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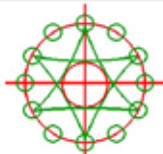
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# The King of Hearts passes

by Benny Zable

On Saturday morning 22nd August, throngs of people lined the road from Lismore to Koonorigan to say goodbye to the King of Hearts, Peter Jackson aka Roa Dart, aka Pothole Pete, who died in a tree-felling accident on his farm in Koonorigan.

It is always a joy to see all those heart installations and potholes creatively decorated on the road from Nimbin to Lismore, for which Roa Dart Pete would risk his life and limb to save the tyres and axles of vehicles for our safety's sake.

The Bentley Blockade Angel made a rare appearance as the cavalcade passed, for the first time since the Bentley Blockade in 2014.

At the Bentley Blockade, one of Pete's hearts was installed at the apex of the giant tripod where the Angel would appear at dawn, and others were installed along the cliff face across the road from Gate A.

His artistic metal workmanship was prolific. He also reshaped some currency into hearts which would be exchanged and circulated among friends.

When approaching Nimbin from the Lismore side, his art installations greet and welcome us to the Nimbin village.

Peter was buried at a private celebration and joined his dearly loved Mother Earth, surrounded by love and colour.

A mural to remember him is now in the pipeline to grace the rooftops of Nimbin. He will be sadly missed.



Peter Jackson and his legendary road art.



Photo: Gwilym Summers.

## Pete's Picnic

by Robyn Kelly

On behalf of the Jackson family, thank you to the community for the support and kind gestures that have been offered. This love has enabled them to grieve as they process his passing.

The streets were alive with people whose hearts had been touched by Pete. Under the current circumstances, this is what we could do to show respect.

Come and celebrate with Pete's family and friends at The Channon

Craft Market on Sunday 13th September, 11am-1pm.

Bring your own picnic rug, buy your lunch at the markets and join the family for a picnic on the oval. Wear your hearts and dress brightly, bring your own sanitiser and practise physical distancing as per recommendations.

This will be a time to reflect together and be inspired by a man who walked his talk and adored the markets atmosphere; a space for us to hold for the community to share their stories and reminisce.

# By country women, for country women

by Linnet Pike, president  
Nimbin CWA

Our CWA Nimbin Branch room, in the old Industrial Arts building on the former Nimbin Central School site, is a wonderful light space with exposed trusses.

When we rented the room early this year, our world was untouched by the pandemic. As a branch that had re-formed in March 2019, we planned a year of consolidation and working with community. And then the world turned.

The purpose of the CWA is to support all rural people. We raise funds so we can offer service to the community, particularly to women and children.

The CWA is a grassroots organisation and has been so from its foundation nearly a century ago. Part of the traditional CWA motto states: "Through country women. By country women. For country women."

We are embedded in our communities, living here, working here, playing here.

We are truly humbled by the encouragement we have received from our beloved community. We applied for an Essential Energy Community Choices Programme Grant which required people to vote every day for about two weeks. We won, thanks to your votes. Our grant will go towards installing a small kitchen



CWA stall at the Nimbin Community Markets.  
Photo: Sue Stock

which will allow CWA members to work together, teach, hold workshops, and serve food from our room.

We've spent much of the year under lockdown, and then developing our strict Covid guidelines (following state, CWA and Community Centre guidelines).

When able, we have worked at fundraising to establish our CWA room, and our branch members have worked above and beyond – cleaning, painting, cobbling together gifted furniture, and establishing our CWA stall at the weekly Farmers Market.

The Cooking Women are astounding, turning out all the old-school CWA favourites plus vegan and gluten-free treats. The latest customer request has produced a new item: sugar-

free, grain-free (almond meal) low carb lemon drizzle cakes – that's quite a mouthful.

The CWA slogan is 'More than tea and scones'. Come and have a yarn with us at the Farmers' Market, community markets or when we have a pop-up stall on the street.

With Covid restrictions in place, we have been able to engage on some cultural and environmental fronts. Ashoka Joblin, our branch agriculture and environment officer, recently put a motion to the FNC CWA Group for a moratorium on logging of koala habitat. This is now under discussion by branches at our regional level.

We also hosted the Nimbin book launch of Linda Woodrow's book 470, set 10 years into a future where climate change chaos

is impacting our world in profound ways. Linda's novel is available at the Nimbin Environment Centre.

Nimbin is not that different from many other small rural villages, however we do have a unique blend of diverse beliefs, customs, practices, occupations and gifts. Differing worlds collide and co-exist here. There are as many Nimbins as there are folks who live here.

Our community holds each other up. In this new world we now live in, we need mutual acceptance, self-help and community solidarity more than ever to raise each other up.

CWA Nimbin Branch meets on the second Monday of the month at the Figtree Building in the Community Centre (behind the Fire Station on Sibley Street).



# Bushfire danger period begins

by Marcus Mantscheff,  
Captain, Nimbin Rural Fire  
Brigade, NSW RFS

The Bush Fire Danger Period began on 1st September and extends until 1st April 2021.

This means you need a written permit for all outdoor fires (excluding small fires for heating and cooking). But don't worry, getting a permit is free, quick and easy.

If you live within about 10kms of Nimbin, call Nimbin RFB or text: "Fire Permit", your name, and the address of the proposed burn.

- For Nimbin, SMS 0428-221-210. We'll put you in touch with the closest Permit Officer.
- For Blue Knob/ Lillian Rock, contact Ken on 0429-024-594.



Newly-minted Nimbin Brigade members Photo: Rom Pike

- For Stony Chute, contact Ron on 0428-891-291.
  - For Goolmangar/ Koonorigan, contact Shannon on 0429-891-571.
  - For The Channon, contact John on 0428-886-480.
  - For Jiggi Valley, contact Jerry on 0416-182-222.
- For all other localities within Kyogle, Lismore or

Richmond Valley Shires, contact Northern Rivers Fire Control Centre on 02 6663-0000 to find your nearest permit officer.

Remember, even with a permit you need to check the daily Fire Danger Rating prior to ignition. All permits will be suspended for a rating of Very High and

above.

Once a permit is obtained, you will need to notify neighbours 24 hours before and lodge it online at the RFS website at: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fire-permits/burn-notifications](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fire-permits/burn-notifications) to prevent unnecessary 000 calls. Have your permit number handy.

## Nimbin Advisory Group issues considered

by Megan James

Nimbin Advisory Group met with three Council staff and two councillors on 27th August via Zoom and discussed a raft of issues affecting Nimbin.

The group strongly expressed that any LCC Disaster Response and Recovery plans and grants require greater communication and collaboration with the existing Nimbin Disaster Recovery Committee, to identify community-specific needs and appropriate outcomes.

The group also recommended that the review of the Nimbin Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan include the needs of pedestrians and cyclists; revised land use zoning; planning for social cohesion and for Section 94 funds to be used locally. A draft will be circulated to NAG and the Chamber of Commerce before community consultation.

The dangerous hole and lack of provision for pedestrians over a 30m stretch between the Nimbin Bowlo and Alternative Way will be reported to the traffic committee.

LCC staff support funds being given to

a community group to replace services of the now defunct Visitor Info Centre and if successful, Council will conduct an EOI for a community group to offer the services. Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is doing a survey of how people would like visitor services provided, and this will be provided to staff.

Council received \$1.3 million from the National Bushfire Recovery Agency to upgrade evacuation centre facilities at Lismore and Nimbin Showground and install a static water supply station for Nimbin and surrounds and improve truck turnaround areas on narrow, bushfire-affected roads in the Nimbin area (Wallace and Young Roads).

Council needs to consult with the Rural Fire Brigade before proceeding further. Council has also received \$100,000 in funding from the NSW Government to employ a Rural Emergency Planning Officer.

The group expressed great disappointment that LCC has been very urban-focused and tends to ignore its rural communities in applying for funds. Likewise, there is frustration with the lack of communication and action on

developing a Covid-19 response strategy for business.

Council's response was that focus is on delivering the Economic Development Strategy which includes a Business Activation Plan. The feedback about post-Covid business needs will be consolidated and included in this plan, which will focus on Nimbin and Lismore town centres.

NAG also wanted more lobbying by LCC and staff to include Nimbin in the current Covid bubble of the Qld/ NSW border, as it is currently unfairly impacting local residents and businesses.

There is a small sum available from 'Streets as Shared Spaces' funding to assist with Covid-safe footpath markings, and the group suggested LCC supply stencils that the community could use. Marking could well be used to help the Post Office queues.

Membership of the current Nimbin Advisory Group will be extended until next Council elections in September 2021, with three current long-term visitors becoming temporary members.

The next NAG meeting will be held on 26th November.

## Marshalls wanted for Nimbin Pool

Lismore Council has advised that new Health Orders require the presence of a Covid marshal during opening hours at the swimming pool.

Their budget has not allowed for this, so they are actively seeking a co-ordinated group of volunteers to keep the pool open through the summer.

On-line Covid marshal training is available, and volunteers would be covered by existing insurance. If interested, email to: [friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com)



Nimbin pool was painted bright blue in August by John, Glenn and Chris. Photo: Sue Edmondss



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# Kerry O'Brien to host Big Scrub panel

This year, Big Scrub Rainforest Day has a new and exciting format, in response to Covid-19 constraints, providing even greater opportunity for people to get involved.

To celebrate the 22nd annual event on Sunday, 20th September, Big Scrub Landcare is switching to an online format,

This year's theme is 'Saving our Rainforests from Fire'.

The feature of this year's event is two panel discussions facilitated by ABC journalists Kerry O'Brien and Mick O'Regan. The panels will discuss important issues related to the recent bushfires in and around Nightcap National Park.

Panel members include Dr Robert Kooyman (rainforest botanist-ecologist, Macquarie University); Matthew Wiseman (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service); Oliver Costello (Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation); Dave Kelly (NSW NPWS/Saving Our Species Program); Andy Baker (researcher, Southern Cross University); and David Milledge

**SAVING OUR RAINFORESTS FROM FIRE**

Panel 1: What are the impacts of recent bushfires on our precious rainforests?

Kerry O'Brien Dr Robert Kooyman Matt Wiseman Andy Baker Dave Kelly

Panel 2: What on-ground actions should be taken to reduce the impacts of future bushfires?

Mick O'Regan Oliver Costello Dr Robert Kooyman Matt Wiseman David Milledge

(wildlife ecologist). More information on panel members can be found at: [www.bigscrubrainforest.org](http://www.bigscrubrainforest.org)

Big Scrub Landcare's president Dr Tony Parkes said, "Big Scrub Landcare is delighted to have such high-calibre, skilled, locally experienced panel members to discuss these contentious issues."

Big Scrub Landcare is specifically focusing on the recent bushfires in our local area in and around Nightcap National Park, with emphasis on our

significant Gondwanan rainforests, rather than fires on a broader regional, state or national scale.

Big Scrub Landcare is working with long-term partners Rous County Council and Envite Environment and valued supporters Saving Our Species Program and the NSW Environmental Trust to deliver this event and its unique format for 2020.

All updates including registration details for this free on-line event are published at: [www.bigscrubrainforest.org](http://www.bigscrubrainforest.org)

## Avoiding the abyss of conspiracy theories

by Aidan Ricketts

Normally we hope that crisis brings the best out in people: co-operation, mutual aid and empathy. This seems to be true of bushfires and floods but something about this pandemic is driving a divisiveness that is making our lives feel more unhinged and conflicted than ever.

Social media has begun to feel like a crowded street full of mad people yelling at everyone else. I have had friends contacting me expressing their sadness at watching friends and family get sucked into the rabbit-hole of conspiracy theories, and like some macabre recycling machine, popping out the other end as tacit Trump (fascism) supporters, sceptical of science and expert consensus on a whole range of issues.

Once we fall into the abyss of believing that all opinions are equal, we have already given up on the idea of knowledge itself. Specialisation of knowledge and respect for each person's hard-earned expertise in their field of knowledge is the foundation of our ability to survive and thrive as a society.

We go to a surgeon to set a broken bone, a mechanic to fix our car, we take our computer to a tech expert to be repaired. We go to doctors as well as a range of expert allied health professionals like osteopaths, acupuncturists and physio-therapists to help with ailments.

Sadly, when climate change began to be identified as an emerging existential threat to our planet and our collective survival, it didn't suit the fossil fuel industries and so a deliberate and disingenuous campaign of climate denial began. It was the first major departure from our collective respect for scientific

consensus. Now the genie is out of the bottle and climate denial has become wholesale science denial.

It is normal for individuals to engage in some sort of denial at first when they get diagnoses of life-threatening illness and so on; no-one wants to have to accept these things and we scramble around for anything that can take the fear away and allow things to return to normal. At times like these, a person's community is their lifeline; individualism cannot save them from the isolation and fear.

Sadly when you are in denial, reality and objective information starts to appear as a dark and threatening voice. It can be tempting to shoot the messenger: to blame and doubt the doctor, the climate scientist or even the mechanic who tries to tell you your car needs a \$2000 repair.

But when this denial of reality occurs on a society-wide scale, we have a real problem. Looked at from the standpoint of fearful denial of the problem, reality starts to look like a conspiracy, purely because so many people seem to still believe in it. For Trump's fascists, reality itself appears to have a left-wing bias.

The pandemic is another example of news that people don't want to hear, of expert opinion that keeps affirming something they don't want to accept, and worse still, of precautionary measures that they find frustrating, inconvenient or in some cases financially and socially ruinous.

The other thing about crises, and none more so than a pandemic, is that they require a community response if we are to successfully contain them. This means that as individuals we may have to take a hit for the greater good and this

runs counter to the hyper-individualist culture that we have grown up in.

Hyper-individualism is a disease of the mind. It suits corporations to divide us into singular units of consumption and seduce us with the false utopia of endless personal choice, but the reality of life on this planet is that we are in this together.

How can it be that suddenly we are witnessing people who previously seemed to embrace ethical social and environmental values being suddenly turned to tacit Trump supporters? At first it looks like a major transformation, but on closer examination we might start to see the common threads between those who are susceptible to the right-wing conspiracy theories that are jamming the airwaves at present.

Hyper-individualism is a psychological condition that has been fostered by corporate culture. It is probably embedded in us all, but its opposite pole is being communitarian: being aware of our place in the whole, in nature and in society.

If we lose this awareness we may feel 'liberated' and 'autonomous' for a while, but ultimately what we will become is isolated and after that possibly paranoid. There's plenty of hyper-individualism within new age spiritual culture, and this is where the cross over is taking place. Trump's political machine is deliberately targetting the fringes of new age culture to recruit people to their upside-down white supremacist worldview.

Individualism is like the consolation prize, the scraps that are left after we have lost our vital empathic connection to others, to our communities and to nature. In the advanced stage of hyper-individualism, victims to their

individualism like the most precious possession of all. It's all they have left, so any threat to it seems all-encompassing.

The reason we are seeing good friends sucked into the abyss is probably that they are suffering from disconnection. If we ourselves feel ourselves being sucked into the abyss of fear and suspicion and the upside down world of conspiracy theories, the antidote is connection.

Go for a walk in nature, hold a baby and look into its innocent eyes and feel how deeply it relies on connection and care from its community. No-one has ever been born alone. None has ever grown to illusory 'self-mastery' without being supported every step of the way by others.

We are all in this together. If your friends are being sucked into the abyss of conspiracy theory, don't belittle them (even though they may belittle you), don't tell them they are crazy, or stupid (even though they may be yelling at you to "Wake up sheeple").

Try to connect, validate their fear and scepticism about the world. Take them for a walk in nature.

Hyper-individualism leads to isolation, and isolation leads to fear and paranoia. We are facing not just one crisis but a series of impending crises as we walk into the climate future that capitalism has delivered. We are all in this together, with nature.

However insane the world of humans seems right now, the stars are still sane, the earth is still sane, the animals are still sane. Connect to these things for our mental health. We are going to need each other.

We are also going to need all the experts in their various fields to help us find solutions. Let's respect each other's fields of expert knowledge and find humility in that. That's what being open-minded really is.



# Father's Day support for dads in distress

This Fathers Day, Sunday 6th September, sees the 21st Anniversary of Dads in Distress, Australia's first and only national suicide prevention support for separating dads.

As promised last Fathers Day on our 20th anniversary, this year has been one of campaigning to raise awareness of the issues that separating fathers face after family breakdown.

The challenges are unique and extreme, resulting in post-separation dads being one of the most at risk of suicide groups in Australia today, yet simultaneously and strangely, one of the least well known, recognised or supported. Why is that?

It's especially troubling when one considers that father absence after family breakup is one of the best

predictors of children later failing to thrive in a myriad of ways. It's not just the dads we need to worry about. Its also the kids and that seems to get lost in the "fog of the gender wars". It's about the kids.

This last year has seen Dads in Distress launch its DadsAlive campaign which will be reported on by parent charity, Parents Beyond Breakup ([www.pbb.org.au](http://www.pbb.org.au)) on or just after Fathers Day this year. Part of the campaign was to share lived experience stories to allow the public to understand what really goes on.

This Fathers Day also sees a unique and hard-hitting national report on the plight of separated fathers being published by Dads in Distress; watch out for it at: [www.pbb.news](http://www.pbb.news)

An exclusive preview of the report shows over 50% of separated fathers feeling suicidal, and a shockingly low level of trust by separated fathers in official support agencies and organisations.

It's a wake-up call when taxpayer dollars are going into services that struggling dads just don't see as helpful at all.

In the meantime, be aware that Aussie dads everywhere will be needing support on this most difficult of days.

Dads in Distress offers free support which can be accessed via telephone helpline 1300-853-437 and regular on-line and (Covid permitting) in-person support group meetings across Australia. Details at: [www.parentsbeyondbreakup.com/dids](http://www.parentsbeyondbreakup.com/dids)

## NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

Forestry Corporation's operational plan for logging in Myrtle State Forest on FC's website said logging would commence on 24th August.

Several people concerned about the parlous state of our environment camped overnight at the entrance to a track off Summerland Way about 40km south of Casino. Others arrived early on the day to confront the loggers.

As we waited in the pre-dawn chill, I was impressed by two things: the number of birds now active in the re-growing forest, and the commitment of people from all over the Northern Rivers to forest protection.

After a quiet morning, we got word that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had told FC they need better planning and will need to go through the coupe area with EPA officers to ensure compliance with rules.

Dailan Pugh reported, "The EPA state they are reviewing the Forestry Corporation's identification of logging exclusion areas to ensure compliance with the rules (which will require major changes) and that logging won't start until this process is complete." This would take several weeks.

We celebrated this delay, and many drifted away after pledging to return to prevent a logging start.

Prime News (Channel 7) showed up and ran a good segment on their evening bulletin. Someone asked: "Where are all the Nimbin people?" Actually, the Nimbin CWA, NEC, Knitting Nannas, XR and many individual activists with Nimbin connections have been involved in the public demonstrations here.

The Northern Rivers Guardians (NRG) have mobilised under the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) banner to pressure government to stop logging public native forests. If you want to know more go to their web or FB sites.

Like many issues, saving forests is not just a Nimbin thing. With forest destruction worldwide, we risk not only species extinction due to habitat loss but also devastation due to extreme weather resulting from climate change. We need more trees, not fewer!

Forest workers have considerable knowledge that could be put to better use clearing weeds, maintaining fire trails and assisting healthy tree growth. Most of the timber we need already



comes from plantation trees.

We need to shift away from the "frontier mentality" whereby we take what we want regardless of negative consequences.

NEFA has proposed establishing a Sandy Creek Koala Park in the area between Leeville and Rappville south of Casino, where about 80% of the Banyabba Koala population died in the devastating fires last year. The remaining koalas have a good chance of eventual recovery should their feed trees be left to thrive in a protected zone.

Proposal for a Great Koala National Park is advocated for the state forest areas around Coffs Harbour, but the Banyabba population is separated from that area, so will need special consideration.

Another issue of concern is the water storage dam proposed by Rous Water. If adopted, the new dam would store 3x the water currently in Rocky Creek dam at a cost to their "customers." of 4x current water rates. The water will be "needed" for future development within the four Council areas: Lismore, Ballina, Byron, Richmond River.

We need to demand Rous undertake a more detailed audit of other options, including mandating roof water

collection, re-use of treated water, de-sal powered by renewable energy, and, most importantly, reducing waste through leakage. All this would cost less and be more ecological.

The area proposed to be inundated is only 700m from The Channon Reserve (where the Markets are held) and would have a concrete wall 40m high. I suspect Rous is calling it *The Dunoan Dam* to divert attention from the high conservation value in The Channon gorge.

We have until 9th September to lobby Rous Water before the proposal goes to NSW state government in December. For info: <https://bit.ly/3grwH4G>

Some members of the NSW parliament have recently advocated overturning a 30-year ban on mining uranium in order to establish a nuclear power industry here, despite the high costs and high risks. In fact, we have plenty of scope for cheap renewable energy that would create more jobs. Seems like madness.

I am glad that climate activists led by Nature Conservation Council (NCC) have reacted strongly against this proposal.

On the very local level, cost-cutting by Lismore Council resulted in the closure of the visitor information shop in Nimbin. Some of the info and goods for sale have gone to the NEC shop at 54 Cullen Street. The NEC shop also has a new stock of local honey and NEC-logo t-shirts for men and women in various attractive colours. Check them out.

NEC sponsored a Plant ID workshop at Gungas Road in August led by John Blatch and Tristan Mules. Thanks to our Secretary Triny Roe for securing Federal Government grant funding. I learned a lot.

The next workshop is to be held on Sunday 18th October. Registrations are open now on 6689-1441.



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Nimbin Farmer's Market

Wednesdays 3 - 6 pm



**Did you know?**

All our links are clickable in the web edition. Visit [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com) and click away!



**NIMBIN ORGANIC Food Co-op**

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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

## Covid-19 – NNIC opening hours

NNIC is open as usual 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, Friday 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.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.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.

## Free online workshop

Writing job applications and CVs with Nat, 23rd September at 11am.

Nat has been on many selection panels for various organisations over the past 30 years and will share her best tips on how to write a competitive job application and CV and explain how employers deal with the applications process.

To register for this free workshop email Nat at: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

This workshop will be held virtually using Zoom, so participants will need access to a PC or tablet with speakers and microphone and preferably a webcam (webcam is optional).

## Take home Naloxone program

Free on-line Community Information Session, Thursday 15th October at 2pm with Darren Smyth, our new NIS Drug and Alcohol worker.

This session is for opioid users and their friends and family members or anyone who may be in the position of being a first responder if an opioid overdose occurs. This includes people who are legitimately using opioids on prescription.

It is easy to accidentally overdose, especially if you are taking multiple medications and possibly lose track of what you have taken. Naloxone saves lives and should be in the first aid kit of anyone who is around opioid users on a regular basis.

To register for this workshop please

email: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) and we will send you an invite. This session will be held via Zoom and participants will need access to a PC or tablet with speakers and microphone and preferably a webcam (webcam is optional).

## DV and child safety risks

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

Covid-19 has increased the risks to victims of abuse and violence who may be trapped behind closed doors. 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.

## Wanted: Front Desk Assistant volunteers

Must have min Cert II in relevant field (e.g. Welfare, Community Development) or be currently undertaking Cert II or higher qualification.

Must be reliable and able to do at least one day per week (6-hour shift). A great way to gain experience in the sector, connect with the Nimbin community and contribute to NNIC and Nimbin.

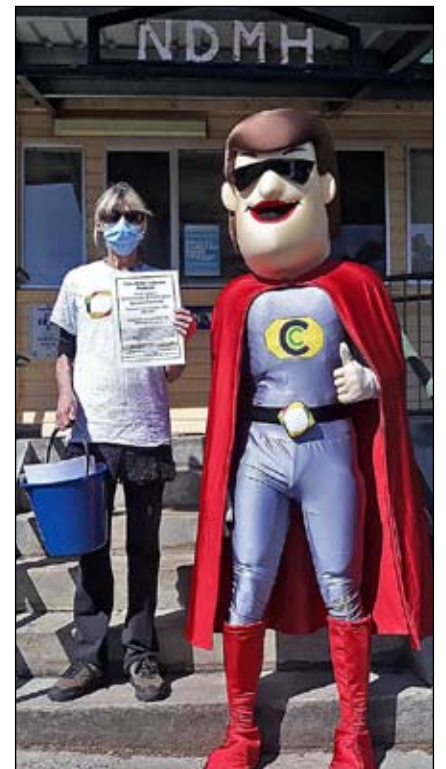
Please send CV to The Manager, NNIC: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) (or drop it in). For more info, contact Kath at our front desk.

## Mental Health and the NDIS

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

## Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

Check out our new video on the NNIC website (<Our Services>CDAT) featuring our two Harm Reduction SuperHeroes. New members welcome.



CDAT members Nat and Captain Competent spreading the word on International Overdose Awareness Day

We do lots of fun and creative stuff and we need input from people with diverse experiences.

To join, contact Nat on: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) and we can invite you to the next meeting.

## Sibley Street updates

Thanks a million to those of you who donated towards the public rock circle, and we hope to see our rocks in place within a few weeks. An opening ceremony has been suggested and in the future, perhaps carvings of inspirational thoughts.

Thanks also to Andrew who has set up a new greenhouse on site. And to the crew who created the new wishing well. Workshops are back up and running... check our facebook page for latest info.

We are looking for someone to rebuild our website, which has been lost to cyber land. Contact Steph if you can help on: [sibley@nnic.org.au](mailto:sibley@nnic.org.au)

[www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.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: 8th September. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

## Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments phone 6620-7687.

## Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next is 17th September. 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 17th September.
- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 8th September. 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.





# Rail myths and realities

by Lydia Kindred, Northern Rivers Railway Action Group

In 2004, both Price WaterhouseCoopers and the Parliamentary Inquiry's 'Final Report on the Closure of the Casino to Murwillumbah Rail Services' recommended the Casino-Murwillumbah service be reinstated.

The current route connects six of the major towns in the Northern Rivers. There are only a few bridges that require major work, with most needing smaller upgrades.

The tunnels are mostly in good condition, as they are not subjected to the weather. The ballast on most of the line is still in very good condition as noted by the Arcadis engineers in the 2019 'Multi Use of Byron Shire Rail Corridor Report'.

Arcadis surveyed most of the line in the Byron Shire, unlike those who produced the dodgy ARUP desktop report, saying it would cost almost a billion dollars to reinstate the Casino-Murwillumbah line. ARUP has been convicted and fined for wrongfully reporting numbers for Brislink.

There is a lot of vegetation over parts of the line, due to the lack of oversight by the NSW Government, who pay John Holland (owned by the Chinese government) \$750,000 a year to keep the line maintained.

It has been very difficult for



a bunch of local volunteers (NRRAG) to raise the kind of money that the Rail Trail's Sourdough Group (comprising developers, real estate agents and others) have mustered.

It seems the NSW Government is very interested in taking away the current protections over our rail corridor by changing the legislation (any time from mid-September) so that it reverts to Crown Land – which has been shown to be able to be sold and developed.

The current large-bus services do not suit many people in our region, particularly the elderly and disabled. However, on-demand mini-bus connections from villages to the rail would mean everyone could access the central rail line throughout our region.

Rail is what countries all around the world are turning to. Queensland and Victoria have reinstated many rail services, but NSW is lagging behind.

The Byron Solar Train only currently runs for three kilometres, but it can be extended to Tyagarah as a 'park

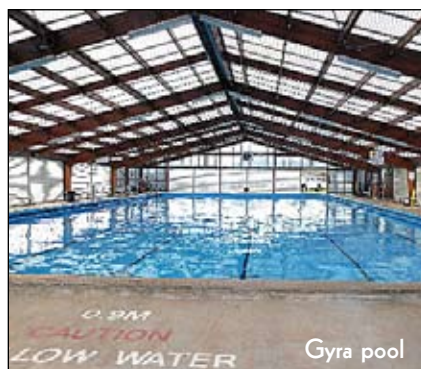
and ride' service, for drivers to get off the highway and ride quickly and safely into Byron Bay, and onto Mullumbimby, which Byron Shire Council has committed to supporting. Extending it to Billinudgel, which would service the 7000 people from Ocean Shores and surrounds, and opening up the rail to Murwillumbah and west to Bangalow, Lismore and Casino would bring back the much loved 'surf train' for travellers to and from Byron Bay.

Why can't we have both rail and trail? Surely we need to support all the members of our Northern Rivers communities, not just a few fit and able bodied ones.

Our rail groups cannot support losing the potential for re-establishing crucial rail services in return for a single bike path.

Most people think it would be great to have passenger rail services again. And we know this can be achieved affordably.

All NSW MPs will be voting on the legislation soon. Please phone them, write or email. For more info, phone 0422-007-724.



Gyra pool



Monckton pool

## Swimming pool touring, part 2

by Sue Edmonds

Packing for swimming pool touring starts with a costume (cossie)/togs/bathers, or two. Earplugs are an essential item to stop the sloshing noise after your swim. Throw in a few towels.

A snorkel is option, it often depends on your swimming style, and they're handy when retrieving treasures from the deep. There is a whole event at the annual Nimbin Pool Olympics comprised of rescuing bits and pieces.

Moving on from Glen Innes, the next pool is in Guyra. It's indoor rather than al fresco, due of course to the bitter chill in the wind. We opted to touch rather than immerse, despite it being heated. There's a kids' area outside – they breed them tough up there.

Staying dry, we moved on to Armidale where there is a complex to make your mouth water. It's named after John Monckton, an Armidale boy who won Silver in backstroke at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. His parents built him his very own 50-metre pool on their land. It paid off with Monckton swimming in three Olympics and holding various world records.

Monckton was just one of many

champions like Dawn Fraser and Ilsa Konrads to emerge in 1956 when the world came to Melbourne to swim, run, catch and throw, wrestle and balance, and for the Russian and Hungarian waterpolo teams to fight under water, drawing blood in our fabulous new swimming pool.

The Armidale City Council bought the Monckton pool and its surrounding land, building another 50 metre pool, heated, and several kids and learners' pools.

The council excelled in its foresight, and now the Armidale residents have room to move in the water, and manicured parkland to relax on. Early morning was too chilly for us to take the plunge, so we headed off to Uralla.

Uralla was dry and locked up... probably due to drought... so we'd been to three pools without getting wet.

The tour had another purpose, to see a fabric exhibition at Tamworth Gallery, a tri-annual event, so killing two big birds with one trip we headed into town, but we were one year early for the exhibition.

So much for Tamworth, but we knew there were more pools to sample, so we set off with a light spirit.

## Council roadworks

Lismore City Council is planning to undertake road safety works in the coming months on a section of Nimbin Road known as The Cutting, just south of the village.

The site has been recognised as an Australian Government Black Spot site after a number of accidents and the tragic death of Simone Rutley in 2016.

Funded by the State Government, the works include applying a non-skid surface

to the road, installation of solar-powered signs to encourage motorists to slow down, and the removal and pruning of trees and vegetation along the road.

While Council avoids tree removal wherever possible, in this case it is necessary to remove overhanging trees to increase light penetration and reduce moisture on the road's surface.

The removal and pruning will also allow the solar-powered signage to work effectively and help slow traffic.

## NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB 7 Sibley Street

**September 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)

- **9th Sept: Wild Weavers.** Basket and mat weaving techniques with natural ad recycled fibres. Day 2: Woven shoes
- **16th Sept: Slow Cloth Club.** Spinning yarns and knitting machines. Bring your own or practise on ours, with Sue.
- **23rd Sept, 2-4pm: Harness Loom Weaving.** Beginners textile weaving with expert weaver Annie Mayo.

### Tuesdays (starts 10.30am)

- **10th Sept: Crystal pendants.** Learn macrame bindings with Krissy. Choose your crystal or bring a favourite. All materials provided. \$20.
- **17th Sept: Building with weeds.** Make

'particle board' panels with lantana, devils fig and wild tobacco. \$25.

- **24th Sept:** Constructing a raised 'wicking' garden bed with Cawdor Ross from Green Man gardens.

### Wednesdays

- **2nd and 4th Wednesdays:** Garment Mending with Atelier Smith, 2-4pm.

### Saturdays

- **14th Sept: Make your own Moccasins.** Full day workshop. \$100, all materials provided, bookings essential.
- **28th Sept, 12pm: Nimbin Seed Exchange.** Share rare seeds and cuttings.

### Community tools library

Mon, Tues, Wed, Sat, 10.30am-12pm.

## NEFA proposes koala park

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) is proposing that 7000 ha of public land south-west of Casino, on the Richmond River lowlands, become the Sandy Creek Koala Park.

This park would help restore koala numbers, hard hit by last year's bushfire.

It would also protect 39 other threatened species, nectar yields, tree hollows, carbon storage and stream flows.

The proposal incorporates Royal Camp, Braemar, Carwong and Ellangowan state forests, and remnant native vegetation on land purchased for plantations

"The koalas were increasing as the forests recovered from past logging, with good future prospects as the larger trees preferred by koalas grew," said NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh.

"The koalas suffered a mortal blow when the Busby's Flat fire swept through these forests on the night of 8th October, 2019, with the apparent loss of 78-89% of koalas, which suggests 270-310 koalas died as a result of the fires, and the surviving population could be as low as 40-80 koalas."

Mr Pugh went on to say that if we continue "business as usual" koalas in the wild will be extinct by 2050, so protection of habitat is vital.



Sandy Creek survivor

"This reserve proposal honours the community's wishes and aspirations for protection of koalas and public forests, and meets the 2018 NSW Koala Strategy promise to set aside large swathes of land where koalas can thrive and new habitats can be created," he said.

"This proposal protects inadequately reserved Richmond River lowland forests and will restore their lost values.

"The biomass of this forest has been reduced by 58%, releasing some 3.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into

the atmosphere. Stopping logging will enable the forest to recover lost CO<sub>2</sub> at a rate of 44,200 tonnes per annum.

"Protecting this forest offsets the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of a medium-sized town such as Kyogle or Maclean.

"This proposal can provide a major economic boost to Casino and the region, as each 10,000 visitors attracted generates \$1.3 million per annum in regional spending and 10.6 jobs," Mr Pugh said.

The 212-page proposal for the Sandy Creek Koala Park is at: [www.nefa.org.au/koalas](http://www.nefa.org.au/koalas)

