

The Manning Community News

OCT / NOV 2021

SHARING COMMUNITY NEWS AND VIEWS

FREE

This paper is being published as a community service to provide readers with factual and independent coverage of news, people and events in our district. If you have a story idea please contact us. PO Box 62, Tinonee, 2430 editor@manningcommunitynews.com



PAGE 1

FAREWELL TO OUR KOALAS?

MIKE VERSUS THE ANTI-VAXXERS PAGE 5

China... A RISK OF WAR? PAGE 10

It's chilli season!

PAGE 20

Plus **THE EDGE GALLERY RE-OPENS** PAGE 9

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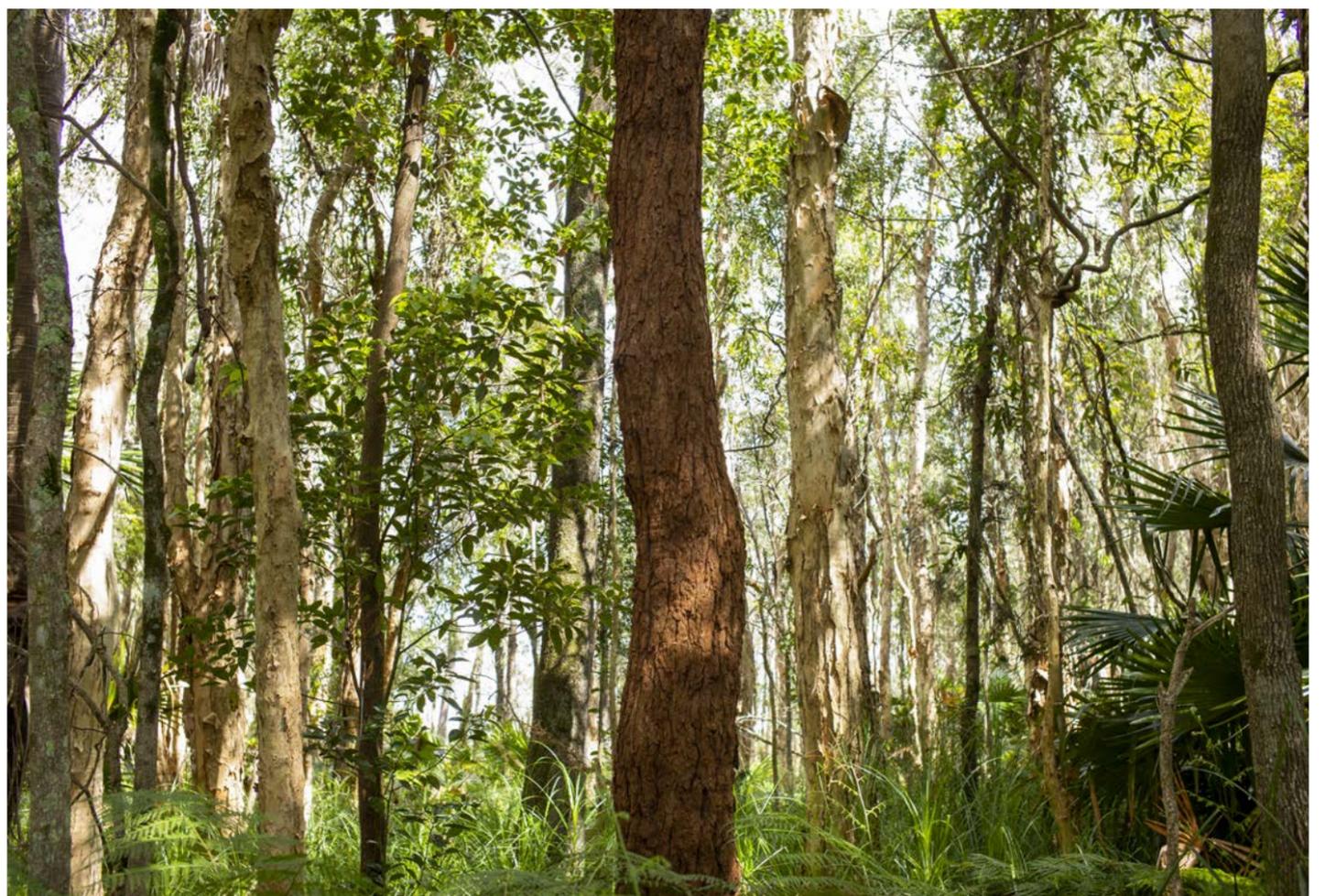
THE SAD, SORRY SAGA OF HAWKS NEST AND TEA GARDENS...

Goodbye Koalas. . .
Hello developers.

Bush tracks meander through forests of Blackbutt and Banksia, past Paperbarks and Swamp Gums of the eerily beautiful and largely impenetrable Myall River swamps . . . to pristine white sand beaches, seemingly untouched except for the footprints of the Worimi and Karuah people.

The ancient tree trunks still harbour cuts from the scars made by the Worimi for their bark fishing canoes.

The serene beauty, the wildlife and magical setting show nature at her finest.



A peaceful patch of threatened koala habitat in Hawks Nest

Exactly Twenty years ago in November 2001, a dedicated woman - Jean Shaw - presented a paper in Canberra to the Conference on the Status of the Koala in 2001. Jean's article, entitled "The Plight of Koalas in

Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens" was to advance the case for a National Koala Act.

It was an in depth, thoughtful and passionate paper, typical of her long fight to preserve the local natural environment and an attempt to save

the Koala habitat of Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens.

Jean is no longer here to know that the fight sadly continues. The Jean Shaw Koala Reserve, just north of the Singing Bridge, is dedicated to her.

HAWKS NEST

Hawks Nest is a small, largely beachfront jewel overshadowed by its sister Tea Gardens on the mid north coast of NSW. It was previously home

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

IS THERE EVER A FREE LUNCH?

There are some questions that have no answers, like 'What shape would cotton buds be if we had three ears?' Others have answers most of us could not get our heads around like 'If we live in an expanding universe, as astrophysicists say, what is it expanding into?'

For others, the answer is simple, but you don't bother with it. Try: 'If we can use social media platforms like Google, Facebook, Instagram Twitter or TikTok for nothing, who is paying to run the platforms?'

If you read a city newspaper in its print edition, you are likely to have come across full page advertisements that throw light on the answer to this question. They have been placed by Google as part of a strategy adopted by Google last year.

Two years ago the ACCC handed down the final report of the Digital Platforms Inquiry.

Some of the elements of the report of that inquiry to 'consider the impact of online search engines, social media and digital content aggregators (digital platforms) on competition in the media and advertising services markets' will change the way social media platforms, especially Google and Facebook, do business. And they don't like it.

The government legislated for a news media bargaining code last February, but allowed Google and Facebook time to put in place agreements to meet the code. But they don't like the idea of paying for content they take from Australian media and are manoeuvring to minimise the impact on Australian profits.

GOOGLE GOOGLE

The Google ads are one manoeuvre. Here are a couple of recent examples, full pages in the SMH and the Age.

'Today Google blocked 100 million phishing attempts, keeping scammers out of your inbox'. Putting aside the puffery that the whole 100 million were aimed at your personal inbox, the message is clear and simple: we are your friend with your best interests at heart.

But what are the implications of this: *'Today Google secured over 1.5 billion inboxes, so that secret recipes stay in the family'*? Don't be distracted by the folksy image of a grandma consigning her famous chicken recipe to her daughter, via Gmail, to be shared with the grandchildren

one day.

They are talking about all the information that you and Google share. Thus Google has stewardship of stories of 1.5 billion lives, secret, famous or notorious, or just plain mundane. It doesn't matter. That is the honey pot of knowledge that pays for your access and drives Google's share price and profits. It's good that Google recognises its responsibility to safeguard your privacy, but no data storage is absolutely hacker proof, no information put online is absolutely safe.

Another ad reminds us that Google put you and businesses in touch all the time. So, Google really does oil the wheels of modern life and, just think, it does it for free!

WHO'S THE TARGET?

But here is the strange thing: you are not the real target of the ads. The real target is our political leaders, especially at the Commonwealth level. Google wants you to know that they are the good guys and remember that when the government talks about further regulating them or imposing new taxes and obligations.

All the search engines and social media platforms collect information about you and use it to select the advertisements that appear on their sites for you, so maximising the potential that you will purchase goods or services from that advertiser.

TIKTOCK

That same knowledge about every user is the secret of TikTok's success. If you use TikTok, you know it is quite addictive, feeding up videos that just hit the spot. It can do that because it probably knows you better than you consciously know yourself. And that knowledge is money to TikTok.

But there is another dividend for the social media platforms in having access to all that personal information. Considered collectively, the information can be used to detect patterns of thinking in classes of users and social trends in their community, and the potential to use that

knowledge to redirect such patterns.

That was one reason why former US President Donald Trump campaigned to bring TikTok's operations outside China, under US control. US security agencies had concerns about what TikTok's owners - the Beijing-based ByteDance - was learning about US teenagers and how that could have strategic value to the Chinese government. In fact, today, ByteDance know more about teenagers across the entire world than any organisation in history, and there is power in that knowledge.

MEDIA SAVVY

And Trump would know the power of social media. His successful 2016 US presidential race used insights gleaned by a company called Cambridge Analytica from Facebook data, gained in dubious circumstances, to shape entire marketing strategies for the campaign.

Taken to extremes, this gathering of information about individuals and communities can stifle freedom. The Chinese social credit system show how this information can be used. Citizens are penalised for any infraction, any questioning, of the Communist Party's edicts, by the loss of what are regarded as privileges, like airline travel, or work advancement.

So it is disturbing that some state governments in Australia plan to use similar techniques to supervise home quarantining. NSW Tourism Minister Stuart Ayres said it was a critical step in phasing out hotel quarantine.

"[The NSW trial] will build on the evidence collected through the South Australian trial as part of the national plan where we utilise technology, particularly facial recognition and location-based services apps on your phone, to allow police and health to continue to check in on a person during their home-based quarantine," he said. However Ayres made no mention of whether the data will be erased after its specific purpose is satisfied, though the SA government has promised to delete

the data at the end of the lock-down.

Similar concerns have been raised about the uses of QR code check-in data for purposes other than Covid-19 contact tracing. Police in WA, Queensland and Victoria have sought to use QR location data in criminal investigations, raising the concerns of the Australian Information Commissioner, Angelene Falk. The Commission's advice is clear: "Only the minimum amount of information permitted under the relevant public health order can be collected and the information can only be used for contact tracing purposes, unless otherwise required by, or authorised under law."

At present there are no laws allowing the use of check-in data in law enforcement and NSW, South Australia and the Northern Territory have ruled out its use by police.

These are the realities of our social media world. It is a world dominated in trade, not of iron ore or food, but trade in knowledge, the profiles of individuals and entire populations. Anti-vaxxers fear that the Covid-19 vaccines contain microchips that will be used to control us (they don't). There is no need. Data from social media use is all that's needed.

ABUSE OR OPPORTUNITY

It is the great challenge of the 21st century for democratic governments, everywhere, to find the legal and social mechanisms that will allow societies to harvest the benefits of social media platforms and the new technologies, without allowing the abuse of the vast stores of personal data, accumulated daily, and those abuses becoming a straitjacket to well-being, freedom and the opportunity to innovate and experiment.

It is a challenge that we, individually and collectively, must hold them to. If we don't, governments won't. It is not in the nature of government to show that much initiative when it comes to relinquishing power.

Vincent O'Donnell
Media Analyst and Researcher

“CALL US! REPORT CRIMES”

Manning Great Lakes Police District Commander Chris Schilt is asking anyone who has had, (or an attempted), break-in, theft, damage to their property, threat, or any other crime to please pick up the phone and call your local police.

‘It’s a great help for our Crime Prevention Officer, Ray Slade,’ he said. ‘If a crime, big or small isn’t reported, then we can’t help prevent future crimes,’ he said. ‘Every report of an incident goes to HQ to be analysed by our Intelligence Unit.’

‘I realise that there is some community angst with juvenile and repeat offenders; particularly when they are seen back out on the street once Police have dealt with them.’

We do have to operate within the confines of the Young Offenders Act, which sometimes means that young people will be given cautions or conferences when they commit an offence. Quite often this can result in a positive outcome for them and the community when they gain an understanding of how their offending is affecting others. Where there is a continuation in offending, the process is escalated and they are charged and put before the Court. We have various projects and outreach programs where we visit schools and try to interact with kids through sporting activities and other initiatives.’

EARS AND EYES

Superintendent Schilt points out that citizens’ eyes and ears are their greatest asset when it comes to dealing with and preventing crimes.

Chris Schilt has been stationed in the area for eighteen months and he and his wife Kara and four children are enjoying life in the Manning.

Coincidentally, without the other knowing, Chris and Cr Peter Epov ran into each other at a council meeting... renewing an old friendship.

‘I knew Chris when he was a youngster living in the Eastern Suburbs in Sydney, a time when our two families spent a lot of time together,’ said Peter. ‘I was involved in sport and a couple of times I took Chris and a mate away camping. He was always a bright and polite boy and very smart. It’s lovely to meet up again and to see that he has done so well.’

‘I am very confident that Chris is working in the very best interests for our community and is well qualified to



Cr Peter Epov and a youthful Superintendent Chris Schilt hiking and camping in Sutherland National Park in the late 1980s.

do a great job. I have asked him to look at a greater police presence in key areas such as Wingham, and I have been planning to have further discussions with him and his team on community safety.’

Superintendent Chris Schilt takes his job seriously yet is very approachable and dedicated.

So he asks us please, you might think a broken lock on the shed, a smashed window, damaged machinery or some petty theft, not worth ringing the police. They ask that you do report any crime –small or large, including any suspicious activities. It helps the police piece together information which can lead to apprehending the offender(s) which helps the rest of the community.

He adds ‘The more reports that are logged, the more our police can get additional help or funding to help us all.’



Peter Epov and Chris Schilt reunion at Nabic, June 2021

NATURE, FARMERS AND POLITICIANS COLLIDE OVER FEDERAL FLOOD FUNDING GRANTS

Politicians are good at “grandstanding” about grants available to businesses and farmers to help them recover from the devastating floods - \$50,000 for businesses and \$75,000 for farmers.

While our state and federal members seem reluctant to help some affected farmers, the Labor MP for Macquarie, Susan Templeman has spoken up –

“Six months down the track and facing a predicted wet spring and summer, some affected farmers are still in limbo waiting for assistance from the \$18.5 million the Morrison Government to help land-owners do post-flood remediation work.”

Two local farmers share their experiences with local politicians and government bureaucracy.

Lindsay Mitchell moved to his farm 24 years ago determined to be a successful beef cattle producer. He also intended to be self-sufficient, living on a part superannuation pension and his income from the farm. Over the years he improved the farm from what was a very run-down property to a productive farm, breeding his own Angus cattle.

Noel Kohlbach, his neighbour, is a dairy farmer whose family has been dairying on this property since 1901.

Things were going well until the Manning Valley and the rest of NSW began slipping into drought in 2019. As the drought intensified all the farm dams in the surrounding area dried up. The Manning River, although over 40kms from the ocean, turned to salt.

Noel's bore ran dry so he had no water for his milking herd and cows and calves were dying. (A dairy cow, in summer, can drink 70 litres per day.) Noel would need to bring in a tanker loaded with water every two days to provide for his cows which was economically

impossible.

The two neighbours worked together to stave off the crisis, urgently sharing water and feed resources. Fortunately Lindsay's bore was still functioning. Friends and neighbours stepped in to help install a water trough. Pipe was delivered overnight from Queensland, and a local man from Wingham turned up with his trencher and 650 metres of pipe and the plumbing and infrastructure was laid the next day.

A trough was installed so Noel could keep his cows and calves alive. As the drought worsened, pasture turned to dust and feed for the cows became scarce and expensive. Lindsay, being a beef cattle farmer, was able to downsize, but dairy farmers can't reduce their milking herd, so Lindsay offered Noel the use of his river flats to help him get back on his feet.

Recovering after a severe drought is very slow and just when things were starting to improve, the March 2021 flood hit.

Half of Lindsay's farm went under water. Irrigation was washed down the river, his bridges were knocked out making parts of the property inaccessible and fences were torn down. He had no breeding cows to restock.

Noel fared far worse. His small acreage at Glenthorne where he raises replacement heifers suffered as the floodwaters rose so fast that his property was soon engulfed.

Noel's property is near Martins Bridge which was closed because the carriageway was under water. Noel watched in horror as 33 heifers were washed away. He had raised these heifers since birth and knew each one by name. The

loss took a heavy toll on his mental health.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has estimated the damage to Noels property to be \$240,000. For Lindsay's property the estimate was \$60,000.

Lindsay applied for the “flood recovery grant”. However his application was refused because of he had a part superannuation pension.

Noel also applied for the grant. He too was refused. The reason given was that he had not submitted his returns to the ATO. However Noel had contacted the ATO and advised them that he was having difficulty with his tax because of drought, bushfires and then a major flood. The ATO said they were not concerned about the late tax returns given the circumstances!

Noel and Lindsay believe that The Rural Assistance Authority (RAA), the bureaucracy that processes the flood grants, was using Noels tax returns as an excuse to decline his application.

All of Lindsay's enquiries were redirected from department to department. Hurdles were thrown in the way and no one seemed to be able to make a decision. Every time Lindsay supplied the figures and documentation asked for, another hurdle was presented, until it came down to one issue; he was being penalised for having a superannuation part pension.

Lindsay sought help from his Federal Member, Dr David Gillespie. Dr Gillespie was unable to meet with Lindsay. His office directed him to the MidCoast Council. A council officer, who is funded by the Government on a two year contract to assist in the flood relief, advised Lindsay that

she only deals with community groups and not individuals, and there was no one else at Council who could help individuals.

Lindsay then contacted his local Member, Stephen Bromhead MP, posing the question to Mr Bromhead; “Should I be penalised because I have a part superannuation pension”? (Which essentially is his own money).

Mr Bromhead MP did not answer the question. Lindsay suspects Mr Bromhead knew he was dealing with a “political hot potato” so Bromhead quickly passed it on to another agency, “Resilience NSW”.

RESILIENCE NSW

Resilience NSW advised Lindsay by phone (using a hidden number) that they could only help if his farmhouse was flooded. They knew nothing of his question about his superannuation.

Lindsay asked if they could put their reply in writing to him. They answered, as did all the other departments, “No, they would not be putting anything in writing”.

No information was forthcoming from the RAA to The Manning Community News, as such information is considered being of a personal nature.

Lindsay and Noel have subsequently been told from another source that several hundred applications have been either rejected or not processed by the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA).

DM

(The farmers are wondering how much interest is accruing on the millions the Morrison government must be sitting on.)

MIKE VERSUS THE ANTI-VAXXERS

Michael Moore is an American filmmaker, author, and political activist, who was best known for a series of documentaries—often controversial—that addressed major political and social issues in the United States. Here he provides his answers to 7 common anti-vaxxer “theories.”

1. “I don’t trust this vaccine. It’s development was rushed and it didn’t go through the proper trials and testing. I trust aspirin because it’s been around for over a hundred years. This vaccine hasn’t even existed for a year.”

THE TRUTH: Work on this vaccine began back in 2003 during the SARS virus outbreak. Scientists knew even before, in the 1980s, that coronaviruses were going to happen more often. So they got to work on inventing what would become a vaccine known as mRNA. This vaccine has been in development for at least 18 years! THIS IS NOT A NEW THING. When Covid-19 appeared in December of 2019, the scientists were ready and standing by with the vaccine elements. They knew something like this was coming. All they needed was the genetic structure of this particular virus. A brave Chinese doctor constructed its sequencing in his lab and, without the permission of his government, he then shared it with the world. It was all our coronavirus scientists needed to begin the trials of the vaccine they’d been working on for 18 YEARS. Those trials began immediately and ran for nearly all of 2020. Because of the ways modern medicine and science have improved in this new century (did you know in the Covid vaccine you’re getting, there is NO speck of the Covid virus in it!) we were already equipped to bring Covid-19 to a halt. Except for one thing science couldn’t predict...anti-vaxxers.

2. “I, and millions like me, do NOT trust the government.”

THE TRUTH: Ugh. On this one, you are right. You should NEVER trust this government, that government, any government. One of my favourite quotes from the legendary investigative reporter I. F. Stone is, “All governments are run by liars and nothing they say should be believed.”

It is painful now to see how our racist legacy has manifested itself during this pandemic: Covid-19 has killed more than 102,000 Black

Americans — 20% more than the rate at which white people die. The white supremacists must be loving this. I join with my fellow citizens who are Black in fighting this virus that seeks to kill them first.

3 “I don’t trust the pharmaceutical companies nor do I trust the entire for-profit health care industry. I’m not taking something they tell me to take.”

THE TRUTH: I trust them less than you do. I made a film about these bastards (“Sicko”). Greed runs in their veins. Because our US political and corporate leaders have constructed a society that has enabled two-thirds of us to live an unhealthy life, their brethren, the devils in the health care industry, have made trillions from our illness, our disabilities, our infirmities. They need us sick so that we spend money on ways to stay alive. They DON’T want us cured because where’s the profit in that?

Yet in the case of Covid, they really don’t want so, so many of us so dead. Dead men and women don’t need a plethora of costly prescriptions. Dead men and women don’t shop at Walmart and they don’t order from Amazon. Other than the overpriced casket, there is not much profit that comes from death. In the case of the pandemic, they need the citizenry alive to do the backbreaking work for slave wages — and then spend every dime of those wages so all that loot makes it back into the pockets of the one-percent. There are now nearly 700,000 dead Americans who aren’t spending anything! Corporate America needs this disease to go away. Yes, the stock market has set records, and yes, the real estate market is bananas. But the rich have learned this is only good in the short term. They need Covid to stop killing us so they can be the ones to get back to killing us — but killing us their way — slowly — very, very slowly. Like 70 years slowly. Squeeze every last bit of work out of us before the arthritis sets in and our only contribution to making them wealthier is our weekly purchases of

adult diapers and canned pineapple.

The way to beat the rich and stop their scam is **not** for us to refuse the shot and die before our time. We need to live long enough so that we can imagine their proverbial heads on the spikes that line the wall at the city’s limits. Take the jab. Both of them. Live to see the day.

4. “Trump’s inaction caused the spread of this disease — and then he tried to rush these vaccines through in order to help himself win the election. This is the ‘Trump Vaccine’ — I don’t want it in MY body!”

THE TRUTH: The top ten states with the highest rates of Covid death are all the ultra-red Trump states. That’s not how you win elections — by killing off your own voters. But he did it. Actually, the number of votes he barely lost Georgia, Arizona and Wisconsin by - together, 44,000 - he helped kill more than that in those three states combined (52,000 deaths). No, the “Trump Vaccine” was never his. Just like he didn’t “own the tallest building in NYC after 9/11,” nor was he ever “a billionaire.” Get this vaccine, invented in part by a brilliant, persistent woman, Katalin Kariko, a scientist who was ignored for 20 years — she created this for us. Not Trump.

5. “So many people have died from the vaccine!”

TRUTH: No, they haven’t. To spread this lie is to be an accessory to murder. That’s not you. Right?

6. “My religion won’t let me take the vaccine.”

THE TRUTH: Yes it will. God — all gods — not only approve of the Covid vaccine, He is the one who made it! Remember your lessons: GOD CREATED EVERYTHING! That’s why it says “Creator” on his CV. Take God’s gift into your upper arm and praise Jesus. Because, if you walk around unvaccinated, you will kill people. And that carries with it an eternal sentence of hellfire and dam-

nation. C’mon! Stop hiding behind “religion.” **NOT A SINGLE RELIGION, NOT A SINGLE DENOMINATION IN THE WORLD SAYS THIS VACCINE IS A SIN!** Nor do modern vaccines carry any cells from aborted fetuses. Get your jabs so we can party in heaven on earth!

7. “I have a medical/health condition that my doctor says I shouldn’t get the vaccine.”

THE TRUTH: No, you don’t. We now know there is no medical condition that prevents you from getting the vaccine. Stop with the “I’ve got a note from my doctor” bullshit. Get the damn vaccine — or you risk the chance of REALLY needing a doctor. Calm down. Relax. We love you. I’ll take you to Walgreens myself and hold your hand for those three seconds. Let’s live. Let’s not kill. Let’s be part of a world we are now going to fix and save.

Together.

If everyone is vaccinated, this virus is toast. If we don’t get everyone vaccinated, this much I’ve learned:

We are only one or two variants away from the monster Covid variant. What is the “monster variant?” It’s the one that will have gotten so strong because the early variants were not stopped from everyone being vaccinated. Soon it will grow resistant to all vaccines until it is so strong it will simply exist everywhere, completely airborne, leaping from one human to the next unchecked, tens of millions of humans wiped off the face of the Earth. All because just enough of us, the righteous few, believed in their own anger and despair and were too afraid to protect themselves and each other.

Michael Moore
<https://www.michaelmoore.com>
US Writer. Filmmaker. Podcaster.
Eagle Scout. Citizen.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to a significant Koala colony but sadly few, (if any) remain.

Originally, in white settlement times, the Australian Agricultural Company received a Grant of some 464,640 acres over an extensive mid north coast area, with sawmilling operations in the 1870's and following introduction of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, Conditional Leases were applied for in the Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens areas - particularly in the 1890's.*

It wasn't until 1937 when the then Stroud Council built an Art Deco style pavilion that Hawks Nest began to attract intrepid campers. It was an idea ahead of its time and it wasn't until the 1950's post war affluence brought renewed tourist interest to the local environs of Jimmy's Beach, Winda Woppa and Providence Bay.*

Jean Shaw wrote - "I first became interested in koalas when my husband and I moved into this area in 1986 and discovered that we had Koalas roaming around the two villages.... We joined a new group in the village, called the Myall Koala and Environmental Support Group Inc.... (It is still operational. Ed.) It was formed in 1989 as a result of a survey of 'tagging and radio tracking' of the Koalas in this area by a Professor Ian Hume from the University of Sydney. The Group, newly formed, was to keep track of the tagged and radio collared Koalas in this area to see where they went. When the lady appointed to keep the listings couldn't go on with the work, I took over in about 1991. I am still doing this today."

Jean Shaw also wrote that "The funding for the work of Professor Hume was discontinued but we went on with the coordinating of the Koalas. Approx. 23 Koalas were tagged in the study by Professor Hume in Hawks Nest alone. Prof Hume claimed, at the time, that for every 1 Koala seen, you miss 3, so good is their "camouflage" to the average resident."

Jean continued, "After 4/5 years of following the koalas' movements around the villages, we realised that the Koala was decreasing in numbers. The Tea Gardens Koalas, we woke up to, were being pushed out of the village, by a couple of BIG DEVELOPERS (Jean's caps) that had moved into town and were laying flat everything on the edge of the village. Only then, and only then, we started to realise the IMPORTANCE of trees, and a FEW TYPES of trees ONLY, to the Koalas. One developer destroyed the corridor into Tea Gardens from Shearwater, a very much vegetated estate on the hills



just out of town, the other developer had cut the corridor from Tea Gardens to Limekilns/Pindimar on the edge of the river downstream from Tea Gardens / Hawks Nest and also on the edge of Port Stephens. The few koalas trapped in the village of Tea Gardens, either died in the village or were relocated to the other side of the river in Hawks Nest." "We (the Group) started writing to the Local Government, who were not showing a great deal of interest in what we were doing at that period of time. The Myall Koalas here meant nothing to anyone out of this area. The Group then started 'lobbying' the State Government, as this area was one of only a few areas on the coast that had koalas within the village/town area. We lobbied hard and in 1999 the koalas were put on the ENDANGERED LISTING, BUT NOT THEIR FOOD TREES. Development meant trees being cut down and not replaced somewhere on the estate or in the village, with other trees of SIGNIFICANT use to the Koalas. In the meantime we have lost MOST of the koalas because NO action was taken at any level of Govt. (They were only animals so who cares is the impression we were getting) Or the letters were "buck passed" from one Department to another."

Jean's husband died in 1997 but she increasingly devoted herself to fighting for the koalas.

Jean continues in her conference paper . . .

"Last year 2000, on Koala Day, a developer put many large pieces of machinery onto a 3 hectare block of ground in Hawks Nest adjacent to the bridge and cleared it in three days."

Jean Shaw then discussed this environmental vandalism where a report had stated, "It is highly likely, given the vegetation on this site and regular sightings of koalas in the vicinity, that the land should rightfully be considered "core koala Habitat" as per State Environmental Planning Policy No 44 - Koala Habitat Protection, thus requiring the preparation of an individual Koala Plan of Management prior to Council issuing development consent."

But by November 2001 Jean concludes -

"MAY GOD FORGIVE US FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING - BUT THE ANIMALS OF ALL SPECIES WERE HERE BEFORE US. WE SHOULD BE LOOKING AFTER THEM, FOR FUTURE GENERATION TO SEE. NOT DESTROYING EVERYTHING."

Jean wrote a series of questions to herself some twenty years ago -

Why have they put the koalas on the endangered listing but NOT their food trees?

Why has the "Coastal Policy" not been made the law?

The fine imposed on the developer for the massive under scrubbing was not HARD enough!

With our Koalas on the endangered list in Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens by State government why is there not an official Koala Inspector employed to assess all development applications in this area?

Why is there no koala act to protect our national symbol?

And why is SEPP 44 not enforced strongly?"

Decades on Jean's questions remain mostly unanswered today.

WHAT'S CHANGED?

So after 20 years plus there could soon be more awareness that all is not as it should be in Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens.

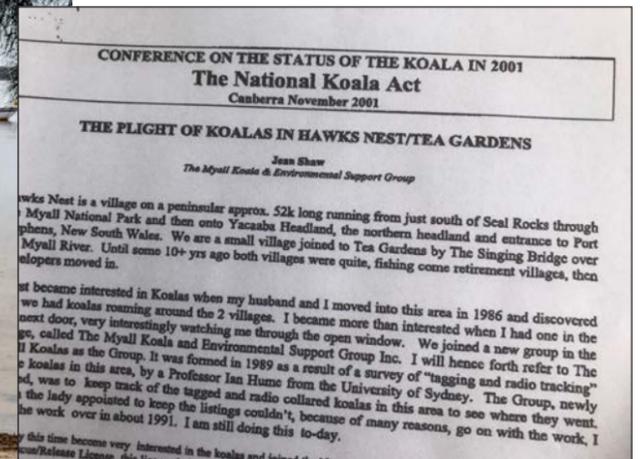
With the influx of real estate agents, developers (some perhaps questionable, some up front about its potential riches), retirees, city escapees, and those who fell in love with what they thought to be a nature lovers' paradise, mean not only the koalas lose, we all lose.

We lose some of the most precious and rare landscape and wildlife in the state. For what?

Is our Council complicit or, being so far away in Taree, just unaware of what's going on in Hawks Nest?

HIGHRISES

Sadly the ongoing destructive development of the original Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens coastal environment is



also happening elsewhere. Highrise luxury units (and some cheap and nasty lookalikes) appear to be spreading from Sydney to join with the Gold Coast.

But there are many locals still prepared to fight on. But they cannot wait another twenty years. There will only be a concrete jungle. . . . "with stunning beach and island views (from YOUR High Rise Apartment) - (One developer's sales brochure pitch).

Environmental issues at Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens are central in this ongoing war to save what remains of our natural beauty, wildlife and habitat. It is a war that has secretly raged for decades around Australia.

Twenty odd years ago hopeful investors bought plots of land in Hawks Nest hoping to be in on the ground floor when the expected promises of development and tourism eventuated. Many have died, given up or just sat on their land.

Prior to the disastrous amalgamation with Greater Taree City Council, the former Great Lakes Council removed from consideration the Hawks Nest Koala Plan of Management (2001) - a document that was prepared using ratepayers money and public monies from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. This document was never resolved by Council.

It appears to have disappeared.

ILLEGAL CLEARING

Today much of the original North Hawks Nest landholdings are still "undeveloped"- save for recent under-scrubbing and clearing of land despite being designated as "core koala habitat" under SEPP 44 in the Statutory North Hawks Nest Public Inquiry Report (2002).

Yet MidCoast Council granted a fence clearing permit in 2020 to remove trees on a North Hawks Nest property that's declared 'core koala habitat' under SEPP 44 - Koala Habitat Protection.

It appears if a landowner clears the trees and removes by under scrubbing all manner of vegetation, then he/she won't have any 'environmental problems' to affect future Development Applications to Council.

THIS IS WRONG.

A handful of those original land buyers remain, still holding out in hope of selling for a big profit, while new vultures circle.

Elizabeth Farrelly . . .

. . . who is a respected writer, former Sydney City Councillor, architecture critic, essayist, columnist and speaker on aesthetics and ethics; design, public art and architecture; urban and natural environments; society and politics, throws in her two cents worth in a recent column in The Sydney Morning Herald –

“Even the black summer fires, which killed maybe 4000 koalas, weren’t the worst. For decades, the main threat to koalas has been habitat loss. From 2017, when the NSW government replaced the Native Vegetation Act with the cynically named Biodiversity Conservation Act, land clearing soared and koala numbers plummeted.

“Australia, despite its reputation for wilderness, has one of the developed world’s highest land-clearing rates. It also has one of the highest rates of extinction. Those dots are not hard to join. Within Australia, NSW is the worst land clearer. Before 2017, our yearly average was 38,000 hectares; in 2019, according to the government’s own report, that almost doubled to 60,800.

But it’s not just about quantity. The idea that “habitat” is a green splotch on a map, easily replaced with another green splotch, is the simplistic idiocy that generated the whole bio-banking “offsets” farce.

Koalas need connectivity. They have home ranges, attachments to particular trees, but they also need to move – to escape fire and to live, breed, expand their gene pool and maintain disease resistance. Stuck in

a dead end – known as a “koala sink” – they mope and dwindle.”

When it comes to Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens the prime koala habitat was quickly diminished once those characters with an eye to the main chance happened upon it.

The list of names, (some now convicted and sentenced by the Courts), the notorious Michael McGurk –(murdered in 2009), there’s an ongoing police investigation linked to landholdings along Mungo Brush Road, dubious land deals and multi-multi-multi million dollar plans to develop beach and island view blocks of luxury units in sleepy Hawks Nest. The plans and machinations all read like a novel.

INDIGENOUS LAND

Many in the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and community are not happy at losing some of their landholdings to developers instead of it remaining in their community. They fear their lands being “taken” by devious manipulations of too-smart, cashed up whitefellas.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the battle lines stand the rest of us - the community, country and city people, who realise the tragedy of losing such pristine landscapes. Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens are places that we can all share if development is sensitive and treads lightly to showcase its pretty villages surrounded by rare, endangered and stunning nature.

ENVIRONMENTAL DRAWCARD

The rarity of such places being kept unspoilt, with sensitive eco-camping, like Myall River Camp, will ever remain a far bigger drawcard against glass tower blocks cramming the coastline, crowded

caravan parks, mobile homes, luxury “investment” houses, or holiday homes jammed cheek by jowl without trees or yards or gardens.

This is not to exclude affordable housing which, if creatively designed and eco friendly, can blend into a bushland setting yet be safe and near to amenities. There are surprising and stunning examples of such homes (which we will explore in future editions) which are part of a mixed community rather than an “estate.”

ENDANGERED KOALA PLAN

The Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens koalas were declared an Endangered Koala Population in 1999, only the second koala population in NSW to receive this protection.

There’s an Official Recovery Plan for the Endangered Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens Koala Population dated 2003. Nothing has happened.

The Commissioner, Dr. Mark Carleton, who undertook the 2001 Statutory Public Inquiry into the Ecological Significance of land covered by the North Hawks Nest Draft Local Environmental Study - which concentrated on issues faced by Koalas, made a Recommendation to update the Koala Plan of Management.

This was a document with the Full Title ‘Draft Koala Plan of Management for Hawks Nest Village and North Hawks Nest dated May 2001 that had been placed before the then Great Lakes Council. It had been prepared at great expense using Public monies supplied by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and ratepayers monies in Great Lakes Shire. It was also a

document that had to be prepared as a result of determinations of ‘Core Koala Habitat’ made under SEPP 44 - Koala Habitat Protection upon Government and private North Hawks Nest landholdings.

This document –“Draft Koala Plan of Management for Hawks Nest Village and North Hawks Nest” dated May 2001 was placed before the then Great Lakes Council. It had been prepared at great expense using Public monies supplied by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and ratepayers monies in Great Lakes Shire. It was a document prepared as a result of determinations of ‘Core Koala Habitat’ made under SEPP 44 - Koala Habitat Protection upon Government and private North Hawks Nest landholdings.

THE DOCUMENT SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

So how do you bury and remove what should have become a statutory document from ever being considered again by the former Great Lakes Council (now amalgamated into MidCoast Council)?

What are the MidCoast Councillors doing about the Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens Koala matters - now some 20 years after Jean Shaw’s impassioned speech?

The answer is they are approving plans to develop land in the sensitive and beautiful area of Hawks Nest, starting with Sanderling Avenue.

Only one MidCoast Councillor, Peter Epov from Wingham, did vote against the controversial Sanderling Avenue development several times, and has taken the time to investigate the issue, making a dozen visits down to Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest and North Arm Cove over the past two years, commented,

“I am really concerned at the proposed over-development of Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest and North Arm Cove, and the impact both on the local residents, and the pristine environment that includes our precious Koala’s, but on this issue I have been a single voice in the wilderness. The area needs to have strong local representation on Council.”

The Endangered Hawks Nest / Tea Gardens Koala Population has been all but wiped out.

Some call it ‘Progress’.

But as Jean Shaw asked in 2001 “Why is there NO ONE in any tier of Government, from top to bottom interested in saving our endangered koala ?? They should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.”

Jean is right.

What do we tell our children?

DM

*See “HAWKS NEST ... a Bird’s Eye View” by Janis Winn. 2018



Jean Shaw and Mayor unveil The Jean Shaw Reserve

BE PREPARED FOR BUSHFIRE SEASON!

Some tips from the Tinonee Rural Fire Brigade

Tracey and Paul Dyson, residents of Tinonee, are very active members of the Tinonee Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade.

Paul is the experienced Senior Deputy Captain and has been an RFS volunteer for 40 years. Tracey is on the Community Engagement Team.

Having gone through the recent Black Summer fires they wanted to share some advice for fire preparation for this summer.

'It's all about basic preparation,' says Tracey. 'Make sure there's no bushes, overhanging shrubs or long grass around your house. Don't stack firewood close to the house. Clean out your gutters. Make sure that everything works; pumps if you have them, a sturdy hose, make sure that there's water on hand.'

Also a plan is essential. Are you going to stay and defend or leave? Have a "grab bag" ready with important documents and precious items - anything from a list of passwords, pharmaceuticals and prescriptions, passports, photos, mortgage details, birth/ marriage certificates, insurance papers. Everyone takes something different.

Have the phone numbers of neighbours and any elderly or infirm people locally. Don't forget about pets and livestock, plan what you'll do with them. In a last minute panic you forget things.

We have a list of suggestions at the station if people want to double check.'

BURNING OFF

Permits are required for burn offs from your local RFS...though it's a bit late in the season now. Someone from your local brigade will visit and assess what you plan to burn to make sure it's safe and not a potential fire hazard.

If a fire threatens, or you have to evacuate ... along with the grab bag and your house preparations you can also think of -

Leaving water out for wildlife.

Secure your home

Download the free app - Fires Near Me which is useful if a fire starts in your area, and have a radio with batteries in case the power goes.

Know where the safety refuges are to go and shelter if required.

HOME PRECAUTIONS

Tracey says she keeps a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket in her kitchen as a precaution at all times. Especially if you're living on a property as all the brigade are volunteers so to get out to a property can take a little while. People in towns and villages shouldn't be too complacent as we've learned how fast fire can travel, embers fly, and fires get out of control.

if you are caught and trapped at your house know what to do in advance - jump in a dam, soak blankets in water to throw over yourself. Anyone with respiratory problems should think how to manage and prepare in times of fire. A little bit of forethought can save you.

'Hopefully we won't have a repeat of the 2019 fires,' said Tracey.

Paul agrees. 'It was catastrophic conditions. The loss of life, towns, property, wildlife, stock, was pretty dreadful. Given the conditions we knew it was going to be bad, and but with the resources we had we managed very well, considering once the fire got going it snowballed and took everything in its path,' said Captain Dyson. 'I saw something similar back in the early 1980s that swept through where Tallwoods now is as it was open paddocks then. But this last time the fire fronts were a lot bigger and



intense. The thing that impressed me was with everything happening there was co-ordination, and a sense of all pulling together.

'At the Tinonee Fire Shed we had brigades coming from all over and we put out the call to help us feed six brigades and the public response was wonderful. The community really excelled themselves. There were also some local people who were able to manage their protection themselves,

fighting on their own and with neighbours which freed us up to fight elsewhere. We'd go back and check on them.

'After the fires people thought about things and figured they should join the of brigade. We have 50 volunteers, all ages from self retirees and young ones coming through as well as fantastic women volunteers. Our brigades do a wonderful job and we welcome new volunteer members, said Captain Dyson.'

And the community sends a big thank you to ALL our volunteer furies.

More information- contact Tinonee Rural Fire Brigade on 0492 892129 or email tinoneerfs@outlook.com

Follow the brigade on Facebook and Instagram for all updates.



THE EDGE GALLERY RE-OPENS AFTER THE FLOODS

The Edge Gallery is a local business supporting local artists. Established 2 years ago by Steve Losh, the gallery has been through fires, devastating floods and Covid 19, which has seen many forced closures.



Local artist exhibit at The Edge Gallery

Fluid Art by Roz Baker

“As I am proud to support our local artists, closing the gallery permanently was never an option,” says Steve. After securing new premises in Pultney St after the floods that ripped through the original gallery, Steve now has over 60 artists on his books with almost 300 paintings sold.

The exhibition room is a highlight of the new gallery and is booked until mid 2022. Popular local artist, Roz Baker, is exhibiting her work in early November. Why not support us and our local artists with a visit.”

Roz Baker joined the local art

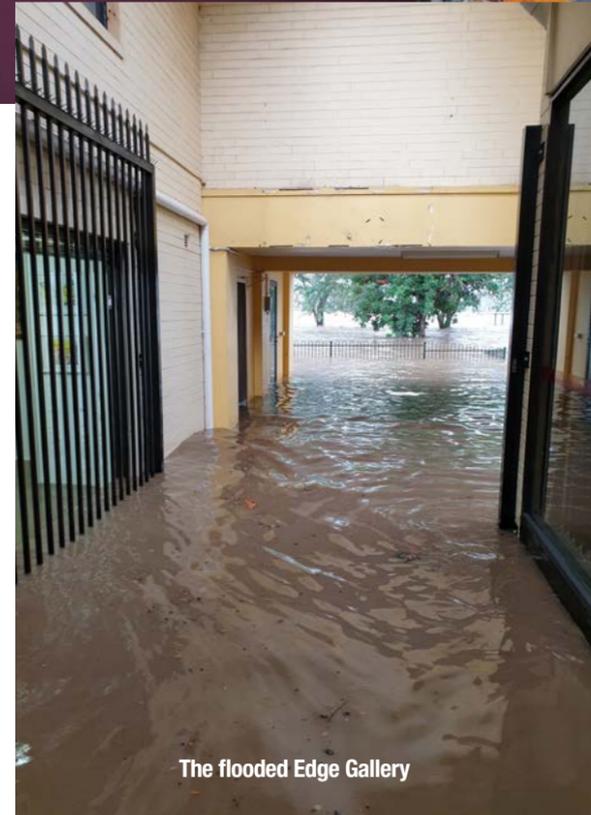
region as an author and public speaker. She humorously claims that she is a writer who paints, but hopes she may reverse that one day to be, a painter who writes.

When the fluid art craze hit the world in recent years, Roz discovered an art form she thought she could actually compete in, little knowing that paint brushes would be replaced by hair dryers and every manner of scraper and kitchen utensil known to man. The process involves layering multiple colours of acrylic paint in a tumbler, which is then poured through

fraternity later than most and is better known to many around the Manning and Great Lakes

funnels or colanders, or scraped, blown or spun into a desired composition. It is messy but great fun. The technique guarantees unique pieces that can never be duplicated. Roz also works in resin and produces some quirky pieces in mixed media.

While Roz confesses this is not fine art, she is delighted that many of her pieces have found homes locally and across the state and was pleased to be awarded a commendation for one of her initial pieces. She is thankful for venues like The Edge Gallery, which give artists in all genres an opportunity to showcase their work. An exhibition of Roz Baker’s work will be on display at The Edge, until Nov 6th, followed on the 8th by Taree artist, Janny Pringle Brown... Definitely worth a look.



The flooded Edge Gallery

Steve Losh
The Edge Gallery and Art Supplies
6 Pultney St, Taree 0448 432 654

CHINA... A RISK OF WAR?

Traditionally Australian media have focussed on UK and US personalities and events. Now China is becoming more newsworthy. A global return of China and India needs to be recognised by Australians (for example, less obsession with US politics and the UK Royal Family).

A NEW ERA IS OPENING UP.

For most of the last 2,000 years, China and India have been major players in the global economy. But in recent centuries they have been overshadowed by the WEIRD world (Western, Educated, Industrialised, Rich and Democratic): UK, US, western Europe, and Australia and New Zealand. The WEIRD world has dominated the globe for the last 500 years, and now that dominance is declining.

China and India are returning to their old status as major economic powers. China expects to be the number one global power by 2049 (the 100th anniversary of the Chinese communist revolution).

Professor Graham Allison of Harvard has warned of a war between the US and China. In his best-selling history book, *The Thucydides Trap*: he looked at the 500 years of WEIRD history and saw that 12 out of 16 races for supremacy resulted in war (the most recent being the UK and Germany):

<https://www.belfercenter.org/thucydides-trap/overview-thucydides-trap>

Thucydides wrote about the Athens and Sparta rivalry and how that resulted in war. The “trap” comes from an established power being challenged by a rising ambitious power.

While the US has been obsessing over Islamic terrorists, China has been reshaping the global economy via the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). There are six international economic co-operation corridors: New Eurasia Land Bridge, China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-West Asia, China-Indochina Peninsula, China-Pakistan, and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar.

It is now possible to board a train on the Chinese coast and get off in east London.

For the first time in 500 years a Western country is not the main



President Xi Jinping

driver of change. This is the end of the “Westernization=modernisation” nexus.

How is Australia to respond? AUKUS is the new defence alliance between Australia, US and UK.

The September 16 2021 announcement was historic. Australian media have tended to focus on the submarines (the French submarine programme was overtime and over budget). But the big picture is even more important.

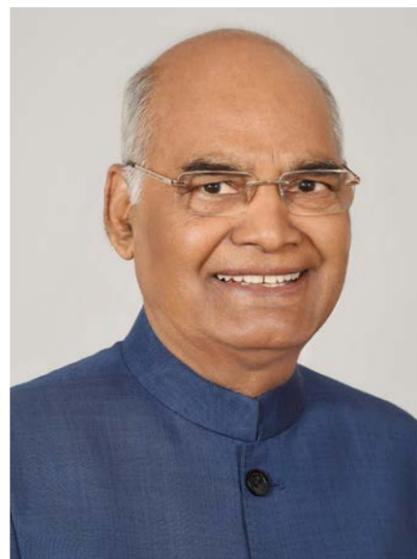
“China” was not mentioned in the three statements (Morrison, Johnson and Biden) but was “present” throughout the media event. Are the decks being cleared for action against China? Is this a variation of the “Thucydides Trap”?

I fear that there is a risk of sleepwalking into a war with China.

At first glance Australia, UK and US all benefit from AUKUS. Australia: has now “made the choice between the US and China” (which John Howard said was unnecessary); Australia is going all the way with the USA.

For the UK, post-Brexit “Global Britain” needed to move from slogan to strategy. Now there is some strategy. It also reinforces British tribal memory of a far-flung navy.

The US is getting free from the inconclusive (to say the least) 20



President Ram Nath Kovind

years of “War on Terror”. But the Military-Industrial Complex had to be reassured there would still be opportunities for making money. China is the new enemy.

But the new Cold War is different from the old one. The old Cold War (US-USSR, 1945-91) was mainly a military confrontation because the USSR was excluded from the world economy.

The new Cold War has China at the centre of the global economy (including via the Belt and Road Initiative: BRI). The BRI has a trap for Australia: China will use the BRI to find alternative suppliers to Australia (it does not like being so reliant on any one country), such as in Africa.

How do you oppose militarily a major trading partner? Australia, the UK and US are all looking to China for their economic growth.

Also the US no longer enjoys the global supremacy it had in the previous Cold War. In the post-1945 era, the US has had only a limited list of victories: 1983 invasion of Grenada; 1989 invasion of Panama and arrest of Manuel Noriega (1934-2017); liberation of Kuwait (1990-1); and Kosovo War (1998-9).

They were all “conventional” operations. Korea (1950-3) was a “draw”, and the defeats were all in the guerrilla conflicts, such as Viet-

nam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The US manufacturing base was a key factor in the Allies winning World War II. But the US has lost much of that base (including to China!); could China just wait and strike later while the US has continued its decline?

On the other hand, there is no guarantee of a Chinese victory. The US is still very powerful in conventional military terms.

China would be foolish to clash head-on in a conventional war with the US. It would be better to go for cyberwarfare, cyberattacks on US’s crumbling infrastructure, social disruption via social media and the undermining of institutions so as to have Americans feud with each other.

Meanwhile President Xi is ramping up the pressure on Taiwan. Will his brinkmanship scare his colleagues? China has large internal problems (such as the property bubble and shortage of energy) to also occupy his time.

Is China heading for an era of political turmoil and leadership confusion? Former British diplomat Roger Garside has speculated on there being turmoil in China: *China Coup: The Great Leap to Freedom*.

In short, both the US and China should try to settle their problems by diplomatic means and not resort to war.

Meanwhile, Australia should be less reliant on China (as China itself through the BRI is aiming to be less reliant on Australia). Do not have all your economic eggs in the China basket. Australia needs to find alternative customers such as Indonesia and India.

Keith Suter

Keith.suter@globaldirections.com.au

<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/global-truths-with-dr-keith-suter/id1349621064>

www.globaldirections.com.au

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENTS

With Mid Coast Council elections rapidly approaching we would like to introduce our group for your consideration on the 4th of December.

PAUL SANDILANDS

I have grown up in this area and was educated in both Forster and Taree. I have worked as a nurse/midwife for over 40 years. I've been involved in my community through Football and volunteering for many varied events. I have NO political affiliations.



AMELIA HARRIS

Lifetime experience in customer service, HR, business management, community pharmacy & VET education and training. Lived in the area since aged 5. True passion found and formed for assisting people and volunteering time. Long term sports club volunteer and community supporter. Past President of Tuncurry Netball Club



JAN MCWILLIAMS

Total 26 years on council. 12 years Mayor & Deputy Mayor. Aims to Continue responsible financial management. Previously achieved, Tuncurry skate park development, hawks football club grandstand & Lighting Open door policy for our constituents



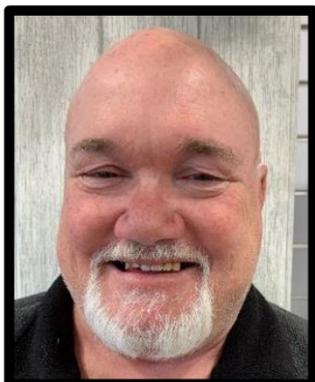
SUE PARKER

Experience in retail, childcare, hospitality and owning a small business. Involved with NO Mid Coast Council MOVE TO MASTERS movement. Understands the need for ratepayers to be represented. Firmly believes there should be NO POLITICAL PARTIES in Council. Standing as a TRUE INDEPENDENT

OUR VALUES
TRANSPARENCY
ACCOUNTABILITY
LISTENING
RESPONSIVE
OPENESS
APPROACHABLE

CHRIS WINDSOR

14 years as Union Official Representative
NSW Fire Brigade Employees Union
4 years President of the State Committee of Management
9 years as councillor of Leichhardt council
1 year Deputy Mayor of Leichhardt Council
2005 Mayor of Leichhardt Council



RONI DOUGLAS

Lived in Smiths Lake over 21 years
Believes only independents truly work for the community
Trusts there is a future for beautiful scenery and peaceful lifestyle
There is no party politics or agendas to overshadow community goals

WHAT IS THOUGHTFUL DEVELOPMENT?

Michelle Larin

Infrastructure development in the MidCoast region should be aimed at improving the local economy and living standards, whilst enhancing productivity.



‘Thoughtful Development’ is about ensuring such development is:

- economically viable;
- aesthetically sympathetic to its surrounds;
- sustainable and environmentally sound; and
- necessary or desired by the community.

It is essential that the MidCoast region encourages development which protects new or declining industries and attracts new industries that will benefit the region and result in job creation. At the same time, such development needs to be in keeping with the aesthetics of the surrounding area (including any cultural and heritage aspects), with-

out harm to the region’s native flora and fauna (to the maximum extent possible), and in the best interests of the community.

Thoughtful Development is about ensuring development approved in the MidCoast region is either supplemental to or able to co-exist with existing and thriving industries (including agricultural, industrial and tourism), businesses and communities. Consideration needs to be given to interdependencies between sectors of the local economy.

It is MidCoast Council’s responsibility to ensure that Development Applications for large scale commercial and residential developments are thoroughly investigated and assessed and that the elements of Thoughtful Development, including the community’s voice, are genuinely considered during the approvals process.

I am not sure that our Council has given such consideration to this concept in approving some of the recent developments in the MidCoast Region, including the Kolodong Housing Estate. That Estate will have an extra 3,300 car movements per day. With a nearby school and child care centre. So it is prudent to question whether our current

Council has given due consideration to the impact such extra traffic will have on the local community.

ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE

A critical part of Thoughtful Development is ensuring the required ancillary infrastructure and amenities are in place, or future planned, to enable such development to successfully occur in our region. Forster, Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest are prime examples that need attention. It is Council’s responsibility to ensure that it is investing in:

- roads that are capable of withstanding heavy vehicle traffic associated with increased construction activity;
- appropriate mitigation measures, including where noise or traffic congestion may be of concern;
- adequate sewer and water utilities; and
- green spaces to offset ecological impacts of development.

The management and use of public assets must become smarter, more productive and more efficient to avoid infrastructure spending becoming unsustainable. Council must adopt innovative, contemporary technologies to improve the

operations and maintenance of the ancillary infrastructure and amenities, which Thoughtful Development is reliant upon.

Thoughtful Development also means exploring innovative solutions to address challenges related to urbanisation and sustainability, facilitating a user experience that helps local towns in the MidCoast region to do something new or better. It’s time that MidCoast Council puts ‘Thoughtful Development’ front of mind when approving new developments for our region. Isn’t it time?

Michelle Larin resides in the township of Old Bar. She is a practising infrastructure and projects lawyer, having a decade of experience advising government bodies, statutory utilities and private developers on construction matters, including the procurement and delivery of infrastructure projects.

Given her government experience, Michelle is in a unique position to ensure accountability and compliance with law and government processes.

She is passionate about economic development, community projects and improving the quality of our roads in the MidCoast region.

Precious Monsters

The dusky flathead in Port Stephens shake in their boots when the Coles family hit the water.

At 105 cm this is the biggest flattie I have ever reported in the past 35 years and is testament to the efforts of all those who have been releasing big flathead back into the system.

Although it is legal to keep one flathead over 70 cms it has developed into an unwritten law in Port Stephens (and elsewhere hopefully) for the big duskies to be set free to breed.

This sends a very clear message to NSW Fisheries to review the bag and size limit for dusky flathead.

I clearly recall when all big flathead were kept and paraded around as a display of great achievement. Times

have changed and there is a greater awareness of protection of our natural resources.

It is the next generation of fishers that give me confidence that the future is in good hands.

I had a chuckle when the Fisheries Minister suggested that allowing carp to be targeted by bow and arrow would lessen the environmental damage caused by the introduced fish.

Having witnessed the numbers of carp I reckon that the impact would equate to throwing a rice bubble at an elephant.



A huge 105cms dusky flathead that was caught and released for breeding.

Fishing writer, author and radio presenter John “Stinker” Clarke can be heard weekly, throughout NSW, on popular ABC Regional Radio fishing program “The Big Fish”. Check him out on www.stinker.com.au or send an email to editor@manningcommunitynews.com with your information and questions.



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4, 1-5 Caledonia Street, Harrington

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24/7
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ABBOTT IN THE CHINA SHOP

In my opinion Abbott delivered a most imprudent speech to the Yushan Regional Security Forum in the Taiwanese capital Taipei on 8 October.

He referred to Xi Jinping as the new red emperor accusing him of bullying and belligerence; listing all of China's 'sins', from Hong Kong, Uighurs and trade sanctions against Australia as reasons to support Taiwan politically and militarily. He advocated Australia's phantom submarines patrol the 'Taiwan Strait' whilst exhorting Canberra to deepen its ties with Taiwan.

Abbott was welcomed by none less than the Taiwanese President, Tsai Ing-wen and Foreign Minister, Joseph Wu. He spoke at the Forum immediately after the President.

It is fair to say that Abbott is not known for his balance and his performance in Taipei does nothing to alter that judgement. The question arises who put Abbott up to it?

Prior to his Yushan speech Abbott had not expressed himself in such rabid terms about China and nor in such fulsome terms about Taiwan. We saw from his torrid time as Prime Minister that he is no great shakes as a thinker, in fact he was able to advocate and believe, like Morrison, in two completely contradictory propositions at the same time, such as the welfare of Indigenous Australians whilst cutting funding and arguing for jobs while axing the car industry.

Abbott is easily bought whether by Murdoch or Pell, so who bought him this time? Before Abbott gave his address Morrison said his visit to Taiwan was private. Why did he feel the need to say that? Unless he had been forewarned on what Abbott might say. And if so by whom? Morrison is not known for his truth telling, so his denial of the nature of the visit means little and on his past form probably means the opposite.

The Abbott speech was in advance of anything he has said so far on tensions between China and Taiwan. So, who wrote it? It contained a strong message and a line that has been pushed by ASPI. The tone, intended or not, reflected the language we have become used to from ASPI. Did they write the speech and work with DFAT to help organise the visit?

Abbott would have received a handsome fee for his appearance. Airfares and accommodation were most likely found by the Taiwanese. Who put that together for him? Abbott is notoriously unable to organise and look after himself.

The senior Australian representative in Taiwan, Ms. Jenny Bloomfield, accompanied Abbott. As a former Prime Minister, he is entitled to official assistance by an Australian embassy or post, however accompanying a former Prime Minister on his private visits and to official functions is not part of the duty statement.

In matters such as this only one of two things are likely to have occurred. An official instruction sent from Canberra directing the head of mission, Bloomfield, to accompany Abbott and give him the required assistance for him to successfully fulfill his undertakings to the Forum, on this occasion a speech of some significance. The other thing that might occur is that Abbott or the Taiwanese would get in touch with Bloomfield to advise of the visit. She would then seek instructions.

Canberra might say provide only minimum assistance in accord with his former office or do everything you can to assist. If the latter, Canberra becomes attached to the visit and a party to whatever occurs and is said. The visit then becomes, to all intent and purposes, an official visit. By her presence Bloomfield has accorded that status to Abbott's ill-advised jaunt and intervention. Additionally, the tone and nature of the message, taken together with Bloomfield's support, provides the hallmark of official approval.

This intervention by Abbott has about it, the inept diplomacy which has seen relations with China, France and the EU collapse. Ham fisted, poorly timed and not co-ordinated with regional countries and other players including the US, Japan and France.

The US must be aghast at the Abbott foray at a time when it is trying to develop a dialogue with China. But then maybe not, perhaps Australia was used as the dead goat in the Afghan sport of buzkashi. Maybe the Americans are happy to bounce off our stupidity in their difficult and delicate discussions with China.

Leadership in these difficult times whether from former prime minister Abbott or the current prime minister has been and is appalling. We really have been condemned to be a mob of losers under Morrison.

Bruce Haigh is a retired Diplomat and political commentator.

Our Sunburnt Country



Anika Molesworth

Macmillan Rrp \$34.99

If you are skeptical about climate change, read this book.

Anika Molesworth's well researched text **Our Sunburnt Country** explores the full gamut of life on Planet Earth from the beginning signs of damage to eventual disastrous outcomes if we continue to ignore the signs staring us in the face.

Whilst there are the obvious reports of how far we've come in unbalancing our ecosystem, there is also much hope for the future if only we can accept what the scientists and environmentalists are reporting and change our practices before it is all too late. Craig Reucassel says it well with, *'In Australia our climate debate can be depressing. In the hands of Anika Molesworth it is uplifting and full of hope.'*

'We need to be the change we want to see' puts the onus fairly and squarely on us not them or someone else, on us! By reading this book, you'll gain a clearer insight into how we can be part of the solution rather than relying on politicians to make the right (or wrong) decisions for us!

Here's one example from Natalie Issacs from Sydney. After the 2006 fires she decided on changes that she could handle - she replaced the lightbulbs with energy efficient ones, she avoided buying items with lots of packaging, she began recycling, she sought locally grown produce, cooked less meat, made a compost heap and sold her car to use buses instead. At farmers' markets, she made the connection that real people were involved - the people behind the food.

In a nutshell the issue is- *'Natural rhythms and seasonal cycles are no longer acting as they once did. As a global society, we have emitted dangerous greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, trapping heat and increasing global temperatures. In so doing, we have thrown the climate system into chaos and the*

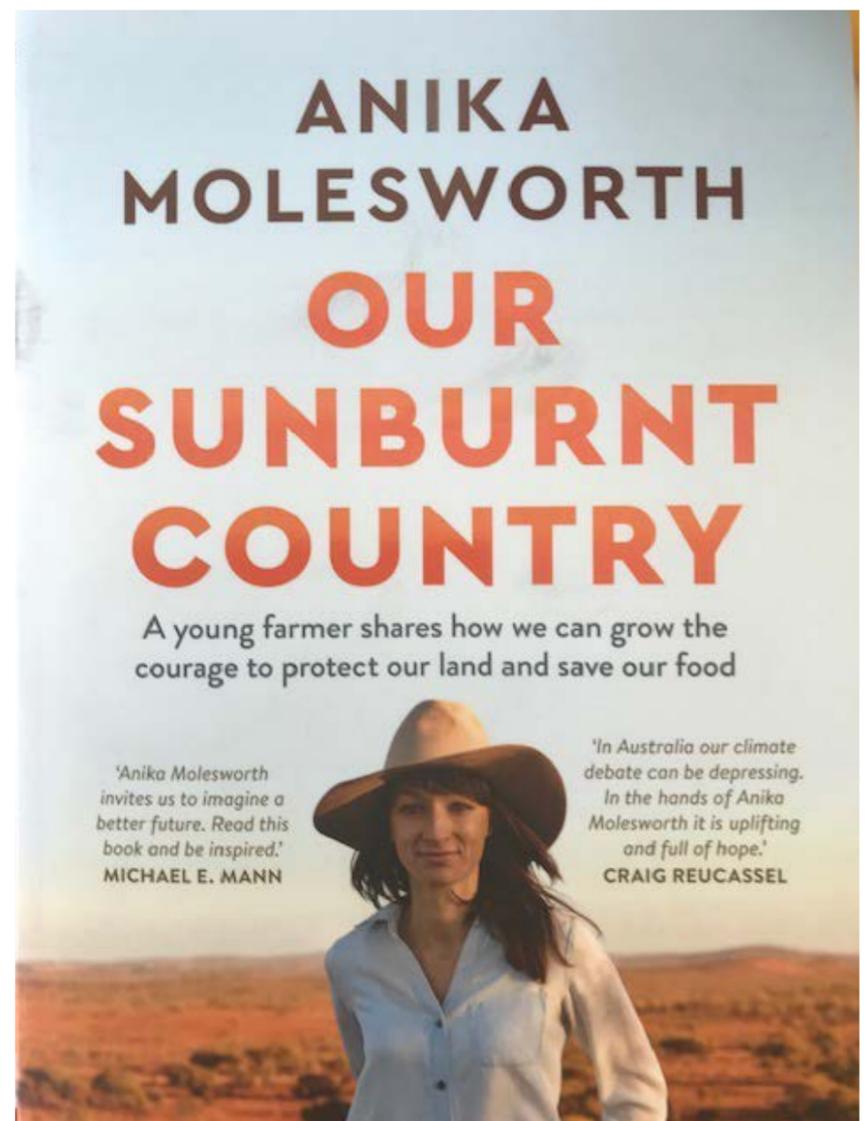
food system into harm's way.'

Chapter 5 entitled Boundaries puts it in layman's terms of the how and the why we are where we are right now. She then steps out how we can progress rather than ignore. 'We must awaken from our amnesia and we need to act now.'

So where are the signs of hope? *'Less than 1% of the world's 30,000 edible plants are eaten today'*. What an amazing statement. There's plenty more like this.

Many farmers are creating the change by harnessing solar power, creating a lowered carbon footprint, replanting forests and remediating depleted soils on their farms and properties. Others are exploring resource distribution and consumption, waste management, low emission transportation, ecotourism and green technology. With Australia being the 4th largest coal producing country in the world, some leaders are already researching how mining employees need not lose their jobs as new technologies are embraced. A careful transition is required.

The last chapter entitled Action brings it all together with a blueprint for us all to roadmap our transition from mindless consumers to bring about positive change. It breaks it into Today, tomorrow, this week, this month and this year. If we took on



one from each, positive change will have occurred. For example - **vote for your future, plant a garden, invest your money wisely and choose your food carefully.**

I recommend this book to you.

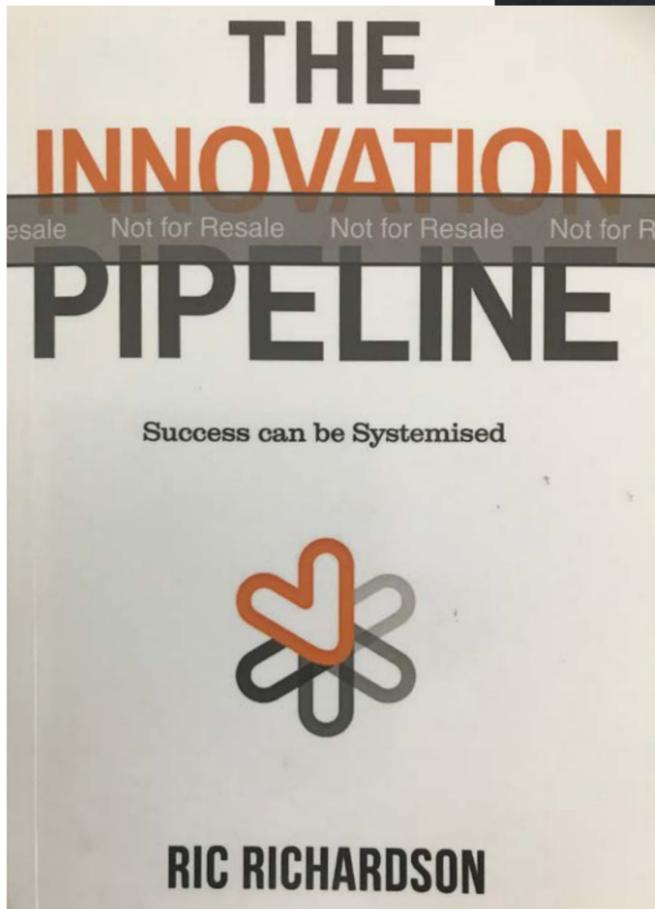
**Susan Goodison
Forster**



The Innovation Pipeline

Success can be Sytemised

Ric Richardson



This is a small handbook which was only an ebook previously. Which makes sense as Ric is Australia's super whiz kid of the computer industry. It was he who invented try and buy software in the 1992.

Ric was a musician and a casual inventor until he became interested in computer generated music and became the "computer guy" in sound music recording here and in the US.

His light bulb moment was deciding to find a way to lock up music software so it could only be used for a trial period and then paid for with either a fee or pay system.

I remember those days. Ric's dad was an ABC cameraman and my Uncle Jim Revitt an ABC journalist who lived near Ric. They spent months nutting out how to get Ric's invention to the world market . . . once Jim grasped what computers were all about!

The likes of Apple and Microsoft began courting Ric. He had a big meeting with Microsoft in 1993 but it went nowhere. He also had a meeting with Rupert Murdoch early on but none of the News executives at that time grasped the whole concept and what it could lead to. So they offered Ric a backroom job which he

declined. Big business saw this as a means of also stopping privacy.

declined.

Long story short. Ric formed his company Uniloc and spent large sums to patent his system around the world. But in 2003 he discovered that Microsoft was using a program very similar to his. Coincidence? Ric investigated and what followed was years of litigation for nine years. Microsoft eventually settled for a reported AUD 500 million dollars.

So Ric, a kind hearted, generous and caring fellow, began helping fellow inventors round Byron Bay where we both lived at the time. It was all very informal, chatting in cafes and so on.

It has grown to the point now where Ric has decided to help, advise, and work with other aspiring

and productive inventors with suggestions from creation to marketing.

Ric still works on his own inventions from inside a decommissioned ambulance set up as an office workspace along with his dog for company. He parks near a beach in reach of a cappuccino.

This book is a slim volume of rich advice and ideas for inventors.

It's a masterclass from a very modest mastermind.

DM

Ric can be contacted by email at contact@r2labs.com

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CR EPOV WILL STAND FOR COUNCIL

Opinion Piece

MidCoast Councillor Peter Epov, from Wingham, has announced that he will be standing for re-election at the Local Government Elections on 4 December 2021.

Councillor Epov reflects on his decision: 'Whilst to some degree it was a difficult decision, to arrive at, given the challenges that I have faced with this Council over the past 4 years, particularly balancing all the frustration against the benefits of returning to a 'normal life', it has become patently obvious to me now more than ever, that we need competent experienced local independent people who are prepared to stand up for this community on our Council.

MidCoast Council is now a major regional Council which has spent over a total of a \$1 billion dollars, that's right \$1,000,000,000 in the four budgets ending at June 2021. This makes our Council a significant trading enterprise which requires the highest levels of corporate governance, as well as a primary focus on the delivery of core services and community projects.

These large numbers also regrettably introduce greater scope for waste, and what I term as "*budgetary laziness and indifference*" and even corruption. An attitude of "*What does it matter if we are only 8% over budget*". It does matter, it is the ratepayers money and it all adds up, particularly if most projects end up costing more and not on time. The community pays for this.

Over the past 4 years our Council has re-voted or carried over an average of \$40 million dollars in projects each year into the next year which must end up costing us more. Even on a modest 5% increase each year it could mean an increase of \$2 million each year, or \$8 million over the four years, but some of our Councillors have told you re-votes and carryovers are a good thing. Sound financial management is critical as well as the understanding that there has to be accountability – not a blame game, but Council imposing a system to ensure that these carry overs and re-votes do not repeatedly occur to the same scale.

REBUILDING PUBLIC TRUST

'It is only through the well-designed purposeful delivery of services and projects and a genuine concerted approach to transparency and accountability in reporting that there will be any hope of rebuilding public trust. Spin and propaganda and constant good news stories about projects that don't eventuate or take so long that they frustrate most of those concerned and then blow out budgets only serves to exacerbate public confidence.

A POSITIVE FUTURE

We need to be honest and engage openly and sincerely with our community and actively encourage people from all our towns and regions to participate and contribute to the future of our region. We need to encourage people through consistent practical achievements and a repetition of positive results.

Many people have questioned the performance of this Council since amalgamation, and what has really been achieved.

It is clear that our community now needs to elect representatives onto Council who are sufficiently proficient to the level required to control Council's finances and to effectively oversee the work of senior executives who manage a staff of over 1000 employees. Also simultaneously representing our diverse communities' interests in a fair, effective and equitable manner. We need elected representatives who are not afraid to listen to the community, who will speak and engage with the public and are not afraid to justify their decisions, coherently.

Our Council needs significant reform in order to operate as an efficient business, which is in the delivery of vitally important services which can contribute meaningfully to the quality of the lives of all our residents and to advance the social and economic prosperity of our communities. Your future elected representatives need to know how to enact policies and implement strategies to ensure that Council can effectively deliver those vital key services and important infrastructure projects, such as road works, which are enduring, timely and to budget.

CUSTOMERS

More and more I hear this term "*customers*" in Council as a way of describing our residents and ratepayers – we are not '*customers*', to be sold services or be exploited, we are the shareholders of the LGA. If not for the residents there would be no LGA and no Council. Historically, the formation of Councils came about through residents combining to share the costs of the delivery of various services.

So if we want real change and reform which will make our Council markedly more effective, we all need to play a greater role in this democratic process on 4 December.

We need local representatives elected who are capable of stopping the waste and ensuring that the ser-

vices we all need are delivered efficiently and that the public's money is well spent. Experience is an important element and we must have people who really understand how the Council, that is the elected body, and also how the Administration works. And as well as to recognise the relative tensions between the two, and understand how to resolve this to the benefit of the community. Councillors should not be, nor seen to be, subservient to the Administration.

INTEGRITY

This requires people with integrity, who have the courage of their convictions and have the knowledge to understand what measures and systems are required to be applied to ensure the organisation performs; that it is truly transparent with how public money is spent and how decisions are made; that it is genuinely inclusive of the entire community and that it is ultimately visibly accountable for its actions.

My aim in running for Council this time in a group is to try to bring new people onto Council, but not my mates, or to put people on my ticket from different places who will help me get elected, or as one Councillor once eloquently put it: '*as stocking fillers*'.

I have identified and selected through my Exploratory Committee investigations earlier this year, a number of smart, qualified independent women and men from varying age groups, who are capable of overseeing an organisation of over 1000 employees and a \$280 Million dollar annual budget.

QUALIFIED

Passion and a desire to represent, are important but has to be tempered with experience, qualifications and capacity. I have found many "newbie councillors" fall into the same trap as some of their predecessors. I have watched this phenomenon since 2012; all sorts of pre-election claims are made but once elected, those promises are either abandoned or face the reality check of being in the local government system and having to deal with the Council Administration.

I am not urging nor recommending that you re-elect many of the old lot back, far from it, I am asking you to think about how you should vote in this election. We can't afford to end up with a chook lotto, with people who have no vision, no agenda, nor expertise and knowledge, but want just to sit on Council as a judge, who are content to accept whatever recommendations are made by the Administration,

(which they mostly often don't actually understand), who stumble and mumble, or can't express themselves, and resort to heckling others who can. We don't want this for another three years. This isn't what local government is meant to be.

In my 9 years of council experience I have seen people from a number of councils who all know how to get elected, but once they're on Council they really have no idea what to do. So they get led by other Councillors or the awaiting Administration.

Frankly, the Administration thrives on newbie Councillors, hoping for the return of the sycophants and enthusiastic apologists for the Administration.

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY FOCUSED PEOPLE

We need community focused people who have previously worked as volunteers in the community and for the community. People who won't be intimidated nor seduced by the Administration. People who have hopes and dreams and fresh ideas of how to improve and advance our community, and at the same time understand finance and how to spend public money wisely and achieve outcomes to the maximum benefit of the entire community.

Council is a complex creature, which, for some Councillors takes a number of years to truly understand how it operates. Some never learn, and just go along with the recommendations of the Administration until they drop off the radar and are not re-elected.

COUNCILLORS DON'T READ THE AGENDA PAPERS

I have heard stories that some Councillors don't bother to read their Council Agenda papers, which can run from 200 to over 1000 pages per meeting. Too often they are only made available to councillors 4 - 5 days before a meeting. So lazy councillors read the 3 or 4 paragraphs of the '*Staff Recommendations*' and vote on the matter. As a bare minimum to be on Council you need people who are able to read and comprehend all of what is being proposed. Plus understand the consequences of the decision they are about to make for the entire community.

EXPLAIN YOURSELF

Some of these people also fall into the trap even without realising that the formal (and legal) decisions they make at Council Meetings are theirs alone, and they are accountable to the

community. Councillors should be able to explain, intelligently and coherently, why they are making certain decisions, both inside the Council Chamber and in the public arena. Too often it's left to the Administration's media machine to explain.

A HEALTHY ADMINISTRATION

Such a situation is neither healthy for the community nor for the Administration. A successful Administration and Council need to be constantly and consistently tested and held accountable. This is how continuous improvement is achieved. If questions are asked and honestly and openly answered then public confidence grows.

COUNCIL DECISIONS

At a Council meeting most of the decisions that are made, are by way of 'Staff Recommendations', that is the staff produce a report and make recommendations which councillors consider, then theoretically discuss / debate the proposal and then vote. Once the vote is taken, the responsibility for the decision rests with the Councillors and not the Administration.

So if the Council makes the right decision and describes that decision accurately in their resolution then the system should work with a successful outcome. Unfortunately often the right decision may be made but without a clear explanation nor understanding of the method of implementation.

COUNCILLORS MUST REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY

Councillors are elected to represent the community to make smart, clear decisions that not only get the job done but ensure the Administration is accountable throughout the process.

It is not the Councillors' role to micro-manage but it is their role to ensure all the necessary mechanisms are in place to achieve a positive outcome and not to be mates with the Administration, nor to cover up failures.

All Councils need their Administration's activities to be scrutinised, that is how you develop what is called 'best practice'. Without genuine scrutiny and review any organisation or any business will falter, and ultimately collapse.

MY TEAM

I have put together an outstanding team of local candidates. Each one is linked to their communities, each are more than capable of stepping up to being a Councillor. They're qualified and experienced people with an independent view and conscious of the responsibility of serving the community.

The election system being the way it is does not provide equitable opportunities for people running for Council on their own and "below the line". This is why we have come together as a group.

In this Council election think carefully who to vote for. Talk to your friends and neighbours. Vote for proven people whom you can trust."

Cr Peter Epov

pepovmcc21@gmail.com

A LONG-RANGE VINTAGE ELECTRIC VEHICLE FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Southern Cross University has unveiled one of Australia's most ambitious electric vehicle prototypes – a long-range converted Volkswagen Kombi.



But it is more than an uber-cool, 1970s retro vehicle conversion coming out of Southern Cross's Northern Rivers campus at Lismore.

The 18-month project, jointly funded by the NSW Government, delivers on four fronts:

A retro-fitted electric vehicle with a driving range that suits regional Australia.

A tangible learning resource about renewable energy that is now available for schools around the country.

The project was led by a SCU graduate and included hands-on electrical and mechanical engineering experience for current students.

The new electric Kombi complements another existing renewable energy project – the solar-powered Sunflower that delivers remote power.

Professor Tyrone Carlin said the electric Kombi is now part of a narrative about a University determined to find solutions to today's challenges. "One of our goals was to create a Kombi with a range that was practical for regional Australia and, at 200km or even more per charge, we believe we have achieved that," Professor Carlin said.

Andy Naughton, of electric classic car conversion business EV Machina, is the Environmental Science graduate who was commissioned to

undertake the conversion, using 10 x 5.3kWh batteries to help deliver 53kWh of power to an 88kWh electric motor. The batteries are split into two encased packs, one between the front seats and the other in the rear engine bay, with both being charged simultaneously. An elaborate battery management system controls the delivery and distribution of power.

"This particular combination of the range, the power, the idiosyncrasies of a Kombi – all add up to make it one-of-a-kind electric vehicle conversion. And we had to learn along the way – there was no workshop manual for this one," said Mr Naughton, who won a 2018 Clean Energy Hackathon competition through the University's Enterprise Lab.

Chair of Engineering and Information Technology, Dr Ricardo Vasquez Padilla, said the Kombi was a wonderful opportunity to get students involved at the cutting-edge of technology and engineering systems. "One of our students helped with the CAD (computer-aided design) of components and then saw them through to manufacture. It was a great hands-on experience," Dr Vasquez Padilla said.

Vice President (Engagement) Mr Ben Roche, whose portfolio managed the project, said the University had worked in partnership with the STEM Industry Schools Partnerships

(SISP) program, an initiative of the NSW Department of Education's Educational Standards Directorate, to create Kombi-related digital resources for schools not just in NSW but across the country.

"We know school students are deeply engaged with ideas of sustainability and the future," said Mr Roche. "This resource shows how universities can be a place for putting ideas and passion into actions and developing real, practical solutions to the problems we face."

The project received funding from Investment NSW's Boosting Business Innovation Program. Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said Southern Cross University's Electric Kombi was an example of turning ideas into innovative solutions to global challenges.

"The knowledge and expertise gained through innovations like the Electric Kombi will not only help address the need to reduce emissions but will inspire a generation of students to tackle similar challenges," Mr Ayres said. "Through Investment NSW, the NSW Government is fostering an innovation ecosystem to solve both present and future challenges while creating the jobs of tomorrow."

Bell Team Independents



Nawal Maharaj, Laura Boyce, Kathryn Bell, Kay Smith, Katrina Pearson and Ron Hindmarsh - photo taken at Kay Smith's fully off-grid robotic dairy farm at Bulahdelah

Every candidate in this team is a true independent, not a member of any political party, committed to local democracy and committed to carry out council "functions in a way that facilitates local communities that are strong, healthy and prosperous" (NSW Local Government Act 1993 - section 8).

We are promoting precinct committees, popularly elected Mayor, public speakers back in Council meetings, poll on demerger or boundary adjustment and people powered consultation (less external consultants and more consultation within the area with you and me and council)!

MidCoast Council Election 2021

Make Bell Team Independents

Your VOICE, Your CHOICE!

Written by Nawal Maharaj

Authorised by Kathryn Bell JP, Lead Candidate, 7 Toona Close Taree NSW 2430

Email: bellteam4midcoast@gmail.com

Real Kultcha

Confession Time.

In my last literary masterpiece I said Novak Djokovic was going for a Golden Grand Slam in the US Open tennis final. For those of you who might be interested, a Golden Grand Slam has the player (male or female) winning the four majors in the same year (Australian {on a synthetic surface}, French {clay}, Wimbledon {grass} and the US {synthetic again}) and then taking out the Olympic Games' gold medal.

As tennis has only recently been returned to the Olympics, this is a newish opportunity and it only comes around every four years. It's fair to say therefore, it's a biggy! Well, I got it wrong. Alexander Zverev defeated Novak in a semi-final in Tokyo so a Golden Grand Slam at the US Open wasn't up for grabs after all!

BUT, did any of you mental athletes spot it and let me know? Just one, that's how many. And he's an old school friend and I have to admit, was quite gentle in how he informed me of my clanger. And that just goes to show we writers (and sports dribblers) aren't always right! What do you expect from somebody who follows St George (I've got several shirts and even a jersey with my name on the back) and St Kilda (yep, more shirts and even some work socks). If you're really upset then

why not have a go at writing your own 900-word rant for the editor of this Internationally acclaimed newspaper! **Have a go, ya mug!** What have you got to lose, besides your physical lethargy and your mental torpor!

Meanwhile, the annual cricket Big Bash comps have begun. I have to admit I'm a bit old ("How old?" I hear you shout. Let's say, it's been a few years since I saw my 70th birthday cake!) but I was mightily impressed with the standard of cricket played in the first couple of Lady's matches. Several of the catches will not be equalled in the men's comp, the fielding was very impressive and I'm still getting used to seeing a young girl (and several of them were in their teens) field the ball just inside the rope and throw the ball back to the wicket-keeper, on the full and within a (and here I'm showing my age) foot of the bails! When I was young, girls didn't throw things with such vigour (and accuracy) because it wasn't considered lady-like. The games I've seen so far have been thrilling to watch and I'll be watching for the rest of the comp.

With regard to the football grand finals, I managed to pick one: *The Melbourne Demons*. *The Storm* got swamped and when the dust settled, *The Penrith Panthers* had pinched the lollies from Wayne Bennett's *Bunnies*.

And speaking of Wayne Bennett, the ARL has decided (over objections by the other clubs) to expand the NRL to 17 teams for the 2023 season. And who got the guernsey? The Redcliffe Leagues Club – *The Dolphins* - just to the north of Brisbane got it. And what's all this got to do with Wayne Bennett? He's been appointed their coach, that's what. The team will play the bulk of their games at Suncorp Stadium, some at their own field at Redcliffe and some on The Sunshine Coast, drawing in fans from as far north as Gympie, Nambour and Noosa. The old fox was very tight lipped (like he always is) when his contract with *The Bunnies* ended after the Grand Final appearance and didn't everybody think they'd sign him up to another contract, seeing he'd got them to *The Big Dance*? As usual, the dribblers got it wrong. You should also be aware *The Dolphins* have some pedigree. Their favourite son and arguably one of Australia's greatest players, was Artie Beetson. It's a shrewd selection by the ARL as most people were expecting the Central Coast (Gosford) would get the nod in any expansion talk. It may yet but not this time.

The Child Bride and I have been watching the MLB games (that's US baseball – please try to keep up) and it came as a bit of a surprise when we noticed we've managed to record

28 games! Don't know what we've clicked, touched or prodded on the remote (it may even be the result of it once falling on the floor) but we have a veritable cornucopia of sports to watch between now and well into next year. Sorry, we refuse to watch *The Bachelorette*, *Love Island* or *The Farmer Wants a Wife*: they'll turn your brain to mush.

And finally there's our Chloe McCardel. On 13 October she swam The English Channel for the 44th time! If you dig just a little deeper though, you'll discover she swam the Channel for the 42nd time on 21 September, backed up for her 43rd crossing on 7 October before hitting the water again a week later for her 44th! That's impressive any way you look at it! She now holds the record for the most English Channel swims by **anybody**! And would you believe in 2015 she made three (count them: one, two, three) crossings of the Channel in just 37 hours!!! Oh, and if that doesn't grab you, she also holds the record for the longest, unassisted ocean swim of 77 miles (124 kms) from South Eleuthera Island to Nassau in the Bahamas. I'm tired just reading all that!

Talk at you next month,

The Hillside Critic



28 November 2021
A Committee of Pacific Palms Arts Inc.



28 November 2021
A Committee of Pacific Palms Arts Inc.



28 November 2021
A Committee of Pacific Palms Arts Inc.

22 October 2021

FLYER

We are pleased to advise that the 2021 Pacific Palms Writers Festival (PPWF) is now scheduled as a virtual event. This is an initiative of the Pacific Palms Arts Inc Committee.

Time & date 9.30am to 1pm **Virtual – Sunday 28 November 2021**

Register Virtual by Humanitix **free event** www.humanitix.com

Promoters Pacific Palms Arts Inc **Convenors** Michael Fox
Tiona Holiday Park
Wendy Borchers

Provisional Program **Theme** Local Heroes

9.30am Introduction and Welcome to Country

Session 1 9.40am to 11am

- ❖ Aunty Janice Paulson
- ❖ Robert Tickner
- ❖ Rosalie Horner
- ❖ Q & A

Tea / coffee 11am to 11.30am

Session 2 11.40am to 12.50pm

- ❖ Tim Bowden
- ❖ Di Morrissey
- ❖ Greg Blaze
- ❖ Q & A

Close 1pm – 2022 PPWF plans

The PPARts Inc. Committee objective is to elevate the importance of literature and arts through associated programs in Pacific Palms and the wider region. Please visit our website and our beautiful area to experience what we have to offer. PPARts Inc is a not for profit organisation and donations are welcome at www.pacificpalmsartsinc.org.au

Authors & Presenters

Aunty Janice Paulson



Aunty Janice is a valued Worimi community member, having spent most of her life living in Forster.

Aunty Janice is co-founder of the Baraya Wakulda Choir, singing together in Gathang the language of Janice's people Worimi. The Choir was borne out of the Big Sing in the Desert, Alice Springs, followed by the Big Sing by the Sea, Forster. As Aunty Janice says, 'Singing brings people together'.

Worimi Elder

Robert Tickner



Ten doors down 2020

Robert always knew he was adopted but had rarely felt much curiosity about his origins. This is the story of a federal minister's remarkable reunion with his birth parents.

Robert grew up a country boy in Forster and became an Aboriginal Legal Service lawyer and an alderman of the Sydney City Council.

In 1984 he won the federal seat of Hughes, and in 1990 he became the federal minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs.

Rosalie Horner



Waltzing Mathilde 2020

Waltzing Mathilde is a coming-of-age story that addresses themes of motherhood, family and home.

It is set against the backdrop of European expansionism and Sydney's progression from frontier town to metropolis and the devastating 1890s Depression.

Rosalie is the author and was a presenter on ABC Television Melbourne, a Fleet Street journalist for thirty years and TV panellist in Britain.

Tim Bowden



Larrikins in Khaki

2019

Tim Bowden is a broadcaster, journalist, radio and television documentary maker, oral historian and author. His background in journalism includes current affairs, news, feature and documentary work in radio and television. Tim lives in Tuncurry.

Author of seventeen books, he received an Order of Australia for services to public broadcasting in June 1994. In May 1997 he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Tasmania.

Di Morrissey



Before the Storm

2020

Di Morrissey AM was born in Wingham and has returned to her roots where she is writing her 29th novel and also publishes and edits *The Manning Community News*.

'I left school, worked as a journalist and then moved to London as Women's Editor of the Daily Mail. I married a diplomat and lived in many countries. But I had never explored my own country so I travel to locations in Australia and stay there to find inspiration for each book. I think it vital we tell our stories.'

Greg Blaze



No Waves in Jerusalem

2020

Greg is an engineer and Christian adventurer who lives at Old Bar. He was a leading engineer on Maitland's Levee revitalisation project.

His first book, 'There are No Waves in Mogadishu', follows Greg's exploits in building a food warehouse, and upgrading a shipping port for the United Nations' World Food Program in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, the most dangerous city on earth.

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www.pacificpalmsartsinc.org.au www.humanitix.com



It's chilli season!

Chillies are hot right now! And I am not just talking flavour. They are one of the top-selling plants for edible gardens. A selection of homegrown chillies provides a range of spicy flavours to use in the kitchen, while the plants are decorative in the garden or a pot.



Varietal names often indicate their Central and South American origins and heat. Chilli fruits may be green, red, yellow, orange or even purple in colour and vary from small and round to long and skinny.

Colour, shape, and size however, are no indication of heat. Always read the label of your chilli plant which will clearly advise whether you're buying a mild, medium, or hot chilli. You can also look up the chilli variety using the international guide of Scoville heat units (SHU), which reflects levels of capsaicin. The SHU should be taken as a guide only as growing conditions and fruit maturity also affect how much capsaicin is in the chilli and how hot it tastes. As a guide a capsicum has no heat units, a Jalapeno chilli is rated from 2500-8000 SHU while the Habanero is 100,00-350,00 SHU.

Capsaicin is found in the skin, juice, and seeds, so always wash your hands carefully after harvesting or preparing chillies and avoid touching your eyes or mouth until after you've washed your hands.

Children are attracted to the bright colours of chillies in the garden and suffer severely if they pick or eat a chilli. For safety, keep chilli plants well out of reach of children, for example in the centre of a raised garden bed, in an elevated pot or

well fenced.

Chillies are in the Solanaceae family along with tomatoes and potatoes. They grow best through the warmer months of the year (spring to autumn) but continue to grow through winter to resume flowering and fruiting the following spring. They are frost-sensitive, especially when small.

They can be grown in a garden bed or in a container selecting a pot that's at least 25-30cm wide or a trough for good growth. Chillies are sold as seed, seedling or as small plants and they are best planted from spring to summer. Dig lime to the soil before planting to reduce problems with calcium deficiency such as blossom end rot, which can occur as fruit matures.

As they have a strong branch structure, they do not need staking although a stake gives extra support in an exposed, windy situation, or if the branches are brittle and heavily laden with fruit.

When the weather warms, chillies begin to flower then form fruit. Keep plants well-watered as they grow – water daily when it is hot and dry - and protect small plants from slugs and snails.

Aphids and whitefly also attack chillies. Control these pests with sticky yellow traps or an organic insecticide registered for edible plants such as Eco Neem, Natrasoap or a pyrethrum product such as Nature's Way Bug Gun (from Yates).

Large fruit may also be attacked by fruit fly. Use a fruit fly lure and bait to reduce fruit fly damage.

Feed plants once they've begun to bloom. Apply a complete fertilizer every six weeks, or liquid feed potted plants fortnightly.

Use secateurs or scissors to harvest ripe fruit to avoid breaking the branches and a reminder, always wash your hands well after harvesting chillies to avoid burning sensitive skin. Harvest chillies as they are needed. Preserve bountiful crops by drying, freezing, or plaiting into an attractive and useful kitchen decoration. Lightly prune plants to encourage new growth.

Scoville Scale

Pepper types	Scoville heat units
Carolina Reaper	1,400 000 - 2,200 000
Trinidad Scorpion	1,200 000 - 2,000 000
Ghost Pepper	855 000 - 1,041 427
Chocolate Habanero	425 000 - 577 000
Red Savina Habanero	350 000 - 577 000
Fatali	125 000 - 325 000
Habanero	100 000 - 350 000
Scotch Bonnet	100 000 - 350 000
Thai Pepper	50 000 - 100 000
Cayenne Pepper	30 000 - 50 000
Tabasco Pepper	30 000 - 50 000
Serrano Pepper	10 000 - 23 000
Hungarian	5 000 - 10 000
Jalapeno	2 500 - 8 000
Pobiano	1 000 - 1 500
Anaheim	500 - 2 500
Pepperoncini	100 - 500
Bell Pepper	0



Caitlin
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The Codfather

Stuart Rowland

Self published \$60

This is a hefty, very readable, almost encyclopaedic book in its breadth and detail of our iconic Murray Cod.

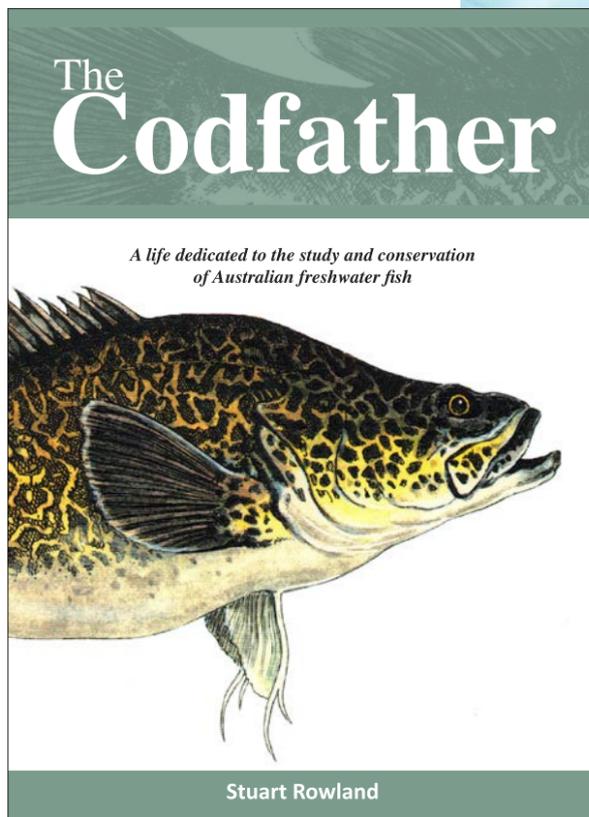
Freshwater fish and rivers have a unique place in Aboriginal culture, history and heritage. The Murray Cod can grow to 100kg and were so sought after they and other freshwater species almost disappeared in the 1970s.

Stuart Rowland was a scientist with NSW Fisheries for over 33 years. He developed hatchery techniques, described the biology of Murray Cod, identified and named the Eastern Freshwater Cod and the Mary River Cod, ran one of our first conservation projects, identified infectious diseases of native fish and farming techniques for Silver Perch.

Stuart's research influenced management and conservation, so much so that stocks are recovering and biodiversity has been restored to many areas.

Stuart's family has close links to the Murray Cod and rivers. 150 years after explorer Major Mitchell named the Murray Cod *peelii* in 1831, Stuart named the endangered Freshwater Cod *ikei* after his grandfather Ike Rowland 150 years later.

There are over 600 glossy pages of information for the layman and the scientist. read about aboriginal culture and fishing, explorers and settlers, scientists, research techniques and adventures, old mates and great characters.



Stu with Murray Cod



Stu Rowland and John Stinker Clarke Broughton Island Nov 2013

Order directly from Stuart –
stuthecodfather@gmail.com

Update On The “Sleep Bus” For The Homeless

I am 'chairman' of the Manning Homeless Action Group. We started after a small public meeting in MUC on 7th July, when our committee was formed. Your readers may have read about this in the Manning Community News, and seen it on TV or heard about it on the radio. We have also been in the Manning River Times. Our objective is to get a Sleep Bus for the Taree area. These are converted buses which can give up to twenty people a good safe night's sleep. Readers can find out all about Sleep Buses on the [sleepbus.org](https://www.sleepbus.org) website, and they also have

videos on YouTube.

Our campaign is called Bed Inn Bus. The link is:

<https://www.sleepbus.org/fundraisers/manninghomelessactiongroupptaree>

We have a Bed Inn Bus Facebook page.

We are also one of the projects on the Fundraiser part of the Sleep Bus website. Our page shows a picture of Martin Bridge, and once clicked it, it tells about us. Why do we use a picture of the Bridge? Because it is one of the places where the homeless sleep. We

have been greatly hampered by the lockdowns, but are now able to get our campaign going in earnest. Even so, up to 26th September we have been able to raise getting on for \$6000, with some other money in an account with Rotary International.

Suzi Rowe at Samaritans Taree is very supportive of our project. She and her team work very hard at the job of finding accommodation for homeless people, and sometimes there is just nowhere to put them. She is keen on the idea of being able to send them to the Sleep

Bus, which is safe, supervised, with CCTV, air-conditioning, toilets, and even TV in the sleep cubicles.

If your readers belong to a group or club, I should be very happy to come and talk to them, and answer their questions. And please, please, make a donation.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Stanton.

25, Washington Street, Tinonee, NSW 2430.



Antiques and Collectables

Collect for enjoyment, collect for knowledge, collect for the potential of future windfalls, collect to share and most of all collect because it is a wonderful hobby that lasts a lifetime.

The weather is great, the grass is green, there is rain around, lockdowns are abating and it's time to get on with life because life is wonderful. The alternative lasts a long time! Make the best of what you can NOW while you can. One chance is all we get.

I recently came across a book while at a "pick". "A Short History of Taree 1854 - 1954 - a Century of Progress." A few interesting facts to share. The Manning River was named after William Manning who was the Deputy Governor of the influential Australian Agricultural Company. Tarreebit was an Aboriginal name for - fruit of the wild fig, then abbreviated to Tarree.

Taree was a private town developed by the original owner. Around the 1830s William Wynter, an ex-naval officer of 20 years, was granted an estate of 2560 acres radiating out from the wonderful alluvial land of Taree Estate which was then covered with forest. Wynter was supposed to have got on reasonably well with the local Aboriginal tribe, the Birpai, also with the Ngamba to the north and Worimi to the south. He built "Taree House" overlooking the estate

and it was still in use in 1954.

Henry Flett married Wynter's daughter, Mary Stimpson Wynter and they took over the estate in 1844. Henry Flett named streets and sold blocks for the new township.) Victoria and Albert Streets after the Queen and her husband, Macquarie Street. after the Governor of NSW, Wynter St. after his father-in-law and Pulteney St. after a suburb in his hometown of Caithness, Scotland. The original blocks were sold for twenty pounds each. (Sadly Flett's original cottage is falling down in Flett Street, Wingham.)

The book also indicates that William Charles Wentworth, of crossing the Blue Mountains fame, took up land in the Cooperook area.

I will enjoy continuing with this book and discovering many more insights into our local history.

Looking further afield to the early history of Australia, Royal Doulton (a noted British ceramics ware company) made two outstanding examples of their wares to celebrate the 150 years after the founding of the colony of NSW, at Sydney Cove. These two pieces are much sought after and are in much demand because of their rarity.

Doulton's range of limited edition loving cups and jugs are avidly collected around the world and their enduring popularity can be attributed to the fantastic detail and wonderful colours present on each of the examples first produced in the 1930s.

The two loving cups or jugs that are specifically related to Australia are the Captain James Cook loving cup, made to commemorate Captain James Cook, one of the world's greatest navigators. Part of its rarity is the fact that it is a limited edition with only 350 being ever made. No one knows for sure how many there are left in the world. It has twin handles draped in flags and decorated continuously with scenes of figures at Botany Bay. It is signed by noted Doulton designers Charles Noke and Harry Fenton and is 25 cm in height.

The Captain Arthur Phillip limited edition Jug commemorating the 150th anniversary of settlement in New South Wales and the City of Sydney at Sydney Cove, Port Jackson. Modelled by Charles Noke, the sides have moulded scenes of the first settlers celebrating the planting of the British flag by Captain Arthur Phillip and the establishment of the British colony

at Sydney Cove. The jug depicts the flagship "Sirius" sailing to Australia and Captain Phillip with his officers on shore toasting the flag. The lip is modelled as a mask of Phillip's head. A band of eucalyptus leaves adorns the rim while underneath the handle is a list of the governors of NSW, from Phillip to Wakehurst in 1938. Inscription on the base reads "SYDNEY COVE COLONY NEW SOUTH WALES, FOUNDED JANUARY 1788." Again it is a limited edition of 350 and signed 'Charles Noke.' The height is 23.8cm.

These pieces have escalated in value because of their rarity and their wonderful reference to Australia's past. I hope you find one on your travels.

Dave and I have opened a shop (Antiques & Old Wares) in Isabella St, Wingham. Call in and say hello, have a look around.

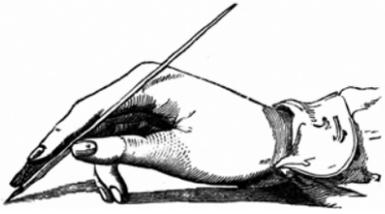
I hope that collecting brings you the enjoyment that I have experienced.

If you have items that you are not sure of, I may be able to help with information, appraisals and/or sales. I love the history and stories of old and interesting treasures.

Phone Rex - 0427 880 546.
Take care and stay safe!



c1938 Captain James Cook and Captain Arthur Phillip limited edition of 350 commemorative mugs by Doulton



Your Say...

Letters may be edited for space, offensive language or defamatory reasons.

To The Editor,
I am writing to you to share my experience with Taree Manning Base Hospitable Emergency Department.

MBH has to be the worst hospital I have ever been to. My Grandfather contracted Cellulitis in his leg, and the last time he contracted this infection it nearly killed him, therefore we take it seriously. So I took my Grandfather to his doctor where his doctor gave him a referral to be admitted in the (MBH) to be given antibiotics until it healed.

When we went in we found the

admin staff to be absolutely rude in a manner you wouldn't speak to a dog. There was little help or compassion and we were told to sit down and wait. After 5 hours waiting they finally took my grandfather into the doctors room to take blood samples then discharged him to go home and to keep coming in for daily doses.

When we told our GP this he was dumfounded and said they should have admitted him straight away. I explained that my partner and I live 20 km out of town on a property and she has to work so we find it hard to juggle to get him into town. Other

family members live over 100 km away and the only way in to hospital is for him to drive himself which carries great risk. in its self I found the care factor was zero to nothing at the Emergency ward.

I find MBH a total disgrace I understand COVID_19 is in our community but there are people with other health problems that need help as well. And we still need to look after our elderly.

During the time waiting in Emergency, I saw patients dumped in a chair in the waiting room to sit for hours and no one came out to check

on them. Others that got fed up risked driving to Port Macquarie hospital to find better care.

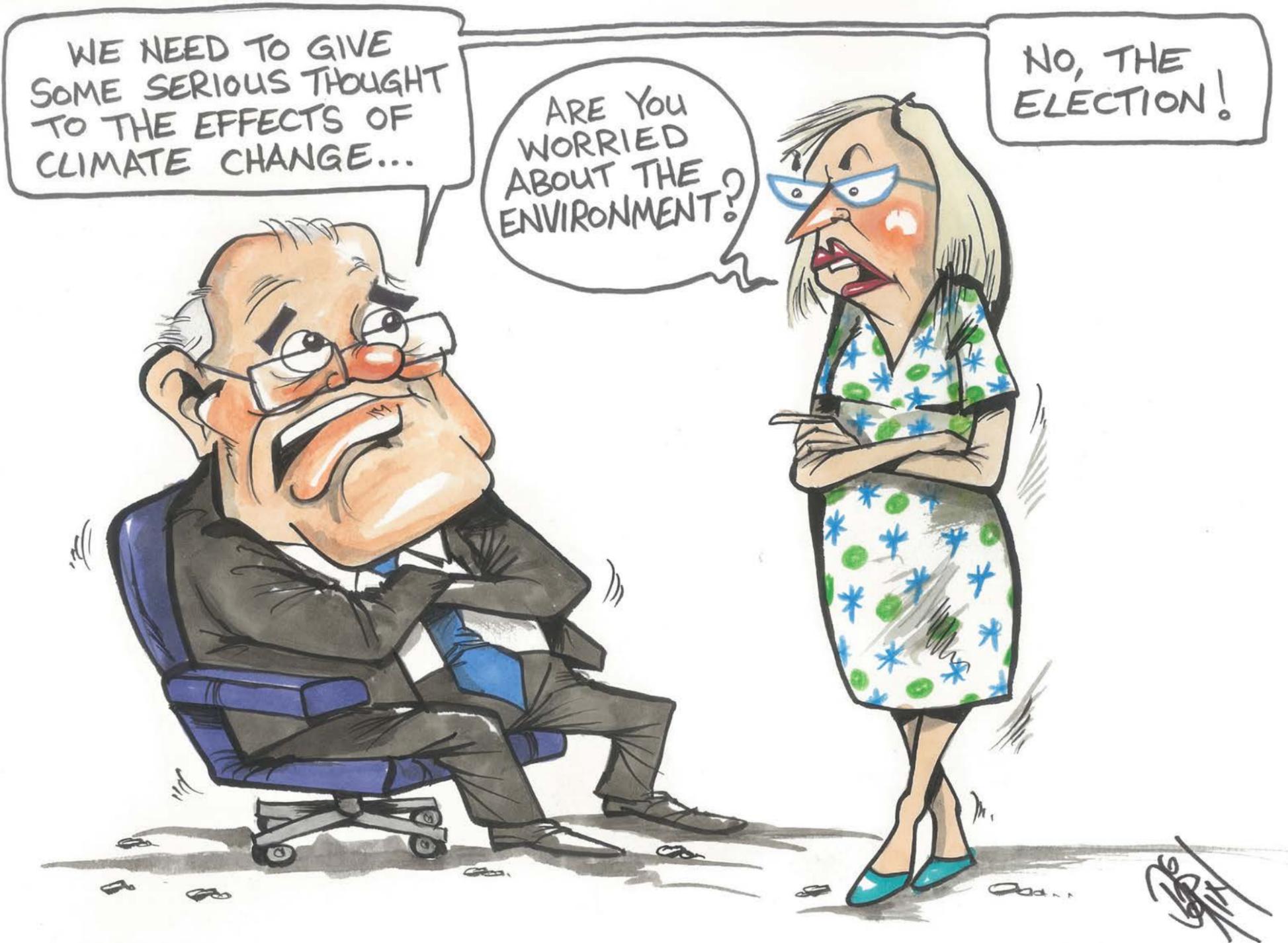
Our hospitable needs a good shake up to provide better care and compassion to our community

Ricky Gilfillan

Cedar Party

(The General Manager of Manning Base Hospital, Jodie Nieass says she is shocked and will look into the matter. Ed)

Reader Trish Congreve from Taree would like everyone to know that she now believes the Jujube bush in River Street Taree was NOT demolished by a Council truck as she was told. The poor Jujube met its demise by other hands it would seem. She apologies to Council.



2021 MIDCOAST COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 4 DECEMBER.

MAKING ALL MIDCOAST BETTER!

COUNCILLOR PETER EPOV

MY TEAM - ALL INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

 Wingham	 Patti Hogan Taree	 Michelle Larin Old Bar	 Kieran Hennessy Forster - Halliday's Pt
	 Sandra Bourke Tea Gardens - Hawks Nest	 Andy Keir Darawank	 Jen Kokany Taree

We'll Make ALL MidCoast Better!

Elect a group of Councillors who are genuine independents, whom you can trust to represent you! Locals who have the community at heart with the requisite skills and experience to oversee an organisation with over 1000 employees and a \$280 million budget. Accomplished locals who won't be intimidated, who recognise and will impose the appropriate settings to ensure that the entire Council performs and delivers value. A team of locals who will ensure genuine transparency, accountability, timely communication and honest engagement and will work fairly for all sections of our community and all our towns and regions.

A team that understands finance and will stop the waste; ensure that projects are delivered on time and to budget.

We understand that our community comes first and we will work diligently to deliver real results.

Now is the time, and our opportunity, to Make ALL MidCoast Better!

Elect locals that have Integrity, are smart, and have previously delivered for our community!

On election day place 'above the line' on the ballot paper for the

Peter Epov Team

ALL GENUINE INDEPENDENTS!

To learn more: www.peterepovgroup.com or  : Vote 1 - Peter Epov Team for MidCoast Council - @MidCoastCouncil22

Campaign Volunteers Welcome from all regions. Your support can help to deliver the changes that we need.

Please call **0448 675 984**. or email: pepovmcc21@gmail.com

Approved by Peter Epov.

To keep this paper running, make a donation : BSB 032102 ACCT: 007242 – Thank you!

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