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Mandy stands up for Greens in Richmond



Byron based comedian and author Mandy Nolan has been preselected to stand as the Greens candidate in the electorate of Richmond at the next federal election.

"At 52 as a comedian in a country town with a passion for her community and her environment, as a feminist committed to pushing uncomfortable conversations, as a mother demanding a future for her kids. I wondered if there was more I could do. I

wondered if there was more I should do," Mandy said.

"Last year I joined the Greens – they were the party I felt were most aligned with my politics," she said.

"Perhaps after the mess the dudes in suits have created, it's finally time to send in the clowns," Mandy said.

Follow Mandy's campaign on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mandy4richmond

Village Voices for Lismore City Council

Council elections are being held in September. Village Voices is a grassroots movement that's come about because we recognise the need for someone to stand for our rural and village communities on Lismore Council.

Despite being a third of the Lismore LGA, rural residents are under-represented, and have very little voice at the table.

Village-focussed councillors can deliver much more for their communities. A village councillor will engage with residents and advocate for village interests. They'll ensure communities are informed of plans and

issues in a timely manner, allowing us to be proactive in council decisions, rather than responding and reacting to decisions we didn't know were being made.

"We want the voices of the villages to be heard on important matters that affect us all. We want a representative that advocates our needs. We want better, fairer decisions for the benefit of all," spokesperson Hannah Phelan said.

"We invite people to nominate as a prospective candidate for the upcoming September Council election or get involved in the process."

"Grassroots democracy is already

swinging into action, and you will see us at market stalls and around the towns. Please come and speak to us and share your thoughts about what matters to you in the local area," Ms Phelan said.

To support this action in your community or get more information via Facebook: Village Voices for Lismore City Council or email: VillageVoices2480@gmail.com

The NSW Local Government Authority is hosting a free information session for prospective councillors Thursday, 25th March, 5.30pm – 8.30pm at Lismore Regional Gallery: www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Notes from NAG

by Megan James

The Nimbin Advisory Group meeting on 25th February was well-attended, with 8 Nimbin NAG members, 3 LCC councillors and 3 LCC staff members. Several important issues were discussed.

Swimming Pool/Park

Toilet/shower design plans for a new block located in Peace Park, similar to that at the new Murwillumbah Arts Centre – the group approved a proposal presented by Sue Edmonds to use NAG seed-funding for this.

Council staff made a commitment to put an item in the budget for Covid safety personnel to assist in opening the Nimbin Pool in the 2021/22 swimming season. Staff advised the Covid Safety Plan would be reviewed to try to enable swimming lessons to go ahead also.

Rural street lights

17 installed for development of 23 blocks, 3km out of Nimbin village are causing massive light pollution to neighbours and wildlife. LCC Staff to investigate how DCP or legislative instrument could be changed to prevent further such occurrences.

Disaster Recovery Plan

There will be a drop-in session to obtain community feedback at the Nimbin Town Hall on 24th March, 6-8pm.



Photo: Chibo Mertineit

LCC Budget requests

Staff advised community to write to the GM or program managers, or lobby councillors regarding possible budget inclusions. Council draft budget will be on public exhibition for 28 days in May.

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding

Sought from NSW Govt following December flooding, currently being assessed, expected to be approved very soon to enable work on these areas:

- Nimbin Road: Embankment slip on shoulder near Bazzana Quarry.
- Blue Knob Road: Damaged road at Pratt Bridge and road failure south of Salkeld Road.
- Crofton Road: Washout over twin culverts south of Hensen Road.
- Gungas Road: Replacement of causeway at Black Sheep Farm.

• Stanger Road: Embankment slip.

DCP community survey

Great response. Staff will send results to NAG members and are finalising a draft DCP, expected to go on public exhibition in March/April. This will provide another opportunity for the community to make submissions.

General Manager appointment

Councillors advised they will have much greater oversight over candidates this time, believing it critical for the outgoing Council to manage. They assured the NAG they will ensure there is a steady hand on the tiller when the new Council is appointed in September.

NAG members thanked the outgoing Council servicing officer for her support during her time working with the NAG.



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Northern Rivers Rail Ltd on track

by Lydia Kindred,
NRR Secretary

Recent public meetings at Casino, Lismore and Murwillumbah have shown great local support for the return of rail to our region. Upcoming public rail meetings are at the Bangalow Bowling Club on Wednesday 10th March and at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club on Wednesday 17th March, both at 6pm.

Mayor of Byron Shire, Simon Richardson, will speak at both and Tamara Smith, MLA, will speak at the Bangalow meeting.

As the potential threat of losing our railway line in the next couple of months builds, people are joining ranks within the not-for-profit public company, Northern Rivers Rail Ltd, to show the large numbers prepared to 'put their money where their mouth is' and become members for \$20, and even donate more towards the cause.

The focus to begin with for NRR is to save the two ends of the line from being destroyed so that rail services can begin again asap, and to donating towards 'rail trails' or bike/walking tracks, which can be built beside the tracks within the railway corridor.

This holds great benefit



for bike riders and walkers as recycled plastic raised cycle ways are a great option for a comfortable safe ride while our railway tracks will be spared destruction so that our company, working with other not-for-profit rail companies, can bring services back again as quickly as possible.

Community consultation has never happened and is only now being undertaken in Tweed Shire. To hear about plans by Tweed Shire Council for the bike path between Crabbes Creek and Murwillumbah, go along to Burringbar Hall on Thursday 11th March from 2.30pm to 4pm.

In Richmond Valley Shire there has never been community consultation beyond a recent belated poll where 30 out of the 78 respondents asked for rail to

return, in spite of being only asked about their views on the rail trail.

Following is the extent of consultation in their 'Rail Trail: Community Consultation Report':

"The Community Consultation Session was held in the Casino Community and Cultural Centre on 17th February 2020.

"In total 59 invitations were issued, and the Department received 24 acceptances. On the day, there were a total of 30 attendees, 12 of which were landholders.

"Organisations with representatives in attendance included: Casino Golf Club, Casino Returned Servicemen's Memorial Club, Destination North Coast, Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc, Rous County Council, Richmond Valley Council."



As the majority of locals and visitors to our region want regular rail services, plus a rail trail, we are asking all parties to support our company in working towards this mutually beneficial outcome.

Go to: www.northernriversrail.com.au or email: admin@northernriversrail.com.au to join this exciting new not-for-profit public company for \$20.

Nimbin Community Centre doings

by Teresa Biscoe, Co-ordinator

11a Alternative Way

The settlement for the purchase of the property is now completed, which would not have been possible without the generosity of all those community members and groups who have contributed to this project.

The Nimbin Community Centre will continue to fundraise for the upkeep and development of the site through fundraising events and activities.

Now that the property has been secured, we will need to start maintaining and assessing the site. John Blatch, who has been regenerating the nature reserve for the Alternative Way developer, has offered to inspect the property, assess and mark the plant native species already there and advise on the best way to regenerate the site.

The land will need regular maintenance, and the Community Centre is seeking community members who could offer free slashing of the site.

If you wish to donate this service, please contact us on our email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

nimbincommunity.org.au or phone 02 6689-0000.

Once the land has been slashed a couple of times and is more accessible to the general community, we will hold an open day event on site so the community can have a look at this wonderful addition to our community assets and give us feedback about what people would like to see in this space.

See more on this project in Chamber Chat, p.9

Classes and Events

We have a great line up of dance, art and movement classes this term in the Nimbin Dance Studio and the Birth and Beyond Meeting Room. These can be viewed in the on-line calendar on the website at: www.nimbincommunity.org.au

We also host the Nimbin Sunday Markets on the 4th and 5th Sunday of each month.

Our Market Co-ordinator, Steph Seckold can be contacted at: nimbinmarkets@gmail.com for any market inquiries.

We are also happy to announce that

the annual Weave and Mend Festival will be held in the Nimbin Community Centre grounds on the 28th, 29th and 30th May.

A great opportunity to connect to community and learn the ancient art of basket weaving. For inquiries and bookings, please call 6689-7129.

Participation

The Nimbin Community Centre relies on the support of the community to manage, maintain and improve our grounds and facilities. We welcome your input to our Centre, either as a tenant, member of NCC, volunteer or sponsor.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions, and if you wish to donate for a specific project will put those funds to good use on the selected project.

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 at: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au



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Indigenous Party forming

On Saturday 13th February, members of the proposed Indigenous Party of Australia held a sign-up day at the transit centre in Lismore.

North Coast representative and former Lands Council heritage officer, Brett Duroux said, "I think it is just so important that we have our own political party. Other parties say they sympathise, but little changes on the ground."

"We need to be at the table when decisions are made, not consulted later when it is too late."

Brett and his young family spoke to people passing by about the political party, which welcomes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous members.

"We have spoken to a number of the Elders and they strongly support the whole idea. We are keen to have a free BBQ in Lismore soon, so anyone

can come and ask questions about our proposed party," said Brett.

"We have 11 policies and they are pretty straightforward. They cover incarceration, the state of our rivers, education reform as well as treaty and constitutional recognition."

"We don't want big wordy policies. We want action, so we are keeping it simple."

The Indigenous Party is currently looking for new members, as will not be registered until it has at least 550 who are on the electoral roll. There are other conditions too.

"We would really love a strong support base in Lismore," said Renee Duroux. "All we can do is try and see if we can make this dream a reality."

The web address for the party is: www.indigenouspartyofaustralia.com A form to join the party is located on the website.



Brett and Renee Duroux and their children

Covid-19, The Plague, and dealing with death



by Warwick Fry

The Seventh Seal by Swedish producer Ingmar Bergman is rated as possibly the best movie ever made on black and white cinema.

It tells the story of a knight returning from the Crusades to a homeland devastated by plague and religious fanaticism. It is a story of bigotry, fear and corruption. Sound familiar?

How does the human individual deal with it? Therein lies the genius of the film. Various individuals deal with fear in their own ways.

Fear of poverty prevails in contemporary society, with fear of the 'other' (xenophobia, homophobia), fear of death, fear of the forms of death.

The knight and his squire (shades of Don Quixote and Sancho Sanchez) both understand that the Crusades were an absurdity, if not a tragic scam. The knight claims this has not affected his idealism, and the squire asserts that he is still an unreconstructed cynical materialist.

The discussions punctuate the various scenarios that unfold through the course of the film. There is an interesting interlude when the squire catches the corrupt priest (who a decade earlier had recruited the knight for the Crusades) robbing the body of a plague victim. A nice set-up there between practical (and honest) materialism and venal greed.

The elegance of the plot is the set-up of a game of chess between the knight with

Death. The opening scene is at dawn on a deserted beach. The progress of the chess game recurs several times as a scenario in the film.

Meanwhile, there are a lot of other games going on. The best one is between a family of travelling actors. They have an act to cheer people up when they are interrupted by a parade of self-flagellating followers of priests claiming that the plague is a punishment for their sins. They manage to burn a 'witch' on the way.

I won't do any more spoilers, except to say the travelling players are, to my mind, the heroes and heroines. The conversations of the Squire, matching the cynicism of the artist painting the plague scenes on the church wall are worth special attention. I won't even say how the chess game ended.

It is worth reviewing *The Seventh Seal*, because I believe that now is a time to return, like the family of travelling players in the movie, to literature art and music. Although we no longer live chronologically in the Middle Ages, in many respects too many people still live there psychologically. The same mechanisms of fear still function. In its creation, generation, and manipulation.

We see it in the range of conspiracy theories that emerged during the first months of the Covid crisis. The absurdities of the conspiracy theories and the search for scapegoats (like the 'witch' in *The Seventh Seal*) have been well covered in previous issues of *The*



GoodTimes (Aidan Ricketts for one deserves accolades) and it will be interesting to watch the contortions of anti-vaxers when the Covid vaccines come on line.

But as in Medieval times, the conspiracy theories are projections of inner fears onto external agency. This can be exploited, and as we have seen in the case of Trump, lead to obstruction and denial in confronting a problem. (Although I would acknowledge that some governments have taken advantage of the situation to increase surveillance.)

The title of *The Seventh Seal* derives from the Book of Revelations in which St John claims to have had visions of the End of Times whilst meditating on an Aegean island. (Sci-fi writer Douglas Adams in his delightful novel *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* suggests that St John probably wrote the Book of Revelations in frustration while waiting for a Greek ferry.)

As in the times of the *St James Bible* (translated and re-translated through four or five different languages after the invention of the printing press), conspiracy theories have proliferated in the unregulated (or semi-regulated) use and abuse of 'social media'.

The human mind needs to recast itself to accept or deal with this media. It is like a mediatic supernova of gossip. But its manipulation has far-reaching effects, as is apparent in a study of Trump's tweetology and the influence of Q-Anon.

The Seventh Seal was cast in the mould of a Medieval English morality play about human beings confronting the termination of existence. Which is I suppose, our most primal fear. The beauty of the film noir genre is that it fits so well with the themes of the allegorical Medieval morality plays.

The binary worldview of black, white, right, wrong, life, death, positive, negative, win, lose; and using the genre to create so much nuance to the shading, the shadowing, creating complementary grey tones while reminding us how much it is part of the elder wisdom of timeless cinema and serious acting.

Like black and white film, the Covid crisis has exposed the raw essentials of human society. It has stripped away the myths of neoliberal economics and revealed the essentially human values of the social safety-net.

In Australia alone, the over-the-rainbow dream of the true value of a budget surplus, of trickle-down economics, has been exposed as technicolor illusion; distorting tricks of smoke and mirrors.

In times of Covid, we should look at Scandinavian film noir. Perhaps too (given recent events in the US) we would do well to re-read Camus' *The Plague*, plague being Camus' metaphor for the emergence of fascism in Europe.

The Seventh Seal can be seen on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbgiWPJLSsM

It is in Danish but has English subtitles.

Connecting the dots with Aquarius

by Benny Zable

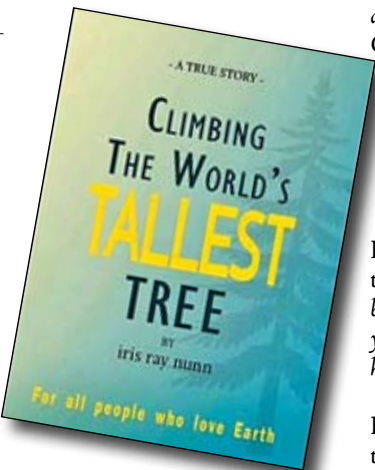
This past month I was reading *Climbing the World's Tallest Tree*, a page-turner by Iris Ray Nunn, so aptly described in the notes:

"Climbing the World's Tallest Tree is about living fearlessly and finding joy in uncertain times! An engaging, personal story of one woman's courage to find meaning and purpose to her life beyond societies expectations." www.deeplisteningtonature.com/#book

One thing standing out reading the book is this message from Mamo Miguel, a translated heartfelt statement from a Mamos (high priests of the Kogis), visiting Australia prior to the beginning of a ceremony somewhere on a property in Tyalgum NSW.

"We are human seeds. There are only two people on the Earth. One man and one woman. And the origin instructions from Mother Earth are for man and woman to complement one another in peace and in harmony. Treating each other with deep respect. Men and women must work together now on Earth, standing side by side.

"Mother Earth has constitutional rights that have been forgotten in the laws of many nations across the planet. She has the right to be treated with kindness and care. Like humans who have the right to be safe from harm, so does Mother Earth. We must stand up for the rights of the Mother of us all.



We must make governments include the rights of the Earth in their laws. We can no longer harm the Earth, our Mother.

"My people can see that Mother Earth is sick because too much has been taken from her. The minerals are in place on Earth for a purpose, and now too many of those vital minerals have been taken from her causing her to shake. The balance of predators and prey have gone out of balance. There are too many predators on Earth. We no longer should take anything from the Earth. Nothing at all without asking. We must return what has been stolen.

"We must restore the sacred sites on the Earth through helping the indigenous people of the world sing their sacred songs, tell their ancient stories and dance their medicine dances, continuing their ceremonial practices to heal and strengthen

desecrated sites. There is a Golden Thread that binds all of life. And that Golden Thread is becoming very weak. We are doing many Ceremonies to strengthen the Golden Thread again..."

A couple of references about Kogis/Mamos warning to the world to check out: youtu.be/hRgTTrQOIR0 and www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXh5g7KcLQ&t=1187s

Related is the Gondwana Rainforest. It was when the East coast of Australia was connected with South America. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondwana_Rainforests

"The region was historically logged extremely heavily, to such an extent that only 1% of the original range of the Gondwana rainforest remains in Australia. Most of the logged regions have been taken over by eucalyptus forest.

"During the 2019-2020 Australian bushfire season, many regions of the Gondwana rainforest were devastated by bushfires for the first time, with some preliminary reports indicating that up to 53% of the forests may have burned as of January 2020.

"Among the devastated habitats are several locations that are significant for some critically imperiled species, such as the nightcap oak and the giant barred frog. The presence of these devastating blazes in areas that have never burned prior has been linked to the encroachment



of the flammable eucalyptus trees into the logged areas adjoining the forests."

Next year we celebrate 40 years since we stopped the continuing destruction of the Nightcap Rainforest in September 1982. It presents us with an opportunity in Nimbin to gather, inspire, empower each other and to tell our stories for the record.

A call-out for photos and films taken during that time to build an archive for exhibiting and help trigger the memory. Contact me at: bennyzable@gmail.com if you have any leads and are interested in building the collection.

I attended the Nimbin Disaster Plan Community workshop at the Town Hall to help the community respond and recover from past natural disasters and prepare and prevent future ones. It was great to be able to contribute to this important initiative. There will be follow-up session on the draft Disaster Plan on Wednesday 24th March, 6-8pm at Nimbin Town Hall.

By next month we hope to get a date set for the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc AGM. Please watch this space.

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The death of Ben Chifley

by Jazmin Theodora

In June 1951, I was 13 years old. I was in the lounge room one day listening to the wireless, and the announcer said we interrupt this program with some very bad news. Our beloved Ben Chifley has passed away.

I jumped up and ran into the kitchen and said, "Nan, Nan! Ben Chifley's passed away." My grandmother clutched her heart and said, "God no!" and reeled around the kitchen holding her heart for a few minutes.

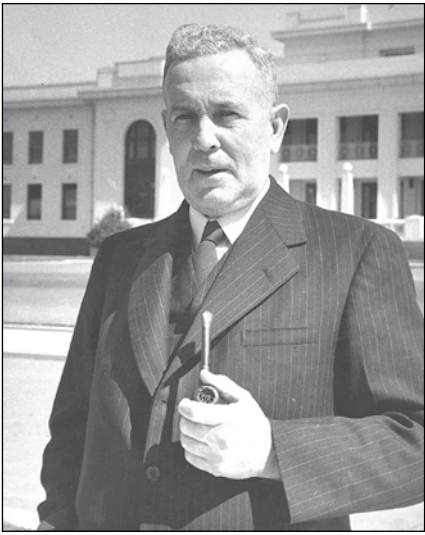
Then she went to the back door and called, "Charles, Charles!" My grandfather came down and said to her, "What's wrong Dorothy May?" And she said, "Ben Chifley's passed away." My grandfather said, "Oh God." They were so devastated it was unbelievable.

But we lived in a very long street in Mortdale in Sydney and people used to gather around their gates sometimes or visit each other. Everyone in the street knew each other. The whole street was devastated by Ben Chifley's death. (If a politician died today, who would do that?)

This is the text of Ben Chifley's 'Light on the Hill' speech at Sydney Trades Hall in 1949:

"I have had the privilege of leading the Labor Party for nearly four years. They have not been easy times and it has not been an easy job. It is a man-killing job and would be impossible if it were not for the help of my colleagues and members of the movement.

"No Labor Minister or leader ever has an easy job. The urgency that rests



Ben Chifley (1885-1951) was prime minister from 1945 to 1949, and led the Labor Party from 1945 until his death.

behind the Labor movement, pushing it on to do things, to create new conditions, to reorganise the economy of the country, always means that the people who work within the Labor movement, people who lead, can never have an easy job. The job of the evangelist is never easy.

"Because of the turn of fortune's wheel, your Premier (Mr McGirr) and I have gained some prominence in the Labor movement. But the strength of the movement cannot come from us. We may make plans and pass legislation to help and direct the economy of the country. But the job of getting the things the people of the country want comes from the roots of the Labor movement – the people who support it."

"When I sat at a Labor meeting in the

country with only 10 or 15 men there, I found a man sitting beside me who had been working in the Labor movement for 54 years. I have no doubt that many of you have been doing the same, not hoping for any advantage from the movement, not hoping for any personal gain, but because you believe in a movement that has been built up to bring better conditions to the people. Therefore, the success of the Labor Party at the next elections depends entirely, as it always has done, on the people who work.

"I try to think of the Labor movement, not as putting an extra sixpence into somebody's pocket, or making somebody Prime Minister or Premier, but as a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living, greater happiness to the mass of the people. We have a great objective – the light on the hill – which we aim to reach by working the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand. If it were not for that, the Labor movement would not be worth fighting for.

"If the movement can make someone more comfortable, give to some father or mother a greater feeling of security for their children, a feeling that if a depression comes there will be work, that the government is striving its hardest to do its best, then the Labor movement will be completely justified.

"It does not matter about persons like me who have our limitations. I only hope that the generosity, kindness and friendliness shown to me by thousands of my colleagues in the Labor movement will continue to be given to the movement and add zest to its work."

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Jams & Chutneys



In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Covid safety

As the vaccination rolls out, there is hope for a more normal future ahead of us.

In the meantime we remain vigilant and continue to provide Covid-Safe services to the community. Physical distancing of 1.5m is still a necessity and limitations on the number of people who can safely be inside NNIC at any one time continue.

Please stay safe and let's keep our community free of Covid.

Nimbin pool

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked through February to keep the pool open as much as possible, especially to Nicole Raward who was the Roster Co-ordinator for February.

The opening hours have changed to 8am to 5.30pm, 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. The pool will remain open until mid-April at this stage.

International Women's Day (IWD) Monday 8th March from 6pm

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 IWD 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 Death and Beyond - let's get it back up and running!

This is a shout out to anyone who might be interested in joining the group so we can get it back up and running. The main aims of the group will be to finalise the purchasing of a cold bed for community use, to raise the remaining funds needed to purchase the cold bed, and to hold the Day of the Dead event in November 2021. If you are interested contact us at: admin@nnic.org.au

7 Sibley Street Updates

The composting loo plans are

Are you Struggling with Unpaid Fines?

Lost your drivers license as a result?

You may be eligible for a Work Development Order.

You can pay off up to \$1000 a month (and potentially have your license restored) by volunteering at Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (or 7 Sibley Street)

To find out if you are eligible, make an appointment with our Community Worker, Wed-Fridays at NNIC 6689 1692



progressing, so watch this space.

The Tools and Equipment Library is available for borrowing to members. The cost for existing NNIC financial members is \$11 inc GST for membership until 30th June 2021. (Full year's membership is \$22).

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

Are you handy with tools care?

We are looking for a volunteer to drop by Sibley Street on a regular basis (e.g. once a fortnight) to service any tools/equipment that needs maintenance etc., and keep an eye on consumables.

If this sounds like you, contact Steph at: sibley@nnic.org.au

Volunteers always wanted and needed

We have heaps of different jobs for volunteers ranging from admin and research tasks stuff through to handyperson jobs, tools maintenance, cleaning and more cleaning both interior and exterior of our building, and lots more. We aim to link volunteers to work areas that they are interested in so we have a fair bit

to choose from. We can always use help on our reception desk... qualifications (min Cert 2) or experience required for the Front Desk job. Contact Kath at: caw@nnic.org.au for more info.

Centrelink Agency

Open Monday-Thursday 10am-2.30pm and Fridays 10am-2pm. As JobKeeper winds up and the JobSeeker mutual obligations kick back in, we are expecting a flurry of activity in our Centrelink Agency office.

At the Agency you can present most documents required by Centrelink such as ID to be faxed/sent to Centrelink. There are phones for contacting the Centrelink Call Centre yourself and you can access a free computer for Job Searches and other related Centrelink business.

Our Agency provides a professional and empathetic service to the local and surrounding community.

Referrals are made to appropriate services if required and many customers can be referred to our Welfare workers. Referrals are also made to external services/departments if required.

Our Centrelink Agency staff can recognise and discuss with customers difficulties they may be experiencing and then support and refer them on with their consent. Staff attend regular Centrelink and other related training courses and updates.

If you'd rather use your mobile phone or tablet, we have free wi-fi available at NNIC. You don't need a password so you can get on-line straight away.

You can also use the wi-fi to download and install the Express Plus mobile apps. The Agency staff can help you set up your digital services if you're not sure what to do.

Nimbin CDAT Youth Arts Competition WILD Winners

You can 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 March. 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 March. 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 March. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 18th March.

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 has also commenced.





NIMBIN

ENVIRONMENT NEWS CENTRE

by Scott Sledge, president

The dark clouds are lifting, and light is emerging from the edges of politics surrounding our efforts to leave a sustainable world for future generations. We can't expect smooth sailing, but I am feeling hopeful.

The new administration in USA has been making all the right noises about joining the world struggle against pollution and climate change.

Many areas that were opened for fossil fuel mining will now be saved. Recent extreme weather is starting to be viewed as climate-related, and Joe Biden's recent decision to convert government vehicles to all-electric is a wake-up call.

Sadly, it seems Australia has hit the snooze button. Not much movement away from fossil-free transport.

Too much money invested in our politicians, I suppose. Car makers around the world are moving towards an EV future, with some countries banning new sales of fossil fuel cars from 2030.

Meanwhile, authorities say if Redbank power station is converted from burning coal to burning wood, it can only be a minor source of electricity compared with a boom in renewable energy in the Hunter Valley, and that bio-fuels can't replace coal without massive transport subsidies.

Koala and forest protection

Graeme Samuels' (ex-ACCC) report put Feds on notice that environmental protection (EBPC is under review) should not be handed back to the States, and that Regional Forestry Agreements offer no wildlife protection.

Prof Roberta Ryan of Newcastle Uni found that only 600 jobs would be affected if all commercial logging ceased (mostly in admin and transport roles), while the Great Koala NP would attract tourism that would amount to about 10,000 new jobs in the next 15 years. See: <https://bit.ly/3dFye9k>

I was part of a delegation to consult Tweed MP Geoff Provost about the shaping of a new koala protection policy for NSW, following the defeat of the Coalition government's protection-erasing Bill when Liberal MLC Catherine Cusack crossed the floor to vote against it.

We want to see local Councils involved in controlling land clearing in sensitive environmental spots. Geoff said he is happy to assist in getting public funding to buy land for sale at Cabarita to add to the Cudgen Nature Reserve – see Save Lot 2 petition at:



Picnic at Myrtle Creek

<http://chnng.it/L9vRtdyJWN>

Koala protection will be the focus of 'The March in March' in Sydney on 21st March. Northern Rivers locals may want to join the associated demonstration in Knox Park, Murwillumbah alongside the markets held there on Saturday 20th March at 10am.

North-East Forest Alliance

In early February, a public picnic was held at Myrtle Creek State Forest, attended by the Knitting Nannas and other environmental groups. Myrtle Creek SF and Bungabbee SF are currently not scheduled for logging, but that could change at the whim of Forestry Corp.

Forest Corp's Plan Portal shows Richmond Range Forest proposed/planning, Cherry Tree planning, DoubleDuke planning, Camira planning, Ewingar proposed/planning. NEFA will schedule other picnics more or less monthly to familiarise the public with the forest we own.

Many reports and scientific studies show that forests – especially older natural ones – are not only our best environments for wildlife but also the best method to control carbon emissions and therefore climate change.

Recent rain has brought landslips at Kalang State Forest, so no logging there for now, while Forestry Corp. seems intent on heading into Newry State Forest inland from Urunga.

Nimbin's new park

NEC has contributed \$5000 to the purchase of a land next to Rainbow Power which will hopefully be called Aquarius Park. The area has potential as part of the Rainbow Walking Trail project.

Nightmare Village

The community has until 17th March to comment on Tweed Council DA 21/0010, a development application to construct more than 390 houses near Kunghur.

Nearby residents have expressed concerns to me about significantly increased risks of bushfires, land

clearing impacts on flora and fauna (especially the many koalas on the site), contamination of the Tweed water catchment, hundreds of additional vehicles on the already crumbling roads, and questionable plans for DIY sewage treatment.

For more info and to lodge submissions, go to: <https://bit.ly/37H9l9s>

Kyogle Environment Group

At its February meeting the Kyogle Environment Group (KEG) resolved to be a voluntary, not-for-profit grassroots collective, aiming to bring information to the public on local, national and international environmental and climate change issues. Welcome to our network of environment activists.

The next KEG meeting will be held at 5.30pm, Wednesday, 17th March at the Uniting Church.

Weeds ID workshop

The February weed workshop was postponed due to heavy rain, but rescheduled for 21st March. Places available. Please register your interest 02 6689-1441.

Nimbin water supply

Our research has pointed out failings in the current system, which make no real provision for environmental flows. This has been the case in the dry period over the last few years, when at times there have been no environmental flows at all permitted from the weir on Mulgum Creek.

BOM data since the late 1990's indicates a new pattern of "dryness" in the winter months where rainfall and streamflow are reduced by up to 12% and in some cases projected rainfall reductions in winter top 20%. Further property development will need to provide for adequate water harvesting and storage.

NEC will make representations to this effect when the Lismore Council consults Nimbin on its review of Development Control Planning, probably next month.

Association receives community recognition



by Jenny Martin

Janelle Saffin, our local Member for the NSW Parliament, read all about the Nimbin Health & Welfare Association (NH&W) in the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, and was so impressed she made an honourable mention of NH&W in the NSW Parliament and issued a Community Recognition Statement to the current NH&W Committee.

Well done NGT! This outcome demonstrates the power of local, grassroots reporting.

Janelle congratulated NH&W "on an amazing 38 years of active service to the community of Nimbin and surrounding areas. NH&W auspices the Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Service (NACRS) and the Nepal Housing Project... facilitates the Nimbin Affordable Housing Initiative and the Nimbin Interagency Forum.

"The association has been instrumental in many firsts over the years... the [initial] employment of an aged care worker, a weekly consultation by a government dentist, physiotherapy and pathology services, drug prevention work, the Nimbin Physical



Activities Centre, supporting the Older Women's Forum, Mulgum House independent aged housing, campaigning for Indigenous well-being and public transport.

"I recognise and sincerely thank the Management Committee members..."

Faye Scherf (pictured) was a founding and active member of NH&W Association until shortly before her recent sad passing. Without doubt, the achievements of the Nimbin Health & Welfare Association, as recognised by Janelle Saffin MP, were underpinned by Faye's commitment to community and to the well-being of all people, reflected in the enormous contribution she made to NH&W and to many other projects and organisations throughout her lifetime.

It is lovely that Faye lived to see this recognition in NSW Parliament. I had the good fortune to work with Faye in her NH&W role for many



years, and she became a dear friend and supportive mentor to me.

A sparkling human with an infectious laugh, an inspirational local elder and incredible member of this blessed community, Faye leaves this world a better place for all her contributions.

I will miss her gentle, kind and thoughtful presence.

DROP IN SERVICES

Monday-Friday 10am-2pm drop in for a cuppa and a chat, use computers, or get help to access services and useful information.

• Device advice: Thursdays 10am-12.30pm, help with your phone, tablet or laptop, with Mark. Call NACRS or drop in.

SOCIAL GROUPS

All invite only:

- Weekly Tuesday Social Group at Bottlebrush Studio, 10.30am-1pm. Morning tea and light lunch (\$10)
- The Channon Seekers & Sages Group 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 4th Thursday, 11am-2pm
- Koonorigan Hall Social Group 4th Monday, 11.30am-2.30pm

For info on any of the above, call NACRS on (02) 6689-1709.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB
7 Sibley Street

March What's On!
\$10 unless otherwise noted
Bookings: text 0475-135-764 or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops (start 10.30am)

- **Tues 9th: Wicker Work** with camphor coppice
- **Sat 13th: Creating Butterfly Gardens** with Helen Schwenke, \$25
- **Tues 16th: Knitting and crochet** with Sue
- **Tues 23rd: Furniture Revival.** Chalk paint decoration with Christine
- **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 6th: Steph's** – Understanding natural landform, microclimates, water and wind flow, fire and drought strategies.

- **Sat 20th Gondwana Nursery** – Specialising in bird, bee and butterfly-attracting native plants.

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!



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