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## Unique accommodation sweeps awards

Nimbin's rising star, Contained in Nimbin Accommodation, has claimed victory at the 2023 North Coast Tourism Awards with a triple-gold win.

The prestigious event, held in Duranbah at Plantation House, Tropical Fruit World, honours the best in the business, and Contained in Nimbin Accommodation took home top prizes in three coveted categories: Outstanding Tourism Start-Up 2023; Outstanding Accommodation Experience 2023; and 2023 North Coast Tourism Business of the Year.

"We entered the awards hoping to receive judging feedback that perhaps we were on the right track with our business, so these Awards have absolutely surpassed our expectations," Nicole Lindner, owner of Contained in Nimbin Accommodation, said.

"We are absolutely thrilled with our win and sincerely hope that it will act as a catalyst in driving tourism not only to our village but also across the entire region," she said.



"Contained in Nimbin Accommodation offers the perfect location for travellers to embark on an enchanting journey through Nimbin and across the beautiful North Coast region.

"The North Coast Tourism Awards celebrates the finest in the industry, and Contained in Nimbin Accommodation has taken centre stage as a true trailblazer," Nicole said.

Contained in Nimbin Accommodation offers two private and fully self-contained cottages that are located just a short three-minute drive to the historic and unique village of Nimbin.

The eco-sensitive cottages are situated on a 10-acre self-sufficient permaculture farm, on the banks of the beautiful Goolmangar Creek.

For more information see: [www.containedinnimbin.com.au](http://www.containedinnimbin.com.au)

## Free admission to this year's Nimbin Show

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With less than seven weeks to go until the Nimbin Country Show, the Nimbin A&I Society has decided not to charge admission to this year's event.

"After three years without a Show, and with locals having to deal with bushfires, Covid and floods during that

period, it seemed the only thing to do," A&I Secretary, Dave Fawcner said.

"Locals have been through a lot and we saw that first hand when the showgrounds acted as an evacuation centre for two of those events.

"We believe dropping the admission fee will encourage

locals to come and have a good time on what may be a limited budget."

The Show will be held on 23rd and 24th September.

As usual, entries in Pavilion competitions must be submitted for judging by 5pm on the day before the show.



Photos: PAC

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## Bowlo in tricky situation

Nimbin Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club has deferred business from its Annual General Meeting on 30th July, in particular the election of directors, after no nominations were received for the eight positions.

Over 40 members attended the meeting and voted for a suspension of standing orders to discuss options for the club.

Regulations permit a postponed AGM to be held within 28 days, and has been set down for Sunday 27th August, 9.30am in the club rooms.

Several social members expressed their interest in becoming directors, and it is



The well-attended AGM in July

hoped that this postponement will allow them to gain full membership in order to be nominated for positions.

In the meantime, the club will continue to operate with the 2022-23 directors still holding the reins.

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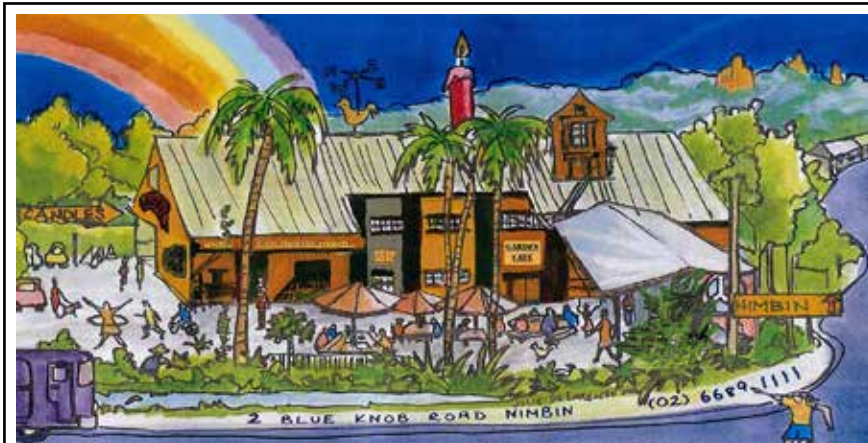
We need our paramedics and first responders to have the most modern and up-to-date equipment, helping them to deliver the highest quality care.

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I will continue to fight for one in Tenterfield, ensuring that our regions are not forgotten

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# Starting the conversation on community-led recovery

by Miriam Torzillo

Recovery so far has failed – we deserve a community-led recovery, we need a community-led recovery. Our voice needs to be heard.

To this end, community advocacy group Reclaim our Recovery (ROR) have convened a community meeting in Lismore on Friday 11th August.

The purpose of this meeting is to begin a conversation about recovery, starting with the lived experience of flood-impacted community members.

You're also invited to hear from those with lived experience of community led recovery and response from across the Northern Rivers.

Local politicians Janelle Saffin MP and Sue Higginson MLC and other special guests are coming to listen, not to speak, because it is time that our voices are centred.

This situation in the Northern Rivers remains a humanitarian disaster, and the way the recovery has been rolled out has proven to be both inhumane and incalculably cruel.

With the new authority established, and a relatively new government at both state and federal level, we see this as a golden opportunity to press the stop button and pause for community input into the reset.

The first step in the re-set – to repair the damage, to restore our faith and to shift this narrative – is to have a community gathering, and invite our representatives to come and listen to us.

We have wonderful representatives across our region, but meeting with

them behind closed doors to discuss this “re-set” without our community, is a continuation of the failure of the previous regime.

Our facilitators, both NR locals, will provide a supportive setting, within which the community can address their experiences and shared concerns as well as the impact on them of government and agency policies and programs.

All are welcome to attend the meeting on Friday 11th August, 5pm for a 5.30 start at Star Court Theatre, 126 Molesworth St, Lismore.

## Compassionate conversations about death

by Jagad Samuel

On 23rd July, Nimbin witnessed an extraordinary event that challenged societal taboos head-on – the Dying Matters Café held at Nimbin Town Hall.

The event sought to challenge this cultural silence, providing an opportunity for individuals to engage openly with their thoughts and feelings about their mortality.

With more than 70 participants gathering from near and far, this unique collective conversation sparked candid and compassionate dialogues.

Hearts opened and some tears flowed while attendees courageously embraced the taboo topic, discussing profound questions and sharing personal experiences about death.

The event, facilitated by Mimi Zenzmaier, aimed to create a safe and supportive space for individuals to explore the often-overlooked aspects of life's most inevitable journey.

Mimi's learnings from running Sacred Earth Funerals, and her passion for facilitating talk around death and dying were evident throughout the event.

Her compassionate approach allowed attendees to feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and emotions.

With Mimi's guidance, participants delved into an array of profound questions related to death.

From practical concerns about planning for the end of life to more existential queries about what comes after death, no limits were felt by me.

The nimbleness of the circle, often accompanied by a Nimbin-style humour, created an environment of acceptance and understanding.

Young and old alike contributed their unique perspectives, reflecting the diverse range of beliefs and experiences.

One of the most striking outcomes of the Dying Matters Café was the



Sebastian Washington, the youngest participant at just 21 years, addressing the meeting. Photo: Saskia Kouwenberg

revelation of a strong desire by many to redefine the way the Nimbin community approached supporting those nearing the end of life.

Attendees got to peek at plans for a more dignified, compassionate and community-orientated approach to end of life care compared to the usual approach.

The Dying Matters Café also provided a platform for individuals to share their stories of loss and upcoming farewells to loved ones.

Attendees expressed their feelings of grief healing, and hope emphasising the importance of acknowledging and processing these emotions.

Additionally, some brave souls shared their near-death experiences, offering fascinating insights into the enigmatic realms beyond this life.

Practical aspects of end-of-life planning were also a significant focus of the event.

Among many other things, discussion covered voluntary assisted dying (Australia's version of euthanasia) and how to get your wishes followed if you are not able to make decisions for yourself.

Attendees exchanged information

about innovative approaches, such as using the Nimbin Community Centre's Neighbourhood and Information Centre's cooling plate, to use when the body is kept at home after death and slows down to slow the decomposition of a body after death.

The event underscored the importance of considering all aspects of the journey, including the physical and emotional needs of those involved.

The success of the Dying Matters Café has paved the way for future gatherings. Organiser, Saskia Kouwenberg (author of the soon to be published booklet: *Dying, Death and Beyond – How to do it mostly yourself*) and her team, are already looking forward to the next follow-up events.

These will involve break-out sessions for even deeper exploration of various aspects of death and its impact on individuals, families and communities.

I left the gathering with a profound sense of connection and a renewed appreciation for the importance of openly discussing death.

For more information about Nimbin Death and Beyond and up-coming events, please use Facebook or contact Saskia Kouwenberg.

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# Voice to Parliament referendum forum at The Channon Market

by Benny Zable

At the September Channon Market (Sunday 13th), a discussion will take place in and around the Rainbow Chai Tent on the Referendum for an Indigenous voice enshrinement in the Australian Constitution.

## Why a First Nations Voice to Parliament?

Both Mark Pestell and Aidan Ricketts wrote some excellent articles in the July *Nimbin GoodTimes*, that I recommend you check out.

Here are some excerpts from ‘A firelight stick on the hill’ article written by Senator Patrick Dodson, who is regarded as the Father of Reconciliation, from the July edition of *The Monthly*:

“I think our great forebears such as William Ferguson, Jack Patten and William Cooper, who, with others, organised the Day of Mourning in 1938, Australia’s sesquicentenary; I think of land rights leaders such as Vincent Lingiari, Eddie Mabo, recently deceased Yunupingu, and other leaders in the Gumatj and Rirratjingu clans of the Yolngu people in north-east Arnhem Land; I think of those who rallied in support of the 1967 referendum.

“And when I think of them, and the many other tireless campaigners, I wish that they could be with us now as we approach the referendum later this year, which, if successful, will finally recognise First Peoples in our Constitution and give them a permanent voice to the parliament and to executive government.”

And from *Voice of Reason* by Megan Davis: “When people say this is about changing Australian identity, it’s not. It’s about location; we relocated here together, we are born here, we arrived here, we die herein we must coexist in a peaceful way.

“The fundamental message that many elders planted in the Uluru Statement is that... the country needs peace, and cannot be at peace until we meet; the Uluru Statement is the beginning of that.”

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) says Yes. “It’s fair, it makes sense and it brings us together,” ACF First Nations Leader Josie Alec on



why the Voice matters.

Read full statement here: [www.acf.org.au/acf-statement](http://www.acf.org.au/acf-statement) or check it out on my Facebook page.

## International obligations

Under the United Nations Charter of Human Rights, which was largely put together by an Australian, Dr Evatt, and which we as a country, as a Nation have signed; signature sealed since 1948; means we are required to fully recognise Indigenous people’s rights to self-determination, cultural identity, and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

The Indigenous Voice to Parliament is an important step towards that goal. It is said some of the best indigenous minds understanding this opportunity had gone out of their way to speak to remote Aboriginal communities around the Australian continent explaining how this will help them. As climate change advances to dangerous levels now, we need the environmentally-aware to listen to and empower mob through this enshrinement in the constitution.

An extract from a Richard Flanagan article also in the July edition of *The Monthly*: “Our inauthentic heart. What the Voice to Parliament means for stories we tell... It is often said that symbols don’t matter in politics. Sometimes, though, they are the only thing that matters. Not all stories are about symbols, but symbols are stories.

“When our brothers and sisters invite us to be one, why would we spit on the invitation and trample it into the dirt? Why would we?”

## Some other references

There’s an excellent program on ABC Radio National where two experts on the Australian Constitution were interviewed. See ‘Why the Voice – and the Constitution – matter’, with Megan Davis and George Williams: [www.podchaser.com/podcasts/late-night-live-separate-stori-1949/episodes/why-the-voice-and-the-constitu-180498970](http://www.podchaser.com/podcasts/late-night-live-separate-stori-1949/episodes/why-the-voice-and-the-constitu-180498970)

Another to listen to is on the ABC RN Away program.

## Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc

First I would like to thank Renee English, our NAFI secretary, who likewise deserves to be showered with glowing kind words of praise for her taking loving care of her ailing mother during Aquarius50.

Also post-Aquarius50 together with Karen Welsh and Katie Cawcutt helping me out with my financial troubles. Unknown to many, Renee has been a major player keeping it all together facilitating NAFI meetings and keeping Katie up-to-date on what was happening with Aquarius50.

I am pleased that most people I have spoken to and met with, were happy with the general outcome of Aquarius50. Hopefully a new generation will carry on contributing to the legacy of this bit of Nimbin his and herstory.

Friends of Aquarius are still meeting weekly on Thursdays from 3pm in the NCC Comskool room. I will be at the NAFI AGM on Friday 15th September, 3pm at the NCC Comskool room.

# Debunking arguments against the Voice

by Mark Pestell

The argument that ‘the Voice is unfair because it gives power to a minority group’ is very thin, verging on the pathetic.

Agencies and groups (which can vary over time, depending on factors such as political dynamics, public sentiment, and specific policy issues) who influence the government of the day are as follows:

**Australian Public Service (APS)** – The APS is the administrative arm of the Australian Government and plays a crucial role in policy development and implementation, providing advice and support to the government on a wide range of issues.

**Lobby groups in Australia** – these represent the interests of various

industries, organisations, and communities and engage in advocacy efforts to influence government policies.

Examples include the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, and environmental organisations like Greenpeace Australia.

**Business Council of Australia (BCA)** – The BCA is an influential industry association comprising CEOs of major Australian companies. It aims to shape government policies on economic and social issues to promote business interests and economic growth.

**Trade unions** – Australian trade unions represent the rights and interests of workers across various industries. They often engage in collective bargaining and advocate for workers’

rights, and can influence governments.

**Media outlets, including newspapers, television networks and on-line platforms** – these play a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing government decisions. Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp Australia, for example, has a significant presence in the Australian media landscape.

**Think tanks and policy institutes** – organisations such as the Grattan Institute, the Australia Institute, and the Centre for Independent Studies conduct research and provide policy recommendations. They often engage with government officials and policymakers, influencing the development of public policies.

**International bodies** – like the United Nations,

the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, exert indirect influence on the Australian government through their policy recommendations, conventions, and agreements that Australia is a party to.

Yet to my knowledge not one of those criticising the Voice has mentioned the power of these groups.

The Voice aim makes sense, in that it can benefit Indigenous communities which are diverse and have different needs. These needs can be brought directly to the relevant minister. A more correct pathway can then be created to improve housing, health, followed by education, employment, reconciliation, and pride.

As human beings, we can help create a better fairer society, with the establishment of the Voice.



# Origami peace cranes for Hiroshima Day



by Manuela Matheson

Across the world, 6th August is remembered as Hiroshima Day, when the United States dropped the first of two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945. The second was dropped on Nagasaki three days later. The resulting death of 350,00 people hastened Japan's surrender to end World War Two, and is the only time nuclear bombs have been used in an armed conflict. One of the victims was 12-year-old Sadako Sasaki. She died in 1955 from leukemia caused by the radiation from the bombing. She is remembered for believing in the Japanese legend that if she created a thousand origami cranes (sacred birds in Japan), she would be granted a wish. Her story *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* was published in 1977 and has since been released in many formats, and is studied by school students



around the world. In 1999 a monument was erected in her honour in Peace Park, Hiroshima and Origami Peace Cranes have become a global symbol of the hope for peace and nuclear disarmament. The Richmond Tweed Regional Library and the North Coast Peace Group – Remembering and Healing Inc (RaH) have been working together to provide spaces, time, tutors, and materials for anyone to make Origami Peace Cranes during the months of July and August. Hundreds of colourful Peace Cranes are currently being created every week at various library locations around the region, and at home with the aim of making 1000 cranes. Throughout August, these cranes will be displayed in the Lismore pop-up libraries in Molesworth Street and in Goonellabah before being offered as a peace gift to anyone who wishes

to share a Peace Crane with a friend, family member or stranger. To create your very own Origami Peace Crane, please drop into the pop-up library in Molesworth Street on any Saturday in August between 10am and noon, or simply go on-line and follow one of the many YouTube instructional videos. Cranes can be dropped off until the end of August at any library branch during opening hours. RaH is encouraging everyone to make, display and share Peace Cranes with their family and friends at school, work, or in their community – wherever you are. Make Peace Cranes with friends between the anniversaries of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings on 6th and 9th August every year. Find out more about RaH at: <https://rah.org.au> or go to: [www.facebook.com/groups/RememberingandHealing](https://www.facebook.com/groups/RememberingandHealing)

# Where to for Buy Back Nimbin?

by Michael Balderstone, president Nimbin HEMP Embassy

What to do with Buy Back Nimbin? It was a great idea at the time. Stoned no doubt. We buy the old museum site and have a park in the middle of the village. Some gardens and trees for shade. Hippies can sell their jewellery on a blanket, a chai stall, a safe fireplace, maybe a little temple shelter. Was it just old hippy dreaming from sleeping in Amsterdam's famous Vondel Park with hundreds of hippies decades ago? Allsopp Park opposite the pub is terrific, but crowded with stuff and small anyway. Mingle Park (as named by Aaron Richardson, a homeless Aboriginal living behind the museum years ago) is quite a big space and watching it since the fires in 2014, nearly ten years ago now, it's been well used. I will miss the space when it's filled in with shops or whatever. But others may not. In the original vision we thought we could buy it for a million, though it's more now. A thousand people putting in a grand each sounded easy, but of course most people around here don't have a spare grand. Ten thousand people putting in a hundred bucks each does it, but that's serious dreaming. Easier if ten rich people put in a hundred grand each. There are plenty who would hardly miss it! Just one person could do it and we'll name the Park after you. What a legacy! Very hard to give money away, the god of our times. Generosity itself seems even an endangered species. But it is a critical part of the hippy dreaming and if we are real about wanting to be alternative in our values, money is the crux of it. Nimbin is stuffed full of volunteers, people not being paid



for their work. It's a huge part of our culture. For many the dole, or the pension, gives us enormous freedom to do all sorts of stuff we deem worthwhile for the community. And community is key to our success I think, or key to our happiness. Same thing! I wanted to recognise Centrelink as Nimbin's biggest sponsor at the Aquarius50 gathering. Not everyone understood. Remember the Dole Temple in the museum? It was a wake-up call for me, trying to raise money for the Aquarius birthday in May. Some old hippies are seriously rich as we know, but it was very hard getting donations. Poor people invariably are more generous I find. What will the rich hippies do with it when they die, I wondered? How many houses do your children need? What is the future anyway? So it's fair to conclude I was totally carried away thinking Buy Back Nimbin might take off and all those people who have been touched by Nimbin's effort over decades would chip in. Deluded hippy dreaming. However, we know many people in the area do have plenty of money, multiple houses, acres and acres with cows. We are the rich kids of the planet here in Oz but so rarely do I hear of the rich being

communal with their extra cash. Most remain at the monopoly board working on their stash. Who dies with the most wins, right? Money is all-powerful, we don't often share money. We lend it but rarely give it. Despite all this, the hippy dreaming persists. Many do share their land, their gardens, their cars, their drugs, and so on. In the original vision it was all about sharing, not hoarding. Co-operating not competing. It's practical in every way and much better for the environment, and people are happier working together. The richer we get, the harder it is to keep that vision, it seems. Enough about money, we all love it yet know it's not the answer. Should we wind up Buy Back Nimbin, or keep the idea alive? It doesn't have to be the museum land. Give the money back to those who joined? Some had little or no money but did weekly payments. The beautiful people. Do we donate it to another local not-for-profit group, or the Daintree buy-back scheme? Or buy Lotto tickets with it each week! There's a meeting on the old Museum land to decide what to do with Buy Back Nimbin at 2pm on Tuesday 15th August. Pretty much the ninth anniversary of the fire that cleared the space. Everyone welcome.

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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

## Flood recovery

Need help? Still struggling? You are not alone. NNIC's Recovery Support Service staff are here to help. Contact the service via email on: [nimbinrss@nnic.org.au](mailto:nimbinrss@nnic.org.au) or call or text 0488-144-647.

## Bushfire season

Now is the time for us all to get our homes and properties ready for the up-coming Spring and Summer, by keeping gutters and house surrounds free of flammable debris, cleaning and reducing fuel loads on our land, securing water infrastructure and tanks, conserving water as much as possible and ensuring that fire trucks can access your property by clearing overhanging branches and anything that will obstruct their access.

Now is also the time to prepare your Bushfire Plan if you haven't already done so. For tips and templates on how to do this, see: [www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au) Our Recovery Support Service team can also help you with this task if you need it (see above contact info).

Preparation is key to our resilience, and we owe it to ourselves and to our fellow community members, especially our dedicated local fire brigade volunteers, to do everything we can to ensure all of our safety as we head into the warmer months.

## Nimbin Food Pantry

NNIC's Food Pantry is now up and running, thanks to Heidi and all the fabulous food relief volunteers, and also mega thanks to the Hemp Embassy which is generously subsidising the rent for the space. It is currently open every Wednesday for community members to purchase a range of groceries for very cheap prices.

You can find the Food Pantry at the garage in the carpark next to the Neighbourhood Centre. You can also find our Friday Soup Kitchen at the same place.

Anyone interested in joining our food relief team can contact Nicole at NNIC: [foh@nnic.org.au](mailto:foh@nnic.org.au)

## 7 Sibley Street and the basketball court

Unfortunately we lost the battle for the boundary adjustment between 7 Sibley Street and the adjacent basketball court area at the July meeting of Lismore City Council. The decision made by Council in 2020 to progress the boundary adjustment has now been overturned.

This is very disappointing because it means we were unable to bring that area of land back into community ownership, but we will continue to negotiate with Council to try and find alternate solutions to the access issues at 7 Sibley Street so that the project can progress. Council has indicated an interest in building on the basketball court site, with a permanent library for Nimbin and a Visitors Centre being two of the possible options under consideration.

164 people responded to our survey about the revised plans for 7 Sibley Street and the adjacent area of land. In that survey we floated the idea of a library being built there and there was some interest from the respondents (about 28%) in further exploring that idea. Overall though, according to those survey results, there was not a lot of appetite for building anything on the basketball court site at this stage.

For some time, the NAG (Nimbin Advisory Group) has recommended to Council that a master plan be developed for the whole of the village, including Peace Park, which includes the area of land involved in the now defunct boundary adjustment proposal.

There is support for that idea in Council and it would provide the opportunity for the whole community to

consider what we all want for our village into the future, as well as to involve new residents and our younger people in the on-going community building process for which Nimbin is so highly regarded, and in relation to which we have a long and proud history.

NNIC looks forward to the on-going negotiations with Council regarding 7 Sibley Street and also to any community consultations regarding a master plan for Nimbin, when/if they occur.

## Membership renewals

All NNIC and Tools Library memberships expired on 30th June. Drop into NNIC to renew your memberships. Membership to NNIC is \$5.50 per year (inc.GST). If you haven't ever joined before come on down! Cheapest membership in town!

Tools Library membership is \$22 per year (inc GST) and you must be a NNIC member to be a Tool Library member (i.e. total annual cost is \$27.50). Excellent value when you consider the large range of

tools and equipment you can borrow from the Library.

To see the list of equipment goes to the Sibley Street website – Tools and Equipment Library tab: [www.7Sibley.org](http://www.7Sibley.org) To Join either NNIC or the Tools Library, drop into NNIC with photo ID and ask for the application forms.

## Take home Naloxone

Available FOR FREE (also available at the NSP and the pharmacy), by appointment. Naloxone is a lifesaving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. Naloxone buys valuable time for an ambulance to arrive. It is available for FREE at NNIC to people who are at risk of an opioid overdose or adverse reaction, their carers, friends and family members and any other people who may become first responders. Naloxone can be administered by injection or delivered through a nasal spray. To get some for your first aid kit, make an appointment with Nat or Nicole.

## 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](http://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 17th August.

## 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

The Caldera Environment Centre (CEC) again sponsored its annual World Environment Day festival in Knox Park, Murwillumbah on Sunday 16th July.

A good crowd enjoyed the great weather and the day's events, which focused on protection of the natural environment, with live music and performances – notably by our local acrobatic troupe the Pitts Family Circus, Murwillumbah's Hoopla Circus, and Terri Nicholson from Terania Creek.

Speakers included forest defenders from the NorthEast Forest Alliance (NEFA), ideas on how to control "pesky plastic" pollution, and much more. Tweed Council presented info on the deadly danger of fire ants likely to spread from SE Queensland.

Tweed Mayor Chris Cherry drew the raffle, which supports the Northern Rivers Guardians, who shared our stall. My thanks to Nimbin artist Benny Zable for his colourful banner decorations... and to all our volunteers.

We continue to counter the self-serving propaganda spread by loggers and grifters who destroy our public native forests, subsidised by the taxpayers! They say BS like, clearfelling forests is "actually good for koalas because they like 'fresh pick'", when this endangered species would much prefer leaves from mature trees.

As a capstone species, koalas share the fate of other native wildlife. Little is said about the record heat spells and climate disasters associated with cutting forests and almost nothing about the flood mitigation that forests provide, except the Federal government announced it would fund a massive tree-planting campaign.

I hope they choose species with spectacular growth potential (a job for genetic engineering?) because the UN Chief just announced the

end of climate change: it's now "the Era of Global Boiling has begun." The month of July 2023 has been the hottest period ever in recorded global history. As Bob Dylan sang in 'The Times They are A-Changing': "You better start swimming or you'll sink like a stone."

NEC member and shop volunteer, Saskia Kouwenberg appeared in Court on 20th July speaking to the issue that brought her there in eloquent terms. Her words:

*I pleaded guilty to entering Doubleduke forest at court in Casino (at Lismore.) I represented myself. The magistrate looked through the police report. I said I'd like to give a four-minute explanation/statement, which was granted. I said:*

*I would like to explain why I was in Doubleduke Forest. Your Honour, I sincerely believe if we humans continue to treat the environment the way we do, our future is at risk.*

*Reports by innumerable reputable institutions and scientists the whole world over have stated that the future of life on our planet is at stake due to human behaviour.*

*The 2021 Glasgow Climate Change Conference held that "logging is partially responsible for the rising global temperatures and it is directly responsible for unprecedented changes in our climate."*

*We have been destroying forests at a detrimental rate and it's just continuing here under our own eyes. I cannot stand by and do nothing anymore. I believe that when authorities endanger our future, or do not follow the law like in Doubleduke Forest, we as citizens have a responsibility to protect the forest as trees and creatures living in these forests cannot speak out. I sincerely believe the police were arresting the wrong people in Doubleduke Forest.*

*And if I broke a law, I broke it, in my view, for a crucial reason: to prevent harm to the forest and all the creatures in it and to prevent further destruction of our environment on which we depend if we want to*



Stalls at the World Environment Day festival in Murwillumbah  
Photo: Triny Roe

survive. For me this is the core: we have a duty to act when we can prevent harm from happening.

*In Doubleduke State Forest giant mahogany and gum trees are being logged supposedly for pallets. In these forests live numerous endangered species like the coastal emu, koalas, the yellow-bellied gliders, the Barking Owl, the masked owl, the Little Lorikeet and Brushed Tailed Phascogale.*

*Besides, this State Forest was impacted by the 2019/2020 bushfires and advice was it needs at least 20 years to recover.*

*That something illegal was taking place in Doubleduke Forest is shown by the fact that "due to breaches in the logging agreement NSW Environmental Authority announced the decision to stop all logging on April 16". The answer for Doubleduke Forest is do-able and simple:*

- Stop all logging;
- Help workers and communities directly affected by this stop;
- Only use 100% plantation-based timber; and
- Make this forest into a national park.

*We live in a part of the planet that has one of the highest extinction rates*

*in the whole world. Here in Australia. When is it enough? I'm 71 now, and I think there must be an end to being afraid to be arrested or having a criminal record.*

*I am not brave and physically able enough to sit 25 metres high in a tree to effectively stop logging like other brave activists and what I'm doing may be nothing on the big scale but I'm not willing to sit back and do nothing any more.*

*I think it's already too late maybe, but I believe we have to stand up and stop hoping someone else will solve the problems. We have to stop greed being a totally acceptable attitude when dealing with the resources of our planet.*

*I handed over to magistrate via police prosecutor: 1) a postcard saying "Good planets are hard to find" and 2) the report 'Protecting Fire and Climate Refugia in Doubleduke' by Dailan Pugh, February 2023.*

*The Magistrate seemed to agree. Result: Section 10. No conviction, no fine.*

Other forest activists, Valerie Thompson and Kashmir Miller, appeared in court at Ballina the same day, represented by lawyer Eddie Lloyd. They both said they would defend the charges,

so were adjourned for hearing on 16th February 2024.

The movement to protect our native forests gathers momentum: the Federal government must act and the NSW government must declare the Great Koala National Park proposed near Coffs Harbour as they promised last March. We cannot wait until the forests have been devastated and then let the wildlife back in.

Our region would also benefit from a proposed Sandy Creek Koala Park between Casino and Grafton. Forest workers currently harvesting trees could be deployed clearing fire trails and thinning commercial plantation forests.

The Mack family are currently constructing a substantial business building using straight strong native timbers locally grown on plantation near Nimbin, mainly using white mahogany and Gympie messmate. Check it out, opposite the Nimbin servo. We don't have to destroy wildlife homes to build ours!

Show you care: come to a demo outside Justine Elliot's office (Federal MP for Richmond) at 10am on Friday 11th August and a rally the next day, 12th August, at the Lismore Quad from noon.

## NSW ranks last for forest protection

by Jacqui Mumford  
CEO NCC

The *Trees Scorecard* report released in July by WWF-Australia has ranked NSW dead last among Australian states for forest protection and restoration.

The report made a number of recommendations to the NSW Government to improve their record, including an end to native forest logging, strengthening land-clearing laws, incorporating the benefit of forest retention in the NSW Net Zero Plan, and improving transparency.

Between 2018 and 2021 in NSW, 264,170 hectares of forests were cleared – that's more than three trees bulldozed every 10 seconds.

NSW is the only mainland state without a plan to end native forest logging. NSW are outliers in what is clearly the future of forestry – a



transition to 100% plantation timber.

In the NSW *Vegetation Clearing Report* released in July, we can see that land clearing for agriculture is still increasing – woody vegetation clearing for agriculture has increased by 15%.

The annual *Statewide Land and Tree Study* (SLATS) data shows an average of 95,000 hectares of native vegetation was cleared across the state every year for the past four years.

NSW is struggling with runaway land clearing after 12 years of the Coalition weakening regulations. Land clearing rates have tripled since 2016, and it's time this was fixed.

We've already destroyed

far too much of the NSW bush. Only 36% of forest and woodland in NSW remains intact. What's left should be protected, not pulped. Our forests are worth more standing.

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales has called on the NSW Government to commit to turning around the state's abysmal deforestation record.

This Government has the opportunity to put the state on a new trajectory – one that will take us off the list of deforestation nations and repair the damage done by native forest logging and watered-down land clearing laws that have loopholes big enough to fit a bulldozer through.



Photo: Neil Amor

## Cross-species co-operation

It's certainly not unusual to find herbivore mammals pallying up with carnivore birds. You can see it in cow paddocks, and with wildlife.

The birds pull off their ticks and fleas, don't eat their food, and lay in wait for herbivore insects and lizards to come to the food source.

The symbiotic relationship can last for years.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

**7 Sibley Street**

**Workshops:** 10.30am – 1.30pm

- **Sat 12th: Felt hats** – full day 9am-3pm, all materials, lunch and morning tea incl. \$110 places limited bookings essential.
- **Tues 15th: Knitting group** – by donation (every 3rd Tuesday each month).
- **Sat 19th and Sun 20th: Textile weekend boot camp** – learn all about hand made textiles, grow your own fibres, spinning, weaving methods, Mongolian felt rugs and more. Off-grid cabin camping, meals and

materials provided. Bookings essential \$150.

- **Sat 26th: Wattle fences** – Woven fences for screens and garden edges \$15
- **Wednesdays: Weaving circle, from 11am** – Bring a project and join like-minded crafters.
- **Community Tools Library:** Every Saturday, 10.30am – 2pm. For home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC. Basketballs & pump available, \$5 deposit.

**August What's On!**

\$15 unless otherwise noted  
**Bookings: text 0475-135-764 or email: sibley@nnic.org.au**



## In praise of Landcare

I had the pleasure of attending my first Landcare event on Saturday, and it exceeded all my expectations.

As a newcomer, I wasn't quite sure what to anticipate, but the moment I arrived, I felt welcomed by the friendly and supportive atmosphere. The event, organised by locals Triny, Tristan and Glen, centred around the work being done to regenerate Gungas Road Nimbin after the floods last year.

The passion and dedication displayed by the organisers was impressive. They had a wealth of knowledge about trees, plants and weeds and while some of the concepts were a bit complex for me to grasp fully the first time, they broke it down and shared practical tips that I could take with me.

Being a fresh custodian at Flourish Sanctuary, down the end of Gungas Road, this event was especially relevant for me. It helped me understand the unique challenges of land care in Nimbin.

What impressed me was the diversity of attendees present, all of whom possessed knowledge of different aspects of land care and were friendly. It was inspiring to witness my community was so deeply invested in the local environment. Not to mention, the event had an added touch of sweetness with delightful cakes and even some giveaways for participants.

Attending this Landcare event not only armed me with valuable information and newfound confidence to take better care of the land I look after, but it also allowed me to connect with like-minded individuals, and I even made a new friend.

Witnessing the collective efforts and commitment to nurturing the environment left me feeling grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community.

My heartfelt gratitude to the organisers for putting together this educational and enjoyable event. It was a

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 GoodTimes.

great experience, and I look forward to participating in more Landcare events in the future. Thank you for a fantastic morning!

Jagad Samuel  
Nimbin

## Dogs and koalas

It is a well-known fact that domestic dogs and koalas don't go together well.

The three main causes of koala death are chlamydia (and other diseases), dog attack and road-kill.

There has been a significant increase of koala deaths from dog attack at Blue Knob and surrounds this year. Four koala deaths that I am aware of have occurred at Blue-Knob and there are probably more I am not aware of. Two of these have been on my property, probably from the influx of dogs from new owners on surrounding community collective properties. It is very sad to find a dead koala and it impacts all the people who are trying to save this iconic species.

As an ecologist and member of the Koala Implementation Group, one of the things I hear the most is, "my dog wouldn't do that".

Sorry, but yes, your dog would do that, because it's the nature of being a dog. It is easy to keep your dog on a leash, don't let it roam and keep it indoors or locked up at night. It is also easy to educate yourself on koalas and dogs, become informed and be able to live among koalas and still have a domestic dog. I will leave informative pamphlets at both the Nimbin Environment Centre and the Nimbin Neighbourhood



Centre.

There has always been a significant koala population at Blue Knob but that will not remain the case if people do not take responsibility for their dogs and own the fact that they are the problem.

If you need more information on koalas and dogs you can contact Lismore Council on 1300-878-387, or Tweed Council on 6670-2400, or Friends of the Koala on 6622-1233.

Pamela Evans  
Nimbin

## Politics and humanity

If we needed further proof that the Liberal/National Party Members of Parliament have a warped view of humanity, the decision of both the Nationals and now Liberals to oppose a Voice of First Nations people in the constitution certainly provides this.

Remember, these misanthropes were perpetrators of Robodebt, which illegally targeted some of the most vulnerable people in the community.

I was surprised and disappointed to see local MP Kevin Hogan poking his head up over the back of fellow Nationals when David Littleproud announced the Nats' opposition to the Voice even before any proposal was announced.

It was embarrassing to watch him try to defend this position on Q+A recently.

Kevin: "If you don't know; find out!"

What message is he sending to his Bunjalung and Yaegl supporters in the electorate? We owe our First

Nations people who have made this generous offer of reconciliation the respect of a YES vote when the referendum takes place.

John Drysdale  
Clunes

## Ideals are one thing, living them is another

The hippies were right. But ideals and principles are one thing. Living up to them is something else.

I was actually at the original Aquarius Festival. First thing that happened when we got there is we were waved down by a young hippy girl sitting under a beach umbrella surrounded by hay bales near Crofton Road.

She tried to charge us \$25 each to go to the festival. My wage at the time was \$36. It got haggled down to \$15 and we didn't have that either. Saying we're only staying for one night she eventually settled for \$5.

The following day we found out through police announcements over the radio that the festival was free and no-one was under any obligation to pay anything. Shaking tourists down for money started from day one.

The most uncool thing you could do at the original was eat meat, as my hapless friends found out scoffing meat pies with passers-by skirting around them like Superman avoiding kryptonite. Fifty years later I'm standing in the Emporium and a rasta haired full tilt hippy is ordering bacon rashers. Bacon rashers?

Getting served in the

health food section, an attractive young hippy mother is standing beside me with her young daughter ordering steak and kidney pies. Leaves me scratching my head, what the...?

Today there is more land being cleared in Queensland than under the Bjelke-Petersen Government. Half a million hectares according to the Australian Conservation Foundation; this is being done for beef production.

While people are quick to point the finger at logging, 79% of land cleared in Australia is for meat production. While plant-based foods use 3.8% of our land, meat production uses a whopping 54%. Australia is the only developed country in the World declared a deforestation hot spot. With 91% of deforestation in the Amazon done for beef production, it's far from a unique Australian problem. As most would be aware, we also lead the world in animal extinction.

The other thing I consider extremely uncool is smoking. Smoking rollie cigarettes seems to be in vogue. Attending a number of Open Mics at Nimbin Bowlo, I observed a lot of young women in particular, rolling up cigarette after cigarette.

Smoking would have to be the most unhealthy thing you can do. If you think vegetarianism or veganism is going to somehow protect you, you are deluded.

Smoking increases your chances of ending up with some form of cancer by 85%. It's highly addictive, toxic and carcinogenic. Despite generations suffering and having lives cut short, people continue to do it.

Almost every time I pick up a copy of *Nimbin GoodTimes* there's a tribute to some much-valued community member. Often in their early seventies, that's not old. Hardly an advertisement for a healthy lifestyle. While complicated with many factors, I suspect the main culprit is smoking.

If you truly care about nature and our environment, instead of financing some of the worst companies on the face of the Earth, why not stop smoking and give that money to the World Wildlife Fund, Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace or someone doing some good in the world?

Graeme Cooney  
Kyogle

## Council and Nimbin

As I'm sure most Nimbin residents and ratepayers know, David Hyett and Natalie Meyer were treated incredibly poorly at Lismore Council's July meeting.

That several councillors were allowed to question and comment in the way they did says a great deal, in my opinion, about how Nimbin is really valued, despite assurances to the contrary by some councillors.

Regarding the funding of \$10,000 for the 50th anniversary of the Aquarius festival, that a member of staff recommended 'punishing' the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce for not providing what the Council considered an acceptable traffic management plan, despite the fact that normal Council practice is to provide the funds up-front, says to me that it also speaks to at least some staff.

While ultimately the Council decided to provide the full \$10,000 funding (despite Cr Rob's attempt to have the whole amount taken back) nevertheless the President of your Chamber of Commerce should never have been treated in the way he was.

That the President of the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre was questioned to the extent that she said she felt like a criminal being investigated was particularly shocking.

Rather than accepting a motion for staff to assist the various groups with an interest in 7 Sibley Street to develop a master plan for the site which would accommodate the diverse needs, the Council determined to reject the Neighbourhood Centre's plan, but to survey the community's needs and have a workshop so councillors could decide what to do – the Council of course knowing what's best for Nimbin!

If you want to read the lengthy details of what happened to these two Nimbin residents, check out my blog on the Lismore App. However, it was obvious to me that no Councillor could challenge the many inaccurate comments about what public land was available in Nimbin.

With the local government election next October, I urge the people of Nimbin to get organised and field some good candidates.

Watching the meeting, I recalled just how effective my friend Diana Roberts was on Council. She was informed, she consulted widely in the community and so many things, including roads, improved while she was there.

Nimbin desperately needs at least one Nimbin resident on Council who knows what Nimbin needs. And as for voting, make sure you know Nimbin's real friends – and its enemies!

Ros Irwin  
Lismore

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Distributors Peter, Coralie, Sue, Gordon, Kitty, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Linda, Jock, Rosie, Trevor

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

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson

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

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

NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday 25th August

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



# Misogynistic language matters

by Germaine Daly

You may have heard the acronym TERF being thrown around like a weapon amidst the toxic culture wars surrounding sex, gender, and gender identity.

The term originally stood for Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist, and some try to defend it as a neutral descriptor, but not only is it an inaccurate descriptor, it's also a misogynist slur used to silence, derogate, misrepresent, dehumanise, vilify, and incite violence.

Radical feminist theories of women's oppression are based on biological sex. Those theories include all female people, including those who have a trans identity (transmen), which debunks the trans-exclusionary part of the acronym.

In practice it refers derogatively and contemptuously to anyone (but usually only women) who disagrees with extreme gender identity ideology.

This includes women who hold such apparently genocidal opinions as: women are female, human beings can't change sex, men can't get pregnant, lesbian means female homosexual, single-sex spaces and services are important, etc.

Clearly, some of these views are held by the vast majority of society, some of whom are feminists, many of whom are not, which debunks the radical feminist

part of the acronym. Just ordinary people, not trans exclusionary, only seeking to include, in some instances, on the basis of sex rather than identity.

To be labelled TERF, you don't even have to hold those opinions. Perhaps you suggest that the conversation is a little more nuanced than "Women who want single sex spaces are bigots not worthy of respect." Or you are concerned about the frightened female inmates in the Dame Phyllis Frost Correctional Centre in Victoria being housed with an intact male sex-offender.

You can be guilty of TERFism simply by associating with known TERFs. When author and activist Derrick Jensen of Deep Green Resistance called this the new McCarthyism, he wasn't wrong. Many of the tactics are the same – discrimination, censorship, blacklisting.

Women have lost jobs, contracts, tenures, been slandered as Nazis, been unfairly detained and interrogated, been refused service from corporations, hospitals, and even banks.

Journalists have been fired for writing controversial articles, researchers for sharing controversial peer reviewed studies. Women have been viciously assaulted for speaking about these issues in public.

Riley Gaines, champion swimmer and activist for



female athletes, was assaulted and held hostage for hours, her captors even demanding a ransom, because she is named TERF.

Images of women hanging on gallows, and the words "TERFS will be hung" were used to advertise the first London Trans Pride in 2019. At this year's London Trans Pride event, ex-con Sarah Jane Baker exhorted to the crowd "If you see a TERF, punch 'em in the f\*\*\*\*\* face!" And most disturbing – the crowd cheered. Are you now, or have you ever been, a TERF?

A chapter in Associate Professor Holly Lawford-Smith's new book *Sex Matters* delves deep into the literature on slurs and what makes one. She analyses the list of writers on the subject, who provide various criteria, and the term TERF fits the bill without question.

The fact that some have attempted to reclaim it changes nothing. One only has to visit the website: [terfisaslur.com](http://terfisaslur.com) to see how the use of the word plays out in practice. There is

a lot of sexualised abuse, rape threats, death threats, wishes for and incitement to violence.

Critics of these uppity women who dare to speak up for their sex like to fear-monger with the spectre of the right-wing, but leftist women who care about women's rights are rediscovering that the left has its own misogyny problem, just as the right does.

The opportunity to name-drop and be the leftest lefty here mustn't be passed up – in 2020, Noam Chomsky, along with 152 other scholars and writers signed a letter on Justice and Open Debate, defending free speech against the kind of cancel culture that the slur TERF represents.

Unfortunately, things haven't much improved. The effect of the term and its use is to reinforce a hostile climate for debate on an issue of key importance to women – a climate which has very much concerned Reem Alsalem, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, as mentioned in her recent statement.

Happily, there are alternative terms to use. "Person with common and reasonable opinions" is one of them. Or, for the feminists who actively defend women's sex-based rights, "gender-critical feminists" is the preferred term. It is accurate and neutral.

## Writers Festival attracts under-35s

Byron Writers Festival 2023 (11-13th August) invites audiences aged 35 and under to soak up the festival experience with a Saturday afternoon Under-35s Pass.

This new pass gives access to 12 sessions taking place at the festival site at Bangalow Showground from 2pm, Saturday 12th August for just \$35.

With a similar set-up to a music festival, pass-holders can wander between five venues and choose what they want to listen to on the day.

Hear from leading thinkers and changemakers spanning the big issues of misinformation, race, gender and sexuality. Or delve into the worlds of fiction, memoir and fantasy authors at the top of their game.

'The Feminist Trajectory' will explore how feminism(s) have changed

over the years and what's possible for tomorrow. Featuring Michelle Arrow, Madison Godfrey, Nakkiah Lui and Tracey Spicer, this session is set to be an empowering one. Madison Godfrey, who has performed at the Sydney Opera House and Glastonbury, will also grace the stage for 'Dress Rehearsals', a genre-blurring work that explores coming of age, gender euphoria and the complicated colours of memory and desire.

Hear from 'Grace Tame In Her Own Words'. An intelligent, raw, and witty speaker, Grace Tame offers a vision for a better future for all of us. 'Misinformation' is rife and wreaking havoc across the globe. This must-see session with Monica Attard, Antony Loewenstein and Anke Richter covers everything from cults to weapons manufacture, to the impact of tech and AI.

Lovers of fantasy won't want to miss 'Worldbuilding – an Act of Wild Imagining', where Grace Chan, Ben Hobson and New York Times bestselling author Amie Kaufman will explain how they build extraordinary fictional worlds. Ellen van Neerven's session 'Personal Score' delves into sport's troubled relationship with race, gender and sexuality.

For lovers of music and creativity, 'Wild Notes' is a must-see. Bertie Blackman, the gifted musician, writer and daughter of legendary artist Charles Blackman, and Eliza Hull, a singer and pianist who advocates for people with disabilities, reveal how they go about their craft.

Grab your \$35 Saturday Under 35s pass at: [byronwritersfestival.com/tickets](http://byronwritersfestival.com/tickets)

# GROW



Mental Wellbeing Peer Support Group

Nimbin group starting 2nd August  
Wednesdays 12.30 - 2.30pm  
at Nimbin Community Centre

Free, no referral needed, join anytime  
Enquiries, phone Jo 0483-888-844

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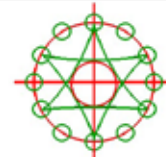
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