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Help save Nimbin's Holiday Club

by Kylie Jurd, Nimbin
Vacation Care co-ordinator

For almost 20 years Nimbin Holiday Club has been a part of the community, and we will be running this summer from our new venue at Nimbin Central School.

It was originally set up by Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, to give the kids of Nimbin a safe place to have fun with their friends in school holidays and opportunities to go to different places and experience new things.

Our programs of activities and excursions have always been directed by the suggestions of our children and families.

Until this year, the program has been funded by DET under a specific grants program which will end in June 2021 for good. If Nimbin Holiday Club is to survive, we have to change



Farm visits are part of the activities on offer

the model completely.

Right now, we need your help to find out what kind of program the families in our community need and what kind of activities our children want to do in their free time.

Our funding has previously only allowed us to provide a limited number of days and hours, but now we have an opportunity to extend hours and provide an even cheaper

service which qualifies for the childcare subsidy and will truly cater for diverse families in our community, including working parents.

In order for us to commit to the large amount of workload involved in such an expansion, we need to find out if there is actually a demand for an expanded service.

You can help by completing the online survey currently available

for parents at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z9WCY86

There are also links to this on the NNIC website, and several local schools' Facebook pages, including Nimbin Central School.

For the kids, we have a design survey where they can show us what their ideal holiday club would look like and tell us what they like to do in their holidays, and places they would like to go.

These have been sent out to local schools, and both surveys are also available from NNIC, at 71 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

As well as gathering information we are also looking for local educators or qualified child-care workers to join our team at Nimbin Holiday Club.

For more information, contact Kylie at: nimbinholidayclub@gmail.com or on 0487-576-281.

Disaster steering group forming

The Nimbin Disaster Steering Group is developing a disaster plan for Nimbin and surrounds.

This is a key action in the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (2016-2021): *The community has strategies in place to manage risks of disasters such as fires, cyclones and floods.*

The project is made possible with funding under the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund – Phase 1 (BCRERF Phase 1), which was provided through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements made available to Lismore City Council following the 2019 bushfires.

The group is currently seeking members from the Nimbin community, to steer the project which will work collaboratively with Council to create a plan to help the Nimbin community respond before, during and after a disaster.

This includes recovering from the 2019/2020 bushfire season, and preparing for other likely disasters such as floods or storm events.

- Do you live 30 kilometres around Nimbin?
- Are you a champion for positive change?
- Do you want to be involved locally in planning and preparing for disasters?
- Do you have a passion for planning

for the protection and well-being of your community?

The group needs your thoughts and ideas.

The time commitment will vary over the life of the project, from December 2020 to April 2021. Expect a time commitment of at least four hours per month to attend meetings, review documents and respond to emails.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like further information about the project, please contact Nicole Raward: nicoleraward@gmail.com

The first meeting of the steering group will be Wednesday, 16th December at 6pm.

Reflecting on Remembrance Day

by Linnet Pike

One of the most poignant sights that always moves me when I travel through our small Australian villages, is that of war memorials.

These many humble memorials, such as ours, raised by local subscriptions, were often erected throughout the 1920s. They represent a local response. In small communities, it took time to raise the money and indeed, I imagine, real dedication to organise such community symbols.

So many losses, so much grieving, it must have taken great effort to move past that quicksand of grief to memorialise those who were lost, never to return, and those who had returned, some broken.

Those who stayed behind are often forgotten when we speak of War. The suffering of families that waited for news, who wondered about their loved ones so far away. They were the ones who



Knitted poppies made by CWA members

erected memorials such as we stand beside today. They planted trees, memorial avenues to commemorate the Great War.

Driving into some rural towns, one sees avenues of Poplars, and other trees stretching out beside the road. Another form of memorial to the War, the lives lost and the very human suffering endured by communities, small and large. There is a sweet beauty to such remembrances that are embedded in the very landscape, the soil of Country.

And, sadly... there is much to remember. Since the Great War, we have had so many wars, both large scale and smaller engagements. All wars end and then we count the losses. The deaths, the wounded, the walking wounded and the unseen wounded, those who suffer. Men, women, children, all creatures, the cities and towns, the very landscape... suffer in wars and the sequelae to them.

On Remembrance Day, we do just that. We remember. Not to honour war but to recognise the consequences

of it, to acknowledge and be grateful for the many sacrifices made by so many – sometimes in futile wars and sometimes in just wars.

We remember so that we know what war means and how very important it is to strive for peace.

And I would acknowledge here the Peacekeeping missions that so many in the Defence Forces have also undertaken over the decades.

As we stand beside our War Memorial, we can read the names of those who left this small village, to never return.

Our column is broken, representing lives cut short, the very human cost of War. We can read the names here, some still familiar. And we can reflect and remember their world and their lives.

I think of our CWA Remembrance Day Poppy installation as also a means for art, beauty and metaphor to speak to us over the decades.



Old hands step up for school reunion

Former students of Nimbin Primary School, before the Central School was built, gathered for a 'Back to Nimbin' celebration at Nimbin Bowling Club in November.

The 50 ex-students were from a wide range of scholastic years, with a 30-year age range, from Daisy Stewart, 90 to Deborah Petty (nee Walters), 60.

Ex-teacher Norm Robinson also attended. Now 87, Nimbin was his first appointment, and he taught there from 1954 to 1956.

Eight of the nine Marchant siblings attended, all students in the 1950s and 60s.

Co-organiser Joy Rose was very pleased with the get-together, and said she hoped for an even bigger turn-out next year, when hopefully the Covid restrictions will be relaxed.

Protect the Lismore rail corridor

by Lydia Kindred, TOOT Secretary

Lismore City Council is asking for feedback on whether railway infrastructure in Lismore can be pulled up, as part of flood mitigation strategies.

All of their strategies together will only improve flooding by approximately 100mm (4"). Rail supporters don't believe this is a smart move by council.

The 2017 flood brought massive devastation to Lismore and our region. A 'perfect storm' also occurred along our railway line where local farmer Ron Weir's 140 round plastic covered hay bales got caught up in the flow of water.

Drains and weeds along the tracks had not been maintained by John Holland Rail, the company paid \$750,000 a year to maintain our railway line, so the bales got stuck in the rail viaduct.

Somehow Lismore City Council blamed the banked-up water on the low profile railway lines being there, and subsequently pulled up the tracks in that section, in spite of the line being there for 123 years, through many floods, without incident.

Destruction of the line was illegal to do at the time, unless there were 'safety reasons'. The reason given was that it endangered school children.

The line at that point is more than 25 metres in from Kyogle Road – it's hard to believe that children would venture that distance away from the road through snake-infested grasses to go anywhere near this spot, so their reason was ludicrous.

Check it out when you're driving along Kyogle Road – you'll see some rail-related wording there, done by a passionate supporter of the return of rail who has recently died. We're missing John Sheldon, a wonderful caring, intelligent man (pictured).

Bike trail people would also want the embankment protected, to be able to



continue through to Lismore, although needing bike fencing, as the line is over a metre high.

Please comment on LCC's Draft Lismore Floodplain Risk Management Study by 13th January, if you don't want to lose any more precious rail infrastructure: yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Our rail groups are saying that we can have both a rail service and a bike/walking track beside the line. If the land is too low and marshy, there are wonderful new Australian-made recycled plastic raised cycle-ways, preventing thousands of tonnes of plastic from going into landfill. This scenario is a win-win for us all.

Before the XPT, two services ran, due to public demand: amongst the most profitable in NSW. Running at reasonable hours, unlike XPT's late night journey, they had 1600 bookings a day from Murwillumbah alone.

Maintaining services cost \$11 million/year, but were annually recouping \$22.5 million.

The Motorail took 14,600 cars off



Section of the Lismore-Casino line, November 2020

the road each year – you could take a comfortable sleeper overnight and you were there, with your car, in either Sydney or Murwillumbah the next morning.

Please tell your local councillors, in whatever shire, that you want a bike trail beside the tracks so that we can bring rail services back to the Northern Rivers.



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Nimbin NAIDOC: Always was, always will be

by Teresa Biscoe

A great day was had by all who attended. This was a demonstration of community groups and volunteers from the Nimbin community working together to create a truly wonderful celebration of First Nations people.

I feel very proud to be part of planning such a great event. Darren and Rose, who have co-ordinated the event for the last 10 years, approached me a couple of months ago and requested that NCCI take over the NAIDOC funding application and some co-ordination, as they needed support for NAIDOC celebrations to continue. NCCI was happy with this and approved that I step into the role and so the application was made and with support and guidance from Darren and Rose.

Fortunately, the role was well supported by a number of Nimbin community organisations and volunteers who were all old hands at the NAIDOC celebrations, and they stepped up to their usual roles and guided me on what needed doing and by whom. A special thanks to Linda Phillips and Saskia Kowenberg from the Widjabul Cultural Centre, and Darren McElroy and Rose Cubis from the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service who worked like a well-oiled machine organising performers, the raffle, elders transport, food and people to help run the event. I know they all worked very hard (as they do every year) to make sure this is a truly great celebration.

Many thanks to Jeddah Bayles who made the NAIDOC day poster for the event. Artists Oral Roberts, Gregory (Boon) O'Brien and Douglas Wilson who have been working for the last few months from the Widjabul Cultural Centre, did a fantastic job on the NAIDOC day banner for the NAIDOC march which took pride of place behind the stage area at the Community Centre where the celebration occurred.

The Nimbin Jungle Patrol volunteers and the Nimbin police did a great job of managing the traffic control for the march, many thanks to Heidi from Jungle Patrol and Sergeant Renee Ashcroft from Nimbin police for her support of the Nimbin celebration.

A wonderful feast was produced by the volunteers at the Cultural Centre and the Neighbourhood Centre. It was food for the body and the heart and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Linda Phillips and Saskia Kowenberg who shopped and co-ordinated the tucker for the day, Nicolette Papadopoulos



Photo: Sue Stock

for her delectable salads, Gerhard Weihermann who supplied the kangaroo, the Phillips family who prepared the roo, and Linden Phillips who made the very tasty Roo-stew and damper, Helga who prepared all the fruit, Karen Roberts who got the barramundi, Heidi from the Nimbin Soup Kitchen and Tub who manned the BBQ.

Also thanks to the Food Co-op and the farmers from the markets who donated cheese, tofu and veges, and Darren who got the sausages. Many thanks also to the CWA Nimbin branch who made tea and coffee all day for people from the cultural centre.

Celebrations were started with a heart-warming ceremony. Welcome to Country was performed by Bundjalung Elders Auntie Lola Roberts and Auntie Linda Phillips, followed by a great dance performance by the Bundjalung-Widjabul dancers, led by Bruce Bolt who performed a number of hunting and greeting dances.

Gilbert Laurie, who normally does the smoking ceremony for NAIDOC was not available due to commitments in schools on the day, so the smoking ceremony was performed by Bruce Bolt, a Widjabul man, and Steve Didge, a Nunukul man.

Auntie Rachel Roberts then gave a truly rousing speech where she spoke about the government policies of the last decade which have caused such damage and disempowerment of Indigenous peoples in Australia, particularly the disastrous policies in the Northern Territory that continue to oppress and attack indigenous culture and sovereignty.

She spoke about the continuing need for indigenous people to unite, support and educate each other as governments have proved over and over that they lack the political will and have too many vested interests to truly address closing the gap in any real way. We wish our political leaders were capable of such truth telling, passion and heart.

Auntie Nellie from Mutajoola was then inspired



Photo: Benny Zable

to speak about the situation for her and her people in the desert. They continue to live in third world conditions while the white administrators enjoy great housing with water and power, and that access to communities is being blocked so the rest of Australia can't see the disgusting conditions that these people are forced to live in.

Music man Billy Smith then took up his guitar and sang us into the afternoon with his golden voice, singing a lot of the great songs of the Aboriginal people old and new with special guest appearances from Bruce Bolt (guitar and vocals), Uncle Artie Walker (spoons and gumleaf), and John Blatch on harmonica.

We had some great stalls - many thanks to Rainbow Power Company and NACRS for the marquees loaned for the day. With face-painting, Ngulingah Nursery, the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre with a competition for kids and adults, and Kylie Jurd from the Nimbin Holiday Program all adding life and colour to the mix.

The raffle was a great success. The artists Oral, Bruce and Boon painted a magnificent artwork for the NAIDOC raffle. An artwork donated by Indigenous trauma and healing worker Mary Kay Knox was the second prize and the third prize was a yoga mat with colourful Indigenous designs from Kylie at the Green Bank. All funds raised in the raffle will go to the Cultural Centre.

This day would not be possible without the support and contributions of a number of organisations and volunteers. Many thanks to:

- The Department of Aboriginal Affairs for NAIDOC 2020 funding of \$2200;
- The Nimbin Aged Care

and Respite Service for the contribution of \$1000 in funds, \$100 worth of face masks and three paid workers to assist;

- The Nimbin Comskool for the contribution of \$1000 in funds and volunteer support;
- The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation who provided \$500 for the Indigenous Dancers;
- Lismore City Council who contributed \$500 towards the documentation and accessibility of the event;
- The Hemp Embassy for free colour printing and \$200 towards the catering;
- The Nimbin Emporium for a food voucher worth \$75;
- 7 Sibley Street for the loan of the barbeque;
- Paul Tait and Jennie Kendal for lemon myrtle and aniseed;
- Gerard Taylor from Cafend for coffee donation;
- Mark the plumber for servicing the coffee machine;
- Happy High Herbs;
- The Nimbin Organic Food Co-op;
- Paul Le Bars who supports the event every year with raising the flags each day of NAIDOC;
- The Koori Mail who donated bags and stickers to the event;
- Dave Fawknar who drove the bus to provide elders transport; and
- Gabby who loaned her mats for the celebrations.

NAIDOC is not just a celebration of survival and culture, it is an opportunity for our whole community to demonstrate our pride and support for the First Nations people from our community and acknowledge the rich cultural contribution they offer so generously to us all.

Thank you for inviting us all to join you in this significant event. I feel proud to have been able to contribute to its success.

Call for village voices on Lismore Council

by Ari Waterfall

According to 2020 figures, the Lismore Local Government Area has a population of just over 43,000.

Of that, 27,000 are in the residential area of Lismore. That's 16,000 people living rurally or in villages and towns in the areas outside of the Lismore City.

That means over a third of the LGA electorate has very little direct representation on Lismore City Council.

A group of interested residents have put our heads together because we want to change that. And we need the support of all our communities!

We ask that people who are interested in running for Council and speaking for the rural and village communities



within the region make contact with us.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for Council, please email: VillageVoices2480@gmail.com

Include your full name, address, contact phone number, and a paragraph about yourself and why you think you can carry the Village Voices into Council meetings.

We would like to engage with the community in an open and democratic process, with a goal to attain candidates to represent rural and village communities' interests.

Our intention is to hold town hall meetings to engage with as many people as possible, and fairly select candidates through a transparent process, while also providing privacy and security for the voting process.

We believe that the villages of Lismore LGA have an opportunity to work together and be represented appropriately on Council.

We see great opportunity in the Northern Rivers' villages, and how our voices can help the whole region socially, culturally, environmentally and economically.



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NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

One big win for democracy

NSW Liberal MLC Catherine Cusack on 19th November moved to refer the National Party's Local Land Services (Amendment) Bill for review (<https://bit.ly/2HCMT0p>), and the motion passed (19 to 18).

This NSW Upper House decision will send the National Party's koala-killing bill to the koala inquiry committee chaired by Greens MLC Cate Faehrmann, a move that is welcomed by the North East Forest Alliance as a chance to bring about real, effective wildlife-protection legislation.

Many thanks to Catherine Cusack for her koala-rescuing opposition on the last sitting day of NSW Parliament for this year. The premier punished MLC Cusack for this by sacking her from her position as a Parliamentary Secretary.

NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh said, "Not only did the Nationals seek to remove the prohibitions on logging and broadscale clearing of core koala habitat, their bill also tried to stop councils from being able to include core koala habitat in environment protection zones and tried to prohibit Councils from being able to regulate logging and clearing in environmental zones."

My thanks to all those people who contacted their parliamentarians to get this awful bill withdrawn. It's an inspiring win for the environment. As the Dalai Lama said, "If you think you are too small to make a difference, you have never spent a night with a mosquito."

Say NO to burning native forests for electricity

The Nimbin EC through its membership in NEFA has learned of coalition

government plans to restart the mothballed Redbank Power Station near Singleton for burning wood (biomass) from NSW's native forests.

Hunter Energy is currently seeking expressions of interest for timber from north of Grafton, West of Dubbo, and South of Batemans Bay to fuel Redbank, with plans to restart the former coal-burning facility in mid-2021. (<https://bit.ly/33kEVI3>)

NEFA President Dailan Pugh said the huge volume of wood taken from plantation and native forests would make Redbank one of the world's ten biggest biomass power plants and "will make it Australia's most polluting power station and an existential threat to the future of our children and wildlife."

He continued, "They claim that it will power 200,000 homes, which was identified in the 2017 North Coast Residues Report as requiring one million tonnes of biomass to be taken from north-east NSW's forests and plantations each year, with 60% of this coming from private forests." (<https://bit.ly/3l9dCX8>)

"This is sheer madness as burning this volume will release some 1.8 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere each year to fuel climate heating, increased droughts, heatwaves and more intense bushfires, while increasing forest degradation and hastening species extinctions.

"Replacing coal with biomass is sheer stupidity as it is even more polluting, releasing up to 50% more CO₂ than coal to generate equivalent amounts of energy.

"Then there's all the CO₂ released by machines during logging and in hauling the wood from across north-east NSW to Singleton.

"The community needs to



NEC members as part of Biomass Action Group protested outside the Condong mill where electricity is generated by burning sugar cane residue and forest "waste" trucked from distant logging operations. Photo: Anne Thompson

urgently speak up to stop the NSW and Commonwealth Governments from allowing this environmental disaster. Please sign onto our petition at: www.nefa.org.au

Dunoon Dam

The Northern Rivers community seeks to prevent Rous County Council from building an unnecessary, costly, environmentally-damaging new dam that would flood the Channon Gorge.

Before taking this "preferred option" to the NSW government for approval, Rous Water is asking if residents/ratepayers are willing to pay about four times their current water bill for the same amount of water. This will surely be unpopular!

The dam will only catch overflow from the existing Rocky Creek dam in the event of excess rainfall – a risky business in the era of climate change causing drier weather. We have less expensive, more sustainable options which should be fully investigated. For more info: www.waternorthernrivers.org

Nimbin Development Control (DCP) Review

Early next year, the Nimbin community can influence the future development of the village and surrounds. Currently, Lismore City Council is circulating a Discussion Paper and Survey (yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au), with a deadline of Friday 18th December.

Yes, that's soon, but it's not your only chance to respond. Any changes to current development policies will involve a final round of community consultation in 2021. But I intend to get in early.

One issue is the reticulated water supply from the Gungah Valley Weir that supplies the village. Any extension of housing/business will need to be consistent with current water supply, and regulations presently do not require small blocks to have their own water catchment. In fact, any property bordering the pipeline can legally tap in and suck it up.

Similarly, developers do not have to provide for sewerage if they can access the community's sewer line. Large block developments, in contrast, do have to provide for their own water and sewage needs.

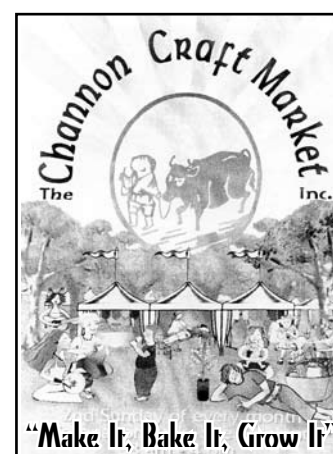
What about planning for new roads and parking? With almost 150 new residences proposed, plus a new commercial precinct, we need to be concerned now about the look and feel of our hometown in the future.

For questions, contact Council's Strategic Planning Project Officer Andy Parks on 1300-878-387.

Remember LCC approved that absolute monstrosity of tourist accommodation in stacked-up shipping containers called 'The Cubes'. It has not yet been actioned – and I hope it never will – but that's an example of what can happen if we don't get involved in future planning.



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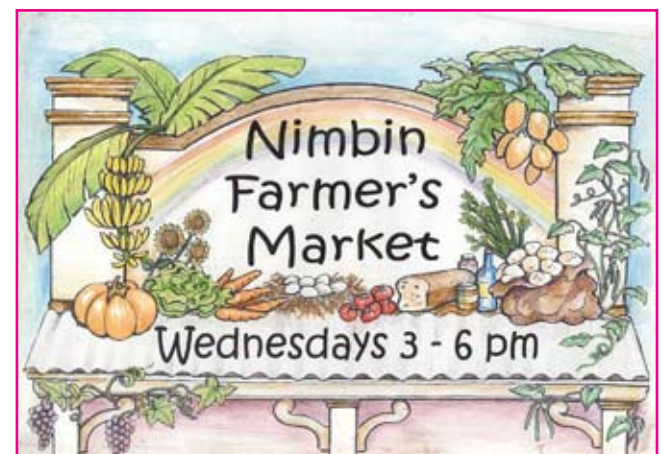


Next Market 13th December 9am - 3pm

The market will operate under Covid restrictions, with no bands, buskers or drumming.

Charity of the day: Tunttable Creek School P&C

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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

News from the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre (NNIC)

The NNIC team wishes everyone a safe and happy – and uneventful! – Solstice, Christmas and New Year. And rain. Come on already!

Over the past 12 months, the Nimbin community has stoically endured drought, bushfire, flood, the pandemic and, sadly, the passing of numerous community elders and legendary community members.

As climate change continues to impact and the community changes hands, we will need to work together like never before to ensure our sustainability and our capacity to withstand the challenges ahead.

To this end, a Steering Committee is being formed to oversee the development of a Nimbin Disaster Plan (see the call-out for EOIs in this edition of NGT). The need to develop such a plan has long been identified in the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP) and now is the time to get it done. Community workshops/forums etc. will be held in early 2021.

NNIC Xmas/New Year Close Dates

NNIC will be CLOSED as from Monday 21st December and will re-open on Monday 4th January. (Note: we will still be managing the Pool Volunteers throughout).

The Centrelink Agency will be OPEN on Monday 21st December to Thursday 24th December. It will then be CLOSED over Xmas and New Year and will re-open on Monday 4th January.

If you are in urgent need of assistance during this time, see our website or Facebook page for a list of alternative services' phone numbers and help lines.

Nimbin Pool

Thanks to all the volunteers who have signed up, and by now you will have noticed that the pool is open and our community volunteers are on duty. The opening hours are between 7.30am and 6pm, 7 days a week.

We are still recruiting volunteers – many hands make light work, as they say. Willing peeps need to have a current Working With Children



Check number (applications are free for volunteers) and undertake an induction session at NNIC, prior to being able to commence shifts at the pool. To register, email: admin@nnic.org.au with your contact details and WWC number.

Nimbin Holiday Club (aka Vacation Care)

See the article on page 2 in this edition of the NGT. We are calling on Nimbin parents with children aged between 0 and 12 years to complete the survey which can be found online via this link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z9WCY86

The next round of Holiday Club will commence in the first week of January. See our website for the program details.

2020 Big Community Christmas Lunch SANTA

We can confirm that Santa will indeed be coming to the Nimbin Town all at 11am on Friday 18th December, with gifts for kids aged 12 years and under. All kids welcome. Covid protocols will apply including sign in at the door.

Xmas hampers and gifts

Donations towards Xmas hampers for families and gifts for children can be brought to NNIC or else call us for our bank account details if you prefer.

7 Sibley Street updates

The website is back! With a new improved site name: www.7sibley.org Mountains of thanks to Tom Shuf and Dave Julian who rescued it from the netherworlds of cyberspace.

Now Seeking: a volunteer with SketchUp (or similar) skills to help us design the site-specific plans for a composting loo on site. Is this you? If you are up for helping us out, we can offer flowers and chocolates and loads of gratitude.

Regional Youth Art Competition

Thanks to everyone who entered. We are impressed by the artwork submitted and judging is going to be tougher than we thought!

An on-line Awards Event will be held in December, so watch our website and Facebook pages for the details.

Mental health and accessing NDIS

If you have long term mental health issues and have been wondering if you might be eligible for NDIS, or how the NDIS works and what types of supports might be available, or need help working out how to apply for the NDIS, drop by or call us on 6689-1692 to book an appointment with Peter.

Hot weather and water for wildlife

As the weather heats up, your local wildlife will appreciate water being provided for them. Ensure that water is regularly refreshed and that dishes for birds in particular are placed up out of reach of pets.

Always provide sticks or other 'ladders' so that critters (including bees) do not drown in the water dishes.

Be careful of leaving buckets or other vessels with water around without providing means of escape, including swimming pools.

RIP Tonto

You will be missed.

www.nnic.org.au
www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 8th 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 17th 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

- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 8th December. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 17th December.

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

The Auxiliary is suspending all fundraising activities until further notice.

Monthly meetings of the Auxiliary have also been cancelled for now.





Swimming pool tours part 5

by Sue Edmonds

Grafton water slide

Swimming pool tour five was a three-day circle, starting and finishing in our garage. Crazy Rocks National Park, five km east of Wialda, is a lovely camping spot with huge rocks balancing precariously over pools, where turtles swim and birds gather for a drink. It was a bit cold for a dip, but Crazy Rocks got us in the mood.

Wialda workers were finishing the pool's annual refit. We were fortunate to have a personalised tour with the enthusiastic pool manager. He told us the local council made an annual commitment to the pool, this year building a big, modern change block with toilets. The 50m pool was sparkling with its new coat of paint, but not open until the end of the week, ready for the rush of locals and tourists heading west.

Moree, a further 100km west, is famous for its pools. The council had banned Indigenous people from the public pool since the pool's inception. They maintained their overt racism until it was exposed nationally by the Freedom Ride in 1965. The busload of activists, led by Charles Perkins, arrived in Moree, and accompanied Aboriginal kids to gain entrance. This was met with considerable hostility. Perkins recalled he'd been drenched with Moree local saliva as he assisted the kids to enter the pool.

The Freedom Ride had national press coverage, and the council was shamed, denounced as racist, and soon rescinded its by-law. Moree now has one of the most expensive entrance fees, considered another form of discrimination, as many indigenous people can't afford to go to the baths. They find it cheaper to hire the community bus for the day and travel 100km to Narrabri, maybe also go the movies while they are there.

Thermal baths provide Moree with positive fame. People travel from all over to "take the waters". This is a popular pastime with many folk, mostly with a few years behind them, and often with deep memories from European past lives. It's common to hear many languages when wallowing in the thermal pools common to Moree.

"Taking the waters" is not an energetic exercise, it primarily equates to lying in a small pool of 34 to 38°C, chatting with others while going wrinkly. Some caravan parks have four or five pools of varying sizes and temperatures, all for free to customers staying in their premises.

Thermal pools are found in far-flung spots: half-way up the Oodnadatta track at Coward Springs, along the Birdsville track at Mangarannie, and Lightning Ridge are a few I have sampled. Thermal pool tours are advertised in Moree for those who want more, more and more.

The pool in the small town of Bingara was another pool getting a makeover this year. It had been redesigned to include a learner's pool with an adjacent 25m pool. A grand new change block was being completed while we watched with envy. "Just what we need in Nimbin," we muttered as we drove onto Inverell.

Inverell has a unique method of keeping the pool open all year. They have invested in solar so the pool can be maintained at 28°C during the cold winter. A special wall



Inverell pool entrance



Moree caravan park

of plastic sheeting divides the 50 metres in half so a smaller pool is available. Full marks for ingenuity and thinking outside the box, or pool, as it happens. Inverell pool sports a fabulous entrance, decorated with blue tiles, inviting you in with individual class.

The entrance to Grafton Pool belies what's inside. The entrance is austere red brick, from the brutalism school of architecture, but it disguises one of the best public pools we have encountered. Set in spacious manicured grounds with picnic tables and barbeques are four pools of varying sizes.

There is an Olympic size 50m pool, a diving pool with a 1m springboard and a 3m diving tower, very rare these days. The diving pool doubles for water polo, there's a toddlers' pool, and a huge water slide ending in its own pool.

Grafton pool's manager proudly told us how people travel from Casino, Coffs Harbour and all about, particularly so the kids can slide all day for \$2. It's a mini Wet and Wild; lucky, lucky Grafton to have such a fabulous public facility.

We returned to Nimbin to wait for our precious pool to open, with trained volunteers in high vis tops operating the gate in these Covid-19 times, with our one toilet servicing all the recreation area, the children's playground, the skate park, the BBQ area and the pool.

Our Nimbin pool is unique in its own quirky way. It's round rather than oblong or square, and it's free to all users. Its Friends host the annual Nimbin Pool Olympix with novelty events to thrill the spectators such as marathon floating, unique synchronised swimming, racing on crocodiles and saving babies. It's a special part of Nimbin's summer, which is getting hotter.

Episode 6 of 'Swimming Pool Tours' will introduce pools you can visit without staying away overnight, and be back for the chooks and other dependents.

Nimbin Pool re-opens



Thanks to the selfless efforts of local volunteers (pictured), the free Nimbin Pool re-opened on Monday, 30th November.

The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) and Friends of the Nimbin Pool (FoNS) have worked with Lismore Council to train a team of Covid-19 safety volunteers who will staff the facility during opening hours.

The pool will be open from 7.30am to 6pm, seven days per week. Hours and days of operation may change depending on volunteer availability, but the community will be notified of any changes well in advance.

The Covid-19 safety volunteers will be on-site to collect up-to-date contact tracing records and monitor Covid-19 hygiene, ensuring compliance with the NSW Government's Covid-19 Public Health Orders.

Lismore Council's Assets Manager Scott Turner said, "We are really pleased to see the pool finally opening – this has been an extraordinary community effort and we would sincerely like to thank all the volunteers who are giving their time to open this much-loved community facility."

"It is a great example of a community that is



Local residents Christine and her grandson, now able to enjoy the pool


active and looks after one another in times of need."

Scott urged pool visitors to respect the role of the Covid-19 safety volunteers and follow their directions. "The threat of Covid-19 is far from over and it is vital that we all remain vigilant and play our part in keeping our communities safe."

More volunteers are needed to help with the roster – anyone interested should email the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre at: admin@nnic.org.au

Training is simple and you can give as much or as little time as you wish.

All volunteers will need a valid Working with Children Check. This can be completed free of charge at: www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB
7 Sibley Street

December Workshops Program
\$10 unless otherwise noted
Bookings: text 0475-135-764
or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Tuesdays (starts 10.30am)

- **8th Dec: Knitting with Sue.** Learn crochet, knitting and knitting machines.
- **15th Dec: Plastic recycling.** Make panels from milk cartons (HDPE).

Wednesdays

- **Community Tools Library:** 10.30am-2pm
- **Nimbin Harvest Exchange.** Bring your excess produce to swap, share or sell.
- **Garment Mending:** 2-4pm, Atelier Smith.

Thursdays


- **Community Gardens:** Weeding, feeding and mulching. Light work – wear hat, gloves and sensible shoes. Donations of plants welcome!

Saturdays


- **Community Tool Library:** 10.30am-12pm.
- **19th Dec: Book fair, 10am-2pm.** Bring your beautiful books to exchange or sell. Text to book a stall space. All donations towards the new 'play path' planned for the northern half of the basketball court.




Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street
Children's Clothes, Soft Toys, Hemp Food, Body Care, Clothing Products



FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL



LOCALLY MINDED



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