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Protest for peace and the environment

by James Fuller

2021 will be Nimbin's 13th year participating in the World Naked Bike Ride festivities. Please come and support the Nimbin WNBR.

2020 has seen a rise in bicycle riding in cities, where they have accelerated provision for such.

Sadly, in the country, nothing has been done, but it is easier to dodge potholes with two wheels!

It will be held on Saturday 13th March. Start painting up at 10am at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. The ride starts when everyone is painted up and ready to go.

The ride itself consists of a few laps of the main street of Nimbin and takes about 30 minutes. The first part of the ride is uphill from the Bush Theatre into town – please make sure you and your bike are in condition for the ride.

Generally though, it isn't a taxing ride and a wide range of people take part each year.

Mission: We face automobile traffic with our naked bodies as the best way of defending our dignity and exposing the unique dangers faced by cyclists and pedestrians, plus all the negative effects of oil, cars, war, consumerism and non-renewable energy.

Protest themes: Bikerism, naturism, environmentalism and pacifism.

Dress code: Clothing is optional. The dress code for the World Naked Bike Ride is "bare as you dare". The choice is yours to decide how naked you wish to be.

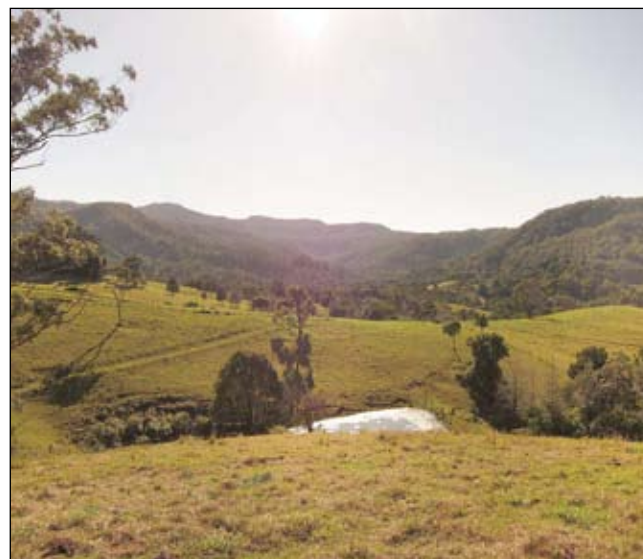
If you choose to be fully clothed or partially clothed or in costume or painted, or if you choose to be completely naked, the decision is entirely yours.

This ride is immense fun. The joy and exhilaration and the confidence you will



get from it will warm your heart for years to come.

Village voices for Lismore City Council



LCC elections are being held in September. Over one third of people within the Lismore Local Government Area live outside the residential area of Lismore and have very little direct representation on Council.

A growing group of concerned village residents want to change that and have village voices and interests represented on Lismore Council – not just Nimbin, but all villages.

A meeting will be held at Nimbin Town Hall on Saturday 27th February 11am to 12pm. All welcome from

Nimbin and all LCC villages – Covid compliance will be observed

The purpose of the meeting is to cover:

- What is it like to be a councillor?
- Are you, or someone you know, willing and able to stand up for and represent the villages in Council?
- What issues are important to you?
- Are you willing to host a meeting in your village? We would love to come and visit you soon!

Enquiries:
VillageVoices2480@gmail.com

Nimbin's water woes

by Catherine Macleod

This is a photo taken of the Nimbin weir two days before the rain hit in December 2020. Nimbin weir supplies Nimbin's water.

In this photo you see giant devil figs growing where the creek should be, and a couple of discontinuous puddles in its place. The weir wall looks like it has water running over it, but in fact the water is only running down in a thin film two-foot wide on the right, just outside the camera frame.

Note the luxuriant foliage of the Nightcap National Park upstream of the weir contrasted with the desiccated and weed-ridden area downstream.

This has been a common sight at the weir over the last few years, mainly in the (now) dry times of roughly April

to Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan when the rain may start again. This is the new pattern, and it is estimated these "droughts" will continue. (CSIRO 2020 *State of the Climate* report).

Allowing the catchment to dry out like this can do irreparable damage. An expert in riverine ecosystems, Professor Martin Thoms, says, "The way I like to look at ecosystems is like a sponge, so our catchments have dried and become really desiccated."

"If you've got a completely dry sponge, generally what happens is that if you put water in it straight away it just runs across" (this affects the ability to recharge groundwater – note from author). "Because there is no sustaining water from the groundwater ... now it's actually starting to retreat back again," Dr Thoms said.



(ABC News, 22 Dec 2020).

In other words, Nimbin's access to water via the reticulated supply is currently dependent upon hits to the riparian environment which may cause irreversible damage and affect the downstream flow rates (evaporation) and groundwater levels.

In order to protect this incredibly fragile ecosystem, part of the remnant

vegetation of the great Gondwanaland forests, we must become more conscious of where our water comes from, how we manage it and how we can use it more sparingly. Increased population density, climate change and more demands on the finite nature of Nimbin water supply can only deplete this most important of natural resources.



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Photo: Chibo Mertineit

Reflections on mourning/invasion day

by Benny Zable

"First of all I wish to pay my respects to the Widiabul: Wai'ibal people, their culture, their elders and community leaders past, present and emerging of the Bundjalung nation/s of this region who never ceded the lands we all are living on and off."

After attending the Lismore Invasion/Mourning/Survival Day of mobs' shared presentations, one thing stuck in my mind significantly; that is the disturbing story of the cedar getters as told to us at the rally by MC leader, artist and public speaker Uncle Gilbert Laurie.

The cedar getters came and asked the Aboriginal mob how to pass through the rainforest, and they showed the cedar getters the directions through the rainforest. Later on, the cedar getters came back to massacre the mobs in and around Nimbin towards cutting down the rainforest for its prized cedar wood. (This story is yet to be acknowledged and memorialised.)

The Nimbin Aquarius Festival, funded and organised through the Australian Union of Students (AUS) in 1973, is believed to be the first time First Nations peoples had been invited to participate in a free and open event in Australia.

This all happened since



Gilbert Laurie
Photo: Jimmy Malecki

the Freedom Ride around Australia and the creation of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra in 1972, (the longest "illegal" occupation by any group in the world today).

This was and is still a very significant historic event that had ripple effects throughout much of the 'Rainbow Region', Australia and the world in general.

Over the years since the Nimbin Aquarius Festival, many actions have stopped and saved much of the dwindling rainforest or "Big Scrub", incidentally a degrading name given to the rainforests by the colonial invaders.

In 2022 it will be 40 years since loggers were confronted by a dedicated group of activists on the road up Mount Nardi. This led to the creation

of the Nimbin Environment Centre. It ended up with the then Premier of NSW, Neville Wran declaring the Nightcap Rainforest/s a national park to eventually be placed on the UNESCO World Heritage listing.

I remember first coming to Nimbin and seeing in horror the stands of dead trees that dotted the bared landscape in and around the Nimbin area. It was a virtual ghost town poisoned by cattle dip sites and heavily eroding lands.

This was mainly due to the ring-barking of trees, as it was ordered to clear the land for settler farmers to own and farm 'Crown Lands'.

Slowly, slowly things began changing around Nimbin post Aquarius as the hidden truths began to be revealed. (There

are many parallels between this story and the creation of the Woodstock American colony of the arts story, which I became aware of later).

It is so heartening to see all these young people coming out in the hot weather to attend the rally and march in Lismore.

We in Nimbin have two years left to go towards celebrating the 50th year milestone since the Nimbin Aquarius Festival. The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation will soon be convening its delayed AGM, to continue planning towards the 50th.

It needs especially young people to step up, attend and join, to help with surviving going forward.

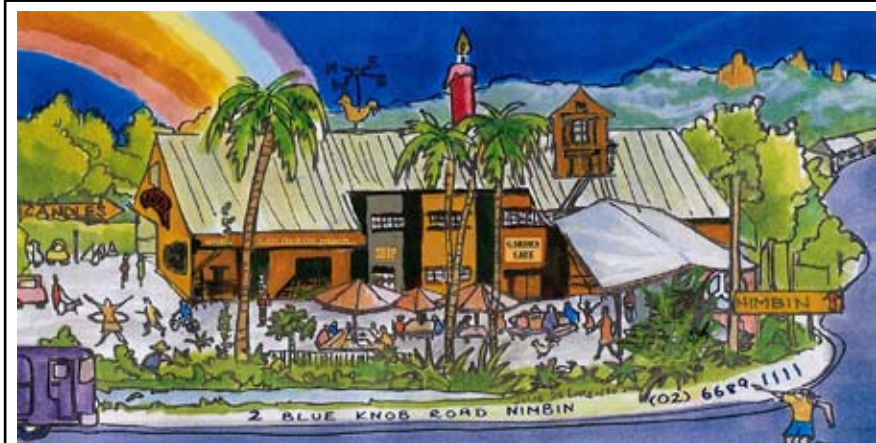
May the long time sun shine upon you...



Photo: Jimmy Malecki



Photo: Benny Zable



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The circus is over, and it's still about the planet

So the circus is over for now in the US. In the style of a true sociopathic narcissist, Trump managed to make everything about himself to the very bitter end, and even managed to throw his deluded supporters under a bus to save himself at the last turn.

The QAnon and conspiracist train wreck has been revealed for what it was, the actual conspiracy that was sucking in those looking for a conspiracy. It was designed along the principles used for on-line adventure games, but sadly it was a deadly serious and sinister attempt to recruit an army of deluded followers for political ends.

Just like a computer game, participants were led through a journey of discovery where parcels of 'information' were pre-arranged to be found by them by following a set of cues and suggestions, but so cleverly that participants actually felt they were 'doing their own research' and 'discovering hidden truths'. Never mind that it all masked a cynical attempt to manipulate US politics for an anti-environmental, white supremacist and pro-Trump agenda.

We need to be compassionate for those we know who got sucked down those rabbit holes and help rehabilitate them if they seek to resurface.

So do the rest of us who are relieved to see the end of the orange-haired baby-man really believe everything we read in the mainstream media, and do we really believe that Biden and the Democrats are angels? No of course we don't.

We have merely dodged a bullet of white supremacist fascism and been bought some more time for the existing (and yes still flawed) processes of civil government and democracy to attempt to unravel the multiple crises we find ourselves in. And we should not assume that fascism in its various forms won't come back in a more sophisticated way in the future.

The task ahead is massive. The sad thing about the Trump years is what a massive distraction it was from the real issues facing us. Climate change remains the single most pressing global emergency, along with massive global inequality and rising fascism.

Now we can turn to look at Australia and the totally insane bi-partisan political consensus to resist meaningful action on climate change.

Australia has a very significant problem of deeply embedded political corruption and a related life-threatening addiction to the failing economics of mine building.

Despite its relatively small population, Australia is the third largest exporter of fossil fuels by CO₂ potential globally and the relative share that the mining and resources sector occupies within Australia's economy means that climate activists are struggling against a very powerful industry group domestically, in a battle that has very real and quantifiable impacts globally.

A snapshot of economic statistics helps to explain why the battle between



by Aidan Ricketts

climate activists and the mining industry in Australia has become so intractable. Fossil fuel exports made up 27.67% of Australia's exports in 2017 compared to 4.58% for the UK and 5.51% for the USA, and 15.86% Canada respectively.

The same study ranked Australia's economic complexity as 93rd compared to UK at 14, USA at 12 and Canada at 35. This ranking reflects Australia's over-reliance on mining, particularly coal and gas for export income. We have squandered innovation and opportunity for decades and in the process become more and more debilitated by our mining addiction.

The relative share that mining industries hold of the Australian economy gives them very significant domestic political and economic influence. This economic muscle is further amplified by the scale of direct investment by the mining industry in lobbying Australian governments and both major political parties.

The Australia Institute has identified \$541 million spent on lobbying Australian governments by the mining industry in the ten years to 2017. This figure only records money spent by the industry's peak lobby groups and does not include lobbying by individual companies.

Direct political donations to Australia's two main political groupings (ALP and Coalition) are also substantial. A 2017 report by the Australia Institute reported that the mining industry disclosed donations of \$16.6 million to major political parties over ten years (2006-07 to 2015-16). Analysis also indicated that the quantum of donations correlated with the election cycle, timelines on project approvals, and debates on key industry policies such as the mining tax and a carbon price.

The sting in the tail is that mining is a very small employer relative to the profits it gets to export. All up, coal mining in Australia employs about 40,000 people. By honouring our Paris Accord obligations alone, renewable energy jobs could grow to 45,000 by 2025.

The corruption of our two biggest political parties (L+NP and ALP) is a fait accompli, but worse is the addiction to mining revenues and worse again the false economic boon of new mine building. Like any deep and deadly addiction, while you are still in its grip going deeper into it feels like the only

form of relief.

This is what we saw with the federal government's gas-lit recovery policy. Instead of using the Covid recession as a reset for a sustainable future, the corrupt response was to ask the fossil fuel lobby what they wanted, and guess what they wanted: more subsidies, more mines and more anti-protest laws.

To make it all worse, Australia's addiction is more about building mines than mining itself (because the build is where the temporary jobs are) so we are in a ridiculous loop of politicians wanting to keep building more coal mines that we already know have a very dubious economic future.

So Australia is in a perilous place with corruption affecting both major parties and a self-destructive economic addiction to mine-building pulling us ever deeper into a more and more destructive economic hole.

Whatever personal criticisms you or your friends may have developed about the Greens over the years, they remain the only growing parliamentary force in the country that is independent of the corrupting power of the mining industry and committed to transparency and economic renewal.

Only the Greens actively pursue the establishment of a national anti-corruption body with rigour; only the Greens pursue reform of political donations law to stop the flow of donations to Labor and the LNP from the mining lobby; and only the Greens have the political independence and economic long vision to pursue the establishment of a more diverse and productive Australian economy based on innovation and renewable energy.

As I always find myself having to say, the LNP are by far the worst offenders in terms of driving Australia endlessly deeper into inequality, degraded government services and climate criminality as well as a doomed and simplified quarry economy.

Labor is always better than the LNP at nation-building, at economic reform and at addressing inequality, but sadly unless and until they are forced by having to share power with the Greens to form government, they will never break free of the shackles of their political donors.

Elections are still a long way off, and people's ingrained voting habits and irrational team loyalties die hard, but we need to pursue change wherever we can.

While we keep chipping away at the electoral carcass, there has never been a greater urgency to support our grassroots activists fighting Adani, fighting the Narrabri gasfield project and fighting for our burnt and unburnt native forests.

Trump and the conspiracy theories were a giant distraction – the same old problems and the same old corruption continue on and demand our collective attention. Thankfully the renewable economy is running rings around the fossil fuel economy, it's just that our big political parties refuse to get properly on board.

Fifth Lismore Women's Festival preparations begin

by Emma Newman

We're proud to announce that the fifth annual Lismore Women's Festival (LWF) will be held from Friday 5th March to Monday 8th March (International Women's Day). To be held at Lismore City Hall, the full program for the festival will be announced soon.

For a Covid-safe festival, the

LWF will run some events on-line for the first time ever, making the LWF accessible to feminists all around the country.

Festival-goers can expect live music and performances, hands-on workshops, art exhibitions, forums, panel discussions, and social community gatherings.

Whether you're looking to learn about something serious

(feminist discussions and current issues) or to dance, sing and socialise, there's something for everyone.

All are welcome, please RSVP to our Facebook event to receive regular program updates: www.facebook.com/events/397010478208054

Also, our webpage is: www.ywca.org.au/lismore-womens-festival

There's lots of fun things



to do in the lead-up and during the festival – this is your chance to meet the best friends you haven't made yet.

If you want to get involved, please contact the festival co-ordinator Emma, at: nswwomensfestival@ywca.org.au or phone 0490-437-376.

Women turning pain into power

The truth is shocking – according to the United Nations, one in every three women will be physically or sexually abused in her lifetime – that's more than one billion women across the world.

One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women and children in human history. Every February, women and others rise in countries across the world to show our local communities and the world what one billion people looks like.

We rise through dance to express joy and community and celebrate the fact we have not been defeated by this increasing violence. We rise to show we are determined to create a new kind of consciousness – one where violence will be resisted until it is unthinkable.

Since 1998, the V-Day movement has raised over US\$100 million.

V-Day activists donate 100% of their proceeds to groups in their community who are doing anti-violence work at rape crisis centres and domestic violence shelters, groups working with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated



Photo courtesy byronbay.com

women, with refugee women and with women affected by climate catastrophe.

In Byron Bay, women, men and children will gather at dawn on Main Beach on V-Day, Sunday 14th February, 6.30am for 7am, in solidarity with women around the world. The 'V' stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

We will dance in defiance, for our 9th

consecutive year, all welcome. Be loud. Be counted. Wear red. Make a sign. Join the dance. More info on Facebook: V-Day Byron Bay

The annual beach dance will be followed by two evening performances of The Vagina Conversations, at 7.30pm on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th at Byron Theatre.

After sell-out performances five years running, this informal, diverse collective of some of Byron Shire's powerful, creative women and non-binary people with vaginas, will present personal or professional or political stories which inspire and educate, they empower and support. It's funny, sad, courageous, challenging and celebratory, MC'd by Zenith Virago.

Tickets from Byron Community Centre: \$35 / \$27 concession, suitable for 14+ years. Proceeds to Women's Resource Service – Byron Escape Fund, supporting Byron Shire women escaping intimate partner and family violence.

See: www.onebillionrising.org and www.vday.org

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"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

Nimbin pool needs more friends

Swimming pool tours part 7

by Sue Edmonds

Swimming is of our nature, starting life in a bowl of fluid. Throughout human history we've found ways to build on that initial skill, building pools to hold water for a dip.

In the 4th century BC the King of Sri Lanka had his own pool, and another for his wives, built using thermal heating. The Ottoman Empire littered the world with their swimming pools, exclusive only to the elite. The English city of Bath is named after the Roman baths built around 75AD.

Swimming pools were exclusive places until the mid 19th century, when the hoi poloi were allowed in for a dip. Eric Monsanbini (Eric the Eel) from Equatorial Guinea, shot to fame with his brave swim in the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

He'd never seen a 50m pool when chosen to represent his country. He was given goggles and a costume on the day of the event to replace his Bermuda shorts. Equatorial Guinea now has two 50m pools, thanks to his volunteering for the swim, and he teaches swimming.

Nimbin's swimming pool is the result of a determined community who started raising funds in 1968. They held raffles, had a pool table in the pub, cake stalls etc. The proceeds went towards the land, which was purchased from the Faulks estate for a pool and a caravan park.

The deputy City Engineer at the time (Bill Gates) recommended a circular pool being best suited to the needs of the community. It was

a very far-sighted decision. There's an excellent record of the pool history in the book *Nimbin Centenary 1882-1982*.

Nimbin's pool was opened in 1978, and for the last 43 years, thousands of children have learned to swim, some folk use it for wading, others do determined laps, while many relax by the sparkling waters. This season of 2020-2021, the pool is kept open by a band of dedicated volunteers who collect details to comply with Covid-19 NSW health requirements.

Nimbin could be seen as the capital of volunteering with the Hall, the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, the Artists Gallery, the Environment Centre, Neighbourhood Centre, CWA, Rural Fire Brigade, Hospital Auxillary, Soccer club, Tennis, A&I Showgrounds and more, and currently the pool, all run by volunteers.

The Lismore City Council is responsible for the pool maintenance and commits to the yearly budget of at least \$125,000. This includes water rates, electricity, chemicals and a designated operator testing the water quality, and maintenance of the facility.

This year, the volunteers have compiled a small list of easy improvements for the grounds. Both sides at the entrance needs concreting, another bench seat would be useful, and the big one would be more shade, especially on the eastern side.

To get the ball rolling, Friends of the Nimbin Pool are gathering donations for these improvements. Donations can be deposited to Summerland Credit Union BSB: 728728; Friends



Mike Birch keeping us safe

of Nimbin Pool account: 22300600.

The major need is for toilets and change rooms accessible from the pool and the adjacent park, thereby servicing the BBQ area, the children's playground, the skate park and the whole recreation area. One toilet could be kept open for the winter season when the pool is not accessible.

While touring swimming pools in the region over the last year, we've seen many councils investing in amenities to enhance their swimming pools. A new block has been built in Warialda, also in Bingara, and Kyogle got a major facelift.

Not big towns, but they saw the need for toilets so applied for funding and hey presto, up went the toilets. Fancy a town with as many tourists as Nimbin not having toilets in the busy park.

Volunteering at the Nimbin



Nimbin pool opens in 1978



'Car pooling' installation by Pauline Ahern, Nimbin Autumn Arts Exhibition 2020

pool has been appreciated by all who like to take the waters, early morning through to the early evening,



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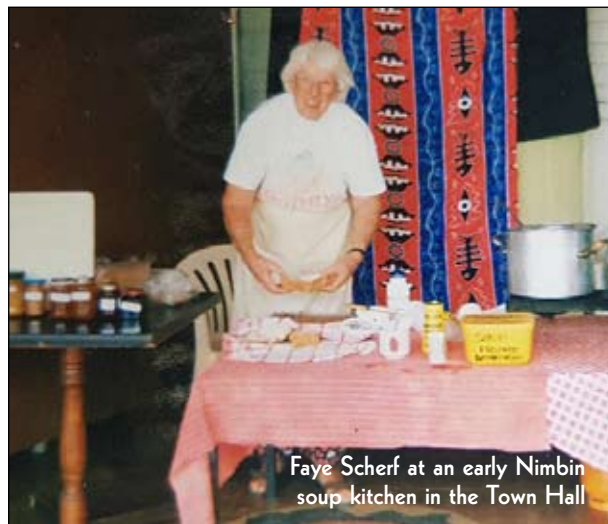
Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Vale Faye Scherf

Many years ago Faye, along with Winifred Mitchell, founded the Nimbin Older Women's Forum which set up the Nimbin Soup Kitchen.

Eventually the Older Women's Forum wound down and responsibility for continuing the Soup Kitchen was passed to us at NNIC and continues to this day. (The Soup Kitchen has been temporarily suspended due to Covid-19 but will be resuming as soon as possible).

We thank Faye for the many legacies she has left to our community in which she was very active right until the end. May you Rest in Peace, Faye, we will all miss you very much.



Faye Scherf at an early Nimbin soup kitchen in the Town Hall

Nimbin Disaster Plan

Thanks to all the Nimbinites who completed the survey. Well done gang.

On Tuesday 9th February, from 10am to 1pm, there will be an information session about the existing structure of the Government-led emergency response framework. This will assist us as a community to understand where the gaps are and also how we best work with agencies such as the SES, RFS etc.

Due to Covid you need to register for this (free) event: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-disasters-an-emergency-services-perspective-tickets-137568987545

This will be followed by a community workshop (World Café) at 3pm-5pm, with the same workshop repeated at 6pm-8pm to allow people a choice of timeslots, plus to maximise the possible number of participants, given the Covid restrictions on space.

Again, please register for either session:

World Café – afternoon session: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nimbin-disaster-plan-community-workshop-tickets-137686091807

World Café – evening session: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nimbin-disaster-plan-community-workshop-tickets-137687907237

All of this is for the purpose of developing our own Community Disaster Plan. We can't do it without you, so please come along if you can.

Nimbin Pool

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked through January to keep the pool open as much as possible. Especially to Sue Edmonds who was the Roster Co-ordinator for January.

The pool is open between 7.30am and 6pm, 7 days a week, unless weather events or a volunteer shortage forces its temporary closure. Updates regarding closures etc are posted on Nimbin Hook Ups or on the gate of the pool.

Nimbin Women's Dinner

Sadly, Covid-19 has prevented us from holding our famous Women's Dinner this year. We plan to be back with bells on in 2022.

Not to be defeated by this pesky pandemic, Gail Clarke and crew have organised a small event to mark International Women's Day (IWD) Monday 8th March from 6pm to be held at the back of the Town Hall. There will be BYO drinks plus coffee and teas available and some cake.

The talented women of Nimbin are invited to come together to share stories, poetry, song and music.

Nimbin Holiday Club (aka Vacation Care)

We are still calling on Nimbin parents with children aged between 0 and 12 years to complete the survey which can be found online via this link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z9WCY86

7 Sibley Street Updates

We are currently working on the plans

to construct a composting loo on site. Hopefully 2021 will see it come to fruition.

As usual, Steph has organised an excellent series of workshops for February including Syntropic Agriculture. Not to be missed. See the full program in this edition of NGT or else on our Sibley Street facebook page (search 7 Sibley St).

And of course the Tools and Equipment Library is available for borrowing to members (to join see our website). There is a great range of equipment for loan. You can check it out on our website.

Water Security – an emerging community issue

As we watched Mulgum Creek run almost dry below the weir for a second year running, it is clear that water security is an increasing problem for Nimbin. The old weather patterns and long wet seasons are gone and climate change predictions indicate a shift to less frequent but more severe rainfall events.

The springs and streams many of us have relied on for years are under increasing pressure as our population grows and water becomes less available due to climate change.

A small group has commenced working on this issue so watch this space. In the meantime, we can all consider what we can do to help protect our waterways and therefore our water supply, such as installing more tanks to harvest more of the rainfall at our own homes, or reducing our water use by installing greywater recycling systems, composting toilets and water-wise gardens.

Nimbin CDAT Youth Arts Competition WILD Winners

You can now see all the entries including the winners on our website. Definitely worth checking out the works from the talented young peeps around our area: <http://nnic.org.au/pub/index.php/our-services/cdat>

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 February. 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 February. 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

- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 9th February. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 18th February.

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.





NIMBIN

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

CENTRE

by Scott Sledge, president

On 26th January, many area residents got together to share a Survival Day meal at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Nimbin. We met on land that was never ceded by First Nations people, and I pay my respects to traditional custodians, the Widjabul: Wai'ibal peoples.

US elections

Early last month two important things happened in the USA: First, in the state of Georgia, two newly-elected Democrats replaced Trumpists in the US Senate and put the Democrats in control. Second, the Liar-in-Chief left the White House. President Joe Biden seems to be one who can learn from past mistakes. After inauguration he said, "On climate change we (USA) have left it too late. It's time to take action." He has committed to combating climate change and using science to control Covid-19. He wants to stop the atrocious slide into racism led by Trump and his white supremacist minions. Sorry haters, we need to remember we are more alike than we are different.

Self-reliance

I congratulate Drugs for winning the War on Drugs. I hope we can soon legally grow our own. Covid-19 has encouraged more people to mind their gardens and buy local produce, a welcome step towards self-reliance and breaking our dependency on big corporations, which I'm told have increased their share of worldwide wealth during this past year.

Nimbin has always promoted alternative ways and perhaps that is why so many visitors are coming into the shop on Cullen Street. Enquiry into houses to rent or buy has soared. We need be as helpful as possible without risking becoming overwhelmed by unsustainable development. Lismore City Council will host public consultations in the near future. Current residents need to get involved, because Nimbin has neither the water nor sewer infrastructure needed to support a major population increase.

Water management

Recently, we told Rous Water the community believes that demand management is far more attractive than costly dams and that new property developments should provide the bulk of their own needs by harvesting rainwater. Recycled water is also an option. Will worries



about possible future water shortages overpower prudent conservation measures, such as mandating rainwater tanks?

Salvage logging

We must continue to insist that governments change policies on land-clearing and logging in order to protect forests and wildlife. The Forestry Corp (FC) must stop seeing trees as a consumable resource and acknowledge forests as the best climate change mitigators.

Our actions and publicity have saved much in State Forests, but loggers have still been busy with "salvage logging" of the softwood plantations that cannot regenerate after fire. FC intends to re-plant softwoods, which mainly go overseas to be burned for electricity.

Koalas

We thank Liberal MLC Catherine Cusack for her recent koala-saving actions. NSW Premier Gladys & Co. say they will implement only 11 of the 42 recommendations of the Upper House Committee on Koalas. That's not enough to stop koalas from becoming extinct in NSW!

I ask everyone to contact NSW elected officials and demand that they support all of the recommendations of the Upper House Committee on Koalas.

Sea levels

At a January gathering near Toonumbar dam, I spoke with an environmental activist who recently completed research into rising sea levels in our part of the world. He told me the sea level has been rising for nearly 100 years but has recently accelerated by a measurable and real 50%.

He said we need to plan for the consequences, because the rising will slow down only if we mitigate climate change.

Rail corridor

The push to convert the Casino-Murwillumbah rail line into a cycling/walking trail has received State and Federal funding. Because of lobbying to retain the corridor for future transport

use, the NSW legislation that authorises rail removal contains a clause that supposedly guarantees public ownership of the land. However, land in the transport corridor can be leased, and that could stop future rail development.

A recent meeting in Murwillumbah promoted the idea of dual-use, which would allow the trail to be built alongside the tracks. A company has been formed to extend the current solar train running in Byron to at least a park-and-ride at Mullumbimby, which would relieve the current traffic congestion around Byron Bay.

CSG

Community response to Santos's Narrabri gas project has led to the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) taking the matter to Court because the government failed to adequately consider the impacts on climate change. NEC strongly supports the EDO's efforts on this and other damaging developments.

Stop Adani

NEC has consistently supported withdrawing consent for Adani Corporation to build the world's largest coal mine in the Carmichael Basin of Queensland.

We note that the Queensland government has given Adani approval for 60 years unlimited extraction of water from streams and artesian basins, if the coal mine goes ahead. Thus reduced profits from coal exports could be replaced with water exports. The traditional landowners, the Wangan and Jangalingu peoples, continue to fight Adani, and we support them.

Sometimes corporate lobbyists sway governments in favour of the rich and powerful, leaving the average voter with little influence. But sometimes the politicians listen to the people.

We need to keep up the fight for the environment because we all live in it. And because little will be left for future generations should we become discouraged and give up.

Community invited online to talk rail trail

Tweed Council is inviting the community on-line to learn about the Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek section of the proposed Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

Construction of the Tweed section of the rail trail is due to begin within months now, though detailed designs are yet to be put forward by shortlisted tenderers for Council to evaluate.

As an update for the community, landholders and prospective tenderers, a series of on-line information sessions are being held, designed to update the community on the project's progress, and encourage feedback.

Following a presentation on



the project, on-line attendees will be able to ask questions of Council's Project Director Iain Lonsdale and the NSW Public Works Advisory project manager, Alex Manning.

The online information sessions will be held:

- Session 1, Wednesday 10th February, 3-4pm
- Session 2, Thursday 11th February, 10-11am

Session 3, Wednesday 17th February, 5.30-6.30pm
• Session 4, Thursday 18th February, 5.30-6.30pm
To attend an information session, visit: yoursaytweed.com.au/RailTrail at the scheduled time and click the link.

At the end of each session, attendees will be asked to complete a short feedback form, which will allow them to seek any additional information they require.

A recording of one of the information sessions will be uploaded to the Your Say Tweed webpage, allowing anyone to view it at any time.

The webpage also allows the community to ask the project team a question.

Open Learning classes resume

by Christine Strelan,
co-ordinator

Nimbin Open Learning begin term one classes on Tuesday 9th February.

We have courses in art, creative writing, organic gardening, life drawing and Tai Chi.

Enrolments are open at the Community Centre classroom between 10am and 3pm on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th February. Phone 6689-1477 or find us on Facebook at Nimbin Open Learning. All classes \$60.




This term, Open Learning welcomes new tutor Angie Skehan (pictured), who is offering a class in organic gardening. Resident in Nimbin for 40 years, Angie has a wealth of experience

with our specific climate and natural environment.

Her many qualifications include permaculture design certificates, and she is part of the permaculture teaching team at Djanbung Gardens. A certified organic farmer for 12 years, she also teaches a backyard food production course at Mullumbimby.

The Organic Gardening class will be on Wednesday afternoons, 2-4pm in the Community Centre classroom. We plan to begin on 10th February. Like all our courses, it will cost \$60.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB
7 Sibley Street

February Events Program

\$10 unless otherwise noted
Bookings: text 0475-135-764
or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops (start 10.30am)

- **Sat 6th: Nimbin Seed Exchange** at Blue Knob market 10.30am.
- **Tues 9th: Syntropic Agroforestry** A system that feeds us and turns the planet back to forest.
- **Tues 16th:** Knitting and crochet.
- **Sat 27th: Intro to goat care** with Rachelle Garland (District Liaison Officer for Dairy Goats Australia) Meet some friendly caprines! How to care for goats and use in land management.
- **Sat 27th: Weed block making** turn lantana and woody weeds into buildings, \$25 bookings essential.

Farm Tours (Bookings essential)

Carpool leaving 7 Sibley Street at 10am.

- **Sat 13th: Solar Farm** – Regenerative agroforestry, bush regen and rainforest plant nursery.

Regular events

- **Community tools library:** Wed and Sat 10.30am-2pm
- **Plant nursery:** Seedlings, cuttings, fruit and regen trees for your sustainable gardens.
- **Reference library:** Relax and enjoy books on traditional skills, gardening and sustainable living.
- **10 minute workshops:** Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or cob building!

Coming up in March:

Special guest Helen Schwenke **creating butterfly gardens** and **growing on the verge** project.



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street

Children's Clothes, Soft Toys, Hemp Food, Body Care, Clothing Products



FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL





LOCALLY MINDED

0439333910

