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Excellent Nimbin

The Summerland Credit Union Excellence Awards 2020/2021 were presented by John Williams (CEO) in August.

Nimbin Branch won Outstanding Branch of the year, and Jenny Le Neveu (manager) won the Values Award – People Matter Most.

Jenny said, “I am so proud of our little Nimbin Branch receiving these awards. The People Matter Most was awarded for connection and contribution in the Nimbin community.

“I wish to thank the Nimbin community for their ongoing support. We truly value their continued business and being the only bank in Nimbin, we rely on their business to stay open.”

Zac McDonald takes Nimbin to USA

by Marc LeBars

For many years I've had the pleasure of knowing the McDonald family from Blue Knob. I've watched the children as they came through Nimbin Central School and have grown into amazing adults.

Zac McDonald has always been interested in having wheels under him, from driving motorbikes and paddock-bashers on his family property, then to four-cylinder racing in the juniors at the Lismore Speedway track, then racing a 253 Holden V8 Amcar, then a six-cylinder Toyota Supra drift car, then building his own 1984 Corona modified with an SS Commodore V8 motor drift car, then a 350 Chevy dirt modified car running on methanol, and also the odd Demolition Derby cars from his dad's car pile.

His drifting skills even took him and some of his family to Japan to race.

From a young boy, Zac has always wanted to drive a V8 dirt modified car, after watching Stuart Herne from Lismore race. As he worked his way through his cars and divisions, he was finally able to get himself his dream car, and from that point raced in NSW and Queensland for a few years, earning himself the title “Mr Entertainer” from the race-callers. He even had a sponsor give him a midget car to race, with all



the money needed to keep the car on the track paid for, so Zac only had to come to the track and drive it, whenever a race was on. Some nights he was able to race both cars on the same night.

Zac always had dreams to work on, and his next was racing in America, so in April this year he travelled there to race. He bought himself a racing car with a less powerful motor than the Australian V8 Dirt Modified, but similar in appearance. He drives in the sportsman division over there, which is a smaller motor than what the Americans call Big Blocks.

He had been issued with the number 51 to race in Australia, and amazingly

he was able to get the same number in America, except it's 51A, A for Australia.

It's certainly been a challenging few months for Zac, getting his car set up with the right adjustments for racing, and racing different tracks a few times a week. Being away from his family and getting to know all about living in America has its challenges, but most importantly, Zac is having fun.

Since late last year, he has had his own YouTube channel called *ZacMac*, which shows all the things he does connected with having wheels under him and racing.

If you want to watch Zac fulfil his dreams, and watch some exciting motor racing in both Australia and America, subscribe to his channel, and don't forget to click the “Like” button and leave a comment. He needs all the help you can give him, being away from Australia and family and friends. He has some T-shirts and caps coming which say he is from Nimbin NSW Australia, a fact he is happy to advertise.

Some Sunday mornings, if he is racing on the Land of Legends racetrack, you can live-stream the racing in real time for free. The commentators in America are saying, “Here comes MacZac from across the pond, from Nimbin Australia. Go Aussie, Aussie, Aussie!”

Safe driving, Zac.

Speak up about health services and needs

Healthy North Coast wants to hear about your health and healthcare experiences, including accessing and using local health services.

Your voice matters and it can help identify what is working well, and importantly, where there may be service gaps or opportunities for further improvement.

The Speak Up health survey is your chance to contribute to our research and make a real difference to yourself, your family, and your community.

“We're asking local residents to tell us about their health and the health services where

they live,” Healthy North Coast CEO, Julie Sturgess said.

“The Speak Up survey is something we do every three years. The feedback we receive helps us to prioritise areas of need and deliver essential health services to the most vulnerable in our communities.”

The 2021 Speak Up survey remains open until 16th September. It will take around 15-20 minutes to answer the questions. All answers are anonymous and completely confidential.

Ms Sturgess said one of the outcomes of the 2018 survey

had been its highlighting of the difficulty of accessing mental health and alcohol and other drugs treatment services in parts of the North Coast.

This led to funding a new service, Connect to Wellbeing – a one-stop shop with a single phone number where people can connect with the support they need.

The 2018 survey findings also directly led to the funding of other new services and the expansion of existing programs.

Survey findings provided information and assisted in the development of resources for GPs to help support

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Name change for HEMP

by Michael Balderstone, president, Australian HEMP Party

The HEMP Party is gearing up for a rebirth.

The move to change our name from the Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP) Party to Legalise Cannabis Australia was begun by Legalise Cannabis Queensland who were keen to start a Federal party after the success in their State election.

No point having two parties, so it's a merger of sorts, and personally I like that it simply spells out exactly what we are about, no confusion possible.

Besides, hemp farming is once again legal across the country and the word marijuana grates on some tokens because it was created by the prohibitionists out of Mexican slang to disguise what they were doing when the plant was made

illegal. In the dead of night in a Vermont court, thousands of hemp farmers didn't realise their crops were suddenly outlawed.

And thus began the campaign to vilify the safest medicine on Earth, which is hard to argue against when no-one has ever died from using it in thousands of years of recorded use as a medicine.

The Legalise Cannabis movement meanwhile also got registered in WA just in time for their State election and had the extraordinary outcome of electing two senators, both healers, naturopath Sophia Moermond and Dr Brian Walker.

Currently the push is on to register in every state and anyone registered to vote can help make this happen by joining at: legalisecannabis.org.au

So changing HEMP's name brings it all together into one movement, and

plenty of people have been keen for the HEMP Party to get beyond Nimbin and all that it represents for a while.

The Party is already gearing up for the next federal election. Apart from running for the Senate in each state, we have Don Fuggle running against Hillson Scom in his own seat and we hope to target other critical or close seats where our small but powerful percentage can make a difference.

Seventy percent of HEMP Party members responding are in favour of the name change, and a new fire is burning. Rage at the injustice and continued unfairness.

We've called an early AGM for 11th September in Nimbin Town Hall at midday. If you're one of nearly 7000 members and you didn't get an email notifying you, it's likely because we need your email address.

Monash Uni study on cannabis components

Is all cannabis the same? How do its variations impact us? These are the questions that researchers from Monash University are trying to answer.

You may have seen their posters around town, heard them on the radio, or caught them in the flesh at one of the local markets earlier this year – the Cannabis Components Research Study team are leaving no stone unturned when it comes to doing the best possible research for the community.

"We know that cannabis is a hugely diverse plant. It has hundreds of chemical compounds, known as cannabinoids. And yet, we don't know much about how they affect us," said lead researcher Professor Murat Yücel.

Michael Balderstone, President of Nimbin HEMP Embassy, has played an important role in facilitating

community engagement between researchers and residents. Mr Balderstone first met Murat Yücel in 2014 while filming the SBS documentary *Living with the Enemy: Marijuana*.

From there, the cannabis components study was born. The Research Team visited Nimbin and the wider Northern Rivers region over several years to discuss the project with the community and look for answers. "We wanted to focus on the Northern Rivers region which is more diverse in its cannabinoid profiles than that which can be found in the big cities," said Yann Chye, research fellow on the project.

By using state-of-the-art high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC-UV), they hope to quantify the level of cannabinoids present in the cannabis that participants regularly smoke and see whether different

cannabinoids interact with participants' well-being.

Early data illustrates the breadth of cannabinoids present in cannabis. It is exactly this profile that highlights the importance of considering the diverse qualities of the cannabis plant, rather than minimising its variance in assuming that all cannabis is equal.

Despite Covid restrictions, the Melbourne-based study team has persisted in engaging with the community, using Zoom video call software to run all assessments.

"We were not about to abandon this incredible community when faced with Covid hurdles. For so many people, the effects of cannabis are life changing, for better or for worse. Hearing these stories and being able to link people's experiences with what they are consuming is really exciting and meaningful work," said Yann Chye.

The research team have now analysed 29 samples and interviewed over 30 participants, but they require significantly more participants yet.

They encourage community members from the Northern Rivers region – both cannabis consumers (who smoke cannabis 3+ days a week) and non-consumers, to participate in the study.

Participants complete three on-line interviews over a 5-month period and will be reimbursed for their time. Cannabis consumers are also asked to provide 3 x 0.5-gram samples of the cannabis they consume over the 5-month period. In return, they will receive a cannabinoid profile of each sample.

Go to: <http://brainpark.com/projects/cannabis-study> to register your interest, or contact the research team on 0414-202-371 or email: cannabis.study@monash.edu.au

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NAG meeting considers developments

by Gwen Trimble

The August quarterly meeting of the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) was conducted as an on-line meeting on 26th August, chaired by Councillor Neil Marks and attended by the Mayor, Vanessa Ekins and senior Council staff.

Despite the limitations of the on-line format, the meeting was very productive.

DA update

Council staff drew the NAG's attention to two DAs pertinent to our community.

An application for a Rural Tourist Facility comprising two cabins at 289 Crofton Road. A NAG member had already been aware of the DA and, after discussion with the proponent, reported she was satisfied that their development was of a sustainable nature, with plans to restore/replant the riparian zone and conserve the nearby creek.

The other was an application to install light poles for the Header's Soccer Club, for which the NAG had no questions and expressed no concerns.

Nimbin Draft DCP

NAG asked Council staff how it was planned to manage the Council's resolution, at their July meeting, to ensure future water demand in the village can be met, whilst ensuring adequate environmental flows downstream from the weir.

At present this issue has not been resolved. Council is assessing the viability of accessing bore water near the caravan park, are designing the new filtration plant, which once online, will save water being wasted due to pipe flushing at times of turbidity, considering an option to pipe supply from Rocky Creek Dam, but are currently not looking at a means to increase storage locally.

The planned presentation of the Nimbin Draft DCP by Council's Strategic Planning Coordinator, Paula Newman has been postponed and will now be an online zoom meeting on 9th September at 6pm. Anyone who hasn't already indicated they want to attend can still register at: chamber@nimbinaustralia.com.au

The deadline for submissions has been

extended until 1st October, with the draft DCP going back to Council for consideration at its November meeting.

Nimbin Tourism

Council staff advised the applications for the newly created Nimbin Tourism Destination Officer position closed on 2nd August. The applications have been assessed and a shortlist meeting will soon be scheduled with the Nimbin Chamber representatives followed by on-line interviews conducted as soon as possible after that.

Rainbow Road Walking Track

As reported in the July edition of the *GoodTimes*, State and Federal grant funding has made this project now possible. Council staff advised the NAG that they are currently working to complete the Federal funding agreement for the project, so that funds can be made available and the project commenced.

Furthermore, while it was initially understood that Lismore City Council would staff the Project Manager role, due to their commitment to an unusually large Capital Works Program, they now do not have the staff capacity to project manage the Rainbow Road Walking Track and will therefore seek an external appointment. Council is considering offering the task of Project Management to the Nimbin community.

We resolved to nominate a member to represent the NAG on the Walking Track Working Group and are pleased Stan Palmer has accepted the nomination.

Nimbin Pool

Council staff are currently working through the logistics of how and when the pool might open for the season, which would normally be at the end of September. Staff will meet with the Friends of the Pool and NNIC to discuss the way forward.

Council has allocated \$30,000 in their current budget for Nimbin Pool. It is intended to be used to employ a full-time Covid Attendant, who would be assisted by volunteers, to keep the pool open for the swimming season.

Friends of the Pool and the Nimbin

Community School have purchased two new bench seats, one to be installed at the pool and one in the children's playground, but require Council's assistance with their installation. Council staff have agreed to combine their planned upgrade to the pool carpark and Caravan Park entrance road with the installation of the two benches.

Proposed toilet block

Plans for the construction of a toilet block between the pool and the playground were forwarded to council staff for assessment on whether a DA would be required. It was determined a DA will not be required; however a Review of Environmental Factors would need to be undertaken.

After a satisfactory review had been received, construction could begin. Currently this project is unfunded. It was agreed that Council staff would advance the project by calculating the construction, maintenance and operational costings and subsequently the NAG and possibly other community groups would make submissions in support of Council funding for the project.

Section 94 funds (now 711s)

For some time, the NAG has been attempting to discover how much is held in Section 94 Funds for our region, and how access to those funds is obtained. The question was again posed at our meeting, but no clear answer received.

The program is overdue for a review and hopefully, when that is undertaken, we may have an opportunity to make submissions for local projects to be funded.

Dangerous dogs

If you have any concerns about dangerous dogs, you should call Council's Contact Centre to report the problem and rangers will investigate. If rangers see a dog attack, they can issue an infringement notice, if not they will rely on a witness's account.

You should provide your contact details and be prepared to attend Court for action to be taken. Council policy requires all dogs to be on a lead and not allowed to roam.

Buy Back campaign for Mingle Park

by Michael Balderstone

The Buy Back Nimbin movement is quietly rolling along, and you can join or just donate at Summerland Credit Union.

The Wednesday midday meetings on the old Museum site have been postponed because of the scary Covid balls, but will resume as soon as possible and there is a bit of discussion on-line.

The BBN Picnic and Gofundme Launch planned for 1st September has been delayed, but will be on soon.

Meanwhile, the pandemic is playing into our hands, we figure. Will life return to how it was? We doubt it and reckon a people's park, a gathering and meeting place in the centre of the village makes a lot of sense.

Become a lifetime member starting at \$50, or donate whatever you like. See: buybacknimbin.org



Our Town

by Len Martin

There's a great black scar
In the heart of town – our town

An ugly, open wound
In the heart of town – our town

But the wound will heal
The scar will fade – in our town

With loving re-creation
Of all that's gone before – in our town

For the Spirit of Aquarius is forever strong
In the living heart of our town

And while many mock and put us down
They've no idea how good it is to be

Part of the living heart of town
Our town – our Nimbin



Widjabul Wia-bal and the Dunoon Dam

The Channon Gorge, part of the country that local Widjabul Wia-bal are fighting to protect. Photo: Hugh Nicholson

by Nan Nicholson

Those supporting the proposed Dunoon Dam seem to be living back in a time-war of Terra Nullius. Amongst the 11,000 petition signatures and submissions in opposition to Rous' revised IWCM (the one that excludes a new dam) there is barely a single reference to the Traditional Owners. It is as if they never existed and still don't. Any mention of them is couched in a condescending manner that explains why they should accept destruction of their living heritage and sacred sites whilst being overjoyed about a new cultural centre that might be built for them at a site less inconvenient to the

whites. Isn't this the story of occupation over and over? How much clearer do our Indigenous citizens have to be that they do not accept this dam? When will they be listened to? Indigenous people have a lot to teach about relationship with the Land. Big "L" Land encompasses water, ground, rocks, plants, animals, people, ancestors, future beings, stars, relationships, kin, air, spirituality; in short, everything. Small "l" land is just landscape, a place for owning, using, selling, changing and maybe degrading or destroying if that seems useful or profitable. Uncle Mickey Ryan recently said, "We Aboriginal people have a

strong tradition of sharing, caring and welcoming." The trouble is that Aboriginal people have had to do all of it, especially the sharing. It is time for some acknowledgement by white folks that the people of an ancient culture still value the Land and have rights to protect it. It is time to stop the 'consult-then-ignore' routine that we have seen over and over in the past. It is time to do some sharing back. Fortunately, white law is changing to acknowledge deep spiritual connection as a valid reason to protect Land. This kind of social impact cannot be mitigated away. The Widjabul Wia-bal connection to the Land should be enough to stop this dam. It can and it will.

Development threatens nature reserve

by Andrew Nicholson

On the southern urban outskirts of Lismore City is Wilson Nature Reserve, a 27ha parcel of native vegetation – one of the six remaining remnants of the Big Scrub, of which only 1% is left. The Reserve is characterised by distinctive dry rainforest vegetation. It contains rare and threatened plant species, and is a significant habitat for native animals. The threatened marbled frogmouth can be found here, and koalas live in the buffering eucalypt forest. The small size of this Reserve makes it particularly vulnerable to erosion, weed invasion and human impact. A group of local residents is worried that housing development plans surrounding the Reserve will threaten the integrity of the creek catchment and forest, and fear that the plants and animals living in the Reserve will be completely isolated. Of immediate concern is a proposal to build 12 new houses on a vacant grazing paddock above the Reserve, which currently provides a wildlife corridor and fire buffer zone to existing houses on the ridge above, on



Concerned local resident Jane Gilmour at one of the Fig trees in Wilson Nature Reserve Photo: Clouddcatcher Media

City View Drive. Because the proposed development adjoins this high conservation value bushland, and is on steep country running down to Wilson Creek, the resident group believes it is inappropriate for housing. Of major concern are stormwater and waste water run-off issues, access, and the fire risk associated with the removal of the buffer zone. Important animal habitat trees and several mature hoop pines are earmarked for removal, and it is feared

that major earthworks and a planned access road will exacerbate existing erosion problems. The concerned residents group acknowledges that housing is in crisis in Lismore – particularly with social and affordable housing. However, they argue the proposal does not address these shortages, and due to the site being in a high value ecological area, is not suitable for a sub-division. As Lismore Council has applied a "stop the clock" order on the proposal (DA 21/253 - 37 City View Drive), and a determination will probably not be made until after the local government elections in early December. The Friends of Wilson Nature Reserve Group has set up a Facebook Page to share information (www.facebook.com/groups/807725193482751) and to allow prospective Councillors to provide their opinion about the development and their views on the importance of preserving Wilson Nature Reserve. Hopefully this will enable voters to make a more informed decision at the ballot box.

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

NNIC services are operating as usual, with additional Covid safety protocols in place to keep you safe. Masks are required for entry.

We are a bit short on volleys at the moment due to lockdown, so are sometimes forced to close at 2.30pm when we close the Centrelink agency. If in doubt, check our FaceBook page or just call us.

If you need NNIC services and support but you are EITHER: in isolation, OR feeling unwell, OR feeling nervous and wanting to maintain physical distancing, then you can call us on 6689-1692 and we can arrange a telephone appointment for you, so you do not have to come in personally.

Free Covid PPE gear available at NNIC

Packs of disposable masks, sanitising wipes plus hand sanitiser available free to Nimbin community members and community groups.

Pick up at NNIC 10am to 1pm weekdays. Courtesy of Lismore City Council.

Nimbin Show cancelled

Due to anticipated border closures, the Nimbin Show, planned for 25th and 26th September, has been cancelled, which means that Sustainability Alley is also cancelled.

We had a great line-up planned for this year, so we are all disappointed.

Family Fun Day – 16th October

We are hoping to run many of the activities planned for Sustainability Alley at a Family Fun Day we have planned for the 16th October. The venue will be Nimbin Central School.

The Day will promote disaster resilience for the

whole community, but with a focus on primary school aged children, as this was identified as a priority in the recently launched Nimbin Disaster Plan.

There will be plenty of fun and engaging activities for the kids with the aim of building their resilience to disasters such as bushfires, floods and storm events. There will even be showbags!

Fingers crossed, we will be out of lockdown by then. **SAVE THE DATE.**

Nimbin Disaster Plan

To see the plan, with a list of very useful phone numbers and links all in one place, check out the Nimbin Disaster page at: <http://nnic.org.au/pub/index.php/disasters>

You can also get a hard copy of the Plan at NNIC if you need one.

Dying to Know – Nimbin Death and Beyond

Thanks to Zenith and Mimi and to everyone who attended on the 21st August. We had to switch to a Zoom session instead of being face-to-face at the Town Hall, but it was still worthwhile.

Many apologies to those who were unable to attend because of the on-line format. We did not get it together to record the session, but never fear, there will be more happenings in the future.

Hopefully the next event will be the Day of the Dead planned for 6th November 2021. To get involved contact us at: admin@nnic.org.au

Centrelink Agency

NNIC is funded by Services Australia to operate the Nimbin Centrelink Agency.

As the staff are employees of the NNIC, and not Centrelink, and because they are from the local area, they have a special understanding

of the needs of Nimbin and district clients.

The Nimbin Agency is open Monday to Thursday from 10am to 2.30pm, and Fridays 10am-2pm to answer all your enquiries and assist with forms or on-line issues.

At the Agency you can access WiFi and 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. You can also lodge Medicare forms at the Agency.

So if you need some help or support, come on in!

Take Home Naloxone

This life-saving drug is available for free at the Neighbourhood Centre (also available at the NSP and the

Pharmacy, by appointment).

Naloxone 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.

www.nnic.org.au

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

Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre

Nimbin Seniors Social Centre – a Covid-safe space



The Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services is based at Bottlebrush Studio, in the grounds of the Nimbin Community Centre, and provides assistance for frail aged people and NDIS recipients in home and community.

All our support workers are qualified, experienced, police checked and insured. Phone us to find out more on 6689-1709.

Sadly, all our Seniors Social Groups, Bus Outings and Device Advice are on hold due to lockdown.

However, support workers are available during lockdown for one-to-one help and referrals to other services. Phone 6689-1709 or pop in Monday-Friday 10am-2pm.

We still provide:

- Meals on Wheels pick-up point
- Internet access for any urgent issues
- Help accessing MyAgedCare, HART Services, etc

Older Australians Covid-19 support line

A free phone service is available for older people and their families/carers on 1800-171-866.

This is a dedicated line to help provide Covid info, or for older people feeling lonely, available Monday-Friday, 8.30am to 6pm.

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 14th September. 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 16th September. 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 14th September. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 16th September.

Community Registered Nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1288 – leave a message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and Syringe Program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Registered Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

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





NIMBIN

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

CENTRE

by Scott Sledge, president

At times nothing seems normal, and the pandemic lockdown is one of those times. No meetings, no greeting friends and family.

Protests about restrictions seem larger and more contentious than “normal” protests. During this time of enforced abnormality, we can reflect on what it means to be human.

In a new normal, will we slow down and smell the roses? Will any roses be left after the climate changes?

Many are eager to resume their previous activities, but does that mean a resumption of fossil fuel burning? Or will we import electric vehicles?

Better still, we could make electric vehicles and other goods locally and save the costs of transport from overseas.

What can we learn?

Greenpeace recently called attention to National Honeybee Day (third Saturday in August in the US), warning that *all* bees are in urgent danger and that chemicals are a big part of the problem. The estimated decline in bee populations worldwide is more than 60%! Bees not only make honey, but also pollinate most of our food crops, so this is alarming news.

At the same time, large corporations continue to burn forests, spray chemicals, use unsustainable amounts of water, and harm bees and other animals that are critical to life as we know it, while the world's glaciers melt and steadily increasing catastrophic weather events affect our lives.

Some leaders are finally realising we need to slow down, use less, recycle, repair, and share with other life forms rather than destroy everything in a frenzy of rampant greed.

Congrats to NSW Minister for Energy and the Environment Matt Kean, who has had the courage to speak out for a sustainable future, while many others can't get their snouts out of the trough long enough to recognise the larger danger that lies behind the pandemic.

We will deal with Covid and most will survive, but will we survive climate change?

The future of public native forests

The North East Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) exempts logging in native forests from federal biodiversity law.

The Commonwealth and NSW signed the RFA in 2000, and renewed it in 2018 for another 20 years with five-year rolling extensions that could continue



indefinitely.

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) and the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) are challenging in Court the resulting destruction of forest ecosystems from Sydney to the Queensland border. NEFA president Dailan Pugh says, “NEFA will argue that when the Prime Minister executed the varied RFA, he did not have regard to assessments of key environmental matters as required by law.”

NEFA spokesperson Susie Russell says, “There was no assessment of the impact of climate change on the forests. This despite the Commonwealth having access to and publishing its own materials about the current science – science that warns about the effects climate change has already had on the Australian natural environment and what climate change might mean for our forest ecosystems in the future.”

Nature Conservation Council (NCC) Chief Executive Chris Gambian says the NEFA and EDO legal challenge is a possible turning point for the protection of native forests and koalas in NSW.

The NCC asserts that the state's native forests are in ecological decline from decades of unsustainable logging sanctioned by state and federal governments via the environmentally destructive RFA.

Mindful of the ongoing forest destruction, Fridays4Forests gather every week at a different Northern Rivers location to rally support. Recently, more than 20 activists met in Kyogle and went to inspect forest locations along the Richmond Ranges.

Huge biomass news

An Australian Parliamentary committee recently announced that forest biomass harvesting facilitates deforestation and is not a renewable, sustainable source of energy.

We need to keep pressure on decision-makers to help more and more of them see that burning biomass is more destructive to our climate than burning coal.

A new Biomass Action Group FB group will be supporting this effort, see: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1140329013160945>

Nightcap on Minjungbal

The Concept Plan for 392 land-share house sites plus a village near Kunghur in the Tweed Valley was rejected by the Northern Regional Planning Panel because such development is not permissible under the NSW Rural Development SEPP.

Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc. actively objected to the proposal and welcomed the decision of the Panel. The proposal included the property known as Bhula Bhula, a land-share development that was never approved and that wound up with investors claiming they had been deceived.

People are well advised not to invest in such schemes in the absence of planning approvals.

Rail travel

People in our area who want to bring back rail travel in some form are trying to stop Tweed Council from pulling up tracks from Crabbes Creek to Murwillumbah and replacing them with a cycling path.

If this happens, the public transport corridor could be cut up into long-term leases for commercial purposes.

Instead, the corridor could have both rail and a cycleway, as in many other parts of the world. This is the best option for our future transport needs. Plans exist to extend the light rail in Queensland to Coolangatta airport, then across the river to Tweed Heads. Our tracks could be connected from there to Condong, where they currently end.

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd has advised that the corridor may be saved and its use decided following the next Tweed Council election.

They note the absence of community consultation, and aim to take legal action to stop the demolition of the tracks. They've asked for public support and donations as they take the matter to court.

You can make a donation through PayPal or credit card at: www.northernriversrail.com.au or by direct deposit to their account at Summerland Credit Union BSB 728 728, A/C 22330962.

Contact the group at: admin@northernriversrail.com.au or by phone to Beth Shelley on 0423-030-346 or Lydia Kindred on 0422-007-0724, and on their Facebook Page, Northern Rivers Rail.

Nimbin Community Centre

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

Nimbin Village and the Community Centre have looked like a ghost town over the last month with lockdown restrictions clearing the streets and closing many businesses.

Unfortunately, many of the classes and activities held at the Dance Studio and B&B meeting room have had to be cancelled at the last minute, despite the co-operation from those tenants in managing social distancing, hygiene and contact tracing conditions as part of the NCC Covid safety plan.

At least we have had some glorious weather to enjoy at home while we deal with the situation.

NCC lockdown arrangements

Nimbin Community Centre is still at work, as are many of our tenants.

We may not be available at the office for face-to-face contact, but prior to the pandemic the Centre migrated its primary office systems onto Google Drive so the co-ordinator and book-keeper have been able to work remotely, answering emails, making bookings, paying staff and suppliers and producing invoices.

We also continue to monitor regularly the mail and phone messages and our grounds and maintenance staff are quietly doing the necessary work required to keep the grounds and buildings in order.

Tenants

We recently lost Anne Walker who ran the Healing Arts Space at the Community Centre.

The pandemic impacted heavily on the business, with Anne experiencing a loss of several of her older clients and practitioners who helped her pay for the space. After months of struggle, she finally made the decision to vacate.

We will miss her community contribution of her regular community healing days and her wonderful therapeutic skills, which she shared with the village since opening the Healing Arts Centre in 2015.



She has opened another therapy space in Lismore and would welcome enquiries from her Nimbin clients who have missed her.

Existing tenant Philippa Nilant, who was running her arts and crafts business Pixie Nut & Co, is moving

from her studio located behind the Market Stage in the Figtree Building and into the room A12 vacated by Anne Walker. We welcome Philippa into this space and hope she will enjoy the room as much as Anne did.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new tenant Kelly Heitman who is taking over Philippa's Studio for her own small business Dreadlocks Naturally and Dreadlock Shop Australia, supplying dreadlocks in her on-line business. We hope she enjoys being a tenant of the centre and wish her well in her enterprise.

Casual hire rates

After over a decade of having the same rates for hire for both of our casual hire spaces (\$11 per hour) the committee has decided that due to increasing costs we will have to impose a small increase in our hourly rates.

As of 1st September, our hourly rate will increase to by \$1 to \$12 per hour. We have tried to increase this rate as little as possible to ensure that activities and meetings that these spaces provide for the community can continue to be affordable to those who wish to use them.

11a Alternative Way (Aquarius Park)

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and the Community Centre are currently working with Council to get the Rainbow Road project up and running now.

In the meantime, we are looking at on-going maintenance and regen work for the park site, and the formation of a Landcare group.

We are currently developing the terms of reference for this Landcare group, and are seeking members from the community to join and contribute to this project.

Please contact the Community Centre at: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au if you are interested.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB
7 Sibley Street

September What's On!

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

Workshops

(start 10.30am)

- **Sat 11th: Tools Revival** – Learn how to maintain and restore hand tools.
- **Wed 15th & 29th: Spinning & textile weaving looms** – warping a loom
- **Sat 18th: Simple Shoemaking** – make vegan slippers or ugg boots, materials provided, \$20
- **Sat 26th: Community clothes swap** – at Nimbin markets, email for more info.
- **Tues 28th: Needle felting** – for sculpting

Regular events

- **Community Tools Library:** Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm.
- **Plant nursery:** Seedlings, cuttings, fruit and regen trees for sustainable gardens.
- **10-minute workshops:** Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or loom weaving!

and woollen knit repairs. Make a mushroom or bring along a favourite jumper in need of TLC.



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



FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

LOCALLY MINDED
0439333910