



Forest defenders Malveena Martyn, Ian Gaillard, Dee Mould, Naomi Shine with their lawyer, Eddie Lloyd.

Justice for the Cherry Tree Four

All charges against the four forest protectors who were arrested in November for defending Cherry Tree State Forest from logging were dismissed on Friday 24th June.

Malveena Martyn, Naomi Shine, Ian Gaillard and Dee Mould, collectively known as the 'Cherry Tree Four' were relieved to have had their efforts exonerated by the Kyogle court.

Ms Shine said she was proud of what she had done. "Cherry Tree is a beautiful native forest and the wildlife corridor is part of it so valuable," she said.

Ms Martyn was clear about why she was involved in the protest: "We want logging in public native forests stopped."

"The Forest Corporation has been doing what it likes for decades," she said.

The group's lawyer, Eddie Lloyd said, "in submissions today, the magistrate accepted that we were living in a climate crisis and agreed that these climate change warriors were just trying to protect endangered and threatened species from death by Forestry Corp logging in Cherry Tree State Forest."

"These warriors of the forest, who are held in high regard and seen as leaders

in our community, should never have been dragged to court," she said.

"There is something seriously wrong with laws that criminalise community leaders for trying to save our planet. There is something seriously absent in our laws that this forest was not protected and that the Forestry Corp were able to log in this significantly biodiverse hotspot," Ms Lloyd said.

"Civil disobedience is what activists are forced to do when the Government prioritises protecting vested interests over the protection of our planet," she said.

Does Lismore Council hate trees?

by Chibo Mertineit

The other day I drove down Woodlark Street in Lismore and saw a big earthmoving machine at the corner of Dawson Street.

I pulled over and saw that this machine had already killed a few trees next to the big drain which runs under Dawson Street. I returned later and saw the machine emptying the drain contents onto the back of a truck.

I'm more than amazed to see that after the huge loss of trees through the bushfires less than three years ago, it seems that Lismore council workers couldn't just cut off some branches to create access for the loading truck to the drain.

On Thursday 23rd June, I went to the Lismore Council Chambers to protest the logging of koala trees planned for a new development and attended their rescission motion meeting at 4pm.

Lismore Council voted to keep the 60+ trees in their ordinary meeting. (Listen on second Tuesday from six and on livestream on their website, easy to follow.)

Now, nine days later, the mayor and some Councillors wanted to change this decision. Over 30 people turned up to protest and six of them spoke to Council about the importance of these koala trees.

The outcome is now that Council will talk about



it again at their July 12 meeting.

Maybe some people want to contact their Councillors and tell them that once they've killed all the koala trees and the now-declared endangered koalas, there won't be many tourists seeing any reason to visit Lismore in the future.

But then this is National Party Territory, and most of us will remember the major fish kills from 2019/2020 along the Lower Darling River and Menindee Lakes.

Or when Catherine Cusack crossed the floor on the controversial 'Local Land Services Amendment Bill 2020' and lost her job as Parliamentary Secretary trying to protect the koalas.

That the NSW Government coalition is unable to oversee the work of the Forestry Corporation, which was financed with 22 million taxpayer dollars in 2020/2021 is hard to believe. They just got fined a few weeks ago \$285,000 for

breaking their own rules.

Not only are our native forests getting turned into woodchips and sold overseas, the latest is the burning of trees for electricity production right here in Condong and Broadwater.

So where is the public outcry about all that? Taxpayer dollars are

being used to destroy our native forests, wildlife and biodiversity.

Trees need more than sixty years to start forming the hollows where over 170 species of our unique wildlife can then nest and roost. And this all after we lost so many of them through the fires.

No wonder that more and more people will do acts of civil disobedience, lock on, protest or just write to their politicians. The United Nations declared a 'Code Red' situation last year.

Mid-October this year, Nimbin will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Mt Nardi protests against the logging of that area which is now part of the Nightcap National Park.

It's time to act now. Stand up for forests, check the North-East Forest Alliance website: nefa.org.au

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Community to lose railway infrastructure

If the new NSW Transport Amendment (Rail Trails) Bill gets passed, all rail corridor land that is not currently being used – including railway zoned land from Lismore to Byron Bay – will be given to the minister for railway tracks to be ripped up.

The Minister for Regional Transport will have complete control of what can be done with this land.

The Amendment Bill will allow the minister to approve the land to be used for tourism, recreation, roads and road infrastructure. The minister can terminate an existing authorised lease.

Jan Mangleson, president of Northern Rivers Rail Ltd said, “This is a blow to the 300,000 residents of the Northern Rivers who over decades were slowly deprived of train travel by the State Government as the services in the Northern Rivers were neglected until the final XPT train service was closed in 2004.

“The railway line provided reliable public transport for the Northern Rivers population from when it was opened in 1894. Train services were removed on this line against huge public opposition in 2004. Most residents in 2022 want the train services back again.

“The solar train at Byron Bay is a show-stopper for tourists and residents alike. It demonstrates what is possible. Several organisations in the Northern Rivers region are working together to open a community railway company to run train services once again and to extend on this solar train service. The intention is to provide commuter, tourist and heritage services on the line.

“This region of the Northern Rivers hosts one of the top tourist destinations in Australia, Byron Bay, a huge tourist hub. The fact that there is no reliable train-based public transport in this area is a disgrace. Visitors are caught up in traffic jams on local roads which are the only means of transport in the area.

“Rail Trails do not provide essential



The Byron solar train

public transport needs for the population of the Northern Rivers and our huge numbers of visitors. The Rail Trail needs to be designed as an off-formation add-on to a regular train line. This exists in Bathurst, the electorate of deputy premier Paul Toole.

“It would seem this Bill has been tabled to crush the opportunity to return effective railway transport to the Northern Rivers and other large regional populations in NSW. The Bill should not be supported.

“The railway line was constructed as flood-free by those 19th century pioneer engineers,” stated a former local railway engineer. “As an important future strategy in flood recovery and mitigation, the return of rail services using the flood-free railway line would play a significant part in mitigating issues such as community safety, delivery of food and medicines, transport, freight delivery and flood

recovery.”

Jan Mangleson said, “In the case of an important public transport route such as the Casino to Murwillumbah line servicing a large population, major public railway transport lines should never be closed at the whim of the transport minister, or the rail trail lobby.

“It is a myth that the majority of residents in regional areas prefer to have a rail trail rather than a railway service. In the Northern Rivers, NRRL offers the sensible option to have both.

“We ask all MPs to check the wishes of their constituents especially those residing in the regional electorates that will lose their railway lines. There should be consultation before legislation.

“NRRL requests the NSW State parliamentarians to delay any vote on this matter until the people in regional NSW can have their say. This is important, especially in the lead-up to the State elections in March 2023.”

An invitation to tell your flood story

by Antoinette Ensbey

After the flood events we keep hearing an endless stream of stories. It seems everyone has a story to tell about risky rescues that went on all night, losing beautiful hand-made furniture, a buckling timber floor underfoot, homes destroyed that had been lovingly restored over years, and about rescuing people and pets in small tinnies. There are after-stories too, things happening unexpectedly, good and bad.

The stories about the flood disaster need to be told and kept in the record books. The stories are part of who we are; part of what shapes our lives, our kids’ futures; and what puts us on the alert. On a broader scale it’s knowing how deep and devastating disasters are to the people who live through them, so that we as communities are able to attest to the disaster and have a voice to ask for accountability and resolve.

I’d like to collect, compile and publish some of these stories told by you, the people of the Northern Rivers



who wish to share their experiences with the wider community.

I am amazed at the resilience of this community. Amazed at seeing the love heart appearing everywhere as a symbol of reconciling people towards hope, and giving the disaster a human face, a face of strength, power and love.

Take stock and tell others how the life-changing floods impacted you. Tell the story in your own words. Tell it raw. Talk about the experience, the shock, the sorrow, the whole thing. Talk about receiving help,

the rescue, the support by individuals and community groups. If you like, and if you are ready, turn the disaster into an opportunity to recover and heal.

Flood Stories Northern Rivers is an invitation to share your story of the March 2022 flood disasters. Over the coming months I will be collecting stories. I then will produce a special podcast series over several weeks.

You can email your flood story to: oimstories@gmail.com or record it on your phone. Emailed stories will be narrated on the podcast. Recorded stories will simply

be added to the podcast. If voice recording isn’t for you, a written piece detailing your experience would be wonderful. If you wish, keep your name out. The stories are all anonymous. If you have a poem to share that would be much appreciated too.

One more thing: I’d like to put some local music to the stories. If you are playing an instrument or are singing, you are most welcome to send in your recording. Your piece may even be selected as the signature tune.

Meanwhile I had the amazing offer from Norm and Magenta to use their music, a composition and compilation of film music that so well reflects the mood of the area, from the mountains down the rivers to the sea. Their music will complement your stories in a wonderful way while rekindling some deep grounding and love.

Flood Stories Northern Rivers. Talk about it, share the experience. Heal gently with storytelling. For further information, phone me on 6687-2511.

NAIDOC 2022- Get up! Stand up! Show up!

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator,
NAIDOC Organising Committee

The annual Nimbin NAIDOC day celebrations are happening again on Friday July 8th after cancellations last year due to the pandemic lockdowns. It is wonderful to have an opportunity to enjoy, support and celebrate the Culture and Survival of our First Nations people and particularly the Widjagal Waibal people of the Bundjalung Nation on whose country we stand.

This year's theme is, Get up! Stand up! Show up! It was inspired by the Federal Labor Government's commitment to the full implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Nimbin NAIDOC organising committee is inviting community organisations, local businesses and members from the community to sign a pledge that we support and endorse the Statement.

The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre will have a stall with a copy of the Statement for people to sign. This is an opportunity for the non-indigenous community to demonstrate our support and commitment to walking together and healing the hurt caused by the invasion and subjugation of this Country.

The day will begin with the Survival March at 10.30am from the Nimbin Hospital along Cullen St and into Allsopp Park. We hope that the town



2020 NAIDOC celebration of the Bundjalung Widjagal Dancers

will turn out and show our support for the march.

Artists Oral Roberts and Daniel Wilson have been working hard at the Waibal Culture Centre in Nimbin, painting up an incredible piece of work that will be the banner for the march and event.

Once the marchers have assembled in Allsopp Park, and the NAIDOC banner is hung up, Elder Auntie Marie Delbridge will welcome us all to the country and Uncle Gilbert Laurie will perform a smoking ceremony to start the proceedings.

This will be followed by traditional dance and song from local identity Steve Didge and the Bundjalung Widjagal Dancers. We will then have an afternoon of great entertainment with Black Boi, Billy Smith, Roland and Monkey and

the Fish lined up to show some of the amazing indigenous talent we have in the area.

There will be stalls providing information and disaster support from Koori Mail and the Neighbourhood Centre. Ngulingah Nursery will have a variety of native plants, Jullums will offer health advice, and the CWA and volunteers from the Neighbourhood Centre and the Waibal Culture Centre will offer a great range of delicious cakes, drinks and foods.

There will be face painting for the kids and a raffle featuring an original painting by Gilbert Laurie, two art prints from Oral Roberts, NAIDOC t-shirts, and more.

All are welcome in this celebration of culture, resilience and survival.

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Towards the Nimbin Aquarius 50th



by Benny Zable, president
Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc

A most inspiring community meeting took place in the Nimbin Town Hall on 16th June. It was about preparing a preliminary plan and costing for the Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary calendar.

Organised by David Hallett on behalf of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, a circle of around 20 people gathered to share ideas for events they would like to participate in. It was chaired by Dave Hyett, President of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, who began by paying respects to the Wyabal/ Widjabul traditional owners, elders past, present and future.

It was good to see in attendance several members of Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc.

David Hallett presented a first draft of the calendar to us. Some great ideas followed from the circle to add to the



Nimbin Town Hall Aquarius meeting on 16th June. Photo: Oren Siedler

calendar, which needs to be completed and submitted by the end of July to the Lismore Council and other government bodies to be eligible for funding.

The meeting was filmed and photographed towards an Aquarius documentary to be shown next year in cinemas around Australia.

We at Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc.(NAFI), are continuing to expand on the program which complements that of the Nimbin Chambers of Commerce.

The next NAFI meeting will be on Friday July 15th. from 3.30pm onwards in the NCC Comskool. There are requests to expand the Aquarius 50th celebrations throughout the Rainbow Region. It needs people to task these

requests of course. All interested in helping are welcome.

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

For membership and further enquiries, email us at: aquariusnetworking@gmail.com or phone Benny Zable on 0427-149-237.

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

NAIDOC Day: Friday 8th July

After last year's cancellation due to Covid, one of the very best events on the Nimbin calendar is back! Yippee! Come along and join in the march and the festivities at Allsopp Park in the centre of town.

Disaster Assistance and Information

Good news! The Disaster Relief Grant is now available to support repairs to internal driveways and roads and other damaged infrastructure caused by landslips and washout. The close date has been extended until August 2022.

If you need help to complete the application, contact us at NNIC and make an appointment, phone 6689-1692. See: www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw/disaster-relief-grant-for-individuals for more info.

Important Advice to successful grantees: keep all records and receipts. Anyone who has obtained a Back Home (Services NSW) or Disaster Relief Grant (Resilience NSW) is reminded that it is highly

possible you may be audited in the future to check whether you spent the funds according to your application.

To avoid problems down the track, be sure to retain all your receipts etc., and make back-up copies on to your PC, USB peg, and phone if possible.

Geotech/Geostructural engineers

NNIC is attempting to ascertain the outcomes of the Geotech assessments done in our area back in April 2022. Watch this space for more info.

New service – Disaster Recovery Case Management

NNIC will commence comprehensive case management of disaster-impacted people in our catchment area from August 2022 (depending upon recruitment).

Our catchment area is the Northern Lismore area (North of Goolmangar, including Dunoon, the Channon, Keerong, Koonorigan) plus our nearby Tweed LGA areas

(up to and including Uki, Doon Doon) or Kyogle LGA (Larnook, Wadeville, Barkers Vale, Lillian Rock etc).

Residents in the Kyogle and Tweed Shires will be able to access Disaster Recovery Services based in Kyogle and Tweed LGAs if you prefer. Lismore LGA residents will similarly be able to choose a Lismore-based service if that better suits your needs.

The program is entirely voluntary and will involve up to two years of support to achieve your recovery aims and get your lives back to as normal as possible. Anyone who is on our existing case list will be invited to participate in due course.

Anyone not already on our case list is most welcome to register with NNIC for ongoing disaster recovery support. Contact us on 6689-1692 and request to be added to the RSS case list.

The NNIC program will include expertise around Rural Land-Sharing Communities (aka MOs) and the impacts of landslips and washouts. In the meantime, NNIC is continuing to operate as the Response and Recovery Assistance Centre for the Nimbin area.

The additional staff from Resilience NSW/Services Australia will continue to attend at NNIC on a fortnightly basis as from 1st July.

In the past few weeks NNIC has distributed around \$65,000 in vouchers to disaster impacted residents. The funds came via our Emergency Relief program plus the funds raised via the Nimbin Flood Appeal.

These funds are now exhausted. We did all that we could to get the funds out to as many impacted people as possible. Thanks so much to everyone who has donated to our Flood Appeal to date.

Positions Vacant

NNIC is now recruiting for Disaster Recovery Program staff. See the advert in this edition of NGT. Job kits can be downloaded from our NNIC website: www.nnic.org.au

Membership renewals

All NNIC and Tools Library memberships expire on 30th June. Drop into NNIC to renew your memberships.

Membership to NNIC is \$5.50 per year, and your membership is very valuable to us. Tools Library membership is \$22 per year and you must be a NNIC member to be a Tool Library member.

To see the list of equipment go to the Sibley Street website – Tools and Equipment Library tab: www.7Sibley.org

Peace Park amenities block

We were disappointed to learn that another Nimbin initiative was voted down by Council at the June meeting.

This issue has been on the table with Council for around 10 years, and the existing amenities block that services the Nimbin Pool has been identified by both Council and the community as being below standard.

The amenities block attached to the pool is only open when the pool is open and therefore closed for around half the year, leaving users of the Peace Park recreational area, and in particular the children's playground and the outdoor exercise equipment, without any nearby toilet or bathroom facilities.

Friends of Nimbin Swimming Pool have lobbied Council for many years and eventually took the initiative to propose a model. Council staff indicated support for the idea and the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) went ahead and used its own funds to commission a draft design for the amenities block.

Council staff estimated the cost of the project, and the NAG was advised to submit the project for consideration at the next budget meeting, which 13 community members, including NAG members, duly did, only for it to be declared to be a 'whim' by Cr Rob at the June Council meeting, leading to the majority of Councillors voting against it.

Ten years seems like a pretty extended 'whim' to us.

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

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

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

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

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

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

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

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

www.nacrs.com.au



Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

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

Women's health nurse services

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

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

Nurse practitioner clinic

- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 21st July.

Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – leave a message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP

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

Health advice line

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

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Monthly meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the CWA room. New members are most welcome.





Koala protest at Limore Council’s June meeting. Photo: Chibo Mertineit

by Triny Roe, Secretary

The 2022-23 NSW Budget delivered a few wins for the environment, but there is still a long way to go.

Forests

Cate Faehrmann for the Greens presented a bill in NSW Upper House to establish a Great Koala National Park, but this was not supported by Labor, who feared the park would then be under the control of an under-funded department in a hostile government. Koalas (now listed as endangered) and other wildlife require urgent habitat protection if they are to survive in the wild.

Forestry Corporation have once again demonstrated they are unable to log responsibly.

The Land and Environment Court fined them for illegally removing feed trees and making logging tracks through a Koala High Use Area in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest.

This was not a one-off occurrence. It is the sixth breach incurring fines since April 2020 and they are now facing prosecution for a seventh.

Fridays4Forests continue to meet weekly to protect our native forests and raise awareness. Get updates on their facebook page.

Make environmentally-sound choices when building with wood: ask where it came from and choose sustainable plantation grown timber.

Energy

Concerns have been raised about exploration plans for a potential site to build a geothermal plant for electricity generation near Casino or Kyogle, but indications are that this technology is not quite ready.

A \$4 million plant built at Winton in 2019 has failed to deliver and is not currently operating. Other projects planned for Queensland have been shelved.

Geothermal uses either naturally occurring underground hot water or deep hot rocks to heat pumped water. It is less



toxic than burning domestic rubbish and building waste for power, which has also been suggested for Casino.

While geothermal has been used successfully in heating projects, electricity generation in Australia could be problematic due to lack of suitable sites that can produce a high enough rate of hot water.

The NSW State government has announced \$1.2 billion investment in renewable energy and this is great news as long as it doesn't mean clearing forests for wind farms or burning wood chip or rubbish for energy.

Coal Mining

22nd August marks the one-year anniversary for the cultural camp at Waddananggu. Coedie McEvoy and traditional owners of Wangan and Jagalingou country in the Gallilee Basin have re-occupied their tribal land, which is currently being mined by Adani/Bravus.

Changing the company name to Bravus has not made dirty coal any cleaner. It still contributes to global warming and uses astronomical amounts of water in the process, threatening the nearby sacred

Doongmabulla Springs.

Supporters are invited to join in a week of workshops, music and ceremonies at Camp Waddananggu. More information is available on their Facebook page.

World Environment Day

This will be celebrated on 17th July in Knox Park, Murwillumbah. Talks, music, children's activities, food stalls, from 10am to 3pm.

Caring for the environment starts at home. Please keep your furry family members under control.

Cats are major killers of wildlife, as are dogs. Ensure cats are shut in at night.

Don't let your dogs take themselves for long walks, and please leash them when you come to the village.

Environment Centre

NEC meet every second Wednesday of the month at 5pm in the Community Centre. New members and visitors always welcome.

The NEC shop at 54 Cullen Street, staffed by volunteers, is open 7 days from 11am to 4pm or thereabouts. It stocks a range of local, organic and free trade products.

If you've never been in, drop by and see what you've been missing out on.

Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

We've all been feeling the chill in the last couple of weeks with the winter solstice on the 21st of June having come and gone. But the chill is welcome while we enjoy the wonderful clear and sunny weather.

My heart goes out though, to all the rough sleepers who haven't got a warm and safe space to shelter in, or those who, due to rising energy costs, can't afford to heat their homes.

Thank goodness we have the totally awesome Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) and the CWA Nimbin Branch. Both these organisations work tirelessly to support and care for those people in need in our community.

The NNIC continues their work providing food to those in need with the Food Bank project, washing, phone and electricity vouchers, access to Centrelink and other Government Agencies, counselling and referrals to support, as well as access to the internet and printing.

I know that they have worked extra hours throughout the Flood disaster recovery to link victims of the event to the support and funding agencies they need, accept and manage donations and to provide whatever they can to those who have lost everything.

They continue to provide on-going support for victims of the disaster to help them get through the funding process, and provide advocacy to funding bodies to ensure that those affected by landslides (which represents many of the people affected in the community) can also access the disaster relief funding. If you have been affected and have not yet sought assistance, please contact them on 6689-1453 and they will do all they can to advise and assist you.

The CWA Nimbin Branch works closely with the NNIC, and swung straight into action when the disaster hit, as they did in the 2019 bushfires. They collected and stored food and clothing donations for disaster victims, cooked meals for elderly and vulnerable people, organised boots and generally tried to support the NNIC recovery effort.

They continue to provide support and are

opening their room at the Nimbin Community Centre every Wednesday between 10am and 2pm. They are located next to the Sibley Street carpark in the Nimbin Community Centre, and have secondhand clothes, and home-baked goodies available and usually a warm pot of soup.

All sales of clothing or baked goods go towards the various community projects that they support like the Pay the Rent Fund for the Waibal Culture Centre, an annual bursary for students at Nimbin Central School and towards the rent on their room.

The Nimbin Community Centre is proud to have these organisations as tenants. They remind us all of why the community worked so hard to keep the old school site in community hands all those years ago. Both these organisations rely on volunteers and community support to help keep them going. We hope the community continues to support and appreciate the valuable contribution these organisations make to the village.

Along with the Waibal Culture Centre, Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service, NNIC, and the CWA, Nimbin Community Centre is helping co-ordinate the Nimbin NAIDOC 2022 celebrations on Friday 8th July.

The celebration will be held on Allsopp Park and it promises to be a great day of community, culture and entertainment. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to show our appreciation and support for our First Nations people in this proud display of survival and culture.

The Waibal Culture Centre needs more support to help pay the rent and keep the Centre going. Anyone interested in supporting the Waibal Culture Centre can contact the Nimbin Community Centre either by phone (02 6689-0000) or by email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au and we will let you know how you can help.

This event and the work of all the wonderful community groups and other tenants at the Community Centre remind me how lucky we are to have such a caring and cohesive community. If you don't know about this, check out our website: www.nimbincommunity.org.au or pop into the Nimbin Community Centre and have a wander around.

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7 Sibley Street

July What's On!
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or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops (start 10.30am)

- Sun 10th: Learn to make a cob rocket stove** – with Russel Collins, founder of the smokeless cookstove revolution in India. Low cost, simple materials, minimal fuel, take home your own. Two-day workshop off-site, \$100 bookings essential.
- Sun 17th: Cob rocket stove, Day 2**
- Tues 19th: Knitting with Sue** – 3rd Tuesday
- Sat 23rd: Make your own felt slippers, shoes or boots** – two days \$100, or \$75 Day 1 only, All materials and morning tea provided.
- Sat 30th: Felt shoes Day 2** – finishing with soles

Regular events

- Spinning and Weaving:** every 2nd Wednesday (13th and 27th).
- Community Tools Library:** Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm.
- 10-minute workshops:** Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or loom weaving.

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Silent cause of climate change

Everyone... well pretty much everyone apart from conspiracy theorists and diehard rednecks, realises we are now living in a world where CO₂ emissions are causing global climate change.

Severe local flooding events, droughts and bushfires are perceived as a direct outcome. Most put this down to the burning of fossil fuels.

Some also include methane emissions from livestock production – especially cattle – and other greenhouse chemicals used in industrial manufacturing.

However, all of these – CO₂, methane and greenhouse chemical emissions – are but a side-effect of the primary cause, which, sad to say, is rarely mentioned, or shouted, during student protests (and good on them for protesting), or broadcast by mass media, or marketed by left-leaning political parties!

Why? Because the primary cause is growth economics and its silent partner, human population increase! 385,000 babies are born each day (theworldcounts.com).

That's almost 14 Lismores added to the planet every 24 hours! Other sites take into account deaths and put the net human increase at 215,000-227,000, or 8 Lismores every 24 hours!

Many countries, including New Zealand, the UK, Japan, India, Turkey, Vietnam and others, have a Two Child Policy, where government cuts off welfare after the second child to discourage population growth. Australia does not!

By providing welfare to those who choose to have more than two children it is actually promoting the primary cause of climate change: unsustainable human population growth!

And until this is seen in the same light as burning fossil fuels and CO₂ emissions, as individuals we will continue to grow the climate problem, not solve it!

Azan Mann
Evans Head

Sufficiency needed

It's good to see a mood change in Australia. There's an odd feeling in the air of almost happiness.

'Mood' is a big factor in politics, especially at election time. It is mood that's changed our government. How people 'feel' changes history.

Most people are too busy muddling through their lives to give much thought to the political circus in Canberra.

Thinking deeply about politics is an irrelevancy for a person battling to raise children, paying off a mortgage, grimly holding

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.

onto a job that's usually demanding and often not secure.

People vote for political leaders they feel are honest, intelligent and who have their well-being at heart.

Watching Prime Minister Morrison spruiking, it's in the gut, not sure why, but something feels wrong about the man, yes, it's time to give the other bloke a go.

It's probable most people have noticed intuitively that Morrison's government was wandering aimlessly down a primrose path.

I wonder where the myth of the Coalition's financial proficiency came from. It's a myth wrapped up in a parcel of phrases which define life, the universe and everything as money. Money that reduces we little people to either a 'Budget Surplus' or worse still, to a 'Budget Deficit'.

Whereas, in fact, an economy is essentially about living with 'Sufficiency', which was forgotten by Morrison's mob, and which our new government appears to have remembered.

Sufficiency is found by safeguarding the necessities of life; life in all its forms. It is the nurturing of humans, creatures, forests, rivers, the oceans, the air we breathe.

It is a state of mind and deed that has been lacking in Australia for a long decade. A lack that toppled the Morrison Coalition.

The mood for change in Australia is manifest in our new government. Despite all hardships the nation has rediscovered a sense of decency.

It appears we've returned to the good old times of caring for country and its inhabitants. I do hope!

Michael Brooke
Kyogle

Pensioners' incomes

Once again I have to bore readers by complaining about our Members of Parliament ignoring our aged pensioners and benefiting the Treasury with the obnoxious Assets Test and reductions to the aged pension.

The deficit is being reduced using these cowardly cuts.

The NSW Government has not raised the Council Rates Rebate for decades. Council rates have risen twofold over



the past 10 years, but no relief for pensioners in the NSW Government rates rebate.

The Assets Test double-taxes aged pensioners. It is taxed once by a reduction to the pension and twice when the pensioner sells their asset to survive with capital gains tax.

I guess my letters help bring attention to these selfish B's in Parliament who give themselves pay rises by reducing their tax liability for the salary bracket they just happen to be in.

If you have grandies or parents who are suffering pension reductions, I ask you to complain on their behalf.

I have asked the Transport Workers Union baggage handlers to leave MP's baggage on the tarmac.

I ask that when you see an MP on the street, you poke

your tongue out at him/her and show the same disrespect they show to the aged.

Aged pensioners do not have a union to protest their justification for raising the barriers in the assets test.

Barnaby Joyce, Kevin Hogan, Janelle Saffin and most other MPs are ignoring this matter.

Claire De Ellae
Urbenville

Telco merry-go-round

Is anyone else on the Lillian Rock phone exchange having trouble like we are?

The phone, and hence the internet, goes off and on randomly. Or it used to, now it's just off all the time.

My patient partner spends hours chatting to women being paid a pittance no doubt, proving who we are over and over, as she is passed around the Philippines.

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NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 22th July

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

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

Notices

Flat for rent

One bedroom granny flat in Nimbin, \$250 per week. References requested. Phone Lea on 6689-0517.

Office/workshop space for rent

Nimbin Community Centre has three small rooms becoming available in the next two months for rent. Ideal for an office or small workshop space. If you are interested please contact the office for more details. Email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au or call the centre on 02 6689-0000.

Free notices

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

I tell her she is too friendly, but she can't help it, she says.

We got a technician out, but the net was on when he arrived. "The line must have finally dried out," he cheerily said. It was off again soon after he was out of sight. I wondered if there was a booster in his car!

We also have no mobile reception, which is hard for them to understand in the Phillipines, so we have to go out to phone Telstra. Sometimes they insist it's now fixed, only to go home and it's not.

She organised another tech this week. We stayed home but he didn't even turn up.

So, do I cut down the trees around the house and tune into Elon, or is it better to be one of those retreats where they take your phone off you?

And is it true a flaming arrow took out the Mullum tower and they had to busload in police to protect the workers erecting the new one?

Are they picking on us because the hippies stopped the tower going up at Lillian Rock? Do we have to kidnap Rusty and drag him along to the Telstra office and force him to apologise?

All advice taken seriously.
Michael Balderstone
Nimbin

Remembering Bruce Kent

22/8/29 – 8/6/22

by Deborah and Mick Stacey

One of the greatest compassionate advocates for disarmament and humanity, Bruce Kent has died at the age of 92 at his home in London.

An ordained Catholic priest, he joined the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in 1960, becoming General Secretary 1980-85, and Chair 1987-1990.

He was also Patron of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Vice President Pax Christi, Emeritus President of the Movement for the Abolition of War, and actively concerned for prisoners' welfare and prison reform.

In May this year, he took part in the annual ceremony in London to honour conscientious objectors throughout the world.

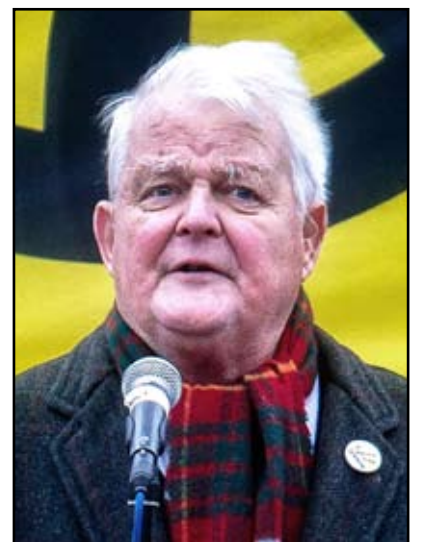
We were enormously privileged to work alongside Bruce Kent while

volunteering in the CND offices in the 1980s, and marched with him on a very cold and wet Easter weekend to RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, one of the sites for the many cruise missiles to be placed around Britain and Europe.

We were fortunate enough to have Bruce as a guest speaker at the Richmond Air Base, Sydney in October 1987, while a large gathering assembled in Alice Springs, to highlight the use of Pine Gap in the USA's nuclear strategy.

Bruce would have been truly elated with the achievements that International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has made in the last few years.

All Central American Nations now have ratified the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Guatemala being the latest.



There are now 62 countries worldwide signed up, and we wait in anticipation for our new PM to do likewise.

Nimbin pool – what a disgrace!

by Sue Edmonds

Once again, Lismore City councillors have shown they know nothing about the public facilities in Nimbin.

This year's annual budget does not include funding for the desperately needed toilet block for Peace Park.

This park has the children's playground, the skate park, the BBQ area, the outdoor exercise equipment and the swimming pool.

One new councillor, with no prior knowledge of the years of lobbying for a toilet block, described the toilet block as a "whim". It's hardly a whim when 10 people are picnicking at the park BBQ area and one person needs to go to the toilet.

The nearest toilet is up the hill, across a busy road with no pedestrian crossing, and up another hill – a 10-minute walk, depending on age and mobility. This councillor should do their research before making ignorant comments.

There were some 20 letters of support



for this funding round for toilets in Peace Park from many individuals, as well as the CWA, Neighbourhood Centre, and Friends of Nimbin Pool.

There are very few parks in NSW where there is no toilet. Nimbin is a rare example.

Part of Council's charter is to provide necessary services to the community, funded by our rates. What is the rationale of voting against a necessary

facility on one hand, then direct funds to the town to support the tourist industry?

The recent increase in Nimbin's population has resulted in more rates being paid to LCC, and an increasing demand for, and use of public facilities, which are inadequate, and in Peace Park non-existent.

It's a shame that LCC continues to be ignorant of real Nimbin needs.

Michael Pettersson MP is coming to MardiGrass

by Michael Balderstone

We are thrilled Michael Pettersson is coming to Nimbin for the big 30th MardiGrass weekend, now on September 16, 17, 18.

He is one of Australia's youngest politicians and the fellow responsible for people in the ACT being able to grow two plants and legally carry 50 grams with them. He did try for four plants but they cut his number in half.

Michael was elected to the ACT Parliament in 2016 when he was 25 after famously using Twitter to campaign and connect with the younger generations. He grew up in Canberra and did Arts at ANU where he got involved with student politics.

After graduating, he worked as a trade unionist for the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union. Wikipedia says his interests are biking, yoga and the TV show *Survivor*. And now he has introduced a bill in Canberra that would remove criminal sanctions for the personal possession and use of all illicit substances.

I dream this could be the beginning of the end for the drug war in Australia.

He agrees it should be about treating drug use as a health issue and I wonder how many people actually truly disagree with that? Why else do people use drugs other than trying to feel good? Reducing one's pain, mental or physical, somehow has become a war over which drugs we are allowed to use.

And so we have more people in jail than ever before, thousands of arrests every week filling our courts, and gang violence escalating endlessly, still.

"Thou shalt not lead us into

temptation," says our ritual prayer uttered across the country daily, but who thinks about what it means? The drug war is a war against the poor. It's a class war. Our courts and jails are full of people who take risks to get or supply pain relief.

Cannabis, legal or illegal, costs more than ten dollars a gram and this is for a plant that grows like a weed. A plant that anybody could grow in their backyard or in a pot on a balcony, or under a light inside! Using it for pain relief many people need over an ounce a week – and there goes the rent money. There are many people homeless who would rather have their medicine.

Prohibition and the drug war has now evolved into a business model employing thousands of people from lawyers and court workers to privatised jail wardens, and the contractors who do the laundry and cook the meals for inmates.

Half of all police work or perhaps more is drug related. Jobs are sacred as we know and any idea of change in that area is terrifying it seems. Just ask the forestry workers!

There are massive employment opportunities in weed-world, as America has proven. But we have ignored that in Oz, and follow the corporate cannabis model licencing only big wealthy companies to be the growers in massive greenhouses.

In America small licences to supply legal weed have seen massive employment. 100,000 jobs in Colorado alone, which has Sydney's population. And many of these jobs are for people who have been growing pot for decades and learnt genuine skills that can be put to good use.

But no, here we hire 'experts' with no experience, businessmen in suits. Most people in Australia's corporate cannabis

industry have no growing experience and don't use cannabis. It's just a money-making opportunity. Even Gina Reinhardt is in on it now.

Michael Pettersson was inspired early in his life by LEAP – Law Enforcement Against Prohibition – a largely American organisation of ex-police and court workers. There are thousands of members in America and they had a big influence in changing the cannabis laws over there. It never took off in Australia and I wonder why?

California legalised weed in 1996, and now 33 states have changed their cannabis laws. Oregon decriminalised personal possession of all drugs in February this year and several other states have it on the drawing board. Portugal did it in 2001.

No one disagrees that the drug war has exacerbated drug use and the associated harms while creating massive criminal networks, but the prohibition propaganda has gone in deep in Australia it seems.

John Howard telling parents their kids might go crazy if they smoke weed had an enormous influence. He was led astray by statistics from mental health hospital records that showed many people admitted had cannabis in their blood. No one told him weed stays in your blood for months, not days like other drugs. Your body hangs on to the cannabinoids! The what?!

I phoned a big Victorian hospital once after it stated 10% of its beds were taken up by cannabis patients. Statistics from admitted patients' blood tests!

The 30th MardiGrass program on in mid-September just gets better and better, check it out on: nimbinmardigrass.com and support the cause by buying a ticket: \$50 for an all weekend pass, or \$150 with three nights camping.

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