

Reports from the Adani front line

by Leon Hoffmann

Local warriors from Mullumbimby, Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and Nimbin, have been representing our Northern Rivers, blockading the Adani company on Birri, Jurru and Wangan and Janglingou country.

After an epic week, standing with Uncle Kenny Peters Dod and local indigenous custodians, harmonising with people from all over the country, every state, every generation, all faiths and levels of society, we have gained great respect for all the crew up there, who have everything set up for a healthy and good time.

We had multiple actions going out everyday making it an inspiring, effective space, with plenty of capacity to grow and stop Adani!

Living costs are about \$150 per week including transport to Bowen and back on the comfy blockade bus, and participation level is up to you.

The vibe is positive on the ground and Northern Rivers Crew were part of around 15 actions.

The highly publicised Casino/ Chamber of Commerce action was a major success. Protectors slept under and jumped on stage on live television advocating the reef and



Coal mining is about money isn't it? So let's pay with money that shows what we think and feel. Let's flood the one dollar coins with Stop-Adani stickers. 'Our' tourists can help to spread them throughout Australia. Legal advice doubts this would fall under "defacing currency". According to section 16 of the Currency Act, we are not allowed to "coat" coins. But who knows what a judge would interpret as "coating a coin"? And of course the stickers can be stuck on countless other surfaces! All proceeds go into buying more stickers. Til we get to 100,000. At least. More info: saskiaanna1@bigpond.com

water, whilst 200 people gathered out the front. This has increased the pressure on our politicians to be held accountable for their criminal actions.

Further, the occupation of the LNP office of Jason Costigan, where indigenous leaders led our folks with ceremony and dance, was

an inspiring gathering with a clear focus on preventing the damming of Uranah and stopping Adani. This action has also gained national coverage.

There were also actions by the ARRCC (Australian Religion Response to Climate Change), a multi-faith group, with members

from all over this country who made a prayer action on the gate to the proposed Carmichael working mine site, stopping work for a number of hours and showing the power of collective prayer and intention.

Further spontaneous actions were created to stop oversize machinery and disrupt attempts to establish infrastructure.

All of these actions were very significant and had huge media coverage.

If you want to get involved with the changes in our world and the fight of our time, (second wave of Bentley) slowly and steadily start to get mobilised. Unless change in government changes the situation, January, February March onwards will be an important time.

Join in and you will be respectfully catered for...

Newcastle Group is heading up now for the start of December.

For more information, join your local stop Adani meetings (Monday 6.30pm at Mullum Middle Pub) or contact Frontline Action On Coal (FLAC), Coffs Coast climate action group (CCCAG), Reef Defenders, or Frontline Unity on Facebook.

Email: Frontlinecommunity@protonmail.com for a seat on the blockadia bus.



From New York to frontline action on coal (FLAC)

by Benny Zable

I flew from New York City to Brisbane, then up to Rockhampton onto Mackay for the #STOPADANI rally then up to the FLAC camp.

Two months on now, I have been at the Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC) camp situated inland from Bowen. Work had begun on building the infrastructure for the Adani rail link from the yet to be developed Carmichael coal mine to the Abbot Point coal port. A number of lock-ons, blockades by individuals and groups have taken place now.

A number of groups have passed though the camp from the #STOPADANI alliance. The day before the Queensland

elections the group from the Coffs Harbour and Northern Rivers area occupied the building of the Queensland State Whitsunday offices of Jason Costigan the sitting member electorate in Proserpine (pictured).

The Queensland State Labor government withdrew the billion dollars to help fund the Adani rail link, which is probably why they were voted in again.

Much of this pressure to withdraw the funding was due partially to the dedication of folks from the Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC) team. Because of the threat of losing government funding for groups in the Stop Adani Alliance, FLAC has been left to fend for itself.

I wish to thank the Nimbin

Environment Centre for funding art materials and the donation of a 3x6 canopy to the camp. The camp is now moving to a property paid for by a trust fund loan which FLAC helped create. This is for accommodating more people as the #STOPADANI campaign grows.

It is very costly to run this campaign from up here. So please if you cannot come, please donate to: FLAC, Frontline Action on Coal, BSB 633000, account #161068879.

I have left the camp to work on the Rise Up For The Reef concert to take place over the Easter long weekend from 30th March to 3rd April. Any performers who wish to take part in the concert, please contact me.

John Adams*

& ASSOCIATES

*a.k.a. Sindhu

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Museum site rebuild dilemma

by Simon Rose

After two years in the planning with multiple interactive meetings with Lismore council, Tuntable community representatives, potential retailers, members of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and community consultation, the Nimbin museum site has a plan to submit to council.

I cannot say that the plans have met with universal approval, but overall the people in the community who have given feedback have liked the design and felt it was an appropriate response to the land and the community needs.

Criticism in the minority was centred around too intense a development, being too many shops, but more criticism was levelled at there being potentially five more food outlets and that more thought should go into what retail outlets would be best suited there. I welcome any suggestions.

I see this site and the development as a chance to enhance what I see are the essential elements of the Nimbin community. Nimbin represents to me people living healthy creative lives having a minimal negative impact on the ecology of the world. I see young families moving to Nimbin wanting to

raise their families amongst vegetable gardens, chickens, healthy values and good community.

Nimbin has many diverse creative people producing individual arts and crafts that in this world of cheap imports are being squashed out of existence. I hope that our development will be full of local products that will give Nimbin its true unique identity and be an alternative example to the world.

Unfortunately, Nimbin has a reputation for being a place to procure drugs, particularly marijuana. In my mind this is a poor reflection of what the Nimbin community really represents. I believe Nimbin has an important place to showcase to the world positive alternative living, creative individual cottage arts and crafts activities, healthy foods and a community not reliant on multinationals and consumerism.

When I bought the Nimbin museum site, I was very keen to do this development. Over the last while my enthusiasm has been greatly diminished by the attitude and activities of the police. In a world where the general trend is towards legalising recreational marijuana or at least having a softer

approach to it, Nimbin has been targeted by the police.

I feel the long-term effects of this will be extremely detrimental to the Nimbin community. Nimbin is a popular tourist destination, but I believe awareness of current police activity can quickly spread amongst travellers with tweets, blogs and other social media which is beyond my understanding but which can quickly change the tourist attraction to Nimbin.

If there is such a thing, I consider myself a community-minded ethical developer. But part of development is to hope for economic success. I am currently hesitant to proceed with this development with the current level of police activity and the vibe this is creating in this community.

I would like to promote a frank and open discussion about the questionable need for current police activities, the effects it is having and will have on the future of Nimbin, and what changes can be made, before I definitely decide on my future involvement in a multi-million dollar development that I believe will bring short-term employment opportunities during the building and long-term amenity to the community.

Rural Landholder Initiative offers funds

Lismore City Council is calling for expressions of interest from rural landholders to undertake on-ground works on their property to protect and enhance biodiversity and/or koala habitat.

Assistance of up to \$5000 is available for primary works and initial maintenance in the first year, with complex restoration projects eligible for second year funds of up to \$2500. Sites along floodplain riverbanks can apply for up to \$10,000 if works include fencing and off-stream watering.

Due to the recent flood, restoration works that aim to address flood damage to creeks and riverbanks, hillslopes and bushland are eligible for funding. These projects must also address the long-term biodiversity benefits that can be achieved alongside flood damage repair and mitigation.

Council has produced a series of booklets on the major environmental issues for five land use types in our region: beef graziers, dairy farmers, orchardists, floodplain croppers and rural 'lifestyle' landholders.

The booklets offer ideas for improving land management practices for biodiversity and includes a Farm Health



Vanessa Pelly (above) has been working on Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) on her Blue Knob property. BMAD is a landscape problem in the eucalyptus forests of the upper end of the Lismore Local Government Area and neighbouring shires. Most of the work is through controlling lantana and replacing it with diverse native species. Right: BMAD affected eucalypts.

Assessment Tool so that landholders can self-assess their current practices and identify possible actions for project proposals.

Expressions of interest are open until 25th January, and Council can provide assistance with technical advice and mapping.

Visit the website at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and go to the green 'Environment & Sustainability' tab and click on Rural Landholder Initiative.

Or for more information, phone Council's Rural Extension Officer Kate Steel on 1300-87-83-87.



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New Green shoots beginning to emerge

by Aidan Ricketts

If dying rock stars were the worst thing about 2016, then things must have been very comfortable back then. 2017 has been a bit of a shocker. It could not have been a worse start really with the hapless Trump maladministration getting underway. Trump and his rapidly disintegrating band of cronies has been a massive boost to corporate domination of economic and political life, a backward step for the environment particularly on climate change and a serious global security risk.

With Brexit, Trump and the madness of Turnbull's endless capitulation to a tiny band of extreme right wing nut jobs (Abbott, Dutton, Abetz etc) things have not looked much better in Australia.

I was devastated earlier in the year when the Greens Senators Larissa Waters and Scott Ludlam resigned over dual citizenship issues, but as it turned out, they were just the honest ones. Lurking behind the honourable resignations of those two Greens was a long line of pollies from the other parties who had neither the decency nor

courage to admit it and to resign. Instead they hid in their plush offices hoping not to be discovered. In the case of Barnaby Joyce, even continuing as Deputy Prime Minister despite being ineligible to sit in the parliament. Well the whole saga may well have an upside, the federal government may lose its majority and be forced to an early election, or at the very least we may see a much needed Commission of Inquiry into the banking system, something Turnbull's mates in the big four banks are terrified of.

Then there was the pain of the postal survey and grueling public debate about whether people should be allowed to marry other people. The pain this brought upon the LGBTIQ community was enormous and totally unnecessary. But thankfully it backfired majestically on the right wing nutjobs who created it, proving conclusively that their claim to represent some silent majority is pure self-deception. Apart from the obvious benefits of allowing same sex marriage, the greater legacy of the postal survey is proving the minority status of the conservative lobby. Apparently they are still 'hurting', (world's tiniest violin).

Closer to home we have watched the monstrosity that is the Adani mega mine proposal enjoying the loyal and irrational support of politicians from both major parties. The fossil fuel industry has embedded itself into the major parties comprehensively over the last 60 years and enjoys substantial influence over both Labor and the LNP at state and federal levels. Despite being narrowly elected several years ago on a promise to protect the reef, Anna Palaszczuk and her supposedly left-faction dominated government about turned and became one of the Adani mine's biggest supporters. Stupid politics in the extreme. The Adani proposal lacks a convincing business case and most responsible financial institutions have recognized this already. Palaszczuk could have easily taken a middle road, leaving the fate of Adani to market forces, and spared her party the generational odium of going down in history as shameless climate criminals, but instead tied her colours to the mast of Adani's coal ship.

Fast forward to the recent QLD election and Palaszczuk found herself having to backflip on her

government's support for a massive one billion dollar taxpayer handout to Adani when Labor realized they were bleeding support to the Greens' anti-Adani stance in inner city Brisbane. The Greens can take credit for that backflip, even though they failed by the smallest of margins to nab two inner city seats off the Adani Labor Party. Of course the only thing worse than a Palaszczuk victory for the environment would have been an LNP or One Nation victory but this did not eventuate. As I write the Greens still stand a good chance of picking up their first lower house seat in QLD, a former LNP seat held by a senior LNP with possible leadership ambitions. Of course Labor will still be backing Adani, but hopefully they can be kept to their pre-election promise to abandon their support for the taxpayer handout to the mine.

Add to the Greens strong results in QLD was the resounding win in the Northcote by-election in Victoria and we can start to add up the new green shoots that are emerging in late 2017. I'm not a great fan of the pendulum theory in politics, but we are seeing renewed

energy from the left and green side of politics and it's much needed.

It's a way off for us here in the Northern Rivers but there's another state election in early 2019 and we can expect to see a very tight election between the Greens, Labor and the Nats for seats like Lismore and Ballina. Greens already took Ballina off the LNP last election, and with the retirement of the sitting Nats MP in Lismore, there's a good fighting chance the Nats might lose Lismore in 2019. You can bet that campaign will start in earnest in the New Year.

So what began as a terrible year, has at least begun to show some signs of emerging strength for Left Green politics. A bank's royal commission a real possibility, over 60% Australians supporting marriage equality, ongoing instability in Turnbulla's government, and big swings toward the Greens in key areas means it's not all gloom and doom. We still have that lurching zombie, the Adani mega mine to put to death, but without taxpayer's funds its business case only looks worse.

Have a great festive season readers and come back ready to fight the good fights next year.

Celebration of peace at the yarn table with elder Cecil Roberts



by John Tozeland

We gathered to celebrate in peace, on World Hello Day, 21st November, in Allsopp Park, Nimbin. The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation (NAF) kick-started the day with an announcement for date claim as the birthplace and for acknowledgement, that welcome to country was performed during the opening ceremonies at the Aquarius Festival in 1973.

In 1973, the festival provided a significant platform for celebrating and for the regeneration of cultural and spiritual practices on mutual ground in Nimbin and Australia.

With a grant provided by the newly established Australian Arts Council, this became the very first Australian Government sanctioned event for welcome to country, enabling Dickie Donnelly to perform alongside two touring indigenous tribes: the Mornington Island Dancers from Lardil, Woomera area in the far north Queensland, and from South Australia the Pitjantjatjara people.

Indigenous rights and recognition have always been at the heart of care with the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation. The sun will

soon rise once again on the dawning New Age with a New Wave celebration set for the 13th until 27th May, 2018.

We have set pathway for acknowledgement of the cultural significance of the area to indigenous traditions. Our first yarn table was set in place with Bundjalung Elder, Cecil Roberts.

Prior to sitting around the yarn table, we stood still on the land, just standing with Cecil Roberts, where once the elders travelled the grounds around this sacred site, known as 'a place of healing'.

Cecil said, "You can feel the earth, feel the ancestral spirits, the wise ones who have a true understanding of traditions of the sacred ground we walk."

Our New Age New Wave 2018 theme will be a 'Celebration of Colour', incorporating a spirited flow with a strong indigenous, cultural heritage, artistic and local music platform, whilst embracing township values. The official launch is set for March, 2018.

We will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the festival, and prepare with forums for valued community input and engagement. The NAF office is located at The Bark Hut at the Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street.



He's making a list and checking it twice, because he's making two visits to Nimbin in the lead-up to his busy Christmas schedule.

Santa will be handing out presents at the Nimbin Bowling Club on Sunday 17th at 2pm, where there will be Kids games and activities, water play, sausage sizzle.

Parents are asked to bring a wrapped and labelled gift to place under the Christmas

tree for Santa to hand out (before party or on the day). A towel, swimmers and sunscreen will also be needed for the pool next door.

Santa will be back again on Friday 22nd for the Community Christmas Lunch at 1.30pm in Nimbin Hall, arriving on a fire engine.

Everyone, young and old, is most welcome. Better be nice rather than naughty!

Living bridges at markets



This year the 4th & 5th Sundays fall on the 24th (Christmas Eve) and the 31st (New Year's Eve). We're celebrating the twin holidays by launching the Nimbin 'Living Bridges' Project, inspired by the generations-old strangler fig footbridges of Megalaya in India. These incredibly beautiful structures, by using Nature's own engineering, stabilise creek banks in the monsoon season, growing stronger over time. Suitable local species will be available for sale for those who wish to start preparing 'Living Bridges' for their own causeways or local road. More info on Nimbin Markets facebook page.

Lest we forget Remembrance Day

by Paul LeBars

Thanks to all who attended the Remembrance Day services at the Nimbin District Memorial. Many thanks to Norm Robinson for the Commemorative Address, Rev Grant Andrews for the Prayer of Remembrance and Bob Dooley for the poem.

Wreaths were laid from the Nimbin Medical Centre, Dr Lloyd, Nimbin Central School and Coffee Camp Public School. Thanks to Marc, Farren, AJ and Emerald for your help on the morning.

It was a wet Saturday morning and numbers were down, however for those who attended it was a resolute and respectful service, commemorating the service of all our veterans and those who currently serve in the ADF. Over two million have served in the ADF over the last 103 years.

1917 was the worst year for Australian losses on the western front. Australian divisions participated in the battles of Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcapelle and the First Battle of Passchendaele. In eight weeks



of fighting, Australian forces incurred 38,000 casualties. The combined total of British and Dominion casualties has been estimated at 310,000 (estimated German losses were slightly lower) and no breakthrough was achieved.

One example is at Flanders where every square metre gained in 1917 cost 35 Australian lives, only to be retaken by the Germans in 1918.

Next year's Centenary of Armistice Commemoration falls on a Sunday and we are hoping, as a community, we can make a day of it. We are also hoping that more name plaques can be added to the Seat of Remembrance next year (in recognition of our late veterans in our community). Please forward your interest to Paul at: paullebars@gmail.com
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 **NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS**

by Cath Smith, President

Hello environo-philes out there – as usual, much has been happening in the wonderful world of nature, and its sometimes unfortunate interaction with us humans. Thank goodness so many of us out there care, protect and cherish Mother Nature. She nourishes us body, mind and soul.

Reporting: Sledge told us that there's been a small gain in the campaign against water mining in the Tweed Shire: Council voted to defer a decision, pending further investigation, following residents' concerns about both massive water extraction and dangers from associated trucking along narrow country roads. Watch this space for further progress on this vital and increasingly common issue.

Lisa: In the "Spring into the Pilliga" long weekend recently, over 300 people – farmers, local concerned citizens and environmentalists gathered at the Pilliga Pottery to consider the next moves in protecting the Pilliga State forest from 850 CSG wells and the poisons used in the extraction. Many great speakers encouraged them to not give up the fight.

They met in regional groups to discuss what can be done to encourage others to the area to appreciate the unique beauty and also to observe past destruction of our state forest. The dry sandy river



Farmers in the Pilliga (left) and the Santos CSG debacle

bed formed the venue for a human NO CSG sign-each letter took about 67 people to form: (pictured, top) a great turnout. 20 Northern Rivers folk were there supporting the occasion. If you're interested in this issue, come and talk to us at the Nimbin Environment Centre.

Very opportune to many Australians' focus right now was a bus trip recently taken by Northern Rivers protectors to Bowen in Queensland, where actions against the Adani Carmichael coal mines were undertaken. See the articles in this *GoodTimes* for the full story.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending Politics in the Pub at the Courthouse Hotel in Mullumbimby, where Senator Lee Rhiannon from the Greens and Dr Liz Elliott, a

local activist, both spoke passionately about their vision for societal reforms, including financial, land, housing, workers' rights and other issues critical to turning around the damage that corporate capitalism is wreaking on our world. For more information, Liz Elliott's book *A New Way Now* can be found in the NEC shop.

If you'd like to discuss environmental issues, drop in to the NEC shop and chat to our staff – all volunteers are very knowledgeable – and you may also find some Chrissy gifts of luscious local products!

Our next meeting is at 5pm, Wednesday 13th December at the Community School room – feel free to come and participate.

Channon Craft Market Inc.

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Captain Competent educates schoolies

Nimbin's Community Drug Action Team's superhero Captain Competent made a special appearance this year at schoolies week in Byron Bay, invited by BUDDI (Byron CDAT).

CDATs are community-based groups initiated after the 1999 Drug Summit to promote harm reduction.

The Captain, along with his wranglers, educated and entertained some of the thousands of young schoolies who converged on Byron Bay for this annual pilgrimage, raising awareness on overdose, and ways to stay safe.

Nimbin CDAT is currently looking for funding to create the Captain's superhero partner 'Clued-Up Claudelia'. It is also looking for new members, meeting once a month.

Check out the team, together with the Captain and his adventures, on the NNIC website.



www.nnic.org.au

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

The NNIC team wishes everyone a safe and happy festive season, and we will see you all in 2018!

register your interest in performing at this event, contact Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au

community as well as pick up skills and experience. Does this sound like you? Then drop into NNIC and see our fabulous Community Access Worker, Kath.

Community Xmas Lunch 22nd December

As usual the Soup Kitchen will close over Xmas and will resume when the weather is good again for soup. The final big soup kitchen event for 2017 is of course the Annual Community Xmas Lunch at the Town Hall. Doors open at 12 midday. Santa at 1.30pm. Everyone, young and old is most WELCOME! This is a FREE community event brought to you by NNIC.

NNIC Xmas close dates

NNIC will be closed for two weeks as from Saturday 23rd December and re-opening on Monday 8th January 2018 to give our staff and volunteers a well-earned break.

The Centrelink Agency will be closed for one week as from Saturday 23rd December and re-opening on Tuesday 2nd January 2018. There will be no other NNIC services available between 2nd January and 5th January.

We apologise for any inconvenience during our closure period. You can do your Centrelink business on line as usual while we are closed.

Nimbin Women's Dinner 8th March

Call Out for women comedians. This is a paid gig aiming to feature new and emerging female comic talent. To

Do you love spreadsheets, profit and loss statements and bank recs?

Fancy a job as treasurer on the Management Committee of a dynamic community organisation? Then do we have the job for you! NNIC is looking for a new treasurer. The Management Committee meets once a month generally on Wednesdays at 5.30pm. For more info or to express interest, contact Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team

The next meeting will be on 15th February 2018 at 2pm at NNIC. New members always welcome... we need more community people who are interested in being part of our drug and alcohol harm reduction campaigns. To join CDAT contact us at: admin@nnic.org.au or just come along to the next meeting.

Volunteer positions vacant

Front of House volunteers, with IT and customer service skills, who can assist people using the PCs etc, OR with minimum Cert 2 in welfare/community development (or currently enrolled in) are wanted for the front desk. Must be reliable and able to commit one regular day per week between 10am and 4pm (with breaks of course). A fantastic way to contribute to the Nimbin

Festive season mental health yip – be realistic

For a number of people, the festive season can be anything but joyous and merry and can trigger depression and anxiety and general feelings of being overwhelmed. Remember that near enough is good enough.

The idea of a perfect celebration can be flooded with pressures of spending more than we have, cooking the perfect recipes, going all out with decorations, or getting caught up in extra activities. In reality, though, we all know that everything does not always go to plan. And that's okay.

Start by making a to-do list to limit stress and focus on what is most important. If you normally commit to a lot of different things, promise yourself that you'll have a simple festive season this year. See: <http://newhorizons.org.au/blogs/5-tips-to-stay-mentally-healthy-during-the-festive-season>

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals to support the community to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome. Lots of useful local and other info is available on our website. For appointments, phone 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 12th December. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments phone 6620-7687.

Women's health nurse services

One Thursday a month. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6689-1400 for appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

Cannabis clinic

Every Monday. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

Nurse practitioner clinics

• Diabetes Clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 21st December.
• Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 12th December. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Community Registered Nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1288 – leave message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and Syringe program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see Community Registered Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 13th December. New members welcome.



The sacred work of sorrow: road safety activism

by Wendy Sarkissian

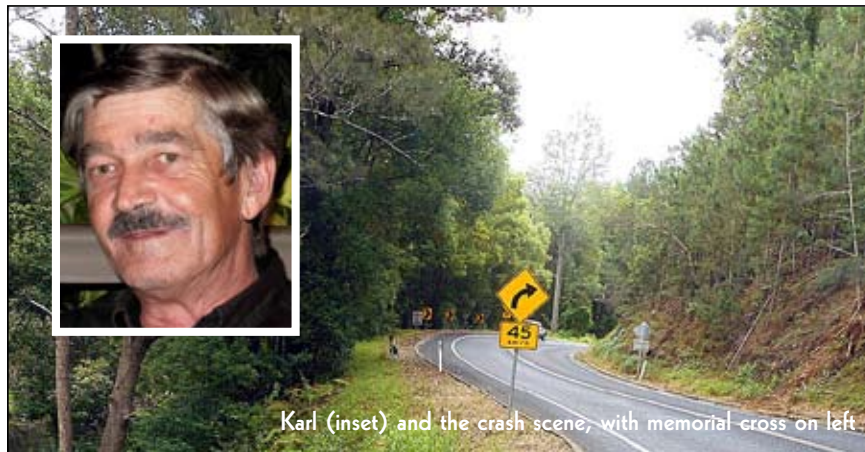
I was in the car crash that killed Karl Langheinrich on 6th February 2016 on the Kyogle Road near Uki.

Karl was the third person to die at that spot near Braeside Drive. I believe that nobody is "minding the shop" with respect to road safety in the Tweed Shire and that Karl's death resulted directly from the council's decision (following a 2015 double fatality there) not to erect a guardrail on that stretch of Kyogle Road: winding, with a dangerous road camber, a deteriorated, rutted road edge, frequent pooling of water and steep embankments.

Following Karl's death, I was in profound shock. Luckily, I lived in Nimbin, so "self-care" came naturally. I'd be the first one to advocate self-care after a tragedy, trauma, or loss. However, it should not be the destination for a grieving person; it's part of the journey. We also need to take our "survivor mission" into our community.

Shortly after Karl's fatal crash, my conversations with local police revealed that they had been lobbying for years for a guardrail on that stretch of Kyogle Road (with a 40-metre drop to the Tweed River). My friends Kev and Lori agreed, we had to do something. Something to honour Karl. My initial approach to Tweed Shire Council met with a compassionate response from the general manager. However, when I asked to make a Victim Impact Statement to the council's road traffic staff, a junior manager, an engineer, took over:

"... whilst the proposed victim impact statements are very important, I am concerned this part of the meeting



Karl (inset) and the crash scene, with memorial cross on left

might cause distress to yourself and council staff. As you would appreciate, council has an obligation to ensure the workplace health and safety of its officers... Council's preference is that you provide written statements beforehand and these can be considered outside of the meeting."

He demanded that I restrict my remarks to "the circumstances of the crash".

I delivered my Victim Impact Statement (minus the impacts) and Lori explained the impacts. We discovered that no council staff member even visited our crash site (12 kilometres from their office) and the traffic committee meeting to discuss the crash had no police attending. On that day our activism was born.

Probably our most delightful "survivor mission" was the 2016 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (17th November). Lori and I held a media conference at the Mt Warning pub. We attached a huge poster to a tree near the crash site. It read, "My name is Karl. I died here. Please slow down." (Of course, the council removed it.) I made another speech to camera, begging the

council to use more sophisticated and up-to-date road planning approaches.

I also wrote to the coroner and several politicians. While the coroner ultimately refused my request for an inquest, he did fully investigate. Lori and I co-authored two articles, arguing that Tweed Shire Council was the real killer in Karl's case. I was also responsible for three hard-hitting press articles about Kyogle Road.

Our continuing pressure on Tweed Shire Council finally yielded federal blackspot funding; over \$1 million. That work must be completed by 30th June 2018. Guard rails will be installed.

By far our greatest activist triumph was returning a shattered Wendy to something resembling her former activist self. What the Tweed Shire Council managers cannot accept is the powerful force of our grief. In speaking truth to power and shedding tears for our beloved Karl, we are doing our work: the sacred work of sorrow.

Wendy Sarkissian now lives in Vancouver, Canada. She can be contacted at: wendy@sarkissian.com.au

Fundraising volunteers' success

BUNK Health News

by Noelle Lynden-Way

The Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary was established seventy years ago in 1947, and at that time members carried out tasks like sewing/mending pyjamas, curtains, drapes for the operating theatre, drying laundry and preserving fruit for hospital use.

Nowadays, with the changing role of women in our society, they involve their community in raising funds to provide items for the comfort and care of patients and staff.

A good example of this is the recent purchase of an electric motor wheelchair. One of the Auxiliary members had noticed how difficult it was for a staff member to push an aged care resident in a wheelchair up the hill outside the facility. It's so much easier with a power assist!

During the last ten years the Auxiliary has donated \$90,650 in items to benefit Nimbin Hospital patients and Residential Aged Care residents.

From 1st July 2016, the local Auxiliary have purchased the following items for their MPS: bladder scanner, lifter with scales (rifton tram), spirometer, mobile examination light, three electric recliner lift chairs, two ROHO adjustable cushions and a comfort chair, curtain flick sticks, power assist for wheelchair, all day lifter sling. The residential aged care facility has been provided with new curtains, two lounge suites, six cushions and a desk. Auxiliary members always deliver chocolates at Christmas time to residents.



Nimbin MPS Auxiliary 'Red Brigade' at their fundraising stall

The energy and commitment of the Nimbin Auxiliary is evident from the moment you meet them and they talk about their fundraising activities. There are 30 financial members with 15 actively working together organising raffles, sausage sizzles, the Nimbin Show home-made baking stall and themed afternoon tea fashion parades ('Fashion in the country' and 'Hats galore'). Their creativeness and fun is contagious, and you can read Facebook pages: Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary and Nimbin Hookups to find out the latest news on raffles and planned events.

Known as the Red Brigade because of their bright T-shirts, you will see two Auxiliary members at the Nimbin Hotel on Wednesday nights from 6-7pm selling raffle tickets for vegetable, fruit and meat trays. Then on Thursdays look for those shirts outside the Nimbin newsagency from 10am to noon. Prizes are all donated and drawn regularly. There are also five donation boxes around the town. Special days

Citation from NSW Hospital Auxiliaries in the foyer at Nimbin MPS

raffles are held for throughout the year and at present there is a Christmas raffle with hampers filled with goods for families as prizes. Tickets are \$2 each and three for \$5.

If after reading this article you feel like joining the Nimbin Auxiliary, they usually have a flyer for new volunteers on the table next to the raffle tickets, or you could call Robyn Roos on 0409-515-480. Meetings are held monthly at the MPS, and the Auxiliary respects that people have different skills so members choose what they would like to do when they are available.

Nimbin is obviously very supportive of the fundraising volunteers for their local health facility so everyone is to be commended. This is how a good community works.

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Manufacturers recommend that you maintain the anode in your system in order to prevent damage from rust + corrosion. After its 5th birthday – warranty expires.

THE ANODE IN YOUR SYSTEM SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO CORRODE AWAY, WHATEVER TYPE OR BRAND OF SYSTEM YOU HAVE – Solar, Electric, Gas or Heat Pumps.

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Make your Hot Water System last for 30 years without replacement.

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Cutaway section of a typical electric hot water heater

Activism update

Update on Brendon O'Connell, who was jailed for three years in WA for being less than obsequious to a brazen disrupter of Palestinian protesters in a shopping centre in Perth, and had fled Australia in virtual exile, fearing for his life, to Iran then Malaysia. Brendon was tricked into going to New Zealand to seek political asylum, knocked back, not allowed to return immediately to Malaysia and has been locked up in maximum security jail where one co-prisoner has not seen sunshine in 18 months. He still wants to get to the High Court of Australia to have his original case overturned so we can all be a little freer and maybe one day fairly free. An interview with him is here: <http://mediawhores.co.nz/2017/11/20/>

Shenanigans and smarties - natural beauty violence -Oscart studios



australian-political-prisoner-brendon-oconnell-speaks-from-new-zealand-jail

Update on Fukushima, from Peter Daley on the Sunshine Coast: Since October, background radiation is now 32% above pre-Fukushima. See: <http://sccc.org.au/yearly-average-background-radiation-levels>

Peter Godden
Nimbin

Burning issues

Do people living in outlying rural areas who burn plastic and white goods to save money on tip fees understand that they are releasing carcinogenic plasticides into the atmosphere? What about the wildlife who cannot retreat to a house to escape the toxic fumes, who must breathe them all night long. Don't they care? While those people are in their comfortable homes at night, birds and all other animals must suffer, now and in the future when cancer manifests, due to such thoughtless actions.

I notice this kind of burning always occurs on a weekend so that authorities cannot act in time. Clearly these people are aware that it is illegal but for them saving a few quid is more important than protecting wildlife. Actually now that council picks up white goods and rubbish at residents' request for free it's not even about saving money. So what reason do people have for not doing that. Is it that they can't be bothered to put it in a pile by the road? Or perhaps just habit.

How long will it take for people to understand karma?
Menkit Prince
Uki

Coral tree control

It's time Rous Water (incorporating North Coast Weeds) explained its actions to control the coral tree infestation in our region.

It's been a great season for the coral trees, the new floral emblem of Lismore. Go for a drive from Lismore to Casino or along Riverbank Road, the extension of Keen Street, to check out the stunning red masses of flowers.

It's amazing how far they have spread in 25 years. What began as a few trees adjacent to Bindaree Beef at South Gundarimba has now spread all along the waterways and floodplain. If only they had some commercial value!

How about governments giving some money to Rous Water (incorporating Far North Coast Weeds) to employ some of our unemployed residents.

Better still, give heaps of money to employ a large workforce to try and get

the weed infestation under control then an ongoing, long term maintenance team. They could work on public/crown land and at a subsidised rate for farmers. We can act now or roll over as we did with camphor laurel trees, except these coral trees have thorns and spread even more readily than camphors.

Looking forward to hearing from Rous Water about why this is not possible.

Richard White
East Ballina

Tweed water

Tweed Shire LNP councillor James Owen has publicly announced that he fears the Tweed Shire will run out of water within 10 years.

This public scare-mongering comes from a Councillor who continually votes in favor of commercial water mining in the Tweed – an unregulated industry which allows huge profits to be made selling our water to the likes of Coca-Cola. The water extraction is un-metered and sold back to us in plastic bottles.

The whole industry is a massive threat to the Tweed environment and supported by Owen and his 'development at any cost' faction of the Council.

Andrew Bennett
Tweed Heads

Rail = jobs and growth

On Wednesday 22nd November, I attended a meeting held by the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group. The objective is to reinstate the rail service from Casino to Tweed Heads. At present there is a push for the rail line to be torn up and replaced by a rail trail, which up to now has received funding from government and interested parties.

I believe the government are being very short sighted in not supporting a rail service for this area of the Northern Rivers. It is evident that the Northern Rivers is one of the fastest growing areas in NSW and different modes of transport is essential for the region's sustainability.

Together with the

deplorable state of our roads, to depend wholly on road transport leaves at least one third of the population isolated in our rural towns. For example, the elderly who can't drive, the young who can't yet drive and those that find the state of our roads too dangerous to drive, need effective public transport to access schools, health care, entertainment and shopping. Trains on existing lines are a practical and expedient way to address this need.

At present, Murwillumbah has an infrequent bus service to Tweed Heads. This service mainly caters for shoppers and is inconvenient for those needing to access work and medical services.

If the rail is lost in the Northern Rivers, we will have an integral part of our public transport system eradicated. As for replacing it with a rail trail, well, it's an indulgence for the fit and few! If we want tourists, we need transport options, not sneakers and pedal power.

Reinstating the rail would provide jobs in the area both on the rail and the support services that it brings, such as connecting mini buses to outlying villages, of which there are many along the rail corridor.

Growth of businesses along the rail line would benefit by tourists and locals using the service on a daily basis. If we want regional progress, regional growth and job opportunities, we need the rail!

Please consider this seriously before the rail is lost to us forever.

Susan Powell
Murwillumbah

No to Adani coal mine

The experts are saying that the gravest threat facing the planet over the next decade is climate change.

As the devastating impacts of climate change will affect each and every one of us, it is up to governments at all levels and all members of the community to take responsibility and do something about it.

Our Tweed Greens Mayor Katie Milne has done just that. She put up a successful notice of motion at the 27th October meeting

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

for Council to write to the Prime Minister and Queensland Premier to express Council's concern about the extraction of 2.3 billion tonnes of coal from Adani's planned Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin, which would result in 4.6 billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

The resolution also requires disclosure by civil construction tenders of any involvement in providing services to, or contracting for, the development and operation of this mine and consideration of a Council policy position if that is the case. [NOTE: A similar motion was recently passed by the Lismore Council.]

According to Tweed Council's guiding principles, it should "carry out its functions in a way that facilitates a local community that is strong, healthy and prosperous". Their responsibilities therefore embrace all the issues which put residents at risk, eg extreme weather events, homelessness, inequality and domestic violence.

If the issue is not within their jurisdiction, it is up to Council to make recommendations to the relevant state or federal body and advocate for better outcomes for residents. Their responsibility goes well beyond roads, rates and rubbish.

If we are serious about reducing the impacts of climate change, we should be phasing out existing coal mines, not building new ones. If New Zealand can plan for a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2035, so can we!

Lynette Dickinson
Pottsville

Notices

Knitting Nannas barefoot bowls night

The Knitting Nannas Against Gas will be raising funds to help communities fight corporate greed at their barefoot bowls night at Lismore City Bowling Club, on Friday 8th December from 5pm. Come along for an evening of fun on the bowling green – Dinner is \$15 (kids \$10 and a hug).

Public meeting on NBN tower

Local residents are encouraged to attend a public meeting at 10am on Saturday 9th December at Stony Chute Ski Lodge, Zouch Road on the proposed NBN tower at 1 Stangers Road, Stony Chute. Come and inform yourself about this proposed development and the effects this presents for the natural landscape and the local community.

Fundraiser for Nimbin Preschool

Lisa Lucken will be at the Blue Knob Christmas Craft Market on 9th December with an assortment of indoor plants, hanging baskets and natives, and an activity space to decorate a terracotta pot or make a gift or decoration with material and felt. She will also have premium potting mix if you have a plant that you'd like potted. All money made goes to Nimbin Community Preschool.

Help End Marijuana Prohibition AGMs

Saturday 16th December at Nimbin Town Hall: Nimbin Hemp Inc at 11am; Nimbin M.O.B. (MardiGrass Organising Body) at midday; Australian H.E.M.P. Party at 2pm.

Holiday Club circus workshop

The Nimbin Holiday Club is running the Pitts Family circus workshop on Friday 22nd December. It is for primary school kids and costs \$20 for the whole day at Holiday Club or \$15 for a 2-hour workshop only. For more details, contact NNIC or Kylie on 0487-576-281.

Christmas at St Marks

St Marks Anglican Church, Nimbin invites the community to celebrate Christmas with Carols on Wednesday 20th December at 6.30pm, followed by a cuppa and cake; and a Communion Service on Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December at 10am, followed by morning tea. For any enquiries, please contact Faye Scherf on 6689-1440.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Is your life being affected by somebody else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups can help. Meetings held in your district. For more information, go to: www.al-anon.org.au or phone 1300-252-666.

About us

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NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 27th December

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Julie 'Shanto' Oliver
1946-2017

Remembered by Nuro Oliver

Born in post-war Melbourne, Julie's first boyfriend was guitarist Laurie Authur. Tiring quickly of watching the boys, she soon began developing her signature style with Melbourne pop-vocal coach Jack White.

Soaring on wings of song in Victorian folk groups, Julie teamed up with Jose McLaughlin from Gerry and the Pacemakers. As the duo 'Joe and Julie' they toured Europe, and back in Oz won the Grand Final of GTV9's *New Faces* and made records.

Julie performed to the troops in Vietnam, with Kamahl, and at one point replaced Judy Durham in *The Seekers*. Singing at gigs with Mookx aka Brendan Hanley led to Julie's romantic life partnership, with the couple leaving Melbourne in 1976 to Byron Bay to have their first child and to also birth their band Bahloo.

As gypsies roving the Northern Rivers, the hippie minstrels evolved their own unique brand of eco-song writing and environmental folk music, joining community blockades at local forests invaded by logging companies. Early days were spent living in the Tumble Falls Community, organising the Nimbin Folk Club, Nimbin Choir, Nimbin Silly Symphony Orchestra and The Nimbin Allstars. In 1978 the duo initiated the legalisation of busking in Australia via peaceful musical protests in Paddington Sydney.

This time heralded a spiritual Sannyasin journey for their family where they changed their names to Shanto and Muktesh. The meaning of the Sanskrit name Shanto is 'peace'.



A highlight of this era was a cross-country desert odyssey with 17 adults, 7 children, a film crew and legendary musician Hans Poulsen to Monkey Mia, Western Australia to commune with dolphins. The resulting documentary *Monkey Mia* saw the Bahloo Travelling Cabaret Show play at screenings along the East Coast and a season at Kinsela's nightclub in Darlinghurst, Sydney.

Settling in Byron Bay in the mid 1980's as a dedicated mother of two Shanto also became the director of the Gaia Choir, facilitated women's gatherings, became a singing teacher and exhibited her felt art.

In 1988 the First Fleet re-enactment committee chose *Keep Sailing On* written by Mookx as their theme song and groomed the couple professionally and flew them with a seven-piece band to Fremantle to meet the fleet's Australian arrival, including a month-long residency at Darling Harbour playing music every day on the tall wooden ships. A film clip circulated regional television and a

vinyl souvenir was sold at First Fleet ports around Australia.

In the 1990s Shanto performed at the Woodstock 21 years reunion and saw her idol Aretha Franklin in concert. With Mookx she co-wrote the original soundtrack and characters for *Ferngully* animated movie. In this era they formed an association to promote music on the North Coast, which evolved into the Dolphin Awards. At their Cooper's Shoot home, Mookx, Darmin Cameron and Shanto partnered in setting up a state of the art recording studio where they recorded many local musicians and documentary soundtracks.

In the mid 2000's The Byron Vista Social Club was formed. These performances were created to showcase local artists with live recordings in the Ewingsdale Hall and later at the Byron Community Centre.

Shanto spent the last 10 years living in Bali in retirement enjoying the beauty and rich colour of this exotic culture. She immersed herself in the Ubud community and spiritual lifestyle, positively influencing the empowerment of many of her sisters, where she continued to write and play music in a more intimate capacity.

Shanto's illness leading up to her passing was quick and still unexplained. Such an amazing caring and giving person with the cheekiest of nature, will be missed greatly and her immense beauty inside and out will remain in our hearts forever.

Brendan 'Mookx' Hanley

All at NGT were saddened to learn of his gentle passing on 4th December.

Read his final column on Page 37.

An obituary tribute will be featured in the next edition. – Ed.



Ode to Sean Maher, 'Dad'

15th July 1938 – 17th November 2017

*In a jug of Guinness lie the stuff of dreams
Its creamy head the mirrors of our minds
We are the talkers of these ways it seems
The Celtic singers of a that dreaming kind
Conversation the singing of those dreams*

*In the ages some now lie bereft of hearty ale
Amid the mighty Calderan's precious soil
A snowy crown looks out for we to hail
The valid bowl that turned to counter foil
The match was his claimed mates to tale*

*He in ages past, rigged the steel, the core
That dammed the mountain streams
Blew the granite that gave the water store
And in his world amid the moving shaker teams
Now all around we say he lived among our lore*

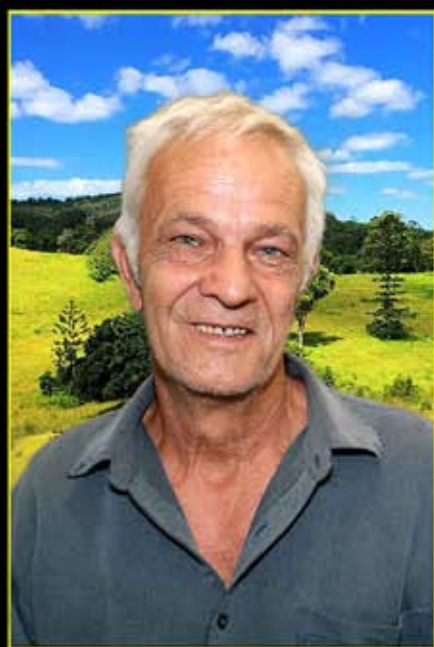
*Good trip good Ireland's son
We will pay the ferryman a jug or ten dear lad.*

Vale Sean, Vale friend.

– Thom Culpeper

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Welcome to the Team Klaus Walter

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*John Wilcox
and his team
at Nimbin Hills
wish to thank this
fabulous community
for their support
in our first two and
a half years.

Merry Christmas
to all*

For more information, see **"Head For The hills"** or visit our friendly staff at
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