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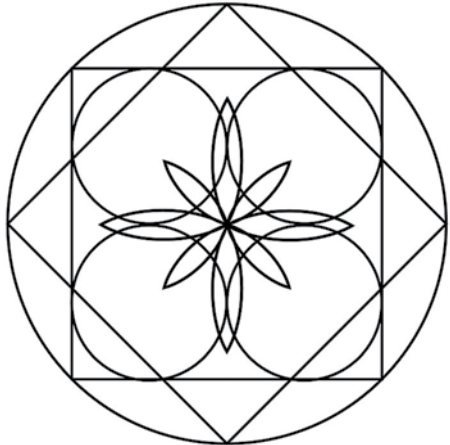
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# Earth Matters and Poetica



'Hide + Stringybark' by Michelle Walker

Left: 'Western Arthurs' by Helen Douglass

'Mountainside Song Bowl' by Ali Walker

The two new exhibitions at Blue Knob Hall Gallery are 'Earth Matters' by Michelle Walker and Helen Douglass in The Solo Space and 'Poetica' the members and artists exhibition in the main gallery.

**Earth Matters** is an exhibition of new works by two local artists who share a love of nature and the beauty of her landscapes.

**Michelle Walker:** Working in acrylics and mixed media, Michelle uses abstract landscapes as both a symbol of the places we inhabit, and the connections and experiences we hold in our hearts to those places. Michelle draws significant influence from her lifelong love of nature and her previous career in conservation.

The past decade living at Serenity Hills farm near Nimbin has meant daily life is intimately spent with the changing rhythms of weather and nature. Morning walks in the paddocks with her dog, Lulu are a constant in her day and have become a part of her practice—being in and observing nature, and her own connection to the land.

The series, *Poem of Rust and Water*, speaks of the widespread drought that preceded the catastrophic bushfires in 2019/20, and *Poem of Hide and Stringybark* is an acknowledgement of the tree clearing and habitat loss that continues at an unacceptable pace.

**Helen Douglass:** Born in Sydney, Helen grew up admiring her grandfather's accomplished watercolour landscape painting. After a busy working career she moved to

the Tweed Valley in 2006 and a decade later her painting career began. With her painting Helen embraces the power of landscapes to evoke memories for the viewer.

These current works in acrylics on canvas and board showcase glimpses of the beautiful Tweed region and Tasmania.

Through attention to detail and play with colour, Helen captures a strong sense of place and atmosphere. Her work is inspired by the love of the natural world and reflects the images of places of special significance.

**'Poetica'** is the new members and artists exhibition; we're re-visiting the theme after a few years as it was an inspiring idea and was suggested by many to hold it again. Artists are asked to take inspiration from a poem, a line from a poem or song, text or their own poetry to create an artwork.

Ali Walker's 'Mountainside Song Bowl' epitomises how any medium can be used to create an artwork that interprets a specific theme and that



speaks to us all.

Her work with Wild

Clay, and the texts

that are often inscribed using natural ochre, is poetry itself. There are many inspired and meaningful expressions of this theme and we look forward to you visiting and enjoying Blue Knob Gallery and Café.

'Earth Matters' and 'Poetica' will open from Thursday 5th August and run concurrently until Sat 25th September.

## Artists & Friends lunch

The next A&F lunch will be on Thursday 26th August at 12.30pm. For more info, please contact the Gallery on 6689-7449 or email: [bkhgallary@harbourisp.net.au](mailto:bkhgallary@harbourisp.net.au)

# Different perspectives on food

by Ruth Tsitimbinis

Creativity is about exploring new ideas and ways of looking at the world.

The Roxy Gallery space once again opens up to the young minds of this region with the new exhibition of works by students attending COLOURSS Small Schools.

The acronym COLOURSS stands for Community Of Learners Of Upper Richmond Small Schools and comprises of the Afterlee, Barkers Vale, Collins Creek, Rukenvale, The Risk and Wiangaree Public Schools.

Over many years, dating back to 2002, students attending these schools have had regular opportunities to exhibit their art works in the Roxy Gallery.

In 2018 they explored the theme of metamorphosis, and in this year's exhibition they will be investigating the design of food.

'Food, Different by Design' will be the COLOURSS group's first exhibition in



'Colourful fruits'

new gallery space and will be on show until 29th August. This is a creative look at the things we eat and how the design of food engages our creative thoughts. Young people approach

making art with wonderful freeness and spontaneity. Their works encourage viewers to see things from another perspective.

Due to the current health regulations, this exhibition will not be holding an official opening, which would have seen students highlight some of their other creative talents like a performance from the choir group, which they have done on other occasions.

The Roxy Gallery requires all visitors to QR register on entry, and while in the gallery space wear a mask and maintain social distancing. The volunteers are happy to assist people.

The Roxy Gallery is seeking proposals for holding an exhibition in the 2022 calendar year. This gallery is a fantastic open space suitable for individual or group shows of art in all forms, from visual, sculptural, installation to digital.

To find out more, please contact the gallery director on 6632-0230 or email: [roxygallery@kyogle.nsw.gov.au](mailto:roxygallery@kyogle.nsw.gov.au)



# THE GENTLE ART OF LANDSCAPE



by Anne Cook

Former President of the United States Ronald Reagan once stated that, “If you’ve seen one tree, you’ve seen them all” – the inference here being that the natural landscape is something that should be of little interest to people given that it is tedious, omnipresent and uninteresting.

Nimbin Artists Gallery’s artist of the month for August is Janet Hassall. Her landscape paintings refutes this statement on all fronts. Janet is a highly accomplished artist with a formal background in Art and Design and Fine Arts, having degrees in both disciplines. Janet has exhibited widely and

has won numerous local art prizes, including the highly-contested Bentley Art Prize.

Landscape painting came into practice in the 16th century when artists began to view the landscape as a subject in its own right as opposed to being just a setting for religious and figural scenes. This artistic shift corresponded to a growing interest in the natural world sparked by the Renaissance.

Janet’s use of texture, expressive colourisation through the use of a lively palette and a strong interest in mark making are what give her works strength and broad appeal. Influence and inspiration have come to Janet from many sources.

The English Romantic painter William Turner and



his imaginative and turbulent landscapes and works by Australian painters Hans Heysen and William Robinson all feature highly in shaping and effecting Janet’s approach to her work.

In her most recent body of work Janet is once again drawing on her connection with nature, but approaching her creative process from a different angle. Using ink, outlines and images from found items from the garden and the bush are transferred to paper and it is there that one’s imagination starts working as the viewer engages in the art of creating, as well as the artist.

Come and be surprised with these new works by visiting the Nimbin Artists Gallery in Cullen Street, we are open 7 days a week 10am to 4pm.

## Water elements on show at Serpentine



by Corinne Batt-Rawden

Currently on show at Serpentine are two exhibitions featuring the element of water.

In Gallery One, ‘The Garden’ by painter Michelle Gilroy is a body of work featuring underwater scenes inspired by the Great Barrier Reef.

Michelle said, “The reason why I have titled it ‘The Garden’ is because when I look at these underwater scenes I see landscapes, coral become trees, seaweed become plants etc.

“It was work that came about in the first Covid-19 lockdown. I wanted to experiment with nature’s bright colours that are a part of the reefs. These works differ from my usual style of painting, as I thought people needed cheering up with these outlandish colour palettes.”

The result is a series of paintings that are vibrant and otherworldly, making use of abstract forms. These works can also be viewed on-line on my Facebook page ‘Michelle Gilroy Artist’.

In the next room is ‘Flow’, a group show exploring water. Artists include June King,



‘Lovers Swimming in a Pool of Roses’ giclée digital print on Epson archival watercolour paper (limited edition) by Beau Ravn

Left: ‘Passion Fruits’ hand-painted etching by Melissa Wright

Sharla La and Beau Ravn. These exhibitions run until 9th August.

Then up next for the second half of August, Serpentine presents ‘Les and Lis – Drawn Together Again’, which will be the sixth joint exhibition by local artists Lesley Ryan and Melissa Wright, who

its basic form. She produces large watercolours; this medium helps her to develop the visual language she is seeking.

The free-flowing movements leave the viewer the decisions about where and when. While her work is executed in watercolours, it is barely touched by a brush.

Melissa has been creating artworks for over 50 years, and has a long list of exhibitions in the USA, Australia and New Zealand. Melissa has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in printmaking and drawing, and for this exhibition has created paintings, new etchings and re-purposed older intaglios.

These have been placed in miniature vintage frames, and the larger images will be surrounded by one-off ornate frames. The framing of the intimate etchings engages the viewer to take a closer look at her quirky frolicking females.

Drawn Together Again will be on display at Serpentine gallery from 12th to 30th August, with opening night on Friday 13th August.

September brings new life with a Spring Exhibition. This exhibition is open to artists in the Northern Rivers. New members are welcome.



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The silence was deafening. The erstwhile inhabitants of the stinky city cowered in the foul foggy air that lay heavy from sewage farm to sewage farm.

It was that time, that time that came around every four years when the citizens chose the next Poobah. But something was amiss.

Primarily a ceremonial position, the Poobah was ironically the worst paid and lowest status admin job in the city, but the battle for it was a shit fight of copious and wretched proportions.

In the past each contestant would roar around the Dunny Bowl, the local hippodrome, in garish jalopies spitting shit on each other and the attending crowd. And the biggest shit-showerer who came out the cleanest was declared Poobah and would carry the muck rake of office, drive the night-soil cart and have their nickname inscribed on the ancient brass plug necklace.

This honour also came with the blame for just about everything from the roads to infant mortality. But I digress.

Something was amiss and it was the old guard. Where were the old guard? The starting line was usually littered with the less fortunate, desperate for supper as much as anything. Of course the era of the grey bonnets and the great Lady Poobah Doris had produced its epigoons, and they were there and had already done plenty of laps. But where was the old guard – the descendants of the famous four pack, who ran Bathenstool like a sporting kleptocracy a Millenia ago?

Were the pro-dam group taking the 'small target policy' so seriously that they weren't even going to show up at all? Even the present Poobah Pissarro Pookahontis had been left scratching her long gray



**Revenge of the Loon**  
by Laurie Axtens

spatter-encrusted locks wondering where all the shit was coming from.

It seems to be falling like a light shower out of the ether – over everything, notably Pissarro herself. This was despite being only a late replacement for Doris's number two; Glitter Jocks, who had fled in disgrace only seconds before he was to be arraigned and officially flushed.

And then it came, the old guard's entry onto the circuit. A giggle spread around the stadium, followed by an almost forlorn "really?"

Two latte-sipping Bovver Boys, heads down and utterly covered in muck, were pushing a minibus full of partiers onto the track. The minibus still had a learner's sign attached. Written on the vehicle and barely emergent through the muck was their slogan: "We are shit".

Here they were, the champions of change who were going to roll back the years!

Well it is Bathenstool. If you stand for nothing but shit this is the place to run. Plastered against the Dunny Bowl fence, I read a flier. It said, "Bathenstool needs you – vote above the line and don't forget to preference 1-2-3."

Seemed sensible to me.

# Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup - a poet's perspective

by Vincent Stead

The old poet got up at my local poetry night and told us entries were open for the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup held on the first weekend of September. He encouraged us to be a part of the event, either as a performer or member of the audience. At only \$15 to enter and a gold coin donation to be in the audience, it certainly sounded good value.

He explained how each poet had eight minutes to perform poetry, which was then judged on the poem [10 points], the performance [10 points] and audience reaction [10 points], with a point being deducted for every five seconds the poet was under or over the eight minutes [up to 5 points].

He also regaled us with stories of when underdogs had won on the strength of their poem and performance; the occasions when the result had been decided by seconds; and how everybody was the winner because the event was about the poetry community not competition.

So I entered and made the journey to Nimbin, where I was greeted by encouraging people and a friendly atmosphere. I was drawn in the third of four heats on Saturday and was lucky enough to be one of the four poets who got through to the semi-final the next day. That night the pub was a buzz of poets talking about the day's poetry, performance and experiences, swapping numbers, details of other events and networking to build the poetry community.

Sunday, the semi-final, the pressure was on and I was nervous, but did my best and waited expectantly with the other poets for the judge's decision. His comment was, "This year the level of performance was in the upper stratosphere, the result was close, but time cost a few poets."

Time had cost me, I had gone over eight minutes and lost points. That was OK, I was happy with my performance, there



2019 Poetry World Cup finalists

was always next year and I could now relax, enjoy watching the final Sunday night.

The final had eight poets battle it out for the \$2000 prize, the coveted Cup and the privilege of being one of the judges of next year's final. The poetry was fantastic, the result was close and there was a winner, but I agreed with the old poet that, at the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, everybody was a winner and had a great weekend.

Over the next year I wrote, talked to other poets, practised my performance and sent videos to the old poet for suggestions. Then I wrote, talked and practised some more, until I had the poetry and performance I wanted. Then practised, practised, practised, 'til it consistently came in at the magical eight minutes.

Then it was the first weekend of September, I had made it into the final

and gave it my all. Returning to the audience I watched and listened to the next poet, was captivated by their words and performance, conceded to myself that they deserved to win.

Later I heard that the judges wanted to call it a draw between us, but when pressured for a result had had to resort to comparing times. This time the clock was in my favour and I was declared the winner.

However, when the photo of the winners and organisers was taken, I insisted that we both hold hands and the Cup, a symbolic gesture that we were both winners. Because the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup is not about who won or lost, it is about the community of poets getting together, sharing their words and themselves.

Looking forward to the 4th-5th September this year, to experience this great event again.

## Two new services providing free confidential support for anxiety, stress and low mood

Healthy North Coast, in partnership with Remedy Healthcare, is pleased to announce a new mental health service for the North Coast.

Healthy North Coast is a local not-for-profit organisation who delivers the Australian Government's PHN program and is responsible for improving access to primary care health services.

Julie Sturgess, Healthy North Coast CEO, said that access to free support services for people living with mild mental illness on the North Coast is a priority and she welcomed today's announcement.

"For people needing support with managing stress or worry, it's so important that we have services available to provide help when and where needed, so that support can be accessed early.

"After a competitive tender process, Remedy Healthcare has been contracted to deliver two new programs to support people over 16 to improve their mental and emotional wellbeing, especially people experiencing isolation, and those in rural and remote locations.

"The ongoing impacts of the COVID-

19 pandemic has seen a rise in mental health concerns across the world. Now, more than ever, we have to encourage ourselves to seek help," Ms Sturgess said.

Remedy Healthcare is launching the MindStep and Healing Minds telephone and online services. Both are free, easily accessible, and do not require a referral by a GP or healthcare professional. Delivered by trained mental health coaches, the confidential services use evidence-based techniques that improve mental health and wellbeing.

Remedy Healthcare's executive general manager, Mike Hutton Squire, said both services aim to reduce psychological distress and improve quality of life by helping people self-manage their mental health and wellbeing.

"The free services offer one-on-one assessment, coaching and follow-up sessions. Use of the services is completely confidential and accessible to people living anywhere within the North Coast region in NSW." MindStep is an evidence-based, low-intensity, guided self-help service and is designed to run alongside any existing psychological care.

To access MindStep, call 1800 322 278 or visit: [www.remedyhealthcare.com.au/](http://www.remedyhealthcare.com.au/)

*mindstep-hnc*

Healing Minds is a culturally sensitive adaptation of MindStep specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 16.

To access Healing Minds, call 1800 810 255 or visit: [www.remedyhealthcare.com.au/healing-minds-hnc](http://www.remedyhealthcare.com.au/healing-minds-hnc)

The Member for Page, Kevin Hogan, said the new services would provide much-needed and timely support for the people of northern NSW.

"Around one in five people have a mental health concern each year," Mr Hogan said. "Over a lifetime, around 50% of people are likely to experience mental health issues."

This year's Federal Budget directed \$2.3 billion towards improving mental health and suicide prevention in communities across Australia.

If you or someone you care for needs immediate support, please call 000 or: Lifeline 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467  
NSW Mental Health Line 1800 011 511  
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1800 Respect 1800 737 732  
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### Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

Based at the Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre

**DROP IN SERVICES** – Monday-Friday 10am-2pm for a cuppa, computers, help to access support services and information.

**DEVICE ADVICE** – Wednesdays 10am-12.30pm, with Mark, IT volunteer assisting seniors with phone, tablet or laptop issues. Call NACRS or drop in to book a session.

**SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS** – booking and fees apply

- Nimbin Tuesday Social Group, 10.30am-1pm. Morning tea, conversation, music and light lunch
- Nimbin Thursday Social Group, 10.30am-1pm. Morning tea, conversation, word games and bingo, light lunch
- The Channon Seekers & Sages 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm
- Wise Ones at Koonorigan Hall 4th Monday, 11.30am-2.30pm

**BUS OUTINGS** – 2nd & 4th Tues, scenic drives, cafes for morning tea & lunch, booking essential, fees apply.

If you are interested in any of these social activities, pop in or call NACRS on (02) 6689-1709 to find out more.

NACRS SENIORS ACTIVITIES ARE PART-FUNDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM





# Kyogle proposes to abolish environmental protection zones

by Melissa Hallett

Kyogle Shire Council has no social licence to rezone the entire Kyogle LGA into a RU1 – primary production ‘single land use’ zone.

This would enable even further environmental vandalism on private land, the wildlife corridors within this region of our World Heritage Parks.

Kyogle Council is intending to abolish the use of ‘E Zones’ – environmental protection zones for our region, also referred to as our crucial “environmentally sensitive areas” for the protection of wildlife habitats and endangered species, both flora and fauna, along with abolishing the RU2 – Rural Landscape zones.

This council here has already enabled an estimated half-million tons of native woodchips (not including logs) to be carted out of this region over the past three years 24/7 along our rural roadways, and still with ‘no end date’ in sight. Showing a total disregard for the well-being of our region’s wildlife habitats and other residents who live here and run small businesses respecting this region’s biodiversity.

The three words “environmentally sensitive areas” are outlined under council’s E zones. It is a formulated legal term, and referred to in many Australian Acts such as Mining Acts, EPA Act, Crime Acts, Corporate Acts, Parks and

Wildlife Act etc. These words are used as a way to help courts, governments, councils and residents to understand and identify what these areas mean in times of disputes, planning, or any destruction of these places that may have taken place unlawfully.

Mayor Muholland and other councillors’ reasons for ignoring their council’s duty of care to implement these E zones during these past few years, that protect our region’s unique wildlife and their habitats from displacement and death, have been noted as: “Too restrictive”; “Too much paperwork”; and will “devalue land”.

This is an offensive proposal to many of us as ratepayers who live within this Kyogle LGA region, and others within the wider Northern Rivers who see this as a total disregard for the true integrity of the landscapes and wildlife within our region. This council only seems to be pandering to a ‘select few’ who have their minds set on a quick profit and destroying these lands in the process.

A well-known and respected expert on these local environmental matters, Dailan Pugh from North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) sent out an email in answer to questions I had asked earlier on behalf of our community. Dailan Pugh and also Chris Gambian of the NCC Nature Conservation Council have also sent the Kyogle council submissions with both outlining the

recklessness from this type of ‘single land use’ zone proposal for this region’s LGA.

This type of ‘single land use’ RU1 – primary production, relying only on the vegetation land clearing codes, will open up further possibilities in this region for approving mining and increases further land clearing and deforestation. Mimicking what has already taken place across other council areas in NSW that according to *The Guardian* news, “have resulted in 54,500 hectares (134,615 acres) of woody vegetation cleared just in 2019. When non-woody vegetation was factored in, the amount of clearing on regulated rural land in NSW reached 75,636 ha and 74% of it was considered unexplained – meaning it did not require an environmental approval or was unlawful. The data shows that the north-west and central west of the state were hotspots for unexplained clearing, at 91% and 73% respectively.”

Please show your support in opposing this reckless attack on our region’s wildlife by forwarding your comments straight into the Kyogle council contact page here: [www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/council-engagement/jobs-news-community-feedback/contact](http://www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/council-engagement/jobs-news-community-feedback/contact) or email: [council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au) calling on the Kyogle council to halt this decision and apply their due diligence by protecting this region’s wildlife and the true integrity of our region’s landscapes.



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## Prickly problem plants are a real bane

Weed Words by Triny Roe

There are weeds, and there are weeds. And there are so many.

Welcome to Nimbin, the valley of weeds. Where do you start?

It can be useful to triage the opportunistic species that come uninvited. In other words assess their damage and nuisance potential. Establish which are the really bad ones and which ones may not be a problem.

First identify. Then ask a series of questions, starting with: “Can I eat it or is it useful in some way?” If so, get harvesting and it won’t become a problem. Will it overgrow, smother and out-compete desirable species? Might have to get onto it sooner rather than later.

What is its potential to spread? Nip it in the bud and don’t let it go to seed. Does it cause allergies or other health issues? Will the kiddies cark it if they have a nibble? Does it have prickles or thorns? The answers will help you decide which ones to tackle first and soonest.

Thorny plants are a bane. Groves of giant devil fig are nobody’s friend. Neglect this one at your peril. Another thorny plant is spiny amaranth, *Amaranthus spinosus*, found all along the east coast of Australia and northern regions.

Sometimes called spiny pigweed, it can be recognised by the two sharp 1 cm spines poking out from the leaf axil. The stem is red though sometimes it can be green to purple. With a thick taproot, it typically grows as a weed in pastures, along roadsides, creek banks and other neglected areas.

Considered number 15 on the list of the world’s worst weeds, this prickly plant is a pain for farmers, gardeners and bush regenerators everywhere. It is a significant pest in rice paddies in Asia.



While cattle generally avoid spiny amaranth in the paddock, it is toxic for them and other ruminants as nitrates become nitrites in the rumen causing poisoning.

Spiny amaranth is a member of a genus with over 75 species. Many of these have been cultivated for thousands of years, bred for their leaves, flowers or seeds, particularly in Central America where they were staple foods of the Aztecs and Mayans.

Hopis and Zunis today colour their bread with the pink bracts of a species known as Hopi red dye, *Amaranthus cruentus*. The Hopi call it komo. To create a dye, steep plant matter in water in a large glass jar in the sun for a week to set the colour. (NB: The plant amaranth is not used to make the red food dye called amaranth, E123. Used to colour glacé cherries, E123 is synthesised from coal-tar.)

In Australia there are around 20 native species of amaranth and a plethora of exotics, including the prickly one which also hails from tropical America. As with all amaranth, the stems, leaves and seeds of spiny amaranth are edible. Maybe don’t eat the spiky bits!

This plant also has medicinal benefits, and different parts have been used around the world in a variety of manners for a range of ailments including broken bones, bleeding ulcers, snake bites, diarrhoea and gonorrhoea. (NB: Consult a health professional for medical advice.)


With male and female flowers occurring on the same plant and a propensity to produce over 200,000 seeds, this plant can multiply quickly from just one. Seeds continue to mature after cutting and can also survive the composting process. Bag and bin or burn to prevent spread on your patch, or get harvesting.

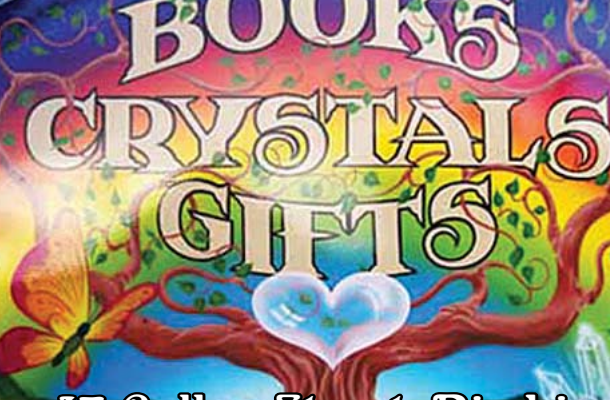
New weeds will always come. How we deal with them will determine if they become a problem.

Happy weeding.

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## Nimbin Bushwalkers

by Peter Moyle

We are now into the prime walking season. Cool days but with sun to keep us comfortable while out and about.

We had our last camp for a couple of months on member Bill's property near Kyogle, and again we scored with the weather only a brief shower on the Friday night and both the walks on Saturday and Sunday were well-attended. Besides the campers, we had 4-5 members come in for the day walks.

Lovely country at the end of a valley backing onto the Border Ranges National Park. Bill led us into some lush rainforest with ferns and palms galore, before following an old logging track to the impressive Collins Creek

and its mini-waterfalls cascading through the monster boulders.

Cold nights but with a well-maintained fire, all cosy. Thanks Bill and Marsha for your hospitality.

We returned to the coast for our day walk and took the coastal track from Brunswick Heads to Tyagarah, visiting Simpsons Creek on the way before a leisurely wander back along the beach, great day with great company.

Another well-attended walk with 18 members and two visitors, no crowds for us and plenty of social distancing, as we keep track of all on the walks, but the quicker ones lead the way and the strollers bring up the rear with the rest spread out in between, a pace to suit all comers.

## Terania Creek Basin Nightcap National Park

Sunday 8th August

**Leader:** Peter Moyle 0412-656-498 Contact for more info and to register.

**Grade 4:** Mostly off track there will be some slippery rocks and rough walking particularly after rain. We will walk through wild, rugged rainforest, the site of the historic battle to save this precious patch of pristine forest. Plenty of lush rainforest and plenty of water over the falls. This is one of the gems of this World Heritage-listed area.

**Meet:** at 9am at the Channon Tavern for car-pooling or 9.30am at the picnic area at the end of Terania Creek Road, 15km from

The Channon.

**Bring:** the usual, hat, drinking water, lunch, and good bush walking boots/shoes.

## Goonengerry National Park

Sunday 22nd August

**Leader:** Ron Smith 0497 792789

**Grade 3-4:** 10km approximately 4 hours.

There are some off track sections that may be slippery. Good walking shoes/boots recommended. We will be walking into an area with some nice waterfalls, hopefully a bit of water

**Meet:** 9am at the Channon Tavern for car-pooling or 9.15 am at the Goonengerry Public School. As usual, ring to reserve your spot and bring a hat, water and lunch.



## Walks programme

Nimbin Bushwalking Group at Green Pigeon in June

## Nimbin Garden



## Club notes



Club members explore the Bush Theatre gardens in June

## No meeting and nothing to say

by Peter Brooker

Well, here we go again, no meeting and nothing to tell, but let's look on the bright side, we are locked out not locked down, we are inconvenienced not incarcerated, and we are in a beautiful part of the world.

We can still have five people over to visit and share a glass of wine in our garden and, as Keats says in "To Solitude": "O solitude! If I must with thee dwell, let it not be among the jumbled heap of murky buildings; climb with me the steep, - Nature's observatory - whence the dell, its flowery slopes, its river's crystal swell."

So we are blessed in many ways, we still have Christine's lovely garden to wander through next month, and we have postponed the excitement of our AGM and the electing of committee members.

Apologies to all those clamouring to be



elected, but you won't have to wait much longer because as Patricia A Fleming assures us: "...and the worries and fears that plagued me each day, in the end of it all, would just fade away."

And while, over this enforced break, you are considering which position you will nominate for, remember the writing of the monthly article is one shared amongst us so if, like me and Oscar

Wilde, you on rare occasions such as this, when nothing has happened, "love to talk about nothing, it's the only thing I know anything about," we have a position for you.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next Garden Club Meeting on 21st August at Christine Howard's, 104 Gungas Road. Usual time, 2pm; bring a cup and a plate to share.

## Plant of the month



### Cats claw creeper

*Dolichandra unguis-cati*

by Richard Burer, Bush regenerator

It's that time again, and the corner of your eye takes in the yellow flowering of the Cats Claw creeper as continues its journey from Nimbin down to Lismore along Goolmangar Creek.

This long-lived woody climber strangles and dominates the precious riparian vegetation along our waterways, and despite being from Central and South America, it's well at home here.

In recent years we've grabbed the chain saw and cut the woody vine, freeing up old local black tea trees and rainforest trees, giving them new life after the decades of thick vines pulling them down and trying to crush their spirit.

This one pictured near Nimbin tip was cut recently, its dinner-plate size vines not good enough now as this majestic old tree is free to grow older and longer.

Keep an eye out for this dominant vine this spring, when the yellow flowers give our local creeks some exotic colour.

A few hours each year along your favourite bit of creek, cutting the woody vines and allowing endemic vegetation to flourish, is very satisfying.



# Towards Aquarius 50th anniversary celebrations, 2023

by Benny Zable

If all goes well within the next two years, we will again be visited by Woodstock ambassadors Nathan and Shelli who run the Woodstock Museum in upstate New York. See: [www.woodstockmuseum.com](http://www.woodstockmuseum.com)

They will be bringing with them the completed seven-part documentary on Nimbin and the Rainbow Region, which they have been judicially been working on over a couple decades.

It was Nathan and Shelli who requested Nimbin become Sister to Woodstock through the Woodstock Town Board, their council. In response, the Lismore City Council voted in favour on behalf of Nimbin. Our first official ambassador to Woodstock was David Hallett. The rest is history.

The name Woodstock became famous through a music festival on Max Yasgur's farm in Bethel, New York. Woodstock has its conception going back to the pre-Raphaelite artists of London in the late 1800's. William Morris, famously known as the wallpaper man, is credited for supporting and developing the arts and crafts movement, which he is generally considered a founding father in reaction to the industrial revolution of the time.

Several of his friends and acquaintances, including his daughter May Morris, took up his mantle in the field of craft and design, while his work also resonated internationally, inspiring the development of Art Nouveau in France, as well as the North-American arts and crafts movement generally. See: [www.theartstory.org/artist/morris-william/life-and-legacy](http://www.theartstory.org/artist/morris-william/life-and-legacy)

This leads to the fascinating history developed in the Catskill town of Woodstock, New York, through disciples of William Morris who scouted for a site to develop his ideas. This was to become the Woodstock colony of the Arts which was officially founded in 1902 through the Byrdcliffe Art Colony, still intact on Overlook mountain.

My first visit to Woodstock was



in 1989. I was travelling around with an anti-nuke toxic tower installation that year. It happened when I was in New York City that two aboriginal elder friends were there; the Yuin tribal elders Burnum Burnum in New York City, and Gabbu Ted Thomas who was invited to run a Dreaming Camp at the Whittenburg Center for Alternative Resources in Bearsville up the road from that famous village.

I enrolled and made my way to Woodstock. It reminded me of entering Nimbin against a hilly forest backdrop and a road fork in the centre of town that headed up Overlook mountain from the village green. I made friends with the folks at the Whittenburg Center who were interested in the Nimbin story.

Later on, I made friends with the Rainbow Gathering folk in Woodstock who held weekly drumming sessions at the village green in the centre of town, and monthly full moon gatherings on Magic Meadow at the top of Overlook mountain. See: <https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2020/08/19/drum-circle-keeps-the-beat-going-at-woodstocks-village-green>

It was at one of these Rainbow gatherings on Magic Meadow that I set up the toxic tower installation which attracted Nathan Koenig. Years later, Harsha Prabhu sent over a copy of the 'Some Children of the Dream' exhibition to the Woodstock Museum.

The head supervisor of Woodstock got warm to the idea of a sister village/town with Nimbin. An official framed gold sealed proclamation was sent by the Woodstock Town Board through the Nimbin Post Office and is currently in the care of the Nimbin Community Centre. See: [www.nimbinweb.com.au/resources/](http://www.nimbinweb.com.au/resources/)

[nimbin\\_woodstock.htm](http://nimbin_woodstock.htm)

The document reads:

WHEREAS the people of Woodstock have a long tradition of dedication to art, music, environmental protection, peace, justice, grassroots democracy, and

WHEREAS the people of the town of Nimbin in Australia are presently living and creating an artistic local community reaching out to the greater global community, setting an example by exercising co-operative principles for the good of local people and protection of the environment, and

WHEREAS it is our belief that the people of Nimbin, Australia have been influenced by Woodstock as an alternative society reaching back as far as the music festival of 1969, which sent the idea of "Woodstock" to the far ends of the earth, and have the inalienable right to create a society, living their dreams and visions, meeting basic human needs, and based on grassroots democracy, and

WHEREAS the people of Nimbin have shown the determination to exist and exercise their right to self-government, creativity and goodwill, and

WHEREAS the people of the Town of Woodstock can learn and exchange culture, celebrations, environmental information, ideas, products, education, and people with the town of Nimbin as both communities continue to build communities of cooperation, sharing and harmony.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Woodstock that:

1) The Town Board of Woodstock proclaims the Town of Woodstock a sister city of Nimbin, Australia.

2) On behalf of the people of Woodstock, the Supervisor will send a letter to Nimbin extending the sister city affiliation.

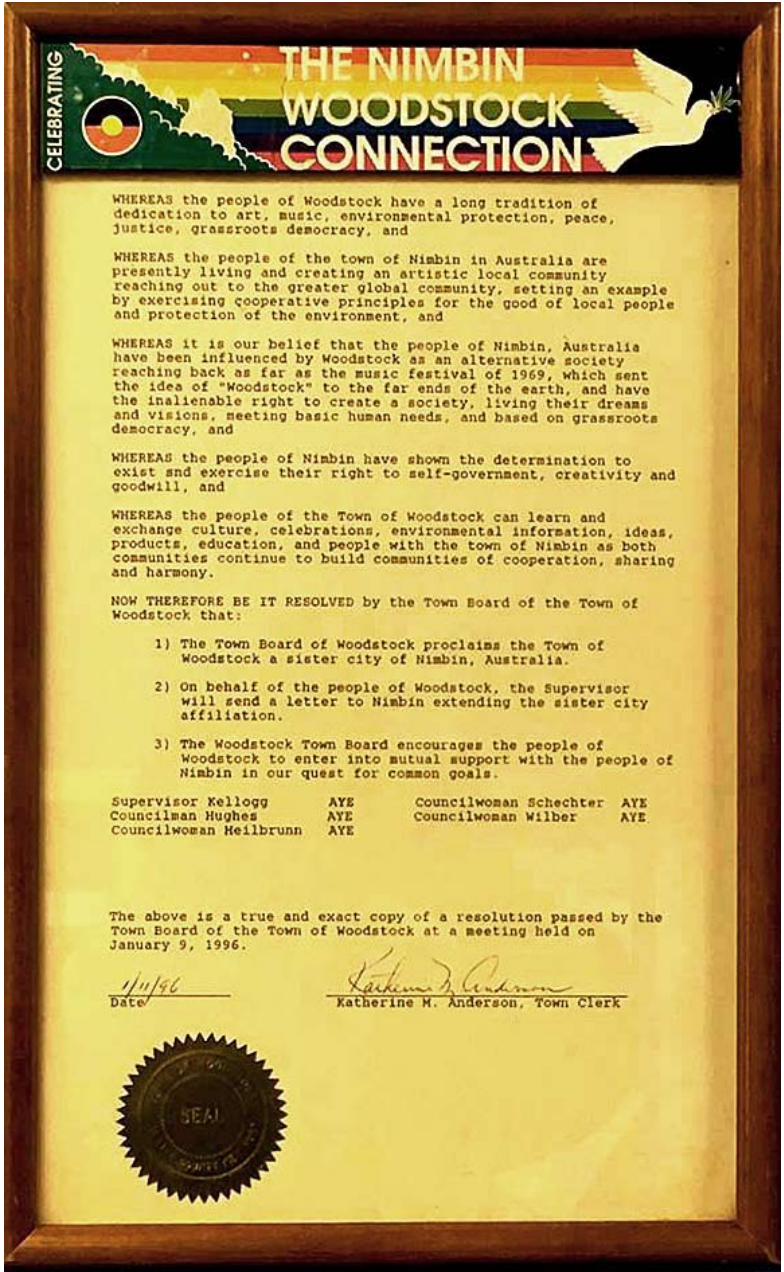
3) The Woodstock Town Board encourages the people of Woodstock to enter into mutual support with the people of Nimbin in our quest for common goals.

The above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Town Board of the Town of Woodstock at a meeting held on January 9, 1996.

Katherine M. Anderson  
Town Clerk



The Rainbow Dreaming crew with the Woodstock Town Board in 2009



## Climate activists continue presence



Photos: Chibo Mertineit

The Strike for Effective Climate Action, started in June by local mother Peach Darvall, continues to be held in the Lismore Quad every Thursday, 1.30-2.30pm. All are welcome to join her.

Ms Darvall said, "I am striking in the Quad to demand our government makes those urgent changes needed so desperately to bring Australia to zero emissions by 2025.

"I urge everyone to rise up too, in any way you can."



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