

# YOUR SAY

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## Week ends in Stella style at Black Sombrero



**COMMENT**  
**JENNY DOWELL**  
 Mayor, Lismore City Council

TODAY I have the great honour of introducing Michael Kirby CMG as he speaks on *The Journey to Equality: Where to From Here?*, at Southern Cross University.

Michael, who has had a distinguished legal career including having served as a Justice of the High Court,

has been a champion of human rights.

Michael has a lived experience with homophobia and the need to keep his homosexuality a secret through the Don't Ask, Don't Tell years.

Today at 1.15pm, he is guest of the QSCU Society that promotes inclusivity and respect for gender diversity.

My other events this week include:

Today- Homelessness Connect Day, the Winsome 11.30am, Aboriginal Children and family day, GSAC 12.30pm, Open Lismore Art Club exhibition, Workers

Club 6pm.

Tomorrow- Skype session with Yamato Takada, Chambers 9.30am, NOROC, Ballina 11am, Byron Writers Festival, 2pm, Yamato Takada student exchange farewell dinner, Chambers 5pm.

Saturday and Sunday- Byron Writers Festival.

Monday- Farewell Yamato Takada exchange students, Chambers 6.45am, Blue and White Auxiliary AGM, Workers Sports Club 10am.

Tuesday- Council meeting, Chambers 6pm.

Wednesday- Stella business women's network, Black Sombrero 5.30pm.



**OLE!** Owner Julie Dickson (from left), chef Evan Whittington, Rob Cooper from front of house and chef David Tindale from the Black Sombrero, Mexican restaurant in Lismore.

PHOTO: DOUG EATON



**WAI: BAL:** Nimbin Community Centre receives a grant.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

## Nimbin's Aboriginal art gets a boost with grant



**COMMENT**  
**THOMAS GEORGE**  
 State MP

LAST week, Minister for Skills, Regional Development & Small Business, John Barilaro MP, was in Lismore to announce the NSW Government will boost innovation and jobs growth in the Northern Rivers.

A new \$1 million, two-year partnership with the Southern Cross University, Lismore Campus has been established.

The funding will support the an innovation hub in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

This will allow SMEs,

students and researchers to collaborate and create new ideas about sustainable business development in the Northern Rivers region.

Small business is the engine room of the NSW economy and this partnership with Southern Cross University will create new business ideas, new job opportunities and new industries for the Northern Rivers region.

The co-working space in Lismore is expected to be open to businesses in December for university-industry engagement.

For more information on support available to industry visit [industry.nsw.gov.au](http://industry.nsw.gov.au).

This area will also house the National Centre for Co-operative Enterprise, recently announced by with Federal Government and Kevin Hogan MP.

It was great to visit

Nimbin Community Centre recently to present \$14,480 from the NSW Government to grow and promote Aboriginal art and culture in our region.

The Wai:bal Art and Culture Project will include workshops by respected Bundjalung artists and cultural practitioners (dance, song, art) from across a range of local clan groups.

Audiences will share in regional arts and cultural experiences through exhibitions and public performances at the Wai:bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

I was privileged to have Gilbert Laurie show me and explain his wonderful works.

Congratulations to manager Kerry, committee members David and Diane, Mark from Arts Northern Rivers and the local community.

## Lismore co-working together for business results



**COMMENT**  
**KEVIN HOGAN**  
 Federal MP

AT the weekend I attended the Lismore Chamber of Commerce and Industry business awards.

These awards recognised many of our great local businesses.

I would like to thank the major sponsor Lismore Property Managers.

I would also like to congratulate the category winners for this year's awards:

Business of the Year - David's Health & Lifestyle Studios, People's Choice - Edmonds Conveyancing, Workplace Health & Safety - Ecoteam, Home Based or Online Business - Aussie House Sitters, Hair & Beauty - Blushed and Beautiful, Community & Social

Services - Northern Rivers Community Gateway, Health & Fitness - David's Health & Lifestyle Studios, Professional Services - Southern Cross Credit Union, Hospitality- New Tattersalls Hotel, Tourism - Light 'N Up (Lismore Lantern Parade), Manufacturing & Innovation - Ecoteam, and for Trade & Construction - FX Signs & Graphics.

There are lots of outstanding businesses across our region and I would encourage everyone to get involved again next year.

This week Thomas George announced a \$1 million investment into creating a small business incubator in Lismore. This Incubator will be based at SCU.

This is on top of the \$13.8 million I announced earlier this year to create a co-operative centre of excellence at SCU.

This will create a space where people can get advice and resources to start a



**TEAM WORK:** Ecoteam won the Lismore Business Excellence Awards: Manufacturing & Innovation Business of the Year award 2016.

PHOTO: STUDIO.THENEWCAMERAHOUSE.COM.AU

business. It will also encourage companies to come to our

region, bringing jobs and exciting new opportunities. The co-working space in

Lismore is expected to be open to businesses for university-industry

engagement before the end of the year.