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New radio studio opening

by Bob Tissott

Original studio builders, Paul Le Bars (seated) and Farren Hogan (far left) with some of Nim-FM's current presenters in the refurbished studio.

And verily it came to pass that after a quarter of a century of non-stop broadcasting to the residents of the Nimbin Valley, the volunteer presenters at Nim-FM gathered together to celebrate the re-opening of their primary broadcast Studio, which had undergone a total refit from the floor up.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation

with which to purchase a new broadcasting console and an equally generous donation from an anonymous (but very good looking) member of the local community to refurbish the studio, we now have a broadcast space that shimmers and gleams in softly-carpeted silence.

Special thanks to Jenny for the paint, to Nimbin Building Materials for the donated camphor slab which builder

Don transformed into our new guest desk, and to Bob for all the technical stuff. And of course to all the helpers who pitched in. This is truly what makes a community.

OK, look, while I've got your ear, don't forget that Nim-FM is always looking for new members and new ideas for radio programming.

Pop down to the office and jump in. You'll be amazed at how satisfying it is.

At the Grand Opening, special guests were two of the original studio builders and presenters, Paul Le Bars and Farren Hogan, with a phone-in from Russel Anderson in Melbourne. If not for their efforts and know-how, Nim-FM would still be a dream.

And so, lift your scones, jam and cream in a toast to Community Radio and the next 25 years at Nim-FM, Voice of the Alternative Nation.

Nimbin UHA delivers life-saving device to hospital

by Nicole Lindner,
Nimbin UHA secretary

The Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary (UHA) is proud to announce the successful fundraising and delivery of a Lucas Cardiac Compression device to Nimbin Hospital.

This state-of-the-art piece of equipment is set to significantly enhance the hospital's emergency response capabilities, offering advanced support for patients experiencing cardiac arrest.

The Lucas Cardiac Compression device, known for its reliability and effectiveness, provides consistent and high-quality chest compressions, a critical component in life-saving cardiac arrest interventions.

This addition to the hospital's equipment not only ensures better patient outcomes, but also supports the medical staff in delivering continuous and effective care during emergencies.

Peter Doyle, nursing manager at Nimbin Hospital, expressed his gratitude for the community's support and the UHA's efforts: "The arrival of the Lucas Cardiac Compression device marks a significant improvement in our emergency care services.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Nimbin UHA whose fundraising made this possible. This device will undoubtedly save lives and improve the quality of care we can provide."

In preparation for the arrival of the new equipment, Nimbin Hospital staff have undergone comprehensive training to ensure they are fully equipped to utilise the Lucas Cardiac Compression



device effectively during cardiac emergencies.

The Nimbin UHA, a dedicated group of volunteers committed to supporting the local multi-purpose centre, spearheaded the fundraising campaign through various community events and generous donations.

The Nimbin UHA's continuous efforts reflect the strong sense of community and the collective commitment to improving healthcare services in Nimbin.

Marceliena Brumley, president of the Nimbin UHA said, "We are thrilled to see the Lucas Cardiac Compression device in action at the Nimbin Hospital. "Our community's unwavering

support and generosity have made this possible. Together, we are making a significant and positive impact on the health and well-being of Nimbin residents."

The Nimbin UHA extends its heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this important cause.

The organisation remains dedicated to its mission of enhancing healthcare services in Nimbin and looks forward to continuing its support for the multi-purpose centre in the future.

For more information about the Nimbin UHA and how to get involved, please contact: Marceliena Brumley at: marceliena.brumley@hotmail.com

Landslip victims abandoned

The Community Disaster Action Group (CDAG) has called attention to the severe human cost of the NSW government's lack of action on assistance for people whose properties have been affected by landslips.

"The NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA) has completely abandoned people affected by landslips. There's not even a policy 2½ years on, yet hundreds of landslip-affected residents are still living in damaged homes or caravans or unable to return home," CDAG co-ordinator Chels Hood Withey said.

The group maintain that NSWRA is failing to fulfil its legal obligations under the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022, which explicitly includes landslides in its definition of disasters, and outlines the functions of the Authority which include to "assist in prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction in relation to disasters."

"Despite this legal mandate to assist, people remain without support. There are severe mental health and financial stress impacts on affected families," Ms Withey said.

Among many personal stories are those of Main Arm residents Edward and Vicki Burke, aged 63 and 71, who are living in a caravan beside their



Edward and Vicki Burke's crushed home at Main Arm.

destroyed 200-acre property; and Jesse James of Nimbin, whose application was approved for funding in principle, but he is unable to access it due to legislative oversights.

Ms Withey said, "These stories raise critical questions about government accountability, the human cost of bureaucratic delays, and the broader challenges of climate adaptation in rural Australia."

"While we've heard rumours of a

policy in development, the fact remains that for 30 months, these residents have been left waiting, completely stranded next to their damaged homes."

CDAG is calling for immediate action from NSWRA to fulfil its legal obligations to landslip victims, and provide financial support for all disaster-affected residents, regardless of insurance status.

The group can be contacted at: hello@cdag.org.au

Iconic performance poetry event

by Vince Stead

For the 21st year, the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup will be held at the Nimbin School of Arts, 47 Cullen Street, on 7th and 8th September.

Entries filled up in record time this year, with 36 poets from Tasmania, Victoria, NSW, Queensland and the local area signing up to compete for the

coveted Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, a share of \$4500 and other prizes donated by the Nimbin community. Thanks to the community for all their support.

Four heats of nine poets will be held on Saturday 7th September, with each poet performing eight minutes of poetry. Four poets from each heat will go through to two semi-finals on Sunday

8th September.

Eight poets will go through to the final on Sunday night to compete for the \$2000 first prize and the Cup.

Entry to the heats and semi-finals is a gold coin donation. Tickets for the final are at the door for \$15.

Details of how the event is run can be found on the 'Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup' Facebook page.

Nimbin Country Show is coming

by Michelle Agioritis
secretary, Nimbin A&I Society

The Nimbin A&I Society is gearing up for this year's annual show on 21st and 22nd September, and preparations are well underway.

The show program will be published on our website and hard copies will be available at various locations in Nimbin, Lismore and surrounds in the coming weeks.

There are a few changes to note this year, to the horse, cattle and pavilion classes, competition entry fees and some changes for dropping off pavilion entries, so make sure you get a hold of the 2024



show program and check the details.

We welcome the returning and new office bearers voted in at the AGM in March:

Denise Whitney – returned as president, Dan Lansdown – returned as vice-president,

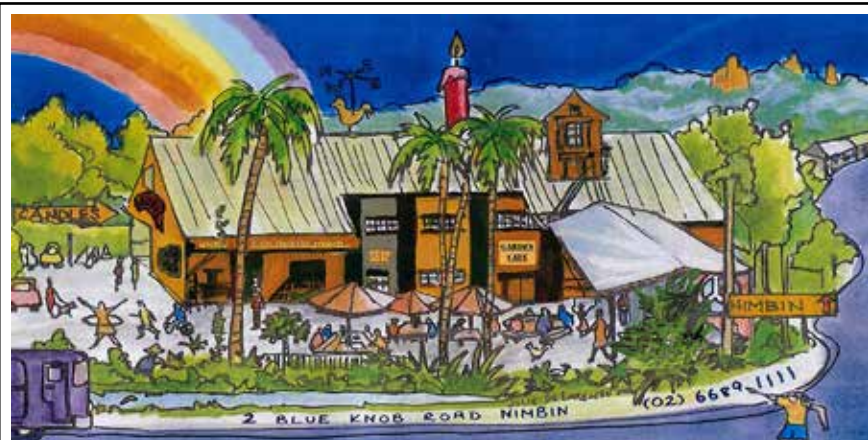
Michelle Agioritis – secretary, and Rachael Wilhelm – treasurer.

We wish to thank the outgoing secretary/treasurer Dave Fawcner for his hard work while in these positions. Our web address

remains the same: www.nimbinshowsociety.org.au However our general email address is now: info@nimbinshowsociety.org.au

Did you know that all office bearers, showgrounds maintenance and show prep and organisation is done by volunteers? If you'd like to volunteer to help prep for the 2024 show, or to help at the show itself, please email us with your name and phone number.

Of course, our trusty 'Tuesday boys' perform grounds maintenance every Tuesday morning; all extra pairs of hands are gratefully received.



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Janelle Saffin with members of the Nimbin Advisory Group when funding for the amenities block was announced.

by Sue Edmonds

Nimbin folk have been patiently waiting, waiting, waiting, for an amenities block to be built in Peace Park.

If ever there was an urgent need for such a facility it's right there: our recreation park in town. The pool was opened in 1978, 46 years ago, with one unisex toilet. No shower, no change-room.

Just one toilet for the hundreds of people who use the pool each season, and all the folk who use the children's playground, the outdoor exercise equipment, the skate park and the busy barbeque area.

This toilet is only available for the six months of the swimming season. For the remainder of the year, there is no toilet for all the users of Peace Park.

Two years ago Nimbin Advisory

Group submitted a plan for a multi-purpose facility to the Lismore City Council.

The plan positioned the amenities block on the fence line of the pool with access to it from both the pool and the park. With disabled access, a change room, a shower and three toilets, it would cover most needs. There was no action on this plan.

18 months ago our local State Government Member, Janelle Saffin successfully lobbied for a grant of \$400,000 specifically for the amenities block. This money was allocated to the Council in May 2024.

Ms Saffin said, "The next step will be community consultation on the concept and design, to be undertaken in the second half of this year. The funding agreement has completion of the project

by 30th June 2025."

Cliff Chadburn, Assistant Head of Fleet and Outdoor Spaces at Council, has said that a project officer is yet to be appointed.

So we have another swim season starting in September with only one toilet for all the park and pool. Despite Nimbin being advertised as a tourist destination, and with an increasing population, we still don't have a basic facility found in all public parks in NSW.

Let's hope the grant is wisely invested, quietly increasing while we patiently wait. It could increase the grant up by at least \$8000, enough for solar panels for its power needs, or boxes and boxes of toilet paper and paper handtowels.

Meantime I might be practising the art of holding on. It's a bit like standing on one leg!

PALESRAEL: Sharing together

by Benny Zable

The brutal genocide we are witnessing taking place in Gaza is a wake-up call for humanity. It is also an opportunity in working together towards eliminating all prejudices destroying all life on Earth.

I was brought up in a Yiddish-speaking socialist Jewish Labor Bund community centred in Carlton, Melbourne, who have been questioning the creation of a Jewish Zionist State since the last century.

In 1945, following world war two and the holocaust, the International Jewish Labor Bund were initially against the UN vote on the partitioning of Palestine and re-affirmed its support for a single bi-national state that would guarantee equal national rights for Jews and Arabs alike under the control of superpowers and the UN.

The Six-day war was fought between Israel and a coalition of Arab states, primarily Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, from 5th to 10th June, 1967.

Recent history shows that Egyptian President Abdul Nasser did not start the 1967 war, but that Israel launched a pre-emptive bombing on



Egyptian military airfields.

In Melbourne, the Jewish community asked for volunteers to go to Israel to replace civilian jobs while the conscripted population engaged in war.

I discussed this with my Lebanese friends as I wished to see first-hand, and bear witness to what was going on in and around Israel.

I was assigned to work with irrigation at kibbutz Misgav Am on the Lebanese border overlooking the Galilee. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misgav_Am

While moving irrigation pipes one day, a formation of fighter planes flew over me and bombed the Golan Heights. The next day the kibbutz organised to check out the bombed-out villages. An area was cordoned off. Body parts

were being gathered up.

At one bombed-out site, I was drawn to some photographs blowing around where a once-thriving family lived. I left the kibbutz soon after to further explore, observe, sketch and paint.

I dropped in on an artist colony for inspiration along the way. I eventually based myself near the old city of Jerusalem observing the community in this historic centre to three Abrahamic religions. I built up an extensive collection of art which ended up being exhibited in Melbourne.

On my second visit, I went to Israel to attend a meditation retreat with my Insight meditation teacher Christopher Titmuss (pictured).

This link is to a recent interview with Christopher:

www.christophertitmussdharma.org/p/the-invasion-of-gaza-two-wrongs-do

After the retreat, I sought out allies to paint a PALESRAEL design for both sides of the Jerusalem/Bethlehem separation wall, which I had designed at my studio in Nimbin.

I successfully painted on the Bethlehem side of the wall, but was stopped by the IDF on the Jerusalem side. Palestinians I had made friends with introduced me to some city elders. I took on the role of a human shield to guard a family in East Jerusalem against raiding Israeli forces.

I have come to the conclusion that the best way forward to a lasting peace, to end the apartheid and the destruction of communities, is to take down the separation walls, to confederate as one nation, with equal rights and opportunities for all.

The one-state solution is a proposed approach to resolving the Israel-Palestinian conflict, according to which one state would be established between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean.

I will be publishing this article in full on my facebook page for those interested, or email me at: bennyzable@gmail.com

MOBILISE TO DISRUPT LAND FORCES

by Miriam Torzillo

War, what is it good for? It's good for business! The military industrial complex is hiding in plain sight in Australia, massively supported with billions of dollars of subsidies every year from the Australian government.

This nasty trade will be on display again at Land Forces which is coming to the Melbourne Convention Centre in Naarm, Melbourne from 11th to 13th September. And Northern Rivers people will be there to contribute in more ways than extreme disruption. The resistance starts on the 8th and will continue until the 14th.

According to Naomi Shine from Lismore, "The military industrial complex is chewing up the earth's resources. This infinite growth continuous-profit model benefits from the destruction caused in wars, and the human cost is incalculable."

What is the Land Forces Expo?

Land Forces is a massive weapons sales event, a one-stop genocide shop. This is where the generals, weapons CEOs, diplomats and defence ministers come together to do the deals that end in massacres.

Billions change hands at these events. Harms dealers



will spruik their latest killing tech, and governments will spend the people's money on weapons to use against us.

Elbit, Lockheed, Boeing, Hanwha, Thales, NIOA... the biggest weapons-makers in the world will all be there, plus military bosses, plus Defence Ministry personnel, plus hundreds of smaller suppliers trying to get a piece of the genocide pie.

All will come together under one roof, shaking hands, exchanging flesh for cash, scoffing hors d'ouvres, designing terror, for three days.

We invite you to stand with front-line communities and the broader anti-militarist movement to shut this shit down!

In 2021 and 2022, a broad coalition of citizens, activists and people of faith, including people from the Northern Rivers, stood with people from front-line communities

and were successful hassled Land Forces out of Magandjin (Brisbane).

That was before we had a widespread grassroots anti militarist movement rising in active solidarity with Palestine. Imagine what we can do now, in Naarm, Melbourne.

There are many collectivities already committed to disrupt Land Forces this September. We need you to hold space, to write, to feed, to play music and look after the young ones who are so courageous in the world.

We invite all anti-militarist and pro-planet people to join us in realising our vision:

- Create a week-long festival of resistance bringing diverse actionists and tactics into joined struggle against the arms trade;
- Hold a mobilisation where frontline impacted voices and stories are central;
- Make space for cultural, social, tactical and

intellectual cross pollination;

- Connect new crews;
- Make the harms dealers have a bad time;
- Make us have a good time; and
- Stretch goal: 25,000 people encircle the Melbourne Convention Centre and shut Land Forces down.

We need to re-make the world and we need to start now.

Bring your own vision, style, tactics, commitment and care. All genders, all ages, all cultures, all abilities, all protest techniques are welcome.

Contact Miriam or Chibo for more information. Join us via: www.disruptlandforces.org You don't have to come – there's lots of stuff to do from home. But it's better if you come and BE with us.

"We need to stop the arms dealers from profiting from the death machines," said Naomi Shine.

Demilitarise! Decolonise! Reinvent the world!

Looking for a good read for a good cause?

by Anne Tuart

Lismore Region Refugee Settlement group (LRRS) works with the Federal Government programme Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot.

We welcome refugees chosen by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees into the Northern Rivers community and region.

It is then our responsibility to support

them for up to a year.

We have recently welcomed our second family, and now all hands are on deck in the LRRS group to assist, as they begin their new life in Australia.

LRRS has a pre-loved books bookstall on the third Saturday of the month at the Lismore Farmers' Market.

We have a wide variety of titles at great prices; and we welcome donations of good quality books. You can drop books

off to us at the market or contact us to make other arrangements.

Our bookstall is an important part of our fundraising efforts, and it also allows us to meet like-minded people who may join us to volunteer or help settle families in the future.

You can make a tax-deductible donation: BSB 728 728 ACC 2234 0056. For more information, see: www.refugeesponsorship.org.au

Death threats for McBride in gaol

by Chibo Mertineit

David McBride (pictured), whistleblower in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who did two tours to Afghanistan as a lawyer, was found guilty in the Supreme Court of stealing commonwealth property and leaking it to journalists, which he did.

He thought he would be protected by whistleblower laws that allow you to share documents to the media, once he had exhausted all other avenues of complaint, which he had.

Eddie Lloyd, lawyer for David McBride said, "David maintained that these documents show unlawful conduct on behalf of the leadership. So he went to the ADF to report the crimes.

"They said... 'nothing to see here'. He went internally, again, 'nothing to see here'.



Photo courtesy Riotart

Everyone just gaslit him, sent him to a psychologist and then they ended up charging him."

The trial started on 13th October 2023 and he was sentenced to five years and eight months on 14th May 2024. In his eight weeks of imprisonment he has been held in isolation, and is now segregated in the maximum security area.

Ms Lloyd said, "David McBride hasn't done anything wrong while he was staying in a minimum security area of the gaol. He was stood over

and issued a death threat. So the gaol moved him from there to maximum security where he received another death threat. So the gaol moved him into isolation.

"He has now only one hour a day out of his cell. Before, he was using the gym daily, had contact with his family through the internet and contact with other prisoners. So he has no contact with anyone. This is the punishment he receives for getting death threats in gaol.

"It's cruel and inhumane punishment. I do whatever I can talking to people, escalating the situation to the Commissioner level now to ensure that they comply with the Correction Act, that he is housed somewhere in the least restrictive place in the gaol, given his minimum classification. There is also the Human Rights Act and International Law they are

breaching.

"We are lodging an appeal. I've got two amazing barristers briefed to junior counsel and senior counsel briefed. We are still waiting for security clearance to touch the paper with the classified information."

Senator David Shoebridge has asked the government for a pardon for McBride. So far the government has spent \$2.5 million on the prosecution, and the defence is fighting without any funds.

A fundraiser called David vs Goliath has been established on: chuffed.com and every dollar donation is appreciated; it all costs money.

If people want to write to him, only positive cards or letters, no presents, address them to: David McBride, PIN 134463, Alexander Maconochie Centre, Locked Bag 7775, Canberra BC ACT 2610.

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Nimbin Neighbourhood Food Pantry

The pantry is open every Wednesday from 1pm. Cheap and free grocery items available to anyone in need.

Volunteers are welcome! For more info or to ask about joining our wonderful Food Pantry team, contact Nicole at: ccn@nnic.org.au

NNIC solar system upgraded

Thanks to funding generously provided by the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR), our array was upgraded in late July to preserve food stock and enable us to continue emergency operations in the event of a power failure.

Nimbin Flood Recovery Support Service

We are aware there are still people out there who may not have linked into any type of assistance or even know that there is support available.

The RSS programs across the region are beginning to wind back and we are anxious to ensure that everyone is able to access any assistance that may be available to them before the RSS program ends.

Do not despair! There is still time to seek help from our RSS team. People out there grappling with the DRG, Resilient Homes and other programs – you don't have to do it alone.

Our RSS caseworkers are NNIC employees and independent of the Reconstruction Authority and can help you navigate the complex grants and appeals processes. Contact the service via email at: nimbinrss@nnic.org.au or phone or text 0488-144-647.

Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP)

Final change to have your say! The final two workshops have now been held.

All Input Surveys will close

at the end of August, so if you have not had the chance to provide input yet, now is your last chance before we collate all the contributions and release the revised SNCP.

See our website for the survey links for each focus area.

Thanks to all the community members who have contributed to the revision of the SNCP to date. Great job people! Also, great job to those folks who have already made inroads into several strategies under the revised plan.

Many thanks to the Northern Rivers Community Foundation for funding support.

Sustainability Alley – Nimbin Show

Shout out for anyone interested in participating in Sustainability Alley this year, contact us at: sibley@nnic.org.au

NSW Drug Summit – Can we get it to Lismore?

Nimbin CDAT (Community Drug Action Team, auspiced by NNIC) was pleased to see the announcement of the NSW Drug Summit to be held in 2024.

The last Drug Summit was held in 1999 and led to a range of initiatives, including CDATs being set up across the State.

The recent announcement included the potential for sessions being held in two regional areas and we are lobbying for one of those to be held in Lismore, to enable the input of the considerable expertise and lived experience across the North Coast.

Struggling with alcohol or other drugs?

AOD support workers are now available at NNIC due to a partnership with The Buttery.

For people who use alcohol and other drugs in Nimbin and surrounds, and/or their

families, friends and carers. No referral needed.

Drop into or call NNIC and speak with Nicole on our front desk for an appointment, or phone (02) 6687-111 or email: intake@buttery.org.au

Disaster readiness

As we slowly move from recovery into the preparation phase of disaster management, now is a great time to develop or review our own personal flood and bushfire plans.

It is important to consider such issues as what to take in case of evacuation and evacuation routes in case of emergency.

Now is also a good time to clean up our properties and reduce fuel loads, e.g., sweep up and compost leaves, pick up sticks, prune trees overhanging our homes and driveways, keep gutters clear etc.

Back up your key documents (e.g. medical, insurance) onto e.g. external

hard drives or USB pegs so they are easy to take with you or in case they get damaged/destroyed in a disaster.

AIDER

The Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents program is a free, one-off service which supports some of our most at-risk community members, by providing services such as clearing gutters, thinning vegetation around the home, removing leaf and tree debris, trimming branches from close to the home or mowing or slashing long grass.

For more info call 02-8741-4955 or email: aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au or see the website <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/aider>

Community Care Team

Now is also the time to join the CCT and get trained up so you are ready to get out and about in your neighbourhood if disaster strikes. For more info, contact Anna at: cct@nnic.org.au

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

We assist frail aged people, NDIS participants and carers to stay living at home and connect socially.



All NACRS support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, Covid-safe trained, insured and locally based.

SOCIAL CENTRE with Veranda – Monday-Friday 10am-2pm. Drop in for a cuppa, access support services, info and computers.

DEVICE ADVICE – Wednesdays 9.30am-1pm. Seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues.

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

- Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea, 10.30am-1pm. Tea/coffee, conversation, music and snacks, weekly \$5
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm at various rural cafes, self-funded plus donation to NACRS
- Wise Ones at Koonorigan Hall/Dunoon 4th Monday, 11.30am-1.30pm, bring a plate to share
- Bus outings – 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Scenic drives, cafes for morning tea & lunch (you pay), bookings essential, fees apply.

Phone **6689-1709** or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, the rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre.
www.nacrs.com.au

Nimbin Hospital information



Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments, phone 6630-0400.

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next is 15th August. Phone 6688-1400 for an appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. 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 clinic

Diabetes clinics: Third Thursday of the month, next is 15th August.

Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – leave a 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 the month, 9.30am in the conference room of the Nimbin MPS. New members always welcome.





by Triny Roe, secretary

Imagine if no-one had stepped up to save the last remaining forests of the Big Scrub. There would be no Nightcap National Park.

Imagine if no-one had stood against the coal seam drilling at Bentley – we would now be living in the Northern Rivers Gas Field and dealing with ‘fugitive emissions’ and ‘natural venting’, seeping, leaching, insidiously releasing methane into the atmosphere, endangering the health of people, the wildlife, and that of the planet. Methane is a worse greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, though the focus seems to be on the latter.

Imagine if no-one was defending the Wallum at Brunswick Heads, it would already be bulldozers, dump trucks, solid fill, curb and channelling. 76 ancient scribbly gum trees would be gone and many other threatened plant and animal species even more threatened in this fragile coastal wallum heathland.

Sorry glossy black cockatoos, sorry Wallum froglet, sorry wildflowers. There is only 1% of this ecologically important ecosystem left in the Byron Shire. The rest is already under luxury homes.

The Wallum defenders have achieved a temporary stay of execution with a federal court interlocutory injunction and the matter is currently under review. With bare blocks on sale for around \$700,000, this development has been modified to accommodate some

ecological needs but significant trees are still under threat.

Where and when do we draw the line? When there’s nothing left? What will we tell the children?

Logging native forests

Logging continues in the NSW State Forests. Forestry Corporation of NSW are making sure they suck every last splinter they can out of the state forests before they are protected by the establishment of the Great Koala National Park. This promised park encompasses existing National Parks and adds 175,000 hectares of state forests.

While logging has ceased in several key koala hubs in the GKNP, there is important glider habitat in many other areas that are still being logged.

Greater gliders, another endangered species, are dependent on having access to numerous hollows for their survival as they like to move around and don’t always sleep in the same spot. Forest defenders and citizen scientists are busy observing and recording locations of glider dens as Forestry Corp struggle to find them during their own surveys.

Glider habitat trees require a 50-metre exclusion zone, but evidence shows that this doesn’t always happen during the timber harvesting.

Despite racking up over \$1 million in fines and criminal convictions over the past five years, Forestry Corp continue to flaunt



Installation of nesting box

carried out in the Styx River State Forest in areas where glider dens had been located and recorded. Where is our park, Chris Minns?

Nimbin Nesting Box Project

Projects like the Nimbin Nesting Box Project, funded by the Wires National Grant Program, attempt to redress the issue of lack of hollows in settled areas. The Nimbin valleys have been logged, farmed and grazed for generations, and only a few old growth trees remain in fragmented pockets.

While many landholders these days are planting trees, it will take 100 years or more before suitable hollows develop in them.

Through the nesting box project, NEC and WildBnb have installed 31 boxes across 16 properties stretching from Whian Whian to Mt Burrell.

These locations have provided excellent connectivity for wildlife across a wide area centred on Nimbin. The new boxes will provide critical breeding sites and homes for hollow dependent species such as owls, cockatoos, parrots, possums, gliders and microbats.

The boxes will be monitored in Spring to check the level of occupancy.

Together we are strong

NEC supports and is involved in a range of causes from on-ground bush regeneration projects to hands-on citizen science and protests as well as helping effect change at a social and political level.

Members meet regularly on the second Wednesday of the month at 5pm in the Comskool Room in the Nimbin Community Centre. All welcome. Next meeting will be on 14th August.

the rules.

Members of the Southeast Forest Rescue community group recently alerted the EPA to more breaches of the code and illegal logging

Jabiluka mining lease will not be renewed, merged into Kakadu



by Andy Gough

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced that the Northern Territory’s controversial Jabiluka uranium mining lease will not be renewed and will be absorbed into Kakadu National Park.

In a major win for the Mirarr traditional owners that shields them from any future expanded uranium mining, Mr Albanese says that the federal government will begin the process of permanently protecting the site as a final tribute to outgoing Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney. Mr Albanese says it, “means there will never be mining at Jabiluka”.

The NT government said that it had taken federal government advice and rejected an application for a 10-year renewal of the mineral lease for the Jabiluka site, which has never been mined or developed by its holder, the majority Rio Tinto-owned Energy Resources Australia (ERA).

Many north coast locals in the late 1990s joined a blockade by the Mirarr traditional owners alongside rock bands including Midnight Oil, Regurgitator and Coloured Stone, and the fight over the uranium mine has been a long-running saga.



Senior Traditional Owner Yvonne Margarula (pictured, above) said.

ERA has held a lease over the Jabiluka site – one of the world’s largest and richest uranium deposits – for 42 years. The lease has long been a contentious proposal, staunchly opposed by the Mirarr and various environmental groups.

Australian Conservation Foundation nuclear-free campaigner Dave Sweeney said he was stunned by the decision. “It was a genuine and welcome surprise and it was really a positive piece of news to hear,” he said. The ACF wants to see ERA now focus on its rehabilitation of the massive Ranger Uranium Mine at Jabiru after concluding production in January 2021.

“We have always said no to this mine; government and mining companies told us they would mine it but we stayed strong and said no. Today I feel very happy that Jabiluka will be safe forever. Protecting country is very important for my family and for me,” Mirarr



CEO of the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Thalia van den Boogard said the rehab project was crucial. “Mirarr are very concerned that ERA has been in serious financial decline for the past 18 months. Focus now needs to be put on the rehabilitation of the nearby former Ranger uranium mine.

“It is up to the mining company and the Commonwealth Government to ensure that site is fully rehabilitated so it can be safely returned to the Mirarr and included in the national park,” she said.

The land will be released from the mining lease on 11th August.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB
 **7 Sibley Street**

August What's On!
 \$15 unless otherwise noted
Bookings: text 0475-135-764 or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops: 10.30am – 1.30pm

- **Sat 10th: Beginners lace-making** – 11am at Djanbung Gardens Forgotten Arts, \$15.
- **Sat 17th: Growers and Producers Festival** – from 9am. Bring your excess harvest to share, seeddd and propagating exchange, pot-luck community picnic at 12pm (bring a plate).
- **Tues 20th: Knitting group** – BYO project, learn and share, by donation.
- **Sat 24th and 31st: Food forest design course** – Sessions 1&2. Learn how to design, implement and manage your own food forest using principles of permaculture, agroforestry and syntropic farming. \$600 full course. Bookings essential: Cerise 0473-634-862.
- **Community Tools Library:** Every Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm. For home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC Mon-Fri. Basketballs & pump available, \$5 refundable deposit.
- **Recovery support services:** Mon-Fri.

High calibre candidate

As a long-term resident of our beautiful multifaceted community, I've been reflecting on the many changes that I've witnessed here over the years. In my view, we have always been a resilient, adaptable, creative and hardworking mob, who have worked together across differences to create outcomes to enhance our community.

It's important that our local concerns are represented in the wider sphere, and the up-coming local Council elections are an opportunity to have a truly local, collaborative and committed community member representing the diverse voices of the Nimbin area on Lismore City Council.

I will be giving Virginia Waters (Greens) my primary vote. I have known her since she first came to Nimbin in the early 1990s and have utter faith in her capacity for negotiating complex political terrains and her dedication to representing all in our community, and the wider LGA, with transparency, honesty, fairness and conviction.

I know of her dedication and passionate engagement over many years at the Tuntable Community School and other community endeavours as she lives on the neighbouring community to mine.

She has also widely engaged outside of our small Nimbin world, having worked at the Lismore Women's Health Centre, and for Lismore City Council both in Community Services and Events and Tourism, as well as volunteering with the Lismore Lantern Parade over many years.

In all these realms Virginia has always brought a full heart and a creative nuance to seeking solutions and outcomes.

I have deep personal experience of working with Gin, on a community basis, over the tumultuous years we have experienced since the Mount Nardi fire of 2019 when many in our communities were at risk and worked together collectively

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin GoodTimes.

on a range of fronts.

The impacts here of the 2022 flood continues, and Virginia has worked tirelessly both as a volunteer and as a Project Manager on various Recovery Projects; we served together on the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group for a number of years.

As I reflect back over my own experience of living here, particularly over the last years, and think about the changes and uncertainties that the future may hold, I know that we need leadership and representation from people of Virginia's high calibre and conscientiousness to highlight our local Nimbin concerns, and I would urge all to vote with care and consideration.

Linnet Pike
Mount Nardi

Fascist internet?

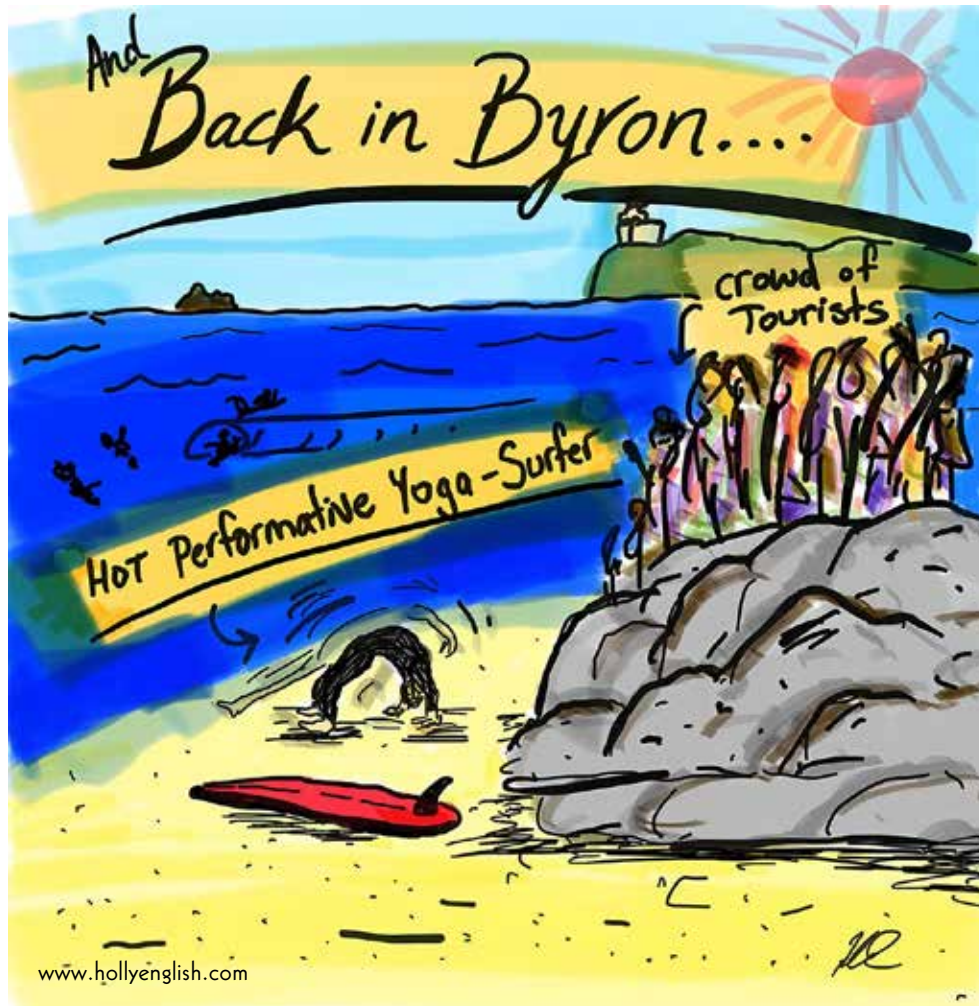
Most of us, including NGT columnist Aidan Ricketts (NGT July p.9), still confuse fascism as only being a far-right ideology.

This is largely due to post WW2 propaganda after the defeat of Nazism. Ricketts' "It is time to swipe left on the far right" confirms this.

However, fascism can best be described as 'corporatism', for it is merely the usurping, the replacing and the merging of state power with that of corporate power.

A fascist 'government' is usually a totalitarian and authoritarian one-party state where differentiating corporate power from government can be impossible.

China, which most deem a communist regime ('swipe left'), actually embodies all the attributes of a fascist



www.hollyenglish.com

state. So does North Korea. Russia and the one party state of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Cuba, and Myanmar all come a close second.

However, even more frightening than Aidan's multinational corporations, big telcos, internet providers etc, is the realisation that when democracies and their elected governments bail out businesses deemed too-big-to-fail (2007-8 Global Financial Crisis), or impose Covid lockdowns, mandatory vaccinations and curfews enforced by police, these too are revealed as being 'borderline' fascist.

Even the church is a fascist structure. Question its dogma as a member and you're either deemed a heretic or ostracised. Does the internet or platform X do that to any user?

If one believes we're close to being swallowed by a fascist internet (and we aren't), unlike the Chinese, Russians and North Koreans, people can still legally protest and question our government, corporations or religious institutions.

They can still choose to swap their internet providers, source news from reputable non-political sources such as *The Guardian*, Al Jazeera or others, switch their TV off permanently (as I did 20 years ago), buy only local product, write letters to 'pencals' or simply visit friends instead of using Facebook or Instagram, and vote for independent candidates, etc.

By buying product produced in and by a fascist state simply seeds the spread. But then some columnists just love playing mind-games.

Azan Mann
Evans Head

Process waste locally

I am writing to express my concerns about the current waste management practices in the Lismore Council region, specifically the decision to truck waste to Queensland for disposal.

This approach raises significant environmental and economic issues that warrant immediate attention and action.

Transporting waste over long distances contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions, undermining our community's efforts to combat climate change.

The trucks used for this purpose consume large amounts of fuel and contribute to road wear and tear, leading to higher maintenance costs for our infrastructure.

Furthermore, this practice shifts the burden of waste management from our region to another, potentially overburdening Queensland's waste facilities and impacting their local environment.

It is crucial that we find more sustainable and locally responsible solutions for managing our waste.

The Lismore Council should prioritise investing in local waste processing and recycling facilities. By doing so, we can reduce transportation emissions, create local jobs, and ensure that we are managing our waste in an environmentally responsible manner.

I urge the council to reconsider its current waste management strategy and explore more sustainable alternatives.

Our community deserves a waste management system that reflects

our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Margaret Seydel
Clunes

Koala survival

I went to see *The Koalas* movie in Kyogle.

I knew it was about the endangered situation of our koala populations but I had no idea of the shock I would feel when I saw the true state of our Australian iconic animal.

I heard from a panel of despairing scientists and others who had worked specifically to save koalas for 40 years. They don't know what more they can do.

The science is there but the will of government and big business is not. It is so sad for us all.

This morning I walked down the street and I saw a school display in a shop window. There was a metre-high sculpture of a koala. It was beautifully painted and I'm sure the children who painted it believed that as a nation we care a lot about them.

I've seen a lot of these sculptures in Port Macquarie too, and was relieved to read before the state election that a National Park was to be established in that area to protect them.

It is an area that not too long ago was subjected to terrible bushfires and all of our native animals there suffered enormously.

I saw the large amount of housing development in areas of bushland and the clear-felling of koala trees. I was concerned.

It is ludicrous that

we have Friends of the Koalas, Landcare, private landowners and community groups planting areas to provide food and shelter for koalas while our government representatives authorise the clearing of existing forests that support koala populations.

The Labor state government was elected and I thought all would be well. How naïve was I? I now see daily reports of scientists, community members and animal carers, blockading the very forest that the government said they would protect.

It is being logged by a corporation that I subsidise as a taxpayer because it doesn't even run at a profit. That makes no sense at all and brings tears to my eyes.

What do people have to do to stop this senseless destruction from occurring? We can make political change, but it will all be too late for these areas and for those little children who believed that we cared for these creatures and our forests.

If you haven't seen this movie, I strongly recommend that you do. It certainly opened my eyes and shocked me. All of the people I have talked to who saw it have said the same thing.

I occasionally hear a koala in the bush above our house. Next time I do, instead of feeling excited and privileged, I will feel very sad.

Margaret Brace
Kyogle

So they say

I've been a huge fan of the 'She Said, He Said' advice column in *The Nimbin GoodTimes* since I first picked up a copy nearly 10 years ago. I love how Aunty Maj and Uncle Norm dispense insightful sage advice all under the cover of often hilarious humour.

I recently had the privilege of meeting Magenta and Norm in person and was delighted to discover that they are just like in their column in real life – hugely personable, entertainingly funny and totally community-minded.

Thanks Maj and Norm for your column and thanks to *Nimbin GoodTimes* for including this high quality life-commentary in your paper.

Vivienne Pearson
Ocean Shores

Correction

The public celebration of Jethro Gilmour's life (published as part of an obituary in the NGT July edition, p.8) to be held on Saturday 17th August has now been cancelled and may be held at a later date.

About us

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The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson
Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com
And find us on Facebook

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 30th August

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Finally! A solar battery rebate for NSW

by Ram Smith, Operations Manager,
Nickel Energy

The NSW Government has announced a new initiative to lower the cost of batteries for homeowners and small businesses. The goal of this scheme is to reduce peak electricity demand in NSW.

By promoting the use of batteries throughout the state, the initiative aims to make the grid more reliable and stable while also decreasing reliance on fossil fuels during peak demand periods.

Here is what we know so far:

The subsidy is being offered as part of the ongoing NSW Peak Demand Reduction Scheme. This scheme has been running since 2022 and aims to improve the efficiency of hot water, air conditioning, pool pumps, and now solar batteries across NSW.

Batteries have been out of reach for

most people, but with this subsidy finally, they will be more affordable. If eligible for the subsidy, the cost of adding batteries will likely be reduced by between \$1600 and \$2400.

To be eligible you must:

- Have an existing solar PV system or install solar PV with the battery system
- Not already have batteries installed
- Install a battery from 2kWh to 28kWh

Additionally, the scheme gives incentives to connect your existing or new battery to a virtual power plant, the NSW Government will give you between \$250 and \$400, and this payment can be claimed a second time three years on.

The scheme starts on 1st November. We expect a rush on batteries to come in November, so Nickel Energy are accepting pre-orders which will put you

at the front of the queue.

Just like when you install a new solar PV installation, we will claim the subsidy for you and reduce your installation costs up-front.

As with any government initiative, there are a number of rules and regulations that need to be adhered to when claiming the subsidies, and there is still some uncertainty around exactly how the scheme is going to work.

At this stage, not all battery models or solar PV installation companies will be able to claim these subsidies.

Nickel Energy has been keeping a close eye on developments since the announcement of the scheme and are keeping up to date with new information as it comes to hand.

Nickel Energy is happy to answer any questions you might have about the scheme. Phone 6622-0088.

Secret India comes to Nimbin

by Jagad Samuel

"What is the truth behind the fitful hints which reach us intimating that there exists in India an old wisdom that promises the most extraordinary development of mental powers to those who practise it?" asked Paul Brunton in *A Search in Secret India*.

Since my own glimpse at something beyond our physical reality, I have had a wish to find out more about all spiritual traditions. This wish took me to India with the hope that I could bring back some of the wisdom and practices to the people who come to Flourish Sanctuary, Nimbin.

What I have written here is my first attempt to share the experience. It is a heavily abridged recounting, skipping countless incredible experiences and encounters with amazing people.

It all began with a serendipitous meeting with a swami called Parambodhi at Flourish Sanctuary. After becoming a regular supporter and attendee of the Satsangs I run at Flourish, Swami Parambodhi offered to take me on a pilgrimage in India.

Despite still being on crutches, I was too excited by the offer to wait until my leg got better to go.

After a 15-hour flight I landed in New Delhi and met up with Swami Parambodhi, where a cacophony of hundreds of taxis was waiting to greet me and thousands of other travellers the moment



they stepped out of the airport.

Our first destination was the home of Swami Ved Prakash, a retired Vipassana teacher. Swami Ved Prakash shared with me some profound practices that immediately deepened my meditation.

We also delved into a thought-provoking discussion about why joy is important for meditation, emphasising that true joy is essential to obtain the full benefits of the practice.

Two days later, we travelled to Haryana to stay with Swami Pratik. From his residence, we embarked on a trek into the jungle to meet three sadhus and a baba.

A sadhu is a Hindu ascetic who renounces worldly life for self-realisation, while a baba is a revered spiritual leader, often providing blessings to their followers.

The baba promised to reveal to me the secrets of the universe if I stayed the night, but our commitments elsewhere combined with a sense of looming danger meant I left before the sunset and so these secrets remained unknown to me, still I learnt many interesting things before leaving.

On our way back, a violent storm hit, and we found ourselves driving over fallen power lines, a testament to the unpredictable nature of our travel in India. Maybe this is what I sensed?

The next day our travels then took us to Sangrur, where we stayed with Joga Singh, awaiting the arrival of Baba Ji.

After a night of rest, Baba Ji invited us to run a Satsang for three generations of a family in Samana. This Satsang covered a wide array of fascinating topics, including the true nature of existence and the paramount importance of love.

This wasn't that different to what I do on Sunday afternoons in Nimbin.

The next day, we joined in chanting and Kirtan at a Gurdwara, a sacred Sikh place of worship.

Following this, we accompanied Baba Ji on his rounds, first visiting a stable of horses, then offering blessings to a newborn baby at a hospital, and finally stopping by a local business flourishing under Baba Ji's guidance.

In a gesture of deep respect and honour, Baba Ji presented

me with a white robe, shawl and turban.

Our farewell to Baba Ji included a pivotal conversation, arranging for him to visit Flourish Sanctuary in 2025. We then drove to Osho Gram, arriving just in time for evening meditation.

The next day, I conducted an intimate Satsang on profound topics such as the afterlife, overcoming grief, and living a meaningful life.

Our final destination was Manikaran, where we met Mehul, an Osho devotee. I compared spiritual understandings with Mehul and enjoyed his company before we headed back to the airport in Delhi.

This condensed version of my travels to India captures but a fraction of the richness and depth of the experiences and wisdom gained.

I am excited to be back and running meditations, Satsangs and more. I am happy to see upon my return that Nimbin is the same special place that I left behind.

It is my heartfelt hope that the connections made, spiritual teachings received, and many incredible experiences will all contribute to the offerings at Flourish Sanctuary and permeate out to Nimbin and then the world spreading peace and happiness.

A big thanks to Parambodhi for his unwavering support and companionship throughout this journey, making each step, despite the crutches, a great spiritual leap for me.



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