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Rainbow Road progress

The construction of the Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track is progressing well, and is due to be completed with an official launch in late 2024.

The steering group, consisting of key Nimbin community groups, stakeholders and Council staff, met in August to discuss and agree on several items to improve public amenities, such as the addition of picnic and birdwatching seating, fencing and lighting.

Key stakeholders also participated in a workshop to formulate the content for wayfinding signage, and a contractor has now been appointed for its production.

A contractor has also been appointed to manage site vegetation, including initial plantings and on-going maintenance, and to this end an Aquarius Park Landcare

Group has been formed and is calling for volunteers: landcare@nimbincommunity.org.au

Additional works have also commenced on the placement of artworks along the track and construction of a wheelchair carpark will begin in October-November.

A number of further enhancements connecting the village to the walking track have also been identified by the steering group that are currently being explored.

Lismore Council wishes to thank the Nimbin community, Community Centre, Chamber of Commerce and private landowners for making this project possible, and for their continued support throughout construction.

This project is fully funded under the NSW and Federal Government Bushfire Local Economies Fund.



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Protect koalas from car hits

by Friends of the Koala

Car hits are one of the major threats to koalas in the Northern Rivers of NSW.

Vehicle strikes happen all year round, but particularly during breeding season between June and December when adult male koalas are moving in search of a mate and whilst the previous year's juveniles are dispersing.

If you see what appears to be a sick or injured koala, it is crucial that you call our 24/7 emergency hotline immediately on 02-6622-1233.

If a collision occurs

If you have struck a koala or you see a koala by the side of the road. Make sure to pull in safely and call our 24/7 koala rescue hotline whether the koala appears healthy, injured or dead. Do not touch or try to transport koalas yourself as this could pose a significant risk to their health and safety, and yours.

If you can, stay with the animal until a rescuer attends. If you cannot stay, try to be as exact as possible about the location: specific addresses, GPS points or landmarks are incredibly helpful.

Driver vigilance

Nobody wants to hit a koala and there are a number of ways to lower your chances of colliding with one. Being



Eight Mile was an orphaned joey when his mum was hit by a car.

attentive to the road is key.

Consider if you are driving through koala habitat. Are there warning signs and what is the speed limit? Just by reducing your speed you can lower the incidence of car hits, reduce the severity of injuries and increase likelihood that the koala survives.

Are you driving at dawn, dusk and in the first few hours after darkness? Country roads often have no lights, so visibility is reduced, however if the koala is facing you, you may see their eyes glowing. Slow down. Be attentive. Save lives.

Car hit risk factors

Koalas are generally found in areas abundant in eucalyptus trees, which are essential for both food and shelter.

Urbanisation, land clearing and forest logging represent a formidable threat to koalas and increasingly their habitat

is being destroyed.

While koalas spend most of their time in trees, they do need to come down to the ground to move from tree to tree; this is especially true in areas where their habitat has become fragmented.

Habitat fragmentation occurs when infrastructure like roads and urban development cut through where the koalas live. While koalas can be killed on any stretch of road at any time, typically these incidents tend to happen in certain places known as hotspots; they also typically occur at night, after dark or first thing in the morning, but driver vigilance is required 24/7.

Statistics

From May 2023 to May 2024, 71 koalas were hit by vehicles, of which just 13 were rehabilitated and released back to the wild.

Unfortunately, 80% of koalas hit by vehicles last year did not survive the impact. Our statistics show that compared to the previous year there has been a 15% increase in the number of koalas admitted to our Northern Rivers Koala Hospital as a result of car strikes.

In a single week in 2023, six koalas died from vehicle strikes, and from June to December 2022, Friends of the Koala were called to 42 car strikes across the Northern Rivers region. This is devastating and avoidable.

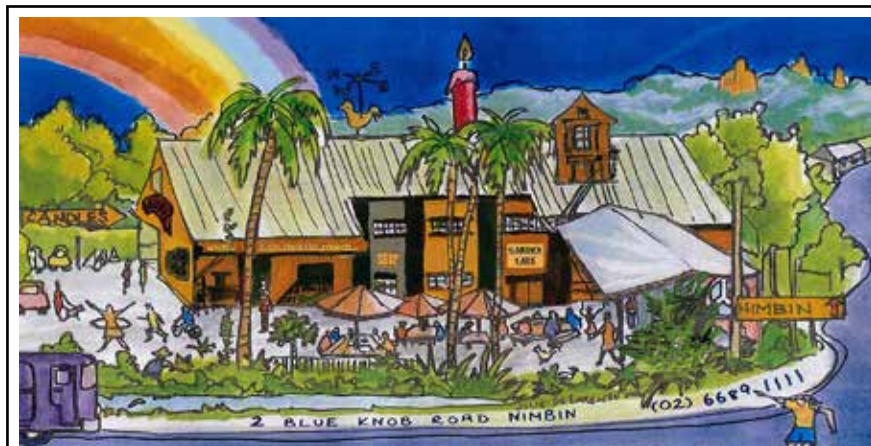
Living with koalas

Koalas haven't yet adapted to living with humans and generally show no avoidance of roads. They just want to get to the trees on the other side or use road edges to easily move across the landscape.

Urban environments are stressful and disorienting for koalas. They experience both acute and chronic stress trying to find sufficient food and negotiating roads, domestic dogs, pools and fences.

This stress can make them more susceptible to diseases, creating a harmful cycle for the koalas.

Koalas are unpredictable and may sit in the middle of the road unmoving, or bolt out in search of a tree to climb.



Nimbin Bush Theatre Cafe
From the Garden to the Plate
Open 7 days, 9am-3pm

It's snake season – be prepared

by Karen Welsh

We co-exist with many local snake species, which highlights the importance of snake 'awareness' and correct identification.

Museum-based websites are a font of much snake wisdom, but here in our own backyards it is sometimes difficult to get it right.

Easy-peasy to distinguish between an eastern brown and a carpet python, but who knows whether it is a rough-scale or a keel-back?" Or what colour is a juvenile eastern brown?

Get that wrong and it is a whole different situation.

See a snake? Caution is a valuable first reaction, followed by: stay still, assume nothing and calmly plot your next options:



Karen found this juvenile brown snake in her wicking pot.

1. Let it pass,
2. Breathe! Whip out your phone if you have it, and take a pic,
3. Slowly back away, if it hasn't already slithered off on its own accord,
4. Send photo off to authorised Snake ID sites.
5. Ensure closed footwear for you and the kids, but it's hard to train your dog and cat to avoid a bite.

It's interesting to note that most snake bites to humans are cause by said human attempting to catch it.

Wildlife organisations are always being asked to remove snakes, and there are also snake-catchers who advertise on-line.

Where can they be removed to safely? A safe, educated co-existence is a much better option.

New murals in production



Muralists are painting up a storm in Nimbin!

Lora Flora has been painting rainforest images outside the new Youth Club room (above); Julie De Lorenzo, Jen Harkness and Gaia Heart are painting in the newly upgraded laneway next to the Bakery, with help from Nimbin Central students Maddie Wilson and Grace Adlington, using Council funding left over from the footpath upgrade (above right).

Meanwhile, Gilbert Laurie has been busy adding colourful cultural designs to the Aboriginal Cultural Centre (right).

Nimbin has an enduring history of talented locally-based painters creating murals, which decorate most of the building facades in the main street and are constantly included in photos and selfies taken by visitors to the village.



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Beggars belief

by Antoinette O'Brien

On Wednesday 21st August the community in North Lismore and beyond was hit with another wave of destruction and devastation as the house at 13 Wotherspoon Street was demolished without notification.

What preceded this action was a notice of intention to carry out asbestos removal and demolition by the company TCDE. On 24th July, residents received a letter in the post to say that 9 and 10 Wotherspoon Street were due for demolition starting on 6th August and that it would take about a week to complete the work.

Everyone concedes that it has taken a long time for this necessary work to be undertaken. Work went ahead as planned with little objection from the neighborhood.

On 6th August, people saw a TCDE company notice going up on the fence of 13 Wotherspoon Street. Notification went out to the community on Facebook. There was an immediate outcry from people far and wide.

Sue Higginson, Ruth Rosenhek, Binny Dwyer, many passionate community members contributed to a swell of community concern. They spoke of taking direct action.

On 7th August, Miriam Torzillo, a resident, went to find out what was going on. Miriam approached the foreman of the worksite to ask about the intention to demolish 13 Wotherspoon Street, a house she knew to be the home of Luke Asha.

Luke had taken the buyback offer and was not occupying his house at the time. Luke had been given 12 months to organise the relocation of his beloved home and was looking at land in Tenterfield. It is paramount to this breach of confidence for the whole community to know that that 12 months was due to come to an end at the end of October, over two months away.

13 Wotherspoon was a landmark building, including having history as The Rainforest Information Centre. Founded by John Seed and formally established in this house in 1980. Anybody involved in Terania creek, or Chaelundi, worked out of this building. The Rainforest Information Centre was active as the centre of rainforest campaigns around the world, including



carrying out research in Ecuador and India, campaigning for the Franklin River and much more.

The foreman assured Miriam that 13 Wotherspoon would not be demolished. The excavators and machinery moved away from the front of Luke's house and the remainder of the work on the other neighboring houses was completed. The community was relieved, believing there was no threat of destruction.

However it is believed this was a strategic and deceptive tactic, how else could it be taken when on 21st August the excavator returned and had half the work of the demolition of Luke's house done by the end of the day. A devastating turn of events.

Since this devastating act of destruction two weeks ago, Luke has been contacted by the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA), who said they did try to give Luke a phone call but couldn't get through (no email correspondence was pursued). The RA did say they were sorry and offered mental health services to Luke.

The RA paid over \$600,000 to acquire this property. It wasn't a small asset, it was a home of considerable value. Value that extended beyond the owner in this case, this house had historical and emotional value.

It's very sad that no-one could enter into a dialogue to ensure that 13 Wotherspoon could have had a productive future. If Luke found he was unable to find a suitable location for house relocation, there should have been a conversation to explore the option of repurposing it in its current location.

The community and Luke would have advocated for an outcome that complemented the history of the building and the future of the land and river repair, such as the work done by Richmond River Keepers. The building could have been maintained on the floodplain as a community resource used

for well-being and day use by grassroots organisations, who when all is said and done, will still be here, planting, restoring and caring.

Living Labs (LL), in conjunction with the RA, recently announced the Circular Timber initiative, conveying their interest in recycling timbers. This announcement was made while 13 Wotherspoon was being levelled. No effort was made to salvage any of the materials or handmade windows and doors, it all went in the skip.

This was a cherished rainforest timber home. People (including friends at Luke's request) desperate to make some effort, climbed the fence in the night with torches to reclaim what they could.

Why aren't the same group of carpenters LL employed examining houses on the cusp that could be restored so they can be included for relocation? Many voices have decried what is currently happening, 'please don't demolish these treasured homes, we want relocations and at the very least appropriate salvage'.

When TCDE turned up on 22nd August, they faced a temporary delay when they discovered there had been some attempt to halt their work. An excavator had had the word 'Shame' written on the window in yellow spray paint (which turned out to be chalk paint and did no property damage at all). Surely this was a consequence of extreme levels of frustration and disappointment at the action being taken against community interest, coupled with the desperation to be heard.

While the RA say they had trouble contacting Luke before they destroyed his home, we have had no trouble contacting Luke since. Luke said to us of the experience that it is two orders of magnitude worse than the flood.

There are broader concerns about how safe the demolition of these houses which may contain asbestos might be. There hasn't been any evidence of protective equipment being used. Also there was no asbestos in 13 Wotherspoon Street.

These types of actions carried out in this way is destroying community and destroying trust.

Demolishing this house two months prior to the agreed date, without the owner's consent, or notifying neighbours in the immediate vicinity, is not just a major concern... it beggars belief.

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End of an era exhibition: 50 years of Nimbin Aquarius

by Benny Zable

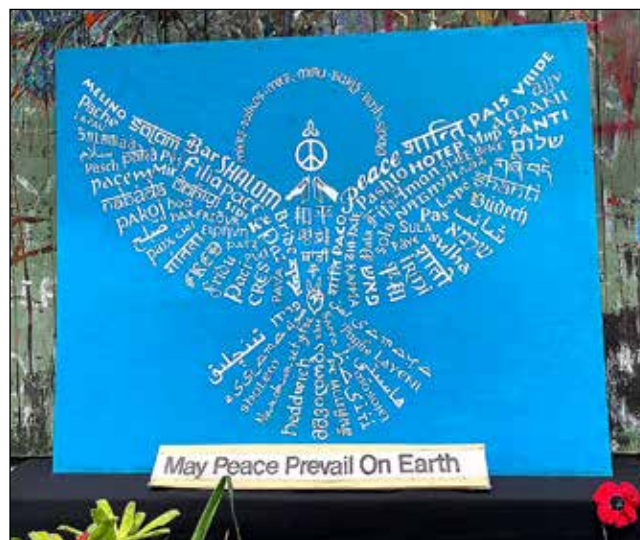
Selected from my collection, there will be a 50-years Nimbin Aquarius display and redistribution of archives at the Nimbin Showgrounds from 1st to 7th October, before my big move back to Melbourne.

It is an opportunity to discuss and pass on banners, flags, etc to interested people in the Nimbin community to look after and re-use.

In May 1973, I travelled from Melbourne with a multimedia production based on HG Wells' *Time Machine*.

Our tribe joined thousands of creatives on the lands of the Wyabal-Widgibal to share at this Australian Union of Students event in Nimbin.

I stayed on to help in establishing a land co-operative at Tunttable Falls.



I followed Paul Joseph, one of the architects of the Nimbin Alternative Lifestyle Festival, and enhanced his vision quest with my set of skills, and later with Katie Cawcutt.

Over the 50 years, a body of work then grew. 1st October is also my 79th birthday.

I will share more details of the exhibition on my Facebook page closer to the time and during the exhibition.

Regarding the coming Lismore Council elections, I hope people will go out and vote for the Greens/ Nimbin-friendly candidates. I believe that a local from

Tunttable Falls, Virginia Waters, is running; and a Lismore Greens councillor Vanessa Ekins is running for mayor which would be a plus for Nimbin.

I have been convinced that the IMAGINE circle in Allsopp Park will not be removed for the moment, but unfortunately it will not be protected with a chained circle of bollards around it as I requested and designed for.

This, and also the re-installation of a luckily-found dismantled peace dove graphic design (pictured) by Marsha Silvestri, I would like to discuss with interested people at the exhibition.

Also on display will be the Paul Joseph Aquarius anthem banner:

"May the longtime sun shine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light within you guide your way on."

Honey, one of the world's most faked products

by Jens Roestel, Black Dog Honey

Australia imports roughly 8,800 tonnes of honey per year.

That honey comes mainly from Brazil, Argentina and China. According to a recent article published by the ABC, Australia never used to import honey until the 2000/2001 drought.

One large well known honey packer based in Brisbane got permission to import about 300 tonnes to supplement the shortfall in production caused by the drought, and was given permission to import more honey during the recent Covid event.

By importing cheaper honey, they are putting pressure on other commercial packers to drive the price down or lose business.

When tested in a recent study about 18% of honey found on Australian supermarket shelves showed signs of alterations. These days companies spend a lot of time and effort to produce fake honey.

Fake honey is basically a small percentage of real honey blended with a lot of other ingredients like corn syrup, sugars, glucose syrups and beet syrups. Some research suggests that some of the fake honey does not contain any real honey at all. Real honey can be tested



for the existence of pollen residue. This residue can then be used to determine where the honey was produced.

Over the last few years, reports have shown that honey sold in the European union was tracked from mainland China to the UK. The product was stored, blended, and repackaged multiple times along the way to hide its true country of origin.

During the blending process of the honey, some companies were also adding local pollen to the mix to make it look like a European product.

Honey, together with milk and olive oil takes the top spot on the list of the most faked food products sold worldwide.

How to spot fake honey

1. Drop a small quantity of honey into a glass of water. Fake honey will immediately start to dissolve, whilst raw honey will drop to the bottom of the glass intact;
2. Place a drop of room temperature or cooler honey on your finger, if the 'honey' spreads then it is fake honey. If it holds its composition and remains a drop, then it is raw true honey;
3. If you have had your honey for some time and it remains a syrup, then it may be either fake honey or it has been pasteurised. Most real honey crystallises over time.

Needless to say, fake honey is produced at a much lower cost than real honey, which in turn creates financial challenges for local honey producers.

In the US, it is more financially viable for a larger beekeeper to do pollination rather than honey production.

With the current low honey prices paid by commercial honey packers in Australia, it appears that we are heading the same way.

As a customer, if you want to buy real honey and help a local business out, buy your honey and honey products from a local beekeeper instead of the supermarket.

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The Channon
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Trains with trail sharing our railway corridor makes more sense

by Rachel Quilty

According to figures posted by Tweed Shire Council the 'rail trail' has seen a significant drop in usage since it began in 2023, from 19,000 per month down to 6,600, with only 5,200 in the previous quarter.

This equates to 220 people a day using the path. A train service running between 7am and 11pm could be serving thousands of people a day.

A bike trail is a nice recreational activity, but the Northern Rivers needs non road, climate friendly, public transport as well. Imagine trying to carry your shopping on a bicycle!

We are concerned that current and future councillors who want just a bike path, are not considering the real needs of their constituents, to make the best use of our already existing railway transport infrastructure.

Trains and trail sharing our railway corridor make much more sense in terms of all-weather day and night use, for everyday travel, and recreation as well.

The push to extend the recreational bike path between Lismore to Yelgun is a rejection of the real needs of residents and visitors for safe, comfortable public transport.

Many in our region, like the elderly or disabled, can't easily use buses, which don't run after hours, on weekends or



public holidays.

With roads more congested, increasing climate change emissions, high petrol prices deterring many from owning a car, the obvious need is for a low emissions train service.

Railway companies are working to bring frequent services to the line, extending a similar service to the Byron Solar Train. To Mullumbimby, up to Bangalow and Lismore, and to Billinudgel (Ocean Shores) and Yelgun will be a game changer.

A survey by Griffith University, is asking for your feedback as to whether trains would help to improve access to local festivals, for Splendour and the Byron Bluesfest site See: <https://researchsurvey.griffith.edu.au/index.php/113336?lang=en>

You can also submit your thoughts

to the 'Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan' link: haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/sritp and click on the 'North Coast'. Tell them why you would like to have trains back in the Northern Rivers as regular passenger rail services.

According to a recent on-the-ground study, the cost of reinstating train services will be much less expensive than previously thought.

A business case being finalised shows that it is feasible and will pay its way, unlike a bike path where ratepayers pay for the 'rail trail' maintenance. Train funds will come from community and private investment.

Railway companies are ready to work with bike trail enthusiasts to build a win-win for residents and visitors for a dual use corridor.

For the over two million visitors to Byron Bay it will be a real drawcard, to visit towns along the line, enjoy our beautiful countryside and support local economies.

Many jobs will be generated, and local businesses will gain from workers having reliable transport to their jobs as they can live further away and still know they will get to work on time.

Local surveys show that 85% of residents want train services to return.

Vote for candidates in upcoming council elections who support the 'train with trail' option. Find out who they are at: railwaysforthefuture@gmail.com

UHA celebrates community and calls for new volunteers

by Nancy Nugent

The Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary (UHA) has been a beacon of community spirit and engagement through its various initiatives and activities.

This month, we proudly highlight the remarkable achievement of Margaret McQuilty, who received a highly commended Volunteer of the Year Award at the Northern NSW Local Health District 2024 Quality Awards. Margaret's

dedication exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism that thrives within our organisation.

In addition to celebrating individual accomplishments, the UHA continues to play a significant role in local events.

We are eagerly preparing for our participation in the upcoming and much-anticipated Nimbin Country Show, and a sausage sizzle on election day at Nimbin

Central School.

These events offer wonderful opportunities for community interaction and support through our popular raffles and other fundraising activities.

As we look to expand our impact and reach within the community, we warmly invite new members to join our efforts. Whether you have experience in baking or are keen to offer different skills, there is a place for everyone

in the UHA.

Volunteering with us is not only about making a tangible difference in our community, but also about enjoying the fellowship and support of a committed team.

Join us to continue this tradition of community service and to help write the next chapter of the Nimbin UHA's story.

Your participation can make a significant impact, helping to sustain health initiatives and enhance the wellbeing of our community.



Nimbin Farmer's Market
Wednesdays 3 - 6 pm

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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

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Nimbin Show: 21st and 22nd September

Spring has sprung and it's the annual Country Show season! Yippee!

Sustainability Alley will be back with lots of great info and activities and prizes to be won for all the family, so get amongst it and support our Nimbin A&I Society's biggest event of the year.

Nimbin Flood Recovery Support Service

The long-awaited Large Lot and Landslip policies have finally been released in relation to the Resilient Homes Program.

The battle continues however, as the policies do not solve all our problems for many of our locally impacted residents.

Contact the service via email: nimbinrfs@nnic.org.au or call or text 0488-144-647.

Need help preparing your property ahead of bushfire season?

The AIDER (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

Fire permits required

As of 1st September, all fires now require a permit. To apply for a permit, see the RFS website: https://nswrfsprod.service-now.com/guardian_csp?id=guardian_index

Community Care Team

Join the CCT and get trained up ready 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 or fill out the EOI form available on our website – see the 'disasters' tab.

Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP)

Thanks to all the community members who contributed to the revision of the SNCP.

The final version will be on display at Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show, so be sure to drop by and check it out.

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

Rekindling the Spirit

Aboriginal Health Service GP Clinic now located at NNIC every second Thursday for drop-in health checks and treatment.

Hep C testing also available – results in 60 mins and treatment can commence immediately.

Most people with Hep C can be successfully treated and cleared of Hep C.

Appointments preferred. To book an appointment, drop into NNIC or call us on 6689-1692.

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/call NNIC and speak with Nicole on our front desk for an appointment. Or call 6687-1111 or email: intake@buttery.org.au

Nimbin Neighbourhood Food Pantry

Open every Wednesday from 1pm, cheap and free grocery items are available to anyone in need.

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

Nimbin community-owned cooling plate

The cooling plate is for use in the context of home deaths, and is placed under the deceased loved one in order to have more time to grieve, for family and friends to say their final farewells and to allow time to make the necessary arrangements.

It is available for hire to Nimbin community members. (The fee varies

according to capacity to pay). Contact NNIC for more info or if you need the cooling plate.

Take home naloxone

Naloxone is a life-saving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose.

Anyone who may become exposed to opiates, whether by prescription or otherwise, is at risk of accidental overdose. Naloxone buys valuable time for an ambulance to arrive.

It is available for FREE at NNIC (also available at the NSP), by appointment, to people who are at risk of an opioid overdose or adverse reaction, their carers, friends and family members and any other people who may become first responders.

Naloxone can be administered by injection or delivered through a nasal spray. To get some for your first aid kit, make an appointment with Nat, Nicole or Elke.

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& ASSOCIATES
*a.k.a. Sindhu
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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 19th September. 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 September.

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 Scott Sledge, president

Vote for a sustainable future

The focus for this month is local government elections. In NSW we vote on Saturday 14th September for the councillors who will guide local government for the next four years.

The 2021 Council elections were strange. In the Kyogle Ward where I live, we had no ballot at all as only the three incumbents nominated. It's different this time, as 17 candidates are contesting the nine positions, including fresh faces in Ward A.

I am thrilled to see some enthusiasm among them for protecting forests, including environmental manager Kieran Somerville, plus Brett MacNamara and Naomi Worrall. Residents can vote only for candidates in their ward, but the councillors will represent all the people in Kyogle Shire.

It's a different story in Tweed Shire, which elects seven councillors, mostly affiliated with political parties. Mayor Chris Cherry and deputy mayor Meredith Dennis are true independents, who have served the

community well and I trust will be re-elected.

Greens councillor Nola Firth also deserves to be re-elected, thanks to the staunch support she gives to the community and the environment. Nicola Stone of the Animal Justice Party and Ned Wales, another independent, are new candidates who are worthy of consideration by Tweed residents.

Lismore got swamped last time by a campaign that put Steve Krieg in the mayor's chair. This election he will be challenged by former mayor, Vanessa Ekens.

The Greens Council ticket looks strong, headed by veteran activist Adam Guise with the wonderful Virginia Waters from Nimbin, Lismore emergency physician, Dr Luke Robinson, as well as Shae Salmon, Lindall Watson (also from Nimbin) and Binnie O'Dwyer.

The Richmond Valley Council has a strong field of new prospects too. The contest in Casino for mayor of Richmond Valley Council has heated up with the inclusion of a young woman, Lyndall Murray, at the head of a strong ticket of highly engaged candidates, including local hero Hanabeth Luke. There are 22 candidates for that council in all.



Byron Shire is too complicated to predict, following the change in the configurations of the main groups running. Mayor Michael Lyon lost two of his running mates and took on two new ones at the last minute.

Labor also made last-minute changes to their ticket, and the Greens added a fifth candidate to their roster, sensing widespread support for their platform.

There is some feeling in Byron that new voices are needed, so some of the new candidates may well get elected. The protection of special wildlife habitats, such as the Wallum Estate, has been a key issue in that shire, with the development still halted by an injunction after months of protest action.

These elections are the key to getting support from State and Federal governments for Australia's commitment to a sustainable environment for our future generations.

Greens MLC Sue Higginson said, "To do this we need more voices for nature on Council and in our parliaments...You must vote for nature."

Soap berries

The Nimbin Environment Centre shop has a fantastic new product: soapberries. They can be used in your washing machine or for hand wash with a great result.

The dried shell of the fruit of the Indian tree, *Sapindus Mukorossi* is exceptionally high in saponin, which is nature's soap.

In Ayurvedic medicine, the berries are used to treat eczema, psoriasis and head lice. They are hypo-allergenic and can be re-used up to four times. Bags of 500g are \$20 (over 100 washes), or get a try-out bag for \$2.

It is crucial to keep the berries stored in a dry place. The berries are fine for septic systems or direct drainage into the soil. Used berries can go into compost or garden.

Saving greater gliders with citizen science

Right now, the NSW Government is under pressure and is reviewing its forestry management processes.

It's also a time when there has never been so little habitat left with such efficient machinery in use to extract the big, old, habitat trees.

Citizen scientists all over the country are heading bush to find and protect the endangered greater glider before it's too late.

This initiative involves the identification of greater glider den trees and recording and reporting their position so they can be spared in the event of logging.

The Richmond Range State Forest will soon be on the logging schedule. We will be meeting on the 15th September to discuss and learn more about the process so more people can get involved to save our native forests.

All welcome.

Forgotten Arts Fair 2024 – A resounding success



Awl of the North



Weavers Connection



Smith Brendan



Heidi Hides

by Robin Francis

Dozens of hand crafters and artisans from around the Northern Rivers converged at Djanbung Gardens for the second Forgotten Arts Fair held in Nimbin on August 10.

The stalls, exhibits and demonstrations presented a smorgasbord of traditions, passions, creativity and beauty to fascinate over 700 people attending, some coming from as far as the Clarence Valley for the day.

There were 20 stall holders and exhibits, many demonstrating their craft throughout the day: blacksmiths operating two forges, the Weavers Connection group with their basketry, spinning, lacemaking and fibre crafts, an indigo dye vat bubbling away, a Viking leatherworker, Francisco on the foot-operated pottery wheel.

Donato gave folk a try at sculpting a sandstone block, a collection of antique bows for the archery enthusiasts, natural tanners, local food fermenters demonstrating how to make kimchi and Japanese rice ferments, the ancient art

of dowsing, tools, plus a full program of hands-on workshops.

The food vendors did a roaring trade with satisfied customers enjoying the live entertainment of medieval and folk music, and nearby children had facepainting and fun in the Kidz Area playing in the new bamboo cubby.

The feedback from exhibitors, stall holders and the public was overwhelmingly positive with everyone asking us to make this an annual event.

There have been no events quite like this in the Northern Rivers apart from the inaugural Forgotten Arts Fair that we held in 2019, and it's something that clearly the community is craving.

We look forward to having an even greater diversity of artisans and crafters at next year's fair and hope those who had to cancel this time round due to health will be joining us next time.

We are accepting expressions of interest for participation in the 2025 Forgotten Arts Fair, which will be next year, Saturday 9th August.

We are also seeking people to join our organising committee.

We'd love to see more homesteading, woodworking, bush and survival skills plus traditional dance, performing and creative arts.

A big thank you to all our artisans and performers who came to share their 'Forgotten Arts' and made this year's fair such a memorable event, and to all those

who came and participated, especially for our hard-working volunteers and organising team.

The Forgotten Arts Fair is hosted by Permaculture College Australia Inc and Djanbung Gardens

Contact: info@permaculture.com.au
Web: <https://permaculture.com.au>

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Workshops: 10.30am – 1.30pm

- Sat 14th: Indigo Shibori workshop** – 10am-4pm, Learn all about preparing natural indigo vats, creating resist patterns, make your own piece to take home. Off-site, limited spaces, bookings essential, \$150.
- Tues 17th: Knitting group** – BYO project, learn and share, by donation.
- Tues 20th: Knitting group** – BYO project, learn and share, by donation.
- Sat 21st and Sun 22nd: Sustainability**

- Alley at Nimbin Country Show** – We'll be launching our plastic recycling project and demonstrating our new plastic shredder.
- Sat 28th: All about spinning wheels** – BYO or use ours. Learn to spin, maintain and repair spinning wheels. \$15.
- 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 deposit.
- Recovery support services:** Mon-Fri.

Greenies an endangered species

Like so much of our flora and fauna, left wing environmentalists/greenies are an endangered species.

Friends I would put firmly in that category have become anti-climate change, anti-renewable, anti wind-farm, anti electric-cars.

Top PR companies and consultants hired by the oil, gas and mining companies wouldn't have anything to do with that would they? Not to mention the long list of the usual: vaccines, 5G, chemtrails, etc...

Easily convinced once the idea is in their heads, it's virtually impossible to convince them otherwise.

Forming your own opinion, drawing your own conclusions will not be tolerated. They've done the research, got their information from the world's leading scientific/medical journals, YouTube, Facebook, whatever. How do we know people on there are who and what they say they are? Because they say they are...

The purpose of all this is to confuse people, muddy the waters, distrust authority and politicians. But most of all divide us. Get us arguing and fighting amongst ourselves.

To begin with, the internet was good. A medium that governments had no control over. Since then it's become a prime source of manipulation.

This has been harnessed by the right wing delivering the desired results. They sank The Voice referendum with their misinformation campaign. Labor was as much to blame, as they never counteracted or contested any of it.

\$80 billion a year spent on Aboriginals? Libs and Nationals strongly supported by Murdoch media are all over the net. Labor has very little on-line presence, which is likely to cost them the next election.

I have personally witnessed the transformation from hardcore, left wing, radical greenies who I admired, to agreeing with Rupert Murdoch, Alan Jones, Tony Abbot, even voting for

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.

Pauline Hanson.

Obviously the world's leading experts on climate change. It's absolutely true, and what, you don't think you've been manipulated?

Hard core left-wing greenies are set to become an extinct species courtesy of the internet.

G Cooney
Kyogle

Gaza

When Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, opined a few months ago that the Hamas attack on Israel "did not happen in a vacuum," it was a nice way of saying that after stealing their land and stripping them of their homes then killing them with impunity for 76 years and counting one might expect a violent response.

Of course Israel has a right to defend itself. It's a slogan and a con. It's supposed to be a level playing field, but it's not a level playing field.

Israel can decimate Palestine, Palestine cannot decimate Israel. This conflict has lost proportionally. We are seeing 40,000 Palestinian civilian deaths and 1,200 Israeli deaths. This has gone beyond self defence.

In 1944, after the Warsaw Uprising, the Nazis who may have killed 250,000 civilians and 20,000 Polish soldiers, proceeded to destroy the old city.

Churches, museums, art galleries, theatres, libraries, historical buildings, palaces and castles and residences.

A million people lost everything; 80 to 90% of the city was destroyed.

My point is that Gaza today is beginning to look like



Warsaw 1944.

Netanyahu, in a recent speech at the White House, declared that "there are no innocents in Gaza." This from a man who has overseen the deaths of the 40,000 civilians.

What I want to know is if you act like a fascist and you talk like a fascist, are you a fascist, or maybe just a beginning fascist?

Ceasefire! Hell, it has gone too far already. We need reparations to rebuild Gaza and to treat the monstrous post traumatic stress crisis that the Israelis have created.

Randy Nielsen
Barkers Vale

Philosophies hereafter

Comparisons with man-made philosophies and beliefs are unbelievable as so-called civilised society parades in Christian religions with fancy dress, embroidered and funny hats in a parade holding a cross and swinging a container of smoking something or other to kill the evil spirits as the head priest enters the church with a parade of his followers behind him.

Whereas those who are supposed to be primitive have feathered hats, tribal dress and smoking leaves to welcome people to their country and behind them dance a heap of followers.

Christianity compared to the Dreamtime? The other philosophies, like Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Hindus etc all have their methods and hierarchy to get their followers into a better place after they are dead.

My philosophy of "don't hurt people or property" in this life is made a mockery of with acts of death around the kitchen table, in the community and countries at war where humanity

is regarded as "collateral damage"!

How can the innocent little child start in a Catholic school and be confronted with a human being with nails in his hands and feet and blood dripping down his face from a crown of thorns and make some sort of sense of it after the loving care, one would hope, of his family?

They probably think it is part of *Grimms Fairy Tales* where the big bad wolf is the enemy?

"Keep an open heart and mind" they say, as the politicians repeat *The Lord's Prayer* and commence governing our country!

Bett Taylor
Kyogle

Krieg and climate change

The Krieg team should have known that the 2022 flood was strongly linked to climate change, but they ignored the science.

This was a factor that underpinned why they just didn't turn up and support the community from the flooded areas.

I think they take the view that the flood was more like just bad luck, rather than being a climate change issue that will continue to get more extreme with time.

John van Tiggelen from *The Monthly*, interviewed Steve Krieg in its August 2022 edition. The article said: 'Krieg says he accepts climate change is happening. When pressed, however, he does not accept that it's anthropogenic, nor that it serves anything but a Greens agenda to pretend something can be done about it.'

"This Council has been way too colourful for my liking," he says. "There are those who just take positions [on climate change] to be

re-elected. Whereas I don't give a flying fuck about that."

Furthermore, *The Monthly* stated that "a colleague proposed the Council acknowledge that Lismore was likely to experience further disasters of this nature as climate change continues to escalate."

A majority including the mayor agreed the reference to climate change was 'political' and struck it out.

I think these statements pissed me off more than the flood. I realised the mayor and his team were unable to represent us, because they did not have the understanding to do so.

When the NSW Govt staff rang around most of the residents of South Lismore (and lots of other places in Northern Rivers) and told us all we were not eligible for anything, it was a pretty safe bet that Krieg wouldn't do or say anything about that.

I know that previous mayors like Jenny Dowell and Vanessa Ekins would have been giving it their all. The Krieg Team and Big Rob (who got their preferences) do not deserve to get re-elected.

Trevor Acfield
South Lismore

Wife/husband councillor teams?

In the last issue of *Northern Rivers Talking Turkey*, Mr Brian Creedy asserts the wife/husband team of councillors standing for election in Kyogle's Ward C have a 'conflict of interest' because, being married, they might nefariously influence each other to... what? Mr Creedy was unclear.

In relation to conflicts of interest, 'influence' generally refers to something that would cause you to act against the best interests of the people you represent.

Kyogle Council's Conflict of Interest Policy (available on-line) uses the concept of 'influence' to refer to

something that would prevent a council official being "impartial and fair in ... dealings with ratepayers, residents, suppliers and the general public."

How would being married to a fellow councillor prevent this?

Mr Creedy also claims that if they were elected, Kyogle's Ward C would have a 'lame duck' councillor because "one [husband or wife] would have to leave the council meeting when many issues are discussed." Issues such as what? Again, Mr Creedy was unclear.

I wonder if Mr Creedy is unclear about what a conflict of interest is? Or is this a grubby attempt to smear with bogus accusations candidates he may not want elected?

Sarah Antill
Roseberry Creek

Treaty

In June, I read an article by Senator Lydia Thorpe concerning the First Nations people, treaty and truth-telling.

She commented that not one person has been held accountable for the 568 indigenous deaths in custody since the Royal Commission handed down its recommendations to the government 33 years ago, in 1991.

After reading Lydia's article I was so angry, which is why I wrote this letter to vent my spleen. The invasion is still happening, and we still live under British law and the Westminster system of government.

It's time for a shake-up and get rid of this system, which might sound like I'm talking revolution, but in a peaceful way can we all, black and white as one mob, live in peace and harmony as a sovereign nation?

And can we do it soon? Treaty now!

Paul Brecht
Maclean

About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley

Assistant editor Sue Stock

Sub-editor Kitty van Vuuren

Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy

Gough, Bob Dooley

Photographers Sue Stock,

Chibo

Proofreaders Lynne, , Kitty,

Sue, Karen

Distributors Coralie, Chibo, Sue,

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Lisa, Linda, Jock, Rosie, Trevor

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

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And find us on Facebook

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NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday 27th September

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

Susan Rankin
7/9/1959 – 27/8/2024



A celebration of Sue's life will be held on Sunday 15th September, 1pm at Nimbin Central School, followed by a wake at Nimbin Bowling Club.

Rest in Peace

Collective to advocate for water security

by Annie McGovern

The final meeting of the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan workshop series was held recently, with the focus of the day being Nimbin water.

The meeting concluded that a new group, the Nimbin Water Collective, would be established to carry out monitoring, education and advocacy for sustainability of the water supply to people and the environment.

There was a considered consensus amongst the people attending that our first best option is to be as self-reliant as possible with managing our own water storage and supply, and, that where access of water from the town supply is utilised, it be managed as

carefully and sustainably as possible.

To assist with the application of this strategy it was decided to form the Nimbin Water Collective, to facilitate on-going discussion and deliberation on all things pertaining to our water, in consultation with the local community, the Nimbin Advisory Group, the Nimbin Environment Centre and other relevant water management groups.

This is an open collective that anyone is welcome to come to, and to be a part of. Its capacity and reach will be determined by the people who participate, so it is important that we are able to reflect the views of the community, through maximum involvement.

The agreed position of the workshop

was to establish some form of monitoring of the weir. This strategy has been initiated with an approach having been made to the weir managers to access weekly monitoring data of the weir.

This would then enable information to be displayed and used by everyone to modify water usage, currently being aware of levels at the weir and the consequent availability of water to the Mulgum Creek ecosystem.

This is the critical issue, that we are able to maintain supply to the town and also ensure flows in the creek system that are sustaining to all life that depends on this water.

To join the Nimbin Water Collective, please email: steph.sibley@nmc.org.au



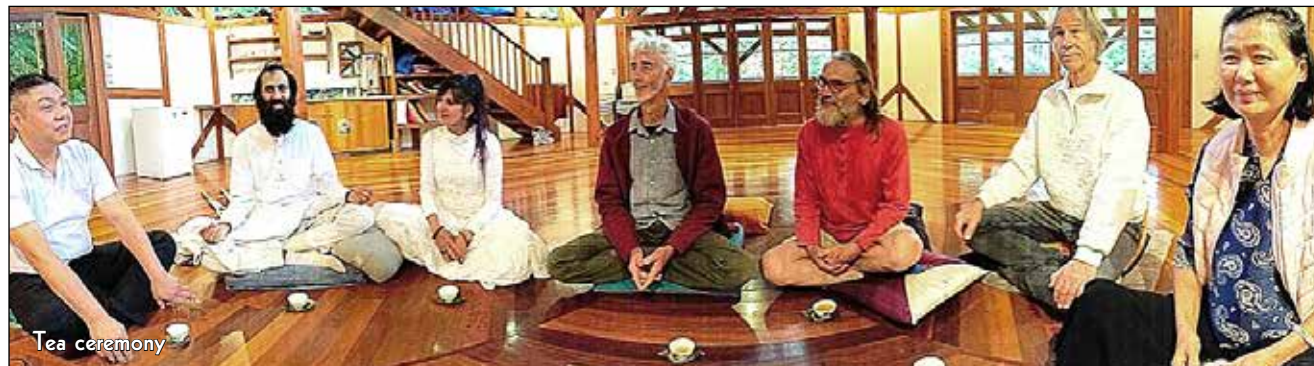
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Sunday 22nd September, 9.30am
in club rooms at 25 Sibley Street, Nimbin

- Nominations for Office and Notices of Motion close at 9.30am on Sunday 8th September.
- Vacant positions may be filled from the floor.

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Please bring your Membership Card



Tea ceremony

Transmission of two taoist traditions

by Jagad Samuel

"The way that can be walked is not the eternal way," according to Lao Tzu in the *Tao Te Ching*.

Since I last wrote in the *GoodTimes*, Flourish Sanctuary has hosted the following Taoist events.

Tea ceremony with Master Wang

In June, Flourish Sanctuary welcomed Master Wang from Taiwan.

Master Wang is known for his wisdom and kind presence. He was in Australia to deliver a talk on the 'Cultivation of Faith through Taoism'.

Despite a busy schedule, Master Wang found the time to visit Nimbin. This was a special occasion, bringing an aura of serenity and learning to our community.

I found the tea ceremony conducted by Master Wang captivating. As the participants gathered in quiet anticipation, I felt an eagerness to experience the profound simplicity and ritual of the ceremony.

Flourish's temple was filled with a serene atmosphere, as the fragrant steam from the tea wafted through the air, creating a space for reflection and inner peace.

Master Wang explained the tea had been specially brought by him from Taiwan and was grown using traditional methods.

Master Wang guided us through the ritual, emphasising the importance of mindfulness and presence for every part of the ceremony.

Each step, from the preparation of the tea to the pouring and drinking, was performed with deliberate grace and intention.

All the details were practised right down to using the spoon in an anticlockwise direction mixing the tea.

The tea itself was delicious with each sip carrying with it some of the master's homeland.

For me, the tea ceremony was more than just a sensory delight; it was a spiritual experience.

Master Wang shared insights resonated with me, reminding us that beauty that can be found in the the sacredness of everyday actions.

I left feeling that Nimbin is lucky to have hosted such an esteemed and lovely master.

Initiation into the Tao

In July, Flourish Sanctuary was once again a site of special Taoist ritual; this time as an initiation ceremony was held.

This sacred event was an opportunity for newcomers to embark on a journey within the Taoist tradition, a path marked by deep spiritual discovery and connection.

The initiation ceremony was a moving experience, beginning with the invocation of the celestials. The atmosphere was charged with a sense of reverence as we invited these divine beings to grace the ceremony with their presence.

There was a lot of bowing and some traditional Cantonese words spoken. The highlight of the event was the

transmission of the holy spirit to the initiates, a sacred process that marked their official entry into the Taoist way of life.

During the ceremony, initiates were also introduced to the three secrets of the Tao. These secrets, integral to the Taoist practice, are closely guarded and passed down through generations. I could feel their significance.

The teachings of the Tao are not merely intellectual concepts but living truths that are known to transform the heart and spirit of the practitioner.


The initiation ceremony was a reminder of the timeless wisdom and depth of the Taoist tradition. It brought together individuals seeking spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of their place in the universe.

The shared experience of receiving the Tao fostered a sense of community and mutual support, as we each took steps on this sacred path.

These two events are a testament to Flourish Sanctuary's role as a hub for spiritual exploration in Nimbin. We are committed to providing a space where any heartfelt spiritual traditions can be practised and honoured, offering opportunities for personal and collective growth.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Master Wang for sharing his knowledge, and to all who participated in these events.

May the teachings of the Tao continue to inspire and guide us on our journey.



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