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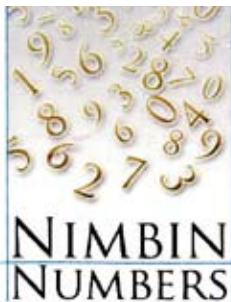
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Free entry to this year's Lismore Show

Show-goers will be given free entry to this year's three-day Norco North Coast National Lismore Show.

"The Show has been the heart of our community for 137 years and we understand that many people are under a lot of financial and emotional pressure," Show Society president John Gibson said.

"We have all had a very traumatic six months since the natural disaster and we're still recovering. Our community needs a show where we can just get together with family and friends and forget this year – even if it's only for a day, or three.

"Obviously the showground has been damaged but we are still hoping to have

the usual popular exhibits, agricultural and livestock displays, rides, show-bags and a packed entertainment schedule with great food that the community has come to expect at the Lismore Show."

"It is not long until October and now is the time to get ready for the return of our regular popular competitions and exhibitions. We already have some great attractions booked including a circus that will perform four times a day and a petting zoo," Mr Gibson said.

"We are also working on getting a rodeo, monster trucks, woodchop, FMX bikes, a Lego competition for schools, reptiles and the ever popular

fireworks.

"This year's show will feature a Grand Parade at the official opening recognising the life-saving work of the Tinny Army and emergency services during the February natural disaster. "It's great to be back."

The Norco Lismore Show returns from Thursday, 20th October to Saturday 22nd October after it was cancelled the previous two years due to Covid-19.

Nominations are also now open for the 2022 North Coast National Young Woman and Teen Showgirl competitions. For more information go to the North Coast National website: www.northcoastnational.com.au

Call to disrupt 'Land Forces'

by Miriam Torzillo

Land Forces is the largest land based weapons expo in the Southern Hemisphere. Yes, a weapons expo held right in the middle of the Southbank at the Brisbane Exhibition Centre.

Like those industry trade shows where companies have little displays to show off their products and schmooze the procurement managers of large firms? Yeah that. But with tanks and bombs and killer drones and...

Yes, we live in a world where it is some event manager's job to facilitate the meeting, mingling, wining and dining, of weapons company executives with the public servants and elected officials who decide how to spend our money and who to murder with it.

We're simply not having it. We are a diverse coalition of citizens, activists, people of faith who work to resist the militarisation of our economy, society and education systems. That's why we hold a festival of resistance to disrupt, interrupt, and



obfuscate their efforts to generate conflict as the by-product of profit. We invite you to join the line-up of this festival!

Your act, action, whatever it is, must conform to just two rules: do no harm to other living beings; and respect everyone else at the festival, including (or especially) when you don't understand what they are doing and/or why they are doing it.

We call this radical respect, a core working principle of Disrupt Land Forces, together with active solidarity, creative disruption, community care and revolutionary love.

Discover and explore how these concepts can empower us and anchor our anti-militarist, pro-planet work at our Festival of Resistance in Meanjin.

Everyone is welcome. Here are some of the ideas we have been throwing around including some tactics from last year and some new ones:

- Radical teach-ins, performance arts interventions;
- Disruptive direct actions, vigils;
- Visual art and projection displays;
- Marches/pickets, culture jamming

Official dates for Disrupt

Land Forces 22 (DLF22) are 1st to 7th October, but please come earlier if you can. Beds are available for those who need them and a community kitchen will be at the heart of the action.

There are all sorts of ways to get involved, to support and engage, depending on your interests and capacity. Everything from on the ground support in the kitchen, legal observation and liaison, first aid crew/medics team, materials collection and management, silent and vigil actions, marches and creative activist tactics. Will you join?

Our commitment is to #EarthCareNotWarfare

MPS upgrades bring rest and recreation spaces into view

Aged care residents at Nimbin, Kyogle, Bonalbo and Urbenville Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) facilities are set to benefit from upgrades to the shared activity and entertainment spaces at their sites, which are expected to be completed early next year.

Executive officer and director of nursing for the MPS Network, Nancy Martin, said the upgrades would provide residents with a safe area in which to connect with loved ones, or sit peacefully in reflection.

"Best practice care for older people, including those who may be living with

dementia, involves having a variety of spaces which are suited to specific activities, such as eating and drinking, relaxing and resting," Ms Martin said.

At Nimbin MPS a new access ramp connecting the courtyard and garden to the dining room deck will create a better connection between existing spaces.

At Kyogle MPS, a new purpose-built residents' lounge will provide both indoor and outdoor spaces to allow residents, their families and carers to exercise, relax or share a quiet moment away from the busy dining room, as

well as make the most of the beautiful views of the Kyogle countryside.

Bonalbo MPS will receive a new garden, complete with mobility pathways, secure fences and shared spaces.

At Urbenville MPS, a new backyard space with tool shed, raised garden beds and BBQ area will provide residents with a more homely environment.

The projects are jointly funded by the Australian Government's MPS Minor Capital Works program and Northern NSW Local Health District.

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Destroying our future: forestry action now

by Tori Bail
Kyogle Environment Group

Take a trip to the World Heritage-listed Border Ranges National Park, and just 100m away from the entrance on the left-hand side, you will find an ugly, sad, mangled mess of industrial style logging butting up against scarred Bangalow Palms, majestic tall trees, Booyong vines, delicate ferns and frightened fauna.

It's heart-breaking for people and animals and, especially, for our children to whom the future belongs.

The logging took place on private land and the damage is horrifying. This is systemic failure and we must question at a deeper level where responsibility for this really lies, as we witness the downward spiral of biodiversity and climate loss.

Increased fire risk and lantana invasion, Bell Miner bird affected dieback, and serious impact on koalas and other native animals who call this patch of ancient Gondwana landscape their homes, are a given.

Ironically, only three months ago, Private Native Forestry Codes were weakened, not strengthened. Statewide, one third of timber is now sourced from private native forests, and the State Government does its best to promote that by allowing



smaller trees to be taken out and reducing the number of habitat trees protected.

On 29th July a #Friday4Forests group of distressed local citizens bore witness to the recent site of forest carnage and reported it to the Environmental Protection Authority. On the 25th of August, the EPA informed us that there were two inspections at the property, which identified alleged non-compliance issues. These matters are now the subject of a formal investigation. Further, the EPA and Kyogle Council are working with the landowner and contractor to install erosion and sediment control structures on the property to prevent any further impacts to the environment.

According to the Regional

State of the Environment Report, Kyogle LGA has one of the highest records for woody vegetation loss in the State. Between 2009 and 2019 a devastating 10,000 hectares of native vegetation was altered or removed. This doesn't include land damaged by bushfires.

Furthermore, as well as having no social licence, the logging industry is no longer economically significant. Last year alone the Forestry Corporation lost \$20 million, yet received tens of millions in subsidies. In North East NSW public native forests employed around 550 people, which equates to far less than one percent of regional employment. It is possible, subject to political will, to close this industry for around \$120 million and

divert workers into other employment while providing them with generous payouts.

As sawlogs dwindle in our Public State Forests, it seems offsetting logging with Private Native Forestry is just more of the unsustainable game?

Visiting the 'Gateway to the Rainforests' implies that we value nature and the benefits it brings us. Our world is on the verge of ecological collapse. Our future is uncertain. We must hold our politicians to account. End native forest logging NOW!

#Friday4Forests meet every Friday at 10am to protect native forests from logging.

If you would like to support forest action, please contact Kyogle Environment Group on 0467-252-601, www.facebook.com/KyogleEnvironmentGroup/

Rainbow Road walking track concept design

Lismore City Council has begun the design process for the Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track, engaging local consulting firm Ennismore Field Landscape Architects for the long-awaited attraction.

The first phase of the design has taken into consideration the original ideas and aspirations of the original proposal put forward more than 15 years ago, with new site survey data and consultation with landowners and affected stakeholders.

The recent acquisition of 11a Alternative Way by Nimbin Community Centre Inc has resulted in significant design variations



and presents many creative opportunities.

The next phase of the project is to show the community the resulting concept design and ask for feedback. Your ideas will be

used to progress a detailed design for construction.

The \$2.5 million Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track was approved last year through the Bushfire Local Economies Fund provided by

the NSW Government.

Construction is looking to start after Christmas with an opening aiming for the Aquarius 50 year celebration scheduled for May 2023.

The feedback Council is looking for can be absolutely anything relevant, including the history of the land.

The more relevant information we have from the community, the better the result will be.

Council currently has a webpage found at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/nimbin-s-rainbow-road-walking-track>

Please pay a visit to the page to view the design in detail and give your feedback to this much-awaited project.



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Nightcap campaign's 40th anniversary

by Sophia Hoeben

It's hard to believe that 40 years have passed since the Nightcap was saved, and some of us Naggers have since died.

However, the NAG team has been reformed to stage an Anniversary in Nimbin on 22nd October this year.

We are in the process of setting up funding to stage the event and lining up performers and speakers with hopefully some comedy thrown in.

The Nightcap National Park was declared saved after my friend Rick Wright had his leg run over by a 4WD police vehicle.

He was taken to hospital while I was taken out of the cell in Nimbin police station by two detectives who brought me to the hospital to see Rick.

The incident of a protester being injured at the Blockade made news headlines around Australia.

It was then that Premier Wran decided to declare the forest saved and National Park status followed soon after.

Back in 1979, the good people of Terania had tried



Northern Star photo showing the injured Rick Wright, which they ran with Sophia's story: 'A rainforest won by the people'.

to save the forests from the loggers. After two weeks of protest, the loggers stopped and went home. However, Terania had not been awarded an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) nor a permanent injunction.

When the loggers returned to the Nightcap in 1982, they were met with serious opposition when the Nightcap Action Group took up three positions in Mt Nardi in order to block the logging of these

ancient rainforests.

Base camp was set up on Andy Frame's land fully equipped with a kitchen, first aid and child minding tents. The camp would be there for four months.

Muddy and rainy days were rejoiced, as we knew the loggers would not come when it rained.

It was as far back as the 1930s that the Nightcap forests were set to become a National Park. However,

World War 2 put this on the back-burner.

The Nightcap campaign was seen as being too radical for mainstream media as we did not hold back on what needed to be done.

Some days we placed all our cars across the road to block the D9 bulldozers and logging trucks; other days, grids were removed at 4am to stop them coming in.

The warriors with the green headbands also pulled in old logs across Newton Drive to try and stop them. Nothing seemed to stop them.

It was only when one of us was injured that the logging was stopped. It was a great shame that the media at the time depicted us as a rough and tumble guerrilla style army!

As a result of poor media publicity, the saving of the Nightcap has been mostly attributed to the Terania Creek protest, which was seen favourably by many. All photos, films, banners and posters from the Nightcap were mysteriously lost.

So what we have left from that event is the memory, and a history that should never be forgotten or rewritten.

Disaster resilience – Nimbin working together

by Natalie Meyer

Behind the scenes, the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group (NDRG) has been beavering away at implementing the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan, which was originally launched in April 2021.

After many months of trying conditions, the NDRG members finally have some breathing space to begin to report back to and consult with the Nimbin community.

What has been achieved so far?

- **Community Disaster Supplies** – A shipping container has been installed at Nimbin Showgrounds to stock with emergency equipment. Thanks to funding from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) and the generosity of the Nimbin A&I Society. Additional funding has now also been secured from NRCF to obtain the necessary emergency equipment and supplies;
- **Installation of water tanks** on community-owned sites in the village – one large tank is installed on Community Centre grounds (behind the Neighbourhood Centre), also funded by NRCF, and two large tanks have been purchased for the Showgrounds;
- **Disaster Info Sheet** produced and added to the Welcome to Nimbin Kit;
- **Dedicated Community Disaster page** added to Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC)'s website;
- **Family Disaster Info Days** – Virtual Family Fun Day workshops held on 13th November 2021. Evac Kit Pillowcase workshop for kids with the Red Cross, Build a Native Bees Hotel with Barbara Mills, Beeswax Wraps with North East Waste, and family showbags. (Funded by Healthy North Coast);
- **Spontaneous Volunteer Kit** drafted;
- **Central Information Desk** was opened at Nimbin Town Hall foyer



Emergency equipment container arrives at Nimbin Showground
Photo: Dave Fawcner

after the February-March 2022 flood disaster;

- **After Action Reviews** were conducted after the 2022 Disaster by NNIC, CWA – Nimbin Branch, RFS and others;
- **Community-Led Response and Recovery Plan** including roles and responsibilities of local agencies and groups, drafted; and
- **Nimbin Community Disaster Plan** reviewed and updated.

So what's next?

The revised Disaster Plan has been significantly updated to reflect our community experience of the 2022 Disaster.

The original Disaster Plan was focused on Preparedness. The revised Disaster Plan now includes Response and Recovery.

Nimbin Community Care Team – a model is being developed to enable the reaching out to people who may be isolated, vulnerable or hard to contact following a disaster.

This model includes a CB radio network and we already have 10 CB radios spread across the catchment and

being trialled.

A Starlink is also being installed in the village, so that we have a full mix of technology options available to ensure continuing communications thus avoiding the situation we faced after this year's flood disaster.

Community input

We need your feedback and input into the revised version of the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan and the Proposed Community Care Team.

The revised Nimbin Community Disaster Plan will be on display at the Great Big Family Fun Day which is planned to be held at the Nimbin Showgrounds, most likely on the last weekend of October 2022.

You will be able to ask questions and provide your input and feedback. (More details about this event coming soon).

There will be workshops on the Community Care Team model and the CB radio network on the same day at the Showgrounds.

More info and updates will be posted the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group's facebook page, the NNIC website, and posters around town.

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

NEW! Nimbin Recovery Support Service

Nimbin Recovery Support Service (RSS) is commencing in September and offers up to two years' recovery support for impacted people in the Northern parts of the Lismore LGA including: Nimbin, Goolmangar, Jiggi, Georgica, Larnook, Cawongla, the Channon and Dunoon. Plus Cawongla, Wadeville, Barkers Vale and Lillian Rock in the Kyogle LGA.

Plus Mt Burrell, Midginbil, Kunghur, Doon Doon and Commissioners Creek in the Tweed LGA.

People living or working around any of those areas are 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.

Similar RSS programs will be operating across the region including the Tweed, Murwillumbah, Tweed Coast, Kyogle, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Evans Head and the Richmond Valley. People can sign up for support with whichever RSS you prefer and can most easily access.

Given the impacts in our catchment area, NNIC will have a strong focus on landslip issues, impacts on homes, internal roads and infrastructure, plus we have a specialist understanding of Rural Land Sharing Communities aka MOs.

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 via 6689-1692 or email us: nimbinrss@nnic.org.au to sign up.

A gezillion thanks to Northern Rivers Community Foundation!

NRCF recently funded the purchase of a container for emergency supplies at the Nimbin Showground, which is also Nimbin's official evacuation centre.

NRCF has subsequently funded us to stock the container with the supplies we need. Big Ups to everyone involved, especially the good folks of the Nimbin A&I Society.

NNIC and Tools & Equipment Library memberships

All memberships fell due on the 1st of July. If you haven't renewed your membership yet drop in to keep your memberships current. New members always welcome... we LOVE new members!

Your memberships are very important to us, and NNIC membership is still the cheapest in town at the cost of a mere \$5.50 per year.

Take home Naloxone

There is currently a worldwide shortage of Naloxone and in particular the nasal spray version, Nixoid. Luckily for Nimbin, NNIC has plenty in stock.

Naloxone (aka Narcan) can prevent opioid deaths by temporarily reversing the effects of an overdose, giving you time to get medical assistance and for an ambulance to arrive.

Take Home Naloxone is available for free from NNIC, Nimbin Pharmacy or the MSP next to the Hospital.

No prescription is needed and it is available to anyone who uses opioids or who may find themselves having to assist someone who has overdosed (family members, friends, bystanders).

Make an appointment with Nat at NNIC to get some for your First Aid Kit.



Our mental well-being: isolation and loneliness

Maintaining connections with other people is important for our mental well-being. Over-reliance on technology and social media is not recommended.

There are lots of community events happening around the region, after all the disruptions caused by Covid and the disaster. If you are feeling a bit glum, do yourself a favour and get along to one, or more of them for a bit of a cheer up.

Volunteering has also

been shown to significantly contribute to mental wellbeing. With so many different opportunities for volunteering in the Nimbin area, there is sure to be something to spark your interest.

There is a full list of volunteering opportunities and contact details in the Welcome to Nimbin Kit, available from NNIC.

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

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



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 21st September.

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.





by Scott Sledge, president

Bentley quarry decision postponed

More than 200 submissions opposed to an application to expand an old quarry near the site of the 2014 Stop CSG protest were supported by more than 30 speakers to the Joint Regional Planning Panel on 24th August.

The panel decided to defer a decision until November, maybe to learn the results of the Land and Environment Court appeal against re-opening the quarry which has been disused for decades.

Lismore City Councillor Adam Guise said, "The speakers objecting to the quarry exposed the fundamental inadequacy of the proponent's development application and RVC's response in addressing key impacts such as traffic, noise, dust, water, amenity, land use conflict, and sterilisation of others' businesses and livelihoods."

"The panel may well be buying time to see the outcome of the court case, although their reason for doing so was to seek further reports."

Environment picnics set for Nimbin Rocks and Chillingham

Nature Conservation Council NSW is planning a state-wide Picnic for Nature day on Sunday 16th October in every electorate across NSW. This is an exciting event that is designed to bring people together to celebrate nature.

It's a chance to connect with people who may not have been involved before, to talk about what we need to do to win positive change, grow the movement, protect nature, take urgent action on climate change, grow membership and encourage volunteers.

Communities across the state will come together to host and hold picnics to celebrate nature. But this is more than just a fun day of getting outside with family and friends. It's an opportunity to appreciate the natural beauty and biodiversity of your local area and a chance for you to connect with your community.

The Caldera Environment Centre is sponsoring on the Tweed at the Chillingham community centre from 10am-3pm on Sunday 16th October.

There is a kitchen for warming up food and boiling water. BYO everything. Ideally this is a low-key community networking gathering.

Nimbin Environment Centre is organising a similar event at The Rocks on Aboriginal tribal land with a native plants nursery which will be open for cash-only sales from 11am to 2pm. BYO everything, but no drugs or alcohol.

Directions: from Stony Chute Road turn into Morton Road and continue to the end where you will find signs to the picnic spot.

Save threatened Murwillumbah trees

The NSW government plans to cut down trees planted by legendary 'man of the trees', the late Bruce Chick, outside the Wollumbin High School, and locals are mobilising to save them.

Please contact your parliamentary representatives to stop the destruction of the iconic native trees.

Forest News: Fridays for Forests

F4F meets at 10am every week, sometimes in a town and sometimes in a forest, to enjoy and protect our native flora and fauna.

Our native forests and endangered animals and plants are being logged to extinction. You can help protect them via: www.nefa.org.au/fridays4forests or: #StandUp4Forests on Facebook.

There is considerable momentum to save threatened species with a state government election due in about six months (March 2023). A demo is planned outside the office of Geoff Provest, the Nationals Member for Tweed, on Wednesday 7th September at 11am.

Many other actions during the lead-up to the election will remind 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 supply of timber needs.

Much of what is cleared during logging today is simply chipped and/or burned. Forests workers could be better employed enhancing forest health and maintaining fire trails.

Dailan Pugh, president of NorthEast Forest Alliance (NEFA) reports that national TV has taken an interest and screened a segment on *The Project* in August.

"*The Project* ran a story focused on Koalas and Wild Cattle Creek. They were suitably horrified that logging and clearing of koala habitat is happening on public lands and that taxpayers are footing the bill," Dailan said.

The 'End Public Native Forest Logging' petition, supported by NEFA and other environmentalists, asks for an end to logging public native forests, a ban on burning native forests for electricity, and implementation of the Natural Resources Commission's recommendation to restore hollow-bearing trees by retaining more mature trees able to develop hollows in the future.

It would be good if people lobbied MPs Janelle Saffin and Geoff Provest to support it before it goes to parliament on 15th September.

For NEFA's March 2022 court action update and other current NEFA news, see: www.nefa.org.au

Citizen scientists found over 55 logging breaches by FCNSW at Ellis State Forest. NEFA calls for the NSW EPA to issue an urgent stop work order. The year before last, it directly cost NSW taxpayers \$20 million to log public native forests (we pay to log our trees), as well as tens of millions in subsidies.

It is a loss-making industry for taxes, wildlife, ancient trees, soils and water, though lantana, fires and dieback are thriving.

New stock at Cullen Street shop

The volunteer-run NEC shop will have extended hours during the MardiGrass festival weekend on the 16-17th September

We now have some t-shirts for sale to assist the Wangan and Jangalingu people fight the Adani coal mine to protect their land and the Great Barrier Reef, and some long-sleeved tees with the NEC logo, plus NCC 'Koalas need trees' shirts.

All profits go to saving our planet.

Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

Spring has sprung, things are getting warmer and promising to be wetter (don't know if I am ready for that).

The garden is growing fast around the centre. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers Jane, Moni and Chris who have been working hard, with Robyn our gardener, to make the grounds and gardens tidy and welcoming for visitors.

September promises to be a busy month in Nimbin with an event scheduled for almost every weekend.

Wonderful opportunities for the local community to enjoy and participate in local arts and culture.

The Indigenous Culture Centre

Many thanks to those individuals, businesses and organisations who saw our plea last month and have chosen to contribute to the pay the rent fund to keep the Centre going.

If you are still deciding but have lost the bank details, contact us at: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au and we will share the details of this dedicated account with you.

Volunteers

The Community Centre relies on the contribution of volunteers to keep the centre going. We are not a funded organisation and only have a small amount of funds available for our gardens and grounds.

Over the disaster we

lost our regular volunteers and we could all see the difference. Our gardener just couldn't keep up with the few hours a week she has.

In the last couple of months, we have attracted four new volunteers. Jane and Moni who have been doing wonderful work in the gardens supporting our gardener Robyn; the wonderful handyman Chris who has been busy unblocking drains, fixing gutters, cleaning pathways and any other job that needs doing; and recently Paxi who has just started engaging again in community after a long period of recovery.

I want to thank you all for your unique contribution to our Centre and the community.

If you want to become a volunteer, please contact us and I would love to have a conversation with you.

Rainbow Road Walking Track

The Walking Track project is at an exciting stage, with the project team having sorted out the route so all the details about where furniture should be put, art, signage, vegetation plans etc. will be the next area for development.

The group working with council are hoping that there will be an opportunity soon for wider community consultation about this stage of the design, so we all get a chance to give feedback about this important future community space.

A project 25 years in the making that will give us all more choices in our shared community spaces. The Community Centre is proud to have been a partner in realising this important community project.

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Workshops (start 10.30am)

- **Agroecology course** – 6 sessions over 3 months (2 days per month). Learn how to design, implement and manage your own food forest using principles of permaculture, agroforestry and syntropic farming. \$425 or \$100 per day, bookings essential. September dates, 9am-5pm at 7 Sibley Street:
- **Sat 3rd: Microbes, forest systems and locally appropriate foods**

- **Sat 10th: Providing for plant needs**

Regular events

- **Tues 20th: Knitting group:** every 3rd Tuesday.
- **Wed 7th and 21st: Spinning and Weaving:** every 2nd Wednesday.
- **Community Tools Library:** Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm.
- **Sat 24th: Seed Exchange** – bring/swap homegrown veggie seeds and cuttings.



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School tree destruction

As a former student of Wollumbin High School, having completed years 7 to 12 from 1999 until 2004, I was privileged to be involved with Bruce Chick and his passion for native regeneration.

Under his direction and co-ordination, a collaborative educational program was offered to students to regenerate the former farmland landscape of the school grounds with native species.

Bestowing students like myself with awareness and appreciation of the delicate balance between mankind, our interaction with our physical environment and also our obligations to create and maintain sustainability.

I find it an insult to the pioneering work of students such as myself and the legacy of Mr Chick that such crucial collaborative, educational and sustainable living contributions to the ecosystem are proposed to be destroyed.

My perspective as a 35-year-old is that Wollumbin High School by name and motto was an educational institution enlightened by the rich historical, cultural and environmental values of the broader caldera area that fed the school.

Mr Chick and his regeneration program was the embodiment of those ideals.

When I attended the school the motto was "together we learn", and that is precisely what was offered to us as students through this program; an opportunity to learn and leave a lasting positive impact on both the school and the ecological system for generations to come.

I nostalgically remember planting trees under the guidance of Mr Chick with a peer, a friend who would later die in Year 11, before we completed high school.

When I heard of the proposal for the trees being removed, I thought what it did we prove? What is the lasting lesson here?

I know what it should be, I know what Mr Chick wanted it to be and what we as students wanted and that is a legacy that we created, a small contribution that with time and growth stimulates more growth and life for flora and fauna. It is also a living legacy of individuals who are no longer with us, and it is an insult to former students and defeating future endeavours to destroy that achievement.

How do we promote environmental change when the pioneering work of patrons, and the collaborative achievements of individual students mean nothing in the face of convenience?

From my perspective the Department of education

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.

owes:

- Mr Chick and his tiredness dedication more regard and
- the students involved an explanation as to why their work is proposed to be subject to nothing more than corporate convenient vandalism.

If the school is to be merged and that legacy lost, then at the very least as ex-students we deserve the respect and courtesy that our work is not in vain and remains as a living testimony to our achievements. A testimony that will continue for generations.

That is the life-long lesson Mr Chick instilled in our young minds decades ago, and it's a message I adamantly believe the Department of Education should promote and not destroy.

Aliesha Rawson
Chillingham

Oh, shock and horror

There are some old age pensioners living together.

How disgusting is this... some are even married!

The Members of Parliament from all political parties are disturbed. How dare these aged persons live such a lifestyle?

Messrs Albanese, Dutton and Morrison do not approve and don't lead by example.

The Centrelink Gestapo are out peering in windows to catch these pension cheats.

Of course, our elderly are expected to live alone and perhaps pass away in loneliness.

If they live together, our MPs will ensure they starve to death by reducing their pensions.

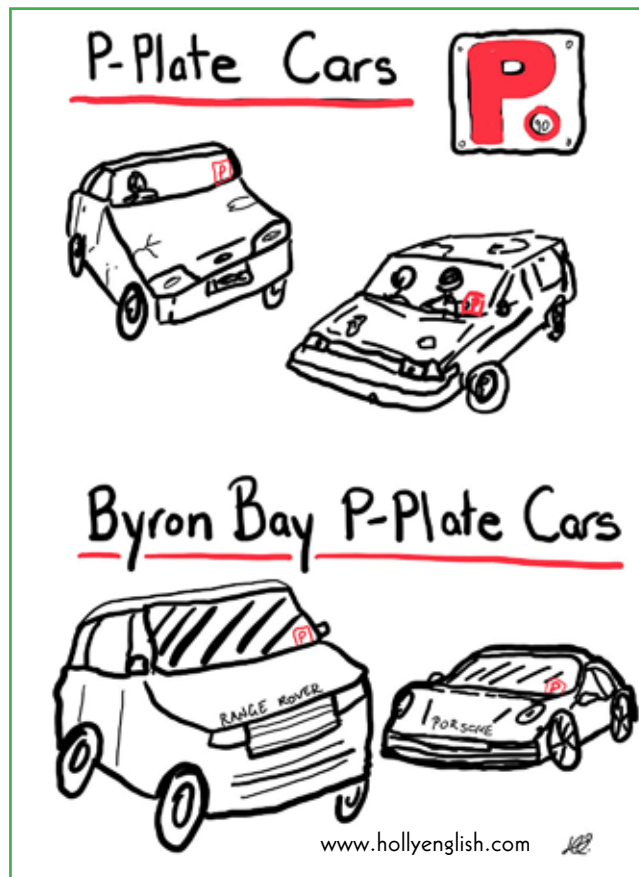
Why is it not so that our MPs have their salaries reduced if they live with a partner?

Why are our public servants not having their salaries reduced under the same premise?

Perhaps everyone in the workplace could have their incomes reduced if they reside in partnership.

Why is there discrimination against the aged pensioners?

Because they have no unions or power to fight back, and the cowards of Canberra can have a field day diverting these savings to their overseas travel... whoops, holidays.



Aged pensioners are being financially bashed on all fronts, while the Canberra cowards eat cake.

Claire De Ellae
Urbenville

Social experiment

I think there's an opportunity for a great social experiment: if we make Lismore dry like Boxhill with 0% alcohol, can we reduce DV to zero?

Expand the no smoking zone, study obesity with MRI at the uni, and provide a wildlife support service, add emissions-free transport and universal basic wage.

Can we regain our social licence after the rainforest removal and whale slaughter of past generations?

William Goode
Lismore

Words are power

Since the election of the Albanese government the word 'owners' has stealthily replaced the word 'custodians' when acknowledging Aboriginal peoples.

'Owners' means 'those who own something; who have the legal or rightful title to something', while Custodians means 'those who have responsibility for taking care of or protecting something.'

This is a huge difference with consequences that most Australians are completely ignorant of.

Then there is the word 'traditional' which means 'following or belonging to the customs or ways of behaving that have continued in a group of people or society for a long time without changing' (Cambridge Dictionary).

Throughout the 60,000-odd years of Aboriginal culture, the Aboriginal peoples themselves never held a belief that they 'owned' the land. Instead

their belief was that 'the land owned them'.

Namely, "rather than owning land, each person belongs to a piece of land which they're related to through the kinship system." (sharingculture.info, evolves.com.au).

As many Aboriginal leaders themselves state, there is a question of hypocrisy in acknowledging First Nations people as the Traditional Owners without taking any action to return the title deeds of the land to the current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander generations!

For students of the English language and those in the legal profession, words always and only mean exactly what they say: and it should be obvious to all that since colonisation Aboriginal 'customs or ways of behaving that have continued in a group of people or society for a long time without changing' has not been the case!

Aboriginal peoples no longer go naked as they had for 60,000 years. Many of them own their own brick veneer homes and or parcel of land just like other Australians.

Their beliefs and politics have been influenced by the Church, by Islam, by Negro, Inuit and Maori activists and by European legal constructs.

And today these non-traditional Aboriginal beliefs have been, and are being, superimposed upon traditional Aboriginal culture to give the impression, for purely political purposes, that they were always a part of it!

Words are power; and before the proposed referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 'voice', all of us of voting age will have to consider this.

Azan Mann
Evans Head

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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.

Jock, Rosie and Trevor
Bookkeeper Martha Paitson

Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com
And find us on Facebook

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 23rd September

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

Goodbye Doug

Douglas Ian Ford 30/7/57 – 1/8/22

Doug died peacefully in his room in Nimbin Multi Purpose Service on 1st August at 11:11.

It was two days after his 65th birthday, and after a couple of weeks of no longer daily tending his beloved courtyard garden, nor picking the most beautiful flowers for nurses to wear in their hair.

Doug moved into the Aged Care unit at the MPS in May 2016, two years before me, when I first began to know him a little.

In that era he'd spent most days out, uptown with friends, until the Covid lockdown from March 2020 ended outings for over a year.

Doug relied afterwards upon his friends for fresh



food and other physical and spiritual sustenance, repaying us all with extraordinary garden magic, despite chronic pain.

A Leo rooster if ever there was one. Nimbin's that much quieter.

– Ian Smith

Environmentalists mourn loss of Olivia Newton-John

The Rainforest Information Centre expresses our deep condolences to the family and close friends of Olivia Newton-John.

We remember her as a staunch warrior for the rights of nature. She believed passionately in wanting the destruction of our forests to stop. She loved and appreciated koalas, and was worried about their future. She supported civil disobedience to try and stop the destruction.

In 2002, Olivia starred in a film by the Rainforest Information Centre: *On The Brink*.

The film also featured Jack Thompson, and the three Davids – Attenborough, Suzuki and Bellamy.

Four iconic animals on the brink of extinction decide to try and save their forests homes: Tiger quoll, masked owl, yellow-bellied glider and koala. Olivia was the koala's voice. Jack Thompson was tiger quoll.

The film was shown in the lead-up to the 2003 NSW election, when then premier

Bob Carr did indeed promise to protect some significant areas of forest. Unfortunately, the sweetener for the logging industry was that they could log the rest for another 20 years. Until now. Time's up. Now it really needs to stop.

No surveys have been done to see which animals survived the catastrophic bushfires of 2019-20. We don't know how many colonies of koalas were wiped out. We don't know how many gliders burnt in their tree hollows.

The Covid pandemic took the spotlight away from the tragedy that had just happened. And while no-one was looking, logging got underway again.

So sadly, the film is still current.

If Olivia were alive and well she would be speaking for the trees. It is with deep gratitude for her generous life that we honour her by urging all her fans to find out about something she held dear.

Watch and share our quirky video. Listen to Koala. Here's a link to *On The Brink*: www.rainforestinfo.org.au/video/otb_v.html

Susie Russell
Lismore

Nimbin CWA branch building community

by Linnet Pike, President

“There is no shadow without light and no light without shadow.” – Haruki Murakami.

This year has been one that I know we shall all remember, for a multiplicity of reasons. For us in Nimbin CWA, I don't think many of us have worked so hard or been so deeply tired in many a year.

Earlier this year, just after the Great Flood, I wrote that our world had been forever fractured and that the shape of our new world would not emerge for a long time. Many of us are still in this liminal space, caught between what was and what will be.

Many in our Northern Rivers extended tribe are caught in a tortuous, protracted, almost Kafkaesque cycle of rollercoaster emotional trauma, as they await life-changing decisions. For many around Nimbin, in our hills and vales, landslides left them stranded in seas of still shifting mud and debris. This continues to be a very real and constant issue.

However, even at the height of our full “Emergency” response, Nimbin CWA took pause on International Women's Day and put out the call for women to gather at the main stage, behind our room in the Figtree building, at the Community Centre.

In amongst the very real darkness, fear, uncertainty and distress at that time in early March, some forty or so women came together, shared food, and talked of weaving our broken world back together, whilst some of us literally sat on blankets and rugs with some of our local weaving women.

We left our hands to individually focus, stranding our local forest gleanings and vines together, whilst our minds, spirits and hearts freely soared together. It's truly important that as a community we share our collective moments of healing, solace and lightness.

In those first weeks after the floods, we were open on a daily basis, sorting donations, cooking food at need, liaising and collaborating with other community organisations and being a meeting place for any number of groups, and planning sessions; we offered a space in which many found comfort and practical support, and we held space and stood witness to our collective grief and experience, whilst still making time for a yarn.

For several months now, we have continued to open on Wednesdays, our Open Door Day, offering free and cheap clothing, bedding and other essentials, hot soup, cuppas, and our favourite cakes, slices and, of course, our traditional CWA scones.

From September, we are cutting back to opening on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month for our Open Door Days.

When we re-formed CWA Nimbin



Branch back in early 2019, our world was a very different place. We hoped to slowly build and consolidate a space in the heart of our community, to do what the CWA does: support women and their families in rural and remote areas on multiple fronts – whether cultural events, agricultural and environmental issues, or social issues.

We looked forward to offering special events such as High Teas for our older community members and many a fundraising gig.

Reality has been different however in between the “series of unfortunate events” and emergencies, we have engaged in environmental issues, encouraged citizen science, launched books and relished our community's uniquely diverse and inclusive culture.

There have been many long shadows, but over the last month, we have looked towards the lighter side of life and we are beginning to hold workshops and gatherings to celebrate our community's resilience and our deep local connections, creativity and core spirit.

We came together to celebrate Imbolc with our community weavers Nicole Raward and Kerry Lord-Negus, and spent a welcome interlude making St Brigid's crosses with community members.

For us in the Southern Hemisphere, Imbolc is the Celtic festival heralding the transition between Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, a day when St Brigid's crosses are traditionally made to protect hearth and home.

Dee Semple, one of our artists in the Branch trialled a Cyanotype workshop with members, and will be offering a public workshop in September in this fascinating old (1842) printing process that produces blue prints using coated paper and light.

Finally, this month we offered ‘Demystifying Cryptic Crosswords’ and a concentration of crossworders enjoyed a morning together, learning some of the skills needed to “read” cryptic clues, facilitated by our Robyn Counter.

They are all keen for more sessions and these will be forthcoming over the next

months. And we are back at the Bowlo on a monthly basis for our CWA Trivia Nights.

CWA are slightly daunted to be taking part in one of the social highlights of the year, our dazzling Nimbin Fashion Show – a showcase for our creative local designers.

It's always a stunning production that Samara Burcher, that many-armed goddess who does so much creative volunteer work in our community, somehow finds time to pull together every year, ably supported by her amazing crew. All proceeds go to the School of Arts.

Some of our members are “walking”, showcasing the slow fashion concepts that we espouse: re-using, re-cycling, refurbishing and also showcasing our Branch aprons.

This epic venture has been co-ordinated by Pauline Ahern, one of our well-known local artists and our own Branch Handicrafts Officer.

As MardiGrass is approaching, we have also been working on having a bit of appropriate Green clothing to help people fly the green banner against prohibition.

CWA supports the use of Medical Marijuana, and our Branch will post on our facebook page our availability during MardiGrass.

All of our workshops and gatherings are posted on our CWA Nimbin facebook page.

September is also CWA Awareness Month and this year's campaign focuses on the critical need for improvements to maternity services and support in rural and regional NSW.

Our Association is partnering with the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) for this year's campaign.

It's nearing the end of the CWA year and our AGM will be on 10th October, at 1pm for a 1.30 start, followed by our normal Branch meeting.

All interested women are very welcome to attend and we expect to have a few busy months coming up, as we move into Spring and the lightness and hope that this season generates in all our spirits.



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