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# NORPA determined to return

Like every venue for live music and theatre in Lismore, the City Hall was inundated with floodwaters twice, which has caused NORPA's schedule to grind to a halt, just as it was gearing up again following all the Covid lockdowns and restrictions.

It's still unknown how long it will be until the theatre is operational as Lismore City Hall has sustained a lot of damage. The loading dock/back of house is just one of the major hurdles with two lifts non-operational. Lismore City Hall is a council asset so it is contingent on their timeline of assessment of damage, ability to rebuild, etc. The hope is to rebuild Lismore City Hall as NORPA's home, but it will take time, money and goodwill.

NORPA has spent many years investing in Lismore City Hall to make it into the premier performing arts centre for the Northern Rivers. Unfortunately there are no other venues in the Northern Rivers region that have the facilities and capability to host the big scale shows that were programmed at the venue in the 2022 NORPA season.

The good news is that NORPA continues to make homegrown works that tell the stories of this region. The two shows NORPA is creating this year were planned to take place outside the theatre and will still go ahead – *Love for One Night* is performed at The Eltham Hotel and will run for three weeks in September and there will be a pop-up mobile theatre experience in the Byron Shire for *Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise* in August.

Visit: [www.norpa.org.au](http://www.norpa.org.au) for details.



The studio at City Hall post-flood

# Free gig foray frustrates locals

► Continued from page 1

The 2480 postcode (pictured) covers 69 different localities including Nimbin, Dunoon and The Channon. The 2471 postcode covers the Coraki region and 2472 covers Broadwater and Woodburn, all of which were heavily impacted by the storms and floods.

There were also some criticisms that the Byron Bay postcode 2481 was not included as eligible for freebies, although Byron locals have just enjoyed the return of Bluesfest, while nearly all of Lismore's entertainment venues have been destroyed.

"This is the event our community needs," Lismore's mayor Steve Krieg said.

"The last two months have been difficult for our community, however I know there is a strong need for our community to come together and



this concert is an opportunity for us to celebrate our resilience and lift community spirits," he said.

On Thursday afternoon, in response

to the overwhelming demand for tickets, an extra 2000 free tickets were made available, on top of the original 10,000 bringing the total to 13,000 which includes the 1000 for "out of towners", and is the maximum capacity for the venue. The 2000 extra tickets were snapped up within two hours of the announcement.

"We thought this concert would be a tonic for the people of Lismore and judging by demand clearly there's an appetite for some brief respite. Demand's still very strong but in the interest of public safety we have no choice but to cap it at the 13,000 allocation", Steve Krieg said.

Grinspoon lead singer, Phil Jamieson, said, "Grinspoon are over the bloody moon to be giving back to a community that gave us so much. We can't wait to see you all on 15th May in 2480!"



# ANZAC Day in Nimbin



Preparations at Lismore's first war memorial



# Towards the Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary

by Benny Zable, president  
Nimbin Aquarius Foundation

At our recent AGM, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc voted back the key office bearers from the last couple of years: Benny Zable as president, Bob Dooley as vice president, Katie Cawcutt as treasurer and Renee English as secretary.

Roving ambassadors Annie McGovern, and Teddy (Tor) Davis were present contributing to the meeting, and remain as committee members, and Caroline Nature was voted in as a new committee member who will be a liaison person between the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and the Foundation going forward.

After completing formal AGM business, presenting reports and signing up of new members, an open house sharing took place. Peace bus Graeme Dunstan introduced us to a couple of filmmakers who are working on a full length feature film, tracing the history of and since the Nimbin Aquarius Lifestyle Festival to be premiered at the 50th anniversary. The documentary will then be screened in cinemas all around Australia.

Through this collaboration we learned that over the past 12 months the Nimbin



NAFI Annual General Meeting. Photo: Benny Zable

Chamber has been fielding inquiries from outsiders wanting to know what is planned, or offering to contribute to the 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has been looking for Expressions of Interest for a position for an experienced overseer to help with promoting the planned events. Speaking with Dave Hyatt, the president of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, we agreed to support, work and play together in planning the Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary as best we can for all concerned.

We as a community owe it to the up-and-coming future generations who are looking

for encouragement and inspiration going forward.

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

The original Nimbin Aquarius Festival in 1973 initiated a major cultural shift for the Northern NSW region, now known as the Rainbow Region. The festival was a convergence of a generation in search of change.

The festival itself was an artform of people from around Australia as well as international participants, sharing their ideas in shaping lifestyles that would build a kinder world. The journey is as important and relevant now as it was then: a vision quest for a world of caring and sharing."

If you would like to get involved, the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. (NAFI) will be holding its next meeting on Friday 13th May in the Community Centre Comskool room from 3pm on. All are welcome.

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



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# Logging still halted in Girard State Forest

by Naomi Shine, Forest Defence NSW

On Jukembal country, Girard State Forest remains protected from logging for another day.

Police arrested one protector who had been suspended above machinery all day. Today another protector is taking direct action to keep the forest safe from logging.

He said, "I'm taking this action because I believe it is necessary. I love and understand the importance of these forests. Logging in the face of climate collapse is criminal. Today I'm using my body to disrupt this unjust destruction."

"Getting to know the forests and their inhabitants in the Northern Rivers these past two years, I get to know a landscape of death, suffering new injuries for profit every day. This is what we come home to every time we go away: floods, fires, extinction, droughts, war and lies. Why do we need to make our future so terrifying?"

Girard State Forest is part of an important wildlife corridor. Protected native species such as Yellow Bellied Gliders, Greater Gliders, the Powerful Owl and Koalas live in this area.

The logging operation has already cut down trees with hollows that should be protected. The forest dependent wildlife need these trees to survive. They will not be able to survive another logging cycle. This is what is causing the extinction



crisis forest scientists are warning us about.

This action is part of the movement to end native forest logging across Australia. Other States have committed to end native forest logging, it's only a matter of time until we do here in NSW.

Forestry Corporation NSW needs to transition its efforts to 100% plantation timbers now in order to save our endangered wildlife, protect our water catchments and buffer the worst effects of climate change.

Our public native forests are important in our defence against the catastrophic impacts of climate change. They are far more valuable to us standing than they are destroyed by logging.

Last year the Natural Resources Commission advised the NSW Forestry Corporation it needs to do more to protect threatened species from logging. The Forestry Corporation has ignored this advice.

We must end native forest logging in NSW.

# Solomon Islands state of play

by Richard White

In 1994, I went with an ADRA volunteer building group to begin construction of two houses for teachers near Honiara in the Solomon Islands.

The locals put on a welcoming meal for us, and my son and other children with our group spent their days mainly playing basketball and football with the local kids

This was done through AusAid and represented a constructive relationship between the countries.

In the next 30 years, Aid to these countries has been slashed in real terms, and dialogue regarding climate change and the effect on Pacific islands ignored.

So, a small nation realises it can gain more by playing the bigger more imperialistic nations off against each other. No brainer.

Putin is struggling with his highly technical forces across a joint land border of 2063 kilometers with Ukraine to squash and dominate them.

China, which has maritime and land disputes with at least 16 countries, (Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, South Korea, North Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, Tibet, Singapore and Brunei) and is threatening to invade Taiwan just 161km away, so is a hypothetical military presence on the Solomon Islands, 3277km over sea to Australia, a real threat?



Photo courtesy Al Jazeera

Especially considering all the other countries in between China and Australia are having some form of dispute already.

In the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, there was an attempt to get missiles, by sea, into Cuba. It is hard to see how China realistically can launch any form of attack from the Solomons that it can't already do from nuclear submarines.

The U.S. military's latest assessment of Chinese military power, published in September 2020, estimated that China had 50 diesel-powered attack submarines, six nuclear-powered attack submarines and four nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines.

Maybe more Liberals like Andrew Robb are a bigger threat. He approved a 99-year lease of Darwin Harbour to Shandong Landbridge company, and two years later it was reported he was given a \$73,000 per MONTH position as a high level consultant.

In 2014, Tony Abbott bravely stated, "I'm going to shirtfront Mr Putin... you bet I am," and now the Liberal party is going to red-line China. Just as well we had another Liberal PM, Harold Holt going all the way with LBJ, followed by

Johnnie Howard chasing weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

How do we help the Pacific Island nations? Maybe ask them what their main concerns are; perhaps climate change and rising sea levels, loss of safe drinking water, health, economics and education?

Oh, and maybe the extended ABC broadcasting isn't a bad idea, considering radio is the most influential type of media in the Solomon Islands due to language differences, illiteracy and the difficulty of receiving television signals in some parts of this 900-plus island nation.





# Wyrallah Road champions

by Chibo Mertineit

The other day I drove down Wyrallah Road in Lismore and saw a lot of activity at the used furniture shop.

I dropped in and saw that it is now a very busy food hub, where I met Heather and Lisa, two single mums volunteering every day.

Heather told me the whole place was flooded on 28th February but got cleaned out pretty quickly afterwards. "While I was pretty devastated as I owned all the furniture, and after a day or two feeling sad and sorry, I heard that Summit Sports in Goonellabah was looking for a storage place for all the donations for the flood victims they were receiving.

"So I opened it up for them and then it nearly got out of control," Karen Willott, the owner of the furniture shop said.

They are receiving food donations from Brothers in Need, which is a Muslim-based organisation working for homeless people in Brisbane who have delivered for the second time.

Food360 has a flood plan for 2-3 years for Lismore, not just six months, and are working together with Turbans4Australia, one of Australia's leading Sikh-based charitable organisations, with drops of a semitrailer once a week.

Hillsong had just dropped off pallets of food for the second time before I got there. Then there are all the individuals from all over Australia who order their food donations with Woolies or Coles and have them delivered there.

'51 Wyrallah Food Hub Lismore' is their name on facebook, if you want to connect.

As Heather told me, Karen had to fight with council about the rubbish bin, because they still had her down

as a business. "We are operating like a charity and Karen is still paying the rent out of her own pocket. One month the Sikhs paid it for her."

I was more than shocked. Here are good people volunteering their time, Lisa driving in from Alstonville every day, and it looks like they are not getting any financial support from government or council.

"We are working here with love and you can feel it. We always take time to listen when we see people in distress. So it's no wonder that a lot of people rather come here instead of going to the showground," Heather said.

So I would like to thank all those beautiful committed volunteers: Al, Annie, Chris, Heather, Karen and Paddy.

If you would like to financially support this charity operation, there is now a page on [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com): 'Help keep Wyrallah Road Centre stay open'.

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We send our love to the universe. We are all challenged with change.  
After cancellation of the April market, we're hopeful this one will go ahead.

Enquiries: 6688-6433

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## Volunteers drive Lismore recovery effort



Scenes from around the Quad in Lismore, including the Thursday farmers market, at bottom, by Chibo Mertineit







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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

### Flood disaster help and information

People in the Nimbin catchment area who have been displaced, or are worried you may become displaced due to flood/landslide impacts on your housing or access, WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU, so we can start working together on housing solutions and lobby to attract resources to support you.

Drop into the Neighbourhood Centre or call us to make a face to face or telephone appointment with our Community Workers Pete and Elke – we are here for you.

We are continuing to operate as the Response and Recovery Assistance Centre for the Nimbin area on Wednesdays. There are numerous additional external service providers 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.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

Behind the scenes is a bunch of Nimbin community organisations and community volunteers all working closely together to streamline the local response and recovery... the combined effort is what has made the community-level response possible.

This group continues to meet regularly and work together on strategies to improve the outcomes for our community.

### Disaster relief payments and grants

It seems the barriers to obtaining grants and payments are significant and the eligibility criteria to date have been narrow, resulting in many community members falling through the gaps and experiencing growing frustration.

### Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BUS OUTINGS** – 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Scenic drives, cafes for morning tea & lunch (you pay), bookings essential, fees apply.

Phone 6689-1709 or visit NACRS at the Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre to find out more. [www.nacrs.com.au](http://www.nacrs.com.au)



We at NNIC feel your pain, and we can at least walk alongside you and advocate where we can. Nobody should have to deal with this alone. There are links and info about many of the grants and payments on offer, on our website.

### GIVIT registration

NNIC is registered with GIVIT, so if you need household items or equipment 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.

### Damage to internal roads networks and driveways

We are waiting for the report back regarding the assessments undertaken by Recovery Agency crews in early April.

It is clear that funds are needed to undertake comprehensive Geotech assessments in numerous locations, which include advice regarding remedial work required and cost estimates.

It is also clear from quotes obtained around the community to date, that the costs of rectifying key access for communities in the area will be beyond the capacity of community members in many cases.

You can register this issue with NNIC if you have not already done so, as the info will assist us to work out how much funds are needed to cover e.g. Geotech assessments so that we can make the case for funding support.

### 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).

### Nimbin Recreational Cannabis Forum

Towards a Safe and Healthy Cannabis Culture: 7th May 11am-1pm Nimbin Town Hall

Come along and check out the movie featuring loads of Nimbinites' views on our Cannabis Culture and have a conversation about it. All Nimbinites welcome. This is a FREE event and yummy food will be provided.

Brought to you by Nimbin CDAT (Community Drug Action Team). It's sure to be a lively and interesting discussion so Don't Miss This!

### 7 Sibley Street update

The composting loo is really taking shape now despite everything that the universe has hurled at us, including Covid and endless wet weather and of course a natural disaster thrown in for good measure.

We are running behind schedule but we should have a roof and will be ready to finally do the Hempcrete installation when we get a run of fine weather.

Thanks to Adrian from Green e-Buildings for his mammoth effort, also to Shane for all his help and also Steph.

**Boundary Adjustment:** Council voted at its April meeting to defer any decision regarding the boundary adjustment with the old skate park site agreed to last year, until such time as the community has been consulted further about the area of land in question and the 7 Sibley Street project.

Work has commenced on a revised concept plan and once we have something to run past you all, we will call a community workshop on this issue. Watch this space!

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

## 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 19th May.

### 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

How the year has flown! NEC's AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th May at 6pm. NEC is an incorporated community organisation and is member-driven. With strength in numbers our voices can be heard on a range of issues.

New members are always welcome. Join with others to make a difference, locally and nationally. NEC volunteers staff the information centre and retail shop at 54 Cullen Street.

Pop in and say hi and check out the range of organic, ethically and locally-produced goods which make great gift items for yourself or your friends and family.

### Coal mining

The Wangan and Jagalingou Cultural Custodians continue to protest against the Adani/Bravus mine in the Galilee Basin with a re-occupation of their Country for over six months at Waddanangu. Changing the name of Adani to Bravus is a furphy. Whatever name it is called, it still stinks.

Tour de Carmichael is a five day cultural tour by bicycle of significant sites in the area led by Coedie McAvoy. It will kick off on the 23rd May.

You don't have to be a gung-ho cyclist as support vehicles will carry all the camping gear and there are also non-riding roles to fill. To join the tour and find out more, go to: <https://standing-our-ground.org>

Meanwhile Clive Palmer is proceeding with development of the Waratah Coal mining lease next door to the Carmichael mine and slap-bang on the Bimblebox Nature Reserve.

Purchased with private money and funding from the Australian National Reserve



System, this important conservation area was set up in 2003 to prevent logging of the property and protect the wildlife there for perpetuity.

It has one of the largest areas of intact woodlands left and is home to a number of vulnerable and endangered plant and animal species.

Ironically it is also the conservation offset for Adani's Carmichael coal mine. But conservation values carry no weight, so Bimblebox is not protected from money-hungry mining interests, so it's goodbye to the black-throated finch which will have nowhere else to go.

### Logging Native Forests

A NSW parliamentary inquiry investigating logging of native forests has established that this practice is not financially viable. Forestry Corporation lost \$20 million in 2020 – 2021.

Repeated breaches of the regulations have also occurred, with irreparable damage done to hollow-bearing trees and important wildlife habitat. The under-resourced EPA struggles to prosecute breaches in a timely manner. And when it does, the loggers get fined a paltry \$78,000.

A logging company executive director claims the loggers "seek to restore forest

health through forestry activity". Anyone who has seen a logged forest would find this statement laughable.

There is nothing "healthy" about an area that has been clear-felled, leaving a token one or two large trees behind. Re-growth includes significant weeds such as lantana, which inhibits regeneration of other species.

Logging in catchment headwaters leads to increases in erosion which causes the rivers to silt up and exacerbates flooding.

### Protesting

Peaceful protesting in NSW is still under threat with the recent *Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022* which prescribes significant fines of \$22,000 and up to two years' imprisonment for breaches.

The wording of the bill is vague and broad, and questions have been asked about the validity of such a law.

With a federal election is coming up on the 21st May, NEC joined with Kyogle Environment Group and the Lismore Environment Centre to present a public forum for the candidates for Page on 1st May.

Make your vote count and vote for the environment before it's too late.

# Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

### Room bookings

As we get back to some kind of normal, the classes and activities in the Dance Studio and Birth and Beyond meeting room are getting back into full swing. There are dance, tai chi and yoga classes, support groups and other services.

You can view the bookings in the "What's On" calendar on the Nimbin Community Centre website: [www.nimbincommunity.org.au](http://www.nimbincommunity.org.au) and book on-line

### Open Learning

Our tenants, the Nimbin Community School are also starting a new term of Adult Education Classes including life drawing and creative



writing. You can check out their program on the Nimbin Adult Learning Facebook page.

### Break-in

On Tuesday 26th April we discovered that someone has broken into the garden shed and stolen all our garden equipment.

We last went into the shed the Friday before.

It's heartbreaking to think that there are people out there who will steal from a community asset.

So far we have lost:  
3 Honda brush cutters;  
1 self propelled mower Victa Mulch master 560;  
1 brand new Gerni;  
1 small blower Shindaiwa EB220S;  
1 x 20lt petrol jerrycan;  
2 x 5lt petrol jerrycan;  
4lt can 2 stroke oil;  
2 x 1lt 2 stroke oil mixing can;  
4lt 10-30 motor oil;  
Secateurs Felco x 3;  
Fiskars loppers 1 big, 1 small.

There may be more, and we will discover this as we go through what's left.

We are running a deficit budget this year, so this will hurt us to have to replace this equipment.

If anyone has seen anything or knows anything, please let us know: 02 6689-0000, [nccci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:nccci@nimbincommunity.org.au)

# Nimbin's time to shine



The clean-up is all but complete for the small number of Nimbin businesses who were affected by the recent floods.

Many thanks to all community organisations, mostly volunteers, as well as many others in our community who made themselves available for the clean-up.

Current state of play is that Nimbin Servo, Nimbin Motors, the Bowlo and Nimbin Candles are all back up and running, and the Bush Theatre Café is due to re-open in early May.

Trading in the village seems to be rather robust as people want to get out and enjoy the company of others after being isolated for some time.

Let's not forget however, the members of our community who are still in recovery mode with landslip impacts, lost driveways, fencing and infrastructure related issues.

If we all reach out to help our neighbours and friends, the pain will be less for them to bear.

By now it is so clear how much we rely on Lismore to provide goods and services needed by Nimbin residents. Everything from medical services, major building supplies, specialised retail and



## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

banking – the list goes on.

A quick trip to Lismore to pick up necessities or to attend appointments with professionals in many fields is not currently possible, and many of us must travel to Gold Coast, Tweed Heads or Ballina.

As more Lismore businesses re-open and come back on-line, I feel it is incumbent upon us to support them.

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is reaching out to the Lismore Chamber with the view of obtaining an up-to-date list of businesses that have re-opened, so that we as members of the wider Lismore community, can fully support flood-affected owners of Lismore businesses trying to get back on their feet.

On the other side of the coin, the calamity of the floods is presenting opportunities to many businesses involved in the clean-up and re-establishment of Lismore and surrounds. In addition, Lismore businesses re-

opening and servicing immediate needs are leading the charge towards invigorating and attracting prosperity in the town.

Nimbin also has an opportunity during this uncertain period. Our functioning and vibrant village environment is being accessed and enjoyed by our flood-wary neighbours. Let us make them feel welcome.

Back on the ground in Nimbin, several issues were raised during the last meeting of the Chamber:

- The proposed replacement of the dilapidated seating at the blister with furniture suitable to the community's needs as well as being more aesthetic.
- Members agreed to provide \$100 per month to assist the rental commitments on the Wai-Bal Cultural Centre at the Nimbin Community Centre.
- The village signage project is all but completed with most of the final decisions having been made regarding text content and location.
- Nimbin Roots Festival is slotted for 15th-16th October, with 5% of ticket sales to be donated to help Nimbin's flood-affected folk. Bookings: [www.nrfest.com](http://www.nrfest.com)

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is the ideal vehicle for members of the local business community to have a voice in the wider world of commerce.

If you are not a member and would like to join, please visit: [www.nimbinaustralia.com.au](http://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au)



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**Workshops** (start 10.30am)

- **Tues 3rd: Learn to avoid on-line scams** – presented by Summerland Credit Union
- **Wed 4th: Spinning basics** – bring your old spinning wheel or use one of ours
- **Wed 11th: Bamboo panels** – simple construction for gates, garden edging or temporary bridges
- **Tues 17th: Knitting** – with Sue
- **Wed 18th: Textiles** – Inkle loom weaving
- **Sat 21st: Resilient food gardens** – Farm Tour with Cerise at Nimbin Solar Farm.

Sub-tropical and regenerative ag in practice (bookings essential)

- **Tues 24th: Waterproofing fabric** – make lightweight raincoats, tarps, bags

**Regular events**

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



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Transgender?

Equating biological females with male eunuchs (who want everyone to believe they are so-called 'transgender female') is not only deliberately misleading, it promotes and normalises male body and male genital mutilation! Something Australia criminalises for those causing female genital mutilation!

Whether or not a neutered male takes hormone replacement therapy, has breast-implants, has his mutilated penis skin inserted inside him, or during psychiatric sessions is coerced to 'think' he has become a female, the truth is that he remains a male eunuch who, due to his mutilation, is now biologically incapable of achieving an orgasm.

By promoting the 'transgender female' issue is to normalise male genital mutilation ... and worse, encourage impressionable sexually ambiguous pre-pubescent boys to 'think' it's okay to become one!

Azan Mann  
Evans Head

Worthy independent

Already the Coalition are attacking independents, including Hanabeth Luke, who's standing for Page at the election.

It seems that because independents are standing in Coalition-held seats they're criticised as not being really independent and should state whether they would support Labor if they win the election.

Perhaps the reason these predominantly women are standing in predominantly Coalition seats is that they want this current government gone, and that's the best way of ensuring it.

Instead of sledging independents, critics should find out more about them and see what makes them different to Coalition candidates.

As just one local example, Hanabeth Luke is an amazing young woman. She is a scientist and teacher who developed and runs a course in regenerative agriculture, which many farmers now see as essential to their on-going productivity.

She is a woman of great personal courage, which has been her record, starting with bringing victims of the Bali bombing to safety, rescuing Marine life as a volunteer and right through to more recently rescuing flood survivors in her tinny, be they humans or other animals.

Hanabeth has gone out of her way to personally provide post-flood assistance in the Evans Head area where she and her family live.

Her commitment to us is to

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.

fight for decency and honesty in government, badly needed right now, for fair allocation of funding, housing for our families and addressing climate change.

To find out more about Hanabeth, go to: [www.hanabethluke.com.au](http://www.hanabethluke.com.au)

How refreshing it would be to see someone with those commitments and of that calibre representing us in Page and not the Coalition, with its lack of transparency, unacceptable position on climate change and failure to address disasters in an equitable and speedy way!

Ros Irwin  
Caniaba

Engineering solution to flooding

Hindsight has unfortunately given us an opportunity to reflect on choices that were made regarding the control of water in Lismore.

Many years ago an old engineer (Mr Armstrong now deceased), who was employed in the Middle East to implement water system support for vast areas, was always trying to advocate that the problem with flooding in Lismore was the very fact that two flooding rivers meet in the centre of Lismore.

He was adamant that this is the problem, and that a levee could not fully address this.

His suggestion was to divert the western creek (Leycester Creek) with either a canal or large pipeline/tunnel that diverted water past the airport to meet the Wilson's river downstream.

Such a diversion would naturally use the channel when water levels reached a medium threat level to the town centre, thereby the water course was not all diverted. The displaced earth could also benefit building a higher runway for the airport.

He suggested using the natural turns of the river to divert from and to, and if he was here he would have the right to say "I told you so".

Lismore needs a better water plan. With canals or tunnelling now a much simpler task, surely it's worth another look. We need to keep this city relevant.

J Hunt  
Alstonville Plateau



Bike track rort

The Morrison Government can spend billions of taxpayers' money on their car park rorts, sports rorts, emissions reduction schemes rorts that don't reduce emissions. They can waste \$5.5billion cancelling submarine contracts.

Billions can be found to upgrade train services from Sydney to Newcastle and from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast, but not a cent for the Casino to Murwillumbah (C-M) train line for a train service to provide transport for locals and millions of tourists, while connecting the region to the Queensland rail system and the airport at Coolangatta.

For decades, the most pressing local problems consistently identified by locals are the lack of affordable housing and lack of affordable public transport. If the money the Morrison and the state governments are spending destroying the C-M line for a bike track rort was spent upgrading the publicly-owned rail line, worth many billions, the line could once again connect the majority of local population centres while reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions.

All Morrison and the Liberal/Nationals, supported by the Labor Party, can deliver for the Northern Rivers community is millions spent destroying this valuable train line for a bike track rort. When so many have lost everything, including their cars, in the worst floods in history, caused by climate change. We deserve much better than this.

Instead of utilising this valuable infrastructure for the benefit of the whole community and the environment, both the Liberal/National and Labor Party politicians choose to ignore thousands of residents attending rallies and signing petitions calling for Trains On Our Tracks.

They prefer to waste eye-watering amounts of taxpayers' money pandering

to a small cashed-up lobby group, while destroying this valuable train line and the planet.

In an area where life can be very difficult for those who don't drive or can't afford a car, and low paid workers are forced to spend huge amounts driving hundreds of kilometres to work each week while the price of petrol is going through the roof, something really stinks here.

Voters need to think very carefully about what they vote for on 21st May

Louise Doran  
Ocean Shores

Ripping up the rails

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd (NRRL) has received information that the railway tracks are now being ripped out at Casino.

Federal Nationals MP for Page, Kevin Hogan committed \$7.5 million to destroy the 13km rail line from Casino to Bentley and replacing it with a bike trail.

Railway experts say this is the best piece of track in the whole railway line. If it was the same to repair as the section for the Byron Solar train, this would cost \$6.5 million to repair the railway track to Bentley, less than the cost of the bike trail.

Lismore City Council has recently accepted the funding

About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley  
Assistant editor Sue Stock  
Sub-editor S Sorrensen  
Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley  
Photographers Sue Stock, Chibo Mertineit  
Distribution Peter, Coralie, Brommers, Chibo, Sue, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Dominique, Rosie and Trevor

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.

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

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NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 27th May

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

offer of \$9.9 million for a bike trail for the 16.3km section from Bentley to Lismore, made by Kevin Hogan. At the same costings it would be \$8.15 million to repair the tracks. Why waste money on ripping up valuable infrastructure?

After the recent disastrous floods, having the roads blocked meant empty shelves in supermarkets and people unable to buy essential food or petrol. The Casino to Murwillumbah railway was built to be flood-free, and could have been an effective transport link for these essential supplies.

We're being let down by out-of-date government thinking, and the total loss of public transport is an added disaster for everyone.

We need to question, in this time before the Federal election, why the Nationals are wanting to rip up railway tracks.

Railways have been proven to be the best way to cut transport emissions quickly. Yet here we are seeing the destruction of a railway in a busy, populated area like the Northern Rivers.

Traffic congestion, road damage and accidents will continue to worsen. It's sad to lose our transport because of a deliberately negative government report.

A different government could possibly withdraw the

funding for the destruction of this great railway line if they cared more for our communities and action on climate change.

Construction of a bike trail at Murwillumbah has been happening for the last few months, and after the floods we've seen what a mess is left when water washes away a bike trail. This would not be happening if the rails were still there to hold the earth in place.

This bike trail is going to end up costing heaps for ratepayers when the government should be providing decent public transport for locals and the many tourists that come to the Northern Rivers.

People come to the Byron Shire in huge numbers but have no transport to get around to the rest of the region. Finding transport to get to a bike trail in Casino won't be possible for many.

Trains to Byron would offer the chance for them to get out to Lismore, Casino and Murwillumbah to visit these areas.

Kevin Hogan doesn't show any real care for this community when he offers money to rip up the railway.

People need to vote for someone who cares about our needs, and we need our railway.

Beth Shelley  
Boorie Creek

In memory of Wolfgang "Wolfi" Rüdiger Stemmer

5th May 1939 – 21st March 2022



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Wolfgang "Wolfi" Rüdiger Stemmer. He requested that his ashes be spread into the ocean and that there be no celebrations or ceremony. If you would like to honour him, please plant a tree (or a forest, or a vegetable garden) in his name. To his friends, family, and community – thank you for all of your love, support, and most importantly your contribution to his life. To my father. I love you and am so grateful for your contribution to my life. You will forever be loved.

– Lara



# Local communities must be front and centre of reconstruction

by Janelle Saffin MP  
State Member for Lismore

The Northern Rivers now has a powerful Reconstruction Corporation to lead what will be a monumental flood rebuilding effort for Lismore and other affected communities across our region.

From day one, when it became clear that the February 28 flood disaster was unfolding as a national catastrophe to rival Cyclone Tracy in 1974, I started advocating for a Darwin-style reconstruction commission, noting the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and its good model and work.

I had a good briefing from QRA Head Brendan Moon, and talked with Anna Bligh, who created it. The NSW Government has been liaising with the QRA regularly and NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet noted that their model was one to be taken into consideration.

The sheer scale of devastation wrought by the floods on residential homes, rental properties, local businesses, public infrastructure including roads and community well-being was unprecedented, demanding a coordinated whole-of-government approach to help thousands of displaced and traumatised people rebuild their lives.

The response needed to be very different from relying on the regular disaster relief response and the array of financial support programs,



Janelle Saffin with, from left, Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation chief executive David Witherdin, Northern Region Recovery Co-ordinator Assistant Commissioner Mal Lanyon, NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet and Lismore Mayor Cr Steve Krieg mapping out priorities at Southern Cross University.

however welcome, as this would only scratch the surface of what was required in human terms over the medium to longer term.

I drove this Reconstruction Commission now Corporation initiative hard and gathered bipartisan support for it, notably from Premier Perrottet, who bought in early, and from NSW Opposition Leader Chris Minns, who backs it in 100%.

Joining the Premier and his Deputy Paul Toole for last month's announcement at Southern Cross

University were my State Parliamentary colleagues; Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis, Member for Ballina Tamara Smith,

Member for Tweed Geoff Provest, Lismore Mayor Cr Steve Krieg, Ballina Mayor Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Richmond Valley Mayor Cr Robert Mustow.

Local communities must be front and centre, with local councils playing a key hands-on role, as we turn a corner in flood recovery and rebuilding.

I know that other Mayors – Cr Chris Cherry (Tweed Shire), Cr Kylie Thomas (Kyogle), Cr Michael Lyon (Byron Shire) and Cr Ian Tiley (Clarence) – and their fellow councillors will be keen to lend their knowledge and expertise to the process.

The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) will sit within the Department of Regional NSW and be led by Chief Executive (CE) David Witherdin, who currently leads NSW Public Works Advisory and the Soil Conservation Service.

Mr Witherdin has a big job and has so far shown the right mix of competence and compassion, and the proof will be in his community engagement and delivery.

He has assured me that the NRCC'S Head Office will be based in Lismore where the current Public Works office is, and that he and his team will have a real presence here on the ground.

I have, of course, already

been asked if local tradies and firms will get a go, and am further assured by the CE that is the case. Mr Witherdin says local tradespeople can register their interest by emailing [nswgovfloodrego@huskieservices.com](mailto:nswgovfloodrego@huskieservices.com)

This is managed by Johns Lyng who are leading the property assessment and demolition program on behalf of Public Works.

The NRRC will have the power to work with councils and others to identify, prioritise and support projects that can rejuvenate communities within the Northern Rivers, with a particular emphasis on housing and supporting social infrastructure.

While my daily focus remains on assisting those in the hardest hit areas within my Electorate of Lismore, I made sure that the NRRC would cover the Northern Rivers that includes the seven local government areas which make up the wider region.

In the spirit of regionalism, I have offered to meet with these councils to ensure that collectively we don't miss any good flood recovery ideas when advocating for the Northern Rivers in Macquarie Street.

We must unify and stay the course to make this work because we all have a stake in its success.

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**Annual General Meeting**  
Nimbin Environment Centre Inc AGM: Wednesday 11th May, 6pm at Community Centre school room, 81 Cullen St, Nimbin. All welcome. Must be a financial member to vote. NB: Monthly meeting will be held at 5pm.

**Nimbin Open Learning**  
Term two starts Wednesday May 11th, with classes in Spanish, Creative Writing, Mindfulness Meditation and Life Drawing. All courses \$60. Enrolments Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th May, 10am to 3pm at the Community Centre school room. More info on 6689-1477 or facebook.

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