based. Iranian Nuclear Physicist, Mehran Takavoli Keshe has understood the entire spectrum of science. His revelations are about to change the world.

Mr Keshe seems to have a comprehensive understanding of the basic building blocks of the universe. He is able to take energy directly from the
universe and this energy will supply all our needs without any need for burning fossil fuels (inverter/bridge rectifier).

To attract the energy one has to cover (metal) plates with the help of big GANS. (GAs as Nano Solid). This is the same substance that is on the top surface of a leaf and it collects carbon dioxide for photosynthesis.

Mr Keše is involved with the Japanese to decontaminate Fukushima and even the sea.

The ability to repair ourselves is included in this technology. He has also provided the necessary technology for levitation. This assists with space travel, obviating rockets and the fuel. Mr Keše admits to have captured an American drone using this technology.

Ultimately all energy and mining companies will collapse. Huge amounts will immediately be saved because no payment for these materials is needed. No minerals are mined; they are simply made – goodbye fracking.

Along with this complex elementary process it is possible to reverse GM. Movement commences, says Mr Keše.

On 21st June Mr Keše phoned the White House and provided 90 days notice for America to disarm. That means 21st September. If Mr Keše’s request is denied by the US Govt, he claims to be able to remove the reason for the use of weapons. This we will have to wait to see, as he has not revealed how he is able to achieve this.

His knowledge extends to the realization that people on a planet have a conscience. In the past, he says, governments and the church have coerced the mass to manage the wars that have killed so many of the young and not so young around the planet. The slaying of other creatures (eating meat) is included in weighing down of our planetary conscience.

Mr Keše deserves our gratitude for bringing this knowledge to us; this research was suppressing the more of the fruitful choice of parenting his knowledge, as the corporations would have done. He also needs our support, as wealthy cartels exist to maintain the status quo. It’s another Bentley with all the rewards.

Become a ‘knowledge seeker’ at www.keesfoundation.org
Alex Pooley
Tyalgum
Selfish self-interest
The standard political mantra of ‘growth and jobs’ is Orwellian double-speak. It covers up the thinking that the growth of technologies costs jobs.
CEOs go out of their way to introduce new technologies to displace workers. The Ruddites warned of this in the 2010s.

What about the early 2000s, Scott Barlow’s (NGT, August 2015) quoting of an example about an industrial society about half of the people in a society work for the other half who don’t, is not an indication of the inadequacy of socialism.

It is an example of where increasing technological dependence in a society, leads. Technologies might be fine from a human equality level, if the people not working had the same wage as those working, or if the limited jobs were about the present and presently doesn’t happen. Self-interest is a synonym for selfishness or narcissism. Capitalism can be defined as the motivation for economic activity. The incorporation of selfishness into the personal growth of adult humans – into an economic system has led to the only example it could have: the threatening of all of life on this planet.

A cause of the growth of narcissism in Western society can be found in many cases of parents having not been themselves. A regressive influence in our planetary conscience.

Evidently Australia embraces a criminal corporatocracy where profiteering drives the law as capitalist legislation under a subterfuge of ‘sustainability’ and ‘connectivity’. It’s also relevant that microwave technology has been weaponized and telecommunications towers can facilitate military colocation for surveillance as well as transmit signals.

Nimbin’s costly connectivity – not in my backyard!
by Linda Gi – Video Art

NIMBY activism has long inspired thriving communities to value people before profits, yet there wasn’t a whimper of concern in Nimbin on August 14 when a microwave tower was installed in Nimbin Preschool baffling the town with radiation.

Nimbin’s new NBN tower emits pulses as part of the 2300 MHz. (Radio frequency) (RF) is a safe-sounding term for non-innocent microwaves of radiation. Nimbin residents standards cap public exposure to RF radiation at 1000μW/cm² (microwatts per square centimeter).

Telecoms shrug off these claims. Nimbin’s voice counts claim Nimbin’s tenants will emit only 0.042% of the limit, and assume any detectable biological damage will be caused by radiation from their towers. Sounds comforting, but the safety standard deals in dangerous and the radiation industry insiders at the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) was evidently set to protect corporate profit more than public health.

The radiation safety standard only prevents cooking of tissue, and ignores adverse cumulative non-transitional effects.

Should you snuggle with your cellphone? One of many studies financed by the telcos to support claims that EMR is harmless was led by Dr George Carlo, but when results revealed that RF radiation actually damages the blood-brain barrier, harms genes and causes cancer, Levitt, author of Electromagnetic Fields, said, “A worse frequency could not have been chosen for the human anatomy.” EMR is seen to break down the blood-brain barrier and disrupt the immune system’s electromagnetic communications.

All living organisms are electromagnetic. A healthy person resonates harmoniously with the earth near 10 Hz, but exposure to RF radiation at higher frequencies is like putting your head in a microwave oven. Recent studies in Israel and Ireland of people living close to cellphone towers had greatly increased incidence of cancer. In one rural UK village, 34 people residing near a cellphone base tower got cancer and 14 died. This ‘safe’ tower beams RF radiation at 5,000 times below permitted limits.

A review by an international research team of 100 peer-reviewed studies was published in Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine in July. The review summaries evidence that exposure to RF radiation does provoke incremental damage at a cellular level and is a significant health risk. Prolonged low-level exposure can cause diverse problems including cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurological disorders, miscarriage, depression, agitation and dementia.

Evidently Australia embraces a criminal corporatocracy where profiteering drives the law as capitalist legislation under a subterfuge of ‘sustainability’ and ‘connectivity’. It’s also relevant that microwave technology has been weaponized and telecommunications towers can facilitate military colocation for surveillance as well as transmit signals.

Nimbin: How to turn your town into a ‘Free’ venue.

Wanted: Hire-A-Hubby
Single mother requires handyman for minimum ONE day per week (5-8 hours) at $30/hr (absolutely no payment in kind). Duties including but not limited to: maintenance and repair of solar power system components; cleaning gutters; general repairs to house, yard and water infrastructure. If you are handy, sensible, reliable and interested in a little extra cash, and can provide character references, please apply via email: terryll@gmail.com

Chillingham Community Garden Open Day
Sunday 13th September: Markets 8am-1pm; Hoopla Circus for kids from 10.30am; Talks on 11am on Soil Health, Seed Saving and storing; at Chillingham Community Centre, 1469 Numinbah Road Chillingham.

Hanging Rock Kickoff:
Vernal Equinox Celebration at Hanging Rock Hall, Saturday 26th September, 5-12pm. Music by the Horseshots, Jam, ceremony, mystery play. dance. $10 entry, kids free.

Nimbin Flix:
Keeping Mum, an English comedy starring Rowan Atkinson, Maggie Smith, Thomas, and Patrick Swazey. Rollicking good fun! Saturday 19th September at Birth and Beyond. Doors open 6pm, movie starts at 6.30pm. Food and drinks available.

Free listings
Keep it brief and to the point and if we think it’s of interest to our readers, we’ll run your community notice for free.

Nimbin Good Times:
- Bathing the town on August 14 when a microwave tower was installed in Nimbin Preschool baffling the town with radiation.
- Nimbin’s costly connectivity – not in my backyard!
- Chillingham Community Garden Open Day
- Hanging Rock Kickoff:
- Nimbin Flix:
- Free listings

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Council meeting

The main items on the agenda at the August Council meeting were related to a funeral home, a quarry and North Lismore Plateau.

Readers may know that Council agreed to permit a funeral home to open at 55 Magellan Street, the site that was the Council CBD offices. One condition of the approval was that no funerals are to be allowed on site to avoid the concerns of parking.

Council also permitted a Rutrefen quarry to carry out a maximum of five blasts a year on the condition that there is a detailed study of koalas and their behaviour prior to, during and after the first blast to ensure there are no adverse impacts. The information gathered will add to the sparse research literature on the effects of noise on koalas.

The third major item related to a request by landowners for Council to facilitate agreements for access to land required for water and sewer lines across various properties. Council agreed to act as a broker for those aggrieved parties. Unfortunately a related but earlier decision by Council to upgrade South Lismore sewerage treatment plant to allow for future population growth became linked with the latest decision and there was some angst that Council was subsidising a developer. As is the case for any expansion or upgrade of water or sewer infrastructure, the whole community pays through increased water rates so it is expected that the upgrade will add $110 to the average residential water bill.

Sibley Street crossing

The newly constructed refuge island in Sibley Street is complete. The crossing was not installed as a marked pedestrian crossing as it does not meet the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) warrants for such an installation. Refuge islands do not give pedestrians rights of way and traffic is not required to stop at these facilities. The refuge island is as a visible place where pedestrians can wait while traffic proceeds before proceeding to cross the road. It allows pedestrians to cross the road in two stages if required. Refuge islands are used in situations where the volume of pedestrians and/or traffic at the location is not sufficient to meet warrants for a marked crossing but there is a need to facilitate crossing of the road.

Cecil Street

I received several reports of injured wildlife and possible speeding on Cecil Street. The matter was referred to the Planning and Advisory Committee. Council arranged for classifiers across the road to collect data on traffic volume and evidence of speeding.

The recommendation from the committee is to install 50kph and wildlife advisory signs and refer the matter back to the Traffic Advisory Committee to explore the possibility of putting traffic calming devices to address the speeding that was evidenced by the data collected. Council will consider the recommendations from the Committee at its September meeting.

Health District and will be endorsed by the chief unit be reopened has been recommended by a review recommending the subsidising a developer. As is the case for any expansion or upgrade of water or sewer infrastructure, the whole community pays through increased water rates so it is expected that the upgrade will add $110 to the average residential water bill.

Street trade

There is broad support in Council and in the Nimbin community for measures that ensure public safety and access on the footpaths on Nimbin. There is also an expectation that Council will ensure that rules and regulations are consistent across the Local Government Area.

It is a challenge however. Council wants to seek ways to allow itinerant traders to operate in conjunction with Nimbin while maintaining the unique atmosphere of the Nimbin street scene. How that might be achieved is yet to be determined.

Some owners are happy to have traders outside their businesses, others are not. There has been a suggestion to relocate traders to the community centre, but that site only has approval for two markets per month. There is also a feeling in some sectors that the traders should stay in town as they add to the atmosphere.

I am aware, there is no intention to use closed circuit TV cameras to crackdown on traders. Those cameras are there as a deterrent and identification of perpetrators particularly after hours. Whatever the decision eventually, Council does not have the resources in the short to medium future to enforce regulation repeatedly and consistently to ensure compliance.

Removal of the seat

I am aware that there is some opposition to Council’s removal of the seat outside the School of Arts. Through the Nimbin Police Community Consultative Committee, some traders have made that passers-by are periodically harassed in this area of the village.

Council also received direct requests from several businesses and individuals that the seat be removed.

Council raised the issue with the Nimbin Advisory Group that generally agreed on the removal of the seat. I am aware that temporary seating is now taken to the location and request that the people sitting there respect the rights of pedestrian and nearby businesses to safe movement with no obstruction or negativity.

Planning is currently underway for the Nimbin fire site that will include provision for public seating and gathering areas. As with many aspects of Nimbin life, the Council has a balancing role. It will require community but calmness may be paramount.

New NAG Members

At the August Council meeting, two new members of the Nimbin Advisory Group were endorsed. Congratulations Gwen Trimble and Subrina Brady. We look forward to welcoming Gwen and Subrina to our next meeting in November.

The Cubes

On 20 August from 4.30-6.30pm many interested people attended the consultation event to discuss the Development Application for a proposed tourist and visitor accommodation development at 80-82 Cullen Street. The development, commonly called the Cubes, proposes 32 accommodation rooms, a manager’s residence, parking, landscaping, tree removal and other works.

The Development Application will be reported to Council for determination.

Your roads

All residents would have received a copy of Your Roads last month. In the brochure, readers will note the works underway or planned for the 2015/16 year. Among the plans is the preparation of sections of Tantabilla Falls and Blue Knob Roads and resturfacing of 34 sections on Nimbin Road and 8 sections on Milling Road. Residents in the vicinity of 2016 proposed works on Gungas Road near Tantabilla corner will have received a letter from Council about the works inviting comments.

One year to go

September 10 marks one year until the next Council elections. Most readers will know that I am not standing for re-election and would very much like to encourage others to consider nominating. Like most NSW councils, Lismore has low representation by women so I am going to provide an information evening for women at Council (43 Office Avenue, Goonellabah) from 5-7pm. Please consider attending if you would like to know what it is like. If you know a woman who might make a good candidate of you, please encourage her. For catering, please register with me via email, phone 6625-0403 or Facebook.

Community Grants

It was good to catch up with representatives of some of the 40 community organisations who attended Council’s Community Grants committee for the annual distribution of $179,253 in grants from Council on 26 August. I look forward to hearing of the progress on the various community projects that received amounts ranging from $700 to $10,000.

Green Scene

Dr Betty Marks with Dawn Walker

The Greens are pleased that a review recommending the Murwillumbah District Hospital (MDH) birthing unit be reopened has been endorsed by the chair of the Local Health District and will be considered by the board at its next meeting.

The findings allow midwives at the hospital to be trained to implement emergency resuscitation procedures, setting in motion steps to reopen the ward.

The Murwillumbah birthing unit was shut down with little notice in May, with the claim that there were no doctors available for emergency situations.

The community was told there would be no births at Murwillumbah District Hospital in the foreseeable future, with expectant mothers told to go to Tweed Hospital. A 30 km drive away.

The local community and the Greens rallied and sent a clear message to the decision makers and the National Party that Murwillumbah would not accept this savage cut to its beloved hospital.

Many people attending the rally to reinstate the birthing unit represented generations of Murwillumbah babies born at the birthing unit.

As a result of the community agitation, two community representatives were included on the review team that were appointed for this positive outcome.

They argued convincingly of the health benefits of continuous midwifery care for mothers and their babies and the need to actually promote the service, so more mothers can benefit from this model of care.

It was a great privilege for me to have been in this campaign and to stand up for local services and for our trained and highly respected midwives to deliver local babies at the birthing unit.

The Greens had a stall at the Murwillumbah market with a birth story display and we were overwhelmed by the local support.

I am proud to stand with the community to protect regional services and oppose cuts to health and education budgets. Expectantly will once again make their birth plan to deliver their babies at Murwillumbah hospital, as they have for generations.

bymemorialplacard.jpg

Byron Views

by Cr Basil Cameron

Concerns raised by submissions during debate on agenda items. The reinstatement of limited open access to public during debate on agenda items, even though Council has agreed that a reason for closure prior to asking the public to leave.

Section 10A of the LGA permits Council to be able to hear submissions from members of the public as to why a meeting should not be closed. I believe the best practice to actually ask if any member of the public wishes to make a submission prior to resuming a closed meeting.

In part due to the inclusion of confidential items at the very end of an agenda, there is rarely any member of the public in the chamber by the time the matter is debated.

An important improvement to the Code of Meeting Practice formalises the process by which any submissions on the confidentiality of items that can now be made during public access.

It is more important than ever at the moment to set an example, given the increasingly secretive and powerful position of the Federal Government to questions from the public and journalists.
Labor backs TAFE for the future

Labor understands how important TAFE is to providing the training and skills needed for the jobs of the future. A Shorten Labor Government will back TAFE by guaranteeing a portion of government funding for vocational education is dedicated to public TAFE.

We will make skills and training a national priority and give more kids the opportunities they need. We know that in regional areas TAFE and vocational training is vitally important. TAFE also provides access to critical courses, especially for apprentices. Under the previous Labor government, the number of people participating in government-funded training grew from 1.2 million in 2007 to 1.5 million in 2013.

Labor has always been the party of TAFE. Gough Whitlam instituted the Kangan Report into TAFE which resulted in additional Commonwealth investment for TAFE infrastructure, quality improvements, staff development and equity programs. The Hawke and Keating Governments strengthened TAFE through further whining investment and an ongoing dialogue between industry and the training sector which has benefited a contributor in our two decades of uninterrupted growth.

In many parts of Australia, TAFE is the only vocational education and training provider that young people can access. Locals have told us how concerned they are about the Liberal Nationals government cuts to TAFE. These cuts have been damaging for local students and have been harmful to our economy. In contrast, Labor is committed to maintaining TAFE in government through a guarantee that a portion of funding for vocational education is dedicated to public TAFE.

Labor is backing TAFE and training because we believe every Australian – young or old, from the city or the bush – has an equal right to share in the jobs and opportunities of the future.

By Justine Elliot, MP for Richmond

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