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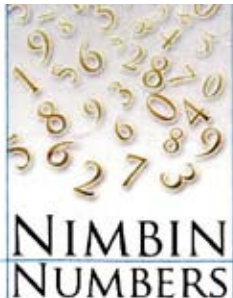
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# Defending Doubleduke State Forest

by Ashoka Joblin and Violet Coco

Local forest defenders have been focusing on Doubleduke Public State Forest, on Banjalang country of the Bundjalung Nation during February.

Home to a number of endangered species including the Barking Owl, the Brush-tailed Phascogale, the little Lorikeet and vulnerable species including the koala, yellow-bellied gliders, owls, frogs and plants including the all-important hollow bearing old trees.

Of particular concern is an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) Subtropical Coastal Floodplain Forest, previously logged in 2010, where a concerning number of breaches were identified but ignored and denied by various government departments.

Logging in Lower Slopes Road was eventually stopped at the time, but is now included in the current logging zone.

The on-going protest began with a tree-sit by Andy George, 25m above three logging machines, on 6th February. He was removed by police later that day.

Since then local protestors /protectors have set up camp in the forest several times, only to be forcibly removed each time by Forestry Corp with the assistance of police.

Forestry Corp has now closed the whole forest, instead of just the logging compartment. This has impacted local mountain-bike riders as it includes some of their trails, which are far removed from the logging compartments.

"It's crazy to me that a corporation can close State land, and then men with guns threaten to put us in a box if we don't leave," said one of the defenders as they were packing up the kitchen for the second time.

An Open Day on Sunday 19th February on the outskirts of the forest was a huge success. Many communities turned up and united to protect the forest. There was singing, strategic planning, a Non-Violent Direct Action workshop, and talks by two local ecologists.

The highlight was the youth-led tree listening tour, where you can hear trees drink if you listen carefully enough.

Ryder, who is nine years old, led the tree listening tour and had this to say:

"Trees are living things. Why is it legal



Photos: Eddie Lloyd



to kill trees? Koalas and owls live in these trees. Today I showed everyone how to listen to trees. One old man said he had never heard a tree before. I'm a living thing too. I can't live without trees. They help me breathe and they suck carbon out of the air and cool us down. If we chop down trees the animals lose their homes and they will die. I want to live on a cool planet, not a hot planet."

A local ecologist identified a giant Blackbutt which is in the path of the loggers on Lower Slopes Road. It measured 6525mm in diameter, estimated to be 390 years old.

The ecologist said, "This tree is older than the entire white history of this continent. It's a reminder of both the incredibly short span of white history here, as well as the deep time of landscape and First Nations peoples."

"There is an ideology with claws and machines which want to destroy it. Logging in NSW is intense and widespread at the moment, and in a climate emergency, every forest is vital

to leave standing. Laws are failing to prevent extinction. With so many frontlines it is hard to know where to focus our attention.

"Along Lower Slopes Road of the Doubleduke Forest is absolutely special, full of giant trees – it would have been classified as old growth before the definition of old growth was changed in favour of the loggers. There are currently not enough trees for the endangered creatures that need a home. The animals are fighting for homes as it is."

"This is the frontline of the extinction crisis. Australia is leading the way on animal extinction. Doubleduke is our frontline."

Forestry Corp once again arrived that afternoon with orders to move camp.

The local campaign joins similar continuing protests further south, including the Kalang, Yarrat State Forest, and Bulga State Forest at Eldons. For more information contact: [savebanyabbaKoalas@gmail.com](mailto:savebanyabbaKoalas@gmail.com) or the Save Banyabba Koalas facebook page.

# Woohoo, World Naked Bike Ride

by James Fuller

Now that the waters have fallen, it's on again! World Naked Bike Ride, Saturday 11th March! WooHoo.

We cancelled last year for obvious reasons – like lack of being able to safely get here, places to stay, food, water, all that stuff.

But this year is different (so

far – touch wood ). So here we go again!

Paint up from 10am at the Bush Theatre. Bring paints if you have them, artists if you have them, noise makers, banners. Bodies and bikes are required.

The main theme is, of course, bike safety: "A metre matters"; "Can you see me now?" That sort of thing.

We will not ride before midday. That allows folk time to get here. But when will everybody be ready?

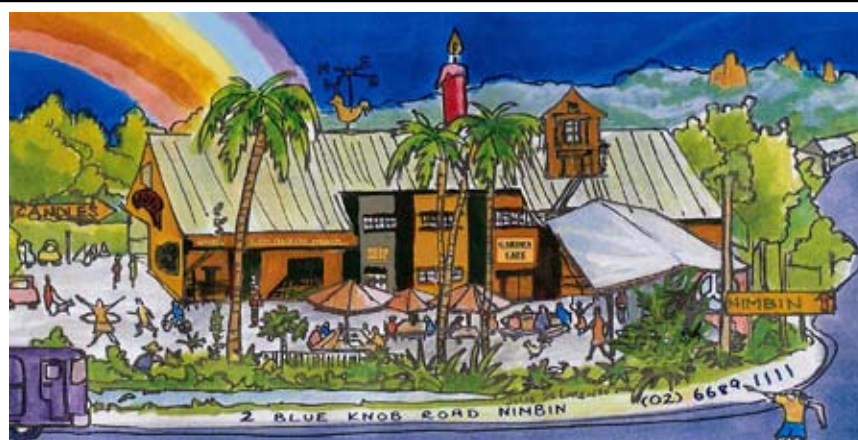
I don't know. I don't know who does. When we're ready.

So see you on the Saturday. Yay! Please bring helmets. Don't want to be foul of safety, after all.

Also, Byron Bay rides on the next day!



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# Independent Planning Panel for Lismore

by Ros Irwin

A highly contentious issue was discussed at Lismore Council's February meeting concerning the imposition by the State Government of an Independent Planning Panel, which removes the power of the Council to consider any DA.

Any contentious DAs would be referred to this panel, comprising two State Government representatives, including the chair, and one from a list of 200 independent experts, and one community representative.

After a long debate, the Council rejected this recommendation, which in my opinion was the right decision, as planning is an essential power that Councils should have to represent their communities properly.

Very few DAs are determined by the

Council – only five in the past year, and they are ones where residents have legitimate concerns about them.

Some developers and real estate agents might be glad this has happened, but the circumstances are truly concerning.

It was enacted the day before the meeting with the demand that Council approve this and choose their preferred experts and community representatives by 24th February, which, as one councillor suggested, was probably the last date before the current State Government goes into caretaker mode.

The only other councils that have had this imposed on them are the few under administration where there are no councillors, and two where corruption is an issue.

This was justified on the basis that it was to make things easier because of the floods, but other councils in this

Region, including Richmond Valley Council, were also affected badly by floods yet have not had this happen.

Based on my 17 years as a councillor, including a six-year membership of the country executive of the Local Government Association of NSW, I find it hard to believe that a state government would initiate such legislation without at least a clear agreement from executive members of a council. My own suspicion is that this was a politically motivated action.

Having witnessed Regional Planning Panels, which this essentially is, the word 'independent' doesn't ring true to me.

I understand that 98% of DAs that go to these panels are approved, even where council staff and independent experts have recommended rejection.

A sad day indeed for residents of Lismore!

# Incinerator decisions made in secret

by Jo Immig

The NSW Government's push for a 'waste to energy' incinerator in the Richmond Valley Job Precinct at Casino gets more alarming the deeper you dig.

Residents Against the Richmond Valley Incinerator (RAVI) recently made a request for public access to information about the Government's decision-making process but the public interest was overridden.

Apparently two previous applications for information were made on behalf of other impacted communities named in the NSW Regulation.

Those requests were considered and determined to be 'Cabinet in Confidence' and no information was released. RAVI was advised not to bother with its application because the answer would be the same.

The NSW Government rushed through a policy encouraging thermal waste incinerators under the pretence they are part of the circular economy and will provide 'renewable' energy.

Neither claim stands up to independent scrutiny.

Burning residual waste is not a true circular economy, it's linear. Once it's burnt you've lost the resource and created pollution instead.

The little bit of dirty energy



Community protest on-site in November  
Photo: Sue Stock

it creates is only 'renewable' if your twisted definition of renewable includes the idea that burning plastic waste as a fuel source will continue forever.

After the NSW Independent Planning Panel refused a proposal for a waste incinerator in Western Sydney, on the basis that it was too polluting, the Government cobbled together a Regulation naming four regional locations.

How is it that a waste incinerator is too polluting for Sydney but it's suitable for Casino, the beef capital of NSW? The impacted community wants answers.

How was Casino chosen? Was there an assessment process? Why is the NSW Chief Scientist's advice being ignored?

The Richmond Valley Job Precinct, named in NSW regulation, is an interesting development to scrutinise.

According to Richmond Valley Council, nine

industrial-zoned lots sized from 5000 square metres to five hectares are up for sale.

In its media release from May 2022 they state, "The Regional Job Precinct offers improved planning pathways, such as cutting red and green tape with a 30-day target for planning approvals".

Alarm bells ringing. According to a joint media release in 2021 explaining the NSW Regulations, the then NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro and Environment Minister Matt Keen said the NSW Government wanted to "provide certainty for investors."

"The NSW Government is delivering waste to energy facilities to help power a manufacturing renaissance and bring jobs to regional NSW," Mr Barilaro said.

"The Plan ensures new thermal waste to energy projects are co-located with transport links and complementary industries, and kept away from high

density residential areas," according to Matt Keen.

They must have forgotten to look at the map in Casino because there are residential areas, schools, sensitive meat processing facilities and the Richmond River close to the Richmond Valley Job Precinct where an incinerator could be built.

Of course, everyone is interested in regional jobs. No beef there. According to Environment Victoria, incinerating 10,000 tonnes of waste creates one job while recycling 10,000 tonnes of waste creates 36 jobs. If you're really interested in creating jobs, you'd invest in recycling facilities, not incinerators.

In a strange cart-before-the-horse process, the Department of Regional NSW has just released a 'Community Update' where they announce a draft master plan for the Richmond Valley Job Precinct will be released for public exhibition by mid-2023.

Secrecy in government is never a good thing. Governments are elected by the people and should be accountable to the people.

The only hope the community now has for transparency and accountability is a call for papers in the NSW Upper House after the election and the possibility of an Inquiry to uncover the details of these secret decisions.



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## Towards Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary



by Benny Zable,  
NAFI president

With two months to go before Nimbin

Aquarius 50th gathering and celebration, the issue of recycling was raised at a Friends of Aquarius50 meeting.

I have been to many gatherings and protest camps and festivals where materials are created out of materials gathered, especially cardboard and paper.

A team of volunteers can help in assembling



The re-painted IMAGINE mandala in Allsopp Park

sites for creatives to access these materials during Aquarius50.

At Rainbow gatherings in the USA I have seen some innovative systems created. Anyone who is interested in creating such sites, could you contact me? Phone 0427-149-237 and leave a message.

Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc (NAFI) committee plans to meet on Friday 17th March at

2pm in the NCC Comskool room.

There is also a proposal for a public meeting in the Nimbin Hall and Sunday Nimbin Market sharing information in the last week of April before we enter the merry month of May.

Details will be published in the April edition of the *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

There is no single organising group. We



have many groups and free radicals taking responsibility for organising their events.

We call ourselves now Friends of Aquarius50 and meet each Thursday at 3pm in the NCC Comskool room.

For information and updates go to: [www.aquarius50.com.au](http://www.aquarius50.com.au)

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

## Organising Aquarius performers

by Johnny Allen

In the lead-up to the 1973 Aquarius Festival, in my role as director of the Aquarius Foundation of the Australian Union of Students (AUS), I formed a circuit of Australian Universities and CAEs, touring people such as Ralph Nader, Spike Milligan, Richard Neville, Daddy Cool and Jeannie Lewis.

I would often be in Perth on a Monday and Cairns by Friday, and festival director Graeme Dunstan would often join me, when we would try to identify and invite the best minds of our generation to the festival.

I also sought out and wrote to many such people overseas. Jerry Rubin



Philippe Petit at Notre Dame Cathedral

replied that he would like to come, but he was too busy. Purna Das Baul replied, "I extend a friendly joint across the ocean", and the Bauls of Bengal did eventually come to Nimbin.

African jazz musician Dollar Brand came through the contact with indigenous co-ordinator Bauxhu Stone.

James Murdoch from the Music board of the Australia Council drew my attention to Philippe Petit, who had come to prominence in Paris due to his tightrope walk between the spires of Notre Dame Cathedral.

I wrote to Philippe inviting him to Nimbin, and applied to the Australia Council to pay his return fare from Paris. Like all performers at the festival, he was not paid a fee.

## Connecting around a circle of harmony



by Philippe Petit

People from here  
 People from elsewhere  
 People from everywhere  
 And people from nowhere...  
 Good evening!

That's how I would start my street juggling performance in Nimbin if my comic character Lippo could talk. But, born 57 years ago, he had never uttered a word.

He shows up on a unicycle, draws a circle of chalk on the sidewalk and uses juggling as

an excuse to gather a crowd.

The rest is mainly improvisation and audience participation. Sometimes he ties a little tightrope between two trees before disappearing again on one wheel.

In 1973, I was fortunate to be invited to participate in the very first Aquarius Festival in Nimbin. It was a revelation for me, "legal alien in New York", to discover Australia for the first time.

I loved the village of Nimbin, the glorious landscape, the gentle people and their generous way of life, and I shared my art and my heart day and night for an adventure that I have remembered all my life.

When, a few weeks later, I improvised an illegal high wire walk between the Northern pylons of Sydney Harbour Bridge (James Ricketson filmed the adventure). I was told by many that I had uplifted their spirits and that I had inspired them to try to move mountains.

I did not then know that the next year I would appear (without permission) between

the highest towers in the world – the World Trade Center – a quarter of a mile high above Manhattan!

What a joy, exactly 50 years later, to be invited to Nimbin again. (Benny Zable, also there 50 years ago, is the art-angel who has made it possible.)

I am a 73-year-old man who refuses to grow up, so I will bring with me the props of my youth: unicycle, three white balls, juggler's clubs, the little rope and many magic tricks to entertain you – and today, your children – as I did decades ago.

It is going to be a wonderful adventure for me, for us... be there with your friends and your smiles and your hope in humanity. Together we are going to live a unique moment.

A circle is a perfect geometric shape traditionally assigned to the Heavens. It is universally recognised as a symbol of oneness, harmony and purity.

It sends a subliminal message of positive emotional balance, protection and unity. It represents community, love

and commitment. Around a circle, everyone is equal, everyone is connected.

Not born in the circus world, I learned juggling (and wire walking) by myself at an early age. In both arts, I have always been more interested in spreading joy and inspiration than in providing thrills or competing for technical prowess and world records.

In my mind, the street is the most arduous form of theater, and improvising the most demanding, yet rewarding form of performance.

Every show brings its trove of surprises, the diversity of the crowds – no two are the same – is what makes the encounters so rich.

My last appearance inside my circle of chalk was in New York City in 2019. During the pandemic, of course, all that stopped. And since, I have been involved in so many other projects that I did not even realise that Lippo had not emerged from lockdown.

Thank you all and thank you Nimbin, welcoming me back at the Festival for a new beginning.



# Friends of Aquarius50 volunteers set the stage

by Jeni Kendell

The 50th Anniversary of Nimbin's Aquarius Festival is getting closer. A headspin of colouring in the mandala of various aspects of the Gathering is well underway with the aim of ensuring our readiness for the event.

We have been working alongside the First Nations people to create the Festival. Recently we met with Rhoda Roberts who thoughtfully provided much support and information to the group and we are about to arrange a meeting together to discuss all the possibilities.

We have had to put off our two paid workers due to really wanting and needing all our money to go into the Festival and now we are a group of totally dedicated volunteers.

We are completing an exciting program covering ten themed days including great music, outstanding forums, amazing guest speakers like author of *Dark Emu* Bruce Pascoe, Costa from ABC's *Gardening Australia*, Nutritech Solutions founder Graeme Sait and Professor Ian Lowe are coming. As well we will have workshops, tours, picnics, rituals and plenty of fun.

We also have exciting news that Philippe Petit will be here for the celebration. He was the little dude rushing around on his unicycle in 1973, in between tightrope walking and juggling. He famously walked the wire between the Twin Towers in New York before they collapsed. And Fantuzzi is also coming, another international legend that has a Nimbin connection.

We will screen the "best of" the past Nimbin Youth Film Festival entries on 19th May at the Bush Theatre. We have decided to have a NEW section which will have a prize of \$500. It is open for entries for children up to 18 years of age and the Competition name is "This is who I am, this is where I Live". Interpret it as you will and even still photos together with music will be accepted.

To get everyone here and look after them while they stay and put the Festival on, we need financial assistance and donations. Lismore City Council has been supportive with a donation of



\$15,000 further reinforced by Mayor Steve Krieg's commitment to endorse our attempts to gain both State and Federal government funding.

State Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin and Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan, have doubled down by committing to put our case forward in the Halls of both Houses of Parliament supporting the need for additional financial support. Adam Guise, Lismore Greens, has spoken on our behalf, putting a motion forward at the most recent LCC Meeting for councillors to support the event - a motion which was carried unanimously. Thank you all.

Both the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and the Hemp Embassy have put in \$10,000. Christopher Dean made an offer that if donors gave \$1,000, he would match it up to \$10,000 and this has been realised. Thank you also to Uri Ross Real Estate, the Nimbin GoodTimes, Santos, Nimbin Bush Theatre, Summerland Credit Union, and others still to complete their sponsorship who we will thank in the April edition. Again thank you all.

A facility for tax deductible donations has been arranged through the

Australian Cultural Fund (Festivals NSW) or donations can be made locally to the Summerland Credit Union Festival Account: AQ50, BSB 728-728 Account: 22340378.

NimbinAquarius50 website: [www.aquarius50.com.au](http://www.aquarius50.com.au) is up and running with lots of information including videos, contributions, capability, Festival information and back stories. Soon the entire program will be available online.

The celebration will be beamed to the world via the internet, utilising Skylink via satellite connectivity.

As we start to look at the various events and happenings, it really comes home how much knowledge, creativity, experience, co-operation, helpfulness, and talent, is right here in our community. We have learnt a lot in 50 years.

We are also starting to organise accommodation and if people can billet or house visiting speakers, musicians or guests, please contact us if you can help.

Lots of the preparation groundwork is in place, but as we close in on 12th May we are going to need lots of assistance to make this event run well and represent who we really are to our visitors.

It is not planned to have thousands of people, as we are well aware Nimbin is a small one-pub village and has a limit to comfortable sized crowds. So people who want to come will have to be quick once tickets go on sale.

A community's purpose is to promote and support one another while creating a sense of belonging. A community full of art is a community full of culture. It is our collective soul who will share stories, inspire reflection, and form connections that transcend differences.

There is a meeting each Thursday at 3pm in the Comskool room in the Community Centre. Everyone is welcome, but you can also contact us through: [facebook.com/nimbinacquariusfestival](https://facebook.com/nimbinacquariusfestival) or the website: [www.aquarius50.com.au](http://www.aquarius50.com.au)

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## Kyogle Landcare helps bushfire recovery

Kyogle Landcare Nursery is growing 12,000 trees to be provided free to landholders affected by the 2019-20 bushfires.

Trees which grow over three metres are free to all landholders in an LGA that has been affected by the 2019-20 bushfires. The landholder doesn't have to have been impacted by the fires.

Kyogle Landcare received a grant from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife as part of the Bushfire Recovery Grants. This allowed the Landcare Nursery to double the number of trees produced from 12,000 to 24,000.

The plant propagation is all done by a dedicated group of around 20 volunteers who meet at the nursery on Tuesday mornings.

In the last year Kyogle Landcare has contributed over 1200 volunteer hours in propagating and selling plants and distributing plants for bushfire recovery



and koala trees, as well as renovating the shade house and building a new propagation house.

There is also a keen group who meet weekly to regenerate areas along Fawcett's Creek.

The nursey is propagating many local varieties of trees including Lilly Pilly, Flame Tree, Black Bean, River Oak, Tuckeroo, Native Tamarind, Small Leaf Tamarind, Tallowood, Forest Red Gum, Sandpaper Fig, Silky Oak, Tulip Wood, Native Frangipani, Brush Box, Celery Wood, Turpentine

and Red Cedar.

They are also growing some native grasses and understory plants such as Lomandra species, Poa, Kangaroo Grass, Native Ginger and Dianella. Threatened species plants available include Small Leaved Tamarind, Turpentine and Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Vine.

Not all these plants are available at any one time, but if you are a landholder and want to plant areas with free locally-grown trees, simply call into the Kyogle Landcare Nursery on any Tuesday

between 9am and 11am, and talk to the friendly volunteers to find out what is available. Plants which grow to less than 3m are available at a small cost.

The nursery is just off Summerland Way, Kyogle. Head north towards the Kyogle Caravan Park on the northern edge of town and turn right just over Fawcett's Creek (look for the blue finger sign saying Landcare Nursery).

While you are there you might like to join Kyogle Landcare and support their work.

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## NNIC is hiring!

We are looking for a Program Manager to join our wonderful Recovery Support Services team. Job kit available on our website. Applicants must address the selection criteria on pages 6-7 of the Job Kit. Applications close 12th March.

## NNIC Services Australia/ Centrelink Agency

Due to long wait times on the Customer Service phone numbers, if you have a complex matter please be sure to come to the Agency early (ie before lunch), to give us more time to try and sort the issue out before the Agency closes at 2.30pm.

## How are you going with your flood recovery journey?

If you are still struggling, you are not alone. Recovery Support Services are available to support you across the Northern Rivers region.

NOTE: applications for the NSW flood recovery Back Home grant close on 20th April.

The Nimbin Recovery Support Service (Nimbin RSS) is delivered by NNIC and offers disaster recovery support for impacted people in the Northern parts of the Lismore LGA and nearby parts of the Tweed and Kyogle Shires.

Our RSS support workers can assist you through the complex journey of disaster recovery including help to develop a recovery plan; applying for grants and financial support; linking with key services, suppliers and expert advice; housing support/solutions and disaster-proofing your life and well-being.

You can contact our RSS staff by emailing: [nimbinrss@nnic.org.au](mailto:nimbinrss@nnic.org.au) or call/text 0488-144-647 or drop by 7 Sibley Street, Monday-Fridays 9am-4pm.

## Nimbin Death and Beyond – Cooling plate

Great News! After many years of effort and lots of community donations, we have finally secured the cooling plate for the Nimbin Community.

This would not have been possible without the dedicated perseverance by Saskia in particular, who really made this happen.

The cooling bed 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.

It helps to preserve the deceased person for around three days or so, and takes the pressure off the family to make fast decisions at such a difficult time. See article p.32.

We are working on the Users' Manual and finalising some last details, but the cooling plate is basically now available for hire from NNIC by community members at affordable rates. The cooling plate is a project of the Nimbin Death and Beyond Group which is auspiced by NNIC.

Thanks so much to everyone who has donated funds or run fundraising campaigns over the past 10 years to help make this possible. It just goes to show sometimes things take longer than planned, but it can be worth hanging in there.



The new cooling plate

## Nimbin Community Disaster Plan

Keep an eye on our website: [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au) (Disasters page) for the revised Disaster Plan and Survey results.

## Community Care Team

We are still recruiting CCT volunteers to cover the designated localities. There will be free training and support provided.

Come on down and get involved! 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 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.

[www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)

## 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 16th March.

## Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – leave a message, will return call swiftly.

## Nimbin NSP

Needle and Syringe Program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Registered Nurse.

## Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week, free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

## Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Monthly meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the CWA room. New members are most welcome.





by Scott Sledge, president

The biggest issue facing the Nimbin area environment is the same as that facing all residents of NSW, and the world: climate change and its horrible, increasingly costly disasters.

While the privileged few want to continue business as usual, the rest of us struggle to survive today and fear for the future of our children and grandchildren.

What can be done? Well, we can change the government, electing representatives who care about society more than corporate profits. And how will we recognise these good people? Look at their stance on key issues, like social (publicly funded) housing and preserving habitat.

I recently heard someone say, “Who cares about the koalas?” I replied, “What happens to the koalas will ultimately happen to us.”

Vote for the environment: we all need a healthy environment.

Yes, there are other issues, but the rising cost of living is minor compared to storms, floods, bushfires and species extinction.

We need a government that cares, not just acts for enablers for rampaging commercial and industrial interests. History is in the making, and we can help it go in a positive sustainable direction.

**Logging**

Native forest logging has been halted briefly by protests in Doubleduke State Forest, between Grafton and Casino.

A protester was suspended in a tree 25 m above three industrial logging machines while other citizens held banners below. Protests also stopped logging in the Manning and mid-North Coast regions.

Mark Graham, a NSW ecologist who is pro-active for forests wrote: “Annihilating

# Don’t ask, don’t look

by Kyogle Environment Group

“Working together to balance environment, lifestyle and opportunity” is the admirable vision of Kyogle Council’s Community Strategic Plan for 2016-2026.

However, the 2021 amendment to the Local Environment Plan, aims to “allow for a variety of activities in rural areas and ensure removal of any barriers to development that enhances the agricultural sustainability and economic viability of rural land.”

No mention of environment in that amendment, which set the scene for Council’s November 2022 resolution seeking to remove itself from any role in approving private native forestry (PNF).

Currently PNF approvals require dual consent from Local Land Services and the relevant council.

Interestingly, a June 2019 report by the NSW Government Auditor-General into the regulation of native vegetation clearing in rural areas by Local Land Services and the Office of Environment and Heritage, found clearing is “not effectively regulated and managed”, and that “the processes supporting the regulatory framework are weak and there is no evidence-based assurance that clearing of native vegetation is carried out in accordance with approvals.”

An unsurprising finding really, when under the Local Land Services Act, land clearing can be self-assessed by land owners. Most of this clearing is unexplained and logging approval only needs a desktop impact assessment with no surveys to identify threatened species and ecosystems.

With a financial reward at stake, the will to ignorance must be tempting. Don’t ask, don’t look. Those with a short-term view would be emboldened in the knowledge that little

forest cover in Doubleduke with the insane logging intensities allowed under the CIFOA (code of practice) is nothing but a massive extinction operation that ripples across and harms the most biodiverse of coastal and hinterland sclerophyll forests remaining and which causes bioregional scale impacts on the movement of species and will inevitably drive broader declines in biodiversity.

“The forests in Doubleduke are the very landscapes that the science tells us must have forest cover maintained if we are to prevent and avoid the escalating extinctions of our globally significant biota that we are all now suffering.”


The good news: the new Federal government has shown a willingness to amend legislation to better protect our environment. The DCCEEW website promises reform of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) by identifying three essential principles:

- Delivering better environmental protection and laws that are nature positive;
- Speeding up decisions and making it easier for companies to do the right thing; and
- Restoring integrity and trust to systems and environmental laws.

A proposed new Federal EPA will be “independent,” and hopefully send strong messages to protect and preserve our environment.

Currently the state-based system is plagued with cronyism, corruption, and sometimes cowardice.

We have been trying to halt the devastating logging by Forestry Corps (FC) for years. Not only do we as taxpayers subsidise their operations, we pay the fines when (and if) the loggers get caught breaking the codes by which they are legally obliged to operate the public pays, not the offenders.



trouble is likely to come their way.

Investigations into unexplained land clearing can take years, the Auditor-General found, making environmental remediation or prosecution difficult.

In fact, despite there being “around 300 investigations in progress at any one time, there are few prosecutions, remediation orders and penalty notices for unlawful clearing.”

Properly managed and regulated PNF has a lot to offer to a sustainable Australia, but this is not what we have. PNF regulations and enforcement need teeth. And in Kyogle we need a Council with a commitment to its local environment, not one wanting to disengage.

Kyogle Council must be held to account for its vision of balancing environment, lifestyle and opportunity. It must commit to properly mapping and identifying high conservation value areas, preparing a Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management and ensuring that proper regulations and enforcement are in place to ensure PNF is managed in an environmentally sustainable way.

Only then can Kyogle Council truly balance environment, lifestyle and opportunity creating a real ‘Gateway to the Rainforest’.



**Flood subsidies**

We have had governments dedicate funds for recovery from fires and floods, but most road repairs are slow in coming, while big sums are cleverly shunted across to facilitate damaging work on tracks to remove forest “products”.

In June 2022 it was announced FC would get a grant of \$60 million for “flood damaged” roads. The roads financed for improvement were logging tracks, not the ones used by ordinary citizens, which should be the priority for good governments.

Furthermore, a public corporation can get access to taxpayer funds for its expenses.

Northeast Forest Alliance (NEFA) president Dailan Pugh writes that the \$10 million transport subsidy (in some cases to transport logs from interstate) announced in 2022 under the Hardwood Timber Haulage Subsidy Program, was part of a \$150 million Primary Industry Support Package following the floods, co-funded by the NSW and Australian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Other programs available to logging companies are: Special Disaster Grants (up to \$75,000 per primary processor), Critical Producer Grants (up to \$100,000 each), and the \$22 million Supply Chain Support Program.

**Forest realities**

Susie Russell, secretary of NEFA was recently arrested for entering a “closed area” where loggers wanted to cut down giant trees at Bulga State Forest.

FC can unilaterally declare any public space as “closed” and arrest anyone who enters.

“Forestry claims that closing forests is about safety, but really it’s about avoiding scrutiny,” said Ms Russell.

It is now common for FC to close whole state forests to avoid public scrutiny of logging and its effects. Currently 96 publicly-owned State Forests are closed to the public.

Susie continued, “As the election approaches we need to keep putting the spotlight on the slaughter that is happening because they are stealing from the future.

We know what stripping the largest trees from the forest does to them – makes them uninhabitable for most of the 174 species that



Tree sit, Double Duke forest. Photos: Daniele Voignot

depend on tree hollows to survive.”

Reminder: Most of the wood used today for building and construction is sourced from plantations, not from our wild forests. The latter are largely clear-felled for woodchips.

Susie further noted: “The renewal of the Regional Forest Agreements in 2018 with no assessment of the impacts of climate change or the impacts of logging on threatened species and old growth was illegal as it lacked due process.

“The matter is still to be decided in the courts. NEFA mounted a legal challenge which was heard in the Federal court last March (2022.) Why is it taking so long? Even if we win our case, how will all the trees be replaced and the damage be undone?”

North Coast grandmother Rosie Lee said, “Forestry Corp is the bastard child of a Liberal National wet dream: Barry O’Farrell created Forestry Corp as a profit-making arm of Government. It should be disbanded. Government has no place being in business when they are custodians and stewards of our resources.”


And strangely the “business” of this government-owned corporation fails to make a profit! Exhaustive research by NEFA president Dailan Pugh showed that on average taxpayers subsidise FC losses of about \$11 million per annum.

How much does it cost to log public native forests? Dailan Pugh noted that public native forestry is hemorrhaging money, with the FC losing \$29million in the last two years from logging public native forests.

This is despite receiving \$16.9 million in Government handouts for Community Service obligations in 2020-21 and \$17.8M 2021-22.

This is nothing new, as the FC operated at losses on native forests of between \$9 million and \$16.3 million per annum from 2008-9 until 2013-14 with only marginal profits after that. It’s time to stop this madness!

Remember to vote on 25th March.



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March

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or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

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10.30am – 1.30pm

• Sat 11th: How to make your own flow-forms – for oxegenating water

• Thurs 16th: Knitting with Sue – \$10 donation


• Sun 19th: Crystal macrame jewellery making – with Duchie's Delights, 9am-4pm vegan soup and BYO lunch to share, \$85 bookings essential.

• Sat 25th: Make your own felt hat – Presented by Courtney Creations,

full day workshop includes lunch, all materials provide, \$100 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.



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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.

## The voice – yes or no?

How will I vote in the proposed referendum to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders a voice?

It's a referendum that touches me deeply. I think it is important for all Australians. We are confronted with the question: How adult as a nation have we become? It's a referendum about more than our relationship with the First Peoples.

*Totem and Taboo* by Sigmund Freud points to the complexity of this matter. Our challenge is to come to terms with our national guilt. We need to confront the "libidinal nature" of our (Christian) religious and political biases which sanction behaviours that are corrosive. Early Australia's treatment of the First Peoples was attempted genocide.

This is an issue which goes profoundly into our national psyche; it is deeper than the opinions of any particular leader or political party. How accepting are we of divergences away from our White Australia, handed-down racist conventions?

A recent *GetUp* newsletter observed: Some parts of the debate are centre racist and express far-right vitriol, others highlight the critical gaps in people's understanding of the referendum, others see opportunities for First Nations justice, and what it could mean for First Nations people in this country.

I am heartened by the good, the healing I think it might do for all Australians who vote 'Yes for a Voice'.

Michael Brooke  
Kyogle

## What is consciousness?

The origin of consciousness is an unknown external source, not the brain. Near death experiences, psychic abilities, intuition and our conscious awareness, all support this concept.

The scientific method can only examine physicality, therefore, can't locate consciousness. Finding consciousness in a brain is like finding love in a heart.

Our conscious awareness activates via proximity, creating a feeling of increased emotionality and intensity, integrating with our physical body, usually the stomach, in the same way as our skin is the physical awareness of our body.

The question, "If we aren't eternal, what is the point to life?" convinces me that consciousness is separate to our physicality and as such an eternal aspect of self.

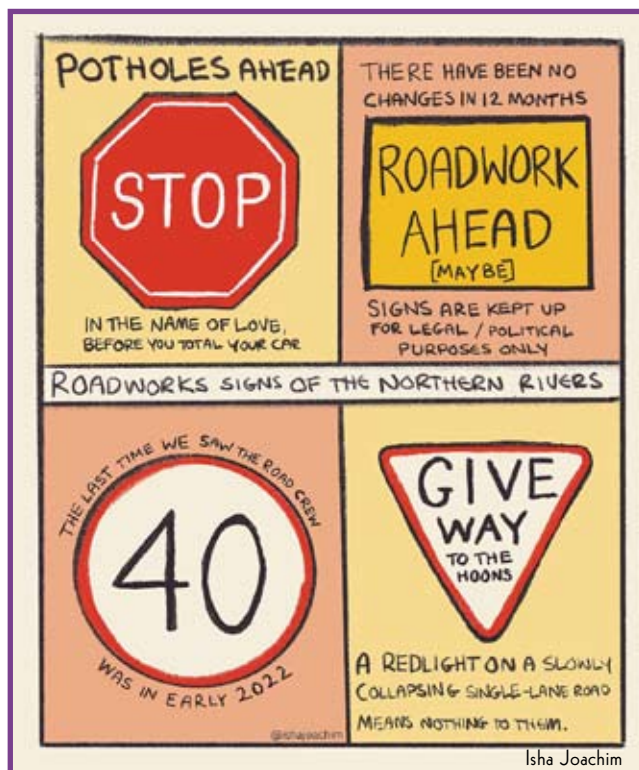
It is difficult to imagine any spiritual viewpoint devoid of a non-physical consciousness and superior being or great creator of some kind. The soul is a synonym for consciousness, just as God is to universal or collective consciousness.

The non-physical aspects of self are the higher aspects indicating that our physical form is a transitory conveyance in which we discover and learn that which we are meant to experience in this incarnation, raising the awareness of the collective consciousness upon our return to the non-physical realm.

True awareness of consciousness is difficult to attain. In part because of our constant mind chatter but also due to the different worlds we exist in. For a short time, we incarnate in a physical reality, as a non-physical consciousness, experiencing a mortal body's identity.

Only to transition from that physical identity to the collective oneness, while still retaining the experiences and inherent nature that make us such unique pieces of the puzzle.

Doug Moffett  
Presenter, NimFM



## Letter to all candidates

We ask that you and your team take the time to review the best use of our NSW native forest resource, as a matter of urgency.

After the devastation of our forests in the 2019/20 fires and in the midst of this climate and biodiversity crisis, it makes no sense to diminish the carbon capture and storage capacity of our forests (the only effective, proven technology we have, estimated at capturing a third of all emissions globally).

Our relatively pristine wild places with the biggest nectar and pollen producing trees, with those essential nesting hollows; the habitats and only refuge of our unique threatened and critically endangered wildlife species that managed to escape the fires; our water security and water quality; and so much more.

It makes no sense. In 2023 it's not OK for government to subsidise this destruction, especially when the majority of people are speaking out, wanting to see our forests protected to address this biodiversity and climate emergency.

It makes no sense to continue logging our public native forests when Forest Corporation NSW is costing the NSW economy millions of dollars every year. \$28 million over the last two years!

Now we learn that many

millions of dollars meant for flood relief was handed to FCNSW to build and repair forestry roads, giving greater access for their massive machinery.

It doesn't make economic sense when this small industry supports less than 1070 direct and indirect jobs right across NSW, and only 500 in the North East forests. There are many more sustainable employment alternatives.

Given the small number of jobs, the cost of ceasing native forest logging and transitioning to expanded plantations would be reasonable: a comprehensive package of structural adjustment to transition impacted employees and businesses, including support for impacted workers through voluntary redundancy and retraining.

Furthermore, the cost would be significantly outweighed by an expected increase in dividends from FCNSW by avoiding the loss making activities of the hardwood division.

The transition to expanded plantations on already cleared land of less biodiversity importance has the potential to diversify local economies, create new jobs, provide many alternative employment opportunities for impacted workers, particularly in management of protected forest areas, recreation and eco-tourism projects,

plantation-based forestry work, fire and invasive species management.

We need to protect this precious, super-thin strip of remaining tall forests on the east coast that cling to the Great Dividing Range. That's all that is left on the entire continent, except for a tiny sliver in South West WA that the WA Labor government has already agreed to stop logging.

Business as usual for another four years, handing out licenses for coal, gas, water and wood, without consideration of the wider, longer term detrimental effects, would see our forests, productive farmland, precious water resources and landscapes decimated, and bring on an increased incidence of worsening drought, fires and floods.

All the misinformation by the forest industries and their supporters hides the stark reality: claims by the NSW National Party Minister for Forestry that logging native forests is carbon neutral are untrue.

According to a recent report by Dr Jen Sanger, *NSW Forest Carbon for The Tree Project*, 3.6 million tonnes of carbon emissions are emitted each year by logging NSW native forests; that's equivalent to that produced by 840,000 internal combustion cars.

Strong community concern about old growth logging led to Bob Carr and NSW Labor riding the wave of election victory in 1995, leading to many areas of forest being protected in reserves.

What was not reserved was meant to be managed according to the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management.

Thirty years on, it's tragically obvious that this is not happening! The requirement for pre-logging surveys has been dropped, the protection of creeks and gullies lessened, there's not

even a requirement to respect known high use koala habitat and avoid them, or identify where koala colonies are and protect them; no requirement to protect the next largest trees that will hopefully one day be big enough to form hollows, provide homes and nesting places for the more than 170 species that use tree hollows as shelter to breed; not even the 40 species that are already considered to be threatened with extinction.

2018 saw the last of these protections swept away by the NSW Liberal/National government, despite community outrage.

Animals once often seen are now rare and endangered, like the greater glider and so many others. This means fragmented ecosystems, the links of the web of life are broken; this amazing Matrix of Life (as Prof Brian Cox calls it) is on the brink of disaster. Nature cannot wait!

It's time NSW had policies that ensure a sustainable, thriving future for all NSW; policies that value our precious assets; policies that make full use of all the tools in our toolbox that can help us take action on the worsening climate and biodiversity crisis and hopefully slow the incidence of increased 'natural' disasters; policies for the benefit and resilience of our regional communities, to provide certainty and for the wellbeing of all NSW.

Please understand that this letter is not just ours, but echoes the concerns of many of our listeners.

People fed up with the NSW Government's continued greenwashing, their denial of the devastating impacts and the many millions of dollars in subsidies gifted to this small, unsustainable and economically disastrous industry.

Meg and Peter Nielsen  
'Celebrating Earth & Art'  
River FM 92.9, Lismore

## Notices

### Wanted

Silkworm eggs. Phone Bruce on 0438-689-480.

### Free notices

Keep it short and of interest to our readers, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it here for free.

## 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.

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

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

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**Friday 24th March**

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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## Marie-Noelle Isabelle Hainaut

22/12/1958–14/02/2023

Eulogy by Brian Burke

The love of my life, Marie-Noelle Isabelle Hainaut, was born in Dakar, Senegal, in December 1958 to Pierre and Helene Hainaut, the youngest of eight siblings.

She died in an accident on Valentine's Day 2023, working on our regeneration project in our bit of paradise at Billen Cliffs, a rural community on the southern rim of the Wollumbin caldera.

Marie moved with her family to Paris when she was two. She lived there through the turbulent late 1960s. Some of her older siblings were involved in the great student revolution of 1968. These times were shaping Marie's world view.

In the early 1980s she came to Australia to connect with her brother Jehan, who was living the alternative life in northern Queensland. Marie then travelled to Sydney, where she first entered my life.

I met Marie in Sydney in 1980. This beautiful young woman with long black hair, faded jeans and a hangover from hell made a big impression on me, an impression that stayed with me until fate threw us together a year or so later – and our connection was cemented.

Marie's first child, Helene Anne-Marie, was born in Sydney on 10/06/1987.

Attracted to the area's natural beauty and the possibilities of a new way of living, she moved to the North Coast of NSW in the early 90s. She set up home in Tabulam.

Her second child, Josef Pierre, was born at Lismore Base Hospital on 28/02/1990. Later, she followed her dream to Mackellar Range when her third child, Tomas Louis, was born on 21/10/1991.

In the mid-90s, Marie found her place. It was perched under the cliffs, gazing northwards to Wollumbin, drinking in the sunrises and sunsets: Billen Cliffs.

The community was young and growing. Marie was a powerful force for good in that setting. Her practical environmentalism, inspiring feminism and her huge heart helped the community to thrive.

For a while, Marie moved to Lismore where she worked as a family-support worker. She made a huge difference to many people's lives. Her generosity and her ability to listen made her a lifeline for many.

I wasn't exactly following her, but I too ended up in the Rainbow Region. In 2009, we found each other again. This time, we were ready to build a life together.

Marie was a woman with strong convictions about, well, lots of things. We had many a long discussion over an evening drink. She was not backward in expressing her opinions, but I loved that she would always listen and could change her opinion if you argued your case well.

Marie was a spontaneous, positive and a 'boots and all' sort of person. Her enthusiasm for life was contagious. Her unstoppable energy energised me. Her love filled me and fulfilled me. Like with so many others whose lives she touched, Marie brought out the best in me.

Then tragedy struck. In May,



2010, her son Josef was killed in an aviation accident.

Her heart was broken. Her life was shattered. But she was not destroyed. Her love for her children and their love for her, her love for me and my love for her, salvaged her life, and, because Marie is Marie, somehow, she rebuilt that life.

Her tragedy, her loss, only served to reinforce her empathy for those subject to life's cruel turns.

In 2017, Marie and I moved to Billen. With the help of friends and community, we created our dream space on that ridge in the North Valley, that ridge where she died, regenerating the land she loved.

She is survived by her daughter Helen, her son Tomas, our beautiful granddaughter Genevieve, and me.

*Now some words from her friend Deb Woodbridge:*

Marie was a force to behold. As a new mum, I sought out support from mothers who had gone before me. I found this in Marie.

Marie was a worker at the

family centre in Nimbin and was there to support mums and dads and babies. Marie had a unique way of turning fear, ambivalence, anxiety and a lack of confidence into courage and fortitude. She did this in a gentle, loving and caring way.

She wiped away tears of frustration and feelings of failure from the faces of sleep-deprived mums, and spoke gentle words of support and wisdom. She held each and every one of us with such care and love.

Marie instilled in us the knowledge of our power, the power over our own lives and our own decisions – things that, as women and as mums, is often taken away from us by 'well-meaning' friends and family, by the media, by isolation and by shame.

She encouraged us to find that power and knowledge, to get to know it, to nurture it, and to use it. To use it to grow and protect our children, to stand up to the judgements, to stand up to the haters, and to teach our children by our actions, not just our words.

She encouraged us to create a world where children are loved, cherished and protected, where mothers and women are valued and treated with respect for their knowledge, for their skills and talents, and for the part they play in creating a productive and dynamic community for everyone.

Maree was a good friend, a teacher and confidante. She was witty and funny. She was a fierce defender of women and the environment, a vocal opponent of the patriarchy.

She was an anarchist, a feisty feminist. Marie was someone who made a positive difference in so many people's lives.



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For more information, contact  
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Nimbin 2480**  
(at rear)  
Ph: 02 6689-1003

# Saving the forests: Bulga and beyond

by Susie Russell

Every day there are multiple truck-loads of precious trees leaving our North Coast forests.

The Save Bulga Forest camp is still going strong, with random and organised visitors calling in, regular tree climbing training and action planning. The Bulga Tree-sit continues to block access to the Bulga SF.

After Aaron, Isla and I had been arrested on 9th January, Forestry announced they were moving away from the Bulga forest, temporarily, to a nearby so-called plantation.

I say so-called because our investigations suggest that while some jiffy pots were planted in the area in 1970, most of the planted species didn't survive, and instead what they are logging is the native forest that has regrown.

Most of the logs go to Pentarch's Herons Creek sawmill. One morning, Knitting Nanna, Sharyn O'Dell (pictured) chained herself to the main gate of the mill, with her family around her.

Despite the hot sun, she endured the seven hours until she was cut free.

A couple of weeks later, award-winning artist Suey McEnally and environmental scientist Ella Baker did the same, this time



closing off a back entrance as well. They also endured about eight hours in the sun before they were cut free and arrested.

On 8th February, the Midcoast Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on the NSW Government to permanently protect the two Bulga compartments that triggered the outrage, and more

importantly, called for a just transition from native forest logging to ecologically sustainably-managed plantations and farm forestry. Now that is a sign of the times!

We felt we needed to reach a wider audience, so on 21st February we hosted a webinar with special guest, Bob Brown. We called it 'Bulga and Beyond', because without the forests of the escarpment and Great Dividing Range, we will have water shortages, landslips, declining water quality and increased temperatures.

On 22nd February, the first three of those arrested went to court. All came away with no conviction recorded and nine-month good behaviour orders.

You'll be able to see some of all of that in David Bradbury's new film, *Gondwana, Going, Going, Gone*, which premiered on the Bulga Plateau on 24th February. There will be screenings in Nimbin and the Northern Rivers during March.

You can share information, host info nights, talk to everyone you know about how important it is, and visit the forest.

On 16th March we will walk in to take back the forests that the State logging corporation keeps locking people out of and making it criminal to enter.

For more info, visit: [www.nefa.org.au](http://www.nefa.org.au) and: [savebulgaforest.org](http://savebulgaforest.org) and our Facebook pages.

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