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A full house of doctors

by Kim Bevan,
Practice Manager

October was a challenging month at the medical centre with appointments being as scarce as hen's teeth.

This situation was the result of losing a doctor on very short notice due to his constant struggle with the travelling. His sudden departure clashed with the planned leave of Dr Collins.

We know the shortage of appointments caused some concern in the community. As usual though, the whole medical centre family pulled together and with your patience and flexibility, made extraordinary things happen.

We are all relieved to be moving into November!

By the end of this month we will have a full house of doctors, all of who live in the Northern Rivers region.

Having faced the challenges of periodic border closures locking our doctors



out over the past couple of years, we have all seen a real example of the importance of locally-based doctors.

We have been blessed for over five years to have our Queensland-based doctors. Without them, we surely would have closed.

The efforts extended by our travelling doctors over the years, especially during the Covid disruptions and the flood, has been nothing short

of extraordinary, and we are very grateful to them all.

From early December Dr Collins plans to do some long-awaited travelling. He will continue his relationship with the medical centre and the Nimbin community, but on a more casual basis.

We are excited to be going into 2023 with five doctors who all live in the community, who share the values of the community,

and being local aim to provide the continuity the community has so often asked for.

From this point, we expect to have ample appointments available to existing and new patients. Even Saturday and Sunday appointments will be a fairly regular option.

Our group of doctors each come with their own special interests, which include (but are not limited to) women's health, men's health, Aboriginal health, skin cancer treatment, medicinal cannabis, integrative medicine, and overall wellbeing.

As has always been the case, many of our GPs will provide medical services to the Nimbin Hospital Emergency Department on a rotational roster.

The amazing admin angels are always happy to answer your questions and if you have any particular concerns they will point you in the right direction.

Playing politics with public toilets

by Sue Edmonds

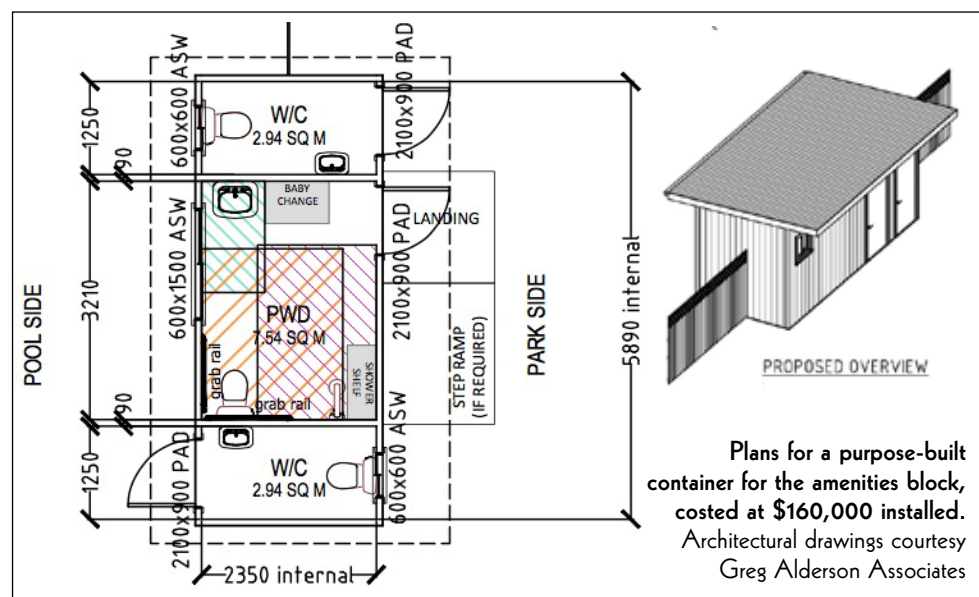
The United Nations declared 19th November World Toilet Day – the official day to ponder toilets, appreciate toilets, and recognise the serious health problems that arise with inadequate public toilets.

Unfortunately the Nimbin community can't celebrate this day because we still don't have one in Peace Park.

The Lismore City Council has at last weighed in on the toilet issue for Peace Park. They have come in as featherweight, easily blown away.

Councillor Adam Guise proposed a motion to actively seek funding for a toilet block at the last Council meeting on Tuesday 11th October. This was in addition to Janelle Safin's commitment to apply to the NSW Government for funding.

Councillor Rob amended this motion, excluding the need for the Council to make any application. It passed, despite the explanation from Councillor Ekins, that any submission for funding



Plans for a purpose-built container for the amenities block, costing at \$160,000 installed. Architectural drawings courtesy Greg Alderson Associates

doubles the chance of success when supported by two bodies.

Cr Rob argued that because Janelle Safin represents the Labor Party in NSW Parliament, and Adam Guise is an endorsed candidate for the Green Party, the Council would be taking sides.

Looks like anything can be turned into a political football and kicked around, until lost in the mud.

It's not a Labor vs Greens issue, it's a Lismore City Council issue arising from

neglect.

One of the new councillors asked why has it taken so long for the council to consider the problem, then voted against the Council seeking funding. She was happy for Janelle to apply, but not the Council, as were another five councillors.

To clarify the location, Scott Turner, Assets Manager, explained it should be positioned to service the pool, accessible from inside and outside in the park, therefore near the BBQ and

seats, close to the children's playground, outdoor exercise equipment and skate park.

It's hardly radical stuff, a toilet block in a park. But there is hesitation, obscurity, twists and spurious allegations.

The wheels of progress are turning slowly, thanks to the four Councillors, Vanessa, Elly, Darlene and Adam, who unconditionally support Nimbin's need for some facilities with positive action.

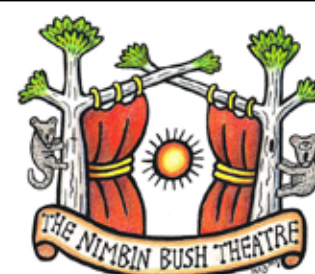
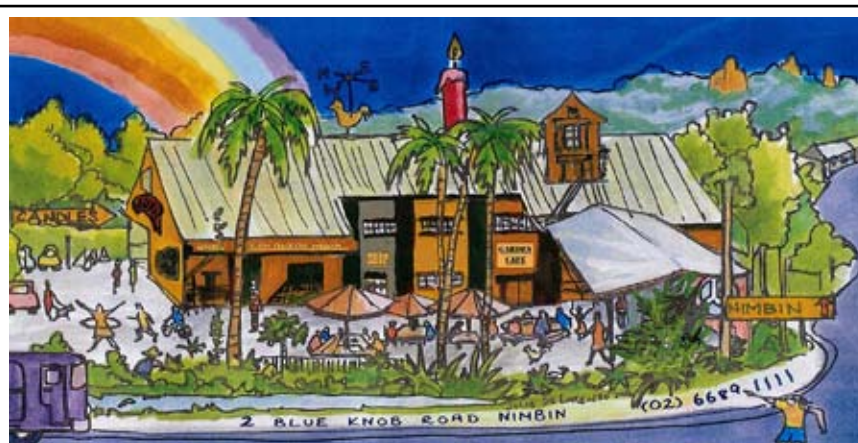
Watch this space for more news from the outhouse.

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Community Care Teams and local emergency radio network launched

by Cerise

The Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group (NDRG) has been working hard not only to assist the community in recovering from the 2022 floods but also to prepare for the disaster events that we are inevitably going to be experiencing with more frequency and severity in the future.

A huge thanks to the tireless efforts of all members of the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group and to all members of the Nimbin Emergency Radio Network for your dedication to the project and the many winter nights spent standing outside performing radio tests.

We are very proud to finally share the details of Nimbin Emergency Radio Network and announce that we have received funding to roll out the much anticipated Community Care Team project.

If you missed our Q&A sessions at the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan launch and workshop day in October at the Nimbin Bowling Club, you might be wondering what we are talking about. Let me explain:

What is the Nimbin Emergency Radio Network?

The Nimbin Emergency Radio Network has been developed to provide an effective way for residents of the Nimbin Valley to contact response personnel when their region becomes geographically isolated and phone services are lost.

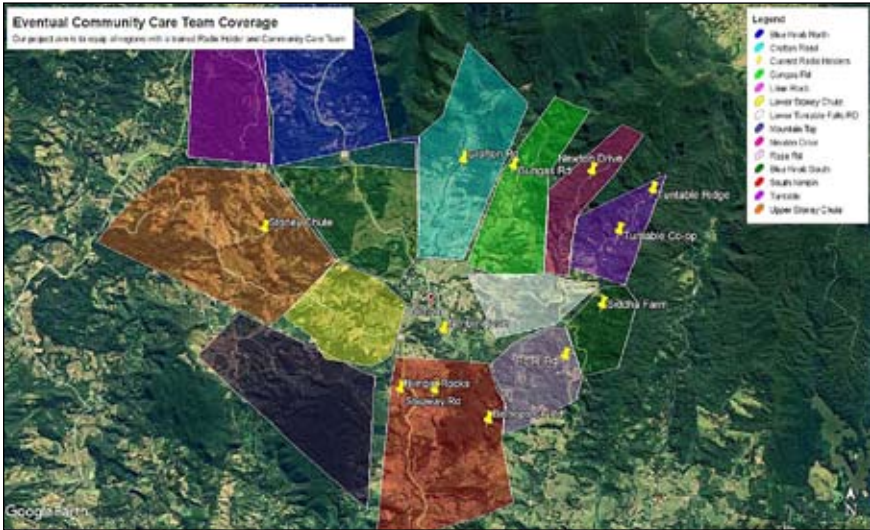
Community members in strategic locations were invited to become radio holders in early 2022 and have been provided with equipment and training. The role of the radio holder is to access 000 emergency services as needed, request necessary items and services (food, water, medical supplies etc) and to provide information to response agencies as needed.

The project essentially divides the Nimbin Valley into 14 localities (see map) and aims to ensure that there is at least one trained radio holder in each locality at all times. Additionally, Nimbin town is equipped with a radio "base", to receive transmissions from radio holders and relay them to relevant response personnel during a disaster event.

The network is tested monthly to ensure everything is working as it should be, and our wonderful radio holders continue to develop their skills and training on an ongoing basis.

I have my own CB radio, can I join the Nimbin Emergency Radio Network?

Due to the nature of citizen band radio, it is essential that our network remains



relatively small to be effectively used in emergency situations.

Once a channel is public, anybody, anywhere can listen to transmissions, and as an emergency network we need to be able to share information which may be personal in nature, for example if you are having a stroke and trying to call for an ambulance, you don't want everybody to be able to pick up the phone and listen to your 000 call.

It is also essential that in disaster events, response personnel can rely on trusted information sources to effectively distribute resources. A prank call that gets a helicopter sent out to the hills for no reason can cost lives and extraordinary amounts of resources.

For our network to effectively serve our community in times of crisis we have decided to remain a private network.

However, we are still looking to recruit additional radio holders for the following regions: Stony Chute, Mountain Top, Blue Knob, Lillian Rock, Jiggi Valley and Tumble Falls Road (Lower)/ Kirkland Road. If you are based in these localities and are interested in becoming part of our team, please get in touch.

What are the Community Care Teams?

We are so excited to finally roll out the much-anticipated Community Care Team (CCT) project!

The aim of the project is to ensure that all members of our community are quickly accounted for in a disaster, and that everyone has a way to access help when their region becomes isolated and phone services are lost.

We aim to recruit at least six community members in each locality of Nimbin (see map) to form CCT, more may be needed in larger localities. CCTs will be trained in the

knowledge and skills necessary to safely carry out welfare checks and identify needs within their communities when their locality becomes isolated.

Training will include first aid, psychological first aid, trauma informed communication, confidentiality protocols, identifying skills and resources within your locality, identifying likely disaster impacts in your region and more.

Community Care Teams will work in partnership with the radio holders to communicate with local response agencies. The project also aims to hold regular community engagement events in each locality to strengthen community connections, as we have learned, knowing your community is the most important thing in a disaster event!

We would love to hear from anyone interested in joining a Community Care Team in their region.

Revised Nimbin Disaster Plan

The revised Nimbin Disaster Plan which includes the new Community Response and Recovery Plan can be viewed on the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre website.

We are currently seeking responses to the plan through the on-line feedback and input form on the website, open until Monday 14th November.

To get in touch, please contact: ndrproject@nmic.org.au or call 6689-1692.



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The trials of Bernard Collaery

by John Jiggins

In his first public speech since Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus discontinued his long-running prosecution, Canberra lawyer and former ACT Attorney-General Bernard Collaery addressed the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties (QCCL) on 5th October, demanding a Royal Commission into the affair.

The roots of Collaery's prosecution date back two decades to Dili in 2004 when an employee of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), identified only as Witness K, oversaw bugging operations in Timor-Leste ordered by the then Australian Government to gain a commercial advantage during negotiations with the East Timorese over oil and gas reserves in the Timor Sea that promised enormous profits.

Australia's underhanded duplicity might have remained hidden had it not been for Witness K, a senior intelligence officer who felt deeply uncomfortable about the operation. Witness K's disquiet became significantly amplified in 2008 when Alexander Downer, the former long-serving Minister for Foreign Affairs, which oversees ASIS, retired from politics and took up a lucrative consultancy with Woodside Petroleum, which led the consortium that was awarded the contract to develop the oil fields.

Witness K approached the intelligence watchdog, the Inspector General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) about his concerns and obtained permission to talk to an approved lawyer, Bernard Collaery, a prominent barrister experienced in security matters.

Collaery, who had previously acted as an advisor to the Timor-Leste resistance, told the audience about his indignation when Witness K informed him about the treacherous behaviour of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

"After years and years of assisting the Timorese resistance, and working with the leader of the resistance Shanana Gusmao, and developing what I could in terms of trust ... to have Witness K come to my office and tell me something so marked with treachery, words still fail me," said Collaery.

"So marked with treachery... so immoral... so unethical... but worse still, so counter to all of our national interests! This was putting 30 pieces of



Bernard Collaery

silver – money for corporate mates! – ahead of our interest in ensuring that we develop good relations with the Timorese and outplay those others who were interested, particularly China.'

As Collaery and his team investigated, he stumbled upon another enormous scandal. Because of the unusual wording of the agreement, billions of dollars of the rare element helium were given away for free to two companies, ConocoPhillips and Woodside.

When Timor-Leste took its case to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, declaring that it wished to withdraw from existing treaty commitments with Australia because of their bad faith behaviour, ASIO, which is also run by DFAT, and the federal police raided Collaery's offices and seized a draft of Witness K's affidavit and Collaery's legal advice on Timor-Leste's entitlements and its strategy for the court proceedings. Australia also cancelled Witness K's passport to prevent him travelling to The Hague to testify for Timor-Leste.

In 2018 Attorney-General Christian Porter made the decision to charge Collaery and Witness K under the National Security Information Act (NSI Act) with unlawfully disclosing information about the ASIS mission in Timor-Leste.

"It never entered our heads that a law being introduced to deal with terrorism, actually would be employed against us first," said Collaery. "I am the only person to be prosecuted under that

legislation to have been treated to the full measure of it."

The provisions of the NSI Act allow what is called judge-only evidence, evidence that neither an accused nor their lawyers can see. On numerous occasions over the four years of his prosecution, Collaery and his lawyers had to leave the courtroom so secret evidence about him could be given to the judge.

On what moral basis, Collaery asked, do Australian complaints about secret trials of Australians in Iran and China have weight, when the same thing happens here? Witness K was similarly charged and convicted in a secret trial, while David McBride, who blew the whistle on SAS war crimes in Afghanistan, is currently undergoing his secret trial. These cases are comparable to Julian Assange's where national security laws are misused to prosecute whistle-blowers and protect the guilty.

In a devastating development for whistleblower David McBride, his claim to access Australia's whistleblower protection laws failed when the Federal Government claimed public interest immunity. He now faces the prospect of 50 years in prison. A GetUp petition is at: <https://getup.to/KEPK4FP2rFNE3sG>

Collaery called for a review of the NSI Act and demanded a Royal Commission to investigate the bugging of the Timor-Leste Government in 2004.

What happened in Dili is the greatest scandal in the history of ASIS. It exposes how damaging the blowback from covert actions can be, an important lesson that the covert cowboys of ASIS seem in no hurry to learn.

Powerful forces will oppose Collaery's call for a Royal Commission. Those who approved the Dili bugging are enormously influential.

Did Alexander Downer authorise the bugging without the approval of Cabinet's National Security Committee, composed of Prime Minister John Howard, Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson, Treasurer Peter Costello, Attorney-General Phillip Ruddock, and Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone?

The LNP Government wasted four years and millions of dollars prosecuting Bernard Collaery and Witness K. It's time the mates who trashed Australia's reputation faced the consequences.

Towards Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary

by Benny Zable, president NAFI

It has been a busy month for me coming back to Nimbin. The preparation towards Nimbin Aquarius 50th is gaining momentum.

I was pleased to make it back from overseas for the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc (NAFI) meeting and catching up with Johnny Allen.

It was also straight back with preparations for the Mount Nardi blockade exhibition.

Greg Bork prepared a wonderful display of photos and media clippings in the foyer of the Nimbin Hall.

The exhibition ran from Monday 17th October to Saturday 22nd culminating with a star-studded Saturday



night concert prepared, over the year, by Sophia Hoebe. Paul Paitson made a backdrop for the stage of a bulldozer trapped in the roots of a rainforest tree.

The line-up of artists included Winiata, Lisa Yeates and Soozah Clarke, John Seed with his son River and the grand finale featuring Missus Hippy and the Lovehandles, to name a few.

Both events went off beyond our expectations. There are so many people to

thank in making this show one of my best experiences attending gigs in this hall.

The next day, on Sunday afternoon, the Nimbin Bush Theatre screened the new doco on the Franklin River, 'Franklin' (first time seeing it).

I loved the way the filmmakers developed the script and showed off the cinematic beauty of the Franklin Gordon up-river in South West Tasmania.

Because of flood warnings during the screening, many stayed away or left. There will be more screenings in the future. Watch this space.

Nimbin Chamber of Commerce president David Hyett is holding weekly meetings on Tuesdays, 12.30pm at the Nimbin Bush Theatre for those interested in contributing to the planning and preparation for

Nimbin Aquarius 50th.

NAFI has representatives attending gigs in this hall.

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

Please note: Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc is holding its Annual General Meeting on Friday 18th November in the Community Centre Comskool room at 3.30pm.

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

Johnny Allen returns for Aquarius 50th planning



by Jenny Cornish
and Jeni Kendell

On 21st October, the Aquarius 50th Organising Committee put on a last-minute welcome back to Nimbin for Johnny Allen, one of the original organisers of the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival.

Johnny Allen AM is a seminal figure in alternative arts and culture in Australia. A recognised pioneer of the event industry, he is often referred to as 'the Father of Events'. Indeed, he is the lead author of the standard text *Festivals and Special Event Management*, published by Wileys, now in its 7th edition.

He started the radical theatre group Cabaret Conspiracy with Michael Murray in the 1970s and proceeded to tour many activists such as Ralph Nader and Ron Cobb. More recently he has managed events at Darling Harbour and has taught event management all over the world.

Johnny Allen, Graeme Dunstan, Benny Zable and Katie Cawcutt were joined by about 50 people, with ten of those having been at the original Aquarius Festival, and spoke of their hopes and dreams and lived experiences since the 1973 event.

The talking stick was passed and struck to focus us on the wonderful thoughts and ideas from the circle.

We put on a delicious dinner and people established bonds and connections and reconnections on subjects of mutual interest that will help to the evolving program of events now taking meaningful shape.

And with more social events like this, and help from those who know how this all works, we are starting to reach out to people of all ages and get them to discover along with us that this gathering could be a fantastic meeting of minds and hearts from all over this planet to endorse our direction, to share our ideas, put forward new ones and to reinvigorate ourselves and our town.

Town Hall meeting 12th October

With Benny Zable's Aquarius banners, Annie's vegan dips with rose petals and veggie soup, Gilly's brownies and some music by Dave Davies and Mira, we put out a random number of chairs in a circle in the Nimbin Town Hall on the 12th of October for our meeting about next year's Aquarius 50th Anniversary Gathering.

As the Hall filled it was cosmic indeed that the exact



Part of the welcome back to Johnny Allen
Inset: Johnny Allen and Graeme Dunstan
Photos: Peter Derrett

number of seats put out were filled. We had a list of ideas on a white board: First Nations, Environment and Gaia, Youth, Health and Healing, Life, Death and Everything, Community, Art is Life and Life is Art, and a list of possible special events for consideration and funding.

We had surveys, paper to write their name, interests, skills and contact details and butcher's paper to write down ideas. We welcomed people and honoured both our First Nations friends, and Katie and Benny who have run the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc for more than half their lives.

Biko arrived saying Mandie Hale was interested in the youth program and involving Children of Aquarius and that there are ideas from the Tuntale Falls Community to possibly have a visitors' camp and to host some events.

Dave Hyett gave an idea of our visions and goals, and Graeme Dunstan said one part of the original "Aquarius Festival 1973 manifesto" was that everyone should be heard! Hope so, we all thought.

Benny confirmed that Phillippe Petit, the famous high-wire artist will come and the American musician and magic maker, Fantuzzi, much loved in Nimbin, will come if his airfare is paid. The folk who had come from Black Sheep Farm offered to accommodate him.

Graeme spoke of storytelling campfires at the Showground where most will camp, and of theatre, which would honour those who have passed. Black Diamond said we should have a special camp for the First Nations peoples and story-telling grounds for men and women. Biko talked about the idea of a fixed camera recording stories from anyone wanting to do so.

Peter Derrett took photos of the evening and talked about his plans to reprint and frame his '73 Aquarius Festival' photographs for display – around 50 in all!

Paul Tait spoke of our film idea to digitise the original 16mm footage from *Nearly Normal Nimbin* – all 40 hours of interviews, and put them onto TVs with headphones for people to select and view.

The 'Rainbow Archive' at the State Library of NSW are helping us with the project.

We could also aim to put all Aquarius archives on-line, and Jonathon Carter offered to help with this.

We discussed funding and there are various ideas from going for Federal and State grants and LCC funding and seeing if Janelle Saffin could help us. Also a funding model similar to the Byron Bay Writers Festival where an individual or company could sponsor part of the program with acknowledgement to them.

Another idea from Jen Cornish was for individuals to sponsor wildcard people to come and react with the gathering and the slogan: "You are the festival".

We talked of electric transport to bus people around the venues and region, and workshops we could do on alternative building materials and structures, coffin building, instrument making, weave and mend, homeopathic first aid and learning forest protest songs, to name a few possibilities.

We broke into groups to discuss individual ideas and then regrouped to share and finish the night.

The ideas ranged from Andrew from Rainbow Power, offering their support, to cultural trips, community arts projects, city and social housing redesign, zero rubbish, learning exchange, open gardens, youth back to the land, forest protection, having organic clean food, homebirth, changing relationships and more!

We were awestruck by who was in the room and what they may contribute. It was a precious night filled with people who want to teach and learn, honour and create!

Maybe the new revolution of renewal is here in our hands. We will have other similar events again soon and all are welcome. The dream lives...

Contact Details

Email: aquarius50th@gmail.com

FB: [Nimbin Aquarius 50th Anniversary](https://www.facebook.com/Nimbin-Aquarius-50th-Anniversary), May 12-23, 2023
GoFundMe: www.gofundme.com/f/nimbin-aquarius-turns-50-may-1223-2023

50th astrology reading

As we prepare for next year's Aquarius 50th Anniversary it seemed appropriate to seek some astrological guidance about the timing of the anniversary gathering so that we can be aware and modify our attitude and approach to the awakening event that is being created.

The wonderfully articulate astrologer from the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, Tina Mews, has provided us with some details for the time planned. Thank you Tina!

At midday on 12th May 2023, the Moon will be in Aquarius, Jupiter will align with Mars and the Moon will be in the 7th house. Sun, of course, will be in Taurus as it is May.

Sounds like the song 'Aquarius' by the Fifth Dimension from the musical *Hair*. It was the time and again it is returning. It is for our time again 50 years on.

Aquarius brings with it the energies of openness and awakening, consciousness-raising and allowing new ideas to come in.

Uranus is a rebel planet and rules Aquarius. It is the father of archetypes and ruler of revolution.

It is again a time for revolution in ourselves, in our lives and in the way we interact with others in all manners.

Not competing with each other and our own inner compulsions, but seeking to work in alignment with others and ourselves and indeed Gaia.

Time to look anew at our belief systems and see what is working and what is not.

Venus will be in the 12th House. She is a bit hidden and is calling forth the strong feminine in women and in men.

A strong female voice can bring in common sense and groundedness.

It can provide courage and determination, but on the negative side it can also bring out "my way" as the only way. Female energy also brings in the artistic, sensual and creative energies.

In summary, WE are the people, NOW is the time and NIMBIN is the place!

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Applicants MUST address each of the selection criteria set out at the end of the Job Kit - which is available on our website: www.nmic.org.au Applications close 2nd December.

Nimbin Recovery Support Service

Nimbin Recovery Support Service (RSS) is now up and running, and offers disaster recovery support for impacted people in the Northern parts of the Lismore LGA and nearby parts of the Tweed and Kyogle Shires.

The service offers a dedicated support worker to assist you through the complex journey of disaster recovery including support with grant applications and



The Community Disaster Plan workshop

administration, linking with key services, suppliers and expert advice and housing support and solutions.

You can register by email: nimbinrss@nmic.org.au or call or text 0488-144-647, or drop by 7 Sibley Street, Monday-Friday to sign up. The RSS program is rolling out across the Northern Rivers region - we can help you find the right RSS provider for you.

Nimbin Community Disaster Plan

Thanks to everyone who came along to the Bowlo to view the revised plan or attended the Community Care Team and Emergency Radio Network workshop on Saturday 29th

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

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

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

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

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

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS - booking and fees apply

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

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

www.nacrs.com.au



October.

If you were unable to attend, there is still the opportunity to provide your feedback and input.

You can see the draft revised plan on our website (click on the Disaster tab), and there is also a link to our online feedback from there.

The final and complete version of the Disaster Plan will be published by the end of November so be sure to get your feedback in ASAP.

Community Care Team

To register your interest in becoming part of the CCT, please complete the EOI form which can be downloaded from our website (click on the Disasters tab) and send it back to us.

Community Xmas Lunch

Thursday 23rd December, 2022, Nimbin Town Hall.

Santa is planned to come along with gifts for kids 12 and under. All welcome.

Come along and join in the yummy Xmas lunch and general merriment.

Absolutely FREE.

Absolutely not to be missed!

Xmas hampers and gifts

We are looking for donations towards Xmas hampers for families and gifts for children. Donations of cash are preferred, but we will gratefully accept donations of quality, new gift items (especially for boys aged between 5 and 12 years). No second-hand items please.

Composting toilet

We are finally on the home stretch folks. By the time this edition of the NGT is out, we

will have walls, and the hemp will have been installed at 7 Sibley Street.

Heartfelt thanks

NNIC would like to sincerely thank the following for recent funding provided to us to allow us to maintain and enhance our services and support to the community during the current financial year:

- NSW Government, Department Communities and Justice, or the one-off NGO Flood Support Program funding;
- NSW Government, Resilience NSW, for funding the Nimbin Recovery Support Service;
- Northern Rivers Community Foundation, for funding the Nimbin Disaster Resilience project;
- Healthy North Coast (North Coast Primary Health Network), for additional funding to support Nimbin Integrated Services (clinical mental health/AOD service).

NNIC AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at our premises on 71 Cullen Street, Nimbin, on Wednesday 30th November, 2022 at 5.30pm. All current NNIC members welcome.

Did you know?

NNIC is a registered DGR charity, which means that donations to our charitable activities, or bequests in your will, are tax deductible. Your donations help us to help and support our local community.

www.nmic.org.au

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

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

Women's health nurse services

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

Wound clinic

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

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

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

Nurse practitioner clinic

Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 17th November.

Community Registered Nurse

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

Nimbin NSP

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

Health advice line

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

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

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



Political will needed

According to historians, the Middle Ages lasted for around 1000 years, and natural disasters such as floods occurred.

Life was harsh, with a limited diet and little comfort. Starvation, disease and poverty was common. Children had a 50% survival rate beyond age one, and began to contribute to family life around age 12.

However, one society for over 800 years was distinctly different, the Khmer Empire - today the land of Cambodia, in that its standard of living and affluence were exceptional.

In 1296 AD, Chinese traveller Zhou Daguan visited Angkor, the capital of Cambodia's powerful Khmer Empire, as a member of a diplomatic mission sent by Chinese Emperor Temur Khan. Today, Zhou's written record of his residency is a surviving eyewitness account of that extraordinary and mysterious time and place.

Put simply, his descriptions plus massive archaeological findings, place the Khmer empire as the greatest society in the world at the time. The Khmer consistently developed and organised an Empire where living standards outshone the rest of the planet.

One of their main achievements, which gave the population security against natural disasters, such as flooding, was primarily the

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.

building of massive man-made dams called Barays. These secured nature, controlling and managing water. This allowed for the development and expansion of society.

The Barays or giant man-made lakes, captured and controlled the flooding, which poured down through the country. Management of water was used for domestic, agricultural, tourist and religious purposes.

The management permitted water to be returned back into the river system, and yet enough was left for other uses.

The largest of the Barays were the East and West Barays and both were almost the same size. Both were rectangular in shape and measuring approximately 7.8 by 2.1 kilometres. The West Baray is one of the largest hand-cut water reservoirs on Earth, currently possessing a maximum capacity of 12 to 14 billion gallons of water



(53 million m³). Both are considered the largest dams of their type ever built. These man-made lakes or Barays controlled the flooding, of the heavy monsoon rains. Both had walls 13 m high.

The topography of Cambodia is similar to where the Wilson and Leicester river systems meet, originally a former swampland area ideal for such dam construction.

It is proof that the rapid flooding that hits our area can be controlled. The Barays are still working, preventing floods in Cambodia, some 800 years later.

If a development project was begun to establish large man-made lakes to the north and west of Lismore, flooding could be controlled; with organised management, water would be allowed to flow back into the river.

The surplus water would provide opportunity for regeneration of our rainforest, to develop eco tourism, to create an Indigenous cultural centre like Mossman Gorge, allow for new real estate opportunities that would

be built above flood height, and space for regeneration of forests to act as a carbon sink.

A great number of new employment and business opportunities would be created, and the benefits would be enormous not just for our valley, but for the nation. A society in the Middle Ages could solve the problem for over 800 years. If only politicians could seize the opportunity?

Put on top of this, the overall costing of such construction is minimal. How? The sediment dug out would be sold in a way similar to the Penrith Lakes development. The Penrith Lakes was a project achieved by private enterprise, without any cost to the general public.

It is hoped the current opportunity offered by the NSW and Federal Governments to support flood victims is allocated as soon as possible. This support package though does not look at the longer term of how to alleviate and control the natural disaster of flooding.

Mark Pestell
Nimbin

Appeal to the Nimbin community for basic shelter for local Aboriginal man

Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS) in partnership with Nimbin Community Centre (NCC) need to find a suitable home or sheltered space for a local Indigenous person until a more permanent solution can be found or developed.

This person is currently sleeping rough at the Nimbin Community Centre.

We are appealing to the broader Nimbin community to work with us to find a quiet, private space within easy walking distance of the town centre - a small unit, a cabin or a space for a basic shelter with ongoing daily support from NACRS.

This could be a covered area such as a carport, or a space where a compact moveable shelter can be placed for sleeping and storage of clothes (eg. small caravan).

We are aiming for a secluded, private spot as close to the town centre as possible, with no interaction

required between the tenant and owners.

NACRS Support workers assist this person with activities of daily living - shopping,

food prep, laundry, personal care, clothes storage, bedding, activities, medical appointments, etc - for three hours each day.

This one-to-one support will continue, and will include assisting maintaining their personal space and rental agreement.

Initially this would be on a trial basis, with agreed rent paid automatically, and closely monitored by a key support worker at NACRS.

If you think you may have (or know of) a suitable space to offer and would like to explore, with no obligation, this opportunity to support a vulnerable Aboriginal person, and receive a small income whilst creating a solution to local homelessness, please contact Rose Cubis: rose@nacrs.com.au or phone 02 6689-1709.



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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.

Rosie and Trevor
Bookkeeper Martha Paitson
Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com
And find us on Facebook

NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 25th November

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

Notices

Annual General Meetings

- Nimbin Community Centre Inc AGM: Thursday 10th November, 5pm at Birth & Beyond.
- Nimbin Independent Media (Nim-FM) AGM: Thursday 17th November, 1pm at Nimbin Community Centre with refreshments and pizza, all welcome.
- Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc AGM: Friday 18th November, 4pm at Nimbin Community Centre.
- Northern Rivers Rail Ltd AGM: Saturday 19th November, 2-5pm at Meeting Room, Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.
- The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce will hold its AGM at the Bush Theatre, Nimbin at 6pm on Monday 28th November.
- Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre AGM: Wednesday 30th November, 5.30pm at 71 Cullen Street. All current NNIC members welcome.

Christmas BBQ

A Police/Community Christmas BBQ will be held in Allsopp Park on Saturday 10th December at midday.

Free notices

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

HAVE YOUR SAY

HOW DO YOU WANT OUR REGION TO GROW?

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THE GREENS
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Nature-based flood mitigation

by Jeremy Stewart

An example of a functioning upper catchment floodplain can be seen in the Protestors Falls carpark area, in Nightcap National Park.

The forest in this locale is predominantly Bangalow Palms with some Blue Quandong and Red Cedar among the largest trees.

In the high rainfall event of 2022, the creek running from the Protestors Falls area would have been engorged with high water, a high sediment and rock load, and fallen timber, trees and deadwood being carried in the flows.

The vegetation/wood from the Protestors Falls area seems to have been carried until there was a jam – it was near the intersection with Terania Creek where the waters meeting each other would have created turbulence and added to the slowing effects at this point.

The jam created about a two-metre weir in the main channel, slowing the water above it down and letting the stone and sediment more readily drop out of the waters rather than being washed downstream, adding to the volume of floodwater.

The flooded creek also spread through the surrounding palm forest, dropping a layer of washed stone through it.

Tens of thousands of tons of material was captured in a space of a few hectares of forest.

It appears the plants are well adapted to surviving in such conditions, their roots systems even catching sediment. Some have been submerged up to 1.8m in silt/rock. Each event just creates a new ground zero for the next generations of forest plants.

A new incision was created in the forest floor at one point, creating a window into geological history. It looks



like there is similar material to what has been freshly deposited way down in the soil horizon.

These events have occurred in the distant past, and you could assume the palm forest was there then.

When you look around the Northern Rivers landscapes at the floodplain shapes, even the mini ones along the inside edges of river bends, remember they were once likely vegetated like this one.

Vegetation is a critical part of a healthy natural river system and it has been largely removed from our riparian zones and floodplains by human activity.

If still there, the vegetation would slow the movement of water down the catchment, increasing the length of flooding but decreasing the height. The removal of sediment also reduces the volume of water as the sediment adds volume to the floodwaters.

Interestingly, in a part of the forest miles away, a new bank of deposited material has self-seeded with palms.

There doesn't appear to be a single

Above: Log jam at Protestors Falls Creek
Below: Palms self-seeding



other species more adapted to this opportunity on this occasion. This area was only about 20m².

Perhaps a floodplain formation in this area much like Protestors may have been in its earliest stages.

Websters Creek Landcare

by Liliás Cotterel

In late September, a successful community tree planting day was held by Websters Creek Landcare on two sites along the creek.

The first site was at the creek reserve located on Stony Chute Road just before the bridge, which divides the Lismore and Kyogle Council Shires.

The second site was across two properties in the headwaters of Websters at Blue Knob. The Sunday was a perfect Spring day and we had a good turnout.

We planted 200 trees across both sites.

Websters Creek Catchment Landcare received a grant from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife as part of a Bushfire



Recovery Restoration Program, and this provided the group with 600 free trees courtesy of the Friends of the Koala (FoK) in Lismore. Many thanks to Mark

Wilson at FoK, for providing us with good stock and a wide range of species.

We would also like to thank Leon and Travis who kindly provided motorised

augers, which made short work of digging holes.

The site at the creek reserve was planted with dry rainforest and riparian species, while the site at Blue Knob was suited to sub-tropical rainforest species.

Both sites had been prepared for planting by Landcare members prior to the day, and the main weeds tackled were lantana, tobacco, giant devils fig, crofton, small-leaf privet, paspalum and cats claw.

Both sites will be maintained by the Landcare group and by the end of November we will have reached our target of 600 trees.

Websters Creek Landcare meets most Sundays (weather dependent), and if you wish to join or just come along for a day, phone Lil on 0400-766-910.



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