

Muddy camps, muddy boots and lots of policemen's dirty looks

by Sophia Hoeben

Millions of years ago when ancient rainforests dominated much of the Australian landscape, the Gondwana rainforests stretched from the far north of the country all the way down the East Coast. It was a truly magical paradise containing millions of life-forms and fresh mountain streams and mighty rivers which flowed to the sea spotlessly clean. The ancient Aboriginal people had looked after country for millennia, but catastrophe struck when invaded in the 18th century by a race of people who did not understand them or their country. Thus today, less than one percent of rainforest remains in Australia.

In 1982, the total area of rainforest left in NSW, in any condition, was estimated at 250,000 hectares, that being .03 percent (according to then Premier Premier Wran himself). Saving the Nightcap National Park meant saving 186,000 hectares, a large proportion of what is left. In 1979, the lunacy of the proposal to log Terania Creek being given the go-ahead by the NSW government did not escape the locals of Terania. They had been writing submissions to the NSW government for years before, and now had to try other ways to stop the



logging. Terania people gathered in camps and protested for weeks until the loggers finally stopped coming. The battle had been won, but the war was not over. An Environmental Impact Statement and an injunction against further logging had not been granted. In 1982, the Wran Government collapsed in an apathetic heap once again and sold out to the all-powerful logging companies, and gave the go-ahead for the logging of the Nightcap Ranges to commence. It was June of 1982, when the locals,

mainly from surrounding alternative communities came to form a group. They called themselves NAGers (Nightcap Action Group) and set up camps on private land on Mt Nardi. These camps were actively involved in the actions happening every day when it did not rain. Muddy camps, muddy boots and lots of policemen's dirty looks. Bunjulong elders, Uncle Frank and Uncle Lyle Roberts opened the camp on Andy Frame's land with song and dance to welcome his "brothers and sisters" in their battle to stop the logging. After four months passed, we began to wonder if it would ever stop. In October 1982, when news hit Premier Wran's ear that a protester had been injured by police on Mt Nardi, he finally made a decision to grant an injunction and the logging stopped. He later claimed in the media all around Australia, that his Government would be known for having saved all the forests in NSW. Funny that – we definitely remember getting arrested by his police force. There will be many more stories told on Saturday night 22nd October in the Nimbin Hall. There will be vegan food available from 7pm plus Judy Hales' delicious cheesecake with your tea or coffee. NAG hopes you come and celebrate it with us.

Photo legacy

by Greg Bork

This photo by Stuart Owen Fox shows the Nightcap Action Group (NAG) with big smiles on their faces planting trees to celebrate being granted an injunction on logging on Mount Nardi, in 1982. The photo is part of an exhibition to be held from between 17th and 21st October in the foyer of the Nimbin Hall, in the lead-up to the Nightcap 40th anniversary event on the 22nd. The exhibition is a work in progress following a couple years of digging through personal, local, state and national archives as part of my PhD with Gribi College at Southern Cross University. My research focussed on stories of Bundjalung participation at the Nightcap



blockade, along with the prior Terania blockade, and Aquarius Festival (from 1973 to 1983). The heart of the exhibition is a few (approved) photos that include respected Bundjalung ancestors. One ancestor sings and dances for the NAGgers on Mt Nardi, in a photo then published in *The Northern Star*. Another ancestor stands with an Aboriginal flag in the centre of a large circle of NAGgers, in a photo in the archives of the Rainforest Information Centre. I love these photos, and the stories connected to them.

Each photo in the exhibition has its own unique life as an object, as well as an image. Several collections of photos and artefacts are missing or lost in floods, fires, or through deterioration. I'm talking with local cultural institutions about how their archives are cared for, though several are now severely impacted by floods. Organising and documenting your own archives is a great way to make life easier for your loved ones, so that they inherit a treasure rather than a burden when you're gone. At worst, archives left behind by people who have died could end up in a skip if they are not passed on with care. What to do with your own precious photos recovered from a dusty shoebox in the garage? Scan your photos at 300dpi or more so they can be re-printed at the same size. Aim for pixel dimensions of at

least 3000x2000, and save as tif file if you have heaps of digital storage, or high quality .jpeg if not. As a qualified bush regeneration contractor and a professional photographer working in and with the community, I am no "helicopter" researcher who extracts data, then leaves. These are not my stories to own, I'm here to help care for them. At the Terania 40th anniversary in 2019, a portfolio of photos was shared for people to write notes in the margins, and I will make a similar portfolio for the Nightcap exhibition. Please let me know if you'd like to record your own Nightcap, Terania or Aquarius story another way, or chat about my research project and method for sharing cross-cultural story in a protected space. You can reach me at the exhibition or at: gbork@hotmail.com and see my work at: gregorybork.com



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Aquarius report from New York City

by Benny Zable, NAFL president

On 29th August, I flew out of Brisbane bound for New York. First I visited the Woodstock Museum to help with setting up the site for their Woodstock Free Film Festival.

I caught up with Phillippe Petit and his partner Judith Friedlaender during my stay there.

He and Judith are applying to perform for Vivid Sydney in May 2023, with the aim that they are brought out first to attend and perform at the Nimbin Aquarius 50th.

See: www.globenewswire.com/en/news-release/2022/06/19/2464998/0/en/Vivid-Sydney-2023-Dates-and-New-Food-Program-Announced-as-the-Lights-Switch-Off-for-2022.html

Some history. Phillippe Petit was one of the artists that was brought out to perform at Aquarius in May 1973. He then travelled with a support crew from Nimbin Aquarius to perform a controversial high wire walk between the two pylons of Sydney Harbour Bridge.

From there he went onto to New York City to pull off that legendary walk between the then World Trade Center twin towers while it was still under construction.

Phillippe has not been back to Nimbin since Aquarius, 50 years ago. He is looking forward to performing once again in Nimbin.

Following my visit to the Woodstock Museum, I headed back to New York City to catch up with Fantuzzi, who is also interested in visiting Nimbin for



Phillippe Petit with Woodstock Museum's Nathan Koenig in Woodstock

the Aquarius 50th. See: [fantuzzimusic.com/#fantuzzi-concerts-events](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olFY7KH0Q00)

My original reason for this journey to New York is to sort out and celebrate the life and work of my deceased dance partner, Marsha Silvestri, at the place where we married five years ago in Strawberry Fields around the IMAGINE mosaic in Central Park.

I plan to be back in Nimbin on and around 10th October for the Nightcap Forest blockade 40th anniversary exhibition and concert, between 17th and 22nd October.

On Sunday, 23rd October, the recently-made documentary about the Franklin Blockade will be screened at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

See trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=olFY7KH0Q00

Planning meetings

There will be a public meeting in Nimbin School of Arts (Nimbin Town Hall) on Wednesday 12th October from 5pm to 7pm. The hall will be open at 2pm. Ideas and contributions for the anniversary will be welcome.

The AGM for the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc will be held on Friday 11th November at 3.30pm in the Nimbin Community Centre, Comskool room.

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

Remembering Aquarius and the Manifesting of Manifestos

by Graeme Dunstan

Way back in 1972 and on the first day that we started work together at the Australian Union of Students offices in North Melbourne, Johnny Allen and I sat in our bare but plushly-carpeted new office, face to face for the first time as agents of AUS.

Kaptain Kultur and Superfest, we dubbed ourselves...

What will we do? Where will we begin? Inspired by Karl Marx I said, "I will write a manifesto."

And so I did. Winged words flew, and by the end of the day, The May Manifesto had been printed offset as a pamphlet by the AUS printers. Ten paragraphs on A4, it began thus:

"That the 1973 Aquarius Festival be more than a place where there is a concentration of arts and artists. That the style of the festival, the structures and forms that make up the festival itself be an art form. The aim is for a total cultural experience through the lifestyle of participants. "That the theme of the festival be survival on earth and a living affirmation that we do not need to be sold our culture."

It was my first piece of official wordsmithing for the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival. Its impact was

immediate and inspiring. Remember that this was back in pre-internet days, when offset printing was the go and pamphleteering was an artform of activism.

Fifty years on and Johnny Allen, my fellow ageing Aquarian accomplice, is urging me to write another Manifesto for Aquarius50. What a challenge!

Re-reading the Manifesto, the sense of magic in those words of 50 years ago echoes. Some of its statements are now out of time of course. Like for example the promise "to organise this experimental community in some fairly isolated rural setting".

For we know where Aquarius01 later came to ground and where the Aquarius50 camp will be: the Nimbin showgrounds.

But other Manifesto statements remain apposite. For example:

"That the festival community be an experience in living in harmony with the natural environment. It will make full use of creative technology and will not be destructive to the land."

"That within the festival community the main emphasis be on participation rather than consumer entertainment."

"That there be no prearranged programme of events and instead the community will be provided with free media (print, radio and video) through which



Johnny Allen and Graeme Dunstan speaking at the 40th Nimbin Aquarius anniversary in 2013

interested groups could advertise the activities they plan.

Also apposite for Aquarius50 is the core of The May Manifesto's vision: "That the festival will facilitate exchanges on survival techniques..."

"That the festival will not be about numbers but about energy created and exchanged, creativity harnessed and joy manifest." And what would I add? This:

Let the Aquarius50 be celebrated with storytelling. About what happened back then and, more importantly, what happened after. Stories about how lives were changed and how lives were charged.

We were cultural revolutionaries in those post-Vietnam war times, winners of the peace, the best of our generation. Many were the prophets and the pioneers.

Future vision we had in abundance and also passion and our Nimbin Aquarian sharing brought on many changes.

Let's reflect on those visions for survival on Earth, our practice, what was achieved, what was learned and what from here.

For Aquarius50 the vision is of lots of yarning in the Nimbin Hall, in Cullen Street cafes and around campfires at the Showgrounds. Lots of laughter, good cheer, good food and music too.

Everyone standing up alive.

Let each have a time to speak and let everyone be heard.

Let the 50th anniversary of the Nimbin Aquarius Festival be an honouring of eldership.

Let it be an honouring of the elders of a cultural revolution.

Nimbin Aquarius prepares for silver anniversary



by Jenny Cornish, Jenny Kendall and Paul Tait

The Nimbin Aquarius 50th Anniversary Gathering will be held in our town next year and at the moment is planned for the middle weeks of May.

A group of us under the banner of the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation are planning what we might put forward for this important celebration. What follows are ideas from our meetings and lunches and raves, and it is starting to look good.

Welcome with helping us prepare and create our celebration

The Gathering is going to follow on from MardiGrass and so we will have the Nimbin Showground for two weeks.

The first week would be putting up of any structures and tents, doing workshops, playing music, doing rehearsals, decorating the venues and the town. Laid back, busy and gentle.

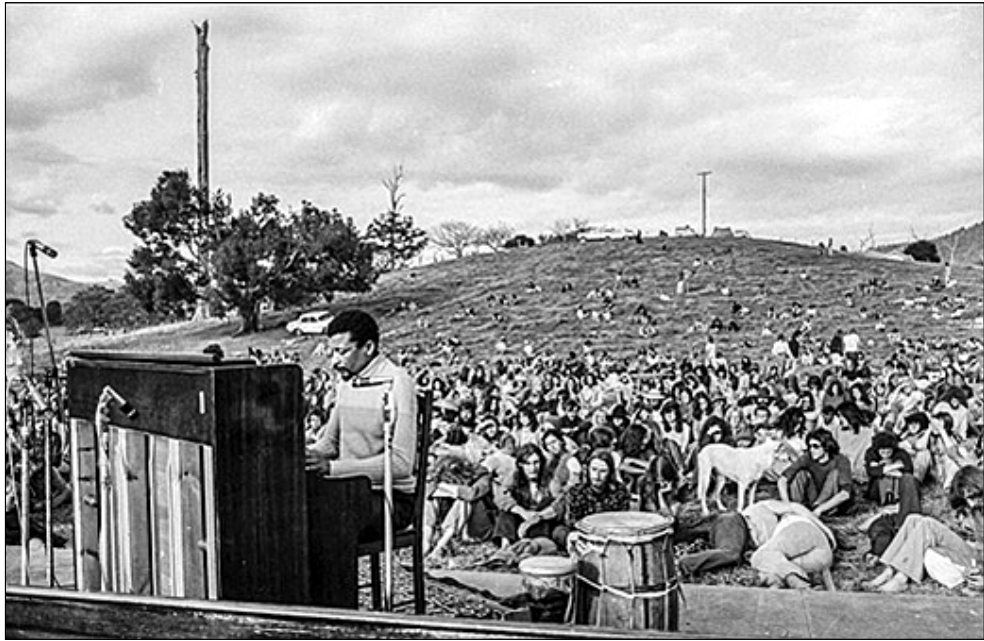
There is a suggestion that during this time, that we assist others to put on Fringe Festival events in the region at various communities, towns, markets and halls.

Ideas to date for the Programme

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation and our extended community acknowledges and respects the original custodians of this land, and would like to start the Gathering with a First Nations Day 'Welcome to Country', Opening Ceremony and sharing.

Hopefully we will be able to afford a major tent venue at the Showground. In the tent and around themed campfires, as well as in the Town Hall, Birth & Beyond, the Bush Theatre, the Bowlo and Blue Knob Hall, there will be much discussion, speakers, talking circles, music, exhibitions and joy.

They could be linked up through the internet with people and communities in other states and countries to



Dolar Brand performing at the Aquarius Festival in 1973

enable them participate on-line. Most activities that are scheduled in these venues would be recorded on video and could be live-streamed throughout the world, or put out later.

Proposed subjects could be special each day; ideas put forward to date include:

- Subjects and events decided by First Nations People with perhaps a film programme and then a concert at night.
- Storytelling of any relevant kind including stories of the Aquarius Festival and what has come from it since. Camera set up for people to record these stories.
- Community histories, life and building. Present laws of community development and current opportunities.
- Alternative energy and building materials and design. We could also link in with other communities around the world like Dhamanhur and Findhorn to share their lived experiences.
- Perhaps limited community tours. Alternative building workshops at 7 Sibley Street.
- Light Up Nimbin street/ cafe performers/lightshow in Cullen Street.
- Possible concert 'Bauls of Bengal'.
- Stories and discussion of homebirth, home schooling, parenting, ageing, succession planning.
- Death and dying.
- Special Youth Forum, Kids Circus.
- Channon Market Aquarius Day with possible market concert 'Bauls of Bengal'.



- Nimbin Night Youth Concert, Youth Skate Jam.
- Astrology, health and healing, alternative medicine including medical cannabis and law reform, politics.
- Theatre piece 'Rehearsals for the Apocalypse' by John Jiggins.
- Environment and climate change. Protest and Direct Action and the history of extraordinary people who preserve forest and all living things.
- Deep Ecology.
- Alternative Energy
- Permaculture, Biodynamics, Organics, Seed Saving, Bush Regeneration. Perhaps fitted in with demonstrations at community farms including workshops at Djanbung Garden and Dharmananda. Garden Club tours.
- Film night at the Bush Theatre.
- Arts and crafts – Art is Life and Life is Art. Perhaps also arts and crafts one-day workshops like "Weave & Mend".
- Light parade inspired by John and Sue Fox (from Lismore to Nimbin).
- Honouring of Spirit and Transfer of Knowledge.

Naming day for children, coming of age for adolescents, handing over from elders to young people and phoenix rising bringing in peace and love offered for the New Age.

- Acknowledgment of those no longer with us, Performance Phillippe Petit
- Aquarius Celebration Finale event of music and fun.

There will also hopefully be poetry, comedy, storytelling, film exhibitions and screenings, stills exhibitions, and more events all showcasing local artists.

Funding the Gathering

We are behind in organising funding, but starting to work on following options:

- Crowd funding
 - Government, tourism and Arts funding
 - Individual people and businesses funding different aspects of the Gathering or sponsoring an event or talk, similar to the model used by the Byron Writers Festival.
- For a beautiful experience of art, music, indigenous and alternative culture, come and share with us the Spirit of Aquarius. The Dream Lives.
- There will be a Nimbin Town Hall meeting between 5pm and 7pm on Wednesday 12th October to discuss plans, ideas and contributions.

We need you. As the slogan says for the original Aquarius Festival: "You are the Festival."

Survey Monkey available soon. Thank you.

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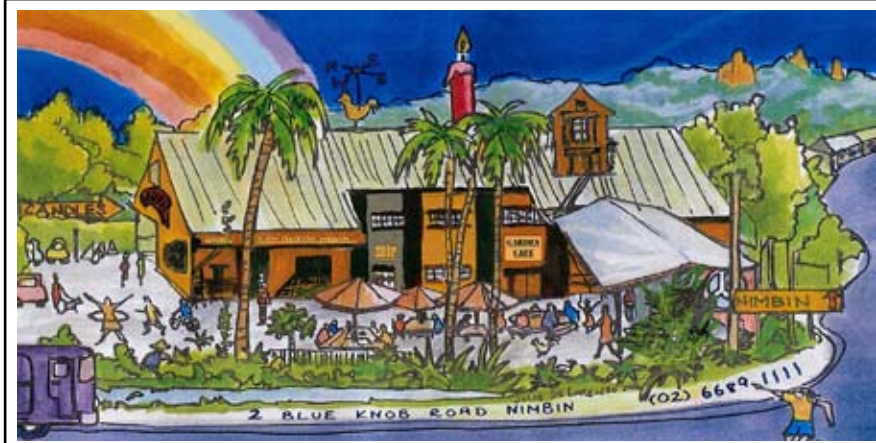
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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Nimbin Family and Community Day

In lieu of the cancelled annual Nimbin Show, the Nimbin A&I Society warmly invites the local community to come along to share in a big BBQ, fun and games for the kids, the famous Dog High Jump and lots more at the Showgrounds on Saturday 29th October, 10am-3pm.

The revised Community Disaster Plan will be on display all day at the Pavilion, and members of Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group will be there to answer your questions.

We will publish the revised Plan documents on the NNIC website (under the Disaster tab) prior to the event.

An information and Q&A session about the proposed Community Care Team model and the local emergency radio network, will be held at 11.30am-1pm. Please drop by to check it out, ask questions and provide any feedback you may have.

There will be a story-sharing circle for those of you wishing to share your stories from the 2022 flood event – we know there are many untold and amazing stories of survival and recovery out there.

The Nimbin Recovery Support Service staff will also be on hand to answer your questions about the RSS and to take registrations for the service.

This event is brought to you by the Nimbin A&I Society, in partnership with the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group and NNIC.

Nimbin Recovery Support Service

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

People living or working around in our catchment area (approx. 30kms radius around the village) are

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



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Nimbin Family & Community Day

Saturday 29th October 2022

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- Yummy Family BBQ
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- A+I canteen and yummy cakes by CWA
- and lots more...



and Launching...

The Revised Nimbin Disaster Plan (including the NEW Community Response and Recovery Plan) View the Plan, ask Questions & provide your Feedback

Info Session/workshop

11.30am-1pm

Nimbin Community Care Team and the local emergency radio network

Introduction to the CCT model and radio network, Q&A Session

Plus:

- Flood Story Sharing Circle
- Family Disaster Preparedness Showbags

10am-3pm

At Nimbin Showground, Cecil Street, Nimbin

welcome to sign on with us at NNIC and we will assign a dedicated support worker to assist you through the complex journey of disaster recovery including support with grant applications and administration, linking with key services, suppliers and expert advice and housing support/solutions.

We will be following up with anyone who has registered with us to date to check how you are travelling and invite you to sign up for the RSS program. Anyone not on our register to date is most welcome to contact us at: nimbinrss@nnic.org.au or call/text 0488-144-647 or drop by 7 Sibley Street to sign up.

The RSS program is rolling out across the Northern Rivers region and is funded by Resilience NSW.

Mental health myth busters

October is Mental Health month. There are lots of myths out there about mental health and people experiencing distress.

Busting myths can help reduce mental health stigma.

Myth: You are either 'normal' or mentally unwell.

Fact: Mental health is a spectrum, and we all go through periods in our lives when we feel distressed, worried or disconnected. We can all benefit from good accessible support for our mental wellbeing.

Myth: people with a mental illness are dangerous.

Fact: people with mental health issues are more likely to be victims of violent crimes than they are to commit them. They are also more likely to be victims of police violence or coercive treatment.

You can make a difference. Speaking up when you notice mental health stigma helps others learn and also helps to create safer spaces for people with lived experience.

Source: mentalhealthmonth.wayahead.org.au

www.nnic.org.au
www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

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

Women's health nurse services

Confidential service, checks, advice, general health information. Phone 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 20th October.

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.





Mandy, Dailan and Nola on National Threatened Species Day

by Scott Sledge, president

Threatened Murwillumbah trees saved

The NSW government has put a stay on plans to cut down 48 trees to make way for a temporary parking lot. The trees were planted by legendary “Man of the Trees”, the late Bruce Chick, and others, outside Wollumbin High School.

A gathering called by Northern Rivers Guardians and local environment organisations under the umbrella of Northeast Forest Alliance’s Fridays4Forests campaign gathered on 2nd September at Murwillumbah to protest the action.

The NSW Dept of Education intends to amalgamate all of the town’s schools into a giant K-12 “mega-campus” on the current Murwillumbah High School site. Publicity around the protest caused a re-think by the DoE. They said they didn’t realise there was so much concern in the community, which highlighted the lack of consultation around the proposal to merge the schools.

The Department said there was no need to consult the public or Tweed Council as the merger was “an exempt development.”

Around 80 people gathered to protest, singing a 1960s song protesting “paving paradise to put up a parking lot” and arguing that the climate crisis should preclude such wasteful destruction, especially when the proposed car park was needed only for a year.

Many people objected to the mega-campus on 26th September at the Murwillumbah RSL attended by local MP Janelle Saffin. It is not clear how a K-12 campus would be an advantage to learning. I suspect only the real estate developers would benefit.

Of concern to conservationists is the news that about 150 trees at M’bah HS will be removed to make room for the mega campus. A DoE spokesperson said, “We are committed to planting the same amount of trees that are being removed...” I suppose some planners in Sydney do not understand that trees take decades to grow and we need climate action now.

Please contact your parliamentary representatives to stop this ridiculous plan. The NSW state government election is in March 2023, in less than six months. Governments that refuse to consult the community may find themselves voted out.

Environment picnics

Nature Conservation Council NSW is planning a state-wide Picnic for Nature Day on Sunday 16th October across NSW.

This exciting event aims to bring people together to celebrate our natural environment, the creatures that call it home, and everyone who works to protect and help it.

But this is more than just a fun day. It’s a chance to connect with like-minded people, grow the movement, encourage volunteers, and talk election strategy.

♦ **Caldera Environment Centre (CEC)** is sponsoring a picnic on the Tweed at the Chillingham Community Centre from 10am to 3pm. There is a kitchen for warming up food and boiling water. BYO everything.

♦ **Nimbin Environment Centre** will co-host a picnic event with Northern Rivers Guardians at the Nimbin Rocks on Widjibul Wiabal tribal land with a native plants nursery that will be open for cash-only sales from 11am to 2pm. Sophia Fletcher will play music and chai available, but BYO everything else (chairs, blankets) but no drugs or alcohol. From Stoney Chute Road, turn into Morton Road and continue to where you will find signs to the scenic picnic spot.

♦ **Tweed Water Alliance’s** picnic is at the Uki Buttery Markets and will highlight the wastefulness of water extraction for bottling. TWA Inc spokesperson Pat Miller promises some surprises and says, “Tea will be served, food is plentiful at the Uki Buttery Bazaar Market is on. In the spirit of recycling, TWA invites you to take home the teacup we give you.”

♦ **Other picnics** will be held in Lismore (Lismore EC) and Bellingen (Bellingen EC).

Forest news

Fridays4Forests meets at 10am every week, sometimes in a town and sometimes in a forest to enjoy and protect our native flora and fauna from being logged to extinction. See: www.nefa.org.au/fridays4forests or #StandUp4Forests on Facebook.

On 7th September, I compered a demo National Threatened Species Day observance outside the office of Geoff Provest, the National Party member for Tweed. Dailan Pugh, Mandy Nolan, Sean O’Shannessy and Tweed Shire Cr Nola Firth all spoke.

Many other actions in the coming months will remind NSW voters that we need to end logging of our public forests – which is ecologically unsustainable and subsidised by our taxes – and adopt a eco-friendly plantation system for supplying timber.

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has said the heavily-subsidised government-owned corporation called Forestry NSW made a loss of more than \$20 million in 2020. Much of what is logged today is simply chipped or burned. Forests workers could be better employed enhancing forest health and maintaining fire trails.

Dailan Pugh, President of NEFA, reports that NEFA’s ‘End Public Native Forest Logging’ e-petition received 21,046 for signatures and was presented in the Legislative Assembly. He has noted that a recent government inquiry calls for transitioning away from logging native forests, despite the claims of the Shooters and Fishers Party that this will lead to a severe shortage of timber. (The Shooters and Fishers has focused on the timber supply crisis, without mentioning the problem is pine.)

NCC supports a transition and has called for more plantations, and Justin Field MP called for the Great Koala NP to be established. NEFA says, “There is no doubt that there are far greater financial and societal benefits to the community from protecting public forests for carbon sequestration, recreation, tourism, water supply and habitat.” For court action updates and other current NEFA news, see: www.nefa.org.au

Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

September has proved to be a month of back-to-back events in our village.

It’s been incredibly positive to see the culture, community, range of arts and community volunteers who have worked so hard to create these opportunities to showcase our community.

This has been much needed after such a traumatic start to the year, with many families still on the long slow journey to recovery.

Our community courage, compassion and resilience continues to remind me why I came to Nimbin in the first place.

Economic Development

Like many organisations, the Nimbin Community Centre has been reviewing the income and budget of the Centre and is looking for ways to maintain and strengthen the Community Centre for now and into the future.

In August the Nimbin Community Centre attended an Economic Development Forum organised by Lismore City Council. During this Forum we were introduced to a number of agencies offering free federally and state funded advice and support.

We have engaged Stuart McPhee from AusIndustries – Strengthening Business Entrepreneurs Program – to look at how we manage and provide our income and where we can improve. He has made a visit to our

Centre, met as many tenants as possible, and we are really excited to see his advice.

We hope that other organisations and businesses take advantage of this great free program to help us through this difficult economic time and ensure the survival of all of our organisations and small businesses into the future.

Thanks to the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce for organising the forum.

Community Engagement

As part of an on-going review of the Community Centre, the Committee has been looking at how to engage with the community on a wider level.

The Centre relies on volunteers in our management committee and to help us manage, develop and maintain our beautiful gardens and grounds.

We would love to get your feedback and ideas about how we can improve our communication with the wider community, attract more volunteers and members, and how we can support the development of infrastructure and services in our precious village.

You can send us your ideas via email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au or drop off a written suggestion into our suggestion box at the Community Centre office. Your feedback is important to us.

Annual General Meeting

The NCCI 2022 AGM will be held on 10th November, 5pm at the Birth and Beyond Meeting Room, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin.

Membership sign-up will occur at the beginning of the meeting. All current and new members are welcome.

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Workshops

- **Sat 8th: Wild clay** – processing local soil into usable ceramic clay, \$30, bookings essential. Off-site, carpool at 10.30am.
- **Agroecology course** – Design, manage and implement your own food forest using principles of permaculture, agroforestry and syntropic farming. \$100 per day, bookings essential. October dates:
- **Sat 15th: Propagation and system management** – Off-site, meet at 9am.

- **Sat 22nd: Designing a syntropic garden** – Off-site, meet at 9am.
- **Sat 22nd: Knitting** – with Sue, \$10 donation
- **Sat 29th: Make your own fuel** – converting vegetable oil into deisel with Cawdor, \$25
- **Community Tools Library:** Every Saturday, 10.30am – 2pm. Home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Basketballs and pumps available, \$5 deposit.



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For all my old oldy friends, all those who are 'forgetting'

This is meant as a kind of salve, an assurance that memory loss of names and places and occurrences needn't cause you anxiety. Perhaps some irritation is okay, but otherwise an eccentric memory is normal for an aging human body. Your mind and psyche are turning inward, 'as happens to everyone who is gifted with old age'. It is akin in a sense to ecstasy, trance and spirit possession common to all religions and cultures but discounted by our present day reductive health care paradigm.

Memory 'change' is a symbol, a metaphor. Jung talks of this alteration in consciousness as symbolic, a trope for what's happening to the internal state, the internal aspects of personality.

Most of our life we live in a world of Freudian shamanism, everything we are and do is utilitarian. As we age we begin entry into the world of linguistic shamanism.

Linguistic shamanism

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.

reflects an altered state of consciousness. You will find it in the poetry of Mary Oliver: language that emerges from what was formerly pre conscious. Pre consciousness (the unconscious) has no language structure, or whatever structure it has it is not logical, not language-like. It's like in a dream, seemingly an ideation of reality, but in actuality it is an enrichment.

Identities are not fixed. The name we have forgotten is fixed, but the identity of the person attached to the name is not fixed.

In memory you may give that person a different face, a different more nebulous

being-ness, a truer aspect, a namelessness; your best friend may become someone else, someone your logical mind may not recognise, someone everyday words cannot describe. You've forgotten the

name but how vividly you remember the soul.

Linguistic shamanism has a different logic. There is great power there and wisdom if you can tap into it.

I think now of Beethoven's 9th symphony, the tenor



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NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 28th October

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

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

solo in the last movement. It is a shamanistic flight, a flight within, a withdrawal from the logistic mundane world, a song of freedom, perhaps forgetfulness is the psyche's way of preparing us for the final great departure, allowing us to possess and carry with us a whole universe of occurrences of people whose names we have forgotten.

I think it a truism that the best occurrences in life don't need a name. The message is, to all my old, old friends, if your memory is failing relax and enjoy the freedom it bestows.

Michael Brooke
Kyogle

Congratulations to all the tree-savers

Congratulations to all those Tuntabullians who saved our forests, east and west, Terania 1979 and Nightcap 1982.

Those persons who took the duty of forest care seriously are blessed.

"Let's go down to the forests, let's go seek the counsel of the trees ..."

The very first settlers were granted lands, on conditions they cleared them.

The new settlers of the 70s joined Tuntable Co-operative to save the remaining forest.

In ancient Lore, those who cut trees were called killers.

Spiritually, trees are living entities too, no different to the thousands of human species and millions of animal species.

Indeed, care for our environment is regarded as paramount and enshrined in the first sacred gayatri mantra: Om Bhur ...

Translation: "I worship the Sun God, who maintains this Universe and encourages us to do likewise."

Tor Davis
Tuntable Falls

Slow motion reconstruction

This is Keen Street in Lismore today, seven months after the flood. This is not good enough.

We are stuck in limbo, traumatised and losing hope.

Since the catastrophic floods decimated communities across Northern NSW, thousands are still displaced without a home.

Many have started the re-build, many are waiting to see if they will be eligible for a buy back/land swap or option to relocate their home.

There have been two inquiries, yet still no concrete action from the government. Thousands of displaced residents are now couch-surfing or living in vans and tents after their houses were destroyed.

We have been through enough. We are traumatised. We need certainty about our future and we need it now.

We have questions for the NSW Premier, the Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Emergency



Photo: Chibo Mertineit

services, the Johns Lyng Group (JLG), Resilience NSW and the CEO of the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC).

We have tried asking these questions but we are not getting any answers.

We are sick of the spin. We are sick and tired of being put on hold on the phone, uploading documents on-line over and over again.

We are sick of one agency pointing the finger at other agencies; we are sick of the delays in processing grants, in getting reports for repairs, and getting repairs.

The trauma we all feel following the floods is compounded by the uncertainty about our future. Will we all be eligible for a buy back, land swap or relocation of our home? Should we continue repairing our home?

Premier, these are our lives you are playing with. By not giving us certainty, you are causing more trauma.

We deserve answers and certainty now.

Please sign this petition calling on Dom Perrotet to front up to Lismore and give us some answers: www.change.org/LismoreInLimbo

Eddie Lloyd
Lismore Heights

Notices

Remembering Di Kivi

It has been a year since Di Kivi left us. In memory of her there will be a tree-planting ceremony at Nimbin Community Centre at 2pm on Sunday 30th October. All welcome. Please bring flowering plants to plant around the tree.

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.

WORKING FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL OF US

TAMARA SMITH MP

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THE GREENS

A radical kind of hope



Matthew Evans with Costa Georgiadis

by Sue Stock

The Byron Writers Festival was held on 26th to 28th August in the grounds adjacent to Elements of Byron on the lands of the traditional owners, the Arakwal Bumberbin and Minjungbal peoples, after two years of cancellations due to Covid-19.

This year's theme was 'Radical Hope' and this was explored by many thinkers and storytellers who came together in panels, conversations and feature events.

The Artistic Director, Zoe Pollock said, "Now is the time for a radical kind of hope, that imagines the world anew, that refuses to be defeated and finds delight and joy in everything this wonderful life and earth have to offer."

There were five stages, so the following were my personal highlights.

We heard from inspiring writers on how we can tackle the challenge that is climate change for a better future world, like Claire O'Rourke (*Together We Can*), to Tim Hollo (*Living Democracy*) and Damon Gameau (*Regenerating Australia*) and Saul Griffith (*The Big Switch: Australia's Electric Future*) who was interviewed by Kerry O'Brien.

There were also a number of events dealing with Regenerative farming, plus I enjoyed an interesting talk with Costa Georgiadis and Matthew Evans, who has written a wonderful book *Soil: the incredible story of what keeps the earth, and us, healthy*. Evans' brilliant book is full of astounding things about the interaction of fungal hyphae, microbes, bugs and worms. One of the features of the book is the detail on the interaction and interconnectedness of systems.

There was a focus on Australian media with, for instance 'The Mungo Panel: Has the Australian Media Lost Its Mojo?' with Karen Middleton, Barrie Cassidy, Margaret Simons and Kerry O'Brien providing a riveting discussion.

A feature for me was the focus on respect and reconciliation, with Aboriginal writers like Bruce Pascoe and Paul Callaghan. Paul Callaghan with Uncle Paul Gordon wrote *The*

Dreaming Path: Indigenous Thinking to Change Your Life, which was the top-selling book at the Festival.

This book explores the power of Aboriginal spirituality and its relevance today as a profound source of contentment and well-being. In chapter one the authors say, "The Lore teaches us that all people who live on this land have a responsibility to love and care for this land... regardless of where they were born."

"The first step in doing this is to connect with the land. Once you start doing this you might be surprised how much better you feel about yourself and your life." This first chapter includes a practical exercise in connecting with land.

We were also able to wander the grounds and enjoy a fine sculpture exhibition by local sculptors dotted across the landscape.

I especially enjoyed the work of Allen Horstman's 'Bodhisattva and the Bull'. This work explores the concept of the inner struggle that besets us all. It pays homage to the Buddhist Ten Bulls (Oxen) – allegorical poems dealing with the path to beatitude.

I also loved John Waters 'The Mob', part of a series of wallaby installations made from chicken wire, and Jeanette Krohn's 'Post-Tree Museum' which expressed the fragility of our planet's environment.

I am imbued with hope and look forward to next year's offerings.




'Bodhisattva and the Bull'



Above: 'Post-Tree Museum'
Below: 'The Mob'





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