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Nimbin's (nearly) naked bike ride

by James Fuller

Well, it is 2025 now, and I think we started this in 2009, with the only cancellation in the flood year. So that makes this event our 16th!

Meet on Saturday 8th March at the Bush Theatre, 10am as usual. The ride may well happen before midday.

We will have paints, but best to bring paints and brushes. There is a lot of skin to cover!

Be as bare as you dare; we use this device to bring attention to our vulnerability as cyclists on the road.

I have personally been hit twice while cycling (in Newcastle and in Yass), once ending up in hospital with concussion. Other cyclists I know have had it much worse, but none of that needs to happen.

Motorists are requested to take a bit of care, although



it may delay you much less than a minute. Sixty seconds for a life.

Now, just for fun, count the seconds, just to 20. Yes,

it does seem like an age. Yet it is only 20 seconds.

I have been both undertaken and overtaken at the same time – over double

lines no less, with on-coming traffic – in that time back in Newcastle.

Don't be one of those drivers. Please.

Repair to Return project: The end is in sight

by Resilient Lismore staff

The Two Rooms/Repair to Return (R2R) program has been helping people across the Northern Rivers to rebuild for nearly three years, by providing free access to qualified tradespeople and teams of volunteers.

To date, the program has successfully completed repair work in close to 700 flood-damaged homes across the Northern Rivers.

However, the end of program funding is approaching. If your house still needs repair, we really encourage you to get in touch with us to see if we can help you, while we still have funding available for property repair.

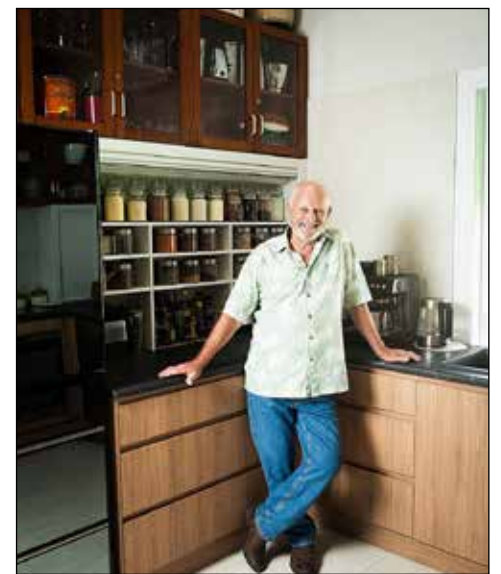
You can call us on 0455-218-692 first to make sure you are eligible (our hours are Wed-Fri, 9am-3pm), but we will get back to you if you leave a message outside of these hours, or email: hello@resilientlismore.org.au

If you know someone who might need our help, please encourage them to get in touch with us.

Resilient Lismore is based at 215 Keen Street, Lismore.



Above: Tradies and volunteers on call at Resilient Lismore. Below left: Tony Lee from Resilient Lismore and Pete, recipient of new walls and bathroom under the R2R program. Below right: John in his repaired kitchen. Photos: Elise Derwin



Inaugural Men's Shed group meeting considers options

by Phil Bromley

There was an impressive turnout for the inaugural Nimbin Mens Shed meeting held in February in the Casuarina building with thanks to the youth group mob for sharing their space.

Andy Kelly facilitated the meeting and distributed the agenda to all present who registered their contact details on entry.

Many things were discussed about the direction and location of Mens Shed activities and what those activities may include.

A variety of potential "work sites" were

considered, and volunteers tasked to gather details for the next meeting.

It was great to see an expanse of ages present, and everyone seemed comfortable to speak freely. One of the core issues everyone agreed upon was the importance of starting a male-centric group to support the mental, physical and social health of Nimbin's men.

It is also driven partly by imparting knowledge, and training younger blokes from the wealth of knowledge our older men have, such as woodworking, small motor servicing, computer programming even music (in Nimbin?).

Practical and exciting fundraising

ideas were proffered and a general vibe of positivity and blokeship dominated.

Whatever you do, wherever you've been, whatever you've learnt, we'd love to have more blokes getting involved and telling their stories and passing on their experiences. There's no pressure, everyone contributes what they can.

Let's look out for each other, and I and the rest of the inaugural meeting mob look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

For more details, contact: nimbinmensshed@proton.me or join the Facebook group: www.facebook.com/share/g/1AK55TNGGU

Three-year anniversary of fossil-fuelled floods



Photo: Andy Gough



Photo: Yagia Gentle

by Emma Briggs, co-organiser, Climate Justice Alliance

It is three years since floods devastated homes and traumatised lives in the Northern Rivers, and community groups are asking why our governments are still supporting the fossil fuel industry with more subsidies than ever before, and actively expanding coal and gas mining around the country.

Instead of protecting citizens from worsening unnatural disasters and extreme heat, by transitioning to a carbon-free economy as soon as possible, the Federal Labor government has approved 32 new and extended coal and gas mines, while the NSW government continues to destroy essential carbon sinks by logging our native forests.

Governments have also increased financial support for coal, oil and gas by a staggering 31 percent, according to the Australia Institute. Their 2024 report states: "Australia's subsidies to fossil fuel producers and major users from all governments totalled \$14.5 billion in 2023-24."

The Community Disaster Action Group (CDAG) formed after the floods to be a united voice for a fully funded recovery across the seven local government areas of the Northern Rivers.

Spokesperson Dale Emerson said, "Imagine for an instant that we forget about saving the planet and its occupants from unnatural disasters.

"Properly implemented fossil fuel policy reforms would: reduce fiscal burden; avoid stranded asset risks; create new economic opportunities; strengthen international reputation; and ensure more equitable transition outcomes while maintaining energy security. It's what we used to call 'responsible governance'."

Chels Hood Withey, Northern Rivers Community Organiser for 350.org Australia said, "The government is only delaying the renewable energy transition that we all need and want.

"There's no need for the approval of more coal and gas that puts us in harm's way. Renewables are cheaper, cleaner and ready to go now. We have all the

solar we need. We just need the storage and urgent funding for community batteries."

Climate Justice Alliance spokesperson Atticus Henderson, 24, was heavily impacted by flooding at Banora Point: "My house flooded in 2017, 2020, 2022 and I expect it will happen again without climate justice.

"As a young person I watch my government fail to act on climate, approving new coal and gas projects, destroying our native forests, and practically setting my house on fire.

"Insurance companies profit from, and don't support those impacted by climate disasters."

Meanwhile, according to public records of politicians' voting performance, ALP Member for Richmond Justine Elliot "voted generally against increasing support for rural and regional Australia." See: www.theyvoteforyou.org.au

For example, last June she voted 'no' on amendments to increase community engagement for the *Net Zero Economy Authority Bill, 2024*.

Community activist space emerges

by Andrew George

The much-loved former Serpentine Gallery at 17 Bridge Street in North Lismore was bought-back by the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) late last year, in effect becoming a public asset on stolen Widjabal land.

This was part of the Resilient Homes Program, the government's non-consensual and vexed response to the devastating floods of 2022.

In late November, the former owners left the place vacant, the water and electricity were disconnected and it was boarded up and fenced off, becoming a useless space, deemed too dangerous to live in.

Meanwhile, next door a thriving pottery school and function space has taken off.

After a brief period sitting empty and sad, the former Serpentine Gallery has been repurposed as a community



Activists start moving in

activist hub.

Its windows are now full of protest signs and banners, the boards have been taken down, the water reconnected, the fences removed.

It stands out in the mostly plywood clad and temporary fence-stricken suburb.

Behind the decorations is a space that carries on the long running artistic and political traditions that make our area so special.

North Lismore is the home of the legendary Rainforest

Information Centre (cruelly destroyed by the RA last year), and has been the hub for various forestry defence campaigns for decades, to name two examples.

A weekly potluck (bring a plate) meal welcomes all at 6pm every Wednesday for the regular SOAR meeting (Socialise Organise Art Resist).

Coming together to share food and create art and action is so important in this age of isolation and

atomisation.

This new space is an exciting hub for local groups such as the Environment Centre, which has lost its space since the floods, SOAR, the Lismore People's Assembly – and we hope many others – to gather, connect, educate, inspire and to resist the colonial capitalist system that dominates our lives and destroys our environment. There are also free weekly breakdancing lessons.

In the near future we envisage the space to offer the community monthly film screenings, social drop-in times, flood preparedness information, activist co-working and many chances to connect with projects and people across the area.

So drop-in, check the window for 'what's coming up', come for dinner, bring your creativity and compassion, and together we will pave the path to our collective liberation!

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Solar power helps empower local independent schools

by Kate Stapleton

Rainbow Power Company (RPC) has been working collaboratively with two local schools this year to help keep schools powering on.

The Rainbow Ridge Steiner School and Tuntable Falls Primary School received funding in 2024 from the Australian Government's Capital Grants Program, which provides funding to assist schools in installing solar panels and battery storage to manage energy costs.

Both schools are located in the Northern Rivers where we know that power outages are common – especially in the summer months.

Now that both schools have batteries and solar, it means they can continue to operate when the power goes out.



Rainbow Ridge School installation

Rainbow Ridge Steiner School

Located near Lillian Rock, Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education has been a beacon of sustainable living since its establishment in 1996.

Operating off-grid from its inception, the school has continually embraced innovative energy solutions to support its educational mission.

Thanks to a grant provided by the AISNSW, Rainbow Ridge School has recently upgraded its energy infrastructure with a state-of-the-art solar power system designed by RPC, who couldn't be prouder to partner with them on this project. The double rainbow link is unmissable.

Custom designed to suit their specific upgrade needs, the system now includes:

- 1. Powerful Solar Array:** 160 Trina Solar panels, each with a capacity of 440W, efficiently harnessing solar energy.
- 2. High Performing Inverters:** Two SMA inverters – models STP25 and STP50 – convert the generated DC power into AC power suitable for the school's operations.
- 3. Battery Storage:** The heart of the

system features six 8.0H Sunny Island battery inverters connected via an MC Box 6, paired with 20 ZYC 5.1 kW Simpo Lithium batteries.

This configuration ensures a reliable power supply, even during periods of low sunlight.

Tuntable Falls Community School

Tuntable Falls Community School has long been committed to environmental sustainability.

In line with this commitment, the school has recently partnered up with RPC to upgrade its energy infrastructure by integrating a new solar power system with its existing setup including batteries.

After a site visit and consultation with the school, RPC designed a bespoke solar system upgrade to suit their specific needs. The upgraded system is designed to incorporate the original 8 kW solar installation, which included 10 kW of panels. The upgraded solar system comprises of:

- 1. Increased Solar Capacity and Panels:** 22 new panels, each with a capacity of

440W, have been added to boost solar energy generation.

- 2. Hybrid Solar Inverter:** A Sungrow 20T hybrid solar inverter has been installed to efficiently convert and manage the combined energy output from both the original and new panels.
- 3. Battery Storage:** The system now includes seven Sungrow SBH HV LFP 5 kWh battery modules, ensuring a reliable power supply even during periods of low sunlight and power outages.

The implementation of both these solar power systems not only reduces both schools' carbon footprints but also serves as a living educational tool for their students.

By integrating renewable energy into daily operations, the schools provide students with practical insights into sustainable practices, aligning with their vision of offering education in balance and harmony with the environment.

The recent solar power system upgrades, underscore both schools' unwavering commitment to nurturing both its students and the planet.

Attitudinal change needed for home-grown cannabis

by Michael Balderstone

I've spent a weekend in February at United In Compassion's medical cannabis symposium in the Brisbane Exhibition Centre.

I was kindly given a ticket because they cost like, a thousand dollars!

All the big Mediweed companies sponsored the weekend but they ain't sponsoring our political efforts much. Most are worried that allowing us to grow our own will dig into their seam of green gold profits.

The big thing I learnt from the weekend is that we aren't their worry, but overseas weed is. Remember the rush of growers to Thailand when they suddenly made it legal, Americans and Canadians, and even a few from around Nimbin?

Now a few years later and they are exporting top quality buds very cheaply. Same from Colombia, possibly African countries as well. Remember that hippy dream of weed being a dollar a gram?

I'm not sure how the local industry with its strict regulations can possibly compete with these countries which seem to have way less



rules. I understand now why Canada doesn't allow any imported cannabis.

At the other end of the scale, our very own MardiGrass is cooking up exceptionally well this year, apart from us being a fraction desperate to find beds for invited speakers.

Nimbin is short of visitors' beds at any time. Not long ago we had three backpacker lodgings and now none.

The Hemposium has some excellent new talent lined up for this year and with the election predicted before the first weekend in May, who knows what MPs we might have attending or not.

This election truly gives the Legalise Cannabis Party a slim chance of getting a senator up, which you would

think surely could make a difference. Some people are saying "but it's legal now", and true it is, but not to grow our own and not to drive while using any. Only legal via a doctor and the chemist. The same doctors who have derided us for decades.

The RDT rules are truly appalling and embarrassing for the police as well as us. We all know it's absolute bullshit and nothing to do with impairment. Talk about creating disrespect for the cops and other laws in general.

There was an interesting talk at the conference about police using weed for their PTSD. One copper told me they all support legalising weed, "because they're sick to death of having to deal with drunks."

I listened to Albo recently invoking the fifth amendment when he was asked if he had a toke at uni. The Attorney General Mark Dreyfus responded to an inquiry last month from Legalise members: "Cannabis use carries substantial risks and has devastating impacts on our communities."

Dutton would be the same or worse, I imagine.

It's like nothing has changed

in their minds, despite doctors now prescribing cannabis like the new wonder drug. Turnover of legal pot in Australia is now at \$2 billion annually I hear.

Some doctors are doing nothing else but weed scripts; one I know of has 2000 patients on weed. New chemists are opening up just to fill scripts! This is unheard-of stuff, yet the suits carry on like nothing has changed.

Meanwhile the miracle stories just keep surfacing as more and more people discover how this amazing herb can suddenly and surprisingly reduce their suffering.

And for some, they've spent decades trying every pill under the sun and copped nasty side effects along the way.

So we expect MardiGrass to attract quite a few new visitors this year. Legal weed is everywhere, which at last gives the police a chance to relax with us.

There's new speakers, new events and it's the 30th Hemp Olympix for Chibo the Torch Bearer.

Meetings to organise the villages big weekend are held every Friday in the HEMP Bar from 4.20 and weed love your help. 0472-760-236.

Sharing stories connected to Aquarius

by Greg Bork

The Aquarius Archives Centre (AAC) is delighted to share news of our first month of germination.

We are now a working group of Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc, and are gaining support for our dedication to looking after and sharing stories connected to the 1973 Aquarius Festival, and its significant legacy which is strong and growing.

We've had a few initial come-togethers to begin the tasks of setting up, including essential infrastructure, policies and skills.

This challenging and time-consuming preliminary planning and administration-intensive phase is proceeding steadily before the fun of archiving together can begin.

At this stage we are short on volunteers with expertise in, and time for policy, article and grant writing and editing, fundraising and collecting oral history. You can now reach us at: mail@aquariusarchives.org.au

Our Collections Policy is our most important professional founding document and is now



Screenprinted Aquarian shopping bags available at the AAC headquarters

accessible at: aquariusarchives.org.au while the rest of the website is under development.

The newly-established AAC headquarters is located in the Nimbin Community Centre's Acacia building at 81 Cullen Street. Powermax in Lismore kindly donated a computer and we are setting up an operational workspace.

The only missing item that we seek by donation or discount please is a good quality chest freezer, which will enable us to proceed with

the first steps of conservation: eliminating silverfish, cockroaches and other pests from archives.

Soon we will need many clean and lockable metal shelving cabinets.

We are not yet ready to accept archive donations until a safe and secure storage space in Nimbin is formally negotiated and prepared.

However, please do contact us sooner if you have significant archives in urgent risk and need of salvage.

We would like to keep the Widjabul Wia-bal community informed and included.

We are proposing an inaugural exhibition in the Nimbin Hall lobby during the Nimbin Art Fair, 11-26th April, based on the display book that was circulated in the Widjabul Community during the Aquarius50 gathering.

We invite Widjabul people to please contact us about about the 50-plus year relationship between Nimbin Aquarius and First Nations.

Workshop

A professional curator and conservator will be running our first workshop, 'Archiving Basics', on Thursday 27th March.

We have limited space, but can include a few more participants, and encourage custodians of significant collections in particular to join us.

Aquarius Archives Centre is here to nurture the Nimbin Aquarius vision to create a kinder, more peaceful and sustainable way of life together.

We'll keep you posted in the *GoodTimes*!

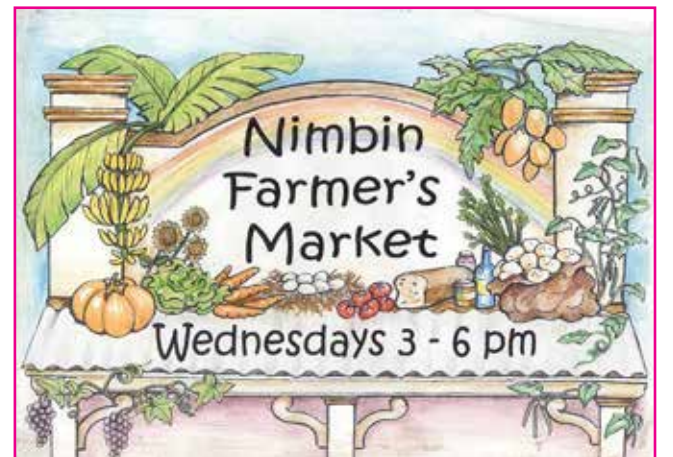


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Evolving a 'Culture of Peace' support network

by Benny Zable



Balibah Singh first ran an undercover community meeting space with a chai stall at the weekly St Andrews market in the back hills of Melbourne.

After the 1973 festival I would network and relay my travelling stories from Nimbin to St Andrews under his tarp arrangements.

Bali passed his set-up to the late Michael Webb who created the first Rainbow Chai Tent, who passed it onto Michael Jack and family who created the current one.

A second Rainbow Chai Tent was made, which after a tour around Australia ended up as a permanent meeting space at The Channon Market.

The Rainbow Chai Tent has served us at all five yearly Nimbin Aquarius gatherings.

The Peace Pole, 'May peace prevail on earth', was first painted on an older Rainbow Chai Tent central steel pole.

During one of my visits to the World Peace Sanctuary in upstate New York, I purchased a selection of Vinyl Stickers, which I tacked onto the current Rainbow Chai Tent custom made detachable Peace pole installation.

To check out the history of the World Peace Prayer Society go to: www.worldpeace.org/history

Now I am living in Melbourne working with a sculpture-making foundry towards building a life-size statue of the fossil fool no more war performance art peace, which grew out of this evolved Rainbow activist network.

The plan is to first make a limited edition of 20cm high statuettes for the public to buy, to raise the money for the costs of doing this work.

If you are interested, please check my Facebook page on when and who to purchase them, once they become available.

End the arms race. May peace prevail on Earth.

V-Day celebrated in red at dawn in Byron



Dozens of women braved the chilly dawn air on 14th February, Valentines Day, at Main Beach, Byron Bay to participate in the annual world-wide statement made about the continued incidence of domestic violence.

The statistics in Australia alone are frightening, and do not seem to be declining.

The silent dances eloquently spoke of the collective power of women to withstand and endure in the face of appalling circumstances that no-one should have to experience.

Despite the solemn tone, it was a warm women's gathering.

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

March is the third anniversary of the terrible 2022 flood event that caused so much havoc and destruction across the Northern Rivers, including to our community. NNIC acknowledges that while many people have fully recovered, some have not, and some maybe never really will. NNIC will continue to support people who are recovering as much as we can.



NNIC celebrates International Women's Day

International Women's Day will be celebrated with the Nimbin Women's Dinner on Thursday 6th March 2025. Tickets are available via Humantix or NNIC (or at the door if not sold out). For more info see our Facebook page.

Help needed

Are you heavily into mowing? Or even just a bit into it? Then we have the job for you! We are still looking for someone to do the weekly mowing at 7 Sibley Street to replace Rik who recently retired.

At the moment Steph is trying to do it on top of her many jobs, but she could really use some help. We provide the mower and whipper snipper.

It's a pretty quick and easy mowing job, and we just got a ride-on to make it even easier. If you can help, contact Steph on: sibley@nnic.org.au

Men's Shed

Many thanks to Northern Rivers Suicide Prevention and Awareness Group for providing \$1000 to support the newly-formed Nimbin men's group. (See story p2)

Loneliness

At the NSW Inquiry into Loneliness and Social Isolation in February, a number of neighbourhood centres, including NNIC,

together with our NSW peak body, the Local Community Services Association, attended Parliament to give evidence regarding loneliness and social isolation, its causes, prevalence and possible solutions.

It remains to be seen what will come out of the Inquiry, but hopefully it will yield some funding to apply to the issue.

Cooling plate

Did you know about the community cooling plate which is available for hire to Nimbin community members?

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.

Contact Nat at NNIC, or Saskia for more info or if you think you may be needing the cooling plate in the near future. (The fee varies according to capacity to pay.)

Nimbin Community Disaster Plan

If you haven't checked it out before, or not for a while, be sure to do so as it contains a lot of info about what to expect and what to do at the local level if disaster strikes.

You can view or download it on our website, click on the link under the Disasters tab.

Big Map Nimbin sessions

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is bringing the Big Maps out to Nimbin and will

be at the Nimbin Town Hall on Wednesday 29th March for community sessions.

The Big Maps are an excellent tool for understanding and identifying local assets and resources, the local landscape and possible scenarios, and enhancing our community disaster resilience planning. Watch for the promotions with more info coming out soon.

Donations

NNIC is a registered Deductible Gift Recipient charity, which means that donations of \$2 or more to

our charitable activities, or bequests in your will, are tax deductible.

Your donations help us to help and support our local community.

You can donate by dropping in, or by depositing funds into our NNIC Gift Fund account: Summerland Bank, BSB 728 728, account number 22205341.

Be sure to include your name in the deposit reference, and to contact us on: admin@nnic.org.au for a tax receipt.

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 Garrimaa Café Group twice monthly Thursdays, 11-2
 Wise Ones, Koonorigan Hall 4th Mon, bring plate to share
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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 20th March. 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 20th March.

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.



Your generosity at work

by Gail Wallace

Last December, I was entrusted to gather together some treats and treasures for the Nimbin Farmers' Market Christmas hampers.

Stallholders kindly donate vouchers annually to make the raffle a special attraction full of healthy local produce. Prizes were also supplemented with more delights from our colourful Cullen Street businesses.

As usual, they opened their hearts and their shelves to fill three big baskets, with all proceeds going to Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary.

Requesting donations was trickier, knowing that 2024 had not been a particularly 'flourishing' year business-wise. Despite this awareness, which was shared, I was so thoroughly impressed that it did not seem to deter the flow of generosity.

I sensed it was indicative of how much our community values our precious local hospital.

Many shopkeepers shared stories describing how they or family members were 'saved' after accidents, incidents and medical catastrophes.

Much gratitude was expressed that our local medicos could treat them without suffering the arduous journey to Lismore Base, incurring possible painful waits of several hours. Such is the privilege of our local health care.

Country towns as small as



We hear it often: "Every little bit helps," so a big shout out of gratitude to all the stallholders and the following businesses:

Funky Corner, Hemp shop co-operative, Emporium, Nimbin Herbs, Pharmacy, Newsagency, Hotel, the Barber, Hemp Embassy, Cones & Cream, Post Office, Green Bank, Tribal Magic, Craft Gallery, Shokudou Japanese restaurant, Nimbin Candles and Susukka Trading.

ours often lack these vital facilities during business hours, let alone after hours and on weekends.

So, a huge thanks goes to all who purchased tickets. We managed to donate over \$300 to our treasured hospital.

Last year, we were able to donate essential equipment and resources to Nimbin MPS, totalling a value of \$42,941.74. These contributions have made a significant impact on patient care and services.

Items purchased in 2024: Shower Bed – \$12,321.70; Lucas Cardiac Compression Unit – \$17,825.00; 12 Dining Chairs – \$11,495.04; Aged Care Activity Fund – \$800.00; Aged Care Christmas Gifts – \$500.00.

But the big ticket item currently being aimed for is the CSO Slit Lamp. This piece of equipment is used for examining eyes. Patients are regularly seen at Nimbin with eye injuries, however, unable to be assessed and treated.

The acquisition of this lamp means most patients will be able to be treated here. Cost of this equipment is over \$21,000, so keep buying those raffle tickets, chutneys and jams!

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary is holding its first meeting of the year at Nimbin MPS in the conference room on Wednesday, 5th March at 9.30am.

If you've ever thought about joining or would like to learn more about what we do, we'd love you to come along. Morning tea will be provided, and all are welcome. Get involved in whatever way works for you!

Upcoming events

- **Wednesday 12th March** – Find us at the Nimbin Farmers Market
 - **Saturday 22nd March** – Join us for a Trivia Night at Nimbin Bowling Club
 - **Saturday 29th March** – Enjoy a sausage sizzle at Nimbin Building Materials
- These events help us continue our vital support for Nimbin MPS, and we encourage everyone to come along, have fun and contribute to a great cause.



Cooking, catering and celebrating

Sarah and Hayley on the street stall

by Sage Bryant, publicity officer

Our Nimbin CWA ladies have been busy bees, organising catering for several local events, cooking for the regional cookery competition, as well as making preserves and baked goods for sale at our Saturday stall, market and open days.

International Women's Day

You are invited to join us to celebrate International Women's Day on Saturday 8th March from 3pm at the CWA Rooms and Community Centre grounds.

Please bring along food to share and some purple, white and green flowers for our Women's Peace Mandala.

Our amazing Autumn raffle will also be drawn on the day.

Dates to remember

- **Open Days:** 10am-3pm, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month, pop in for lunch and a chat.
- **Op Shop Days:** 10am-3pm, 1st and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
- **Community Market Days:** 9.30am-3pm, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month.
- **Street Stall:** 10am-12 noon, most Saturdays, outside the Nimbin newsagency.
- **Branch Meeting:** 5pm, 2nd Monday of the month, new members always welcome! The CWA rooms are located at Figtree House, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin (next to the firehouse via Sibley Street). For all general enquires please phone: 0461-412-831 or email: secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com

Merging fashion with caring

Aged care residents in the Northern Rivers are benefiting from an innovative initiative called Our Timeless Threads, which merges fashion with caring.

Founded by nurse and fashion designer Maia Willow, this program offers 1950s-inspired shopping experiences within care homes, ensuring that residents can enjoy style and self-expression in a comfortable setting.

"Let's honour our seniors by helping them reclaim the joys of self-expression," says Maia. "At Our Timeless Threads, we provide autonomy in choice, confidence, and a sense of being celebrated."

Maia's passion for this initiative stems from her experiences as a registered nurse. "Far too often, I witnessed seniors wearing ill-fitting and uncomfortable clothing," she explains.

"This is a systemic issue; many families lack the time to shop for their loved ones, and many seniors cannot leave the care home for health reasons. My goal is to provide support for those facing moral distress due to these everyday challenges."

Each pop-up event features a diverse selection of pre-loved clothing, nostalgic props, and music, culminating in a joyful red-carpet experience. Residents are encouraged to touch, try on, and select their attire, restoring their individuality and pride.

For those living with dementia, familiar sights, sounds, and textures can evoke cherished memories, fostering connections and joy.

In a bid to combat fashion waste, Our Timeless Threads collaborates with local op



Photo: Anthony Ong

shop Global Ripple. Donated materials are repurposed into stylish clothing protectors and accessories for aged care residents during in-house sewing workshops.

Maia's mission also aims to tackle Australia's staggering waste problem, targeting the reduction of approximately 200,000 tonnes of textile waste each year.

Maia is calling on the community to support this important initiative through donations, volunteering, or participation in sewing workshops and fundraising efforts.

In a fast-paced world, Our Timeless Threads aims to restore dignity and compassion to those who have contributed so much to our lives.

For more information on how to get involved, or donate, please visit: www.ourtimelessthreads.com.au; Instagram @ourtimelessthreads Facebook: Our Timeless Threads.

NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB
7 Sibley Street

Open 10.30am – 2pm Wed to Sat

- Workshops:** Gold coin donation
- **Tues 4th, 10.30am: nimBIN CHICKENS** – sorting and shredding at 7 Sibley Street, 11.30 re-making at Nimbin Showground.
 - **Sat 8th, 10.30am: Natural paints and finishes** – with master painter Kriisy Kalteis from Precious Wall Finishes
 - **Wed 12th, 10.30am: Spinners and weavers**
 - **Sat 15th, 10.30am: Broom making** – Make a traditional straw broom. \$35, places

March What's On!

For bookings, email: sibley@nnic.org.au
\$20 unless otherwise noted

- limited, bookings essential.
- **Tues 18th, 10.30am: Knitting and crochet**
- **Wed 19th, 2pm: Nimbin Water Collective**
- **Wed 26th, 10.30am Crafters** – bring a project or start something new.
- **Community Tools Library:** Every Wed and Sat for home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC Mon-Fri.
- **Basketballs & pump available:** \$5 deposit.

Nimbin Community Conversations

Join us for a cuppa, a chat and your chance to experience the "Big Map".

Community members are invited to join the NSW Reconstruction Authority, and local Nimbin services including Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre and the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group, to explore a giant, interactive 10m x 15m scale map of the Lismore Local Government Area, which includes Nimbin and surrounds.

This is an opportunity to come together over afternoon tea to discuss the places and spaces you value, and the experiences you've had, using this unique tool.

Following afternoon tea there will be an opportunity to engage in targeted disaster planning with the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group.

- **Date:** Saturday, 29 March 2025
- **Time:** 1.30pm – Afternoon Tea, conversations with local services and an invitation to explore the Big Map
2pm to 4pm – Local conversations about Nimbin and surrounds disaster experience

• **Location:** Nimbin Town Hall, 45 Cullen St, Nimbin

For further enquiries, including dietary requirements, please contact NC.region@reconstruction.nsw.gov.au

NSW Reconstruction Authority



Business as usual

I have received numerous enquiries from people asking me where I, Jayne E Alleman, AKA Woolfie, am working now.

I would like everyone to know I am still working at Nimbin Tax & Accounting but it's now under the new ownership of Loris Bianco. Business is carrying on as usual. I thank all my clients for their continuing business.

Jayne E Alleman
Nimbin

Thank you, Friends of the Pool

I would like to express my gratitude to the 'Friends of the Pool', especially Sue Edmonds, who has lobbied to get a new toilet and shower facility for the pool/BBQ area, exercise equipment, skate park and children's playground.

The position of the new amenities building, services all of these facilities very well. There will be three toilets, one accessible and two showers. How fabulous! Well done Sue and Friends of the Pool, a great addition to the facilities for this much-loved recreation area.

Sharon Whalley
Nimbin

Still, will always be... Wallum

On Friday 21st February, the Federal Court of Australia in Sydney began the hearing of Save Wallum vs Clarence Property.

Save Wallum's (SW) goal is "to permanently halt the development and buy back the land for community and conservation purposes." It is a culmination of a huge grass roots, non-violent movement involving people, locally and nationally: politicians, lawyers, ecologists, local indigenous leaders, local businesses, environmental activists, community liaisons, social media bloggers, filmmakers, photographers, artists, poets, musicians, backpackers, students, grannies, parents and children.

Information was disseminated via a multitude of volunteers at Bayside tents, Non Violent Direct Action workshops, guided

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.

walks through Wallum, market stalls, street marches and protests, websites, photography and art exhibitions, music concerts, morning teas, local newspapers and national media outlets. Many of these venues have been selling a huge range of locally produced merchandise to raise awareness and funds to cover SW's Inc huge legal costs.

In this David and Goliath battle, our community is fighting to protect 30 hectares of rare coastal wetlands and their threatened plants and animals. This is a message to the Federal government that they need to strengthen our environmental laws. Coastal communities facing high population growth must urge local councils, and developers with zombie DAs, to follow updated guidelines addressing the future impacts of global warming and climate change.

Sue McLeod
Myocum

Anti-semitism and Dutton

In the recent media blitz on antisemitic attacks in Sydney, have you wondered why each attack left a clumsy depiction of the nazi swastika? Why alleged attackers look like young adults and that AFP investigations indicated possible overseas funding for these acts?

An article in *The Guardian* on January 28 by a Jewish human rights lawyer and leader of the Jewish Council of Australia, Sarah Schwartz, who spoke out about "Peter Dutton's use of the Jewish community as political footballs, to spread

Bookkeeper Lyndal Gray
Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com
And find us on Facebook

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

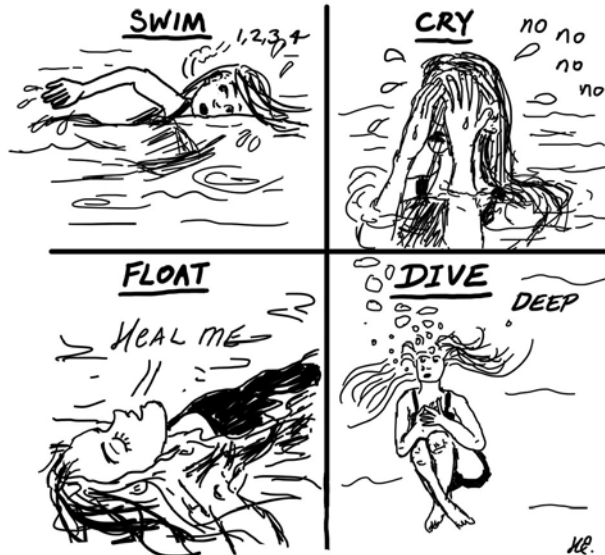
NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 28th March

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

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

How To SURVIVE: 2025



www.hollyenglish.com

bigotry, makes all of us less safe."

She stated that, Dutton's and the Coalition's "concern for Jews appears to me to be confected and self-serving... They use us as political footballs to stoke division, spread Islamophobia, attack the Labor party and push anti-immigration policies." To Sarah, these are typical global far right tactics. It can explain why we see the swastika instead of icons of the Palestinian people.

She claims "Peter Dutton has increasingly invoked the Jewish community and the fight against antisemitism to justify divisive political positions and his party's increasingly indefensible support for Israel. He has used the rise of antisemitism to push for mandatory sentencing... which has no evidence of reducing hate." The caravan full of explosives played into his eager hands.

Once again Dr No has used fear, divisiveness and negativity to gain public approval for the Coalition's position on Israel, to push their anti-immigration stance and to try to shame Labor's response in the upcoming election. Or possibly to distract us from his impractical push for nuclear power. The media, even the ABC, have eagerly all jumped on board.

In speaking out Sarah has attracted daily wrath of the Murdoch press and pro-Israel lobby groups on X. But it's a timely reminder of the many Jewish people who do not support the policies of Netanyahu and his far-right allies.

Sue McLeod
Myocum

Make love the law

Dear beautiful people, can someone, anyone tell me why the one commandment: 'Love one another' has never been the law?

We are meant to be a country that believes in Christian values, we are meant to be a multicultural society embracing diversity; why wasn't this one

commandment ever the law? Protecting our rights, freedom and privacy, a justice system that declares 'In kindness we trust', healing not only the victims but also the accused.

Many laws have been created based on the Magna Carta, (biblical instruction) yet the one law that mattered, the one law that would have united the world and offer the world a core value that would protect all people's rights, freedom and justice has never been the law.

What politician would deny the people the one commandment?

Shouldn't we heal our horrible history by acknowledging this one commandment should have been the law two thousand years ago? To offer the world peace, hope and a justice system making the one commandment the law?

The people of the world want peace, the people of the world want freedom and a beautiful caring, sharing world protecting the rights of all. Isn't it that democracy is at its best to hear the hearts of all people? To make love the law and end all wars, to have a justice system that will ensure no politician will ever pass a law to discriminate against anyone ever again!

I would ask Amnesty International to assist us to create a justice system protecting all of us from any discrimination, any wars and any injustice against any people.

May we give peace a chance!

Hildegard MacDonald
Ballina

Protect local creeks

A person would have to be living on the moon not to notice the ever-increasing impacts of climate change that will be part of projected changes to our local environment riverine system – namely Wilsons and Leycester Creeks and the tributaries that run directly into it.

Lismore City Council has

Good dog Jingo

by Inez

Known to most locals, our dear loyal town dog, Jingo has now departed for Heaven.

His human is Elspeth, who for many years was custodian of the Nimbin Museum, which burned down with the Rainbow Cafe.

Jingo helped keep the footpath outside the Museum free of skateboards by furiously chasing and barking at them, but was later known to ride one himself.

He was known to everyone in town, and he lived in a time when there were not so many other



dogs, and free-roamed the village for most of the day. His favourite place was being outside the bakery catching falling crumbs or a half-eaten pie.

If he liked you, he'd wag his whole body and pick up something to give you, but then keep it and run away.

This is how I will remember him... someone who was always pleased to see me.

aligned itself with the NSW and Australian governments by acknowledging in writing that the Nimbin valley be better prepared for the changes we are currently facing, including increased temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and extreme events.

Calico Creek, for example, plays a significant role in the river system. Looking at it, anyone may think it is not of great importance. However, the creek has a catchment drawing directly from Blue Knob mountain and flows straight into Goolmangar Creek, then this water meets Leycester Creek.

During weather events of over 200ml in under 24 hours (standard in the upper tract of the valley), water flows at great speed, around 60 kmph, rising over a height of 11m.

In 1974, its force smashed bridges, and in 2022 Blue Knob Road was torn up, to name some examples. It is a devil that sweeps all in its way.

Many other roads and infrastructure as well as houses have been demolished by weather events in the upper tract areas of the valley.

Nimbin is famed for its local sights; one of these drawn, painted and photographed is Three Tree Hill. It is a true local landmark with a scar now running down its southern

side, close to its summit.

This road, as graded, is nearly one km long and follows Calico Creek. Any overflow run-off will be carried by gravity and the water table into the creek.

This road is wide enough to allow two trucks to pass. It is dug into the side of the hill at a minimum depth of one metre and in places lower down nearly seven metres through loose gravel and clay.

A great deal of the road runs almost straight down the hill. Turbid pollution runs from this scar in the landscape into Calico Creek.

People are allowed to pump from Calico Creek for domestic purposes.

Though debris such as large trees have fallen into the creek flow, platypus, various rare birds, reptiles and fish live happily inside its banks.

If Lismore Council is serious about being prepared for the coming changing climate and its extremes, it will undoubtedly bring and follow the agreements with its superior bodies; it must keep all the upper tracts clean, strong and with a clear flow.

Any weather event, such as 2022, can have a better chance of control, thus meeting the expectations of the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program.

Mark Pestell
Nimbin

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Cawongla Playhouse AGM is on Tuesday 18th March, 2.30pm at the preschool. All members are invited to attend. For enquiries contact Cawongla Playhouse at 6633-7167.

Self-sufficiency

Are you interested in improving your health and reducing your cost of living? Then come along to the self-sufficiency talk on Thursday 13th March, 11am to 1pm at the Fairy Hill Hall. For further information contact: jenjones660@gmail.com

Towards a nuclear-free future

by Annie McGovern

The Nuclear Free Gathering held in Melbourne on 1st and 2nd February brought together a range of people who have spent much of their lives in trying to protect the country and its people from the over-run of a nuclear future.

Some of these folk work in the framework of Friends of the Earth, Australian Conservation Foundation, ICAN, Medical Association for the Prevention of War and the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance. Others are Aboriginal Elders both from Victoria and South Australia impacted by nuclear operations.

Still others are the people who are the oldies who have been out there in the field for many years and the younger mob who fill the day with energy, inspiration and love.

People kept coming in large numbers on both days, to inform, to learn, to share, to care about what happens to us all and to encourage everyone to think and act in a way that gives possibility to there being a nuclear-free future.

We were given information about the nuclear fuel chain: uranium mining, enrichment, power generation, weapons manufacture and radioactive waste. Each stage of the nuclear fuel chain has its inherent problems and adverse environmental and societal impacts.

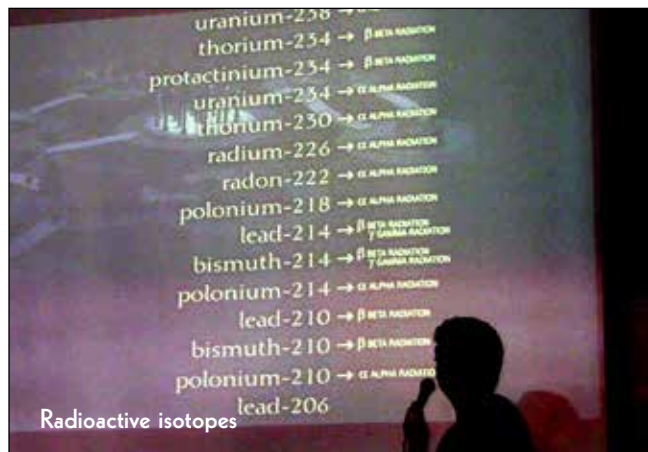
Problems include excessive water usage, high volumes of energy required, radioactive contamination of the air, water, land, animals and people.

Here in Australia, we have been warned of the inherent dangers associated with the release of uranium oxide from its safe hidden place deep in the ground.

We have heard from the Elders across the continent that the mining and use of uranium is hazardous in the extreme, its contamination far-reaching and the associated problems long-lasting well beyond several lifetimes.

Yet industry has become the driver of policy. The right to say "no" is denied to traditional owners and the wider population alike.

Australia currently provides 1/3 of the world's uranium supply. We export in excess



of 10,000 tonnes per annum, creating 200,000 tonnes of tailings with radioactive residue.

Understanding the history gives insight into what is happening now. In the 80 years of the nuclear industry, the world has witnessed the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the horror that was unleashed. 2000 nuclear weapons have been tested in that period, starting in New Mexico, then Pacific Islands, Australian islands (Monte Bello) and mainland sites and India. These are the well-known test sites.

Impacts in these areas range from dislocation of people, destruction of environment, widespread atmospheric contamination, earth fracturing, radioactive contamination of food and water sources, medical and genetic abnormalities.

These have left a long-term legacy with which local peoples continue to be challenged. The Nuclear Truth Project was established in 2021 to assist people to address these issues.

Nuclear power

We have heard much about the Coalition's plans to introduce this form of energy production into the Australian landscape.

There have been subtle moves towards this now open

proposal for many years, despite numerous Federal Government inquiries, a Royal Commission in SA, the ban on nuclear facilities being built in Australia and the list of reasons given that dispute the wisdom or viability of going down this path.

Public resistance has traditionally upheld a nuclear-free Australia, with the constantly eroding exemption of three uranium mines which currently exist in SA, keeping the door open for nuclear expansion.

Nuclear reactors themselves require large volumes of water as a protective cooling mechanism for the intensively hot reactor core. We have been informed that power plants have to shut down with excessive external heat conditions.

The example of what occurred at Fukushima subsequent to the tsunami that engulfed the nuclear power plant is a strong reminder that nuclear infrastructure is susceptible to a range of natural and man-made disruptions and incidents.

The discharge of nuclear weapons in a conflict situation is without precedent in the possibilities with which we are now confronted.

There are now reportedly 12,121 nuclear weapons in the world. The US and

Russia possess 88% of these weapons. 84% are ready to be used. We are a threatened species.

ICAN specifically focuses on the work of nuclear disarmament. In 2017 a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons was enacted with 93 countries now signatory to this agreement. Australia is not one.

Our involvement with the US in defence of our own nation leaves Australia in a compromised and evermore complex situation.

The rapidly escalating industrial/military program that is evident, coupled with the expansionist attitudes that are becoming resource-hungry missions across the world insist that we live in uncertain times with our children's futures on the line.

We strive to learn from what we have seen and come to understand.

There will be a **National Day of Action on 11th March**, the anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, to bring attention to the need for true understanding of our energy needs and how that can best be achieved.

We have known for a long time that "keeping the lights on" is only part of the energy debate. Our abilities to be more self-sustaining and to reduce our country's environmental footprint are also part of the solution.

In South Australia, the driest State on the driest continent, we are calling, together with Arabunna Elders, for the cessation of water extraction from BHP's Borefield A in the vicinity of Lake Eyre South, and for an investigation into the impacts of Borefield B. Both bores supply operations at the Roxby Downs uranium mine.

It is time to shut off the tap to the uranium/nuclear industry.