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Nimbin's Spring Arts Exhibition to go ahead



by David Hallett

During the Autumn Covid-19 shutdown, all of Nimbin valley's arts facilities and exhibitions were either closed or cancelled, including the annual Autumn Arts Fair managed by the Nimbin Artists Gallery.

While facilities were closed at the School of Arts, two of the region's wonderful Bundjalung artists Gilbert Laurie and Oral Roberts completed work on a major new mural on the hall's main street facade.

The mural was gratefully funded with the assistance of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

The recent meeting of the Nimbin School of Arts management has agreed to proceed with the annual Spring Arts Exhibition.

It will be open daily during the Spring school holidays from Saturday 26th September to Sunday 11th October.

Application forms for the exhibition will be available at Perceptio Bookshop in early July, or online at: nimbinschoolofarts@gmail.com

The registration fee is \$20.

The School of Arts will be receiving registered works on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th September.

Opening night will be on Friday 26th.

CWA logging protest



by Ashoka Joblin

The Nimbin Branch of the Country Women's Association went down to the Myrtle State Forest, halfway between Casino and Grafton, on Friday 26th June to raise awareness of imminent logging plans for this public forest.

Myrtle State Forest is part of the Banyabba Koala population. This area, already severely impacted by 100 years of logging, was devastated in the recent bushfires.

The Northeast Forest Alliance estimates that 83% of this area was severely burnt and at least 80 to 90% of the koala population has been lost.

Of course it is not just koalas, but all the other creatures, including the Barking Owl and the Squirrel Glider, and the flora.

There is also the concern of reducing the carbon capturing capacity of forests at this time of climate emergency.

Plans and preparation are currently underway to log the Myrtle State Forest without any prior assessment following

the recent bushfires.

I was witness to the Forestry Department's very sketchy assessment of koala presence before the fires; there appears to have been no assessment since the fires of the long-term effects.

The NSW Government needs to step up, take a long term view, accept and address the climate emergency we are currently experiencing. And it's up to us to step out and make our concerns known.

We took a short stroll through this forest and were impressed by its valiant efforts of recovery. We saw little native wildflowers, and on looking up the trunk of a 40 metre tree seemingly burnt to death we saw little twigs of regrowth, and there were lots of tree seedlings coming up.

A couple of birds, but not much evidence of other creatures.

It is heartbreaking to think of huge machinery moving in, decimating this precious public forest. It will take decades and more to recover, and should be left alone.

Centenary Show cancelled

by Dave Fawcner,
Nimbin A&I secretary

The Nimbin A&I Society has decided with the utmost regret to cancel this year's Nimbin Show.

A cascade of Covid-19 related cancellations, starting with the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and followed by Lismore's North Coast National and many of the region's smaller shows – along with the abandonment of judging circuits by several livestock exhibitor groups – were major factors in the decision.

While the show is held over two days, the lead-up time is closer to six months. It's an added shame because this year is the Nimbin A&I Society's centenary.

Camping

Despite the cancellation of the show, we had been hoping to re-open for limited camping from 1st July.

However, due to the on-going restrictions and our concerns about the health of the Nimbin community, we have decided to postpone this decision.

We will make a further decision on this at the beginning of August

Grants

The receipt of a \$445,000 grant from the Federal Government earlier this year has gone some way in easing the pain of not having a show. The grant recognises the showground's role as an evacuation centre during November's fire emergency.

While not the main factor, the need to carry out the work within a designated timeline was another reason to cancel this year's show. The monies will be directed to a number of projects.

These include lining and painting the office; refurbishing the old preschool as a kitchen and dining area; reconstruction



Plumber Rob Gall preparing to install new drainage and water lines prior to the tiling of the toilet block.

of the cattle stalls along the boundary with Cecil Street; and the building of a similar structure for horses at the rear of the show-ring.

The society also plans to enclose the existing horse structure to provide a weather-proof venue in the event of another emergency.

A weather-proof awning along the southern façade of the main pavilion between the gym and the Nimbin Preschool will also be constructed.

In addition to Federal funding, we have received two grants totalling \$63,000 from the NSW Crown Lands Department.

These will be used to tile the floors and walls of the former Nimbin Terania Demons change rooms (\$22,000) and link the two ablution blocks and the canteen with a concrete path on the northern side of the main ring (\$41,000).

Bellevue Park

The Nimbin A&I Society is currently

negotiating to purchase Bellevue Park (the old Aussie Rules ground) from Lismore City Council.

Considering it was until recently zoned Community Land, and that the Nimbin A & I Society has maintained the 1.8-hectare site for the past 35 years, we hope to settle on a price that won't break the bank.

It should be noted that this purchase will not be made with grant money, but with money derived from camping fees over many years, including at MardiGrass and the Nimbin Roots Festival.

Community organisations

The annual Nimbin Show is a two-day event, but the upkeep of the showground is a year-round job.

While the Nimbin Preschool and the Discover Fitness Gym are two examples of existing use of the facilities, the society is keen to accommodate other community groups.

The Nimbin Rural Fire Service has recently used the grounds for training new recruits over several weekends.

There is also an arrangement with the Nimbin Headers to use the grounds for Seniors' training, when training schedules and ground availability clash.

In addition to this the Nimbin CWA recently approached the society with regard to their catering an event in October.

Dog walking

A couple of unfortunate incidents last month have led the committee to rule that dogs be on leads at all times when being exercised at the showgrounds.

We also request that walkers practise social distancing between themselves and between campers and their pets.

Rail corridor under threat from proposed legislation

Future public rail transport services are being threatened by a change of legislation being proposed to the NSW Parliament, as mentioned by Tweed's MP Geoff Provest recently.

Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG) is concerned that this will take away the current protection of the rail corridor for future rail transport needs.

Beth Shelley, Chairperson of NRRAG said, "The reason for the proposed change is to develop the rail trail from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek. Why does this have to happen when Tweed Shire Council said it would consider the option of putting the rail trail next to the track?"

"Rail trails don't require a change in legislation and can be established without removing the region's railway tracks. We don't know if

the change will affect the whole corridor or not and if it does we could face the risk of the land being sold off in the future. Once it becomes crown land there is nothing to protect it from a sell off by the State government."

Beth states strongly, "There are vested interests in the community that would like to develop the railway land for commercial purposes, and changing the legislation will give them the opportunity. Byron is a potential gold mine because there's a huge amount of rail land throughout Byron CBD."

With the success of the Byron Railway Company's solar train, the Byron Shire Council has funded a study on the multi-use of the railway corridor. The Arcadis Group's report indicated the existing tracks were in good condition and return of rail services



essential.

"NRRAG has developed a Northern Rivers Railway Restoration Briefing Paper which has been released to Members of NSW Parliament", said Lydia Kindred, Co-Secretary of NRRAG. "This seeks their commitment to funding the re-activation of the Casino – Murwillumbah railway."

"The Briefing Paper is canvassing the community to further identify the benefits of a public rail transport system while preparing a business case for the re-activation of

the entire 132km railway line. This would encourage domestic tourism, creating an extremely valuable infrastructure and transport asset for the region."

The briefing paper states: "A safe and efficient public rail transport system could be a great project for economic stimulus funding in the Northern Rivers".

Lydia said, "There still has been no community consultation on whether people want to keep our railway for the future. Regional Development Plans identify adequate public transport as the most important priority for the full utilisation of opportunity and sustainable economic growth for the Northern Rivers region."

A copy of the briefing paper can be obtained by emailing: nrrailwayaction@gmail.com



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Nimbin Community Centre reboots from lockdown

by Teresa Biscoe, Co-ordinator

In these strange times we live in, many local organisations, including ourselves, have been financially impacted.

The NCC is in a very tight financial position, given the number of tenancies that requested significant rent reductions, the absence of any casual hire income and our inability to apply annual rent increases despite increasing annual costs in insurance, rates, wages and other operating costs.

As a result, the co-ordinators have agreed to use accumulated leave provisions, so for the time being the office will only be staffed Monday and Tuesdays in our regular hours.

Once these provisions are finished (September), normal office hours will resume. Co-ordinators are still available for emergency contact and will continue to monitor phone, email and post.

Also as a result of the disruptions created by the pandemic, we will not conduct an AGM for 2020. The current committee has kindly agreed to continue on until we are able to conduct the 2021 AGM.

Spaces now open for use

The centre is pleased to announce that with the easing of current Covid-19 restrictions, the dance studio, the Birth & Beyond meeting space and the Centre grounds are now open for use. There are still some restrictions in place and we request that all people using our facilities observe the hygiene and social distancing recommendations.

We have provided extra cleaning supplies and signs in our casual hire spaces in order to facilitate safe use of the space and outline current



Maintenance supervisor Sam Herren installs the new walkway roofs.

recommendations. This will of course be updated as we receive new information from the health department.

Most of the groups and classes available before the lock-down have restarted. People wanting to see what's available can go to our website's online calendar at: www.nimbincommunity.org.au for the fully updated list of what's on. The market co-ordinator is now welcoming inquiries for the Nimbin Markets.

The healing rooms at both NCCI sites are also open for business and the regular practitioners are returning to the table. So if you need a treatment, please make some enquiries via the Nimbin Apothecary (6689-1529) or the Healing Arts Sanctuary (0408-490-385).

CCTV Cameras

The centre committee and staff have been disturbed by reports of increased anti-social behaviours from some visitors to the Centre.

This has been attributed to the CCTV upgrades, the fencing of the Oasis Café site and increased patrols from police that target street dealing, which has increased those activities and behaviours into our Community Centre space.

Some of the behaviours include aggressive and intimidating behaviour, swearing, using raised voices, drinking alcohol, smoking, bringing dogs into the grounds, and leaving rubbish around.

This often occurs near the child care service and the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service. It impacts not only on the services that operate out of the centre, our staff and volunteers who have to clean up the mess, but also other visitors and community members.

We want our Community Centre to provide a safe and welcoming space for all visitors and members of our community, free of rubbish, dog faeces, aggression, noise and cigarette smoke.

As a result of this increase in anti-social activity, the centre committee has reluctantly agreed to purchase and install surveillance cameras around the main site.

We ask all visitors to our centre to be aware that it is a shared space, to care for and respect the people and facilities in the centre and consider leaving the space as you found it or better.

Please work with us to provide that space, gently remind others that they are sharing the space with children and older people, and that more welcoming behaviour benefits us all.

Janelle Saffin MP
MEMBER FOR LISMORE

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Nimbin Headers season powering up

by Lucy White

We are so excited that there will be a 2020 season, albeit a shorter one.

Our teams will include Minirosos grade 6, 7, 9 and 10. Juniors grade 12, 13, 14 and 15, and Senior teams include one women's 3rd division and two men's teams 1st and 7th divisions (yet to be confirmed).

Games will recommence on the weekend of 24/25/26 July. Training has commenced with strict guidelines to ensure the safety and wellness of our beloved players and their families.

These restrictions are set to lift on 1st July, however we still need to implement ongoing protocols and we really need the assistance of parents, carers, partners and willing people to ensure this can happen.

We are thrilled to have been successful in receiving grant money that has enabled us to upgrade the drainage on our second field, though we won't feel the full benefits of this until the 2021 season when we will have two full pitches available for games.

It's a fantastic improvement for our club. A big shout out to our grant-writer extraordinaire, Marlaina Garcia, and also to our wonderful president,



Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan recently inspected Nimbin Headers Soccer Club's new solar battery storage system. He said, "I secured almost \$13,000 to assist with this project. Sporting clubs are a vital part of our community, especially in Nimbin." Nimbin Headers now have the ability to reduce their power bills, while also doing their part for the environment.

Ruben Mack, who works tirelessly to oversee many improvements to our club.

Our female toilets have recently received an upgrade, as well as our canteen, which has been tiled and has had doors installed on all the shelving.

Thank you to all our amazing

volunteers who generously contribute to our club in so many ways. We hope they find it a rewarding experience which gives them the opportunity of gaining new skills, meeting new people and teaching their children to be active members of our community.

To any others out there who are uncertain about how to contribute to our club, don't be shy! We need more volunteers to help with a range of tasks.

To all the local businesses that supported our club in 2019, by having advertising banners at the fields, or providing prizes for the raffles, we thank you so much for your support.

Our major sponsor in 2020 was the Nimbin Hotel. Their generous contributions to our club have made life a lot easier and enabled us to purchase training equipment and make some much needed improvements to the club.

Nimbin Hills Real Estate purchased a new strip for our women in 2020 – thank you so much. Ralph and Ruben at Nimbin Building Materials are always donating materials to the club and theirs is a wonderful business to have in our community.

Thank you to the *Nimbin GoodTimes*. With the sad loss of some of our local newspapers recently, it's amazing that our local paper is still thriving.

Bush regenerators make progress on creeksides

by Vanessa Pelly

Whilst most of us were at home in lockdown, our local bush regenerators from Tuntab Creek Landcare have been hard at work looking after our local waterways.

They have been funded by the Nightcap Connector Bush Regeneration Grant from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, to try to clean up the creeks and watershed areas of the Nimbin and Tuntab valleys.

The creeks that run through these valleys constitute some of the



headwaters of the Richmond River, which was found to be the most polluted river in regional NSW (UNE, *Echohealth Report*, 2014).

Works have been undertaken along Websters, Calico, Mulgum, Goolmangar and Tuntab creeks and the most visible to road users would be at Sheathers bridge on Gungas Road.

Works undertaken have

included removal of camphor laurels, large infestations of barner grass, lantana, giant devils fig, small-leaf privet, exotic vines and many more.

Barner grass and giant devils fig seem to be two weeds that have taken significant hold along our local creek banks since east coast low "Debbie" hit back in March 2017.

By removal of weed problems in the headwaters

we prevent the seed moving downstream and further spreading the problem whilst also regenerating habitat for our diverse, local fauna.

All the properties involved in this project, which is known as the 'Nightcap Connector' are being replanted with subtropical rainforest species supplied by our local nurseries at Falls and Basil Roads.

The Nightcap Connector project has also been working in conjunction with Lismore City Council at certain sites to achieve riparian restoration, keep an eye out for a bush regeneration field day in up-coming months (when we are allowed to gather once again).

Government backflip saves old growth

The decision by the NSW Government to cancel a process that would have allowed currently protected old growth forests to be opened up to logging is welcomed by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA), the Greens and by independent NSW MP Justin Field.

They join environmental campaigners and the community in acknowledging that the Government has made the right choice in backing away from its disastrous plan to remap old growth forests in order to open them up for logging.

The decision to cancel the old growth remapping process was announced this week by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) who determined that the project could no longer be implemented, largely as a result of over 60% of old growth forests on the North Coast being severely impacted by last season's bushfires.

Cate Faehrmann, Greens MP and spokesperson for the environment, believes they must go further and declare a moratorium on native forest logging while post-fire threatened species assessments are still underway.

"This assessment by the NRC should confirm to the Government that we've lost significant areas of irreplaceable forest, including threatened species habitat," Ms Faehrmann said, "and it cannot, in good conscience, continue to allow logging in native forests during this early post-fire recovery period."

NEFA fought for 20 years to get North Coast old growth forests mapped and protected as part of the national reserve system in 1998.

"It was disgraceful that this Government was intending to log these hard-won reserves after millions of dollars had been paid in compensation to the industry," said NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh.

"Across the forests there has been a significant loss of the large old growth trees and the essential hollows they provide for a plethora of our native wildlife," Mr Pugh said.

"Over 350 million animals were killed. Given the scale of this wildlife tragedy it is essential for the NSW Government to reconsider continued logging of public lands."

Mr Field believes logging protected old growth forests "should never have been on the table and it is disappointing that it took devastating bushfires which affected over 60% of these protected old growth areas to see this process stopped".

"With a significant volume of North Coast wood supply contracts expiring in 2023, now is the time for the Government to be planning a fair transition out of native forest logging to ensure the long-term sustainability of the timber industry in NSW and to improve the recovery of the state's native forests," Mr Field said.

Ms Faehrmann agrees: "Given our public native forests are operating at a loss, I cannot see how any independent assessment could justify their continued logging, particularly for low-grade products such as paper when so much wildlife and threatened species habitat were lost in the fires."

Mr Field reckons that the previous decision to log old growth forests raises "serious questions about the adequacy of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) approval process for these bushfire-affected logging sites."

Feds fund rainforest regen

Nimbin Environment Centre has been working to protect native plants in the Mulgum Creek Rainforest, removing infestations of high priority weeds, including some significant infestations of seeded banana, giant devil fig, privet and madeira vine.

Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan was in Nimbin recently to announce \$10,000 in grant funding from the Australian Government's Communities Environment Program to support this work and remove more weeds.

"Environmental weeds are a serious threat to the health of our waterways," Mr Hogan said. "Management of these exotic species will help native plants and animals."

Nimbin Environment Centre will be presenting a Weed ID Workshop on Sunday 26th July, 8am-midday, led by local bush regenerators, John Blatch and Tristan Mules.

The event includes a plant



identification workshop (weeds and natives), and hands-on hand-weeding practice – bring your gloves and hand tools.

Please wear a hat, covered footwear, long sleeves and long pants, bring your water bottle, morning tea, and a notebook and pencil.

Register your interest with Nimbin Environment Centre. Email: nimbinenvironmentcentre@gmail.com or phone 6689-1441 or come into the shop at 54 Cullen Street between 11am-4pm and leave your contact details.

This project is also supported by Gungah Road Valley Landcare.

NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

Nimbin Environment Centre (NEC) and Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG), activist organisations with common values, remain concerned about the current state of affairs in several areas and often work together in sync.

Forests

We have made submissions to NSW government regarding changes to land clearing and forestry operations laws and regulations. We also made suggestions for the reform of federal environment law via a review of the EPBC Act, which needs serious reforms to make protection of water and endangered species a reality.

NEC helped organise protest demonstrations against logging in native forests; publicly-owned forests south of Casino which are koala hubs will be defended.

NEFA president Dailan Pugh said: "Logging has more than halved the carbon stored in north-east NSW's State forests, and now the Forestry Corporation wants to reduce it further by burning 400,000 tonnes of trees every year for electricity. This biomass burning is to displace genuine renewable energy. Burning trees releases more CO₂ than burning coal. People must now raise their voices to stop our descent into climate chaos."

About recent wildfires: "Over 350 million animals were killed. Given the scale of this wildlife tragedy it is essential for the NSW Government to reconsider continued logging of public lands."

Local issues

NEC keeps a watch on the local scene and reports to

the community through our shopfront, email alerts, web and FB sites, and a monthly column in the *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

We raised concern about the tree-cutting along creeks north of Nimbin and the failure of housing estate developers to protect big gum trees near Tareeda Way. We helped bring about the footpath along Cecil Street where Tonia Jansen, a long-time Nimbin resident, was fatally struck by a car last year. Pedestrians will soon be able to avoid walking on the road.

Water mining

NEC joined the groundswell opposed to the theft of our public water for private profit. We were glad to support Tweed Council, which last month got state government approval to ban new licenses to extract water for bottling, although the six existing licenses will continue.

Donations/thanks

The NEC Shop serves as a focal point for residents and provides income so we can support action to get better outcomes. Thanks to member support, NEC has donated to the Stop Adani movement, to Adrian Burragubba and the Traditional owners of the land designated for coal mining in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

We also donated to the camp to protect Kalang River forests near Bellingen, Nimbin NAIDOC celebrations, the integrated hydroponics display and a number of reference books for 7 Sibley Street, and the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO). We are a sponsor for Nimbin Organic Food Co-op and continue our sponsorship of Nim-FM community radio.

Committee re-elected

At the AGM on 10th June, NEC members expressed confidence in the past year's committee.

My thanks to secretary Triny Roe, treasurer Marco Bobbert, and last year's very effective committee: Cath Smith, Daniele Voinot, Lisa Costello, Mark Palmer and Saskia Kouwenberg. I regret that Saskia is stepping down from the committee.

CSG moratorium

On 3rd June, the NSW Legislative Council voted to place a moratorium on all coal seam gas mining in NSW. The legislation was narrowly defeated 38 to 36 in the Lower House.

NEC will continue to oppose new fossil fuel developments and is concerned about PM Morrison's new coronavirus-recovery advisory body, which is led by former mining CEO Neville Power and fossil-fuel lobbyists.

The group is a stark reminder of the influence the coal and gas industry has over governments. Community should go to the Lock the Gate web site to learn how to object to the Narrabri Gas Project: <https://www.lockthegate.org.au/> Submissions to the Independent Planning Commission are due in late July.

Lobbying

NEC has supported community efforts to retain the rails and ensure the transport corridor stays public land for future transport needs, especially to provide options to highly-polluting road transport.

We have donated to Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG)

and talked to various politicians about our concerns. We have argued against the so-called Right To Farm legislation and in favour of wildlife protection, especially from rampant logging and habitat destruction.

Climate

In September we joined other citizens around the world for the Climate Strike organised by young people to support sustainable practices over sleep-walking into an extinction catastrophe. Many of us also support various Extinction Rebellion events. The worldwide Strike for Climate will be on 20th September.

Fires

Following a year of record heat and drought, wildfires scorched much of eastern Australia, beginning near Uki and Binna Burra in September and threatened Nimbin during November - December.

NEC contributed to the bushfire appeals, donated to local bushfire brigades, and supported fundraisers at Goolmangar Hall in October and at Tuntable Hall on New Year's Eve.

Covid 19

We have restricted our activities lately to prevent coronavirus transmission. April and May meetings were on-line via Zoom.

Our Nimbin shop was closed during March and April, opening in June for limited hours at first and now 11am to 4pm to offer locally-produced honey, soap, macca butter, coffee, chai, as well as rainforest books and Sea Shepherd Ts, hoodies, and stickers. Hope to see you there!



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74 Cullen St, Nimbin. Open: 10am - 6.30pm



Jayne E. Alleman

Adv.Dip.Acc., Dip.Acc., Tax Agent 98777003

12 years experience

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



Phone 0457-497-011

Email: jayne@nimbintax.com.au

Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

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

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY at 6am

Phone 6689 1769

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- 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • excavator
- 5 tonne spreader • 8 tonne tipper

Terry Brevington

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Gyprock walls and ceilings
New work or renovations

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NIMBIN DELICIOUS

Jams & Chutneys



In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Covid-19: NNIC opening hours

NNIC is back to normal opening hours and available for face to face services, PC and copier access, support services and food relief Monday - Friday 10am to 4pm. Centrelink Monday-Thursday 10am-2.30pm, Fridays 10am-2pm. Physical distancing, hygiene and other safety measures will continue to be in place at the Centre. See our website for other Covid-19 updates and community info: www.nmic.org.au

If you need NNIC services and support but you are in compulsory self-isolation, or feeling unwell, or feeling nervous and wanting to maintain social isolation, then you can call us on 6689-1692 and we can arrange a telephone appointment for you so you do not have to come in personally.

Tools Library and seed exchange

These are both still operating at Sibley Street BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact Steph at: sibley@nmic.org.au to arrange pick-ups or drop-offs.

NNIC memberships

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st July 2020. Your memberships are important to us. Great value at \$5.50 per year. Drop in to renew during our opening hours.

Tools Library memberships

Because of Covid-19, all existing Tools and Equipment Library memberships will be extended for another year at no extra cost *providing* that you all renew your NNIC memberships (see above).

Equipment Library memberships are open to all NNIC members. To join, simply come into NNIC, fill in the membership form and pay \$22 (plus \$5.50 to join NNIC if you haven't already).

You will need photo ID and a separate document no older than three months old showing your current residential address (e.g. rates notice, rent receipt, phone or electricity bill, letter from MO confirming address).

If you would like to join but cannot get in during our opening hours, contact Nat at: admin@nmic.org.au to make alternate arrangements.

Introducing Darren Smyth

We are very pleased to welcome Darren to our team. Having worked for over 30 years in drug and alcohol services around



We have replaced the old couches in our busy Elmo Room, through funding from the Commonwealth's Volunteer Grants 2019.

Australia, Darren is a highly experienced drug and alcohol nurse practitioner who is joining our existing nurse practitioner, Genevieve Beggs, to deliver Nimbin Integrated Services (NIS) at NNIC.

NIS is a clinical service which provides a range of supports and treatment options tailored to the needs of individual clients experiencing problems with mental health and drug and alcohol issues.

Face-to-face and/or telephone appointments are available Mon-Wed (Genevieve) and Fridays (Darren). To book an appointment call 6689-1497.

Mental health & accessing NDIS

We have a new service to support people with long term mental health issues to access the NDIS. If you 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.

Community Drug Action Team

CDAT is still meeting regularly via Zoom. More members would be very cool. Especially if you are aged under 50! And extra especially if you are aged between 18 and 25. We do lots of fun and creative stuff and we need input from people with diverse experiences. To join, contact Nat at: admin@nmic.org.au and we can invite you to the next meeting.

Superheroes wanted: Are you into acting and dressing up in fun costumes? Enjoy going along to events, festivals and gigs or even starring in movies? Are you around 180cms tall and of slim build, reasonably fit and healthy?

Then do we have the ultimate volunteering opportunity for you! We need males and females. All Superheroes have at least one 'wrangler' with them at

all times, so it's a great job for two friends to do together if you prefer.

Coming soon: new vids produced by Nimbin CDAT. Watch out for them on our NNIC website or facebook page.

Community Sustainability Survey

Some of you will remember doing this survey in September-October last year. The survey report is finally available. We were intending to publish it by early 2020, but then the bushfires, drought and Covid-19 happened, delaying the production until now. If you are interested in the results see the Report on our website < About Nimbin < Survey Results.

Struggling because of Covid-19?

Are you either a) not eligible for Jobseekers or Job Keepers? or b) you are eligible but you are still left with a reduced income and unable to pay your bills? We may be able to help with some of your expenses including electricity bill relief, food vouchers, Telstra vouchers, food or other material aid.

All services are confidential... don't struggle through this all alone. Call us on 6689-1692 to make an appointment.

Got unpaid fines?

You may be eligible for a Work Development Order enabling you to pay off your fines via volunteer work at NNIC. Phone us on 6689-1692 to make an appointment with Peter to find out.

Where's the Sibley Street website?

Sadly, our 7 Sibley Street website appears to have taken a fatal hit in the process of transferring it to a new server. We have been trying to resurrect it, but so far all attempts have failed. It is likely we will have to rebuild it from scratch, which will probably take us a while.

Meantime, watch out for Sibley Street project updates on our NNIC website and the 7 Sibley Street facebook page.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website www.nmic.org.au www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 14th July. 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 July. 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 July.
- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 14th July. 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

The Auxiliary is suspending all fundraising activities until further notice.

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



'New' doctor in Nimbin



by Dave Fawkner

Dr Clint Leahy (pictured) is a new – but possibly familiar – face at the Nimbin Medical Centre. He practised here in 2012, midway through an 18-year stint working in remote Aboriginal communities.

Along with his knowledge of the region – he grew up in Lismore and attended Richmond River High School – and the cultural sensitivity he brings to his work, he is sympathetic to the prescribing of CBD and THC.

He may also have some juggling skills: along with practising in Nimbin on Fridays, and three days a week at Tintenbar, he's building a house and planting koala trees just out of town.



Respiratory clinic opens in Casino

Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation has announced the opening of the Casino Respiratory Clinic as part of the Australian Government's \$2.4 billion response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Bulgarr Ngaru worked with the Australian Government, North Coast Primary Health Network, Northern NSW Local Health District and local health practitioners to establish the clinic.

The clinic is for all community members and will service Casino and surrounding areas. It will assess people with respiratory symptoms and, where appropriate, undertake testing to diagnose respiratory cases, including Covid-19, influenza and pneumonia.

People can choose to receive their results either by text message or via a phone call from the clinic. The NSW Ministry of Health will contact directly anyone who returns a positive result to Covid-19.

"The clinic will provide the opportunity for people to undergo assessment and testing in a safe environment close to home and will protect our most vulnerable community members," Bulgarr Ngaru CEO Scott Monaghan said.

"Importantly, it will support local healthcare

services – taking the pressure off hospitals and general practices by providing dedicated treatment to people with mild-to-moderate symptoms of fever or sore throat, cough, fatigue or shortness of breath.

"I encourage anyone in our community experiencing these symptoms to book an appointment."

Casino Respiratory Clinic practice manager Marnie Smith said people do not need a doctor's referral to attend the free clinic (open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm). However, she said it is important to make an appointment: Visit health.gov.au or call 1800 856 325.

Ms Smith said from 6th July a mobile unit would extend the reach of local testing, visiting smaller, outlying communities including Evans Head, Kyogle, Tabulam and Mulli Mulli.

The Australian Government has established respiratory clinics at seven North Coast locations: Murwillumbah, Ballina, Casino, Yamba, Nambucca Heads, Kempsey and Wauchope.

The respiratory clinics complement NSW Health's COVID-19 / fever clinics at Tweed Heads, Byron Bay, Lismore, Grafton, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie.

Help online for drug and alcohol issues

The Buttery is offering a free four-week online program to allow more people to get help with their alcohol and other drug issues – without needing to join a residential program.

The Buttery is a mental health organisation (and drug and alcohol rehab) with headquarters near Bangalow.

In response to Covid-19, the organisation has adapted its Community Rehab Program (CORE) to become an on-line program, which you'll be able to access from home.

The program is especially focused on helping people in Nimbin, Kyogle, Casino and the surrounding areas.

Many people who would benefit from a long-term stay at The Buttery or other rehab facilities are unable to do so because of long waiting lists, or due to personal circumstances (such as parenting or carer responsibilities).

CORE will be delivered from 3rd August for four weeks, Monday to Friday, 9.30am-1pm. It will include group and individual therapy.



The program will also provide meditation, online peer support, case management, advocacy, and will help with referral into other agencies for other issues, such as education or accommodation.

"This concept is not only more cost effective than residential rehab, it is flexible enough to help people during the pandemic who would never have been able to put their family commitments on hold to seek intensive rehab," program manager Tanya

Magnay said.

CORE will address lifestyle issues such as nutrition, exercise, stress management, mental health and budgeting.

To find out more about the program go to The Buttery website: www.buttery.org.au/community-based-rehab-program or call The Buttery during office hours: (02) 6687-1111.

CORE is supported by funding from the North Coast PHN, by the Australian Government's PHN Program

NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB 7 Sibley Street

Mondays (starts 10.30am)

- **6th July: Introduction to fibre arts.** Processing: carding, hand-spinning cotton, silk, wool, alpaca.
- **13th July: Wild weavers.** Basket-making techniques with natural fibres.
- **20th July: Introduction to fibre arts.** Textile weaving: preparing and warping weaving looms.
- **27th July: Introduction to fibre arts.** Loom weaving: Inkle-band & 4-shaft looms available.

Tuesdays (starts 10.30am)

- **14th July:** Knitting with Sue. Make your own beanie!

Wednesdays

- **Community tools library** 10.30am-2pm.

- **Nimbin Harvest Exchange.** Bring your excess produce to swap/share or sell.
- **Garment Mending** with Atelier Smith, 2-4pm.

Thursdays

- **Community Gardens** Weeding, feeding and mulching.#

Saturdays

- **Community tools library** 10.30am-12pm.
- **4th July – Nimbin seed exchange** (1st Sat each month) Swap & share saved seeds and cuttings.
- **18th July – Crafter's de-stash market.** Clear out those craft supplies and start a new project. Stall bookings: 0475-135-764.
- **18th July – Making and building with weed blocks** \$25, bookings essential.



THE ADVENTURES OF Reckless Rita & her BFF Lin Featuring: Clued-Up Claudelia

Hey Rita wanna come down to the Pub and sink some beers?

Sorry Lin the Dr says I shouldn't drink while I'm pregnant.

Aww come on! A couple of beers won't hurt...it's my shout!

**BUT WAIT LIN!
RITA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT...
A HEALTHY BABY IS BEST FOR EVERYONE!**

Even ONE DRINK can cause permanent harm to an unborn baby. Every child deserves the best possible start in life and every mother-to-be needs support from their friends and family to have a healthy and happy pregnancy. The BEST GIFT you can give your pregnant Best Friend and her baby is to GO DRY WITH HER until the baby is born. For more info about Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) see: www.nofasd.org.au OR yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au – "what is FASD?"

Brought to you by Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (Nimbin CDAT)
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