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Snags raise funds for MPS equipment



Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary would like to thank the Nimbin community for their support at our sausage sizzle on election day at Nimbin Central School. The folks in red enjoyed a successful day raising funds to purchase equipment and items of comfort and care for our local Multi Purpose Service (MPS). To date this financial year, we have gifted over \$16,000 worth of items to the MPS. These included five Hover Roller mats and unit (to more safely turn patients in bed), five bar fridges for the acute medical rooms, two oxygen concentrators and an infrared vein finder. We have also been able to provide some craft items and small Christmas gifts for our dear aged care residents. None of this would have been possible without your ongoing support. A big thank you to everyone."

Focus on community gardening

by Therese Biscoe and Helen Lynne,
 Co-ordinators

Our lovely dedicated gardener Robyn, and our volunteers Paul and James have been doing a great job keeping the gardens at the Community Centre going in this hot and dry weather.

Unfortunately, some native food plants were lost from the front of the Aboriginal Cultural Centre during the dry spell, including an established fingerlime. We will replace them when we can.

We are working on a Community Centre gardening book so we can have all the plants in the garden identified and special requirements for the natives noted so we can all look after the plants better.

Gudren Beuler, who established the original food gardens at the Cultural Centre, has offered to provide some of the information based on the research she has done, including the original names given by the Bunjalung and her native food garden design, so this will be a great start to the gardening book.



In the long term, the plan is to map and name all the native species and provide the information to visitors so that they can do a garden tour of the centre.

Now that the weather has eased slightly, lots of new native seedlings have been added to the garden beds. Many thanks to the Gondwana Nursery who supplied the seedlings.

As well as the ones purchased, they also

have generously donated a large number of extra seedlings, knowing that they will be part of the community landscape.

I love the way that local small businesses give back to the community in so many ways. It is the generosity of the small businesses and the tireless work of the many volunteer organisations in our community that help to make Nimbin such a wonderful village to live in.

Commemorating 140 years of military nursing: 1879-2019

by Paul LeBars

ANZAC Day Thursday 25th April

A call to commemoration to the Nimbin and surrounding community, all are welcome to attend.

- The Dawn Service will be held at the Nimbin District Memorial from 5.30am.
- ANZAC Day March: please muster at the Nimbin Hospital before 10.30am to start the March at 10.40am to the Nimbin District Memorial for the Commemorative Service to begin at 10.45am and finish just after 11am.

140 years of Military Nursing

The history of RAANC can be traced back to the formation of the Australian Army Nursing Service on 13th August 1898.

At the time it was made up of one Lady Superintendent



Tasmanian nurses, 1917

and 24 nurses. The service saw its first action in the Boer war, when the New South Wales and Victorian governments arranged for a detachment of nurses to deploy with their troops to Africa. Groups and individual nurses from Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland also served in the Anglo-Boer War.

Due to the performance of the nurses in that conflict, an order was given in 1902 for the formation of the Australian Army Nursing

Service under the control of the Federal Government on 1 July 1903, which is celebrated as RAANC Corps Day.

Over 2000 Australian nurses served abroad in every major theatre of conflict in the 1914-18 War. At Gallipoli, nurses served in hospital ships off the coast and in primitive hospitals on Lemnos. By 1916 in France, the AANS reserve provided enough nurses to staff no 1 Australian general hospital at Rouen and no 2 Australian general hospital at Wimeraux.

They remained in France until the end of hostilities, and continued to minister to the men in hospitals and on troop ships back to Australia.

Australian Military nurses have been going to war for well over 100 years, but their important contribution to Australia's overseas military operations has often gone unreported.

The involvement of the first-known Australian nurses was in the Zulu War of 1879, and continues right up to the experiences of the male and female nurses serving in recent conflicts and peace-keeping operations.

Army, Air Force and Navy nurses who have served overseas continue to endure difficulties and challenges, undeterred in their determination to care for the sick and wounded in perilous conditions, come what may.

Lest we forget.

Join 'Saint Bob' on the Stop Adani Convoy

The Stop Adani Convoy, led by Bob Brown (pictured), is charging up the national uprising against the proposed Adani mine in central Queensland, and the Northern Rivers community can get involved with a massive Rally to be held when the convoy passes through Mullumbimby on Sunday afternoon 21st April (Easter Sunday).

"This is the environmental issue of our times and the Great Barrier Reef is at stake. But people standing up for what they believe in has unbeatable power" says long-time environmental activist Bob Brown.

"Now is not the time to give in to despair. Now is the time to take action."

"It is a community commitment – an act of defiance for the future of our planet. A peaceful protest against Adani's proposed mine" he adds.

The convoy, led by electric cars, will involve a massive contingent of vehicles with flags, posters and joyous non-violent protest cries, travelling up the east coast of Australia from Hobart to proposed mine site near Galilee Basin in Central Queensland before heading back to Parliament House in Canberra.

Already 500 people have signed up to drive some or all of the route. It is expected many hundreds more will join the convoy as momentum builds.

The convoy will stop at Mullumbimby Showground on Sunday 21st April (Easter Sunday), 2-3pm for a massive local Rally, and all local activists, organisations, councils, schools and all of our community are invited to join in. "The Rally is a chance to add the



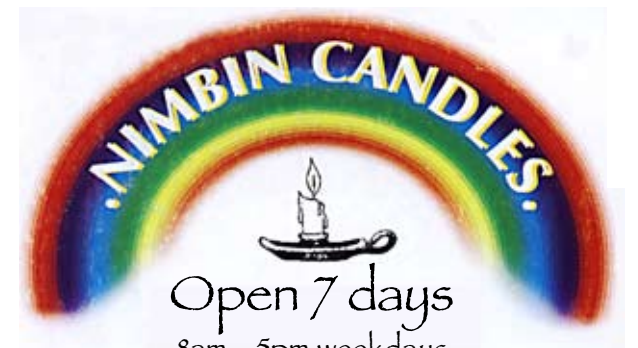
voices and deep rooted activism of the Northern Rivers to this important national political campaign, and is a pivotal moment in the lead up to the federal election slated for May," said Ella Rose Goninan, Mullumbimby Rally organiser (also president of local community renewable energy group COREM and director of Renew Fest).

"With so many dedicated environmental activists and passionate community members residing in the Northern Rivers we are expecting the rally to be huge! We are preparing for thousands to show up.

"Let's bring on the full breadth of campaigning know-how and success in this region, to support and power up the Stop Adani Convoy, its message and mission," said Ms Goninan.

Hundreds of people from the Northern Rivers will be joining the convoy in Mullumbimby as it next makes its way up to Brisbane. People are encouraged to join the convoy in their own vehicles for as much as they can, from 5kms to 5000kms.

For more info about joining the convoy and the itinerary go to: www.bobbrown.org.au/stopadaniconvoy



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Nimbin votes Green



Nimbin polling booth results – NSW election 2019

The Greens Sue Higginson comfortably won the Nimbin booth with 621 first preference votes. The ALP's Janelle Saffin came in second with 130. The Nationals Austin Curtin received 52 votes, just ahead of the Animal Justice Party on 51. Independent Greg Bennett received 26 votes.

Housing forum

As part of the Nimbin Affordable Housing Initiative, the Nimbin Health & Welfare Association is hosting an afternoon workshop on 'Building and Renting Out Secondary Dwellings'.

Practical information will be presented from a range of guest speakers including Lismore Council staff, to help you decide if this option is for you, and then take steps to make it a reality.

The workshop will be held on Thursday 11th

April, 1.30 – 4.30pm at the Birth & Beyond meeting room, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin. Entry is \$10.

RSVP to Jen Ireland on 0457-804-997 or email: cycad5@iprimus.com.au as seating capacity is limited.

Registration forms are available from Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin (Bottlebrush Studio – the rainbow building at the Community Centre).

The spirit of Aquarius continues to shine

by Binnah Pownall, president Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc., founded in 1993 out of the festival in Nimbin in 1973, endeavours to keep the dream of a better world alive and wishes to remind those of us living through these amazing and trying times of change that; as every day passes we are more in the age of community and universal citizenry. The stars told us 'we can do this', and as our ego drops away we realise we are all one, dreaming the dream of a new world (as was seeded at the Aquarius Festival) and we consciously continue to work together towards creating it in our everyday lives and loves.

The Foundation committee is working to these ends by activating a number of initiatives at present. We have a large archive of innovative initiatives and events looking for a home of safe storage.

A small amount of funding has been

obtained and an association with Dance Rites (www.sydneypoperahouse.com/dance-rites) established, to help facilitate a Nimbin traditional Aboriginal dance troupe. Teachers and a didge player are being arranged by the committee and members of the community at present. Lessons are hoped to start in the near future – contact Linda Phillips.

The 16th-18th August is the 50th Anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival. This coincides with the Terania Forest Action 50th Anniversary. We celebrate the Nimbin – Woodstock Connection.

The NAFI was visited by Lydia Kindred representing the Sustainable Research Institute (SRI). Benny Zable has been working with Franklin Scarfe from EarthRepair Oz on Benny attending the Global Earth Repair Conference on the 2-4 May in Washington US. Even though Benny travelled for years between Oz and the US doing activism, it is only since and despite him marrying American

Marsha Ramdask Silvestri, that he is now denied a visa. So as a result, they are separated by an ocean of red tape.

The NAFI committee requests that anyone reading this who attended the Nimbin Aquarius Festival in 1973 and haven't had their experiences video or audio documented, please contact us (through our Facebook page – new webpage still coming).

The same concerns and even more, trouble the hearts of many young today as they did back in 1973. We are actually more organised now than ever. Focused unification will bring the dream to reality. An invitation is extended here to invite others who wish to keep the dream alive to attend our meetings and familiarise yourselves with our processes. For \$5 you can join up as a member. Many hands make light work. We are but cogs in the great wheel. Keep your eye on the big picture and the Golden Age.

Next Meeting: Friday 12th April at 4pm in the Community Centre.

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Saffin victorious in tight Lismore poll

by Janelle Saffin MP

Over the past week I have received many congratulatory wishes and notes on being elected as the Member for Lismore. I thank all and want to assure everyone that I shall represent all and do so in the best interests of our people and region.

I acknowledge all candidates, their families, friends and supporters, for the huge effort they made. Like me, they 'wanted to make a difference'.

I shall work hard to represent our diverse and progressive communities that want the basics attended to but also want action to protect our environment.

This means action on the transition to renewables, and that necessitates action on climate change. It now seems that the Premier has acknowledged that message loud and clear from the people. Let us see. The Nationals deputy premier has yet to do so.

During the campaign, I made it clear that it is not a choice between the economy and the environment but both, and both need action, and not start-stop action.

I outlined that I would advocate the issues and services the locals wanted us to tackle, such as health-hospitals, schools-TAFE, regional jobs and regional products, road repair, cheaper and cleaner electricity with renewables, tourism, arts, water security, climate change, clean rivers and protection of our koalas.

This action also includes the lowering of electricity prices which have skyrocketed across households, farms and businesses, despite the Nationals and Liberals promises at State and Federal levels to bring them down.



Janelle Saffin MP celebrates with ALP candidate for Page, Patrick Deegan.
Pic: Omega Breakspear

We cannot pretend anymore that homelessness is ok, and that housing affordability will somehow sort itself out in our communities. It isn't and it won't. We have missed out badly here with the bulk of the money going into Sydney.

I made commitments during the election as did the Nationals who, with the Liberals, have formed the NSW Government. I shall contact the respective ministers and remind them of their commitments to our community and advocate the delivery of them. I shall of course advocate the commitments I made as well, as they reflect the community's priorities. The Premier and the Deputy Premier have both said that they would honour their election commitments. I shall take them at their word, and then it is my job to keep them accountable.

I pause here to congratulate the Premier for her historic win. She is the first woman to win an election as Premier of NSW. I also congratulate

Michael Daley, the then Opposition Leader, for the formidable work he did in a very short space of time, making the election competitive.

People have asked me what I shall do first. My response has been to say lots of 'thank yous', visit all areas and work on compiling the list of the NSW government's commitments given, and start advocating for them.

I will seek straight up to get a timetable for the repair of roads and bridges as it will take quite some time to roll out. Both the Nationals and Labor gave strong commitments on this.

Two other questions I have been asked are, "How difficult will it be for you being in the opposition?" I said there would be challenges but no more than retiring member Thomas George faced when he was our MP and in opposition for twelve years. "Am I grateful for getting Greens' preferences?" I said, "Of course I am grateful to the people who voted for me, with their primary votes, and second preferences, given that it is an optional preferential electoral system in NSW."

I do not have access to an office as yet, but that will happen and, in the meantime, I am available on my mobile 0418-664-001 or email: janellelawyer@gmail.com Facebook, Messenger and other modes of contact do not work so well as they can easily get overlooked. Traditional methods such as the phone, email and even letters, which I love, work best.

I am the first woman ever to represent the people of the Lismore electorate and the first Labor MP for Lismore in over fifty years. I am pleased to have both mantles but just as proud to be your State MP. It is a huge honour to represent one's own community in Parliament.

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Q&A with Pilger

In an age of "fake news", "alternative facts", cover-ups and lazy mainstream journalism, we need independent journalists like John Pilger more than ever.

As neo-fascism sweeps across many parts of the world, and faced with increasing repression from governments hell-bent on propping up corporate power, we need what Noam Chomsky – another independent stalwart – refers to as "intellectual self-defense".

We need to expose how power works, the alliances that make up the corporate establishment and the "game of mates" that serves to enrich the already wealthy.

We need brave and incisive independent journalism to make plain how the poor and marginalised of the world have been increasingly dispossessed by powerful entities. We need, as Pilger often says, "to break the silence" around how the world is arranged and who make up the winners and losers.

John Pilger has spent a lifetime exposing uncomfortable truths, like the treatment of the people of the Chagos Islands who were forcibly expelled from their homelands to make way for a US air force base; like the tens of millions of people in South America who have been exploited and dispossessed by American



power, and like Australia's First Nations people who continue to experience the ravages of colonisation.

As we witness more and more hounding of whistle-blowers, the murder and harassment of journalists, the concentration of media power, and the proliferation of hate speech across social media, its independent journalists like John Pilger who enable us to comprehend the bigger picture.

The collective contribution of independent journalists is part of a growing social movement aimed at building a better, more just, equitable and peaceful world. To do so, we need to know the forces that seek to preserve the status quo, and that's why Pilger is worth listening to, that's how we can begin to break the silence.

The Ngara Institute presents an evening with John Pilger on Wednesday 10th April 7-9pm at the Cavanbah Centre, Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay. Doors open at 6pm. Bookings at: ngarainstitute.org.au



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Independent launches campaign for Page

Farmer, businesswoman, community advocate, wife and mother of two, Fiona Leviny (pictured), is standing as an independent candidate for Page in the upcoming federal election.

Fiona says she works with grassroots farmers, constituents, politicians, councillors and business executives to better the lives of regional families throughout NSW.

Over the past seven years through voluntary advocacy, Fiona has worked on government policy and investment for the community, and was involved in fighting for the Northern Rivers Coal Seam Gas-free zone.

Fiona's family has lived in the Page electorate for over 35 years. After 15 years abroad, Fiona chose to



make the Page electorate her home once again. She runs a property of F1 Angus, Brangus breeders, and operates a guest house while continuing her community advocacy.

Fiona has held board and executive positions, both locally and internationally, in varied disciplines including arts, education, food and agribusiness.

She is passionate about her current board position for the new Country University Centre for the Clarence Valley, and her role as a judge for small business awards.

Fiona says she believes strongly in communication and listening with transparency and authenticity, striving for fairness and balance with "a 100% commitment to the task".

Celebrate at New Italy in true Italian style

by John Barnes
New Italy President

New Italy will host anniversary celebrations on Sunday 7th April for a day of music, dancing, vino, and Italian food.

The day, which marks the arrival of the Italian settlers in Sydney in 1881, will begin at 11am with Val Wills and Cynthia McKeough playing their piano accordions in the piazza. Brisbane-based Domenico Taraborelli never fails to get the crowd dancing, so bring those dancing shoes.

There will be a talk explaining the fascinating history of New Italy in the

Community Hall and guided tours of the newly renovated Museum.

Help will be on hand to answer genealogy questions about the New Italy settlers and their descendants.

A pasta lunch will be served from midday. Children's activities will be held in the Pavilion, while salami wheels and prizes can be won in the piazza.

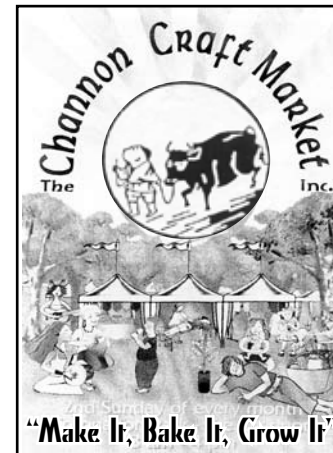
Entry is free, with food and drinks available at the Tastes of New Italy Café. The Casa Vecchia Italian gift shop will be open, with its stylish homewares, stunning ornaments and elegant jewellery.



Roving minstrels Val Will and Cynthia McKeough. Background photo of New Italy settlers in 1899. Photo: Peter Derrett



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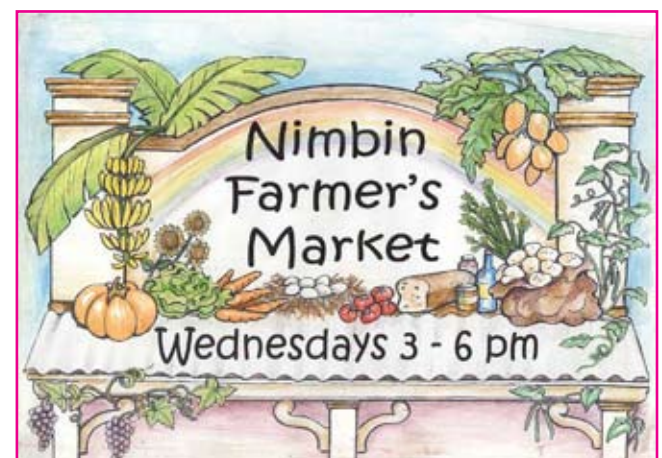
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NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

On 15th March, school strikes urging adults to take responsibility and stop climate change happened in more than 2000 cities worldwide.

An estimated 1.4 million students from around the world participated in these events, including about 100 in Murwillumbah, 800 in Lismore and more than 1000 in Byron Bay. Many adults turned out to show support.

The students showed their concern and commitment to a clean green future with speeches, songs and marches. One chant seemed ubiquitous: "Coal: Don't dig it. Leave it in the ground. It's time to get with it."

Nimbin Environment Centre wrote letters to local schools asking for authorities to be sympathetic to the students who chose to skip school for a few hours or the day to express concern for their future.

The strikes have been criticised as truancy. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison called for "more learning and less activism". One student at Byron Bay carried a placard which read "We will be less activist when you are less shit."

Australia's Education Minister Dan Tehan suggested that if school students feel strongly about a cause, then they should protest in their own time in the evenings or on weekends. Probably students protesting on a weekend would generate little attention.

The student strikers in the Northern



Photo: Omega Breakspear

Rivers were well behaved and many returned to classes after the public gatherings.

UN General Secretary, António Guterres endorsed the strike, saying "My generation has failed to respond properly to the dramatic challenge of climate change. This is deeply felt by young people. No wonder they are angry."

Guterres has invited world leaders to a UN summit in September to commit themselves more strongly to the policy framework laid out by the Paris Agreement.

The dust has mostly settled from the NSW state election, with a Coalition government returned by a tiny majority in the Legislative Assembly.

The Lismore electorate voted in ALP candidate Janelle Saffin, who is widely known and respected for her diligence

during years of service in the national parliament.

She finished just ahead of Sue Higginson, the Greens candidate, whose supporters gave a high proportion of 2nd preference votes to Janelle. The Nationals failed to hold the seat vacated by long-serving MLA Thomas George, marking a big change in the region's political make-up.

Greens incumbent Tamara Smith was re-elected in Ballina with an increased vote, while Geoff Provest held Tweed for the Nationals, despite a strong challenge by Greens candidate Bill Fenelon and Craig Elliot for the ALP.

Sadly, this result means the State Significant Farmland near Kingscliff will be turned into a hospital and high-rise precinct.

Nimbin locals turned out in big numbers to support Sue Higginson who also got the highest vote in booths at Uki, Rosebank, Cawongla, Jiggi, Clunes, Dunoon, Murwillumbah and The Channon.

The fight to save our environment continues at all levels of government and voters will have a chance to support the future for younger generations at a Federal election yet to be announced, but the election date is likely to be sometime in May.

Elections sometimes feel disappointing, but they are the easiest way for the public to influence decision-making. People who vote are the ones who create change.

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IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Nimbin Women's Dinner

The Town Hall was packed on 7th March for another night full of hilarity and celebration.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this event happen: Kath, Heidi, Gail, Sal, Karen, Lisa, Margi, Rosella, Francis, Elsie, Moksha, Amanda and Jane for helping with all the organising and hall set up, tix sales, the door, the bar, the dishes, the coffee and cakes and the raffle sales.

Thanks also to Aunty Linda for the Welcome to Country; Pauline for the banners; Rock for the flowers; head chef Betty plus Saskia and Sal for the food; cake makers Betty, Kath, Dave Fawcner and Bev.

Raffle prizes: Granny Breath Weaver, Green Bank/Kylie Cain and Soap Gift pack from Mandi. Heavy lifting: Jonesy, Do-Ron Ron, Michael and Kath.

Plus: Disco Sista for the sound and lights and all the great performers who entertained us: Maire Barron, Katie Cooper Wares, Mandy Nolan, Vanessa Larry Mitchell, Possum and Tango and Sarah Gaul. And lastly but not leastly, all the women who joined us for a great night... see you all in 2020!

Hellos and goodbyes

This month we say farewell to Guy Stewart who is leaving his current role as Community Development Worker to take on a new awesome job.

Thanks so much to Guy for his considerable contributions to NNIC and the Nimbin community over the past 8+ years.

Steph Seckold will be taking over most aspects of



The 16th annual
Nimbin Women's Dinner
Photo: Marie T Cameron

his role as from mid-April, and Guy will still volunteer for us now and then.

This month we also welcome Jess McCardle to the NNIC team. She will be filling our Community Case Co-ordinator role until we undertake a formal recruitment process, and will be assisting community members with support services in the meantime. Many thanks to Jess for coming on board at short notice.

NSW mobile service centre

This bus will be at the front of NNIC from 1pm to 3pm on Wednesday 10th April.

The mobile service centre provides a range of services including renewing a driver licence or vehicle registration, applying for births, deaths and marriages certificates PLUS you can take part in a cost of living appointment for help accessing more than 40 government rebates and savings.

For more info, see: www.service.nsw.gov.au/msc

7 Sibley Street

7 Sibley Street is generally open Mondays-Wednesdays, so feel free to drop on in and say hello to Steph.

Workshops are continuing – check out the website for the latest details.

Retiring from the Sibley Street volunteer team is Pete, who has been mowing the grass for about four years. Thanks Pete for keeping the grounds so tidy for so long for us.

We are still collecting donations towards the electricity. You can donate to the following account. BSB: 728-728, Summerland Credit Union A/C: 22304372 NNIC – Sibley Street Fundraising account

Three letter code for the target account: NIM.

Remember to give your name (unless you want to be anonymous), so we can acknowledge your donation.

Landsharing Think Tank

An outcome of the ongoing conversations happening via the Nimbin MO Think Tank has been the identification of the need for a Peak Body to represent the rural land sharing communities' issues at Local/State and Federal policy levels.

We are looking for current residents of RLCs who may be interested in convening a group/representing their Local Government Area, for the following LGAs: Tweed, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Clarence and Ballina.

If you are interested, please contact Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au Please let us know

which RLC you live on, and the relevant LGA.

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team

New members are always welcome. Contact NNIC on 6689-1692 to find out the next CDAT meeting date, or to find out how you can join in during the upcoming MardiGrass.

Art in the park

Anyone is welcome to come along and join in every Friday from 11am. Lots of art materials and equipment to cater for a variety of dis/abilities. No specific artistic experience or ability necessary!

Call NNIC on 6689-1692 at around 10am for weather checks.

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: 9th April. 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

Third Thursday of the month, next is 18th April. Confidential service, checks, advice, 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 April.
• Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 9th April.
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: 1st May. New members are always welcome.



Chamber Chat



by Diana Roberts, president

You may have noticed this sign on the bus stop outside Nimbin hospital promoting a new venture being established by Elen Jones, proprietor of Happy High Herbs Nimbin.

Nimbin Herbs will promote herbal education, but is not just about herbs, it is about Nimbin. Among many themes, the venture will embrace ecopsychology, an area that has been a passion of Elen's for some time as she seeks to use plants to understand the psychological connection

between humans and ecology.

Elen believes better understanding will lead to more sustainable lifestyles as we become interconnected with nature and community.

Located within the Nimbin Community Centre, Nimbin Herbs is primarily an online project that will sell plants with medicinal, spiritual, sensual and nutritional properties while educating and informing people about the beneficial properties of plants beyond the medicinal. Elen said, "Nimbin Herbs is not just about using herbs for illness, it's looking at how plants and cultures overlap and how a culture more embedded in the natural world will influence the food we buy, the way we cook and how we view life itself."

So what will Nimbin Herbs look like? Plants sold on-line will embrace eastern, western and traditional plants, the familiar and

the not so familiar. Where possible all plants will be organically sourced, paying attention to the 'shadow side' of the herb industry.

The educational aspect of the project will include interviews, online courses and lectures on plants and plant medicines, exploring the connection with plants as healers and teachers, their application in ritual and ceremony, and informing us how to find and safely use the right plant/s for our benefit. Nimbin Herbs will not treat people as such but will educate the individual to make more informed choices.

Recently Elen attended the Mind Medicine Australia conference which explored the progress in psychedelic-assisted therapies, using classical psychedelics such as psilocybin and MDMA to improve clinical outcomes for people suffering addiction, depression, post-traumatic stress and end-of-life distress.



Elen Jones (third from right) with supporters of her new venture

The use of Ayahuasca is being explored in some countries for similar purposes.

Herbalists and indigenous cultures have a long established tradition of using herbs for mental health by supporting the nervous system, building resilience and assisting maintenance

of general wellbeing. Many of us already use plants and plant-based substances for pleasure.

Happy High Herbs emerged during the '90s partly in response to this. Elen believes the debate has matured beyond the hedonistic to a more practical application that supports the

development of sustainable communities like Nimbin.

Elen is hoping to launch the website any day. By the end of the year she will have established the Nimbin Herbs Learning Centre within the Community Centre where quality filming can take place.

She will be inviting guests to talk on relevant themes, coordinating workshops, hosting events and more. When ready, Elen will put out a call to the community and beyond, seeking expressions of interest in participating.

The Chamber of Commerce is excited to see a new business emerging and we wish her well for the future.

The Chamber executive meets on the first Monday of every month. Please email us at: chamber@nimbin.nsw.au or ring me on 0427-886-748 if you have any feedback or issues you would like considered.

An Australian summer like no other

by Bernardine Schwartz

Before NSW election day, I actually thought the public were finally acknowledging that climate change threatens our very existence and the planet, but after this outcome and being at the polling booths, I'm convinced we can't change anything as long as uninformed people continue to vote, believing we still need coal.

The most disturbing comment I heard, was that our children have been brainwashed.

Were these voters just uneducated, or maybe they don't believe climate change is a real threat?

This summer has been a summer like no other, with fires, floods and a drought that still won't end, yet the public voted this coalition back in power.

People are still determined to jump on planes, live in massive houses and drive cars that are far too big for their needs and continue eating meat, regardless of warnings from the IPCC and the UN. WTF do we have scientists for if we won't heed their warnings?

This summer the death toll for our wildlife has been high and caused by persistent heat waves across the country.

In Victoria an horrendous sight met locals throughout Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula where 1,000's of Ringtail possums were found dead on the beaches or died attempting to escape the heat, while others just fell out of their nests, after four days of heat wave conditions.

Those discovered on the shore were so dehydrated and overheated they had resorted to drinking the seawater and died.

Our wildlife is made from flesh and blood too but



Lismore school strike
Photo: Omega Breakspear

unlike us, they're unable to escape these extraordinary weather events.

In South East Queensland a record loss of over 45,500 flying foxes occurred in a single day, as they fell from the sky, and again, extremely high temperatures were the cause.

Then there's the sad tale of the Australian Pygmy possum, a prime example of what can happen if a species loses its food source and how easily they can become endangered just from a single event.

During breeding time these adorable marsupials totally rely on the Australian Bogong moth, the only known insect on the planet that navigates using the Earth's magnetic field, with over two billion migrating every year to the Alpine regions of NSW. However the prolonged drought has caused not just a reduction in numbers, it has wiped them out.

This became evident after ecologists searched over 50 known caves, from Canberra down to the Victorian border, where once you would find millions, but instead only three were found. Because of this, the possums that were found were starving and tragically, all their pouches held dead litters.

Global warming is spiraling

out of control and concerns are mounting in the scientific community as events keep unfolding.

For over 10,000 years our planet's methane levels have always sat just below 750 ppb (parts per billion) and have been stable for 20 years but since 2007 they have risen dramatically and scientists aren't exactly sure why. In 2014 they had reached 1,850 ppb (parts per billion) and have been climbing ever since.

Methane is far deadlier than carbon dioxide and traps 32 times more heat, making it impossible for the world to stay under 2° increase in average temperatures and when you learn that levels this high were never factored into scientist's predictions, it's terrifying and reinforces the need to act immediately!

Antarctica is a huge concern for mankind and is losing ice at an incredible pace as the Brunt ice shelf cracks and spreads towards the east.

NASA believes that it will eventually intersect with another fissure, that has been stable for the last 35 years. However, it is now moving north and will set in motion a process called calving, that has never been known to occur in this area and could destabilise the entire shelf.

Last month 1.6 million

students marched around the world demanding climate action and it took me back to the 60's, marching with my dad at Vietnam Moratoriums.

Workers across the country would put down tools for the day and march in the thousands, a time when the public found the time to support such an important cause.

Yet here we are facing our greatest threat ever, climate change, so where are all

the grown-ups? This planet provides us with absolutely everything we need and more, yet people are still dragging their feet.

We were all young once and we had hopes and dreams for the future but today children have a heavy load to carry, knowing our planet could die and no amount of words can ever convey the sadness and unfairness of it all.

How will we ever lighten the load for our children and give them a world worth

living in, if we continue to vote for politicians whose only concern is economic growth and who place no value on our environment?

For those of you out there who put this government back in power, you've allowed a government to continue to predate on our environment for another four years.

You could have at least given climate change the benefit of the doubt, when so much is at stake, at least for the sake of our children.

THE ADVENTURES OF Reckless Rita & Freddy Foolhardy Featuring: Clued-Up Claudelia

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Great party Rita...and what a brilliant view up here from the balcony!

Beautiful isn't it? How about we stand over here and do some bulbs while we watch the sun coming up?



BUT WAIT RITA & FREDDY!
ALWAYS SIT DOWN WHEN NANGING...AND STAY AWAY FROM HEIGHTS!

Consuming Nitrous Oxide reduces oxygen to the brain and can cause dizziness and fainting. To avoid serious injuries or even DEATH caused by FALLING down or FROM A HIGH PLACE, always make sure you are sitting down and away from high places. Excessive use can cause loss of blood pressure and even heart attack. Long term and/or heavy use can cause permanent brain and nerve damage, a weakened immune system and depression.