

THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

Fandangalingly FREE

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NIMBIN STANDS WITH STANDING ROCK



Photos: Neil Liddell

by Neil Liddell

Considerable funds were raised at the Nimbin Stands With Standing Rock benefit which was held at the Bush Theatre on Saturday, November 19, to support the fight against the North Dakota access pipeline in which Donald Trump has a financial interest.

Because of the escalating situation, social media jam and poor internet, photos of the Nimbin event reached the Sacred Stone camp on the Monday, where over 300 protectors had received medical attention after being shot with a water cannon in sub-zero conditions. There were horrifying injuries, resulting in at least one amputation from shots fired with rubber bullets, percussion grenades, bean bags and tear gas.

Nimbin's photo of solidarity (at left) arrived at a good time and there were many thank-yous in response from Indigenous media organisations.

After a welcome to country by local Elders, there was a cultural exchange with visiting Native American guest Wopila Badhand of the Lakota Nation from Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Benny Zable presented a slide show and described his experience at Sacred Stone camp as "Bentley on steroids." Wopila expressed his gratitude at Nimbin's support and solidarity. Crowds enjoyed local Nimbin talent all day and into the evening.

The most important factor in this issue, which is attracting interest worldwide, is the ongoing injustices perpetrated in this instance by corporate interests and local law enforcement against Native Americans protecting sacred sites and treaty lands – a struggle that has been going on for over 500 years.

Please continue to support the #NODAPL campaign, through sharing facebook posts of live feeds and related sites and articles, as mainstream media is avoiding reporting on the issue. Demonstrations at CNN offices in California protesting the lack of and false reporting of the events on Monday have spread to other networks.

A positive note though, is that the clergy of the American Council of Churches met with Native American elders on the front line and offered to burn the Doctrine of Discovery. Originating in 1450, this is written into US law as the justification for the conquest of native lands and nations, terra nullius and manifest destiny. Pressure is being put on the Vatican to support them, which will have major ramifications on South American Indigenous Peoples. It's as significant as Mabo.

The Water Protectors ask for your prayers and thoughts as they enter the harsh North Dakota winter, and to remember Mini Wiconi (water is precious).



Sundancer Wopila Badhand (2nd from left) and local Aboriginal Elders

More inside – see Benny Zable's thank-yous on page 7 >

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