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CWA Nimbin makes its mark at Group AGM

As a member of the CWA Far North Coast Group, the Nimbin branch sent four delegates to our first Group Annual General Meeting in Casino, on 24 October.

CWA Nimbin's President Linnet Pike, Secretary Kitty van Vuuren, Cookery Officer Trizzy Howes and Publicity Officer Tash Fuller, joined about 70 other delegates and guests, including Councillor Robert Mustow, Mayor Richmond Valley Council; Karen Hogan, on behalf of Kevin Hogan MP; Rev Peter Overton, Uniting Church, Casino; Anne Kotz, State Treasurer, CWA of NSW; and Luisa Deacon, Membership Officer, CWA of NSW, to celebrate the year's achievements and participate in group business.

Several motions were passed including support for an increase to Newstart, and an Acknowledgement of Country at the commencement of Group meetings.

Nimbin Branch achievements were recognised with our Secretary winning the Eileen McDonald Perpetual Trophy for Best Branch Secretary's Report Award, and the NSW Volunteer (team) of the Year Award to the CWA Nimbin



Trizzy Howes, Linnet Pike, Kitty van Vuuren and Tash Fuller at the Far North Coast CWA Group AGM in Casino

Branch. Branch secretary, Kitty van Vuuren, was also elected to the FNC Group as Vice-President.

Although just nine months old, CWA Nimbin is not only making its mark in our local community but also beyond! The recognition achieved at regional level is certainly a boost to our confidence and will hopefully translate

into support for our community and region.

Next CWA Nimbin meeting is on 18th November at the Community School room, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin. The meeting commences at 5pm, door open at 4.30pm. New members welcome. Contact us on 0422-549-706, or via Facebook: CWA Nimbin Branch.

Centenary of Remembrance – The Ode

by Paul LeBars

The Ode of Remembrance may be the most well-known part of Remembrance Day ceremonies, held on 11th November each year.

It is the fourth stanza of the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon, who before the war had been an assistant keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum.

The stanza which forms the Ode of Remembrance reads: *They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;*

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.

The Ode of Remembrance was selected in 1919 to accompany the unveiling of the London Cenotaph and

soon passed into common use across the British Commonwealth. In Australia it is recited on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

Written just a few weeks after the war began, 'For the Fallen' anticipated much about the war on the Western Front – not least the vast numbers of dead and the symbolism that came to be associated with the red poppies which grew in profusion on the battlefields of northern France and Flanders.

For soldiers who fought on the Western Front, the Ode of Remembrance also called to mind two of the most important moments of the day in the trenches – dawn and dusk, the time of the 'stand-to'.

This was the favoured time of attack by armies on both



sides, and all eyes at sunrise and sunset were focused on the enemy line.

Though it was written more than a century ago, in its remembrance of the dead and its sorrowful evocation of the future they were denied, the Ode of Remembrance remains relevant to the present day.

See more at: anzacportal.dva.gov.au

Remembrance Day service times in Nimbin

9.45am: Seat of Remembrance Dedication Ceremony for FT Payne
10.45am: Remembrance Day Service at the war memorial – A Centenary of Remembrance
The Service will be followed by an Om Around the World for World Peace, around the Imagine circle.

Nominate for 2020 Australia Day Awards

Last year's Lismore winners

Lismore City Council is calling for nominations for the 2020 Australia Day Awards.

Lismore Mayor Isaac Smith said the awards acknowledge the dedication of our volunteers who have contributed to our community and people who have excelled in their field of endeavour.

"Australia Day Awards give us a chance to acknowledge and thank people in our community who make a difference to the lives of others or who are achieving exceptional things in their field," Councillor Smith said.

"If you know someone who is

passionate, talented or works tirelessly for our community, I encourage you to nominate them."

Cr Smith said often the only way for Council to hear about the extraordinary achievements of ordinary citizens is for colleagues, friends or family member to nominate them.

"Inevitably, people who deserve reward never seek it, so we need your help to find the wonderful local people who are quietly doing good things or achieving great things in our community," he said.

"It only takes 5-10 minutes to complete an online nomination, and it brings great

joy to watch hard-working people receive a little of the recognition they deserve."

Categories in 2020 are: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Aboriginal Citizen of the Year, Services in Community (Individual), Services in Community (Group), Sportsperson (Senior), Sportsperson (Junior), Sports (Team/Group/Organisation), Sustainable Environment, and Art/Cultural.

Nominations close on Friday, 29th November. Council now only accepts online nominations. Visit their *Australia Day Awards* page to apply.

Wildlife rescue strategies needed

by Jim Morrison, President, NCEC

There needs to be an urgent review of response and protocols for wildlife rescue following bushfires in NSW, according to North Coast Environment Council.

Over the last month we have seen hundreds of thousands of hectares of forest burnt, potentially millions of animals have died and there are hundreds, if not thousands that have either been injured or are now suffering starvation or dying of thirst.

Our unique wildlife is an important national asset. We should be treating it as such.

Human infrastructure, including plantations are counted as assets and extraordinary effort and resources goes into protecting and saving them. We applaud the efforts of those on the front line, particularly the volunteers, doing this important work.

But koalas, gliders, owls and the whole suite of native animals need to also be considered as assets and we need to have protocols and strategies in place for protecting and rescuing them, and those protocols and strategies need to be implemented and resourced!

An example is the koala populations of Braemar, Carwong and Royal Camp



State Forests. Recently recognised as a stronghold for koalas with an estimated koala population of several hundred. Unfortunately, soon after citizen science publicly identified the area as important for koalas a fire tore through much of the forest.

No doubt many of the koalas perished in the fire. Some will have been burnt or injured in other ways and in urgent need of veterinary attention. There will hopefully be others who have survived physically unscathed but are now desperate for food and water. The longer it takes for people to be allowed in to the

area, the more likely it is koalas will die.

This situation is replicated right across the region with many tens of thousands of hectares at risk from current fires and a catastrophic fire season ahead.

We recognise that safety is a primary consideration, but surely there are methods and equipment that can be deployed to find and save injured wildlife? Cameras, training for RFS crews in animal rescue, putting out drinking troughs are only a few ideas.

If we collectively cared enough to develop the tools, we could make a difference.

Green light for chemical-free eradication project

by Gina Horsfield,
Secretary, Nimbin Aquarius
Landcare Inc.

Over the past year, Nimbin Aquarius Landcare's on-going regeneration projects have steadily continued and will remain in place.

However, we're now embarking on a "Chemical-Free" eradication of Seed Bananas project in selected areas along Mulgum Creek, following successful discussions with Rous Council.

Thank you to all who

recently supported our "Chemical-Free" position – this new project is big and challenging, but we're willing to do what we can, for the sake of our beautiful creek and the life it sustains. Nimbin Aquarius Landcare have just held

their AGM, where we welcomed several new members.

If you'd like more information or to become involved on this project, please contact us via the Nimbin Community Centre.

Terania commemorative project marches on

by Trevor Reece, Terania
Nightcap Commemorative Project
Co-ordinator

The Terania and Mt Nardi historical stories leading to the creation of World heritage listed Nightcap National Park are important to the region and beyond.

The legacies from these actions are important in a national context. It is important that this history is not lost to the younger generations and the broader community across the Northern Rivers.

Lismore MP Janelle Saffin has acknowledged the importance of the history and the significance of the Terania Nightcap Commemorative Signage Project as a regional undertaking to help both retain and relate this regional and national history.

She has supported the children's book of the project, *The First Rainforest Warriors, Terania Australia*, to go out to regional schools and libraries.



Photo: David Kemp

Janelle has also recently taken the special commemorative project directly to the Minister for National Parks with the last sitting period of parliament to assist with the project.

MLC Ben Franklin has also recently offered his support to the project, and will also be speaking to Minister Kean of National Parks in support of the project. To date, funding support for the project has been a concern.

Janelle Saffin believes the special commemorative signage concept as presented to the Minister has substantial merit also for the Minyon Falls area which has an estimated 250,000 visitors per year. The foundation story to Nightcap National

Park could be well placed in this sector of the park with its national history and that this area is now set for major park upgrades.

The Minyon Falls park concept designs have only recently been released by National Parks and are on display for public comment.

A special design concept has also been developed for Terania.

While the Terania 40th anniversary celebration weekend was held earlier this year, the Terania Nightcap Project continues and hopes to lay down sound lasting foundations to this regional history being better told and related with its improved project signage concept with visitation to Nightcap National Park.

The project has brought substantial new attention and awareness to the Terania history since it commenced in early 2018. A big thanks goes out to all those who have been assisting with the project along the way.



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In praise of Camp Bindee

by Graeme Dunstan

Let me sing in praise of the heroes, saints and angels of Camp Binbee, the Frontline Action on Coal camp in Birri country 50km west of Bowen, Far North Queensland. The camp has been established for three years.

Last August FLAC announced a national Red Alert call for activists to join the camp for an extended campaign of actions aimed at disrupting and delaying the start-up work on the Adani Carmichael Mine. Many have answered the call and come from all around the nation. Some young and some old, some staying months, others days.

I was in residence for a week, 30th September to 5th October, and it was as if this old man had landed his Peacebus in a bush garden Buddha field of angels and saints. There were some 70 people in camp when I arrived, and action planning was in session. Under a big tarp suspended from trees, a group of 40 were listening intently, watching notes on a white board and talking through roles, responsibilities and timings for the action. Some veteran activists, some newbies, and again some young, some old.

The target for the action was the rail line at the entrance to the Adani's Abbot Point coal loader. At 4am a convoy of eight cars and a 20-seater bus departed the camp. At first light we arrived at the rail. Everyone knew their seat on the convoy and their role and place on the ground. A ute dropped off a barrel of concrete reinforced with welded steel, rolled it across the Bruce Highway and onto the coal line. Two women from Adelaide quickly slid arms into the core and locked on.

The rail authority and the train drivers were informed and we witnesses stood by, holding a banners and flags, blocking the road to the Port (it was shift change), live streaming to FaceBook, singing #StopAdani songs and waiting for the emergency response. It soon came.

An early arriving worker expressed anger and frustration, and to him a "worker liaison person" was quickly assigned. But no aggression or anger came when the cops and rail authority guys arrived, for they had seen it before. Another day, another lock-on and a another ritual of release.

In the half-light, the cops and rail folk read the move-on orders. It was if we were participating in a dawn service, a sacred ceremony. And what was being sacrificed was the liberty of the "bunnies", the term of affection given to those who volunteer to be arrested in an action of disruption.

Solemnly the cops and rail folk read their liturgy. Solemnly and slowly we responded. Our slow procession took us back over the rail, passing beside

those brave bunnies, sitting on the cold hardtop beside their concrete barrel. I yearned to deck them with garlands of gratitude.

It took three hours for the police to assemble their tools and cut through the steel and concrete. It's a job which must be done with care and concentration. Angle grinder, jack hammer and chisels are needed. Asbestos coats are draped over the bunnies to protect them from the sparks and dust.

For our protection, the cops ordered the rest of us to stand back 50 metres. We assembled by the Bruce Highway where we displayed our banners to the passing traffic and returned the hoots and toots of supporters with waves and cheers.

As the paddy wagon took the bunnies away, we cheered our support to them too. Bail conditions prevent them from returning to camp. For most of us, we would not see them again, never hear the full story of their arrest, court appearances and court statements.

Getting arrested is transformational for those who do it, and for those who bear witness to the courage. It's so empowering and validating to be doing something in this age of despair. Typically, the bunnies return to their families and communities fired up with new conviction and commitment, wearing their arrest as a badge of courage, their fines as an opportunity for networking, fund-raising and further campaigning.

From where I look, the #StopAdani campaign is the biggest direct action movement since the Vietnam War days, and I see no future shortage of bunnies coming to Camp Bindee to make their lives sacred with a direct action arrest.

After the Abbot Point action, the convoy detoured by a Bowen beach to lunch and relax before returning to camp for a debrief. The guys in the ute had hurried back to camp to prepare for the next action.

Two days later at 1am, another a convoy of six cars departed Camp Bindee, this one intending to arrive at first light and blockade an Adani worker's camp 300km north west. The nearest police station to this workers camp is at Clermont, 300km south. The blockaders expected that the 120 workers in camp would have the morning off, but alas the mission had to be aborted when it was discovered that police were already in the camp in unmarked cars.

The blockaders withdrew, regrouped, camped overnight in a dry river bed nearby and returned the following dawn to blockade the gates with their bodies. This time the police had to come from Clermont and the workers did get the morning off. There were no hard feelings. The work is largely clearing, test drilling, fence and road

making at this time. I asked one of my old mates about the efficacy these direct action tactics. Counting with eyebrows and fingertips, he reckoned that of the order of 800 worker hours had been lost by Adani that week to direct action delays. This included the two actions described above and another of which I was unaware, a lock-on at a test drilling rig. Since the Red Alert, the camp is averaging two lock-ons a week.

Adani bleeds, the media mutes and the Adani development work grinds on. Big Coal continues to buy Big Government. Climate Emergency grows and direct action camps become the incubators of a new way of being, a new leadership and a new future.

This view will have resonance for those of us who can still remember the counter culture which was spawned by resistance to the US war on Vietnam. Some of it came to Nimbin. Others will know the phenomenon as the Bentley Effect.

I speculate that the social model of the Greenie activist camp was invented at the Battle of Terania Creek, and I am proud to claim a connection. As an elder I can say Camp Bindee does us old hippie activists proud.

The camp is attracting the best and the brightest of these times. The morale is wondrously high. The food and the company are superb. All this at \$27 a day unwaged.

Non-violence is core practice and NVA training is mandatory. Thus the personal relationships at the camp are grounded in deep mutual respect.

Camp Bindee has evolved a unique security culture – no smart phones in meeting areas and information on a need-to-know basis.

In particular, Camp Bindee attracts creative welders and the making of lock-on devices has become an artform. Typical is the elbow-shaped pipe, which is embellished with welded chain and scrap steel, anything to slow the angle grinder.

The coal-corrupt Queensland government of Anastacia Palaszczuk (ALP) has recently been moved to legislate against such devices, suggesting bizarrely that they are akin to terrorist bombs. While I was at Bindee, the lead welder renamed them "love-ons" and had them painted in gay colours with love hearts and the like. Creativity triumphs.

Here was a garden of like minds and like hearts. Here was an empowered and creative citizenry. Here was a future. One sip of this and one is changed forever.

So let me urge you, dear reader, to go taste the nectar of direct action at Camp Binbee while you may. The Earth needs you there. Love needs you there.

Further information: <https://frontlineaction.org>



NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

"The secret of my success is that I have a definition of 'success' that is broad enough to encompass abject failure." – Tom Gauld, *New Scientist*

That definition applies to our current Coalition governments in many areas, but especially when it comes to controlling climate change. Environmentalists have been asking for sensible rules to apply to preserving all areas of natural habitat, especially state owned (i.e. public) forests.

Yet the State and Federal governments decided to roll-over the Regional Forests Agreements as they come due for renewal, and to change the operating guidelines to give tree cutters access to more old growth and sensitive areas, and to allow virtual clear-felling. We are told that forests are to be "re-mapped" so that trees which were previously protected likely now would be cut down, destroying the homes of koalas and other wildlife which depend on them.

Government Ministers are prone to saying things like, "We are doing all we can, but can't make it rain." Perhaps we can not expect such unenlightened people to have influence with the weather gods, but surely they can make and enforce rules that prevent the taking of our communal life-giving water. However, the extraction of groundwater and transport to commercial bottling plants continues. Meanwhile authorities have halted tanker deliveries to homes in the Tweed to keep these rural families going. Why favour the theft of groundwater over assistance to residents? We can expect the drying of springs and drops in artesian bores as water miners suck up our water. The result is fairly stark: wild fires have broken out early this Spring and the drought looks set to continue. Global climate is said to be responsible for that too, but let's leave that to one side as we look at the effects on our local environment. I have been shocked to learn that Binna Burra on the Queensland side of the Mt Warning Caldera was razed by forest fire...and that is rainforest!

Drying of natural wet areas such as forests and wetlands has intensified the likelihood of devastating fires. In the normally damp Tweed River valley a fire in September damaged a wildlife corridor connecting the Mt. Jerusalem National Park to Mt. Warning NP and Border Ranges NP via the woodlands surrounding Clarrie Hall dam. The fire fighters controlled this one and limited the damage thus saving years of conservation work and tree plantings. Even so, many animals and the soil biota



were badly effected. Resident tree planter Carolyn Rifello took photos of a koala in her garden that seemed so disoriented it was climbing in a palm tree – not in a koala food tree. (see photo above by Cas) Wildlife carers who rescued the koala said it was severely de-hydrated.

The October fires which swept through Rappville, and the area near Busby's Flat south of Casino have caused alarm as to what might be done to rescue surviving koalas in the Braemar, Carwong and Royal Camp State Forests.

At the NSW Parliamentary Enquiry at Ballina on Friday 18th October we heard from koala expert Steve Phillips that this area is home to a significant population of koalas and that some would be alive after the fires, but water to drink and green leaf will be hard to find. Like the Tweed koala, they face starvation and water stress. We asked the Legislators to direct immediate aid to the koalas affected by fire (governments are usually willing to rescue "livestock"). Committee Chair Cate Faehrmann despatched an appeal agreed by all to the NSW Premier. This asked for logging scheduled for these forests to be postponed at least to allow the koala food trees a chance to shoot new leaf as the tree tops did not burn but the leaves were desiccated and will be hard to eat. Dailan Pugh of the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) said, "As identified by the inquiry, the fires have burned or dried out most of the leaves the koalas feed on which means that those koalas that did survive the fires need rescuing quickly,

Yet the koalas have been left to their fate. The scale of the crisis for koalas is immense and beyond the capability of volunteer groups to deal with on their own."

All witnesses to the Enquiry agreed that NSW koala populations are in rapid decline and could become extinct before 2050 without some serious consideration.

What is wrong with this picture? Let's connect the dots.

Habitat loss and water theft > aquifers and rivers run dry > ferocious fires > biota destroyed > soil turns to sand.

What can be done? We can start by setting out water troughs for wildlife and delivering harvested koala food leaves. Then ban logging in all native forests and plan farm forestry for future needs. Bring forward the NSW government's plans to require all commercial water extraction to be not only licensed but monitored with tamper-proof meters. And finally, plant more trees!

I was encouraged by news from NSW Member for Tweed, Geoff Provest MLA, who said he has secured funding for half a million koala food trees to be planted, mainly around the endangered population of coastal koalas at Pottsville. I hope these are not an "offset" against plans to destroy other trees. Alas, it takes many years for a tree to grow to suitable size (around 30cms diameter at breast height) to produce leaves to feed koalas.

We can also stand up for forests. Besides the area south of Casino where we hope to get a reprieve from planned logging, there is an area of state forest south of Bellingen which is scheduled for destruction, the headwaters of the Kalang River. On Thursday 31st October the NEC sponsored an information night which featured a short film demonstrating the high conservation value of the Kalang forests. Activist Anastasia Guise answered questions and explained how we can all be involved in the campaign to save them. Please phone NEC on (02) 6689-1441 to sign up for updates on the action already happening.

When the loggers move in, a Red Alert will go out asking people to join protectors already at the Biodiversity Embassy camped high in these forests, with overflow options also at Thora, where there is camping available for supporters of this vital effort.

News out of Queensland

by Jessica van Vonderen (excerpts)

Queensland researchers at QUT are hoping drones will aid in the conservation of threatened species like koalas. Researchers fitted drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), with infrared cameras to better detect the creatures.

Hovering above the tree-tops, the cameras detect the animals' body heat and beam pictures straight back to the team of researchers on the ground. Computer software helped distinguish koalas from other creatures that might be in the trees.

Koalas are normally counted by people on the ground but now they can be tracked by robots from the air. This will greatly increase the area that can be covered to survey koalas.



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In your neighbourhood...
Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Nimbin Community Tools and Equipment Library NOW OPEN for borrowing

The Community Tools and Equipment Library is now open for business. Opening hours are Wednesdays 9.30am – 2pm, and Saturdays 10am-1pm, at 7 Sibley Street.

To join the library, come into NNIC weekdays 10am-4pm or drop into 7 Sibley Street Monday-Wednesdays. The membership fee is \$22 plus NNIC membership \$5.50 per year.

For more details, including a list of the equipment available to borrow, see: www.sevenonsibley.com/tools-equipment-library

Welcome to Nimbin Kit NOW AVAILABLE!

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!

Our great community is rapidly changing hands and lots of new folks are moving in. 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 (also at the Real Estate agencies).

Nimbin CDAT updates

We went along to Headspace's Green Day festivities at the Quad in Lismore on 26th October where we had a great time mixing it up with the young folk, and we are planning now for Schoolies Week in Byron Bay.

We are still looking for Super Heroes if you reckon you have what it takes. You need to be of medium height and build and not prone to claustrophobia! It looks like Clued-Up Claudelia, our brown-skinned female Super Hero (cos' not all Super Heroes are white men), may be imminently coming to life also... so watch this space.

Nimbin Youth Survey Results

Thanks very much to all the young folks who completed the survey. What you told us was very enlightening and will



Captain Competent and team at a Headspace event for youth mental health at Lismore Quad. Photo: Danika Hogan-Woodbridge

help us to find ways to better meet the needs and aspirations of our local young people.

Quite a few indicated an interest in setting up a new local Youth Action Group and we will contact those peeps to see how that idea can be progressed.

If you are aged between 12-25 years and did not do the survey but are keen to get involved, contact us so we can add you to the list. The results of the survey will be published on our website sometime this month.

2019 Community Sustainability Survey

Speaking of surveys... this survey closed on 1st November and we have started collating the responses. If you ran out of time to get onto doing it, or missed out but want to get your voice added to the mix, contact us and we will send you the survey link. This will absolutely be your LAST CHANCE!

Nimbin Vacation Care

Casual staff required, including a qualified Assistant Co-ordinator. For more info, contact: admin@nnic.org.au

Looking for Sustainable Xmas 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 – e.g. 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.

BIG Community Xmas Lunch 2019

Save the date! The biggest community event of the year will be happening once again on Friday 20th December. All welcome for lots of fab Xmas fare, Santa for the kids, always a great event.

NNIC Xmas closure dates

NNIC will be closed over Xmas with our last day in 2019 being Friday 20th December and re-opening on Monday 6th January 2020. Centrelink Agency will be open on Monday 23rd December and then closed from Tuesday 24th and re-opening on Thursday 2nd January.

Did You Know?

NNIC is a registered charity and donations to our general services and activities (excluding Sibley St) 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. 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

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 12th November. 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 21st November. 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 21st November.
- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 12th November. 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 meetings: 6th Nov, 4th Dec. New members are always welcome.





by David Hallett

The Nimbin Community Centre (NCC) has had another busy year. During the past 12 months the NCC has managed several community projects for the village as well as projects contributing to the Centre itself. The Centre has liaised and advocated on behalf of the community with Lismore City Council (LCC), the traffic advisory committee and state and federal representatives. The centre has also completed a five yearly review of its aims and objectives.

The Light-up Nimbin under-awning and mural installation (funded by the NSW Community Safety Fund from the Department of Justice) has just been completed. The solar power and battery installation was provided by Nimbin's own Rainbow Power Company and the lighting installation by Fogg Productions (headed by the iconic Roger Foley-Fogg). This project was managed by NCC in partnership with Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, which contributed half of the funds from the special business rate levy.

The Centre has received positive feedback since the lights were switched on, and we are currently discussing extending the project to cover both sides of Cullen Street. The Centre has assisted two major mural projects in the village: the mural above Nimbin Visitor Information Centre and the recent mural above Lifestyle Real Estate, both completed by local artists Elspeth Jones and Julie De Lorenzo. Project funds were contributed by the Chamber of Commerce, Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) and the building owners. The overall management was handled by the Community Centre. NCC is continuing to work with the Chamber on further mural projects.

Nimbin Community Centre president's report

In 2018 the Centre managed the repainting of the Allsopp Park mural by local Indigenous artists Gilbert Laurie, Lewis Walker and Oral Roberts with funds from LCC. Following discussions with the artists, the Centre applied for funds to create a dual languages sign to accompany the mural explaining the important dream time story represented in the mural. The Centre obtained funds via the Indigenous Arts and Languages program from the Commonwealth Department of Communication and the Arts. The grand unveiling of the mural during Nimbin's NAIDOC day celebrations in July was accompanied by moving speeches from Mayor Isaac Smith and the artists.

Also in 2018 the Centre received funds from Lismore Club Grants to create a terraced area outside the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service (NACRS) and to install a table and bench for both clients and community use. As the funds were not sufficient to complete the project, a widespread appeal resulted in kind generosity from the community, and the work can now be completed. The NCC continues to be grateful for the generosity and volunteer spirit of the Nimbin community and the Centre continues to thrive in spite of considerable government funding cuts which have seriously affected the Centre's budget in the past two years. The Centre cannot survive without the support of the community.

The Centre has made applications for an Aged Care car drop-off platform for the NACRS service via the NSW Stronger Communities fund. This is a necessary and important improvement and the result of this application will be known in the new year.

The Centre continues to support cultural activities such as the Nimbin Flix film society, as well as sponsoring the annual Nimbin Roots Festival and the staging of the second annual Sticks and Stones sculptural exhibition. Moreover, the Centre grounds are available for casual hire for events, workshops, projects and classes that enrich and benefit the community.

The Centre's Management Committee met in September for its five yearly review



Exhibition of sculptural forms in this year's Sticks and Stones installation at the Community Centre. Photo: Chibo Mertineit

of aims and objectives and to focus on the plans for the next five years. As well as management of tenancy and maintenance and improvement of buildings and grounds, the Committee has determined three major priorities.

The first is to future-proof the Centre against climate chaos. This includes increased water storage, alternative energy production and storage, insulating buildings, landscaping gardens to reduce water use, reducing the carbon footprint through improving management practices and engaging with the wider community regarding climate chaos and community action.

The second priority is to support youth led initiatives and projects such as the Nimbin Youth Film Festival, and enabling Centre facilities and grounds to be available for youth projects and events. The third priority is to support the Aboriginal Cultural centre to promote and facilitate cultural events and practices. This includes facilitating an indigenous music stage for the Nimbin Roots Festival, supporting the NAIDOC celebration and developing a reconciliation action plan for the Centre.

Under the guidance of the Centre's gardener, Robyn Berry, I would like to give sincere thanks to all who contribute to the centre, notably our NCC volunteers, Paul Simms, James Gardener and Donato

Rosella. The Centre's gardens and grounds are currently looking great in spite of the ongoing harsh and dry weather and that is a testament to their good work. I would especially thank the staff of the NCC, our office coordinators and bookkeeper, Teresa Biscoe and Helen Lynne, maintenance co-ordinator Sam Herren and markets co-ordinator Steph Seckhold. These people work tirelessly for the benefit for the NCC, and we are thankful to have such dedicated staff.

I'd especially like to thank the diverse tenants and many hirers of the Centre for the widespread services they offer to the community and for their support of Centre projects. I also give special thanks to the Management Committee members who continue to participate in committee meetings and in the overall management of the Centre.

The Committee continues to manage the NCC on behalf of Nimbin's community and is determined to manage and improve the centre for the benefit of the community into the future.

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

Chamber Chat



by Diana Roberts, President

The Light Up Nimbin project

This project is complete for now and we hope you like the results. A local person has been trained in adjusting the lighting and we've had a request to slow down the speed of light changes so we're planning to give that a go. Our thanks go to the Nimbin Community Centre for their considerable support managing this project. Meanwhile we'd like to extend the current installation to beyond the new mural above the Visitor Information Centre and the businesses in that precinct. We're currently exploring options with a view to raising funds to make this possible. We're also looking at a similar set up on the other side of the street, from the School of Arts to the Hotel and maybe beyond. This will require considerable funding, but would be a wonderful

main street addition.

Main street murals:

Meanwhile the Chamber will contribute \$2000 towards a new mural above the School of Arts. Gilbert Laurie and Oral Roberts have agreed to do this, hopefully before Xmas. In addition, we're looking to refurbish the Burri Jerome mural above Daizy's, as it has faded considerably over the years. Elspeth Jones and Julie de Lorenzo have agreed to take on this project, artists of considerable talent who are responsible for the two new murals in the village. If you'd like to support our mural initiatives, please give generously in the mural collection tins located in various businesses in the village.

Cecil Street safety

Council was successful in securing funding to construct the Cecil Street footbridge. It is hoped this will be in place by Xmas and the current temporary traffic calming devices and signage removed.

Nimbin CCTV renewal

This will include upgrading the five existing cameras and installation of two new cameras, one in the Western Carpark and one on Cullen Street looking into the Community Centre. Each location

will have one pan-tilt zoom and one fixed camera providing 24/7 monitoring. Night lighting for observation will no longer be critical as the technology has much improved. By the time you read this, work should have commenced with a view to completion by the end of November.

Lismore Council's draft Economic Development Strategy 2019-2024

This is currently on exhibition for comment. We'd encourage those interested to have a look and input at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/draftereconomicdevelopmentstrategy>

The strategy will be accompanied by some funding and resourcing and, while very Lismore focussed, its implementation will engage both the Chamber and the Nimbin Advisory Group in relation to Nimbin initiatives.

The Chamber discussed the strategy at length at our recent meeting and will be making a detailed submission before the closing date: 12th November. Some of the initiatives we'd support as having specific relevance to our village are:

- Increasing renewable energy initiatives, specifically the expansion of renewable energy assets in the Nimbin business centre;
- Supporting events and festivals that increase visitor stay overs;

- Supporting business property owners to invest in property and amenity;
- Reducing red tape for business activation, currently overwhelming and punitive for some, provided community aspirations are taken into account;
- Improved internet – the NBN is currently highly unreliable for many businesses;
- Agri-business initiatives such as the emerging hemp growing industry and accompanied product development;
- Meeting the demand for the impact of growth on our village. In a cash-strapped Council this will be challenging but it's essential if we're to retain the things we value as a community and to ensure our sustainability into the future, especially given the challenges of the climate chaos we currently face.

Lismore Council's Community Participation Plan

This plan is currently on exhibition until 21st November. The plan identifies when certain types of development require notification, whom should be notified, signs displayed and advertising requirements. I know many have been concerned about the intensity of development around the village and it's important people have input at the early

planning stages to be effective. This is a chance for you to have your say to guide consultation into the future: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au>

Electric car charging

Know anyone with an electric car? We understand Rainbow Power has two car charging stations.

Chamber's AGM

The Chamber will be working to deliver the best outcomes we possibly can on all the above and more. To this end, we encourage all local business people to join or rejoin the Chamber and attend our AGM scheduled for 20th November, 6pm, in the Comskool room at the Community Centre (not Birth & Beyond as previously advertised, as there was a prior booking). If you'd like to stand for the committee, please nominate in advance. Joining forms and nomination forms can be obtained from our Secretary, David Spain, at Nimbin Law or Peter Hughes, our Treasurer, at Nimbin Tax & Accounting. Memberships can be paid to Peter or directly into our bank account. Feedback on any of the above or other issues always welcome: chamber@nimbin.nsw.au or phone me on 0427-886-748. Also, feel free to approach me personally.