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Nimbin crew clean up

Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate would like to say a huge thank you to all the participants for our Nimbin Village Clean Up Australia day held on 28th September.

We had perfect weather for the clean-up.

A special thank you to Kathie for organising the event and Ella for supplying the participants with some delicious home-made treats. For the next event we hope to expand the clean-up area, and hope for an even bigger turnout.

It was a great success with two full trailer loads of rubbish taken to the tip. Well done everyone.



Waste sorting facility saves 10,000 tonnes from landfill



by Danielle Hanigan,
Business Development
Co-ordinator

A new commercial waste sorting facility at the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre will help divert up to 10,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and create around 10 full-time jobs.

Lismore City Council's

new \$2.5 million commercial waste sorting facility was opened by Lismore Mayor Isaac Smith and Lismore MP Thomas George on Friday, 26th October.

The facility uses both mechanical and manual sorting techniques to separate incoming construction and demolition waste and commercial and industrial waste, much of which has traditionally been sent to landfill. Council can now better sort materials such as concrete and steel and divert these from landfill.

The facility will create between eight and 11 jobs, including positions for workers from the House With No Steps, a supported employment provider based in Alstonville. Employees from the organisation have been sorting recyclables in the adjacent Materials Recovery Facility since it opened in 2014, and the new facility will allow Council to expand this social enterprise.

"This new facility will assist Council to meet the NSW Government targets for waste diversion which are set at 75% diversion for construction and demolition



The sorting facility in action (above). At left: Lismore MP Thomas George, Lismore mayor Isaac Smith with Lismore City Council Business Development Manager Kevin Trustum.

waste, and 70% for commercial and industrial waste," Lismore mayor Isaac Smith said.

"It will also extend the life of our current landfill cell and provide local people with employment.

"We currently landfill around 18,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial and self-haul municipal waste. This new facility will provide a regional hub for the recycling of commercial waste and we estimate we will divert around 10,000 tonnes of waste per annum from landfill, which is a staggering amount."

This project was supported

by the Environmental Trust as part of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority's Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, funded from the waste levy.

Soft plastic recycling to go

Soft plastics are still being accepted at the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre, but Council no longer accepts soft plastics at other locations, and will slowly be phasing out the collection of soft plastics.

Council is currently developing a new education campaign to be launched later this year with new recycling rules for all residents.



Inaugural Lismore Ngara – politics at the pub

by Sabina Baltruweit

A gathering of 150 people crammed into the Rous Hotel in Lismore on a Thursday night in October to attend the first Lismore Ngara Politics in the Pub event.

Lismore Ngara is a progressive think-tank representing community values and ideas that are no longer voiced by the politicians who represent us.

Speaker, Adjunct Professor Richard Hil, the convenor of the Ngara Institute, gave the inaugural address entitled 'Against Despair and Inertia', which captivated the crowd with its

extraordinary breadth and scope, as well as its positive message.

Richard is the author of 12 books with another, *The Sacking of Fallujah – A People's History* (with Ros Caputi and Donna Mulhearn) to be published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2019. His research centres on social and environmental wrongs.

Richard enthralled the audience by discussing the many ways that progressives can tell a persuasive story about how justice, peace and regeneration can be achieved in a complex, interconnected world.

There was a lively Q&A session after the talk, which extended the

conversation and explored in depth various avenues for strengthening community connections. The discussion proved to be a good forum with a diversity of voices expressing alternative views to those espoused by populist politicians.

The event was so popular that the next one will be held in a larger room with better facilities.

Lismore Ngara plans several events in 2019, the first of which will be held in February. It is anticipated that high profile speakers will be on the programme for next year. The next event will be announced in early 2019.

See: www.ngarainstitute.org.au



Frontline Action on Coal invites everyone to join the Stop Adani campaign with the slogan: "It's time to stand up on Climate Change. If not now, when then? If not you, then who?"

Have a look at their website: frontlineaction.org
Whether you're keen to get your boots dirty on the front lines, or have some spare time at home to sling memes and pump social media, there are plenty of roles and lots to do!

The end of an era at the Nimbin Mill

by Samara Burcher and Linnet Pike

When Clarrie Rose was a young boy attending Tuntable Creek Public School, the headmaster would lead the children out to sit on the grass when the bullock team came along down the hill, heading to Pascoe's mill that was on the flats of the nearby creek. The bullocks were hauling logs down from the mountain to the mill.

By the late 1940s it was unusual to see bullock teams, but Clarrie also remembers Mr Falls of Falls Road, the bullock driver, clearing lantana and cockspur from his father's property.

Clarrie sat on his verandah at Gungas Road and yarned with us about his early life in Nimbin, family tales and his recollections of the Nimbin Mill, situated on his property. Clarrie and his wife Sally have sold the old family farm and mill and are moving to Evans Head after the auction of goods, chattels and items of historical interest to be held at his property at 50 Gungas Road, on 10th November.

As Clarrie says, he loves his history; he's always been "that way minded" and has a large amount of vintage mill machinery and items of interest such as corn crackers, antique wheels and furniture going to auction.

Clarrie's stories are a link to white settler history in Nimbin. He is 76 years old and comes from generations of big families. Aged about eleven, he caught the dreaded diphtheria, a disease which is now rarely seen due to vaccination. He spent many months recovering and lived with his Grandma Stewart for that time.

Eleanor Stewart was the daughter of Oliver Jones, reputedly one of the first white children to be born in the Lismore District, in 1852. Oliver had married Elizabeth Yabsley from the boat-building Yabsley family based in Coraki. Grandma (Eleanor) Stewart, their daughter, married Nimbin identity Charles Stewart of Belle Vue Stud, a beautiful property located above the Nimbin showgrounds.

Grandma Stewart told Clarrie and others many tales that have become part of family history. She was a

midwife and delivered babies at Calico Flat, two kilometres out of Nimbin on the Blue Knob Road, where people were living in tents. She told Clarrie that members of the Bundjalung Nation would also camp there before they were moved on to Cubawee Settlement.

One of Grandma Stewart's daughters, Hope, was Clarrie's mother and she married Clarrie senior, a member of the large Rose family. There are tales from that side of the family, as Clarrie's grandfather on the Rose side was one of the early settlers in Nimbin. George Rose came by bullock team up through Bishop's Creek and took up 1,000 acres in the Rose Road area. This was later divided into several family farms, and Clarrie lived there as a child.

One of the family tales is about the dingo who tried to pull Old Grandpa George's young daughter out of a sulky while he was checking on some cows. Another story tells of Grandfather George having to drive a dingo away with a stock whip as the dingo had cornered his son, Sam, up a tree.

There were tracks through the scrub and Clarrie recalls that he and his elder siblings drove pigs down through the bush to market in Nimbin. Clarrie's father bought the Gungas Rd property in 1948 and Clarrie remembers milking by hand in the paddock and seeing old Mr Gunga Singh driving a sulky up to his home at the end of Gungas Road.

When the Rose family settled in Gungas Road, there were still a number of small mills in the area. The banana industry had developed from the 1930s and many of the steep hills around Nimbin were planted out with bananas; the influx of Italian new settlers were particularly



Clarrie Rose setting a saw blade last month

engaged in cropping bananas. And there was a huge need for banana packing cases – hence the many small mills.

There had been a steam mill at the end of Gungas Road, on the flats near what is now Black Sheep Farm, for many years. However, the Big Flood of 1954 had badly damaged it and so Joe Machin, who had the mill then, moved it down to the Rose farm and converted it from steam to electricity. The mill buildings were erected by Tom Smith and Gerry Nugent, names no doubt familiar to Nimbin old-timers.

Some of the "old-timers" who worked on both sites were Barry Stewart, Wick Parmenter, Jimmy Browning. Others that Clarrie recalls working at the mill in those early days at the new site were Harry Mitchell, Lyle Butcher, Neville Rose, Bernie McDonald, Athol Armstrong, Bob Cottee, and Bert Marchant.

At one point the Nimbin Mill turned out the most banana cases in the Northern Rivers District. By the early 1970s, when the Walker Brothers had taken over the mill, bananas were in decline and the mill was concentrating more on commercial work and supplying timber for the post-1973 influx of new settlers.

Clarrie has had a rich life, growing up in an area he

loves. He was involved with sports in Nimbin in his teens and twenties – playing both rugby league and union and coaching soccer. He wryly noted that the Nimbin Union players were "better fighters than footballers".

In later life, Clarrie was devoted to bowls and was a staunch member of the Nimbin Bowling Club and every year would organise a trip to the Illawarra for junior bowls. He was also the treasurer of the Nimbin Uniting Church, which Clarrie notes he could not have achieved without the help and support of his wife Sally.

He worked in this area as a young man and for BHP in Whyalla and Newcastle. However, he returned home and bought the farm in 1982 and finished his working life at Lismore Base Hospital operating the boilers.

The Nimbin Mill actually closed for a couple of years around 2000 but then Sally Rose bought Eric Bazzana's farm produce business and moved it to the mill site. With the help of Clarrie's son Graham and Richard Everingham they repaired the mill and operated it for the local market.

The mill has continued until now, and over the years has employed many locals in what can be dangerous work. As Clarrie noted, Frank Nugent lost his life cutting, and Jim Browning lost his arm. And while Clarrie has continued to sharpen and set the saws, his age and body are letting him down. And it's time to move on.

Many may remember a time when the whistle from the Nimbin Mill could be heard in the valley, but as Clarrie said of the mill, "It's the last of its time now. And that time has gone."



Clarrie's son Graham sawing planks with Billy Cox



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Rainbow Cafe resurrection still on track

by Megan James



Artists impression

We are aware people are wondering why it is taking so long to get a building on the Rainbow Café site that has been empty for over four years now.

To stay within the limited budget of the Tuntabul Falls Community, the plans have been re-drawn, and are now going through the process of reassessment by all the consultants, so will soon be sent back to council for a DA modification.

The alterations are minor cost-saving ones, such as lowering the height of walls, and will not affect the beauty or functionality of the building, as presented for community feedback some years ago.

There will still be a cafe, there will still be a garden, there will still be a small self-contained residence out the back. And we will all be so glad to see it finally being built.

We thank the community for your patience.

Remembering Australia's military history

by Paul LeBars

This year we commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day that brought WWI to an end, and 104 years of Australian Defence Force service in conflict and peacekeeping since Australian Federation in 1901. 102,853 have paid the ultimate sacrifice since Gallipoli on 25th April 1915.

Australians have served in military forces since the nineteenth century. In the latter decades of the colonial period, Australians volunteered for service in conflicts in Sudan (March to June 1885), South Africa (Boer War 1899–1902) and China (Boxer Rebellion 1900–01).

In the twentieth century, Australians served in the First and Second World Wars. Australia's involvement in the First World War (1914–18) included campaigns fought on Gallipoli, the Western Front and in the Middle East. The outbreak of the war was greeted with great enthusiasm in Australia but as was the case in many nations, the First World War remains our most costly conflict in terms of deaths and casualties.

Almost one million Australians served in the Second World War (1939–45). They fought campaigns in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa against Italy and Germany, as well as against Japan in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Australia also came under attack for the first time when the Japanese bombed Darwin.

Following the Second World War, Australians served in Korea (1950–53), the Malayan Emergency (1948–60), the Indonesian Confrontation (1962–66) and in the Vietnam War (1962–72).

Australians have participated in peacekeeping operations around the world, starting with the first United Nations peacekeeping mission in 1947. Australian peacekeepers have been deployed in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia and



Armistice Centenary Remembrance Day 2018

Nimbin District Memorial,
Sunday 11th November

9.30am: Dedication ceremony for new plaques on the "Seat of Remembrance"

10.40am – 11.03am: Remembrance Day commemorative service

11.04: Om for Peace at the Imagine circle in Allsopp Park

the Pacific. More recently, Australians have served in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Women in the services

Women were originally employed in nursing roles but, in 1941, during the Second World War, the three branches of the armed forces established women's services to contribute to the war effort.

By the mid-1980s the women's services had been disbanded and female personnel were fully integrated into the navy, army and air force. Today women can serve in 93 per cent of Australian Defence Force roles.

Indigenous servicemen and women
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have served alongside their non-indigenous counterparts since the Boer War at the turn of the twentieth century.

As there was no requirement for recruits to list ethnic background on enlistment papers, there are no accurate figures on how many indigenous personnel have served. Several indigenous personnel, however, rank among the most well-known of Australia's servicemen and women.

A project to develop a more complete picture of the contribution indigenous men and women have made to Australia's military history is currently underway. For more info, go to: www.dva.gov.au

World OM for peace

After the 100th anniversary ceremony, a group will assemble around the Imagine mandala to OM for peace.

Benny Zable will be also putting on display his latest creation to help with bringing attention to other cultures of peace initiatives. All are invited, to share thoughts and prayers for peace in our world.

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Parking changes in Nimbin

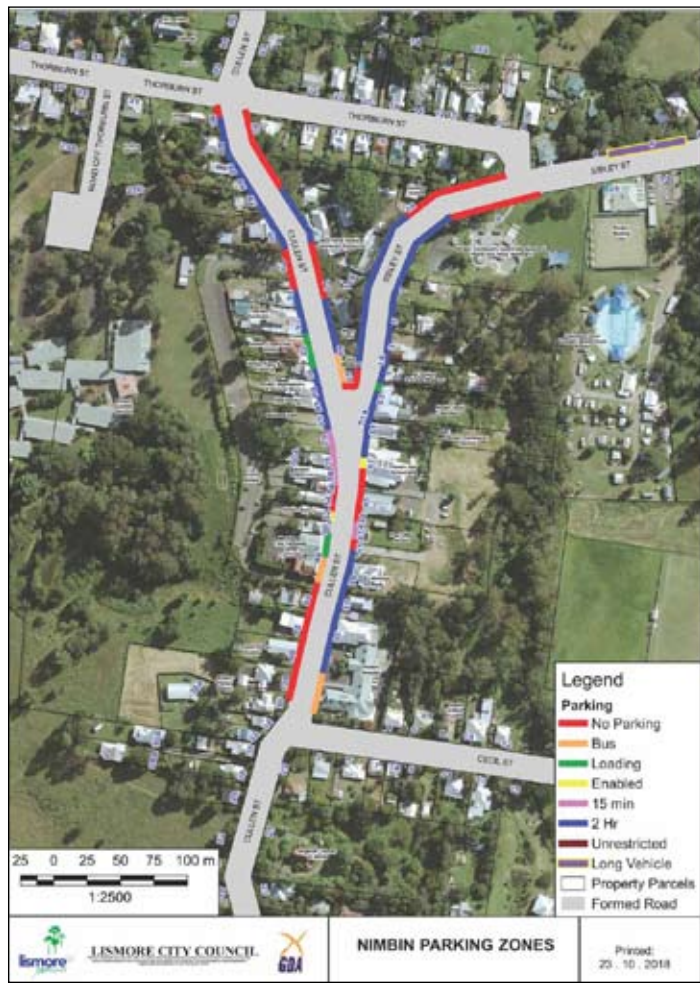
Lismore City Council recently adopted the Nimbin Parking Strategy, which looked at the current levels of demand and supply and expected future growth.

The strategy identifies a number of short-term actions that will be implemented to improve parking availability within the Nimbin business district.

These include some changes to the timed parking areas along Cullen Street and Sibley Street, as well as changes to bus parking areas and the provision of some bike parking facilities.

The following changes have been undertaken:

- Line marking and directional arrows in the western carpark to improve parking and traffic efficiency.
- Removal of the bus zone at the north end of Cullen Street to create additional parking and to remove a potential sightline hazard for vehicles exiting the western carpark.
- The area between the blisters (58 – 62 Cullen Street) and the area outside the bakery (52 Cullen Street) have converted from one-hour parking to 15-minute parking to improve parking turnover in the heart



of town.

- The relocation of an accessible (wheelchair) parking space from outside the bakery to across the other side of the road (Telstra land)

However, an enforcement period is likely to be carried out from mid-November.

The map shows the full extent of the changes within Nimbin.

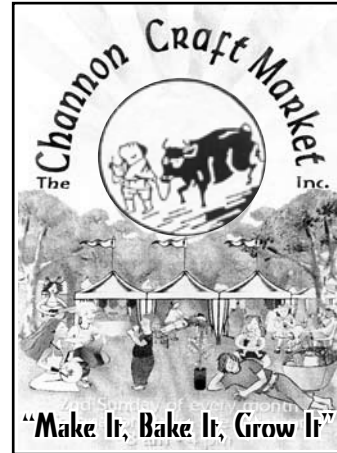
as requested by the community.

- The 15-minute zones outside the bakery include a newly signposted 'no standing' zone across the laneway, due to its proximity to the pedestrian crossing.
- Timed parking in Cullen Street and the northern part of Sibley Street will become a standardised two-hour limit (other than loading and bus zones). This will involve the installation of additional signage poles.
- Signage indicating that long-term parking is available in the western carpark will be erected to encourage people wanting to stay more than two hours away from the main street.

Lismore City Council will NOT be enforcing these changes to timed parking over the coming two to three weeks to give people a chance to adjust.



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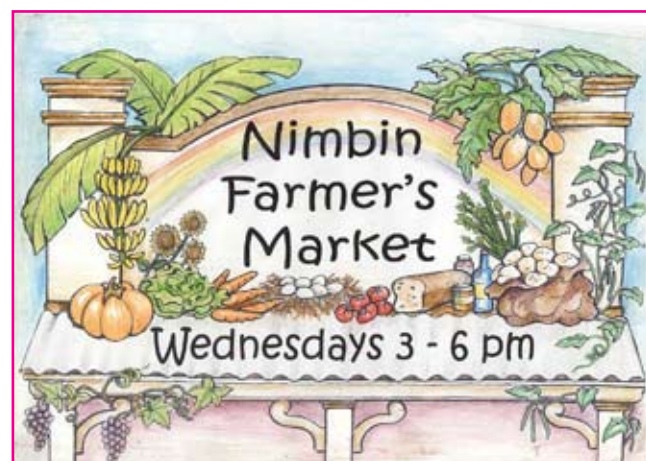
Buskers stage:

Speakers Corner, 2pm

Charity of the day:

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NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, President

The election cycle has become exciting, with the Wentworth community telling the Coalition government that they care about climate change and our scurrilous treatment of refugees.

The state election in Victoria draws close and elections in NSW set for March 2019, five months from now. Federal Parliament has no fixed term, so no-one is sure when the government will put its fate on the line, but probably will go to the polls in May 2019. Political commentators mostly concur that the government will not risk a further backlash at a national election after the spanking they got at Wentworth, where the formerly safe Liberal majority was swept away in an historic 20% swing against it.

Those of us at the Nimbin Environment Centre continue to debate our role in politics. While we are not party political, we are political, as we seek to influence decision-makers and that involves supporting candidates who are committed to – or at least lean towards – environmental solutions for a sustainable planet. We have a distinct role in helping spread the news about problems and solutions, but experience teaches that a wise, forward-thinking government is easier to work with than one whose members' only interest is in feathering their own nests.

Currently the major parties look bad as they take donations from the rich and powerful, who set the agenda. Corporations pay lobbyists who have most influence on Ministers, often because they were previously senior politicians themselves. And then when the current Ministers leave Parliament,



they are often appointed to lobby their former colleagues. This is known as the Revolving Door, and accounts for the mystery of why seemingly intelligent politicians favour corporate profits over the welfare of the people, vote for pollution instead of protection of our biosphere, and promote fossil fuels over clean energy projects.

This is not to say that all polities are alike. I have noticed that funding for social issues increases during Labor governments and gets axed during conservative rule. Sometimes the government can manipulate public opinion to make the people believe it has been given a mandate: maybe to sell off public assets, close railway lines, increase costs and decrease taxes, lock up refugees – people who have committed no crimes – indefinitely without trial. Some of our representatives – mainly from minor parties and independents – choose to speak out, but the major parties do not allow free votes on many issues.

Currently our Federal government claims it is doing all it can to achieve

a reduction in greenhouse gases to comply with international agreements, while licensing more and more fossil fuel projects which increase our emissions. The NSW government has announced plans to increase koala habitat, but most of the land nominated has been degraded by logging or clearing of native vegetation. Some protected areas have no koalas living there at all!

The Victorian government has authorised widespread clear-felling of native forests and the same is being planned for NSW. The Federal government refuses to invoke environmental protections (EPBC Act).

A massive government grant to a private company with no clear plans how to save the Great Barrier Reef is a recent case of "greenwashing", which means appearing to do something about a problem by handing taxpayer money to one's mates who will do nothing effective with it. People do care about the Reef.

The Nimbin Environment Centre sells heaps of Sea Shepherd products. We use the proceeds to assist environment protection campaigns. But we do not have the money to compete with corporation lobbyists. All we have is the vote. We need to use it. That gives us hope for a sustainable future.

As one of our members recently posted: "It's time to take the message directly to MPs, reminding them that you can't eat coal, and you can't drink gas. It's never been more important than it is now, with most of NSW drought-declared."

We need to elect governments who will prioritise public interests and stop water mining.



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In your neighbourhood...
Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News
Celebrating 40 years of service to the community in 2018

7 Sibley Street update
Those of you who have passed by the house would have seen that we have almost finished painting the outside (in spite of numerous delays caused by wet weather), and have started on the inside.

Thanks so much to all the people who have been helping with the painting, the roof plumbing and a whole bunch of other stuff – most especially to Steve Hale, Greg Symes and Steph Seckold who have been coming every week and have done a huge amount of work on site.

We still have more painting to go and a couple of final tip runs, to be ready for the grand opening. If you can help out, contact NNIC on 6689-1692 or email us on: admin@nnic.org.au



Photo: Chibo Metineit

Grand opening
The grand opening will now be held on Saturday 1st December at 11am. Come along to help us officially launch the site, check out the finished house and help us to celebrate this massive community achievement to which so many of you have contributed in one way or another, by donating funds, working on fundraisers, working on the site itself, or participating in all the design discussions and workshops. Well done Nimbinites!

MO Think Tank
The second Thinking Session will happen on Thursday 15th November at 5.30pm. RSVPs essential – send to: admin@nnic.org.au (Membership to the MO Think Tank is for current members of MOs (or RLCs) only, at this stage.)

Wanted – Films by young people
Nimbin CDAT is proud to sponsor the \$500 Party Safe

Award category in the 2019 Nimbin Youth Film Festival. Everyone loves to party but when alcohol and other drugs get into the mix, things can go wrong.

The Party Safe prize will be awarded to the best film depicting a message/messages to share with other young people to keep everyone safe and have a good party time. See the NYFF website for entry details: www.nimbinyouthfilmfestival.com

Have you got what it takes to be a superhero?
Nimbin CDAT is currently recruiting. To be our superhero you need to be between about 5'8 and 6 feet tall, of slim-medium build, in good health and up for a bit of acting. If this sounds like you, contact: admin@nnic.org.au

Wanted – comedians
For the Nimbin Women's Dinner on Thursday 7th March 2019. This is a paid gig. Five-minute stand-up slots. Requirements: must be a woman, must be funny. Apply to: admin@nnic.org.au

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team
CDAT is always looking for new members to join the CDAT team which usually meets on the last Thursday of the month at 1.30pm at NNIC. To apply to join, contact: admin@nnic.org.au

Art in the park
Free and happening every Friday outside NNIC in Allsopp Park (weather permitting – to check call NNIC on 6689-1692 on Friday mornings).

Lots of new gear, so that anyone aged 15 and over, whatever your ability/disability, can join in.


Struggling with household bills? Unpaid fines?
We may be able to assist with electricity and telephone bills, and you may be eligible for a Work Development Order enabling you to pay off your fines via volunteer work. Phone us on 6689-1692 or just drop in to make an appointment with Vicki, our fabulous Community Case Co-ordinator.

Three great ways to help us to help our community

1. Become a member of NNIC. Cheapest memberships in town at only \$5.50!
2. Donate to NNIC. Donations to our charitable activities are tax deductible. (Donations to 7 Sibley Street are not).
3. Include NNIC in your will. Bequests are tax deductible and will ensure your legacy remains in the community.

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, phone 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays. www.nnic.org.au www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre

Nimbin Hospital information



Child immunisation clinic
For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 13th November. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

Drug and alcohol counselling services available
For an appointment please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

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

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

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.


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.

Nurse practitioner clinics
• Diabetes Clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 15th November.
• Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 13th November. 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.

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

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary
Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 5th December. New members welcome.





Award for Urbenville Residential Aged Care

by Noelle Lynden-Way,
Community Representative BUNK
Quality & Safety Committee

The Urbenville MPS staff will be recognised in the 2018 NSW Health Awards in Sydney this November for their project to improve the lifestyle and wellbeing of people living in Residential Aged Care.

The team (see photo) is a finalist in the category 'Patients as Partners'.

Residents of this rural MPS now have access to Skype to communicate easily with relatives and friends.

More social outings and recreational activities have been added to the calendar and a gardening club is now up and running.

Simple changes to the residents' dining experience have created a more home-like environment such as re-introducing butter, jams and sauces on tables in place of pre-packaged condiments and using ceramic crockery.

The dining and recreation area have been redesigned and residents can now bake bread if they so wish.

A relative of a resident, Trish Wilson, says that the use of Skype has been really important because "using technology is vital in rural communities to stay in touch, especially for people who are working and cannot easily be with their loved ones."

On Saturday 17th November from 10am to 2pm, Urbenville MPS is

holding an Open Day for the public to see some of the recent changes to the facility.

Visitors can take a tour through the newly refurbished Emergency Department (thanks to \$430,000 in recent funding from NSW Government) and see some of the changes which have helped improve aged care residents' quality of life as mentioned above.

There will be stalls providing health checks and advice, locally-made crafts and food, information about developments happening across the Northern NSW Local Health District, music and a family BBQ.

Everyone is welcome, so come along and support the Multi-Purpose Service facility at Urbenville.

Hospital supporters raise funding through recycling



Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary members Margaret McQuilty and Louise Donadel after inspecting the new bin with Nimbin A&I Society members Neville Plush and Phil Williams

by Dave Fawkner

The introduction of a container deposit scheme in NSW has resulted in a small but regular windfall for the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary, thanks to the Nimbin A&I Society.

The society recently installed a bin at the Showground for such items. Knocked up from a bulk liquid container cage and a roll of steel mesh, the bin will hold up to a thousand items, according to Nimbin A&I Society senior vice-president Neville Plush.

"We've been working to educate campers to place items in the right council waste and recycling bins for some time," Neville said.

"When the container deposit scheme came in, we decided to introduce our own bin for

containers that attracted refunds. Apart from generating a bit of cash, it helps to reduce the amount of material going into our recycling bins.

"When we had a bit of a think about what could be done with the money, we decided to donate it to the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary."

The bin was up and running in time for this year's show, and the first load is expected to go to the Lismore Recycling Centre next week.

Showground volunteers are keen to see how much the scheme brings in, and are suggesting something between \$50 and \$100 a month.

They plan to have two more bins on site in time for next year's MardiGrass festival.

NCCI president's report 2017-18

by Scott Sledge

The Nimbin Community Centre Inc (NCC) year started with our AGM in November 2017.

My temporary appointment by the management committee as president, following the death of former president Dick Hopkins, was confirmed by a vote of that meeting.

I was reluctant to take on this role because my work as president of two other volunteer organisations requires a lot of attention, and the environmental threats to our world grow in number and intensity. For this reason, I will not stand again for the management committee when we gather at Birth & Beyond for this year's AGM at 5.30pm on Thursday 15th November.

This year has been difficult for management as the political cycle has arrived on hard times for community services. Funding became tight after Lismore Council withdrew its annual contribution to the Community Centre. The committee works to maintain the ageing buildings and cracking pavements of the former Central School grounds as an asset of the community, despite cost increases.

We contend with falling branches, rotting timbers and rusting roofs, and have still managed to improve the facilities.

Bottlebrush Studio on Cullen Street sports freshly painted rainbow colours – significantly more expensive than painting in one colour, but rainbow was really wanted by Nimbin Aged Care (NACRS). We managed to secure a grant for part of this cost from

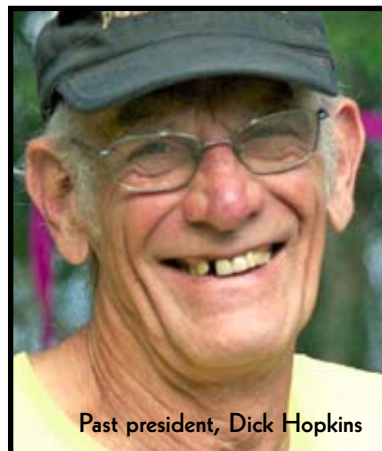
Building Community Partnerships, with additional funds from NACRS and NCC.

The building is more readily seen because of pruning to shrubs and the removal of the old school fencing along the footpath there. We will be looking to improve the walkway from the north side of the building down to the Fig Tree building and carpark next to Sibley Street.

Much credit for grounds improvement – both at the Community Centre and at the Birth & Beyond building – goes to our gardener Robyn, plus markets co-ordinator Stephanie, ably assisted by volunteers such as Rod and Trevor. The committee delegated future design planning to the Truth and Beauty sub-group headed by Biko and Linnet.

Casuarina, the building which houses Nim-FM radio, Aboriginal broadcasters and new addition Simonetta's hemp workshop, has benefitted from a new high awning and major drainage works. New plumbing plus a new toilet and lighting installed inside the Aboriginal Cultural Centre was significantly grant-funded through the Stronger Communities Program. Police broke the special leaded glass in the Cultural Centre doors during a pursuit which turned out to be a case of mistaken identity. Police admitted the breakage but refused to pay, and we needed our building insurance to cover replacement.

Lismore City Council assisted NCC with a new mural facing Allsopp Park which was created by Aboriginal artists led by Gilbert Laurie. The mural was dedicated



Past president, Dick Hopkins

by Lismore mayor Isaac Smith at a public ceremony. NCC has secured funding for interpretive signage which will be completed soon to accompany the mural art. A sign will explain the dreamtime story illustrated in the mural. Gilbert and Lewis Walker will tell the story and translate it into Bundjalung.

Rental review: Financial concerns and new tenancies prompted us to consider a more orderly rent contribution structure based on the floor area of each space, with discounts for large spaces and heavy discounts for community groups which are the primary beneficiaries of the Community Centre and our preferred tenants. As we had space available for commercial renters, the committee needed to balance the sometimes conflicting priorities of commercial vs community uses.

The Birth & Beyond building, which houses the Nimbin Apothecary and Nimbin Environment Centre and sundry other uses, is a great model of how the two can work together. NCC has auspiced a project called Lighting Up to provide solar-powered lighting along the western side of the



Clearing up storm damage

main shops block with the equipment installed by Rainbow Power Company at B&B with contributions by Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

Acacia building: A number of healing modalities have established in the Acacia building near the Community Centre office, including our most recent new tenant, Elen (Nimbin Herbs Learning Centre) who has brought a positive and creative energy that complements the move towards health and healing arts in the building. Of course the dance studio continues to be used by a wide variety of groups, and this year we spent a lot of time and money to re-surface the floor, which required gap filling, sanding and coating. No more splinters for our dancers and yogis!

The committee seeks to maintain community assets which can cost big sums – for example we have some roofs which will soon need replacing so we hope to increase reserves for serious works or improvements to the sites. We have costs which normally exceed the Consumer Price Index – especially wages that are tied to awards. We support fair wages for employees, so need to budget accordingly.

This year marked 20 years since the Community Centre commenced

operation and we celebrated in September with a weekend of events showcasing the services offered to the community. These included a range of entertainment and an innovative art/sculpture display which could become an annual feature. I want to thank our co-ordinators, Inez and Biko, for making it such a good occasion. Inez has now left the job and Helen has stepped up her hours to keep the office open four days a week in tandem with Biko.

This year has seen a series of meetings designed for tenants to make suggestions and feedback to the coordinators and management committee. Our maintenance and building issues continue to be addressed by Sam, who takes on much of the hard work of preserving the community buildings.

There are too many people who have been involved during those 20 years to mention, but all are appreciated. Finally, I want to thank the committee who served so well: Karlin Bracegirdle was inspirational as meeting facilitator. Volunteers like these keep us on track: Diana Roberts, Michael Balderstone, Linnet Pike, David Hallett, Darren Maxwell, and Daniele Voinot.

Thanks to you all.