













Nimbin Central School celebrates Year 12

by Sonja Mitchell

he Year 12 Formal at Uncle Lims in Lismore was a night to remember, filled with celebration and excitement.

Surrounded by family, friends, staff, and fellow students, the graduates

dressed to impress and enjoyed a sumptuous banquet-style dinner.

This memorable event marked the end of their educational journey, bringing together the Nimbin Central School community to share in their success.

As they move on to different

ventures – whether that be university, TAFE, apprenticeships, travelling, or starting new jobs – the night was a celebration of their achievements and the bright futures ahead.

Nimbin Central School extends its best wishes for their future endeavours.

Memoir launched in Nimbin

In French colonial Algeria, the War of Independence raged for eight years, with unrelenting violence, merciless acts of revenge, and the on-going slaughter of innocent people.

One-time Nimbin local, Daniel Soler (pictured) grew up amidst the turmoil.

His resourceful nature and quick thinking allowed him to navigate the dangers with fortitude.

His youth was full of adventures, set against the backdrop of conflict.

In July 1962, as inevitable independence loomed, everything changed.

With humour, vivid storytelling, and unflinching honesty, Daniel shares his remarkable experiences, offering an honest and captivating portrait of life during war. At first, I thought it was a dead dog. Many animals were found dead by the roadside, hit by an army truck or run over by a refinery tanker. It was only when I neared the corpse that I noticed the turban. "It's an Arab," I thought, "a dead Arab."

The Ears of the Jackal is a powerful memoir that captures the essence of a childhood lived during a pivotal moment in history.

The book, the first in a trilogy he is still writing, is available on Amazon in print (\$30) and Kindle (\$8) versions. Find it by entering Daniel's name on the site.

Alternatively, a hard copy can be posted to you by phoning 0493-516-926. Postage costs \$10.



Nimbin farewells Benny Zable on Remembrance Day

by Bob Dooley, president NAFI

Benny Zable, the indefatigable peace activist, talented muralist and past committe member and president of the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc (NAFI), chose his last gig in Nimbin to follow the WW1 Armistice observance on 11th November.

For over 20 years, NAFI, which has a commitment to work towards world peace, has followed up war comemorations with a universal Om for peace.

This year, a group of friends attended and formed a talking circle around the John Lennon IMAGINE mandala that he meticulously copied and repainted during the many years he lived in the village.

He will be remembered in Nimbin not just for his Zany Bubbles shopfront murals that appeared with the Aquarius Festival and heart-breakingly burnt down, but also for his unique, well-executed political graphic art and lettering, and his performance personas, with the organisation of towers of 44-gallon drums and dozens of original printed flags on staffs.

He is surely the model of an activist artist for peace.

Of course, on his way to his new home in Melbourne, he stopped in to take part in the climate protest in Newcastle.

Go Benny, we all wish you well.





Locals support coal blockade

170 arrested facing penalties up to \$22,000 or 2 years jail

Continued from front page

verall, there were 7000 people over eight days, 33 volunteer teams with over 1000 volunteers doing 4500 shifts, cooking 20,000 meals and having 130 spokespersons (delegate of your group) representing 2000 people and meeting twice a day for decision making. It was just huge, and there was such a positive and friendly atmosphere at this drug-free event.

There were workshops for Non Violent Direct Action to decolonisation etc and there was music in the air, with Peter Garrett, John Butler, Angi McMahon and Dobby; also Gurridyula, the man who keeps the indigenous fire burning for over 1000 days now on the Adani coal mine sites in Queensland.

It was great to see John Butler performing in a Wallum shirt after visiting their stall, and hearing the former frontman of Midnight Oil and environment minister Peter Garrett speaking of the overreach from authorities to stop the peaceful protest.

He continued: "Is the threat to the wellbeing and the peace of the Hunter region to be found in a group of citizens exercising peacefully their democratic rights, or is it to be found in continuing to export a material which is going to blow the world up in a furnace?"

It was also good to see Craig Foster, former socceroo and Lismore boy coming by, now a journalist and human rights advocate.

Newcastle is the world's largest coal port, taking it mostly to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and India; more than 150 million tonnes annually.

28 new coal and gas projects have been approved by the Albanese government, and our emissions are higher now than under Morrision.

I caught up with Kudra Falla-Ricketts from Lismore and she told me that she joined the RFS after the 2019 fires. She said: "My home was flooded in the 2022 floods, despite being on four metre stilts. I know that these extreme natural disasters are only to get worse as climate change impacts on all our communities.

"This is why I went to Rising Tide, to block the Newcastle coal port and fight against the fossil-fuelled climate change which has affected my whole community and will continue to do so."

She thinks our government has a duty of care to tax the coal companies to fund a just transition, as well as stop approving new mines.

The coal mining industry in NSW is 90% foreign owned and pays less then 11% tax. State and Federal governments provided \$14.5 billion in subsidies to fossil fuel producers and major consumers in 2013-14, which is equivalent of \$27,581 for every minute of the day. Why?

The Australian Institute estimates that the Federal government has budgeted \$54 billion for fossil fuel subsidies, five times more than the ten billion for the Housing Australia Future Fund.

On Thursday evening I saw an overthe-top police presence and it stayed like that until Sunday evening. Friday most of the kayaks stayed in their legal zone. Saturday there were three arrests for getting in the highly guarded shipping channel; Sunday 170 arrests. All were released after hours apart from Naomi and Andy. There were 14 under-18 and 17 over 65 included.









They achieved their aim before midday when an empty vessel had to turn back because of them. There are a lot of stories of police being quite aggressive, pushing people in the water and stealing the paddles from kayaks on the water and on the beach.

Then I heard the police saying to the media that they had to rescue people. As organiser Zach Schoefield said: "The government can't arrest their way out of this problem."

Just before I went on Monday to the court for the bail hearing where I learned that I was not allowed to take notes, while people behind me were hammering on their laptops.

I caught up with Brunswick resident Lisa Sandstrom, 58 who said: "I do not want to be here. I certainly don't want to be arrested. What is left to make our politician listen, apart from civil disobedience?"

She voted for Albanese and they have been a disgrace, approving more coal and gas mines. "Daily we are watching

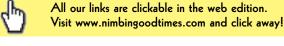


extinctions of flora and fauna and climate-driven floods and fires. The governments worldwide are aware, yet not acting. They protect the greed of capitalism and greedy men over country and community. Fossil fuels and deforestation must stop now!"











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Funding boost for Aquarius archive

by Jenny Cornish, Greg Bork and Tess Schofield

The Aquarius Archive Centre team is delighted to announce that we are a recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation.

Aquarius Archive Centre is collaborating with Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Incorporated (NAFI) as part of NAFI's Statement of Principle Purpose, which includes looking after archival material.

Our aim is to secure, protect and share important Aquarius related collections.

This grant will fund the launch of the Centre with a work space, storage facility and display capacity in Nimbin for one year.

Our plan is to start in January 2025 with a rented office in the Nimbin Community Centre. Volunteers will be welcomed with introductory training workshops in archival preservation, storage and access.

We will let you know when we are ready to receive archive donations next year. In the meantime, you may contact us via our temporary email address: aquariusarchivecentre@gmail.com

We look forward to bringing stories in the archives to the heart of Nimbin and looking after them with the community, with gratitude and respect.

We thank:

Northern Rivers Community Foundation for awarding our grant.



L to R: Victor (NRCF), Bob (NAFI), Renee (NAFI), Greg (AAC), Jen (NRCF) and Tess (AAC) at the NRCF grant announcement event.

- Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc for collaborative partnership.
- · Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Aquarius 50 committee, Nimbin Hemp Embassy and the Church of Aquarius for help making this idea come alive.
- Institutions and community members who provided the many heartfelt letters of support for our grant application.
- · Numerous people far and wide who participated in the Archives at Aquarius 50 exhibition and report (available on request).
- · Archive custodians across the Rainbow Region who described the

- scope, condition and care of their collections to student Greg Bork at Southern Cross University over many
- Skilled archiving professionals and academics who provide ongoing expert guidance and support.
- · Archivists who came before us, including members of the former Aquarian Archive Inc.
- Bundjalung and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who maintain relationships with the Nimbin Aquarius community since the 1973 festival, and who are the traditional custodians of this land and its stories.

Speaking of mushrooms: Psilocybin symposium

by Michael Balderstone

On the 7th December, the Nimbin Hemp Embassy will sponsor a Psilocybin Symposium to be held in Nimbin Town Hall from 10am to about 5pm.

The entheogenic talks at MardiGrass the last few years have been the most popular of all, packing out the tent as more and more people are enquiring about micro and macro dosing

They've heard it can help with their depression and anxiety in particular and their prescription drugs aren't working.

This symposium is an effort to educate people a little so they are as aware as possible in the choices they make.

The day will be focused mainly on psilocybin, as this seems to be the most frequently asked-about substance. We have a range of speakers discussing the legalities, risks, macro and microdosing, therapy, and the healing powers of

We are also inviting those who wish to share their own experiences. We learn from each other.

Speakers include Dr Mario Alam, with 20 years experience as a medical doctor and certifications in Psychedelic Assisted Therapies, Psychosomatic Medicine, Neuro-Linguistics and Nutritional Environment Medicine.

Dr Alam integrates Western medical expertise with insights from spiritual leaders, shamans, and medical pioneers world-wide. He provides transformative health services focused on psychedelic medicine preparation, trauma healing and holistic well-being.

Dr Mario, founder of World Doctor and the RESET program, will be providing a two-hour in-depth presentation of RESET, a Journey Into Psychedelic Embodiment, as well as a one-hour experiential workshop titled 'Embodying Psychedelia'.

Liam James is a mycologist and ethnobotanist who is passionate about



the wider use of mushrooms and what they do for our health and the planets.

Fungi are an important part of soil biodiversity and this diverse group of organisms can help tackle global challenges, including climate change and hunger.

This is ground-breaking science, literally ground-breaking. Liam James will help you see the earth underneath your feet in a whole new way.

Dee Driscoll, is a naturopath, massage therapist, body worker, yoga teacher, and certified in patient assisted therapy. "My approach to sustainable health and the treatment of disease is a holistic in nature practice. It is not enough to merely treat the symptoms but to delve deep into the understanding of an individuals environment, lifestyle, mental and spiritual health," says Dee, who will be discussing both macro and micro dosing psilocybin.

Steve Bolt, Lismore lawyer and champion of fairness and justice. Steve will inform participants of the legalities of psychedelic drugs. This is a subject everyone should be aware of before making a choice to embark on psychedelic healing methods.

The program

Please note times below are only approximate and we encourage questions and discussion between each speaker. 10.00: Welcome and introduction by

MC's Louise Graves (registered nurse and long-time enthusiast of psilocybin for healing), and Miss Guidance from Entheogenesis Australis.

10.15: Lawyer Steve Bolt will importantly speak on the legal status of psilocybin.

10.45: Liam James

11.30: Dee Driscoll

12.00: Questions and testimonials. 12.30: Lunch, delicious and organic. Gillian Jay will be offering sound

1.30 - 3.30: Dr Mario Alam. Dr Mario will share insights from his two decades of medical practice, exploring the transformative potential of psychedelics.

3.30 – 4: Q&A. Sharing from participants of experiences and stories. 4 – 5: Dr Mario Alam – a workshop

presenting RESET, a ground-breaking method that simulates psychedelic states through advanced somatic practices to deliver a profound substance-free healing experience. RESET employs aspects of the Ground/Transform/Expand methods to integrate physical, mental and spiritual dimensions, facilitating deep personal growth and transformation. Conversations about psychedelics are happening and need to continue. Please join us for this unique event.

Admission is by donation. For more info, contact Louise on 0428-830-985

More positive news for Northern Rivers Rail

by Lydia Kindred, NRRL Secretary

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd (NRRL), trading as Northern Rivers Railway, are very pleased to announce that the NSW Minns Labor government has committed to re-evaluating regional railway lines in NSW with "a fresh approach to how rail infrastructure investment is determined".

Regional Transport Minister, Jenny Aitchison, has stated: "Regional communities have been calling for investment in rail infrastructure in the regions.

"This program will ensure any investment is made on the basis of robust planning and development to enrich our state."

Rail Tram and Bus Union secretary, Toby Warnes, has recently expressed concerns about a proposal by Lismore and Byron councils to convert more of the railway line between Lismore and the top of Byron Shire to a 'rail trail'.

The RTBU calls the proposal "short sighted, contrary to long term planning, and inconsistent with NSW Labor party policy... particularly in an age when rail transport is



Ladies on the Byron Solar Train Photo: Mick Johnson

enjoying new focus owing to its obvious benefits to the environment, and as an efficient means of mass transit of goods and people.

"There is no reason why the (bike) trail cannot be laid next to existing rail track, with special measures put in place to deal with tunnels."

Silvana Smith from the Mullumbimby Brunswick Labor Branch has notified us that they have voted unanimously in support of local train transport (light rail) for their community, using existing rail lines.

Other breaking news is that 'rail trail' funding for the Armidale region has now been withdrawn by the government.

Donations

The Northern Rivers is in the best position for the last 20 years to have train services return to our region!

NRRL, as a not-for-profit railway company, is working with others to make this happen, but we need your help.

Please make a tax-deductible donation at: Bunya Sustainability Fund, BSB 722 744, Account: 100128876, or simply donate to NR Rail Ltd at Summerland Bank, BSB: 728 728, Account: 22330962 to help bring trains back to our tracks.

For more information go to: northernriversrailway@gmail.com





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New homes for wildlife

by Triny Roe

A pair of Australian owlet-nightjars wasted no time and took advantage of one of the nesting boxes installed on the edge of Nimbin village for the Nimbin Valley Nesting Box Project.

Placed in a tree in August, by the end of October one box was housing two fluffy chicks as well!

These little birds are not actually owls, or nightjars, but a separate species, Aegotheles cristatus. Also called a fairy owl, it is the smallest nocturnal bird. Fairy owls swoop around in the evening and just before dawn feasting on juicy spiders and other tasty insects they find on the ground or in the air.

An unusual bird, it doesn't like cold winter mornings and shuts its body down entering a torpor, reducing metabolism to conserve energy. The Nimbin fairy owl family of four is faring well in its snug warm home.

A family of sugar gliders also claimed a new abode and created a den in a nesting box on a property just outside the village. It's early days and several boxes already show signs of activity.

It is hoped that over the next few months, more hollow dependent species will find happy homes to raise the next generation and find shelter from the weather. The boxes will be monitored again next Spring for signs of activities.

The Nimbin Nesting Box Project was made possible with funding received from the WIRES National Grant Program. Nimbin Environment Centre partnered with WildBnB to install 31 nesting boxes and hollows on 18 separate sites surrounding Nimbin, stretching from Mt Burrell to Whian Whian.

Wildlife catered for included gliders, owls, parrots, possums and microbats. Hollows develop naturally in trees older than 100 years and there are not



many of those left on the hills and in the valleys of the Northern Rivers.

Extensively logged and farmed in the 19th and 20th century, much of the countryside was denuded of trees.

While the last 50 years have seen extensive bush regeneration in this region with major replanting of the rainforest and sclerophyll forests in many areas, much of the occupied landscape still lacks the old growth trees necessary for nesting hollows. This project addressed this issue.

Augmenting the project, Nimbin Environment Centre is also sponsoring

Sugar gliders make their home in a nesting box in Nimbin. Photo: WildBnB

the installation of some nesting boxes in the newly created Aquarius Park.

A Hunk-of-Trunk, made from a natural hollow log, has already been attached high in the fork of a large silky oak. It can be seen from the recently constructed Rainbow Road Walking Track.

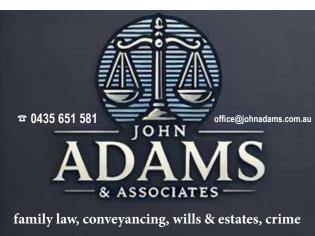
Others boxes suitable for gliders and microbats will follow when the rest of the track construction and weed tree control are completed.













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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year from all the team at NNIC. May you have a peaceful and enjoyable festive season.

NNIC and Centrelink Agency Xmas close dates

- NNIC will be closing at 4pm Friday 20th December and re-opening on Monday 6th January.
- Centrelink Agency will be open on Monday 23rd December and then closed until Thursday 2nd January - open on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd January.
- **Recovery Support Service** will be closed from Friday 20th December until Wednesday 1st January, and then open from 2nd January onwards. If you need help while we are closed:
- Kids Helpline 1800-55-1800 free, private and confidential, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and
- Lifeline 13-11-14 crisis support for people feeling sad, lonely, suicidal or anxious.
- 1800 Respect 1800-737-732 domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support.
- Suicide Call Back Service 1300-659-467 free telephone counselling 24/7 for people feeling suicidal, worried about someone, bereaved by suicide or supporting suicidal clients.
- Mental Health Line 1800-011-511 A 24-hour service across NSW to connect people to the right care or service.

Community Xmas Lunch

Friday 20th December at Nimbin Town Hall. Doors open at 12 midday, Santa arrives at 1.30pm. Everyone welcome!

Farewells

At the end of December we say farewell to volunteer of

Help needed! We need you!

We have lots of different volunteer jobs and roles at NNIC and also at 7 Sibley Street to suit all sorts of people and skills and interests. These include:

- Food Pantry Assistant Co-ordinator
- Front Desk Assistants
- Community Care Team members
- + Head Gardener, 7 Siblev St
- Shop Assistants, 7 Sibley St (commencing Feb 2025)
- Women's Dinner organising committee
- + Bar staff with current RSAs for the Women's Dinner
- Plus a new lawnmower person for 7 Sibley St Rik, our fabulous mower man for the past five years, is finally retiring.
- · We are also looking for a new Secretary for the Management Committee.

Any help is helpful - you can contribute as little or as much as you choose.

Send expressions of interest to: admin@nnic.org.au or just drop by and talk to Nicole at our front desk.

Sustainable Nimbin

The new edition of the

SNCP is available to view or

download it on-line at: www.

nnic.org.au or hard copies

Some of the actions

are available for viewing at

under the Plan are already

well underway and some

Strategies have even been

Community Plan

NNIC.

achieved.

22 years, Chris Harris and also to Kerry Negus our Community Worker.

Thanks to both of them for everything they have contributed to NNIC. We will miss them both.

In October we said farewell to Jasmine from the RSS team, and at the end of January the Nimbin RSS winds up and we will be saying goodbye to our wonderful remaining two RSS staff, Alison and Kim.

Shout Out for performers

We are chasing fun, vibrant, cabaret style acts for the 2025 Nimbin Women's Dinner on Thursday 6th March. It's a paid gig, so contact us at: admin@nnic.org.au

Are you a local accommodation provider?

The Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group has developed a brochure for visitors to Nimbin with key information they need in the event of a disaster such as flood or bushfires.

Accommodation providers are encouraged to add this brochure to their visitors' info folders. To get an electronic version to print out OR to get some hard copies printed out to collect, contact: admin@ nnic.org.au

Food Security activities; join the Nimbin Food Security Facebook page to find out more; or the newly formed Nimbin Arts Collective, again, join the Facebook group for more information.

You can get involved in the

Passionate about water? The Water Collective group has also commenced, contact: sibley@nnic.org.au

Not on Facebook? Contact the above email address to get onto our SNCP email list for updates.

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

Bushfire/Emergency Plans

You can find easy How To guides and templates to use to prepare your own Plans on NSW Rural Fire Service website: www.myfireplan.com. au and also at the Red Cross website: www.redcross.org.au/

If you need more help, book an appointment with our Recovery Support Service staff. Email: nimbinrss@nnic. org.au or call or text 0488-144-647.

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, 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 19th December. 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 19th December.

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.

Nimbin Youth: A space for connection and support

by Rain Wickham Project Co-ordinator

imbin Youth is thriving, thanks to the incredible support from our community.

Open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3pm to 6pm, the space has become a hub for young people to connect and unwind.

Recently, we've been enjoying the VR goggles generously gifted to us, offering a whole new world of fun and exploration!

We've also been rewarding key donors to the space as a small token of appreciation for their generosity. Their contributions have been instrumental in making Nimbin Youth a welcoming and supportive environment.

Fridays are extra special, with Wick and Rain cooking up delicious burgers or toasties to ensure our young people are well-fed and ready for the weekend.

We're so grateful for the food donations and the dedicated passion of our community to support local

Together, we're creating a space where young people feel valued and cared for.

Thank you Nimbin, you're



amazing! For updates, visit us on

Facebook: www.facebook. com/NimbinYouth



Hospital Auxiliary prepares for festive December

▲ s the holiday season approaches, the Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary (UHA) is gearing up for a busy and joyful December.

The highlight is the annual Christmas raffle, which will be drawn on Thursday 12th December.

With over \$1,000 in prizes, including vouchers from several local businesses, plus handmade gifts, and a kids Santa sack, the raffle is an exciting opportunity to support the Auxiliary's work. Nimbin Bakery has even

by Nicole Lindner, secretary sweetened the deal with fruit mince pies for the winners.

> Be sure to buy your tickets, available every Thursday from 10am to 12pm outside the newsagent.

The UHA will also host a Green Bank sausage sizzle on Saturday, 7th December from 8am to 1pm, offering delicious BBQ and homebaked treats.

December will be filled with cheer as the UHA organises the Nimbin Aged Care Christmas party on Tuesday 17th December, bringing festive joy to the aged care residents.

The event will feature

lunch and thoughtful gifts to brighten everyone's day and spread the holiday spirit.

As 2024 wraps up, the Nimbin UHA extends its gratitude for the community's incredible support throughout the year.

Looking to the future, the Auxiliary invites anyone interested in volunteering or getting involved to join in 2025. It's a rewarding way to make a difference.

For more information, contact president Marceliena Brumley at: marceliena. brumley@hotmail.com

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Community-led disaster recovery improves well-being

Resilient Lismore (RL) has just published two significant reports that clearly demonstrate the need for ongoing community disaster recovery in the Northern Rivers. The findings show the unmet community needs and the effectiveness of RLs 'Repair to Return' property repair project.

RLs executive director, Elly Bird says the reports are "useful in understanding how people in the Northern Rivers are travelling, more than two and a half years after the

In July 2024, RL led a door-to-door outreach and survey program across the Lismore flood zone. The project was supported by Social Futures and Uniting Recovery Support Services programs, Lismore City Council, the Red Cross and the Lismore Business Chaplains. Residents were asked about their recovery needs and experiences, and the status of their house

Results from the survey concluded that more than 2000 residents, living in over 1000 households have still not fully recovered from the 2022 flood and are under-prepared for any future disaster.

"It highlights shortfalls in recovery support for households that 'fall through the cracks' of existing disaster recovery and preparedness programs," Ms. Bird said.

"Further support is still needed to meet the particular needs of the people living in the flood zone, many of whom are also navigating challenging personal circumstances such as financial strain or living with a disability," she said.

Social Impact Report

Resilient Lismore, together with Huber Social, an independent expert company specialising in social impact, has also released its Social Impact Report. This report presents the results of surveys of our Repair to Return project participants, volunteers and our workshop participants.

According to Elly Bird "this report shows that as well as repairing houses or running workshops, participation in our programs improves the wellbeing of the people we work with. Our team knows this, our community knows it and now we have the evidence that shows the value of a community-led and place-based approach to disaster recovery."

The results show measurable changes overall for respondents' ability to feel hopeful and feel connected to their community and improve personal

"It's not all roses though. The report notes that wellbeing amongst respondents overall is lower than the national average, so it's important to remember that there is still a lot that can be done to care for our communities here in the Northern Rivers, and for the people who have been affected by the 2022 disaster," Ms Bird said.

The Lismore Flood Zone Survey and Outreach Report can be accessed at: https://resilientlismore.org.au/project/ community-outreach-surveys

The Social Impact can be accessed at: https://resilientlismore.org.au/publications/ resilient-lismore-social-impact-report

Yabai, Mumbala

ncle Gilbert teaches us that 'Yabai' is the Bunjalung word for water and 'Mumbala' is the Bundjalung word for running water.

Following the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan forum on Water, the Nimbin Water Collective was formed in October with the second meeting held in November.

Our purpose is to support the community vision of Nimbin's water supply as being pure, clean and healthy. This is achieved by a responsible, whole of catchment approach and living in harmony with the natural cycles of this

We are currently working on community education by creating a sign to display critical water information, including the current water flow into Mulgum creek, rainfall totals, and water usage.

The sign will be on display in the Environment Centre window, and is a prototype for construction of larger water information boards.

We have a design, but if anyone could assist with the final graphic design work,

This will be followed up with creation of a Nimbin Water Monitoring and Awareness booklet under guidance from Indigenous elders.

This booklet will all be about this most precious part of all our lives. It will also be designed to encourage other community members to monitor their local flow as well as assisting in water education. It is a work in progress.

We are also conducting an assessment of the Nimbin water catchment including the weir, Mulgum creek, Gungas road, water treatment, and Williams Dam. What issues are we really facing, and what solutions are available? If we were to work together, what solutions could we create?

The Water Collective welcomes others to come and make a contribution. We are an informal group aiming to simply communicate effectively together, and then take action. Some community members might not like meetings preferring a private talk instead. We welcome your input.

Next meeting: 2pm, Wednesday 4th December, 2024 at 7 Sibley Street. For information contact: sibley@nnic.org.au

NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB 7 Sibley Street

December What's On!

For bookings, email: sibley@nnic.org.au or text 0475-135-764

- Tues 17th: Knitting group BYO project, learn and share, by donation.
- Sat 21st: nimBIN CHICKENS Learn more and join our plastic recycling project.
- Community Tools Library: Every Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm. For home repairs, aarden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC Mon-Fri. Basketballs & pump available, \$5 deposit.
- Mon-Fri: Recovery Support Services. 7 Sibley Street closes 22nd Dec-6th Jan
- Sat 14th: Weaving Christmas wreaths

ferments for soil improvement

• Sat 7th, 11am: Workshop \$15 – Making

Workshops: 10.30am – 1.30pm

Collective - Meet-up with other

for future local water security.

exchange.

• Wed 4th, 2-3pm: Nimbin Water Security

passionate locals to plan our strategies

• Sat 7th, 9-10am: Food Swap – Bring your

excess harvest to share! Seed and plant

Letters

Jacarandas

The beautiful Jacaranda mimisifolia is an environmental weed in this region, introduced and often encouraged.

Isn't it slightly ironic that Southern Cross University (SCU) has recently planted 30 plus jacarandas as a celebration of 30 years of SCU?

I contacted SCU to express my concern over the planting of jacarandas and the lack of care and management of the dry rainforest remnant on the northern and western slopes of SCU land. There are currently over 50 known listed weeds found within the dry rainforest remnant.

The remnant contains three NSW-listed threatened plant species and habitat for the koala, listed as vulnerable by the Federal Government. Lack of management of the remnant is accelerating the degeneration of the remnant.

SCU is currently developing a master plan. The plan includes 'ecosystem regeneration' and 'protect and enhance biodiversity'. Does planting of jacarandas support the intentions of the master plan?

I have had numerous emails with various sections of SCU, with no answers to any of my questions. The last email, from the vice chancellor's office, stated my concerns were "noted". I responded asking what this meant and eventually received: "The vice chancellor has noted your email and requires no further action."

Is this a platitude meaning SCU doesn't care and is not concerned about community opinion, or its own master plan? I am not alone in my concerns about the seeming lack of care or responsibility for maintaining and managing biodiveristy on campus. Does SCU intend to consider this issue?

As a 1994 graduate of SCU with a Bachelor of Science, I was taught the importance of biodiversity and of community engagement in these issues. SCU continues to

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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.

teach subjects on habitat restoration and regeneration. Thirty years later it doesn't seem to practise what it teaches. Will SCU start caring for its own natural environment? How can we as a community encourage this to happen? Words don't seem to be enough.

From a very disappointed and concerned graduate of SCU.

Kerri Francis Lismore

Help for the homeless

I'm writing this letter on behalf of the seemingly endless stream of homeless people living in their cars who I meet in the Hemp Bar, particularly women.

How do we match them up with people who have spare paddocks and anyone who might need help in the garden, or just want company?

It would be good if we can learn to share the land more and get back to our real hippy roots.

Anyone interested please contact me in the Hemp Bar. I'd love to match homeless people with old hippies who need a bit of help.

Not long ago I'd leave a book for messages, but I guess now it's a Facebook group?

Michael Balderstone Sphinx Rock

US imperium

The reality on the ground in Gaza today is a vision of the future under a US-led "rules-based order", a world in which the US makes the rules and enforces order, an order that allows the US to violate international law with impunity, and authorise

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

NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 27th December

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

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.



likewise for its friends and allies.

For all others though, Washington will impose harsh penalties for any perceived breach of the rules.

Hence here in Australia, we're obliged to comply with the corporate-controlled mainstream narrative on every issue of importance to the US imperium.

Weapons sales, military bases, war with Russia, war with China, genocide in Palestine, these are the projects we're expected to support with our national treasure and human resources, for the good of American hegemony and war profits.

The locus of power in human affairs is diffuse and notoriously difficult to divine. Most politicians serve parties beholden to corporate behemoths: financial institutions, media moguls, mining magnates, tech tycoons, arms and drug companies.

Armies of lawyers and lobbyists employed by big business set the agenda for the future of our country, irrespective of the needs and priorities of its people.

This system is corrupt and needs cleaning up; some serious muckraking is long overdue. But if voting is to make a difference, we need candidates of conscience who are competent, courageous and committed to independence.

In the meantime, we best encourage and support our activists, because they seem to be the only ones who really care.

> John Scrivener Main Arm

Genocide in Gaza

In response to a letter last month by Michelle Ruby (NGT Nov 2024), she says there are two sides to the story, but her mention of Israel's wrongdoing consists of a few sentences in a long letter.

If you have been following the work of the UN,

you will see the list of violations of international law and Geneva/Genocide conventions occupies thousands of pages of investigated and verified submissions.

Michelle's recollection of history and omission of important incidents is questionable. Not long after establishment of the Israeli State in 1947, a violent relocation and massacre of the Palestinian people (known as Nakbar) occurred, and then in 1967 Israel commenced the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories.

The fanatical and Zionist factions within Israel have become more prominent to the level now that Israel is a theocracy and not a democracy, where racism and apartheid is entrenched in their culture.

For decades, Gaza has been like a mega prison that has been under constant surveillance and control by the Israeli army with regular violent incursions, targeted assassinations, and illegal detaining and torture of innocent civilians.

No wonder the Palestinian people learned to resist, and yes, organisations such as Hamas formed.

This genocide is shockingly evident in both intent and actions on the ground in Gaza and it has become the most televised horrific genocide since WWII for all to see on social media, but for the most part you won't find it reported in western media.

There is greater momentum now in the UN for the documentation of this genocide, which will eventually bring to justice the people directly responsible but also the other people and governments who are complicit.

For me, nothing can justify this sort of behaviour; it is a scar on humanity that millions of people around the world are now speaking

Notices

Film screening

Local activist group SOAR invites you to dinner and a film screening of *The Coconut Revolution* at 275 Keen Street Lismore, on Wednesday 4th December at 6pm, film at 7pm.

Carols by Candlelight

Nimbin Central School, Wednesday 11th December. BBQ from 6.30pm, carols from 7.30pm. All welcome, free admission. Come along for a singalong with local choirs and other voices.

Caldera Environment Centre

The Caldera Environment Centre's stall will be at the monthly Makers and Finders market at Knox Park, Murwillumbah on Saturday 21st December. Check out: calderenvironmentcentre.org and Facebook page for information on monthly meetings, activities and events.

Lost dog



Five-year old male, King Charles Cavalier breed. Missing since 14th November from Stony Chute. Possibly stolen by a lady in a black van. Reward offered. Please call 0467-396-553 with any information.

Free notices

Keep it short and of interest to our readers, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it here for free.

out against.

Matt Wierzbicki Tyagarah

Policy change needed

In the face of so many floods, which are caused by global warming, we are losing our Australian wildlife and the habitat they require to survive.

The trees and bushland ecosystems are essential to their survival and also to our survival.

A few people desperately replant trees, shrubs and other plants required for a balanced ecosystem to survive, but we cannot wait another 60 years for them to

Other causes of global warming include fossil fuels and wars, and all of us cause emissions.

Our leaders in Australia must change; they already do a great deal but that is not enough, and encourage tolerance, and to quote the Bible, learn to "Love thy neighbour." There is no shame in changing their policies for the future of our world.

We cannot change other countries because we do not live there, but we should not export hate.

We have a duty of care to foster the use of wave, tidal and current energy with zero emissions and any other solutions we can think of, and all do our best to work together to make this happen.

We need a future, not just a past.

Anne Sutherland Robina

Preserving our sanity amidst the consuming madness of the times

dhe recent US election has left many of us reeling with confusion and despair. While I have never having been a fan of US global hegemony, interventionism or the neo-liberal duopoly of US politics, this latest descent from neo-liberalism towards fascism takes us from the frying pan into the

It is so saddening to see that the impoverishment, collapse of government services and loss of trust in institutions, that are an inevitable result of decades of right wing (neo-liberal) policies since Reagan and Thatcher, has finally culminated in a population so enraged and confused that it somehow imagines that a sudden lurch even further to the right is somehow an answer.

Whatever the question, fascism is never the answer. Fascism is always a product of collective insanity and always results in state sponsored bullying of the most vulnerable. Ironically, despite the promises of resurrecting the glory of the fatherland, fascism always demolishes the societies in which it takes hold.

If we really wanted to make our nations 'great again', to restore home ownership, to build safety nets for all, combat environmental decline, and correct the obscene wealth disparities on display, the answer would lie in a return to wealth redistributive policies of the left, but alas that is not where we are currently positioned.

Instead, we are in an upside-down world of propaganda where the fraud, rapist and liar can position as a victim, where a club of billionaires and nepotists with control of vast media and internet empires can portray themselves as pushing back against 'elites', and whatever was left of the checks and balances of constitutional governance is portrayed by rising tyrants as a malevolent deep state that they alone can liberate us from.

The source of the collective insanity that has led to the collapse of reality-based politics is not



by Aidan Ricketts

only economic, it is also technological. Just as the invention of the printing press spawned upheavals from popular revolutions through to frenzies of witch burning, the advent of the internet and social media has precipitated a collapse of reason, a loss of respect for expertise, and a visceral intolerance of opposing views that is tearing societies

The collective madness is so overwhelming that it is almost impossible to develop a coherent political strategy in response. I am left feeling that the best we can do in the immediate term is reach for what is sane, solid, and still sacred in our lives and communities.

We need an Archimedian place to stand back and watch the madness unfold. To try too hard to understand the madness, or to become any angrier or any more desperate, is to actually succumb to it.

So, what can we do? Firstly, we need to find some acceptance. Maybe ultimately this is a collapse that we can't avoid. Secondly, we need to find some solidity and resilience inside ourselves to be able to continue to function humanely in inhumane times.

I firmly believe that a key underlying element of our collective descent into madness is that we live in an age of disembodiment. The cult of the disembodied mind is something I have written about before. Everything about modern culture has elevated the disconnected human mind over the more humble and grounded realms of the body, the feelings and

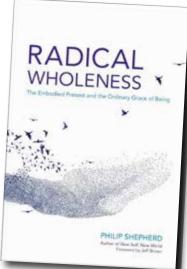
The capitalist economy, of disembodied corporations pursuing perpetual growth on a finite planet, propelled by imaginary metrics of the stock exchange is disembodied and earth destroying madness.

Our philosophical traditions from Descartes ('I think, therefore I am'), through postmodernism (language creates reality), to transhumanism (our minds can merge with technology to become immortal) all tend towards the supremacy of the ego mind over the beautiful, messy and vulnerable, and mortal body.

Worst of all our technologies have literally propelled us into 'virtual reality' psychotically disconnected from reality.

There is a link between disembodiment and fascism. Philip Shephard's book Radical Wholeness (published by North Atlantic Books, 2017) tracks how the cultural conditioning inside ourselves, that imposes the tyranny of mind over body translates in the outer world into the supremacy of disconnected thinking over grounded wisdom. Which explains the subjugation of indigenous perspectives, the feminine, our bodies and of nature itself.

At the moment, the collective madness is so

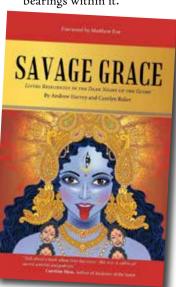


intense that the first step in coming to terms with the civilisational collapse we are witnessing is to first secure the ground we stand on.

It is essential that regardless of what external

mayhem we will be called upon to endure, that we first find our feet on the earth, our presence in our sacred bodies and our place in the great timelessness of the universe.

We cannot hope to play a part in helping to survive this epoch if we lose our own bearings within it.

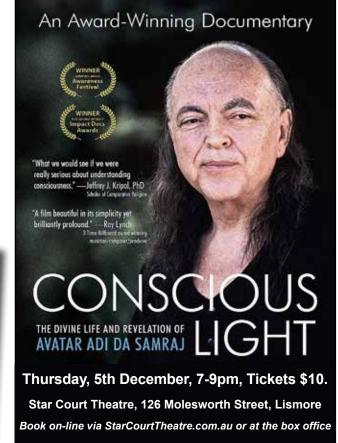


Another book I recommend is Savage Grace: Living Resiliently in the Dark Night of the Globe by Andrew Harvey, Carolyn Baker (published by iUniverse, 2017). This book counsels us that we may indeed be required to endure a great darkness of humanity, but that the best we can do is hold close to what is real and sacred in ourselves and nature.

Stay present, stay grounded, stay close to the earth, to your loved ones and to community. Reduce your exposure to the rage bait of social media. Let go of your rage against others and drop into an acceptance that history is rarely ever a comfortable ride. Bear witness to whatever insanity surrounds us but hold connection to the real the physical and the sacred.

Give your troubled and confused mind back to the safekeeping of your body, back to the earth and back to the universe for healing. This is going to be a difficult journey and we need to be able to support each other.

I am sorry not to be able to offer hope nor strategy at this point, but only from a place of grounded sanity we will be best positioned to move forward again when the opportunity arises.



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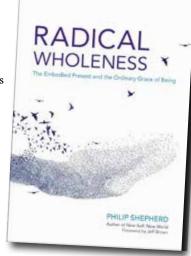
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