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# Medical Centre in new hands

by Dave Fawkner

Dr Clint Leahy is to take over the ownership of the Nimbin Medical Centre from 1st July. The Cullen Street practice has been owned and operated by Dr Vinay Potumuthu since 2016.

Dr Leahy has been practising at the Nimbin Medical Centre for two or three days a week since 2020. He also practised here in 2012, midway through an 18-year stint working in indigenous communities.

He said he decided to take on the centre because it was vital for the village, and the absence of local on-call doctors could also place the future of the Nimbin Hospital in jeopardy.

There are presently around 4000 patients and four doctors on the books.

While the centre has maintained doctor numbers for most of the past six years, there has also been a high turnover, due to the difficulty of maintaining a rural workforce.

More recently the practice has had to deal with bushfires, Covid and floods. These events resulted in many interruptions and, in the case of border closures, locked-out staff based in Queensland.

Dr Leahy sees the doctor-patient relationship as an important part of patient care, and is keen to develop and maintain these by retaining doctors for longer periods.

He is currently investigating the possibility of employing semi-retired medicos who have recently moved to the area to help bolster the team. The recruitment of a woman doctor is also a high priority.

Dr Leahy believes that growing up in



Dr Clint Leahy, practice manager Kim, and practice nurse Carmen.

the region, attending Richmond River High School, and practising locally for two years has given him a fair understanding of Nimbin and its needs.

Along with the cultural awareness gained in Indigenous communities, he is familiar with the local population's use of complementary medicines, as well as being sympathetic to the prescribing of CBD and THC.

His interest in health began when he commenced a naturopathy degree at SCU before transferring to medicine in Brisbane.

While currently living near the coast and also practising at Tintenbar, he plans to eventually move his family to a property he owns in Nimbin.

In the meantime, he is keen to maintain the practice in its present form and with the existing staff. The practice nurses will continue to provide health checks, vaccinations, childcare advice and a range of other services.

Psychology and occasional dietician and podiatrist services will continue to operate from the building.

"The Nimbin Medical Centre will also continue to bulk-bill patients who hold a concession card, or are at school or other learning institution," Dr Leahy said.

"If patients have a health care or veteran's pension card, we will bulk bill them for most procedures. Unfortunately, things like skin checks, hearing tests, and overnight monitoring attract a fee. In these cases, the gap fee is currently \$61.50, and the base hospital may be a better option."

Dr Leahy said many practices in regional NSW no longer bulk-bill and the pressure to move to private billing was always there.

This is due to the Medicare rebate freeze for the past four years, and the continuing rising cost of medical supplies, equipment, utilities and compliance requirements.

## Nimbin Bush Theatre re-opens

The Nimbin Bush Theatre and Cafe has, to the delight of patrons, finally fired up the ovens and opened for service.

The café was completely inundated by waters from Mulgum Creek over the two days of intense flooding. Much of the kitchen equipment required replacement and the whole of both indoors and outdoors of the old butter factory needed a full deep clean.

Big thanks go out to the wonderful band of volunteers, many of whom were customers, some very new to the community. With big hearts they tirelessly reported for duty every day for approximately two weeks to dispense with the mud, cleaning and sterilising the equipment and putting order back into the building and gardens. You will not be forgotten.



The café also was supported by Nimbin's very own Weedy Gardener who assisted by contributing funds that were raised world-wide via his Youtube channel to assist with re-establishment of the beautiful gardens.

Proprietors David Hyett and Kaz Ratcliffe are delighted to again be hosting their clientele, supported by a new team of hospitality professionals who share

the vision of providing high quality food as well as first class service.

The Bush Theatre is steeped in history, having a place in the hearts of many Nimbinites through the vast array of community activities that have been hosted over many years.

"We are now moving our business into the future with full consideration of the changing demographic of the

area whilst retaining what has made the Bush Theatre an iconic venue," said David Hyett.

Many events are planned to engage community including regular exercise and well-being classes which include Pilates by Chrissy Schiff, Chi gong by Daniel, educational programmes such as the bee hotel building sessions by Barbara Mills, Crypto Nimbin currency meet-ups, to name a few.

Of course, the main focus remains food and entertainment. The café is open 7 days a week from 9am with an extensive menu, including many vegetarian and gluten-free options

If you are planning an event or meeting up with friends and would like to secure a table, please contact us via the website: [www.nimbinbushtheatre.com](http://www.nimbinbushtheatre.com) or phone 02 6689-1111.

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# Council releases flood report

Lismore City Council has released a report examining the impact of the 28th February natural disaster and March flood, and Council's initial response to restore basic services.

The Flood Response report estimates the disaster caused more than \$350 million worth of damage to Council assets, including roads and bridges (\$200 million), water and wastewater infrastructure (\$108 million), waste and resource recovery (up to \$20 million) and Council facilities and depots (\$20 million).

It estimates the cost of rebuilding our community will come close to \$1 billion.

The report says the SES has assessed that 2520 buildings have been damaged, 656 of them commercial or industrial. There are estimates that more than 2000 people have been left homeless.

The report notes that the ripple effects of the business disruption, including the agricultural sector, to the wider Lismore economy are so widespread as to be incalculable at this time, with an estimated 18,000 jobs impacted.

It reads: "Tough decisions will need



to be made in the coming weeks and months around flood mitigation, future housing strategies, business reinvestment and attraction.

"We are committed to ensuring businesses can reinvest with confidence,

and families can rebuild their homes knowing their lifestyle will be secured into the future."

Lismore City Council General Manager John Walker said the report will be used to lobby state and federal governments for financial assistance to rebuild Lismore better than before.

"The report provides an historical record of what happened during and after the floods and, tells a story that will be useful in the understanding by others of the devastation that occurred.

"It will also assist in lobbying of both Federal and State Governments for on-going funding," he said.

The report's conclusions express optimism about the level of support committed by the State and Federal Governments, but urges that access to funding should be streamlined; that decisions made must be made in consultation with communities; and that short-term assistance will not be enough.

A copy of the Flood Response report can be downloaded from Council's website: [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au) under the Council & Engagement tab.

# Refurbish, rebuild or relocate?



Photo essay by Chibo Mertineit

## Markets return to the heart

Lismore's two largest markets are being relocated to Lismore's CBD to help reactivate the local economy and sense of community.

The Lismore Car Boot Market and The Channon Craft Market will commence in Lismore in June. There will be three Sunday markets each month at a new Pop-up Precinct in the CBD, with opportunities for local flood-affected businesses to trade.

Our Place: Lismore Pop-Up Precinct is being established at the Harold Fredericks carpark, on the corner of Dawson and Magellan Streets.

Along with pop-up businesses and the upcoming Sunday markets, the Precinct features the Community Access Point operated by Resilience NSW, along with Service NSW and Services Australia, with additional agencies to be announced.

The Pop-Up Precinct is a collaboration between Lismore City Council, Lismore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Channon Craft Market Inc and the Lismore Car Boot Market. It is funded by Resilience NSW.

Our Place: Lismore Pop-Up Precinct first welcomed the Lismore Car Boot Market on Sunday, 5th June. The Channon Craft Market will follow on Sunday, 12th June, and then the Car Boot Market again on 19th June.

**I love working with our community to make a difference.**

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## Giving young Kenyans a brighter future

Mullumbimby-based philanthropists, Rikki and Rob Fisher started the charity Kenya Kids International (KKI) after backpacking in East Africs for three months in 2011, seeing first-hand the effects of widespread poverty.

Their intention was to develop a low cost, easily managed way to lift people out of poverty.

Working collaboratively with local people, they have helped develop several innovative approaches, which have demonstrated successful outcomes.

Their First Fruits Program will be relaunched in July 2022, after Covid-19 stopped the initiative for two years.

The program starts with a 5000+ business training program, one day a week over five weeks.

On completing training, participants are asked to submit their business plans. The plans are reviewed, participants interviewed and funds distributed to those with sound plans.

Those who choose to breed livestock go on to do a short animal husbandry course. Beneficiaries are given a timeframe to pay back the loans, which go toward funding future participants in First Fruits.

Here is one participant's story:  
*I am Mary, a Kenyan citizen living in Agolomuok. I am a widow with two children. When my husband died I was left with nothing.*

*In early 2019, Rob and Rikki visited our area with a program called First Fruits Program. They gave me a female goat.*

*First it gave birth to a male kid, and I gave it back to the program. At the second and third births my doe had twins.*



Mary with her does.  
Inset: Beneficiary Susan Agumbi at her clothing stall with Chief Elijah who heads up the First Fruits Program.



*The first lot of twins I sold to pay for my*

*daughter to go to school. At the moment I remain with the mother and her female twins.*

*Suppose I was not having that goat, my daughter wouldn't be able to go to school. I am very happy with the program, and may they continue with it and assist others.*

Kennedy Ojunju heads up the 5000+ business training program. He said, "The vision was talking about poverty and how to empower people to start their journey out of poverty.

Ken has a team of trainers that are sent across Kenya to teach business principles, sharing their knowledge and experience to the poor.

"We now have hundreds of projects

and volunteers across Kenya helping people in their communities, choosing the right project, planning, starting and successfully running the project," Ken said.

The trainers are all volunteers. KKI pays for their travelling and accommodation expenses.

"Many lives have been changed and many communities have been transformed in one way or another," Ken said.

Rob Fisher said, "We want to expand the First Fruits Program, so more women and children will benefit. Please partner with us by making a monthly, yearly, or one-off donation."

Please send your gift to the KKI account at Summerland Credit Union, BSB: 728-728, ACC: 22314767, Details: FFP. Tax deductible receipts are available on request. Email: [treasurer@kenyakidsinternational.org.au](mailto:treasurer@kenyakidsinternational.org.au)

## The Albanese government and Julian Assange

by John Jiggins

After 20th April, when the UK courts formally approved the extradition of Julian Assange to the United States, the mainstream media presented a narrative that claimed that the UK home secretary, Priti Patel, would have until 31st May to rubber-stamp Assange's extradition.

That date has now come and gone, and we still await minister Patel's decision.

The UK Crown Prosecution Service advise that the mainstream media misreported the extradition process because they misunderstood the protocols of the Extradition Treaty.

They said the timeframe for the Home Secretary's decision was entirely at her own discretion.

But is this all there is to it?

The victory of Anthony Albanese's Labor Party in the Australian election has brought new hope to the supporters of the Australian publisher.

Last year, our new Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus issued a statement



Photo: Sue Stock

saying that Labor wanted the Assange matter "brought to an end".

His leader Anthony Albanese, now Prime Minister, said that he couldn't see any purpose to keeping Assange in jail, and that "enough is enough".

In the first week of the Albanese government, on 27th May, the ABC reported that "Mr Albanese is also a signatory to the Bring Julian Assange Home Campaign petition". But the ABC gave no source for this claim.

The Bring Julian Assange Campaign petition is an on-line petition that has

now garnered over 715,000 signatures.

Phillip Adams, not the popular ABC Late Night Live host but a different Phillip Adams who originated the on-line petition, this week published an update stating firstly that he was not the source of the ABC's information, but which then added, rather coyly, that the ABC report gave him great confidence that the campaign had turned a corner and had brought a smile to his face.

That smile no doubt broadened when Anthony Albanese replied to a

question from a Guardian journalist, who asked whether it was now his position that the US should be encouraged to drop the charges against Assange and whether he had made any such representations to the US government.

Albanese replied that it was his position that not all foreign affairs should be done by loudhailer.

So there is still no confirmation that Albanese signed the on-line petition.

Signing a petition which would ultimately go to himself as Prime Minister seems an odd way for Anthony Albanese to indicate his support for Assange, when he could have joined the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group.

It certainly isn't a loudhailer approach.

The battle to stop the extradition of Julian Assange hangs intriguingly in the balance.

*Read John Jiggins' review of the new book by Nils Melzer, The Trial of Julian Assange, on p.21.*



# Towards Nimbin Aquarius 50th



by Benny Zable, president  
Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc

We are now less than a year out from the Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary.

So much has changed in the last month. A new Federal Government has been chosen to lead Australia for the next three years, with newly-elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the leader of the ALP.

I had the privilege to be introduced to him by our NSW State Parliament representative Janelle Saffin outside the Nimbin Town Hall when he was doing the rounds during the bushfires.

Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc is now working and planning with David Hallett who has taken up the position that was advertised by the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce to construct a calendar of events towards the 50th.

We are mutually in agreement on launching the program in ceremony and storytelling around the historic 'Welcome to Wyabal Widjabal Country'.

The organisers of the May 1973 Aquarius Lifestyle festival had asked local first nations elders for approval to hold the festival in Nimbin. It was a first in colonial Australian recorded history that non-Aboriginal folks had asked

permission from First Nations people to occupy their sacred lands. As well, a keynote first nations speaker will be opening the 50th.

Another priority we agreed on is encouraging youth participation.

A community meeting will be held on Thursday 16th June at 4.30pm in the Nimbin Town Hall, inviting the community for feedback and participation. There is a July deadline for government grants to help fund exhibits/projects towards the 50th. To be eligible for grants, a program needs to be in place by the end of July.

1993. The Aquarius Foundation operates as an information, ideas and energies exchange network fostering the Spirit of Aquarius."

In October this year, Nimbin will be celebrating 40 years since the Mt Nardi forest blockade. It ended successfully with the Nightcap Rainforest being declared a National Park. The Nimbin Town Hall has been booked for a yet-to-be-determined program for Saturday 22nd October.

An exhibition is in the planning of photographs and artworks to be displayed in the hall in the week leading up to the 22nd. Anyone wishing to contribute, contact me or leave a message with the Nimbin Environment Centre.

There is a project taking place run by the Southern Cross University Gribi College of Indigenous Australian People: "A yarn about care for the forest." Anyone interested in this research project is welcome to contact me.

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



Australia's first official Welcome to Country, performed at the Nimbin Aquarius Festival in May 1973.  
Photo: Paul White

The devastating floods in Lismore destroyed lots of archives which were to be displayed at the Lismore Regional Gallery. Especially from the 'Some Children of the Dream' collection. Please let me know if you have access to photos from that collection please.

"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



## Aquarius Festival community meeting

by David Hallett

Next year, 2023, Nimbin celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Aquarius Festival.

This was a milestone event which set off national, even international vibrations in many aspects of life: intentional communities, indigenous land rights and representation, permaculture, home birthing, owner homebuilding, environmental actions and reaction to climate change, cottage industries, arts, crafts and music, and a movement out of crowded cities into the green of the Nimbin valley.

A movement which forever changed the small village.

There are many themes that can be drawn out of the festival and the post Aquarian years that followed it.

A community meeting will be held on

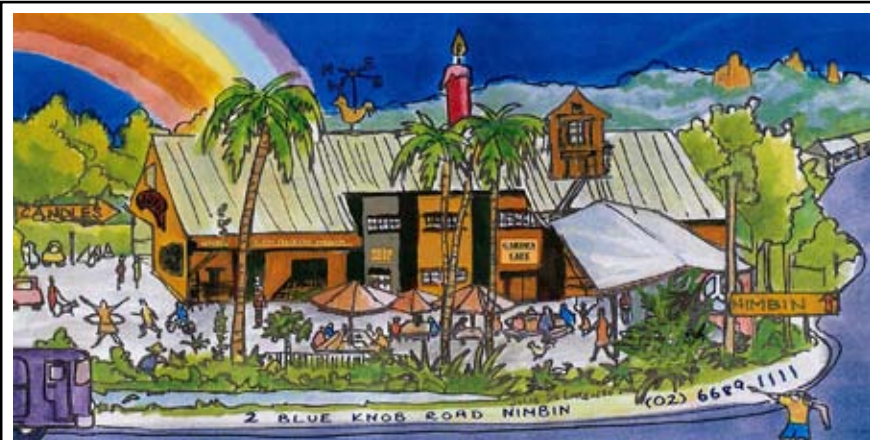


Faces in the crowd at the 1973 festival

Thursday 16th June, 4.30pm at Nimbin School of Arts to discuss ideas, activities and events that could be planned for the

50th anniversary.

Please come along and bring your ideas.



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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

### Flood Disaster help and information

After a couple of months of lobbying everyone we can, about funding and support for people impacted by landslips and washouts causing damage to internal roads and driveways, water and other infrastructure as well as impacts on many MOs in the area, it appears we may be gaining some traction.

So WATCH THIS SPACE and try to hang in there for a bit longer while we see how this all evolves. Hopefully there will be some good news soon.

NNIC is continuing to operate as the Response and Recovery Assistance Centre for the Nimbin area and every Wednesday there are numerous additional external service providers on deck such as Services Australia (Centrelink) and Services NSW staff.

We can help with lots of support and info: eg food support (including dog/cat food), hot meals,

frozen meals, mental health support, assistance with mobile phones/devices, printing, copying, internet access and help with navigating the myriad of disaster relief payments and grants.

See our website for useful info, links and regular updates: [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)

In the meantime, we are starting to allocate donated funds to our big long list of impacted residents, so make sure you register with us if you have not already done so.

### GIVIT registration

NNIC is registered with GIVIT, so if you need household items or equipment, help with labour etc because of flood/landslide impacts, contact NNIC and we can list your needs on GIVIT to try and attract donors.

We may be able to find other sources of what you need also. So far, several of our GIVIT requests have been met, so it is definitely

worth a try.

### Nimbin Flood Relief Appeal – Donations

For people wishing to donate funds to provide Nimbin Flood Relief to folks in the Nimbin Catchment area, cash donations can be made at the Neighbourhood Centre at 71 Cullen Street, Nimbin or deposited to our Gift Fund account (see the poster on p.10 in this edition of the NGT).

### 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 (inc GST) and your membership is very valuable to us so if you haven't ever joined before, come on down! Cheapest membership in town!

Tools Library membership is \$22 per year (inc GST) and you must be an NNIC member to be a Tool Library member (ie total annual cost is \$27.50). Excellent value when you consider the large range of tools and equipment you can borrow from the Library.

To see the list of equipment, go to the Sibley Street website – Tools and Equipment Library tab: [www.7Sibley.org](http://www.7Sibley.org)

### Nimbin Recreational Cannabis Forum

Many thanks to everyone who came along to Nimbin Town Hall on 7th May to participate in a very interesting conversation about a safe and healthy cannabis culture.

We have had multiple requests to put the Nimbin Cannabis Vox Pop film up on YouTube or Vimeo so people can see it. To date we have not published the film because we only ever made it to stimulate a

community conversation in the Nimbin community and we did not plan to publish it to the world.

If anyone who participated in the film has any feelings about this one way or another (ie you do not wish for it to be published OR you don't mind if it is published), email us on: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) or call us on 6689-1692 to let us know what you think.

### Some tips for dealing with the emotional impact of a disaster

- spend time with people who care
- give yourself time
- find out about the impact of trauma and what to expect
- try to keep a routine going e.g. eating, sleeping, work, study routines
- return to normal activities
- talk about how you feel about what happened when you are ready
- do things that help you relax
- set realistic goals that keep you motivated, but don't take on too much (most people in this situation talk of recovery as a journey not a sprint)
- review and reward progress – notice even the small steps
- be prepared for times when you feel you are making no progress, everyone experiences this
- talk about the ups and downs of recovery with friends, family and the health professionals involved in your care
- have a plan to maintain positive changes and plans to deal with times of stress or reminders of the trauma.

– from Beyond Blue:  
[www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/natural-disasters-and-your-mental-health](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/natural-disasters-and-your-mental-health)

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**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](http://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 6689-1400 for appointment.

### Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6689-1433. 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 16th June.

### Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1433 – leave a message, will return call swiftly.

### Nimbin NSP

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

### Health advice line

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

### Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

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





by Triny Roe, secretary

NEC welcomed the big swing to Greens, Independents and Labor in the Federal election. Clear evidence that the people have had enough of the Smirk. Let's hope the new parliament make decisions with compassion and respect for the environment.

**World Environment Day**  
The event in Murwillumbah planned for the 5th June has been postponed until 17th July when it is hoped Knox Park will have dried out a bit. Organised by the Caldera Environment Centre there will be talks, music, children's activities, food stalls and all your favourite environmental groups will be there from 10am to 3pm. Lots to see and do so save the date.

**Logging Native Forests**  
NEFA launched the Save Oldgrowth Trees campaign with protests at the state members' offices in Tweed Heads and Coffs Harbour. It's time to stop logging native forests to protect habitat, particularly trees with hollows, many of which were destroyed in the 2019 bushfires.  
In Australia, 63 animal species have been listed as likely to be extinct in the next twenty years due to loss of habitat and breeding sites. Save Oldgrowth Trees has a two pronged benefit: providing nesting spots in the form of hollows in the old trees is saving species, and leaving mature trees is addressing climate change. Forests are the lungs of the planet, absorbing carbon dioxide and exuding oxygen.



Their contribution to the water cycle is also critical. Protection of the headwaters reduces erosion and the soil that ultimately flows out to sea, deposits on the ocean floor, endangering marine life. You can help by writing to the NSW Ministers for Environment, James Griffen and Forestry, Dugald Saunders, to ask them to consider the Natural Resources Commission report of June 2021 and implement its recommendations.  
For more information, see: [https://www.nefa.org.au/hollow\\_housing\\_crisis](https://www.nefa.org.au/hollow_housing_crisis)

**Plastics ban**  
NSW has finally joined the push to ban single use plastics. From the 1st June lightweight shopping bags will not be allowed.  
From the 1st November plastic straws, cutlery, plates, bowls, and expanded polystyrene food packaging are off the menu. So time to go green. These items will now have to be made of material that can be composted.  
Note that items made from bioplastics are not exempt even if labelled as biodegradable. (doggy-doo bags and deli bags, 'barrier

bags', are not included in the ban). Plastic carrier bags thicker than 35 microns are still allowed, presumably with the idea that a stronger bag can be reused. But eventually this becomes another piece of plastic waste taking hundreds of years to break down.  
Cotton or hemp fabric bags last for years and you can chuck them in washing machine when they get grubby. You could also keep a picnic set or a lunch box and spork in the car for when you want takeaway.

**Coal Mining**  
The Wangan and Jagalingou Cultural Custodians continue to occupy their tribal lands at Waddananggu across the road from the Adani mine.  
However, they too experienced the recent spate of stormy weather and rain bombs that lashed the whole east coast and as a result Tour de Carmichael for Country has been postponed until 22nd – 26th August.  
The campsite at Waddananggu was flooded and several tents and critical equipment were lost. If you can help them get back on their feet, please go to: <https://standing-our-ground.org> Stopping coal mining is another important action in addressing climate change.

**Join us!**  
NEC meets on the 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.

## Landmark Macadamia Castle to become wildlife sanctuary

A new and exciting chapter has begun for the iconic Macadamia Castle located in the Byron Bay Hinterland, with the recent purchase by not-for-profit organisation Wildlife Recovery Australia (WRA).  
The joint venture with Odonata Foundation and Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital will see significant developments taking place over the next 12 to 24 months. WRA General Manager Stella Ayoub said, "They include structural and aesthetic upgrades, as well as habitat advancements for resident wildlife."  
WRA Director Stephen Van Mil says the Sanctuary's focus will shift towards a bio-park, with the priority to respect, protect and enjoy Australian native wildlife. "Our team works alongside partners to increase awareness and preservation of threatened and endangered species, with the primary objective to rescue, rehabilitate and release," he said.  
The Sanctuary will tailor wildlife-themed experiences to all community groups and domestic and international visitors, including new programs, updated retail areas and a new menu, corporate facilities, NDIS programs. As national and international tourism



markets reopen, the Sanctuary is expecting visitation to grow significantly with these exciting new developments and refocused objectives.  
Meanwhile, the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary will remain open in its current form as an interactive wildlife park, café, gift shop experience, partnering with iconic brands such as Australian Geographic, with a focus on educational, locally produced, ethically sourced and sustainable offerings.  
The Macadamia Castle has been a popular attraction for families in the area since 1975. With the community's on-going support, the Sanctuary will continue to grow and improve as a fun and educational visitor experience with the welfare of wildlife as its highest priority.

# Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

After months of wet weather, I am grateful for the occasional glimpse of sun, less grateful for the forecast that we can expect months more of this wet weather.  
It has made the business of recovery much more difficult for those who suffered loss during the flood events, and I cross fingers and toes every time we have a prediction for heavy rain.  
My heart goes out to those up north who have experienced three heavy flood events this year so far. I can't imagine what that feels like. It certainly puts my problems with mould, mud and squelch into perspective, and I feel eternally grateful that I live in such a dynamic, connected and supportive community.

**Nimbin Rocks for Youth**  
Last month the Nimbin Community Centre agreed to auspice a grant application for a group (mostly parents) wanting to provide events and services for the young people of Nimbin.

We have all acknowledged the impact of the loss of the youth space and services in the village in 2012. I have had discussions with some of the members of the group last year about the need for more events and activities for youth in the village but the loss of all the venues and services in Lismore has made the situation much more critical.  
It's great that we have this group ready to get more events and activities together for young people. The Nimbin Rocks for Youth group has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 by the Northern Rivers Flood Relief Fund.  
They held their first event Saturday 14th May with a youth dance night in the Nimbin Hall (see story p.17). It was really well attended with twice the number of young people turning up as was expected (in spite of the awful weather).  
At least 2-3 other events will be held, with the group also exploring other activities

and resources to support young people in our community so keep an eye out for more events.  
Many thanks to the Northern Rivers Community Foundation for providing the funding. The Nimbin Community Centre is proud to support activities and events that provide for our young people.  
**Loss of garden equipment**  
Last month I reported the theft of all our gardening equipment from the garden shed at the Community Centre.  
Unfortunately, the police have been unable to track down the lost equipment. We have replaced most of the lost equipment and soon we will be back in action.  
We wanted to thank the outpouring of support we received from the community when we publicised our loss. It reminds us that we have the love and support of our community behind us.

**Volunteering for the Community Centre**  
The Community Centre relies on the work and support of our volunteers to help manage and maintain our buildings and grounds and provide some office support.  
Unfortunately, with the pandemic, the flood disaster in February and the damage done to the roads and infrastructure, we have lost our volunteers and need to attract more.  
We are registered with Centrelink, so if you have an obligation to volunteer we would be happy to have you volunteer with our organisation, although this is not a requirement for our volunteers.  
Your volunteering will improve the grounds and gardens at the centre which are enjoyed by our whole community. If you have other skills to offer, we are happy to explore how that can contribute to our centre.  
If you are interested in volunteering at the Community Centre, you can contact us on 02 6689-0000 or via email: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au) or pop into our office during office hours, 8.30am to 4pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

**7 Sibley Street**

**June 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 4th: Make your own felt hat** – Courtney Creations, \$100, bookings essential
- Wed 8th: Learn to make white vinegar** – the universal cleaner and mould wash
- Sat 11th: Cooking with tropical tubers** – using and growing resilient food crops
- Wed 15th: Spinning and weaving** – every 2nd Wednesday
- Tues 21st: Knitting** – with Sue
- Wed 22nd: Make paper lanterns** – for Nimbin's parade on Friday 24th
- Wed 29th: Sewing for beginners** – make a simple tote bag, machine set-up (can BYO machine)

**Regular events**

- Community Tools Library:** Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm.
- 10-minute workshops:** Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or loom weaving.

**Special event!**

**Nimbin's Textile Fair, Saturday 18th June, 10am-3pm** – displays, demonstrations, workshops, cafe and kids activities.  
**Celebrating all things hand-made:** embroidery, lace-making, sewing, knitting, crochet, eco-dyes, bead work, felting, spinning, rug-making, weaving and lots of hands-on learning!



**Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street**

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## Cause for optimism?

We have rejoiced over new independent political talent, and delighted in pruning the deadwood. Let's respect all the people's choices. We may discover that some falsely vilified old hands become valued allies in a reform-minded legislature.

It's time to recognise that peace, justice and prosperity are impossible without major reconstruction of corporate capitalism. Its defective mechanisms are prone to giant mis-steps for countries and humanity. Thinking is limited by profit motive, or irrational partisan empathy for a limited demographic.

Key controllers of the global system are the banking corporations. The reserve banks are their chief facilitators. Surely, allowing profiteers in charge of human destiny is absolutely indefensible.

Banks sweep up half of all liquid cash flows in repayments and interest. The profits accelerate wealth imbalance. Should we not question the very nature and legitimacy of capital, interest, and currency?

We've been forever brainwashed about 'free markets': There is no level playing field for corporations. In striving for monopoly, they lobby and bribe for subsidies and cheap labour. Global capitalism never functioned without slave labour. It is practised internally from Australia to China, even today.

Human values are incomprehensible to the computers of corporate entities. Example: the gross omission of parenting time from GDP does not rate.

Corporations produce toxic side effects for humans and environments. Governments are constantly flunking the catch-up legislation, and mopping up the consequences at massive expense.

Fear excludes debate of such heresies by the luminaries on the ABC, and is censored on commercial mass media. No corporation will hold a hose for the public good.

The first imperative for a community-owned government is to limit corporate size and financial muscle over media and governments.

The latter must be fully democratised. That means independents' powers must be legislatively ranked above political parties, while the latter remain opaquely undemocratic.

A critical, proven reform, under all options for enhanced representation, is multiple representatives per electorate. Half the seats going to Labour with a third of the votes is undemocratic.

Press freedom and integrity measures are equally essential.

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.

The compassion-enabled higher intelligence of new independents, will hatch new possibilities for humanity. Watch for older members who climb aboard. Big things start from small steps.

Hayo van der Woude

Hayo van der Woude  
Mullumbimby

## Election reflections

The institutions of Election Time and parliamentary Question Time are alike.

Question Time in our parliament is not a real 'question time', it is game time for verbal pugilists. It is also a form of psychodrama which is very interesting but has nothing much to do with governance. The combatants don't want answers to their questions, rather they want to harass, dominate, verbally maul their opponents. Election Time and Question Time appear as rather disgusting blood sports.

The arena is parliament, a place with a distinctly dysfunctional culture, where there are strict rules of play and covert forms of score keeping. Spectators might imagine Question Time as metaphor illustrating the greatest weakness of our form of democracy that dominating a political opponent is more important than intelligent debate.

Members of Parliament present themselves as gladiators. First they must win selection to be a political candidate, then they must contest an election and defeat an opponent thereby winning a seat in Parliament, and then they must join with team members to battle the opposition in Parliament, in the street, and by using all forms of the media. The needs of the Australian community are weaponised in this contest.

Question Time and Election Time are alike. Both present clever, nasty politics rather than intelligently debated policy solutions which deal with real life issues like climate change, corruption, and gender inequality, et al. This essay exaggerates the combative nature of Australian politics, intentionally highlighting an aspect of political behaviour that is destructive. Threatening changes are happening to our planet's



climate and we face the possibility of a devastating nuclear war. We can no longer afford the luxury of divisive incompetent politicians.

It's plain to see voters are sick of gender exclusivity and the tumult of the two-party system. 2022 voters have made a statement they don't want authoritarian conservatives, they don't like sexual predators, they want honesty and openness in governance, they want the First Peoples to have a national voice, and they want more women to have political authority.

Voters are done and dusted with Canberra's ivory tower shenanigans. That giant building in Canberra does not belong to politicians, voters have made it clear, it is the property of the Australian people.

Michael Brooke  
Kyogle

## Nuclear Weapons Free Future

Now that the Albanese Labor Government has been elected, we presume they will follow through with their commitment, to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

"Nuclear disarmament is core business for any Labor Government worth its name." – Albanese 2018.

With the backing of over 100 parliamentarians, it is vital that Australia has representation as an observer, at the first meeting of state parties to the TPNW, on 21st-23rd June in Vienna, as well as the fourth Conference on the Humanitarian impacts of Nuclear Weapons on 20th June.

Please raise this with your representatives now.

There are more urgent things to spend money on than militarism, with such a huge global footprint.

Deborah and Mick Stacey  
Ballina

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**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**Friday 24th June**

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

## Notices

### Wanted

Silkworm cocoons for spinning. Phone Bruce: 0438-689-480.

### Annual General Meeting

Tuntale Falls Early Childhood Centre Inc AGM will be held on Wednesday 15th June, 9am at the Tuntale Falls hall. All welcome.

## Vale Paddy Dawson

19/09/1945 – 23/04/2022

Obituary by Kaylene Chamberlain

Paddy was born in London to unconventional parents who travelled from Adelaide in the 1930's, overland through China, Mongolia and Russia – no mean feat for those times.

They made a life for themselves in Hampstead and Paddy grew up in a bohemian environment, immersed in theatre and the arts, and with Hampstead Heath as his backyard.

So it is easy to see why he was such a unique character – charming, political and entertaining.

The Dawson family returned to Australia in 1955 when Paddy was 10. They lived in Mosman, he went to North Sydney Boys High and Sydney University.

Paddy was one of the unmissable characters at Sydney Uni back in the 1960s. He rode on the Freedom Bus in 1965 and was at every anti-Vietnam War demonstration and university sit-in.

He burned his draft card on the steps of the Federal Court, supported Women's rights, Gay rights, and the Anti-Apartheid, Anti-Nuclear, Anti Uranium mining movements.

You could never miss him. Tall, lanky, blonde-haired. Hard not to hear him too as he was always up for a discussion on politics or music in those years.

Then his politics were libertarian socialist, and his models would have been from Spain and the revolutionary anarcho-syndicalist movement, or anywhere else where revolutionary and democratic change came from the bottom up.

His music then was Dylan and the early American hard rock bands. He was a charismatic regular at the inner-city leftie drinking holes, a fully-fledged member of the 'Drinkers for Peace and Disarmament' and a founding member of the 'Unemployed Peoples Union'.

Paddy left Sydney in the early 1970s. He travelled overseas, spending time in the USA at the height of the Vietnam war protests



and Watergate, but it was outback Australia that won his heart and soul. After many adventures in the wilds of the Northern Territory and Far North Queensland he finally settled in Byron Shire in 1986.

He, and his partner Kaylene, slipped into the Huonbrook valley scene and later, New Brighton. Together they raised their much-loved son, Joe, and remained close friends until the end.


True to form, Paddy was always active in the community – writing for the *Northern Star*, involved in local issues, studying for his second degree at UNE, working as a Planning Consultant for Byron Shire Council and, more recently, a member of the Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley ALP.

For the last 16 years he had been living the good life with his partner Jenny, who was always by his side – staunch, caring and loving throughout.

Today, he would possibly qualify as a local, with 36 years in the Shire.

He was well known here, as he was in Sydney. The music might be different (opera, classical, June Tabor and the Pogues) but his open, determined, radical self remained to the end.

RIP Paddy – you will be missed.




**OzKat**  
Clothing

is still available in Nimbin!

at T.H.C - The Heart Connexion - (opp The Green Bank).

Ask Xenia ...she will get it in for you!





# Dignity of risk as capacity declines

by Jenny Martin

**D**id you hear about the woman in residential aged care whose kettle was removed from her room because it was deemed too risky? She went to Seniors Rights Service who acted on her behalf and the kettle was returned – she loved being able to make her visitors a cuppa.

Or the man recovering from a stroke who wanted to go canoeing, but his Home Care Package provider said it was too risky. Our support worker made a careful plan and this decision was reversed – the canoeing went ahead very successfully.

This is Dignity of Risk in action, reflected in the Charter of Aged Care Rights: *“I have the right to have control over and make choices about my care, and personal and social life, including where the choices involve personal risk.”*

A particularly risky, yet courageous example of Dignity of Risk is when someone chooses to remain living at home for as long as possible while experiencing cognitive decline (dementia).

This is very challenging for all involved – client, staff, family, local community. A family representative of such a client recently said to me: “I know Dad would prefer the risks of freedom to the alternative, a locked ward.”

I work with a team of wonderful humans at Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS). Our mission: to support people to stay



independently living at home and connected with community.

We assist adults – maybe they are ageing, have disabilities, have just left hospital or their carer needs a break. All are experiencing a loss of capacity, permanently, temporarily, physically or cognitively.

We organise assistance to suit a person's unique needs under a variety of funding streams. Maybe it's simply a cuppa at our social centre or help sorting out a phone or paperwork.

We schedule over a hundred individual support sessions every week throughout the local region, mostly in-home. Sometimes we support people and their families at end of life, a profound privilege.

NACRS does not have responsibility for our clients beyond organising and delivering assistance at specific times. The big decisions (eg. deciding to move a person into residential care) are NOT ours to make.

People without capacity have nominated family (sometimes with

Power of Attorney and/or Guardianship status) or, where no family/friends are available, they are supported by independent Care Planners, the Public Guardian (legal interests), and/or Trustee & Guardians (finance).

If we have concerns about a client, we let their nominated representatives know.

Thoughtful locals often express concerns about people who are not travelling so well. This is tricky for us, as we are obliged to maintain confidentiality (Charter of Aged Care Rights: *“I have a right to personal privacy and to have my personal information protected”*).

NACRS staff only discuss a person with their nominated representatives or Guardians. We always recommend that if you are ever concerned for a person's safety, immediately call 000.

Our local community repeatedly demonstrates a generous capacity to care for vulnerable people. Of course there is much to improve (most significantly adequate funding for home care and affordable, secure housing for all).

However, on a daily basis we can all take a moment to check in with vulnerable locals, smile, listen, share a story or two, arrange to meet for a cuppa or a walk – be the person we'd like to meet when we find our capacity is waning.

Jenny Martin is General Manager at Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services, based at the Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre, phone 6689-1709.

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## RIP Geoffrey Gwyther

**M**any will remember Tree aka Geoffrey Gwyther, who was for many years a homeless person in Nimbin. Tree died while sitting in the rotunda in Lismore on 21st May. He was aged 66.

Greg Soward, a security guard in Nimbin during the 1980s, recalls finding Tree sleeping under several weatherboard buildings on Cullen Street, and on one occasion rescued him from under the School of Arts after his blanket caught fire.

Over the years, his nickname changed from Mushroom to Tree, to Stump, to Blanket, to Fusebox, and finally at the Winsome to Ray Tree.


He once said his nickname was actually Green Tree, but didn't correct people because so few people ever spoke to him that he didn't want to upset those who did.

He apparently had no family, no friends, and support staff were a rarity.

Although Tree had served gaol time for indecent exposure, Greg Soward believed he wasn't a bad person, and blamed his upbringing for his circumstances.

This appears to be confirmed by what the reticent Tree had once said: "My parents were a bloody curse I didn't need mate, no bloody good. I wouldn't even talk about what they did to me. They were cruel mate, from when I was just a baby."


Tree had recently tested positive for Covid after visiting an evacuation centre in Lismore after the flood, and it is thought he may not have fully recovered.



Rest in peace, Geoffrey Gwyther.

**Mr BOBCAT**  
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