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Rail advocate responds to critics

by Lydia Kindred,
Northern Rivers Rail Ltd (NRRL)

In June's NGT, several letter-writers put forward arguments in favour of the Tweed rail trail.

Jenny Dowell spruiked riding to the Lismore Lantern Parade on the proposed bike 'rail trail' from other towns as "a wonderful car-free option" and "eventually the Trail to Byron will provide fabulous access to the Writers Festival too."

Surely riding in the dark would be a foolish exercise, or require a highway of lights to prevent serious accidents. Would farmers appreciate that?

For Tim Shanasy: I've been told by a Byron horse-riding company that fast bike riders spook horses.

Mandy Nolan is right when she says, "Trains are going to be part of the future." Two railway companies, Northern Rivers Rail Ltd and the Northern Regional Railway Company, have been registered to bring back rail services to the Northern Rivers.

European Union Transport Ministers recently met to promote getting travel and freight off the roads, out of the air and to put it onto rail, with climate change looming.

To Glenys Ritchie: we want light rail vehicles, not heavy rail. The Byron Shire Arcadis report's engineers were

surprised at the good condition of the line, although some sleepers and bridges need to be replaced.

We do not want to stop the rail trail, we want to work with the proponents, to have the best outcome for the majority – Rail and Trail together!

Glenys quotes the win/win wording in the rail trail legislation, that "the corridor could be returned ... to reinstate ... public transport in the future". That is what we want!

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd warned Tweed Shire Council that if a contract to remove the railway tracks was awarded, an injunction would be taken out against council.

There is support from many other organisations: in a Tweed population of 90,000 people, the council consulted about the rail trail with less than 50 residents!

Murwillumbah's 'We Can Ride Together' is calling for a public enquiry into the process since 2014 to remove the tracks, and why the council voted not to consult with the public.

Tweed Shire Council's decision to award the rail trail tender to Hazell Bros, to rip up the tracks to build the trail on the railway formation, flew in the face of the quote to construct it beside the tracks, which was cheaper, with some qualifications. Councillor Milne and

Mayor Cherry noted "both train and bike trail alongside could be built within budget and on time", and would save our tracks for a future rail service!

Unexpectedly, Cameron Arnold, CEO Destination North Coast and Vice President Northern Rivers Rail Trail, who has long held aspirations to set up a 'glamping' business along the corridor, announced at the council meeting that a call from Deputy Premier John Barilaro stated that the rail trail could only be placed on the rail embankment and that the tracks "had to be pulled up", otherwise Tweed Council would lose its funding!

This was news to current Mayor Chris Cherry, ex-Mayor of five years Katie Milne, and the other councillors who subsequently voted for the on-formation option, of course!

The council had voted over three years ago to allow the tenders for both on- and off-formation, and the tendering process stated this, so such a revelation at the 12th hour was shocking!

Research in local government areas along the Casino-Murwillumbah line indicates over 90% of locals and businesses want rail services to return.

If you want a rail service, it's up to you to help make it happen.

See: www.northernriversrail.com.au

Nimbin Advisory Group examines Council budget

by Megan James

Our May meeting covered many issues relating to Lismore City Council's budget for next financial year.

While the budget is available on Council's website, it lacks the detail needed to make it meaningful. The NAG requested information on exactly what has been funded that benefits Nimbin directly. The mobile library, waste collection services and the waste transfer station, village water and sewage, cemetery and park maintenance, roads, bridges, village CCTV and many other services are all provided by Council and funded by ratepayers.

The reinstatement of tourism services is covered extensively in this issue (see Chamber Chat), but the NAG strongly supported the Chamber's desire to see a tourism development officer employed locally by the Chamber and working from Nimbin rather than Lismore.

There are plans to replace the Hensen Road bridge. Attention was drawn to the need to ensure the platypus colony downstream is not affected by this work. There is also work planned for Gungas Road and grant funding still to be spent to complete upgrades to the Showground as an evacuation centre, improving Nimbin's static water collection points and providing strategic turnarounds for fire trucks.

Construction of the missing section of footpath between the Bowlo and Alternative Way is also on the books.

Funds have been set aside for the

continued upgrade of the Nimbin water treatment plant (\$1.52m). On inquiring about the possible noise from the filtration plant, the NAG was advised this will not be significant and will be addressed in the required Review of Environmental Factors. There are also funds in the budget to operate the Nimbin Pool and to provide staffing next swimming season if Covid is still an issue.

We were pleased to hear that the continuation of the NAG has been supported and funded for the financial year 2021/22, including \$3000 discretionary spending. All Council's advisory groups will be reviewed by the next Council and an expression of interest process to elect/re-elect members to all advisory groups, including the NAG, will occur in the early stages of the newly elected Council.

Other issues discussed included guidance on options for dealing with dangerous dogs; replacement of the traffic calming devices on Sibley Street (removed after a truck damaged them); plans for a toilet block that will serve the pool and Peace Park. A plan has been drawn up, using NAG funds and, once the plan is costed we will seek funding avenues for this much-needed facility.

We also discussed the Nimbin Development Control Plan which will be put on exhibition shortly.

Staff undertook to follow up recent community submissions seeking a water security and drought management plan.

The Nimbin Disaster Plan has been

completed and is now awaiting funding to implement the recommendations. The priority is to identify and list environmental assets so they will be defended against fire in the future. Road upgrades identified as necessary during the bushfires in 2019 are still awaiting funding.

A 'Meet the Council Candidates' evening, organised by the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, will be held on 18th August. We are delighted that long-time Nimbin Advisory Group member Gwen Trimble has decided to run for Lismore Council on 4th September. Gwen has been a much-valued contributor to our meetings and we would all welcome seeing a Nimbin voice on Council again. The experience she has gained from participating in our meetings will give her a sound footing for effectively representing our community in the Council arena.

With Gwen on Council, the Nimbin Advisory Group would have an active voice to address the on-going issues relating to insufficient community consultation which have plagued our otherwise very constructive communication channel with Lismore Council.

Our regular meetings happen quarterly, but with an engaged councillor present at Council meetings, we could look forward to a much more dynamic and creative partnership.

Vote for Gwen for Nimbin! – and come and meet all the candidates on Wednesday 18th August.

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Time to tell the truth about the militarisation of our economy

by Miriam Torzillo

Since the successful disruption in the first week of June of the huge arms expo Landforces in Brisbane, there has been increasing interest in the Australian Government's defence policies and budget.

The experience of everyone who joined the Festival of Disruption was the same. People were surprised, shocked and often distressed that a weapons expo was taking place in the middle of Brisbane, cheek by jowl with the Southbank parklands and entertainment district. Some even asked if such a thing was legal.

Imagine if a conference of the gambling industry or tobacco companies were to be networking on a massive scale; finding ways to join together and get more of the largesse of government funding to increase usage and sales of their products, including ways to introduce those same products into schools, disguised as science lessons.

It was recently announced that the huge munitions firm Rheinmetal had secured the support of the Queensland government in its bid to supply Australia's A\$18 billion to A\$27 billion LAND 400 Phase 3 program in Queensland at its new Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) at Redbank.

The Federal Government is also supporting smaller companies like NIOA with land and funds to build new factories as part of their partnership with Rheinmetal and other primes with



the sweetener of becoming part of the global supply chain and the government's defence-led recovery.

During the expo, a professional development workshop for high school teachers of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) to be held at the Rheinmetal factory at Redbank was cancelled and the whole factory locked down.

Five activists singing anti-war songs and seeking to hand out information for teachers warranted this reaction, and the deploying of at least 10 police and a paddy wagon to the site.

The peace activists were well aware of the ways that weapons' manufacturers are seeking to launder their reputations and ensure a future workforce. They also seek to cement their place in the government's jobs and growth narrative, by way of professional development, teaching materials and programs for children as young as four and five.

This militarisation is insidious and far-reaching. Both Federal and State governments are lavishing billions on the Defence Global Supply Chain Program, supplying potential defence industry partners with information and the support to access export markets and partner with global corporations, the very support they fail to supply to industries that might actually help us as we enter an uncertain future, such as for regeneration of forests and farmland, climate-ready housing and local systems and more.

Militarism monopolises the funding needed to seriously address the climate crisis. And in Australia, military spending is out of control and a staggering \$98.9m a day is being poured into our so-called defence forces and related agendas.

Truth doesn't come easily in this world. We, all of us, need to keep rattling that cage of secrecy.

Spin and facts on the Biloela family

by Anne Tuart

The government has granted three members of the so-called Biloela family a three-month temporary protection visa to stay in Perth.

This allows travel rights in Australia, but the youngest child is still in community detention so can't travel. In effect, this will prevent the family travelling back to Biloela.

The Murugappans are a family of four: mother Priya, father Nades, Kopi, and her three-year-old sister Tharnicaa.

It may surprise people that just because the children were born in Australia they are not Australian citizens. Their parents were not citizens, so these children are stateless.

The Australian government says it is safe for the Biloela family to return to Sri Lanka. Yet there has been a report done for the UK government which has determined it is not safe to return their Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka.

Peter Dutton said that it is safe as Nades, the father, left Sri Lanka and returned. Spin.

Yes, he did, in 2004 and 2011 when he was looking for work, and the situation in Sri Lanka was safer under a different government from the one that is currently in power.

He arrived in Australia in 2012 as a



refugee and has not left since.

The visa he has prohibits anyone leaving and returning. Peter Dutton would know that. Fact.

Dutton, the Home Affairs minister stated there was sensational reporting about the health of their youngest child, four-year old Tharunicaa, who contracted life-threatening blood poisoning / sepsis, the words are interchangeable. Spin.

The fact that Tharunicaa remained untreated on Christmas island for 10 days, and as a result became so sick is the problem. Fact.

The Australian government has demonised people arriving by boat as

illegal. This is a complete lie.

To seek asylum is a human right as declared in the UN Declaration of Human Rights. This declaration was signed by Australia in 1951. Fact.

Our government makes no mention of people who come by plane and then have applied for asylum. These numbers greatly out-number people who came by boat.

This family has now been here 10 years, surely they deserve our respect and humanity. They were living in a small regional town, working, paying tax and contributing to the community.

Why has our government decided to persecute this particular family?

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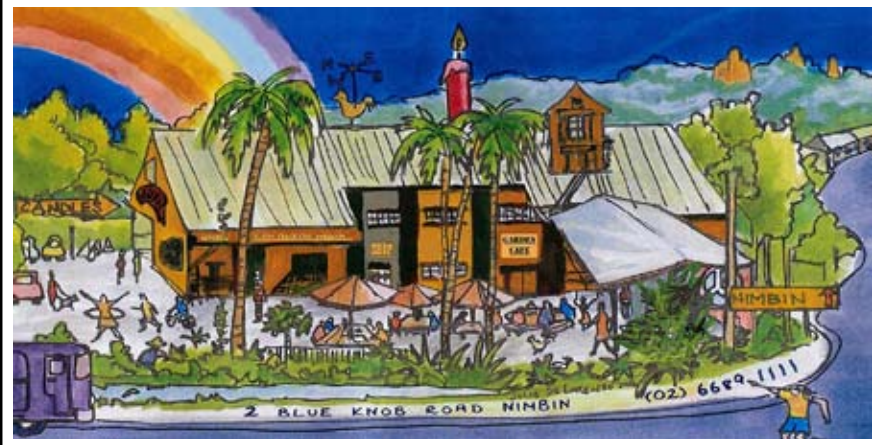
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Aboriginal history under threat

by Dot Moller, North Lismore Plateau
Protection Association Inc

"If they take away our history, we have no future," said Uncle Mickey Ryan, Bundjalung Elder, speaking about the development plans for the Banyam Baigham (North Lismore Plateau). In this NAIDOC week, and for that matter, any time, these words are both powerful, and a warning to us all.

Widjabul/Wyabal heritage sits up on the North Lismore Plateau. Quietly for thousands of years, this place has held Aboriginal stories, burials, and Sacred Sites undisturbed except for the occasional agricultural clearing work.

Aborigines (Northies) were forced off the Plateau (their home) many years ago, but their long history remains in this special place (see *North Lismore Plateau, NSW Cultural Heritage Assessment* by Converge 2012).

"When we talk about a mountain, a mountain isn't just a pile of dirt and rocks and trees and all that growing out of it... To me, a mountain is a living being which can influence your life, your art, your stories, your dance and all that." – Uncle Magpie from *Our Way Stories* produced by Arts Northern Rivers 2016.

Uncle Mickey Ryan, who has been leading the opposition to development on the Plateau, wrote in *Our Way Stories*: "I have told this story of the sites on the Hill for communities and people to understand how significant this sacred mountain Banyam Baigham (translation



Cindy Roberts

Sleeping Lizard) is to all people both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. They are of great scientific and historical importance; they are the remaining evidence to the pre-history of Australia.

"For these reasons it is the responsibility of every citizen to help preserve our Aboriginal history. Lismore City Council say there will be Aboriginal street names on Banyam Baigham with the development; it is misappropriation of our culture which leads to represent imperial ownership. I call this indigenisation 'name and claim'."

Rio Tinto (think Juukan Caves that are no more) didn't stop the destruction of irreplaceable heritage. Now, it appears our very own Lismore Council's push to add 1000+ houses on the North Lismore Plateau has great potential to go the same way – loss of something we never knew we had.

The Council Urban Release Plan has many parks and quiet places dotted between houses and streets. The Council has marked known aboriginal sites on the plans. The parallels are there. The Rio Tinto executive had all the paperwork to prove they were well aware of the importance of those amazing caves. Then, during on-ground works, "Oops"! We could quite rightly call the Council mitigation of Aboriginal Heritage, the Oops policy.

A new Development Application has been lodged with Council by the RCS group for the North Lismore Plateau, DA 221 (<https://tracker.lismore.nsw.gov.au/>), this time for the north section of the Council's Urban Precinct plan. The Precinct plan was first displayed in 2012. Even now, nine years later, there are many in Lismore who seem unaware of the plan's existence.

You can sign a petition to support the work of the NLPPA Inc. to save the 'Sleeping Lizard'. Petitions can be sourced at the Environment Centre or Serpentine Gallery. Submission letters are still being accepted by the Lismore City Council at their email address: council@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Funding cut for WA homeless project

by Chibo Mertineit

We know that in WA, Rio Tinto destroyed 46,000-year old indigenous inhabited caves, but now we hear of another shameful development there.

The unbelievably successful 'First Nations Homelessness Project' will not receive any more funding from 1st July.

This project was founded in early 2015 by Jennifer Kaeshagen after she saw the huge number of First Nations children, including toddlers and babies, sleeping rough in alleyways and parks in Perth. It didn't take long to work out that a lot of them were evicted families from public or social housing.

"Estimates are that there are 18,000 children, twelve and under, living on the streets in Australia," said Gerry Georgatos, director of the national suicide prevention and trauma recovery project.

The volunteers of the project started to raise money for food and shelter, like for tents for indigenous families to stay in caravan parks.

In the financial year 2016/17 there were 680 evictions in WA, mostly Perth. "Street homelessness is predominately born of evictions from public and social housing and not from evictions from private rentals," said director Jennifer Kaeshagen.

Evictions lead to homelessness which leads to children being removed from their families by the child protection agency which



Workers and volunteers stopping another eviction.

increases suicides etc. The official suicide statistic rates one in eighteen indigenous children to suicide, the reality is more like one in ten, according to Mr Georgatos.

There is 3% public and social housing in WA, of which 23% are being occupied by First Nations people. Half of the homeless people in Perth are indigenous, while only 2% of the WA population.

The First Nations Homelessness Project started to focus on stopping the evictions by helping the single mums or families through painting their house when it was necessary or remove rubbish which caused the eviction order.

It's really that simple, because a large number of inhabitants have special needs or inter-generational malaise.

There are 15,000

indigenous children in care in Australia, and even Kevin Rudd fears that we are creating a second stolen generation. Nine years after his Sorry to the Indigenous people of Australia in parliament, the number of children being taken away is skyrocketing. There are cases where women who were in domestic violent relationships years ago, and while they moved on to a better life, the child protection agency workers were waiting in hospital for the birth of the child to take it away from the mother to put in care.

In the past two years there are more children taken away because of poverty than domestic violence. Through their successful work as a volunteer organisation, in October 2017, they received one million dollars funding from the Commonwealth. Since then, they have stopped

the evictions of 336 families of the 347 they cared for. An unbelievable success rate, but now the re-badged National Indigenous Agency de-funded them.

It is so obvious that the importance of safe housing has such a great impact on the development of the First Nations families and especially their children's future. What a shameful situation in one of the richest countries creating still so much intergenerational trauma in 2021 widening the gap.

After an article from founder and director Jennifer Kaeshagen in the *West Australian* newspaper, the inbox of their website: firstnationshomelessnessproject.org is filling up with support of many, mostly poor, people to join in, and as Jennifer told me on the telephone, they will continue their work for now.

Funding for visitor information services

Both Lismore and Nimbin will regain their Visitor Information Centres, (VICs), after allocation of funds in the Lismore Council budget.

The funding of \$47,200 will allow for a full-time tourism development officer in Nimbin, who will work from the new VIC to be established at the Bush Theatre.

Proprietor of the Bush Theatre, David Hyett has committed to the financial outlay and support for the new Centre, acknowledging spin-off benefits for the existing café and shop.

In addition, Lismore Council and Rous County Council have signed a three-year lease for Rous to rent the Lismore Visitor Information Centre on Molesworth Street.

Lismore City Council's director of partnerships, planning and engagement Eber Butron said Lismore Council will work with Rous in delivering tourist information, and environmental and cultural services.

"The centre is a significant asset for Lismore, and the agreement means it will continue to be used as a Visitor and Cultural Information Centre," he said.

Under the agreement, Lismore City Council will maintain the ground floor toilets that are used by visitors to the nearby popular Heritage Park.

When Lismore City Council sought Expressions of Interest last year for the reopening of the centre, Banyam Baigham Elder Aunty Thelma – together with Rous County Council's



Rous Council's Philip Rudd, Aunty Thelma James and Lismore Council's Eber Butron

Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group – identified the opportunity to re-launch the centre, not just to service the Lismore Visitor Information needs but also to function as the Rous Cultural, Environmental and Information Centre.

Rous County Council general manager Philip Rudd said the opportunity to lease the building dovetailed with its Reconciliation Action Plan.

"This provides Rous with an opportunity to work together with the Widjambul people of the Bundjalung Nation and other Aboriginal organisations, corporations and individuals on community engagement

and education around cultural awareness and heritage matters," he said.

Aunty Thelma James played a key role in working together with the team capturing the social, cultural and environmental history of Lismore and surrounding areas during the redevelopment of the Lismore Visitor information Centre nearly a decade ago.

The lease will also provide a focus for engaging with the community around water supply, catchment management, flood mitigation and weed biosecurity issues.

Mr Butron said, "We are also looking into developing a tourism app for all of the Lismore LGA."

Beware complacency with Dunoon Dam

by Nan Nicholson,
WATER Northern Rivers

Submissions on Rous County Council's revised Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan closed on 28th May. Unlike the old plan, which was rejected by Rous councillors in December 2020, the new plan did not prioritise the Dunoon Dam. However, the dam is still listed as an option so it is not completely dead yet.

Thank you to everyone who put in submissions opposed to the dam and in favour of the many alternative options for water supply. Over 1000 submission forms in support of Rous' new no-dam plan were handed over to Rous on the day before the closing date.

We don't know how many other submissions were completed on-line on the Rous website or were emailed in directly but we know that many well-researched and informed submissions were made in favour of Rous' new water plan.

Feedback from submissions received will be collated and reported to Council in July 2021. Copies of these submissions will be made available on Council's website at this time. On 21st July, Rous will decide whether to proceed with the new IWCM Plan.

Many people from WATER Northern Rivers put in a huge effort to alert our community to the need to put in a submission again. We had multiple dam meetings, with great facilitators and minute-keepers. Crews worked on the website, the social media and regular media, the leaflets and the market stalls.

Some people door-knocked or staked out public places to disseminate information, some people researched and investigated, others made delicious cakes for the meetings. Some people did all of these things.

The sign-making crew worked overtime to get signs painted, put up and then



Some of the crew celebrate the handover of 1000 submissions to Rous County Council

replaced as they were torn down. A "sign war" could have developed, but WATER Northern Rivers decided on a policy of not removing any pro-dam signs (except for one grossly racist sign in Dunoon).

Many of the submissions listed the Widjambul Wia-bal (WW) heritage as their main reason for opposing the dam. The WW have repeatedly said that they do not accept the destruction of their heritage, in particular the burial sites which would be drowned by the dam. The WW know that they have a tremendous groundswell of support amongst local people who will help them defend this important area.

The sites have regional, state and national significance and have been compared to the Juukan Cave in WA which was destroyed legally but immorally by Rio Tinto. If these sites were drowned, the reputational damage to Rous County Council would be immense.

Rous now appears to be committed to the no-dam pathway and is proceeding with planning and implementation of the alternatives.

However, we cannot be complacent. The local government elections on 4th September could change everything. If enough pro-dam councillors are elected in Lismore, Ballina, Byron Bay and Richmond Valley then they would elect pro-dam reps for Rous County Council. We could be back to square one.

From now until the LGA elections it is important that everyone opposed to the Dunoon Dam continues to inform their existing representatives, and the potential ones, that we do not accept the wilful and needless destruction of our indigenous and natural heritage.

We need to keep talking, becoming more informed and making our opposition absolutely clear.

For more information, visit: <https://waternorthernrivers.org>

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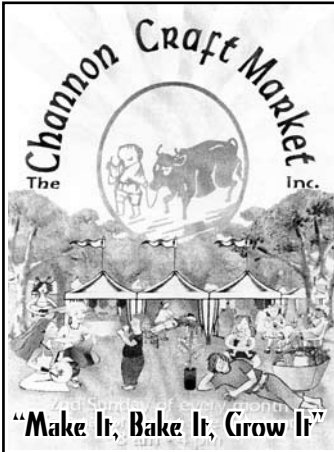
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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Nimbin NAIDOC Day

Nimbin's NAIDOC 2021 celebrations have been postponed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. We intend to hold our celebrations on Friday 24th September and celebrate the Spring Equinox.

Anyone who has already purchased tickets for the Masquerade Ball, please hold on to them if you can, as we will hold this event when it is safe to do so. If you are unable to attend the new event date you will be given a full refund.

Any donations or other support offered will be used for the postponed event. Thank you for your support.

Join our Management Committee

A couple of our dedicated committee members have been forced to step down for personal and health reasons and so we are seeking EOIs from people who are interested to join the NNIC management committee.

The Neighbourhood Centre was established in 1978 and incorporated in 1986 and is the longest-serving welfare services and community development organisation in Nimbin. The many services and activities we deliver are not possible without the management committee behind all of the good work of the NNIC team.

We are looking for a Treasurer and Deputy Chairperson. Send EOIs to our Secretary, Reg Saunders at: nnicmc@gmail.com

Nimbin Death and Beyond group

Meetings are held monthly on Thursdays at NNIC. The group aims to empower the community to manage the death and dying process on their own terms and in their own homes. A Community Q&A session on Death and

Dying is being planned for Saturday 21st August, so SAVE the DATE. To join the group contact Venessa at: venessa.johnstone@gmail.com



Theft from 7 Sibley Street

Over the June long weekend, unlawful access was gained to 7 Sibley Street and almost all of our Ryobi tools plus our EGO self-propelled cordless mower and all of our batteries and chargers were nicked.

All the tools were marked with our name (NNIC) and engraved with their respective Tools Library numbers. The mower in particular is pretty distinctive (see picture) and not so many of them are about.

We would be very grateful if everyone could keep their eyes open for our tools and if any of them turn up anywhere to please let us know at: admin@nnic.org.au

The Tools and Equipment Library is subsequently CLOSED to borrowers for a month whilst we sort out the equipment and replace the stolen tools. We will be back up and running ASAP.

Both the Tools Library (\$22 pa) and NNIC (\$5.50 pa) memberships are due as at 1st July. To renew drop into NNIC during our opening hours.

Community Drug Action Team

We really seriously need you! We have a new GoPro and we don't know how to use it! We also have \$\$ and plans BUT

not enough members to keep this excellent group going. You can check out some of the stuff we have been getting up to, including the short films we have made on our website in the CDAT section: www.nmic.org.au <Our Services>CDAT. To join us, simply contact Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au

Take home Naloxone

Naloxone is available FOR FREE at the Neighbourhood Centre (also available at the NSP and the Pharmacy, by appointment). Naloxone is a lifesaving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. Anyone using opiates, whether by prescription or otherwise, is at risk of accidental overdose. Naloxone buys valuable time for an ambulance to arrive.

It is available for FREE at NNIC to people who are at risk of an opioid overdose or

adverse reaction, their carers, friends and family members and any other people who may become first responders. Naloxone can be administered by injection or delivered through a nasal spray.

To get some for your first aid kit, make an appointment with our Community Worker on 6689-1692.

Nimbin Disaster Plan

NNIC and the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group are pleased to acknowledge funds provided via Healthy North Coast Bushfire Recovery Grant, which will enable us to conduct a range of fun activities for all the family at the 2021 Nimbin Show in September, to build our community capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

Watch for more information next month.

CHOOSE TO REFUSE
SINGLE-USE PLASTIC
PLASTICFREEJULY.ORG

Communities around the globe are concerned about plastic ending up in landfill and polluting the oceans ... that's why hundreds of millions of people worldwide are choosing to be part of Plastic Free July

Will you join the challenge?

Please join our effort to help the environment. Choose to refuse single-use plastic during July.

Yes, I will join the challenge!

1. Visit our website
plasticfreejuly.org
2. Choose what you will do
• Avoid single-use plastic packaging
• Target the takeaway items that could end up in the ocean
• Go completely plastic free
3. Choose the length
• 1 day • 1 week • 1 month • Always

AVOID WASTE. PROTECT THE OCEAN. SIGN UP AND BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. PLASTICFREEJULY.ORG

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 13th July. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

Early childhood nurse

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

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next is 15th July. Confidential service, checks, advice, general health information. Phone 6689-1400 for appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

Nurse practitioner clinics

- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 13th July. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 15th July.

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

Monthly meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the CWA room. New members are most welcome. Fund-raising is now underway again.





by Scott Sledge, President

Things move in many directions at once. Bonehead Barnaby Joyce returned to power a few hours after he said that would not happen.

He declared on ABC radio that Australia must continue polluting the planet or face a declining standard of living. He doesn't seem to have a vision for keeping the economy ticking sustainably. It's burn-or-be-damned with Barnaby, but many people want prosperity and a healthy environment.

Sustainability

We need to achieve a sustainable system with environmental stewardship as the priority, rather than resource plundering for cash flow. We need to revise our way of looking at things.

Take landowners' rights. Do people really own the land? The term 'landholder' seems more appropriate. People who view property as a commodity treat it very differently to those who appreciate the bounty and biodiversity of nature.

Currently, some landholders in the Kyogle Shire are pressuring Council to change all types of rural property to RU1 (Primary Production), claiming that "restrictions" imposed by RU2 (Rural Landscape) and Environmental Zones reduce their property value. This is a limited view of value.

Some think that we need to reduce interference by government at all levels. This concept, popular with some, ignores the fact that most of us accept that the land and resources belong to all of us, now and forever. Migrant colonists took the land without treaty or compensation from the Aboriginal custodians, and have long believed they can do what they like with it.

The RU1 zoning is meant to protect "owners" against so-called hostile neighbours who might object to activities which damage the environment such as open-cut mining, drilling for Coal Seam Gas, clear-felling of forests, water theft, and other actions that may return a short-term profit.

Climate protection

Tweed Council won its conflict with a Limpinwood land "owner" who purchased a large block in order to sell off sections and log the rest, including in Council-approved E Zones. Without those E Zones, the world-heritage value wildlife corridor on part of that property would have been destroyed by roading and logging for a mere fistful of dollars.

Do we have a duty to conserve what is left of sensitive biota in a rapidly changing climate? I think we do. Failure to reduce emissions will result in ever-greater climate change with disastrous



consequences.

So, some people's "right" to burn fossil fuels means increasingly devastating extreme weather events that affect the long-term prosperity of the country/planet. Do we have a duty to future generations to preserve and protect? I think we do.

Vote for the environment!

Our closest and most responsive level of government is Local Council. Elections are on 4th September in NSW. Community-minded candidates still have time to nominate, and I urge voters to examine candidates' environmental viewpoints. A bad Council causes a lot of trouble for the people and the environment.

From little things big things grow

The Nimbin Environment Centre recently completed federally-funded work on Mulgum Creek riparian land that runs alongside Gungas Road and had long been neglected. Heavy weed infestations were replacing or smothering native vegetation.

The weeds have been removed by certified bush regenerators working with local volunteers, and native species replanted. The weed-free areas have now experienced some excellent natural recruitment of native species. With lantana and other over-storey weeds removed, native seedlings are emerging, including blue quandong, silky oak, red cedar, cheese tree, and kamala.

Action against Adani

Stop Adani organised a country-wide week of actions from Monday, 28th June through to Friday, 2nd July to increase the pressure on HSBC Bank, a major Adani bondholder, to stop funding the project. One action in our area was a letter drop to the HSBC office in Southport QLD on Friday, 2nd July. (See: stopadani.com)

Also, multinational giant Samsung announced it sold Adani Ports shares over concerns with the Carmichael coal project. Nordic pension giants KLP and Storebrand followed suit, dumping Adani.

Yet Adani still needs to build an operational coal mine; a 200km rail line connecting mine and port which has been subject to consistent flooding due to its location on a floodplain; and a major coal-handling processing plant with approval and access to water after the Federal Court found

an "error of law" with Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme approval process.

Adani has breached their approvals for the Carmichael coal mine and rail project seven times already. This company cannot be trusted to follow the rules.

Strong budget for climate action and nature

This week the NSW Government delivered a strong budget for climate action and nature, investing significantly in clean energy and koalas and extending the Saving Our Species Program for another five years. "This is probably the best budget for climate and nature we have seen from the Coalition in NSW, and we commend Minister Matt Kean and others involved for securing much-needed funding for these areas," said Nature Conservation Council (NCC) Chief Executive Chris Gambian.

Electric vehicle win!

The NSW Government's almost \$500 million package to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles may be the beginning of the end for the internal combustion engine's 120-year monopoly on road transportation in NSW.

Floodplain harvesting inquiry

After the government's failed floodwater giveaway, the NSW Upper House voted to reject the Nationals' attempt to hijack water regulations and inquire into floodplain harvesting. NCC's Chris Gambian said, "This inquiry follows the introduction earlier this year of poorly-designed regulations that would have transferred billions of dollars' worth of public water into private hands."

"Those regulations would also have denied water-dependent wildlife, ecosystems and downstream communities vital water resources just as climate change is really starting to bite in NSW, especially in the far west. Floodplain harvesting is killing our rivers. It needs to be reined in, not given a blanket exemption."

Remember: when humanity goes to war against Nature, if we win, we lose.

Goodbye Graham

Finally, as the life-and-death cycle continues, we sadly farewell one of our members, Graham Ferguson, who was raised on a farm in western Queensland and died in Lismore peacefully at age 90. Vale.

Nimbin Community Centre

by Teresa Biscoe, Co-ordinator

11a Alternative Way

A fantastic fundraiser was held at the Variety Night on 5th June. We raised around \$5300, thanks to the organisational efforts from committee members Louise Graves and David Hallett, and all the crew and artists who donated their time at the event. We received fantastic support from the wider community and a great night was had by all.

Anyone still wishing to make a contribution can deposit funds into our designated account: Summerland Credit Union BSB 728728; Nimbin Community Centre Project A account 22269890.

Please put your name with the deposit as we would love to keep a record of and acknowledge the generosity of individuals, businesses and organisations from our community. You can also go into the Summerland Credit Union and ask for the Rainbow Road Account as well.

We will have a community day soon on the site, and are looking forward to getting the whole community's input on how best to improve, manage and maintain this wonderful new community owned and managed asset.

Room A12

A small room (13.35m²) in Acacia House is now available. This room would make a perfect office, craft room, massage room or storage space.

The room has been used as a healing/massage room for many years. It comes with a dual cycle air-conditioner (installed 2019) and has one window. Great location and security.

Rent will range from \$182.88 to \$358.67 (including GST) per month, depending on the use of the room. You will need to pay bonds of six weeks rent + electricity bond + key deposit.

If you are interested in renting this room, please direct a written Expression of Interest to the Nimbin Community Centre Management Committee at 81 Cullen St Nimbin, or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au You will need to provide two rental references.

For further information on what to include in your Expression of Interest, please contact our co-ordinators during office hours, Monday to Thursday, 10am-2 pm on 6689-0000.



Jean Paul Bell performing at the Variety Night

Nimbin Tennis Courts

One of Nimbin's best kept secrets, the Nimbin Tennis Courts, located at 106 Cullen Street, are a fantastic community asset and resource. A wonderful way to enjoy time with family and friends, getting fit and having a friendly game.

The Nimbin Community Centre has been working with the Nimbin Headers Sports Club over the last few months to spruce up the facilities at the Nimbin Tennis Courts.

If you haven't noticed them before, it's worth popping in to check it out. If you would like to use the courts, you can check out the Nimbin Tennis Club Facebook page for information on membership and email: nimbinheaderssportsclub@gmail.com to make a booking.

The club needs community use and support to help maintain and manage the courts, so make a booking and get out there and have a tennis day.


Nimbin Cultural Centre

The Aboriginal Cultural Centre is inviting the village to come for some regular weekly events.

They are working to keep the doors open regularly and make the space a great teaching and sharing space for the whole community. They are determined to keep the space alcohol and drug free and focussed on culture and community connection.

The Centre will now be open every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm to the general public. There will be a meal offered between 12 and 1pm, and all donations raised will go to keeping the Centre going and improving the equipment and facilities in the space.

They have more potential projects coming up, so keep an eye on this space.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

7 Sibley Street

July What's On!

\$10 unless otherwise noted

Bookings: text 0475-135-764 or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops (start 10.30am)

- **Mon 5th: Knitting and crochet** with Sue
- **Tues 6th: Papercrete sculpting** – School holiday fun, all ages.
- **Tues 13th: Concrete cloth** – make a decorative planter or garden sculpture.
- **Wed 14th: Introduction to macrame.**
- **Tues 20th: Cassava processing.**
- **Tues 27th: Introduction to bobbin lace.**
- **Sat 31st: Weed block making.** Turn lantana and woody weeds into buildings. \$25, bookings essential.

Regular events

- **Plant nursery:** Seedlings, cuttings, fruit and regen trees for your sustainable gardens.
- **Reference library:** Books on traditional skills, gardening and sustainable living.
- **10 minute workshops:** Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or cob building!

Community Clothes Swap

- **Sun 25th at Nimbin Markets:** Email for more info



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street

BRAIN TREE CLOTHING NOW IN STORE



FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

LOCALLY MINDED

0439333910

