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People not government lead reconciliation



Bundjalung artists Oral Roberts and Gilbert Laurie repainting the hall mural during Reconciliation Week Photo: Chibo Mertineit

by S Sorresen

Well, that was the week that was: National Reconciliation Week, which ran from 27th May-3rd June. Missed it?

Doesn't matter; a week isn't long enough. It should be National Reconciliation Decade. It's important.

So, what is National Reconciliation Week about?

It's a week when we remind ourselves that there is a huge divide in Australia, and that divide is between its Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens. We remind ourselves that it's crucial that Indigenous and non-Indigenous people reconcile if we are to live in a fair and just Australia.

It's a week when we are reminded that Indigenous people lived in and cared for this land for tens of millennia before whitefellas came here a couple of hundred years ago to live in and, well, exploit this land. (One is reluctant to say 'care for'...)

National Reconciliation Week is when we remind ourselves that Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians now share this land, and together must acknowledge its true history and the current reality of First Nations people.

When we do this, then we'll want to right the wrongs, and create an equality in law and opportunity. Then, and only then, will this great southern land move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Interestingly, the dates for National Reconciliation Week remain the same each year – 27th May-3rd June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey: the successful 1967 referendum which decided to include Aboriginal people in the Australian census, and the 1992 High Court Mabo decision which gave the boot to the terra nullius fiction.

The first National Reconciliation Week was organised by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation in 1996.

In 2000, huge reconciliation walks were held around the country. About 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge, the largest public political demonstration ever.

Australians of all heritages came together to urge government towards a fairer treatment of Indigenous

people, a change to racist laws, and an acknowledgement of past injustices.

In that spirit and in that year, Reconciliation Australia was created to guide Australia's reconciliation movement.

Reconciliation Australia's vision of reconciliation is based on five measures: historical acceptance; race relations; equality and equity; institutional integrity; and unity.

This year's theme says we are all 'In This Together'. The people, like always, must lead the way to reconciliation, and then the Australian governments will follow.

It can't be left up to governments to lead; they are too compromised by the big money which continues to flow from the unsustainable (but profitable) exploitation of Indigenous land and people. And acknowledging the historical illegalities could be politically painful...

We live in hope of a time when all Australians will share the common history and the different cultures, celebrate the remarkable achievements and mourn the awful tragedies, and when everyone can contribute to a creating a better Australian society.

Nimbin CWA: Hopes and dreamings

by Linnet Pike, president

I feel gratitude that our community and our wider world on a national level has escaped relatively lightly from the horrors experienced elsewhere in this year of the Great Pause.

And so very grateful that we are privileged to have a national health service, and that our efforts in adherence to the lockdown gave our health system some breathing space to prepare.

I have also felt a profound sense of hope that we may continue to carry through some of the lessons we have learnt from this period of enforced reflection and isolation.

Community Choice grant application

One of our goals in securing a space in the Nimbin Community Centre was to enable us to further our community activities, collaborating with other community-based organisations, holding workshops and having events on everything from art-making to preserving harvests.



Branch members Ashoka Joblin, Tash Fuller and Sandi Hill

Being able to both cook and serve food from our room is much needed, to provide vital support during periods of emergency and disasters.

Two of our members, Sue Stock and Claire Delacy, recently applied for a grant for funding from the Essential Energy Community Choices program which supports community groups with funding of up to \$2,500, decided by votes from the community.

We have received many generous donations for the room from kind members of the community, and want to install our much-needed newly donated gas/electric stove, which we have costed into our grant application, as well as a stainless-steel work

bench and under-counter hot water service.

We ask you to vote for our project, supporting our grant application. Voting is open to the public from 4th to 18th June, and details of the voting process will be posted when available on Nimbin Hookups and other social media sites, or visit: www.essentialenergy.com.au/about-us/community-support/community-choices

And yes, it is almost like a popularity contest, and I'm sure many wonderful and worthy projects will also be applying, however we would greatly appreciate local support.

Market stall

We shut our door to our new Branch headquarters in the

Community Centre back in March and whilst we have all enjoyed solitude on one level or another, we are now focused on safely engaging once more with our sisters in the Branch and reaching out to the community again.

We have started having a stall at the Nimbin Farmers' Market on Wednesday afternoons, selling plants, bottled delicacies and munchies of various kinds.

Our first market stall was on 27th May, and we sold out of baked goods such as cakes and scones within an hour.

We'll be there every Wednesday from now on, selling raffle tickets and up for having a yarn, particularly once the markets open up more fully in the future.

We will also be having a stall at the monthly markets at the Community Centre once restrictions are lifted, and will be opening up our room there on market days.

My hope as we emerge from isolation is that we can carry our ideals into whatever the future may hold, and that we are all able to flourish and grow into our dreams with gratitude, kindness and solidarity as a community.

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Court win for Bundjalung Elders

by Omega Breakspear

Development of a housing estate on the North Lismore Plateau has been halted by a court decision.

A formal declaration in the Land and Environment Court on 28th May by Justice Nicola Pain deemed that the Development Application (DA) approval by Lismore City Council for the development was void.

This was on the grounds that the developer had failed to submit a Species Impact Statement with the DA, despite it being habitat for a number of critically endangered species. In particular, both the White-eared Monarch and 13 species of micro bats, as well as several species of frogs at risk of local extinction.

Bundjalung Elders Council chairman, Uncle Mickey Ryan was the applicant in the court case. "I didn't think we had any chance of winning. But we knocked 'em. It's like a David and Goliath fairytale come true," he said.

"My old people told me to protect this mountain for our future generations and that's why I've stuck at it for over 10 years. We have no future if we have no past."

There is a site on the Plateau that belonged to Uncle Mickey's great-grandfather. It's Bob Durahbin's waterhole. It's an increase site (djurbil), which means that it will never run out of water or tucker, and it's still there today.

The developers, Winten Property group, based in North Sydney and contracted by the landowner Mr Bill Sexton who lives in Nth Queensland, have already caused significant damage to the North Lismore Plateau.

Lismore Council has already invested millions of dollars of ratepayers' money on infrastructure for the Plateau development, and has a vested interest in the project.

Lismore Council spokesperson Dr Sharon Harwood's claims that they "have always been concerned to protect the environmental attributes of the Plateau" despite recent clear-felling and destruction on the Plateau with disregard for the significant heritage sites there.

Over four hectares of emerging rainforest with hollow-bearing habitat



The development viewed from Sexton Road, North Lismore

trees have been cleared and a haul road and large pit constructed on the Plateau. This was during the on-going court case involving the approval for the development. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently investigating the matter.

Lismore Council claims that compensatory planting of over 2000 Forest Red Gums has been implemented appear to be unfounded.

Winten's contractors, Hazel Bros relocated a number of species of animals found alive during the clearing. Well-known ecologist David Millage said that as a rule, when a species is removed from its habitat it generally dies.

The same contractors, Hazel Bros who are from the Gold Coast, also worked on the Byron Bay Bypass where they relocated 163 critically endangered Mitchells Rainforest snails to the adjacent rail corridor. It's unlikely any survived.

The Winten developers intend putting in another DA to cover the filling of the flood plain from the pit on top of the Plateau. They also want around 95 housing lots to be approved. No flood mitigation impacts have been researched and it contravenes the Lismore Development Control Plan.

Uncle Mickey says that Lismore



Uncle Micky Ryan being interviewed by ABC's Bruce Mackenzie

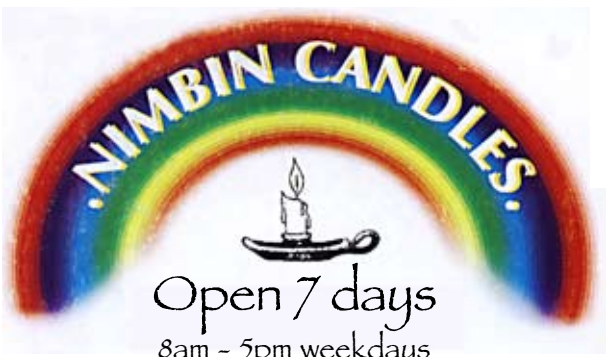
Council is trying to claim Crown land on the Plateau for development that's Native Title land.

Al Oshlack, legal council for Uncle Mickey, alleges that Lismore City Council had previously misled the Regional Planning Panel in order to get the project rubber-stamped.

"The Lismore Council is acting as a developer," said Mr Oshlack. "Council is being driven by senior management. They are behind this agenda."

Mr Oshlack said that it's a major precedent court case in the Land and Environment Court and the ramifications will be felt for many years.

Arguments over legal costs and directions for remediation will be resolved in the Court in July.



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Nimbin's main street starts to fill again, as businesses progressively open following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. See Chamber of Commerce report, Page 9.

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Roading halted at Myrtle State Forest

by Ruth Rosenhek, NEFA

Ten members of the Northern Rivers Extinction Rebellion (XR) movement and the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) paid a visit to Myrtle State Forest, south of Casino, where logging operations have commenced during May.

In early March, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) approved the Forestry Corporation to undertake logging of burnt Koala habitat in three State Forests on the Richmond River lowlands.

We are all very concerned that Forestry is about to commence taking trees down in this already very stressed out forest.

As we know, forests are the lungs of the earth. They play a vital role in sequestering and storing carbon and this carbon storage has been significantly diminished in vast areas of NSW's forests due to widespread logging as well as the recent bushfires.

We need to protect degraded forests as part of the solution to climate change and cease the logging of



public native forests.

Allowing regrowth forests to mature will avoid significant releases of CO₂ and allow carbon to be sequestered and stored in the tree trunks and soils of the regenerating forests.

If we can allow forests such as Myrtle State Forest to regenerate it will continue to store carbon in ever increasing volumes as it matures over decades and centuries.

As pandemic restrictions ease, it is time to take

bold steps towards ending business-as-usual and moving towards a future that will support future generations both human and wildlife.

Increasing carbon storage in forests and avoiding emissions represents a significant economic, environmental and social benefit to all people in NSW.

The arrival of the group into the forest – chanting “Enough is Enough, It's Time to Stand up!” – caused the day's roading activities to cease.

The North East Forest

Alliance (NEFA) urges the EPA to immediately withdraw its approvals for logging of Koala habitat in Bungawalbin, Doubleduke and Myrtle State Forests and do due-diligence by assessing the landscape impacts of the fires on Koalas.

As shown by this example, a moratorium is needed on further logging of populations of all species significantly affected by the fires until surveys are undertaken to assess their vulnerability.

What's a **conspiracy** and what's just common garden variety **corruption**?

by Aidan Ricketts

Oh dear, it's become very strange of late. Lockdown, isolation, social media and fear have provided fertile ground for all manner of weird theories about the state of the world.

Now let's be clear. The world is not in good shape. For a start we have a massive problem with climate change, undoubtedly the single biggest issue that we need to and are not properly dealing with. Then there is the rise of fascism around the globe and the irrationality and violence that always accompanies this social disease.

There is a rapidly imploding global economy that has been based upon an unsustainable fantasy that economic growth and consumption can grow infinitely on a finite planet. We have a massive top-heavy structure of private corporations controlling massive wealth and influence over governments and intent on bending policy to suit themselves. None of these are conspiracy theories, these are all demonstrable problems facing the world.

It is rational to be suspicious of government, and of massive concentrations of private wealth. It is rational to sense that we are heading into frightening, unpredictable and difficult times.

Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. We have known this for a long time, and there is no permanent solution to the politics of greed and power abuse. What is required is eternal vigilance to sustain democratic governance, maintain information transparency and tackle the corrupting influence of vested interests.

This is why as a culture we have developed a number of practices that protect us against power abuse and manipulation. One of these is scientific

and academic rigour, another is the maintenance of civil and political rights of free expression and protest, and another is a system of law based on transparent rules.

There is so much to critique, so much to struggle and unite against. Vested interests such as the fossil fuel industry, the arms industry, big Pharma, private prisons, logging, mining, gambling and alcohol and corporate agri-business do fund our major political parties and influence our governments, and we need to constantly struggle to counteract this with our civil society movements and campaigns.

But none of what I have described above has anything to do with conspiracy theories. All of it is demonstrable concentrations of power all jockeying for their own self interest. Of course they will do this in all sorts of overt and covert ways. But good quality researchers like Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, John Pilger, George Monbiot, Vandana Shiva to name a few, keep the spotlight on this incredibly complex world of competing power interests.

Conspiracy theories actually end up providing cover for the existing corruption that operates in plain sight. Speeding past all of the patent corruption, power plays and manipulations going on around us, by searching for some other, some more secret, some more invisible, some more centrally-organised conspiracy simply deflects attention from the real problems.

Seriously, how does it help to let all those mega corporations and corrupt governments off the hook and instead decide that the real conspiracy is amongst immunologists and climate scientists?

Capitalism has never been fair or sustainable, neo-liberalism has been draining the public wealth and

destroying our health, education and social support systems for decades, and these things need and deserve our attention and collective response.

Our human society is already a troubled and corrupted place, and we don't need to go seeking more secret, more centralised, more implausible sub-plots.

What we need to do is use academic and scientific rigour to take a hard look at our world, unite as populations and communities and join in rational civil society movements for a better world.

This is the communitarian and democratic impulse that has served us well in the past and can serve us again. There have always been dictators, tyrants and self serving wealthy classes in history. The struggle is eternal.

The world is an unpredictable place and try as they might the various powerful players can never keep perfect secrets and they can never truly predict nor control the future.

The problem is not that the planet is being run by a single secret cabal of far-sighted illuminati, the problem is that the whole thing is a chaotic mix of short-sighted competing interests, all of which are desperately trying to manipulate things in their own favour.

Please, maintain your critical faculty, don't trade in your faith in 10,000 educated scientists in favour of one youtube charlatan who spins you a seductive but paranoid web of nonsense.

The immunologists and climate scientists are not lying to you, but Murdoch's newspapers, Trump, the fossil fuel lobby, North Korea, China and Peter Dutton and hosts of blowhard youtube charlatans certainly are.

We have so many challenges ahead of us, we need to tackle them together and head-on. We already can see the big problems, we need to get on with tackling them.



NIMBIN

ENVIRONMENT
CENTRE

NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

People can be forgiven for thinking that the Covid-19 pandemic has swept the environment off the agenda, dominating the news as it has.

Some attention has been given to the Bushfires Royal Commission and the widespread, devastating effects of the fires driven by climatic change. But with citizens unable to hold protests and set up blockades, those who oppose rampant forest destruction have found it difficult to raise needed awareness.

The new rules have restricted people's movements to "essential services" (which, interestingly, has not included state or Federal Parliaments) but environmental defenders were not accorded the same "essential" status that loggers and miners enjoyed. It appears that keeping the virus away has been more important than the gathering climate emergency, yet the public has not been asked for consent.

State Premiers have even been able to close the borders of their states in spite of Australia's Constitution being fairly specific that no-one has that power. The curtailment of our democratic decision-making processes is a matter for concern.

Comparing Covid-19 fatalities with our annual road toll makes me wonder why we have taken a flu-like virus so seriously while making little headway against deadly traffic accidents. The ABC recently reported that every death equates to a loss to our society of \$4.9M, so traffic safety would seem as important as virus mitigation. Then, too, deaths attributed to Covid-19 reached 100 in Australia for the year up to 20th May, while "between 1500 and 3000 Australians die from the flu in a normal year," according to Alice Klein (*New Scientist*, 9th May 2020).

Infection from the "normal" flu virus has dropped to "only 229 during April 2020 compared with 18,705 in April 2019." So it seems that all the attention to hand washing and social distancing has limited the spread of influenza as well as the coronavirus. A welcome collateral benefit.

During this time, many of us have remained busy on behalf of the environment through the internet and have been able to hold meetings, thanks to Zoom.

Indeed, NEC co-sponsored with the Community School and the Hemp Embassy the hydroponic system display set up by Wayne Wadsworth at 7 Sibley Street as seen in last month's NGT.

With restrictions easing, we re-opened the NEC shop at the main crosswalk in Nimbin as of 26th May. People seem very happy to socialise again in an almost festival atmosphere while still mindful of the lurking virus danger.

The Environment Centre's AGM was postponed and will now be held on Wednesday 10th June from 6pm in the Birth and Beyond Room next to the NEC shop. All members welcome! The large room will enable 1.5m distancing to be maintained.

Covid-19 casualties include the World Environment Day, an annual gathering at Murwillumbah. This year, organisers intend to have a program available on-line on the Caldera Environment Centre Facebook site.

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is representing the Bushfire Survivors For Climate Action, a group of everyday Australians directly impacted by bushfires, in a case that aims to protect local communities by empowering the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to develop policies and guidelines that regulate greenhouse gas emissions and ensure a safe climate.

The Bushfires Royal Commission has been taking submissions and was to hold "hearings" from 25th May, then announced these will be held online due to concerns over... you guessed it... Coronavirus. One expert described the era from 2009 Black Friday and including the Black Summer firestorms of 2019/20 as the *Pyrocene: the Age of Fire*.

Unless humans – especially the USA, Brazil, China and Australia – do more to lower carbon emissions we are likely to suffer more catastrophic fires due to drought and global warming. No surprise there.

In an article dated 1st May 2020, EDO water law specialist Dr Emma Carmody said that water monitoring is inadequate in the Murray Darling Basin and stated: "We hope that the government will consider our findings an opportunity to continue developing and implementing accurate measurement of all forms of water extractions and transparent, fully audited water accounting across the MDB."

NOTE: NEC has been



writing submissions to limit groundwater extraction in our region, especially the rampant water mining from bores in the Tweed River valley for commercial bottling.

The Schools Strike for Climate scheduled for 15th May had to be postponed, but the EDO is heading to court on behalf of young Queenslanders and landholders to challenge Clive Palmer's proposed Galilee Coal Project (near the Adani coal project) in a case that's set to make legal history.

EDO CEO David Morris says, "This is a case about the incompatibility of new coal mines with established human rights, and it's about the kind of world we want to leave our children. Decisions to open new coal mines today unfairly burden the next generations who will suffer the worst consequences of climate change. The evidence shows, we cannot afford to dig up any more coal, but the more coal we dig up and burn the worse these impacts are. There will be more intense cyclones, more prolonged droughts, deadlier bushfires, and the loss of the Great Barrier Reef and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultural places. These impacts affect human rights of Queenslanders protected under Queensland law."

If the case is successful, the Land Court of Queensland will recommend that the Mining Lease and Environmental Approval for the Galilee Coal Project be refused. It will be then up to the Minister to act on the recommendation.

From NSWGasBan website: Government and industry want you to think that coal seam gas (methane mining) is a transition to a cleaner carbon free future but nothing could be further from the truth. Methane (CH₄) is a damaging greenhouse gas, much worse than CO₂ in the short term. Many experts are now pointing to research that shows gas is #WorseThanCoal

NEC has joined with NRG for submissions to the NSW government to support changes in the way land clearing is allowed when it threatens koala habitat, and to the Lismore Council

regarding their Strategic Plan which includes a new Master Plan for Nimbin.

As part of the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) we are also lobbying the state government to rein in logging in native forests, even those that exist on patches of soil that are considered to be "private."

NEFA reports that logging has begun in the Nambucca State Forest. We are very unhappy that NSW Forestry wants to continue logging despite the massive areas of forest that need to recover from the recent fires, not be destroyed. A tent embassy has been set up by traditional owners to confront the loggers and they welcome people from everywhere to join them.

You can also go to the Bellingen Enviro Centre website to sign on to a roster for the vigil to help save the magnificent unburnt Kalang headwaters forests from imminent logging.

In our area, small demonstrations against logging fire-damaged forests have started for the Myrtle State Forests south of Casino. 'Fridays for Forest' have focused on alerting the public to logging that is scheduled in an area where NEFA has found evidence that koalas have survived. These will continue for the foreseeable future. From 1st June the Friday protests will likely grow after government restriction on gathering allows more than 10 people in one spot.

Finally, NSW Parliament stands adjourned until 15th September – social distancing takes precedence over democracy yet again! – but now may be a good time to lobby MPs with issues.

The railway corridor was supposed to have been taken away from the control of Transport NSW, but that hasn't happened yet and will now have to wait for Parliament to resume. Also, Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG) has put together a Briefing Paper for decision-makers, urging retention of the Casino to Murwillumbah corridor for future public transport needs. Check it out on their website.

This may be submissions season. Get ready to submit!



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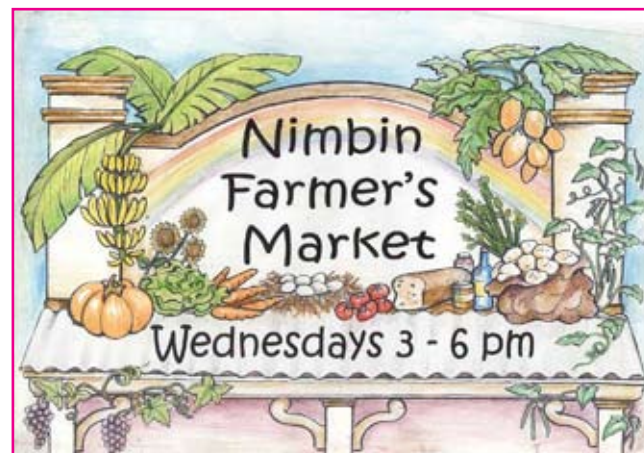
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Covid-19 – NNIC opening hours

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.

If you need NNIC services and support but you are either 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.

See our website for other Covid-19 updates and community info: www.nnic.org.au

Mental health and NDIS

We have a brand 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.

Tools library and seed exchange

These are both still operating at Sibley Street by appointment only. Because only one person may be on site (other than Steph) at any time, please contact Steph at: sibley@nnic.org.au to arrange pick-ups or drop-offs.

To join the Tools Library, call NNIC on 6689-1692 to arrange a time to come in and complete the paperwork. You will need at least one photo ID and two documents showing your current address, plus \$22 (NNIC members) or \$27.50 (non-members).

We are hoping that workshops will be able to resume soon at 7 Sibley Street.

DV and child safety risks

Please keep your eyes and ears alert to everyone around you, to make sure everyone is safe, including women and children, from abuse and violence.

There are concerns about the increased risks to victims of abuse and violence



Gardening focus at 7 Sibley Street

Nimbin's Sustainable Living Hub at 7 Sibley Street is still not able to advertise workshops for June, but hopefully all will be good for July.

Co-ordinator Steph Seckold said, "We're using this time to keep preparing garden beds." The following activities are on-going, by appointment only.

• **Community Tools Library:** open 10.30am-2pm Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Join now at NNIC (see item at left).

• **Nimbin Seed Exchange:** Saturday 6th June (first Saturday of each month).

Swap and share saved seeds

• **Harvest Exchange:** Every Wednesday. Bring along your excess produce to swap or sell.

For bookings and enquiries, email: sibley@nnic.org.au or text 0475-135-764.

who are trapped behind closed doors in self isolation.

If you have any concerns or worries for yourself or anyone else, call NNIC on 6689-1692 for support and guidance, or call:

• 1800 RESPECT: 1800-732-732

• Domestic Violence Helpline: 1800-65-64-63

• MensLine: 1300-789-978

• NSW Ageing and Disability Abuse Hotline: 1800-628-221

Lost income due to 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.

If this sounds like you, don't be backwards in coming forwards, we are here to help you through this... we make no judgements and all services are confidential... don't struggle through this

all alone. We can also provide mental health support.

Call us on 6689-1692 or just drop by to make an appointment.

SuperDog treats

Tasty treats (aka bribes) for your furry friends made with love by Rhys. Your dog will do anything for one of their favorite SuperDog treats, a variety of flavours available.

Why not drop into NNIC and grab yourself a packet – you will be supporting this great initiative by a local young man with a disability at the same time.

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. 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:

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: 9th June. 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 18th June. 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 18th June.

• **Respiratory clinic:** second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 9th June. 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.



Advisory group checks plans for Nimbin



Cecil Street roadworks near completion

by Megan James

Five community members, one LCC staffer and one councillor participated in an on-line meeting of the Nimbin Advisory Group via Zoom on 14th May.

A very big thank you was extended to Council for the thorough and appropriate improvement of pedestrian access along Cecil Street.

Very strong appreciation and thanks were expressed to Council for undertaking this project and ensuring the length of the footpath goes all the way to the showground. It's excellent and much safer. A very, very big thank you!!

Thank you to Council staff also for their prompt response to request for soap dispensers and hand towels for the public toilets and cleaning the gutters.

Council funding has been a major issue, and the Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated the existing shortfall, with revenue reduced by \$1.5m. Council had no cash reserves to weather the crisis, some casual staff have been stood down, and several services are slated to be axed.

However, \$5m in Federal roads funding and \$395k NSW stimulus funds will help keep essential services operating. Funding for local halls is likely to continue, as well as seed funding for NAG projects. Big budget changes are anticipated. Community members are encouraged to read the budget papers online and make submissions about any concerns before the 16th June Council meeting.

The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement is now on-line on the Lismore Council website, identifying future areas for growth in Nimbin. It is important for anyone concerned about growth in the village to make submissions and express their opinions now while the document is on public exhibition.

Council's plan for business recovery in Nimbin includes actively pursuing grant funds

to support Covid-19 recovery throughout the LGA, to partner with and inform the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and the NAG when funding sources are identified. The Chamber of Commerce will use funds raised from the SBRVL for initiatives to encourage post-Covid-19 reinvigoration of the village.

NAG noted the just-released round of federal grant funding for bushfire recovery and that businesses post Covid-19 may have very different needs than when the Economic Development Strategy was developed. NAG will suggest to the Economic Development Manager to encourage a search for grant funding to specifically support businesses in Nimbin, and to contact the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce about the needs of Nimbin businesses.

Report into the Nimbin Bushfire Management funded by NAG seed funding, was completed and provided to Council. There is funding for a Council Resilience Officer for 12 months to work on developing emergency management plans for rural communities including Nimbin. The Report and the important community knowledge contained therein will help disaster preparedness and response plans.

Nimbin Disaster Recovery Plan – update on funding: The application for the Disaster Recovery Project (refer to Draft Operational Plan 2020/21 Activity A1.2.5) has been lodged with the NSW Government and will focus on the creation of community plans to increase preparedness and response capacity. The NAG will be consulted and involved as soon as the project commences as it is vital for the plan to be community-driven and the community response to be included as a focal point of any disaster preparedness and response

plan.

Sport and Recreation Plan funding: the Rainbow Road walking trail is still not included in the Lismore Sport and Recreation Plan and disappointment was expressed that the project therefore cannot now be discussed with staff. Nimbin Chamber of Commerce will be making a submission to the 2020/21 Operational Plan that the walking trail be specifically included as its own item in the Lismore Sport and Recreation Plan. NAG fully supports this submission.

The future of the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre post Covid-19 is under review by Council. Noted that any new location for a visitor centre if it's to be community operated would need extensive community consultation and needs to be very visible and central. Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has previously flagged this possibility with the general manager.

Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre could provide tourism services at a reduced cost. NNIC has many ideas for improvement of visitor services by creation of more interesting experiences related to sustainable living. 7 Sibley Street was suggested as a central location, without the overheads of the current centre and appearance and ethics align with many of the reasons why people come to Nimbin. There is broad NAG support for tourism services being located in the community.

Diana Roberts advised that the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce would also make a submission to the draft 2020/21 Operational Plan. NAG servicing officer will provide the current operating costs for the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre to Councillor Elly Bird and the NAG before the close of the submission period to assist members to explore ideas and make submissions.



North Coast Primary Health Network's Aboriginal Health Team, from left, Djaan Jarrett, Lismore; Jessica Morris, Port Macquarie/Kempsey; Deputy Director Marni Tuala; Noell Burgess, Tweed/Byron; and Nicola Barker, Coffs Coast.

Reconciliation means health for all

With National Reconciliation Week running from 27th May to 3rd June, there is a renewed focus on Aboriginal health and the need for improvement.

This year's theme is 'In This Together'. Helping to lead the way is Lismore's Djaan Jarrett, who is part of a new team striving to reduce health inequities, increase access to services, and support disease prevention on the North Coast.

Mr Jarrett, who has a background in social work, is an Aboriginal health coordinator with North Coast Primary Health Network (NCPHN).

NCPHN works alongside community members and health professionals to improve access to quality health care. Its aim is to work towards transforming the healthcare system and reduce health inequities.

Its work begins by gaining an understanding of healthcare needs of the North Coast. This information is then used to work with health professionals and community members to facilitate local solutions.

Mr Jarrett primarily covers the areas around Grafton, Maclean and Casino.

A proud member of the Bundjalung community, Mr Jarrett has close connections to the Wadja Wadja, Gumbaynggirr and Dunghutti communities through his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Mr Jarrett has previously worked in NSW Health's Tuberculosis Program and as a casework manager for the Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Child & Family Network in Lismore.

"I saw some really tough stuff, but I saw some really good stuff too," Mr Jarrett said.

NCPHN has recently restructured its Aboriginal health team and has four key members, including Mr Jarrett, working as Aboriginal health co-ordinators in communities between the Camden Haven area, south of Port Macquarie, north to the Queensland border.

"We've got a really good team and I'm privileged to work with them," Mr Jarrett said.

"There's plenty of work to do and there are a lot of people who are prepared to walk the journey with us."

For more information, go to: www.ncphn.org.au

Feeling confused about MENTAL HEALTH and the NDIS?



Do you have long term mental health issues and need help working out if the NDIS applies to you?

Wondering about the NDIS eligibility requirements?

Unsure about how the NDIS works and what supports may be available?

Confused about the difference between DSP (Disability Support Pension) and the NDIS ?

Need help with the NDIS application process?



Then you are NOT ALONE!

Figuring out how to access the NDIS system can be tricky, especially if you have mental health issues.

BUT NEVER FEAR—We're here to help!
Drop on by to NNIC and make an appointment with a community worker who can help talk you through the NDIS system. You can also arrange a telephone appointment if you prefer.

Call 6689 1692 or just drop in at 71 Cullen Street, Nimbin between 10am and 4pm weekdays.



A project of Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, funded by the North Coast Primary Health Network

