

**John Adams\***  
**& ASSOCIATES**  
*\*a.k.a. Sindhu*  
 Lawyers  
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## Nimbin Pool to re-open in mid-October

by Sue Edmonds

This year, Lismore City Council decided to give the pool a much-needed restoration job, and was hoping to have the facility ready to be opened during school holidays, which is the regular schedule each year.

Unfortunately, the preparation and repair of the surface is taking longer than originally anticipated, as the surface is badly degraded. It is the first major restoration since the facility was built in the 1970s.

The whole surface has been ground back, a huge job, with all the old paint from years and years being removed. The waste material was then swept up, bagged and removed from the site. Broken bricks were removed, and the resulting holes filled with concrete and smoothed off.

The last major job is the application of rubberised paint to the whole surface. The paint application has started, but is a bit delayed due to rain.

One of the filtration units has been replaced, so filtering of water this year



Sue Boardman assisting with the work

will be far more efficient and effective.

Council is hoping to open the pool for the summer season by mid-October and apologies for the inconvenience, but it will be well worth the wait. It's wonderful to see the pool getting the attention it deserves, and we can look forward to many swims in our clean, fresh pool this season.

Thanks to the LCC for their commitment to this important Nimbin public facility.

This year, the Friends of Nimbin Pool have donated the funds to replace some of the wood on the seats, painted them

up with a bright blue, and provided a few dollars for new grass. Some friends are helping with the sweeping up of debris and the huge job of painting.

John, our devoted maintenance man, is co-ordinating the work; many thanks to him for his commitment to our community pool.

If you want to join the Friends of Nimbin Pool, our email address is: [friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com)

We organise the annual Pool Olympics in January each year, a fun morning of watery novelty events and a sausage sizzle to raise money for incidentals such as seats, paint and grass.

If you have any old trophies gathering dust on your shelves and would you like to see them have another life as trophies for the Olympics, please donate them to a worthy cause.

By the bye, the digging happening around the children's playground is the drainage for long-awaited exercise equipment, which should be finalised soon, so now there's no excuses not to be fittish and thinnish!

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## Generous donation for Hospital Auxiliary



President of the Nimbin UHA, Robyn Roos receiving the donation from Wayne Cuthbertson.

At the September meeting of the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary, the Nimbin Gym (Nimbin Indigenous & Community Health & Fitness Inc.) donated a cheque for \$1,610.88.

When the gym decided to close in February this year, they made the decision to donate the remainder of their funds to two community groups, the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary and Nimbin Headers Sports Club.

The Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary thanks the Nimbin Gym for their generous donation. The money has been used to purchase an oxygen concentrator to assist people with long-term oxygen requirements.

The Auxiliary also thanks the wider Nimbin community for their continued support. In the 2017-18 financial year the Auxiliary donated over \$18,000 worth of items for the comfort and care of patients and Aged Care residents at the Nimbin Multi-Purpose Service (MPS).

They included a power-assisted wheelchair, shower commode, two specialised beds and a pressure mattress.

The next major fundraiser for the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary is a Long Table Lunch, freshly prepared by chef Bruce at Goolmangar Hall, 12-2.30pm on Saturday 27th October. The cost is \$25 for two courses plus tea/coffee/juice, with vegetarian and gluten-free options available. Bookings are essential, phone Margaret McQuilty on 0487-277-507 by 20th October.

New volunteers to the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary are welcome, and are invited to attend one of the meetings, held at 10am on the first Wednesday of the month at the Nimbin MPS; or phone the secretary, Margaret on 0487-277-507.

## Reflecting on the end of war

by Paul Le Bars

At the Nimbin District Memorial on 11/11/18 there will be a short dedication ceremony at 9.30am for some new plaques for the Seat of Remembrance, and then the main service will run for 20 minutes, starting at 10.40am to finish at 11.03am.

This commemoration will mark the centenary of Remembrance Day, the day the Armistice was signed to end the First World War. By August 1918, WW1 had been in progress for four years, and thousands of Australians had already been killed or wounded. Possibly every Australian town had experienced a loss of one or more of their community.

Between April and November 1918 the stalemate of the preceding years began to give way, as the allies combined infantry, artillery, tanks, and aircraft more effectively, demonstrated in the Australian capture of Hamel Spur on 4th July 1918. The allied offensive, beginning on 8th August at Amiens, also contributed to Australian successes at Mont St Quentin and Péronne and to the capture of the Hindenburg Line.

The conflict would end after 4 years 3 months and 16 days. For Australians, what started at Gallipoli on 25th April



1915 with the ANZACs, ended in early October 1918 as the Australian divisions withdrew from the Western front for rest and refitting. They were preparing to return when Germany surrendered on 11th November.

The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people.

Remembrance Day is observed to give thanks and honour the service and sacrifices of the fallen in all wars, in which for a country with a relatively small population, Australia has punched well above its weight.

These conflicts came at a great cost to humanity, the nation, its communities and individuals, and Remembrance Day is an opportunity to reflect on hopes for world peace.

To this end, an Om for Peace will be held following the main service.

# Tesla rolls into town

Featuring demonstrations by Tesla, local community-owned energy groups, and expert opinions from speakers such as Giles Parkinson, founder and editor of [reneweconomy.com.au](http://reneweconomy.com.au) – Australia's leading website on clean technology and climate issues.

The Macadamia Castle and Light Touch Solar & Electrical are collaborating to deliver the event. Showcasing the latest in solar and battery technology, it is the region's most comprehensive and interactive renewable energy exhibit.

The Macadamia Castle is ideally placed to host this event, given its epic 180 panel, 45kW solar energy canopy and Tesla Supercharging station on-site.

Alice Moffett, Co-Founder and Manager of Light Touch Solar and Electrical, said, "We are hosting this event to celebrate renewable energy in the Northern Rivers and demonstrate the solutions available to us right now. It takes a village to replace fossil fuels with renewables, so come along."

Exhibitors include:

Tesla, displaying their Tiny House - a solar powered house towed into town by the all electric Tesla Model X.

The Tiny House contains a mobile design studio and configurator, which can calculate how your home can generate clean energy from the sun using solar panels, storing it in a Powerwall for use throughout the day and night. Tesla has packed a number of its smart energy products into the one tiny mobile package.

Tesla Owners Club of Australia and many local energy identities will be displaying their electric vehicles and offering joy rides.

Light Touch Solar & Electrical, will display the latest lithium energy storage solutions and provide free consultation on electricity bills for home and businesses.

Enova Energy, Australia's first community-owned energy retailer is reducing costs through sharing renewable energy that is locally

A Renewable Energy Showcase is taking place in the Northern Rivers in October that will demonstrate the breadth of innovation in renewable energy technologies.



A Tesla electric car towing a Tiny House

generated, stored and distributed and helping everyone in our community play a part in creating a 100% renewable energy future.

COREM, Community-Owned Renewable Energy Mullumbimby seeks innovative solutions that make supporting community-owned renewable energy easier, cheaper and more socially-energising, smashing the obstacles that stand in the way, across many aspects of the renewable energy system.

ZEB, The aim of Zero Emissions Byron is to achieve zero emissions in the Byron Shire by 2025, so becoming a leading example for national application.

RePower Byron Shire, a street-by-street initiative helping people support renewable energy while lowering their emissions. RePower has three steps: switch to an ethical energy provider, reduce power use and save money, produce your own renewable energy.

It's a joint initiative between COREM, Enova Community and Zero Emissions Byron. There's a raffle with great prizes to support RePower's work in switching on people power for our clean energy future.

Sunshine Cycles, ride around on solar-powered electric bicycles – zero emissions transport at its best.

The Office of Environment & Heritage with their Energy Efficiency Trailer, and many more...

Speakers include:

11.30am – Switching Byron Shire to Renewables by Vicki Brooke, Sandi Middleton & Dave Rawlins from RePower Byron Shire. Discover the simple steps of this initiative which is helping the Shire to switch to renewables one street at a time.

12pm – Electric Vehicles, Renew Economy by Giles Parkinson from The Driven.

Respected renewable energy journalist from ReNew Economy and One Step Off the Grid will be speaking about electric vehicles in Australia and his latest project The Driven.

12.30pm – Solar: What to Know Before You Buy by Tony Gilding from The Macadamia Castle.

Tony will share his lessons learned from installing solar. A great talk for those considering solar for home or business.

1pm – History of Tesla by Energy Expert from Tesla Australia. Find out how Tesla came to be, and why Tesla's Powerwall 2 has become Australia's most popular battery.

Registrations for this free event are now open. To register, visit: <https://renewableenergyshowcase.eventbrite.com.au>

The Renewable Energy Showcase will be held between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 13th October at The Macadamia Castle, 419 Hinterland Way, Knockrow.

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# Giving fossil fuels the flick

Tristan Parade, Mullumbimby, has become the first street in Byron Shire to celebrate their commitment to create a clean energy future.

Already 75% of the 17 households in the street are now using 'ethical electricity'.

This is the first street declaration as part of the Repower campaign. A campaign based on the the highly successful Lock the Gate model, which aims to show residents how to 'flick fossil fuels'.

"We know people want to take affirmative climate action," said Dave Rawlins, COREM Vice president and Repower Byron Shire co-founder, in announcing this first declaration.

"NSW residents have among the highest carbon footprints in the entire world. Zero Emissions Byron has estimated that 40 percent of household carbon pollution comes from using



Mullumbimby residents turn their backs on fossil fuels as part of the Repower Byron Shire campaign

fossil-fuelled electricity.

Committing to switch to an ethical electricity provider is the quickest and easiest way a household can support renewable energy, and it's something most of us can do," he explained.

The Repower campaign has three steps to encourage

people to switch to purchasing ethical electricity, reduce power consumption and produce their own solar power.

In Tristan Parade, and other streets, people are signing up to use 'ethical electricity'. That's defined as renewable energy sourced

from retailers which do not support fossil fuels; specifically, not investing in coal, coal seam gas, nuclear or native forest biomass.

Repower has devised an easy-to-understand chart that explains the pros and cons of power suppliers operating in the area, allowing individuals to choose for themselves.

Most Tristan Parade residents have switched to locally-owned Enova Energy, finding it to be cost competitive, also being committed to reinvesting 50% of its profits to creating a local renewable energy future.

The Repower campaign is a pivotal piece in COREM's strategy to run Mullumbimby on renewable energy by 2020.

If you think you or your street would be keen to make a commitment to reducing its use of fossil fuels, get in touch with Repower via: [www.repowerbyron.org](http://www.repowerbyron.org)

## Building for Rent

The Fig Tree building at the Nimbin Community Centre is available to rent. Internal area is 104.62m<sup>2</sup> composed of large central room with kitchen, two offices and bathroom.



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# Celebrating 20 years of community

by Diana Roberts  
Original committee member

In 1998 Nimbin Community Centre was born and officially opened on the 4th July. What a village transformation.

Until that time there were very few spaces from which to provide community services and suddenly the service sector bloomed, much of it driven by volunteer effort and later through provision of government-funded services.

Over the past 20 years the Centre has been home to a multitude of different programs, community ventures and services. The Centre has provided a creative space for many local people, from gardeners to artists, from sculptors to fabric printers, musicians and choristers to dancers and writers, mural artists to weavers and many more.

The Centre has become established as a facility in the heart of our village dedicated to people gathering, sharing, expressing, supporting and generally building a more resilient community.

At the community level the Centre has housed artist collectives, youth programs and local media such as the *Nimbin News* and the *Nimbin Times* – now familiar as the *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

The *GoodTimes* actually evolved when the community was working to raise \$140,000 of the \$350,000 required to buy the soon to be abandoned Nimbin Central School from the Dept. of School Education. In the good old days, the days before social media and email, the local paper was such a valuable mechanism for getting the message out and encouraging people to participate in fundraising. It was so valuable a vehicle that local developers, opposed to the

acquisition, helped foster a rival local paper, *The Aquarian Age* – great name for a paper, but it didn't survive.

The Community Centre birthed community radio Nim-FM, still going strong and later embracing the Aboriginal broadcasters. The establishment of out of the home Family Day Care (now the Early Learning Centre) was significant, agreed to by government because local homes were considered sub-standard!

The Community Centre morphed many versions of a community café before finally abandoning the idea. However, through this process local Indigenous people finally found a home in the Centre and the Aboriginal Cultural Centre was born.

Other enterprises still going strong after twenty years include the Aquarius Foundation, who work hard to hold us all true to the Aquarian vision and dreams, and the ComSkool who sold a building in the main street so they could contribute financially to purchasing the site.

Apart from their adult education initiatives they have supported the *GoodTimes*, provided a free meeting space for the community and have forever kept a watchful eye on comings and goings throughout the Centre.

Perhaps the most significant long-term tenant is Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, an original tenant that contributes enormously to the social and community fabric of Nimbin.

Jungle Patrol has had an office in the Centre since its inception and devolved into a viable local business enterprise providing the daily street cleaning we all value. The dress-making studio morphed into the Gunga Fairies


wardrobe. Sadly, we lost our dedicated youth space although fortunately, around the same time, we gained the skate park. Nimbin Family Centre is a long time tenant and provides support to young families. The Community Centre is also home to the Nimbin markets and auspices Nimbin Flix.

Very early on we gave away parcels of land to Council, one to construct the public toilets and the other to build the fire brigade shed. Much later we gave the two acres of land that comprise Peace Park to the Council when we realised we couldn't afford to insure the skate park that had become a driving priority for the youth in our community. However, before we gave it away we constructed the much-needed young children's playground with the help of government funding.

While we gave away land we also expanded the community's assets. The Community Centre acquired ownership of Birth & Beyond after a protracted legal battle and 54 Cullen Street will now be held in perpetuity for the community. We worked with Nimbin Headers to ensure the tennis club was not lost. We have spent 10 years working alongside the Rainbow Road walking trail project, which we hope to bring to fruition one day. And we are co-owners of 7 Sibley Street.

Much of what we dreamed as a vision of Nimbin has become reality and we have the strength and support of the incredible community of Nimbin to thank for it.

*Nimbin Community Centre is open 8.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday, (02) 6689-0000, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.*  
[ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)  
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Nimbin, NSW

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Applications close: 5 pm 10 October 2018

## Change of direction for Nightcap Monuments Project

by Trevor Reece

The Nightcap Monuments Project had the ambitious goal of establishing a long-lasting creative monument at Nightcap National Park in 2019 for the 40th anniversary of the historic Terania rainforest logging protests and environmental protection actions.

National Parks had given approval to the project and allocated a monument's site location next to the Protectors Falls walking track.

The project however needed a solid working group with time to be able to take the project concept forward through the complex monuments creation and

fundraising processes.

Early September was the deadline period for the project working group with the required skills to be formed.

The larger working task group with the necessary numbers, skills and project time could just not be formed by the deadline period.

The monuments project will now take a new direction and with the approval of National Parks sought for a new realignment of the project.

The project will now seek to erect a special modern commemorative interpretative trail consisting of several signs at the original monuments site location at

the commencement of the Protectors Falls walking trail. At present there is no park interpretative signage in this area.

The interpretative sign is planned to be with modern aluminium metal formats and distinctive in presentation and inviting for people visiting the park to stop and view.

Ian Peter, an original protestor, and in consultation with other protest veterans, and I will assist and co-ordinate the signage design and presentation with National Parks.

At some future time when the monuments project may be able to become a reality, the monument could be located next to or near the

new trail commemorative signage within the park.

The signage project should be a much less of a funding challenge for the community.

Volunteers to help with the project and to help with project fundraising are always welcome.

Some signage concept designs have been submitted to National Parks and have been received positively.

The Terania Nightcap Commemorative Project continues and moves forward, but now just in a slightly new direction.

For further information, contact Trevor Reece, Project Co-ordinator at: [treece545@gmail.com](mailto:treece545@gmail.com) or phone 0428-222-525.

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# Don't waste Nimbin

by Saskia Kouwenberg

We do a lot of things very well in Nimbin and some things we can hugely improve on. One of them is drastically reducing the amount of waste during bigger events.

A few things were attempted at the Roots Festival, but now we want to aim higher (while others get high!) and make the next Nimbin MardiGrass an outstanding example of how it can be done.

From biodegradable dog-shit bags to getting food leftovers to the pigs and 100 other ideas. Hopefully we can inspire our visitors to take some ideas home with them.

We are looking for creative people to come and brainstorm these 100 ideas. We are especially keen to get young people involved with innovative ideas.

If interested leave your name and contact before 20th October at Nimbin Environment Centre (Saskia), Sibley Sustainable Hub (Stephanie), or the Hemp Embassy (Caroline).



Educational waste team during the Roots Festival with locals Stephanie and Saskia



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## NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, President

As usual we have much to occupy our interests in preserving the magnificent ecosystem around here, including water mining in the Tweed, which will affect a wide area of the Northern Rivers.

Of particular note is the fact that Tweed Council reversed its intention to ban water mining in the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and approved the DA for a resident's bore water to be extracted from a Uki property and sold for commercial bottling in Queensland.

This requires increased tanker traffic along Rowlands Creek Road, where residents worry about danger to other road users and ongoing damage to the road and bridges by heavy haulage on this Class C route.

Both votes were decided 4-3 because the ALP Councillor Reece Byrnes does not see the conflict of interest in providing an ex-Labor NSW Minister, Jack Hallam, who is the applicant, with a permit to sell this bore water from a parcel of land with no assessment of the effect on other water users in the neighborhood, in the Tweed or indeed in the region.

The NSW Office of Water has said this is legal, but they have no knowledge of how bore water extraction might affect underground flows. There is ample evidence that de-pressurising aquifers causes springs to dry up, and creeks to stop flowing during dry periods, and the water level to drop, making bores on other properties useless.

So little is known about underground water movement that we could see water removed from one side of mountains (like the Nightcap Range) causing springs to dry up on the other side (eg Nimbin valleys). Should that occur, no-one will be able to say if this was because of extraction from any particular property, and there are likely to be a plethora of similar applications for quick and easy money to be gained by individuals at the expense of the environment and all those who reside or cherish this unique biosphere.

Water is a resource owned by all, and should not be siphoned off by a greedy few. The rest of us will have to pay for on-going road repairs and many



The Nobbys Creek operation is allowed one 5-tonne truck a week. Here's a B-double on Bryens Road near Nobbys Creek weighing in at around 50-55 tonnes on 26th June, and they run daily. Photo: Jeremy Tager

other damaging effects. No costs were required to be paid up-front by the applicant, and he has the right to keep his own log books for water sold off the property. Jack Hallam already has a requirement to meter and log water extracted from his bore (originally allowed for agricultural purposes), but appears to have failed to comply for 14 years!

Self-regulation simply doesn't work when there is no enforcement. Other water extractors in the Tweed have shown a similar disregard for their consent conditions. Contact Tweed Council to object and end this practice until adequate knowledge exists of the consequences.

A bit further north, Adani Corporation has been caught illegally pumping groundwater out of the area where they want to build a mega coal mine which would take coal to Abbot Point and then ship coal through the Great Barrier Reef (more dredging and destruction!) and thence to places where it can be burned, drawing Australia further into the web of fossil fuel induced climate change.

NEC is supporting the Stop Adani and Stop Coal Newcastle movements which may prevent further destruction if Australia wakes up to its obligations to provide a sustainable planet for future generations. The federal Environment Minister could apply the "water trigger" to invoke environmental protections, but has so far not shown any inclination to do that.

We are happy to report that Tweed Council has pressed charges against Limpinwood property owner John

Fish for unauthorised road works and damage to environmental zones by logging. A directions hearing is scheduled for 19th October at the Land and Environment Court. NEC will contribute to the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) StandUp4Forests campaign stall at Nimbin markets.

A positive move was made in August by community reps, including several from NEC, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Githabul Tribe to support their efforts to manage forests on their traditional lands. If funded, this effort will involve monitoring by the Githabul Rangers, and restorative work on lands degraded by traditional forestry (including Bellbird Associated Dieback = BAD).

Nimbin continues to draw visitors from around the world and our Cullen Street shop is usually busy. Our staff are all volunteers. They are happy to discuss issues with all and sundry. We are lucky to have them. We will continue to encourage sensible development, and monitor development proposals coming from Councils and other agencies.

We and many others would like to see more community consultation and discussion with Council and real estate agents to discourage further land speculation and encourage the establishment of truly affordable housing and small ecologically aware communities here.

Development caveats on domestic dogs and cats would be very welcome also. As Nimbin looks set to grow, let us be proactive in defending our environment.



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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**

Thanks to everyone who has dropped by to help with the painting or tip runs or other jobs over the past month.

We are up to the exterior top coats of paint and soon will start on the inside. Helpers needed on an ongoing basis. Daily progress depends on the weather and availability of supervisors.

If you can help out either call us on 6689-1692 or drop into NNIC anytime and see where we are at and if we can use your help on any particular day.

**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.

**Best Show-themed Shop Display 2018**

Congratulations to this year's winner: Hemping Around – a very cute window display and deserving First Prize. Second prize goes to Nimbin Lifestyle Real Estate and third prize to Nimbin Visitor Centre. We hope to see lots of entries again in 2019.

**MO think tank**

The second Thinking Session will happen on Thursday 15th November at 5.30pm. Venue to be advised. A closed facebook group has been established and members of rural landsharing communities can apply to join and become part of the ongoing conversation. Just search for MO Think Tank and apply to join and remember to let us know which RLC you are from.

**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 female. Must be funny. Apply to: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

**Wanted – films by young people**

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (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 having a good party time. See the NYFF website for entry details: [www.nimbinyouthfilmfestival.com](http://www.nimbinyouthfilmfestival.com)

**Volunteer positions vacant at NNIC**

- Front of House – with minimum Cert 2 in welfare/community development (or currently enrolled in) for our front desk reception role. Drop into NNIC and see our fabulous Community Access Worker – Kath, for more info.
- Tools Librarian – involves two days per week. Must have knowledge of tools, admin skills and some people skills. Contact Nat: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)
- Management Committee – we are looking for people to join the NNIC Committee, the backbone of the organisation, to ensure NNIC remains vibrant and diverse and well governed. If you have an interest in governance and supporting our key community service provider, send an EOI to The Management, NNIC, via PO Box 20168 Nimbin or via: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) Meetings are generally held on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm on a monthly basis.

**Sustainability Alley Nimbin Show 2019**

We hope to be back for the 2019 Show, but we will need a new enthusiastic team to make it happen.

If you are interested in helping to bring Sustainability Alley back to the Nimbin Show, contact Guy: [guy@nnic.org.au](mailto:guy@nnic.org.au)

**Save the date!**

Sunday 4th November: Official Launch of Sibley Street Sustainability House and the new Community Tools Library. We can't wait to take the fences down and let you all in!

*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](http://www.nnic.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre)*

**Elders space in Nimbin**

Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS) continues to bustle, with older people socialising and connecting in groups over a cuppa or while using one of our five computers.

In addition, people receive one-to-one support at home or in the community from our team of skilled, experienced and qualified workers. However, there have been changes happening in the background at NACRS.

Over many years Rose Cubis has developed NACRS as a welcoming and

inclusive support service.

Rose has recently chosen to resign from the Co-ordinator position and is continuing in the Senior Support Worker role, helping elders throughout our local region remain living independently in their own homes.

Jenny Martin, after a number of years in the Assistant Co-ordinator role, has been selected for the role of NACRS General Manager and hopes to build on Rose's work to ensure the future of this essential community service.



NACRS is based at Bottlebrush Studio (the rainbow building in the Nimbin Community Centre). We look forward to continuing to ensure our vibrant service is available for this wonderful community.

**Nimbin Hospital information**

**Child immunisation clinic**  
For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 9th October. 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.

**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.

**Nurse practitioner clinics**  
• Diabetes Clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 18th October.  
• Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 9th October. 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 a 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 first Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 7th November. New members welcome.





The bare pastures of Billen Cliffs early days circa 1984

# Billen at 35 – a success story

by Andy Gough

In 1982 a group of enterprising individuals with a vision for the future of sustainable community living came together to purchase an 800-acre denuded cattle and horse farm at Larnook.

They pioneered horizontal strata title with the support of Lismore City Council as an avenue for creating a rural village with its own by-laws, mostly designed to protect and restore the environment, which include excluding dogs and cats.

From the bare paddocks of 1982, the village of Billen Cliffs now sprouts many beautiful and diverse dwellings, the majority being powered by stand-alone solar systems and with gardens and lush vegetation, providing a refuge for an abundance of wildlife as well as home to scores of human families.

Billen Cliffs has been home to some well-known locals such as Lismore City Councillor Vanessa Ekens, writer and comedian S Sorrensen, and NGT columnist Anastasia Guise.

The village of Billen Cliffs consists of 115 individual units of two acres each, 500 acres of shared regenerating bushland, a community hall, arts and crafts building, social

“I remember the pre-children days of living at Billen – rain on the carport roof, bucket showers, frogs dropping from the rafters, wallabies on the dawn lawn, north end meetings that turned into parties, night sky full of stars, summer sounds of brush cutters, drinks on every verandah – good times.” – Cr Vanessa Ekens



Billenaires Donny and S prepare to celebrate at S's "shack under the cliffs".

“While the world suffers through times of environmental degradation, the Billen Cliffs community has turned a degraded, denuded cattle and horse farm with one family into an increasingly biodiverse rural village with many families. It is certainly a success story and I raise my glass of organic red to it.” – S Sorrensen

“Billen Cliffs offered us the opportunity to buy land, build our own home and live much more sustainably than we were in Melbourne city. We joined a throng of city refugees. My experiences here in the early days of development, building roads, building homes, building friendships, building community... has rewarded me many times over.” – Donny Tilbury

space with commercial kitchen and wood fired pizza oven, 12km of internal roads, a quarry and a cemetery, as well as its own fire shed and fire truck.

Regular events include yoga twice weekly at the hall, a Saturday breakfast coffee club and regular

musical gigs at the hall, which is powered by a grid-feed solar system.

35 years on, Billen continues to attract new residents with many young families moving in and recognising the efforts that the pioneers of those early days put in to make Billen the community that it is today.



The Billen Cliffs community centre is a welcoming venue for events and celebrations

The Cliffhangers will perform

Billen Cliffs' 35th anniversary celebrations kick off on Friday, 19th October at the Social Space, where you can enjoy fine art, wine, cheese and pizza as well as flamenco dancers. The weekend will feature dozens of home-grown visual and performing artists, with Shelli Nagas and the Cliffhangers headlining on Saturday night, 20th October.

Billenaires will create a funky pop-up café and a vegetarian feast of spiritual proportions will be provided by the Hare Krishnas. There will also be a sausage sizzle

for the kiddies. All are welcome to join in this milestone community celebration.

“We hope we have put together a celebration that connects our past with the here and now, and with the lessons we have learned from past and present, venture forward... towards more learning,” Donny Tilbury said.

Billen Cliffs is located at the end of Martin Road in Larnook, off the Rock Valley/Cawongla road. Find out more about Billen Cliffs at: [www.billencliffs.org.au](http://www.billencliffs.org.au)

## Welcome to our regional social worker

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

Multi-Purpose Services (MPS), funded by the State and Federal Governments, are facilities established in rural areas where populations are not large enough to support a separate hospital, residential aged care and community health service. The MPS sites share many Allied Health and Community Health staff.

Robert Adams (pictured) is the Social Worker with Community Health who joined the Northern NSW MPS network in 2017.

He was born and bred in Bowen, Queensland and has dedicated his career over the last 30 years to working and living in rural areas. Robert believes it is important as a social worker to have a connection with the local community.

He spent more than a decade in acute Mental Health Services, and is an advocate for people's rights to be part of their community and to be treated the same as everyone else. The goal of front-line Mental Health Services in Queensland is to help patients be assessed, treated and cared for and enabled to return to their community.

Majoring in mental health in Social Work studies at



University, he has since earned a Post Graduate Qualification and Psychology degree. Robert started his career at the Keith Payne Unit at Greenslopes Hospital in Queensland working with Vietnam Veterans.

This unit is specifically designed to assist both serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force who have a military related diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In an interestingly varied life he worked a number of years at Kalgoorlie Hospital, the largest rural hospital (150 beds) in WA. He was manager for over 50 allied health staff and travelled to the facilities under the auspices of the hospital every month in a light aircraft – across 750,000 square kilometres in WA and bordering on Northern

Territory and South Australia.

Now he travels each week by car to our four MPS sites where he consults with patients. The role of the social worker is about supporting the patient journey and Robert is a trained counsellor in loss and grief. His work at the facilities involves:

- Assisting patients with their adjustment to disability after a major operation;
- Helping a person work through depression, anxiety or stress associated with a medical condition; or
- Listening to and assisting an older person who is experiencing the change moving from their home to the Aged Care facility.

Robert sees mostly inpatients, but does have a small community caseload. If you need to talk to someone about stress or are suffering anxiety or depression, call your local MPS and make an appointment to see Robert Adams. You can also call the 24-hour Mental Health Line on 1800-011-511.

On the personal front, Robert has an avid interest in restoring vintage vehicles – his last project was a 1942 Willy's jeep. He takes a great interest in sports, was an A Grade squash player, and walks at least five kms a day. Welcome Robert to our community.

# SECRET HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

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