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The Minns government will deliver an additional 500 paramedics for regional and rural NSW

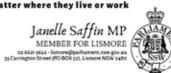
The \$150 million dollar commitment will be delivered within our first term of the parliament

This is an important step towards improving our regional healthcare services

our regional nealthcare services

Every one in NSW deserves safe, quality medical care No matter where they live or work





A tribute to Nora Savona

Eulogy by Lois Kelly



Theodora Eleanora Savona (Nora) arrived on earth on 23rd January 1956, and departed on 5th May 2023.

Her departure has left a huge Norasized hole on this planet – a hole we will find so hard to fill. But we will – and it will take some time. We'll fill it with laughter, dancing, generosity and more than a few cocktails and joints.

What an amazing character! There is not enough time or space to capture her essence, her spirit, her fun, her many and varied talents, or indeed her life experiences, but I'll give it a try!

Nora found her tribe in Nimbin in the early noughties – a year or so after being the postmistress in Broadwater and owner-operator of Mamma Malta's Pastizzi Van.

She sold coffee and pastizzis – from her beloved Malta – at events all over the Northern Rivers. She was ever the entrepreneur, a specialist in buying, selling, and fixing – some of it ever so slightly left of centre!

Her talents ranged from carpentry, electronics, small machinery and all types of motors: cars, vans, trucks, and bikes – particularly Harley Davidson bikes. She regaled us with stories of her relationships with Harleys, from being a founding member of Dykes on Bikes, to





forming vigilante groups to protect young gay men in Sydney in the times when streets were dangerous for them, to riding her Harley at 170kph – wind in her hair and high as a kite! Wild Woman!

Fixing old cars entertained her for hours, although in true Nora fashion she often didn't finish them – something else would come along and capture her attention. Who could forget Frank? That old 1976 Rover was a big love in her life!

She'd scour the internet for hours for parts: a steering wheel, a badge, hubcaps, window handles and so much more. Then a range of parts that only she understood, along with seats and carpets. Years she put into Frank!

Alas, poor Frank – he became a victim of the recent floods and ended up being donated to the Rover Club.

And how she could cook! Preparing dinner parties and cocktails with her was a delight. Prawns, seafood, everything... became gourmet experiences under Nora's guiding

hand. And how she loved salamis, cheeses and other Maltese delicacies.

Nora was always the first one to step up and volunteer to do things for others. She had a huge heart... HUGE! She served on many boards of management, always going out of her way to be helpful. Oh, such generosity of spirit!

And what an organiser she was. Who could forget 'Nimbin Goes Queer' a few years back? Blokes became women, women became blokes, the entertainment was amazing and so was the food!

And she was so smart – working so hard to get her law degree in her later years. She'd have made a bloody fantastic lawyer!

Oh Nor-Nor – you woolly vagabond! How we will miss you!

You've jumped on your celestial Harley and there's no doubt that wherever your spirit is, you'll be making whoopee – zooming through the heavens laughing with the wind in your hair.

Rest in Peace Dave Basten

Eulogy by Lyndal Gray

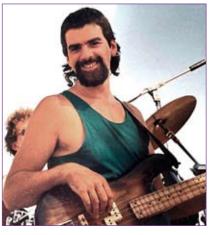
It is with great sadness to say that David Basten passed away on 10th May, with his loved ones by his side.

David battled well with his illness, which is a credit to him.

David's skill with his bass playing is well known and well respected.

He also always had a place where other musos could set up and play to their hearts' content.

David loved his bus run and got on well with the children, and his love for Volkswagons and all things mechanical is well known in the

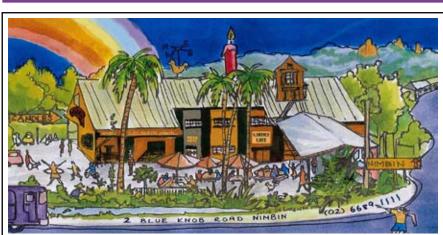


village.

At this point I must say, the love and help David had through his time with the illness is nothing short of remarkable.



To see David's family, friends and the lovely nurses who visited him every day, is heart-warming.





Nimbin Bush Theatre Cafe Now serving breakfast Open 7 days 9am-3pm Phone 6689 1111

Big win for return of trains on Byron's railway

by Lydia Kindred

After 20 months of dedicated effort to meet rigorous compliance standards, the Northern Regional Railway Company (NRRC) has been granted a 12-month Minor Activities Licence between Bangalow and Yelgun, by Transport Asset Holding via Transport for New South Wales and UGL.

This is a monumental achievement, and we at Northern Rivers Rail Ltd (NRRL) want to congratulate NRRC on their success.

This licence will enable us to accurately cost the repair of the railway throughout the Byron Shire and is the first stage in the return of railway services.

We understand that this may be a controversial issue, but we want to make it clear that NRRL and NRRC are not against rail trails.

We are, however, against the removal of railway lines, especially when they can create significant financial and social benefits for regional and rural communities, like the Byron Shire.

With over 2.21 million visitors in 2019, Byron Bay is undoubtedly one of Australia's most sought-after destinations. However, the lack of transport services has limited the community's integration and productivity.

The revival of the railway corridor can



be a game-changer for Byron Bay, as it can connect the town with other parts of the region, making it easier for visitors to explore and for locals to commute.

It can also help ease traffic congestion and reduce the impact on the environment.

NRRL is the local face of the railway. We will directly interact with the community to manage the day-to-day operations of the local railway.

This includes scheduling, ticket sales, events, public relations, and asset acquisitions, such as trains and carriages, station construction/upgrades,

We are committed to working closely with the local community to ensure that the railway benefits everyone.

Our slogan is "Trains for a better community." We believe that the railway can help create a more integrated and productive community, and we are dedicated to making that a reality.

Join us on this exciting journey as we work to bring the railway back to the Byron Shire and beyond!

We need helpers more than ever now, so for more information and how you can help us start clearing the corridor, go to the "Volunteers" tab on our website: northernriversrail.com.au





'Dams don't make water, they kill rivers and communities'

by Nature Conservation Council of NSW

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC), the state's leading environmental advocacy organisation, has criticised the misinformation being spread by members of the northern NSW agricultural elite, and members of Federal and State Parliaments, in relation to the cancelled Dungowan Dam project.

According NCC CEO, Jacqui Mumford, the Dungowan Dam will not solve Tamworth's drinking water issues and will have devastating effects on downstream communities.

"Dams don't make water, they just kill rivers and hurt downstream communities," she said.

NCC's objections are supported by the Productivity Commission, and NSW Minister for Water, Rose Jackson, made clear that Infrastructure Australia, Infrastructure



NSW, and several other NSW Government agencies have suggested the project not proceed.

To Mumford building a massive dam is an out-dated solution and points to Europe and the United States where dams are being torn down to be replaced by investments in smart new technologies, such as managed aquifer recharge and water purification.

Tamworth Regional Council is also looking into a water purification plant that would provide thirsty abattoirs with a new water source, freeing up valuable drinking water for the community.

"The solutions to water scarcity in the Peel catchment are simple. Purifying water for use in local meat works will do more for Tamworth's

future than digging a hole and praying for rain," Ms Mumford said.

By investing in regional communities, "enough water will flow through the Murray Darling Basin to provide clean drinking water to every town, to rivers that inland Australians can enjoy, and ensure our precious plants and animals don't go extinct,"







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Nimbin Aquarius 50 thank-you's



by Benny Zable

Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary finished on a high note, thanks to all participants.

Acknowledging elders past and present from the Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung Nation whose lands we occupy and who have never seeded sovereignty, post-Aquarius 50 the focus will be on the up-coming referendum towards officially giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders a voice in the

No change of government would be able to alter this inclusion without another unlikely referendum. The inclusion in the constitution will enable cultural and general lifestyle improvements for people on their own terms and pathways towards treaty/ise. That is why I support the YES vote.

There are so many people to thank. Sorry if I had left you personally or your group off this list.

As outgoing President of the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc (NAFI), I wish to first thank Bob Dooley (Vice President), and publisher of the Nimbin GoodTimes; Katie Cawcutt (Treasurer), looking after our needs and archive collections; Karen Welsh (Assistant Treasurer); Renee English (Secretary); Binnah Powell (Committee member) with Anne McGovern (Committee member), who liaised with first nations people; Moppy Chiring Chuden (Member), Greg Bork, who is our new researcher for Nimbin Aquarius archives and exhibited them during the Aquarius50; and Tedi Davis, took care of NAFI merchandise.

Thanks to the Friends of Aquarius 50 planners and workers, especially Nimbin resident filmmakers Paul Tait and Jenny Kendell; Ben Hartley, Nimbin Aquarius 50 web nebular; Franca Wolfe, taking the minutes for both NAFI and Friends of Aquarius meetings; Johnny Allen and Graeme Dunstan who originally produced and directed the original 1973 festival; David Hyett President of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce; Michael Balderstone (President of the Hemp Embassy), a trouble shooter and a major funder of the Nimbin Aquarius 50; Caroline Nature, who liaised for NAFI with the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce; Pauline Ahern who worked tirelessly on the information desk; Jenny Cornish, AQ50 media liaison and founder of the Aquarius Church; Cath Greenwood, Nim-FM radio presenter for the Aquarius 50 two-hourly weekly program; Dominic Farnworth, musician and festival director of Gold Coast environmental events; Jagad Samuel, Black Sheep Farm guesthouse, assisted by Toni, Julian, Jazmin and Seiko in looking after Philippe Petit and his manager; Geoff Cantor streaming live Nimbin Aquarius50 events from unusual places; and Judy Hale and the Nimbin Community School Co-operative, for giving us a well-resourced space to hold our meetings.

Thanks to Harsha Prabhu who designed the Sunday Mothers Day/ Aquarius50 program for The Channon Market; Robyn Kelly (Manager of The Channon Market) for making us Charity of the Day; Michael Jack and family for reviving the legendary Rainbow Chai



Tent/s for the Aquarius 50 celebrations; and to Beverley Callow, for filming with a drone The Channon Market Peace Mandala and the closing spiral dance.

A heartfelt thanks to our two special international guest performers, Philippe Petit and Fantuzzi, who were everpresent, delighting us with their shows.

Thank you Dave Hyett for helping with the large Aquarius sign which Peter Skalicky, Carlo Cosaro and Yuto Nomura erected on the banks of the Mulgum Creek, illuminated by Darren.

I am so grateful to Chrystelle who looked after me and help me out on many important needy tasks before, during and after Aquarius 50. Also John Breitbart, a friend from New York City, who came over for MardiGrass and Nimbin Aquarius 50.

A special thanks to Katie Cawcutt, Johnny Allen and Graeme Dunstan, Dave Hallett, Paul Tait, Jenny Kendell and Ben Hartley in creating this awesome programme. Their contribution set the tone of the festival.

All in all, most people were inspired and happy with the outcomes. Different from previous anniversaries, so many young people came to participate.

The next edition of Nimbin GoodTimes will have an announcement of where and when the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc will be holding its wrap-up session.

Tribute to Col James

by Tom Zubrycki

t was sometime around late 1972 when Graeme L Dunstan, Johnny Allen, myself and Col James (pictured) reached Nimbin.

We'd originally set out from Sydney looking for festival sites and drove into Nimbin and walked into Daisy's Café. This is how it all started.

I remember Col distinctly saying those memorable words: "I want to recycle this town." What he meant was he wanted to breathe new life into it, and he did.

I'd known Col ever since I arrived in Sydney in the late 60's. It was a time of opposition to the Vietnam War - in fact to everything our parent's generation represented. And it was no wonder that we were attracted to the counter culture and to alternative lifestyles.

I was tutoring in Sociology at UNSW. Col was a lecturer there in the Architecture faculty. We shared the same interests and we gravitated to one another.

Col was not a conventional architect - by any means! He took his lead from a breakaway European school which complained that architects had sold out to the



rich. Col was never going to be that person.

He used his skills to transform the idea of "house" from a design object into "housing", the actions that over time enrich people's lives. In his own words, he "made housing a verb".

When I first met Col he was working in designing and improving Aboriginal housing and community facilities in Redfern, in an area called The Block.

This experience he brought to Nimbin. He set his Architecture students the task of creating the basic infrastructure for the festival. Open-air drop toilets were built, community spaces were marked out, camping areas designated, saunas, bamboo bridges and dome structures built. Col made Norman and

Carol a Buckminster Fullerinspired parachute dome. It became 'The Healing Centre'.

But Col never imagined the festival to be an end in itself. He maintained his involvement in Nimbin after Aquarius, making representations to Lismore Council which eventually led to changes in planning regulations that allowed for multiple dwellings on private land. These regulations extended over the whole state.

I remember Col was always on fire with ideas - and had the energy to pursue them and to enthuse others. He saw himself as an activist but was probably more importantly a great influencer.

As Karine Shellshear, his partner, recalls: "Col simply charmed people with exotic ideas of improbable possibilities for solutions - he picked up on what others had within them and encouraged them to run with

"He truly had fire in the belly and great light in his sight of potentiality and opportunity. He acted on the capacity to breathe life into old buildings, old towns and urban spaces, and to revive or re-ignite them."

Col was a recipient of many awards: Order of Australia, a life fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects, the University of Sydney Alumni Award for Community Service, a life member of Shelter, the Australian Housing Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award, and many, many more.

He learnt from history, but he was not keen on looking back. There was simply too much ahead, too many projects to work on, and too many opportunities to build change.

As his powers of memory declined, this essence of his character was unchanged. Col roamed the corridors of the architecture faculty he loved, intent on completing some forgotten but urgent

One of his colleagues reflected: "During that period he spent a lot of time in the faculty, sometimes disoriented, but sometimes lucid. Regardless, to the end he was absolutely committed to his causes... tireless in his pursuit of justice and equity for society and the environment. He never lost that commitment.'

Col James was a very humble man. He carried himself with a quiet dignity, but he was also a giant who took great strides with gentle steps.

He was living proof that sometimes the good guys wear the black hats.

My Aquarius50 highlights

What a wonderful Aquarius Festival and 50th Anniversary Gathering we had here in Nimbin and across some of the region. Feels like something special happened, with so many people saying how vibrant and interesting and affirming and revitalising it was for us.

That was the aim - to have who weare and what we have achieved put into conversations and the question asked: "Where to from here?" - to have us feel good about what has been achieved here and how many people have led such dedicated lives for the betterment of us

We have a lot for which we can be very proud and often in life we don't stop to celebrate our milestones and the dear people who have done so much to enrich and improve our lives and fought so hard to love and protect Dear Mother Gaia.

Over the ten days there were so many highlights. Firstly on the opening day, 'First Nations Day', there was calling country and special welcome to everyone to come in peace. Gilbert Laurie, Lola Roberts, Peter Roberts, Lewis Walker, Steve Didge and many others gave wise words and performed songs and later dances of cultural significance. There was the "Invocation" written by John Seed, and the Aquarian welcome with Graeme Dunstan and others.

Harry Freeman on the grand piano, Megan James on harp, Shivam Rath playing Indian music in honour of Bauls of Bengal here in 1973. Mira Stannard, Judy Arpana, Auralia Rose giving words of spirit and Tina Mews Astrology of Aquarius. Judy Atkinson and Rhoda Roberts on First Nations Medicine and Law – such an excellent and moving talk.

David Hallett's Poet's Breakfast; music with K'Flunk, Missus Hippy &the Lovehandles, Fantuzzi, the Hari Krishnas; a LightnUp Lantern Parade and the Aquarius Cabaret with shining stars like Mic Conway, Scarlet Ruffles and the Hussy Hicks; Ellis D Fogg's Lightshows; the Fashion Parades including the wonderful Linda Jackson.



Magic moments: four and two hours of the highest information of health and agriculture on the planet from Graeme Sait; words of wisdom on the environment from Professor Ian Lowe; and even a song which raised the roof of the Hall 'The Times They are a Changing'.

The Environmental Giants of Hugh and Nan Nicholson and Michael and Victoria Murphy and Dailan Pugh and Sue Higginson and on and on they filled the room! Terri Nicholson singing to her children in Songs for Mother Gaia. Nicolas Scali, John Lee Paddle and Amirah on Physchedics and Integrated Healing; Mira Stannard and a myriad of homebirthers talked of Homebirth before and now.

Talks on Alternative Energy with Peter Pedals, Paul O'Reilly, Guy Stewart, Zachery Rook, Richard Corkish, Sebastian Crangle. The Aquarian Dinner hosted by Johnny Allen and Graeme Dunstan. A whole day discussing Community including a workshop with Carol Perry. More talks on architecture with Mark Baxter and Mandie Hale. On death, dying and remembrance went deep into our souls especially Tenzin Choegyal and Cye's music based on the Tibetan Book of the

124 young people loved the Nimbin ROX Concert, Chai Tent and fire put on

especially for them. Films were screened included The Giants, Step into Paradise, The Last Violin (with a most wonderful concert with Carla Thackrah, Romano Crivici and Linsey Pollak afterwards), Senses of Cinema, Give Trees a Chance introduced by Jack Thompson (who also played great harmonica!).

A session on the Flood with photographs by Jacklyn Wagner, a poem by Rebecca Rushbrook, such moving stories and writings and music for a friend from Megan James and Luke Vassella. Music by Cigany Weaver, Tenzin Cheogal and Cye, Greg Sheehan Trio, Lonesome Boatmen, Gary Dozier and Kathryn Riding, Andrea Soler and finishing up with the amazing Heart Collectors. An hour of magic with Phillippe Petit in Peace Park.

Plus a whole program with First Nations folk at the Showgrounds, as well as events at Djanbung Gardens, 7 Sibley Street and Blue Knob Hall and huge events at Tuntable Falls Co-op and Rainbow Power.

A ten-day spiritual program at the Church of Aquarius and Black Sheep Farm's 'Flourish Sanctuary'. As well, the Chai Tent and talks and discussion circles at the World Rainbow Cafe Tent, workshops at Birth & Beyond, the Dance Studio, and farm tours to Dharamanda for cheese making and gardening. A special Channon Market Day which was a huge success with Mic Conway, Phillippe Petit, Fantuzzi and many others and dance with Benny Zable, yoga and meditation and tai chi and much more.

The end ceremony with Benny and Phillippe structuring the 'Tug of Peace' and then we all smiled and danced and the Vocal Minority Choir lifted us up to the sky with peace and love. Sealed again at dusk by our First Nations Uncle Cecil Roberts and Steve Didge and other brothers and sisters.

We were back in that beautiful bubble once felt with such intensity in 1973 that we remember again this day. Thank you all for sharing with such generosity! The Dream lives...



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Speaking from the Heart

by Dr Gary Wohlman

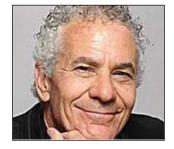
1 hank you, dear Nimbin community, for hosting the Aquarius Festival

It was my first time ever visiting your friendly town. I felt grateful to be invited by Michael Balderstone, one of the organisers, to offer a 'Speaking from the Heart' session at the Church of Aquarius.

The yummy venue was packed out for my event, where all were invited to participate in Monty Pythonesque scenarios, to transform their worst fears about feeling safe to be heard and seen into theatrical skits that were so much fun.

The whole room was in tears of gratitude witnessing one after another stepping up with vulnerability, authenticity and courage, breaking free of limitations while having an outrageously

enjoyable time doing it. A peak moment that stood out for everyone was when a woman stood up to share



what has been in her way of fully expressing herself.

She told us all that she has "too many boxes", and simply can't function with all these reminders of her past cluttering her mind and home.

I asked her to select a bunch of participants and have them all plant themselves in positions, just like the boxes felt in her consciousness and her home. She joyfully did just that, assembling people's bodies just like she saw them in her mind, crowding the centre of room.

Tears streaming down her face, she was then encouraged by me to declare to the boxes of clutter: "I'm ready for a renewed relationship with you," and one by one, she dismissed the boxes of

photos, letters etc, until only two special boxes remained.

She sighed a big breath of relief, smiling with a sh#tfaced ear-to-ear grin, and I remarked: Look how much space, openness and clarity you've just created!

At this moment, everyone in the room was in awe and wet-eyed, as this courageous human set the stage for all of those witnessing to see how they can similarly clear their minds and lives of clutter as well.

I made a promise to contact this bold volunteer on her birthday in a few months, so, with my support, she can report at that time how successful she will have been, following through on the great work she had set in motion for all of us on this special day.

A truly awesome and amazing experience, cocreated by a group of individuals who entered as strangers, and left with sweet memories of sharing the intimacy of caring and bonding in the spirit of

Some participants told me afterwards how empowering, nurturing and inspiring the session was for them, and asked how soon I can return.

Workshop

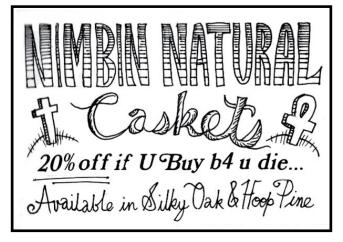
I've just made arrangements to offer a full day workshop on Saturday 15th July at the Town Hall, 47 Cullen Street, from 10-5, for a deeper dive. All are welcome.

The fee for the session is \$100 general admission, or \$50 if you are on concession or poor.

Spaces are limited, so please contact me directly at 0433-126-019 to secure your place and make payment arrangements. Alternatively, send your expression of interest to: drgary@ mypresentationdoctor.com

To access videos of live presentation breakthroughs, visit: www.youtube.com/@ masteringpresentationskill4125

I'm happy to speak with you about your desired outcomes for the session, and also the possibility of you receiving a one-on-one session when I'm in town between Thursday 13th and Monday 17th July.



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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Tale Nora Savona, who passed away in June after an extended illness.

Founder of Dykes on Bikes, first queer female president of a Lions Club, general all-round good woman and beloved Nimbin community member.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her, and we extend our condolences to her family and close friends.

Membership renewals

All NNIC and Tools Library memberships expire on 30th June. Drop into NNIC to renew your memberships.

Membership to NNIC is \$5.50 per year (inc GST) and your membership is very valuable to us, so 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 go to the Sibley Street website: www.7Sibley.org Tools and Equipment Library tab.

Survey for Nimbinites

Have your say about 7 Sibley Street and the adjacent basketball court area. Thanks to the 58 respondents to date, and we will keep the survey open until the end of June, since May was a bit busy and we know most people missed it.

You can find the link to the survey on our website home page and our Facebook page.

Many thanks to the Nimbin Headers!

For their generous donation of the proceeds of their raffle for their Women's Day held on the 28th May in celebration of Female Football Week, to use for women in need in our community.

Coke making you sleepy?

There has been increasing

concern from Australian health authorities about the contamination of drugs sold as cocaine and methamphetamine with fentanyl and acetyl-fentanyl.

This means that people who are using what they think are stimulants may be also inadvertently using one of the strongest forms of opioid available.

The concern is that when a person takes a stimulant which is contaminated with fentanyl, the temptation is to take more of it to gain the desired stimulant effect, thereby posing a potential risk of accidental (and possibly fatal) opioid overdose.

Even where fentanyl is introduced in small amounts into other opioids, such as heroin, and the person using it is not aware, this significantly increases their risk of accidental overdose, see: https://adf.org.au/insights/ fentanyl-australian-illicit-drug

Australian overdose deaths involving fentanyl (along with two other synthetic opioids, pethidine and tramadol) have increased by 1,275% since 2006.

It is therefore highly recommended that all drug users and people who are close to them keep Naloxone in their First Aid Kits.

Take home Naloxone

Back in stock at NNIC and also available at the NSP and the Pharmacy), by appointment. Naloxone is a lifesaving drug, which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose.

Anyone who may become exposed to opiates, whether by prescription or otherwise, is at risk of accidental 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 communityowned cooling plate

The cooling plate is now available for hire to Nimbin community members. (The fee varies according to capacity to pay).

The cooling plate is for use in the context of home deaths, and is placed under the deceased loved one in order to have more time to grieve, for family and friends to say their final farewells and to allow time to make the necessary arrangements.

Contact Nat at NNIC for more info or if you think you may be needing the cooling plate in the near future.

Community care team

The inaugural meet and greet, and training day is happening on 3rd June. We are still looking for more CCT members.

In the event of a disaster, especially where residents become isolated or communications are compromised, CCT members will work in partnership with the Nimbin Emergency Radio holders to communicate with local response agencies and assist by checking on the wellbeing of neighbours in their localities.

CCT members will receive support and training in skills that are valuable in everyday life as well as numerous occupations.

To register your interest please complete the EOI form which can be downloaded from our website (Disasters tab) and send it back to us. Or you can pick up a hard copy from NNIC.

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.

Contact us at: admin@nnic. org.au for more info about how to donate.

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

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

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS - booking and fees apply

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

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

www.nacrs.com.au

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

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

Women's health nurse services

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

Wound clinic

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

Drug and alcohol counselling

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 15th June.

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

ay was a big month in Nimbin, starting with the annual MardiGrass weekend, followed by 10 days of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Aquarius festival.

Our shop had extended open hours on Friday and Saturday nights (5-6th May). On Sunday, 7th May, NEC joined the parade of advocates demanding drug law reform.

Jeremy Buckingham MLC, newlyelected to the NSW Parliament for the Legalise Cannabis Party, joined the call for a rational approach to using marijuana for cooking, medicine, recreation, and building products. A large contingent from the NSW Greens also marched and spoke at the rally afterwards.

MLC Sue Higginson thinks the cross-bench in parliament may now have enough sway to get cannabis de-criminalised, saying, "This may be the last MardiGrass where we march in protest. Next year we may march in celebration."

The Aquarius 50 celebration was enormous in scope. Paul Tait and Jeni Kendall, the main organisers, did a marvellous job. I frequently heard people say, "I want to thank Paul and Jeni..." I want to thank them, too, especially for helping me set up the Nimbin Town Hall on Tuesday 16th May and recruit people to speak at public forums dedicated to our environment.

Much has been achieved in raising environmental concerns since the original Aquarius festival, and many of those attending the forums, which ran all day, told stories of their personal experiences

and large public actions inspired by courage and commitment.

Some of those sharing were Nan Nicolson, Prof Ian Lowe, NEFA President Dailan Pugh and Secretary Susie Russell, MLC Sue Higginson, activist lawyer Eddie Lloyd, Annie Kia, Michael and Victoria Murphy, Sophia Hoeben, Neil Pike, Sean O'Shannessy and John Seed from the Rainforest Information Centre.

The Nightcap Forest struggle was well remembered as the first to achieve a political outcome to protect forests declared by NSW government as National Parks.

The discussions turned to 'What are the Greatest Environmental Issues Now?' which quickly brought in Valerie Thompson and younger activists Emma and Wenzel, who asserted that climate change disasters must be met with strong commitments: preserve forests and protect the biosphere through disrupting the dominant economic model with new and cleaner technologies and ways of being that the Aquarians advocated all those years ago.

Water must be used more wisely and greed controlled to reduce pollution to a manageable level. Local production and waste recycling have to become main objectives, not luxuries, if we are to protect biodiversity.

Prof Ian Lowe said that Australia has the dubious distinction of being the world leader in species extinction, mainly due to land clearing. Only 4% of all animal life (by mass) exists as wildlife. The rest is human and the animals that humans raise.

He said that the Regional Forests Agreements (RFAs) negotiated by governments in the 1990s to harvest forest products while preserving wildlife habitats were not working and had become "political bullshit."

Valerie Thompson said we needed to respect the traditions of First Nations people who had lived sustainably on the Australian continent for more than 60,000 years.

Dailan described various successful actions by committed activists that saved many native forests. He also encouraged us to lobby the new NSW government to keep their promise to create a Great Koala National Park with wildlife corridors throughout the state in order for koalas and other species to thrive rather than be doomed to extinction.

Prof Ian Lowe sang "The Times They are a Changing' with such gusto and joy that everyone joined in, which brought new meaning to our advertised encouragement of 'audience participation'.

Businessman Geoff Cousins, special guest speaker, described some of his exploits to end the Gunn's sawmill-and-woodchip empire and the Franklin River dam in Tasmania, the Woodside gas field development north of Broome, and lately the Adani coal mine in Queensland. All agreed that the first rule must be, "No new fossil fuel projects!"

Governments around the world need to quickly turn away from polluting practices and adopt sensible methods of production rather than wasting the Earth's resources on armaments and war.

We have a short time to make big changes, but if we don't, our very existence is under threat: it will not be just the wildlife that goes extinct, but humanity with it.





Forests in Victoria and WA

News is just in that the Victorian State government has prioritised its policy of ending logging in publiclyowned native forests by 2024.

In 2019, Victoria announced it would end this smash-and-grab logging, which has been heavily subsidised by taxpayers for years.

The decision now to be done with it is a testament to the community groups who have campaigned against it. People power! Their forests will be safe from the end of this year.

The Victoria decision is in line with the recent announcement from the WA government to end logging native timber from the end of this year. Both states have promised additional money to

retrain workers and help mills adjust to the change. In Victoria the budget revealed on 23rd May dedicated funding of \$875 million, which includes existing support services for workers and money to transition to plantation timber.

Greens Parliamentary leader Adam Bandt said we should have a nationwide transition to sustainable, plantation-grown timber and save the forests and wildlife for Australia's future.

In NSW, the new ALP-led state government promised during its 2023 election campaign they would create a Great Koala National Park. They have yet to make any commitment to protect native forests.

We need the koala park and more!



Intergenerational gathering against the winter chill. Photo: Neil Amor

Tree planting at Calico Creek

Websters Creek Landcare hosted a tree-planting day to help mitigate the damage done by the 2022 floods.

The NSW government, via Local Land Services, have provided funding for creek bank restoration.

Local bush regenerator, Richard Burer and his team, along with volunteers and Landowners planted 1,600 trees and Lomandras.

Despite the cold, wet day and the allure of the Aquarius festivities, we had enthusiastic workers and planted a large stretch of Calico Creek just north of



Nimbin village.

These tree plantings will be maintained by landholders with the help of the Landcare group.

If you wish to be involved with Websters Creek Landcare, call Lil: 0400-766-910 or Vanessa: 6689-7079.

Grants for mental health programs

Northern Rivers Suicide Prevention and Awareness Group (NRSPAAG) has recently distributed \$3500 in grants to three Northern Rivers community organisations to help with their events and projects.

The funded projects are for gardening equipment for a youth mental health program, training for suicide awareness for a queer group and catering for a community flood recovery gathering.

If your group is looking for funds to support your plans that address suicide prevention, mental health or community well-being, NRSPAAG would like to hear from you.

We can provide money for resources, printing, training, venue hire, catering and equipment.

"Being a small, local registered charity means we can make decisions on projects within days," President Dot Orchard said. NRSPAAG funds come from donations, grants and its own fundraising.

"We have no administrative costs or overheads, so the funds we raise go out to the groups that need them," Dot said.

For more information contact Secretary, Jenny Dowell on 0402-651-394, or through: jennydowell@hotmail.com or via the group's Facebook page.



June What's On!

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

All about cosy houses!

Workshops: 10.30am - 1.30pm

- Sat 10th: Hempcrete Rendering Our new hempcrete composting loo at 7 Sibley is nearly complete! Join us in the finishing touches – final render coats in hempcrete.
- Sat 17th: Felt Fairy Homes Join Courtney exploring the art of wet felting and needle felting to make 3D sculptural dream fairy houses, all ages. Bookings essential, limited spaces. \$110 includes all materials, morning tea and lunch, 10am-3pm.
- Sat 24th: Building with 'light earth' Less heavy than cob, mud brick or adobe, light earth costs little and provides excellent insulation for in-fill (non-load-bearing) walls. \$30, bookings essential, off-site, 10.30am-3pm.
- Wednesdays: Weaving circle, 10.30am 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.

The cutting edge of wank

Over the course of my life I've evolved a skill set - a set of talents to physically guide or control a creative tool.

Holding a pencil to make every stroke on a piece of paper, typing out every word and sentence, driving a camera manually by setting aperture, ISO, speed, focus point by hand, editing in Photoshop by adjusting every dial, slider and brush using a

Every creative expression I've applied has required years of consistent practice and dedication, using my hand to physically apply the tool. Enter AI.

Now we find ourselves at the doorstep of a technology that effectively removes the human hand and reduces our input to a collection of prompts. With a small list of keywords we can prompt an AI to do all the creative work in forming a poem, book, photo or the like, without ever having to physically touch, physical interact with the work.

For me, comparing this 'prompting regime' to the physical skill of using our hands is a non-starter. The substance and significance separating the two is both vast and fundamental.

Comparing the time and effort to acquire and refine our physical talents, our reallife, face-to-face relationship with our subject to a handful of keywords is an insult not worthy of serious consideration.

Yet many AI users will doubtless claim to be writers and artists of equal standing and deserving of equal respect. They will argue 'it's just another tool' to justify their absence of language skills, or any intrinsic physical

They will label all dissenting opinion as the ravings of troglodytes, technophobes or hate mongers in their attempt to justify their own falsity.

Reducing the human element in art to an idea only will have many adherents who disappear up their own logic to arrive at the cutting edge of wank.

Rod Poole

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.

Bashing the aged

Shortly after WW2 ended, my Dad met a Japanese General.

He told my Dad we used the wrong strategy to take Australia using military force when all we needed was a boat load of Geisha and a barge full of beer. They agreed with each other and laughed as they shared

Today the Japanese, the Chinese or any other nation would not come anywhere near to invading Australia as they are fearful.

The stench of our Parliament would be enough

We have old age pensioners having their incomes cut by coward Treasurers because they saved for some assets to hold in their retirements and to pass onto their children.

If they have a partner that lives with them then cop another income cut.

Die in loneliness and/or poverty is the premise and it will be sooner, thus saving our Treasury some dollars so MPs can travel business class and stay in the finest of accommodations.

Stealing from the aged was once a crime.

When I asked Kevin Hogan about this disgrace his comment was "Oh you have a health care card." When I wrote to the Prime Minister he passed the ball out the back line faster than a Newtown scrum half. When I wrote to the ACTU no reply was the answer to it all. Viva La France Unions.

Yet here we go spending \$368b entering an illegal contract to acquire some nuclear submarines courtesy of the US and GB military

Northern NSW Community Notice board hellnen & mirdfulnurs wordens defox vetreat wellnon in bali shaman Wholist CEFT -framing MINDFUL one one (NF) mhalf brommested wellnum \$900, cancelly WELLNESS 4061C NAMAN TEHNING anti-everythmediner Heaterd 11-heated detax s mindfully hinterant welliness hypno-wellness shaman healer nomení árde mindful shomen manage with mindful shoman

industries.

The contract makes a farce of the Nuclear Non Proliferation treaty of which Australia is a signatory.

www.hollyenglish.com

I was in China and read the China Daily report on this acquisition. It stated that the submarine is dated weaponry and even our old superceded YU8 missile can take them out in less than 30 seconds.

\$368 billion of illegal waste, and they put our aged, and no doubt our future generations into starvation mode.

PM Morrison and his MPs Ruston and Robert gave disgraceful illegal financial advice (they were not Financial Advisors) for the aged to obtain reverse mortgages if the pensioner was having financial difficulty.

How disgusting was this advice.

The Labor and Greens Parties are in agreement with this cowardly policy.

If savings are needed in our Budget then how about MPs reduce their salaries if they live with a partner or have assets exceeding \$250

AND remember you read it here first in the Nimbin GoodTimes.

> Ian May Urbenville

Al and war drones

It's interesting to hear many of the world's top tech guys wrote an open letter to halt developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) until some safe keeping measures can be put in place.

However, with the billions of dollars being poured into the tech by major corporations I'm not very confident this will happen, especially on a global level.

Picture this scenario though, we have two relatively tech savvy

countries at war, say Russia and Ukraine. They are already using unmanned explosive drone technology to target civilians.

Let say they start to implement AI technology to strategise and control how the drones will attack civilian targets. The AI continues to learn, develop and sophisticate its attacking techniques and one or two glitches lead to basically all out assault and any civilians targets.

And as they say with AI when one computer learns, the entire AI network of computers that are connected learns. This then leads to global assault on humanity by AI taking over remote controlled weaponry.

This is basically the theme of what happened in the Terminator movies from the 1980s and 90s, when AI was just an idea. But at this moment in time it seems like the reality of this coming to fruition has never been closer.

If AI-controlled drone technology was available, which, it is likely is just around the corner, would anyone not expect Russia or Ukraine or the US or China not to implement it in war?

Jeremy Johns Duranbah

I am bloody angry

Australian nuclear submarine program to cost up to \$368b.

homeless or they are living in insecure housing. The last with their families or alone.

Australia's health system is suffering increasing rates of chronic disease, longer hospital waiting lists for essential care, healthcare underfunding, and rising costs in all areas including

Australia faces hotter summers, rising ocean temperatures, increased storm activity, regular massive floods and frequent destructive wildfires.

Australia's subsidised fossil fuel industry, a driver of negative climate change, is thriving while Australia is experiencing vast land degradation, which includes water erosion, wind erosion, loss of vegetation, soil salinity, and the increasing ruination of food producing land.

Yet Australian can afford a nuclear submarine program costing \$368b. War machines which will menace our most profitable trading partner, China, a nation that has never ever threatened us. \$368b squandered at the behest of the USA.

We are governed by lunatics with a death wish.

Michael Brooke Kyogle

Males don't belong in women prisons

The Loon's April NGT column titled 'Gonadal Determinism' attempted to justify placing men into women's prisons. Not just men who claim they are women either, but also effeminate men.

The piece claims anyone who objects is a biological determinist. This is a strawman, and patently false.

The feminist objection to men in women's prisons is not one of: "They are male; therefore, they must be violent." This misunderstanding of feminism, by men, is a common one.

The objection is actually "They are male, and all statistics globally show that men commit the majority of violent crime and the vast majority of sex crimes."

Feminists do not seek to explain, with this objection, whether the cause of said male violence is due to nature or nurture. We just seek to work with reality, for the safety, privacy, and dignity of women and girls.

Perhaps the Loon needs to hear the testimony of terrified female prisoners

forced to share space with violent male sex offenders.

Women and girls are a sex, and our sex remains politically important due to sexism. We are not pretty men, men with cosmetic surgery, a hormone level, a costume, an identity, a performance of stereotypes, or a concept in any man's head. We are the embodied meaning of the word.

The tide is turning. If you object to this misogynist nonsense, know that you are not alone. There is a wave of women and our allies rising up. People can liken our knowledge of facts to eugenics, white supremacy, and patriarchal religions, but this is purely political slander. The truth is simply that we know the truth, and we are not afraid to speak it, even if somebody somewhere is offended.

Germaine Daly Nimbin

Male inmates in women prisons a disgusting idea

I've never before felt compelled to write to a newspaper, let alone write in dissent of something my fellow community member has written, but I feel compelled to call out this person for their ignorance and disregard for female safety, dignity and humanity.

Recently in NGT paper, Laurie the Loon suggested that: if males who selfidentify as women are merely pretending so that they can access female prisons and/ or female prisoners- then the female prisoners will give them their "just desserts" and so it's a win-win.

In my opinion it is absolutely ridiculous and disgusting to suggest that it would be a win to force females locked in prisons to defend themselves against males who came there to assault and violate them. This vile notion de-humanises the female inmates, and I find it extremely misogynistic.

There are so very many other things wrong with the suggestion that I don't even know where to begin.

> Amy Stark Lismore

About us

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Aengus, Kitty, Bob, Rob and
Lisa, Linda, Jock, Rosie, Trevor

Linda Introduction of put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson e**b** www.nimbingoodtimes.com And find us on Facebook

81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 23rd June

Email nimbin.goodtimes@

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.

Families with children are census shows around 19,400 children are homeless, either

medical research and

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd AGM: Wednesday 21st June, 5.30pm at the Comskool Room in Nimbin Community Centre

Lismore Politics in the Pub

Topic: The Voice to Parliament, speaker Thomas Mayo, Thursday 22nd June, 7pm at Lismore Heights Bowling Club.

Nimbin Poetry monthly dates

Thursdays 6th July and 3rd August at The Verandah Cafe, 7-9.30pm. Performance Poetry World Cup: Sunday 3rd September at Nimbin Hall.



No mandate to reduce LCC chamber numbers

Mayor Krieg, in your column in last month's Nimbin GoodTimes (April 2023), you outlined your priority to decrease numbers in the chamber.

I had a read of what you wanted to achieve as Mayor, pre-election, and there was no mention of reducing council numbers in your election publicity. I do not believe you have any mandate to reduce numbers in the chamber.

You failed to outline any advantage in reducing representation in an LGA that has so many problems and people in need.

While you have outlined many times how you don't want the job, on national TV and radio, and even at a leadership conference at Trinity, it would follow that you do not want to stand again. Is it right to commit time and money to a referendum that, if successful, you and your team would not be around to implement?

Your council has little to show in the way of achievement apart from making koalas more vulnerable. Most councils see koalas as a tourism boon. Your Lismore does not want to scare developers away and reduce real estate profits. Do the real estate agents on your team remove themselves when there is a conflict of interest in the chamber?

Your team was mostly invisible in the flood crisis. The electorate knows who on Council was a help.

The hallmark of your Mayorship has been little knowledge on how things work. You could not get your choice of CEO, when you had the votes.

Most of all, your legacy will be making Lismore the safest ALP seat in the state and the first called in the recent election.

With the new State government, your aim to reduce council numbers is unlikely to get much of a hearing from the new minister informed by our local member.

If it's still so important for your team to reduce representation, you can have the courage of your convictions and resign.

> Karen Grimditch Lismore Channon.

Nuclear weapons-free future

It is with great concern and disappointment, but not surprising, that the brief hope we had for a nuclear weapons-free future, through the efforts of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and its supporters, has for the present, has been derailed.

And there is no hope, that this present Labor government will keep its commitment to signing the anti-nuclear Treaty.

The recent gathering of the G7 in Hiroshima, attended by Albanese, has scuttled the whole process with more lip service and rhetoric, and nothing concrete to move into the future.

Political parties, who needs

As for the so-called Greens Party, we suggest their behaviour is schizophrenic, after all they did get behind the Labor Party in a big way giving them their preferences during the election.

What we need are good strong Independents with principles like Ted Mack (ex Mayor of North Sydney) in the late 80s, who refused to take his perks and guaranteed life-long pension on retirement, along with MP Andrew Wilkie.

And we need the public to get off their apathetic and complacent butts, and attempt to keep them accountable.

As for the so-called Chinese threat, Australia would be in a far worse economic position, if it wasn't for the cheap labour and trade, that we get from

What hope is there for Julian Assange? Just more verbal diarrhea.

How any one could possibly trust them with this 'Yes' vote is beyond our comprehension.

'Truth, Justice, Treaty and a Bill of Rights for all'.

> **Deborah Stacey** Ballina

"The" Channon, please!

It has come to my attention (as a past home owner for 10 years) that some locals and visitors are taking the 'short cut', renaming "The" Channon with "the"

I noticed this in the Aquarius 50 advertisement for The Channon Market, noting "the" Channon Market.

The latest Market advertisment on Terania Street doesn't help as "The" is in much lighter print.

Let's honour this historic village and be true to the name: "The Channon."

Thank you, 2480 resident and proud.

> Catherine Kavanagh Lismore

The Voice - don't let it pass because you are uninformed

It saddens me to hear any negativity being said around the up-coming referendum over The Voice.

I totally endorse the comments made by Mark Pestell in previous editions of the Nimbin GoodTimes.

We expect negativity from certain groups of politicians but when your friends and peers express uncertainty that becomes worrying.

The Voice has been gathering momentum since 2017 and it's come to head in 2023 because Anthony Albanese made an election promise to have a referendum on it.

First Nations communities across Australia have overwhelmingly endorsed the Uluru Statement From the Heart; delegates from all around Australia and the Torres Strait Islands were appointed to represent their mob at Uluru.

This is why it's called "The Voice... From the Heart". It was not without angst, debate, mediation, then resolution that the Statement From the heart came to be. If you wish to read more on this matter, I urge you to read Thomas Mayor's book Statement From The Heart.

I was at Uluru late last year when the concert 'From The Heart Of Our Nation' was held. There was such incredible energy, love and hope when First Nations people flew in from around the country to attend.

This is an incredible opportunity for Australia, don't let it pass because you are uninformed.

> Vanessa Pelly Tuntable Creek

Opposing The Voice

Many Indigenous elders oppose The Voice (eg Gurnpa David Cole and 'grandmother Mulara'). The Voice will cede indigenous sovereignty so Parliament will have more power over them.

A delegation of Aboriginal Australians went to Canberra to ask the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader to hear their opposition to The Voice.

Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price (Fair Australia Party) said: "Secret government documents the National Indigenous Australians Agency released under FOI say that any Voice to Parliament should be designed so that it could support and promote a treaty-making process which would include a fixed percentage of the entire economy as reparation every year along with rates/land tax/royalties to The Voice." How will white

Australians feel when they have to pay rent on land they purchased? And when the Australian flag is abolished because it symbolises the injustices of colonisation?

The Voice would destroy our Constitution and have a direct say over every decision made by the executive government with the power to challenge those decisions in the High Court. Time Magazine called it a "profound constitutional change".

It would create an Australia with two classes of people. Indigenous have privileges not for whites: no entry test/fees to university; reduced age pension eligibility; first preference for public housing; 50% off sport/music entry fees; beaches/national parks/ rivers/streams owned by tribe who receive fees paid by whites; mining royalties; pay 50% income tax.

This would create resentment and drive racism. Voice demands are unreasonable and impose risks on the entire population. Those proposing The Voice are trading on emotion, not fact. We want the best for Indigenous people, but this is not the way.

> Menkit Prince Uki

Nimbin

POSITIONS VACANT

Digital Communications Manager – responsible for the management, development, implementation and evaluation of digital communications initiatives.

Property Manager – responsible for management and maintenance of properties and grounds, serving as a contact for tenants and co-ordinator for related responsibilities.

All relevant information is available from: www.nimbincommunity.org.au



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