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Hospital Auxiliary says thank you

Since 1933, the United Hospital Auxiliaries of New South Wales Inc. has been responding to the needs of health facilities and community health facilities throughout the State.

Nimbin has its own Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary (NUHA), which helps raise funds for purchasing special pieces of equipment and other items to aid and comfort patients and residents of the Aged Care Residential Facility.

With the help of local funding, we have to date been able to purchase items to aid diagnostics and assist with the patients' and residents' comfort.

We hold regular fundraisers such as our weekly raffles, held outside the Nimbin Newsagency, and also our weekly fruit/veg and meat raffles at the Nimbin Hotel.

On Thursday 16th February, members of the NUHA attended the Nimbin Hotel to present appreciation certificates to both the Nimbin Hotel, in donating monies to provide these weekly prizes, and to the Nimbin Newsagency for their wonderful support.

As at 21st December, the funds received by the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary since 26th May 2016 from these weekly raffles at the Hotel has been over \$6000. Nimbin UHA would like to say also on behalf of the



Nimbin MPS, a very big thank-you to the Nimbin Hotel and the Nimbin Newsagency, and also to our dedicated volunteers who turn up on a weekly basis to sell the raffle tickets.

We also have a stall at the annual Nimbin Show held in September, where raffle tickets can be purchased plus a selection of plants as well as lots of wonderful homemade cakes and jams. At Christmas, the Lismore Lions Club invites Nimbin UHA to be Charity of the Day at Lismore Square and Lismore Central. All funds raised on these days are donated to the Nimbin UHA.

Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary

invites new members/volunteers to help with our work. Volunteering can be very satisfying and rewarding, especially within your own community and your support will benefit you, your family, friends, and neighbours.

The NUHA meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 10am in the Conference Room at Nimbin Hospital.

If you would like to join our group, by doing a little or a lot, attending meetings or not, or just to be there, please contact Secretary, Margaret McQuilty on 6689-0090 or Maureen Lombard (President) on 6689-1080.

Community thanksgiving for emergency services personnel

by Rebecca Ryall

The recent death of Simone Rutley brought together our community in such a life-affirming way. Over the last few months we have shared a community of grieving, and also of thanksgiving, for Simone, and for those who still walk amongst us.

Personally, I became aware for the first time of the important roles played by our police and volunteer firefighters in critical incidents. To see the way the local coppers genuinely cared for Simone's family, both during and after the tragedy that took her life, gave me a renewed appreciation for the complex dance the police personnel perform in our little town.

Seeing the aftermath of the accident as it played out in the lives of my friends in the RFS was also an eye opener. Whilst looking out for the friends and loved ones of accident victims over the years, I realise I have neglected to spare a thought for the men and women in our community who are responsible for caring for the injured, and cleaning up the sites of car accidents, fires and other distressing events, which more often than not involved people they know.

Simone's funeral and wake demonstrated very clearly how well we can come together in support of one another, and seeded in me a desire to do so more often, in the absence of tragedy.

On Friday 24th March

from 4pm on the blister and old museum site, all members of the Nimbin community are invited to a community celebration and thanksgiving for our emergency services personnel. This is not a fundraiser. In this atmosphere, we offer our heartfelt thanks to those who care for us in our times of distress – police, rural fire service and SES volunteers, medical personnel – those walking among us who do the jobs most of us could not face up to.

There will be a loose programme of music, and any and all musos who would like to contribute to the atmosphere are invited to share their talents. Tea and soup will be on offer,

and everyone is encouraged to bring along something to share – food, bubbles, face paint, juggling balls, hula hoops. This is a community gathering, organised for and by YOUR community.

Festivities will commence in the heart of town from 4pm, with the music programme winding down as the street drumming kicks off, to take us dancing with gratitude into the evening.

Anyone who would like to contribute behind the scenes in organising or publicising this event is invited to contact Rebecca (0423-596-368) or Cat (0429-194-248) or the Neighbourhood Centre.

Bring your friends, bring your party, and come along and hug a fireman!

Seeking descendants of New Italy

Where are they now?

The New Italy Management group is looking for descendants of the original or later settlers of New Italy, who first settled in 1882 in Northern NSW, south of Woodburn.

The settlement was established by members of the Marquis de Rey's ill-fated expedition to the Pacific that year.

The next celebration marking this dramatic and historic story, *Carnevale Italiano*, is on 9th April this year at New Italy, and the group is inviting all descendants wherever they may be to join us on the day, or to make contact so they can find out approximately how many are living in Australia today.

The New Italy Management group



Empire Day at New Italy, 1901

is a group of volunteers, some of them descendants, who run the New Italy Museum and other facilities on site.

Contact Jennie Hicks at: hicksanddickson@gmail.com with your information.

Heatwave takes toll on flying foxes

by Cheryl Cochran

The summer of 2016-2017 has delivered some devastating heat waves, especially at Casino, with temperatures there in the forties. Flying fox camps suffer mass mortality when temperatures rise above forty degrees. Their bodies absorb too much heat and with high temperatures and low humidity comes dehydration, organ failure then death.

A team of carers from Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers (NRWC) were monitoring the flying foxes at Casino on 11th and 12th February, expecting the worst with predicted high temperatures.

Sunday 12th February was Casino's hottest February day on record, reaching 45.7 degrees officially. As the temperature rose, the flying foxes moved down the trees into clumps, where NRWC carers sprayed them with back pack sprays, offering some relief. Younger flying foxes were collected and given a cooling bath to help reduce their body temperature, while others higher up were frantically fanning to try and cool themselves.

Thankfully, by mid-afternoon, North Casino Rural Fire Service came to the rescue, spraying the trees and saving many lives.

Carers attended a similar heat event in 2014, but were still struggling with



the horror of it all. Bats falling from the trees, some still alive, some able to be saved and some already dead; it's utterly heart-breaking. Unfortunately, these are images that many wildlife carers will never forget.

NRWC managed to save more than sixty flying foxes on Sunday, mostly juveniles, plus twelve orphaned babies. These young flying foxes will be in care for several weeks, before going through our soft release program. These are the lucky ones, as sadly the overall death toll would have been in the order of three thousand.

Hopefully there will be no more heat waves for the rest of this summer.

Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers are always looking for more members to assist with rescuing and caring for native animals.

We have an introductory course coming up on Sunday 19th March in Lismore. The day will start at 9:30am and finish at 3pm, and costs \$35, which includes a year's membership. To book, or for further information, please phone 6628-1866 or email: training@wildlifecarers.com

If you find any injured or orphaned wildlife, please call the Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers on 6628-1866. Check out our Facebook page or website: www.wildlifecarers.com

Putting all the pieces back together

by Stephen and Evan Strong

We are utterly convinced that the Standing Stones complex is the most important archaeological site in Australia, if not the world.

Acclaimed as the "oldest temple in the world" and the location where language, culture and esoteric wisdom began, this place demands to be recognised as a national treasure.

Alas, that has not happened, simply because without the appearance of the actual rocks that once stood on the main mound and the hundreds of inter-connected stone arrangements, it seems the authorities will not act.

That was then, not now. With the strong chance the larger rocks taken from the principal mound have now been located, the most impressive feature that must be addressed relates to the tonnage and size of individual rocks.

The only certainty found within the logistics of extraction, transportation and placement of thousands of tonnes of basalt on the mound in ancient days, is that such processes sit outside the reach of any mainstream historical version



Image: Richard Patterson

of pre-Cook Australia.

The current archaeological stock-take includes knowledge of where the mounds, surrounding grounds and many of the smaller and larger rocks now stand, lay or are stacked, the map of the 184 Standing Stones, name of each rock and the translation, and most importantly, the Dance of the Stone Arrangements ("Story of Life From Birth to Death, Told at Ritual of High Degree").

It would seem that with all the missing and hidden ingredients now back on the same table, everything would easily fall into place. If only!

The first hurdle

The present owner of this former quarry, now rural

subdivision, purchased this property some thirty years after the rocks were dumped and covered in soil. He mistakenly believes that the rocks are all natural deposits found within the upper three metres of top soil and refuses to enter into any further discussion.

Unless an impartial geologist can examine the sites and formally dismiss this response as a geological impossibility, we are stuck on square one with no prospect of moving forward.

Until that impasse is formally resolved there is no second step. In the meantime, Original and non-Original people with blood ties, knowledge or skills that directly assist convened and set out an agenda and future

plans on February 18.

From a council of close to 40, seven people will form an inner group exclusively concerned with the immediate future and welfare of the rocks and will make final decisions until those rocks are moved to their rightful resting place.

When that happens, and it will, the tasks of the seven chosen are complete and the larger council will take over in deciding how, who and future directions.

The first step is simply a matter of authentication and recuperation of these neglected and damaged stone sentinels; everything else is further down the line.

Our task is simple: to put all the pieces back together. The site was so incredibly sacred for so long, then everything stopped. That time in suspension is now over.

Not long ago, Karno called for eight hawks to circle above the mound in figure eight, and they did so at his bidding. The spirits were stirring at that sacred portal and are ready to take the next step, all we have to do is prepare the way and do their bidding.

Read more at: <http://forgottenorigin.com/putting-all-the-pieces-back-together-australias-stonehenge>

Live theatre auditions

Are you a creative person, or looking to ignite that creative spark? The Nimbin Bush Theatre wants you!

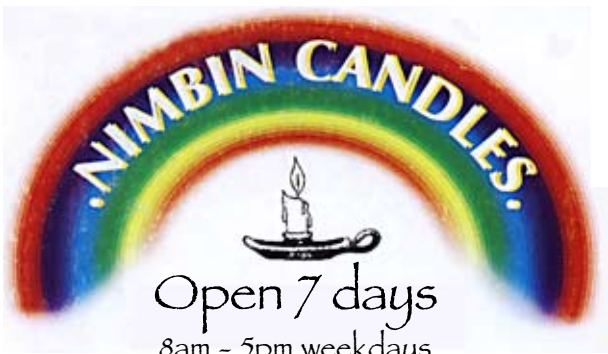
A project is in the works – an amateur live theatre production. It will be directed by James Straiton, an experienced actor/director, and is a great chance to build artistic skills and interests in a friendly environment.

Whether ye be a starry-eyed thespian, a shower-time singer, a backyard carpenter interested in something new, or just someone who wants to do something fun with their time – we can find an opportunity to explore and grow your creative talents.

This is an invitation to the ladies and gentlemen of the region (all ages) to join us on Thursday 9th March, 6.30pm at Nimbin Bush Theatre. There will

be a script on the night for a fun read-through, with some basic physical and vocal warm-ups to get started.

A thank you goes out to those intrepid adventurers who braved the ferocious summer heat to come along and have a chat about projects, plays, and indicate their interests or talents. It's always nice to see people so keen to be involved. Hope to see you again on the 9th.



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Nimbin, Lismore, Kyogle and surrounds...

Santos submits EIS for Pilliga gasfield

by Johanna Evans

Have you heard that the Santos Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for an 850 well gasfield in the Pilliga forest has been released, and we have under 50 days in which to respond?

Over the past two weeks it has also been announced that APA intend to construct a pipeline running through farming country to connect the Pilliga gasfield to the Sydney/Moomba pipeline.

Many of the *Nimbin GoodTimes*' readers have made the seven + hour trek out to the Pilliga forest in the last few years to bear witness to what has been occurring. It seems the NSW government is intent on sacrificing the north-west of NSW for extreme energy, against the wishes of the majority of the people.

This is the pointy end of the fight against CSG in NSW and we must get thousands of submissions in order to get the best

possible outcome from this process. The EIS is a pretty overwhelming document full of technical jargon and numerous gaping holes which need to be exposed and pointed out to the fossil-fuel-loving NSW government.

The Pilliga is a real biodiversity hotspot, a beautiful forest with unique flora and fauna, some of which are found nowhere else on the planet. It's also a sacred space, sacred to the Original people, to the Gamilaraay. We need to treat this like the biggest action we have ever done. If you went to Glenugie or Doubtful or showed up at Bentley, this forest needs you to speak for it.

During the next few weeks, I'm hoping that all the experts can come out of the woodwork and start to work on putting together information that can help non-sciency people put together good submissions.

The EIS can be downloaded

here: www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6456

Workshops will be offered in the near future. There is currently one being planned for the 22nd March in Kyogle (phone 0409-313-968 for more info – location and times TBA).

We have such a strong area when it comes to resisting the scourge of Coal Seam Gas, and this issue is directly relevant to the Northern Rivers. On the Rivers we do not yet have the protection of a permanent ban and we must support our friends in the north-west in resisting the CSG invasion. We can't allow a sacrifice zone, because the nature of gasfields is to spread.

Keep your eyes and ears open for submission guidelines, which I am sure will be coming out soon from Lock the Gate and various other NGOs, and let's get our heads around collectively kicking Santos' butt.



Land in the Pilliga forest sterilised by salt water that escaped from a holding dam that collapsed.
Photo: Dan Lanzini

Clearing our rainfall away

by Dailan Pugh

It is obvious that climate change is underway. It's been getting hotter, rainfalls have been declining and droughts intensifying.

While rising carbon dioxide emissions are responsible for much of our climate woe, they are not the whole problem. Overwhelming evidence from around the world shows land-clearing has directly caused a significant reduction in regional rainfalls and an increase in land temperatures.

It is important that the Government recognises that when they approve the clearing of forests and woodlands they are approving rainfall reductions, increasing temperatures, intensifying droughts and increasing salinity.

The past 200 years of land-clearing have cost us dearly. Since 1950 the most heavily cleared regions of eastern and southern Australia have experienced rainfall declines of between 30 and 50mm per decade. If we want to do something to stop this decline, the first step is to stop further land-clearing, and the second is to begin revegetating our denuded landscapes.

The draconian land-clearing laws passed by ex-Premier Baird will allow renewed broadscale clearing of native vegetation in NSW when they come into force in July 2017. The new Premier Gladys Berejiklian has only four months left to change these draconian laws and implement strong regulations. We need to convince her to do so.

Terrestrial climates evolved over hundreds of millions of years as vegetation colonised the land and created conditions more suitable for its own growth: modifying temperatures, conserving moisture and enhancing rainfall as it progressed inland. Human civilisations emerged within the

climate created by the vegetation, modifying the vegetation to suit their purposes, sometimes with dire climatic consequences.

Vegetation does not just respond to rainfall, it actively generates its own. It recycles water from the soil back into the atmosphere by transpiration, creates the updrafts that facilitate condensation as the warm air rises and cools, creates pressure gradients that draw moist air in from afar, and, just to be sure, releases the atmospheric particles which are the cloud condensation nuclei around which raindrops form.

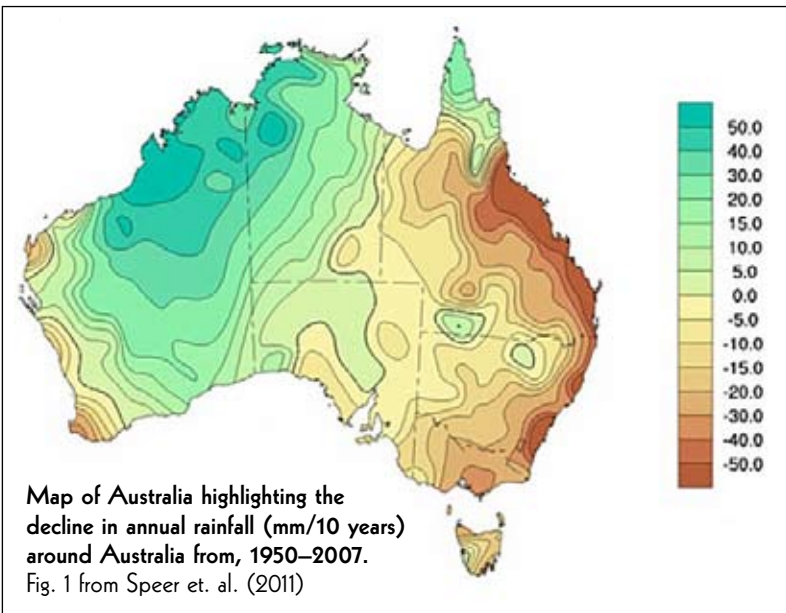
Forests have been described as 'biotic pumps', driving regional rainfall because their high rates of transpiration return large volumes of moisture to the atmosphere and suck in moisture-laden air from afar.

While most of our rain originates from evaporation of the oceans, it is estimated that 40% of the rain that falls on land comes from evaporation from the land and, most importantly, from transpiration by vegetation. Recycled water vapour becomes increasingly important for inland rainfall.

Having created and attracted the water vapour, the plants then make it rain. Plants emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as plant scents and the blue haze characteristic of eucalypt forests. They play an important role in communication between plants, and messages from plants to animals, and also between plants and moisture-laden air. They oxidise in the air to form cloud condensation nuclei.

The transpiration of vegetation also results in evaporative cooling whereby the surface heat is transferred to the atmosphere in water vapour. The resultant clouds also help shade and cool the surface.

There is abundant scientific evidence that deforestation and degradation of vegetation causes



significant reductions in rainfall by:

- reducing the recycling of rainfall to the atmosphere by transpiration;
- reducing the drawing in of moist coastal air;
- reducing updrafts of moist air;
- reducing rooting depth and the recycling of deep soil moisture;
- increasing loss of water from the land by runoff; and
- reducing the organic aerosols necessary for the condensation of rain drops.

It has been estimated that since European settlement, land clearing in eastern Australia has directly resulted in an average summer rainfall decrease of 4-12% and a warming of around 0.4-2°C. This conforms with studies from around the world that land clearing significantly affects rainfall and climate.

South-west Western Australia provides a clear example of the folly of over-clearing vegetation. By 1950, 30% of the arable area had been cleared, increasing to 72% by 1980. In the mid-1970s a clearing 'tipping-point' appears to have been

reached and the region experienced a step-wise change in climate, manifesting as a rapid 15–20% decrease in rainfall and an associated 50% decrease in runoff into Perth's drinking water catchments. Since 1996 this decline in rainfall from the long-term average has increased to around 25%. In 2001 there was another shift with a further 50% reduction in runoff.

Studies have concluded that in south-west Western Australia up to 50-80% of the rainfall decline since 1970, and 50% of the observed warming since European settlement, could be attributed to land-clearing. Despite the reduction in rainfall, groundwater has risen on cleared lands, turning most of the streams saline and affecting over 500,000 hectares of previously productive agricultural land. And while the conversion of old growth forest to regrowth is having the effect of increasing transpiration, it is not compensating for the losses, and with declining rainfalls the water stress is killing trees and drying catchments.

Across drier areas of Australia

the removal of deep rooted forests and woodlands has caused water-tables to rise, allowing long-buried saline ground-waters to rise towards the surface, with the resultant dryland salinity affecting millions of hectares. This has turned many of our rivers saline, caused widespread degradation of native ecosystems and agricultural lands, destroyed infrastructure, and diminished biodiversity. And it can take decades or centuries for the impacts to manifest. Some 7.5 million hectares of NSW's agricultural lands are considered at risk.

The overwhelming evidence from around the world is that land-clearing has directly caused a significant reduction in regional rainfalls and an increase in land temperatures. These impacts have been compounded through the release of stored CO², with land clearing contributing around a third of our CO² emissions in the past two centuries. We have to heed the evidence and stop what we are doing to avoid reaching yet more rainfall tipping-points.

By clearing we are replacing atmospheric H₂O with CO². We have to allow our remaining forests to grow old to return their function as the biotic pumps driving our rainfall, while enhancing their role as carbon storehouses. We need to plant back trees in denuded landscapes to repair our hydrological cycles and take up more carbon. With global warming gathering momentum there is no time to waste.

History is littered with failed civilisations that cleared too much vegetation and changed the climate to one unfavourable for their own survival, such as the Nasca of southern Peru and Anasazi of south-west USA. Clearing and degradation of native vegetation has now progressed to the stage where regional impacts are turning into global impacts.

Farmers for climate action

by Maddy Braddon

Meg and Peter Nielsen are fourth generation cattle farmers from Bentley. They previously farmed a variety of fruits and coffee at Bangalow.

Both Meg and Peter (pictured) agree that “good farmers are environmentalists”.

“A good farmer understands that to farm sustainably you have to work with the environment”, says Peter, which is exactly what they are doing. “Climate disruption” as Meg calls it, is never far from their minds.

Meg has noticed big changes on her farm that are consistent with the predictions of climate science. Over the past decade and a half, since they’ve been on the property, she has noticed highly variable weather conditions when working out on the land. “Mostly in the form of unseasonable weather,” she explains. “More and more unexpectedly hot days in Spring... even October has much hotter days.”

Peter agrees. “2016 was a clear example of this. And unfortunately this heat was accompanied by long dry periods.” Meg also notes that rainfall is now extremely patchy in the region. “Instead



of us all receiving a solid amount, some farmers in the area receive 60ml during a storm whilst others receive nothing.”

Meg and Peter farm their land with the impacts of climate change and sustainability in their minds. They feel a strong sense of stewardship over the land.

“Peter and I feel that we’re all so blessed to live on this beautiful earth, and as farmers we feel doubly blessed to be able to make our living working on it,” says Meg.

They have implemented a number of innovative measures, including improving soil moisture with added vegetation around dams, encouraging natural vegetation growth, keeping stocking rates

low and introducing cattle that are suited to the local grasses. They’ve also added eight solar panels to the farmhouse and installed three 5000 gallon water tanks.

Peter emphasises that a good deal of the work they are undertaking is about establishing a balance between the areas of natural vegetation and productive land. “We don’t focus on one without thinking of the other,” he says.

“In our productive areas we are focusing on soil health by reintroducing natural elements like dung beetles. And maintaining our natural habitats is important for sustainability.”

Despite their efforts to improve their carbon footprint and farming practices, they

feel that governments could do more to encourage farmers to have more renewable energy on their farm.

“We’ve been calling on both federal and state governments for some time to review their policies and put practical measures in place to address climate change as a matter of priority.” As National Party members, they are hopeful that the party that’s traditionally represented country people can make progress in championing the opportunities available for farmers in renewable energy.

“There are so many reasons why we need to transition from coal and gas to renewable energy,” says Meg.

On their beautiful 150 acre property at Bentley, Meg and Peter are striving to continue the stewardship and respect for the land that its previous owners had. “They always cared for the land and were good environmental farmers. We’ve just tried to build on that.”

Meg and Peter are keen to invite visitors to their farm. Their property often attracts avid bird watchers keen to catch a glimpse of the over 100 amazing species of birds that now inhabit their property.





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Pay the rent for Aboriginal cultural centre

The campaign to pay the rent of the Wai:bal Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre which started in January, received enthusiastic and generous responses, which is really heart-warming. Some concerns and questions were also expressed.

Questions like: Why would one group be favoured over another? ‘It’ is all a long time ago, isn’t it time to move on? Don’t Aboriginal people get millions of government dollars to support them, cannot they pay the rent from that? Why is the centre not (always) open?

They got land rights, haven’t they been compensated enough? Wasn’t this country built by those who arrived after 1788?

Quite overwhelming, I must admit and these questions certainly need to be looked at in more detail. However, for the moment, without denying the complexities nor obstacles, we want to give it our best to keep the Aboriginal Culture Centre in our village.

With a total of contributions at \$465, we are almost halfway covering the monthly rent of \$ 994.97. So, as simple maths has it: we still would love to find the other half!

At the moment there are 18 people who have already made their bank transfers, and seven who intend to do so. Another 25 people or so would be great. Please feel cordially invited to join us with a monthly contribution between five and

fifty dollars.

Of course, one-off donations are very welcome also. If you want to share concerns or more information: pay-the-rent@xs4all.nl or look for the soon to be updated website of the “Nimbin Aboriginal Culture Centre”.

Bank details to contribute: Nimbin Summerland Credit Union, BSB 728728 Account name: “Pay-the-Rent NAAC” Account number: 22314081

Also note that weaving workshops are being held at Wai:bal Nimbin Aboriginal Culture Centre on Thursday and Fridays in early March.

Workshops start at 10 with teachers from Casino and Kyogle. All welcome.



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Left to right: **Lyn Halliday** – Sales, **John Marks** – Sales, **Amanda Johnson** – Licensee / Principal, **Mel Allen** – Property Manager.



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Workshops start at Aboriginal Cultural Centre

There's a new tenant at Nimbin Community Centre, the recently incorporated association, Nimbin Aboriginal Culture Centre Inc.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are welcome to become voting members. Associate membership is also available to other people to help support the organisation.

Arts and cultural activities for Aboriginal people funded by a NSW Regional Aboriginal Arts grant started at the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre on 2nd February with the Galibai Dubais weaving group from Casino, who conducted a series of four workshops on Thursdays.

Starting from 9.30am on Friday 10th February, a second series of weaving workshops has been offered for five



weeks by the Gulibai Living Culture group.

Dance workshops for men, women and children will begin in early March. These workshops are for Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander people and are free. Light refreshments will be provided. Younger people are encouraged to come along and bring their jarjums.



www.nnic.org.au

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Nimbin Women's Dinner and Comedy Gala

Wednesday 8th March 2017 Nimbin Town Hall. (Yes it really is the 8th March - sorry for any confusion caused by the incorrect date on the version of the poster printed in the Feb edition of the NGT. Oops. Momo wishes it to be known that it was Nat's fault and not hers!)

Featuring a bunch of funny gals and starring Fiona O'Loughlin. Contact NNIC for tix/bookings/info. \$30 dinner and show. (\$25 concession). Not to be missed. All women welcome.

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

The next meeting will be at NNIC (Elmo room) at 2pm on Thursday 23rd March. To join Nimbin CDAT contact: admin@nnic.org.au or just come along to the next meeting. We are after some feedback... check out Nimbin Hook Ups to contribute to our poll.

Welcome on board to Vicki Bright

Vicki will be filling our community worker role until mid-May and she will be here Wed-Fri to assist people with info and referrals, material aid and general support, Wednesday-Friday. Drop in or phone us for an appointment.

Laundromat vouchers

Now available for eligible clients: Thanks to St Vincent De Paul's Orange Sky Laundry project and the lovely folks

down at Nimbin Laundromat. Come in and see Vicki to ask about a voucher.

NIS - where is Gen?

And what do I do now? Thankfully Gen is now in recovery after a major operation during February. It will be some time before she is back, however, and we are doing our best to find a relief clinician to fill in for her until then. People with appointments should contact us so that they can be rescheduled as soon as we have someone here to assist you.

Centrelink debt letters

If you have received a letter from Centrelink advising you of a discrepancy and a possible debt you can easily begin the review process using the Fraudstop website at: www.fraudstop.com.au This website, set up by GetUp, will send a request for a formal review to Centrelink, asks the local MP for assistance, sends a letter of complaint to the Human Services Minister and submits a freedom of information request for your Centrelink file. The whole process takes about 15 minutes and is easily the quickest way to begin the debt review process.

7 Sibley Street updates

We are very pleased to announce that NNIC is now officially the joint owner of Sibley St, together with the Nimbin Community Centre, with NNIC being added onto the title deed as a tenant in common on 22nd February 2017.

Many thanks to Bill and crew for dealing with the cocos palms. If anyone needs mulch for your gardens, please contact us.

We are looking for a handy person with a ute or truck who would be willing to run a pile of green waste into the Lismore tip. Contact Guy on: guy@nnic.org.au if you can assist.

We still need to raise additional funds to complete Stage One. To donate towards our new windows, doors, roof, gutters, or new decks this contact NNIC on: admin@nnic.org.au. Or see the project website for how to donate on line: www.sevenonsibley.com

Volunteers wanted

We are looking for some new volunteers to assist our community access worker. We are also looking for people to support the implementation of Sustainability Alley 2017. Plus we have other interesting tasks and activities on offer. Send your EOIs setting out any experience, quals and areas of interest to: admin@nnic.org.au

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments call 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: 14th March. 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 16th March
• Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 14th March
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. Registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to Emergency Department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 8th March. New members welcome.



Baruwa Bolgaun rebuild



by Helen Simpson

Nepal relief update

The first house is almost completed and a group of us is heading over this week to start the second. We are also taking citrus trees to plant at the school and live chickens to replace those lost in the earthquake.

A few issues with buttresses have been resolved. And a baby has been born in the first almost completed house. All very exciting. The locals are very thankful for the help.

To reiterate, Bolgaun in the Baruwa

VDC was near the epicentre of the 2015 earthquake and was decimated with a lot of deaths. They have been unable to rebuild because of landslides due to an extended monsoon last year and the road was closed. The road was reopened in November last year.

We have partnered with Good Earth Nepal using earthbag technology and using local materials like rubble earth, stone and recycled wood. Trucks are required to bring up gravel and cement however. Locals are being trained to build their own houses and help their neighbours.



Thanks again Nimbin for your donations and support. Could not have done this without you. This will be an ongoing project with more fundraising through our winter and Nepal monsoon. Have paid for two houses and have funds for another five. More volunteers will be coming over in late October.

Any information required for donations to the Nimbin Nepal Relief Fund auspiced by the Nimbin Health and Welfare Association or for volunteering, leave a message on (02) 6689-1417 or: helensim7@gmail.com

Local groups join forces to unite in action

by Sophia Hoeben

Unification is just marvellous when it happens, and so it was with the beginnings of regular meetings for the Nimbin Action Group.

Although started in 2014, after the violent arrest of the laneway boys and two subsequent marches in protest to the Nimbin Police Station under the banner of NAG, we had not yet met. On the last Saturday in January, this changed, the 'we' now includes members of other groups and organisations such as the Northern Rivers Guardians, the Nimbin Environment Centre and the Hemp Embassy.

As a facilitator of NAG, I

feel strongly that the more we unite in our efforts, the more likely the success of protecting our community and our beautiful environment.

The three items on the first agenda were all local, and have already been acted upon since the meeting.

First up was an update of news from everyone in the group regarding the outrageous number of police raids Nimbin suffers and subsequent loss of revenue to shops. Letters written to the NSW Police Commissioner were passed around and agreed upon by all. A package containing these letters and a bundle of petitions containing over 400 signatures were sent on 8th February. We await a reply.

New petitions with the correct heading to address Parliament have been placed in the Hemp Embassy on the counter for people to sign. We need a minimum of 500 for them to be accepted by Parliament.

Secondly, our collective success in gathering information about the logging on the end of Gungas Road meant the approach to the Department of Environment and Energy(?) was received with respect and consideration. The letter from the Environmental Defender's Office requested by the Nimbin Environment Centre via Alan Roberts was a gem legally speaking, and was sent on to the DEE along

with some of the 100 photos of the damage taken by another Earth-loving soul. We have much more to do on this issue and need more members to do some leg-work.

Finally, Scott Sledge from the Northern Rivers Guardians gave us an update on the Uki water extraction plant that Coca Cola has in mind. It seems Tweed Shire Council is deliberating its legal options and we await their decision.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 25th March at 12.30pm in the Dance Studio of the Nimbin Community Centre. Everyone is welcome, even if you're not yet a member. Those of us who love the Earth and the rights of the innocents cannot sit by and do nothing.

Photo exhibition and tea at Seniors Festival



Just some of the regular visitors and workers at the NACRS social centre. Pop in and enjoy a cuppa, use the computers and internet, meet a friend, enjoy a sociable morning tea or lunch (Tuesday and Wednesday). The centre is open between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday, phone 6689 1709.

For NSW Seniors Festival 2017, people aged 50+ in our local region were invited to submit a snapshot of something in they particularly value in their community, with a couple of sentences explaining why. Entries have now closed, and all photos submitted will be exhibited online at the Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services Facebook page from 15th March.

Twelve photos will be selected for the Snap My Community Exhibition at the Nimbin School of Arts, which is free to everyone. Three local judges, an artist, a documentary film-maker and a community worker, will select the final 12, with three outstanding entries receiving prizes. The emphasis is on content and personal significance over technical and artistic merit. We've had a wonderful response, with our dedicated and skilled volunteer workers helping some elders to record their images on our ipads.

Snap My Community Exhibition Launch and Seniors Festival Tea Party will be held at the Nimbin School of Arts, 11am on Wednesday 15th March; and the exhibition will be open daily between 11am and 3pm from 15th March to Sunday 19th March. Look for us on Facebook: [Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services](#)

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in March?

MEMBERSHIP FEES – \$5 social; \$85 full

- **Saturday 4th** – Penants team at home to East Lismore
- **Saturday 25th** – Nimbin Central School reunion
- **Sunday 26th** – Fundraiser for John Ryan
- **Open Mike Nights** – Wednesdays 8th & 22nd, 7-11pm
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays, 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** – Enquire at Bar

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at Nimbin Bowlo

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Growing experience

To the government, Nimbin seems to be the 'Terra Nullius' of the Australian cannabis industry.

Nimbin is arguably the cannabis capital of Australia, though people with ailments curable by cannabis are still having to risk criminality by visiting Nimbin to get the healing cannabis oil or the raw product.

State and Federal governments cannot continue to turn a complete blind eye forever to up to forty years of growing experience with cannabis on the North Coast of NSW. This area has proven to have some of the best growing conditions in Australia.

This experience in the Australian conditions cannot be ignored forever and cannot be replaced with government officials and others still learning about the pitfalls of growing this amazingly diverse plant. The hill growers cannot be omitted or ignored as long as there is a shortage of medicine.

It is governmental cruelty to those who await healing to omit and continue to ignore the growing skills attained through years of firsthand experience.

Many of the strains used around Nimbin are a conglomerate of strains amalgamated over the years, which has given Nimbin its own diverse brand. The market for a diverse 'rainbow strain' of Nimbin cannabis grown outdoor has proven over time to be very effective. Cloning plants for indoor regularity appeases the market which demands regularity of product.

It would not be good for the cannabis healing market to grow all of the marketable strains of cloned cannabis indoors, as happens at present. This is also not good enough for the extreme and wholesome health fanatic and naturalist, who don't agree to fiddling with the natural organic product by putting it under artificial light.

It can be proven by scientific

study and argued that indoor cannabis, having not seen the sun, lacks some essential sugars that can assist in better healing. The outdoor market of a 'rainbow strain' would ensure the diversity and purity of the product. Seasoned growers know that every strain of cannabis has its own character.

The government cannot keep up with the demand of health and healing that this incredible plant offers. Recognise the growing experience gained in this area, so more people can heal quicker and more lives and families can be saved all the pain. Change the law sooner rather than later, and decriminalise now.

Binnah Pownall
Larnook

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.

Freedom of speech

Brendon O'Connell, who did time in jail under controversial WA hate crime laws (causing offense, identical to the federal laws) recently fled to Iran, seeking political asylum, and is now residing in Malaysia, expecting to come back to Australia and be arrested again under threat to harm laws, or the Inquisitorial application of the Mental Health Act.

Brendon's experiences are important, as these kinds of laws if let loose will stifle free speech across the world, which the New World Order

hope to totally have in a global prison – we are all Palestinians now.

Readers who are interested can go to his blog: <https://isolatebutpreserve.blogspot.com> or listen to him talk for an hour on this Australian radio show: www.truthnews.com.au/web/radio/story/brendon_oconnell_on_iran_israel_and_freedom_of_speech_in_australia

If he can get enough help to get to the High Court and win, then this mad dog of political correctness, double standards and intimidation will be nipped somewhat in the bud.

On the Fukushima front – we are all on the Fukushima front now – the good news is the background level is stable at 42% over pre Fuku (though post Chernobyl and Pacific tests), and I recently saw much the same sea life on the intertidal zone at Ballina that I saw three years ago.

Reports from BC and California are not so good (see [rense.com](http://www.rense.com)). Also see Peter Daley's site for emailable updates at: <http://sccc.org.au/archives/category/the-food-lab>

Peter Godden
Nimbin

25,000 wrong papers

To answer Anton Vanderbyl's second question first (NGT Letters February 17), yes I am saying the supposedly published 25,000 "scientific" papers claiming harm from phone tower radiation are flat-out wrong.

If Anton can find one of these papers he believes to be irrefutable – it gets the biology correct and has a valid statistical process – then I will show him where and why it fails, as it must fail on the physics.

My article's focus was to show phone tower frequencies had no so-called "non-thermal" effects. Microwave (micro = very small) is not a good description for the two examples I gave: 915MHz has a 33cm wavelength and 2.4GHz has a 12.5cm wavelength. For some users, microwaves start at 1GHz



Exercising our people power

Society has always taught us that the police and politicians' role has always been to serve the community.

After seeing the riot squad strut through our town recently, I certainly wouldn't have felt safe to approach any of them for assistance and they certainly didn't appear to be friendly at all. I was having a coffee at the time and looked up to see them walking four abreast, I wasn't sure if I was looking at four policemen or four robocops. They had all sorts of weaponry hanging from them, guns, tasers and tactical vests.

I guess they need all that protection when entering such an aggressive and violent town as Nimbin.

Their whole presence was confronting and their body language was intimidating. Honestly, to me they appeared to be thugs dressed in police uniforms strutting through the town like they owned it. I don't know how long they stayed in the town, but what a waste of hard earned taxpayers' money! They drove through the town a few times in their big black four-wheel drive with RIOT SQUAD emblazoned in bold letters, and these are our law enforcers who are supposed to instill safety in the community.

Then one quiet Sunday morning I was heading down the lane back to my car that was parked in the shade after shopping at the newsagents, and a man was walking towards me with a lovely big dog and I stopped and commented on what a lovely dog he had. Just as I continued to walk down to my car, the paddy wagon pulled up and stopped right in front of the entrance. Obviously I was a suspect because I was chatting to someone, and so I was questioned as to what I was doing and where I was going.

I would be twice the age of the female officer, and I was not treated with the respect that I and every other citizen deserves. Am I not innocent until proven guilty? I offered my bags for her to inspect because I knew that would be the next demand. I'm nearly 60 and I have never been questioned by a police officer in my entire life. I really was very upset by the whole incident and probably said more than I should have to her, but this truly is another example of discrimination

and intimidation occurring in our town on a regular basis.

I don't believe we are receiving this treatment all in the name of the war on drugs. It's part of the reason, but this state government is getting its revenge because of Bentley. They consider the majority of people living in the rainbow region as anarchists.

So let's show them what anarchists we really are, and start using people power.

Our only input as citizens seems to be at election time and even then there's no guarantee, no contract, nothing! It's all in the hands of politicians who will say anything to get elected and then do a complete backflip. These are dictators masquerading as servants to the public with the aid of most of the media.

We need to exercise our people power because there isn't any other option that I can see. Petitions, blockades and banners just aren't enough unless you have the numbers. We've experienced the worst summer ever and what are our politicians doing? Nothing, and they'll continue to do nothing until we take back what is ours. And that's our right to participate in how our state and country is ruled, and not be dumbed down.

So I will be attending the next meeting of the newly formed Nimbin Action Group and please everyone drop everything and attend, because without the numbers they can't be effective. Bentley could not have been achieved without the strength of people power, but we still to this day have only a verbal agreement with the NSW government. Nothing is in writing declaring the Northern Rivers CSG free, and this government as most people know, cannot be trusted. This would send a clear message to this government that we are not going to just sit back and watch you systematically dismantle the values and culture of this truly unique area that evolved nearly 50 years ago.

There is a lot at stake here and it's our freedom, so please attend on the last Saturday of this month at 12.30pm in the Community Centre's Dance Studio.

Bernadine Schwartz
Blue Knob

for others they start at 3GHz (10cm), so for clarity I state the frequency.

However, I have no aversion to the term "microwave radiation", nor to the infrared radiation from my friends which is about 35,000 times more dangerous, nor moonlight radiation which is a million times more dangerous.

Alan Roberts
Bentley

Black Rocks koalas

In 1927, Queensland Labor permitted open slather on koalas for the fur trade in what was dubbed 'Black August'. In just one month over 600,000 koalas were killed. Labor's karmic debt is

About us

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

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 29th March

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

immense.

Fast forward 90 years and Tweed's Labor councillor is about to put a nail in the coffin of endangered Tweed Coastal koalas on March 16 if he votes for a men's shed at Black Rocks against the advice of koala experts.

Black Rocks koalas are already dying of chlamydia at an unsustainable rate (eight since 2014) from human-induced extreme noise such as paramotoring, petrol-fuelled model aeroplanes, trail bikes tearing down the access road and council's

Eulogy by Maggie Duffy

Born Jeffrey Tyck in Belgium on January 28, 1934, he was raised by his grandmother during the war years in Europe, surviving at times by eating only potato peel.

Jeff married his first wife and had a baby boy named Joseph. Two years later, he arrived home from work to find both his wife and son gone, and tragically never saw either again.

Jeff had a very exciting and colourful past in Brussels with the thespian community with wild nights of women and jazz nightclubs. He was required to do military service, but talked little of his time in the Belgian Congo.

Jeff migrated to Australia around the 50s or 60s and changed his surname to that of his grandmother, Dickssen.

Jeff ended up moving to outback South Australia where he got a job working on a sheep station called *Nonowie* as a station hand. Here he developed a love of horses. He learnt

Farewell Jeff Dickssen



to ride and became really interested in all things Western riding. He looked quite the picture with his Western hat and coloured horse called Pinto. He explored miles of rugged station scrub on horseback, rounding up sheep and checking water troughs.

For a period of time Jeff had a partner called Neva. He eventually met his second wife, Beryl, whom he married in the 70s. Eventually Jeff and Beryl

moved back to town life and he worked as a signwriter for Whyalla City Council.

Jeff's interest in the alternative lifestyle grew, and led him and Beryl to move to Nimbin in the late 70s, where they purchased a 15-acre property with a small cottage on Croftons Road from the Harris family.

Jeff's love of horses continued. He got a job working at the Dude Ranch, taking tourists on trail rides through the beautiful Nimbin valley. His love of flamenco music led him to become quite a talented guitarist.

Jeff and Beryl eventually separated in the early 90s, at which time his dream property sadly had to be sold. Fortunately for Jeff, the Harris family came to his rescue by providing Jeff with a small dwelling on their property to rent. Jeff was able to stay in the valley he so much loved for the past 25 years.

He passed away peacefully on February 21 in Lismore.

Rest in peace, Jeff.

industrial mower. Far worse than the noise of children laughing in the school playground.

So why is the community of Pottsville and Labor not heeding koala experts but listening to Michael Ryan (head of the men's shed who is not an ecologist)?

And why have the men's shed not applied for other sites? Crown Lands said they would bend over backwards to ensure they have Lot 3, Centennial Drive, Pottsville but they have to make a formal application under the MOU, which they refuse to do. It would take four weeks to get a reply. Same with Barry Sheppard Oval. Both these sites are more suitable being central, permanent and easily accessible, which Black Rocks is not.

Will Reece Byrnes vote for a men's shed at Black Rocks on March 16 and create more anti-koala Labor history, or will he reconsider? Tell him you want koala protection: RByrnes@tweed.nsw.gov.au and sign our petition: www.tinyurl.com/4koalas

Menkit Prince
Uki

Voting pointless

In reply to Stewart James (NGT Feb 17, p.23), I have been a conservationist for 26 or 28 years, and am an ex-member of Byron-Ballina Greens, but these days I don't vote for anyone.

The problem is that people keep falling for the vote trick. I believe that if people keep voting for candidates who choose to compromise themselves for principles not of our choosing, then you deserve the fools you voted for, and have no comeback when that candidate gets voted into a position of representation, but aren't really your rep.

The corporations, banks and others higher up are in charge, not polities. The sooner the people realise this, the sooner their eyes will be opened.

Paul Brecht
Murray Bridge

Adani mine unviable

An open letter to Kevin Hogan MP.

We, the undersigned, are concerned constituents of your electorate. We wish to protest, in the strongest terms, your government's intention to fund infrastructure for the disastrous Adani mine, in the Galilee Basin, using taxpayers' funds.

This project has been judged to be totally unviable both environmentally and economically, condemned by scientists and bankers alike. We assert that the use of taxpayers' funds on such a project is both unethical and unforgivably imprudent.

Further, we wish to protest the arrogant behaviour of members of your government in bringing coal into the chamber, promoting it as an acceptable source of energy; on a day when much of Australia was sweltering in forty-plus degree temperatures. We're sure you are intelligent and sensitive enough to appreciate how tasteless these actions really were; proclaiming, in essence, that the ministers involved represent the fossil fuel industry, NOT the 80+% of the population that favour sustainable, renewable energy. This percentage is increasing.

Do you have any idea how angry and disgusted many of your constituents are about this incident? Watching their crops, orchards and gardens wilt, and animals suffer heat stress, while our elected representatives trivialise their concerns?

Do you know the level of damage heat waves inflict on humans, other animals, our unique flora and fauna and our iconic reef?

Picture, as you read this letter, each of the undersigned looking you in the eye and saying, "Not in my name!" Then multiply that until you visualise the 80+% of the community we represent.

Who do you represent, Mr Hogan? If you reply that it's

your constituents, what are you actually doing, and/or are prepared to do, to bring our demands and protests to the attention of the highest levels of government?

We're living climate change, Mr Hogan, and need effective, honest representation. We expect you to strongly oppose your government's trivialisation of climate change. We insist your government stops pandering to Adani, a totally unscrupulous mining corporation. We demand not one cent of our taxes funds any coal mining of the Galilee Basin.

Beverley Crossley
Lismore
(20 additional signatures)

People's control

Corruption continues to be uncovered within all our institutions. It appears to be the inevitable by-product of manipulation by power and money. For millennia shadowy forces have been at work, especially in governments, religions, education and media. Why?

They all seek to mould our understandings and beliefs. For it is beliefs that determine human behaviour. We are driven by our current beliefs to slave in a system that enriches the top of the economic pyramid. Many despair at their plight and feel powerless to change the injustices.

Only by taking the initiative can we break free, starting with government by taking charge of the pre-selection of would-be politicians. In fact, the leadership of all our institutions needs an injection of compassion.

Presently pre-selection of political candidates is entirely in the hands of unknown power brokers, or unrepresentative members of a few parties. That's undemocratic. It results in voter mistrust of the aggressive, unworkable low-calibre system we have.

The suggested crucial first step is formation of

countless local committees of respected elders who mentor and advise. They are compassionate and wise, and motivated by a desire for an inclusive community. Between them they have the capacity to assess the suitability of any potential leaders, knowing their background. They are able to advise the candidate and the community, as part of an important voluntary service.

The availability of a genuine independent personality and suitability rating would encourage more independents, and cause the parties to lift their standards.

The nebulous forces who would control us, have manipulated the top of the political pyramid since the Pharaohs. There once existed a respected priestly class who shared their wisdom of the cosmos and spirituality with the people in meaningful ways. But over time there developed a hierarchy and a desire by some to control the many. They began recruiting young boys to their monasteries from whom to select future priests and Pharaohs. By training them young they could condition their minds to be rulers useful for their power games. I believe such knowledge was passed on and evolved through the ages and cultures until today.

Consider elite boarding schools, or leadership factories. At a critical time in their lives, children are deprived of motherly love. That alone can be traumatic. Children often work in packs and bully, or they can be severely damaged by similarly damaged superiors. Concepts of ethics and compassion are best instilled in a loving home environment.

Emotionally damaged leadership is readily aggressive, qualities conducive for practising wars and colonisations of past centuries. Time to update for the new millennium!

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby



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Tina Fuller
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