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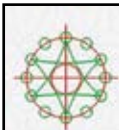
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Diana Anaid and Nat



Pagan Love Cult

## Thankful generosity at NYE fundraiser



Cooks Jeremy and Rory  
Fitzpatrick with Lois Kelly

by Diana Roberts

A hugely successful New Year's Eve event at Tuntable Falls community hall raised over \$26,000, to be shared between 10 local fire brigades.

It was an expression of our heartfelt thanks to all those RFS brigades who helped save local homes, or were on stand-by in case needed. We are so much luckier than many other communities.

There are so many to thank, but firstly a huge thank you to Co-ordination Co-op who not only allowed us to use their fantastic community site and facilities as a venue for the main event and the doof, but provided an incredible staffing resource that helped out tirelessly preparing and serving food and on the gate during the night.

To Darren Maxwell (Blue Knob Brigade) for the idea for the fundraiser and weeks of work making it happen, and to Teresa Biscoe (NCCI) who worked tirelessly behind the scenes organising music, staffing and the venue itself – we owe you both big time.

To those who helped prepare the venues – a big thanks to Tim Tonkin, Neil Pike, Ted Cox, Phil Brommers, Roger Foley-Fogg, Max Pike, Virginia Waters, Diana Anaid and others who were silently behind the scenes.

To Jeremy Fitzpatrick, his son Rory, Donovan, Lois Kelly, Nora,

Megan James and others who helped prepare and serve food and clean up – thank you. To the musicians, DJs and performers who provided our entertainment – thank you.

A special thanks also goes to Liberty Petrol Station in Lismore who donated the \$500 fuel voucher for the raffle (won by Amanda Spain), plus provided a Cool Trailer for the event, complete with 30 bags of ice.

The following businesses donated alcohol for the event: Nimbin Hotel, Premium Beverages, BWS, East Lismore Bowling Club, the Rous Hotel and Station Hotel. We didn't have to buy any beer, and have cartons left over that we're donating to the local brigades.

The following businesses generously donated food items: PJs Fruit & Veg, Pirlos, Nimbin Emporium, S&G Asian Shop, Kaisey's Butchers, Brad's Butchers and Farmer Charlie's.

The raffles made over \$4000. Special thanks to Deb Guest for her beautiful art piece (won by Jen Parke). Also thanks to Nimbin Apothecary, Sam Herren (Stony Chute Brigade), Peter (Blue Knob Brigade), Greg Soward (Nimbin Brigade), Rachelle Garland and Andy Jakeman who all went above and beyond, selling tickets.

Thanks to all the other prize donors including Liberty Service Station, Super Cheap Auto, Bunnings, Cummings Electrical, Lismore 4x4, Super Cheap Auto, Dan Murphy, Denis Meagher, Officeworks, Mandy, Lismore Home Brew Shop, Mary Gilhooley's, Dragonfly, Dulux, Steve Axford, Strings Are, Ongmac, Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Jess who donated the beautiful mirror made by Shannon Lee, Gibbo's Auto Spares, East Lismore Bowling Club, Lismore 4x4 Accessories, Spotlight, Woolworths, BCF, and Farmer Charlie's.

We were amazed by the willingness with which local businesses donated prizes, so please support them when you go shopping. A big thank you to all who bought tickets. Many of you made donations at the same time with no request for tickets. So generous.

We are leaving it to senior local brigade members to decide how funds will be distributed, but the brigades who attended the local fires were Nimbin, Blue Knob, Hanging Rock, The Channon, Stony Chute, Jiggi Valley, Goolmangar, Rosebank, Dunoon and Tullera 7.

We hope these funds will help them buy more firefighting equipment.

## Nimbin Pool Olympics 2020

by Sue Edmonds

There's still time to prepare for the annual Nimbin Pool Olympics of 2020, where our elite swimmers and waders come to square off with anyone who has a swimsuit.

There's time to polish up on floating, a very popular event with the world record set at 20 minutes; walking backwards across the pool and back with hands on heads; duck diving for babies who don't float because they live on rocks; and of course there's the marathon, three times round the pool using any stroke.

The crocodiles and ducks



and babies are ready to go, go, go. This year a selection of endangered creatures will join the programme. The poolside fashion parade is always trend setting. Once again Pauline Ahern has

fashioned fabulous trophies to be kept forever to display in your trophy cabinet.

It's a fun morning celebrating our wonderful free-for-all, community facility with events for all

ages and abilities. The pool is now 41 years old and with her third coat of special paint she is free of cracks and bumps, not bad for 41.

Friends of Nimbin Pool cater for the competitors and spectators with a sausage sizzle, cakes, tea, coffee and cordial for a small donation of \$10. Any profits fund incidentals at the pool.

So come along, on Monday 27th January, 10am at the pool, because it will happen – rain or shine. It's an early start, but worth setting your alarm for.

It's will be a fun morning celebrating water in our lives.





# NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

I am feeling conflicted. The future looks both frightening and hopeful. As Greta Thunberg says, "I don't want you to offer us hope. I want you to panic... and act as if your house was on fire... because it is."

Our political leaders do not think our fires are emergency enough to call out the military. Threatened infrastructure is the priority; wildlife is helpless. What about trying to save what we have left of the natural world so that disasters become less frequent and less severe? That would leave more of everything for more species to share.

Instead, we face spending \$225B on new submarines, \$1B to move the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta, and still more on Sydney sporting venues. That money could go towards National Parks to re-employ much-needed staff who could carry out hazard reduction programs.

Instead, our volunteer RFS is tired and traumatised from months of unpaid dangerous work. Our local RFS stopped the fire on Mt. Nardi but only with the help of untrained locals who bravely pitched in. Homes and forests were saved, thanks to them.

If we are to get serious about fire emergencies, our governments must recognise that the catastrophic conditions we face are the result of anthropogenic climate change. We need a full-on commitment to a global effort, not the paltry, parsimonious platitudes offered by our national leaders. To pretend that Australia is "doing it's bit" is weak and ineffective when we continue to mine and export coal and gas.

We must all embrace new ways of living. We need to get out of environmentally destructive operations such as raising beef, turning precious trees into wood chips for export, mining our water to sell abroad, and approving developments that destroy critical wildlife habitat. Our governments should protect our resources, not exploit them further.



They should work on preventing disasters, not say they can help only in "the recovery phase" after a disaster.

Precaution is even more important now. NEFA President Dailan Pugh said: "We have these mega fires that are moving across the landscape. The biggest difference [from past forests fires] is we're not getting much landscape left unburned or fauna refuges left..."

Pugh continued: "An expert workshop in 2012 estimated that Koala populations on the north coast had declined by 50% in the past 20 years, leaving an extant population of around 8,400 Koalas. It is likely that thousands of these now have been killed, with many populations now on the verge of collapse."

"In just one fire season, which is not over yet, thousands of koalas have lost their homes, and most of these are likely to have died. These fires have greatly compounded the plight of Koalas and driven them, and numerous other species, further towards extinction."

"If we want to give Koalas a chance to survive this unfolding catastrophe then a logging moratorium must

immediately be placed upon all potential Koala habitat in order to allow burnt (scorched) feed trees a chance to recover, and to protect the remaining intact refuges essential as source areas for re-colonisation."

The biodiversity that makes for a sustainable world is becoming dangerously depleted through misuse of the environment, such as forest clearing to create more grazing space for cattle. More smoke, more hamburgers. Crunch Time is now. The decisions we make in 2020 are critical to the planet's future.

Jane Goodall said, "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

I sometimes worry that we can't turn things around before it all falls apart. Then I remember the ozone crisis of the 1970s. World leaders got together and banned the use of the CFCs that were causing the problem. By the end of the century, the emissions had reduced to nothing and the hole in the ozone layer had filled back in.

Yes, we can do this. All we need is the political will to make changes and – dare I say it – some real leadership.

## Mulgum Creek remediation

by Triny Roe

Nimbin Environment Centre has received funding from the Australian Government's Communities Environment Program for a hands-on project to restore riparian rainforest on an upper section of Mulgum Creek.

This stretch of creek was chosen because it has some serious incursions of environmental weeds and provides connectivity with other areas where bush regeneration activities have taken place.

Removing pest plants in this zone will also reduce their impacts further downstream.

The project will include

workshops on plant ID.

Participants will learn to recognise emerging native plants as well as exotic species, and join in hand weeding and planting working bees.

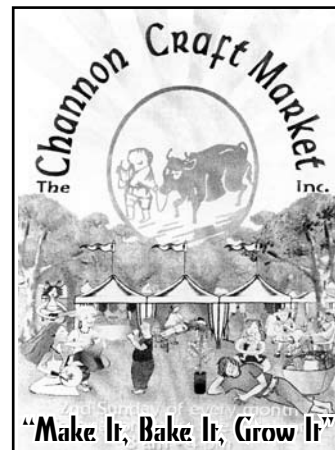
The aim is to use best practice bush regeneration techniques with a focus on green and organic methods.

To reduce the use of chemical requires many hands. It is labour intensive but the rewards are many.

If you would like to help remediate a local creek and be a part of this project, let us know via email: [nimbinenvironmentcentre@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinenvironmentcentre@gmail.com) phone 6689-1441, or come into the shop at 54 Cullen Street, Nimbin and leave your contact details.



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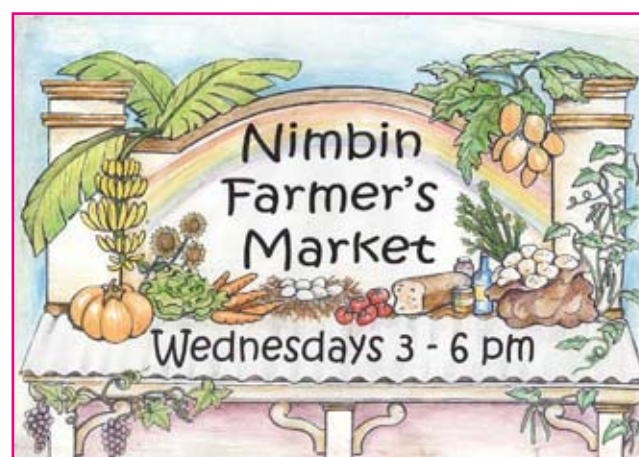
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# In your neighbourhood...

## Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

The NNIC team wishes everyone a Precipitous New Year. NNIC is re-opening and back to 'normal' as from Monday 6th January.

### Final shout out for funny gals!

We still have a couple of spots for comedians for the 2020 Nimbin Women's Dinner on 5th March. *This is a paid gig.* Contact: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) with evidence of funny-ness if you have any, if you are interested. Great warm-up gig for the March Raw Comedy heats in Mullum.

Save the Date – the 17th Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner and Comedy Gala Thursday 5th March. More details plus tix will be available in February.

### Nimbin CDAT wins Big Ideas!

The Nimbin Community Drug Action Team was joint winner of the Local Health District's Big Ideas pitching competition. We won a very cool trophy, plus funds to animate some of our toons so they can be shown on big screens at festivals and events.

We were also awarded the funds to bring Clued-Up Claudelia to life so she can join Captain Competent on his Harm Reduction escapades. We need more CDAT members.

This is an action-based group and we do lots of fun stuff. To join CDAT, contact us or just come along to our next meeting on 13th February at 1.30pm at NNIC.

**Now Recruiting:** Harm Reduction Super Heroes – male/s must be of slim build and 6' or less – females size 12-14, average height. Apply to: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

### 7 Sibley Street volunteers wanted

We are aiming to open 7 Sibley Street more often, but to do so we need more volunteers. If you have skills to share you could conduct workshops or activities at the same time as keeping an eye on the shop and the tools library.

There is a range of other interesting activities that can be done at 7 Sibley Street, so come on down and get involved.

Either drop by and chat with Steph on Mondays-Wednesdays or else email her on: [sibley@nnic.org.au](mailto:sibley@nnic.org.au)

For more info on this project, check out our websites.



Natalie Meyer, Deb Woodbridge and Captain Competent from Nimbin CDAT with the Big Ideas trophy being presented by Wayne Jones, CEO of North Coast Local Health District.

### The big free Community Xmas Lunch

This was held on 20th December at Nimbin Town Hall. Thanks so much to everyone who made it happen – especially Gail, Kath, Al, Heidi, Ron and Victor, Chalet and Santa and all the folks who helped with preparations and on the day.

About 200 people shared the yummy Xmas fare, and it was a great community get-together as always.

### 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 (also at the real estate).

### Nimbin Youth Survey

45 of our local young people participated in this survey. To view the results, see our website: [www.nmic.org.au/pub/index.php/about-nimbina/survey-results](http://www.nmic.org.au/pub/index.php/about-nimbina/survey-results)

### Community Sustainability Survey 2019

The results are being collated and we are aiming to publish them in February.

### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation – January Tip

Looking for something easy you can do to help make a difference? Switch to Enova Energy today for your electricity needs.

Community owned and based and with a strong focus on renewable energy investment you can help keep \$\$ in our region, create local jobs and support an energy retailer which is committed to a clean energy future. Enova Energy offers competitive deals on your electricity costs – make the switch today!

You can help NNIC at the same time by quoting the reference NIM25 when you switch and NNIC will get a discount on our next electricity bill. Go to: [www.enovaenergy.com.au](http://www.enovaenergy.com.au) or phone (02) 5622-1700.

Disclosure: NNIC is a proud shareholder and customer of Enova Energy, which was the brainchild of the Community Energy Forums held in the Northern Rivers region.

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) [www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre)

## Nimbin Hospital information

### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 14th January. 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 16th January. 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 16th January.
- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 14th January. 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: 5th February. New members are always welcome.





# Australia is a poster child for climate chaos

by Bernadine Schwartz

It's the beginning of another year and a new decade but there's nothing at all to be optimistic about and tragically for every one of us, there's no light at the end of the tunnel, not this time.

Australia is making international headlines and the world is watching on in horror as apocalyptic weather cripples the nation. *The Washington Post* has named us 'the poster child for climate change' and extinction of the human race never looked more certain and it's definitely not a far-fetched theory anymore.

Before the commencement of the climate summit the Secretary General for the UN announced; "The point of no return is no longer on the horizon. It is in sight and hurtling towards us."

We had 25,000 delegates representing 200 nations attend the summit in Madrid and a handful were determined to corrupt the process, while the EU, small island nations and many under developed states desperately tried to persuade these major emitters to reduce their emissions.

Australia was one of the accused and is fifth in the world overall, which is shameful from a wealthy nation that has one of the smallest populations.

A report by Greenpeace used satellite data published by NASA, identifying the world's highest levels of sulphur dioxide which is a major pollutant and Australia ranked twelfth. We were singled out for standards that allow power stations at Victoria's Latrobe Valley and NSW's Lake Macquarie to emit



SO<sub>2</sub> at higher levels than China, the European Union and most of the world, where it's illegal and eleven times higher than the World Health Organisation's recommendation.

Decades of environmental negligence and not listening to the world's scientists has brought us here and now 100 fires are burning in NSW alone and half of them are out of control. Hundreds of people are literally fleeing their homes and Sydney is completely surrounded by fire and blanketed in dense smoke that has drifted to the outskirts of Melbourne.

The heatwave in December was frightening when temperatures reached 49 in South Australia and for two consecutive days Australia averaged just above 40, when usually the average temperature for the

nation during summer was 27.5.

It's not only the land that's under attack but also our oceans where warming off Tasmania's east coast has climbed nearly four times the global average and Australia's atmospheric temperature hasn't reached 2° celsius yet, but look at what we're witnessing.

Australia has been facing environmental bankruptcy for some time now, yet the majority of voters turned their back on Labor's comprehensive package aimed at rejuvenating and protecting the environment because in this cut throat world money doesn't talk, it screams. The proposal of franking credits and abolishing negative gearing, wasn't to their liking and instead they chose the continuation of environmental destruction.

On many occasions Greta Thunberg has referred to governments and the powers that be as evil. So you tell me, what does that make the voter of Australia?

Ironically, the economy is taking an absolute pounding and Australia is facing a massive bill from these fires, that have up to now burned an area the size of Belgium, killing eight people and thousands and thousands of defenseless animals. Disturbingly, our forests may never return if significant rain doesn't arrive.

The medical bill is expected to run into 100's of millions because of not only the fires but the smoke haze and insurance companies are being inundated with claims. Some analysts have speculated that it's costing Sydney as much as \$50

million per day, in a city that usually generates \$1.2 billion of economic activity daily.

Last year was the tenth year in a row that the UN has had to release an emissions gap report and the gap is steadily rising by 1.5% and if the world's top fossil fuel producing countries stay on their current trajectories, which includes Australia who is third in the world, production of oil, gas and coal will increase 50% by 2030.

Scientists now realise that irreversible changes in our ecosystems are taking place in nine parts of the global climate system and they are on the verge of reaching tipping point. What this means is a rapid runaway greenhouse gas effect has begun and this is news scientists never wanted to hear.

I've said it before but it really needs to be repeated, Australians are one of the most wasteful societies in the world and were never prepared to sacrifice anything in life but now they're choking on smoke and running scared, suddenly they want climate action. They left this government to their own devices and better late than never, just doesn't apply to global warming and never did. This is why our final curtain call has come and gone.

We were the lucky country once but not anymore and when I contemplate the decade ahead that sense of permanency I once felt has been replaced with fear and apprehension, as I watch the dominoes fall, taking our magnificent monuments to nature with them. Now the million dollar question is, how long have we got?

## Take your clothing repairs to Eric

Atelier Smith is a market-based service mending and making clothes and other textiles using human-powered (treadle and hand-crank) vintage sewing machines.

Small repairs can sometimes be done on-site, but most jobs can be returned at the next market.

Eric Smith has done extensive research and practice on methods of mending and sewing in the past, and has been an award-winning embroiderer for many years.

Eric asks that you bring your job to the stall for design consultation and a quote – anything from a replacement zipper or a tear in your jeans to a set of curtains.

You will find Eric at Lismore Farmers Market – Lismore Showgrounds, Saturdays from 8-11.30am and in Nimbin at 7 Sibley Street on Wednesdays 2-4 pm.

You can also contact Eric Smith at 6633-7269 or email: [upsidedownliving@hotmail.com](mailto:upsidedownliving@hotmail.com)





NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB  
7 Sibley Street

January Workshops Program  
\$10 unless otherwise noted  
Bookings: text 0475-135-764 or email: [sibley@nnic.org.au](mailto:sibley@nnic.org.au)

**Mondays** (starts 10.30am)

- **13th January:** WILD WEAVERS – (2nd Mon each month) Basket making techniques with natural fibres.

**Tuesdays** (starts 10.30am)

- **14th January:** PRACTICAL ADAPTATION – For future food security. Explore gardening strategies for extreme events.
- **21st January:** Learn window glazing repairs.
- **28th January:** Make your own compostable carry/gift bags with recycled

newspaper.

**Wednesdays**

- **Community tools library** 10.30am-2pm.
- **Garment mending** with Atelier Smith 2-4pm.

**Saturdays**

- **11th January:** Community tools library 10.30am-2pm.
- **18th January:** Nimbin seed exchange (2nd Sat each month) Raising seedlings, seed raising soil mixes.
- **25th January:** Weed block building. Bookings essential \$25.

### THE ADVENTURES OF Reckless Rita & Freddy Foolhardy

Featuring: Clued-Up Claudelia & Captain Competent

**17**

Hey Freddy! I scored some wicked pills for the weekend.

Awesome! How many did you get? I will want at least 2 on Saturday night.

CAREFUL FREDDY!  
TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING CAN BE LETHAL

There are some very dangerous pills out there containing TOXIC doses of substances. One batch tested in Qld in December 2019 had RAT POISON in them. The amount of MDMA can be NONE, or much, much MORE than you intended to take. If you are taking pills, ALWAYS try a teeny bit first and wait at least ONE HOUR to test the effects, before taking any more. If it feels bad, or too strong, then it probably is.

Brought to you by Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (Nimbin CDAT)  
c/- NNIC P.O. Box 20168, Nimbin NSW 2480. [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)