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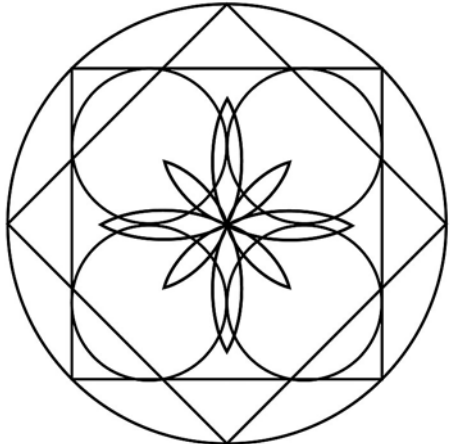
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Pictures from the Sleeping Lizard: a Bundjalung belonging place

“What do you think four photographers, a podcaster and a Bundjalung Elder might do on a sunny day?”

Well, contrary to what you might think, that’s not the beginning of an Aussie joke. At the end of October, with Lismore Council permission, there will be a photographic field trip on to the Southern section of Banyam Baigham (North Lismore Plateau).

Well-known and respected conservationists, Nan and Hugh Nicholson, along with other photographers, will be guided by Bundjalung Elder Uncle Mickey Ryan to spend a few hours clicking away in the remnant Big Scrub that remains on the Southern section of the North Lismore Plateau.

This is a significant Wia-bul (pronounced ‘Weeabul’) Bundjalung site containing many examples of species from the Big Scrub such as the identified locally endangered species pictured.

Many Lismore Shire inhabitants have never seen this special place. Local First Nation people have not been able to access the area. Most do not know the Aboriginal heritage and environmental values of Banyam Baigham.

On 13th July, Lismore Shire Council voted to “hand back” the Southern section of 37 hectares (about 10%) on the North Lismore Plateau (NGT August edition, page 4).

This historic step was the start of a



Rose-crowned fruit dove
Photo: Tony Palliser Birdlife



White-eared monarch
Photo: Ged Tranter, Ebird

process that may take some time to complete while Lismore Council to resolve legal formalities and practical issues regarding the hand-over. Bundjalung people look forward to the return to country to begin the healing and reconnection denied for so long.

The hope is that this belonging place, like the Dorroughby grasslands nearby, can be looked after, cherished and returned to time and time again by Wia-bul people for solace, mental well-being, cultural connection and spiritual healing.

The photographs generated from a day out on ‘The Hill’ will inform and

hopefully inspire Lismore people to place a high value on conserving their Bundjalung history, as well as the important habitat still present on ‘The Hill’.

The results of ‘Pictures from the Sleeping Lizard’ photographic outing will be displayed in the Serpentine Gallery from Friday 12th November until 22nd November.

Covid permitting, we should all try to get there. Not only will you be supporting a volunteer-run community gallery, but you can take a look at something most of us have never seen before.

Up-cycle, re-cycle and just imagine



by Anne Cook

For all those who watched *The Chaser’s War on Waste* on the ABC you would remember hearing that Australians send 6,000 kilos of clothing to landfill every 10 minutes.

It’s been said that fashion is fickle and everyone likes a change but in this day of “fast” fashion where a style goes from the runway to high street in a matter of days it’s not difficult to see that there is a massive global oversupply of clothing.

Upcycled metal mesh handbags
by Honey Joy
Modelled by Ashley Buys
Photo: Charlie Wood Photography

The fashion industry is the second biggest polluter in the world with Australians just behind America in terms of the amount of clothes that we purchase each year.

It’s time that we have a rethink of fast fashion and start thinking about how we can cut back on endless supply of \$5 t-shirts that flood our clothing stores.

At Nimbin Artists Gallery



Macrame art creation by Jodie Whittaker.
Australian Wearable Arts Festival, Noosa 2019

we have long held the view that things are “lovelier the second time around” and this view of sustainability is well supported by our numerous fabric and fibre artists.

Up-cycling, recycling and just using up old stuff creates opportunities for the creation of original, imaginative and highly individualised wearable art.

An old blanket, an old jumper, some scraps of embroidery – put it all together and you can come

up with some exceptional garments.

The Nimbin Artists Gallery is currently closed but when we reopen in early December we will be looking to exhibit a range of work that places an emphasis on sustainability and re-imagination.

Our gallery is situated on Cullen Street, Nimbin and when open, we are there 7 days a week.

Do come in and be inspired.

Well, I'll be dammed

by Scott O'Keeffe

Farm dams are a familiar part of the Australian rural landscape. They are reassuring when it's dry and refreshing in the sometimes monotonous rural landscape. But their importance goes far beyond visual appeal.

Farm dams are an increasingly important ecological component of Australian landscapes as climate warms, rainfall decreases and natural water bodies are depleted for agriculture, industry and urbanisation.

The sheer number and locations of farm dams suggest how important they are for maintaining biodiversity. There are nearly 1.8 million farm dams in Australia. A large proportion of these are in areas that have historically supported diverse and abundant wetland wildlife, such as the the Murray-Darling Basin. But wetland birds, mammals, insects and plants are in serious decline – we've left the taps running and the rivers often run dry. You can see why the 650,000 farm dams in the Murray-Darling Basin are so critical to wildlife!

Our coastal farm dams are also important wetland ecosystems. Plants and animals with local distributions rely on them but they are also critical for interior migrant species that move between arid areas and the coast, especially in times of extreme weather and fires.

On my own property, I have a small but healthy farm dam visited



Little Pied Cormorant, Royal Spoonbill and Cattle Egrets share a perch on a dam

seasonally by White-eyed Ducks, also called Hardheads, usually in small flocks of up to 10 birds. Hardhead populations declined dangerously in the 20th century, although numbers have now stabilised. However, an estimate of a total population of 200,000 is pretty small for a continent as big as Australia. We need to look after them.

When there is a Big Wet inland, water birds breed prolifically. But when the billabongs dry up, where do they go? Wherever there is water, and this often means the coast. When it's dry, Hardheads move about, often dispersing very widely. They depend upon permanent water bodies far from inland breeding areas. Our farm dams can be important refuges.

Nankeen Night Herons also

wander like this. When conditions are favourable they breed in large colonies in trees that line slow-moving inland rivers. When breeding ends the birds disperse with many moving towards the east coast.

It's surprising how much wildlife a farm dam in good condition can support; even a small one. Your dam can be a treasure but it can also be a trough. Literally. Take a short trip through farming country and count the number of dams devoid of aquatic plants and fringing vegetation. Water that looks like gravy and not much visual appeal.

Chances are that livestock have direct access to the water. They trample the ground around the dams, stir up the bottom and deposit their wastes day after day. If the pasture is degraded pasture,



A Nankeen Night Heron roosting over a local farm dam

the cows are probably spreading the seeds of invasive plants to the edge of the water on their hooves.

The surrounding landscape can also contribute to the problem. Roads, quarries and degraded land contribute to poor water quality in catchments small and large, including to the intermittent streams that usually feed farm dams.

The science of ecology provides insights to solve these problems and improve the condition of farm dams for flora, fauna, livestock and people. Eco-savvy Australian farmers are fencing dams to exclude livestock and control damaging

nutrient/sediment run-off. They work with scientists to develop methods for improving the habitat value of farm dams.

This includes establishing native vegetation and creating structure in the landscape to support maximum diversity. For example, an association called Sustainable Farms showcases the techniques they use and the impressive results they achieve on their website: <https://sustainablefarms.org.au>

If you have access to a farm dam, stick a camera on it and set it to time-lapse. Let it run for a day and you may be surprised at the results when you review the footage.

Expression of Interest



Tuntable Creek Landcare Inc is seeking expressions of interests from appropriately qualified bush regenerators to work on a one-year Habitat Action Grant funded by the Department of Primary Industries.

The project sites will be situated within the Channon village between Rocky Creek and Terania Creek and are part of the headwaters of the Wilsons River.

The works are anticipated to start immediately and continue through to October 2022.

Duties will include removal of large weed infestations, natural regeneration, liaison with landholders, large plantings, river bank stabilisation and participation in workshops and field days.

A certain level of fitness is expected to undertake the work and successful applicants will be overseen by a Project Manager from Tuntable Creek Landcare Inc.

The following selection criteria needs to be addressed and evidence of compliance provided. Hourly rates should be included; rates must include all operational costs such as transport, chemicals, equipment and tools.

Applicants should specify if they are registered for GST or not.

Bush regeneration contractor selection criteria

1. Qualifications in Conservation and Land Management (Minimum Cert III) or equivalent and demonstrated bush regeneration skills and experience
2. Chemical use certificate
3. Own transport and current drivers license
4. Good plant ID skills and knowledge of the major North Coast weed problems
5. Experienced in the use of the splatter gun technique for lantana control
6. 132C license to work near threatened species (desirable but not mandatory)
7. Work Health and Safety policies in place
8. Hazard and risk assessment process in place
9. Understanding of Safe Work Method for all activities
10. Insurance – Public liability
11. Ability to complete Daily Record Sheets, invoicing and tracking hours worked (desirable but not mandatory)
12. Knowledge of the Channon Village and Valley
13. Knowledge of aquatic ecosystems

Please send addressed selection criteria to: vanessapelly@westnet.com.au by 20th November 2021.



Virtual Family Fun Day!

A Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group Initiative

Fun Virtual Activities for families with young people aged 5-16 years! Learn some great new skills! All welcome – no vaccination required!

Saturday 13 November 2021 | Online Workshops

Program of events:

- 10am-11am: Pillowcase design workshop with Red Cross Australia.
- 12pm- 1pm: Build a Bee Hotel with Barbara Mills.
- 2pm-3pm: DIY Beeswax wrap with Linda from Northeast Waste.

Visit Nimbin Neighbourhood Information Centre
website to book workshops: nnic.org.au

Pick up a Nimbin Disaster Resilience Showbag with heaps of great stuff & resources prior to the workshop from The Nimbin Neighbourhood Information Centre, 71 Cullen St Nimbin.
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Generously supported by



Bush Fire Recovery Community Grants Program is funded by Healthy North Coast PHN Program

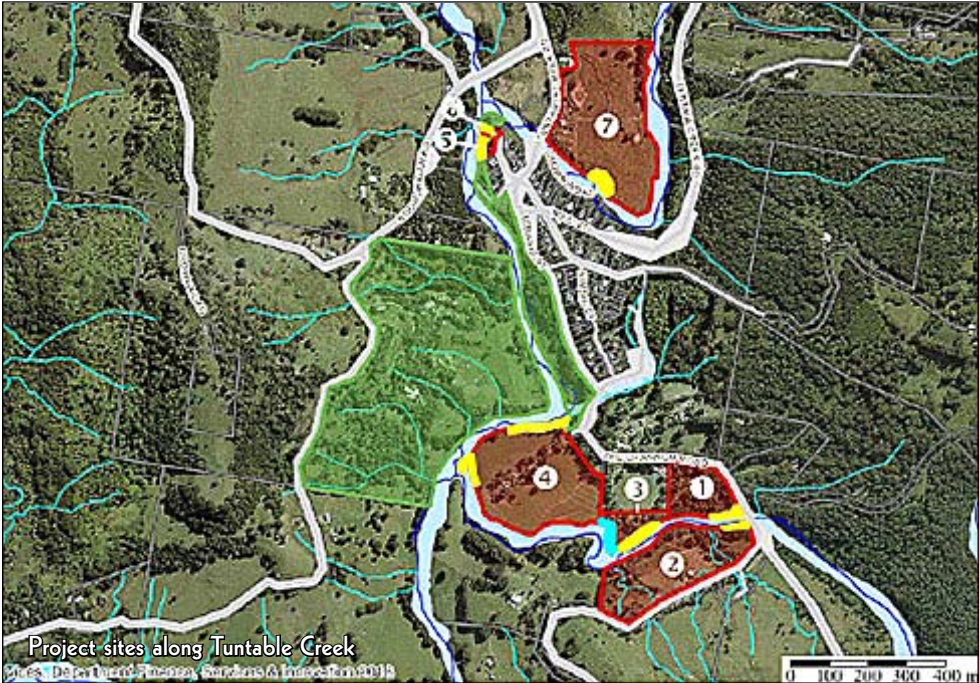
Bridge to Bridge project funded



Tuntable Creek Landcare Inc welcomes news that our funding application to the NSW Department of Primary Industries Recreational Fishing Trust's Habitat Action Grants for the 'Bridge to Bridge: Restoring Fish Habitat at The Channon' project has been successful.

Habitat Action Grants are funded from the Recreational Fishing Trusts, which direct funding generated by the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee towards on-ground actions that will improve fish habitat and recreational fishing. We are grateful to receive the maximum amount of \$40,000.

Working between the FC Ford Bridge over Terania Creek and the RJ Robertson



Bridge over Rocky Creek, situated either side of the village, this collaborative community project will restore fish habitat by rehabilitating riparian rainforest on an almost contiguous two km stretch of degraded creek bank.

The project brings together five private landholdings and two public land sites which have been strategically

selected to: capitalise and expand on previous investment (ie the planting behind Coronation Park); support currently engaged and activated landholders; assist building the capacity of new landholders; enable public awareness through educational workshops/ events; offer support and participation opportunities through being in a publicly

visible location; and restore key sites in the upper catchment, improving the river system at its headwaters with benefit to fish habitat for the entire down-stream system.

Planned works will aim to improve bank stability and riparian vegetation diversity and overall ecological health by removing weeds and planting local species.

They come, they spread, they take over

Weed Words
by Triny Roe

Welcome to Nimbin, valley of weeds. Make sure your rural dream doesn't turn into a nightmare.

The Northern Rivers region has high rainfall, a congenial subtropical climate, and everything grows bigger and faster than everywhere else, especially the exotic species.

These imported plants have often arrived without the constraints that moderate their activities on their home turf, such as an insect pest which predares the plant and reduces its viability.

Prickly pear, *Opuntia* spp. arrived in Australia in 1788 on the First Fleet, brought along to feed cochineal beetles so the military could have their fine red coats. Native to tropical America, prickly pear, being a cactus, loved being in Australia, especially the drier regions.

More prickly pear species were introduced during the 1800s. These were planted in farming regions to be used as stock feed during drought. By 1920 prickly pear covered 25 million hectares, an area about the size of the United Kingdom, and increasing its range by a million hectares each year.

Investigations were well under way into methods to control this happy cactus. Significant rewards were offered. Arsenic compounds were being used but as these



are extremely toxic, biological methods were considered.

A number of insects were trialled. A stem-boring moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum* was the saviour of the countryside, as the moth larvae quickly munched their way through the solid infestations that had caused many farms to be abandoned and country towns to become moribund. A couple of cochineal beetles *Dactylopius* spp. also helped in the fight.

Prickly pear is still around today and it requires removal as it is a prohibited species. However thanks to the squad of insects, it's not found in the density it was 100 years ago when it was wall-to-wall carpeting in some western shires.

Cats claw, *Dolichandra unguis-cati*, previously known as *Macfadyena unguis-cati*, is another exotic weed species with the ability to transform landscapes if not managed.

Introduced to Australia from Paraguay, by the 1950s it was recorded as naturalised, meaning it was popping up uninvited in multiple locations. Esteemed for its spectacular yellow tubular floral display, papery winged seeds helped it spread beyond the parks and gardens.

Floodwaters also distribute seed pods and plant material. It can regrow from stem pieces, as well as the rock-hard tubers which can be found up to a metre underground.

Despite the introduction of insect predators, this species is still spreading to new locations. A leaf-feeding beetle, a leaf-sucking tingid bug and a leaf-tying pyralid moth have shown promise in establishing in infestations along creek banks.

They are having some impact on the plants there where the microclimate is conducive to their survival, but the predators are yet to be introduced into every infestation. Human intervention is still required.

Occurrences of cat's claw can be found along riparian zones, bushland, roadsides and in paddocks around the Northern Rivers and other parts of NSW. It's also naturalised in South-east Queensland.

Cyclone Debbie, which caused unprecedented flooding in this region, will have deposited seeds and nuts from eroded creek banks in new areas far from the watercourse. Cats claw could pop up anywhere.

Easy to spot now while it's flowering, prompt action will prevent seed pods developing and compounding the problem. Cat's claw can also be recognised when it's not flowering by the three pronged claw-like tendrils.

Cut and paint stems with herbicide to effect a kill, though regular follow-up will be required as the underground tubers are robust and likely to re-shoot.

Or get weaving with the long flexible stems. Happy weeding.

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Bushwalkers enjoy good weather

by Peter Moyle

The bushwalking year is coming to an end and even with closures, lockdowns, vaccination issues and restrictions, a successful schedule of walks and camps has been maintained.

Throughout the year we have juggled schedules to suit members' locations and if there can be any good to come out of Covid, it has been we have all learnt to really appreciate our local environment.

As it is often said, "Why travel away when we have such special attractions on our doorstep?"

Our fabulous National Park walks and camping have been popular, and early bookings were needed to guarantee a spot. The gorgeous weather of late with the mid-week storms refreshing the forests and creeks has led to some stunning Sunday walks; Christies Creek, Terania Creek and Goonengerry being the standouts.

The club has had a record number of members and visitors on our walks this year and fortunately we have managed to accommodate all, splitting into two groups when needed. Next year we may have to adjust our registration process to keep numbers safe and manageable.

It is said we are more ramblers than hikers, as we always have time to stop and absorb the sights, sounds and atmosphere we encounter.

We will continue with news and updates over the summer as although we do not walk in December and January, some beach and river activities are being planned.

As usual, the *Nimbin GoodTimes* will have the details.

Plant of the month



Davidson plum *Davidsonia jerseyana*

by Richard Burer

While we have featured this symbolic plant in the past, I think it's time we revisit this iconic, attractive and in the natural environment, this rare plant.

At home in riverine and lowland subtropical rainforest, this rare and endangered spreading tree is not often seen in the wild, though locally some can be found naturally, but is planted on farms and in gardens to pretty much cult status!

Growing to about 15m tall, this plant fits easily anywhere in the home garden and in a nice frost-free, protected spot on the farm with rich volcanic soil.

A proud bush tucker plant of the First Peoples of Australia, this useful tree fits beautifully in that special place, and is also a useful tub plant.

Richard Burer is a Nimbin-based local natural area restoration contractor and consultant
richard.burer@gmail.com

by Kerry Hagan

We have decided to forgo the November Garden Club meeting as the rules for an outdoor gathering is limited to 30 double-vaccinated people.

We aren't prepared to open that particular can of worms and polarise our members, but the good news is that, as of 1st December, it's open for everyone.

The Garden Club Christmas party will be held on Saturday 11th December, from midday at 336 Stony Chute Road, Nimbin. Phone 6689-0514 for any enquires. Members are asked to bring a contribution to salad,



mains or dessert.

Non members and guests are very welcome, for a cost of \$10 a head, which includes a sumptuous feast and bubbly or red or white wine. We will hold a raffle for great prizes and finally, our AGM.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for a great afternoon and a long overdue reunion.

Gear up now for festival

Summerland Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival, to be held Saturday 15th January 2022 in Kyogle, has something for everybody.

It is now time for the home gardeners to busy themselves planting tomato, butternut pumpkin, round watermelon, zucchini and cucumber seeds for the heaviest or longest fruit competition.

Prizemoney in all categories has been substantially increased, and the number of opportunities for winning a prize has also increased.

This year's Senior Art prize: First Place \$500; Second Place \$250; Third Prize \$125.

Junior Art Prize: First Place \$150; Second Place \$75.00; Third Place \$50.

All entries must reflect this year's theme: 'On The Vine'

Crafters are encouraged to submit an item of textile art or soft furnishings inspired by pumpkins and watermelons reflecting this year's theme.

This is an Open competition: First Place



\$200; Second Place \$100; Third Place \$50. Entries must be submitted by 1st December.

Other competitions include Cooking, with recipes based around pumpkins or watermelons both savory or sweet, and garden produce. Sculptors can create a piece carved from a melon or pumpkin.

Details of these competitions and other activities can be found on the Summerland Pumpkin Facebook page.

So note the date. Guess the weight of the Giant Pumpkin, satisfy your gastronomical desires and enjoy all the delights Kyogle has to offer.



Walks programme

Walk, AGM and lunch at Rocky Creek Dam

Sunday 14th November

Leader: Sha East 0421-653-201

Grade 3: A two-hour walk through parts of "the Big Scrub" rainforest, starting from the picnic area at 9am. Comfortable footwear for bushwalking is required. After the meeting, the club will put on a BBQ lunch with a variety of choices and an array of salads. Bring your own chair and refreshments.

Meet: 9am at Rocky Creek Dam picnic area.

Illaroo campground in Yuraygar NP, on the coast from Grafton

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th November

Leader: Peter Moyle 0412-656-498

We will be walking at 9am on the Saturday and 8am on the Sunday, leaving from the campsite. Most are staying for two to three nights, but day walkers are welcome. For more info on walks and camping, ring Peter.

This nursery is growing fast

by Nerelle Draisma

At Nimbin Building Materials, Ralph Mack and I saw an opportunity to make something that already exists, better, by expanding their plants on offer into a nursery, now called Greenthumb Nursery.

The business model aims to be truly sustainable by sourcing plants from within the Caldera. This not only gives our local growers a go, but it also ensures that people are sourcing plants that are adapted to and perform well in this climate.

When it comes to sustainability, it's time to walk the talk by infusing these practices within our business.

Species selection is designed for people to get back to natives, restore rainforest and become more self-sufficient. By that I mean 40% natives (of that 1/2 endemic or local to the area); 40% food, which includes fruit trees, perennials, herbs and medicinals and eventually veggies; and 20% for your mental health, flowers and other exotics.

One of the most exciting aspects of the business model is the idea of 'micro growing'. This idea is about getting locals who are really into it, to essentially grow for the Nursery. We have opportunities to exchange or swap plants, get store credits or make some funds on the side.

We are also looking for creative types to make nesting boxes, up-cycled pot planters and other creative useful art for the garden. Old pots in good condition are welcome.

Come in and talk to me on Tuesdays and Thursdays about these exciting opportunities.

With so much of our Australian



Ruben Mack, Felix Mack and Nerelle Draisma



habitat under threat, we are committed to educating our customers in how best to create space for "healing country" and "walking proper way" (NAIDOC 2021 message from Wijabal/Wia-bal elders Cecil Roberts, Gilbert Laurie, Linda Phillips, Charles Harris and Oral Roberts).

Habitat creation for people and

our animal friends starts in our own backyards. For every exotic plant introduced into this country there is an alternative native.

Greenthumb Nursery is open six days a week 8am-4pm on weekdays and 8am-12 noon Saturday. Nursery advice is available on Tuesday and Thursday.

Let's get growing!

Towards the 2023 Nimbin Aquarius



by Benny Zable

Michael Balderstone reminded me of Nimbin being an outdoor hospital of many mentally traumatised folk. Some have been dropped off or sent here.

The Australian Union of Students group that organised the Nimbin Aquarius Festival invited Aboriginal and Islander people to participate, set up and share their culture.

Significantly, a welcome to country was performed for the first time in Australia by the local elders in this region for this student-organised shared event.

Beset by intergenerational trauma from theft, massacres and destruction of culture and country, following the festival, a curse was lifted from Nimbin, to see a movement back of First Nations families with deep time roots in Nimbin.

But Nimbin town itself is a trap. The centre of town is dominated by the Nimbin Hotel; a very large alcoholic beverage-selling outlet.

I have witnessed over the years the effects of alcohol on many friends, especially the mentally traumatised, who medicate themselves or have alcohol brought out in the street to share amongst each other. Also I have witnessed much under-aged drinking going on.



Nimbin Hotel seen from the war memorial and IMAGINE circle site. Photo: Benny Zable

There are a lot of disillusioned people out there witnessing, feeling and aware and concerned about the adverse effects on the streets here. Yet we owe it to future generations to exemplify, inspire and encourage lifestyles that care for oneself, each other and Mother Earth.

Yes, Nimbin has pioneered many creative alternatives in the healing arts and lifestyles.

Towards the Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary, IMAGINE if the Nimbin Hotel makes available only healthy organic local beverages and food, instead of this colonial alcoholic soul-destroying white man's poisonous culture driving this unhealthy situation here.

Better still, an Aboriginal-run alcohol and drug-free venue, similar to the Winsome Hotel in Lismore, where the disadvantaged and homeless are helped and empowered.

Here in Permaculture Nimbin, bush food menus and locally made bush food

drinks in such a setting would I believe greatly help reverse this destructive downward spiral on many levels, and create a ripple effect throughout the community here and abroad.

The Lismore Regional Gallery has agreed to work on an exhibition towards the 50th anniversary of Aquarius. A number of archival materials have surfaced, including the iconic Vernon Treweeke 1973 Aquarius four-poster set of farmer to hippy-like farmer.

If anyone would like to help us you can see me. You can usually find me at the park working repainting the IMAGINE circle.

Following the Armistice Day service on Thursday 11-11-11 at the Nimbin war memorial, there will be our usual debriefing session and culture of peace sharing around the IMAGINE circle.

"May the longtime sun shine on you, all love surround you and the pure light within you guide your way on..."

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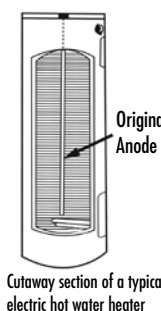
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