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Emergency Road Repair funds flow to councils



Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin has announced more than \$15 million in Regional Emergency Road Repair Funds (RERRF) for local councils managing roads across the Lismore electorate.

Janelle says the funding is to help councils with urgent road repairs, maintenance, and repair of potholes.

"Over the past few years our roads have taken a battering from floods and storms and landslips, and this funding can help councils with priority repairs.

Each council has been notified of the funding they will receive, which is based on kilometres of roads they manage, as follows:

Tenterfield: 1685km, \$4,306,702;

Tweed: 1247km, \$3,187,215;

Lismore: 1215km, \$3,105,205;

Kyogle: 1196km, \$3,056,426; and

Byron: 609km, \$1,556,547.

"This funding builds on funds councils received earlier this year under the Regional and Local Road Repair Program. The funding means councils can get on with the ongoing recovery work on our roads, to make journeys safer for all road users," Ms Saffin said.

New ice creamery opens in time for summer

What do you do when the munchies hit on a hot day in Nimbin? Head to Cones and Cream on the veranda between the Aquarius Café and Hempling Around.

Dominic and Oceania opened the ice creamery in the second week of October.

The 16 regular flavours are a mix of creams and sorbets. The sorbets and cones are vegan and the couple plan to have a hemp and honey flavour soon. They also do smoothies and coffee.

Cones and Cream is open Wednesday to Sunday between 11.30am and 5.30pm.

Crispy Chris gets ready to chill with a sorbet prepared by Dominic.



New management at Nimbin Law

The team at Nimbin Law is pleased to announce that Aaron Dower (pictured, far right) has taken over the practice as sole director.

Aaron has an extensive legal background, with over 20 years of experience in general legal practice in New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand.

Aaron's recent experience includes managing a mid-size law firm in Auckland from 2013 to 2018 prior to working alongside David and Jonathon Spain at Nimbin Law from 2018 to 2023.

Aaron brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the Nimbin Law practice and is committed to serving the local community.

Aaron's areas of practice include conveyancing and property law, family law (property), wills, estate planning and administration, trust law, power of attorney and appointments of enduring guardian, equity and trusts and commercial and corporate law.

Outside of legal practice, Aaron competes in ultra-marathons and enjoys coaching runners of all ages and abilities.



David Spain remains with the firm as a consultant, providing highly valued continuity and ongoing support to the firm and its clients. David has over 50 years of legal experience, much of it in big-city advanced corporate and commercial law.

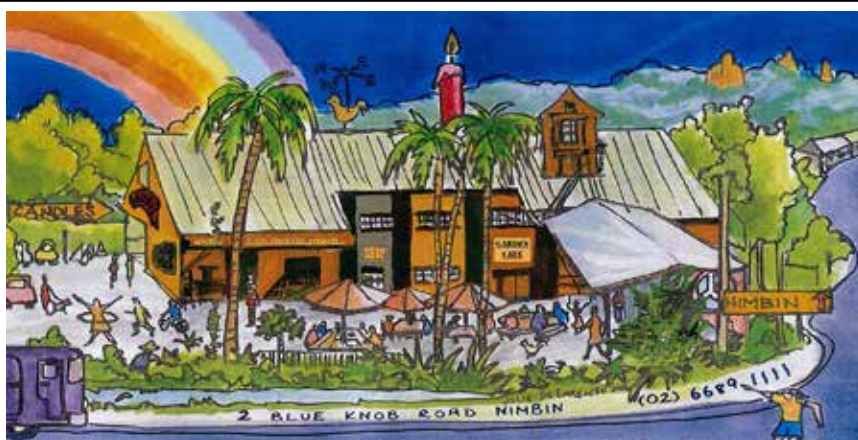
In addition to practising in the same areas of the law that Aaron does, David is highly sought after for his unrivalled expertise in multiple occupancy law, rural land sharing, and the legal and constitutional structuring of intentional communities.

Aaron and David are supported by

two highly capable and experienced legal secretaries, Lili Cotterell and Sarah Jakeman who ensure the smooth operation of the practice.

Situated at 50 Cullen Street in the heart of town underneath the Armonica Café, Nimbin Law continues to provide a broad range of high-quality legal services to its large and loyal client base at competitive rates for both New South Wales and Queensland matters.

Please visit the firm's website for more information: www.nimbinlaw.com.au or phone 6689-1003, or drop in for a chat regarding any legal issues.



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What goes around, comes around

Running between 13th and 19th November, National Recycling Week provides an opportunity for residents and workplaces to learn simple methods of reducing their environmental footprint and preventing waste.

Residents can host or join recycling themed events, brush up on their recycling knowledge with educational resources, learn about new developments in recycling policy and technology or discover tricks to reduce what they are sending to landfill and ensure resources don't go to waste.

Much of what we currently send to landfill is actually valuable material that could be reused, repurposed or recycled.

This year's theme, 'What goes around, comes around' is all about providing simple and actionable tips that enable Australians to keep those valuable materials in circulation, whether at home, work or school.

Last year, Planet Ark research revealed Australian households were sending nearly 2.5 million tonnes of unnecessary waste to landfill.

Between 9 and 18%

(about 441,000 tonnes) of all material sent to landfill by households is likely recyclable, while a massive 41-52% (about 2,000,900 tonnes) could be composted at home or organic processing facilities.

Addressing food waste and ensuring packaging is correctly recycled therefore forms a major component of this year's National Recycling Week resources and activities.

"This year Planet Ark is asking Australians to pause and think about what they are currently sending to landfill and ask whether

it is waste after all," said Planet Ark CEO Rebecca Gilling.

National Recycling Week was founded in 1996 as an opportunity for Australians to take waste and recycling into their own hands by improving their recycling knowledge and building better recycling habits.

Since then, the annual recycling rate in Australia has increased from just 7% of all disposed materials to more than 60%.

To learn more or get involved in National Recycling Week, visit: nationalrecyclingweek.com.au



Photos: Charlie Wood

Temptress and Trash – local fashion designs from recycled materials

Trading as HoneyCut Fashion Alchemy, local designer Honey Kindred presents her latest collection 'Temptress & Trash' as part of National Recycling Week.

Honey utilises plastic bottle caps and the plastic netting from bags of oranges, as well as her signature repurposed metal mesh.

This latest collection is a prime example of what household items can be used to create green couture.

Living off-grid on the Kookaburra community at Terania Creek, The Channon, Honey Kindred is a past secretary of Nimbin Fashion Association and

has participated in Nimbin fashion shows since 2008.

"My passion is creating fashion and wearable art from recycled sources. My signature medium is the aluminium mesh of second-hand handbags.

"Recently I have been adding new recycled elements to my designs such as the ubiquitous plastic bottle tops, video tape, business card, CDs and the plastic mesh of bags of oranges," Honey said.

Her designs can be viewed on Facebook at: [HoneyCut.FashionAlchemy](https://www.facebook.com/HoneyCut.FashionAlchemy) or at: www.instagram.com/HoneyCut_Fashion_Alchemy





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Nimbin Roots Festival wows the crowds

by Mel Williamson

The annual Nimbin Roots Festival was held over the weekend of October 15th and 16th, and fortunately the erratic Spring weather played nice with a sunny, warm weekend.

Held over various venues in Nimbin village, plus a busking competition on the streets (congratulations to winner Buskin' Blind, who will be on next year's bill); along with local and visiting musicians jamming at The Heart Connexion – the village was awash with musical vibes.

As always, the calibre of music was superb, and the diverse crowds were enthusiastic and very appreciative. Highlight acts included Rogue Elements (Bill Jacobi's new band), The Humpbuckin' Pick-ups, Paddy McHugh, Shane Howard, Dog Trumpet, Bobby Alu, and the fun Good Corn Liquor who closed out the Bowlo both nights.

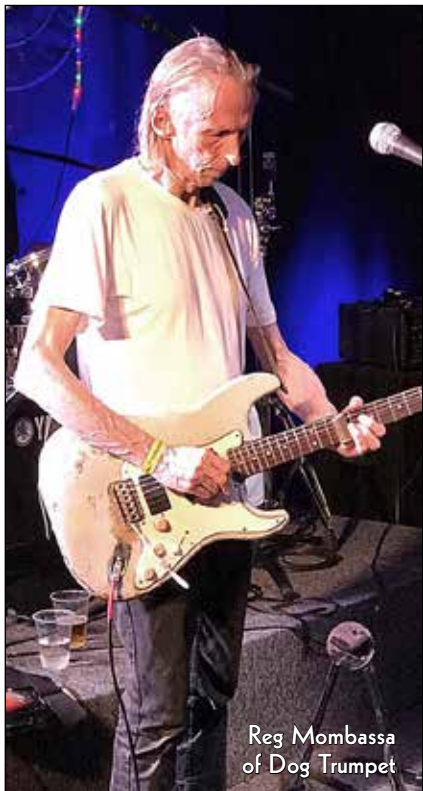
Nimbin Roots Fest is certainly one of the most relaxed, friendly and affordable music festivals around – earmark your calendar for next year.

Next year's festival will be held on 12th and 13th October, and earlybird tickets have already gone on sale.

Go to: nimbinrootsfestival.com for more details, and join the Facebook page "Nimbin Roots Fest" for announcements, including artist applications.



Bobby Alu



Reg Mombassa of Dog Trumpet



Buskin' Blind



Good Corn Liquor



Photos: Mel Williamson and PAC

The Humpbuckin' Pickups

Nimbin explores life, death and beyond

by Jagad Samuel

In a place like Nimbin, we are proud of our vibrant and unconventional conversations, so it's hardly surprising that even the taboo topics trend.

Among the conversations, discussions about death have recently taken centre stage, drawing the community's attention in a thought-provoking manner.

A spark for this continued discussion was the launch of Saskia Kouwenberg's book, *Death, Dying and Beyond* which I had the pleasure of reviewing last month.

The book is a comprehensive self-help guide, offering practical wisdom and insights for navigating the complexities of the end-of-life journey.

It addresses both the practical aspects of death, such as preparations and logistics, and the emotional and spiritual dimensions of this profound transition.

The book's lively launch event, held on Sunday 22nd October at the Nimbin Aboriginal Cultural Centre with more than 90 attendees, became a vibrant gathering of

minds and hearts.

The Cultural Centre itself was adorned with the artistic expressions of three late Aboriginal artists – John Wright, Johnny Bayles and Burri Jerome. This touching tribute to their legacy set the stage for a profound afternoon.

Saskia (pictured) began the event with a moment of silence, a poignant reflection to remember the Nimbin community members who had recently passed. She then expressed heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals who had supported her in bringing this remarkable book to life.

Following this, the baton was passed to Halie Halloran

from Paperbark Deathcare, who led the audience into a world of diverse ideas and practices related to end-of-life care.

Halie delved into various aspects of death care, from the practical considerations of when to involve a funeral director to answering questions on more unconventional concepts, such as the notion of burying people vertically. The crowd was engaged and intrigued.

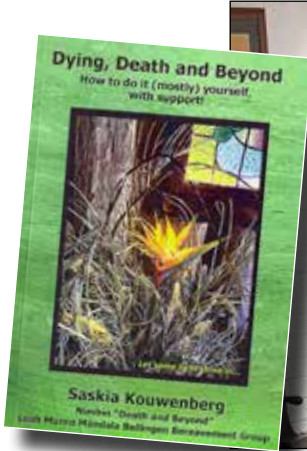
As the event unfolded, Manika Raff, a death doula, and I took the stage to read poignant excerpts from Saskia's book. These passages resonated with the audience.

When the floor returned

to Saskia, she spoke about forming a Nimbin volunteer end-of-life care group.

The book is available from the Nimbin Environment Centre, but Saskia shared that only seven copies of the first print run remain, but she assured me that the second print run is already in the works.

In a town where the unconventional is the norm, the discussions around death, re-ignited by the book *Death, Dying and Beyond* and added to by the insightful speakers at the launch, remind us of Nimbin's spirit – a place unafraid to explore even the most challenging aspects of life (and death).



Navigating disinformation, uncertainty, individualism and the poison apple of conspiracy

We are living in a massively perplexing age of disinformation.

From cooker conspiracies through to outright financial scams, it is becoming increasingly challenging to navigate the tidal wave of mendacity we find ourselves adrift in.

The collapse of a shared sense of reality and the descent into a post truth world obviously best serves those most reliant upon lies and misinformation to pursue their nefarious ends (the Trumps, Putins and Bolsanaros).

Whilst there are good reasons to hold a healthy scepticism towards the official versions of reality offered by governments, corporations, media owners and militaries, there is an even greater danger in descending into the complete abyss of distrust of all official information.

To mistrust it all simply renders you even more incapable of discernment than if you naively trusted it all. It is the worst of the worst fraudsters, tricksters and dictators who are the principal beneficiaries of the dense smokescreen that is offered by all-encompassing cynicism.

Why do people turn to conspiracy theory and fascism in such large numbers? I believe it is largely the result of two very widespread vulnerabilities in humans in general. One is an addiction to certainty and the other what I call the false promise of individualism.

Uncertainty

We live in a very complex universe, it actually began in a very pure form of chaos, so formless that it enabled all manner of experimentation to occur spontaneously enough to produce temporary structures such as swirling galaxies, planets and if you are lucky enough, atmospheres and biological processes like we see on Earth.

The human mind, confronted with infinite diversity and uncertainty has always sought the shelter of certainty. The idea that there is one big sky daddy running all of this, is actually very similar to the deep unconscious need to explain discomfiting global events as the work of a single elite illuminati.

The actual evidence though, points to a planet peopled by humans, engaged in multiple competing processes for dominance and power, (and even a substantial amount of well-motivated ones). The swirl of competing

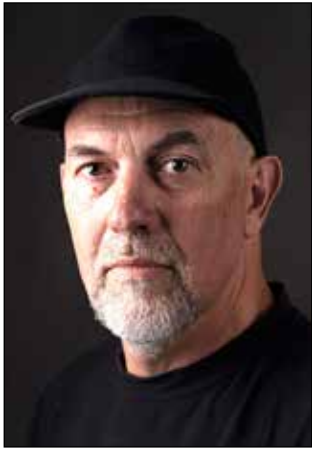
interests, corporations, media moguls, governments, dictators and militaries are all hatching their own plots and propagandas and trying to out-do each other.

Amongst this rabble is also a lot of humans with good moral conscience fighting for things like human rights, transparency, environmental repair and even older more conservative values like an independent judiciary and the equal application of the rule of law.

So mental resilience factor number one for surviving with your sanity intact, is build up your uncertainty muscles. Listen to the great astrophysicists like Brian Cox and learn how to really enjoy being a spec of space dust in a temporarily stable pocket of the universe, only then are you in a position to perceive your situation much more clearly.

Individuality

The other great mental dilemma of our times is the very flawed concept of individuality. I am not saying



by Aidan Ricketts

collective process. Completely alone you have absolutely no mechanisms for knowing what is a workable consensus worldview for humanity.

If you really are the only person to know the 'truth' then you are probably already insane.

Evolution favours a species with great diversity both physically and neurologically. This diversity gives us a variety of expertise. Expert doctors, physicists, climate scientists, constitutional lawyers, artists, computer

for the one scientist who disagrees, or the charismatic you tube spruiker who can offer you a simpler, neater, more certain, (and inevitably manipulatively right wing) alternative explanation.

Have whatever doubts or intuitions you wish, but try to respect as much as possible what communities of knowledge have to contribute.

I have been deeply saddened in recent years watching friends and former allies of our great social movements for the environment and human rights, get sucked down worm holes of disinformation and conspiracy.

When the internet, and later social media first appeared we all could see the great potential for a great digital democracy, for information sharing and transparency and for global organising for social change. It went well for a few years.

But as we entered into the new century, authoritarian regimes such as China and Iran and Russia were busy learning everything, they could from what activists had achieved and how to turn the internet and social media into tools for surveillance and propaganda.

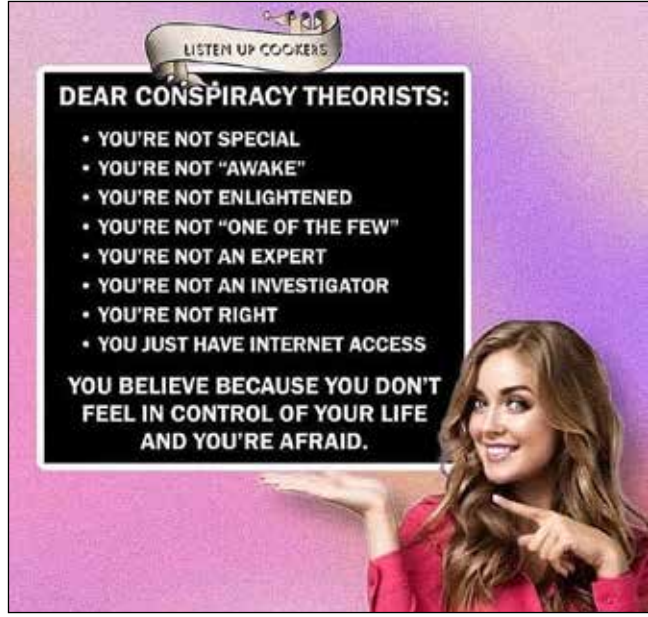
They were quickly joined by extreme right movements in Europe, America and Australia, who used the wealth at their disposal to mimic and reinvent online viral politics for their own purposes.

The result has been that social media has more recently become a bizarrely complicated maze of traps and wormholes, many of which have been deliberately designed to use algorithms to pull the unsuspecting to the right.

Awash with uncertainty, stripped bare as individuals and taught to distrust all mainstream expertise we have collectively become the prey of thousands of scammers, conspiracy theorists, fascists and manipulators.

Sadly, conspiracy theories themselves are the strings that pull on the puppets that fall into them, all the while goading you that you are one of the few who can see the 'truth'.

Best of luck my friends. I could go on, but please, turn Facebook down, don't seek truth from snake oil salesmen on youtube. Re-engage with your community, with nature. Science and knowledge are never certain, and it can always question its own conclusions later, and that is how we all should be, uncertain and more than prepared to question ourselves.



there is no such thing as individuality, it's just that it only occupies one single extremity in a continuum of experience (a bit like an infinity symbol) in which your connection to the universe, nature, humanity, and to community really defines who and what you are.

Abstract individualism is a relatively recent idea that has been massively over-emphasised in liberal capitalist ideologies. Sadly, when you have been stripped of your deep connection to the universe, nature and community, individualism becomes like a trauma teddy that people cling to with tragic obsession.

How many times have you heard the insane utterance: "We are born alone and we die alone"? Pure madness, it is impossible to be born alone.

Sanity is by definition a

whizzes, biologists, activists, mystics, criminals, scammers, fascists and that charismatic guy on youtube.

So mental resilience factor number two is to seek to ground your experiences into the collective. Feel into our collective experience and seek that consensus reality that is so important to our collective survival.

Experts

This brings me to the third resilience factor, experts. We need to continue to trust expertise, acquired knowledge and the mental disciplines and rigour that are attached to real expertise.

More important than expert individuals are the communities of expertise. When 20,000 scientists attest that climate change is a real and existential threat, STFU and listen. Don't go looking

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

As we well and truly have entered bushfire season, remember to remain vigilant, follow instructions regarding fire bans and please don't take any risks.

Be careful about using power tools such as grinders or welders in hot and windy weather and avoid mowing your grass in such conditions in case you hit a rock.

Most fires are caused by human error or carelessness. Anything that could cause sparks should be avoided in hot weather.

Vale Katie Cawcutt

Long-time friend of the Neighbourhood Centre and Aquarius legend was sent off by the community in spectacular and colourful fashion on Tuesday 24th October.

Katie would have loved all the flowers and colour and especially would have enjoyed the fabulous eulogy by her daughter Renee English.

We will miss you Katie.

Scam alert warning

There is an ATO MyGov scam going around. Do not follow links you receive via text messages purporting to be from ATO. DO NOT give any personal details of any kind via such a link.

Make sure you ONLY access the MyGov site by typing in my.gov.au Check the address in the address bar, do not enter personal info into any other site.

Nimbin Neighbourhood Food Pantry

Open every Wednesday between 1.30 and 3.30pm for community members to purchase a range of groceries for very cheap prices. Free to join.

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



same place.

Anyone interested in joining our Food Relief team can contact Nicole at NNIC: fob@nnic.org.au

Flood recovery

Need help? Still struggling? Need a bushfire plan? NNIC's Recovery Support Service staff are here to help. Contact the service via email on: nimbinrsc@nnic.org.au or call or text 0488-144-647.

Our Recovery Support Service team can also help you to prepare your Bushfire Plan if you haven't already done so.

For tips and templates on preparing a Bushfire Plan, see: <https://www.myfireplan.com.au>

Annual Community Xmas Lunch

We haven't quite set down the date as yet but it will be definitely be happening again this year at the Nimbin Town Hall in the week before Xmas and will as usual feature Santa with gifts for kids aged 12 years and under.

Watch this space and Nimbin Hook Ups and our website and facebook page for more info very soon.

Nimbin Women's Dinner

Celebrating International Women's Day in 2024. After a break for the last four years due to Covid and then the floods, we are aiming to get the Nimbin Women's Dinner back up and happening again in March 2024.

The 2024 IWD theme

is: 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'.

We are looking for women who are willing to join an organising group to put the 2024 Women's Dinner together. We are also starting to put out feelers for fun and entertaining acts to perform on the night.

This is a paid gig and aims to support new and emerging women talent by providing a supportive platform to for women performers.

If you are interested in being part of the organising group or performing at the gig, contact us on: admin@nnic.org.au

Take home Naloxone

Available for free at NNIC by appointment.

Naloxone is for 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.

It is a lifesaving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. With the party season approaching now is the time to get some for your first aid kit.

Opioids such as Fentanyl have been turning up in substances such as cocaine, party drugs, even methamphetamine, so all substance users are potentially at risk. Make an appointment with Nat or Nicole.

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.

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

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

We assist frail aged people, NDIS participants and carers to stay living at home and connect socially.

All NACRS support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, Covid-safe trained, insured and locally based.

SOCIAL CENTRE with Veranda – Monday-Friday 10am-2pm. Drop in for a cuppa, access support services, info and computers.

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

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

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

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

www.nacrs.com.au



Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

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

Women's health nurse services

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

Wound clinic

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

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

Nurse practitioner clinic

Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 16th November.

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

Mainstream news claims that 2023 will be the hottest year in recorded history. The Greens say we must reduce emissions as soon as possible, but Labor is trying to delay reaching net zero until 2050.

We are in a climate emergency, but Labor is taking us backwards, as Sue Higginson observes here. They are proposing laws that are even weaker than the former LNP Government's and will breach the Paris Agreement.

It is hard for me to believe that Labor might be weaker than the Coalition in reducing our dependency on fossil fuels, but then I thought the nation would endorse a Referendum to recognise the first inhabitants of Australia.

In the lead-up to that vote I was accosted by someone who said I would lose my land and be deported if Yes got a majority: I told her I didn't believe that. She said she was a "sovereign" and that I had "bought the narrative".

I suggested she might be inclined to drink the Koolaid. Her response made me think she didn't know about Jonestown, 1978, when cult leader Jim Jones instructed his followers to drink poisoned Koolaid, and about 900 complied.

Back to the climate, I believe "the narrative" that the Antarctic ice shelf is melting due to global warming and the sea level is rising. I am not too worried because Nimbin is well above the heights predicted, but I know that the biosphere is fighting to survive.

I am rather fond of most species and feel distressed to hear that some are going extinct. I am heartened, though, by scientists and concerned citizens who have gone out of their way to help. Some have even been successful – like recolonising coral onto reefs that were dead, due to the warming and acidifying of sea water.

Both state and federal governments continue to approve new fossil-fuel projects that contribute to harmful emissions.

I realise that politics is the art of compromise – and getting re-elected – but even some of the corporate chieftains (and donors!) are saying we need to change if we want our children and grandchildren to live in a sustainable world.

Maybe we can avoid catastrophe if we ban donations to political parties. That would probably change the typical political narrative.

NCC Picnic for Nature

This event started in 2022 to bring people together, celebrate nature, grow the movement, and talk about what actions local groups were taking that could lead to wins for nature in NSW.

It was a community picnic, part of a state-wide initiative by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

Last year more than 1,000 people attended 40 community picnics across NSW. Similar to last year, we gathered on Sunday 15th October under the Nimbin Rocks on Widjabul-Waiabal land where the Ngulingah Native Plant Nursery was open for browsing and purchases and the NEC provided free chai.



Vocal Minority choir. Photo: Benny Zable

About 60 people attended and enjoyed the experience. The Vocal Minority choir from Nimbin performed after a welcome by Mark Roberts. The day celebrated the natural beauty of our local area and community connection.

The picnic had perfect weather for people from around the district to get together and talk about what we can do to protect nature and act on climate change.

Water restrictions eased

Much of the state has experienced a very dry year. Level 2 water restrictions in Nimbin village have just been lifted.

However, concerns remain how the limited water supply from the small weir on Mulgum Creek will be able to provide for the needs of future developments already approved but yet to be built.

NEC wants to know what effect water mining has on the levels of the underground water. While NSW has legislated no expansion in Tweed Shire of existing water bores for commercial purposes, ie bottled water, Qld has no such restriction and further licences are pending on the Gold Coast.

According to a UN report,

Australians, on average, spend over \$500 per year buying 500 litres of bottled water. The bottled water industry pockets over \$650 million/annum.

Australia has the most expensive water with most of the cost in the packaging. Despite the 10-cent bottle refund, the waste disposal of plastic rubbish is not adequate for the cost to the environment.

Australia has good clean tap water, so refilling a reusable bottle protects the environment and your wallet.

The Wallum Estate

This DA in Byron Shire was approved by the Northern Regional Planning Panel. Byron Council is now seeking legal advice, with some claiming they were "unaware of the significance of the land" and are now motivated to seek a reversal.

Greens MLC Sue Higginson has referred the DA to the federal government for investigation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Northern Rivers Guardians wrote to Member for Richmond Justine Elliott and Member for Page Kevin Hogan to support protecting this area where numerous threatened

species remain as an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC).

There is little left of the original and unique natural coastal habitat as humans have cleared most of it and we think that already degraded land should be used for housing development.

This development does not pretend to target low-income buyers which might ease the shortage of affordable houses, but promises to leave some of the property "in pristine condition."

A recent Byron Council meeting voted unanimously to oppose this development.

Redbank power station

The Redbank coal-burning electricity plant near Singleton in the Hunter Valley, in "care and maintenance" for 10 years, has applied to re-start using "biomass (excluding native forest residues from logging)"... to produce "green electricity" for 200,000 homes.

Jackson Environment and Planning Pty Ltd has been engaged by Verdant Earth Technologies Limited (Verdant) to assist in the state significant development approval for its project at 112 Long Point Road West, Warkworth (Lot 450/DP 1119428).

Verdant has acquired the power station and claims it will burn "a sustainable fuel to produce near net zero CO₂ emissions" and enable the power station to continue to produce "green" electricity on an on-going basis.

Jackson is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Development Application. One of the requirements of the EIS process is to consult with various interest groups.

The state government will decide, but one wonders how this project will ever make ecological sense.

Private Native Forestry in Kyogle LGA: Balancing conservation and sustainability

by members of the Kyogle Environment Group

Kyogle Local Government Area (LGA) is home to one of the largest private native forestry estates in New South Wales, covering 160,000 hectares of land – half the LGA.

At the heart of the regulation governing private forestry is the commitment to Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM), designed to protect the rich biodiversity and ecosystems under the Local Land Service Act.

Private Native Forestry (PNF) refers to the practice of harvesting and managing native forests on private land, as opposed to public State Forests, and is subject to regulations and guidelines aimed at ensuring the so-called "sustainable management of native forests" to maintain ecosystem health, protection of biodiversity and managing the impact on water resources.

PNF is undertaken predominately in sclerophyll forests which provide habitat for a wide range of native fauna, including ground and arboreal marsupials, bats, reptiles and many species of



birds.

Special areas such as rainforests, wetlands, heathlands, and old growth forests are identified as exclusion zones where logging is strictly prohibited under the PNF Code. However, outside these areas, landowners can apply for a desktop approval from the Local Land Service (LLS) for their forestry plans. Unfortunately, the existing regulations fall short in one crucial aspect: there is no requirement for on-ground assessments or surveys to determine the boundaries of threatened ecological communities.

The vast majority of private lands have no documented records of threatened species and there is no obligation for landowners to investigate or consider the potential impact on local wildlife before felling a tree. In practice, while the Private Native Forestry (PNF) code contains

numerous provisions aimed at protecting our unique wildlife, its application in the field often proves ineffective. The minimum standards outlined in the PNF Code are deemed too minimal to achieve true Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management.

Some of the critically endangered species that occur within the Kyogle LGA include: Regent Honeyeater, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Koala, Spotted-tailed Quoll and the Greater Glider.

Kyogle Council has committed to working with State and Federal governments to identify areas of high biodiversity and environmental value and is in the process of developing a consultancy brief for Biodiversity Assessment and mapping of areas of high environmental value. However, this takes time, and time is running out for our critically endangered species.

Fortunately, a solution is emerging that empowers landowners to contribute to the preservation of forest habitat. Citizen science initiatives, such as identifying threatened species and adding data to the Atlas of Living Australia database, have gained prominence in recent years. By participating in

these projects, landowners can strengthen biodiversity records across the landscape, enhancing the knowledge about local ecosystems.

The added data can help make private logging more accountable, shedding light on the presence of threatened species and the impact of forestry activities on the environment.

It provides an opportunity for landowners to take a proactive role in safeguarding the rich biodiversity of Kyogle LGA and ensuring that private native forestry aligns more closely with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable



Greater Glider

Forest Management.

Citizen science offers a promising path forward, where landowners can actively engage in conserving the region's unique wildlife and

ecosystems.

By strengthening biodiversity records, Kyogle LGA can strive for a more balanced and sustainable approach to private native forestry.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB



7 Sibley Street

Workshops: 10.30am – 1.30pm

- **Fri 10th: Monthly Crafternoon 5.30pm** – bring a project, join like-minded crafty friends, by donation.
- **Sat 11th: Char cloth** – learn to make this extremely useful tinder, especially for friction fire lighting as an 'ember extender'.
- **Sat 18th: Water Purifying** – explore techniques to filter and purify water for drinking.
- **Tues 21st: Knitting group** – by donation.
- **Sat 25th: Community Unity with Aunty Liz** – Moving forward together. Community

visioning and talking circle. Town Hall verandah 12pm, bring a plate. Donation on departure.

- **Wednesdays: Weaving circle, from noon** – Bring a project and join like-minded crafters, by donation.
- **Community Tools Library:** Every Saturday, 10.30am – 2pm. For home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Basketballs & pump available, \$5 refundable deposit. Join at NNIC Mon-Fri.
- **Youth BBQ every Friday evening:** 5.30-9pm Cheap eats, live music.

November What's On!

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

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin GoodTimes.

What is happening to democracy in Australia?

We are losing our compassion, National Sovereignty and integrity.

I am appalled at the Australian government's stance on whistleblowers with the plight of Julian Assange, David McBride and others persecuted and prosecuted for telling the truth while the No Vote for instance can lie and misrepresent and not be held accountable.

The Attorney-General keeps repeating the powers he's being asked to use to drop the prosecutions of David McBride and Richard Boyle "can only be used in "exceptional circumstances," which is not true – check out Section 71 of the Act.

Furthermore, the US-Australia signed a "Forced Posture agreement (FPA)"; see IPAN's petition to parliament. So many of these US initiatives have been done in secret with the Australian public kept in the dark, while peace agencies are denied access because they are classified.

However, many of these bases will be controlled by America and the others have "unimpeded access" – see IPAN Independent Peace Association Network.

How much influence has the U.S. on Australia regarding the ongoing saga of Julian Assange? Is Albanese really going to insist on his release?

If Julian is extradited to American and David McBride goes to gaol, I for one will never vote for Labor again.

Joy Davison-Lee
Lismore

Racist result

I will be the first to admit that initially I got caught up in the negativity, fear mongering, misinformation and pessimism that the media pushed around the Voice.

I didn't see why it was the place of non-indigenous Australians to vote on such a proposition. My plan was to get my name ticked off at voting booth and leave.

However, I finally heard something that made sense. If Indigenous Australians want to vote it down then let them, but what right does a non-indigenous Australian have to say they can't have a voice (unfortunately in hindsight a lot of right).

Hearing this logic changed my attitude to actually vote Yes – which I did.

I believe the media and social media are mostly to blame for No succeeding.

Politicians Mundine and Price were given way more air-time than Yes campaigners and were portrayed in a more positive light by the media.

Their party-based rhetoric gave people who didn't know or care an excuse to vote no, without considering what they were really voting for.

The social media hysteria and conspiracy was ridiculously unrealistic, but more confusion and fear to throw in the mix.

The Yes campaign waited too long to actively engage or explain its proposition, and by then too much damage had been done.

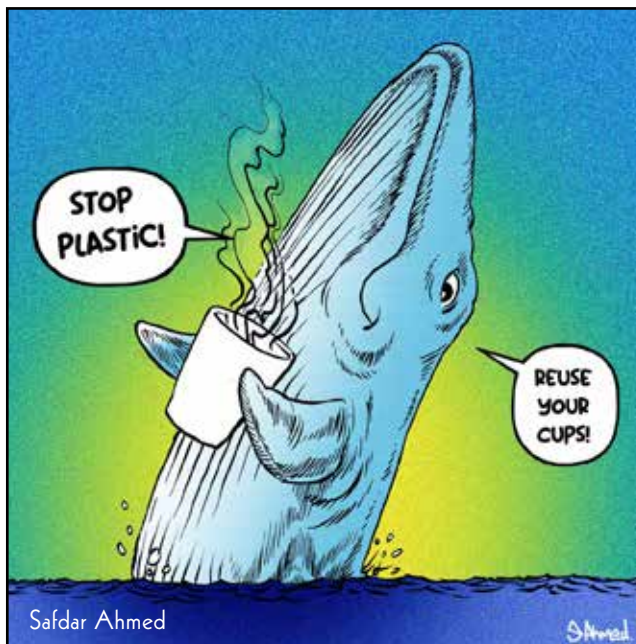
This seems to be what went wrong with the Yes proposition being successful.

However, what has succeeded on Saturday night is that Australia is now openly one of the most racist countries in the world.

Similar to being born with an ethnicity, you can't change what you are and if you are an Australian you are now part of our merry population of racists.

A silver lining for the indigenous, the world now sees Australia as they have for over 200 years.

Jeremy Johns
Tugun



Truth telling

On referendum day I went down to vote. When I got there, there were all of two brave souls handing out pamphlets for the Yes campaign and eight for the No campaign.

As well as sandwich boards featuring Mundine and Price, there was also a long table covered in No pamphlets and propaganda.

Truth telling is something that has been bandied around by both sides of the argument. A good place to start is the media.

It's high time we all came together and got rid of these nasty vile divisive lying horrible people masquerading as journalists – which they are not – spreading lies, creating division, viciously attacking anyone that disagrees, denigrating, belittling people, arrogantly considering anyone not of their ilk to be inferior and being very handsomely financially rewarded for their completely biased spruiking efforts.

Fear campaigns is all the LNP have to offer and it works for them every time. Time and again they prove completely false. Regardless, people fall for them again and again. Howard won three elections back to back based on complete lies. Even when proven to be lies, no-one is held to account, certainly not by the voting public.

A shining example of this is the Robodebt fiasco. Giving tax cuts to the wealthy who in all likelihood don't even pay tax is about the only policy the LNP have. How do we pay for them? Go after some of the weakest most vulnerable defenceless people in society, the unemployed.

Seven innocent people who had done nothing illegal or wrong lost their lives over the Robo debt debacle, while the ex-Prime Minister is still sitting in parliament being well paid by the taxpayer, falsely claiming to be a Christian; nothing Christian about what he did.

The worst that happened was the Public Servant who presided over all this, who

had been advised it was illegal which it was, got transferred to another high paid public service job. Oh dear, how terrible!

It's time we united and re-engaged with our political will, which has been decimated in a landslide of conservatism.

Graeme Cooney
Kyogle

All welcome at Nimbin Police Christmas BBQ

On Saturday 9th December at midday, the community is invited to attend the Triple 0 Christmas BBQ at Allsopp Park.

The police will be joined by emergency services personnel and it will be an opportune time for locals to mingle with off-duty police officers, the fire brigade, paramedics and hospital staff.

Nimbin presents an opportunity to really make some positive change in this community.

"Whether we were on the right side, wrong side, good side, bad side, it is important for all to come together for a common cause so that we can have a good community. We can work together and be an example for the rest of the region," a community member said.

The free BBQ will be



Some people at last year's lunch

informal, an opportunity for the community to get to know the emergency personnel and thank them for their support.

Behind the uniform and badge, they are just like everybody else. Amongst all the negative stuff in the world today, it is important to band together.

Participants can take turns cooking on the grills. Food will be provided by the

local police, businesses and community. For those with special dietary requirements, they are most welcome to bring a picnic lunch.

We hope to see kids and families come together and have a good time interacting with all.

Donations and assistance are most welcome.

Eugenie Stephans, secretary
Nimbin Police Community
Consultative Committee



On 5th November 1973, Lismore City Council and Ballina Shire Council agreed to a joint provision of library services across our region, and Richmond Tweed Regional Library (RTRL) was born.

It wasn't long after, that Tweed, Byron, and Mullumbimby Councils joined the successful model which went on to become one of the largest regional library services in NSW.

RTRL currently provides access to knowledge, information, and entertainment to more than 200,000 Northern Rivers residents through its 12 static branches and a mobile library.

Regional Library Manager, Lucy Kinsley

said, "Over the years, the face of the library has transformed. Buildings have changed and staff have come and gone, having provided their own unique and invaluable contribution to this essential public service."

"In 2023, we say thank you to our supportive Councils, library users, communities, and staff. It's the perfect time to visit your local library and help us celebrate by sharing your library experience."

RTRL staff and family – past and present – are invited to express their interest in attending an official celebration in Ballina on Sunday 12th November.

Please email: rtrl50years@rtrl.nsw.gov.au and more information will be provided.

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

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NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday 24th November

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

Heartfelt send-off for Katie Cawcutt



Photo: LCC



by Benny Zable

As the outside world descends into a deepening of tragic national military wars, here in Nimbin a most memorable peaceful, collaborative event took place on Tuesday 24th October.

A funeral memorial celebration in photos, displays, words, song and much colour, with a wonderful banquet of food to finish off the day, was held in Nimbin Hall to honour the life and spirit of our beloved Katie Cawcutt, Nimbin

Aquarius mother of peace and love.

Renee English, her daughter, was the creative director of the service, supported by Mimi from Sacred Earth Funerals, bringing together many leaders of the Nimbin Community.

As a key founder of the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Incorporated (NAFI), Katie operated from an office next to the Nimbin Community Centre and across from the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre.

Katie Cawcutt dedicated most of her

life to raising funds for the five-yearly Nimbin Aquarius anniversary festival celebrations. She financed projects of the marginalised sector, especially for me here in Nimbin. She also donated funds to the Wyabal/Wyjabul Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Uncle Cecil Roberts delivered a wonderful talk at the memorial service, reminding us of the great environmental victories over the decades since the 1973 Aquarius Festival.

Katie was laid to rest in the Nimbin Cemetery.

On 11th November, another event that Katie Cawcutt initiated, the annual OM for World Peace around the Nimbin IMAGINE circle, will happen following the Remembrance Day war memorial service in Allsopp Park.

*May the long time sun shine upon you
All love surround you
And the pure light within you
Guide your way on.*



Photos: Benny Zable



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