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# Nimbin's outstanding HSC results

by Cath Marshall, Principal

The HSC class of 2021 finally received their results this week, a month later than usual due to the delayed HSC examination timetable, with outstanding results from the students at Nimbin Central School.

Despite two years of disruptions to learning amidst constant lockdowns and uncertainty, the dedication, commitment and hard work from the teachers and students of this cohort has paid off.

The outstanding results from Nimbin Central School include six students being recognised on the 'Distinguished Achievers' list and nine Band 6's overall (students achieving marks in the top 10% of the state).

90% of the Physics class and



The Class of 2021

100% of the Extension 1 and 2 English classes achieved in the top two bands.

School Dux, Kiani Tribolet, who received three Band 6 and one Band 5 result and an overall ATAR of 94 summed up the general feeling of this

cohort: "I'm just relieved all the hard work has paid off. It was really hard, but it feels good now."

Kiani plans on studying at university to be a Visual Arts/ Maths teacher.

Nimbin Central School is

immensely proud of all our HSC students, persevering and achieving their HSC despite the challenges of a global pandemic.

I know the entire Nimbin community joins us in congratulating them.

## 2022 MardiGrass planning underway

by Michael Balderstone,  
President Nimbin HEMP  
Embassy

MardiGrass is 30 years old this year, on the weekend of 29th, 30th April and 1st May, and how it has changed over those three decades.

There were only a couple of cops for the first few protest weekends, and the village got well and truly smoked out. I remember someone with a blanket on the footpath outside the Rainbow Cafe selling individual buds with little price tags on them. Long-gone freedoms.

Now the street is live to the new cop shop on high definition cameras, there's about ten cops stationed in the village, and the Rainbow Cafe has burnt down.

As for the laws changing, back then we were a joke with our claims that pot was good medicine. Not anymore, but nothing has changed for most of us in that we are as criminal as ever, cannot grow a single plant for ourselves, and worst of all cannot drive without risk of losing our licence. WTF? Who's running this show?

So there's plenty of passion for the 30th MardiGrass, and the MOB (MardiGrass Organising Body) meetings have started, Fridays from 4.20 in the HEMP Bar. We're looking for some special



MardiGrass 2020 parade. Photo: Garry Mimlich

events to celebrate the 30th, and there are plans for a showing of photos and movies from the 30 years. Even a book.

If you have some you would like included please get in touch at: [nimbinmardigrass@hempembassy.net](mailto:nimbinmardigrass@hempembassy.net) We are especially seeking pre-digital photos from the '90's.

There are also plans for a MardiGrass Marijuana Music Award, with a time limit of four minutes and 20 seconds for your song and a chance to sing it on the main stage at the Sunday Rally, as well as a great prize in a one-ounce bag.

There's a similar prize for the best busker, and we'll be handing out tokes for you to decide the winner.

Otherwise all the usual events are on, with even more comedy by the look of it. HEMP Olympix training has begun for some, that's the Joint Rolling contests, the Bong Throw and Yell, and Growers Iron Person Event. The latter was controversially cancelled last year due to dangerous conditions, causing a minor furore. Hopefully that will never happen again.

Pot Art, Pot Poetry and Nyarndi Yarns are in the program, all open to everyone of course, as well as speakers on all things weed.

As usual we're looking for good local volunteers to join in, help, and have a good time over the weekend, or helping the set-up the week or two before. Leave your contact

details at the Hemp Embassy shop or phone 6689-1842 or email: [mardigrass.vols@gmail.com](mailto:mardigrass.vols@gmail.com)

We are also looking for drug-free drivers to join the Ubud and Doober crews. This is critical and if you can help out, please email: [nimbinmardigrass@hempembassy.net](mailto:nimbinmardigrass@hempembassy.net) or make contact on the Nimbin MardiGrass Rideshare Facebook group.

And remember the MardiGrass weekend is a great chance to show off our extraordinary local culture beyond weed, so do contact us with any creative ideas or if you would like to have a stall. Stall applications can be found via: <https://nimbinmardigrass.com/markets/>

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# Successful Summer Art Exhibition

by David Hallett

Following the disappointment of both the Nimbin Art Fair and Spring Arts Exhibition being cancelled in 2021, it was especially pleasing to have managed such a successful Summer Art Exhibition at the School of Arts.

Held for only the second time during the busy early January holidays, the exhibition attracted hundreds of visitors, and while the Queensland border was closed during this period, the on-going wet weather saw many coastal holiday makers visiting Nimbin.

Seventy artists were involved in the School of Arts exhibition, together with all the artists engaged in the adjoining Nimbin Artists Gallery, and the exhibition was especially significant in



showcasing a major cultural event for both locals and visitors.

The next major exhibition at the School of Arts will be the Artist Gallery's Nimbin

'The Butheram' by Oral Laurie Art Fair, opening 9th April.



## Supporting Assange

A small but determined band turned out on Australia Day morning in Byron Bay to support incarcerated Australian citizen Julian Assange in the fight for his release and if he chooses, for him to be allowed home to Australia.

Despite Byron not being so busy, there were some passers-by and the stall was visible to passing traffic. Some did stop to talk and sign the petition to Justine Elliot, the beginning of making the freeing of Julian Assange an election issue.

## Less gas, more ass

The World Naked Bike Ride is on us again, on Saturday 12th March this year.

Meeting at the Bush Theatre at 10am, we start to prepare ourselves with body paint and slogans for the ride to get our messages of space on the roads for bicycles, and

body positivism out there. The ride itself, as always, is sometime later. Who can say when we ride exactly? I know I can't.

So get those bicycles in order, get those riding legs in order. The hardest part is up the hill from the north into Nimbin – the rest is not just easy, but immense fun.

## Stokers Siding art fair



by Patricia Sims

Art Fair at Stokers Siding will showcase the extraordinary talent of local and regional artists at the historic Stokers Siding Dunbible Memorial Hall, just outside Murwillumbah, not far from the Tweed Regional Gallery.

This curated art exhibition is presenting a diverse range of original painting, printmaking, photography, pottery, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, mixed media, textiles, fashion and works on paper by over 20 exhibiting artists.

The Art Fair is a wonderful opportunity for artists to exhibit their art and have it appreciated and enjoyed by the wider community. All the information and how to apply to exhibit can be found on our website: [www.artfairatstokers.com](http://www.artfairatstokers.com)

Among the exhibiting artists is Leesa Livermore,

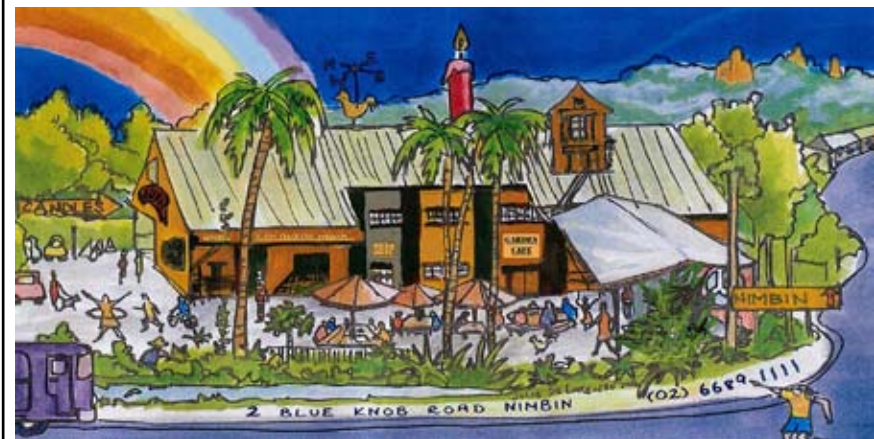
who is inspired by the abundant beauty of the Tweed Valley.

Karen Fendley is a landscape artist based in northern NSW, whose paintings with their bright skies, deep shadows and silhouettes, capture the essence of the Australian landscape.

Come and meet the artists and relax in the grounds of the hall with delicious locally-made food and coffee, and hear my talented brother Paul Sims playing his guitar and singing tunes in the relaxed natural beauty of this landscape that inspires us all.

The Grand Launch of Art Fair at Stokers Siding is on Sunday 13th March, 10am-3pm, and will continue throughout the year on the second Sunday of every month.

Check out the facebook page: [www.facebook.com/artfairatstokers/](http://www.facebook.com/artfairatstokers/)



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# Aboriginal Tent Embassy marks 50 years of protest

by Chibo Mertineit

When Liberal Prime Minister Billy McMahon declared on 26th January 1972 that he will never grant Aboriginal Land rights and offered a 50-year lease, it got four young indigenous activists in Sydney fuming and thinking.

They felt like aliens in their own country being offered to lease their own land. After the big Land Rights rallies in 1971, they were looking for anything to get more publicity and support for their plight and fight.

Tony Coorey came up with Aboriginal Embassy. They organised a beach umbrella and Nick Hazzard, a photographer, who would drive them to Canberra. They set up in the pouring rain at night time, to avoid police attention, on the lawn right opposite of Parliament House.

At that time there was no law to forbid them from setting up right opposite the Parliament, which meant that they could stay there longer than originally planned, and everyone leaving the building saw them right there with their demands.

Most foreign embassies invited people from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy to find out more about their issues, which still range from land rights, self-determination, economic and political



Billy Craigie, Bert Williams, Michael Anderson and Tony Coorey



independence to addressing issues like poverty, the highest infant mortality rate in the world, low education, high incarceration, high number of deaths in custody, high suicide rates and the daily police harassment and intimidation.

On Tuesday 25th January 2022, the three-day program started with a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony. Cheryl Buchanan said that we don't need anybody here to tell us about our culture or identity, and called on the spirit from 1972 with the sense of unity and no disagreement,

united as one.

In other speeches, thanks were given to the women who came on 28th January 1972 from the National Council of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Women to support the four and call for the resignation of PM McMahon.

There were workshops and panels, and in the afternoon two Indigenous motorcycle clubs arrived, the MOB and Black Death, who were later joined by LORE Men and Southern Warriors. These are 'dry' MCs dealing with their health and traumatised past.

We all watched some brilliant dance performances before a late dinner.

On Wednesday 26th January, around 2500 people gathered at the Garema Court in Canberra for speeches and dances before starting the four km march back to the embassy with more dances on the way, loud and proud. Just before we reached our destination, all the kids were called to the front to empower them with the run to the embassy.

Time to mingle and connect before the speeches to honour all the women and men who worked so hard in the early years. Michael Monroe pointed out how well the Indigenous people were connected to other groups around the world.

After the speeches we had live music from No Fixed Address (doing it for 47 years) and Kutcha Edwards via livestream and others.

Thursday was Michael Anderson's big day, as he had organised a whole day under the theme: 'Where To From Here', discussing pathways forward, international law and big data. It was more than just impressive, the work he had put in over the decades and the contacts he had made around the world.

What an amazing honour it was to be able to attend this gathering and meeting all these long time warriors.

## Respect Indigenous culture, history and knowledge

by Aniko Papp

More than three decades ago, Indigenous Yorta Yorta and Wolworrung elder Burnum Burnum planted a large Aboriginal flag in the snow on the White Cliffs of Dover, England. The words of his declaration, wry and compassionate, should be writ large in Australian History. In part, they read:

"I, Burnum Burnum, being an aristocratic nobleman of ancient Australia, do hereby take possession of England on behalf of the Aboriginal Crown. In doing so we wish no harm to you natives, but assure you that we are here to bring you good manners, refinement and an opportunity to make a Koompartoo – a fresh start..."

"We do not intend to souvenir, pickle and preserve the heads of 2000 of your people, nor to publicly display the skeletal remains of your Royal Highness, as was done to our Queen Truganinni for 80 years... We acknowledge the need to preserve the Caucasian race as of interest to antiquity, although we may be inclined to conduct experiments by measuring the size of your skulls for levels of intelligence."

"We pledge not to sterilise your young women. We solemnly promise not to make a quarry of England and export your valuable minerals back to the old country Australia, but to encourage Earth Repair Action to unite people, communities and religions in a common, productive, peaceful purpose..."

The final call of this declaration is for a united future for all people to care for their environment and live in harmony. We, as occupiers of this land, are often more inclined to use our air, land and water as a limitless resource for wealth creation, rather than their true purpose, which is to create our human habitat.

This Australia Day why not acknowledge Indigenous culture, history and knowledge as adding to our own culture, history and knowledge?



Indigenous stories are often oral histories of this land going back thousands of years, such as the story of the Wellesley Islands being part of a peninsula jutting out from the mainland where people lived until Garnguur, the seagull woman, took her raft and dragged it back and forth across the neck of the peninsula letting the sea pour in, rendering their homes into islands.

The Narrangga people of York Peninsula speak of a time when there was no Spencer Gulf, only marshy country reaching into the interior, dotted with freshwater lagoons teeming with wildlife.

In Australia, the coldest time of the last Ice Age 20,000 years ago saw the sea level about 120 metres below their current levels. Many similar indigenous tales of coastal flooding are reflected in present-day geographical evidence.

The Yolngu people from Arnhem Land have long known that tides are linked to the phases of the moon, and their stories go back well before the 17th century when Galileo was still teaching that the moon had nothing to do with tides. There is an ancient Aboriginal site in Victoria dating back about 11,000 years, that seems to map sun movements like pointing

to the sunset on midsummer's day and midwinter's day.

For 50,000 years our indigenous community cared for country using fire management techniques. European land management has turned the landscape into a place where fire is a scourge rather than fire being harnessed to regenerate, reduce scrub and fuel and encourage biodiversity.

How extraordinary if such oral histories date back 13,000 years or more! Such histories predate the dawn of agriculture in Mesopotamia, Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids of Giza.

Indigenous knowledge should be part of our wider learning, used and included in our own learning. Australia is an ancient land and is it not sensible to use the ancient knowledge of its first inhabitants to protect that land? Is it not a cause to celebrate the First Australians' knowledge of astronomy, geography through their own millennia old stories?

Australian children ought to be taught local indigenous language, culture stories and histories of the indigenous communities around each and every school in this country. Now that would be a great step for reconciliation, wouldn't it?

# Water facts

by Nan Nicholson

We need to mop up some of the erroneous statements sloshing around about the Dunoon Dam, floods and water security.

The following statements can be verified by references for anyone who is interested.

## Flooding would worsen immediately below the dam

Dunoon Dam would produce greater flooding in the first three km downstream from the dam.

This is detailed in the *Environmental Flows Assessment for the Proposed Dunoon Dam* (9th November 2012).

It states, on p 141: "Modelling shows that the magnitude of the largest floods may also be increased, with the largest flows in the natural regime of 17,280 ML per day shifting to 20,456 ML per day with Dunoon Dam operating."

This is an increase of 18.37%! Sure, it is just modelling but for any living thing in that zone an increase of 18% on the biggest flood would be catastrophic.

It is explained here: "When full, the dam acts to increase catchment runoff efficiency, with all rain that falls directly onto the water surface delivered directly into downstream flow when the dam is spilling. This phenomenon results in increased peak magnitude of the modelled flood events."

## The dam would do nothing to mitigate flooding in Lismore

The figures on the relative catchments of Rocky Creek and the combined creeks which flood Lismore are provided by Rous:

Rocky Creek catchment is 50 km<sup>2</sup>.

The combined catchment upstream of Lismore is 1400 km<sup>2</sup>. So, Rocky Creek is 3.57% of the entire catchment.

Even a completely empty dam would intercept only 3.57% of the floodwater heading for Lismore.

An objection has been raised that part of Rocky Creek catchment is in the very high rainfall Nightcap Range. That is true. However, so are the catchments of other creeks which also contribute to flooding in Lismore.

According to Google, the highest rainfall areas in NSW are Nimbin, Dunoon and Modanville (and Mullumbimby). Given that only part of Dunoon's rainfall goes into Rocky Creek, we can conclude that the high rainfall which floods Lismore comes mostly from catchments other than Rocky Creek.

All of this is backed up by the fact that Rous has never claimed that the Dunoon Dam would mitigate floods.

## Dams are no defence against prolonged drought

Yes, dams fill in flood rain. But that helps only in the short term – a full dam does not last indefinitely. Prolonged drought is the real concern as there is little or no dam-filling run-off.

Droughts have been decades long in the past and will be worse in the future, according to the NSW Water Strategy. It has made a detailed analysis of climate data and is very clear about the risks. That is why it is government policy to provide water security by spreading the risks.

We need measures that are not wholly dependent on rainfall. These can include: leakage and pressure management; change to the levels-of-service which, with the stroke of a pen, reduce the demand for water; wide-scale and comprehensive water audits



Hugh Nicholson

and efficiency programs for residential and non-residential water-users; indoor retrofits and outdoor water use programs.

Together these measures would be a fraction of the cost of a new dam but would provide more water more quickly. (See the Rous Sustainable Water Program: *Towards a secure, reliable and affordable water future*, by Prof Stuart White.)

If anyone wants more information, feel free to contact me. You could also check the WATER Northern Rivers website which has all of the references quoted above: [waternorthernrivers.org](http://waternorthernrivers.org)

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# Saffin seeks \$25-million roads package

by Janelle Saffin, Lismore MP

I continue to lobby the NSW Government for an extra \$25 million over five years to get Lismore City Council's roads network into better shape.

I wrote to newly-promoted NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Faraway MLC late last year, giving my full backing to the need for a special roads package.

Lismore City Council has a good case for this extra funding, outside the regular grants to councils, and I understand that Minister Faraway is responding positively to my advocacy.

In July last year, the LCC general manager Michael Donnelly asked if I could get him and the then mayor Vanessa Ekins a meeting with the then Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock MP.

I secured the meeting and it went extremely well with the Lismore delegation presenting a very well-prepared case.

I lobbied the former Minister for Regional



Lismore Mayor Cr Steve Krieg and Lismore MP Janelle Saffin

Transport and Roads, Paul Toole MP, for particular consideration for LCC due to the impact of floods and high rainfall.

I also made a special plea for changes to future disaster funding so that roads can be repaired to a better standard, to resist

water damage.

The current criteria prohibits councils repairing roads to a better standard which perpetuates the cycle of rain – potholes – patch – repeat.

It is clear that regional roads funding over the past few decades has not been

adequate for our area.

As I drive around the Lismore Electorate I get to see the state of the roads first-hand.

Each Local Government Area has its particular concerns and for the Lismore LGA it is the state of the roads and the pothole hazards.

I know where most of the potholes lurk and I understand when local people tell me their concerns.

I have said it was a shame that the Lismore LGA did not receive an adequate share of disaster relief funding after the catastrophic damage of the 2017 Cyclone Debbie floods.

Not one MP or councillor at the time pursued Category D funding.

Consequently, we have a lot of ground to make up, and we deserve special attention from the NSW Government.

At the 2017 election, the NSW National/Liberals promised to take back responsibility for 15,000 kilometres of local roads, but so far it has taken back less than 400 kilometres.

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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

### NNIC fun fact

In the 20-21 financial year, NNIC distributed to people in need:

Fresh fruit and vegetables: 3,312 kgs; Meat: 460 kgs; Bread and rolls: 9,000 loaves and packs; Baked treats: 1000 packs; Cooked meals: 1,136 meals; Xmas hampers: 25; plus 15 tents and 30 swags to people experiencing homelessness.

### The Great Composting Loo lifts off!

If you have been past 7 Sibley Street lately, you will have seen that significant progress is being made on the composting loo build, despite the delays caused by supply issues, weather issues and Covid-related workforce issues.

Adrian of Green E Building has taken on the majority of the work involved and has been an absolute legend. Many thanks to Steph for all her work too.

### Nimbin Recreational Cannabis Forum

'Towards a safe and healthy cannabis culture', Saturday 2nd April, 11am at the Town Hall.

This is a free event and yummy food will be provided. Come along to see the film and have a conversation about it. Brought to you by Nimbin CDAT (Community Drug Action Team). It's sure to be a lively and interesting discussion so don't miss this!

### Child well-being is everybody's business

Brighter Futures Far North Coast is a Family Preservation service delivered by the Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres, with NNIC being one of the partner Outlet Agencies where families can access

intensive support to increase the safety and well-being of children and teenagers.

If your family needs support, or you know a family does, make an appointment with our Community Worker to find out more about eligibility and referrals into the Program.

### The Tools and Equipment Library

This library is available for borrowing to members. The cost for existing NNIC financial members is \$11 (inc GST) for membership until 30th June 2022. (Full year's membership is \$22). Non-members need to join NNIC first (\$5.50 a year).

There is a great range of equipment for loan. You can check it out on our Sibley Street website: [www.7sibley.org](http://www.7sibley.org)

### Regional Seniors Travel Card trial extended

The regional seniors' travel card provides eligible seniors living in regional, rural and remote areas of NSW with a \$250 prepaid card to help ease the cost of travel.

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### Treasurer needed for our Management Committee

We really, really need a treasurer... surely somebody out there just loves facts and

figures and a bit of maths?

Our bookkeeping is of a very high standard... it's only a matter of checking stuff... and attending meetings which are generally held at 5.30pm on the last Wednesday of each month.

Are you able to support one of the most important service providers and community development orgs in town? Preferably vaxxed against Covid and must be willing to undergo WWC and Police checks. Send EOI to: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

### Volunteer superheroes wanted

Male and female superheroes needed for events, photo shoots and films. The costumes are designed to fit people of medium height and build. For more info, contact Nimbin CDAT – contact: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

### Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group

This group is looking for members, to progress the strategies in the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan.

To view the Plan and for more info, see the Disaster section of our website: [www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

Contact the NDRG at: [DisasterResilience@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:DisasterResilience@nimbincommunity.org.au)

### Nimbin Women's Dinner

Cancelled again this year due to Covid issues. Dammit.

The current Covid situation remains too challenging.

Thanks so much to those of you who responded to our shout out for performers. Hopefully the NWD will be back with bells on in 2023.

[www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre)

### Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

We assist frail aged people, NDIS participants and carers to stay living at home and connect socially. We hope to return to 'normal' services soon!



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

**SOCIAL CENTRE with Veranda** – Monday-Friday 10am-2pm. Drop in for a cuppa, access support services, info and computers.

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

**SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS** – booking and fees apply

- Nimbin Tuesday Social Group, 10.30am-1pm. Morning tea, conversation, music and light lunch, weekly
- The Channon Seekers and Sages 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm
- Wise Ones at Koonorigan Hall 4th Monday, 11.30am-1.30pm

**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 the Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre to find out more.

[www.nacrs.com.au](http://www.nacrs.com.au)

## Nimbin Hospital information

### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 8th February. 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 17th February. 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 8th February. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 17th February.

### 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.



## TRIBAL MAGIC Alternative Department Store

HAPPY YEAR OF THE TIGER!



Come and see what the Nimbin Spirit has created  
74 Cullen St, Nimbin. Open: 10am - 6.30pm

## Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls including white
- A range of spelt breads baked daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
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NIMBIN

ENVIRONMENT NEWS  
CENTRE



Tripodist Ian Gaillard protesting at Cherry Tree State Forest in November. Photo: Kudra Falla-Ricketts

by Scott Sledge, president

Covid disruptions and inconveniences have captured our collective attention so much that we are almost losing sight of even more significant issues.

During COP 26 in November, we focused briefly on fossil fuel emissions, habitat-destroying forest logging, and other causes of climate change. But then the media returned to Covid.

People in some parts of the world are suffering record heat and drought while others live with devastating floods or destructive volcanic eruptions. Many have lost their homes and can't find enough to eat. But the media continues to focus on Covid, arousing concern about whether or not public-health measures are destroying our freedoms. This seems more delusional than silly.

We can all do something to help turn this sad situation around. The Nimbin Environment Centre focuses on what we can do to safeguard our world and improve the chances of a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

We encourage people to be involved with tree planting and forest protection, whether by joining a protest or writing/phoning our politicians (remember that the Federal Parliament goes to the polls before the end of May this year). Electing good people can save us a lot of grief.

#### Forest protectors lock-on

Some local tree-lovers refused to move out of the way of environmental vandals at the Cherry Tree State Forest near Mallanganee, which escaped the Black Summer bushfires.

Police came and arrested the protectors, not the loggers! Do we need more evidence that our priorities are seriously skewed?

This occurred within days of world leaders signing an agreement to stop cutting down native forests. Former EDO lawyer Sue Higginson is representing the four protectors, whose matter was "mentioned" in Court at Casino mid-January and may be set for a hearing in May. Many have responded to an on-line appeal for money to support this case.

Many more will be going to Cherry Tree should Forestry Corp try to resume their destruction. As of the end of January, the ground has been too wet for logging to re-start on the steep slippery terrain, since the loggers finished up on 22nd December.

For those worried about police arrest, you can't be charged if you follow police directions. You will be warned to move away before any such arrest. You will still be there to witness and that makes a difference, as it did at Bentley.

I am told that the trees fetch about 22 cents each in profit and that government subsidies amount to more than that. That means we the public pay for our forests to be destroyed. Surely it would be more sane to get our wood from timber plantations and fibre from hemp.

#### RFAs in Court

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has taken both NSW and Canberra to court, seeking to curtail the logging of public native forests.

The Regional Forests Agreement, which was supposed to bring peace between loggers and protectors, expired a few years ago, and the governments decided the arrangement should simply continue, despite the environment being destroyed with complete abrogation of the rules by Forestry Corp.

Another 20 years? Without consultation with the owners of the land... the public! NEFA has arranged for the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) to handle the case and has called for donations of \$50,000 for legal costs.

As of this writing, contributions to the fund have exceeded their target. It is good to know so many people care. We may well see an end to logging public native forests in the near future.

#### Fridays for Forests (F4F)

The need to protect our forests will pick up pace in the new year with co-ordinators set for Nimbin (Ashoka), Kyogle (Tori) and Lismore (Naomi). We hope to get groups meeting regularly all over the NEDFA zone and beyond.

The new Environment Minister for NSW is the Liberal Member for Manly, James Griffin. Please let him know you want him on side with the forests: [manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

# Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

As February swings around and school goes back, the staff, tenants and volunteers at the Nimbin Community Centre are getting back into the swing of things.

#### NCCI gardens and grounds

We seem to be having a most glorious mild Summer due to the frequent rains. The Community Centre grounds are looking lush and magnificent.

Many thanks to our grounds and gardens volunteers Paul, Glenn, James and Linda who under the supervision of our Centre gardener Robyn have managed to tame the wilderness and whip the Centre gardens back into shape.

We would not be able to have everything looking so lovely without all the great work they do, and I know Robyn is grateful for the help and support they give.

We hope you all take the time to enjoy our lovely gardens and grounds when you are next in the village. It's a wonderful and quiet space to get away from the bustle on the streets.

#### Care for community

We had a couple of incidents over the holiday period where some vandalism and emptying of trash over the Centre grounds occurred.

These behaviours ultimately impact on those who are contributing to the space, our volunteers and waste time, energy and resources cleaning it up. They are really upset to see the work that they have done to make the space inviting being so disrespectfully destroyed.

If you see any anti-social behaviors at the Centre or anywhere in our shared community spaces please remind that person that if we care for our community and the shared space, we can build something great for all of us to share.

#### NCCI AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 16th December. It was a fairly quiet affair. Long-time committee member Linnet Pike resigned and will be sorely missed for her attention to detail and advocacy and interest in the history and culture of Nimbin.

The Committee for 2022 consists of President: David Hallett; Vice-president: Louise Graves; Treasurer: Diana Roberts;



Secretary: Michael Balderstone; and two Ordinary Members: Wil Polson and Darren Maxwell.

Membership fees for the Community Centre were raised from \$15 to \$20 per year.

#### What's On

Check out the 'What's On' calendar on our website: [nimbincommunity.org.au](http://nimbincommunity.org.au) for new classes and programs for 2022, available at the Nimbin Dance Studio and the Birth and Beyond Meeting Room. Yoga, Dance, Tai Chi, Art, Life Drawing and more with Adult learning courses are starting in February.


If you wish to make a booking for your own class, rehearsal workshop etc we have an on-line booking and payment system for venue hire.

#### Thanks to all our staff and volunteers

Our Community Centre manages due to the dedicated work of the part-time staff we employ for necessary admin and maintenance, and our wonderful volunteers on our management committee and the crew who work in our grounds and office.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to get to know your community, make friends and contribute something valuable to our village. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Nimbin Community Centre you can ring our office on 02 6689-0000, go on-line: [nimbincommunity.org.au](http://nimbincommunity.org.au) or email: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)

Our office co-ordinator will be happy to explore how your interests, talents and abilities can contribute to our beautiful Community Centre.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB  
7 Sibley Street

### February What's On!

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

#### Workshops (start 10.30am)

- Sat 5th: Fancy felt hats with Naughty Courtney – \$100, bookings essential
- Tues 8th: Rag rug making – with no sewing or tools required
- Sat 12th: Farm tour at Steph's – reading and repairing landscape
- Tues 15th: Knitting with Sue
- Sat 19th: Pushbike repairs – is your two-wheeler in need of some TLC?

#### Regular events

- Wed 23rd: Textiles – fibre processing, spinning and weaving
- 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.



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## Roads and rates

In the January edition of the NGT, much was made of the new Lismore mayor's commitment to fix the roads and manage rates, with his request for everyone to report potholes. I imagine the former will fill his in-tray, given we've just had an extended wet period when the roads fell apart and Council staff couldn't get out to do too much themselves.

Journalist Andy Gough's comment in regard to the 1200 kms of roads in the Lismore LGA is partly an explanation of why our roads are in a relatively poor state, and Darren Patch's acknowledgement that there is an \$89 million backlog of work to be undertaken also points to the problem.

Be careful what you wish for, because that commitment needs to be read in the context of the second point Mayor Krieg made. Members of his team are committed to reducing rates, and whilst this might sound good, unless the State or Federal Governments provide huge funding for roads and the new Council reduces rates, instead of supporting a Special Rate to improve the Council's financial situation, where will the funding for roads come from?

Think of community services currently funded by the Council that aren't included in the roads, rates and rubbish commitment this team has made.

Think also about their commitment to 'build the Dunoon dam' which, if it ever goes ahead, will cost water users well over \$200 million dollars for a dam that Lismore does not need and will decrease our water security. Hopefully, Big Rob and Andrew Gordon, who are the Council's representatives on Rous, will learn the whole story about better alternatives to an unnecessary dam and have the wisdom and courage to support those better measures.

The current Council is controlled by one group which has National Party connections. This hasn't occurred since the Bob Gates Council in 1999-2003 and, in my opinion, this doesn't bode well for our democratic processes. A diverse Council is more likely to reflect the many different views and values in our communities.

Mayor Krieg was asked on the ABC why his team had decided in the unlikely but possible event that a councillor leaves, instead of recruiting from the next candidate on the election list as usually happens, there would be an expensive by-election. The mayor's response was that the next candidate wouldn't be favourable to him, and when asked why he had made this

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.

decision his answer was: "That's politics."

Of course, the Krieg team has a huge learning curve ahead of it and it may well be that they will find out they're not quite as powerful as they clearly think they are.

Hopefully, they will learn that simple answers to complex questions are usually wrong; that Council is not like a private business as it is responsible for expenditure of public, not private, money; and that Council has a responsibility to provide services beyond roads, rates and rubbish to everyone in this diverse community we love.

Ros Irwin  
Canaiba

## Cultural heritage at dam site

As recently as 2nd December 2021 Ballina's mayor, Sharon Cadwallader, when referring to Rous County Council's previously proposed Dunoon Dam stated publicly: "There is no cultural heritage registered in the dam's footprint."

Yet, a basic search of the NSW Government's own Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) clearly shows there is in fact a site registered. By constantly demanding more investigations, Cadwallader is ignoring Aboriginal heritage and perpetuating colonisation.

I call on local government councillors, and in particular Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, to acknowledge the Aboriginal significance of the proposed dam footprint and the sites that have been registered there. If the significance of the registered burials site in particular, can be recognised by distinguished archaeologist Douglas Hobbs, then surely Cadwallader can do so also?

A publicly available copy of Rous's 2013 'Preliminary' Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment is available on Rous's website, and it says: "Sixteen Aboriginal sites were located, consisting of scarred trees, grinding grooves, artefacts and a collection of 25 burials. The collection of Aboriginal sites together is generally of State significance, allowing assumptions on how the



Widjabul utilised and accessed the valley over time." (Page 7).

Though perhaps Rous can explain why this 2013 report was titled 'Preliminary', while their 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment was not? John Roberts Snr, Elder of the Widjabul Wia-bal, said: "I was one of the stakeholders consulted in 2011 about the impact of the Dunoon Dam on cultural heritage. In the 2011 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment prepared for Rous, we stakeholders said with one voice that no level of disturbance was acceptable to us. We still say that. Nothing has changed. There is no need for another study. Our opinion has not changed."

Will Mayor Cadwallader bring herself to set the record straight for ALL the people of Ballina?

Daniel Peterson  
Ballina

## Dam recreation

I wonder how many of those pushing for a new dam at Dunoon couldn't care less about water security. What they are really wanting is a venue for water sports and fishing.

What a dismal excuse for drowning Aboriginal graves or wiping out a significant remnant of the Big Scrub.

Jill Hawthorn  
Dunoon

## Shylock lives

I cannot understand why all political parties want to financially bash, kick, demean and steal from the aged, reducing their pensions by way of an assets/income test containing extremely low barriers.

It is a cowardly, gutless and disgraceful way to treat the elderly. The matter should have been brought before the Royal Commission into Aged Abuse.

Stealing from the aged while financing themselves with tax cuts is more important to our MPs.

All political parties voted to increase the \$1.50 pension reduction per \$1000 of assets to \$3 to reduce the Aged Pensions of those who

scraped and saved for their retirements after a life of labouring.

I put it to the deputy prime minister that if the Income and Assets Test legislation was so good for the Federal Treasury, then how about all Members of Parliament lead by example and be paid according to their assets and other income?

The leader of No Opposition Labor ignored my letter to him.

The much denigrated Chinese Government pays its people a full pension at age 55, yet if the cowards in our parliament are not brought to account, the current workers of our nation will be waiting until they are 75 years old if these matters are not addressed now.

Not one political party has come out to favour the aged who are now expected to undermine and risk the equity in their homes by following the prime minister's advice to do so.

I also wonder if the so-called pensioner organisations have been branch-stacked by the political parties to keep quiet on this disgrace.

If the Aged Pension does not pay enough to exist financially because of the Income and Assets Tests, then go to Shylock for a loan is the prime minister's premise.

My elderly dad is an accountant with years of financial reporting experience.

He is not allowed by statute to give financial advice. If he does so he is in strife, yet we have a prime minister with absolutely no experience in any of these matters, giving the Aged detrimental financial advice to borrow on their homes' equity if their pensions are inadequate. Maybe it's time to sell the US mansion Joe Hockey resides in and move him to the Bronx if the government is short of cash to pay pensions.

Where is ASIC and why isn't the prime minister arrested along with others who promote the current disgusting financial advice

being given to the financially bashed, demeaned and beaten-up aged?

Claire De Ellae  
Urbenville

## Power transition theory

I try to think of political behaviour contextually. It is important to bring some order to thinking about politicians who behave like the (residual) Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, and prime minister Scott Morrison.

Regarding them, it's hard to put emotional judgements aside – it's clear, I've named three leaders who flounder like beached dying fish. I doubt that demonising them is useful; they are in the company of many other incompetents.

It's obvious humans are at another major transition point in history – nature informs us of that.

It's clear that none of our leaders anywhere know what to do about the looming global crisis. Which is 'not' surprising. We have 'not' elected leaders who know how to behave usefully.

How they should behave is written in Power Transition Theory – a theory any educated leader would understand.

We electors, fairly knowingly, have given power to leaders who are not thus educated... we need to stop blaming them for their foibles and look to ourselves for sensibility.

Michael Brooke  
Kyogle

# Notices

## Police Community BBQ

Saturday 12th February at midday in Allsopp Park. Everyone in the Nimbin community is invited.

## Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Agricultural & Industrial Society AGM, Tuesday 8th March, 6.30pm at Nimbin Showground.

## Fire Permits

Fire Permit season ended in the Northern Rivers Zone at midnight on 2nd February. Land-holders or residents must still notify neighbours and the RFS 24 hours prior to lighting

## Free notices

Keep it short, not-for-profit and of interest to our readers, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it for free.

## Don't feed the dingos

Who remembers "a dingo stole my baby" in 1980, or when a nine-year old boy was mauled to death by a dingo on K'gari in 2001?

Since 2002 there have been 98 "dangerous dingo attacks" reported, including two serious incidents with children last year.

There has been discussion on a Nimbin facebook page of a 'town dingo', fed regularly by a local woman in the village, taken for walks by her, but then left free to wander where it will, by itself, on the road or in the bush, a wild animal after all.

I live on acreage with a bit of bush in a valley not far from the village. Ten years ago I saw a dingo here. It vanished in a flash as soon as it spotted me, wary of humans, keeping out of our way.

But now the dingos don't seem to be afraid of humans.

Twice this summer I have seen a dingo passing through my property. It stopped when it became aware of me, turned and actually took a few steps towards me before I shouted and waved a stick at it.

I don't always see the dingos, there is more than one now, but they are around. There are often scats on the driveway. They howl in the gully nearby during the day and into the night.

If I'm out in the garden, I make sure I have a stout stick or a garden implement that could be weaponised by my side.

Traditionally dingos go for

## About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley

Assistant editor Sue Stock

Sub-editor S Sorrensen

Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley

Photographers Sue Stock, Chibo Mertineit

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Bookkeeper Martha Paitson  
Web [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)  
And find us on Facebook

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**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**Friday 25th February**

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

# Letters

children who are small and weak. There are no children living here, so a little slightly older lady might be an option if times are lean.

Crouching down, weeding in the bush, wearing khaki overalls, she could be mistaken for a wallaby. I can see the headline: "A dingo ate my granny!"

Dingos are wild animals and should not be fed or allowed to develop familiarity with humans or it's only a matter of time before someone gets bitten.

In NSW, dingos are lumped in with 'wild dogs' and landholders can deal with them as such, particularly if stock is threatened.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service aims to focus their efforts on feral dogs and if they can, leave the dingo as the apex predator in the bush.

Last year some dingos had to be lethally controlled on the midcoast NSW after a pack that was visiting urban Hawkss Nest became aggressive towards people and their pets. The dingos were

coming in for the food which was being given to them.

In NSW it is legal to keep a dingo as a pet and does not require a licence as in other states, though you cannot source one from the wild. However if it is a pet, it should be kept at home, under control and not roaming the neighbourhood.

If it's a wild animal it should not be fed. They are naturally a thin animal and don't need feeding by humans. Mixing it up will end in tears. Please don't feed the dingos.

**Dingo Lover, up in the hills**  
(Name and address supplied)

## Support for Assange

The result of a recent poll (Saturday 18th December 2021) asking *Sydney Morning Herald* readers if they think Julian Assange should be brought back to Australia was particularly heartening: a decisive 71% for the affirmative, with 13% undecided.

It suggests that if the people were truly consulted in a referendum regarding the

fate of an Australian citizen and the smears, lies and disinformation used to attack Assange were countered with the facts and reality of the situation, the majority in favour would be a lot higher.

Julian Assange is approaching his fourth year of incarceration without charge in HMP High Security Prison Belmarsh in the UK at the behest of the US government.

Assange has not killed anyone, bombed anyone.

He published material leaked to him by people whose consciences, all else failing, prevented them from doing otherwise.

Material that they and Assange at Wikileaks thought vital to the public interest and that the public should have access to.

Material on the conduct of war in Iraq and Afghanistan that other journalists have drawn on to publish in major media outlets around the world.

Material that the United States, British and Australian governments would prefer to

remain hidden and inaccessible to the public in whose name these wars are waged.

Despite all the patriotic sentiment gushed on Australia Day, the one group of Australians who don't appear interested or concerned for the welfare of one of our own at the hands of these particular foreign governments is Julian's own government, the Morrison government.

At least not as interested as the Serbian president was when he rang PM Morrison regarding his citizen Novak Djokovic.

With a general election in Australia approaching, the poll question could be put to candidates of all parties.

We could also ask them, if they are elected, will they join other parliamentarians who have already signed up to join the Parliamentary Friends of Bring Julian Assange Home Group and remind them that their answer could determine our vote.

Roy Drew  
Mullumbimby



This is my first Chamber Chat, having been elected as president of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce at our AGM in late December.

For those who don't know me, I am currently the owner of the Nimbin Bush Theatre Café which houses the Nimbin Visitor Information Centre, and I am very enthused at the prospect of representing Nimbin in what I see as the role of front person of the Nimbin business community.

The village has many very vibrant and active businesses fronted by the retail sector on the main street and going way beyond into many less obvious arenas such as the trades, which include building, electrical and plumbing, cleaning, farming, primary production, accommodation, food processing, tourism, retail, entertainment; on and on it goes.

The Chamber currently has 60 members, which is quite strong for a village of our size. I do feel however that we are able to at the very least double the size of our participants and therefore strengthen the bonds between Nimbin businesses, which will bring dividends for all.

A healthy business community means more employment, more opportunity for self-generated income, less reliance on outside players, extracting value from our community and providing more



## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, President

opportunity for our youth to grow and be mentored by the successful players in the space.

The resources that are available to the Chamber are able to be shared with local businesses, making both businesses and the community as a whole stronger.

## Illuminate Nimbin

The first major event that I am able to announce, organised by the Chamber of Commerce utilising funding provided by the NSW State government, is the Illuminate Nimbin celebration event which will be held in Nimbin on Friday 11th March.

The vision of the Illuminate Nimbin event is designed to bring energy and joy into the centre of the village via a range of activities including food music, art and skate competitions, culminating in a lantern parade through the village.

The event will start at 4pm and run through to 9pm. All main street businesses will be encouraged to open during this time frame to add vibrancy to the event. For those who have had the pleasure of participating in or viewing the Lismore Lantern Parade, a sense of excitement



will no doubt be brewing.

Use the QR code at right to find out more.

## 2022 Committee

Joining me in this year's Nimbin Chamber of Commerce roles of responsibility are: Teresa Biscoe, Vice-President (Co-ordination Co-op); Peter Hughes, Treasurer (Nimbin Tax & Accounting); David Spain, Secretary (Nimbin Law); and ordinary but not-so-ordinary members: Diana Roberts (retired supposedly), Kylie Cain (The Green Bank), Caroline Todd (Hemp Embassy), Sammi Allen (Nimbin Apothecary and Clinic), Tash Fuller (Nimbin Service Station), Ellen Jones (Nimbin Herbs) and Jodie Tichbourne (Aquarius Cafe).

I look forward to working with the elected committee with the intention of making a positive difference to the



fabric of our village.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to Diana Roberts, my predecessor as Nimbin Chamber President, an amazing woman who has contributed boundless energy in her role over the last two years.

I have no doubt Diana's inspirational force will not dissipate with her absence from the role of Chamber president. I am sure she will be in the background reminding me of my responsibilities over the next year or two.

## POSITION VACANT

**Role: Administrative Support for  
Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc  
SCHCADS Award Level 3, Casual or PPT**

NH&W are seeking an appropriately skilled and experienced person to provide administrative support to this charitable not-for-profit. NH&W Committee meet on a monthly basis to:

- auspice Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS) and the Nimbin Nepal Relief Fund
- facilitate the quarterly Nimbin Interagency Forum
- take action around affordable housing in Nimbin

**Applicants for this role must show they have:**

- Strong interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills and can confidently work independently and network across community sector;
- Confident effective IT skills with online conferencing experience;
- Ability to work with Management Committee for best possible outcomes and solutions;
- Understanding confidentiality issues within a human services environment;
- Sound understanding of governance processes and organisational development;
- Commitment to the ongoing success of NH&W, NACRS, Nimbin Interagency Forum, and to the health and well-being of local people and communities.

The successful candidate can either work remotely (laptop supplied, reliable internet essential) and/or desk space/time can be arranged at NACRS office in Nimbin.

For a Position Description and any questions, please email:

**nimbinhealthandwelfare@gmail.com**

Please apply via email, addressing the PD criteria and attaching a copy of your current Resume with referees.

**Applications close on Monday 14th February 2022**

## Nimbin Agricultural & Industrial Society



**Annual General Meeting  
Nimbin Showground  
6pm, Tuesday 8th March, 2022**

## mi~DRIVER

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## NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin  
Phone 6689-1250

**ADVICE FOR  
MEMBERS &  
GUESTS**



Club open from 2.30pm Wednesday to  
Saturday, Sundays 8.30am – 6pm  
**Covid sign-in required**

**Tonga Disaster Fundraiser**

**Family Fun Day**

**Sunday 27th February, from 9.30am**



## Did you know?

All our links are clickable in the web edition.