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Rail vs Trail – the struggle continues

by Lydia Kindred

The Northern Rivers Railway Action Group believes the cost of upgrading the rail line for commuter/tourist services is not much more than for bike trails which are currently being promoted by each council.

They question why no level of government has ever asked what the people would prefer.

David Kirkpatrick's recent 'Opinion' piece in *The Northern Star* states that "the tracks are in a sad state of rusty, rotten disrepair" – adding, "if we continue to do nothing it will just cease to exist and be consigned to history."

David seems unaware that our Casino – Murwillumbah railway line has mostly one in four steel sleepers, same as the main line, some are one in three and sometimes eight steel sleepers in a row.

It may look rusty to the naked eye but a train running over it will soon bring the tracks back to a shiny state as they are mostly in good condition, and the overgrown vegetation can be cut back, despite years of neglect.

Yes, this lack of repair has been perpetrated on those

living in and visiting the Northern Rivers, despite the incredible need for public transport which would increase our economic wealth and bring massive job creation.

Perhaps a few benefits will flow from bike trails but how many times more with the introduction of rail services?

A 'no brainer' as so many say – if NSW followed the rest of the world, and most other Australian states, where rail is being built or restored – what an incredible boost to local businesses.

We could have one of the best tourist trains in the world, reducing stress, carbon emissions, traffic congestion and accidents, spreading over two million visitors to Byron each year, throughout our region.

We've been landed with this negative situation by state governments which are given large donations from pro-road lobbyists who gain financially if rail is relegated to the dustbin. Roads are given the nod over rail which is 200 times safer to travel on.

'Rail trails' (actually trails without rails) would change the currently protected



The line between Casino and Lismore

corridor over to crown land status, giving developers the chance to obtain our rail corridor's prime real estate.

If you would rather have train services instead of a bike path on our

tracks, please contact your councillors and your members of parliament.

They need to know that rail would help your life and make for better outcomes into the future for our region.



South Lismore viaduct

Has Austin Curtin tied himself to the railway tracks?

by Beth Shelley, NRRAG chairperson

In the latest threat to the publicly owned railway of the Northern Rivers, the Nationals' candidate for Page, Austin Curtin, backed by deputy premier John Barilaro and Lismore City Councillor Bill Moorehouse, has raised a petition calling for the funding of stage one of a yet to be developed flood mitigation program.

Mr Curtin's vague petition, lacking any detail or science, is being widely circulated on-line and to businesses in the Lismore CBD. The petition simply calls for a commitment from the state government to fund stage one of a mooted flood mitigation "plan".

Mr Moorhouse, a civil engineer, says the "plan" includes removal of part of the railway line that was once the public transport lifeline of Lismore.

Although there is no science currently presented to support this proposal, Mr Curtin says that stage one of this project, "could not wait until after the (coming state) election." He says he does not want flood safety to become a "political football".

In response, members of the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group asked Lismore City Council whether flood levels were recorded after last year's flood to support this proposal.

The answer, from Council's Strategic Planning Co-ordinator, Paula Newman, was that flood data had been collected, but at this stage there has been no specific analysis of the information gathered.

She says Council is in the process of commissioning consultants to prepare a new Lismore Floodplain Risk Management Study to look at a range of options, one of which could include removing railway infrastructure, forming a channel to divert floodwaters around Lismore.

A recent report in *The Northern Star* states, "A campaign to fund local flood mitigation has taken a massive step forward as Deputy Premier John Barilaro visited the area to inspect the plans yesterday."

What plans is Mr Barilaro inspecting, if the consultants being commissioned to draft a plan have not even been selected yet?

Ex-Byron Councillor and hydrologist,

Duncan Dey said, "The crux of the matter is that Lismore Flood Committee thinks removing the railway embankment may help diminish the side-effects created by the town levee. Levees always have negative impacts, which are overlooked when they get built.

The Nationals are for the project even before the science comes in on whether removing the (rail) embankment has any benefit to flooding."

No-one wants to see another devastating flood like last year's left unaddressed. However, to destroy the existing rail infrastructure which historically provided the city's only lifeline during floods without scientific evidence amounts to a knee-jerk attempt to score pre-election points for the Nationals' candidate.

Part of the South Lismore viaduct has already been removed without any explanation from Council or the State Government.

NRRAG calls for a full and complete scientific study of the evidence from the flood before any action is taken to make yet another attack on our much needed and maligned public rail corridor.

Towards zero deforestation

by Omega Breakspear

When NSW farmer Glen Morris rode his horse over the Sydney Harbour Bridge in peak hour traffic in June 2016, he was protesting against new legislation to increase land clearing.

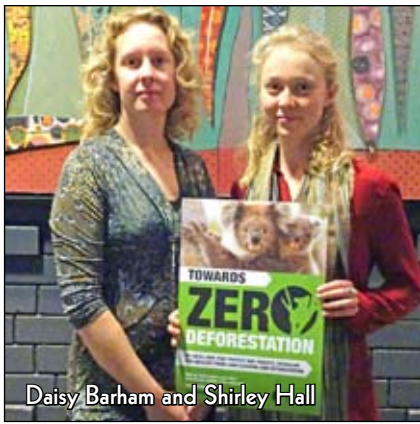
“There is nothing we need more than the rain-producing, cooling effects of healthy vegetated landscapes,” Glen said. His words have particular poignancy as NSW finds itself in the grip of the worst drought in over 100 years.

Unfortunately, the NSW Berejiklian Government’s war on trees is having serious and devastating consequences. Deforestation has doubled in the last year.

The Nature Conservation Council (NCC) is on a road trip to stop land clearing. The loss of habitat for the cute and cuddly koala is being highlighted by the NCC. It is part of their Towards Zero Deforestation for our forests and wildlife campaign.

On 24th July in Lismore, the NCC held an evening of hardcore information about the amended NSW laws. Over 70% of NSW is in private hands and this new legislation is about these lands.

I learnt about how the 2003 *Native Vegetation Act*, which had protected 7,000 hectares of native forests and thousands of animals each year, was abolished in 2016. So has the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* and the *Nature Conservation Trust Act* - gone.



Daisy Barham and Shirley Hall

A number of other policies have also been changed, including the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*. They’ve been replaced with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* and the *Environmental Planning Policy*.

The new laws are not straightforward. Jemilah Hallinan from the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) did her best to explain it to us. It seems all now to be based on an arbitrary new set of codes and maps. These were made by the Primary Industries Minister Niall Blair and approved by the Environmental Minister Gabrielle Upton.

The codes depend on whether it’s a rural, urban or an environmental zone. It leaves it up to individual landowners to self-regulate unless it’s a larger development. Then it’s part of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme based on offset credits.

Credits come from landowners who have gone into Stewardship Agreements

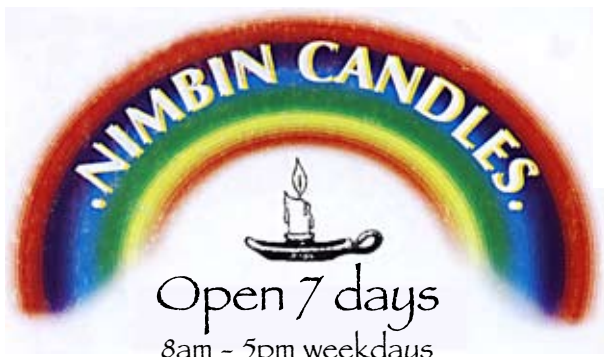
and can be sold to developers who are likely to significantly affect threatened or endangered species. Trouble is, you can use offset credits from one species with another as long as it is on the same or higher threatened status. That means you can offset the Regent Honeyeater with the Black Cockatoo for example.

You can even trade offsets for research into a species, which does nothing to protect it in real time. And mining companies can offset with their own rehabilitation when they are legally obliged to rehabilitate anyway. Talk about tricky.

Fortunately, there’s a lot we can do. It is an offence for breaching the land clearing laws and there can be harsh penalties. Take a photo if you suspect something wrong. Record observations in writing with the date and time. Call the Environment Line on 13-15-55 and ask for an incident number. You can do this anonymously.

Go to the Nature Conservation Council’s website: www.nature.org.au for petitions, info on how to become a campaign champion, or you can volunteer to help with the satellite mapping of deforestation. You can also donate to help fund the court case being run by the NCC with the EDO to stop this shameful legislation.

The biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis will be solved together. It’s our forests and bushland that draw down and store carbon, as well as support biodiversity. Protect our trees and we protect our future.



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NIMBIN CELEBRATES NAIDOC WEEK



Johnny Bayles and Auntie Viv



Margie Hayes and Dr Judy Atkinson Photos: Sue Stock

by Bob Dooley

Nimbin turned out in strength for a colourful procession along the main street for its NAIDOC Day celebration, ending up at Peace Park for an afternoon of fun activities.

The NAIDOC theme was ‘Bringing Us Together’, and MC Gilbert Laurie spoke of the connectedness between clans and nations, and saw the occasion as a celebration of past, present and future.

This was amply demonstrated in the interactions all afternoon.

Keynote speaker John Roberts said, “We’re not going away,” to a roar of approval from the many people present, before tucking in to a vast array of kanga bangers, emu patties etc while being entertained by Blakboi, Indigenoise and others.

Well done Nimbin, and congratulations to all involved.



John Roberts and Billy Walker

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Weaving as meditation, for healing and therapy

by Inez Price

We weave fibre; we also weave friendships, memories, laughter and tears into our baskets, garments, hats and mats. Our ancestors wove from necessity - to cart food and belongings, to cover our bodies and to bring shade or warmth and to build our houses.

We have the luxury of weaving for its own sake but we carry the spirit with us from long ago when we do. It is useful both for what we are actually creating and is food for our souls.

Two years ago I learned that my son had been hit by a car on the M1 and killed instantly. It is every parent's nightmare and now it's mine, and I must somehow find a way to learn to live with a broken heart.

A few months after this I attended my first Weave and Mend weekend and began to weave a spiral mat amongst the presence of good women, and wondered at the simplicity and wisdom of keeping my hands busy and having a focus to put my grief's terrible pain into.

I began with banana fibre and hemp string, and over the next six months added strips of Tommy's bedsheets and jumpers, special strips of garments from friends and family, dreadlocks, bits of old banners, interwoven with papyrus, flax, bangalow, cordyline,



anything I could find in my garden.

The decision to complete it came upon me one day and I added a fringe of papyrus to finish it. It's not a perfect piece, but it is used every day and I can look upon it and remember why it's there.

When I learned I was to be a grandmother,

I again turned to weaving, this time to welcome new life and began making a Moses basket with papyrus and bangalow seed pod with a different technique.

Weaving becomes a meditation for me, and I've discovered that I can make a baby's cradle with my own hands using natural

materials from my close environment, which is unique and lovely.

My pride led me to share both of these creations with an international basket weaving group on facebook, and I was overwhelmed by over 200 responses in a day, by weavers all over the world.

Give Away

The 2018 Weave and Mend Gathering will be held on Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th October with three-day camping at Djanbung Gardens. Entry is by donation; drinks and food available.

This year has been astronomical... as above, so below. And so this year we are "Giving Away", a traditional way of healing by giving away your best, your most precious.

Our "Give Away" means giving away 'precious' items for weaving, for example, fibres, material like clothes, feathers, beads, hair etc. "Give Away" is the opposite of capitalism, as it does not give away 'money' for nothing. "Give Away" comes from our heart, which then in itself is healing.

We weave and mend our hearts this way, as Inez heals her own heart... and spreads it into the world with "weaving is healing". And so is Inez's healing story which brought tears to my heart to hear. Thank you Inez for doing what you did, and how you have begun an international healing through weaving.



Survival call for project volunteers

by Trevor Reece

The Nightcap Monuments Project needs committed volunteers.

The project was launched six months ago, seeking volunteers and hopeful to establish a monument to acknowledge the historical significance of the Terania and Mt Nardi rainforest logging protests which directly brought about the creation of Nightcap National Park.

It also sought to reignite regional awareness of the legacies and significance of the historic environmental protests leading to the fortieth anniversary in 2019 of the Terania Creek protest actions. The project has now achieved National Parks' approval for a monument next to the Protestors Falls walk within the National Park.

The Monuments Project has been creating significant interest and has received substantial regional aspirational support. It had also hoped to have attracted much-needed active volunteer support to make the project concept viable.

The project has a developed website ready to launch with the start-up help of Sharon Stanford but after six months of promotion, the project is now still in need of a core team of committed volunteers to be able to move forward. A minimum team of eight is required with dedicated time to commit to

the project and its specialist areas.

Core volunteer project management is needed for the social media, website and crowd funding area; for the artists' project area; for the public fundraising area; and the public relations and education areas.

Just as a house construction requires special people and skills, so does a project construction and there are very likely retired people and others in the community with skills and time to assist this project of regional significance. This also could be a great way for university students, graduates and younger people to apply their skills and add to their experience and work resumé in a team leadership and community project management role.

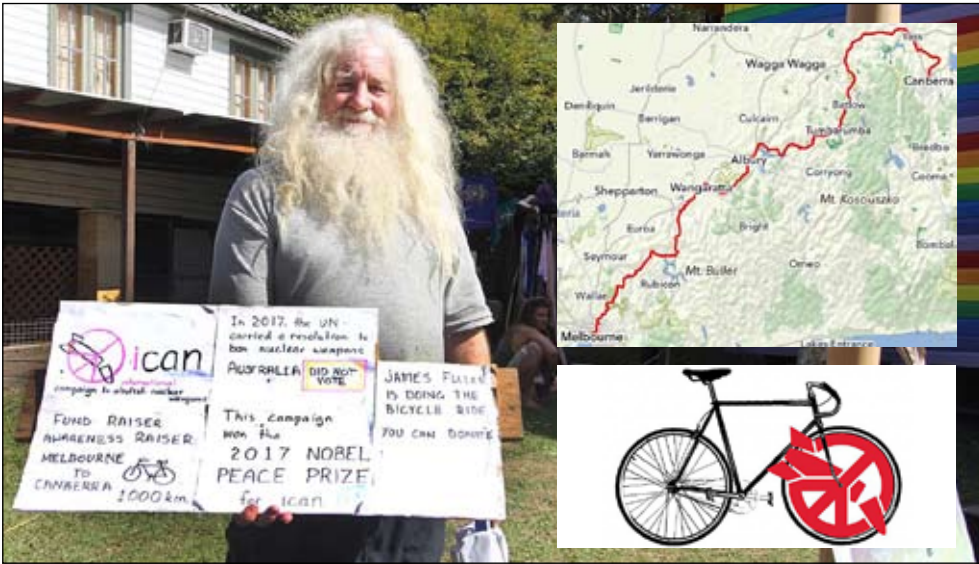
The project website was set to officially launch with the formation of the core project team in place and the project in a position to move forward. The team is now needed to be in place before the start of September, and on its last volunteer call for the project to be able to commence its core monuments project timeline and development stage.

Without the team of eight for the key project management areas, the project unfortunately will have to come to a stop.

If you can volunteer and assist, contact Trevor Reece, email: treece545@gmail.com or phone 0428-222-525.



James pedals for peace



Fundraising is underway for the International Committee to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Nobel Peace Ride, and ICAN is seeking participants to be part of this adventure.

In September, cyclists will journey from Melbourne to Canberra, touring the ICAN Nobel Peace Prize medal and raising awareness of the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Beginning on 2nd September in Melbourne, the birthplace of ICAN, the ride will arrive in Canberra on 20th September, marking one year since the nuclear ban treaty opened for signatures,

and demanding our Government join this landmark accord as a matter of urgency.

James Fuller of Nimbin (pictured) is doing the 1000km bicycle ride. Any donations will go to ICAN itself, not to pay for his travel expenses and ride costs. Donations may be made directly to: www.icanw.org/australia

The cause will be promoted at the Open Mic nights at the Nimbin Bowling Club, and at random events James can get to. Donations may also be made at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

For more info, visit: www.icanw.org/au/nobelpeaceride

Veteran forest regenerator stumbles on Millennial Fig



by Alan Roberts

Don Durrant had been busy regenerating areas on his property for decades, including six months near some thick bush, before wandering in, only about 100 metres, to find a huge strangler fig which he reckons to be about 1000 years old.


Its huge buttresses, height, snapped off head and fallen massive branches give weight to its millennial status – it might be illogical but “no-one can prove me wrong,” said Don.

On Sunday 22nd July, a party of 31 people, including biologists, National Parkers and regenerators from Brisbane to Grafton, gathered at Don’s place to pay homage to an ancient survivor, to appreciate Don’s many areas of regenerative work, and have a BBQ.

It was a joy to see such healthy areas of rainforest with some magnificent examples of species in their natural state.

Despite this, the area no longer supports the huge flocks of pigeons for which our BBQ spot was the site of the yearly Kyogle pigeon shoot.

The conserved forest is north of Iron Pot Creek between Etttrick and Toonumbar, and thanks to Don’s work it should stay that way.



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All our links are clickable in the web edition.
Visit www.nimbingoodtimes.com and click away!

NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Triny Roe

NEC is a grassroots organisation made up of volunteers. Its members are ordinary people from the local community, all with a passion for saving the environment. Together we are strong.

With a proud history dating back 30 years to the protection of the Nightcap Ranges and more recently being part of the protests at Bentley when the whole community resoundingly said NO to CSG, NEC continues to work towards protecting many aspects of the environment in many different ways.

There are many environmental causes that require support. Some are local, some national and some planetary. From coal, CSG, koalas, whales, uranium, forests, creeks, rivers and oceans, pesticides, air pollution, communication towers and weeds, the list goes on. NEC, through its members, addresses a vast range of issues.

There is opportunity for individuals to initiate projects themselves or contribute to projects that resonate with them. If you have a passion for a particular issue, become a member and harness the collective power of the group. NEC can assist with access to resources, advice to mount a campaign and help with publicity via our membership and mailing list.

Everybody contributes in their own way. Not everyone has to ‘lock on’. Others help by writing submissions, attending meetings and conferences, networking with other groups, staffing the shop, organising petitions,



The towering Millennial Fig

as well as lobbying government representatives.

The Stop Adani road trip is coming to the Northern Rivers in mid-August. Dates and itinerary are yet to be confirmed. Get your banners and signs ready to welcome them.

#EndCoal in Newcastle: From 12th - 16th September you are invited to join activists from around Australia to blockade coal to and from Newcastle. Organised by FLAC, Front Line Action against Coal, the event includes training in non-violent direct action. Find more information on their website: www.frontlineaction.org

Approximately 3000 submissions on the NSW Government’s Draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals (IFOA) were received and are now being considered. Thanks everyone for your contributions. We await the outcome later this year.

Meanwhile, the sad truth is we need to stop logging ALL native forests now. The current practice is not sustainable.

The revised practices are even less so. The reality of logging operations is that operators often damage trees left behind.

A forest is not just a few large trees dotted around but a complex ecosystem with ground covers, shrubs and other understory vegetation, plus the birds, insects and animals that contribute to the ongoing maintenance and survival of that ecosystem.

In August, on the weekends of 4th 11th and 18th, Dailan Pugh (NEFA), will lead forest tours starting at Leeville at 8am and travelling to Royal Camp, Cherry Tree State Forest, Cambridge Plateau and Richmond Range State Forest. See first-hand the impact of logging on koalas and dieback. Contact NEC on 6689-1441 to register your interest.

Protecting the environment is a challenge with new anti-protest laws discouraging front-line activism, but there are plenty of ways anyone can support the environment. NEC hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 5pm in the School Room in the Nimbin Community Centre. Everyone is welcome.

The Nimbin Environment Centre is many things to many people. Some love us, some don’t. We live in a world of diversity. Not everyone agrees all the time on every topic but that shouldn’t mean we can’t all get along. There are more similarities than there are differences.

Working together we can harness the power that is ‘The People’. Divided we are only doing ourselves and the environment a disservice.



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Roots Fest approaches

The third annual Nimbin Roots Festival will be held from 14th – 16th September. A fantastic grassroots festival celebrating the many sides of (country) roots music – including blues, folk, alt country, Australian and world.

There will be four indoor venues and three outdoor stages hosting over 60 acts from all over Australia – including Jeff Lang, Abbie Cardwell, The Lyrical, Den Hanrahan, Hubcap Stan & the Sidewalk Stompers, Paul Greene, Archer, Wild Marmalade, and many more.

There will be market stalls, workshops, a street parade, and fun to be had in the very chilled surrounds of Nimbin village.

Very affordable camping, and other accommodation, is also on offer. For full line-up, tickets, and more information go to: www.nrffest.com



Den Hanrahan at the 2nd Roots Fest



In your neighbourhood...
Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News
Celebrating 40 years of service to the community in 2018

MO Think Tank

The first official MO Think Tank will be convened on 30th August at 5.30pm-8pm at **Birth and Beyond**. This first meeting is for representatives from EXISTING MOs (rural land sharing communities) in the Nimbin area ONLY. This is NOT a meeting for people interested in setting up new MOs. The main goal of the MO Think tank is to investigate the sustainability of the MOs and the people living on them into the future. But also to consider questions such as: What were the goals of the MOs when they were established? Have these goals been achieved? What lessons have been learned? What can be shared between the MOs? Do the MOs still have a role to play in providing affordable housing in our community? What needs to happen to adapt for an ageing community?

It would be good if every MO can send along at least one rep so that all the MOs are included in the Think Tank. This will be an ongoing process and the direction that the MO Think Tank will take will be determined by this first meeting, so please come along. **RSVPs essential**. Please RSVP to Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au and give your name and which MO you are from.

Free art in the park

Happening **every Friday** outside NNIC in Allsopp Park (weather permitting – to check call NNIC on 6689-1692 on Friday mornings). Thanks to generous funding provided by Northcott under their Fundability grant program, we have purchased lots of great new

materials and equipment to make it easy for everyone to join in – including people with vision impairments or mobility or dexterity issues, or people in wheelchairs. Come along and get creative. (Note: this activity is aimed at people aged 15 years and over)

NNIC Memberships

A reminder that all memberships are due for renewal on 1st July 2018. At only \$5.50, NNIC memberships are a great way to support NNIC's work with the Nimbin community. Drop in to join or renew your membership.

Volunteer positions vacant

Front of House volunteers - with minimum Cert 2 in welfare/community development (or currently enrolled in) for our front desk reception role. Must be reliable and able to commit one regular day per week between 10am and 4pm (with breaks of course). A fantastic way to contribute to the Nimbin community as well as pick up skills and experience. Does this sound like you? Then drop into NNIC and see our fabulous Community Access Worker – Kath.

Sustainability Alley

Final shout out to possible speakers, workshop presenters, and stall holders. 2018 will be the 99th Nimbin Show and this year Sustainability Alley aims to feature the "Conversation Café" – a café space where the workshops and talks will be held. We are looking for people to run workshops or do talks or set up displays about anything to do with

Sustainability.

Please contact Guy at: guy@nnic.org.au or Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au to register your interest in participating in the 2018 Sustainability Alley.

Struggling with bills/fines?

We may be able to assist with electricity and telephone bills, and you may be eligible for a Work Development Order enabling you to pay off your fines via volunteer work. Phone us on 6689-1692 or just drop in to make an appointment with Vicki our fabulous community case co-ordinator.

Please support us

NNIC is a registered charity and donations to our general services and activities (excluding Sibley Street) are tax deductible. You can also make tax deductible bequests to NNIC. To donate and receive a tax deductible receipt, or for information about how to include your local charitable organisation in your will, please contact Nat at NNIC.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments, phone 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.
www.nnic.org.au
www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 14th August. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments phone 6620-7687.

Women's health nurse services

One Thursday a month. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6689-1400 for appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

Cannabis clinic

Every Monday. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

Nurse practitioner clinics

- Diabetes Clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 16th August.
- Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 14th August. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Community Registered Nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1288 – leave message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and Syringe program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see Community Registered Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 5th September. New members welcome.



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Visitor Info Centre building, artists at work, Elspeth and Julie Mural donation tins have helped make this happen

20th anniversary celebrations - Spring - a shared history of community contribution

Nimbin Community Centre
by Inez Price, Co-ordinator

As part of our 20th Anniversary Cultural Celebrations (8th and 9th September) we are having a sculpture exhibit in the Community Centre grounds. This fantastic event is being organised by our market co-ordinator Stephanie Seckold. Using natural materials and entitled "Sticks & Stones" we have invited our community artists to participate.

Tenants are also planning for the open day, and an opportunity to fundraise, as we will be promoting this event widely throughout the Northern Rivers. There will be a smoking ceremony, Nimbin Aged Care will have a tea party, Family Day Care is getting a bouncy castle for all our younger community members and visitors, the Aboriginal Culture Centre will be open with art works, dancing and talks, the pizza oven is being fired up, we are planning a picnic with egg and spoon races and sack races.

We will have some photographic displays of some important community projects and some Nimbin history in the centre buildings. Some of our local choirs are performing as well as some local musicians. We are having a special Nimbin-centric Flix Film show and more. We would welcome participation by everyone and if your group or organisation, or you as an individual, would like to input please let us know.

Mural

The mural above the Tourist Information Centre is currently being painted by artists Elspeth and Julie. It is a beautiful depiction of the Nimbin Rocks and the forest surrounding them. Be careful on the road when you have a look at it, and be sure to encourage the artists up there! It's satisfying to see the new lick of paint, over a peeling and faded but iconic mural by Burri Jerome many years ago. A big thank you to all those who donated into the tins in the shops, every dollar counts and is very much appreciated.

Dance Studio floor upgrade

We are delighted to announce that the floor of the dance studio in the Nimbin Community Centre has been sanded and repainted – no more gaps, and no more splinters. The floor looks amazing and is even better to dance on. Half of the floor is jarrah and the other half is teak and it has polished up beautifully. Check it out and hire the space for only \$11 an hour. Happy dancers means our centre is actively providing what the community wants.

Dogs

We will be putting up signs to remind people to leave their doggy friends at home when visiting the Nimbin Community Centre. Unfortunately, irresponsible dog owners make it impossible for us to allow dogs to visit and this usually becomes very obvious during our monthly Sunday markets. Our gardener also doesn't much like brushcutting doggy poo. So please tie them up somewhere else if you can't leave them at home for everyone's sake.

Volunteers

We welcome volunteers with skills who can help keep the community centre running smoothly. We have a new volunteer who is keeping the grounds in good condition and free of rubbish. We need volunteers to transform the quadrangle into a beautiful resting area and to help build garden beds, seating, and plant a range of trees and shrubs. By next winter it will be a great gathering place for catching the early morning sun!

RIP Garry Priddle

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Garry the plumber. He was a regular DJ with Nim-FM and we will miss his jolly demeanour and his friendship most keenly. Rest in Peace Garry.

*Nimbin Community Centre is open 8.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday, (02) 6689-0000, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.
ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au
www.nimbincommunity.org.au*



The Sunday Nimbin 'Grassroots' Market in the Community Centre falls on 26th August this month.

We'll have our new star dome from the July workshop as the busker's rotunda open to performers for the morning set and music on the main stage

from 12pm, brought to you by the sultry Sarah Stando and Cal.

Next to the weavers' space between the fig trees, we'll be introducing regular children's craft activities from 10am. Our August workshop at 11am will be making Butterfly lanterns from

recycled milk containers.

The Pop-Up Gallery space for local artists is now in the undercover walkway next to the Gypsy Flea Market for pre-loved goods on the grass.

As always, delicious food and hand-crafted treasures make the Nimbin market a Sunday treat!



New voices at The Channon

by Ray (Rayzor) Flanagan



The July edition of The Channon Open Mic was held on a picture-perfect Sunday 22nd at the Butter Factory Tavern. There was a good mix of new and regular performers.

A new combo with Joy, Teresa and Keelin, calling themselves The Bunya Nuts, opened the proceedings followed by Open Mic stalwart, Toby with a few of his favourites.

First-timer, Dan, (pictured, left) travelled from Casino to entertain us with some fine original songs then he was followed by the perennial Glen who was joined by various others on guitar, drums and vocals.

It's fair to say a pleasant afternoon was had by all. You too can be part of the fun next time – from 2pm on Sunday 26th August – see you there.