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# Indigenous Party gears up for election

The (proposed) Indigenous Party of Australia is seeking a representative for the Nimbin or Lismore area, to help the Party in the upcoming federal election.

Tarragon resident, and Indigenous Party representative for the Tweed Shire, Cas Rifello (*pictured*) said, "It is really the right time for an Indigenous Party, and it is wonderful to be coming in on the ground level, to help build it up.

up. "We really need a stronger Indigenous perspective in all the parliaments across the land and I can think of no better way of getting that than supporting the Indigenous Party of Australia."

Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are welcome to join, and membership is free.

The policies are pretty straightforward: things like "free the flag" and fix up the Baaka, the Murray Darling, and make sure all our rivers are healthy.

"Obviously Indigenous incarceration features strongly, we want those rates to come right down," Cas said. And a surprise for those who



didn't enjoy their time at school, the Indigenous Party of Australia is a big supporter of alternative education. There should be at least two or three alternative type schools, no exam schools, in every local government area, says Gab McIntosh, retired school Principal and education spokesperson for the Party.

"Community controlled, fully funded and not controlled by education bureaucrats is best. Public or private, it does not matter so much, as long as those kids who don't fit the system, and their parents, are finally given some choice in regard to the type of schooling they want. This really sets the Indigenous Party apart from other political parties," Gab said.

The Indigenous Party's convenor is Uncle Owen Whyman from Wilcannia. To find out more go to the website: www.indigenouspartyofaustralia.com

The order form is there to purchase a really cool Party T-shirt designed by Amy, a 12-year old Indigenous artist from Wilcannia, who has already had her own exhibition at the Broken Hill regional art gallery.

The Party's registration papers are currently with Canberra.

# Truth-telling at Stoney Gully

by Daniel-John Peterson

e're at a reckoning – 'we' have always been. The shameful parts of our actual history are not something we often talk or write about.

But if our relationships with each other, with ourselves, and with our home are to be just a little more accountable than they have been, then we'll need to talk and write some more about what we think and feel actually happened during the thing that will forever bind us together – our history.

I'm especially interested in exactly what happened at Stoney Gully in 1919. *NGT* readers may be familiar with the area around Cedar Point, about seven km south of Kyogle, where the Lismore-Bentley Road meets the Summerland Way.

If you stand at this intersection, looking south (away from Kyogle) you'll notice the highway and a train line cutting through a clan of gentle rolling hills, nestled against the Richmond River on the right.

Not that long ago, this place was designated by our NSW Government as an 'Aboriginal Reserve' called Stoney Gully – during the first half of last century.

My interest was sparked by a Covid lockdown-induced review of historical newspaper articles, which described a genocidal confinement of Goori families as the official 'response' to the Spanish Flu pandemic marching through the Northern Rivers, NSW, Victoria, Australia, and the world, at the time.

Subsequently, my consultations with Traditional Owners not only confirmed a



"Bill Brown ... on the Stoney Gully settlement", presumably William Brown of Dyraaba/Stoney Gully, published by The Northern Star, 12th March 1936.

Gully, but multiplied by a hundredfold, the numbers of State-sanctioned murders committed under the guise of that pandemic.

There are numerous examples of the pandemic-induced incarceration endured by Goori families at Stoney Gully. One Brown (*pictured*), who was transported to Stoney Gully from his home at Dyraaba Station (around 24km south-west), by our Government's Medical Officer (Dr Belli) who declared the case to be "similar to those at Lismore and Stoney Gully".

Isolating potential cases of infectious disease is one thing, but deliberately concentrating "similar" cases together in a single internment camp with healthy people, is quite another. Yet this is exactly what happened, right here in the Northern Rivers. By outsourcing what was once our own collective governance to the NSW Government, we have allowed an attempted genocide, here in our own home.

When a pandemic happens, racism can quickly leave the private domain and become very public, very quickly. As Stan Grant and the History Council of NSW recently reminded us, authors such as Albert Camuxs in 1947 coined the phrase: "The virus of tyranny" to describe this very real threat, which has the potential to undermine any gains made against the actual biological virus.

The point of this article, however, is an invitation. Perhaps I've misunderstood the lived experience of people at Stoney Gully at that time? If you or someone you know has any knowledge or stories of Stoney Gully – especially during 1919 – please contact me on 0431-284-741 or email: danieljohnpeterson1@gmail.com

I'm especially interested in any oral history which might add to our knowledge of what actually happened at Stoney Gully.

Eventually, I want to publish this history in more detail, without further detracting from the oral histories of this



genocidal concentration camp at Stoney such example is the case of William pl

place - which is where our truth resides.

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Page 2 The Nimbin GoodTimes June 2021

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## Rally in Cherry Tree SF against logging threat

Northern Rivers community members are rallying in Cherry Tree State Forest west of Casino as it is threatened with logging.

North Coast Environment spokesperson Jim Morrison said, "Cherry Tree State Forest is well known for its diversity of fauna and flora. Species previously encountered on Cherry Tree road include koala, black striped wallaby, rufus bettong, phascogale and quoll. There are a number of koala records for the area and it is considered intermediate koala habitat, so identifying and protecting koala high use areas from logging must be a priority."

"Despite the extensive range of offences clearly highlighted by NEFA in 2015 Forestry Corp were never held to account. That area now exhibits a very dense understory of lantana and increasing numbers of bell miners. This is a precursor to the development of Bell Miner Associated Dieback which is killing forests further north on the Richmond Range. Forestry Corp now plans to log the native forest adjoining the previous logging damage," Mr Morrison said.

North East Forest Alliance spokesperson Sean O'Shannessy said, "People are shocked and outraged when they learn that our public native forests are still not safe from the destructive impacts of industrial logging. NSW citizens are demanding an end to this government's ideologically driven agenda



of forest carnage."

"It is 2021. We are in the midst of a biodiversity and climate emergency. Our water supplies are drying up and our koalas face extinction. Our native forests are our carbon sinks, our biodiversity refuges and our water catchments but they are being systematically destroyed for a pittance by the Berejiklian government. How is this possible?" Mr O'Shannessy asked.

"Cherry Tree Forest includes ridges above very steep slopes leading to a dense network of lower order streams. Protection of these steep upper catchments is fundamental to the health of both the Richmond and Clarence rivers. The Cherry Tree Forest was spared the black summer wildfires which impacted many nearby forests and National Parks. A very good reason not to log it," said Mr Morrison.

"Despite past logging operations there are still a number of precious large trees across the forest. These will no doubt be the target of logging under the new rules. The area is part of a key regional wildlife corridor and one of our biodiversity hotspots that supports a range of threatened flora, fauna and Endangered Ecological Communities," said Mr Morrison.

"NEFA will be conducting preliminary wildlife audits in the forest and preparing to defend our remaining public native forests from destruction if we have to in future," Mr O'Shannessy said.

Another rally will be held in Cherry Tree Forest on Friday 11th June.



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## Anti-anti-vaxers arise

by Holly English

I'm noticing as a pro-Covid vaccination supporter, I am getting a little flak here in the Byron Shire.

Knowing a friend who is in her 30s who has suffered over a year from post-Covid fatigue syndrome (she is still very sick); 30,000 people dead from Covid in New York City; let alone what is going on in India; it's not the time to be condemning vaccines.

I was a hippy child, an environmental activist child and teenager and have lived on natural medicines and naturopathic and alternative ways of living my whole life, though always taking what I've needed from Western medicine.

In light of broader awareness, research and education, I think it's essential to be vaccinated unless there is a health issue against it.

I live behind my elderly mother, and my friend



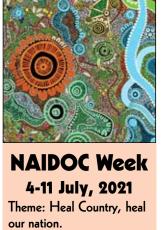
vulnerable and indigenous people in the community. In May, I supported Caroline when she got her AstraZeneca shot.

I'm eligible for the Pfizer and have registered already with New South Wales health for the vaccine at Lismore Base hospital. I'm waiting for my call!

This is not a simple cold, and I'm tired that when I mention to people that I'm looking forward to getting the jab, I'm met sometimes with disdain or like I'm crazy or brainwashed. way if they refuse to get the jab, that is their business. In fact, many of my friends were hippy kids and aren't vaccinated and nor are their children. That doesn't bother me at all.

But this is different. I've been quite surprised at the reactions. Perhaps they react that way as they know I am a left-wing alternative hippy at heart, and therefore, I should prescribe to all the belief systems of North Coast stereotypes.

This is a global pandemic and I am not brainwashed.



NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Nimbin's celebrations will begin with a fundraising Masquerade Ball on Thursday 8th July, followed by a day of activities.

#### Caroline works with

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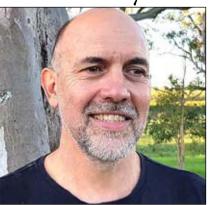


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## Democracy is about our bodies, not just our minds



#### by Aidan Ricketts

The word 'democracy' is derived from the Greek root 'demos' which refers to the common people. It may sound trite to say that common people are humans and that humans necessarily have bodies, but that is exactly where I want to start this.

The fact that we have a body is how we are identified as a citizen, how we are held responsible for our actions and how we are qualified to vote. But the importance of our bodies to democracy goes much deeper. We are not just minds, we are physical beings and our social and political worlds take place in the physical world with real physical impacts. While our systems of governance are abstract, and our minds complex, the physical world is the proving ground for our imaginings.

Our bodies are important in a democracy because it is how we are counted. On-line clicktivism is one thing, but at some point real protests involve real bodies; activism requires real action. Democracy involves more than our minds, more than our opinions, it involves our very existence and to be truly political we need to show up in the world.

Our virtual worlds are just that, merely virtual; our legal and economic systems are maps but they are not the terrain. If we lose the sense of this, we risk living in a dangerous collective fantasy unconnected to the fundamentals of our survival.

Urban living, the increasing virtuality of cyber space, and our minds' capacity for self delusion are all combining to promote disconnection from reality. The simplest antidote to disconnection is embodiment. Our bodies remind us that we are natural beings, born of this world. Our bodies connect us irresistibly to nature through the air we must breathe.

In our legal system, we humans are called 'natural persons' and this is to distinguish us from metaphoric legal persons such as corporations. Corporations have been invested with all of the legal rights and powers of a natural person, but problematically they have always lacked a body, and with that lack of a body they also lack the most important things that make us human.

Corporations cannot feel pain, be deprived of their liberty, suffer from



#### becoming sociopathic.

Corporations were effectively a very early form of artificial intelligence, but now there is a burgeoning field of AI in which decisions are and will be increasingly made by robots either imperfectly mimicking human intelligence or completely replacing it with new (disembodied) ways of thinking. Already the computational algorithms that drive everything from social media to investment decisions are driving a fractured social world and a growing environmental catastrophe.

Our economic and financial systems also reflect this abstraction of reality. We now have an economic model that has so let go of basic physics (yes physics is also about the physical) and runs on an ideology of unlimited growth, despite being on a finite planet.

But I really want to take us a step further. Corporations, artificial intelligence, runaway algorithms and disconnected economic systems are problematic aspects of disembodied intelligence, but the problem is also much closer to home than that.

Our culture, particularly white western culture, is predicated on a separation of mind from body and a privileging of mind over body. The disembodied mind is not just a problem with artificial intelligence, it is also something that we have done to ourselves internally.

French Philosopher Rene Descartes famously wrote (translated) "I think, therefore I am" and (regardless of what he meant by it), for me this statement encapsulates everything dangerously wrong about the culture of the disembodied mind. For a start, if "I am" then I really don't need to question my existence, but apart from that obvious bit of physicality, the statement suggests that it is thinking that brings us into being, rather than simply the act of being itself.

The disembodied mind loses the humility that the body enforces, and permits the mind to embark upon a self destructive ego fantasy that it can define the world for itself. Our minds are incredible creative tools, but they are designed to operate as part of an integrated system of distributed tradition has gone to such great lengths to diminish the importance of the body and to invest in the disembodied mind's grand self-imagery. From the Judeo Christian religious tradition with its separation of 'spirit'(pure) from flesh' (impure), and the consequent guilt that has been projected onto our bodies, as well our secular intellectual tradition that insists on ideas like 'pure' rationality disconnected from emotional wisdom. I even see it in our new age charlatans selling the idea that "everything we are arises in our minds".

The cult of the disembodied mind ultimately lies beneath a lot of sexism and racism as well, as the extant connection of women and indigenous people to embodiment was often treated with disdain by those who believed their disembodied intellect to be somehow higher than an integrated intellect.

The cult of the disembodied mind separates us from what it is to be fully human, fully alive and fully connected to this existence.

Whether it is bureaucrats making disembodied decisions, corporations reorganising our planet without a road map for life, social media algorithms driving us to insanity, teenagers lost in a virtual world of gaming and screens, or disconnected post-modernists telling us that text and language create reality, all of it screams of an invented world, unconstrained by real physical connectivity.

In the interests of our collective survival, it is time to reject the cult of the disembodied mind and to reconnect. Our great planet and our great bodies are marvels of evolution. The intricate dance of the emergent properties of physicality, thought, emotion, spirit and imminence all combine in endlessly fascinating ways to produce a universe, a world and our bodies so complex that we can never fully understand it.

It is only through reconnection that we can hope to find the wisdom to escape ideologies (isms) and try to heal the 'body politic'.

Through our bodies we feel our own vulnerability, and thus our capacity to perceive others' vulnerabilities; it is how we feel empathy. It is no mistake that mythologically we experience love and empathy in our chest, or passion in our guts. We are fully integrated systems involved in endless nested clusters of distributed intelligence throughout the natural world. Thinking does not create our universe, our universe is self-creating and we are part of that dance. Democracy, our shared political world, is crying out for our full participation, crying out for us to finally show up, and the first place we need to show up is in our bodies, then we can get together and begin to make the real changes our survival depends upon. Welcome home friend.

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Page 4 The Nimbin GoodTimes June 2021

hunger, be assaulted, contract physical diseases, or suffer environmental discomfort. They have no emotional bonds with family, tribe or community, or with nature or the planet. A famous quote by an English judge sums it up eloquently: "Did you ever expect a corporation to have a conscience, when it has no soul to be damned, and no body to be kicked?" -Edward, First Baron Thurlow 1731-1806. Without a body, corporations lack the means to have a functioning moral faculty and are essentially sociopathic. There is a deep lesson here for humans. If we allow our minds to become disconnected from our bodies, we risk

intelligence, located throughout our body.

Our heads are not the only place where our thinking and our processing of intelligence takes place. Our bodies are systems of distributed intelligence operating in emergent ways arising in our bellies, our hearts, our hands and our speech. Our bodies are not merely meat puppets that transport our selfabsorbed and egotistical minds on their abstractified journey through life. Our entire body is our brain, it senses, it responds, it feels, it reacts and the brain is inseparably part of that distributed intelligence.

Yet our cultural and philosophical

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

## Girl's film seeks action on climate change

Girls For Future is an inspiring documentary about four young front-line environmental activists, aged between 11 and 14 years, living in Indonesia, Senegal, India and Australia.

They represent the voice of a new generation directly affected by the climate crisis and environmental degradation at their doorstep. Their courage and power to fight back is contagious.

The Australian girl is Sabyah White (*pictured*), a student at Nimbin Central School, whose issue is centred on preserving the Great Barrier Reef.

A snorkeler and bushwalker since the age of two, Sabyah said, "It is hard to ignore – in your face – the destruction and injustice of not protecting world heritage sites, such as the Great Barrier Reef, knowing how beautiful it is to be among such beauty on our earth."



In her segment, she voices her opposition to the development of the massive Adani coal mine in Queensland. This film can raise awareness, create

change and inspire others to get involved, be it in the global south or the global

#### north.

Producer/director Irja von Bernstorff said, "Our impact strategy is therefore focusing on two goals: measurable tangible impact in the girls' countries and a broad education campaign.

"Our Action Program will continue and amplify the work that the four girls have started in their communities. We will collaborate with powerful NGOs and key stakeholders in the four countries and use the film to bring them together." In addition to the 88-minute feature

length film, a series of  $4 \times 25$ -minute short films have been developed, each dedicated to one girl and her specific problem.

The short films are designed for educational purposes to be shown in classrooms around the world. View a trailer for the film at: *https://* 

girlsforfuture.org

# Rail advocates keep the faith

**by Lydia Kindred,** Northern Rivers Rail Ltd

Two new railway companies have been registered to bring rail services back to the Northern Rivers.

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd is a not-forprofit public company that hopes to sign up, as \$20 members, all the people who support the return of rail to the Casino-Murwillumbah line, with donations also appreciated; along with the Northern Regional Railway Company, which has the skills and accreditation to fix our line.

The aim of these companies is to run regular rail services with a bike path alongside. We know this will bring the best outcomes financially, environmentally and for the benefit of the largest number of people, both local and visitors. Rail and trail together really do complement each other.

The state of the tracks varies from place to place, but the majority of the line is still in reasonable condition and should not be destroyed, when these companies are vowing to restore the infrastructure, much of which was refurbished not long before XPT services were cut. Although



some sections need more sleepers, signals and bridges renewed, this is cheaper and easier now than in the past, with prefab structures able to replace old bridges very quickly.

As many people in the Northern Rivers are very upset that the legislation change will allow the tracks to be pulled up on both ends of the line within months, a protest rally and march is planned for 4pm, Thursday 17th June at the Murwillumbah Station, to walk across the bridge to the council chambers. As the council meeting that night

will be at North Tweed Heads, those

wanting to attend will then drive or catch a chartered bus to the chambers there, to show Tweed Shire councillors the community's support for saving our tracks.

A lack of community consultation has been the hallmark of the push for a rail trail by Tweed and Richmond Valley Councils. This is not good enough when surveys of locals and businesses show over 90% want rail to return.

If you would like to become a member of Northern Rivers Rail Ltd, and for more information please go to: www. northernriversrail.com.au

# Help brainstorm proposals for an affordable housing initiative for Nimbin

#### by Rebecca Ryall

There is much talk in the community at present about the need to implement an affordable housing strategy which allows locals to stay local and protects our most vulnerable citizens from being priced out of the property market.

Rental accommodation in the area is becoming difficult to find and even harder to afford for most people.

Along with many others, Nimbin

contributing to diverse projects, including the Nimbin Physical Activities Centre (the gym, now auspiced by the Nimbin A&I Society), the Older Women's Forum and Mulgum House.

With our collective experience of managing government funds and the administrative aspects of running community projects, the NHWA is well placed to offer a guiding hand to not-for-profit projects addressing our community's housing crisis. such as grants; access tax concessions; minimise the administrative burden of things like public liability insurance; and benefit from the operational and administrative expertise of the auspicing body.

Many funding bodies will only enter into a funding agreement with a legally constituted association, and require proof of a group's track record with acquitting funds and successfully completing projects. A newly-formed group may

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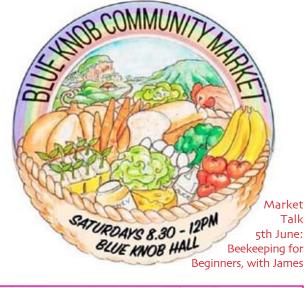


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VIMBIN ORGANIC

Health & Welfare Association (NHWA) is brainstorming ways of alleviating this housing stress, and is seeking collaboration with other groups working to develop strategies or project proposals. NHWA is an incorporated association operating within the Nimbin area whose main role is to auspice the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service (NACRS) and the Nepal Housing Project (NHP), as well as facilitating the Nimbin Interagency Forum (NIF) and the Nimbin Affordable Housing Initiative (NAHI).

NHWA has nearly 40 years of experience operating within the health and welfare space and overseeing and We are inviting robust proposals for sensitive development and/or community initiatives which take into account our aging and otherwise vulnerable population and addresses the need for safe, stable and affordable accommodation for these groups. The NHWA management committee meets once per month for the purposes of overseeing our various projects and discussing new ones. New members are always welcome.

#### Why consider auspicing?

The most common reason for a group to request an auspicing arrangement with another organisation is to obtain funding encounter difficulty in proving their capacity, and this is where an auspicing arrangement with a group like NHWA may prove useful.

The NHWA, as an incorporated association, can provide project management assistance and ongoing financial and administrative support, to new or smaller not-for-profit groups in the local area whose mission is aligned with our own.

Please feel free to contact NHWA by email at: *nimbinhealthandwelfare@ gmail.com* if you wish to discuss a project

or idea you are developing, to directly address the housing crisis in the Nimbin community.

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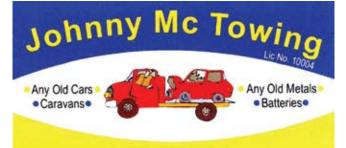
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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

iving with long term mental health issues and wondering if the NDIS is right for you? Make an appointment with our Community Worker to find out more. 6689-1692. NOTE: this project will end on 30th June – so this is your LAST CHANCE to book an appointment and get to the bottom of your NDIS queries.

#### Struggling to make ends meet?

Has your income suddenly reduced due to the end of Job Keeper and the Job Seeker supplements? Or are you just struggling with the rising costs of living in general?

We may be able to help with household expenses including electricity bill relief, vouchers for food and other items, food or other material aid. We may also be able to assist with negotiating unpaid fines and debts.

We make no judgements and all services are confidential. We can also provide mental health support and referrals. Call us on 6689-1692 to make an appointment with our community worker (available Wed-Fridays) at NNIC.

#### Nimbin NAIDOC Day

One of the best and biggest events on the annual Nimbin calendar make sure you all come along on Friday 9th July. There will be a march followed by

music and food and speakers and a Care-For-Country-athalon with prizes for the youngsters.

We are looking for event sponsors and raffle prizes to help cover the costs of this event. If you can help contact Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au

#### The Nimbin Disaster Plan

Check out the new webpage for the Nimbin Disaster Plan: www.nnic.org. au<Disasters

To join the Nimbin Disaster Group and support the implementation of the Disaster plan, email: DisasterResilience@ nimbincommunity.org

#### Take Home Naloxone

Naloxone is now 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

#### 7 Sibley Street happenings

See opposite page of this NGT or the www.7sibley.org website for the June workshop program. The DA for the composting toilet has been lodged with Council. NNIC gratefully acknowledges the funding provided for this project by the Commonwealth Government under Round 6 of the Stronger Communities Program.

#### Help restore 'time machine'

A vintage 1949 Coventry Knight van has been gifted to 7 Sibley by our local legend 'any old iron' John MacDonald to create our media/film library.

A fascinating piece of Nimbin history, it came to the original Aquarius festival in '73 and provided some affordable housing for a number of people over the years at Tuntable community, where it was eventually released from an impenetrable thicket of lantana and now will be restored and upcycled as part of our commitment to continue growing the Aquarian legacy.

If you have vehicle restoration skills and are interested in this project contact Steph at: sibley@nnic.org.au

#### The Tools and Equipment Library

This library is available for borrowing to members. All memberships are due for renewal on the 1st July each year. Anyone joining between now and the 1st July 2021 will be rolled into the 2021-2022 year at no extra cost. (Full year's membership is \$22 plus NNIC membership). Non-members need to join NNIC first (\$5.50 a year). There is a great range of equipment for loan. You can check it out on our Sibley Street website: www.7sibley.org

#### Nimbin Death and Beyond group

The first meeting was held on 27th May. We are gearing up for a community meeting around Death and Dying At Home, the 2021 Day Of The Dead celebration and info day in November and lots more. To join the group contact Venessa at: venessa.johnstone@gmail.com

#### **Community Drug Action Team**

We need you!! We have a NEW GoPro and need people who want to play with it! We are a community-based action group aiming to minimise the harms associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs. We do lots of fun and creative stuff, and the project has a strong youth focus.

We need more members to help us do all the fun projects we have planned for the coming year. We will be looking to build upon the success of our 2020 Regional Youth Art competition and expand it to include multi-media workshops leading up to another big regional art competition.

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.nnic.org. au<Our Services<CDAT

To join us simply contact Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au

#### Strategic Planning Day

NNIC Strategic Planning Day will be held on Friday 11th June. All NNIC members, staff, volunteers and people who use/attend NNIC services or activities are welcome to come along.

If you are keen, please RSVP to Nat for catering purposes.

www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre

# Nimbin Hospital information

#### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 8th June. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

#### **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

### Nimbin NSP

Needle and Syringe Program open Monday to



Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Registered Nurse.

# LASTERIN'NIMBIN

### 0427 891626 **Gyprock** walls and ceilings New work or renovations

Lic. No. 100169C



Page 6 The Nimbin GoodTimes June 2021

Early childhood nurse

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

#### Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next is 17th June. Confidential service, checks, advice, general health information. Phone 6689-1400 for appointment.

#### Wound clinic

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

an appointment time.

#### Nurse practitioner clinics

- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 8th June. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 17th June.

#### **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.

#### 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.

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

# ENVIRONMENT NEWS

#### by Scott Sledge, President

ast year's World Environment Day at Murwillumbah was Covid-cancelled. This year NEC combined with Northern Rivers Guardians to have a stall in Knox Park on 6th June. Kyogle Environment Group (KEG) sponsored events in Kyogle on 5th June while Lismore EC also celebrated the event.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day was Ecosystem Restoration and launched the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Ecosystem restoration can take many forms: growing trees, greening cities, re-wilding gardens, changing diets or cleaning up rivers and coasts.

If everyone views the environment as their home, this is the generation that can make peace with nature. One such NEC effort was to host a rainforest regeneration/ weed control project with a Federal government grant.

#### Campaigns

Forests. Last month, activists dressed as koalas demonstrated support for habitat protection at the Coff's Harbour Forestry Corp office and called for establishing Koala "parks," which would need political support to establish. Following a recent Federal Court decision to exempt state agreements on logging endangered habitat, we need serious reforms of Federal environment law (the EPBC Act) to make protection of water and endangered species a reality.

The firestorms of last year have not returned, but forests are struggling to recover and many native plants and animals were badly hit. NEC joins others in pressuring government agencies to cease what they call "salvage logging."

During the last year a consortium of fossil fools in Australia has been advocating burning wood instead of coal, but this is not genuine renewable energy. Burning trees releases more CO, than



Along with other NEFA groups, such as Lismore Environment Centre (LEC), Casino Environment Centre (CEC), and Kyogle Environment Group (KEG), we have kept watch on logging in our region with regular forest outings. The publicity and our reporting of damage seems to make Forestry Corp cautious.

We intend to visit public native forests every second Friday, with gatherings in regional towns on alternate Fridays. On Friday 11th June we invite protectors to Cherry Tree State Forest, which is under imminent threat from logging. We will focus on it for a few fortnights in a row. It's about getting to know the forest, finding the highest conservation value areas so we can protect them with reporting to the EPA and blockades if necessary.

We can have input on required logging exclusion zones and wildlife protection clumps to make sure the highest value parts of Cherry Tree SF are set aside for wildlife. NEC will host a meeting in Nimbin on 18th June at 10am in the Birth and Beyond Room (next to NEC shop). All are welcome.

Rail Transport. NEC supports community efforts to retain the rails and keep the Casino to Murwillumbah corridor as public land for future transport needs, especially to provide alternatives to highly-polluting road transport.

The NSW government passed legislation to allow closure of the corridor, but area residents continue to lobby for dual-use: a proposed bicycle path alongside light rail transport. For information about upcoming events go to: www.wecanridetogether. сот Saving koalas. Through NEFA we successfully lobbied Tweed MP Geoff Provest and Lismore MP Janelle Saffin for the state to buy a wildlife corridor along Clothier's Creek Road near Cabarita and add it to the Cudgen Nature Reserve. Yet this same government decided to virtually eliminate wildlife

protection from other areas of the state, especially on private land.

This has become a hugely complex issue based on highly ineffective regulation. NEC continues to call for protection from rampant logging and habitat destruction and clearing native vegetation off any land without authorisation - private or public. Local issues. NEC keeps a watch on the local scene and reports to the community through our shopfront, email alerts, website and Facebook page, plus a monthly column in the Nimbin GoodTimes.

We joined the Chamber of Commerce strategic planning workshop in April and advocated for changes. A priority is to complete the connection of Alternative Way to Cecil Street to give Nimbin's main street a true alternative for through traffic, including trucks, to pass around the village.

We helped Lismore Council staff work on a revision/update of the Strategic Plan, including attention to the Mulgum Creek weir, which does not currently have enough water to supply Nimbin during dry periods. The creek has no environmental flows at all at such times.

The number of new development approvals will need to be restricted to what the developers can provide themselves. Existing infrastructure cannot be relied upon.

Shop operations. The continuing success of our shop in the centre of Nimbin is the result of the volunteers who staff it, providing information and local products. Shop operations, and other fundraising, allow NEC to contribute to various funds to save wildlife from rampant destruction. We especially support the Environment Defenders Office. Final Thoughts. I've heard rumours that the state government intends to license exploration for Coal Seam Gas in our region, but we have celebrated a CSGfree Northern Rivers since 2014, so I doubt that we would allow that to change any time soon.

## Nimbin Community Centre

by Teresa Biscoe, Co-ordinator

White the night-time chill; hopefully we get more of those beautiful clear sunny, winter days with the crisp nights. I love that the tanks are full, but find myself craving sunshine after too many days of wet.

#### 11a Alternative Way

Donations are still trickling in from the community and it's fantastic to see the widespread community support we have for this project.

The Community Centre recognises the need to retain green zones, for community use, in and around a village that seems to be developing fast with no over-arching plan to provide for the green spaces that brought us to the village.

The Nimbin community has long recognised the value of the community owning and controlling its own community assets, and as a result we have so many not-for-profit groups managing these places for the benefit of the community. This land will become a wonderful nature reserve, a walking trail and a place for the whole community to enjoy.

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.

The Community Centre is currently exploring options for improving the site. We have had John Blatch (long time community member and respected bush regen worker) to look over the site and advise us on the work that will need to be done to remove weeds and regenerate the vegetation on site.

We also have had Peter Hardwick (a pioneer in local bush food identification and preparation) walk over the site. He identified many native species, including bush foods, and gave some wonderful information about the plant species that would have originally existed in the area.

He also gave some great advice on how to use species on site for propagation to rebuild the local original biosphere.

We are also making connection with local and area Landcare groups, local plant nurseries (including Ngulingah Nursery) and council to explore how best to fund, get working groups, and propagate the plants needed for this project.

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.

#### Participation

The Nimbin Community Centre is an unfunded not-for-profit organisation. We rely on the support of the community to manage, maintain and improve our grounds and facilities.

We have some really excellent grounds volunteers who provide invaluable assistance in supporting our gardener and maintenance co-ordinator and the results can be seen in the ongoing improvements to gardens and grounds, as well as an office volunteer who has been scanning our precious archival photo history and assisting in office organisation.

We would like to thank and acknowledge these volunteers who contribute so much to our organisation. We are registered with Centrelink and accept volunteers for grounds, maintenance and office support.

If you wish to know more about contributing in any way to the Community Centre, please contact our office on 6689-0000 or email: *nnci@nimbincommunity.org.au* 



#### Workshops (start 10.30am)

- Tues 8th: Cob building Off-site venue, bookings essential.
- Wed 9th & 23rd: Spinning and textile weaving – Wheels, looms and materials
- available.
- Tues 15th: Knitting and crochet with Sue
  Wed 16th: Furniture revival Chalk paint
- techniques & sanding, using tools library.
- Tues 22nd: Hemp farm Help harvest day with flower and fibre processing.
- Sat 26th: Weed block making. Turn lantana and woody weeds into buildings. \$25, bookings essential.
- Tues 29th: Weave a personal Totem Shield with natural fibres.



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

June

What's On!

- Farm tours (Bookings essential) Carpool leaving 7 Sibley Street at 10am.
- Sat 12th: Steph's Reading the landscape and successional planting.
  Sun 13th: Brad and Adriana's – Syntropic
- organic gardens.

#### 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: Books on traditional skills, gardening and sustainable living.

# • 10 minute workshops: Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or cob building!

burning coal.

According to NEFA president Dailan Pugh: "If logging of north-east NSW's native forests were stopped tomorrow, trees would begin sequestering in the order of 26% of NSW annual carbon emissions as they regain their lost carbon. We need to urgently stop logging of public native forests and to offer private owners financial incentives to protect their forests." Fridays for Forests (F4F)

#### Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street BRAIN TREE CLOTHING NOW IN STORE



#### June 2021 The Nimbin GoodTimes Page 7

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