



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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Silky Oak Edition

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Photo: Marie Cameron

Nimbin gets Green Globes

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) won the Community Sustainability Award and the overall Premier's Award for Environmental Excellence at the recent NSW Green Globe Awards.

Forty years of commitment to sustainability and the environment by the Nimbin community were recognised at Parliament House in Sydney.

The Globes have been celebrating innovation and achievements by organisations (including corporations and the public sector) in addressing climate change and reducing carbon emissions for the past 13 years.

The Community Sustainability Award recognises an outstanding not-for-profit organisation demonstrating community leadership in the development and delivery of sustainability initiatives in protecting and enhancing the environment.

"We thought we might have a chance of winning our category," said Natalie Meyer, team-leader of NNIC, "but it never even occurred to us that we would also win the overall Premier's prize. We nearly fell off our chairs when they called out our name!"

The Premier's Award for Environmental Excellence is chosen from the winners of the 14 Green Globe Award categories.

NNIC was the joint winner with GPT Group property company, which produced utility savings of \$20.4 million last year as a result of its environmental management program.

There were three finalists in each of the categories, which included projects such as the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Technology Park, Mawland Quarantine



NNIC people with NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker

Station, Hunter Tafe, Bankstown City Council and Local Government Super. Sydney Olympic Park won the 10-Year Sustainability Achievement Award.

"It just goes to show that a small organisation working with an enthusiastic community which is focused on the environment and sustainability can make a real difference," said Natalie.

"NNIC is committed to community development and the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan, and our role is primarily to support community initiatives and activities, and to link people with each other and with resources, to enable the achievement of outcomes under the plan."

The Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan has resulted in many community projects and activities, including the Nimbin Community Solar Farm, the Community Grain Mill, the Post Harvest Food Processing Equipment Library, Nimbin Food Security project, a partnership with Wallers Bus Company to increase bus services between Lismore and Nimbin, a restoration plan for the Cullen Street Murals, and 7 Sibley Street - Nimbin's Sustainable Living Hub project.

These projects have generated industry and

jobs, increased sustainable local food production and consumption, increased energy efficiency and the production of renewable energy, and reduced the overall carbon footprint of the community.

"The Blue Knob Farmers' Market is a great example of community development in action," Natalie said. "NNIC helped the Farmers' Market get up and running, by providing initial start-up funds (via the Food Links project), administrative support and liaison with council around regulatory issues."

The Farmers Market is now incorporated in its own right, has recently expanded into a second market and has become a partner with NNIC in activities such as Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show.

"We entered the Green Globes on behalf of Nimbin, not only NNIC, because community development relies on a community which believes in the value of working together and gets behind community projects. Without the Nimbin community, we are nothing," said Natalie, "so these Awards go out to the whole of Nimbin - collectively we won the Green Globes. Because we all know there is no Planet B!"

Anger over logging

by Omega Breakpear

Uncle Cecil Roberts (pictured below) has identified a number of Aboriginal sites during an inspection of a controversial logging site on private property in Whian Whian.

A message has been sent to landowner Mikko Helle to inform him that unless all logging, including removal of logs, ceases immediately, legal action will be commenced. Forestry operations were in breach of regulations regarding Aboriginal sites and endangered species.

Some sites identified by Uncle Cecil included culturally marked trees and ceremonial objects including white ochre. He has called for no more logging or removal of logs until a proper cultural assessment by traditional Bundjalung owners has been undertaken at the Whian Whian property.

Forest protectors and locals have been trying to stop the timber harvesting operations at the end of Whian Whian Road and up the surrounding ridges for weeks.

There have been several arrests for trespassing and for a tripod tree-sit on a snig track found to have destroyed the very rare endangered *Marsdenia longiloda* vine. Sue James of the Whian Whian Forest Alliance had negotiated with the

landowner for independent surveys of wildlife flora and fauna to be undertaken.

Rob Kooyman with Hugh and Nan Nicholson from NEFA said 70 vulnerable species and 8 high-use koala habitat trees were in the logging area. Bopplenuts and Northern Rose Walnut were two of the many identified species, as well as the Alberts Lyrebird, the Loveridge Frog and the Stephens Banded Snake. There are also a number of owls and eagles in the area including both the Powerful and Sooty Owls, several of which I have seen in the area. There are significant rainforest pockets on the logging property.

Martin Novak, Whian Whian local resident and landcarer, said that the owner of the logging property Mikko and his wife had not understood the environmental issues and the problems with loose EPA Codes of Practice when they signed the contract with Forestry Corporation. A number of other landowners adjacent to the Forestry Corp's logging operation pushing towards Protectors Falls and the National Park have now cancelled or ceased negotiations with Forestry Corporation.

"All environmental protectors and local groups need to unite under the common goal of protecting threatened species and rainforest remnants in our area," said Sue James.

As Forestry Corporation's botanist or the EPA failed to identify any of the breaches of the logging operation, it seems that it's up to community to protect our environmental and cultural heritage. Latest news indicates a large contingent of police and logging trucks were being blocked onto the site by protectors with further arrests and violations likely.



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