

**RAINFOREST PANEL BEATING**  
**SMASH REPAIRS**  
**RUST WORK**  
**RESTORATIONS**  
**WELDING**  
**SPRAY PAINTING**  
**INSURANCE WORK**  
**6689 1192**  
**0418 258 834**  
**Opening Hours**  
**Mon-Fri**  
**8:00am - 4:30 pm**  
**Lic No. 37359**  
**RPB**

**John Adams\***  
**& ASSOCIATES**  
*\*a.k.a. Sindhu*  
**Lawyers**  
**www.johnadams.com.au**

**KAMBO CEREMONY**  
**Sacred Frog Circle**  
**FOCUS**  
**DETOX**  
**RESET**  
**Dharma Centre, Lillifield**  
**FOR INFO AND APPOINTMENTS:**  
**KAMBOCEREMONY@GMX.COM**

**NIMBIN**  
**AQUARIUS**  
**foundation inc**

**Sunsparks Electrics**  
**Solar Power Professionals**  
**Design, sale and installation**  
**of solar power systems**  
**16 years specialisation in renewables,**  
**grid connect or stand alone power systems**  
**Shannon Lacy**  
**Phone 6679 7167 or Mobile 0418 228 117**  
**sunsparksselectrics@gmail.com**  
**www.sunsparks.com.au**  
**Lic No. 2759616**

**NIMBIN BUILDING**  
**MATERIALS**  
**OPEN Mon-Fri 8am-4pm**  
**Saturday 8am-12 noon.**  
**50 Gungas Road Nimbin NSW 2480**  
**Ph: 6689-1206**  
**A/H Ralph Mob: 0429-048-808**  
**For a broad range of new and new seconds**  
**at very competitive prices**  
**Hardwood**  
**Decking & Flooring**  
**Pine Framing**  
**Roofing & Guttering**  
**Doors & Windows**  
**Cement Sheeting**  
**Architrave**  
**Plywood**  
**LVL's/Smart Beams**  
**Hardware**  
**Poly Pipe & Fittings**  
**Structural Steel**  
**Sand & Gravel**  
**Cement**  
**Plumbing**  
**Stock Feed**  
**Granite & Marble**  
**Gardening & Plants**  
**Elgas Supplier**  
**Geohex Supplier**  
**Delivery Available**  
**sales@nimbinbuildingmaterials.com.au**  
**www.nimbinbuildingmaterials.com.au**

# Nimbin fireys praise community support

by Bob Dooley

This year was not the first time the Nimbin valley has been threatened by bushfires, and filling up with smoke.

Previous fires in 2000, 1983 and 1978 also threatened properties and intentional communities in the area, but the level of civilian support on the fire grounds this year was exemplary.

Because the fire started in Nimbin Brigade's area, Nimbin Captain Marcus Mantscheff became the Fire Controller, working with Group Captain Robby Wallace, with Senior Deputy Captains Charlie Cohen (Nimbin) and Bill Cox (Blue Knob) acting as the West Division Commanders for the day and night shifts.

Charlie Cohen said, "This was a huge community effort. I'm very proud of the community – a lot of people showed a lot of bravery."

Property-owners, including people from the Tumble, Siddah Farm and Bodhi Farm communities who had chosen to stay during the emergency to defend their properties, worked tirelessly alongside the RFS crews.

"They turned up properly-

dressed, with tools, and keen to help," said Charlie Cohen. "There was very little chaos."

Under the direction of crew leaders, the Defenders were tasked with helping to establish fire breaks and patrol control lines, and as their skills developed, were paired up with RFS members in active firefighting roles.

Charlie Cohen said that at the height of the blaze, he had a crew of 240 fireys and defenders on his day shift.

Bill Cox said, "Their local knowledge was especially useful in helping us protect properties."

Due in no small part to the involvement of the community Defenders, no inhabited houses were lost in the widespread Mt Nardi fire, and there have been no injuries.

Charlie Cohen said, "There was no one person who stood out, it was a group effort."

Defenders are continuing to patrol the firegrounds in rostered shifts to monitor the black-out of burnt areas and extinguish any spot fires flaring up in the strong winds.

Nimbin Brigade is continuing to post updates on the fires on the Nimbin Hook-ups Facebook page.



Defenders on patrol with brigade members  
 Photo: Felix Schafer-Gardiner



Marcus Mantscheff addresses the community meeting  
 at Nimbin Bowlo. Photo: Chibo Mertineit

## Help build a butterfly corridor



Photo courtesy flickr.com

The Richmond Birdwing butterfly is one of the largest and most beautiful butterflies in northern NSW and south-east QLD, but the butterfly is vulnerable and there are two reasons for this, the first being loss of habitat and the other is the exotic vine, the Dutchman's Pipe.

The Dutchman's Pipe smells the same as the native vine which attracts the butterfly, and when the eggs are laid, the caterpillars emerge, eat the leaves and die. So if you see a Dutchman's Pipe vine in your garden, pull it out.

If we as a community can have around 50 home-owners plant two Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vines, within 500 metres of each other, within five to seven years we hope to see many butterflies in and around the Nimbin area.

So if you are interested, two vines will cost \$10 and will be ready to purchase in February. Call Wayne Cuthbertson on 6689-0069 to order your vines.

They will be available for pick-up from the Nimbin Environment Centre.

# Level 2 water restrictions imposed

Level 2 water restrictions have been put into place for Nimbin, effective immediately.

Nimbin's water supply is sourced from Mulgum Creek and is operated by Lismore City Council.

Council's Director of Infrastructure Services, Peter Jeuken said the restrictions were necessary as the water level in Mulgum Creek continued to fall.

He said by introducing Level 2 now, the Council is hoping to delay implementing Level 3 or 4 restrictions.

"We will continue to monitor water consumption to ensure proper management of the water supply in Nimbin," he said.

Council's website has more: [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/cp\\_themes/news/page.asp?p=DOC-CSH-28-13-85](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/news/page.asp?p=DOC-CSH-28-13-85)

## Summary of the restrictions

Under Level 2 water restrictions, residents:

- Can only use micro-sprays and drippers/sub-surface irrigation for a maximum of 15 minutes;
- Hand-held hoses with an on-off nozzle can only be used for half an hour every second day, between the hours of 4pm and 9am on odd or even days matching your house number;
- Other irrigation, such as sprinklers, and unattended hoses are banned;
- Filling of new swimming pools is permitted, but topping up is allowed only between 4pm and 9am using a hand-held hose with one-off nozzle;
- Top up of fountains and water features is not permitted except to maintain fish life;
- Washing of driveways, paved areas,

walls, windows, roofs and paths permitted prior to sale or lease of property only with council approval. Not permitted for any other reason, except for health and safety. Must use high-pressure/low-flow rate cleaner;

- Washing of cars permitted with buckets or hand-held hose for ten minutes only between 4pm and 9am on odd and even days matching your house number.

The same restrictions apply to commercial premises, with the exceptions that:

- Sprinklers can be used for up to 30 minutes per day for sports fields between 5am and 7am; and
- Market gardens, orchids, nurseries can use sprinklers or sprays for one hour a day between 5am and 7am, or 5pm and 7pm.



# CWA feeds our fireys and defenders

by Linnet Pike

Back in the March *GoodTimes*, I wrote a reflective piece on the establishment of CWA Nimbin Branch in February, after a hiatus of 25 years. I looked back on the fine work done by CWA Nimbin since its original formation in 1928, and hoped for a good year of small projects for our new branch.

We did community market stalls, Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show and sold raffle tickets, the usual CWA gig. Our “big” projects were going to be “period packs/dignity packs” (known as “Goddess gifts” in our branch) for the Neighbourhood Centre and forming a relationship with local schools for scholarships, mentoring and general youth engagement.

Then our local fire emergency kicked off, with the Nightcap National Park, Mount Nardi TV tower, Tuntable and Terania Valleys at risk; Huonbrook and Wilson’s Creek were burning and further afield... fires everywhere. In the big picture, we were a “small” emergency with horrific losses elsewhere, both of infrastructure and, sadly, lives.

However, this was “our” emergency and we are a community – interconnected, embedded in a deep history of love, friendships, and familial relationships. Melody Atkinson, from Tuntable community, kicked this whole emergency food gig off by reaching out to our local Rural Fire Brigade, offering to provide some home-made lunches to the RFB fire crew, stationed at the far Northern end of Wallace Road, in difficult terrain.

This was on Saturday 9th November when Mount Nardi and Tuntable residents were being told to evacuate. The local RFB, CWA executive and Melody talked that night, and the next day CWA Nimbin Branch called a public meeting in Nimbin Town Hall to work out the logistics of how to support our local fireys, and 40-50 people came to that meeting, many in the throes of evacuation.

Feeling powerless over outside circumstances but having control over their own individual actions and responses – all wanted to provide extra food to fireys who were fighting to save our homes, wanting to offer extra comfort food, our own home-cooked food of love, to augment what they were already receiving out in the field.

This then became an extraordinary operation, including many individuals and organisations. The CWA co-ordinated from the Town Hall: liaison with fireys, communication with the village, cooking, food procurement and delivery, food storage, the front desk (initially rostering but this evolved and expanded) and hall maintenance and set-up.

Darren Butcher at the Nimbin Bakery had already been supplying brekkies to our local brigade, but from Monday 11th November, we were a team and our local brigades had



Photos: Sue Stock



Anthony Albanese, Janelle Saffin and Justine Elliott watch the approaching fires from the hall verandah with Nimbin CWA executive members. Photo: Peter Ellem

breakfast, lunch and dinner supplied by the community. This was later expanded to feeding The Defenders who had stepped up to work with our local RFBs and National Parks crews.

The Defenders, from Tuntable Co-op, Siddha Farm, Bodhi Farm and further afield in Terania, all worked tirelessly together to save our heartland. Our local Rural Fire Brigades and their leaders went beyond the beyond in all areas, and oversaw so many vital details.

Overall, the project Food for Fireys (and the Defenders) involved about 220 people providing support. The biggest order sent out was for 257 lunches on Saturday 16th November.

There are so many very humble individuals and mighty community-based organisations to thank that it’s impossible to recount! But big sister (aka the CWA) mostly knows who you are and we feel infinite gratitude and love. Nimbin Emporium gave us total support and help.

Diana Roberts oversaw co-ordinating and updating communications from far and wide to keep us all updated. The Neighbourhood Centre re-directed food and other donated items both to the local Food Bank and to those who had been evacuated down to the A&I Showgrounds, as well as numerous other details.

Jodee Tichborne and her crew at Pot of Gold supplied meals and support, and Unique Thai Restaurant in Lismore sent out dinner one night. Anthony Albanese and Janelle Saffin organised

much needed fridges and freezers on their visit.

Sue and Matt Cook and family were there from the start helping out, as were other extraordinary locals with experience with cooking for large numbers. The Casino-based Rural Fire Service gave us much-needed assistance and were supportive from the start with funds.

And the wonderful A&I Society offered us both storage space and their canteen for use to provide the last three days of lunches to the fireys and defenders. We “stood down” from that on Thursday 28th November as “only” six defenders were patrolling above the falls from Tuntable Co-op the next day – among the many other defending tasks they were handling.

CWA Nimbin Branch was overwhelmed with the community love, practical and emotional support and extraordinary commitment from all individuals and organisations in our village. We feel infinite gratitude and deep love for our community.

We hope to get our “Goddess gifts” (period packs) to the Neighbourhood Centre early in December, be selling raffle tickets at the Wednesday Farmers Market and have a Nimbin market stall later this month.

See you at our next monthly meeting on the third Monday in December at 5.30pm on the back verandah of the Hall. All women always welcome.

And once again... thanks to Nimbin RFB and their brothers and sisters from neighbouring brigades.



**NIMBIN CANDLES**

Open 7 days  
8am - 5pm weekdays  
11am - 4pm weekends

Ph: 6689-1010 fax: 6689-1210 email: [nimcand@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nimcand@bigpond.net.au)

**Nimbin Village Laundry**



Brighten Your Day

Contact Maria Batistatou 0431 576 255  
[nimbinvillagelaundry@yahoo.com](mailto:nimbinvillagelaundry@yahoo.com) 45 Cullen St, Nimbin

**Janelle Saffin MP**  
MEMBER FOR LISMORE



55 Carrington Street (PO BOX 52)  
Lismore NSW 2480  
02 6621 3624  
[lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.janellesaffin.com.au](http://www.janellesaffin.com.au)  
f janellesaffin

 Country Labor for country communities

**I PAINT HOUSES**

NIMBIN & SURROUNDS



**RING BEN'S PAINTING:**  
**0409 352 102**

**POT A' GOLD CAFE**



**OPEN 7 DAYS**  
8AM - 7.30PM

**6689-1199**  
**1/45 CULLEN STREET, NIMBIN**

**CROFTON'S**  
Retreat  
**MOTEL**



02 6689 0030  
0427 610 549

360 Crofton Road NIMBIN

**WHITNEY BROTHERS EXCAVATIONS**

*"We do the dirty work"*

0403-721-876  
[whitneybrothers@outlook.com](mailto:whitneybrothers@outlook.com)



- Rural roads & driveways
- Wastewater systems
- House & shed cuts
- Underground services
- Horse arenas
- Turf prep
- Trenching and drainage
- All-terrain slashing
- Stump grinding
- Excavators 1.7t – 30t
- Posi tracks (bobcats)
- small grader
- Rollers
- Water truck
- Tipplers
- Float



**Johnny Mc Towing**  
Lic No. 10004

Any Old Cars • Any Old Metals  
Caravans • Batteries

Ph: 66897 322 Mob: 042 99 44 571

**SPECIALISING IN UNWANTED CARS**

**BARCOO PLUMBING**  
PLUMBING • DRAINAGE • GASFITTING

24/7 SERVICES  
LIC NO. 320695C

IAN HARDIE  
**0427 445 555**

GENERAL PLUMBING & MAINTENANCE • BLOCKED DRAINS  
BATHROOM & KITCHEN RENOVATIONS • RAINWATER TANKS & PUMPS  
ROOFING & GUTTERING • GAS INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS  
ONSITE SEWERAGE SYSTEM DESIGN • HOT WATER SERVICES

barcooplumbing@bigpond.com | barcooplumbingservices.com | f @

**POOH SOLUTIONS**  
Waste Water Services

Council and pre-purchase septic reports  
Thunderloo, Clivus Multrum  
and Nature Loo compost toilets  
Best practice septic installation service  
Maintenance and repairs  
0427 897 496 www.poohsolutions.com

**ADVERTISE HERE**  
and be seen in **16,000 copies monthly** of

**THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES**

This size ad **FULL COLOUR**  
from only **\$60 per month**  
Phone 6689 1148 nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

**NIMBIN NEWSAGENCY**  
FOR ALL YOUR EVERYDAY NEEDS

Toys  
EFTPOS  
Art Supplies  
Local Postcards  
Everyday  
Groceries  
Office and  
School needs  
Newspapers  
and Magazines  
Prepaid Phone  
and Internet credit

GENERAL STORE

**NIMBIN LAW**  
50c CULLEN ST NIMBIN  
PHONE: 02 6689 1003  
EMAIL: NIMLAW@SPAINS.COM.AU  
WWW.NIMBINLAW.COM.AU

CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY LAW  
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
TRUSTS |  
MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY LAW  
FAMILY LAW (PROPERTY)  
WILLS & ESTATES  
COMMERCIAL & CORPORATE LAW  
LITIGATION  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
JURISPRUDENTIAL THESES

**Did you know?**  
All our links are clickable in the web edition.  
Visit [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com) and click away!

# Once in a lifetime: Saskia Kouwenberg

by Marie T. Cameron

On 28th November 2019, Saskia Kouwenberg was a VIP guest of The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. Previously known as East Timor, this little country had somehow made its way from Portuguese colonial rule, through a 24-year brutal occupation by Indonesia to finally become a republic under it's own name in 2002. The Order of Timor-Leste is the highest civilian order of the land and is awarded to those recognised for their significant contributions to their national peace and stability.

In a ceremony filled with 100 Timorese veterans, Saskia once again stood with the people she loved. In his award speech, Timor-Leste President Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo gave special mention to Saskia: "I awarded the Medal of the Order of Timor-Leste to journalist and human rights activist Saskia Kouwenberg. "This award is a sign of recognition for the courage she demonstrated by smuggling out footage of the Santa Cruz massacre."

When General Taur Matan Ruak, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, placed the decoration on her, he linked her name forever to the history of Timor-Leste and with its people. For 24 years, Indonesia ruled Timor-Leste with impunity and declared it to be its 27th province. The country and people were closed to the world. The brutal military rule had decimated the people and land. Very few foreign visitors made it in.

In October 1991 a rare visit was to take place. A Portuguese parliamentary delegation planned to visit the country. The people organised to make that visit count. The delegation cancelled.

However that visit caused enough disruption to allow a handful of foreigners to enter the closed country. British journalist Max Stahl was one and human rights activist Saskia Kouwenberg was another.

On 12th November 1991, a thousand people attended a Catholic mass in memory of Sebastiao Gomes. The military had ended his life.

With prayers as their only defence the people formed a rally and used his grave as a point of direction. When the rally overflowed the cemetery the Indonesian military opened fire and slaughtered the people.

Max Stahl was amongst the rally. His camera was the only film recording and it was Max who caught the images of defenseless people being slaughtered by a well-armed military. Hidden amongst the headstones he kept his camera rolling.

Max knew the military would come for him so he buried two tapes in the soft soil of a grave. After nine hours of interrogation he returned to dig up the tapes.

What good were the tapes unless the world could see them: that was when



Timor-Leste Prime Minister General Taur Matan Ruak giving Saskia Kouwenberg her award and a kiss on the forehead.  
Photo: Helen Hill  
Below: A still from Max Stahl's footage



Saskia Kouwenberg stepped forward. She offered to smuggle out one of the tapes.

First she had to board a plane in Dili. Saskia recalled, "I ran for the plane and said that I had to leave. The military tried to get me away from the stairs. I was screaming!

After a lot of screaming and discussion they let me in. It was a very tense situation".

She flew into Kupang, West Timor and then onto Bali. In transit Saskia sewed the tape between two pairs of underwear and put them on.

When she disembarked her flight in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, the authorities detained her in a private diplomatic room.

Saskia recalled, "They insisted that I handed over everything I had with me. They told me that I could not get out with the film. I was thinking and then I gave them the package. They thought it was the tape, but it was only a copy of the book of Exodus."

After being keep under close surveillance, Saskia was escorted to the door of her next flight.

Saskia spent four days travelling from Dili to the Netherlands: she knew the importance of getting that tape to the media.

On her arrival, "I had to give the film to its owners who had hired Max Stahl. I wanted the film to be broadcast on the same night."

Saskia said, "The owner insisted that the images were to be used in a documentary. But I refused to hand



over the tape. First, I asked the Dutch Television to make a copy and those were the images transmitted on the evening of Saturday 16th, five days after the massacre.

Until Santa Cruz, there was so much denial in the international community about what was happening.

These images made a big difference especially in Portugal, because the people in the chapel and the cemetery were praying in Portuguese, and in a few days all the houses in Portugal were lighting candles for Timor, promising to not abandon Timor again."

The Max Stahl film can be viewed on YouTube: Shocking footage of the Santa Cruz Cemetery Massacre the original camera tapes.

Max would later return to go in search of the people and to document what had happened them. See YouTube: *Santa Cruz Investigation 20/07/94 – East Timor*

For Saskia Kouwenberg to receive the Order of Timor-Leste was a powerful moment.

"I felt humbled by having been put in a situation where I could do something. I was there at the right moment, right time, and it had huge consequences. I feel immensely grateful and totally honoured."

## Lifeline gives new life to pre-loved toys this Christmas

Until 8th December, Lifeline is hosting Re-Love Toy Week in their Lismore, Casino and Ballina shops as part of their 'Re-Love, Re-Wrap, Re-Give this Christmas' initiative.

Lifeline is aiming to continue the conversation around sustainable shopping and encourage people to give pre-loved gifts from the great range of quality toys that are available in the Lifeline shops.

As awareness grows around the issue of excess landfill in our society, considering pre-loved shopping as a viable and responsible option is becoming a common trend.

Toys are the most commonly gifted item at Christmas, and hence the focus of selected shops this week.

Lifeline Retail Shop Manager Ross McInnes said,

"Toys give so much joy as gifts and we want people to be able continue giving at Christmas, and at the same time help reduce the impact that traditional shopping can have long-term on our environment."

Lifeline shops are also the perfect place to find a unique gift, books, homewares, fashion and accessories with still so much love to give.

Visit a Lifeline Shop this Christmas and feel good about your shopping knowing that your purchase will also be giving back at a critical time of year by supporting Lifeline's Crisis Support Service.

If you need support this holiday season, Lifeline's Crisis Support services, on 13-11-14, are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.





# NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

This past month has been a tough time for lovers of the natural world. Wildfires have ripped through vast tracts of native forest killing wildlife in its path.

As we stop our business-as-usual human activities to demand limiting carbon emissions to reduce the effects of climate change in towns and cities around the globe on 29th November, we are mindful that weather has already become more extreme and fear that these fires may become the new normal. We can't expect to recover from such destructive events without adequate rainfall.

Data indicates that forests are an effective way of balancing carbon and stabilising the climate, but we are witnessing a rapid depletion of the arboreal resource. When we need more trees, we now have less!

Some of our forest protectors have spent decades trying to save forests from logging and now face the heartbreak of seeing them burn. Logging companies stand by like vultures ready to swoop in to scoop up the remains of our forests biomass, even though some trees will survive and sprout new leaves from under their bark (epicormic) as they have adapted to fire in the Australian landscape.

But it's not only about people. The biodiversity has taken a big hit, especially rare plants and animals like koalas, which don't have the ability to flee fast-moving fires. Some koalas and other animals have survived the fires and would be able to find forage in small unburnt places if they can find water.

It seems likely that loggers will complete the devastation unless we can entice governments to act. Order NSW Forestry to distribute feed and water. It's time to declare a moratorium on logging native forests and do some serious plantation planning to provide for human wants and needs, so that some of nature's bounty might survive into a sustainable future. It would be a sad environment without our companion species.

Nan Nicholson of Terania Creek forest fame said, "Now is our time to call for immediate cessation of all logging of koala habitat at least, if not all native forest."

Northeast Forest Alliance (NEFA) president Dailan Pugh has been investigating the effects of wildfires and said, "While most of the understorey has been consumed, it is not known how extensive canopy consumption of eucalypts was and the extent of tree deaths." I hate to think that any of the fires were deliberately lit.

Daniel Brindis, forests campaign



director for Greenpeace USA said this month, "We have lost half of our forests globally. Forests stabilise our climate and are one of the most crucial natural defences we have against catastrophic climate change – and with 10 years to avoid a tipping point, we must protect existing forests and restore climate-critical natural ecosystems."

First, we must continue our work on the ground in Brazil, Indonesia, and the world's great Northern Forests to document and expose the destruction. Second, we need to hold the corporations profiting responsible – from palm oil to pulp and paper companies to fast food giants who purchase rainforest beef. We also need politicians to put in place true protections for priceless forest ecosystems."

To end on a positive note, the November meeting of NEC joined the chorus of praise for all the firefighters who have struggled so bravely to help save people's property and the homes of our wild creatures. Due to their efforts, the Mt. Nardi fire has not ravaged the Nimbin area as it easily could have during this time of intense drought.

Well done all involved. I salute you.

## Breaking news

Jim Morrison of North-East Forest Alliance (NEFA) emailed to say that an urgency motion passed at the Nature Conservation Council annual conference in Sydney during November.

The current, ongoing bushfire disasters in Northern NSW ... have been severely impacted, yet some two weeks since the fires tore through these forest areas there has been no effort by the NSW or Federal Governments to assess the impact or assist in the recovery of displaced and starving animals.

Both State and Federal Governments have responsibilities under Threatened Species legislation. Volunteer organisations are not allowed to enter fire areas until deemed safe. This can take

many weeks. Additionally, volunteers are under-resourced for the scale and ongoing costs of the tasks required.

The Federal Minister for Natural Disaster and Emergency Management David Littleproud recently announced the Emergency Response Fund will build to \$6.6 billion over the next ten years and would be utilised in rebuilding communities after catastrophic disasters. Some of this funding should be directed to recovery of biological communities.

NCC will write urging State and Commonwealth Governments work jointly to:

Urgently form an expert panel to develop a strategy and protocols for prompt action to rescue and care for native wildlife following catastrophic disaster, with particular emphasis on threatened species as a priority. The expert panel representation should include wildlife carers, conservation ecologists, veterinarian experts, RFS and SES representatives.

One outcome of the panel's deliberations must be the formation of a well-resourced and experienced rapid response team to work with local care groups (where possible), to promptly provide rescue, care and ongoing welfare to animals as required until recovery of habitats has occurred.

## From The Guardian

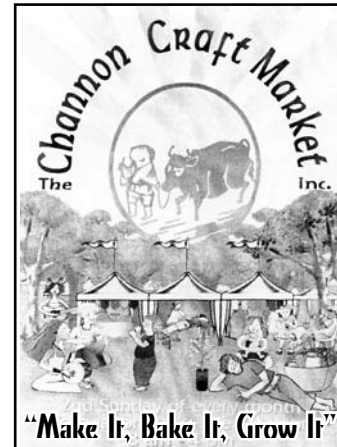
22/11/19: ... the fires in the east of the state this year have been fuelled by a lack of rain. The extent of the fires is in significant part driven by ... the amount of dry fuel, linked to the record-breaking drought.

Rainfall between January and August 2019 was the lowest on record in some areas, including the Northern Tablelands of NSW and Queensland's Southern Downs. Parts of both states experienced record low soil moisture.

As temperatures and wind speeds increased but humidity remained low, conditions were primed for small fires to become major conflagrations.



Handcrafted, Retro, Recycled, Fair trade, Locally made, Pop-up Art Gallery, Workshops, Music, Fashion, Food, & Family Fun! 8am- 3pm [nimbinmarkets@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinmarkets@gmail.com)



**Next Market**  
**8th December**

9am – 3pm

**Main stage:**

**Port Wine Ambassadors**

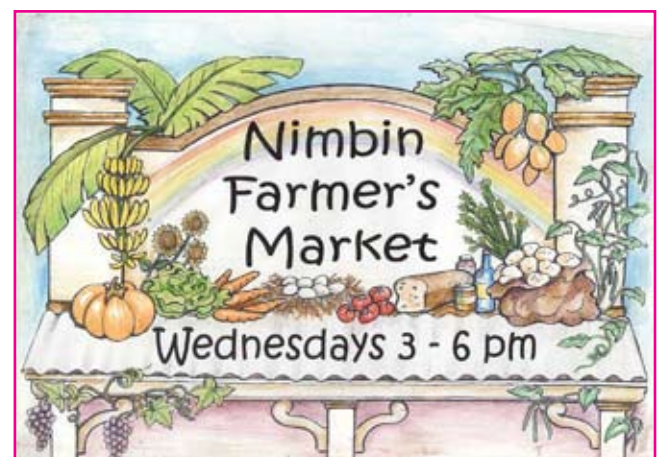
**Busker stage:**

**Mish & Jewel**

**Charity of the day:**

**The Channon/Dunoon Pony Club**

**Enquiries: 6688-6433**





**NIMBIN ORGANIC**

**Food Co-op**

Fresh Certified Organic & Local Spray Free Produce

Organic Groceries, Treats & Speciality Foods

Member & Volunteer Discounts  
Great Value in Organics

## In the spirit of Christmas

Dennis Stevenson has been called 'Australia's Giveaway Man'.

His giveaway spirit took off in 2008 when he opened his leased house in Hamilton, Brisbane and gave everything away.

"That was so much fun, in 2009 I borrowed an empty Gold Coast shop in the week before Xmas, called it Spiritofchristmas and with the community, we gave thousands of free presents away," Dennis said.

Dennis will open a free Christmas shop at Ocean Shores Shopping Centre,

from 16th to 24th December.

"I still need many hundreds of new items to give away. The presents need to be either new or look brand new. It's a gift shop, not an op shop."

"Many families have dozens of unused things around the house that they might like to give to help make sure no-one goes without this Christmas," he said.

"Giving isn't just the fastest way to change ourselves and our world. It's the only way."

For a fun, lively chat, phone Dennis on 0490-444-226, or email: [spiritofchristmas@mail.com](mailto:spiritofchristmas@mail.com) Visit his website at: [www.spiritofchristmas1.com](http://www.spiritofchristmas1.com)

## 5.5T EXCAVATOR

Buckets and Ripper  
Auger Drive and Augers  
Flail Mulcher/Mower

## SERVICES

General Earthworks, Laser Level  
Pads, Trenching, Pier and Postholes,  
Vegetation Mulching/Removal



Location Stony Chute  
Servicing the Northern Rivers

## 5T BOBCAT

4in1 Bucket  
Spreader Bar  
Pallet Forks  
Trencher  
Auger Drive and Augers  
Powerake  
SharpGrade Leveller Laser Blade

M 0400 563 972  
E [flyingpigearthworks@gmail.com](mailto:flyingpigearthworks@gmail.com)



• Taking the Grunt out of your Groundwork •



**NIMBIN BOWLO  
KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Sunday, 15th December 2019 at 12 noon  
Santa will arrive at 1pm

- Sausage sizzle, poppers and ice blocks
- Jumping castle
- Treats

Nimbin Bowling Club  
25 Sibley Street, Nimbin

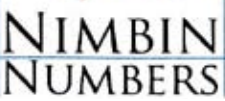



**Jayne E. Alleman**  
Adv.Dip.Acc., Dip.Acc., Tax Agent 98777003

**12 years experience**

BAS electronically lodged with MYOB/Quickbooks (including cloud-based versions)

**Phone 0457-497-011**  
Email: jayne@nimbintax.com.au

**Nimbin Bakery**  
**52 Cullen Street**

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls including white
- A range of Spelt breads baked daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

**OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY at 6am**  
**Phone 6689 1769**

**Mr BOBCAT**  
6689 0044  
0427 946 823

• 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • 4 tonne tipper

**• NOW WITH EXCAVATOR •**

**Terry Bresington**  
**PLASTERIN' NIMBIN'**  
0427 891626

**Gyprock walls and ceilings  
New work or renovations**

Lic. No. 100169C

**NIMBIN DELICIOUS**  
Jams & Chutneys

# In your neighbourhood...

## Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

The NNIC team wishes everyone a safe festive season with rain, and lots of it.

### Fire emergency

Not on social media? NNIC is continuing to post regular fire updates onto our website homepage for people who are not on facebook: [www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

### Shout out for funny gals!!!

Looking for comedians for the 2020 Nimbin Women's Dinner to be held on 5th March. This is a paid gig. Contact: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) if you are interested.

### The Big FREE Community Xmas Lunch

Friday 20th December at Nimbin Town Hall. From 12 midday onwards. All welcome to come along and enjoy some festive fare. Santa will make an appearance from 1pm providing you've all been (mostly) good. Proudly brought to you by NNIC's Soup Kitchen Team

**Call for donations:** NNIC requests donations of new gifts suitable for children / jarjums of any age.

Please drop any donations off at NNIC between 10am and 4pm by Wednesday 11th December.

### Xmas closure dates

- NNIC will be closed for two weeks from Saturday 21st December, and re-open on Monday 6th January, to give our staff and volunteers a well-earned break.
- The Centrelink Agency will be closed from Tuesday 23rd December and re-open on Thursday 2nd January. There will be no other NNIC services available until 6th January. We apologise for any inconvenience during our closure period. You can do

your Centrelink business on-line as usual while we are closed.

- 7 Sibley Street will also be taking a break over the Xmas period and reopening in the New Year. Keep an eye on our websites and facebook page for updates.

*NOTE: these details are subject to the ongoing local fire situation. We may re-open if required to support local operations.*

### Sustainable Christmas gifts

Why not pick up some SuperDog Treats from NNIC or the market – made with love by Rhys for your dog-lovin' friends? Or check out the handy items at 7 Sibley Street – eg hemp feed for horses, EM1 for compost loos and heaps, Mandie Hale's fabulous book of local hand-built houses, *Unique* and heaps more. Buy local and support our local economy.

### Welcome to Nimbin Kit

Have you moved into Nimbin in the last six months or so? Or do you know someone who has? Maybe you have a new neighbour? Then the Welcome to Nimbin Kit is for you! This kit is designed to start conversations between new neighbours and get newcomers started on everything they need to know to become part of the wondrous fabric of Nimbin. The kits are available at NNIC for distribution to new community members, and also at Nimbin Hills Real Estate agency.

**NNIC Soup Kitchen  
BIG Community  
Xmas Lunch  
Town Hall  
Friday 20th  
December  
12.00 midday  
Santa Arrives 1.00 pm**

### Perinatal depression

Approximately one in five new and expectant birth parents and up to one in ten non-birth parents experience problematic symptoms of perinatal anxiety and/or depression.

Perinatal Depression and Anxiety (PNDA) doesn't just affect new mums, it can happen to all sorts of parents: dads, and non-birth parents, sex, sexuality and gender diverse parents, as well as foster carers, adoptive parents, and extended family.

To check if you are affected, take the test: <http://pnda.wayahead.org.au> where you can also find lots of useful info and resources.

### Support for grief and depression

Many of us are feeling it right now in the face of devastating fires which have torn through our National Parks and State Forests. These fires have done unspeakable damage to our biodiversity, as well as carnage for property owners and the sad loss of human life and devastation

to many of our sister communities such as Wyalibah.

It is difficult in the face of this catastrophe to know what to do or how to avoid utter despair. The first step is to acknowledge our feelings and share them with trusted friends or family members (or a community worker or psychologist).

Ultimately we have to keep on plugging on as a community and as people to find the motivation and strength to be a part of the solution. We are in this together and together we can find hope.

For support, drop in or telephone to make an appointment with a community worker at NNIC.

Other useful numbers: in a life threatening emergency call 000; 1800RESPECT (1800-737-732) provides 24/7 services for domestic and family violence support and advocacy; NSW Health Mental Health Line 1800-011-511 is a 24/7 service connecting to mental health care; and Lifeline 13-11-14 offers 24/7 crisis and suicide prevention support.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

*Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals. 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.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)*

## Nimbin Hospital information

### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 10th December. 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

Third Thursday of the month, next is 19th December. Confidential service, checks, advice, 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.

### Drug and alcohol counselling services available

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

### Nurse practitioner clinics

- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 19th December.
- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 10th December. 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 a message, will return call swiftly.

### Nimbin NSP

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

### Health advice line

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

### Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 9.30am. Next meeting: 1st January. New members are always welcome.





# Nimbin Community Centre elections

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

We live in interesting times; climate chaos seems to be demanding that we all step into this new paradigm. If the recent events are anything to go by, communities need to work together and we need action from our leaders now.

I believe our region is ideally placed to respond; we know how to work together and we are well informed around environmental issues and the politics of this.

### Recent fire emergency

The Nimbin Village and the wider community from the region demonstrated our capacity to respond in an emergency situation.

Our emergency response agencies (RFS, SES, Red Cross etc) did an amazing job in coordinating firefighting and evacuation efforts, that were matched by the community response both individually and collectively.

I saw so many examples from community service organisations, businesses, and from individuals who gave so generously to help out in this challenging time.

I firmly believe that this collective response helped and supported the emergency response teams involved to contain and control the emergency and as a result the loss to the environment, property and infrastructure was much less than it might have been.

The Nimbin Community Support organisations are now in the process of evaluating the response. This will feed back into our community emergency response plan to ensure that the next time we need to deal with this kind of situation we will be able to respond even better and utilise all the organisations and resources that support our



village community.

It has been proposed once the individual organisations have had the chance to evaluate the emergency response and feed that into the response plan we will have some open community meetings to get feedback from the wider community.

It's really important that all the knowledge gained is retained and documented and supports our emergency response plan.

As we move into summer the recent fire emergency is a timely reminder to us all to have a proper plan in place for fire emergency. The RFS has lots of material available to help you develop a plan.

### Aged Care outdoor seating

After a slight delay due to the recent emergency events, the table and bench seating has finally been delivered and installed. This area will become a great space for the clients from Nimbin Health and Welfare and the wider community to enjoy.

### NCC AGM

This was held at Birth and Beyond last month, with Ruth Rosenhek as a keynote speaker.

Unfortunately, due to the recent emergency we didn't get the numbers we hoped but Ruth spoke eloquently about environmental issues being faced in the new era of climate chaos.

Ruth spoke of her approaches to living with and coping with the many aspects of the climate emergency we all face, taking us beyond organisational and individual sustainability practices on to our personal journey and spiritual engagement.

She outlined the history, role and modus operandi of Extinction Rebellion and referred people to Extinction Rebellion Lismore's Facebook page.

The deep ecology approach for community can be summed up by the four Rs: resilience, removal, restoration and reconciliation. Attendees added reflection and regeneration. Ruth also outlined the history and activities of the Climate Strike movement.



The NCC committee elected for 2019-2020 is: President – David Hallett, Vice-president – Linnet Pike, Treasurer – Diana Roberts, Secretary – Michael Balderstone. Ordinary members: Mark Yumol, Louise Graves and Darren Maxwell.

### New Year's Eve community celebration and fundraiser

Members from the Nimbin Community Centre Committee and staff are coordinating a New Year's Eve Community Celebration Event, with Tuntale Falls Community at the Tuntale Community Hall.

This will be an opportunity for those involved in the recent bushfire emergency to come together and celebrate the great efforts made and also to act as a fundraiser for the local fire brigades.

We have already had offers of support and equipment from the wider community and we are sure this will be a great event.

We welcome advice, support and input from the wider community. The Centre belongs to us all and together we can manage and build the Centre to serve the whole community into the future.

Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street Nimbin, phone (02) 6689-0000, email: [nccci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:nccci@nimbincommunity.org.au) Office opening hours: 10am to 2pm, Monday to Thursday. [www.nimbincommunity.org.au](http://www.nimbincommunity.org.au)



by Diana Roberts, President

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who put their heart and energy into combatting the recent bushfire emergency. To the multitude of businesses that contributed their time and resources, thank you. The fires severely affected many businesses and your generosity of spirit and resources during times such as this is so important to strengthening and enriching the community response.

It's hard to think about normal Chamber business so immediately after the dramatic time we've just had, but it's my role to give an overview of our activities over the past year.

Our small committee is made up of a group of people committed to community and together we have achieved much to be proud of. We have worked in close collaboration with the Nimbin Community Centre and the Nimbin Advisory Group, partly because our committee and work roles overlap, which has encouraged a pooling of resources delivering better outcomes for both local business and the wider community.

We have continued the Chamber's mission to restore and enhance the murals in our village. We have donation tins around town which trickle in funds. We have also used funds collected from local business property

owners through Lismore Council's Special Business Rate Levy.

We have seen two important murals re-done this year and are financially supporting the restoration of two more murals and the creation of a new one above the soon-to-be-constructed Rainbow Cafe.

We were also engaged in the Light Up Nimbin Project which has seen a small part of the main street and associated murals beautifully lit up. We are hoping to extend this project over the next 12 months. In addition, the refurbishment of the Welcome to Nimbin sign at the northern entry to the village was also a Chamber outcome.

The Chamber has been actively engaged in supporting important local events such as the Nimbin Roots Festival and the Nimbin Poetry World Cup. We contributed to a Welcome to Nimbin kit for new residents, in partnership with the Nimbin Advisory Group and the Neighbourhood Centre, and are grateful for support received in printing from the Nimbin Bush Theatre. The Chamber has also initiated a Buy Local campaign which we hope local businesses and community members will continue to support.

On a longer-term, strategic level, we have made a lengthy submission to Lismore Council's economic development strategy (awaiting outcomes regarding this), lobbied for better pedestrian management around the village (especially Cecil Street), written support letters for community organisations applying for funding, protested withdrawal of the Rainbow Road village walking trail from Council's delivery plan, advocated for delivery of DA approval for the fire sites, queried the distribution of developer contributions collected from Nimbin, and much more.

In June, we met with Lismore

Council's General Manager, Shelley Oldham, and raised many concerns, but at that stage Shelley was focussed on addressing Council's massive budget deficit, so it was not the most satisfactory of meetings. A decision on whether to proceed or not with their proposed rate increase was voted on by Council in November with a 25% increase over four years recommended. However, following our meeting with Shelley, we now have a dedicated Nimbin liaison person in Council, which improves communication lines considerably.

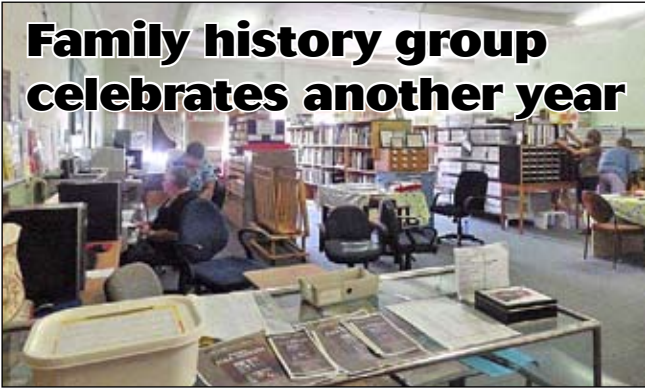
To keep you informed we make regular contributions to the *GoodTimes* in Chamber Chat. We have also launched a new website and are currently ironing out teething problems. It looks great, but we need it to function effectively as well. Our thanks to those who are working on this.

We also had a bit of a membership drive to encourage more local businesses to join us.

Our committee for the past year has been comprised of myself, Teresa Biscoe Vice-President (Co-ordination Co-op), Peter Hughes Treasurer (Nimbin Tax & Accounting), David Spain Secretary (Nimbin Law), together with Kylie Cain (The Green Bank) and Steph Seckold (Markets co-ordinator).

At our recent AGM, Caroline Todd (Hemp Embassy) and Sammi Allen (Nimbin Apothecary & Clinic) were elected as ordinary members to join the previous committee. As set out in the Chamber's constitution, I will continue as President for the next 12 months, a role I have enjoyed, thanks to my fellow committee members and others who have volunteered their time to Chamber initiatives.

Hopefully our next 12 months will be as productive.



The Casino and District Family History Group will be having its Christmas party in its rooms at the Casino School of Arts building on Wednesday 11th December, starting at 10.30am.

If you wish to join us, please call Robyn Nesbitt on 6662-2460 to RSVP and bring a plate on the day.

Our Christmas hampers raffle will be drawn at the party, so if you haven't bought your tickets yet you can buy them (\$1 each) in our rooms during our open hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-2pm and on Wednesday 12-4pm; or look out for our street stall in Walker Street from time to time.

Our rooms will close on Friday 13th December and re-open on Tuesday 28th January. If any visitors wish to access the rooms during this time, they are welcome to call Robyn Nesbitt to arrange an opening time.

We are keen to receive suggestions for guest speakers and activities for the group in 2020 and welcome your ideas.

Please phone 6662-8114 during our opening hours and share your thoughts.

### Holiday activities for Kyogle youth

Aged 12-25? Things are buzzing down at the Laneway Community Space in Kyogle (aka the Youthie) with a couple of great activities coming up.

Happy Ollie Days! is set to rock the ANZAC Skate Park this month on Friday the 13th, 3.30pm-7pm with live music, prizes, skate and art workshops and free BBQ. It's open to anyone aged 12-25 and is set to be a great afternoon out – it's a drugs and alcohol free event.

A Pool Party will be held at the Kyogle Pool on Tuesday 24th January, 2pm-4pm with a giant inflatable thingy and a free BBQ. You'll need to cover the cost of entry. Ages 12-17.

For details on any of the above, head over to our FB page: [kyogleyouthaction](https://www.facebook.com/kyogleyouthaction) or give Paul or Shell a ring on 0460-578-866.

