

# Nimbin death and beyond

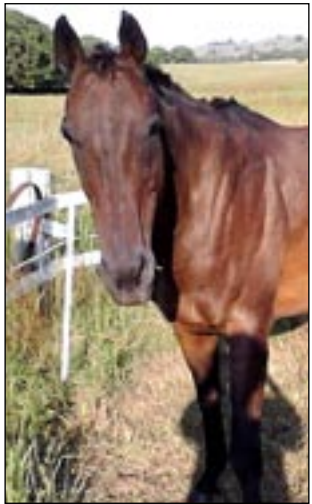
The Nimbin community has established alternative options for birth, education, energy and habitation, and we'd like to see the same range of possibilities available for those dealing with death and bereavement.

Nimbin Death and Beyond is a group of local people interested in exploring alternatives to mainstream approaches to death and dying. This includes palliative care, funerals and counselling for the bereaved. We'd like to develop a collection of resources so that people

can find information on all aspects of death and dying. Perhaps you have experience in palliative care, can build natural coffins or have advice on dealing with death and grief. If you have any questions, suggestions or services to offer, contact us at [nimbindeathandbeyond@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nimbindeathandbeyond@yahoo.com.au), or visit our web site: [nimbindeathandbeyond.wordpress.com](http://nimbindeathandbeyond.wordpress.com) or phone Amanda on 6689-1545 or Spiral on 0417-261-919. Anyone interested in a cancer support group, please contact Manuela on 6689-7457.

# Help sought for horse rescue

East Coast Horse Rescue are seeking the support of the community through sponsorship and donations toward their rescue fund. "We have two new boys, Harry and Sam, the thoroughbreds we've been looking after since we rescued them in East Lismore," Rebecca Wopling said. "They are very happy, and are settling in at last. I have been feeding them, but as I have four rescues of my own, it's becoming too expensive. We only have \$27 left. "They can't leave us due to age and separation issues. "What we are asking for is some feed money or if someone would like to sponsor them. A sponsor would be able to come and see them and act as if they're



yours," Rebecca said. If you can help B&B Produce in Casino Street, Lismore, are taking donations for the East Coast Horse Rescue fund. Their phone number is 6621-8366.

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# Metgasco Open Day

by Philippe Dupuy

Metgasco CEO Peter Henderson and his staff were eager to show everyone how safe, harmless and profitable CSG is during a Metgasco open day in January. There were nice (if simplistic and misleading) diagrams and pictures on the walls, including a few of Mr Henderson drinking the Metgasco pond water. Interestingly though, the pictures didn't show him drinking the water at many different times, but rather many different angles of the one and only time he did that stunt.

He was asked to explain the statement by gas proponents that a gas shortage will lead to blackouts in NSW, given that BHP has claimed there is enough gas in Bass Strait to last a thousand years and that coal is the main source of power generation in NSW? Mr Henderson's explanation was virtually a bob each way: yes, there is an urgent demand for more gas to power our needs, but the 30MW plant Metgasco crowed about for five years was no longer needed because of a drop in demand. Then he blurted out the truth: "For the moment we need to concentrate on export."

When asked directly whether locally-produced CSG would be available for local use, he explained that he foresaw that "in the future" the price of gas in NSW would rise due to shortages, to an extent where it would become profitable for CSG to be sold here. While the



Alan Roberts on the verge of being arrested at the Glenugie blockade

gas continues to fetch a higher price at export, that is where it will be sold. Clearly the intention is not to provide cheap gas to locals, but to rip them off for maximum profit.

Concerns stressed by one young woman, that her hard-won home and sustainable lifestyle could be devalued by a gas well next door, were brushed aside. "There will be losers and winners," he coldly admitted. What he didn't add was that there would be more losers than winners, in fact lots more; like 99.9% maybe!

And when challenged that the creation of a few jobs as a result of CSG will be outmatched by decline in the tourism industry among others? He flatly denied there was such a thing as a tourism industry in Richmond Valley. He has apparently never heard about the

remarkable wetlands of the Richmond Valley and its unique birdlife. He seemed unaware that the fishing industry in Gladstone had collapsed as a result of the construction of LNG plants there.

As for a social licence, Mr Henderson is adamant that this is the prerogative of the government. A government that promised at the last election, "No ifs or buts, there will be no CSG wells near any water supply" – a promise broken many times over. It would appear Mr Henderson has his snout buried deep in the trough, and that stops him from seeing reality.

So if you're not convinced that CSG is a real threat to life and lifestyle, then go find out from the horse's mouth. Metgasco plans another open day and more spin in the next few weeks – be there.

# Community Design-in

by Diana Roberts

It is now time to develop a master concept plan for 7 Sibley Street as an important step to transforming it into Nimbin's Sustainable Living Hub.

We know there are lots of great ideas growing in the collective consciousness and it's time to put them to paper. Building on work done at previous forums, we are holding a Community Design-In. The Design-In will not be talking heads, so come along prepared to contribute creatively.

Planning will encompass 7 Sibley Street, the old skate park site and a small portion of land that currently belongs to the Nimbin Caravan Park, so expand your thinking. You might like to visit the site before the Design-In and run your thoughts past others.

On the day we will provide a roving brains trust to help keep planning within the realms of feasibility. If you like working 3-dimensionally,



we are planning to provide materials such as building blocks and lego or you might have materials you'd like to lend to the process.

The Design-In will be held on Sunday 24th February at Nimbin Town Hall, 10am – 3pm, lunch provided. If you can, please RSVP for catering purposes. Providing a plate of food to share would be great. Childcare will be available, but must be booked.

For more information and to RSVP please ring Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre on 6689-1692 between 10am and 4pm weekdays, or email [nimbinnic@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinnic@gmail.com)

For more information on the project visit: [www.sevenonsibley.com](http://www.sevenonsibley.com)

**NIMBIN DISTRICT MEMORIAL  
SEAT OF REMEMBRANCE**  
DONATED BY THE NIMBIN COMMUNITY

by Paul Le Bars

The new Seat of Remembrance at the War Memorial site will be commemorated and blessed on Saturday 16th March and everyone is invited to attend. The service will be performed by pastor Jim Gallagher, with deputy mayor Simon Clough attending. As a community initiative, funding for the seat and the name plaque (donated by the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce) have been raised from our generous community.

The seat has a rebate for name plaques, which can be obtained from Summerland Trophies in Star Court Arcade, Lismore for \$35. The name plaques will be 42mm x 70mm and will contain (Australian Defence Force only) name, rank, serial number and active campaigns only. Please contact me on 6689-0396 or email [paullebars@gmail.com](mailto:paullebars@gmail.com) before planing to place a plaque. More information in the next issue of the NGT.

Sandstone for the eight plaques to go with the ANCAC Cove rosemary plants is currently being sourced, and has been generously donated by Bill McHenry.

The gardens are looking bright and fresh and well maintained thanks to Darvey and Gai. Also thanks to Dallas for keeping an eye on the gardens and cleaning up the area after storms and visitors.

Thanks everyone for your continuing support.

**Daisy**  
NIMBIN

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# Githubal vow to stay firm at Cedar Point

by Steve Strong

What became obvious as Kevin, Rob Williams Snr., Bonnie and many other Original men and women spoke in January at a third meeting supporting the Githubal's fight to save their sacred men's site at Cedar Point, was that their patience was at an end, and that their Law and Lore was now presiding in-country.

It was extremely hot, the wind was more than unpleasant and the grass had not been mowed. Even though there were plenty of reasons not to attend, more than 80 people answered the call to stand beside the Githubal in this struggle to reclaim such an important part of their heritage.

Of all the recent insults, what galls the Githubal most is the blatant double standards at play with the Cedar Point application for a massive quarry. The Heritage Report commissioned by the developers acknowledge this is a sacred men's site, mistakenly concedes there are three scarred trees (there are 15) that complement this holy place, and just as importantly, concede ceremonial contact with this place through the presence and rituals conducted by Alex Vesper, continued until quite recently.

Then to compound the insult and indifference, with all the associated Original artefacts moved off-site before inspection, they claim this sacred site exists in every conceivable manner, except that it was never officially registered in any White-fella document.

In what is as ironic as it is symptomatic, according to White-fella documentation there is no Githubal site between Casino and the border. That acknowledged site, once found near Casino, is registered and ticks all the boxes and has been completely destroyed.

The legal system has failed them yet again. Kevin Boota is adamant they are regarded as merely "numbers", while the police and politicians serve as middle management at the beck and call of miners and those who pull the purse strings. The Elders and custodians are aware as each day passes that the time will near when the bulldozers



Third Cedar Point meeting

begin digging. They have no choice but to act now.

There is an on-line petition listed through Avaaz, for any concerned global citizen, but more is needed in the meantime. An affidavit is all bar ready to be served, listing nine breaches in the final submission and will be served, but they hold little faith in the current legal system.

So deep is their frustration and suspicion with the present state of affairs, the Githubal have no choice but to look within and reinstate their heritage and lore. They no longer accept any jurisdiction bar their own. They are the custodians and final arbitrators of what takes place on their land. No longer do they acknowledge the laws and actions of those who come onto country blind to everything but profit and dividend.

The Githubal adhere to sovereign law. It is lacking in statutes, clauses and shelves of bound books – all they ask to receive and give is to "do no harm." But harm is being done to them. This sorry state of affairs must come to end, and to formalize the parting of the ways, the Githubal are in the process of compiling a small document/individual pledge thus providing an opportunity for non-Githubal supporters to commit to their struggle and pledge to stand by them.

The courts, police and parliaments serve a master they no longer accept. If serving in defense of land and culture, whether in protest against a quarry, mine or CSG, such an individual stands above their law and beside Original law and lore. If charged while answering the call of culture and land, challenge their legitimacy and deny their authority and accede to sovereign law. If the machinery appears at Cedar Point, any 'unloreful' arrest that ensues will be denied and contested in the courts with vigour and passion.

THE ORIGINAL

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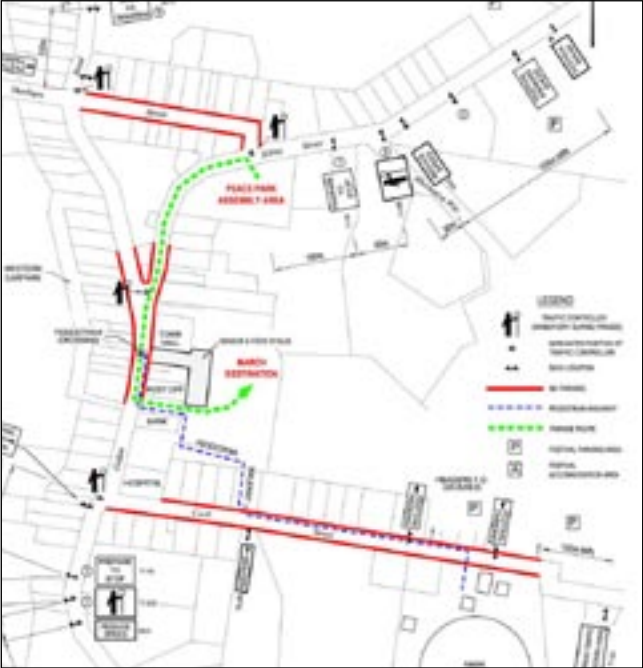
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# Comment on MardiGrass traffic plan



Parking restrictions proposed for MardiGrass this year have been announced by the MardiGrass Organising Committee (MOB).

The planned changes will start on Friday 3rd May at 4pm and remain in place until Sunday 5th at 6pm.

All areas bordered by a bold red line on the map (at left) will be clearly signposted as no parking zones over the weekend.

These new parking and traffic flow arrangements have come from meetings between us and Police and Council, to prevent residents from getting their driveways blocked and front verges taken over by MardiGrass parking, as well as for safety

and traffic flow reasons.

Also on the map is an outline of the new venue, the hillside behind the School of Arts Hall, which was a venue at the original Aquarius Festival.

The MOB is optimistic the new site will work more efficiently for the village.

Unlike in previous years, Sibley Street will remain open throughout MardiGrass, and both Thorburn Street and Cecil Street will be no parking.

If you have concerns about the proposed model or traffic management plan please contact Michael Balderstone at the HEMP Embassy on 6689-0326 or Lismore Council.



## Nimbin Olympics

The Banana Bunch synchronized swim team's winning moves

The rain stopped just as the competitors entered the water for the first event at the Nimbin Olympics on 26th January. Longest Distance Underwater was originally categorised for children, but there weren't any, so it was contested by three bold adults. Neil, who worked tirelessly as Life Saver, carried off the first gold medal of the morning.

The marathon – five circuits of the pool – was hotly contested, finally won by Stephen, an out-of-towner who tailored his training perfectly for the event.

The first ever World Float Marathon was intensely followed by the punters on the shore with good, clean money invested on the unknown. Trish out-floated all comers and now proudly holds the title of World's First Ever Champion Of Floating. Congratulations to Trish for bringing more glory to Nimbin.

One of the many highlights of the Nimbin Olympic contests is the Synchronised Swimming displays, this year only two teams but the quality was superlative.

"It was an itzy bitzy, teeny, weenie, yellow polka dot bikini" set the theme for the first performance. The Teeny Weenies, a tight knit quartet in fabulous costumes, did their routine with precision and skill, and were much appreciated by the throng. However, first prize for SS went to The Banana Bunch for their interpretation of water dancing with bananas and a yellow surf ski doubling as a large banana, all done to Harry Belafonte's *Banana Boat Song*.

Michael, last year's winner of the marathon, carried off the Men's Fashion title with incredible flair, and Sue stunned them in an original Ahern design in Lycra for Muu Muus. The fashion parade was an eclectic mix of bizarre, old fashioned, sartorial and incomprehensible.

Thanks to everyone who came, competed, barracked, cooked sausages, ate sausages, judged and sponsored this great event. All dollars raised will be sunk back into the pool. See you next year rain, hail or shine.

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## R.I.P. Bill Guy

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A gentle, generous and courageous member of the Tumble community since the '70s.  
A dear friend to many, including the late Ken Austin.  
Sadly missed and forever in our hearts.

## Nimbin Village Pharmacy

Mark Dunsdon B. Pharm.  
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## When Dinosaurs and Rainbows meet

by Diane Wilder

At Nimbin Preschool, we consider the children's interactions and relationships to be the fundamental organising strategy of our pedagogy. As interactions occur, relationships emerge and form connections between children, adults and the environment making meaning and thinking possible.

This culture within our preschool produces a vitality of action and an infinite network of possibilities that enables children to make their ideas visible.

Fern and Livio discovered that they liked each other's ideas: Fern liked Livio's dinosaur drawings, and Livio liked Fern's rainbow drawings. Diane presented them with a possibility: to bring their ideas together as one large drawing. The idea of drawing together was irresistible, and so, the Rainbow Dinosaur Mural emerged.

In the course of drawing together on a larger scale over a series of weeks, Livio began to design his dinosaurs with



Fern and Livio at work

curly rainbow tails and decorative claws. Similarly, Fern began to design his rainbows as protective enclosures for the dinosaurs. The recognition of each other's skills and knowledge was present in this new interpretation and, using the initial interaction as the strategy for intentional teaching, we observed the vitality of each child's thinking as their ideas became visible.

Fern and Livio are now back at school, and we wish them and Matilda, Mirrindjaa, Ruby, Ayla, Eden, Isaac, Oki, Sophie, Rose, Manoah, Rory and Auri very happy times at school.

## Cawongla Playhouse begins 2013 learning journey

by Marley

As we begin our new year at Cawongla Playhouse we would like to welcome new and existing families to our centre.

We have set goals for the year and look forward to our learning journey ahead. We will be reviewing and updating our centre's philosophy, keeping in mind our sense of belonging and place; what was here before? What is here now? What will be here when we are gone? This process engages educators, children and families in developing a collaborative direction and guides us, as educators in our practice.

Our director, Natasha, will continue to engage children in planting and harvesting food from our preschool garden and use these ingredients for cooking experiences, exploring food, nutrition and sustainable practices with children.

Leanne, our resident and gifted storyteller will continue to provide



Jazmine identifying plants in the garden

children with interactive and entertaining stories using hand-made puppets and sets. Leanne's stories often explore our connection to the seasons and their rhythm, supporting children in developing a strong sense of identity and connection to their world.

Lyn will continue to support children to develop their skills for transition to

school. Lyn also works at one of our local primary schools and provides children with learning experiences to support children in becoming confident and involved learners.

Marley will be collaborating with children to design and build a musical playground, assisting children with creating their own diagrams and models of their ideas. We will then, with the help of our music teacher Jamie, construct and install these ideas around the playground.

These are just some of the learning opportunities we look forward to as we begin another year of being, belonging and becoming at Cawongla Playhouse.

We are open for enrolments. Fees for one or two days' enrolment range from \$15-20 per day, depending on income. Third and fourth days attract a flat-rate fee of \$10 per day. Our opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9am-3pm. For more information contact Cawongla Playhouse on 6633-7167.

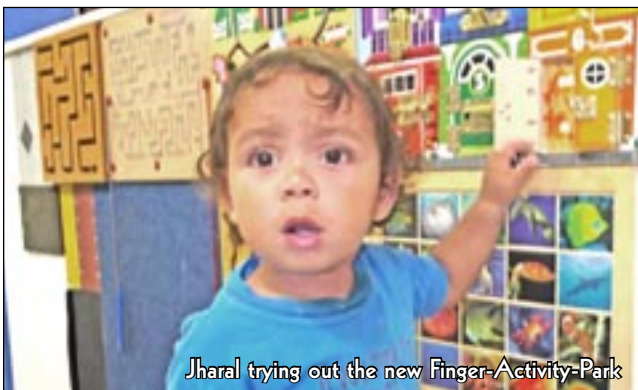
## Name change for Nimbin Child Care Centre

The children and educators at Gumnut House, in the Community Centre complex, are looking forward to a fun filled New Year.

In the few weeks that we've been open after the Christmas holidays, it was fantastic to welcome our 'old' children back and to watch and observe their doings to find out what they're interested in at the moment. Everyone contributes by telling us what they've experienced in the holidays, where they've been on big trips, what they've been doing at home with their parents, siblings or cousins and new ideas and adventures form from all these beautiful stories.

We are introducing a few changes this year; one of them is that we'll be changing our name from Nimbin Child Care Centre to Nimbin Early Learning Centre, as we do so much more than just care for children but offer many learning opportunities and spaces. Another change is our new fee structure. We can now offer short and long day bookings at two different rates (\$15/\$20) to cater for families who need to travel to and from work or study or just want their children to experience a longer day and all the fun. This will only work if enough people make use of the 'long day' bookings, so 'use it or lose it'.

In the holidays we also changed a few things around to set up new learning environments within the rooms and



Jharal trying out the new Finger-Activity-Park

outside and we created a Finger-Activity-Park on one of our walls. This is very popular with all the children and we incorporated things to touch, feel, trace and also puzzles and tricky games.

Some of them came from the Nimbin Preschool, which donated a large amount of beautiful toys, books, games and construction toys before the holidays. A big thankyou to the teachers and parents for their generosity!

All our staff from last year are still here so we hope to see you soon!

Christina, Luh, Maree and Lisa

## In your neighbourhood...



Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News  
www.nmic.org.au

Phew!... now that WAS a big storm in January, and we hope everyone came out of it okay. If you need assistance, contact NNIC and we will point you in the right direction if we can.

### NNIC website

We got hacked, dammit, and we are currently working to rebuild the website.

Apologies for any hassles this caused, especially whilst we were closed for the Xmas period.

### 7 Sibley St fundraising

Fundraising has pretty much stalled over the Xmas period. Until we pay down the loan, the amount we need to raise will keep on increasing.

So... we're gonna say it again... If every reader of the NGT deposits a mere \$20 into our account, we could easily pay off the loan. You can help by spreading the word and the website around as much as possible. Check out: [www.sevenonsibley.com](http://www.sevenonsibley.com)

### Come along to the Community Design-In

The community is invited to a design workshop, to be held on Sunday 24th February at the Town Hall from 10am to 3pm. The aim of the day will be to develop a master plan for the 7 Sibley Street site.

This will be a participatory event and there will be a brains trust and folks who can draw on-hand to help get your ideas down.

Yummy lunch provided (donations appreciated) and childcare available (bookings essential). Please bring along building blocks or lego if you have some.

To RSVP (helps with catering) and to book childcare, call NNIC 10am to 4pm weekdays

(6689-1692) or email us: [nimbinnic@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinnic@gmail.com)

Feel free to visit 7 Sibley Street before the Design-In to help you think about how we could best develop it.

On the day, we will display the options regarding the existing house on the site, including feedback from Council on those options.

### About us

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a local charity and community organisation run by locals for locals.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is funded by NSW FaCS as a community hub. Our main service delivery role is to provide information and referrals to community members.

For information about all services available in Nimbin, Lismore or the Northern Rivers region drop into NNIC and ask at our front desk or else make an appointment with our Community Welfare Workers for referrals.

### Join NNIC

Your memberships help support our work in the community. Membership is \$5.50 per year. Membership forms available on our website or at our front desk (posted on request). Support us to support you!

### Wills and bequests

Are you updating your will? NNIC is a gift deductible recipient which means you can make tax deductible donations to NNIC in your will.

Your donations will go towards our activities and services to benefit the Nimbin community.

## Nimbin Preschool



## Enrolments available now.

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# New kindy at Tuntable Falls School



The new school year is expected to be very exciting indeed.

Starting off with a flood is probably the only business as usual this year at our beautiful community school. Apart from that regular event, everything else is promising to be auspicious and exciting.

Again, history is in the making at Tuntable School. For the first time in our 30-year history we are going to have a single kindergarten class, with Deborah, our very experienced and motivated teacher, to start off with seven littlies in a new, separate K room! The room looks so wonderfully inspiring

and nurturing, and our teacher can't wait to welcome the very keen Kindies.

We also welcome our new teacher for the upper primary class, Michelle McDonald. Michelle is probably even more motivated than anybody else this year because it is her first position as a class teacher and she can't wait to get into it.

Our strategic planning meeting in the last week of the holidays delivered a number of constructive ideas, plans and agendas for the future. Parents and teachers were able to define and to agree on the foundations of our school, currently and for the near future.

A major focus for 2013 will be on the fostering and nurturing of the environment, and how to integrate that into our curriculum, along with the continuation of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen & Garden program.

Our mission statement was newly formulated as "Education for the future, based on meaningful learning integrated within home and school".

We are still open for enrolments. Please contact us if you are interested to become a part of Tuntable Falls PS and if you would like to participate in the education of your child.

Contact Tuntable Falls Primary School on 6689-1423, or on the web at <http://tuntablefallsschool.nsw.edu.au>

## Term starts at Nimbin Open Learning Centre

The Nimbin Open Learning Centre will begin classes on 13th February, running for eight weeks. Enrolment days are Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th February, from 10am to 3pm at the Community Centre.

This term we are offering classes in art, cooking, creative writing, ukulele, Mandarin, book making, Chinese meditation and sewing.

For enquiries and phone enrolments, phone 6689-1477.



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# LISMORE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Public notices, updates and information for the Nimbin community

## Green waste kerbside pick-up

Lismore City Council has announced it will begin free collection of green waste in rural villages from February 8.

Council workers are asking residents to please place all green waste on the kerb for pick-up while ensuring it does not block footpaths or impact traffic.

People should be aware that staff cannot go into private yards to collect waste - it must be on the kerb. Council staff suggest anyone who is unable to do this should ask neighbours or friends for assistance if they are unable to haul to the kerb.

"We have a lot to get through and we would really appreciate the help of residents during this time. Help a neighbour if you can and please respect that we can only collect green waste," Urban Works Engineer Dean Baldwin said.

"We have to make it very clear we are NOT picking up general waste. Furniture, carpets and other waste will not be collected and residents will need to dispose of these items themselves."

Rural village green waste collection will start from February 8. People should ensure they have their green waste placed on the kerb by this date as this will be a one-off collection.

## Upcoming Nimbin roadworks

Roadworks on Nimbin Road adjacent to High Street (beginning near the 50 speed sign as you enter the village) are now likely to commence in early March due to the recent flood and subsequent emergency works.

The planned roadworks include a 400m road reconstruction and widening with an upgrade of the existing drainage structure. The provision of a new footpath is also included in the scope of works from High Street to Cecil Street.

There will be traffic control in place and short time delays coming in and out of the village. Work is expected to take eight weeks, weather permitting. This project is jointly funded by the Regional Road Repair Program and Lismore City Council.

## Council meeting and rural forum dates 2013

The first ordinary meeting of Council for 2013 will be held on Tuesday, February 12 at 6pm. Monthly Council meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month thereafter.

Council has also resolved its 2013 schedule for Rural Contact Forums, which are a way for Councillors and staff to meet rural residents on their own turf and discuss issues of concern or importance with them.

Following is the list of locations and dates for Rural Contact Forums in 2013:

|               |          |                  |             |
|---------------|----------|------------------|-------------|
| • Rock Valley | March 19 | • McLeans Ridges | August 20   |
| • Dungarubba  | April 16 | • Koonorigan     | October 15  |
| • The Channon | May 21   | • Nimbin         | November 19 |

Meeting times and dates can be found on the website [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) and are also advertised in Council's weekly City News newsletter in *The Northern Rivers Echo*.

## Songwriters urged to enter upcoming comp

Young people are being urged to grab an instrument, tap into their creativity and start writing music and lyrics for the 2013 Young Songwriters Competition, which opens on February 11.

Held during Youth Week in April with a live panel of judges choosing the winners, the Young Songwriters Competition has been a great vehicle for young talent to burst out of the bedroom or garage and onto the stage.

Not only are young people encouraged to write original music, they will also get to perform live in front of their peers and local musos – a valuable experience for any aspiring musician.

Council's Youth and Community Development Officer Lizette Twisleton said young people should take advantage of the holidays and start creating songs now so they are ready to enter come February 11.

"Young people only have six weeks to enter the competition so we really encourage musicians and songwriters to begin making music or collaborating with others on an entry now," Lizette said.

"Having a live panel of judges is a great change this year – it makes it more interactive and it means young people will perform to an audience of people who already work in the music industry. Not only does that stretch young people to do better but it also fosters contacts between working musicians and young people striving to break into the industry."

Young songwriters can enter in the following categories: folk/country, hip hop, rock/indie, punk/metal and pop. A Young Songwriter of the Year will be selected from the finalists who perform at the live judging concert on April 11.

There is a stack of prizes to be won including recording time at SAE, microphones, leads, a BOSE sound system and a professional photo shoot.

Entries for the Young Songwriters Competition can be submitted from February 11 until March 24.

For information on the competition, phone Lizette on 1300 87 83 87, email her at [Lizette.Twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lizette.Twisleton@lismore.nsw.gov.au) or check out the Lismore Young Songwriters Competition Facebook page.

Corporate Centre 43 Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH 2480  
CBD Office 55 Magellan Street, LISMORE 2480  
Phone 1300 87 83 87  
Fax (02) 6625 0400  
Website [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au)  
Email [council@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lismore.nsw.gov.au)



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### Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline, the last Wednesday of the month. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

### Transport survey

On the 5.30pm bus run last week, I was given a hard copy of the Northern Rivers Transport Survey. Graeme Waller asked me to pass on this survey to whoever is interested in completing it.

I contacted Geoff from Regional Development Australia and asked for a better scanned copy. He also directed me to the website where people can access the survey and do it online [https://scuuu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_0J1GIHqqaBOcalD](https://scuuu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0J1GIHqqaBOcalD)

It would be a shame if this does not reach the majority of Nimbin folk, as it would be beneficial to all if we could improve our transport in the region overall, and encourage all to use it. It is much safer than having many cars on our dangerous roads. not to mention, the carbon footprint.

Eugenie Stephans  
Nimbin

### Police accountability

The article entitled "Police Force schizoid" by Warwick Fry (NGT, Jan 13, p17), raised some issues of fundamental importance to the safety and well-being of our communities. No arm

of the government impacts upon individual lives more stridently than the police force and for this reason, police community relations should be of primary concern to all citizens.

In this day and age, it is naive and unrealistic to believe the police should not be accountable to anyone but themselves. In no other sphere of contemporary society would such an untenable arrangement be tolerated, (except perhaps for the bankers).

The community rightly demands and deserves transparency and accountability from government agencies and public institutions. Without the assurances guaranteed by the separation of powers, by independent oversight and regulation, the vestiges of social democracy and equal protection under the law will inevitably give way to the unfettered tyranny of a police state.

It doesn't take a litany of alleged abuses to aver the perception that police cause more harm than they prevent. It is an unfortunate fact that police are often tasked with duties which may require them to use force or in other ways do harm to citizens. It is perhaps understandable that some people consider the police to be a threat against which there is no defence.

In light of these challenges to harmonious police community relations, an effective system for investigating complaints against police would enhance the community's sense of security, help reduce fear of the police and thereby serve the interests of the police force as well as those of the community.

Such a system of review would need to satisfy a number of human rights principles in order to be effective, including independence, adequacy, promptness, public scrutiny and victim involvement. These broadly overlapping principles form the basis of the state's duty to investigate allegations of human rights abuses by police officers.

The establishment of an effective, independent body to review complaints against police will have a profound and long-overdue effect on police community relations, restoring dignity and respect for conscientious police officers and improving the efficacy and reputation of the police force. But this sound and much needed progress will only come about through tireless and consistent advocacy by concerned citizens.

John Scrivener  
Main Arm

### New age cultism

In the article, 'Say No to Smart Meters' (NGT, Jan 13, p14) Neil Howe writes, "The 'Smart' meters use wireless technology that produce Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Radiation 160 times more powerful than mobile phones.... The radiation also moves in and through you and travels up to 2.5 kms away."

Okay, that's the New Age Green Neck Anti-Science position. This is the science. Radio waves are indeed electromagnetic radiation. Another word for electromagnetic radiation is light. The light we can see and the light we cannot.

Photons are the boson of the electromagnetic field. The photons we can see are called the visible light spectrum.

To the right of the visible light spectrum we find cancer-promoting, invisible-to-human-eye, ultra-violet light. Then comes x-rays with enough energy they can pass through the human body. To the right of x-rays, are the malevolent gamma rays – think nuclear bomb radiation.

As we move into the invisible light spectrum to the left of visible light, we first find infra-red radiation that we know as heat. Infra-red is dangerous only when we make a mistake.

To the left of infra-red are microwaves. "Exposure to sufficiently high levels of microwaves will cause heating. In the case of human tissue, excessive heating could have serious health effects such as deep tissue burns and hyperthermia." – Australian Standards document. The background radiation that permeates the universe is microwave.

On the far left are those not dangerous radio waves that do not pass through your body.

New Age cultism is fundamentalism in the same league as any religious fundamentalism. It's fundamentally wrong, anti-science AND anti-intellectual.

However, it's not a good idea to press your face against the microwave oven.

Paul Recher,  
Dorroughby

### Donations wanted

Mid last year, Nimbin Community Centre purchased 7 Sibley Street with a view to it being developed into a sustainability hub that, amongst other things, will showcase many of the incredible initiatives that have been given birth to in and around Nimbin. It is a very exciting project that has engendered considerable and deserved enthusiasm.

NCC purchased the land for \$147,000, which necessitated a mortgage of \$100,000. We considered it worth the risk. In six months we have successfully raised \$80,000 through donations and fundraising initiatives.

We are currently at the stage where the funds trickling in are not meeting the interest on the mortgage. This situation cannot continue indefinitely, as it will endanger NCC itself. We are appealing to those of you in the community who have thought about donating but have yet to do so to please take action. Even pledges of \$10 or \$20 a week have made a difference. The account details are Nimbin Community Centre BSB 728-728, account number 22290728. To the numerous individuals and organisations who have donated, most of whom were identified in the December issue of NGT, thank you. If you can find it

in yourselves to donate more, please do.

While there is considerable pressure on us to pay out the mortgage (6.25% interest) we can be more relaxed and strategic about developing the site. On 24th February at 10am we are holding a planning forum to further develop a master concept plan. More information about the event can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Diana Roberts  
NCC Treasurer

### Bowel health

Stuart McConville's article (NGT, January 13) was good, except for one line that smacks of anti-science anti-intellectual new age nonsense.

The sit down toilet is one of the worst technological developments. Not only is squatting ideal for defecation, it is also our built in rest chair. I was so disappointed returning to Malaysia after a forty-two year hiatus to witness no-one is using their built-in armchair by squatting. However it was good that squat toilets were still common.

Stuart writes, "If we leave bits of shit floating around in our rectums / bowels all day, the chance that they cause a cellular mutation resulting in a cancer is much higher".

How do you know this Stuart? I have never read of any causal link between constipation and say bowel cancer other than constipation is commonly a symptom of bowel cancer but the cancer came first. How do you know this Stuart? So other than emotional intelligence, do you know of any published scientific study supporting your statement?

Paul Recher,  
Dorroughby

### On capitalism and socialism

So Scott Barlow (NGT, Letters, Jan 13) thinks ignorance and 'natural restraints on market excesses' account for many rejecting the capitalist economic system that is wreaking havoc amongst the majority of humanity and the global environment?

He then goes on to provide us with a textbook definition of 'capitalism' probably more akin to

Ayn Rand's grand vision of society where unbridled individualism is rampant like we have in today's highly narcissistic consumer society, juxtaposed with a backdrop of the global economic crisis, which is playing out more virulently in countries where conservative governments are implementing austerity policies that impact most severely on the poor, unemployed, underemployed and marginalised in society.

In today's economic system of capitalist neo-liberalism – deregulation, privatisation and user pays – the very conservative push by political parties to reduce the government's role in the economy and public sector, by allowing the 'market' to determine which economic decisions are made for the economic interests of businesses, is a recipe for more private wealth creation and public squalor.

This all adds up to what we all see and now should know, the accelerating income inequalities that are unprecedented in Australian society. This phenomenon is an increasing global problem of potentially disastrous proportions for nation states. Do we really want a society that is so unequal that many citizens will never be able to get over the artificial wall that has been imposed on them, and get ahead through no fault of their own, where government economic decrees based on the spurious claim of the national interest, when it is really for the benefit of the big end of town?

What is most disturbing of all, Mr Barlow goes on to claim the economy as we know it is not capitalism but 'Keynesian inflationism', 'interventionism' and 'corporatism' – all variant economic policy measures taken by governments trying to manage the capitalist system, especially in severe crisis. The 1929 Great Depression and the recent GFC are two notable examples where Keynesian economic policies were used by the state (governments) to spend their way out of crisis, with limited success.

Capitalism is alive today and is using every means possible to re-assert its dynamism for continued economic growth, and is

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constantly re-inventing itself to meet the obstacles in its way, even by crushing political dissent, by using Orwellian language as a means of deceiving and confusing the masses. The consequences of all these actions are continued unsustainable economic and ecological practices, creating a more insecure and questionable future.

It is also a complete misrepresentation to state that socialism is 'full government control of every sphere of an individual's life'. This is a totalitarian system that was, and still is in existence, in some Stalinist, so-called socialist countries today.

Boyd Kellner  
 Newrybar

## Communalism

The left-wing movement toward communism has only ever been the movement toward communalism or greater sociability.

Anthropologist Richard Leakey says humans are the most sociable animals in the world. Why would there not be a movement toward a return to communalism?

Just because someone yells 'communist' and then begins beating the crap out of communal people, as some countries from the West did in Vietnam and other Asian countries, does not make communism wrong. Neither is the dictionary definition of communism: 'From each according to ability, to each according to need', wrong. Parents do communism in the running of their households. If a household is not communist, it is very likely dysfunctional.

It was not communism that collapsed in the USSR at the beginning of the 1990s; it was totalitarianism. All 'isms' become dysfunctional when they forget human equality and revert to hierarchical

structures. As they attempted to practice in the modern period, both capitalism and communism had the seeds of dysfunctionality built into them in their insistence on a division between leaders and subordinates; in their insistence on inequality.

Geoff Dawe  
 Byrrill Creek

## Capitalist failings

Thank you Scott Barlow (NGT Letters Jan 13) for providing me the opportunity to refute your capitalist propaganda about socialism.

You assert "Socialism means full government control of every sphere of an individual's life...." In socialist Cuba, all political issues are discussed at well-attended Municipal Assemblies, and the decisions made there are taken to higher Provincial and National Assemblies by the people's representatives who, almost always, are elected by over 95% of those eligible to vote.

I beg to differ on what you say should only be called capitalism. To me, capitalism is any system of production whereby investors can own any or all means of production, which provides them with profits. Many such businesses thrive unhampered in Cuba and socialist Venezuela. Profits for investors, which never return to the masses they were extracted from, mean losses for the masses.

Such deprivation inevitably leads to a drop in demand; job losses leading to further drops in demand and so on, as is happening in Europe and America now. That "boom (for the capitalists) and bust (for the masses)" cycle of capitalism has been happening since its beginning.

Capitalism once impoverished the people of Cuba and Venezuela. One indicator was massive

homelessness in both countries. Under socialism, homelessness has been eradicated in Cuba and greatly reduced in Venezuela. In the US now, it is increasing alarmingly.

Socialism provides for the people. Capitalism profits from the people, providing wealth for a few and poverty for many.

Capitalism is failing, again. Democratic socialism in Cuba and Venezuela is alive and well.

Doug Burt,  
 Kyogle

## Christmas surprise

An unexpected present came our way last Xmas eve. Some family members, visiting from Brisbane, presented us with a little lost dog that they had found at the Stony Chute Road intersection just out of Nimbin.

The animal looked to be a Chihuahua/Foxie cross, the cutest thing, and was in a very distressed condition. She was frantically checking out vehicles on the Lismore/Nimbin Road and had a very short life expectancy.

We agreed to care for her over the holiday period until she could be examined by a Vet, hoping that we could get an identity and an address. The results of this exam were upsetting, to say the least. For starters, she was not micro-chipped or registered. Neither was she desexed and, although only about a year old, had already borne a litter of puppies. Her breastbone and spinal vertebrae were very prominent, indicating that she had not seen too many dinners lately and she was carrying a good load of fleas. Also, a raised hand would reduce her to a quivering heap, so we suspect that she had been physically abused as well. A sincere 'Thank You' here goes to the crew of the Lismore Vet Clinic at Uralba Street for their caring and professional treatment of just another dumped dog!

About this time, a Channel 9 newscast showed a few scenes at Animal Rights and Rescue. The place was literally bulging at the seams with abandoned and/or unwanted animals. We had been told the Pound had an overload too, so delivering her to either place would probably have been a death sentence. Also, another abandonment seemed too

cruel.

The end result? Our family has grown a little larger and she answers to the name of Cleo. It took several weeks before she stopped listening to and looking at every passing car. As for me, I would **really** like to spend a few minutes with her previous 'owners'. They did not deserve her loyalty, love and affection.

Incidents like this get right up my nose and I think that some people should be licensed before they are allowed to keep pets.

Os Osborne  
 Nimbin

## Pilot medicals

All people over 65 years of age take note! The Civil Aviation Safety Authority has now introduced a special 65+ exam component as part of the pilot medicals. The quality of the questions compares with the 11+ exam of my youth.

When I was 11, no-one had heard of dementia or alzheimers, but this seems to be what the 65+ is all about. Here are some of the questions:

Question No.1 – link the circles. There were five circles with letters and five circles with numbers. I was asked to link the circles by a line from A to 1 to B to 2 and so on until I had completed the lines and linked as far as E to 5.

Question No.3 – draw an exact copy of an outline of a rectangular box.

Question No.4 – identify the animals from the pictures – yes a lion, a rhino and a llama (no wrong, CASA says it is a camel). I say "but a camel has two humps and a llama only has one hump". The pictured animal only had one hump.

Question No.5 – draw a clock at 10 past 11.

Question No.6 – take 7 away from 100, then 7 away from 93 until you have subtracted enough 7s to get to 65.

I hope this improves my ability to fly an aeroplane, as the 60 other questions about whether I drank booze, smoked pot, sniffed coke, had seizures or fits paled into insignificance to the 65+.

But don't laugh, because if they can do this to pilots, it is only a matter of time before it becomes mandatory for renewing a motor vehicle driver's licence.

Margaret Howes  
 Empire Vale

## Notices

### Position vacant

Hemp Bar seeks worker. Basic qualifications and recognised skills required in management, entertainment, conflict resolution, political activism and dedication to cannabis law reform. Also the provision of excellent coffee and hemp seed foods. Please direct your enquiries to Michael on 6689-0326 or Simmonetta on 0459-356-265.

### Mother's helper wanted

Assistance sought with childcare (mainly for ages 10 and 6) and domestic duties, mature woman preferred. Hours irregular but negotiable. \$20/hour. Lillian Rock location. Car essential. Caravan available if required. Please phone Rebecca on 6689-7227 for details.

### Lead tenant wanted

Youth Connections North Coast is seeking a Lead Tenant in Nimbin – someone who can be a role model for the young people living in our supported accommodation. Free separate onsite accommodation provided in exchange, and support/access to training. A Working with Children check, Police check and two referees will be required. Please contact Sonya Martindale-Vale on 6622-4202.

### Accommodation wanted

Strong, willing worker with five well-controlled, weed-clearing goats seeks accommodation on farm or property. Have dairy farming experience and veterinary skills; also govt wage subsidy. Contact Christiana on 0498-481-782.

### Business for sale

Nimbin Ice Cream is for sale! Great little business, work from home. Serious inquiries only please. Call for appointment to view 0448-334-327.

### Small engines wanted

Dead or alive, any small engines for repair and resale. Will collect. Please phone Alex 0413-276-633 or 0422-744-451.

### History book wanted

Nimbin local hopes to replace copy of Nimbin Centenary book, hardbound in brown with gold print on the cover. Willing to pay. Phone Dawn on 6689-7322.

### Murwillumbah biological control day

Far North Coast Weeds will host a free morning of presentations and practical demonstrations of Biological Weed Control, weed information and updates, at Murwillumbah Civic Centre on Thursday 28th February, 9.30am – 12pm. Includes distribution of biological agents (while stocks last) RSVP 6623-3847.

### WIRES course

A two-day course in Wildlife Rescue and Immediate Care will be conducted by WIRES on 23rd and 24th February at Southern Cross University. Cost is \$65. For more info, phone 6628-1898, web: [www.miresnr.org](http://www.miresnr.org)

### Taoist exercise

The White Cloud Tea Club meets for Taoist exercise on Sunday Mornings: 10am-11am – Men; 11am-12pm – Women at the Dance Studio, Nimbin Community Centre, \$55 for 8 weeks. Book at NCCI office Mon-Tues 9am-5pm by phone: 6689-0000 or email: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au) All proceeds to 7 Sibley Street.

### Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

First meeting this year, Friday 8th February. Meetings are held in the Conference Room at Nimbin Hospital at 10am on the 2nd Friday of each month. New members are welcome. Please do come along and join us! (March meeting date 8/3/13.) NB: Garage Sale Saturday 9th Feb.

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