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# Wet and Wild

by Sue Edmonds

Have you ever wrangled a crocodile? How fast can you run backwards in water?

Can you round up floating rubber ducks or save baby dolls that are attached to little rocks?

How long can you float without moving a muscle?

These are just a few of the challenges facing brave competitors in the annual Nimbin Pool Olympics.

The Synchronised Swimming teams always add an element of ooo and wow to the day, with amazing movements and stunning costumes, performing in water both shallow and deep.

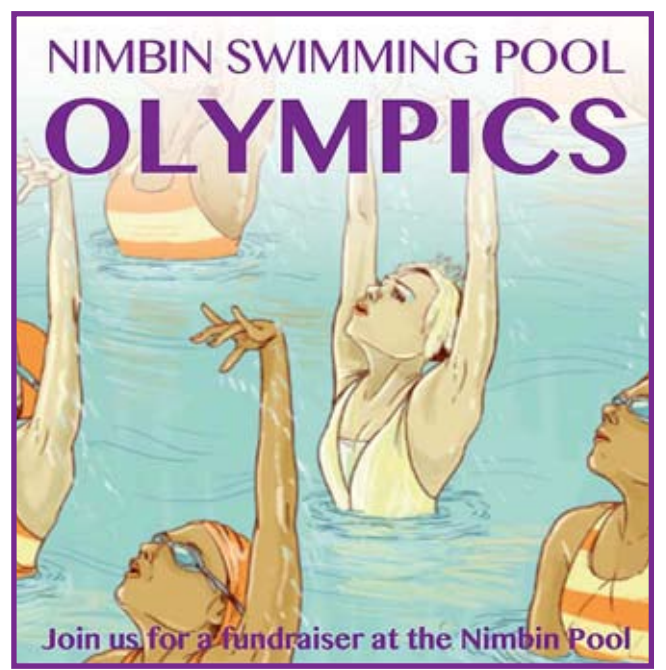
The Poolside Fashion Parade brings out the best

with fashionistas strutting their stuff. Pauline Ahern, Nimbin's extremely versatile artist, has once again created an amazing array of trophies.

This will be the seventh year that the Friends of the Nimbin Pool have organised this high class competition in our pool.

The major object of the Olympics is to highlight our fabulous public facility, and raise a few dollars to assist with the superficials around the pool, like maintaining the seats (which the Friends had installed).

Last year we contributed nearly \$1000 towards a new machine for measuring the chlorine. This machine helps John, our dedicated maintenance worker, who



does a fantastic job keeping the pool clean and healthy for all the public.

Our Olympics brings many people together for a fun morning.

Put it in your diary now: Friday 26th January, 10am at the pool. Come along.

There will be a sausage sizzle and tea/coffee/cordial are available for a donation.

## Help stop Adani with Northern Rivers group

The Northern Rivers Stop Adani Group will be heading to the frontline for further collective action against the proposed Adani coal mine.

To find out more, we would like to invite you to our social night at the Mullumbimby Commons on Tuesday 9th January, 91 Main Arm Road, 630pm – 830pm.

The Commons is an awesome new community space that promotes collective creativity, learning and custodianship. The night will include quality food and chai.

We have also organised to project uncut and rare footage and share stories from the Blockade Camp at Bowen.

Protecting the Great Artesian Basin is the major environmental issue of our time, and the public's awareness is



greater than any environmental issue in Australian history.

It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of Australians are aware and mobilising on some levels.

Come and join the local crew stopping Adani and get live about the

upcoming journey to the frontline and back.

We will be leaving on the 13th and returning on the 21st of January. Living costs are cheap, approx \$250 for the week, everything included.

Please tell your friends.

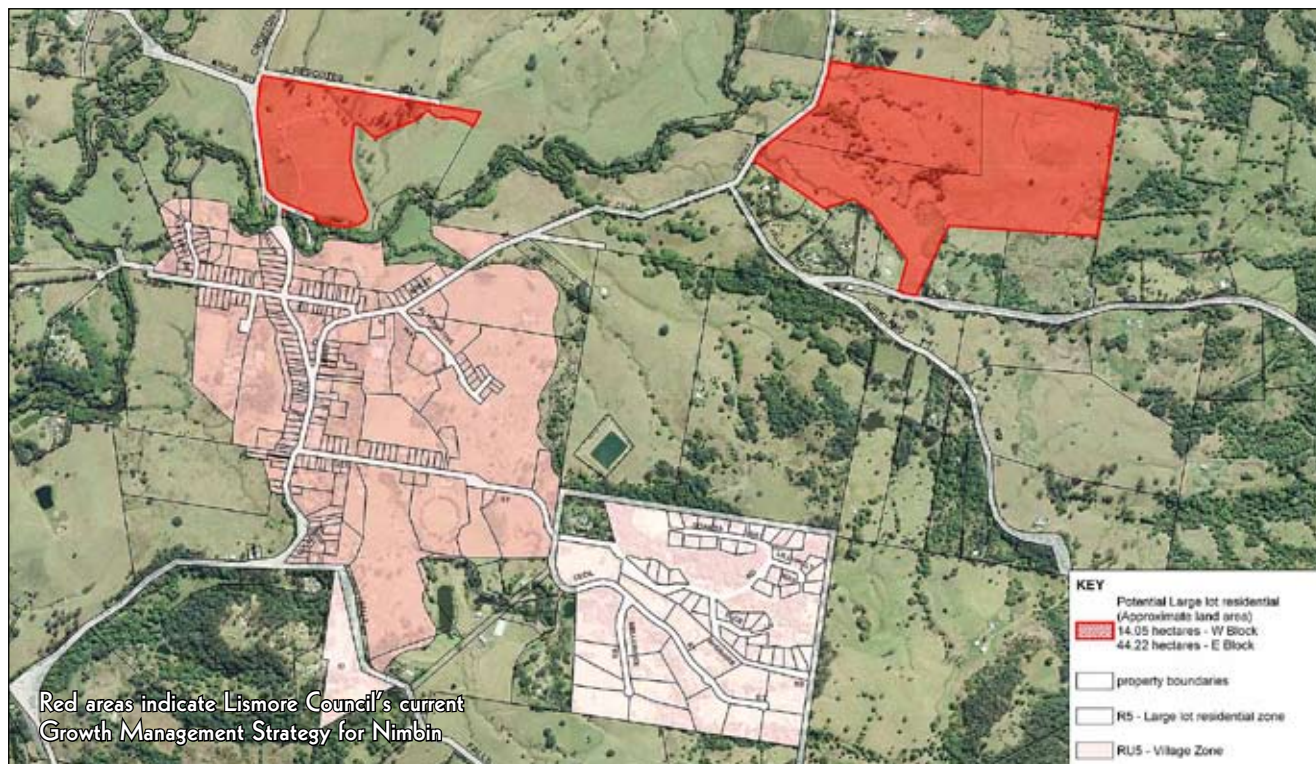
# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Like most visitors, Santa seems to have enjoyed his trip to Nimbin. He reckons he'll be back again next year, around the same time. Thanks to all of Santa's many helpers, including motorbike riders, fire truck drivers, grotto decorators, venue organisers and of course, the many volunteer caterers and ankle-biter wranglers who helped make Christmas special for young and old alike.

Special thanks are due to the great people at the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre who put on the free lunch every year.

# Development, parking top Advisory Group concerns



Red areas indicate Lismore Council's current Growth Management Strategy for Nimbin

Prepared by Diana Roberts

The November meeting of the Nimbin Advisory Group discussed a number of important community issues:

## Main street car parking

Following community consultations, the original draft Nimbin Car Parking Strategy was amended by staff and presented to the NAG for feedback. The report to Council early next year is likely to recommend the following:

- The proposed roundabout suggested for outside the hotel be removed from the strategy.
- Further investigation be taken to find sites for a new car park into the future. New development will be required to contribute to acquisition of land and development of new car parking. Engineers do not favour the area suggested behind the Green Bank, as it is steep.
- In addition to outside the post office, 15-minute parking be introduced between the two traffic calming blisters. Angle to curb parking was not supported in this location, as there is inadequate room.
- Other time zones are still uncertain – one-hour or two-hour? Council is consulting the Chamber of Commerce to give more direction before making a recommendation to Council. The NAG consultations favoured two-hour parking throughout (apart from the 15 minute spots) to avoid confusion from

too many time zones and because it was felt one hour is often inadequate for a village visit by locals.

- The bus zone outside the Oasis will be recommended for removal.
- A bus parking and long vehicle parking area be established across the road from the Bowling Club.
- Improvements to the amenity of the existing western car park, line marking and improvement of pedestrian access to Cullen Street. This will require negotiations with private landholders.
- Parking for bikes provided at the car park exit.
- Improved signage.

## Rural residential development

A number of people have expressed concern regarding large parcels of land around the village being sold in what is viewed as speculative land acquisition.

The NAG sought clarity around this issue and were advised as follows: only two new areas have been identified in Council's Growth Management Strategy as indicating potential for new large lot residential subdivision

As part of the growth management strategy, Council has adopted a plan that would allow new rural land-sharing communities to be established on suitable land within a 4km radius of the village.

There has been some discussion of new communities being established under community title provisions. This is unlikely to be supported for adoption

by Council staff, as it is considered to defeat the purpose of providing a lower cost housing option.

Existing rural land-sharing communities will be allowed to apply for community title. To date very little interest has been expressed in this, probably for ethical reasons and due to the costs involved.

## Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Trail

A revised route that follows a legally designated right of way in favour of Lismore Council was presented to the NAG. The new route will be cheaper to construct and avoids potential private landholder negotiations.

The route will provide pedestrian access to the Headers' sports fields, Alternative Way and Cecil Street from the middle of the village.

Council's strategic plan seeks to bring this project to fruition in the next two years so Council and the community, driven by the Community Centre, will be actively trying to source funding.

The NAG agreed to contribute up to \$2000 from its available funds to update visitor information. The last survey was carried out in 2013 and it is planned to update data by carrying out surveys during the January holiday period.

For the first time Cr Neil Marks represented Council at the November NAG meeting, and we appreciated his input and interest. The next NAG meeting will be held on 22nd February.



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Logo for the proposed Nimbin Walking Trail

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# Celebration of Colour for New Wave Aquarius anniversary

by John Tozeland,  
Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc.

Cooee and Welcome,

The 'Hippy Era', a generation of 'New Age' seekers, from '64 until '74 are the celebrated change-makers of their time!

The world was engaged in a mindframe of liberation with a movement fashioning the will and wish for freedom through protesting for peace, love and music.

A generation of love and spiritual awareness, inspiring lyrics that ignited change with a social revolution, a shift in cultural change as Australia embraced the alternative counter-culture during the changing times of the 60's and 70's.

The change to Australian life during the early 70's was profound, a time when the Nimbin Aquarius Festival 1973 encapsulated a 'Whole Earth' – an ethos of human spirit.

As prime minister for a relatively brief three years, Gough Whitlam achieved an extensive legacy, enabling a platform for liberating social reform, the arts and driving Indigenous self-determination, he forged avenues for artistic breathing space, while highlighting cultural tourism and what became a liberation front to fight for change, inclusion and diversity.

The timely beginnings of Australian cultural tourism brought together 'Indigenous Acknowledgement' and reformed the Australian Arts Council which preceded the Nimbin Aquarius Festival in 1973, enabling funds for the 'Bush Video Project' and 'Traveling Tribes' tour.

This tour presented Aboriginal dancers and performers from Morning Island in Far North Queensland, the Pitjantjatjara



from the centre, the Yolngu from Arnhem land and a mob from South Australia.

The 'Traveling Tribes Tour' became the first government sanctioned performance of Welcome to Country, led by celebrated songman Dickie Donnelly from the Bundjalung Nation at the opening of the festival in Nimbin during May, 1973.

Now 45 years after the festival, 'New Age' has become the 'New Wave', and the Aquarian ethos has grown from strength to strength. We still continue our journey.

The 45th Anniversary theme is 'A Celebration of Colour', and sets to challenge subconscious concepts, and celebrate human inclusion and diversity as we come together to express empathy and tolerance at a time, in a place within a space of engaging freedom.

'A Celebration of Colour' will be held in Nimbin from 13th to 27th May. Through music, love and in peace, we will come together and rise together.

There will be a strong emphasis on Indigenous, Environment, Cultural Heritage and Local Music. An artistic celebration of our whole earth, a platform for life on all aspects, while ensuring town values.

On behalf of the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, we share our vision for NAF2018, to our past and new committee, valued friends, to our gracious supporters and partners, who are invaluable. We welcome fellow organisers to

*"We cobbled together a plan. It had to work because there was no plan B. We sought permission firstly from the Bundjalung elders and then from the township. We received the blessing from Lyle Roberts and backing from the local bluey Bob Marsh and from Show Society president Kevin Soward. "The locals didn't need all that much persuading because at a large town meeting on 13th February 1973 they not only agreed, almost unanimously, to allow the festival, but pitched in with plans of their own to contribute to the festival. "These included a 'Back to Nimbin' reunion for early settlers and a tug-of-war featuring the World Champion Nimbin team."*

– Johnny Allen

help build our inspirations, finding again the strength in unifying for a common cause.

A Community Engagement will be held on 13th February at the Nimbin Community Centre, and all interested are welcome to attend. The date is significant, as that was the day of the public meeting in Nimbin in 1973 (see box above).

We continue organically to expose our weaknesses and fears, and will provide a platform to embrace economic opportunity as we become united by empowering our valued community and engage positive measured outcomes with the people with whom we work.

We cherish our unity with the Woodstock Town Board Founders and the Woodstock Museum, both instrumental in creating the link between these two famous villages.

We are setting a pathway for acknowledgement of cultural significance of this historical



township of Nimbin, and we invite all to celebrate the year we're, and prepare with community forums for valued input and engagement.

With love and self-determination,

we wish you the will to be you.  
Goodwill and respect.

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation office is housed in the Bush Hut at the Community Centre. Do drop in.

## Vinnies to end plastic bag use

In a New Year's resolution aimed at benefitting the region's environment, Vinnies shops on the North Coast are phasing out single-use plastic bags from 1st January.

The new eco-friendly policy will apply to all of the 27 Vinnies shops between Tweed Heads in the north and Laurieton in the south, according to St Vincent de Paul Society's North Coast Retail Operations Manager, Kim Boyd.

"From the start of 2018 we are asking people to either bring their own bags or to buy one of the \$3.00 Vinnies-branded cloth bags that will be on sale in the shops. The proceeds from these bags will be used to assist local people in need.

"Discarded plastic bags are doing so much damage to our natural world, especially the marine environment of our beautiful northern coastline," Ms Boyd said.

"Vinnies is pleased to be in the forefront of the increasing push to end plastic bag use in retail outlets."

North Coast President of St Vincent de Paul Society Yvonne Wynen welcomes the move, saying Vinnies



St Vincent de Paul Society's North Coast Retail Operations Manager, Kim Boyd (left) and President Yvonne Wynen.

is deeply committed to the environment and sustainable practices.

"Vinnies shops are based on the rescue and re-use of good quality clothing and household items that might otherwise have gone to landfill," Ms Wynen said.

"Nor are clothing items of secondary quality wasted, as they are bundled together in our processing set-up in Goonellabah, the largest such facility in NSW, and exported to countries in Africa and to PNG where they're sold in markets.

"Lesser quality clothing is washed and then shredded into clean rags that are sold

in 5kg or 10kg packs known as 'Vinnies Bag O Rags'. These are very popular with painters, mechanics, car detailers and DIY home improvers.

"Each year Vinnies recycles and reprocesses literally hundreds of tonnes of clothing and sundry goods that would otherwise be wasted. Along with helping the environment this earns precious funds that we use to assist people doing it tough in our region.

"The move away from plastic bags reflects our commitment to being good environmental citizens of the North Coast."

## 'Imagine' refreshed for the New Year



by Benny Zable

With help from some friends, I have finished a full restoration job on the Nimbin IMAGINE mandala behind the war memorial in Allsopp Park.

It is an exact copy of the IMAGINE mosaic in Strawberry Fields, Central Park, New York. Both Peter Wise, the then president of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, and Jenny Dowell, the then Lismore Mayor wrote letters to Yoko Ono, the widow of John Lennon for approval to reproduce it for the park.

Also Nanci Callahan who I work with on the NYC ECOFEST met with Yoko's lawyer to help with the request. It was knocked back, which was a bit disappointing. I went

ahead with painting it because I thought then and moreso now in an ever-growing hostile world, the IMAGINE mosaic, created in memory of John Lennon, helps greatly in bringing together people to help resolve conflicts, from personal to international.

Here in Nimbin, the local Bundjalung mob had given full permission for it to be placed in that spot. I had added Aboriginal and Native American coloured peace sign to IMAGINE and a couple of World Peace Prayer Society peace signs on the shelter. Together, I hope this will be added to wherever there are war memorials, both in Australia and overseas.

Nimbin gathers around the IMAGINE after ANZAC and Armistice Day commemorations, and also Hiroshima and Nagasaki remembrance days like in New York. With the coming 45th anniversary of Nimbin Aquarius, I hope that together with our Woodstock Museum visitors, we can advance another pitch to Yoko to develop a process where IMAGINE mosaics sites are added everywhere possible where communities want them.

I have funded this work out of my own pocket, with donations to my bucket while painting it. If you like my work, you can send money to me via my website: [www.bennyzable.com](http://www.bennyzable.com) Banking details are there. Thank you.

Have a wonderful fruitful New Year, one and all.

# 60th Anniversary of the Peace sign

by Bernadine Schwartz

In 1958 a small group of British anti-war activists called the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War organised a march that began in London and ended in Aldermaston. The British government were operating a secret nuclear weapons factory in this town and this was their target.

They wanted to replace placards with something unique and simple that would represent peace and so the peace sign was born. Its creator was graphic designer Gerald Holtom, who earlier in life had served time on a farm in Norfolk during WWII as a conscientious objector. The Peace sign has endured, but more than ever it needs to be promoted in this unethical world.

Historians and current data indicate that we live in the most prosperous and peaceful times, but I'm not convinced. The foundations of peace are equality and justice, and these are the very things that are being sabotaged by our governments right here, right now, and with no shame!

Australia for example, has states (S.A, W.A, Tas and NSW) rescinding our rights to protest peacefully, by handing out heavy fines and gaol terms with no federal constitution to protect us. Governments around the world are not governed by politicians anymore but have been replaced by very wealthy individuals who rule our planet. Our environment and the poor are the big losers in a world where money is the dictator!

Distribution of our world's wealth is clearly not equitable with 70% of the planet's adults owning under \$10,000 and owning only 3% of global wealth. Then we have homelessness at epidemic

proportions, not just overseas but here in Australia. Our homeless rate is growing every year with 105,327 recorded during the 2011 census and it's depressing to know that 42% were under 25.

We also live in a world that has 16,300 nuclear weapons, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, and the cost of all this is \$1,686 trillion. Who manufactures these weapons? The US, Russia, Germany, France and China are the top five, accounting for 74% of exports. Disturbingly, 29% of global weapons purchases were in the Middle East, the home of many Islamic terrorist organisations. So in short, these countries are supplying the terrorist groups that the world is struggling to fight!

Most nations' defence budget is a top priority and continues to grow, while spending on social services suffers.

Globalisation is destroying our planet as well as our rich cultural heritage. The only ones benefiting are a few extravagantly rich people who have become even wealthier.

Globalisation hasn't united us as a species either; quite the reverse. Many governments are abandoning their fundamental obligations to their own people. The outcome is 66 million refugees worldwide who have fled their homes, only to be detained with no future. Our own government has ignored all its commitments to human rights. It continues to persecute families and individuals whose crime was escaping a life of horror, only to end up in detention centres that are nothing more than prisons.

The US also has the highest number of incarcerated people within their prison system, with a figure of 2,145,100. Gaols all over the world are experiencing



overcrowding. These are not the signs of a fair and equitable society.

Australia, like many countries, is embracing a culture of guns, with gun ownership rapidly increasing. There are now 2,032,000 registered firearms in Australia. Why do we need so many guns and why do our police look like they're ready to go into a combat zone?

The UN was established to protect nations and individuals but numerous countries today ignore these laws and in the process have undermined all that the UN represents. The planet is something that we all live on and yet we still can't unite to save it! Our own government is still negotiating with a corrupt, unlawful corporation called Adani against the will of many Australians.

We are also stripping indigenous peoples of their native lands, and this is being witnessed within our Federal government.

We criticise dictatorships and communism but we have our own propaganda machine, most of our media and the government itself.

All the above cannot be a recipe for a peaceful planet. If this is the best we can do, then our young haven't got a bright future. The world is fighting itself and everyone and everything is entangled in the War Of Man!

So get out your peace signs and let's start promoting Peace in a world that really has lost its way.

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## NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Cath Smith, President

Hello all and happy new 2018! For those on school holidays, enjoy the summer, and drop in to the NEC shop for local goodies and gifts, as well as a friendly chat and information about events and campaigns. In addition, we have fabulous Stop Adani stickers just made for \$1 coins, so you can surreptitiously spread the word! (See photo of helpful elves making packs of 11 for \$1).

Many Northern Rivers folks attended an exciting launch in December of the Stop Adani Tweed group in Murwillumbah at the iconic Regent Cinema. The Stop Adani Tweed, Byron and Lismore groups have joined over two million people worldwide to oppose the biggest coal mine/s in Australia's history, Adani's Carmichael project in Central Queensland's Galilee Basin.

If this mine goes ahead, it would open up a coal resource that, if burned, would double Australia's carbon emissions. Each year, 60 million tonnes of coal would be transported along a 388km rail line to a new coal export terminal at Abbot Point on the doorstep of the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef, with an estimated 500 extra coal ships travelling through this area.

GetUp has reported that in 2011, a ship carrying Adani coal sank off the coast of Mumbai, devastating beaches, tourism and marine life, and Adani did nothing to clean up the mess for



five years.

The foreign-owned Adani mine IS a local issue. It is our home, our farm, our family, our business, our kids and grandkids and our Great Barrier Reef that will be affected by the climate change legacy this mine will bring. We can expect more extreme weather events such as the recent floods, if we continue to unleash carbon pollution into our atmosphere.

The Northern Rivers is the only region in Australia to achieve coal seam gas-free status. Stop Adani Australia has asked us to rise up again and establish a Northern Rivers Adani-free zone. If it can be done

anywhere, this is where it can be done! This would send a resounding message for the rest of Australia to follow. It is only through people power that this mine will be stopped.

For Nimbin residents and visitors alike, please keep in mind that our local roads are narrow, winding and pot-holed, and *slow down!* Wildlife and humans will equally benefit.

A reminder that NEC membership fees are due in January: \$10 – what a bargain!

Next meeting: 14th February at 5pm at the Community School room, Nimbin Community Centre. NB: No meeting in January.

**Blue Knob Market**  
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# Don't forget Nepal: Rebuilding Bolgaun update

by Helen Simpson

I have just returned from Bolgaun where rebuilding after the earthquake continues, thanks to Nimbin funds and Dn from Good Earth Nepal.

Volunteers Rose, Bridie, Rachel, Yvonne, Ella, Jo, Janey, Olivier, Mick and myself from Nimbin were in the village in November and Olivier is still there. We helped on houses 5 and 6 using Earthbag techniques. Out of the first four houses, three are being lived in already.

After waiting out the monsoon and for the road to open, and with the Dashain and Tahir festivals to boot, we then had the national elections to contend with... meaning more festivities, limited transport options and little work happening. Anyway, with clear skies and comfortable crisp winter days, we made it up there by jeep, camped on a millet terrace, set up our kitchen and enjoyed wonderful village living overseen by the magical Himalayas.

We were given local produce: millet, potatoes, spinach, buffalo milk, and precious wood for our fire. The hospitality of the local people was just amazing, and to be amongst these ancient subsistence Tamang and Magars tribes was an honour, especially when witnessing some of their rituals. Their resilience, strength, joy and motivation were heartening and awe-inspiring.

They love their houses, and are so appreciative of what we are doing to help their village, but the stories of the earthquake are still raw and heartbreaking... and there are still so many houses to rebuild.

Once again we distributed warm clothes donated by people in Australia, a handknitted blanket given by the Nimbin craft group to an elderly couple injured in the earthquake, and toys and books for the children.

House 7 is fully underway now, and house 8 surveyed with foundations dug. We desperately need funds for houses 9 and 10. Our aim to skill up the locals in the earthbag techniques is coming to fruition... their enthusiasm and excitement is palpable. Dn, Supervisor from Good Earth Nepal, is awesome and his skills are still required, so we would like to continue in collaboration with Good Earth Nepal.

Thank you to Nimbin Health and Welfare Association for your support.



This year we should be able to achieve charity status. Please help us to continue this fantastic project, you can donate to the Nimbin Nepal Relief fund at Summerland Credit Union BSB: 728 728 account: 22305642. All money goes directly into the houses.

For more information, email me at: [helensim7@gmail.com](mailto:helensim7@gmail.com)



## Nimbin Hospital information

### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 9th January. 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 18th January.
- Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 9th January. 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: 10th January. New members welcome.



# Rainbow Power Company Christmas gift to Timor-Leste



In December, Janelle Saffin took delivery of a Solar Oven, given by the Rainbow Power Company as a Christmas gift to Timor-Leste.

Martin Hardie, a long term friend of the people of Timor-Leste,

approached the Rainbow Power Company and asked them if they could consider donating a Solar Oven that he wants to introduce to locals.

Martin has worked on energy policy and a draft law with the

former Secretary of State for Energy, Mr. Avelino Coelho. He sees a need and application for this other source of cooking, and says there are many who want to promote an alternative cooking option in Timor-Leste.

The Rainbow Power Company has been promoting the use of appropriate technology throughout the Pacific region for over 30 years, and were pleased to be able to give a Sun Flair Solar Oven as an example of these types of appropriate technologies.

In thanking the Rainbow Power Company, Janelle Saffin, who has received the Order of Timor-Leste said, "This is a wonderful opportunity for Timorese people to have a modern oven, that only relies on the Sun to power it."

Solar cookers provide a cost-effective supplement to traditional

wood-fired cooking, but knowledge of them is scant on the ground in Timor-Leste.

The plan is to promote the Solar Stove as a demonstration model, to interest Timorese businesses and NGO's to become involved in the sale and distribution of the solar cooker, and provide the impetus to kick off to a bigger and better focus for renewable energy.

If successful, it would introduce the Rainbow Power Company to the Timorese market.

Director, Paul O'Reilly said, "The Rainbow Power Company has extensive experience in developing larger village and community-based power systems. We believe this could become a long-term focus for rural electrification and local energy self-sufficiency."

Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Mr. Abel Guterres

thanked the Rainbow Power Company for the gift, and said he would get the Solar Oven from Janelle and personally deliver it on his forthcoming visit in January.

"The Rainbow Power Company has been in operation since 1987 and is a major local success story. Like many from our wonderfully creative region, the Rainbow Power Company was way ahead of the times. Combining sustainable practices and products with sustainable business principles is what our small and medium business sector excels at."

In addition, micro solar kits allow a cost-effective roll-out of solar lighting and mobile phone charging, and can make a large impact on people's quality of life at very low cost.

For more information, contact Rainbow Power Company at: [www.rpc.com.au](http://www.rpc.com.au) or phone 02 6689-1430.

## Tips and tricks of stand-alone power: Selecting an efficient fridge

by Guy Stewart, Rainbow Power Company

Anyone going off-grid needs to consider their fridge.

The ideal fridge for a stand-alone power system has lots of insulation, a modern compressor, upright ease of access, and large usable clear drawers to prevent cold air falling out when opening the door.

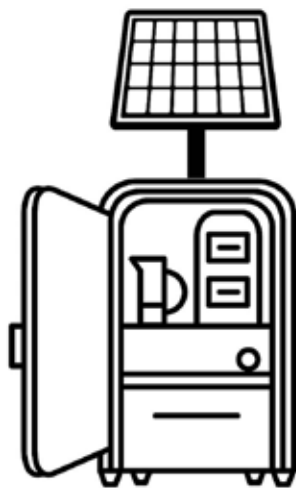
It would come in a range of sizes from 100L to 500L and cost only a little more than an equivalent inefficient 'normal' domestic model.

Unfortunately, it does not exist. So we need to

accept that there will be some compromise. This compromise is between price, efficiency, and convenience.

The biggest change in fridge technology recently has been the move to modern digital inverter compressors. These were pioneered in air conditioners and allow the fridge to run at variable speeds. Traditional fridge compressors started hard, and went full speed and then stopped when the fridge got cold enough.

The digital inverter compressor winds up slowly as needed and dramatically reduces the size of the stand-



alone battery inverter that is required. A traditional fridge

alone would require a 1000W or more to start up. Digital Inverter fridges (commonly sold by Samsung and LG), require as little as 150W.

These fridges are sold to the mass market and therefore are very well priced and easily available (RPC has them in stock).

Three-way fridges (12VDC/240VAC/Gas) are NOT recommended. They use an evaporative cycle instead of a compression cycle, and heating with electricity requires a lot of it.

'Gas only' fridges aren't usually recommended either. The ongoing gas cost is high,

and there are risks of exhaust poisoning or fire if they aren't properly installed and maintained. They also tend to become less efficient as it gets hotter, when you need the fridge the most.

Chest-style fridges and freezers are very energy efficient and typically have more insulation. However, the usability suffers and they still require a larger inverter. You lose the vertical space of an upright fridge and things tend to get buried down the bottom over time.

If you only want to have small batteries and run the fridge through the day, this

is the way to go, as they are more likely to stay cold overnight without a boost.

For the energy efficiency enthusiast there are some modification projects that can give you a more efficient fridge than is commonly available on the market – perhaps Peter Pedals can write in with a follow-up article that goes into some more detail.

So there are options for special cases, but for the vast majority the Samsung/LG 250L or 350L are the way to go for the balance of cost, power (watts), energy (watt Hours), convenience and appearance.

## Bitcoin Mining Contracts – one way to earn Bitcoin

by Russell Lean

As at the end of November 2017 there were 1324 Crypto currencies – like Bitcoin – on the open market, and that number is steadily growing. All of the top 20 Crypto Currencies and others have increased significantly in value during 2017.

To correct some misconceptions of people who think you can't use these currencies in any tangible way – you can send all of your investment back through an exchange to your bank account if you decided to cash out and wanted the money back. You can also convert any token to Bitcoin, and then use a Coinjar Swipe card and spend Bitcoin at any ATM or EFTPOS facility in Australia. You can pay bills by Bitcoin to any company that has a BPAY code.

Remember always in this Crypto space, there is risk and much volatility. I am going to focus in this article on Bitcoin Mining Contracts.

Bitcoin Mining is the process whereby new Bitcoin are created. There is no conventional mining of the Earth as such going on. All the transactions to do with Bitcoin must be validated and balanced on the distributed digital ledger (the block chain) that allows them to occur. The companies that use computing power to allow this validation

of transactions are rewarded in new Bitcoin. 12.5 new Bitcoin are paid out every 10 minutes as the Bitcoin block chain is validated and updated. That is 75 per hour, 1800 a day, 12,600 a week and 655,200 a year.

Considering that as I write in December one Bitcoin is worth \$21,800AUD – that is an annual and growing business worth now about 14.3 Billion AUD a year. Big Business. The great thing about this is that some Bitcoin mining companies offer contracts for sale and those contracts pay a generous return. Really what you are doing is providing capital for the Bitcoin Mining company to continue to grow their operations.

So, anyone can buy small Bitcoin mining contracts that start at about \$50AUD. The contracts are measured in TH/s (Terra Hash of computing power). Interestingly, as the price of Bitcoin goes up, so does the return. Conversely, as the price of Bitcoin dips, the return reduces. The returns on these contracts have been getting better and better as Bitcoin has risen in value during 2017. If the price predictions from the market perform even 20% of what the predictions say, returns during 2018 will be really worth looking at.

One issue that is central to this industry is power – electricity. It takes

vast computing power, and consequently vast amounts of electricity to power Bitcoin mining. A lot of mining is hydro-electric powered in China. Some is geo-thermal powered in Iceland. We have allied ourselves with an Iceland-based Bitcoin Mining business as we want to make sure that we are involved with Bitcoin Mining using sustainable energy to power it.

The best part about Bitcoin Mining Contracts is that payouts (as in profit) from the contracts are paid out in Bitcoin, so this is a way to add additional Bitcoin to your portfolio of crypto currencies.

Depending on the amount of mining contracts purchased, daily payouts are possible. The whole Bitcoin world involves a very steep learning curve, that's for sure. No-one really knows what the future will hold. Chicago's Futures Exchange (the largest on the planet) are now trading Bitcoin Futures. Central Banks are toying with buying crypto currencies. USA Pension funds are soon to include Bitcoin as the 5% volatile stock portion of their portfolios. The space is moving mainstream very rapidly.

If you need assistance to navigate the space, or you want to know more about how to access Bitcoin Mining Contracts, phone Russell on 0468-382-600.



## Crypto Currency Seminar series

The next monthly crypto currency seminar at the Nimbin Bush Theatre will be on Saturday 3rd February at 11am.

The meeting is suitable for both beginners and experts, with the first half of the meeting dedicated for the learners, and the second half aimed at more seasoned crypto traders.

Crypto currencies are a peer-to-peer virtual currency, which means there is the removal of an intermediary from point-to-point transactions, usually occupied by banking institutions who can control and manipulate the market.

The interest around Bitcoin is growing quickly, with many folk jumping on board this virtual currency train, but are the recent losses to its value, of over 25% in one day, a cautionary tale?

And if Bitcoin's bubble is bursting, or has burst, what of the other crypto-currencies?

Find out more at the Nimbin Bush Theatre from those currently trading in crypto-currencies. Free entry.

## Listening Circles

It is proposed that Biggara/Bologamon Listening Circles be commenced in February.

It is also proposed that the foundation of the talk circles be based on returning strictly to the lores of nature, and to thresh out the ways to enhance our lives that way – while being able to adapt the old teachings to fit with the 21st Century we are now in.

We live on the oldest of continents with the oldest of peoples. We are so fortunate to have the stories and practices still with us to this day that sustained the longest running community in the world. We have much to learn off this system that was successful for many thousands of years.

A talking/listening circle is being called with key players (local Elders and others) to be involved to form and facilitate much discussion on our direction for the future as a unified mob. Once the circle opens we do not want it to stop.

There is so much we need to discuss about how to maintain a system that works for all and lasts the test of time. We have the keys here in this area to make this a reality. Technical and environmental skills abound in the area – as well as essential knowledge of the old ways of co-habiting as peacefully as possible.

The knowledge of the old social ways that lasted the test of time will ask to be gracefully shared. In exchange for the precious intellectual knowledge, people will give a donation of money at this stage.

With all due respect to all other non-original people, it is asked that we consider who has been doing all the talking up until now. Whose philosophy has been the main focus up to this time?

The circles are proposed to be primarily a forum for the Originie people to speak. It is deemed that it is time for non-originie people to listen a lot. Deeper listening – what has been termed 'Dadiri' in other areas, is the aim.

As arranged, the Listening Circle is essentially an area for Originie people to be able to (in the first place) be heard. They may broach any subject around the circle... ranging from their life story to an acute understanding of

Sovereignty.

The circle will have a fire in it. It is a sacred fire. This fire is for advancement. It is a fire of absolute respect. The lore of a sacred fire decrees that no cursing and negative speech or action are to be enacted around it.

The sacred fire has the presence of the Ancestors. Our grandmothers and grandfathers are watching us. We must behave accordingly at all times or face the consequences.

When Originie people have finished their talk, less formal cross-discussion can be carried on by the audience until deemed it is over. Bring a pillow and blanket.

One of the big dreams of the circle is that it is also there to support the forming and facilitating of a 'Counsel of Elders', with Men's and Women's business circles under-pinning that.

This time we are in has been stated by Elders all over the world as a 'time of coming together'. It is certain that if we stay divided, we are doomed. We must act accordingly.

Keep your ear to the ground and eyes on the social media grapevine for venues and times to be announced. The circles will be held on full and new moons.

**Binnah Pownal  
Larnook**

## Roadkill

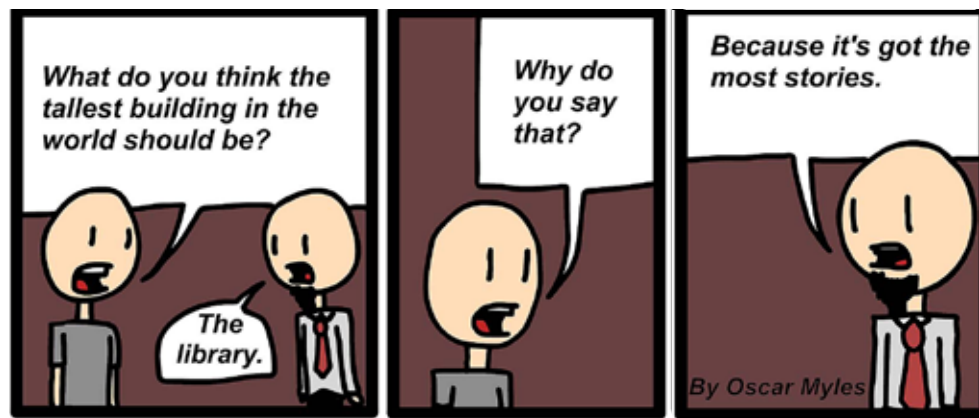
Anastasia Guise wrote a masterful article in December's issue regarding Rockwell Road roadkill. What a beautiful human being to have so much compassion for other species!

Her description of animal roadkill victims was poignant. It's true that we are apathetic to all this road carnage as if 'this is my road, get out of the way' or 'I'm in a hurry I don't have time to brake for five seconds or even slow down for you.'

She cares enough to bring the dying animal home and hold them with love till they pass. I agree that shooting an animal is a violent end though wildlife carers routinely do so to 'put them out of their suffering.' That it no doubt does, but what about the last impressions on leaving this world and their impact on how they travel in the bardo?

Is it better to have final

## Shenanaigans and Smarties - Burj Khalifa book store - Oscart Studios



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.

images of one's brain being blasted to smithereens or images of a loving human sharing their pain – assuming of course that there was no hope of successful treatment by a vet. Clearly a personal call on that one, depending on your intuition of what is right for the animal.

When I see a dead animal on the road I try to pull over and drag it off to minimise the risk of predators feasting on them and becoming part of the collateral. With great sadness and respect I lay them down in a grassy spot and do prayers for them, covering them with grass. They at least deserve that! How much trouble is it to have a box of disposable plastic gloves in your car for such a purpose? Leaving a freshly killed animal on the road to be pummelled into the tarmac is the ultimate in disrespect.

The public is not the only one guilty of apathy. Councils and governments are loath to spend funds creating underpasses and overpasses or even rope bridges for possums. I have tried so many times with Tweed Shire council to no avail. As usual the buck gets passed on to a state level.

What is it going to take for apathetic Aussies to wake up, realise we have the world's highest record of mammal extinctions and do something about it before it's too late and there is nothing left? Perhaps what is required is a spiritual revolution that embraces profound reverence for all life. As Albert Schweitzer said 'Until he extends his circle of compassion to include all living things, man will not himself find peace.'

**Menkit Prince  
Uki**

## First Australian Rights

I was shocked to hear that the Queensland Government was ready to extinguish Native Title rights of the Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owners of the land on which the Adani Carmichael coal mine is set to be built, even though on four occasions since 2012 the W&J traditional owners had voted unanimously at an authorisation meeting to reject an Indigenous Land

## The Profit Imperative

Forget about concepts like minimum and living wages. They're slave wages.

Anything less than \$700 to \$1400 per week has individuals and households in a state of permanent stress. They risk falling through the cracks with any hiccup. That's 50% of the population and growing exponentially!

Economists are lost. They want spending up, but not wages that give people the means. They want lower wages for lower costs. Then they want robots to avoid paying people who must spend. Excuse me, are they completely nuts?

If it's not a plot to destroy humanity, it's utter incompetence and gridlock.

The new rulers of the world are the faceless men behind the corporations, who manipulate their proxies, namely all world governments. Wisdom, benevolence and broad understanding of humanity are required to guide the world. It's not apparent in the specialists in power and control who run it now.

Obviously modern capitalism is destroying us. It cannot and will not change fast enough to save us. So ordinary people need to take control, and quickly, with a different set of principles, that will save us and our families.

Treat economic and financial theory as hogwash. Start again with new guidelines designed for a joyful, quality life for all people, where profit is a dirty word. Bit radical? It needs it.

Let's create businesses that are microcosms of the society we want. Let the philosophy be to provide a product or service at a price that honours the humanity of its participants, and preferentially services the local community.

Let a surplus funds (profits) policy provide for community advancement or assistance to other social businesses. The purpose is not to enrich some at the expense of others. Take

pride in all tax contributions to the nation, and seek fair tax laws.

Transparency of all facets sets the example for the corporate and government mess. Transparency isn't just an ethical platitude beloved of politicians. It's a way for others of goodwill to observe what works. And it's also a protection against attack from powerful competitors.

Seek business capital only from participants or proven private ethical sources. Avoid possible failure via the bank trap. They can pull the pin at a whim, or at the behest of a predator. Loan conditions are too restrictive.

Strict limitation of business size presents a lesser threat to large foes. Regard business 'failure' as a learning. Small size means an easier reboot. Small size facilitates team work and a sense of belonging. Create similar separate standalone businesses rather than expand.

Thousands, then millions, of ethical social businesses spread across the land and planet can together beat sluggish corporations hands down for price, costs and quality. Customers will flock for ethics, local convenience, and human touch.

Avoid all regulation to the max with innovation. Same for government involvement, since it will sap initiative, funds and time. Be totally legal and ethical to avoid all legal and government obstacles.

There are good ethical signals coming from a few managing directors. The bottom line is, that under current rules of capitalism, the profit imperative will defeat them. The catalyst for change must be the irresistible force of radical evolution at the base of the capitalist pyramid.

**Hayo van der Woude  
Mullumbimby**

Use Agreement with Adani, underlining their sustained opposition to the mine. However, the Government had refused to wait until their Federal Court case to challenge extinguishment of their Native Title rights is heard next March.

Subsequent to thousands of emails and phone calls of objection being sent to the Queensland Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the W&J traditional owners have been granted an interim injunction against the Queensland Government and Adani. This gives them respite so that their case against the extinguishment of their Native Title rights can be heard in the Federal Court. However, there is no guarantee that they will win the court case.

As if our indigenous people

have not suffered enough! We have invaded their land, murdered their people, stolen their children and wages, and destroyed their culture. They fought long and hard for Native Title rights over their land. Why is another blow being inflicted on our First Australians? It seems that Native Title rights are simply a symbolic gesture which can be retracted at any time that development and dollars get in the way.

The W&J traditional owners strenuously object to the Adani Carmichael coal mine and deplore the degradation that the Adani mining project will wreak on their culture, environment and ancestral lands. Why isn't the Government listening to them? I encourage your readers to register their objection to this injustice on our First Australians by sending an

email to Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk: [thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au) Queensland Deputy Premier Jackie Trad: [deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au) and Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy the Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham MP: [sdnrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:sdnrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Lynette Dickinson  
Pottsville**

## Tear down the stadiums?

The Berejiklian Government's plan to tear down and rebuild two major sports stadiums in Sydney at a cost of \$2 billion has hit a nerve across NSW.

The decision has become a symbol of a State Government that has its priorities all wrong and the public are strongly expressing their displeasure.

A public petition calling on the Premier to revisit the decision and direct

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NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin

**NEXT DEADLINE:  
Wednesday 24th January**

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

# Vale Brendan Hanley

Eulogy by Megan James

Brendan John Hanley (Mookx) passed away beautifully, gently, peacefully on the evening of 4th December 2017.

Born in Melbourne on 23rd July 1942, second in a Catholic family of three boys, he was (reluctantly) educated in Catholic schools, excelling in English and French. His father Michael was a police officer who went on to become Superintendent of the Victorian Police. Thus were the seeds of rebellion sown.

The family moved often during his childhood to advance his father's career. As an infant, he was hospitalised and almost died from Acrodynia, an often fatal reaction to mercury in teething powders common in the first half of the 20th century. This experience left him with permanent physical and psychological effects that he struggled with all his life.

In Melbourne as a young man, he worked in several occupations while also developing and working as a musician and band manager. Over the next 50 years, he had many different musical incarnations, from the Melbourne jazz scene to Peter, Paul & Mary folk clone bands, and eventually moved to the North Coast and his own unique expression of the alternative culture of the area.

He married Julie Anne Smith in 1965 and they continued to sing together in their Melbourne band Gingerbread Revue and had two beautiful sons, Matthew and Luke. After moving to Cairns and the mushroom fields of North Qld in 1973, his mini-moke hire business there collapsed due to embezzlement by his business partner and his marriage also fell apart.



Julie Anne stayed in Qld with 4 year-old Luke. 8 year-old Matthew, an accomplished banjo player, stayed with his dad until they moved back to Melbourne in 1975, where Brendan met up again with singer Julie Oliver. The couple formed a successful musical partnership and moved to the North Coast in 1976, where their much-loved children Nuro and Madhu were born and raised. Brendan and Julie became Osho devotees Muktesh and Shanto in 1980 and kept the names as Mook and Shanto.

Mook's songs, sung so beautifully by Julie (Shanto), became anthems for protests and celebrations of many of our golden early years here. His kids' songs were well-loved also, and a whole generation of children and their parents were blessed with live performances at events, on the street and at markets – everywhere, in fact, that Mookie went, there was music. Choirs, radio stations, recording studios, working with kids and adults – this was the life he loved to share.

He had a passion for encouraging aspiring musicians and a great ability to make people laugh – a fantastic wacky comedic sense for both adults and kids. He lent his talents to many, many community events and causes

over the years.

He had a seemingly inexhaustible creative spirit, constantly pouring out songs, poems, skits, raves, newspaper columns, cartoons and even whole books. He was also a great hugger and masseur, with an enthusiasm for life that embraced anything and anyone he connected with, not just music.

However, music in all its forms was always the most essential part of his life. It defined him, soothed his restless creative spirit, enriched him and gave him a vehicle to connect to others. A superb singer-songwriter, he chronicled the issues of our times, with a genius for comic songs. A master of leading group singalongs, many of his short songs were written for that purpose also. A complex and demanding man, he shone as a performer and also as a facilitator of other performers.

Mook's world fell apart when Shanto left him 10 years ago to become Julie again. This was a truly massive challenge for him that he ultimately overcame. Much of his time in later years was devoted to archiving his massive body of work, re-recording and uploading songs to the internet platform Reverbnation. He also taught ukulele, wrote a monthly column for the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, and continued to travel, write and perform his original songs, both alone and with Meg, his close companion for the last eight years.

Whether onstage at concerts, busking on the street in Nimbin, playing at parties or at The Pass, greeting the dawn at Bentley or playing for Feros Village or Liberation Larder – wherever he was, there was music. And his greatest dream was that his music will live on.

## Remembering Mookx

by Tonia Haynes

My first knowledge of a place called Nimbin happened on the library lawn of NSW University in 1978 when four musicians unexpectedly appeared and began singing songs about brother son and sister moon.

A disillusioned adult matric student of 33 in the middle of second year psych, who hated what they did to those poor rats, my two greatest learnings at the time were an acquired taste for cask wine and some idea about how to negotiate a library.

By the time the four musos had finished singing and playing their joy, with Shanto's voice soaring like an angel, I was blubbing like a baby. Finally, I had found my people.

"Where do you guys come from?" I sobbed.

Mookx looked down at me with flat, bored eyes, sighed hard and replied shortly, "Nimbin."

"Where's Nimbin?" I sniffled. He sighed again and rolled his eyes, "Northern NSW."

"Well, that's where I'm going," I cried staunchly.

"That's nice honey," Shanto interjected kindly, "but we need to pack up now."

Now, many adventures later, I do live in Nimbin and it is still the best place I know.

When I told Mookx that story a couple of years ago, he had the same expression he wore when I was 33, that clearly said, "OMG, not another one."

Never was good at taking a compliment, the old Mookx, and I don't think he ever fully realised that he changed the lives of many, in spite of himself.

In these days of energy crisis, when the big guys like Dick Smith are mumbling about the benefits of nuclear power, a 'Keep it in the Ground' festival is a great idea.

The Mookx would approve of that one.

## Letters, continued

at least half the money into community sport or essential public services has attracted more than 100,000 signatures in less than two days and there is no sign of the public mood shifting.

Put aside the almost unfathomable question of why these stadiums, both less than 30 years old, and one built less than two decades ago for the Sydney Olympics, already need replacing; the public response isn't just about the need, the value for money or whether or not we should have new modern sports and big event infrastructure.

It has struck a nerve that runs much deeper in the NSW community, a

frustration that the NSW Coalition Government is serving someone's needs, but it just isn't ours.

Could it be that the budget surplus being squandered on these new stadiums has come off the back of electricity privatisations and the sale of our world class land titles office, and people are wondering why they are coping higher electricity prices and service cuts for some comfier seats at a stadium they can barely afford to go to?

Could it be that they are watching the Government throw billions in public money at the big sporting codes with multimillion dollar TV rights deals and alcohol and gambling sponsorships and they are

wondering why they have to pay huge fees for local kids sport and run the sausage sizzle every weekend to raise money for new jerseys?

Could it be that they are seeing the Liberal Party boys club on the SCG Stadium Trust who are boasting about the new fancy VIP boxes they are going to get out of this deal and have realised once again that the vested interests, and the political connections that still run this state and the average person barely gets a look in?

The Government can run their bread and circuses strategy all they like but the public won't be conned that easy. They won't be bought off by a spectacle. They actually want the things broken in the city fixed and they want

the regions and rural NSW to stop being ignored when it comes to essential services and infrastructure.

The decision may have been made, but the stadiums are still standing and the public campaign has given the Premier cover from the special interests, the big sporting code chiefs and media barons, and from Alan Jones (SCG Trust board member), to rethink the plan and to put that money to far better use.

If she doesn't, there are going to be a couple of pretty big ongoing reminders for the people of NSW of how this Government once again put vested interests that run the Liberal Party in NSW ahead of the people of NSW.

Justin Field  
Greens MLC

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