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## Paul LeBars awarded Certificate of Appreciation

by Matt Brumley

For almost two decades Nimbin resident Mr Paul LeBars has organised and conducted our ANZAC and Remembrance Day services.

Like many such community activities, the burden of organisation often falls to one or two people.

Paul has taken on the lion's share of co-ordinating keynote speakers, buglers, pipers, chaplains, the Jungle Patrol and the local constabulary, among others, who make our local services meaningful, dignified and well organised.

Paul has often acted as Master of Ceremonies, as well as occasionally taking on other speaking roles.

He also takes great pleasure in tending the garden at Allsopp Park to ensure the setting for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day is neat and well



presented.

In addition, Paul was a driving force behind the renewal of the Nimbin District Memorial and the installation of a seat of remembrance at the memorial site.

Like many community service

roles, Paul's efforts with ANZAC and Remembrance Day were often a thankless task, so it was wonderful to see his contribution to the community recognised formally by the RSL Lismore sub-branch at the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre Christmas dinner.

Mr Wilson McClelland, Secretary of the sub-branch was present to say a few words and present Paul with a beautifully framed certificate of appreciation.

It was richly deserved and appropriate that it was presented in the company of Neighbourhood Centre colleagues.

With a few health issues creeping up on him, Paul has decided to retire from organising our memorial services.

He officially passed the baton after Remembrance Day 2022, although he will continue to care for the garden and District Memorial site.

## Popular school principal retires

Nimbin Central School Principal, Catherine Marshall has retired from teaching after many years at the school as an art teacher, Deputy Principal and Principal.

She is truly loved and respected by all, both in the school and the Nimbin community.

A farewell gift basket from Nimbin CWA was presented to her by Secretary Sandi Hill, President Linnet Pike and Treasurer, Karen Ratcliffe.



Photo: Chibo Mertineit

## Nimbin Police get on the tongs for community BBQ



by Eugenie Stephans

A Nimbin Police and Community BBQ Lunch was held on Saturday 10th December. It rained a little on the day, but not enough to deter many people from attending Allsopp Park for the second barbecue of the year.

The Nimbin community enjoyed the BBQ lunch, which was cooked and served by the local police. Each took a turn at working the BBQ, grilling the sausages and onions.

There was a table of various condiments to complement the meal, as well as delicious fresh garden salad and bread.

The community welcomed the new sergeant, Brett, who recently took up his permanent post at the station. It was a good opportunity to meet the various officers and to develop meaningful relationships.

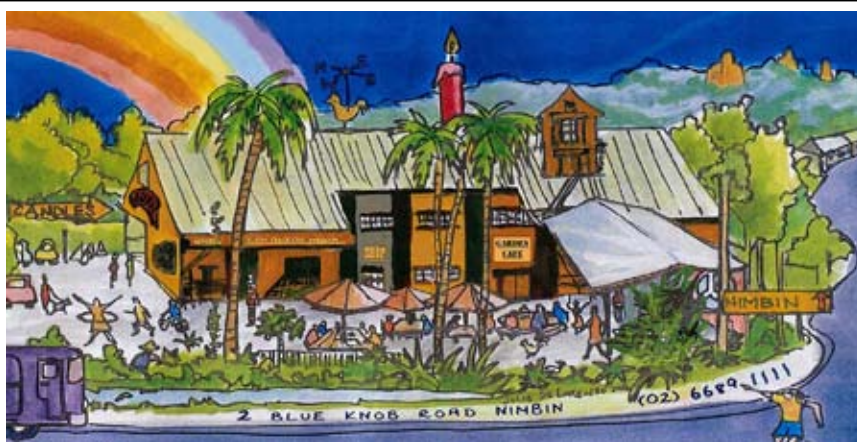
In attendance was Nimbin's Inspector, Nigel Howard, as well as Nimbin police Steve and Luke managing the grill. All had a good time meeting the locals and visitors.

The event was suggested by members of the Police and Community Consultative Committee (PCCC). Ideas were most welcome as to how to make future BBQs better.

Perhaps those in attendance could bring a plate to share. It is difficult to plan for such spontaneous events. Thank you to Michael and crew for the creative advertisements posted around town.

Police and the Hemp Embassy donated the food. Thank you to all who assisted with the BBQ and making it a special day for all.

The PCCC gets together at their tri-monthly meetings and aim for improving community life. The next meeting will be held in March. The community is most welcome to table any correspondence at these meetings.



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# Volunteering at Resilient Lismore

by Gwen Trimble

After the February 28 flood, like many other people, I looked around for practical ways to help with the recovery. At that time, it was pretty much Resilient Lismore and the Koori Mail organising a response to the disaster.

As I knew Resilient Lismore's founder and driving force, Elly Bird, and also respected her moral compass and organisational skill set, in March I rocked up to volunteer at Resilient Lismore and am still volunteering there.

Immediately after the flood, amid the chaos of lost infrastructure, Resilient Lismore was established and needed to come up to speed quickly. Premises, donations, funding, electricity, communications, supply networks and a data system created, to drive a recovery response.

The team of early volunteers had a massive task before them and running on urgency, skill, love and determination they got Resilient Lismore operating in super-fast time.

Resilient Lismore hub has been undergoing continual improvements and is now housed in new premises



with a state-of-the-art data base and a network of support from charities and business houses.

Sadly, there is a long way to go with Lismore's recovery. Only recently the Government response can be observed to bite in any meaningful way and Resilient Lismore still has an important role to play.

My volunteering experience has been incredibly rewarding. Sure, I have heard harrowing stories of loss and hardship, but I have also seen generosity, compassion, hard work and kindness a plenty.

Those I volunteer with offer their

skills and their time. They are a co-operative mob who also express care for each other, who understand the value of a cheery and fun working environment.

I have learnt a great deal about communication and problem-solving, as well as how to access and use on-line platforms new to me. I have learnt what a delight it is to go home after a volunteer shift, feeling I have helped someone out of a problem place and take a step towards being normal again.

An example of a Resilient Lismore strategy that is making an on-going difference is this: when working on the clean-up, volunteers observed that many residents were camped out in the shell of their gutted homes.

In response the initiative 'Warm, Safe and Secure' was created, which sourced and distributed blankets and heaters during the winter.

It then grew to the much more substantial Two Rooms Project, where volunteer teams put up walls to create two sealed rooms in the shell of flood affected homes.

Resilient Lismore always needs more volunteers and although they currently particularly need tradies, there are jobs for volunteers with any skill set.

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## Useful feedback on walking trail

by the NCCI Management Committee

On 11th December, the Nimbin Community Centre hosted an open day and community BBQ for the Rainbow Road Walking Track.

The aim of the day was to guide community along the proposed track and seek feedback for amenities and details that Nimbin locals would like to see along the route.

We received an abundance of helpful feedback from the 100+ attendees, ranging from artistic suggestions and environmental considerations to the positioning of water filling stations and good spots for bird watching.

The feedback received has been collated by Nimbin Community Centre and will be submitted as part of the development application for the Rainbow Road Walking Track which is scheduled for completion by September 2023.

The Nimbin Community Centre management committee would like to thank all the people who came along to help shape this wonderful project for Nimbin.

Thank you to the Emporium for providing the excellent food at cost, the Nimbin Headers for allowing us to use their facilities and Mark Yumol, Korisha Domenighetti and Claudio Moghini for creating a BBQ feast that exceeded expectations.



Photos: Sue Stock



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## Towards Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary



by Benny Zable,  
NAFI president

It's good to report that Katie Cawcutt is back with us after her accident at the NAFI office.

Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. (NAFI), on Friday 16th December had successfully elected a team towards Nimbin Aquarius 50th. Benny Zable President, Bob Dooley Vice President, Renee English Secretary, Katie Cawcutt Treasurer, with an assistant Treasurer Karen Welsh to help out Katie.

While visiting family in Newcastle, I dropped in on Johnny Allen at a Sydney hospital who has recovered from a bout of Covid he caught when he recently visited Aquarius50 planners up north.

I delivered an Aquarius50 media kit which Greg Bork had made for him. We also discussed Phillippe Petit's failed requests to perform at Vivid. We looked at other funding options with Phillippe and Judith, his

partner, to bring him out to Nimbin Aquarius 50th. Sorry to say we decided it is too expensive to bring him out.

The next NAFI committee will be meeting next on Friday 20th January in the NCC Comskool from 3pm on.

### The Benny Zable Aquarius story

I would like to demystify things that people publish about me, for the record.

I had nothing to do with Aquarius festival planning or anything to do with painting the original murals for the 1973 festival.

I came to know about the festival through friends and students through my dance movement workshops and Melbourne Arts co-op friends.

A group of us put together a multimedia production out of H.G.Wells' *Time Machine* in spoken rhyme with Thom (the world poet) and poetry band. Tarny James played Wilimeena of the Eloie people and Sam Angelico the magician representing the Morlocks. I played the Time Traveller.

The rest of the cast played both roles as Eloie the beautiful vegan-loving people who shared fruit with the

audience, and industrial underground Morlocks who went out capturing selected people from the audience to be disappeared by Sam Angelico the magician.

We came with a set and specially-made costumes that we turned inside out from white to black. A white screen was hung on the scaffolding where a rear-projected shadow performance took place as the time traveller moved through space and time.

It was performed only once in the ruins of the now Nimbin Bush Theatre. It was hauntingly the day of the big bust.

Anyone who was at this show who has photos, film, or stories to tell, please get in touch with me.

In the mornings I ran a series of mime, dance, movement workshops at the Nimbin Hall. Following each workshop, we went out to practise our crowd-motivating dance skills at events throughout the festival.

After the festival I stayed back to help look for land towards creating an intentional community. With leftover portapak (portable video recorders) from the festival, people went out to film potential sites. Natalie Reid's partner George and I



happened to have filmed the Sam Mackey Tunttable Falls property site, which was chosen to be purchased for this social experiment.

Following the festival, I also travelled with Paul Joseph on the Nimbin Karavansera to perform and sell \$200 shares in the Sydney, Melbourne and Eltham Hills area. I also drew up a prospectus with Jacques Garland and Terry McGee.

Later on when settling onto the Tunttable Falls site, Johnny Dobson and I would visit Sam Mackey up the north end of the property to assure him we are a trustworthy OK mob.

### Poster wanted

The logo in the centre of the design above was on one of the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival posters. I believe it was designed by Helena Horvath.

If anyone has a copy, please let me know. Thank you.

## The legacies of the Aquarius Festival

by Jeni Kendell, member of the Aquarius50 Organising Committee

The New Year is here, and with it everything it brings to Nimbin and our region for the year to come. May the divine forces remind us of the power of laughter and dance, and of choice and courage.

Ideally 2023 will bring something new and exciting, a glimpse of realisation for a better and more complete world, where kindness, clarity, and the wellbeing of all rests in our hearts and shows in our actions. A year to care for each other and our dear Earth.

Let us also contemplate the opportunity Aquarius50 may bring us, our town and our region. Many people are drawn to be here, often they "made it" in the city or were on their way to achieving a comfortable life when something happened to bring them here.

After the 73 Festival it was all new but it was not easy. Many Aquarian new settlers lived in sheds and got their water from the creek. No vacuum cleaners or washing machines, no showers. A new world to create, houses to build, gardens to grow, and children of Aquarius on the way!

Women said to healers Carole Elliot and Norman Stannard, "If you don't help us have our babies at home – we will have them by ourselves!"

Homebirth became the norm. When Carole Elliot was howled down in town meetings by most of the region's doctors, courageous Dr Harry Freeman stood up and fought for her.

Carol has since delivered thousands of babies both here and around the world. Birth & Beyond was born in Nimbin where it still functions in the main street of the village as an apothecary and community care centre.



Jeni Kendell and her partner Paul Tait

Let's build on this legacy and talk about true equality and respect for all women at Aquarius50.

When beautiful Terania valley was to be logged we came to protest for a day and ended up staying for a transformative month. Terania forest and others here are now listed on the World Heritage List.

At the same time John and Greta Seed went to court to fight for their right to not have walls in their house on Bodhi Farm community. They liked the wildlife coming into the kitchen – the very same wildlife called "vermin" by the opposing legal team.

Actions such as these forced change to laws relating to land-use, houses and other structures and the concepts behind them. Our dear friend Hugh Lovell said, "The most interesting things happen at the boundaries."

We aim to make the Aquarius50 gathering on 12-21st May wonderfully interesting and meaningful, with a long lasting legacy. Filled with diverse ideas, thoughts, hearts, experiences and conversations, with lots of room for art, music, comedy, poetry and fun. Your ideas are welcome, your support and help essential.

With a framework of ideas together we will find the opportunity provided to us to dig deeper and start to visualise "what else" could happen? Like the original question from the 73 Festival: "After Aquarius, what?"

When I searched the internet for the "first town in Australia to go off grid?", I found "The tiny town of Onslow in WA is achieving big things, becoming the first town in Australia to be fully powered by solar energy."

I hope the Nimbin community can achieve this and other significant outcomes of value to our environment. Perhaps we could create a foundation that buys and bequeaths land sought by First Nations folk to be returned, or re-start the Homebuilders Association again to build houses together for those who need them.

How do we say "No" to HECS debt, "No" to million-dollar houses for first home buyers, and an emphatic "Yes" to a First Nations "Voice" to parliament together? I look forward to the alchemy that might come through the Aquarius50 gathering, to see what is left undone in our lives since the 1973 gathering.

More kindness, more compassion, more love, more hand ups, more self-sufficiency. Let us be free inside, in our minds and lives, with responsibility and care.

Please join us for a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday 25th January at 6pm, about how to connect and get involved with preparations for Aquarius50 celebrations. Come early from 5pm to help set up.

We welcome your contributions and support. The motto "You are the Festival" from Aquarius '73 remains our hope.

Please get involved with us, and contact us at: [admin@aquarius50.com.au](mailto:admin@aquarius50.com.au) or on Facebook: Nimbin Aquarius 50th Anniversary.

Peace, love and happiness.



# Tony Barry and BLERTA at Aquarius

by Greg Bork

The late actor and activist Tony Barry shared these stories about his adventures at the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival with me at his bedside. I share them here with respect and sympathy to Tony's family and friends.

I went to New Zealand for a mate's wedding, and there I met up with this BLERTA mob and they knocked me out. The Bruno Lawrence Electric Revelation Travelling Apparition – it was the 70s after all. They were an 11-piece cookin' jazz-rock band with six slide and film projectors. The actors on stage were the actors on the film. So, I got a real education for about twelve months... I could hold a tune, I could be part of the ensemble, I was one of the actors. We'd burst forward on stage, and I was just blown away.

Johnny Allen and Bauxhau Stone came over and found us. They were so enthusiastic about the Aquarius festival, they were going to pay to bring us over, and that's all we wanted. They sold us on it, and it really appealed to Bruno's heart. The plan was to take the



play as well. We got the good spot for the BLERTA bus, and yeah, it was just such an eye-opener.

We went around and looked for opportunities to integrate with one another. I was so impressed with the organisation, the way in which they went about putting it together, the relaxed attitude of everyone towards what they were doing, and it was just so easy to get around.

BLERTA was right at home because it was so 'out there', it was cleverer than Monty Python. The Kiwis, when they decide to do something, they nail it, and then they go, "Oh it's not very good." I used to say, "Bruno's given you the opportunity to come together."

Philippe Petit must have thought we were something, like the French



bridge across the creek and offered anyone who wanted to come across and witness their lifestyle to do so.

I was there one night and there was a bloke putting a fire together, and there was a young fellow playing the flute and more and more people are joining with lutes and guitars and banjos and who knows what else, it just built and people kept coming because they're always attracted to the music.

The fire was getting bigger and bigger and bigger, and this guy who's been building it dances off into the night and comes back with half a sleeper and drives it into the bonfire that they've got now, and sparks and everything go everywhere and everyone just looks up and it's a full moon with a rainbow around it. Wow! Who bothers to look up at the moon these days?

Then they put a big cauldron of water on the fire, and they walked around and cut some fresh lemongrass and threw that in there and we all got these cups made of bamboo, bevelled around the inside and the outside, and they came around and said, "Do you like lemongrass?" I said, "I love it."

"With or without honey?" I said, "Yeah, I'll have a bit of bush honey."

I was sitting there wondering what the poor people were doing today because this was the way we were meant to live, in the company of one another.

The nights were magic at the Aquarius Festival. Aquarius was the beginning of people being introduced to an awakening but done in such a subtle way that people had nowhere else to go but to change their thinking, and that was really beautiful.

I like what Helen Keller had to say, that life is either a daring adventure or nothing, and that's what the Aquarius Festival was, an adventure of the highest order. It was respectful, it was challenging, it was community. It just made so much sense, it was like, this is the way we can live together in the company of one another and get things done collectively.

I'm very grateful I've had that experience in my life and I would like to see the roll-up to Aquarius50 get twice the servicing it got when they were doing the original.



BLERTA bus – a Leyland Royal Tiger – and when it came up for auction, he bought it.

We had to drive it up from Sydney. The BLERTA bus pulled up outside my home and we unloaded. All the blokes went inside, the men and women had a wash, the kids had a wash, a shower. Mum was OK about it, and she'd come along to the concerts with a little straw hat with a flower in it.

She was just so proud because she recognised a bit of creative talent I had. As a working class kid, I tried to challenge the enigma of there being no working class people in the arts, or going overseas, or going to university, until Gough Whitlam came along. So, I wanted to prove that working class kids could get into the arts or university and make a go of it.

I came in through the back door, starting out as a stand-up comic in a strip club in Kings Cross. Four shows a night, six nights a week: "Get off ya f\*\*kin' mug and send on the girls!"

I used to jump off the stage and belt 'em, and then I helped the boss get rid of a couple of drunks, and he sacked the doorman. He said "No good paying two wages." It was the 60s in the Cross and it was all sly grog, there were no drugs back then.

When we got up to Aquarius in Nimbin we were out of our territory. Bruno's wife Veronica was running the show, there were probably 24 adults, 23 kids, and the kids were part of the

thing with the music and the film and all that. There were a couple of posts either side of the stage and he threw up a slack wire as we were performing, and he's doing his wire walk with fire sticks and I said to Bruno, "Who the f\*\*k is this," and he said, "I don't know, but he knows what he's doing so we'll just incorporate him," which is what we did. Philippe Petit was something else.

At Aquarius there were a mob next door, nudists. They'd planted a lot of food that they hoped would coincide with the festival, but unfortunately the timing was a bit off, but it's the thought that counts. They'd built a bamboo



Crystal healing ritual. Festival photos: Peter Derrett

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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

## New Year opening dates

NNIC will be re-open on Monday 9th January. Our Services Australia (Centrelink) Agency re-opened on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

We have been monitoring the RSS intake phone line throughout the break period.

## The Annual Big Community Xmas Lunch

There was a big turn-out for the yummy Xmas lunch at the Town Hall on Thursday 23rd December, with Santa's arrival on the fire truck bearing sweets and gifts for all the children.

Around 190 meals were provided and 78 gifts given by Santa.

Many thanks to all the elves who made it happen: Nicole, Heidi, Gail, Janene, Rachel, Allyson, Lana, Jane, Vincent, Elke and Tash and everyone else who helped out on the day.

Thanks also to Woolies Lismore for their donation towards the chooks, and to the many local businesses who donated items for the Xmas raffles.

And thanks to all of you who came along. It would be no fun without you!

## Nimbin Recovery Support Service (RSS)

The RSS offers disaster recovery support for impacted people in the Northern parts of the Lismore LGA and nearby parts of the Tweed and Kyogle Shires.

The service offers a dedicated support worker to assist you through the complex journey of disaster recovery including support with working out a recovery plan, grant applications and administration, linking with key services, suppliers and expert advice, housing support/solutions and disaster-proofing your life and wellbeing.

You can register by emailing: [nimbinrss@nnic.org.au](mailto:nimbinrss@nnic.org.au) or call/text 0488-144-647,



Santa and his helper arrive at the Community Christmas Lunch. Photo: Heidi Glover

or drop by 7 Sibley Street, Monday to Friday to sign up.

## Nimbin Community Disaster Plan

The final version will be up on our website (Disasters page) by the end of January.

## Community Care Team

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

## Commemorating the 2022 Floods

We are planning a community get-together in mid-late March 2023 to mark the anniversary of the 2022 Flood Disaster.

More info soon – watch this space and also Nimbin Hook Ups and NNIC's Facebook page and website: [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)

## 7 Sibley Street update

We are currently working on a revised Draft Concept Plan for the site and will bring that to the community for your consideration and input, hopefully by the end of January.

Watch this space and

also Nimbin Hook ups and NNIC's Facebook page for more info.

We will call a community meeting in February to discuss the revised plan as we are anticipating this issue will be back before Council shortly after that

## Did you know?

NNIC is a registered DGR charity, which means that donations to our charitable activities, or bequests in your will, are tax deductible.

Your donations help us to help and support our local community.

## 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 19th January.

## 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

Deanna, a young climate activist who calls herself "Violet Coco," was condemned to 15 months in prison with no chance of parole for eighth months because she and three others stopped their van on one lane of the Sydney Harbour Bridge for 28 minutes. She held a flare in her hand to dramatise the urgency of Climate Change as it affects our future, and increasingly our present, through extreme weather events and species extinction.

The Court must have misheard her name as "Violent Coco" as she was denied bail, normally allowed to defendants pending appeals. Citizens held protests in Lismore and Sydney, and the non-violent offender was released in December pending appeal to be heard in March 2023.

What is a little inconvenience, no more disruptive than a vehicle breakdown, compared with the consequences of public ignorance and apathy? Coco pleaded guilty to breaching traffic laws, lighting a flare, and failing to obey police orders to move on. The other protestors didn't get jail time.

The Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) is "deeply concerned by the recent trend in harsh custodial sentences and heavy-handed policing against climate protesters in Australia."

"Harsh new anti-protest laws were rushed through NSW Parliament in April, without consultation. The laws were a knee-jerk response to escalating climate protests around roads, rail and ports."

"Climate change will impact the most vulnerable people in our community first. Unlike lobbyists working for the fossil fuel industry, those most impacted by the climate crisis don't have ready access to politicians and political process. Peaceful protest is their voice."

The EDO is challenging the new NSW anti-protest laws, arguing they limit the implied freedom of political communication.

#### COP 27 & COP 15

Last month reports from COP27 were released before those of COP15, and I realised that I didn't understand what 'COP' means. I looked it up on internet and learned it means *Conference Of the Parties* - gatherings to discuss various issues. The first summit, "COP1" was held in Berlin, Germany in 1995 to discuss the issue of Climate Change.

COP 21 took place in Paris in 2015, and something momentous happened: for the first time every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees, to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate, and to make money available to deliver on these aims.

And so the *Paris Agreement* was born. The 1.5-degree aim is important because every fraction of a degree of warming means many lives lost and livelihoods damaged. Under this Agreement, countries committed to bring forward national plans specifying emissions reductions, known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs.

They agreed to update their plans every five years to reflect their highest possible ambitions. COP27 refers to last November's UN summit held in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh, which aimed to "accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement."

The meeting in Montreal in December 2022 called COP 15 dealt with the issue of species extinction. There, all participants agreed to protect 30% of the Earth's land and seas by the year 2030, thus "30/30." How this will be achieved needs more work. Australia's delegation, led by Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek, has promised government action here, but no news on funding to bring it about. Still, Ms Plibersek was able to turn the discussion towards more immediate action instead of aiming for 2050.

We will have some work to do in view of the



federated states that make up post-colonial Australia. In most jurisdictions the elected governments have different rules on such vital things as clearing native habitat from land and forests logging. The Federal Labor government moved in December to disallow awarding Renewable Energy Credits for companies that burn biomass for electricity. While stopping short of a ban on burning forest for energy, the withdrawal of this financial subsidy will likely cut the profit margin enough to halt the slide into clear-felling forests with the deception that this practice cuts carbon emissions. In fact, the harvesting of forests to burn for electricity emits more carbon than burning coal. So this decision is a big win for the environment!

The NSW Coalition government recently tried to change the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Private Native Forestry) Bill 2022*, which would have ended local government involvement in regulating NSW land used for logging and extended private native forestry plans from 15 to 30 years. I thank Tweed National Party MP Geoff Provest for threatening to cross the floor and vote against the retrograde legislation. Facing defeat in Parliament, the Bill was withdrawn.

#### Nimbin park to get new toilet/changeroom block?

NEC has been talking to Lismore MP Janelle Saffin (ALP), who says she will work hard to get our community some much-needed amenity. The sad reality is Nimbin pool has only one room for changing clothes combined with one toilet, not a situation many communities would accept.

When the pool is closed (after dark and during colder half of the year), we have no toilets there at all! People using Peace Park for picnics and sports, like the skate park, have to go a considerable distance for a toilet.

I hope Ms Saffin can pull the funding together for this improvement. Peace Park toilets might also link in with plans for the Nimbin Walking Track, which now has substantial funding and could be under construction before the NSW state election in March. Remember to lobby candidates for promises and policies that are sustainable. Our future depends on it!

We used to say that we need to act to prevent the disastrous effects of climate change in future. The future is here! We must change how we perceive our environment. The world is not just a backdrop to the games people play: it is the home where we live. Every decision will require an assessment of environmental effects. Happy New Year 2023.

# Consent lacking in Kyogle's private native forestry



Private logging at Sheepstation Creek

by Kyogle Environment Group

Private Native Forestry (PNF) is defined as the management of native vegetation on private property for sustainable logging and timber production.

In NSW this is regulated by Local Land Services and the Office of the Environment, with dual consent required from local councils as a way of assessing the cumulative impact of PNF across a landscape.

When logging was halted on private land next to the Border Ranges World Heritage National Park in July 2022, while still under formal investigation by the EPA, it prompted Kyogle Council to review their records on 133 Private Native Forestry Plans. It was found that no dual consent applications had been submitted to Council since 2013, making any PNF

under these plans unlawful.

This would cover half of all forest under freehold title (160,000 hectares) within the Kyogle LGA.

With falling supply of timber from public forests there is an increasing reliance on private forestry, and recent changes made by the state government to the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice have increased the intensity of logging and with that increased the risk of extinction, including that of koalas.

The North Coast Regional State of the Environment report expresses concern that PNF is being approved in areas designated as koala habitat and for areas of rainforest, as is the case with the Border Ranges logging.

Even when privately owned, a healthy natural environment such as a native forest is a public good, just like a school or a hospital and just like a school or a hospital this natural environment



is deserving of government support and this would be in keeping with national, state and regional state of the environment reports that all say land clearing needs to cease.

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation of Councils recognises this, asking the State government to shift to plantation hardwood forestry, seeing this as significantly more viable, responsible and appropriate way to secure timber resources required.



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#### January What's On!

\$15 unless otherwise noted  
Bookings: text 0475-135-764  
or email: [sibley@nnic.org.au](mailto:sibley@nnic.org.au)

#### Workshops

- **Wed 11th: Bamboo Stardome** – Learn to build one based on a 2V geodesic dome using a minimum of materials and no joiners, for a playspace, greenhouse or chook tractor.
- **Sat 14th: Paracord braids** – Make your own dog collar, leads or livestock halter. \$20 materials included.
- **Thurs 19th: Knitting with Sue** – \$10 donation
- **Sat 21st: Energetic patterns** – Understanding universal pattern dynamics and their

practical application.

- **Sat 28th: Cooking without fossil fuels** – using a solar cooker, rocket stoves, building a cob oven. Off-site, \$35 bookings essential.
- **Wednesdays: Weaving circle** – 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 Monday-Friday. Basketballs & pumps available, \$5 deposit.



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street  
**Happy New Year to all**



## Bentley mega quarry

The impact of the Bentley Quarry on the people of Bentley is significant for those who have had the courage and determination to oppose this quarry for the past five years. This mega quarry has now been approved to extract 300,000 tonnes a year for the next 30 years, blasting every month and leaving a hole that is 17 storeys in depth on over 6.5 hectares.

The quarry abuts the regional Lismore to Kyogle Road, is located in Regionally Significant agricultural land, allows up to 140 truck movements a day on a road which has had many serious accidents and will compromise any agritourism and sustainable agriculture developments within one kilometre of the quarry because of the blasting.

The quarry operator started quarrying on the site in 2018 without submitting a Development Application (DA) before doing so. Richmond Valley Council (RVC) determined that the quarry had existing use rights despite the fact that there had been no quarrying, apart from on farm use, since the 1970s.

As a former Councillor on Lismore Council, I am very aware that, due to the lack of regulation of quarries, State Environmental Planning Policy 33 was introduced in 1993 to ensure quarries were

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.

regulated. Those who had quarries on their property were given two years to lodge a DA, otherwise they could not operate. No DA was submitted by the owners of the property as they were farmers. Yet somehow RVC located a way around this and approved it for continuing use rights when Mr. Mackenzie asked them to do so in 2018. He was approved to extract up to 2,000 tonnes p.a. with four truck movements a week, which he has exceeded hugely, yet RVC continue to state basically that they have spoken to the operator and it's all ok!!

Penny Holloway, the Chair of the Northern Rivers Planning Panel, said they were approving the quarry on the basis of being permissible in the zone and public interest.

Yet in doing so the Panel clearly accepted that the reports they had requested the proponent to provide

after the first meeting were acceptable despite the evidence provided by opponents that they had overlooked many things, including the location of a water bore and a house on the property 400 metres from the quarry, the impact on other residents and the risk of injury to school children who travel on the buses that use Bentley Road.

They also ignored the fact that the neighbour whose land will be impacted has already invested \$2 million – far more than the less than \$1 million investment by the quarry operator - with up to 100 new jobs compared to the two additional staff the quarry operator will provide. And those positions will be in the agritourism and hospitality industries, providing opportunities for other local farmers to follow suit, and reducing carbon emissions.

Tourism Australia has said that agritourism is the

fastest growing industry contributing \$18 billion to the economy, so it's a shame this potential in Bentley has been extinguished by this decision.

Were we surprised at the outcome? Disappointed yes, but not surprised as Planning Panels approve 98% of the DAs referred to them. And several examples of their decisions in this region are DAs at Yamba and West Byron, which were rejected by the Councils and faced strong opposition.

To us it's now clear that provided an activity is permitted in a zone and can demonstrate some public interest, nothing else matters!

I notice the celebration by some in the community at the outcome. I imagine that they will never oppose a development near their property no matter how significant the impact may be on them and their futures. And I can only hope that there will be no loss of life

on Bentley Road caused by quarry trucks. If there is, perhaps Penny Holloway and her two other panel members will reflect on their decision and regret not listening to the community.

Ros Irwin  
Lismore

## Do you like being old?

I have a friend in her early 80s who lives alone with significant cognitive impairment.

Her life is pared to simplicity and to an intentional absence of stress. Her decision-making is minimal. Her memory has disintegrated, which is part of an overall decline in her mental and physical health, but still she manages her life with aplomb.

I knew her when she was vibrantly healthy in mind and body. In some un-thought, perhaps unconscious manner, it seems she has embraced the ravages old age have made to her being-ness – there's not

a test or a pill or a training regimen that might have dealt better with her senescence.

Knowing and accepting the reality of her time of life, physical weakness and muddled thinking, seem to be the secret that has gifted her happiness. Acceptance of her kind is hard to find.

I, too, have an old mind and body; older than her: I struggle with the acceptance of my inabilities – my ancient friend, her acceptance of change, is my exemplar.

Michael Brooke  
Kyogle

## Hippocratic humours, hospital and hope

I love how Nimbin again makes time to ponder and yarn. Such were we in the pub after choir and Carols practice, in sanguine style... summer... good humour.

A tale of victimisation had to be chewed over. Homelessness: even the word disturbs... phlegmatic... kills people in winter, nor kind in summer.

Problematic yes... community-consented solutions?

As it's the season to especially share and celebrate, I was rapt to do early Christmas Cheers with a Murwillumbah registered nurse I trained and remained friends with. She's still nursing, no wonder choleric, nose to the grindstone. But she will save your life at her cost.

At her table I collapsed, she took the slow pulse, rang the awesome ambos and threatened me not to dare die! No Carols for me, though Val Mace and Nimbin Central School excelled again I was glad to hear.

From the Gold Coast I was taken to Tweed Heads Hospital. The care was first class! Multi ethnic doctors were wonderful, thorough; same of the nurses: such hard work and kindness. And ward and food staff - amazing, 24 hour experience where all got sorted with skilled diligence: shout out to multidisciplinary



## About us

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

Rosie and Trevor  
Bookkeeper Martha Paitson

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

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**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**Friday 27th January**

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

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collaboration. When professionalism trumps personality really good things happen.

But I know as a melancholic there is compounded stress, and burnout unaddressed. Even un-recognised but still evident. Truly you do deserve to take care not just give it.

So in the Spirit of Christmas, given all that's happened, I sure can count my Blessings! I hope you can feel the same, and share it, or look to get what you need. Hope 2023 is nigh. Take time and take, not just give, care.

Lois McWhinney  
Nimbin

## Hatred is pointless

If I needed a man to hate, Scott Morrison is a baleful candidate. And I can think of many other politicians who are equally loathsome.

But hatred is an irritation that saps my good energy, it gives me acid reflux, and pointlessly it's always retrospective. So instead I'll deliberately turn my mind to the future, where I find a swathe of political humans I'm in danger of detesting: I find myself burping and farting when I think of them.

No! Negatives bods are too costly to my peace of mind; rotten sods of politicians are detrimental to my good health.

I think instead I'll celebrate the lives of those I really admire. Penny Wong is one: she has a lovely smile, a keen mind, and having talked with her I know she is deeply compassionate. It feels pretty good to think positive; thinking positive is quite eccentric but it lifts the spirit: I recommend it.

Oh, yes, and I really do like Jacqui Lambie.

Michael Brooke  
Kyogle

## Australia signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Is the Australian Government going to breach that treaty by acquiring nuclear weapons?

A nuclear powered submarine is a nuclear weapon whether or not it carries nuclear missiles. It is not a cruise or cargo ship.

A rifle without a bullet in its breach is still a weapon, why else do we have to apply for licences in order to

possess one.

How much will these nuclear submarine acquisitions cost the Australian bottomless pit also known as 'The Treasury' and why is this cost not being disclosed?

The Australian taxpayer will be subsidising foreign military weapons industry manufacturing.

These nuclear submarine contracts are based upon illegality and as such are voidable.

China is now the bogey man.

How many unjust, illegal wars external to their territory has China been involved in since 1949 compared to Australia?

Australia: Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and anywhere else the USA demands.

China: nil.

In 1965 the British bastards could not dump Australia's primary producers fast enough to join the European Common Market.

Australia's farmers would have been up sewerage creek if China had not stepped in to save them by acquiring their produce.

To set the record straight, the WW2 Potsdam Agreement told Japan to get out of Formosa/Taiwan and it was returned to China. It is Chinese Territory.

Claire De Ellae  
Urbenville

## Peace the key to progress

Most normal Australians and world citizens were devastated when the world's "Leaders" hijacked the Climate Change Conference in 2013, with all deferring any action to protect the future of our children and grandchildren and used it as a platform to insult any nations other than Western so-called democracies to insult those countries that attended in good faith expecting Climate Change to be the issue.

Instead of sending the Environment Minister or non-existent Science Minister, Australia sent Julie Bishop who made expansionist deals promoting overproduction of the World's scarce resources.

Again and again, COP22 also failed to produce any change, as our Labor Minister Penny Wong was

instructed by the hierarchy only to promise more war machines in so-called "defense" which actually heats up our atmosphere enormously and does not replace the destroyed vegetation that provides the oxygen we need to breathe.

This Climate Conference was reminiscent of the World Population Conference in Brazil in the 1990s when the leaders all swore to act to reduce population but, too embarrassed by their personal excess children, did absolutely nothing with their promises on returning home.

The human race has to stop wasting argument on such guilt feelings and act for the future if they wish to be represented in our future world. We need World Peace – not brokered by self-interested major powers spying on us all and engineering incidents to defend their interests and actions. The peoples of the World do not need the guilt of World War 3.

Global Warming has been forced off the agenda by obsessions with war, imposing beliefs on others and greed.

We need a transparent change of policies from expansion to conservation of resources and protection of our dwindling environment for survival. There is no Planet B, and as top predator we are obligated to protect this one.

Anne Sutherland  
Robina

## Recommended reading

Many of us are experiencing, at times overwhelming feelings of anguish, anger and desperation, in the face of ecological crises, gaping economic inequality and racial injustice, and a post-truth in politics that's divorced from reality.

In *Living Democracy*, environmental activist Tim Hollo offers bold ideas and a positive vision for the future. While it might be the end of the world as we know it, it doesn't have to be the end of the world.

Hollo presents lessons for communities, organisations, political parties and individuals, and a recipe for combining all these ingredients into transformative collective

action.

He gives us local and international examples of consultative, deliberative, co-operative processes, which achieve beneficial outcomes for people and the environment.

Encouragements to read this book come from: Bill McKibben, David Ritter, James Bradley, Tyson Yunkaporta, Tjanara Goreng Goreng, Scott Ludlam and Christine Milne.

Ari Ehrlich  
Limbinwood

## Rate rise tax cut fiasco

It doesn't take much to see the flyweight collusion between our politicians, especially when it comes to their purses.

Ley and Dutton came out swinging with allegations that Labor would break the promise of tax cuts for the gloved society.

Albanese entered the ring with the chin down, eyes diverted, defence of "No we will not."

Barnaby tags with we need money for the rural sector but the ring is rotten and nearly collapses because the bottomless Treasury pit has been overpaying the promoters.

Those at ringside jump the ropes and ask Barnaby to stop the tax uppercuts and give pensioners a rise so they will be able to pay their council rates.

Ali shuffles prevail. The Pollytishuns all want their pay rise disguised so they use the courtesy of the tax system.

In Urbenville, where the residents pay more per dollar valuation on their council rates than those in Point Piper, a fight where some idiots are promoting an incompetent council and the Tenterfield Mayor defending with "It's good for you to have a 43% compound rate rise."

It appears that the bout is fixed.

At a meeting of the Mayor and spectators in the Urbenville Madison Square Gardens Hall three exceptional heroes tell them all to GF.

I will vote for these three higher IQ gifted if they stand for Council.

Claire De Ellae  
Urbenville



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