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## Extinction Rebellion Die-in at Lismore Square

Mental health services globally are reporting a spike in numbers of people expressing despair, depression and hopelessness about the future of life on Earth.

"It's normal to feel sad when we hear daily reports of animals, birds, insects and plants going extinct," said Ruth Rosenhek of Extinction Rebellion (XR), Lismore.

"And we've long known that action is an antidote to depression."

Ruth is a psychotherapist and trainer with XR, which launched last month in Lismore.

"We're offering a discussion of the feelings of grief and despair that come up as we face this sixth mass extinction spasm," she said.

Ruth said that facing those feelings in a time of climate emergency, and honouring the insights they bring, can "lead to finding the courage to stand up, put our best foot forward and take action".

XR Lismore held a Die-in at the Lismore Square food court at the end of June, "playing dead" for a few minutes while the International Declaration of Climate Emergency was read out.



Photo: Omega Breakspear

It makes three demands on governments globally:

### 1. Tell the truth

Governments must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.

### 2. Act Now

Governments must act now to halt

biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.

### 3. Citizens' Assembly

Governments must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice.

The brief Die-in, which attracted a good deal of media attention, was followed by a slow walk out of Lismore Square.

# No faith in coal

by Benny Zable

I attended a rally outside the Indian High Commission in Canberra (pictured), where Bob Brown highlighted the Indian government's support for Gautam Adani dirty business.

He said, "We are here today to draw attention to Gautam Adani's cold-hearted official theft of the Gond people's forest in central India which parallels his override of the Wangan and Jagalingou family council's efforts to protect their sacred land in central Queensland. In both cases, a terrible wrong is being done to line the pockets of a billionaire who has never talked with the people."

An influential group of united religious leaders met with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and handed him an open letter in which over 150 faith leaders declared that the climate situation is an emergency and urged a halt to all new coal and gas projects, starting with the proposed Adani mine.

Here is the text of the letter:

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on winning office.

We wish you well as you form your new Government.

We are from many faith communities and from all across Australia. Today, we are speaking with one voice.

As you set your agenda, we ask you to make addressing the problem of climate change your number one priority.

The climate situation is much more than a political or even a scientific issue. It is a profoundly moral one.

These are times unlike any known before. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns us that nothing short of strong and immediate action on all fronts will avert massive threats to the climate system on which life on Earth depends. It is no overstatement to call this an emergency.

Many faith leaders around the world have made their views on this matter known. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has called climate change a "moral crisis" and "the human thumb on the scale, pushing us toward



disaster." A group of senior Buddhist leaders, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama, wrote to world leaders in 2015 saying that "through our lack of insight, we are destroying the very life support systems that we and all other living beings depend on for survival." Pope Francis stated in his famous encyclical, "Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony and disdain."

The part played by Australia in the response to this emergency is crucial. The IPCC has now told the world that global thermal coal use must drop by at least 59 per cent in the next 11 years if we are to avoid 1.50 C warming. Australia is the world's largest coal exporter, so we clearly have a particular moral responsibility to stop developing polluting coal mines.

Simply put, opening up new coal reserves for mining is not compatible with any global response to avoid catastrophe. We call on you to show true moral leadership.

As you know, thousands of school students have been protesting in our streets about this emergency. They have three demands. We are writing to urge you to agree to them:

1. Stopping the proposed Adani coal mine
2. Committing to no new coal or gas projects in Australia
3. Moving to 100% renewable energy by

the year 2030.

We understand this will be challenging. To start with, the people who live in those communities where employment would be affected clearly need good reliable jobs. Yet a courageous leader would come up with a jobs plan based on renewable energy instead of coal, an industry with an uncertain future which is now threatening our very survival.

The Adani mine in Central and North Queensland is an excellent example. People there need new, reliable jobs. Yet serious investment in solar would yield far more jobs than the Adani mine would, as it is less automated. And rejecting new coal will also help to protect jobs that depend on the Great Barrier Reef. There are currently 60,000 people whose livelihood depends on the Reef.

We also know that the Adani mine would use huge volumes of scarce water from the underground aquifers including the Great Artesian Basin. Furthermore, it would add to the likelihood of droughts by fuelling climate disruption.

Despite the differences in our faith, we all regard addressing the climate emergency as our shared moral challenge. We stand together for our common home, the Earth.

Will you and your Government have the courage to agree to this simple threefold agenda? We pray that you will. Sincerely, (names supplied)

# Nimbin Widjabal Wai:Bal Warriors



Lewis Walker



by John Tozeland

The successful launch of the Aboriginal Dance Rites Teachings and Trials was celebrated with Linda Phillips on Saturday 15th June at the Wai:Bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Many came together to see the fire burning alongside the traditional smoking, drawing on the spirits from Elders past, present and emerging, to rise together with courage.

In Bundjalung language, "Bologaman", meaning "Coming Together."

As the rain subsided, the clouds dispersing, the magic happened in the village as the Widjabal Warriors banded together, bonding with the young ones, the jarjums, with traditional customs.

Highly respected Elder, Lewis Walker was on hand to lead song as the Widjabal Warriors dancers took barefoot to the earth on their traditional and sacred

lands to inspire the much anticipated coming together to share story and song-line teachings.

The day's success was contributed to by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Nimbin Aged Care, Lismore City Council Community Grants and the wider community who, alongside the volunteers, have been tireless in encouraging local artistic and emerging

economic pathways.

The gathering moved on to enjoy the hospitality of a bush tucker BBQ lunch provided by the above contributors and efforts of the volunteers, which was served along with a live jam in the background.

Come along to NAIDOC Week in Nimbin on Friday 12th July. The Reconciliation Walk begins at 10.30am. See the great line-up which will feature the Nimbin Widjabal Wai:Bal Warriors.



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## Help keep Peacebus rolling along



Photos: Chibo Martinat

The Nimbin HEMP Embassy hosted a High Tea for Peacebus in June to help raise funds to keep 76-year old Graeme Dunstan's Peacebus rolling, and is appealing to others to chip in.

As the director of the 1973 Aquarius Festival, the event which led to the re-creation of the Nimbin village as the counter-cultural capital of Australia, Graeme Dunstan has had a long association with Nimbin, and the campaigns for social change arising from it.

Peacebus is Graeme's long time and far-travelling vehicle, and with 630,000km on the clock and no reverse gear, it is now worn out and in need of replacement.

It has had many adventures, including the plunge into the creek behind Nimbin after last year's MardiGrass (inset pic).

HEMP Embassy President, Michael Balderstone said, "Graeme has done so much for Nimbin and the Northern Rivers over the years. Indeed the HEMP Embassy exists

today in the building that it does because of Graeme's initiative in acquiring it for the 1973 Aquarius Festival and keeping it in community ownership afterwards."

"It's a great effort. For example, many don't realise that Graeme introduced, among other ideas, mass lantern events to the area. That little seed has grown into the amazing annual Lismore Lantern Parade.

"Help support him and keep Peacebus rolling on by making a donation. Not everybody can live in a van and devote their life to political and cultural activism."

For direct deposit: Graeme Dunstan BSB: 728728 A/C: 22289422, or donate on-line at: <https://chuffed.org/project/keep-peacebus-rolling-on>

A generous donor has offered to match the next \$1800, dollar for dollar.

For further information, Graeme Dunstan can be contacted on 0407-951-688, or go to: [www.peacebus.com](http://www.peacebus.com)

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**NIMBIN NAIDOC**  
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Everyone is welcome to come along to the Peace Park (next to Skate Park) for this FREE family fun day of activities celebrating CULTURE for NAIDOC Week!

**Reconciliation Walk**  
From hospital to Peace Park  
Please join us at 10:30am for Reconciliation Walk to pay respect and acknowledge on this day of Celebration—bring drums, whistles, smiles, energy

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## Hugh Mackay to speak in Mullum

Dr Hugh Mackay AO (pictured) has dedicated his life to uncovering what makes Australians tick. The best-selling author and renowned social researcher shines lights on who we are, how we live, the relationships we create, and the thread of our social fabric.

At Ngara Institute's annual lecture in Mullumbimby this month, Hugh MacKay will delve into the social and cultural shifts, both big and small, that have spread through society over the past few generations, creating increasing distrust, disillusionment and fragmentation.

Last year, as he entered his ninth decade, Dr Mackay published his "most outspoken" book ever on a

topic he is passionate about: rebuilding social cohesion. The title says it all: *Australia Reimagined: Towards A More Compassionate, Less Anxious Society*.

Dr Mackay says the recent negative, dishonest and ruthlessly competitive election campaign did not help! A strong civil society depends on people genuinely engaging with each other in mutually respectful ways. It depends also on close, inclusive and supportive communities finding their way to common ground.

Despite a sense of doom and gloom he feels is prevailing in society, Dr Mackay is endlessly optimistic about what the future holds.

"Whenever I spend time

with younger people, the much-maligned millennials, I think they are much better equipped to deal with the changes in society. They understand the need to work more co-operatively, to be less competitive, less individualistic. They are the keys to a better future," he said.

The evening will open with the presentation of the Australian Activist of the Year Award to Will Steffen and Lesley Hughes of the Climate Council. This Award is given with the support of Enova Energy.

Will Steffen will give a short talk, followed by Mayor Simon Richardson launching the Byron Shire Human Rights Charter, a co-creation after Ngara Institute's 2018



Annual Lecture by Gillian Triggs.

For an evening of intelligence, hope and insight, join Ngara Institute at the Civic Memorial Hall on Saturday 20th July, 7pm – 8.30pm.

Tickets are now on sale at: <https://events.humanitix.com.au/annual-lecture-2019-hugh-mackay-or-australia-reimagined-a-culture-of-compassion> \$45, conc \$35.

Doors open for food and hot drinks at 5.30pm, music by Elena B Williams from 6pm.

## Staying sane in the late Anthropocene

by Aidan Ricketts

I can't personally remember a more insane and dangerous time in world and domestic politics. We watch almost helplessly as the sixth great extinction, this time caused by humans, ravages life on this planet. No matter how graphic the reality of the climate and extinction crisis becomes, there seems to be two parallel universes in play. One is the reality of our planet, its atmosphere and the processes of life, the other is a largely delusional world of perpetual growth capitalism, cronyism and corruption. The problem itself seems to exist in one universe and the societal response in another delusional universe that only makes things worse.

Before we get to what to try to do about the madness of the modern world, it's worth considering how to survive it day to day with our sanity more or less intact. The key is to first try to understand the difference between the world as it is and the world as many people believe it is.

We live in an ecology (an ecological system) first and foremost. Our society and economy relies entirely on that ecological system. Our economy at best is an abstraction based upon our ecological reality, but sadly it has developed its own systemic logic that contradicts both ecology and basic physics.

In earlier capitalism a family could own a single store, farm, workshop or factory and keep it as their subsistence business for generations without a need for continuing expansion. However with the rise and dominance of global corporations, we have become enmeshed in a Ponzi scheme of shareholder profit maximisation that has produced a flawed dependence on continual 'economic' growth, on a finite planet.

The madness of an economic driver that contradicts basic physics is the beginning of why we feel that we are living in parallel universes, one the real ecological world and the other a false abstract economy. But our social world too has disconnected us from our own ecological selves, and from each other through our culture of human-centred (anthropocentric) individualism.

Our society and economy is beset by a toxic collective psychosis based on disconnection. Individualism, anthropocentrism and perpetual growth are driving both our internal and our external misery. Coming to terms with



this personally and spiritually is an essential first step.

I am certain that economic collapse is bearing down upon us all and with it social collapse. Whilst ecological collapse is a genuine risk as well, it will trigger economic collapse first. The ecological system is by nature (in every sense of the word) a system of adaptive resilience. Our economy on the other hand, being a Ponzi scheme, collapses if it stumbles at all. It will stumble and it will collapse very rapidly.

It almost amuses me to watch the way that many people, seem to think that ecological collapse is something we are going to be able to watch from the (illusory) safety of our economy and society. As if the ecological system is some 'other' thing that we really should care about but that is somehow separate to us. People just aren't getting this. Nonsensical ideas like jobs vs environment, responding to climate chaos being too economically difficult or even the idea that social issues need to be given priority over environmental issues are all signs of being trapped in the dangerous collective psychosis of our times.

So how do we find sanity, and is there such a thing?

Disconnection is the cause of the mass psychosis, so connection and reconnection must be the first step out of it.

A deeper connection to the planet and universe is the best antidote to the despair and confusion we face. At first, connecting deeply to our ecological reality is a source of necessary grief, given the conditions we face, but in reality our connection to our immensely bigger context is the only sane place from which to observe the unfolding madness that surrounds us. Connection helps remind us of the sanity of physics,

the vastness of the universe and time, the persistence of life and the resilience of evolution. Whether we survive or not (personally or collectively), our sanity in the present can only rely on our deep connectedness to life and the distance we can put between our perspective and the collective psychosis of our society culture and economy.

I am not saying we are all doomed, I frankly don't know and keep an open mind on whether we can turn this around. But we should expect major disruption because business as usual is not possible. We will lose a lot of species, whether we will see human extinction, who knows?

Economic and social collapse, however painful it is for all and any of us, will be all the more threatening, bewildering and incomprehensible to those who remain trapped within the very psychosis that is collapsing on itself. Whilst it may not save us from the food shortages, the wars, or the fascism, having a place to stand, grounded in science, in nature, in physics and ecology and also to First Nations' world views that precede this anthropocentric madness, will enable us to know the difference between the collapsing madness and the real potential for regeneration.

Our connectedness to the lifeworld, as sad as it may make us, is the only source of the sanity we need to attempt to survive individually and collectively. The immediate future is too unpredictable to attempt to give advice on what is the best things to do to avoid catastrophe. We should definitely continue to speak truth to power, organize, rebel, protest and promote solutions, maintain respect for life and human dignity. But as we continue our work for survival we need to know where our feet are grounded.

Life itself is an immensely powerful and adaptive force that permeates this incredible planet. Even if we go full way into this sixth great extinction, life on earth will survive. It began in extremophile bacteria in lava flows, so it has a force well beyond that of capitalism.

We need to continue to be activists for survival, and each of us can best access our intuitive intelligence on how to best do this, if we insist inside ourselves on maintaining our connection, with life, with the planet, and with each other. Disruption is inevitable and regenerative culture is key.

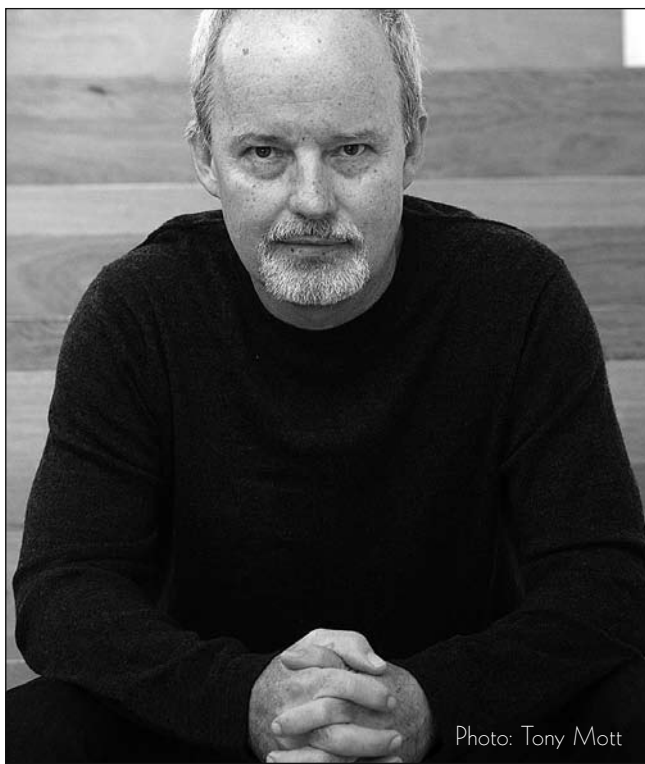


Photo: Tony Mott

## Crime writers at School of Arts

Celebrated crime writers Michael Robotham and Jock Serong, along with author Kristina Olsson and poet Omar Sakr are doing their time for crime, on the run in the Byron Writers Festival StoryBoard bus for a series of free community events in the lead up to their appearances at Byron Writers Festival.

Before becoming a best-selling crime novelist, Michael Robotham (pictured, left) was an investigative journalist working across America, Australia and Britain.

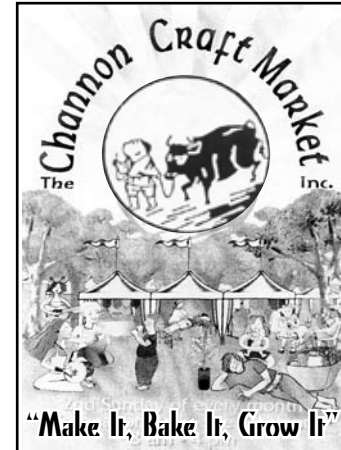
As a journalist and writer, he investigated notorious cases such as the serial killer couple Fred and Rosemary West. He has worked with clinical and forensic psychologists as they helped police investigate complex, psychologically-driven crimes.

Catch the gang for a rewarding night of crime, art and entertainment, as they divulge their darkest literary secrets, where the bodies are buried and who they had to kill to get published in the first place.

The Art of Crime is a free event – it will be held on Tuesday 30th July at the Nimbin School of the Arts, 47 Cullen Street Nimbin from 6.30 to 8pm.



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## NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

The Nature Conservation Council (NCC) is the peak body for environmental organisations in NSW.

While their headquarters is in Sydney, the group gathers some of their rural members in annual regional conferences.

This year the conference was held in Lismore on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd June. The theme was 'Species extinction in a climate crisis'. How very appropriate!

There was much talk of how we will cope with the increasing number of endangered species threatened with extinction, and yes, it is recognised as anthropogenic (i.e. mostly caused by human activities.)

The conference was facilitated by Lismore's Friends of the Koalas, and assisted by the Lismore Environment Centre. Many of the 100 or so delegates to the Conference are active in several of the 150 organisations under the NCC umbrella.

I was one of many representing the Nimbin Environment Centre (NEC) and the Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) plus Gasfield-Free Northern Rivers (GFF NR).

The gathering was given a Welcome to Country by Wai:bal elder Mick Ryan who called on the NCC to support local efforts to preserve cultural heritage sites on the North Lismore plateau which are threatened by development proposals. Advocate Al Oshlack said the case is in court at the present time.

Much of the focus during presentations by speakers was on the need to find solutions to the parlous state of forests in NSW. These included Northeast Forest Alliance (NEFA) President Dailan Pugh OAM,



Photo: Omega Breakspear

veteran wildlife ecologist David Milledge and Ruth Rosenhek, co-director of the Rainforest Information Centre in Lismore.

Other local activists shared their knowledge and experience: Annie Kia from Gasfield-Free NR, Author and SCU academic Aidan Ricketts, NEFA Secretary Susie Russell, and koala activist Ros Irwin, a former Lismore Mayor.

Greens-turned-independent MLC Justin Field, and the newly-elected Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin (ALP) brought a Parliamentary presence. Githabal elders Rob and Gloria Williams described their struggle to gain control over land near the Queensland border where their community wants to repair forests that have been devastated by logging and habitat degradation.

Mike Thompson from the coast south of Sydney presented plans to use increased tourism to stop "woodchipping our wildlife away".

A major concern to North

Coast locals is the threat posed by NSW government plans to remove legal protection from old growth forest and riparian zones, and to allow widespread land clearing for grazing which will speed up the decline of native plants and animals through loss of habitats critical to their survival - and ours!

NCC staff experts like Ed Mortimer, Jack Hough, Brad Smith, Shirley Hall, and Jacqui Mumford helped long-time NCC President Don White bring the elements together and Kate Smolski gave an inspiring address: she soon departs the role of CEO which has seen the organisation increase in scope and vitality during her seven years at the helm.

The North Coast was recognised for its leadership and commitment to environmental sanity and The Channon resident Nan Nicholson detailed the story of the famous forest blockade at Terania Creek (1979) and provided a guided tour of our rainforest heritage around Protectors Falls in the Nightcap

National Park.

The 40 years' anniversary of the struggle to save our forests will be celebrated next month at the Channon Markets on 11th August. NRG and NEC will have a combined information stall there. NEC monitors development proposals in and around Nimbin and Lismore, while NRG considers matters on the broader regional scale.

On 29th May, many of our members attended the Lismore launch of the Extinction Rebellion (XR) where 330 people declared they would join the world-wide struggle to prevent ecological disaster.

Training in Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA) is ongoing, and will be used to raise awareness of our deepening ecological crisis.

NEC continues to provide information and support for those who care about our environment. This year's narrow election wins by Coalition parties must not be allowed to demoralise the movement towards a sustainable future.

We will persevere.



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## Seed and plant exchange

by Mandie Hale

At the inaugural June meeting at 7 Sibley Street, a small but enthusiastic group, facilitated by Steph Seckold, discussed aims and possible outcomes, and brainstormed ideas for engaging people's interest, participation and ongoing commitment.

It was decided that the scope of the Seed Exchange be widened to include not only vegetable seeds but also other edible plant material, fruit trees and useful native species.

A vision statement was formulated

stating the goals as "protecting rare, endangered and heritage plant breeding stock suitable for our region, by distributing propagating material and encouraging seed saving to refresh the seed bank."

It aims to promote the concept of seed saving and share skills and information about plant conservation. A new name was suggested: 'Nimbin Futures Market: Seed and Plant Exchange'.

7 Sibley Street is able to provide a permanent home for a seed library, with propagating material being grown in the gardens.

It has the potential to be an informative attraction for visitors, and can act as a venue for education and the value-adding and distribution of products.

The meeting generated a lot of ideas for involving other groups, such as the local schools, beekeepers, Nimbin Garden Club, Food Co-op and more.

A seasonally-themed presentation with printed notes is planned for each month.

An Intro to Seed Saving with Scott O'Keefe will be held on Saturday 20th July at 10.30am at 7 Sibley Street.

In the coming months, soil biology, extreme weather gardening and site suitability will be topics.

Become a member and receive a Seed Saving Guide and discounts on seeds.



**In your neighbourhood...**  
Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

**Position vacant at NNIC**  
Community Worker, 18hrs/week (over 3 days).

This is a permanent part-time position, SCHCADS Level 3.

Applicants MUST address the selection criteria in the Job Kit, available from NNIC or on our website: [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)

Applications close: Friday 19th July 2019.

For more details, see our ad on Page 9.

**Wanted: volunteers**

Must have min Cert II in relevant field (e.g. welfare, community development) or be currently undertaking Cert II or higher qualification.

Must be reliable and able to do at least one day per week (6-hour shift). A great way to gain experience in the sector, connect with the Nimbin community and contribute to NNIC and Nimbin.

Please send CV to the manager, NNIC at: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) or drop it in. For more info, contact Kath at our front desk.

**Nimbin NAIDOC Day**  
Friday 12th July

Reconciliation March will

be leaving from Hospital at 10.30am and ending at Peace Park, followed by a day of free Food, Fun and Music.

Always a fantastic family day... so come on down everyone and join in the celebrations!. (Brought to you by Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service).

**Welcome to Nimbin Kit**

We are now finalising the Kit to be given to new residents of Nimbin as they arrive, to assist them to navigate their way around the community, encourage them to get involved and to pass on the Aquarian legacy in general.

The Kit so far consists of 22 pages on the following topics:

- Welcome and a brief history;
- Jingi Wala;
- Living on the land;
- Where to get help;
- Things to do;
- Community owned and operated;
- Schools, skills and venues for hire;
- Volunteering in Nimbin (a list of volunteer orgs, what kind of volunteering opportunities on offer, and how to get in touch);
- Buying local; and
- Wildlife (Part 1 & 2).

We have already been in touch with many of the local organisations to check their contact details etc. If we have not been in touch it is possible that we already had the information at NNIC.

To check if you are included or if you have queries about the Kit, contact Nat at: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) by 19th July.

**7 Sibley Street updates**

[www.sevenonsibley.com](http://www.sevenonsibley.com)

The electricity is finally connected, just in time for the darker winter weather so we can shine some light on the action when need be!

Sibley Street is open Mondays-Wednesdays. Feel free to drop in and say hello to Steph. Workshops are continuing – check out the website for the latest details.

You can purchase various sustainability products including EM1, and Mandie Hale's wonderful new book *Unique*, featuring creative homes in the Nimbin area.

Eric is doing sewing and mending every second Wednesday afternoon on the front veranda, using his wonderful mechanical (non-electric equipment).

You can drop your mending in and he will fix it

for you, or he will show you how to mend our own items.

**Art in the park**

Every Friday (weather permitting) 11am – 2pm. NOW incorporating music and dance activities. All welcome... just come on by and join in.

For weather checks, call NNIC on Fridays after 9.30am: 6689-1692.

**Got bills or 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 our Community Case Co-ordinator.

*Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals.*

*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)

## Nimbin Hospital information

**Child immunisation clinic**

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 9th July. 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 20th June. 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 July.
  - Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 9th July.
- 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 9.30am. Next meeting: 7th August. New members are always welcome.



# Dual language sign to be unveiled during NAIDOC Week

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator,  
Nimbin Community Centre

This month we are proud to announce that the Nimbin Community Centre and the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre will be unveiling a Dual Languages Sign to accompany the wonderful mural (pictured) that was funded by Lismore Council, and produced by local indigenous artists; Gilbert Laurie, Oral Roberts and Lewis Walker, in Allsopp Park.

The sign tells the creation story of the Bundjalung Country, identifying the significant constellations, rivers and animals in the mural in both languages (English and Bundjalung).

Last year we obtained grant funding from the Indigenous Arts and Languages Program for this project. We worked with the artists who gave us the story and language components for the sign.

We will have the ceremony at 11am in Allsopp Park on Friday 12th July, as part of the Nimbin NAIDOC celebrations. Mayor Isaac Smith will unveil the sign, and the artists will tell the story illustrated by the mural in both English and Bundjalung.

## Widjabul Warriors

In June, the Community Centre was host to a very special cultural event organised by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation and funded by the Lismore City Council Community Grants Scheme.

Called Widjabul Warriors, it featured traditional dance, music and cultural practice from our local indigenous community, followed by a BBQ featuring traditional bush foods.

We are so lucky to have such an active indigenous community who are prepared to generously share their culture with us and wonderful tenants like the Aquarius

Foundation who work to bring these kinds of events to the village for us to share.

## Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Linda Phillips (pictured) from the Aboriginal Cultural Centre has been working to open the Centre and offer coffee from the newly-installed coffee machine and a warm meal to anyone coming through.

She and other members from the indigenous community are working to keep the space open at least three days a week. They are also having a regular Saturday jam space in the daytime.

I would encourage everyone, if you see the doors open please come in and enjoy a hot coffee or a heart-warming meal. Enjoy the Indigenous Art on display and available for sale from our local indigenous artists.

All money collected will go towards improving and developing the Cultural Centre so that they can provide more activities and training and workshops for the local indigenous community and more opportunities to share their rich culture with our village.

The Cultural Centre is always open to workshops for the broader community to learn about culture. Please contact Saskia (0499-382-668) or Linda Phillips (0459-965-388) if you are interested in conducting a workshop.

## Assistance for Veterans

A couple of months ago we were approached by the Lismore RSL to provide a space where they could provide outreach services for local veterans in the Nimbin area.

They are starting a monthly session 9-12pm at the Birth and Beyond Meeting Room (behind the Apothecary at 54 Cullen Street) on the first Monday of the month.

They intend to provide



Assistance, Advice, Advocacy and Guidance for Veterans with claims through DVA, housing from the Defence Care Housing Advocate and Referrals to Allied Health Providers.

You can phone 02 6621-3851 or email: [sec@lismorerslb.com.au](mailto:sec@lismorerslb.com.au) if you need any information or to make an appointment.

Please let anyone who needs this service know what is happening, our veterans deserve all the support and services they can get when recovering from the trauma of war.

## My Community Project NSW

From 15th July to 15th August, residents from the state electorate of Lismore will be able to vote for their preferred project.

We have submitted a proposal to upgrade and improve the disability access to the drop off area for the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service.

There is a limited pool of funds allocated to our area, and the projects with the most votes will receive the funding. We urge



Linda Phillips

residents to go online at: [www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/projects-and-initiatives/my-community-project/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/projects-and-initiatives/my-community-project/) and lodge a vote for your preferred projects, hopefully you will put this project at the top of the list.

## Some good news...

Last month we received an anonymous donation from someone in Port Macquarie of six new cold-weather jackets. These were passed on to the Neighborhood Centre for

distribution to those in need in our community.

Thank you to that thoughtful person, you restore my faith in humanity.

Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street Nimbin, phone (02) 6689-0000, email: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)  
Office opening hours: 10am to 2pm, Monday to Thursday.  
[www.nimbincommunity.org.au](http://www.nimbincommunity.org.au)



by Teresa Biscoe,  
Vice-president

Another busy month for the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

We started the month with a meeting with the new General Manager, Shelley Oldham and the Planning Officer in charge of sustainable development, Peter Jueken.

We discussed several issues of concern for Nimbin including Nimbin and the DCP.

Shelley acknowledged the importance of the villages and that they are the heart of the community in the Lismore Shire but also acknowledged that Community Development Plans have been over-ridden by state planning laws and a lack of prior strategies to preserve and integrate the village's interests

into the Lismore Strategic Plan.

We were advised by Peter Jueken to lobby our state representatives for infrastructure funding for the village.

Diana Roberts spoke of the approvals given by council for extensive development around the village without the corresponding infrastructure investment or planning from Council which has ignored community feedback around traffic and parking strategies, pedestrian footways, cycle ways and main street beautification.

Whilst section 94 contributions have been collected from developers none of it appears to have been used to improve infrastructure for the village or secured to ensure it is available when needed.

This is despite recommendations made in the recent parking development plan that the Council needs to purchase more land for parking.

We spoke about our anger that the Walking Trail Project despite over \$70,000 of public funds already invested and being identified as a long term village project

was dropped by council.

The General Manager was adamant that until right of way issues were fully resolved Council was unwilling to take any further action as they have been advised that they will not get public liability insurance for the walking trail.

We discussed whether the area identified could be transferred to a community organisation, thereby removing Council from liability.

We also recommended to council that they recognise the work that the Nimbin A&I Society has done to maintain and manage Bellevue Park and that this be considered in the current negotiations by the A&I to purchase the area to secure it for the future use of the organisation.

We also spoke about the correspondence that we have sent to council around a range of issues that have not been responded to. Shelley said that she is aware of the issues around response times to enquiries, and it is one

of the organisational issues she hopes to address in the coming months ahead.

The General Manager acknowledged all our concerns, but stated that due to financial difficulties she was currently dealing with many community interests and needs would be put on hold until the LCC was in a better position to fund further projects.

Our General Meeting in the middle of the month featured the presentation of the new Economic Development Strategy for Lismore and its villages by Flora Zigterman from Community Liaison from Lismore Council.

She spoke of the upcoming consultation process and survey and asked us to get the community to give feedback into the process to ensure that the village voice was considered and integrated into the new plan.

Flora has sent us the following links to assist you with your online submission.

This is the link where you can enter your submission:

<https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/economic-development-strategy>

This link is to download the document which is Council's proposed annual budget for the 2019/20 financial year: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/44131/documents/105971>

This link is our revised delivery program which outlines all of the key activities and programs that Council will be undertaking over the next four years: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/44131/documents/105973>

Please have your say follow these links and let LCC know what you think we need as a village.

Natalie Meyer presented the draft Welcome to Nimbin Kit. This is a folder full of great information for new people moving to village about who we are, what our community culture and values are and how people can engage in the village.

Natalie will have it finished soon and the Nimbin Chamber is proud to support this very worthy project. Stephanie Seckold then presented the logo, posters, stickers, flyers that she has developed for the Nimbin Buy Local Campaign.

They provided easily identifiable materials that allow local businesses to identify their products and services as locally owned and produced.

These materials are available for cost price to all Nimbin Chamber members and for a modest cost to all other businesses.

Over the coming month we are doing a letter-drop to all local residents and to local businesses to get behind and support local business and locally produced products.

Local businesses also support our local not for profit organisations, schools and charitable groups with sponsorship, prizes and services.

Spending locally supports our local economy, allows local business to grow and is an investment in our local community.

Celebrate our Uniqueness! Support our Community. Love where you live.

The Chamber Executive meets on the 1st Monday of the month and welcomes any issues you would like discussed. Please contact the President on 0427-886-748 or by email: [dianajanero@gmail.com](mailto:dianajanero@gmail.com)