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Funding for Cullen Street upgrade

by Wil Polson, Nimbin Tourism Destination Officer, Lismore City Council

It gives me great delight to share the news that LCC Economic Development have been successful in securing a \$500k grant for Nimbin street and pedestrian upgrades.

The Nimbin Wayfinding Project will create formal pedestrian access to the Western Carpark via the existing laneway next to the Apothecary, provide beautification and seating upgrades for the Blister,



address traffic concerns around the pedestrian crossing, and develop a parklet outside of the Green Bank to encourage foot traffic

and provide community seating for the Farmers' Market.

Transport for NSW are partnering with Council in the delivery of what they have described as a 'showcase' project, and will work alongside Tina Irish, myself, and an appointed project manager to ensure that the project outcomes are stellar.

Community engagement will be part of the design process (within the limits of what is deliverable around roads and traffic management), so I hope that we can maximise this

opportunity for community to work alongside local and state government to deliver something fantastic for Nimbin.

I feel very fortunate that through my role with Council, lobbied for by NimCoC, I was able to pitch, advocate, and secure this project for Nimbin (with tremendous support from Tina).

It has taken many meetings with NSW State government to get it off the ground and I hope that it is indicative of great things to come for our wonderful village.

Fun activities for young people

The Nimbin Youth Festival, for 12-18 year olds, will be held on Saturday 13th August, 9am-10pm.

This will be a day filled with activities, entertainment, places to chill and just hang out with friends.

Workshops will be held all day in various venues around town, costing \$5 each, in Taiko drumming,



cooking, art, gaming, bushcraft, ping pong and

foosball. Bookings will be opening soon.

A dance party with live bands and DJ will be on in the Town Hall from 6pm. Lunch and dinner will be available for \$5.

A Nimbin Rocks for Teens event, the festival is proudly supported by the Northern Rivers Community Foundation Flood Relief Grant, the Nimbin Community Centre and our local businesses.

Headers club vandalised again

by Ruben Mack, President

We are saddened to report that yet again our club has been vandalised.

Our power box has been forced open, toilet cisterns smashed and our mower shed trashed. This is disappointing and distressing for our club.

The committee has been working behind the scenes to try and improve our club and upgrade facilities. In contrast to this, we have suffered from repeated vandalism and break-ins at our grounds, which is costing the club a lot of money and causing a lot of stress.

Some months ago, we had the canteen broken into vandalised and several items stolen, with thousands of dollars of repairs. It's not a great feeling for our canteen coordinator who goes by herself to the club to take receipt of deliveries.

The tennis courts, which fall under the umbrella of



Nimbin Headers Sports Club, also have been repeatedly broken into and vandalised.

It's not great for our committee who take time out of their workday to deal with these issues. Nor is it great for our club members who enjoy the use of these facilities. It doesn't reflect well on those who think it's ok to do this without consequence.

It is a real shame to see a volunteer run community organisation with the sole purpose being to serve

the community, being stolen from and vandalised by members of the very community in which it is serving.

The police have been notified.

Our committee is a passionate group of individuals who give their time to facilitate inclusion throughout our community by providing sporting activities. We hope to offer our community the opportunity to engage in a positive experience at our club, either through

participation in sport, helping out on the committee or other volunteer roles, or offering a valuable form of free entertainment to all the spectators that come and enjoy watching the games being played.

If you have any information about who may have been involved please notify the Headers.

Many thanks to our neighbours who keep an eye on the club. Many thanks to Rainbow Power Company who attended the club to do necessary repairs.

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Lismore Show is back on

The North Coast National Lismore Show Society president John Gibson has announced that the Show will return to the Lismore Showground in October after a COVID-enforced two-year break.

The popular three-day agricultural show will be held from Thursday, 20th October to Saturday, 22nd October.

"It's good to be back," Mr Gibson said. "The Lismore Show has always been a place for our whole community to come together and it will be again this year."

"At this stage we are still planning the Show so we will be announcing more details in coming months, but one thing for certain is that we will be back this year."

The Lismore Show was cancelled in 2020 and 2021



Photo: Clayton Lloyd

due to Covid restrictions, the first time it had been cancelled since World War II.

"Due to the ongoing effects of the natural disaster

that hit our community in February and now flooding

in other parts of the state and Queensland, we are unsure if all the agricultural displays and some other events will return to this Show."

"However, now more than ever we need to support our

farmers and agricultural community and provide a reprieve from the natural disaster."

"The Show Committee and I, are looking forward to welcoming the community back to the Showground."

I love working with our community to make a difference.

GETTING THINGS DONE

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But Nimbin Show

CANCELLED



The on-going wet weather, construction damage, and the failure of the drainage system have all contributed to the current conditions at the Nimbin Showgrounds.

by Dave Fawcner, secretary, Nimbin Agricultural and Industrial Society Inc.

The Nimbin Show Committee regrets to announce the cancellation of the 2022 Nimbin Show. This decision has been the subject of much discussion, and one we have not taken lightly.

At the Group One AGM held in Casino on 16th July, all FNC delegates indicated they would run limited programs at their shows this year. Reasons included condemned buildings, damaged surfaces, poor stock condition, and a bad growing season.

After consultation, it is our considered judgement that our main ring will be too dangerous for equestrian events. It's also likely that even if the weather allows contractors to complete the new stalls in the cattle ring in time for the Show, the surface will not have

recovered from damage done during construction.

The risk of injury to livestock being transported on local roads is high, especially for horses. The likelihood of these vehicles, along with those carrying sideshows etc, causing further damage to the road system, is a major consideration.

We closed the grounds to camping at the end of May because they were saturated. They were impossible to mow, vehicles were becoming bogged at regular intervals, and we were unable to provide a dry surface on which to pitch a tent. We needed to prevent further damage to the grounds.

A patch of fine weather in June enabled us to begin mowing again, but a storm that dropped 30mm overnight at the end of the month took us back to square one. The position at the moment

is that we would require at least two weeks of fine weather to begin mowing again.

We also have an issue with a section of the Cecil Street footpath which is blocking the natural drainage from our grounds. This problem is yet to be rectified by Lismore City Council.

These are the local issues, but there are others; a predicted return of La Nina in Spring (has she ever left?), uncertainty about a government response to a new Covid variant, several cases of Hendra virus in Queensland, and a Foot and Mouth outbreak in Bali.

In addition, certain actions by outside parties are likely to result in closer supervision of shows by Workcover and the Department of Primary Industry. This would further increase the work of our volunteers, many of whom are still struggling with their own recovery.

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Lismore Mayor’s position is untenable

by Sue Higginson, MLA

Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg has publicly called for his own Council to be sacked and replaced with an autocratic administrator following the catastrophic floods that struck Lismore in March of this year.

His calls for Council to be sacked come despite his council ticket winning a working majority at the NSW Local Government elections in December last year and are completely contrary to community expectations of elected representatives.

Our community has faced devastation on an unprecedented scale and we need a local leader who believes in our community, understands the systems of governance here and has a clear vision of our recovery, as complex as it is.

I was dismayed last night when I watched the 4 Corners program (11/07/22) on ABC and saw Mayor Krieg calling for his own Council to be sacked in favour of an autocratic administrator.

We have all experienced trauma from these floods and I recognise that the Mayor has suffered enormous loss but it is wildly inappropriate for an elected representative to walk away from democracy because he personally is unable to process and navigate the work that needs to be done through Council.

Council, as the democratic institution closest to our community, plays an essential role in our recovery, if Mayor Krieg can’t see that, which he has now publicly disclosed he can’t, we are in trouble,”

Lismore needs local leaders who understand the depth of the problem we face, which includes the science of climate change, and who are able to take the reins and gallop us through our recovery, our rebuild and our



View the 4 Corners program at: www.abc.net.au/4corners/washed-away/13968094
View the July Council meeting at: www.facebook.com/LismoreCityCouncil/videos/477261270891395

adaptation. Mayor Krieg was elected with a working majority before the catastrophic weather event that changed everything forever. It is fair enough that he is not able to cope with what he now faces.

However, the right thing to do is to step aside so that the councillors who are able to do the work and lead can get onto it.

Lismore Councillors Adam Guise and Vanessa Ekins have also expressed concern following Mayor Krieg’s statements last night.

Cr Adam Guise said, “I was shocked and appalled to hear Mayor Steve Krieg say we need an autocrat to deal with the current crisis.

“Krieg and his majority were elected on a change mandate and for him to abandon his community in a time of need is appalling.

“Krieg should step down from the role of Mayor and hand leadership to someone who is willing and capable of leading our community during these challenging times.

“I will be moving a motion of no confidence at tonight’s Council meeting calling on the mayor to resign,” Mr Guise said.

Cr Vanessa Ekins and former Mayor said, “It was obvious from the start that Lismore’s newly elected ‘independent’ Mayor was unprepared for the leadership role but to call for the sacking of the whole Council on national television cannot be the ‘change’ his team envisioned.

“At this time of environmental crisis Lismore needs strong representation and a clear way forward, which is planned retreat from the floodplain and master planned affordable housing.”

Concerns about GM and restructure roadmap

by a special correspondent

I have had concerns about the appointment of John Walker as Lismore Council’s General Manager, based on my knowledge of his past business and local government record.

When reviewing my documents after hearing our Mayor on *Four Corners* (11th July), I found a media release from the ABC Goldfields on Lismore’s current GM after he unveiled his restructure of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Council.

This media release was issued in March 2016, soon after John Walker commenced as General Manager and after he had axed the positions of the Directors of Corporate Services, Community Services, Development Services and Engineering Services and replaced them with a Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Does this sound familiar, Lismore?

Describing the changes as “repositioning” rather than cost cutting, John Walker said that in addition to the three jobs that had been made redundant, five or six more would probably go and that would save the Council

Item B:	Funding Agreement with Office of Local Government for Capacity and Capability Grant
	The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Office of Local Government division) is offering conditional funding to ensure Lismore City Council has the capacity to meet the challenges confronting the community to recover from the impact of recent flooding events.
	\$20,000,000 excluding GST, will be provided to support Council to undertake flood reconstruction, and to transform and rebuild the Council in line with the Morrison and Low roadmap.

around \$1 million a year.

After he left the Council, there were 71 vacancies on the Council that they were having difficulty filling, and the Council had to repay staff who had been underpaid over the previous five years to the tune of \$2 million.

An independent review sought by the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Council into the culture of the Council conducted focus group sessions, interviews and surveys and the findings were that “the information provided indicates that there have been on-going issues related to bullying, harassment and discrimination” and “the organisational culture is toxic and that the City is not a psychologically safe place to work.”

Yet he is now Lismore’s General Manager, appointed by the Steve Krieg team.

A comprehensive needs

analysis of Lismore Council conducted in May by Morrison and Low concluded: “A review of the organisation is required to better organise and equip Council management to deliver core business, organisational transformation and recovery.”

Its Sustainability Roadmap calls for the recruitment of “a strategic lead for recovery and restoration, reporting to the general manager.”

Funding for the position will come from a \$20 million recovery grant from the Office of Local Government, which will oversee the Council restructure.

Former Mayor Vanessa Ekins said, “There’s no fetter on administrative action, which means that the department, or the secretary or the minister, can take any sort of administrative action they like on us. I think this is a very dangerous funding

agreement.

“I see this as a form of control by the State government, by-passing us (Council) altogether.”

Cr Adam Guise said, “This is a worrying development where we’re being forced down a path, with a funding agreement which sets very precise terms, coupled to a roadmap which we’ve had no consultation with as councillors.”

Our Mayor said on *Four Corners* that the Council should be put into administration – something I would never have thought any mayor worth their salt would suggest.

With Lismore City Council being ostensibly prepared for being put into administration, it’s time for people in the Region to organise to oppose what would clearly have long-term negative impacts on our communities in this wonderful region.

40th Anniversary of Nightcap victory

by Sophia Hoeben

The major campaign to save all the forests you see around Nimbin, all 186,000 hectares, was saved by a dedicated group of people called Nightcap Action Group (NAG).

It is, and remains, the greatest environmental victory in Australian history. Terania Creek, and half of the Washpool and the Border ranges were saved along with the Nightcap.

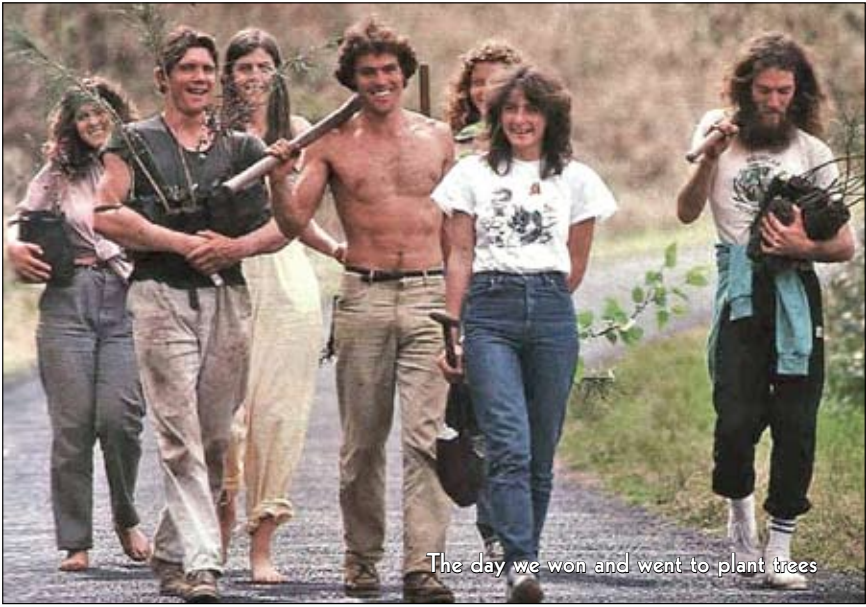
It was a brutal four muddy months in a camp on Mt Nardi, and we were arrested many times by police who ignored logging infringements by Forestry in the rainforest. They were clear-felling down to creeks, and marked trees for logging on more than a 40% slope.

However, after four months and complaining about the conditions, Rick Wright had his leg run over by a 4WD police vehicle as we laid on the road in front of the D9 bulldozers and logging trucks.

Premier Wran then decided to declare the Nightcap, and Terania saved, and an injunction was granted. A short while later it was declared a National Park.

NAG has reunited to stage a celebration of this all-important event on 22nd October at Nimbin Town Hall. The organisation is still on-going for this event, and we hope to make it great.

If you can help, phone me on 0428-685-698.



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Towards Aquarius 50th anniversary

After four years of being knocked back for a visa to enter the USA, it was finally approved during my recent visit to Melbourne.

I will be flying out from Brisbane to New York City on 29th August to first help Nathan and Shelli with their Woodstock Museum film festival (<https://woodstockmuseum.com>).

For all of you who are not aware, Nimbin and Woodstock have enjoyed a sister village relationship over the last 20 years. It was approved by both the Lismore City Council and the Woodstock Town Board.

Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton set up this arrangement, after they exhibited a Harsha Prabhu "Some Children of the Dream" exhibition at the Woodstock Museum art gallery. A representative from the Woodstock Town Board was present at the opening.

Inspired by the Nimbin Aquarius Rainbow Region exhibit, he put up a motion to the Woodstock Town Board for Nimbin to be a sister village with Woodstock. It was carried unanimously. The rest is his/her story.

Over the last 20 years, Nathan and Shelli have brought with them a recorded greeting from the Woodstock Town head supervisor, which were screened at the five-yearly Nimbin



by Benny Zable, president
Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc

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

Aquarius anniversaries. Nathan and Shelli also filmed us during their visits to Nimbin and the Rainbow Region, to produce a 7-part documentary titled *Woodstock Downunder*.

It is highly unlikely Nathan and Shelli will be coming over again next year. Part of my visit to Woodstock will be to discuss a possible representative to take their place. If anyone has connections to SBS or ABC television, it would be good to have their story serialised on TV or other platforms for next year's 50th. I would appreciate contacts sent to me to pass on and discuss with them while I am in Woodstock.

At last month's Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc (NAFI) meeting, a

number of projects were discussed. One was from Graeme Dunstan, who talked about an idea to produce a play based on the book *Rehearsals for the Apocalypse* by John Jiggins. Graeme is sourcing funds for it. Tor Davis would like to see other communities participate and is working on making contacts.

Lots of other ideas were shared, and many creative projects are being planned. Contact us if you would like to be involved.

The 1973 Aquarius Festival was about returning to and caring for the land. This is more important and relevant than ever now. We call out for younger generations to join and reinvigorate NAFI.

The next Nimbin Aquarius meeting is on Friday 19th August at 3.30pm in the NCCI Comskool.

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Incorporated (NAFI), acts as an umbrella organisation to facilitate Aquarius Festival anniversaries and has done so since the 20th anniversary in 1993. The Aquarius Foundation operates as an information, ideas and energies exchange network fostering the Spirit of Aquarius.

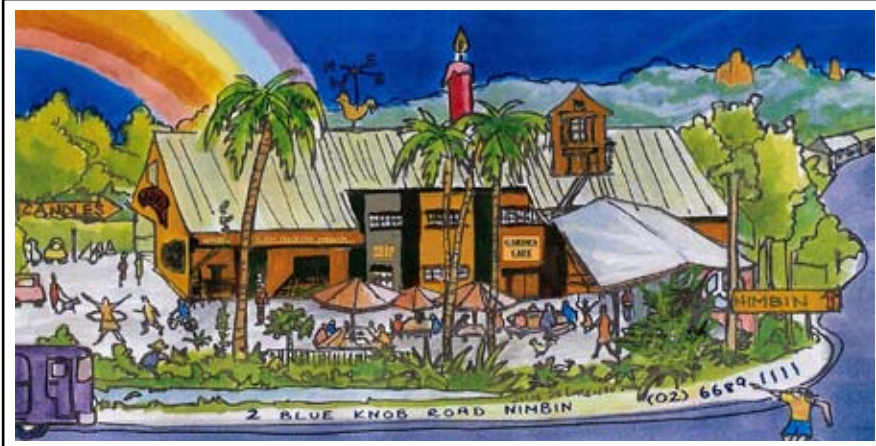
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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

New faces

In July we said farewell to Pete Hawkins who was lured away from the NNIC team by a new job opportunity he couldn't resist.

We welcome to the team Elke Tavra who will be in the Community Worker role for at least the next couple of months.

We also welcome to the team Laurel Grant who has taken on the role of Treasurer of our Management Committee and brings considerable financial management experience to the role.

Positions vacant

NNIC is currently recruiting two full time Recovery Support Case Managers plus a full time Recovery Support Program Manager.

Applications must address the Selection Criteria listed at the end of the respective Job Kits, available for download via our website: www.nmic.org.au

Applications close on 7th August.

Flood disaster help and information

NNIC continues to operate as the Recovery Assistance Centre for the Nimbin area. We are in the process of rolling out the Nimbin Recovery Support Service (RSS), which is funded by Resilience NSW.

We will be offering up to two years of disaster recovery support for impacted people in the Northern parts of the Lismore LGA including: Nimbin, Goolmangar, Jiggi, Georgica, Larnook, Cawongla, the Channon and Dunoon.

Plus in the Kyogle LGA: Cawongla, Wadeville, Barkers Vale and Lillian Rock; and in the Tweed LGA: Mt Burrell, Midginbil, Kunghur, Doon and Commissioners Creek.

People living or working around any of those areas are welcome to sign on with us at NNIC and we will assign a support worker to assist you through the complex journey of disaster recovery, including support with grant applications and administration, linking with

key services, suppliers and expert advice and housing support/solutions.

Similar RSS programs will be operating across the region including the Tweed, Murwillumbah, Tweed Coast, Kyogle, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Evans Head and the Richmond Valley, and people can sign up for support with whichever RSS you prefer and can most easily access etc.

All RSS programs will be offering outreach services and will be highly mobile, so if travelling to Nimbin is a challenge we can meet you halfway or closer to your home.

Given the impacts in our catchment area, NNIC will have a strong focus on landslip issues, impacts on homes, internal roads and infrastructure, plus we have a specialist understanding of Rural Land sharing Communities, aka MOs.

We will be following up with anyone who has registered with us to date to check how you are travelling and invite you to sign up for the RSS program. Anyone not on our register to date is most welcome to contact us via 6689-1692 or email us at: cw2@nmic.org.au to sign up. In the meantime, we can as usual help with lots of support and info: eg food support (including dog/cat food), hot meals, frozen meals, mental health support, assistance with mobile phones/devices, printing, copying, internet access and help with navigating the myriad of disaster relief payments and grants.

See our website for useful info, links and regular updates: www.nmic.org.au

Nimbin CDAT (Community Drug Action Team)

Two of our members attended the CDAT State Conference in June, and we were acknowledged for our innovative work in capturing

the Cannabis Forum in May utilising our wonderful graphic scribe, Michelle Walker.

One of us made it to Splendour in the Grass, and despite the mud and soggy was able to engage many young people in conversations about reducing the harms associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs.

We are now recruiting volunteers for our activities planned for MardiGrass, coming up in September. Contact: admin@nmic.org.au for details/info.

International Overdose Awareness Day: 31st August

In 2019 there were 1644 recorded deaths caused by accidental fatal overdoses in Australia. The highest-ranking substances causing accidental overdose are opioids (many of them being prescription medications) and benzo-diazepam (e.g. Valium), followed by stimulants (eg methylamphetamine) and anti-depressants.

Fatal overdoses have outnumbered the road toll since 2014 and are more common in rural and regional areas, among the middle aged and men. (Source: Penington Institute: www.penington.org.au/publications/australias-annual-overdose-report-2021)

All of these fatalities were preventable. ODs can be caused by mixing substances together against medical advice, accidentally taking too much of something or people switching or sharing their prescription medications not realising the dose may be significantly different between medications even where the same substance is involved.

Naloxone (aka Narcan) can prevent opioid deaths by temporality reversing the effects of an OD giving you time to get medical assistance and for an ambulance to arrive. Take home Naloxone is available for free from NNIC, Nimbin Pharmacy or the NSP next to the Hospital.

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

We assist frail aged people, NDIS participants and carers to stay living at home and connect socially.

All NACRS support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, Covid-Safe trained, insured and locally based.

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DEVICE ADVICE – Wednesdays 9.30am-1pm. Seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues.

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

- Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea, 10.30am-1pm. Tea/coffee, conversation, music and snacks, weekly \$5
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm at various rural cafes, self-funded plus donation to NACRS
- Wise Ones at Koonorigan Hall/Dunoon 4th Monday, 11.30am-1.30pm, bring a plate to share
- Bus Outings – 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Scenic drives, cafes for morning tea & lunch (you pay), bookings essential, fees apply.

Phone 6689-1709 or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, the rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre.

www.nacrs.com.au



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Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments, phone 6630-0400.

Women's health nurse services

Confidential service, checks, advice, general health information. Phone 6688-1400 for appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. 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 clinic

- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 18th August.

Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – 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.





by Triny Roe, Secretary

As Europe swelters in record heatwaves, London burns, and the Australian east coast is hit with more torrential flooding, we finally managed to gather on one of the few fine days in July to celebrate World Environment Day at Knox Park in Murwillumbah.

This event, organised by the Caldera Environment Centre, featured talks by eminent rainforest ecologist, Robert Kooyman, and Dr Willow Hallgren who spoke about the impact of climate change. The First Nations dance troupe 'Kids Caring for Country' opened the day.

There was music and circus, as well as stalls set up by local groups and small businesses from across the Northern Rivers. Native bees, frogs, koalas, electric cars, solar power, Landcare and much more were on show, reminding us how to live more gently on and in harmony with the earth. #OnlyOneEarth.

State of the environment

The 2021 State of the Environment Report has at last been published, and it's not looking good! Not surprising that Scotty delayed releasing it.

Land clearing, drought, pollution, mining and invasive species are taking their toll. Weeds now outnumber native species. The number of threatened species has increased by 8% since the last report. Australia is a leader in the developed world in the number of species lost.

Declines in the environment will be reflected in our health and living standards. Already we see a global pandemic and thousands homeless after floods and fires of the last few years.

Saving forests is climate action

Logging the last remaining native forests is not helping. It results in loss of habitat for wildlife, destabilisation of

slopes, increased landslides, erosion, and the introduction of weeds.

If we really want to save koalas and gliders, stop logging what is left of the forests.

This year the Nightcap Action Group celebrates the 40th anniversary of the fight to save the Mt Nardi forest. After the rainforests of Terania Creek were saved in 1979, the loggers came to Mt Nardi in 1982. Locals once again mounted a vigorous campaign, blockading the road to protect the rainforest and lobbying politicians.

In October 1982 the Nightcap and Border Ranges National Parks and several others were declared, saving these valuable forests for posterity. Put 22nd October in your diary for the celebration. Keep up-to-date on activities on the facebook page: Nightcap Action Group.

Coal mining

A new coal mine proposal doesn't need an environmental impact statement if its output is less than 2m tonnes per year.

While we are watching Adani and the Carmichael coal mine, in central Queensland, Vulcan South, Vitrinite's second 'small' mine proposal, will clear over 1000 hectares of koala habitat. Their nearby first mine, Vulcan, will only clear

200 hectares of koala habitat and that was approved in March.

These projects don't require an EIS as their respective output is 1.95m tonne/year.

Camp Waddananggu celebrates

Marking one year of cultural re-occupation of tribal lands in defiance of Adani/Bravus – Standing Our Ground.

Coedie McEvoy and traditional owners of Wangan and Jagalingou country in the Gallilee Basin invite supporters to join in a week of ceremonies, workshops, speakers and music from 22nd to 26th August.

More information is available on their web page: <https://standing-our-ground.org>

Nimbin Environment Centre

This is a grassroots community organisation that supports a range of environmental activities locally and across Australia.

From participating in local bush regeneration projects to taking on coal seam gas drillers, protesting logging in native forests, lobbying and raising awareness on a range of issues, our members are active on many levels.

NEC meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 5pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

Support for the Cultural Centre

I am writing on behalf of the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre and the Nimbin Community Centre to seek community sponsorship for the Cultural Centre.

The Waibal Aboriginal Cultural Centre is the only dedicated Indigenous cultural space in the Lismore LGA. This space, which has been in use as an indigenous cultural space since 2005 when Johnny Bayles first secured it, represents not only a space for Indigenous expression of culture and art it also represents the non-indigenous communities support and respect for our First nations people.

Nimbin's history for cultural engagement was born out of the 1973 Aquarius Festival where for the first time consent was sought by the non-indigenous community to hold the festival and the indigenous community responded by giving one of the first Welcome to Country ceremonies held for a non-indigenous community.

The space has been supported by the Community Centre since that time through improvements to the infrastructure (kitchen, toilet, landscaping, gardens); the auspicing of grant projects (arts, youth, NAIDOC, mural, language); and with our continued support of the various leases with the Indigenous community representatives in that time.

Support for the Cultural Centre remains a cornerstone of our Reconciliation Action Plan.

Due to Covid and the disruptions created by the disaster, the cultural centre has been very quiet over the last couple of years. However, with the support of the Creative Koorie-Waibal Art grant to renovate and landscape the front entrance, improve disability access and set up the interior as a proper gallery space, we hope to have a grand re-opening in December.

Oral Roberts, Daniel (Boon) Wilson and a number of Indigenous artists have been working hard getting the interior space ready and works of art completed for this re-opening and have painted and installed a brand new entry sign. They plan to have it open regularly

after the opening, so people can come in and purchase local indigenous artists' work.

Unfortunately, the Cultural Centre is still struggling to afford the monthly rent on the room and the quarterly electricity bills. The Indigenous artists who are working out of the space and the local indigenous community can't afford to cover these on-going costs.

The Community Centre can't afford to cover this deficit due to rising costs and our own limited income. We depend entirely on rent to run the community centre and we are running a deficit budget this year. That is why we are seeking further sponsorship from within the Nimbin Community.

We have a number of individuals and community groups contributing to the monthly rent, but still have a shortfall of just under \$400 per month. If you are able to contribute even a small amount as a regular monthly to the cultural centre it would be greatly appreciated.

You can make a deposit or set up a monthly direct debit into the following account: BSB: 728 728, Account: 22269889, Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Birth & Beyond room renovations

The NCCI committee has decided to do some renovations to improve the storage capacity in the B&B room.

This was decided because concerns were raised about the safe storage of the expensive media equipment in the B&B cupboard and the realisation that the storage available was not adequate for NCCI or the room user's needs.

This work began with the removal of the big wooden cupboard against the wall. This has been relocated to the Hemp Embassy where it will be used for storage.

Extensive storage/seating is to be provided along the wall to allow safe storage of yoga equipment etc The cupboard will no longer be available for storage and the stairs will be removed as part of the renovation for safety.

Suggestions regarding storage design are most welcome. but be quick to input as the work will begin soon. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Contact the Nimbin Community Centre on 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au



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Workshops (start 10.30am)

Don't miss this month's special full-day classes!

- Sat 13th, 9am-3pm: Make your own felt hat** – presented by Courtney Creations. Full-day workshop includes lunch and all materials. \$100 bookings essential.
- Sat 20th: Learn to make a cob rocket stove** – using low-cost materials. Full day workshop held off-site, BYO lunch, \$50, bookings essential.
- Sat 27th, 12.30-3.30pm: Introduction to leather tanning** – by Backyard Buckskin,

exploring traditional and natural techniques. \$85, bookings essential.

Regular events

- Knitting group:** every 3rd Tuesday (16th).
- Spinning and Weaving:** every 2nd Wednesday (10th and 24th).
- Community Tools Library:** Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm.
- 10-minute workshops:** Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or loom weaving.



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A letter to all Aboriginal mobs

I greet you in the hope that you are healthy in mind, body, and that your soul may be renewed. I write in hope that I may convey to you, the respect I have for your people, and your land.

I acknowledge the pain your ancestors experienced under white man's law. I recognise the trauma all mobs of this land have gone through. I understand that there are many layers to the pain your tribes have experienced in the years since 'colonisation', continuing to this day.

Words that need to be said are not heard. Instead of listening white men have minimised all of that you have suffered and shift the blame back to past generations and cry 'we had nothing to do with it.'

My grandfather's family is of convict stock. My grandmother's family are from the 'red coat army' that brought so much pain to your people. I know my ancestors were involved in the suffering of your ancestors.

I struggle in knowing I cannot go back in time and stop the massacres, the brutality, the betrayal of humanity.

All I can do is try and show you with my actions that I care. That I want to help.

As a writer, I only have my words, but with them I acknowledge the truth, it did happen. I will provide an ear to listen when you need it. I will respect your culture by not interfering in things I don't understand. I will support your experience and hope my writings help you.

I will stand here and fight against history repeating itself.

Vivika Fry
Lismore

Starship Earth is on fire

When Carl Sagan asked NASA to point the satellite camera earthwards, we saw for the first time how our planet hung like a tear drop in the blackness of space, whose radius is 14 billion light years.

Fire at sea is a dire calamity, but fire aboard a submarine or space station is much worse.

Unprecedented temperatures and fires in Europe, Canada and the US warn us that our starship Earth is on fire and there is no escape, unless we combat climate change or wait for nuclear war to bestow a global winter upon us all.

Gareth W R Smith
Byron Bay

Breathing

I would like to suggest that all Australian native trees and shrubs should be totally chopped down and removed

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin Good Times.

from Australia, and the native animals killed and their skins preserved for humans to wear.

The sooner we do this the better so humans can work out an alternative method of breathing.

At present their demise is slow but steady, so our Sports teams such as the Koalas and Wallabies will have to give themselves other names – perhaps named after our current politicians for whom your readers can suggest names.

Anne Sutherland
Robina

Bad news

With my first coffee of the day I open my laptop and flip through the major news outlets, and I find everything is bad. It's a normal Monday morning.

Bad news is 'The News'. Good news is irrelevant so it's not headlined. This morning, as usual, power politics and war outgun peace and the well-being of people.

This morning's news focuses on the war in Ukraine, the West's animosity towards China, and the antics of Boris the Clown in the UK. Oh, yes, and tennis.

Meanwhile 10% of the world's population is affected by hunger: the UN warns of food insecurity and starvation as all the while conflict, climate extremes, and an atrocious economic portent is threatening.

Oh what a world! Some mornings, desperately, I want to get off it. But my morning coffee is delicious and the sun is shining and I'm well fed. I read on.

It's fascinating, all six news sites slant toward the belief we democracies are the goodies and China and Russia are the baddies. The Good, The Bad, The Ugly: it's all a bit Hollywood. I want to check it out, so I go to Wiki.

The wealth and exceptionalism of the USA make it democracy's world leader. Yet I wonder, is the USA really a goody, and subsequently are we? Wiki tells me the list of wars involving the United States of America reaches 102; the list of wars involving The Peoples Republic of China is 6.

I'm confused. I ponder which nations will most threaten peace on earth? It



can't possibly be us... can it? I wonder how do 850 million starving people judge us?

Michael Brooke
Kyogle

Overpopulation and climate justice

Every so often, especially in times of crises, you stumble upon people who drag out the discredited misanthropic and erroneous Malthusian notion of over-population of humans on the planet. Azan Mann (NGT July 2022 Letters) exemplifies this position.

It is easy to finger-point at others, by implying we are all guilty, as if all humans were a virulent disease, but of course you are not the one who is responsible for these calamities, it's others, not us.

Paul Ehrlich's book *The Population Bomb* 1968, became a best seller, forecasting dire consequences should humanity, especially in underdeveloped poor nations, continued to populate: mass famine, starvation, resource depletion and ecological destruction.

Regrettably some today, the political conservatives, lack serious analysis to recognise, let alone agree that other more salient factors are directly responsible for the crises besetting humanity and the planet.

If one were to accept these "populationist" assertions, we are all responsible, without understanding or acknowledging that humanity is not the villain, but social, economic and political structures.

Unfettered economic growth, a vital requisite for free-market capitalism's survival, needs to be understood in this context, where through sophisticated marketing and advertising by the few rich and powerful over many, many decades, people have been shaped into the consumers the system needs for continued economic growth.

It's worth noting that according to the Oxfam report, the 26 richest billionaires own as many assets as 3.8 billion people, comprising the poorest half of the global population. In line with this, it's a fact that the global poor disproportionately suffer from the impacts of global warming and climate change.

Consider the US military is right up there as a global greenhouse CO2 emitter, as it enforces under the pretext of "freedom" and continues to ensure that US corporations continue to expand across the globe in the quest for greater profits. History is littered with examples of many covert "regime changes" by the USA.

It also bears noting that deforestation is a major driver of global warming and climate change, displacing many indigenous peoples from their traditional lands and cultures. This is being done in the insatiable drive by the economic rich and powerful and their political allies under the guise of economic development, which only benefits the few, and immiserates the remainder.

Greta Thunberg as a global climate change student activist recognises that humanity needs a political system change, as political leaders across the globe continue to procrastinate and dither in acting decisively to halt the planet's trajectory to a world that will exceed 1.5 C degrees.

Finding political agency by ordinary people remains fundamental to solving these crises, and to believe our current political and economic institutions can, is foolhardy and dangerous.

We need to talk about a new way of living and doing politics, which places the natural living world and people at the centre, not the privileged powerful few.

Boyd Kellner
Newrybar

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NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 26th August

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

Notices

Free notices

Keep it short and of interest to our readers, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it here for free.

Grifters and rorters

While the North Coast community is traumatised and distracted by the fight for survival after losing everything in the worst disaster in local history, local politicians are busy spending eye-watering amounts of taxpayers' money destroying the valuable Casino to Murwillumbah (C-M) rail line, worth billions, to replace it with a bike track.

Destroying the line from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek is costing another \$14.4m. For around the same cost, trains could be running on this line, as locals have been calling for.

Talk about kicking people while they're down.

For many years, thousands of locals have been turning out to meetings and rallies, signing petitions and talking to politicians about the need for regular commuter train services on the C-M line for locals and millions of tourists.

They know such a service is not only important socially, environmentally and economically, but would greatly reduce traffic gridlock and carbon emissions from millions of filthy, gas-guzzling vehicles locally, reducing the frequency and severity of the climate disasters we face. The bike

track could be built cheaper alongside the train line.

Locals also know that spending \$16.4m destroying the best section of train line from Casino to Lismore, which needed little spent on it to run trains, is a wicked waste of taxpayers' money.

Another \$14.4m has been spent destroying the Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek section of line for a bike track. It would have been cheaper to get the trains running, not only for public transport benefits, but traffic reduction will also save taxpayers' money on roadworks.

While politicians are busy wasting money destroying the valuable train line, little of the emergency housing they promised for people who have lost everything and are living in tents and wrecked homes in rain and freezing cold has been provided.

But few people are surprised by the behaviour of these politicians. The editorial in *The Saturday Paper* (16th July) describes the former NSW Deputy Premier Barilaro scandal: "...when accused of pork barrelling, he says: yes, of course, that's how we get elected."

The article goes on: "*Barilaro is a straight-*

RIP Pauline Sheldon



Long time Barkers Vale resident Pauline Shedden passed away on 30th June, 2022 at her home with all her family.

Pauline's life was one continual celebration of life itself both inside and out; beauty that will be greatly missed.

What an amazing journey.

Love from Norman, Arabella, Jake, Emma, Jimi and her extended family

Letters

forward grifter. He knows what politics is. He knows his life has been built on the everyday venality of a system structured to reward ad infinitum every kind of seat-warming huckster.

"If the system resembles anything it is the milking shed of a factory farm, all sucking hydraulics and dead-eyed creatures caked in their own faeces."

There's more cheery analysis: "politics in this country is not a calling, but a period to be endured in exchange for a pension and the chance of a plum job. There are exceptions, but too few too mention here..."

This rot goes all the way through. The last Labor government to hold power in NSW boasts more ministers in prison than it does ornaments to the cause. On both sides, at all levels, people walk straight from office into lobbying firms... All this is by agreement. It is mutually assured corruption."

It's no surprise that unprecedented numbers of people are voting for decent independents over political party hacks.

The people behaving in the manner described in the above article, are the same people we rely on to provide, and adequately fund, the infrastructure and services we need, and the help needed in times of increasingly devastating climate change disasters.

We expect them to honour promises made to, and accepted in good faith, by our communities, not tell us they can't fund the services our community needs. We pay them well to do so.

We do not pay them to waste eye-watering amounts of taxpayers' money on rorts and pork barreling, or destroying valuable public infrastructure. They're so busy grafting and rorting, they're unable to provide emergency help for this devastated community in a timely manner.

The way local people have been treated is heartless and appalling. Anyone attempting to restore trust and integrity to this grubby political system will have their work cut out.

Louise Doran
Ocean Shores

What does war give?

On a forum I read: "The world cannot move forward if it is too peaceful, and kinda 'dull' and 'boring'. Humanity's greed is the cause to make the human life better. War eventually pushes the entire of humanity forward."

If this were true; I ask, what about the arts? The human response of wanting to show beauty and music to let others experience what they cannot see or hear. What about the beautiful clothes we wear? To show ourselves and others that a bad day won't push us down?

What about all the different hand crafts that exist across cultures? They show the ingenuity of the human mind too express what is needed and create it by hand with what's on hand.

What about poetry? That pure expression of the soul, pains of the heart, or the beauty that comes from an everyday life. What about the food cultures of the world? They are unique to their regions yet the tastes cross counties and cultures.

Where or when does war create a wonderful listening experience? In war, all you hear is violence. When does war make one feel like wearing lovely clothes? War makes you feel unsafe, unable to show others who you really are.

When does war create something lovely to gaze on? In war, all that is left behind is broken buildings, broken people, with broken hearts.

When does war allow people to taste all kinds of foods, foods that make us feel like royalty, lovely meals that make someone long for home-made chicken soup?

Greed has nothing to give. War and greed only steal. They take and make others suffer. So in war, only the greedy have a great life.

Vivika Fry
Lismore

Peace based on transparency, trust and trade

Mankind has long dreamt of a peaceful civilisation featuring well-being for all, while searching history for answers.

But we can't find the essential solutions in a historical world that was not yet ready for them.

We need to understand and accept that it requires the interdependent attributes of transparency and trust, plus two essential economic innovations.

The first of the latter was the establishment of the EU for mutual trade benefits. This elevated trust levels to the extent of creating peace between all members.

The second will be to radically revise concepts of currency, interest and the 'capital' at the heart of Capitalism.

Ukraine is a terrible example of seeking answers in history. Where are the spotlights exposing connections between susceptible leaders and coercive money?

History is filled with nation states exploiting rivals by economic and military means, at the behest of corporate interests, treating ordinary people and minorities as expendable.

The evolution of the EU is still far from complete. Every nation needs to find a home in a continental economic union.

A stable world can result from five such unions, providing protection from rogue nations, and no place to hide for globalist corporations with dangerous notions.

The USA has been a colossus striding the world since WWII. China now strives to become top rogue nation. Continental unions afford economic stability and a home for both of them, while protecting all. UN bodies are out of date, inequitable and manipulated.

Economic innovations can't possibly work without absolute transparency. Trust requires transparency. And transparency requires abundant trust.

Our great election result is just a first step.

We have again delivered most of our representatives into the hands of party factions for three years. Effective corporate lobbying or bribery budgets from the fossil fuel, mining, health, weapons and infrastructure sectors, have again delivered for shareholders.

In a renovated Capitalism, budget spending can focus solely on the people, since corporate handouts will no longer be needed.

But we are very close to achieving continuous control of government between elections from the local level, where it belongs.

The majority of women are stressed beyond measure by work and family roles, their loved ones divided by leanings towards red and blue parties. But party ideologies merely cover for what they really do.

Mainstream independent representatives may be described as purple. Polling can reveal which of these ideals best meet the needs and aspirations of their communities.

The Teals and Brisbane Greens demonstrated this path to continuous dialogue and direct community input into law making and reform.

Let's maintain the momentum via upcoming state elections right now.

It's not difficult to raise intelligence and compassion levels from a low base. Focus on women from diverse backgrounds until 50 % gender balance is achieved.

Only this pathway can achieve the transparency and trust the system so doggedly resists. In the process we save Corporate Capitalism from self-destruction, and solve economic gridlocks.

Obscene profits being reaped by giant corporations from weaponry and vaccines even now, emphasise the urgency of exposing their links to our governments.

Assange had the vision and courage to shine a light.

Much more needs to be revealed about corporate infiltration of the Pentagon, regulatory bodies, and international organisations since WWII.

Initial steps into a peaceful new future are ours to choose with the power of the vote, leaving history behind us.

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby,

Correction

In last month's edition, the gremlins got into our article about the Nightcap Action Group's 40th anniversary.

Not only was the headline incorrect, so was the photo, and more seriously the details of the co-ordinator, who is in her 70s, not her 80s.

Apologies to Sophia Hoebe, whose follow-up article is on page 5 this month.

— Ed



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