



From the mayor's desk
by Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

I know the importance the Nimbin community places on our natural

Rural Landholder grants open

environment and the need to regenerate farmland to return it to a much more pristine state.

That is why I am pleased to let you know that Council is now calling for Expressions of Interest for our grants under our Rural Landholder Initiative.

Council calls for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) each year from rural landholders across the LGA who are seeking assistance with materials and labour for

on-ground works to protect and enhance areas such as koala habitat, riverbanks, and remnant vegetation.

Assistance provided is up to \$5000 for primary works and initial maintenance in the first year, with complex restoration projects eligible for second year funds up to \$2500. Sites along floodplain riverbanks can apply for up to \$10,000 if works include fencing and off-stream watering.

For more information, call Council on 6625-

0500 or email: environmentalstrategies@lismore.nsw.gov.au
You can also find out more information on our website: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au under the Environment & Sustainability tab along the top.

Small business breakfast
Council is holding a free Small Business Month breakfast at the Nimbin Bush Theatre Café on Thursday, 17th November

between 7.30am and 8.30am. The theme is 'Boost Sales, Boost Wellbeing: Top Tips to work smarter not harder with social media, drive sales and energise yourself'. Business and Wellbeing expert Liza Lyttle is the guest speaker and will deliver tips on how to get social media to work harder for you and convert clicks to cash. She'll also reveal a wealth of free, on-line wellbeing resources to help you reduce stress and anxiety and

increase your energy levels.
Water restrictions
I would also like to thank the Nimbin community for following the current Level 3 water restrictions. It's ironic that the additional rain brought by La Nina has led to so much turbidity that the water is no longer drinkable. Council is currently developing a long-term solution to this unacceptable situation. In the meantime, I thank you for your patience.
steve.krieg@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Flood recovery funding welcome

The long awaited announcement about government funding for home buybacks and home relocations was made in Lismore last Friday 28th October.

Some \$800M is being allocated across seven LGAs to enable the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation's Resilient Homes Program to offer around 2,000 eligible homeowners one of the three available measures, based on expert property assessments; flood impact severity data, safety risks and potential future flood levels:

- Home Buy-back – the homeowner receives a payment for the purchase of the land and house based on a preflood valued amount; or
- Home Raising – up to \$100,000 towards the cost of elevating home liveable areas and associated retrofitting; or
- Home Retrofit – up to \$50,000 towards the cost of retrofit and/or repair works to incorporate flood resilient design and materials in liveable areas. The voluntary buyback scheme will be offered to Northern Rivers residents located in the most vulnerable areas where major flooding would pose a catastrophic risk to life.

Eligible recipients
To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:
• You are a homeowner (owner-occupier or landlord) of a residence (house/unit/duplex) in the Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley or Tweed



by Cr Darlene Cook
Lismore City Council

- LGAs (Local Government Areas) prior to the February and March 2022 floods;
- You are the homeowner of a residence that was either:
 - directly damaged by flood waters in the February and March 2022 floods; OR
 - damaged as a result of landslip caused by the February and March 2022 floods.
- Your home is a residence (house/unit/duplex) not used primarily for business purposes;
- You meet the impact eligibility criteria relevant to each program stream. Buy backs will include insured and uninsured homes. Any insurance settlements will be deducted from contract price.

Next steps
• The Resilient Homes Program will commence community outreach from mid-November 2022;
• If you are already engaged in the Flood Property Assessment Program, delivered by NSW Public Works and Johns Lyng Group, then you will be contacted automatically;

• Other homeowners can register their interest in the Resilient Homes Program by filling in the online contact details form at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/northern-rivers-reconstruction-corporation/resilient-homes-fund/resilient-homes-program>
While there's been a lot of media concentrated on the flood impacts in Lismore, we know that people were affected in the Nimbin/Tuntab/The Channon/Bexhill areas and they too are eligible for assistance if they fit the above criteria.

With home buybacks – there is the option that a homeowner could move their house to another flood free location as part of this deal. This may be a location where the homeowner themselves directly purchases land; or they can participate in relocating to lands that NRRC identifies, purchases, and develops for housing in flood free locations.

The NSW Government will provide \$100 million to acquire land and open up new flood safe locations for future development, in partnership with the NRRC. The corporation is currently conducting an expression of interest process to identify suitable parcels of land.

There's still a long journey ahead, but for many, this announcement will give some financial certainty towards their future lives and options they can explore.

I can be contacted by phone on either 6626-0154 or 0427-895-316; or via email to: darlene.cook@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Housing for people not profit

by Cr Adam Guise
Lismore City Council

The last council meeting was a surprise. My motion for Lismore council to negotiate with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation to acquire land was not supported. "Expected," I hear you say, in this free-market dominated ideology. But for me this is a lost opportunity – a once in a lifetime chance to address the housing divide and provide safe relocations of our flood impacted residents and businesses.

We only get one chance at our recovery. It's worth doing it properly and fairly so that no one gets left behind. Failing our community in our time of need will only compound the hurt. Now is the time that we need a government who cares and acts accordingly.

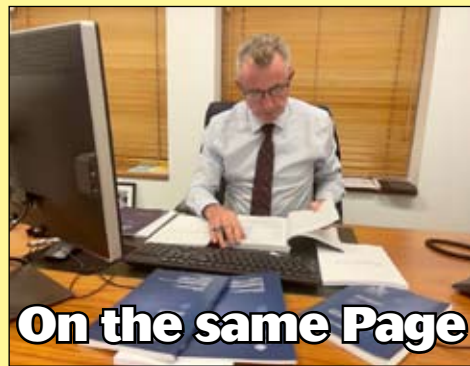
I care about our future. Like so many of us, I've been personally impacted and want us to prevail and get our zing back again. For that, we need a plan, but I'm not seeing that plan being communicated to our community by the government or the Reconstruction Corporation. People are being left behind and being ignored or left to their own devices. That's heart breaking and unfair for the most vulnerable in our community.

Decades of inaction have left a cooked housing market privileging profit over people. For me, a fair plan requires the Reconstruction Corporation to acquire land at an affordable price to allow residents and businesses to relocate by choice. We also urgently need land for temporary emergency housing, which is only going



to be exacerbated in a series of escalating climate emergencies. We can't leave it to the free market to decide the winners and losers every time. Any land delivered on the free market will be unaffordable to almost all flood impacted people and businesses. Buybacks, even if at preflood prices, would likely allow someone to buy a blank block of land somewhere, but that's it. That's not a house to live in, a community to call home. Instead, that household will likely exit our community, leaving us the poorer for it. Far better, the Reconstruction Corporation could acquire land at an affordable price before upzoning, facilitate its subdivision and development, and prioritise house relocations. This can be achieved far quicker than the current labour and materials restrained market can build new million dollar house and land packages. The NRRC – being a potential in-perpetuity government entity – could acquire suitable land for house relocations, new social and affordable housing and mixed use precincts, addressing the long overdue need for affordable and safe housing. This should be evidence based after surveying and consulting

with flood impacted residents and businesses so that we understand their needs and desires and preference for house relocations. Now is the time to act decisively and with a plan. People need vision and hope for a future that is still in their community and our region. Generations of families and businesses have been here and deserve the certainty of having a home. Now is not the time to abandon them to the free market and trickle down economics to sort out. Housing has been in crisis for decades now because of both sides of government's inaction. Now is the time to address it. Housing for people, not profit. On a pleasing note it was great to get unanimous support for a motion seeking funding for the long awaited toilet block for Peace Park. While some councillors protested against being political in the chamber, they were prepared to support the local member's lobbying efforts for this much needed community asset. Let's hope more advocacy across the political divide can get more wins for our community!
As always, get in touch: adamguise@gmail.com or phone 0478-684-497.



by Kevin Hogan, Federal Member for Page

Labor's no-hope, no-solutions budget

Labor don't care or understand about regional Australia. They have cut \$9.3 billion from regional infrastructure programs. Projects such as the Nimbin Rainbow Walking Track, Mulgum Creek Rainforest restoration project, Nimbin Headers solar connected battery storage system, Nimbin Showground upgrades and a Nimbin compostable amenity install are from regional programs.

This is going to be much more difficult now given Labor's axing of regional funding. It's fine to fund billions for motor way tunnels in Sydney and Melbourne, but funding in regional areas, Labor call pork barrelling. It's an insult to our communities. Also, this no-hope, no-solutions budget will put energy prices up 56 % over the next two years. The unemployment rate is forecast to go up, 140,000 people are

to lose their jobs this year. Interest rates are predicted to go up, meaning higher mortgage costs for families. Labor went to the election saying they will decrease everyone's electricity bill by \$275 per year. This is not going to happen. There is no grand plan here. The Labor Treasurer, Jim Chalmers 'Mr Misery' has been talking us into an economic downturn since he took office. A no hope, no solutions, no plan budget.

Truth, lies and politics: The defence to medicinal cannabis roadside drug testing

On 12th October the Greens NSW, Cate Faehrmann brought on our bill to provide a defence from drug driving detection laws for medical cannabis patients using cannabis in accordance with their prescription.

The Road Transport Amendment (Medical Cannabis – Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2021, was based on the most minimalist approach to dealing with unfair laws that are causing brutal injustice in the lives of people trying to heal or relieve themselves of pain with their doctor.

There is already a defence for medicinal morphine in NSW, and a cannabis (THC) defence for prescribed medicine exists in Tasmania, United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, Ireland, many US States and New Zealand.

There are now more than 300,000 prescriptions for cannabis in Australia. Some 72,000 patients across Australia are taking this medicine that was legally prescribed by their doctor. Often these patients have tried other legal prescription drugs, like opioids, to deal with chronic pain, PTSD, epilepsy and so many other issues and they have not worked. For many, medicinal cannabis has been life-changing and life-saving.

The case for medical cannabis and its effectiveness was made long ago. Both the NSW and Federal Parliaments have introduced legislation to make medicinal cannabis legal. Yet here in NSW we are punishing the very people who use the medicine through outdated drug driving laws. Choosing to medicate or drive or taking the risk of charge is cruel, harsh,



by Sue Higginson MLC

unnecessary and is a symptom of our police state.

The Greens introduced the Bill last year. It is seriously minimal. It only provides a defence to the detection of THC when detected through random roadside drug testing. It provides that the defendant is required to prove, on the balance of probabilities, that the THC in their system was from their prescribed medicine. They may well still be charged. They may well have to go to court and give evidence.

The lab readings would need to be consistent with the prescription for the defence to be successful, and the defendant could be cross-examined. In many cases that would not play out. It is also the case that the defence, once implemented into the law, would likely lead to a change in police behaviour and drivers would not be charged. Minimal, but effective, necessary and strategic – that is one of the ways we Greens operate together in Parliament.

The Bill was sent off to an inquiry where MPs from the Coalition, One Nation, Labor and the Greens heard from a number of experts and credible witnesses about how unfair the

current laws are, how they work in other jurisdictions and the need for NSW driving laws to get up to speed. The inquiry committee elected not to take a position on the bill but to let the Upper House debate the bill.

Holy smoke, the debate that ensued just last month was absurd. Perhaps it is to be expected that the Coalition, One Nation and Fred Nile would rant on about drug use, crime, dangerous people and road safety notwithstanding the topic and evidence. The MPs from all sides, except for the Greens, completely lost sight of the topic. The Bill was simply reflecting really sound legal advice and seeking to amend the law to iron out a gross injustice that the State is perpetrating on people who may have traces of prescribed medical cannabis in their system, which is detected by a random roadside drug testing regime.

For a snapshot, One Nation said, “How do we know that old mate hasn’t pulled a few cones or ripped a few bongos before he has got into the car, driven down the road and then said, ‘Hang on. Here’s my defence. I take prescription medication.’”

Sigh! Then it actually got a bit weird, Fred Nile shuffled to the lectern and said, “I respect that The Greens need to represent their constituency, but they cannot expect this chamber to support this dangerous drug they are introducing.” Fred does sometimes fall asleep in Parliament and he will not be running again in March.

But Labor! I found it shocking that Labor did not support our Bill. Labor’s deputy leader in the Upper House said: “The Opposition’s issue with the Bill is that it does not acknowledge

that you could be impaired and be dangerous on the roads but that a defence still could take place when you present before the court system. That is the complexity in its simplest form. That is why we believe there needs to be some work here.”

As former Magistrate David Heilpern commented: “This is just legally incorrect. If you are impaired, there is a separate offence, just like for all drugs legal or illegal, prescribed or street. If you are dangerous on the roads you can be removed from the road instantly under the current law, and the law as it would have been had the bill been passed.”

“If you were impaired, then there could be no defence because the proposed defence only applies to detectable offences, not the offence of driving under the influence.”

The Greens Bill was simply reflecting the fact that medicinal cannabis is a legal medicine in this State; thousands of people are using it and mere detection on a random roadside drug test is destroying people’s lives and not doing anything to keep roads safer. It was minimal, it was sound, it would have made a difference.

Every day I sit in the NSW Parliament I am more convinced that the only strategy for progressive change in this State that will make a real difference to our lives and our environment is to get more Greens in Parliament.

Labor in Government after March next year without more Greens to progress a social and environmental justice agenda is not the answer.

The Greens will always go further and faster and right now, we seriously need a bit of that!

\$800m on table for flood-ravaged residents

by Tamara Smith MP, State Member for Ballina

I joined the Prime Minister and Premier for the announcement of money for buy backs, house-raising, and flood-proofing that the community has been desperately waiting for.

We welcome the \$800 million on the table to assist flood-affected residents in the most flood-prone areas to be administered by the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRRC).

My office has had so many inquiries from residents in Main Arm and Mullumbimby asking about house-raising and flood-proofing since February and I am pleased to hear that \$100,000 for house-raising and \$50,000 for retrofitting will now be available.

What I don’t know is who exactly in the Ballina electorate will qualify under the first tranche of funding – the 1-in-5-year flood-prone folk.

Using flood vulnerability as the index for qualifying may have made more sense before the kind of extreme and severe weather and flood events that are now synonymous with global warming.

When we hear politicians speaking about the February floods being one of the worst natural disasters in Australian history, and about historic amounts of taxpayers’ money being invested in reconstruction, we should be very concerned because this is not the end of the story; it is the beginning and we are not hearing much strategy about adaptation to future extreme weather events that we know are on the horizon.

There is no possibility of betterment if you are living in a 15-plus metre flood zone. We need to make sure that the case management for applicants is thorough as it’s going to be a lot of process and whilst people who have already managed to get an assessment through the Flood Property Assessment Program don’t need to register, I encourage anyone who was flood-affected and eligible to apply by accessing the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation website.

I sincerely hope that we will see clear, fair and practical eligibility assessments because what we saw with the grant packages were individuals and businesses frustrated by the paperwork they had to submit only to be told that they were not eligible.

A very sad reality for people who take up buy backs is that even with pre-flood home values most will not be able to buy a home in the Northern Rivers and will be forced to leave the region.

The government must ramp up efforts to buy land and offer affordable land relocation in the Northern Rivers lest we see a mass exodus of people from our community.

Amenities block in Nimbin’s Peace Park a top priority

I’m waiting to hear back from Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales Paul Toole on the outcome two funding requests which would benefit the village of Nimbin and the Rainbow Region.

Last month, I asked Minister Toole to allocate special one-off funding of \$400,000 to Lismore City Council to construct and maintain a new public amenities block in Nimbin’s Peace Park, a project which the local community has been lobbying for 15 years for.

I stand with the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) in its campaign to secure this essential community infrastructure, particularly given Nimbin’s solid population growth and its reputation as a tourist mecca, attracting around 160,000 visitors annually.

Lismore City Council had cited budgetary constraints to NAG for not proceeding at this stage.

Council backs my advocacy on this because if successful, the grant would



by Janelle Saffin MP
State Member for Lismore

allow for a large amenities block with access from the Nimbin Community Pool and Peace Park, and for it to be maintained for the first five years.

Regardless, it will remain one of my top priorities.

Aquarius Festival turns 50

I’ve also asked Minister Toole and his Tourism and Arts Minister Ben Franklin MLC for the NSW Government to make a financial contribution to next year’s 50th

anniversary celebrations of the iconic Aquarius Festival held in Nimbin in 1973.

I congratulate the Aquarius 50th (AQ50) Organising Committee, led by Nimbin Chamber of Commerce President David Hyett, on its exciting plans to mark this milestone with a 10-day program of events in May 2023.

The Chamber, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, Hemp Embassy, Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre and Nimbin Community Centre are all represented and fundraising has begun in earnest.

The AQ50 festival is expected to attract more than 10,000 locals and visitors to Nimbin and the wider Rainbow Region, placing this regional event as one of State significance.

I know that Ministers Toole and Franklin would appreciate the economic flow-on benefits of AQ50 for destination tourism and flood recovery, so I am hoping for a favourable response.

Landslips demand resourcing

The flood-related landslips on Tuntable Creek Road, a major tourist route from The Channon in the east and one of three roads into Nimbin, have for many months now severely impacted the daily lives of up to 3000 of the district’s residents.

The main slip located near Rose Road has destroyed the road carriageway, and engineers are closely monitoring it because it is still moving. There are multiple smaller slips on Tuntable Creek Road.

This situation is not only causing disruption and inconvenience but it represents a major risk to lives and property in the event of bushfires.

I’ve asked Lismore City Council and Transport for NSW to hold a face-to-face meeting with residents to better communicate plans for remediation and realistic timelines, similar to what I brokered for Tyalgum village.

At time of writing, Council’s Engagement Team had scheduled this on-site meeting for Tuesday, 1st November, and I shall attend.

Making Sibley Street safer

I’ve also followed up local residents’ concerns regarding improving pedestrian safety where Sibley Street links with Alternative Way in Nimbin.

Lismore City Council’s design team have surveyed some of the site and considered a number of options with a suspended footbridge and footpath extension being the most cost effective option.

While the site needs to be cleaned up before this team can finalise its design, proposed works would include:

- A pedestrian safety fence on the roadside and a directive fence on the inside of the path;
- Additional pipe drainage;
- A concrete path extending to the existing path in Alternative Way, across the creek and connecting to the driveway at the Nimbin Bowling Club;
- Investigations are also being undertaken in to utilities relocation;
- A review of environmental factors is also required.

How time flies! It's almost Christmas. How did that happen? Get ready folks, time to prepare before it is upon you.

First things first: get your Christmas cards out early you will be well thought of by the recipients.

You may even get a few more Xmas cards back, there is something to be said for getting letters in your mailbox that don't have window faces or government stamps on them.

Of course, it is all about the children, so take care of shopping for your offspring first. If you miss an adult, you will be forgiven, but miss a kid and look out.

It is good to get your gift wrapping now before the price spikes and the newsagent runs out of bows and ribbons.



Most of all, shop local and support our local businesses. They have had a rough time over the last 12 months; time to show your appreciation. After all, local businesses employ local people who spend a good amount of money in the town and around and around it goes, and might even end up back in your pocket.

Blues and Roots
The funniest thing that happened for me in October was the Roots Festival. A merry band of musicians



and punters visited Nimbin and had a lovely time in our wonderful community. A big shout out to Lou Bradley and partner Phil for taking the risk and backing the event which benefits the village culturally and financially.

Dog Whistle, a local marketing company commissioned by the Chamber to update imagery for marketing of the village of Nimbin, arrived during the Roots Festival to photograph local models while the town was lively. Keep your eye out to see who made the cut.

Short-term accommodation
Accommodation remains an issue going forward. There is so much opportunity in this

area for local people to house visitors via homestay, Air BnB etc.

The Chamber will be presenting a seminar in November on the nuts and bolts of providing accommodation. Keep your eyes peeled for details.

Murals
We are still looking for mural artists to update the above-awning artworks in the village. If you or any one you know would like to be immortalised, let the Chamber know.

Amanda Williamson has been commissioned to refresh the mural above the Newsagents.

Award nominees
The Nimbin Apothecary and the Greenbank have been shortlisted in the State's Small Business Awards. We are very proud of them (both Chamber members) and wish them well. It would be lovely for them to bring home the silverware.

Nimbin Aquarius Festival anniversary
The Aquarius 50 organising committee has been very busy along with the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation in creating a programme of events for the celebration of 50 years of Aquarius, an event held in Nimbin in 1973 that helped shape the Rainbow Region to become the amazing cultural environment that is today.

The catchcry of the event back in 1973 was: "You are the festival" If you feel you have something to contribute and wish to reach out, contact: admin@aquarius50.com.au

Next meeting
We will have the pleasure of hosting the General Manager of Lismore City Council, John Walker at our next Chamber meeting on 7th November. Close ties with Council are very beneficial to the village.

We have a rather unique position in the region in that

the community owns a lot of assets which include the Town Hall, Community Centre, Showgrounds, Nimbin Pool, Skate Park, Nimbin Headers sportsfield, Tennis courts and the soon to be completed Rainbow Walking Trail.

All these assets require maintenance and updating from time to time, and Council is called upon to assist, which is very helpful.

Note: AGM 28th November, 6pm at Bush Theatre. New members welcome.

New members
Three new members joined the Chamber this month. We welcome Steve who owns Limousines Services, Benoit of Realines chopping boards and Charlotte Helmund, osteopath.

With our members' support we are looking forward to building a better, stronger and more vibrant future for our children and the community as a whole.

Significant farmland is precious

A rescission motion to overturn a Council decision to support the inclusion of 23 hectares of state significant farmland into the SUGA mapping (Strategic Urban Growth Area) between Alstonville and Wollongbar was lost at the October Council meeting.

This is despite the overwhelming majority of residents wanting to maintain the green buffer zone between the villages.



by Cr Jeff Johnson
Ballina Council

The next minute Council is facilitating the rezoning of farmland in the buffer zone, apparently due to the lack of industrial land.

At last week's meeting, in response to the rescission motion all of a sudden there was a deputation on behalf of a group wanting to build this 'private hospital' on the proposed 'industrial land' extension. What about the so-called need for industrial land to support existing local businesses who needed to expand and had nowhere else to go?

Now I'm not privy to the discussions taking place in the Mayor's office behind closed doors or what commitments have been made but it wouldn't surprise me that now this land is included on the SUGA mapping that a proposal for a large non-industrial development such as a retirement village or an over 50's estate will be lodged and determined by the Northern Rivers Regional Planning Panel, which Mayor Cadwallader is a voting delegate.

We could now be in a situation that Alstonville and Wollongbar could effectively be joined by urban development and that the type and scale of that development could be determined by a pro-development NSW Government-appointed panel rather than Ballina Council.

development in the rural zone on the plateau.

State Significant Farmland is precious and makes up only a small fraction of the overall land available in NSW. We are so lucky to have such productive farming land within close proximity. The land up on the Alstonville Plateau has some of the best soil, and the sub-tropical climate is flood free and practically drought proof given the depth of the soil and the deep aquifers below it.

With the changing weather and the recent floods impacting vast areas across the country, including many existing food crop areas, this land is more important than ever.

When the matter was first debated by the Council only two months ago, Mayor Cadwallader mentioned during the debate that she had been in discussions with a group that were looking to develop a 'private hospital' up on the plateau.



Yet again we see that when it comes to controversial developments all four of the Team Cadwallader grouping (Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Nigel Buchanan, Cr Rod Breum and Cr Eva Ramsey) voting together as a block.

This massive expansion of the Russellton Industrial Estate was not only unexpected (from my point of view) but also went against the council staff's recommendation to maintain the status quo.

The stated justification was that many local businesses were needing to expand and that there was a critical shortage of industrial land.

The irony is that Ballina Council owns eight hectares of the existing industrial estate that has sat there undeveloped for over 20 years. Ballina Council also owns significant industrial land holdings in Ballina near the airport that has yet to be developed.

If there is such a need for additional industrial blocks, then Councillors should either insist Council develop or sell these holdings rather than expand the Russellton Estate into the green buffer zone.

The proposed extension would effectively result in there being only 350m between the villages and would most certainly lead to additional pressure for more



Every picture tells a story

by Greg Bork

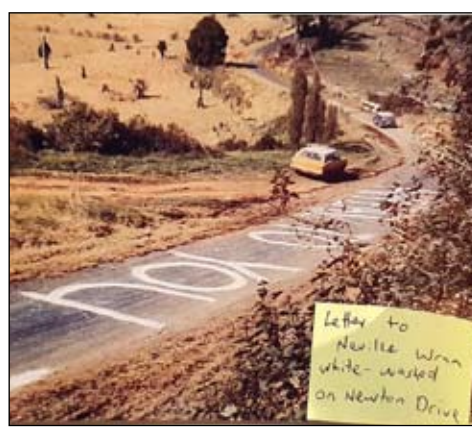
The Nightcap Blockade 40th anniversary (see report p.14) included an exhibition that I curated of photos and clippings in the Nimbin Hall foyer, open to the street between 17th and 22nd October.

Diverse combinations of people came together to share stories, at times re-visiting the trauma of the brutal confrontations with loggers and police.

While the photos in the exhibition were created by blockaders, most of the other documentation was archived from unsympathetic newspapers, such as *The Northern Star*.

What the display lacked in professional presentation, it made up for in a sense of collective participation, as people identified themselves and others in the photos using sticky notes. I think touching the photos also increased connection.

There are many, many people who contributed to the exhibition. Lisa Yeates, John Seed, Franca Wolfe, Megan James, Jeanette Murphy, Ian Dixon and Katie Cawcutt provided the bulk of the photos, with more to add now from Frank Comber,



Michael Murphy and anyone else (yes, you) please.

Thanks to Benny Zable for collaborative partnership in all aspects of the installation, and for his wonderful banners and artistic vision. Annie McGovern, Sophia Hoeben and Black Diamond each gave vital practical, emotional and intercultural support.

Much gratitude and respect to Uncle Cecil Roberts, the Ngulingah Rangers, and to all Widjabul Wia-bal people who came along. Thanks also to Uncle Herb Roberts, the Gnibi Elders, and Gnibi College at SCU.



The pleasures of evacuation: *Should I stay or should I go?*

It's going to be a long soggy summer ahead. We are still recovering from the catastrophic floods earlier this year and staring down probably seven months of a super wet season.

It is only November, and yet already the threat of flooding is upon us.

We are not going to get a choice about how many floods we get in the coming season, nor how big they will be, so we do need to work out how to pace ourselves.

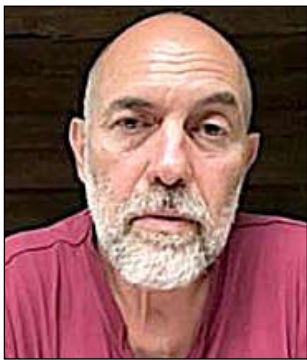
Every flood is not going to be the big one and we can't exhaust all of our collective resources every time there is a flood event.

It is essential to develop our own personal plans that combine self-care with a preparedness to face whatever comes our way.

Government agencies such as the BoM and the SES received a lot of criticism in the last catastrophic floods and whether well-deserved or not, it seems to have ushered in a substantial over-correction in which flood warnings from the BoM now err strongly towards overstating the flood risk.

During October 2022 there have been two warnings of possible major flooding. The first event in early October reached 3.34m AHD (Australian Height Datum), well below even a minor flood and the second in late October reached 6.7m AHD, still well within minor flood range.

Whilst I fully understand why the BoM would take a new more cautious approach I think it still risks generating warning fatigue before the big floods even get started.



by Aidan Ricketts

It risks allowing a 'boy who cried wolf' complacency to start to undermine the impact of flood warnings.

In tandem with an overcorrected warning system, comes an overcooked evacuation response from SES and other government agencies. This even more so will cause fatigue, but we also need to question the underlying ideology of mass evacuation.

Flood responses require the networked input of individual residents, communities and government agencies. While evacuation has obvious benefits in the case of the absolute top layer of catastrophic events, the fact is that for 90% of non-catastrophic floods, the very best response is individual and collective watch and respond, on-site at your flood prone home.

Experienced local residents in the flood area know this and their presence is an asset not a problem.

Bureaucracies tend to think in instrumental ways, how to avoid criticism, how to avoid legal liability and how to make things operationally simpler for themselves. So

getting residents out of the way may seem attractive to them.

Mass evacuation can lead to thousands of unnecessarily displaced people clogging evacuation centres when they could be at home taking action to assist themselves and their neighbours, secure belongings and respond progressively to the flood as it unfolds.

There is already acceptance that fire threatened residents can choose to stay and enact a plan, and that is exactly what is most important to be encouraged and further developed for flood threatened communities.

Communities and individuals are always going to be the organic living front line responders in so many intricate ways and government agencies should seek only to assist and support and should never make the mistake of trying to take control of communities in disaster.

But I think there is a deeper issue still with mass evacuation as a response. If we ever truly ceded control of our residential spaces to state agencies they would most likely tie themselves in a self-defeating loop of thinking they could then not let us back in until our homes were deemed 'safe' to be sure nobody would sue them.

It's Kafka-esque, ultimately – when is a disaster zone safe? Answer: never, it's a disaster zone.

The world is a risky place, and there are few truly safe places to live. Plains flood, hills can collapse, coastal regions can be hit

by increasingly severe and southern cyclones, dryer places can burn, coastal erosion can take homes and destroy communities.

This is not just about floods, this is about accepting the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters across the board due to climate change and finding resourceful ways to face the reality bearing down upon us.

Individuals, communities and state-based agencies (BoM and SES etc) all have a role to play.

As individuals and communities we should not be too eager to surrender our agency to the State. Instead we need to draw inward on our own personal and our collective community resources and build them.

We should encourage the State to provide the support we need but also insist on our boundaries.

This summer is likely to offer up several major floods, and numerous minor to moderate floods. We can't afford to just panic every time as though it is the big one.

We need to build our plans for the season, and for each event at whatever level of seriousness it presents. We also need to preserve our energy for when the big or possibly catastrophic events do arrive.

Stay strong, stay informed, have a sound plan, discuss it with your neighbours and community and think deeply about when it is and isn't in your best interests to evacuate. Its going to be a long season. We have no choice but to face what is coming.

Award for emergency response grant program

The Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) has received a national award for their emergency response grant program directly following the catastrophic flooding events of February and March.

Accepting the national award at a ceremony for the annual Community Foundations of Australia forum in Geelong, NRCF Chair Nicole Weber (pictured) said the award represented the incredible strength of the Northern Rivers region and people.

"We accept this award on behalf of our community members and our community organisations – we saw something very special happen in the midst of our worst flooding event on record, and that is what this award represents."

Quick Response Grants
NRCF distributed an incredible 106 Quick

Response Grants in the wake of the flooding events, with money reaching community organisations in just a ten-day turnaround from when their application had been submitted.

Ms Weber said, "Many of the community organisations were standing in mud, speaking to our team as we helped enter their grant application," she said.

Flood Relief Fund
In just eight weeks, \$1.3 million dollars was raised for this emergency response, through the Northern Rivers Flood Relief Fund.

The grants distributed from this fund covered everything from mould kits for a neighbourhood centre to temporary office set-up and housing, to community counselling outreach.

Ms Weber said, "Grants distributed through the NRCF are essential for an agile, targeted recovery effort."

"They are the power of local solutions and responsive decision making – our community organisations know what their communities need; they are embedded and trusted, and our grants facilitate them being able to do what is needed."



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Positions Vacant

Casual Relief Community Workers

NNIC is seeking casual staff to provide relief for Permanent Part Time staff when they take leave/ are unavailable, or to provide additional staff hours when needed. Max 18 hrs/wk, Min 4 weeks per year.

Min qualifications: Cert 4 in Community Services/ Community Development plus experience – SCHADS Award Level 3.

Applicants MUST address each of the Selection Criteria in the Job Kit, available on our website: www.nnic.org.au or via NNIC, 71 Cullen Street Nimbin, phone 6689-1692.

Applications close Friday 2nd December 2022.

NNIC is an EEO employer. First Nation applicants are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will be required to undergo the Working with Children and relevant Police checks.

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MISS SOMETHING?

There's an extensive archive on-line.

A love letter to the Nightcap forest

by Greg Bork

NAGgers (Nightcap Action Group-ers) flocked to Nimbin for the 40th Anniversary of the Nightcap blockade (at Griens Scrub and Mt Nardi in 1982), held at the Nimbin Hall on October 22nd.

In the days before, organiser Sophia Hoeben and I quipped about a forecast inclement extreme weather event wash-out and only the die-hards showing up, but the weather held out and it was a full house of young and old, from near and as far away as Tasmania.

Gail Clarke MC'ed with aplomb, introducing the first guest, Uncle David Laurie for his Welcome to Country. Uncle David gave an extraordinary gift when he danced, remembering how 40 years ago Uncle Lyle Roberts danced for the blockaders at Mt Nardi. Thank you, Uncle David.

Next up, like a pademelon caught in the headlights, I did my best to chat a little about the exhibition in the foyer, and then to pay tribute to the late, legendary Di Kivi by playing some audio of my interview with her in 2018.

Representing NAG, it was Kivi v Forestry Commission of New South Wales that achieved the court injunction which stopped logging and ended the blockade. Many NAGgers no longer with us were remembered fondly at the event and exhibition.

Next up, the NAGgers claimed the spotlight with Paul Paitson, who moved from busking out front on the street the day before, to on the stage for stirring renditions of his original, fierce protest songs.

Paul's magnificent banner with his emblematic image of the Nightcap campaign, a massive rainforest fig tree strangling a pitiful bulldozer, was the backdrop to the evening.

All the way from Deloraine and Melbourne, Lisa Yeates and Soozah Clark then took to the stage with a set of songs from those days, including one sung while playing guitar and running backwards up Mt Nardi in front of advancing police and bulldozers. The songs were so beautiful, poignant and evocative.

Of all the guests, none were more revered and anticipated beforehand than Winiata. His voice is gentle yet powerful, evoking the spirit of the earth and the forest. NAG artist and event co-organiser Benny Zable was taken away by Winiata's enchanting music, weaving his flags through the audience, and I could sense the presence of Benny's late beloved with him, Marsha.

Next up John Seed, who brought along many participants from his deep ecology retreat nearby, part of the grounded, woo-woo free spiritual work he's facilitated around the world ever since the forests transformed his life at the blockades. John introduced the next generation in a sweet duet sing-along with his son River.

The scope and significance of the Nightcap campaign's success was then put into clear context with a broad and insightful historical story well told by Dailan Pugh, drawing on knowledge and expertise in fighting for the forests up to the current day, with his far-reaching achievements at the North East Forest Alliance.

With the evening's formal proceedings at an end, Biskit and Doug and band The Lovehandles struck up merry revelry to bring a most memorable anniversary celebration to a close. I'm grateful Paul Tait and Jeni Kendell were on hand to film the whole event for community.

I wasn't at the rainforest



Black Diamond and Winiata



Dailan Pugh, Robyn Francis and Lisa Yeates



Frank Comber, Rick Wright and John Seed



Greg Bork, Sophia Hoeben and Benny Zable



Jeni Kendell and Paul Tait



Hugh, Terri and Nan Nicholson

blockades and cannot fully capture the spirit. It's an honour and privilege to be with NAGgers, and to celebrate and respect your

great achievements, as someone who lives and cares with you and the forest.

The anniversary was a wonderful coming together

of community, a love letter to the forest in the heart of

Nimbin.

gregorybork@icloud.com

A challenging return for the Nightcap reunion

by Lisa Yeates

It was so wonderful to be back in Nimbin singing the old songs from the Nightcap Protest with Soozah Clark, up on the so-familiar stage at the Nimbin Town Hall, filled with my old comrades.

But it was also with a huge sense of relief that we actually made it!

Originally we planned to travel up from Melbourne in the campervan we share, bringing it across on the ferry from Tasmania, where I now live. Knowing how stretched accommodation is after the floods, we thought it best if we provided for ourselves.

But the ferry bookings were so full, we couldn't get the oversized van back to Tasmania until March. New plan: take my car instead.

Then we had to cancel that idea due

to huge floods creating chaos over large chunks of our journey and even more were threatening. So, newer plan. I would fly over to Soozah's in Melbourne and together we would fly on to the Gold Coast.

But then unbelievably, Tasmania was hit by a deluge, flooding my home town. The night before I was leaving I had an evacuation alert, but fortunately the flood subsided enough for me to get to the airport and fly to Melbourne. Whew!

You can imagine our relief when finally we landed at Coolangatta, and then were safely delivered to Nimbin. Hooray!

But that's not the end of this saga. I ended up catching Covid and have had to cancel my return trip until I recover.

But it was all worth it just to be able to sing the historic songs and share the night with everyone.



Missus Hippy and the Lovehandles

The pulse of life

by Bernardine Schwartz

When I moved to the Rainbow Region all those years ago it was a brand new beginning. A place where nature was given the space and freedom to shine on through as it should and birdsongs rose in volume with the morning sun.

It was the planet of plenty. A life long love affair, when huge flocks of lorikeets could be heard coming over the hills and those birdsongs were a full bodied choir but that was then.

Now I'm reading the warning signs in a changing landscape. The birds and their songs have been diminishing and I can't tell you the last time I laid eyes on a scarlet honeyeater. Even those pugnacious noisy miners are down in numbers and does anybody know where the kookaburras went?

They were all part of the biophony, the full suite of nature's biologically produced sounds but they're becoming inaudible and is it any wonder. A study from the Smithsonian Institute shows that 97.1% of the Earth's surface has been altered by humans, with the exclusion of Antarctica, and now all across the planet the humming of insects is growing quieter by the day with a staggering 40% of species endangered and a third of that 40% threatened with extinction. The once common cricket, always the accompaniment

behind a forest's soundscape, is listed as critically endangered and the iconic sounds of amphibians are at risk, with no defences to fight what scientists are calling one of the most deadly pathogens on the planet, the chytrid fungus disease that threatens a third of the species. Many of the world's songbirds are losing their songs, melodies fundamental to their existence, simply because there's not enough adults left to teach them, including our Regent Honeyeaters, taking them on a fast track to extinction.

To make matters worse the unnatural noise of humans and their machines is drowning out Mother Earth's soundscape, including the very depths of the oceans that are hidden but not immune from our chaotic and disruptive noises called Anthrophony, that have risen exponentially over the past 50 years.

Caused by coastal development, shipping, fishing trawlers and deep sea oil and gas exploration. A warming ocean is compounding the problem, increasing the speed and the distance the sound travels and these sounds can be a deadly weapon if they strike a whale young or old, fatally injuring their lungs and digestive systems. Even the softer sounds can be intrusive, foiling the hunt for food or causing confusion when searching for a mate.

David Haskell is a biologist and

author of *Sounds Wild and Broken* and says "the degradation of the Earth's normal soundscape might seem fairly minor but that growing silence of nature's symphony speaks to our awareness of the natural world around us and without these ambiances to lure us outside and calm and restore our flagging spirits, human culture becomes dystopic and pathological."

It's been well documented that exposure to nature brings a significant improvement to our physical and emotional well being, because an environment filled with natural sounds feels safe and allows us to let down our guard.

Simon Butler, an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of East Anglia, explains how this chronic decline in the soundscape threatens to cut one of our neural pathways for connecting with nature, making society less inclined to care for the natural world around them.

Mother Earth was full of colour and magic, but it's a black and white world we're living in where everything has to be seen or heard.

We're surrounded by magic, a frequency of 7.83 hertz, known as the Schumann Resonance that circulates in the cavity bound by the Earth's surface and ionosphere and like a force field it surrounds the entire planet from the ground upwards at a distance of 96 kilometres. A space filled with electrical tension where the



Scarlet honeyeater
Courtesy ebird.org

ionosphere which is positively charged, clashes with the Earth's surface, that carries a negative charge.

Scientists like to think of it as the Earth's heartbeat or pulse and intriguingly this frequency 7.83 hertz, is also the human brain's average alpha frequency and stands in the middle of the scale, inducing relaxation but not quite meditation.

Science is starting to believe that this resonance signal, the natural electromagnetic patterns of Earth, act like a tuning fork not just for biological oscillators of the brain but for all processes of life, suggesting it could be connected to the very beginning of life itself. And these brain waves that tune into this frequency, reside in our DNA.

Dr Wolfgang Ludwig was a leading researcher on this subject and explains how the Earth's vibration can be clearly measured

in the natural world, including the oceans, but today it's almost impossible to measure in cities and built up areas where radio signals, TVs, phones cars and the like override and dominate the airwaves.

We elected ourselves as the grand masters, an exception to the rule, defying the laws of nature, even though the cost outweighed the benefits. It's a black and white world lacking in colour, living robotic lives, working more to buy more in a global factory full of noisy, energy hungry machines that were meant to free us up. We have children mesmerised by screens but don't know how to hold a pencil; and fast-moving wheelchairs called cars and collectively all these machines are weapons of mass destruction.

What a hefty price to pay for being so proud. Now there's no garden to go back to.

A climate scientist's case for hope

Book review by Kitty van Vuuren

Reading *Humanity's Moment: A climate scientist's case for hope* by Australian climate scientist Joëlle Gergis, lead author of the *IPCC Sixth Assessment Report*, and Northern Rivers resident, has left me dismayed, as well as resolved to do more to join the movement towards net zero emissions.

The author skilfully interweaves the story of her scientific work with her love of nature and the arts; and her personal fears and anxieties with the imperative for peaceful collective action.

With this narrative approach she challenges the widely held view – particularly among younger generations – that there is no future, and stresses the need for society-wide policies and actions as ways to adapt to, mitigate and survive the disruptions of the climate emergency.

The book offers accessible explanations of the processes that are accelerating global warming: the melting of the polar icecaps and glaciers, the dying back of the Amazon, the weakening of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (*aka* the 'Gulf Stream' to mature readers).

The author also addresses the unfairness of climate change, which is sharpening the divisions between rich and poor. Although wealthy countries are responsible for 85% of carbon emissions, around the world intensifying floods and droughts are displacing poor people, climate refugees, such as we have recently seen in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

In urban areas people are at greater risk of extreme heat and water scarcity and the death toll from rising



temperatures is increasing.

The 2003 European heatwave killed around 70,000 people. A quarter of the world's urban population lives in slum conditions, especially in poorer countries. In cities such as New Delhi, summer temperatures have almost reached 50°C.

By the time you read this edition of the NGT, COP27 in Egypt will be underway, to assess the progress being made by governments in reaching the current emission target as set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement. This aims to keep global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Right now, we are set to cross that target by 2030.

If we want to keep global warming to within this margin, then, according to Joëlle Gergis, we must phase out fossil

fuels immediately, and transition to renewable energy sources rapidly.

Under the previous Morrison government, Gergis reports, subsidies to the fossil fuel industry came to AU\$10.3 billion – more than the entire annual budget for the Australian Army! The Labor Albanese government continues to subsidise the fossil fuel sector.

Meanwhile, climate disruptions now literally breach the thresholds of our homes. In her epilogue, Gergis describes the horror of her own experience of the Lismore floods earlier this year, which broke previous records by a 'monstrous' margin "completely unprecedented, totally unpredicted by the models".

If anything, the models suggest the urgent need to invoke the precautionary principle, rather than wishing for it all to go away.

Joëlle Gergis' message is terrifying in its urgency, yet she also urges 'active' hope by reminding the reader that solutions to the climate crisis already exist. Disengaging, burying our heads in the sand and doing nothing is not an option.

Disillusion with democratic politics is also not an option- the 2022 Australian election demonstrated that climate policy is a priority for many voters.

The most useful thing we can do, Joëlle Gergis adds, is to educate ourselves with the best available science and research, and then to join with others to make the change towards a fair, just, peaceful and stable planet.

This book offers hope that we can do that.

Humanity's Moment: A climate scientist's case for hope, by Joëlle Gergis, published by Black Inc 2022, \$34.99.

Making money from stopping logging

by Dailan Pugh, president NEFA

The North East Forest Alliance urges the NSW Government to obtain its own costings for stopping the logging of public native forests in light of Frontier Economic's estimate that a generous government-funded structural adjustment package, including for the 1,000 affected workers, would only cost \$302 million, with this cost greatly outweighed by a range of positive economic and environmental benefits.

Frontier Economic's report *Transition support for the NSW native forest sector*, prepared for WWF, and released at The Vanishing Koala conference, makes it clear that we would be far better off economically if we stopped logging public forests.

We could then re-direct the immense public subsidies into assisting affected workers and communities transition, while realising real economic and environmental benefits from avoiding CO₂ emissions, increasing carbon storage, increasing tourism, increasing water yields and restoring habitats of threatened species, such as the Koala.

In 2020/21 the Forestry Corporation lost \$20 million from logging of public native forests, as well as obtaining tens of millions of dollars in public subsidies.

Just stopping logging is likely to be beneficial to the NSW budget, though inclusion of the wider natural capital benefits to the economy from increased carbon capture and storage, tourism, water production, improving threatened species habitat, and mental health benefits make ending logging of public lands of real and lasting economic and environmental benefit to the people of NSW.

A 2021 study by the University of Newcastle found that protecting 175,000 ha of State Forests between Coffs Harbour and Grafton as the Great Koala National Park would, over the next 15 years, generate additional regional economic output of \$1.2 billion and create more than 9,800 extra full-time jobs compared to logging.

Under the NSW Koala Strategy, the NSW Government proposes paying \$3,353 a hectare to buy 15,000 ha of private properties over the next five years. By this metric, protecting the more than 300,000 ha is worth over a billion dollars.

We ask that the current NSW Government immediately commit to a truly independent cost-benefit assessment of the logging of public native forests, with the principal aim of developing a fair and equitable structural adjustment package for affected workers and communities.

The time for action is now.

The Adventures Of Ezekiel

Audiobook Launch with Special Guest Jurassic Joe

Kids' activities, face painting, treasure hunt, readings from the author.

A Fantastic Family Day Out!

Saturday 26th Nov 11am - 3pm

Nimbin Bush Theatre

EVENT MANAGER – AQUARIUS 50

About the event

Aquarius 50 (12th – 21st May 2023, Nimbin, NSW): A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival will be a festival of ideas celebrating the history and achievements of the Festival, and the ensuing 50-year history of the Nimbin community. (Background on the original festival can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquarius_Festival)

Aquarius 50 aims to further develop and disseminate the legacy of the original festival, and in so doing, bring fresh insights and perspectives to the many challenges facing the Australian and global community. The event's program will include theme days focusing on the core elements of the first festival's legacy, and will incorporate concerts, films, talks, theatre, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and ceremonies. A Media Centre will be employed to link the event to the national and international community.

The position

This is a full-time contract position based in Nimbin NSW, that will commence from mid-December 2022 and conclude in mid-June 2023.

The successful candidate will be directly responsible to the Chair of the Aquarius 50 Committee.

The Event Manager will be tasked in association with the Committee, with co-ordinating all aspects of the event's program including management of festival events, venues, logistics, staff, volunteers and foremost delivering a successful Aquarius 50 anniversary celebration and festival.

The successful applicant will also be tasked with co-ordinating post-festival activities including assisting with expenditure and budget reconciliation, venue clean-up, debrief of volunteers and staff, and any other completion tasks as required by the Chair of the organising committee.

Key attributes possessed by applicants must include:

- Commitment to the values of the original Nimbin Aquarius Festival and its legacy
- Strong written, verbal communication and time management skills
- Demonstrated capacity to plan and deliver public events
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Attention to detail
- Computer skills relevant to the tasks associated with the position
- Formal training in event management, or a closely related field.

The successful candidate will have access to mentoring from Johnny Allen, the foundation director of the Australian Centre for Event Management at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Candidates should provide contact details of a minimum of three referees.

Salary and other benefits will be commensurate with industry norms and will be determined through negotiation.

Applicants should be mindful that the event provides the opportunity to both be involved in a significant landmark event, and to contribute to making a difference in an uncertain time in human history.

Application process

Cut-off date: Midnight, Monday 28th November 2022.

Apply online to: chair@aquarius50@gmail.com.au

Short-listed applicants: Interviews for local applicants will take place at Nimbin on 11th December 2022, while non-local applicants will be interviewed via Zoom.

Audio book back story

by Holly Tutin

The Adventures of Ezekiel, as the name suggests, is a children's adventure story.

As a parent of two young boys, I was inspired to write my own stories after becoming aware of the negative impact that current trending books, TV shows and movies had on them both.

What I noticed was that, despite my best efforts, they were saturated with various forms of violence in their entertainment, ranging from subtle to severe.

This impacted my eldest son greatly, who was five at the time. He was constantly roaming around slashing and hacking at trees and plants (my poor plants) in the garden, fighting invisible enemies...

When I tried to explain that he didn't need to be 'fighting' all the time and he could perhaps be a little more creative, like paint a picture or build a cubby house, he would pause, look at me with big blue eyes and say "Neahhh...", then to my dismay, would resume hacking and slashing.

Now I know kids have a tendency to be a bit destructive from time to time, but it concerned me that he was emulating scene after scene of his favourite superhero stories



that all seemed to have the same theme at its core: goodies vs baddies.

I wracked my brains as to what I could do to not only save my poor plants, but somehow bring in a more constructive form of play. I wondered if it was possible to offer kids an alternative to the current narratives saturating the market of children's entertainment.

So, *The Adventures of Ezekiel* was born.

Ezekiel is the name of my eldest son, and so I wrote him a story. A new story, one that had no violence in it. My other young son is also a main character in the story.

This story became a chronicle of sorts that bloomed into an audiobook. It was easier than I thought it would be, even though it took me years to write and develop.

I looked at what gorgeous attributes my son had, such as confidence, abundant energy, a kind heart and an eagerness

for adventure. Awesome adventures meant that the need to have an 'adversary' inside a story became obsolete. This was HUGE and very exciting for me to discover and fully realise.

My main focus has been to encourage kids to recognise their own unique gifts and talents, to problem-solve and to feel safe in this world, instead of being locked in 'fight or flight'.

To me, the old 'Goodies vs Baddies' storyline is limiting and repetitive. So, I had heaps of fun creating a story that could go anywhere and do anything!

Many challenges that 'Ezekiel' faces in the story originate from the very heart and mind of the character. Through his outward adventures he's able to deep dive into his own inner journey as well, growing confident in his abilities to face these obstacles head-on.

The Adventures of Ezekiel is a local Nimbin production through and through. From illustrator to editor, to narrator, to character voice actors, to sound engineer to me, the writer, Nimbin has provided all the talent thus far, and in its creation it's been quite an adventure in and of itself!

Witches take Bangalow by storm

by Claire Delacey and Karl Bossard

The evening of Saturday 29th October in the Bangalow A&I Hall saw the irrepressible Mandy Nolan and Irish singer songwriter Áine Tyrrell mix genres and politics to create a diabolically funny, inclusive, politically robust, deeply introspective and wildly outrageous show.

The delightful title of the show was The Country Witches Association – clearly a name-take on the august Country Women's Association and its battleship maidens.

While homage was paid to the hard-working CWA ladies, the show was more a call to arms: to empower women, resist objectification, enhance women's rights. All done with outrageous humour. And with all the audience dressed in black. Indeed black comedy, Northern Rivers style.

The witches (Mandy and Áine) wove a narrative around disruption; had far reaching conversations about feminism and family and self-identity; and asked the audience to join them in an uprising. To join the coven, so to speak.

A particularly local flavour was added with an appearance of Nimbinite and CWA member Sue Edmonds with her self-



accompanied rendition, from the sideline, of 'Beat Your Breasts', a song originally performed by feminist folk-group The Ovarian Sisters, of which Sue was a founding member, back in the early 1970s.

Sue brought the house down with a polished but gutsy performance.

You would have to have been boiled in the cauldron to leave the evening unchanged.

Bowlo Open Mic moves with the times



Ren Waterfall in action

With the coming of daylight saving, the Open Mic crew at the Nimbin Bowlo have shifted their starting time from 5.30pm to 6pm.

The next date is Wednesday 9th November, so come along and put your name on the board, or just come to listen.

The house band can provide musical and technical help, and of course Sibley's Bistro will be serving delicious meals from 5 to 8pm.

See you there!



Nimbin Roots Festival 2022



by Melissa Williamson

After two years of postponement, the 5th annual Nimbin Roots Festival finally kicked off in mid-October.

The weather even came to the party with a beautiful sunny weekend (a rare occurrence in the Northern Rivers this year).

It was a somewhat smaller festival this time around, with less acts and fewer venues, but with the same high calibre music and diverse, relaxed punters.

Festival favourites Paul Greene, Miguel Rios and Richo Richardson all made a welcome return.

Local-ish acts Trombone Kellie Gang and The Hussy Hicks had a great audience response.

Melbourne act Men Imitating Machines were a somewhat random



but highly enjoyable inclusion, and Wild Marmalade ensured some vigorous dancing to end the Saturday night.

Nimbin village was vibrant with buskers, including some competing for the crowd's vote in a competition for a spot on the bill at next year's festival. Congrats to winner Zac Crackalaka.

Personally I would like to see the festival go back to its original egalitarian ethos of 'no-egos, no

headliners', as all the acts on the bill are completely worthy in their own right, and there's plenty of other festivals around catering for the nostalgia crowd.

Apart from that, it was, as every year, a fantastic weekend of music from soulful to high octane.

It will be happening again next year in October, so earmark your calendar for a fun weekend of music and chilling out in Nimbin.

Mantra Hop Fusion



Well-loved local Indian Classical musician, Shivam Rath (pictured) brings his new fusion show to Nimbin.

After two years of full time study at SAE Creative Media Institute due to Covid lockdowns world-wide, Shivam Rath has re-invented a new style of sacred

mantra music and birthed a new album, *Mantra Hop*.

Blended with his Indian Classical training and signature Crystal Slide guitar, is live electronic music production.

The result is an initiative focused on group mantra singing combined with

movement and dance from electronic low-fi beats, sub-bass and live instrumental looping, over a bed of Indian classical music, creating a dynamic journey from subtle ceremonial silence, lush atmospheric soundscapes to up-beat dance music, mantra singing, live instrumentation and then returning back to the meditational space.

This flow or structure is also what one would expect in a traditional yoga class and also the format of Indian classical music, and will be a new type of sharing with never-before released music, and with moment-to-moment real-time looping and improvisation.

The music reflects a fine balance of freedom within the structure, and a blend of that which is ancient, timeless to the modern day tastes of technology.

In simpler words, a fine blend of the head and the heart.

Nimbin's Birth & Beyond, Sunday 27th November, doors at 5pm, tickets \$30 at the door, or \$25 on-line. Bookings at: www.eventbrite.com.au and search for Nimbin Mantra Hop.

See: www.crystalslide.com for more information about Shivam, or phone 0428-539-232 for information.



Nimbin Community Centre
81 Cullen Street

Non-residential Room for Rent

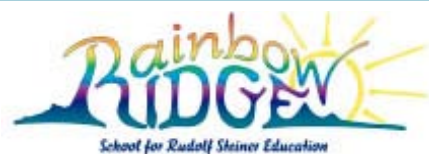
Size: 15.81m2. Room has a shared waiting room with two other tenants.

Great site for an office or studio space.

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ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

if you are interested, and for further details.



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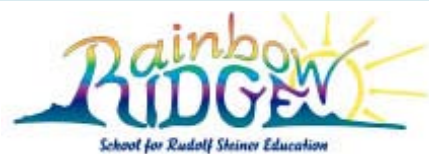
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For more information, contact

Rainbow Ridge Steiner School, 6689 7033

admin@rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au

Applications close: 15th November



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Knowledge of electrical, plumbing and solar power systems

Ability to work as part of a team

For more information, contact

Rainbow Ridge Steiner School, 6689 7033

admin@rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au

Applications close: 15th November

The Voice of the Alternative Nation



NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin
Phone 6689-1250

ADVICE FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS



Club opening hours:

Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close, Sun 8.30am to close
Sibley's Bistro open Wed-Sat 5 to 8pm, 6689-1473

- Open Mic night, Wednesday 9th Nov 6pm
- Trivia night, Saturday 19th Nov, 6pm
- Social Bowls, Sundays 10am, all welcome