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The Phoenix has risen at Bush Theatre

Only one month after the devastating fire that wreaked havoc in Nimbin's town centre destroying iconic Nimbin businesses: the Rainbow Café, Nimbin Museum, Bringabong and Tribal Magic.

New manifestations are starting to appear and with them renewed employment opportunities and an expanded cultural experience.

The Nimbin Bush Factory, which has struggled to return to its glory days, has undergone a total make-over.

The Café and theatre section of the old butter factory have been painted both outside and inside and the café has undergone a total refit.

The new proprietors, long-term Nimbin residents David Hyett and Louise Grenfell (pictured, right) are committed to offering a truly unique café and theatre experience.

The Phoenix Rising café will be open 7 days a week from 10 am to 4pm and will feature a health-focused menu with many of the ingredients being local produce, some from the on-site garden.

Local people with produce to offer are welcome to bring their goods and if suitable they will be purchased. A barter system will also be in place.

Live music on the outdoor stage will be a feature of the café on Saturday afternoons.



The Bringabong shop has been relocated temporarily in the complex due to the fire.

The Bush Theatre section has remained fully intact and will be the venue for the official opening on 11th October, starting at noon and running through to 11.30pm.

The afternoon session is free of charge and will feature musicians, acrobatics and hula hooping at the beautiful creek-side setting.

The evening session, starting at 7pm, will be at a cost of \$10 which will help



fund three live bands: Unsupervised, Mystic Beats and Cellistino, a latin dance band from Brisbane.

Enquiries for food supply and music can be directed to David Hyett, phone 0418-824-598.



Nimbin opened its heart to support businesses that went into debt as a result of the disastrous fire in Cullen Street in August.

The 'Restore the Heart' fundraiser was held at the end of September in Peace Park, with hundreds of people attending throughout the day to enjoy live music performances and attractions including laser skirmish, a drift car, jumping castle and food stalls.

Organiser Matt Raikes said, "It was a really good day – a great turn-out and very successful. Thanks to everyone who supported it."

The event raised \$6000, and donations are still being received for the Fire Appeal fund. To donate, here are the details:

Summerland Credit Union BSB: 728 728; A/c No: 22301986 A/c name: NNIC Gift. First 3 letters of name (for electronic deposits): NIM. Please give your name or state "anonymous".

More fundraisers and raffles are to come.



Jarlanbah celebrates oldest resident

It was a lovely day on Saturday 20th September for the celebration of Margery Jenkin's 90th birthday.

She was at home at Lot 28 with two of her four children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who had all come from afar to help her celebrate.

The house and verandah were decked out with decorations and balloons, and there was much merriment and good cheer.

Happy birthday and all the best, Margery, from the Jarlanbah community.

First NBN tower goes up



Photo Ozzie Osborne

Contractors for the National Broadband Network have completed the installation of a 30-metre monopole in the grounds of the Nimbin Showground.

In September, NBN Co. announced construction is underway to bring the NBN to more than 450 homes and businesses in Nimbin. The other fixed wireless facility will be located on Andersons Road.

This continues the momentum of the NBN rollout, with more than 76,000 families and businesses across the state already connected to the NBN.

Before the network equipment is installed, a validation test will be carried

out. On average it takes around 12 months from the start of construction until residents and business owners can receive NBN services from phone and internet providers.

NBN Co. spokesperson Darren Rudd said, "For families in rural and regional communities in particular, NBN provides access to internet speeds and capacity that many in the big cities take for granted."

When the NBN comes to further parts of the region, NBN Co. will inform the community and update the rollout maps on the website: www.nbnco.com.au/when-do-i-get-it/rollout-map.html

Time to march again for Gasfield Free region

by Elly Bird
Northern Rivers Regional Co-ordinator,
Lock the Gate Alliance

It's building to election season, with the NSW election to be held on the 15th of March 2015. Gasfield Free Northern Rivers, the alliance of groups from across the region, are calling for the cancellation of all exploration and production licences across the entirety of the Northern Rivers. The recent government announcement of a freeze on new exploration licences provides no protection for the Northern Rivers, which is covered by a number of petroleum exploration licences.

The government likes to say that it has the toughest regulations in the world, but even the toughest regulations will not satisfy our communities. Over 30,000 households have been surveyed across the region with an average of 96% of respondents united in wanting to be gasfield free.

The Bentley Blockade was a fantastic win for our community, and our region, and now it is time to build on that success. On November 1st we will be taking to the streets of Lismore again, to show our determination and resolve. It's shaping up to be the biggest rally ever in the Northern Rivers, and the biggest regional rally ever in the state.

Our region, which is part of the Clarence Moreton Basin has been flagged for baseline studies of groundwater. This is concerning as



baseline studies seem to indicate that industry development will follow. This is not the time for us to relax, with the success of Bentley behind us. We need to build on our strengths and continue making it clear to our elected representatives that we want the Northern Rivers declared gasfield free. You can add your voice, by calling or writing to politicians and making sure they hear it from as many people as possible.

There will be a range of great entertainment after the march, featuring Deya Dova, Ragga Jump, Tim Stokes, Blackboi, The Rolling River Band and the Bentley All Stars including Luke Vassella, Davey Bob Ramsey, Paul Robert Burton, Chris Fisher and more, with further exciting acts still to be

announced. The CD of the *Songs of the Bentley Blockade*, featuring the Bentley All Stars will be launched on the day, and you can get your very own slice of history.

There are plenty of ways you can get involved, if you can help letterbox your area or volunteer on the day call Heather on 6622 4959. Musicians are invited to join the 'Jazz Funeral' and play music in the march, email Nick at: rainbowregiongigs@gmail.com to register for one of the following categories: jazz, blues, folk, world, drums, orchestra, acapella – or nominate another category!

There will be lots of stalls selling food, all contributing their services at cost with the proceeds going to help sustain the campaign. You can contribute too, by baking a cake for GFNR to sell on the day. If you are able to help please email and let us know what kind of cake or slice you would like to bake.

Marchers are encouraged to come dressed to represent the diversity of our community, with clothing and signage representing who you are. Community groups, organisations and businesses are also welcome to march, showing your opposition to unconventional gas extraction, if you would like to march as a group please contact Ruth on 0459-362-357 or by email at: ruthr@ozemail.com.au

Make sure you tell your family, friends and neighbours and let's come together on 1st November to declare the Northern Rivers Gasfield Free.

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Meet the new washhouse owners

The Nimbin laundry has been under new management for the past six months, and now counts ACRS and Backpacker businesses among its regular clients.

New owners Denis and Anna Clerc have an upbeat take on the village, and an interesting background, as Denis (pictured) explained:

"I'm a sailor from a long way back, crossed the Atlantic Ocean single-handed on a boat I built, also an electronic engineer working 10 years for the International Red Cross and UN responsible for electronics communication, mainly in Africa.

"Then I operated the ferry boat in Rainbow Beach, Fraser Island, then moved to Thailand for a while, where I met my partner Anna.



"We lived in Cairns and, being very concerned about our environment, attached ourselves to trees in the Daintree to stop them being logged. "My daughter Stephanie has been living around Blue Knob for seven years, so I often came to visit and loved the

place so much that we decided to move into the area, and then saw the laundry for sale and here we are.

"We are very happy to be in this paradise, loving the people and certainly very engaged as much as we can to fight for our safe water and soil. STOP CSG.

"We would like to thank the people in Nimbin for their warm welcome, and let them know we are dedicated to make this laundry business work well, as it is an important service to this community."

The Nimbin Laundry is conveniently located beside the Eastern carpark, off Cullen Street. As well as coin-operated self-service, they will also do your laundry for you. For more info, phone 0403-835-989 or email: denisoldpirate@gmail.com



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Are you eligible to vote in the Lismore electorate in the next state election? Do you feel that your elected representatives are not hearing your voice? Do you feel disillusioned with the state of our democracy? Do you feel that your vote doesn't count?

Many voters in the Lismore electorate are deeply concerned that existing political parties aren't listening to them, and they don't particularly like how these parties choose their candidates for state or federal elections.

These same voters have also expressed their concern that their voices just aren't being heard, nor are their interests being considered either before or after elections.

'Can You Hear Us' is a

volunteer organisation of concerned citizens in the Lismore electorate and their goal is to empower local voters to make sure that their voices are heard at the next state election. Their vision is to build a strong community that has a say in its government.

They are using a method of 'kitchen table conversations', where groups of people meet and put in writing their views in answers to set questions. This information will be collated and printed in a report that lists all comments.

They will then give this report to all candidates standing in the March 2015 state election. The report will also be available online for download.

They are also holding 'listening posts' all over the



Lismore electorate. Tell them what you think. Fill out the single survey or grab yourself a Kitchen Table Conversation Kit.

Visit their website canyouhearus.org to find out and the single survey is also available online. Contact them at: info@canyouhearus.org

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WWI Centenary – Nimbin 100 years ago

by Paul Le Bars

The First World War began when Britain and Germany went to war in August 1914, and Prime Minister Andrew Fisher's government pledged full support for Britain.

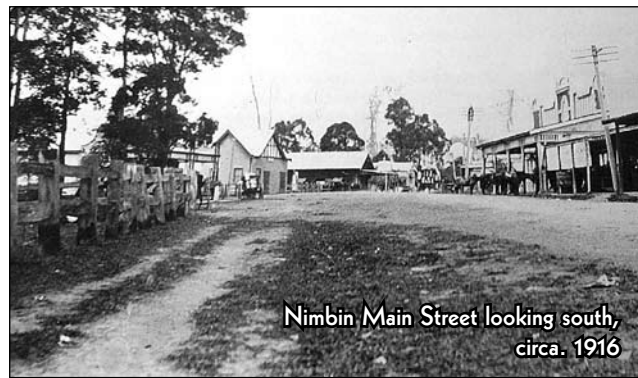
The outbreak of war was greeted in Australia, as in many other places, with great public enthusiasm. Life in Australia would never be the same.

Nimbin was a young town of not 30 years old, with a burgeoning timber, beef cattle and emerging dairy industries. Travel was by horse or drays, and the heavy haulage by bullock teams on dry and dusty or wet and muddy roads. Life would have been tough, with little luxury.

In response to the overwhelming number of volunteers, the authorities set exacting physical standards for recruits. Volunteers, with the promise of adventure in mind, came from all over Australia to enlist, be trained (due to the lack of personal armament, most were trained with broomsticks and pieces of wood shaped like rifles) then shipped off to war on the other side of the world, leaving the women, the young and the old to continue the work on the farms, the forest and the town's businesses.

Our Aboriginal brothers were initially turned away from signing up as they were not classed as citizens. However with the advent of conscription, the lobbying of the Country Womens Authority and the urgent need for troops, the government capitulated and they were allowed into the AIF. Here they were treated equal among the ranks, after all it was their country they were fighting for.

Most of the men accepted into the army in August 1914 were sent first to Egypt, not Europe, to meet the threat which a new belligerent, the



Nimbin Main Street looking south, circa. 1916



Private (Pte) Walter Charles Thresher, 15th Battalion. A farmer of Nimbin, NSW, prior to enlistment, Pte Thresher embarked with the 26th Reinforcements aboard HMAT Euripides (A14) on 31st October 1917. Pte Thresher was killed in France on 8th August 1918.

Ottoman Empire (Turkey), posed to British interests in the Middle East and the Suez Canal.

Australia's first involvement in the First World War was the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landing at Rabaul on 11th September 1914 and taking possession of German New Guinea at Toma on 17th September 1914. Then the neighbouring islands of the Bismarck Archipelago in October 1914. On 14th November 1914 the Royal Australian Navy made a significant contribution when HMAS Sydney destroyed the German raider SMS Emden.

Life in Nimbin for the new settlers in 1914 and the years that followed were no doubt arduous and the very test of



Private (Pte) Cecil James Stewart, 49th Battalion, of Nimbin, NSW. A 21-year old farmer at enlistment, he embarked on 19th September 1916 from Brisbane with the 5th Reinforcements on HMAT Seang Choon. Pte Stewart was killed in action at Dernancourt, France, on 5th April 1918, aged 23.

community resilience.

Life was tough to say the least. Young boys became men, and girls became women, in a very short time. Those who remained had to take on the tasks left by the newly recruited soldiers, and to teach and train the young in working of the land and business. And not only that, most of the produce and resources of the time were directed at the war effort. Rationing was brought in and many times the families went without.

Letters, the only form of communication, were few and far between, and newspapers the only way of keeping up with the war effort.

The young had to take on the tasks left by their grandfathers, fathers and elder brothers. Up before daybreak to work before having breakfast, a short day at school and back home to work 'til dark, have dinner, do homework and then to bed, six, maybe seven days a week. Sunday would have been welcome, to those who observed the day of rest.

The Nimbin District War Memorial Honour Roll bears the names of 114 Nimbin men who served and fought in World War 1. Thirty of them, or more than a quarter, lost their lives.

The families had to deal with the loss of their loved ones, and care for those who returned physically and psychologically damaged.

For those Aboriginals who returned battle-hardened, there was no fanfare, as their battles for recognition had just begun. We must also remember that the war also spurred the beginnings of the peace movements in Australia.

Next time you pass the monument, spare a thought for those sacrifices made by those soldiers, and the sacrifices made by the families of the Nimbin community of that time, who gave their all in the name of peace.

The Nimbin District Memorial is now a registered site and can be viewed at the Register of War Memorials NSW: www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/nimbin-district-war-memorial

I am calling out for choirs (for a coalition of all Nimbin district choirs) interested in participating in this year's Remembrance Day and next year's ANZAC Day Centenary Commemorations. I would also welcome any help in organising these commemorative events. Please contact me on 6689-0396. "Lest We Forget"

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Minister misleads with late night amendments

In an 11th hour move, the Queensland Government has silenced objections to mining projects across the state, giving open slather to Indian coal billionaire Gautam Adani to develop the Galilee Basin into one of the largest coal precincts in the world.

President of the Lock the Gate Alliance, Drew Hutton said the move was an outrageous abuse of the parliamentary system and one of the most undemocratic acts the Queensland parliament had ever witnessed.

"The amendment was in direct contradiction to Mines Minister Andrew Cripps' speech in parliament earlier in the evening and his assurances in the lead-up to the bill that people would still be able to object to major mining projects," Mr Hutton said.

"The Minister has clearly misled the people of Queensland and the parliament.

"The government changed the Minerals

and Energy Resources Act on Tuesday to remove the right to object to smaller mining projects under the guise of reducing green tape, but at five minutes to midnight added another amendment that extended the changes to all mining projects statewide.

"The changes give the power of decision to a single man, the Co-ordinator General, at whose whim the community's right to question the environmental impact of massive new mines projects, like those in the Galilee Basin, will now rest.

"This means that if the Co-ordinator General decides there are enough existing environmental conditions on a project, no-one can object.

"All community concern about issues of health, environment and land use conflicts relating to mining projects has been gagged.

"The first beneficiary of this gag will be Mr Adani and his plans to develop a se-

ries of mega mines in the Galilee Basin. Mr Adani has been lobbying the federal and Queensland Governments hard to get the environmental approvals for his development. He must be doing hand-springs at this latest development.

"These mines will impact heavily on communities in central Queensland, and on places of iconic value, such as the Great Barrier Reef.

"The mega mines also threaten the Great Artesian Basin, but no longer will anyone be allowed to object to projects like this. We have all been silenced.

"This is one of the most underhand and undemocratic moves the Queensland parliament has ever witnessed. It is the sort of thing you might expect from a despotic regime in a banana republic, not a developed nation with a well-established democratic tradition.

"The public has a right to know how and why these last minute amendments were introduced, and at whose call."

Rail infrastructure under threat

by Garth Kindred

'Save our tracks' is the new catchcry for local rail supporters. Both the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG) and Trains on our Tracks (TOOT) have aligned their short term aims to save the tracks and rail infrastructure. Save them from the threat posed by rail trail (RT) plans which would see them ripped up, removed and replaced with bike trails.

A public forum is being organised in Lismore to look at how we can best save the corridor for rail, and what rail options can be made available into the future. It will also aim to examine all aspects of integrated transport in the Northern Rivers region – looking at, for example, how we can best use bus and mini-bus connections from the stations to key destinations like the hospital, university and shopping malls.

While publicly funded transport is our preference it may require a public/private partnership to get things up and running. Establishing a community based regional rail corporation is also possible,



and running a heritage rail project, initially between Lismore and Casino.

There will be some high profile speakers and local experts giving presentations on rail options – a diesel railcar service from Lismore to Brisbane, light rail commuters, and high speed rail among them.

There are many good reasons to keep the corridor rail ready. Regular rail commuter services will:

- Reduce accidents and congestion on our roads;
- Reduce costs to councils and ratepayers as less wear and tear on roads means less maintenance costs;
- Reduce overall fossil fuel consumption and carbon

emissions in the region;

- Address climate change action (especially with a future electric train powered by 100% renewables);
- Reconnect our towns and villages and re-empower our region, socially and economically; and
- Provide affordable transport and enable the disadvantaged and carless young and elderly to travel.

In letters of reply to TOOT and NRRAGG, Transport Minister Berejiklian has reassured us that no specific RT project will be approved without "overwhelming community support". A well-attended forum, along with the thousands of signatures already collected on petitions,

should clearly demonstrate that overwhelming community support is actually for real public transport and not for bike trails over the corridor.

TOOT and NRRAG agree that rail trails can run beside the tracks wherever possible. Our argument is not so much with RT supporters as with state and council representatives who have not stood up for what the greater community want and what is best for the region as a whole – an integrated rail connection.

Don Page is scrambling to find \$75 million for RTs as his last political action. This would be better spent on track repair than its destruction.

The Rail Trail Bill presented by Labor in the NSW upper house is due to be debated on Oct 14th. There is talk it will not be passed but the question is, what then? Will the Nationals deliver their own Bill in order to allow RTs to proceed?

If you would like to assist with the forum or be updated re meetings and events please email: kindred@nrg.com.au and please remember to check out TOOT & NRRAGG's Facebook pages.

Nimbin Community Centre's annual update

by Diana Roberts

Another year has passed for Nimbin Community Centre (NCC) and we have now entered our 17th year of operation.

Over the past year, our beautiful grounds have hosted a number of events including the Weave & Mend Festival, MardiGrass markets, Seniors Week, the monthly markets, which are going from strength to strength, and the free circus workshops on Thursdays, funded from a grant we received. Our end-of-year community party was so popular, we're repeating it this year.

Our buildings continue to be fully occupied, despite harder economic times. We have lost tenants this past year but gained new residents including Tea Medica, Zee Books and Mookx Hanley. As community groups face reduced funding, we have found it necessary to embrace more commercial tenancies. However, priority is always given to not-for-profit community based applicants. We're excited by plans from Northern Rivers Childcare Services to undertake major renovations to the Nimbin Childcare Centre this month.

The official ownership transfer of 54 Cullen Street to NCC occurred in August 2013 in a very touching celebration. After much consultation, the name of the building remains Birth & Beyond and a plaque to commemorate its history is attached to the street front. The transition to NCC ownership went very smoothly and the building is fully tenanted. Hire of the group room has increased considerably through wider publicity, and its integration with the dance studio in the Community Centre. NCC is also reaping financial benefits from the solar system installed on the roof, made possible by a generous donation.

The organisation continues on a solid financial footing, despite contributing a large percentage of accumulated reserves to bring Birth & Beyond into community



hands. The past year NCC has spent a lot of money repairing the rapidly deteriorating walkways. We considered removing them, but they contribute to the amenity of the grounds, so walkway repair will continue as a priority for years to come. We also took time out to extensively review our insurance policies and subsequently increased our premiums.

During the past year we brought Nimbin Tennis Club under the umbrella of Nimbin Headers as we considered it important such a valuable facility remain in community hands. Nimbin Headers recently received the title deed, a great outcome.

NCC has continued its strong engagement with the 7 Sibley Sustainable Hub project. Gardens of Nimbin, a major fundraiser held in September, raised over \$5000 towards acquiring the land. We have recently finalised arrangements for restoration of the old skate park site adjoining. Progressing the works now rests with Lismore Council who recently allocated an additional \$10,000 to the \$22,000 received by NCC, thereby enabling more works to be completed.

Once 7 Sibley Street is 100% in NCC ownership, Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre will be offered a five-by-five year lease, giving them freedom to develop the site and bring the project to fruition. At the same time, NCC will work with Lismore Council to bring the old skate park site into the project.

NCC has reviewed its management guidelines to better reflect our current

activities. We've had a significant and dusty cull of our archives and intend to produce a pictorial history for public display. We have revamped our entire website, so have a look at: www.nimbincommunity.org.au We successfully lobbied for repainting of the public toilets.

We are auspicing Nimbin Flix (our local film society), and have worked closely throughout the year with community members involved in the Cultural Centre.

NCC has also successfully attracted grant funds over the past year. We auspiced a Youth Activities grant to provide events at the skate park, and had this funding reinstated for this year. We also received another grant for youth activities that will run this financial year. A Heritage Grant saw a major window replaced at Birth & Beyond and a NAIDOC Week grant contributed to a beautiful celebratory week.

Nimbin Community Centre is your Centre and the community input into making the centre such a wonderful and vibrant place is valued by many, particularly the management committee.

NCC's 2014 Annual General Meeting will be held on 9th October, 5.30pm at Birth & Beyond, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Membership is due (\$15, \$10 seniors/unemployed, \$5 under 25s). Please arrive early if you haven't paid your membership, or go to the office before the meeting.

Phone 6689-0000 for more information, or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

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Letters

Rainbow Café tribute

I feel I am not of a petty nature, but the recent tribute to the Rainbow Café (NGT Sept 14) upset me somehow. Articles written by people I have not seen enter the café in many years.

I first experienced the café about 23 years ago at a MardiGrass, and thought it was wonderful also. I'm not detracting from their experiences, I get how cool it was and all that stuff, but I feel it still was a great place to hang out.

As a recent employee of the café, I felt really dishonoured in your spread. No mention of the fact that it is still a very communal café; the articles you printed made it feel like it was all in the past, in fact it was one of the first times in my life I felt a part of a community. It was a safe place in town for children and families, and as a single mum I always felt blessed to have a job where my daughter and her friends could come and hang out while I worked.

Many young people were given jobs by Jodee, a wonderful and understanding boss who never disrespected me and always made me feel valued.

Jodee is absolutely devastated. The only mention of her ownership is about the tables and chairs, and quite derogatory. She bought those with her mother, and yes not the best choice, but not everybody has great taste.

She lost so much in that fire, \$20,000 worth of solar panels had just been installed by the Rainbow Power Company, and she was about to pay the extra premium for insurance, but didn't make it before the fire. She loved that café, we all did. We had spent time recently repainting and renovating also.

Lots of locals came to the café, not just tourists! The best coffee in town! I had worked there for 5½ years, and some of the other employees for much longer, especially some of the more mature ladies, who may find it hard to get jobs elsewhere. It was a great place to work. I feel a great grief and sadness over the loss.

Name and address withheld by request.

Community Gardens

For some time I have been of the opinion that community gardens do not work because people eventually understand

that the loss of time spent in travelling to and from them is best spent in the soil immediately surrounding where they live.

Nevertheless, the Community Garden in Mullumbimby has proved that idea not completely accurate. I am gratefully amazed at what has been achieved, and wish to say that you will be sung about, described in story, and eventually, when we get there, danced in corroboree, as the people who understood that what was talked and argued about for so long has been grounded out – presumably with the key of extreme sociability.

The belief that the time factor would cruel community gardens, was of course reckoned on the basis of an industrial society that is always time-short.

I imagine Community Garden people understand that the continuation of the revolution that insists on producing the dearer (in industrial, economic terms) sustainable tomato despite the cheaper one at a shopping centre, is, at least partially, the physical manifestation of the revolution in the seat of consciousness spoken about by Krishnamurti and others.

Geoff Dawe,
Uki

Lock the koala-proof gate

It is heartening that former Mayor Barry Longland has publicly affirmed that he is keen to have the Tweed Coast koalas protected and for them to thrive. His support is paramount if the resident and breeding koalas are to have any chance of surviving the impacts inflicted upon them at the Black Rocks sports field.

These koalas have had to endure the threat of unleashed dogs, hooning, motor bikes, shooting, go-cart racing, model aeroplanes crashing in their habitat, alcohol-fuelled commotion – the list goes on. Council's Koala Advisory Committee has recommended that the koala-proof gate at the sports field's access road entrance be locked both day and night except when used by sporting organisations, in order to minimise the risk of koala stress, disease, abandonment of the site and death associated with these activities.

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline. 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.

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NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 29th October

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

The Black Rocks sports field is surrounded by primary food trees and core koala habitat which is a home to three threatened species (koala, bush stone-curlew and osprey), a koala breeding hub and one of three koala hotspots on the Coast, which according to koala expert Dr Steve Phillips requires immediate effective action in order to sustain a viable koala population. Over the last three years there have been 33 koala sightings in the area, with documented evidence of significant DAYTIME ON-GROUND koala activity (including breeding) on and immediately adjacent to the access road.

With only 140 koalas left on the Tweed Coast, there is no room for complacency. Two Black Rocks koalas (one captured in a tree on the edge of the access road in a breeding area) were euthanased this year, suffering from the STRESS-RELATED disease Chlamydia. We cannot afford to lose any more.

Given that the entry gate at the Barry Sheppard oval, Hastings Point is locked day and night (with pedestrian access), so also can Black Rocks. All it takes is political will and a genuine desire to protect our koalas to make it happen.

Lyn Dickinson
Pottsville

EMR: Alan Roberts replies

Thanks to Steve Weller, Peter Nielson, Anton Vanderbyl and Alastair Burns for their replies and suggestions on peoples' purported sensitivity to, and health effects from, EMR.

To recap: my original letter (NGT July 14) laid out the reasons why it was physically impossible for EMR from mobile phones, wi-fi, etc (and including 50Hz!) to break DNA bonds and cause cancer. Einstein's 1905 paper, *An Heuristic view on the creation and transformation of light*, explains why.

On recognising this impediment, some of the proponents of “EMR causes cancer” have tried a workaround: EMR creates free radicals that cause

genetic damage by oxidative stress (Anton) thereby breaking DNA causing cancer. But making free radicals requires breaking covalent bonds and mobile phone photons are a million times short on the required energy. So forget oxidative stress via phone EMR.

Next, my article on double blind tests on self diagnosed “Electrohypersensitive” (EHS) people came up with nil ability by people to detect EMR from phones, wi-fi etc, despite their contrary claims. I'm curious about people's claims of feeling EMR effects and only time constraints have so far put off my plans to build a simple double blind testing apparatus. Apart from curiosity, if people are to be treated for their maladies, then it is important firstly to determine the cause of the malady.

However, Steve (and Magda Havas) call double blind tests “provocation” tests, and accuse researchers of having a poor understanding of EHS and too quickly passing it off as a placebo effect. Steve in his personal EHS case study, correlates his headache with his wi-fi so strongly that even when it's not transmitting EMR he gets a headache from the sight of it, or from his inactivated play station or phone or the neighbour's smart meter. Hence he finds the double blind test “a form of torture”. If Steve gets a headache without any RF present then that is a placebo effect – otherwise how can your theory be falsified, Steve?

We don't have a physiological means of detecting RF or microwaves unless it's intense enough to heat us. Our nerves will detect an electrical pulse if it's over the voltage threshold and a series of pulses up to 16Hz but higher than that the nerves shut off. As the pulse travels along a nerve axon (up to 100m/S) the sodium gates take about 1/1000sec (1mS) to open and depolarise the axon, 0.75mS to repolarise then 2mS more where it's unresponsive (refractory) – which stops the signal from travelling backwards. So the nerve is oblivious on a nanosecond time scale. Axon capacitance

is 0.1 microfarad, which is a dead short at mobile phone frequencies (~1millionhm) = no signal across the cell wall.

Peter's comment that "there is scientific evidence both for and against biological disorders due to" EMR is exactly what you would expect for no effect at all from EMR. Consider what you would expect if scientists were searching for the carcinogenic effects of having two "a"s in your name. If the cohorts were small, then by probability some studies would say it's carcinogenic to have two "a"s, others that two "a"s are beneficial, and the bigger the cohort the less the difference.

If you look at the "69 studies with positive findings" in Steve's powerwatch reference (you have to go to the papers themselves), this "no effect noise" is what you find. Many odds ratios are <1 (meaning those using mobile phones are less prone to cancer) or the odds ratio ranges from <1 to >1 (>1 = those not using mobile phones are less prone to cancer than users). Two references following each other say that mobile phone use significantly reduces the flow of saliva; the next one finds that mobile phones significantly increase saliva flow, and so it goes.

Alasdair claimed the Interphone study "found health dangers" when in fact it found the opposite by a strangely significant margin, that those using mobile phones had less brain tumours than non-users, but there is still a puzzle about statistics for long term users – please read the 2011 report itself.

The referenced self proclaimed experts quickly prove otherwise. Like Barrie Trower claiming microwaves "go through things, they travel through you". Wi-fi has a penetration depth in us of 1.7cm. After travelling 20cm there's only one 10 billionth of the power left. Mobile phone 915MHz has a penetration depth of 17.7cm, so after 30cm of human body there's still 3% of its power coming out the other side. Why believe Barrie if he can't get his facts right. Prof Goldsworthy claims all sorts of things, including calcium ions are in cell walls – they aren't.

A baseless claim on an American talk show started the whole "mobile phones give you cancer" thing. Science shows there's no feasible mechanism, but can't prove a negative. A little bit of physics and a little bit of biology a day will keep insanity away.

Alan Roberts
Bentley

Vale Len Harper

20/5/1920 – 20/9/2014

Eulogy by Tamaso Lonsdale

So, I have lost another old friend, and Nimbin has lost one of its oldest identities. At the age of 94 years, Len Harper has passed away.

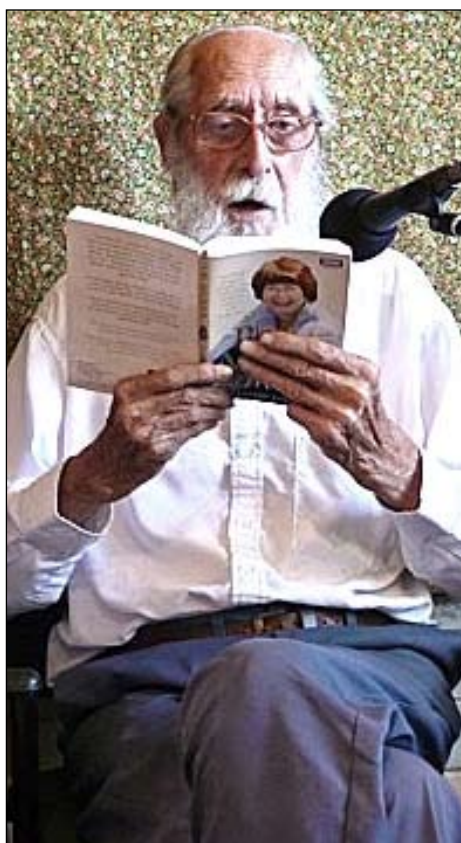
A veteran of World War II, Len was a voluntary worker at *Nimbin News*, doing all the proof-reading both for that magazine and the *Beyond the Rainbow* literary magazine. Not a missed comma, exclamation mark or full stop escaped his eagle eye, and every misspelt word or typo was corrected. He continued the proof-reading for *Beyond the Rainbow* right up to a few weeks ago and was always delighted to do it, as he said it gave him something to do.

For many years, Len also looked after the grounds of the Community Centre, sweeping the paths, picking up litter and emptying the rubbish bins.

Together with Graham Ferguson, Len presented his Saturday afternoon radio program "Uncle Len's Tall Stories" on Nim-FM, where he read out stories, poems and anecdotes. He was a powerful raconteur, and had worked on ABC radio in his younger days.

Len also attended the seniors' gathering each week and often entertained his friends there with small readings.

A former member of Blue Springs community, Len later became one of the original residents of Mulgum House assisted living facility. He regularly walked up to the shops and post office until this became rather difficult and he acquired a



motorised wheelchair, which enable him to continue his little jaunts out for coffee and a chat with friends.

Len had strong spiritual leanings, admiring the teachings of Gurdjieff, and was also a long time member of the Subud movement.

Len is survived by his step-daughter, Vicki and his son Peter Harper, one of the founders of the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machyllth mid Wales, and the actual inventor of the term "alternative technology" in the 1970's.



Bad language

One day a person I'd been very kind to Called and said: "Get f---ed you!" Naturally I thanked her very much for such a thoughtful parting touch, wishing me a most pleasurable sensation and Nature's hope for possible creation of new life, the miracle this act can be and yet the word this person threw at me was meant to be the worst that she could find. Ah! What has happened to the human mind? How did the act of love and procreation become a term of filthy degradation? What pathetic brain condemned it as a curse? Being mindlessly accepted so is worse.

I think it's time I wrote a book on sex, apparently it's becoming too complex and needs some explanation to redeem

this parable of happiness – Nature's dream of bringing life through love into existence, a simple act of harmony, no resistance but mutually fulfilling of the need to propagate life's enduring seed.

Sex is innocent! I decree
Well that's the way it is to me,
and even if it has no serious intention
sex as fun is surely worth a mention.
Happiness at play, pure innocence and free.
Why this became a swear word is a mystery to me.
With all the violence, torture, horror, killing,
surely there's an act more worthy of top billing
as the worst insult, the ugliest sounding word
allowing hate, contempt and anger to be heard.

As a throw-away expression it became quite daring
to copy from the gutter the latest thing in swearing,
but now it's just a bore without imagination,
destruction of the art of conversation.

One pathetic adjective, junk food for the brain.
Intelligent thinking all gone down the drain.
We still can make a sexy joke, a clever pun
and share the laughter with our chosen one.
It's healthy to enjoy what our bodies have to give,
accepting all its wonders while we live.
So therefore I condone and liberate
the act of sex, and free it from insulting hate.

Please let's forget the 'f' word, let's move on
and find another hundred words when that one's
gone.

We'll liven up our brains, respect what they can do.
We'll celebrate the sex act and respect our bodies
too.

Wait!
A very sad thought has just occurred to me.

One who labels sex abusively
could never have enjoyed the ecstasy
of orgasm, poor thing, I pity thee.

Vale Mendelson

Notices

Rental Vacancy at Nimbin Community Centre

Expressions of Interest are sought for the Youth Club Building (Fig Tree). This building contains main room, 2 offices, kitchen, and toilet. Rent starts at \$755.82 per month (including GST) for non-profit rentals. You will need to pay bonds and provide references. For further information, please contact the Coordinator Tuesdays & Wednesdays on 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Nimbin Environment Centre

Meetings are now held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 5pm at Birth & Beyond – next meetings 14th and 28th October.

Tunable Bush Dance

Saturday 18th October, Bush Dance and dinner at Tuntable Hall. Fantastic folkies and wonderful food promises a great family-friendly night out. Dinner from 6pm, dancing from 7.

Nimbin Flix

Nimbin Flix is putting the movie times forward with daylight saving, so the movie will be showing on Saturday night, 18th October, 7.30pm at Birth and Beyond. Doors open 7pm.

HEMP Double Header

The Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP) Party will hold an AGM for both the Federal and NSW Branch at 4.20pm on Saturday, 29th November at the Nimbin HEMP Embassy.

Life drawing models wanted

Serpentine Gallery is looking for models for a life drawing group on Monday nights. If anyone is interested (or knows of someone who would be interested), could they please contact the Serpentine Arts Gallery on 6621-6845 or email: gallery@serpentinearts.org

Al-Anon Family Groups

Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking? Al-Anon meetings are held at Ballina, Lismore, Murwillumbah and Grafton. For more meetings and times, check out: www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia or phone 1300-252-666.

Embroiderers' group

Meetings are 9.30am-2.30pm every 1st and 3rd Wednesday and every 3rd Saturday of each month in the function room at the rear of the Red Dove Centre, Keen Street, Lismore. Contact 0423-337-872.

Weave & Mend Festival

Basketry weaving festival, to be held at the Nimbin Community Centre grounds over 3rd, 4th and 5th October. Contact 6689-7129 for more information.

Free listings

Keep it brief and to the point and if we think it's of interest to our readers, we'll run your community notice for free.