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# Forest Corps are trashing the Cherry Tree Road

by Jim Morrison

The Cherry Tree Road was formally recognised as an Area of Aesthetic Value by the CRA Cultural Heritage Working Group during the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) in the late 1990's.

While many people assume that Cultural Heritage is primarily about Indigenous values, our Cultural Heritage also includes non-Indigenous values such as historic, scientific, social and aesthetic values which also can qualify for protection under the State Heritage Act.

The Cherry Tree Road was formally recognised as an area of unique aesthetic values. This was based primarily on the unusual contrast of distinct vegetation types in close proximity along its length.

The road itself follows the narrow ridge that separates the Richmond and Clarence Catchments through Mallanganee National Park and Cherry Tree State Forest. The geology is very mixed, comprising Tertiary volcanics at the north end extending into Walloon Coal measures towards the south. These are a mixed group of sediments including shale, variously enriched with coal as well as clay stone and sandstone.

As a result of changes in geology and aspect, the vegetation communities exhibit a stark contrast over short distances including the transition from Subtropical and Dry Rainforests through Moist and Dry Sclerophyll communities.

The ridgeline understory comprises important native grasses such as Themeda (Kangaroo Grass) Native Sorghum, Scented Top, Barbed Wire Grass and Poa tussocks as well as herbs which all provide important habitat and food to macropods such as the Threatened Black Striped Wallaby, and the Nationally Endangered Rufus Bettong.

The smaller mammals and reptiles which inhabit this grassy understorey provide a critical food source for raptors and owls, common in Cherry Tree SF. The diverse, grassy/herbaceous ground layer is often overlooked, but contributes significantly to forest diversity, particularly in the drier exposed sites.



Sean O'Shannessy, Mandy Nolan, Jim Morrison and David Shoebridge MLC at the site of the protestors' road block on Cherry Tree Road

The mid-storey Forest Oaks provide food for the glossy black cockatoo and the flowering Grass Trees (Xanthorea) provide an abundant source of nectar for insects, birds and micro bats.

The contrast between dry forests, including ancient Grass Trees on parts of the ridgeline, juxtaposed with adjacent moist sclerophyll and rainforest communities, over topped by mature eucalypts are the fundamental components of the aesthetic listing of the Cherry Tree Road.

The response of Forest Corps to acknowledging and protecting this formally listed value is that a 50-metre buffer be provided on each side of the road, as is indicated on the harvest plans. This sounds great; however, their prescriptions allow for log dumps to be established within this buffer, but additionally up to fifty percent of the eucalypt canopy can be removed!

This is a prescription which offers no more protection than that of the surrounding harvest area.

We need only to look at the legacy of the 2016 logging operation along Cherry Tree Road to understand the threat to the aesthetic and ecological values and overall forest health that Forest Corpse is engaged.

The link between logging and the development of Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) is now well understood.

Bell Miner Associated Dieback (BMAD) was listed as a Key Threatening Process by the NSW Scientific Committee in 2008. They

indicated that the sites most likely to be impacted were where canopy removal was between 35% - 65% which contain a dense under-storey often of Lantana and where there were susceptible eucalypt species and Bell Miner colonies in proximity.

A more recent, independent, systematic literature review confirmed that canopy disturbance (ie logging) a primary causal factor in the development of the key threatening process which is BMAD. Ref: Silver, MJ and Carnegie AJ (2017) The Bell Miners had arrived in Northern Cherry Tree a few years prior to the 2016 logging, unsurprisingly as part of their recent expansion along and beyond the Richmond Range.

However, Bell Miners increased significantly in numbers co incidentally following the 2016 logging in the northern Cherry Tree compartments. Loggers removed hundred-year-old trees from within the 'aesthetic roadside buffer' and left a resultant sea of lantana in their path. The diverse grassy under-storey has largely now been lost along with the abundant small mammals it supported. There has been no attempt to mitigate the impacts of the 2016 logging operation. This has left the forest at high risk of developing full blown Bell Miner Associated Dieback.

Forests further north in the Border ranges have been flogged to near ecosystem collapse as a result of logging disturbance, the proliferation of Lantana and subsequent development of BMAD.

If there was sufficient

post logging rehabilitation initiated the problem may not be so dire. However, if Forest Corps were required to undertake effective post-logging rehabilitation in these sites it would require many years of follow up (which I'm sure most land carers well understand) and this would render the whole operation even more economically unviable than is presently the case.

So, we have a situation where Forest Corps have rendered many of the forests in the Border Ranges "beyond commercial management", due to lantana proliferation and BMAD, yet they still claim to practice Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management. They now intend to continue in their reckless path of destruction along the Richmond Range through Cherry Tree State Forest.

Their operations in Cherry Tree in 2016 have all but destroyed the aesthetic values of that part of Cherry Tree Road through disturbance, Lantana proliferation and initiation of BMAD. There has been no attempt to mitigate the disturbance through weed control or any restoration activity.

If Forest Corps are allowed to proceed with their plans, their legacy will be an eight-kilometre path of unmitigated destruction along the once aesthetically valued Cherry Tree Road.

*Jim Morrison was a member of the NSW CRA Cultural Heritage Working Group and was Chairman of the Bell Miner Associated Dieback Working Group for 15 years.*

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# Meet your newly elected councillors



Steve Krieg's well funded, high profile Lismore campaign won him the mayoral vote and five councillors. Photo: David Lowe

The Rainbow Region went to the polls on 4th December for the local government elections, and the outcome was declared by the NSW Electoral Commission on 21st and 23rd December.

In Lismore, Steve Krieg was resoundingly elected mayor. Darlene Cook, Vanessa Ekins, Elly Bird and Adam Guise were returned as councillors, and will be joined by new faces Peter Colby, Jeri Hall, Andrew Gordon, Electra Jensen, Andrew Bing and Big Rob.

Neither Nimbin candidates, Darren Butcher and Gwen Trimble, were elected.

Michael Lyon was elected mayor in Byron Shire, with

Duncan Dey, Cate Coorey, Mark Swivel, Sama Balson, Asren Pugh, Sarah Ndiaye, Alan Hunter and Peter Westheimer elected as councillors.

Sharon Cadwallader is the new mayor of Ballina, with Phil Meehan, Rod Bruem and Steve McCarthy elected in Ward A, Jeff Johnson, Eva Ramsey and Kiri Dicker elected in Ward B, and Eoin Johnston, Simon Chate and Nigel Buchanan elected in Ward C.

Kyogle candidates elected were Hayden Doolan, Kylie Thomas and Janet Wilson from Ward A, Robert Cullen, John Burley and Maggie May from Ward B, and Tom Cooper, former mayor Danielle Mulholland



Sama Balson, Michael Lyon and Peter Westheimer were elected to Byron Shire Council.



Cr Sharon Cadwallader is the new mayor of Ballina. Photo: David Lowe

Tweed councillors elected were James Owen, Chris Cherry, Meredith Dennis, Rhiannon Brinsmead, Warren Polglase, Nola Firth and Reece Byrnes.

The Tweed Shire mayor is elected by the councillors for a two-year term and the deputy mayor is nominated for a one-year term.

In the Richmond Valley LGA, Robert Mustow was elected Mayor, with councillors Steve Morrissey, Sandra Duncan-Humphrys, Sam Cornish, Debra McGillan, Robert Hayes and Patrick Deegan.

Many of the elected representatives have no previous experience in local government, and will have a steep learning curve ahead.

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## Pumpkins, watermelons and lots more

The Summerland Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival in Kyogle on Saturday 15th January will be a fantastic day out for young and old with something happening for everyone.

Of course, the main drawcard is the excitement of viewing the giant pumpkins and watermelons arriving and being weighed. You can feel the tension building as the weighing continues!

Will there be a pumpkin large enough to topple the Australasian title held by local grower Steve Oliver? His pumpkin weighed in at 867kgs and for a short time held the record for the Southern Hemisphere, only to be pipped at the post by a South African grower whose pumpkin was 0.5kg heavier.

Musicians from Kyogle Country Music Association will provide background music, and while all this activity is taking place, the Service Clubs, Beef Producers and Kyogle Youth will be cooking up a storm from local produce and providing cool refreshments.

There is also a host of fringe activities, all of which have monetary prizes.



The cooking competition has been extended to include savory pumpkin and watermelon dishes, as well as the traditional pumpkin scones and pies.

A sculpting competition for those keen enough to sculpt a pumpkin or watermelon into a work of Art has been included, and there will be a Watermelon Eating Competition – whoever can eat the most watermelon in 30 seconds will be crowned Watermelon Consumer 2022.

For the home gardener, there's the On the Vine competition for who can grow the heaviest or longest tomatoes, sweet potato, zucchini and cucumber.

A cash prize will be won by the

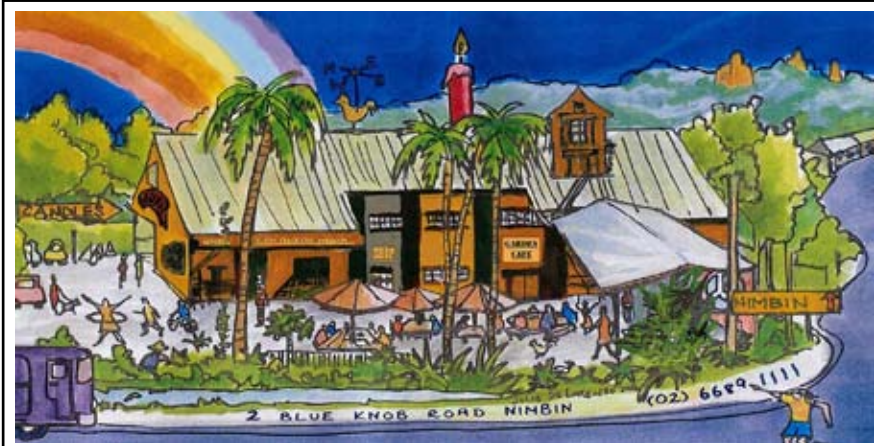
person who guesses the weight of the pumpkin that will be displayed at CRT during the week prior to 15th January.

Kyogle township will be in the swing of things too, as businesses have been asked to decorate their premises to promote the Festival, and Hot Rods, Classic Cars and Sports Cars will be displayed at various sites in Stratheden Street and Roxy Lane.

The region's artists and crafters have been invited to participate in an Art/Craft Competition based on the theme 'On the Vine'. These works will be on display in the old IGA window from 31st December.

Eateries have been asked to participate in "an all things pumpkin and melon" week by including menu items based on either pumpkin or watermelon ingredients. The Commercial Hotel is among those participating.

The organisers thank all sponsors for their generous donations, in particular: Kyogle Council, Kyogle Tidy Towns Committee and Growing Kyogle. Without their generous assistance this expanded event would not happen.



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## Santa comes to town



It was warm enough for Santa to wear thongs on the day of the Big Community Christmas Lunch in Nimbin hall on 17th December.

Usually an annual event, the lunch was cancelled last year due to Covid.

Around 250 people enjoyed the great free meal provided, and about 60 kids received gifts from Santa.

Organisers from the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre thanked everyone who helped make it happen – you know who you are!

## Increased flight training over Lismore irks residents

by Gertrud Kurtz

The *Byron Echo* recently published an article about the Lismore Regional Airport development based on the outcomes of a recent Council survey. This article inaccurately portrayed a local Residents Action Group as objecting to the future development of the airport.

The reality is that the complaints are specifically and only about the considerable increase in aircraft noise caused by flight training. This includes circuit and night training and consequent disturbance to those living in Lismore and surrounding areas.

A spokesperson for the Residents Action Group made it very clear that the group is not against the airport or local pilots. The group fully supports community services such as the rescue helicopter, Rex, medical flights and other long established airport activities and also support the development of the airport as a business and tourist opportunity.

These residents, who have lived in Lismore for many years, had no complaints about aircraft noise. However, the noise greatly increased

from January 2020 due to an increase in flight training. There has been little attempt by Council to address or mitigate the distress caused by the increased noise and air pollution.

When the group and other residents approached Council last year they were advised to send their complaints about aircraft noise to Airservices Australia only to be told that the issue is not a problem and that Airservices Australia do not monitor Lismore airport. Council continues to direct all aircraft noise complainants to this organisation when this handballing of the issue is of no use.

After several months of complaints from residents, Lismore Council did prepare a 'Fly Neighbourly' guideline which recommends that pilots be aware of the distress that extra noise causes the community living under flight paths and to modify their flight paths.

However, the flight paths for circuit training specified in the "Fly Neighbourly" guideline still enable the training circuits to fly directly over highly populated residential areas and there are no binding obligations or consequences when the guideline is ignored.

The Resident Action Group also approached Lismore Airport

management about this issue with no response. The group feels that the lack of transparency and unavailability is deeply concerning and requires more communication and clarification.

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic with the lockdown of the international borders pilot training ceased and there has been no issue with excessive air traffic over Lismore.

Many of the trainee pilots are from Asian countries and have not been able to enter Australia. It is obvious that the reduction in air traffic since then has reduced aircraft noise to acceptable levels.

However, for the Lismore Council to conduct an airport survey when pilot training had stopped due to border closures is not a fair or accurate means of determining resident opinion.

The Lismore Airport Resident Action Group and their supporters are concerned that the proposed development of the airport will substantially increase flight training circuits over Lismore and its regions.

We do not want Lismore to become a pilot training hub with the consequent loss of peace in our homes and clean air in our gardens.

## Killing Julian?



by John Jiggins

The news that Julian Assange has suffered a stroke while detained in London's Belmarsh Prison has strengthened the fears of Assange supporters that the AUKUS alliance are contriving to murder the Australian WikiLeaks founder.

But would an Australian government be complicit in a plot to murder one of its own citizens?

Consider these recent stories:

In September 2021, *Yahoo! News* revealed that Mike Pompeo, who was the CIA director in 2017, became party to a scheme to kidnap Assange from the Ecuadorian Embassy or to assassinate him. The *Yahoo!* teams' investigation was based on conversations with 30 former U.S. officials. Among those interviewed, eight provided details on plans to kidnap Assange.

Greg Barns SC, a barrister and advisor to Julian Assange, told Bay-FM, "It was like something out of a James Bond film, except sadly, it was very true. There was a clear plan to take Assange out. We

now have the Australian Government on notice that one of its citizens was the subject of a conspiracy to murder plot by the CIA.

"The conduct of the CIA was outrageous, unlawful and represents a complete breach of the so-called alliance or friendship between Australia and the United States. The CIA acts essentially as a criminal enterprise. It is state-sanctioned criminality. To be overtly planning to murder someone in any circumstances would amount to a conspiracy to murder for anyone else and the persons would face very serious criminal charges."

The *Yahoo!* report prompted prominent Assange supporters to write to Prime Minister Scott Morrison asking if the Australian government accepted the behaviour of an ally plotting to murder an Australian citizen and questioning whether Australian intelligence agencies participated in the plot or were notified about it.

Five weeks passed while Morrison's office composed a 100-word reply,

accepting no responsibility or accountability whatsoever. Indeed, Morrison's reply did not deny Australian involvement or knowledge of the plot. Instead it passed the buck, advising: "Concerns about the legality or propriety of the activities of Australian intelligence agency are best directed to the IGIS, the Inspector General of Intelligence and Security."

During the High Court extradition appeal in October, the *Courier Mail* ran another story, Assange snubbed Aussie help 29 times, says Payne.

Why, in the middle of Assange's High Court hearing, was Foreign Minister Marise Payne using her friends in the Murdoch media to portray Assange as an un-Australian ingrate, snubbing her patriotic "Aussie help"?

"I get no help from Marise Payne in any way whatsoever," commented Assange's father John Shipton. "Saying 'I have been snubbed 29 times by Julian' is to defend her! It's only to defend her! It's nothing to do with Julian!"

The family have continually asked for Payne and Morrison to actively engage with our UK and US allies. They see extradition as an outrageous surrender of Australian sovereignty, and they expect Morrison and Payne should tell Boris Johnson and Joe Biden so.

Shipton, who has travelled to 50 countries in his personal odyssey, garnering support for Julian, said, "Everywhere I go, people ask where is the Australian government in this? What is the substance of Australia in its relationship with the UK that it allows this show trial to go on without comment?"



# Water – what the community wants

by Nan Nicholson

NSW Water has just released the results of the public consultation on the Far North Coast Draft Regional Water Strategy.

A comprehensive engagement and consultation program was conducted in November and December 2020 to encourage North Coast residents to make their feelings known about the regional strategy. Its paper 'What We Heard' reports on the submissions received.

See: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/regional-water-strategies/what-we-heard/far-north-coast](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/regional-water-strategies/what-we-heard/far-north-coast)

The respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of diverse water strategies for secure water supply and against a single solution, ie the Dunoon Dam. Of the 245 submissions received, 92.4% were opposed to the dam. Of the handful which did support the Dunoon Dam, only two provided reasons for their position on the dam.

NSW Water said that there was key support in the region for "a multi-source approach to water security in the region, including increased climate-independent sources" and for "diversifying the supply whilst managing and reducing demand for water

in the region."

Water reuse, recycling and purification projects, especially stormwater and rainwater harvesting, were strongly supported.

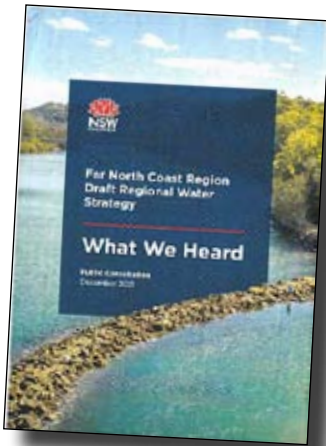
Connecting water efficiency, reuse and recycling projects to development applications and approvals was encouraged.

There was also strong support for the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative, a proposal of Rous County Council and the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation, for enhanced flood mitigation by restoring river health and ecological communities.

The Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy is firmly in line with Rous County Council's direction on water security and with other state government policy directions on diversifying sources of water supply.

The NSW Water Strategy states: "The Government will support water utilities to diversify sources of water including groundwater, stormwater harvesting and recycling.

"This will include progressing relevant regulatory reform and community acceptance campaigns to help increase the uptake of diverse water sources with the potential to



increase water security and resilience for towns and communities."

On the effect of climate change on water supplies, the NSW Water Strategy states: "The overall message from the new modelling is that our water supplies in NSW could be less secure than we thought.

"This is because we have now factored in that droughts longer than those of the last 130 years are likely at some point and that we could see higher temperatures, higher rates of evaporation and less rainfall – leading potentially to reduced river flows and more frequent low flow periods, decreased inflows into dams and water storages, and lower water storage levels."

NSW Productivity Commission's White Paper says: "Purified recycled water for drinking is a safe and

cost-effective supply option. Securing public support is key to ensuring the option is 'on the table'."

Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) in its report 'All Options on the Table' has determined that dams are "high risk investments as they rely on rainfall and are less resilient to climate change than other options".

WATER Northern Rivers Alliance commends NSW Water on their report and its accurate appraisal of the informed community concern about a second dam on Rocky Creek. We also commend Rous County Council on its ongoing program for securing alternative water sources whilst working to reduce demand.

The results of the Far North Coast Draft Regional Water Strategy public consultation demonstrate that the Dunoon Dam has no social licence and its imposition on an unwilling community would involve high levels of social disunity and disruption.

Our innovative and intelligent community deserves better than being dragged back into the past with large, risky and expensive infrastructure projects such as the Dunoon Dam.

## Opposition grows to waste incinerator



Casino residents protest at the proposed site

Richmond Valley Resident Liz Stops presented a petition to the mayor and general manager of Richmond Valley Council on behalf of signatories from the Northern Rivers community opposing the establishment of a 'waste to energy' incinerator at the new Reynold's Road Industrial Precinct in Casino.

"The petition represents the determined opposition of people who are only just finding out about the dangerous toxic emissions an incinerator would subject local residents to," said Ms Stops.

"The negative health effects of burning waste from not just the Richmond Valley, but also waste from other Northern Rivers Councils and possibly even SE Queensland, is totally unacceptable to a growing

number of people," she said.

"It's time for the NSW Government and all Northern Rivers Councils to adopt genuine Zero Waste Strategies to manage wastes rather than polluting Casino and surrounds by burning it."

Jo Immig, co-ordinator of the National Toxic Network said, "It's shocking for the community to discover the covert plans underway between Richmond Valley Council and the NSW Government for a waste incinerator in Casino. Arrangements are being made behind our backs.

"The NSW Government just announced the region as a prospective site without any robust process, totally disregarding the community as well as the agricultural and tourism nature of the region.

"It's deeply concerning since it's well documented in the scientific literature that even so-called 'state of the art' waste incinerators release dangerous air pollution such as dioxins, heavy metals and ultrafine particulates, all of which would endanger the health of the community and pollute the produce grown in the region. Casino would be at risk of becoming the 'polluted beef capital of NSW'," she said.

"The energy from waste incinerators is dirty energy. This technology belongs in the last century. It's a climate nightmare which should not be inflicted on any community," concluded Ms Immig.

The petition was presented to the Richmond Valley Council Chambers on Thursday 16th December.

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### Holiday Closure Dates

Saturday 4th December was our last Blue Knob market for 2021.

Last delivery to outlets in Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby and Byron Bay is 8th December.

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We introduced the Yellow Punnet re-use program into our communities 13 years ago – please return all Yellow Punnets to our retail outlets for collection, cleaning and back into re-use for 2022.

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## Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

**H**appy New Year everyone, and here's hoping this year is a LOT better than the last. NNIC is reopening as from Monday 10th January. Our Centrelink Agency will be open again from Tuesday 4th January.

### Positions vacant at NNIC

See the job advert in this edition of the NGT. Casual relief Centrelink agency staff and community workers required. Job kits available from our website or from NNIC. Applications close 4th February.

### Nimbin Women's Dinner 2022

Save the date: Thursday 3rd March, celebrating International Women's Day. We are now calling for female performers and acts for the gig. Contact: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) for more info.

### Nimbin Recreational Cannabis Forum

Towards a Safe and Healthy Cannabis Culture – Saturday 2nd April, 11am at the Town Hall. Remember that film we were making back in May and June 2021 featuring loads of Nimbinite's views on Nimbin's Cannabis Culture? Well FINALLY we can show it... this is a Community Workshop to discuss our cannabis culture. All Nimbinites welcome. 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!

### Thanks mystery donor

During December we received two beautiful cards containing cash donations

from an anonymous donor. To whoever you are – thanks so much. The funds will go towards our Food Relief Project.

### Struggling to make ends meet?

Has your income suddenly reduced due to the end of Covid supplements? Or are you just struggling with the rising costs of living in general? We may be able to help with household expenses including electricity bill relief, vouchers for food and other items, food or other material aid. We may also be able to assist with negotiating unpaid fines and debts.

We make no judgements and all services are confidential. We can also provide mental health support and referrals. Call us on 6689-1692 to make an appointment with Pete, our community worker, (available Wed-Fridays) at NNIC.

### Got unpaid fines?

Lost your driver's license as a result? You may be eligible for a Work Development Order. You can pay off up to \$1000 a month (and potentially have your license restored) by volunteering at Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (or 7 Sibley Street). To find out if you are eligible, make an appointment with our community worker

### Volunteers needed

For our Community Drug Action Team, food recovery/ food relief and FOH – see the job advert in this edition of the NGT for more details.

### The Annual Big Community Xmas Lunch

Thanks so much to everyone who made this happen – Gail, Heidi, Nicole, Ron, Beck, Jane and everyone else

who helped in the kitchen... you know who you are. Plus Marcus for driving Santa to the gig in the fire truck (so the reindeer could have a well-earned rest), and of course to Santa for making time in his very busy schedule to drop by.

Around 250 people enjoyed the great meal and about 60 kids got gifts from Santa.

### Take home Naloxone

Available for FREE at the Neighbourhood Centre – a lifesaving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose.

Naloxone buys valuable time for an ambulance to arrive. It is available for free at NNIC to people who are at risk of an opioid overdose or adverse reaction, their carers, friends and family members and any other people who may become first

responders.

Naloxone can be administered by injection or delivered through a nasal spray. To get some for your first aid kit, make an appointment with our community worker on 6689-1692.

### Did you know?

NNIC is a registered charity and donations to our general services and activities (excluding Sibley Street) are tax deductible. You can also make tax deductible bequests to NNIC. To donate and receive a tax deductible receipt, or for information about how to include your local charitable organisation in your Will, please contact Nat at NNIC.

[www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)  
[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

### Happy New Year!

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.

Sadly, there is very limited access to centre and social groups during heightened Covid restrictions.

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

**DEVICE ADVICE** – Wednesdays 9.30am-1pm, assisting seniors with phone, tablet or laptop issues, book a slot.

**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 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.

# Nimbin Hospital information

### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 11th January. 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 20th January. 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 11th January. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 20th January.

### 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.





by Scott Sledge, president

We have survived a difficult year. Sadly, we lost a stalwart of the Nimbin environment, Graham Ferguson, due to old age, and we have all been affected in some way by the pandemic. However, we have much to celebrate.

World leaders met at COP26 in Glasgow for serious consideration of the intense situation we face due to climate change. It's about time we recognise we're the main cause of this problem and that we must urgently change our destructive ways if we want the planet to continue as the amazingly bio-diverse place we live upon.

In Glasgow, most participating countries agreed to stop deforestation, yet Australia is already renegeing on its pledge to protect public native forests and has given no real commitment to preserve them. Loggers are crying out for protection against the protectors, and are begging for more government subsidies. It seems they make only 20 cents profit for each tree they harvest.

The solution is simple: Timber plantations can supply our needs, and the waste from those operations can nourish the soil for future trees.

### Koala news

NEC has worked with North East Forest Alliance (NEFA), which includes the North Coast Environment Council (NCEC), in using mobile phone technology to record the presence of koalas, in danger of becoming locally extinct.

For the most part, forestry officers just walk through state forests and say, "We didn't find any threatened species; didn't see no koalas." This don't-look-don't-find strategy facilitates logging and undermines confidence that governments will protect our ecology.

Actually, at this point, state-sponsored logging of public native forests should simply be outlawed. The colonialist mentality of taking whatever is most useful and sending the rest to be burned for electricity is shameful.

### Redbank (Verdant) Court Appeal

In the NSW Land and Environment Court, Judge Sandra Duggan SC could be presiding over a landmark case that will determine the future of NSW forests and their iconic Australian wildlife.

If her findings support the developers, it could trigger a new round of confrontation between forest activists and the timber industry not seen since the 1990s and the signing of the Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) under the Bob Carr Government.

Susie Russell of NEFA believes that Justice Duggan will deliver her findings in February or March. The new owners of the disused power station in the Hunter Valley have presented a slick case which makes Singleton Council look ill-prepared, so we can't be too hopeful for a Court refusal to allow forest waste to be burnt there to make electricity.

Filmmaker David Bradbury has remarked: "Like you, I'm very concerned that the majority of people, particularly with the huge influx of city refugees who have moved to northern NSW since Covid hit, don't know and don't care to know how the bush is being decimated by industrial logging and machines that can cut and stack up to 600 trees a day.

"It is a very depressing stat to have constantly whirling around in one's head. And that outfits like Cape Byron Power (and Redbank if approved...) are actually picking up subsidies annually of millions of dollars, to burn the forest for producing electricity into the grid.

"If granted a license to burn wood instead of coal, Redbank's reach for harvesting whole trees from both public and private forests to then woodchip-for-burning will stretch from



Grafton in the north, south to Ulladulla near Wollongong and west as far as Narrabri – a vast area in excess of 200,000 square kilometres."

### Cherry Tree State Forest

Environmental activists impeded logging in Cherry Tree, near Mallanganee, west of Casino. Four protestors Dee, Ian, Naomi, and Malveena were arrested when they refused to move aside for the logging equipment. A camp for protestors was set up. Logging re-commenced on 13th December with two to four loaded log trucks exiting past the Butlers Road protest site each day.

The loggers finished up for Christmas on 22nd December, probably until early New Year, however our camp is established and ready to be reactivated when they return.

We are hoping that the predictions of a very wet summer come to fruition and keep them away for as long as possible. End-of-year holidays have put activity on hold for the moment.

Ecologist Jim Morrison lives nearby. He says Cherry Tree has a wide range of rare and endangered species and must have protection from logging as it is one of the few forests not severely damaged by the enormous fires two years ago that wiped out much of our North Coast forest ecology.

Forest defenders are using citizen science to record rare/endangered animals living in Cherry Tree and map the collected data. Fridays4Forests will continue their activities in the new year.

Please go to the Fridays4Forest Facebook Group or the Stand Up For Cherry Tree FB page. The postponed forest defense fundraiser in Lismore is likely to be re-scheduled for February. Watch this space for details.

### Logging petition

NCC started a petition to end logging of public native forest in NSW. (Go to: [www.nature.org.au/koalas\\_need\\_trees](http://www.nature.org.au/koalas_need_trees) and scroll down to the petition.) Already state governments in WA and Victoria have announced plans to phase out this type of logging in the next decade. We need the same around the world.

### Other news

From now until 29th January, the Tweed Regional Museum is showcasing the history of protest in our region with a display called 'Fight For The Right' that depicts ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Highly recommended. The museum in Murwillumbah is open 10am – 4pm Tuesday-Saturday. Entry is free.

We are the Nimbin Environment Centre, but our scope of action is much wider. We belong to the NCEC and the state-wide NCC as well as NEFA. We contribute to various causes such as Stop Adani!, Lock The Gate, Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) and Biomass Action Group (BAG).



Volunteers including Scott Sledge searching for scats in Cherry Tree State Forest

I was asked recently if the Nimbin Environment Centre would take some time off as the Covid situation is still in flux. I said we'll stay open as long as the environment is under threat. We may have some days closed or hours reduced when our volunteers are compromised, but we remain committed.

Our world will survive this pandemic, but it may not survive the ravages caused by

climate change. We'll continue to co-operate with various like-minded groups, such as the Lismore Environment Centre, the Kyogle Environment Group, and the Caldera Environment Centre.

Thank you to all those who think a little outside the box and are willing to do something to save the world from rampant greed. Let's hope for more clarity and goodwill in 2022.

## HEMP Party name change approved

by Michael Balderstone

Politics has never looked more pathetic, but getting two Legalise Cannabis WA members elected in 2021 gave the movement quite a shot in the arm.

The day before Christmas, the Electoral Commission phoned to say our name change from HEMP to Legalise Cannabis had been approved but also, much

more significantly, Legalise Cannabis Australia had passed their tests, and is now registered to run in the upcoming federal election.

This was no small thing. It took a solitary hippy in a tin shed in the bush a full three months getting together the best and most reliable 1500 members who would answer in the affirmative when the govt asked them to confirm their membership.

So a big thankyou, especially

to our man in the bush, but also to the members who were staunch in their support.

Restoring the land, saving the forests, super healthy food, no need for the chemicals used growing cotton, a supremely safe pain reliever... and spiritual insight, the most important gift of all cannabis can give you.

Anyone interested in helping in the election, donating, even being a candidate, do get in touch: [legalisecannabis.org.au](http://legalisecannabis.org.au)



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

**7 Sibley Street**

**January 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)

- Tues 11th: Cob building** – get hands-on and dirty!
- Wed 12th & 26th: Spinning and weaving**
- Sat 15th: Fancy felt hats with Courtney** – 9am-3pm \$100, bookings essential
- Tues 18th: Learn to build a mini star dome** – prepared kits available, \$20
- Tues 25th: Making paper lanterns** – woven cocoons or simple pyramids

**Closed until 11th January**

**Regular events**

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



**Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street**

**WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS 2022**



**FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL**



**LOCALLY MINDED**



**0439333910**

