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Nimbin Show makes a comeback



For the first time since 2019, the Nimbin Showground came to life with all the flavour of an agricultural show.

Although the cattle were absent due to prior commitments and there was no Grand Parade this year, there was plenty of competition for horses, dogs, poultry and guinea pigs, and plenty of entries in the Pavilion categories.

Sustainability Alley returned, featuring information stalls on all aspects of resilience, as did many of the entertainments. The new committee was pleased with the weekend's turn-out, and is sure that next year's Show will be bigger and better.

Photos by Sue Stock, more on page 32.

HOW DOES A BEE HIVE WORK?

The Hive Buzz

by Jens Roestel

There is still a great mystery around how a bee hive actually functions.

Scientists have spent countless years trying to analyse bee behaviour and their social constructs. They always find new things, and often these debunk the previous theory.

Most of us know that a beehive has a queen and worker bees. Fewer people know that there are drones in the bee world, and these are the males.

The bees that have anything to do with building comb, collecting nectar, cleaning out the hive and all the other chores involving running a hive are female.

A drone cannot sting, it is not able to collect nectar or pollen and it does not contribute to any useful hive work. His only purpose is to eat, sleep and mate with a virgin queen.

Drones are the only bees that develop from an unfertilised egg. So, a drone does not have a father.

They are also the only bees that are able to visit multiple different hives without being challenged by the guard bees.

Scientists believe that drones can detect queen cells in a hive and hang around those hives more frequently.

As much as the life of a



Worker bees and queen

drone sounds like an ideal one, it ends pretty much after he has done his duty to ensure the survival of his genes.

If hardship befalls a hive, food resources dwindle or seasons change to autumn, the worker bees will kill off any remaining drones in order to conserve food stored in the combs.

The worker bees are the ones that run the household, and it is believed that individual bees have different roles within the hive.

There are bees that remove foreign objects, remove dead bees, collect water, collect nectar or pollen, produce wax and build comb or feed the others and guard the hive from unwanted visitors.

In her six weeks-long life, as a young worker bee, she

is responsible for feeding the older bees, build wax and clean the hive. Only in their last stage in life, usually the last two weeks, do worker bees start collecting nectar, pollen and water.

It is interesting to know that again the roles are defined. A bee collecting nectar does not collect pollen or water.

In summer, bees will collect huge amounts of water from nearby sources in order to keep the hive cool, very similar to an evaporative cooling system.

The boss lady is the only bee that outlives all other bees in the hive. She can live up to three years and on average lays around 1000 eggs a day.

It is astonishing to know that a queen only mates in her early days as a young queen

and collects enough sperm to continue to lay for the rest of her life.

Scientists believed that it is the difference in nutritional composition of the royal jelly that allows a queen to develop differently to the workers bees. But in a study conducted in 2015, researchers found no evidence of a significant difference in nutrition.

So, again, we are not sure what makes a queen a queen. They derive from the same egg as a worker bee. The major difference is that a queen cell is hanging vertically on a frame rather than horizontally like a worker.

Queens are only able to fly during their mating age, about one week after hatching or once a hive is swarming. Otherwise, she is too heavy and can only do small hops.

Once a hive initiates swarming, the queen will stop laying and the workers will chase her around the hive to lose weight. After the swarm has found a new home, she gets fed by the workers again and continues to lay.

It is astonishing how the temperament of a hive changes with a new queen. So, if one has a rather feisty hive, one can replace the queen with one that has a more relaxed attitude.

Within a few weeks, that whole hive calms down very noticeably.

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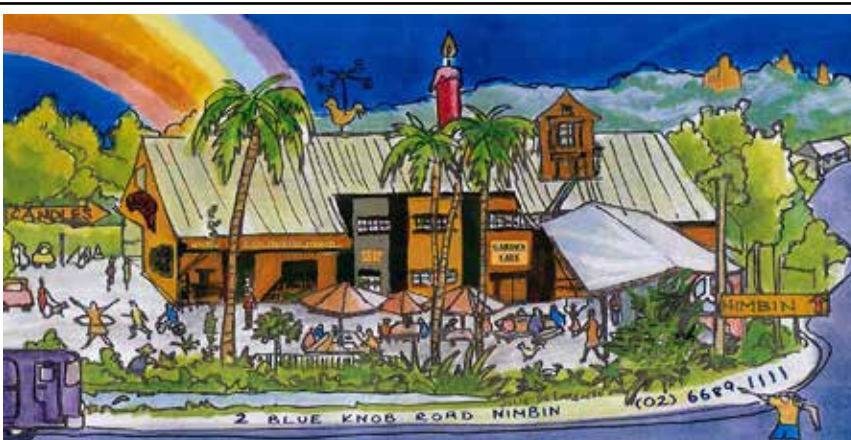


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20th Anniversary of the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup

by Teresa Biscoe

The annual Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup is a community-sponsored event that continues to grow in popularity, with performers and audience members travelling from all over Australia to be part of this gruelling poetry marathon. We had another incredible gathering of the bards this year, with 36 places in the four heats filled within a couple of weeks of the opening of applications. The standard of poetry and performance seems to get higher every year, and all the judges complain about the difficulty of deciding which four poets go through to the next round.

For those who are not acquainted with the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, poets have eight minutes to perform one or more original poems. Heats are run all day Saturday at the Nimbin School of Arts, with 36 poets vying for 16 positions in the Semi-finals, run on Sunday. The Grand Final of eight poets is held on the Sunday evening.

This year's finalists; Thomas Bailey, Josh Cake, David Hallett, Jess, Deb Felton, Vincent Stead, Damien Becker and Alasdair Carter; each gave the performance of their lives. They tackled everything from being a "real" hippy, to toxic masculinity, planetary survival, living with a terminal illness, passing on the legacy of our ancestor's survival and history, and living with racism as an indigenous person.

Alasdair Carter won the Cup with an electric piece exploring toxic masculinity and the way it cripples our young men.

The People's Choice Award went to Andrew Spencer whose compassionate and heartfelt poem about his experiences in indigenous communities out west, and the hopelessness, addiction and suicide that plague these communities, deeply touched the audience who were lucky enough to catch his performance.

The Nimbin Performance



Back row: Vincent Stead, David Hallett, Thomas Bailey, Jess, Damien Becker. Front Row: Jane Treasure (Judge), Andrew Spencer (People's Choice), Gail Clarke (Organiser), Alasdair Carter (also pictured below), Josh Cake, Deb Felton.

Poetry Cup receives no funding; it survives through the incredible efforts of organiser Gail Clarke who fundraises all year to get the prize money for the poets competing and funds needed to run the event. She is supported by numerous individuals, businesses and community organisations of Nimbin and surrounding towns.

Our sponsors this year included the Nimbin School of Arts, Nimbin HEMP Embassy, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, NimFM 102.3 Community Radio, Nimbin Post Office, Nimbin Community School, the Hemp Bar, Perceptio Bookshop, Armonica Café, the Apothecary, Nimbin Candles, Caffiend, Gillian and Daniel Catering, Nimbin Hotel, Kyogle Readers and Writers Inc, ACON and a large number of individuals who donated time, money and prizes.

This year, as part of the 20th Anniversary of the Cup, we received funding from ACON to have the whole event livestreamed.

The livestreaming was supplied by RealArtWorks and many thanks to Zeb Schulz and Matt Damon who worked hard all weekend to ensure that



all our amazing poets' performances could be shared with a wider audience across Australia and overseas.

We had fantastic feedback from those who were unable to attend, and hope to organise live streaming again for next year's event. Many thanks to all our volunteers, sponsors and supporters, we couldn't do this without all of you.

Thanks to all the poets who came together as a community to support each other and make this year's Cup such a feast of performance poetry.

If you have eight minutes of

poetry just waiting to burst out onto the stage, please consider applying next year when applications open at the start of July.

Follow the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup facebook page for details, and also watch videos of previous finalists for inspiration.

If you would like to be a sponsor or volunteer, you can email us at: poetryworldcup@gmail.com

We also welcome new poets at our monthly Nimbin Poetry Night held on the first Thursday of the month at the Nimbin Hotel from 7pm.



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Recognising a commitment to Nimbin community and NSW RFS

by Marcus Mantscheff, Brigade Captain, 2017 – present

On Saturday 28th October, NSW Rural Fire Service and Nimbin Brigade will recognise the service of current and former members who have helped build and strengthen the Brigade across the years.

Two recipients of their 40-year service medallions will include current Senior Deputy Captain (SDC) Charlie Cohen and Deputy Captain (DC) Bradley Soward. Both individuals joined the Nimbin Volunteer Bushfire Brigade in the late 1970s and continue to share their experience and expertise today.

With his father Kevin Soward – a member of Nimbin Brigade since the early 1960s – Brad had little choice to being involved from an early age. He became a Deputy Captain in 1992 and later became a long-serving Brigade Captain.

Brad has been active both locally and interstate: representing the RFS in Aviation at the Spencer Complex of fires near Gosford and in wildfire leadership roles during the Canberra Fires, Victorian Black Saturday Fires plus fires across NSW Hunter Valley, Central Coast and South Coast regions.

Brad became a 1997 foundation member of the Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) and continues this commitment as Northern Rivers Branch President.

Charlie began his volunteer career in 1978 when the old Ford Canada “PawPaw” pulled up in town and called



Charlie Cohen at Cradle Mountain NP, 2016 Tasmania fires



Brad Soward at the 2009 Nimbin ANZAC Day march

for volunteers on its way to a fire. Dedicated to community firefighting, Charlie has strengthened the brigade across 45 years and a passion for firefighting saw him become a foundation member of the Northern Rivers Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT).

Charlie has shared his firefighting expertise and leadership on multiple deployments to Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and many fires across much of NSW. His community leadership has helped build generational change within Nimbin Brigade and Northern Rivers RAFT and he is pleased to see how his beloved Nimbin Brigade has progressed.

NSW RFS Deputy Commissioner Kyle Stewart, himself a Nimbin-born

RFS member with family history in the Brigade, plus NSW RFS Northeast Area Commander Michael Brett will hopefully be present for these long service awards.

A fair number of current members have also volunteered considerable years with Nimbin Brigade and their service will be acknowledged at the Brigade’s 70th Anniversary event at Nimbin Showgrounds on 28th October from 11am.

Our invitation is extended to the wider Nimbin community, former Nimbin Brigade members, plus our local RFS colleagues. Please come along and join us in celebrating Nimbin Rural Fire Brigade’s on-going community service.

Reasons to vote Yes for the Voice

by Benny Zable

Timing should be considered in changing our racist constitution, while we have a well-intentioned Labor government in power.

Since winning a mandate at the last Federal election, they have been working hard on implementing Indigenous Constitutional Recognition through a Voice to Parliament enshrinement in the Australian Constitution.

If the Yes vote is defeated, the Liberal and Nationals stand a chance to be swept back into power at the next Federal election.

It will be back to square one and will not be as generous an offer as this one before the people of Australia now.

If the Yes vote gets defeated, it will be extremely difficult for future governments to risk taking it up in the near future.

Voting Yes is at least a foot in the door towards a stable listening post for



First Nations peoples giving advice to whoever is in power.

In spite of changing governments every three years who are tempted to rip up legislation from the previous government, this enshrinement cannot be changed without an unlikely repeat referendum.

I sadly see the world pendulum moving to the extreme “right”, a repeat pattern from before the Second World War.

For far too long we sat on



Kerry O'Brien addresses the Yes rally in Lismore

our hands and waited for this change in the constitution, while disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community conditions continued to deteriorate.

It is up to all of us to support this generous calling and monitor the process to ensure that grassroots voices are heard and acted upon.

The Yes vote comes with Treaty/s, Makarrata/ Truth-telling, all part of the project. Listening to the Voice of First Nations people will enable a ripple effect on workable solutions for the most disadvantaged generally and to our battered Mother Earth, especially for Torres Strait Islander people who are affected by climate change rising tides.

The ripple effect will

generally set in motion encouraging other colonial nations in the diaspora to follow suit.

We at the Rainbow Chai Tent held a successful forum at the Channon Craft Market for the Yes vote last month, and have held another for No-leaning and undecided voters especially, on 8th October.

The Nimbin Environment Centre has information, badges, and materials to assist with promoting the Yes vote.

There is an excellent booklet out that I recommend everyone read, especially undecided voters: *The Voice to Parliament Handbook* by Thomas Mayo and Kerry O'Brien.

See also Sue Higginson’s column p.11.



Lismore’s Yes rally takes it to the streets

Reviving the zebra crossing



by Jagad Samuel

In the heart of Nimbin, a small but determined group of citizens recently took it upon themselves to address a longstanding safety concern.

The issue at hand was the virtually invisible zebra crossing that had been the source of dire near accidents for pedestrians and drivers alike. Unhappy with the lack of response from the local council, a secret citizen-led safety and maintenance team took action under the cover of night.

This unsung act of community vigilance not only repainted the crossing but also symbolised a collective commitment to safety in Nimbin.

An anonymous source supporting this initiative explained, "This is a very busy zebra crossing, and we repainted the line markings to ensure visibility and increased safety for drivers and pedestrians."

This was no small feat considering the crossing's strategic location in Nimbin's bustling heart,

where pedestrians frequently cross, and vehicles navigate through the narrow street.

Over the years, locals working near this treacherous crossing have witnessed countless dangerous near-accidents. The crossing was faded, and the barely visible white paint had posed a substantial risk to the safety of all road users.

Written and verbal complaints to the council had fallen on deaf ears, seemingly lost amidst the busyness of council schedules and budget constraints. In response to these persistent concerns the Nimbin community took matters into their own hands.

The motivation behind this covert operation was twofold. Firstly, it aimed to alleviate the perilous situation at the crossing. Secondly, it sought to ease the burden on the council's already busy schedule and financially stretched coffers.

The Nimbin community largely agrees that this zebra crossing was a perilous point in the village. Its repainting

was seen as an immediate improvement and was met with great enthusiasm by most Nimbin residents. The key objective wasn't perfection, but to make it "better, and (sic) more safe."

Responsibility for safety extends to all road users, including both drivers and pedestrians. Furthermore, it falls squarely on the shoulders of the council to take measures to maximise safety through clear signage, warning signals, appropriate speed limits, and ensuring clear visibility for all involved.

Over the past decade or so, various groups including the Nimbin Advisory Group have explored options to make this crossing safer. Proposals ranged from relocating the crossing to entirely removing rock walls to improve visibility.

In recent years, numerous concerned citizens have made repeated attempts to get the attention of Lismore City Council. They used various communication channels – phone calls, emails, official complaint forms, and even direct conversations with council

workers in town. The police were also approached to highlight the on-going near-miss incidents.

Despite the persistent efforts and genuine concerns, council responses remained conspicuously absent. People waited years for action, but nothing happened. Frustration mounted, and impatience turned into action.

As a newcomer to Nimbin, I wonder why the councils in the region haven't addressed such an obvious safety risk. I hope that the council will take heed of this action and prioritise necessary road safety repairs, like those still needed down Gungas Road.

The Nimbin community's action serves as a testament to the power of collective responsibility and the determination to ensure the safety of all its members.

It sends a clear message that when official channels fail to respond to the urgent needs of the people, the Nimbin community will rise to the occasion and take matters into its own hands, working together for the well-being of everyone who calls Nimbin home.

Smuggler unveils innovative cargo pants

Nimbin, a town known for its creativity and free-spirited community, has become home to a remarkable new addition – Smuggler Clothing's revolutionary Cargo Pants.

Designed and brought to life by local entrepreneur Wardy, these unique pants have taken the town by storm.

Wardy, a long-time freedom warrior and a proud Nimbinite, didn't settle for the ordinary when it came to Cargo Pants. Instead, he embarked on a mission to create the perfect pair. He not only dreamt up the concept but also designed and had them expertly crafted. Remarkably, his pants still look as good as new after all these adventures.

What sets these Cargo Pants apart is the confidence that Smuggler Clothing has in their quality and durability. With an unwavering belief in their product, they offer a generous three-year warranty on these remarkable pants.

Wardy, hailed as Nimbin's very own Ralph Lauren when it comes to these pants, has poured his passion into every stitch. These pants are more than just clothing; they're a statement of craftsmanship and innovation.

The highlight of these Cargo Pants is their EMF-blocking pockets. Think of them as your personal Faraday cage, rendering your old ones obsolete! These pockets allow you to place your phone inside while maintaining privacy –



the signal is cut! The advantages are numerous:

- No tracking is possible.
- Your credit cards are safe from skimming.
- Eavesdropping on your conversations becomes impossible.
- Your sensitive areas remain protected from unnecessary radiation.

But that's not all. Smuggler Clothing has also added a waterproof pocket for those unexpected encounters with water. In addition, there's a secret pocket so cleverly hidden that it's practically invisible, perfect for safeguarding your most personal items.

The Cargo Pants come equipped with a passport pocket for the adventurous souls among us. You'll never have to worry about losing your passport again during worldly explorations. Wardy's extensive travels and experiences have informed the design of these pants for your peace of mind.

Last but not least, these Cargo Pants are incredibly comfortable and made of 100% cotton canvas.

Ready to grab your pair? Visit: smugglerclothing.com and use the code "WARDY" to enjoy an impressive 50% discount. This exclusive offer is extended to Nimbin residents to show appreciation for their support.

But act fast, because, as they say, Wardy can't keep his pants down forever. Hurry and secure your pair while supplies last! The first 100 pairs are available on-line with free shipping Australia-wide for this initial lot.

Smuggler clothing and further information can be found at: www.smugglerclothing.com Smuggler is also looking for local stockists – contact Erin on: info@smugglerclothing.com

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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Do you need mental health support?

We can help! The Nimbin Collaborative offers a range of new support services, based primarily at NNIC, Tuesdays to Thursdays each week.

Services combine clinical and non-clinical support options to support people in our community who are impacted by mental health issues.

For more info or to book into a service, come and see us anytime from 10am to 4pm weekdays, or phone us on 6689-1692.

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.

Your Neighbourhood Centre needs you!

A number of our long-serving MC members are retiring at the upcoming AGM (date yet to be set), so we are looking for some new people to join the team. Meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of each month from 5.30pm.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Nat on: admin@nnic.org.au and briefly explain why you are interested and what skills or experience you may be able to bring with you.

A background in community services and/or small community-based organisations is extremely beneficial.

Nimbin Disaster Resilience Project

This project, which was generously funded by the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) is

coming to an end in October.

The funding has been invaluable in enabling us to revise and consult around the Nimbin Community Disaster Plan, purchase emergency evacuation equipment and supplies, shore up the Emergency radio network, and build the Community Care Team.

Many thanks to NRCF and also to Virginia Waters, our Project Officer, who carried this project forward so expertly and competently.

NNIC solar system to be upgraded

Thanks to funding provided by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), NNIC will soon be upgrading our solar array and installing battery storage to enable us to keep operations going at NNIC in the event of a power failure occurring, especially in a disaster situation. Thank you FRRR!

Friday Nite Youth BBQs

Fridays at 5.30pm at 7 Sibley Street – a chance for young folks to hang with friends, have something to eat and maybe give us ideas for future activities of interest to them. There will be music, and lights on the basketball court and skate park. Proudly brought to you by NNIC and the 7 Sibley Street project. (Weather permitting – watch our Facebook page/s for updates and rainchecks etc).

Sustainability Alley 2023

Thanks so much to all the NNIC and NDRG team members, to all the various stallholders, musos and to everyone who came along and who helped make Sustainability Alley a success this year. It was a great couple of days, and everyone had a great time.

171 of you participated in the Sustainability Quiz and thanks to everyone who also provided valuable feedback and ideas for next year. Extra



Volunteers Chris and Reg at the NNIC stall

special thanks to the Nimbin A&I Society for hosting us and supporting us again this year. Nimbin, we love you.

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: nimbinrss@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: www.myfireplan.com.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

Nimbin Hospital information



Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

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

Women's health nurse services

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

Wound clinic

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

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

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

Nurse practitioner clinic

Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 19th October.

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

Nimbin Show

NEC joined other community organisations with a stall at Sustainability Alley for the newly revived Nimbin Show held on 23rd-24th September.

After a three-year hiatus, a festival atmosphere prevailed on the weekend, the weather was kind, and there was good turn-out of locals and visitors who enjoyed the event. Congratulations to all and many thanks to everybody who participated. We wish the Nimbin A&I Society every success for their future efforts.

Riparian restoration

NEC has also congratulated the Websters Creek Catchment and Gungas Road Valley Landcare groups for planting thousands of native plants to restore riparian zones on two sites, one on Calico Creek and the other on Mulgum Creek, north of Nimbin.

These projects provided employment for local bush regenerators and included field days. Funding was provided by Local Land Services and Lismore City Council. The work will be ongoing as follow-up and maintenance of the sites will be required.

Renewable Energy Summit

At the Australian Renewables Industry summit in Canberra on Monday 11th September, community organisations, unions and investor groups called for a package to respond to massive

investment overseas.

The Federal government needs to provide funding to boost jobs and reduce emissions through investments in clean industries and manufacturing of renewable energy components.

If Australia wants to be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem, our governments need to work co-operatively with renewable sectors and stop issuing permits for new coal and gas projects.

It is hard to reconcile the comments coming from Federal and some State leaders that climate disasters abound and will only get worse, while at the same time encouraging more fossil fuel pollution.

I know that politics is the art of compromise, but this is ridiculous! We must go on a war footing, identify the problems honestly and step up, not just for ourselves now but for the future for the planet.

Tallaganda Forest Protection

On 30th August the EPA issued a Stop Work Order to protect the endangered species Greater Glider in a public forest that escaped the devastating Black Summer bushfires.

Forestry Corp (FCNSW) has been ordered to immediately cease all harvesting, haulage operations, and any road and track construction work in the areas of concern in the Tallaganda State Forest. FCNSW must immediately comply with the Stop Work Order which is in place for 40 days and can be extended.



NEC stall at the Nimbin Show Photo Sue Stock.

Research released in September by the Australia Institute shows a strong majority of Australian voters want bans on public native forest logging such as decreed for New South Wales and Tasmania extended to the entire country. 69% of voters said they want that sort of logging to stop.

Great Koala National Park

An announcement from the NSW state government on 12th September followed pressure from communities that had accused the Minns ALP government of stalling on an election promise and allowing forestry operations to continue in areas that had been ear-marked for the proposed National Park.

The NSW Environment Minister, Penny Sharpe, said the government has suspended logging operations in 106 "koala hubs" – areas of important habitat the NSW environment department identified in 2017 but which no government has acted to protect.

Penny Sharpe has banned all current and future logging initiatives in these areas,

contributing towards the on-going health of koala populations within the proposed park. These "hubs" cover about 5% of the 176,000 ha of forest that will be assessed for protection within the proposed Great Koala National Park.

Court proceedings

Forests protectors have called attention to the inverse situation that laws (and therefore police) currently protect loggers who continue to devastate our public native forests while arresting citizens who try to stop them.

Several people from the Nimbin area have appeared in Court for the "crime" of entering a public forest which has been declared "closed" by Forestry Corp. Saskia Kouwenberg, Greg Behrend and Hanna Navarra each had their charges dismissed without penalty.

MJ Johnston, who disrupted logging by locking onto equipment at Camira State Forest also walked free without penalty from the Court in Lismore as her lawyer, Eddie Lloyd, convinced Magistrate Cross that MJ represented

"community expectations", and did not need a Bond to be of good behaviour. A major win for judicial independence!

Vote Yes

At our monthly meeting, members of NEC voted unanimously (one abstained) to support the Yes vote for the Referendum coming up on 14th October.

While recognising that some people have objections, we generally believe that Aidan Ricketts was right when he said: "If nothing changes, nothing will change" (NGT July 2023) And change we must.

It is widely recognised that Aboriginal youth is a disproportionately large proportion in criminal custody while neglected in health care and educational opportunity.

This can't continue, if Australia is to "close the gap" and avoid further shame. We have many issues to contend with in the near future and we can start by listening to a Voice from one of the world's oldest cultures.

You might ask, what does this have to do with our environment? The answer is: everything! If we can respect one another, we have a chance to secure a sustainable future.

Some have said this referendum "divides us", but I say it reveals who we are.

The First Nations have stood by our side in efforts to protect the environment from greedy exploitation: these allies in the struggle to maintain a healthy environment have stood with us for many years.

Now it is time for us to stand for them! I ask you to vote for a better future... for all of us. Vote YES!

Public interest outweighs disclosure on private native forestry

by members of the Kyogle Environment Group

Amidst a climate crisis and the looming threat of species extinction, logging native forests faces growing public opposition.

Safeguarding these forests from industrial logging has become paramount, especially with the anticipated decline in log supply from public lands and the increasing prevalence of private forestry operations, as evidenced by the constant presence of heavy haulage log trucks on our roads.

Under the Private Native Forestry (PNF) framework, landowners must submit a PNF Plan for approval by Local Land Services (LLS). These plans have a 15-year lifespan.

In the 2021-2022 period, 13 Forestry Management Plans were approved alongside PNF Plans. The year 2022-2023 saw a substantial surge in private forestry, with 311 plans approved state-wide, of which 253 are located in Northern NSW.

This translated to a remarkable expansion from 1,947 hectares in 2021-2022 to a staggering 2000% increase in 2022-2023 to 44,383 hectares.

The Northern NSW private



remains shrouded in secrecy, and does not permit public access to information about the location and scale of PNF operations in their neighbourhoods.

The Local Land Service Act Part 5B states: "The principles of sustainable forest management means the following: a) maintaining forest values for future and present generations; and b) ensuring public participation, provision of information, accountability and transparency in relation to carrying out of forestry operations."

Transparency is notably lacking in an industry that should adhere to principles of accountability and public participation, as outlined in the Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM) mandate within the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice.

While we frequently witness penalties imposed on Forestry Corp for harming koala habitats in public forests,

questions arise about the effectiveness of monitoring and compliance on private lands.

Logging, an inherently impactful activity, contrasts with numerous smaller-scale projects that necessitate public exposure of proposals, enabling neighbours and the broader community to voice concerns, objections, and critiques.

Shockingly, there isn't even a requirement in the PNF Code to conduct koala assessments before logging.

To rectify this situation, enhanced availability of public information regarding PNF activities is imperative. This would foster community awareness and understanding of these operations and, importantly, demonstrate that PNF activities undergo the same level of evaluation and public scrutiny as other developments on private lands.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, Kyogle Council took a significant step in September by

passing a motion to urge the Local Government NSW Association to advocate for increased funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Local Land Services.

This move was driven by concerns that neither LLS nor the EPA possess sufficient resources to proactively enforce compliance within the realm of Private Native Forestry, often reacting only after environmental damage has already occurred.

Our forested landscape in the Northern Rivers area is a precious resource that demands protection, not exploitation.

NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB
7 Sibley Street

October What's On!
 \$15 unless otherwise noted
Bookings: text 0475-135-764 or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops: 10.30am – 1.30pm

- Fri 13th: Monthly Crafternoon 5.30pm** – bring a project, join like-minded crafty friends, by donation.
- Sat 14th: Make non-toxic glue** – for craft projects and wallpaper. \$15 materials incl.
- Tues 17th: Knitting group** – by donation (every 3rd Tuesday each month).
- Fri 20th, 4pm: Sewing for Kids** – with Monica. Machines available or BYO, \$15.
- Sat 21st: Vermicomposting** – let the worms do the work for you. Make and take home worm/compost buckets. \$20.

- Sat 28th: Make your own felt hat** – with Courtney. Full day workshop includes lunch, all materials provided, \$120 (bookings essential).
- Wednesdays: Weaving circle, from 11am** – 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. Join at NNIC. Basketballs & pump available, \$5 deposit.
- NEW! Youth BBQ Every Friday evening! 5.30-9pm Cheap eats, live music**

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.

Abused helpers

I am disgusted with the Nimbin GoodTimes September front page article regards Dave Oneege and others, written by Andy Gough.

Surely in a time of emergency with people on roofs desperately waiting for someone to save them from drowning and the a need for urgent money raising... The money would be for food, clothes etc. and getting people to hospital if needed.

Well imagine in all that urgency you have to get a charity certificate to raise this money and go through all the red tape. Then open up a new bank account. Well really how ridiculous. That would take weeks.

How would you feel after putting a big effort in to helping flood victims and then get hit with fines up to \$700 because you did not register your charity? Thumbs up to all volunteers in the flood who just got on with helping.

Susan Lockie
Dyraaba

Fake charity heroes

I am appalled after reading the front page defamatory article written by Andy Gough in the September Nimbin GoodTimes.

The article falsely claims that three "Conspiracy Theorists" were found guilty of running a fake flood charity.

The three individuals, Dave Oneegs, Dottie Janssen and Hayley Birtles-Eades have been exonerated. They did not take one cent for themselves. In all financial dealings they were transparent.



When the call went out that help was needed, many caring Aussies, myself included, did not hesitate to give cash, which we knew would be given directly to the most needy.

The Government was very slow to give any assistance. These three caring Australians put their own lives on hold and co-ordinated rescue teams and collected donations.

They delivered supplies to isolated people using jet skis on dangerous, polluted floodwaters.

Dave, Dottie and Hayley should be celebrated, not defamed.

Susan Pryer
Tallebudgera Valley

Walking the Talk

I refer to your front-page story in the September issue.

The Cambridge English Dictionary defines a "grifter" as someone who "gets money dishonestly."

This is an odd term to use for people who were exonerated of any wrongdoing in court, apart from failing to jump a bureaucratic hurdle in a time of crisis in an effort to help people when it appeared to many flood-afflicted that the government and established

charities had forgotten them.

The language used in this article, apart from being defamatory and bordering on hate speech by extending to the wider community of so-called 'conspiracy theorists' is fraught with inaccuracies also.

I am shocked and disgusted that the editor of a paper which supports justice, sensibility and health choice through legalisation of hemp products would allow such an article without vetting all the facts and demanding an unbiased account rather than an unsubstantiated tirade.

I met Dave Oneegs distributing food and gifts to children at the Bogabilla First Nations community during the lockdown that prohibited travel across the state borders to obtain food and medical supplies without proof of vaccination.

This community was in great need, as demonstrated upon our arrival by the willingness of a local elder to take the needle in order to feed his people, whereupon he suffered a heart attack (surely a coincidence) and was rushed to hospital. The community still considers Dave a hero.

I have spoken to Dotti on the phone and was assured that \$200,000 of the \$320,000 had already been distributed to needy families, revealing a glaring inaccuracy by your journalist.

No donors should be worried about their funds, as these were all people on board with Helping Hands' activities – unless the funds wind up in the hands of unscrupulous registered charities as suggested by Janelle Saffin.

We remember the thousands of victims of bushfires and now floods who failed to receive funds intended for victims.

I have seen footage of

Dotti, Dave and their helpers helping to rebuild people's homes following the flood as well. What kind of ethics, or what kind of agenda, drives the demonisation of people doing such good?

Fair Trading even commended Dotti on her work and has been helping her charity to become registered, but the process has inexplicably been held up for a year, possibly swayed by biased, slanderous and inaccurate reporting such as this front-page article presents.

As regards Graham Hood, it seems Andy Gough has tarred him with the same brush. Perhaps Mr Gough will feel somewhat contrite following the vindication for 1700 Qantas workers sacked over illegal vaccination mandates (surely, they were all conspiracy theorists), who have now been offered reinstatement with compensation for the illegal sacking.

Oh but yes, your paper displayed a photo of a prominent local comedienne wearing an "anti-anti vaxxer" t-shirt, so it seems the scruples of your once democratic publication are now compromised.

This battle is far from over, but we must all avoid divisive propaganda that seeks to divide us with bias and fallacies when instead we should be working on common goals like an end to censorship and restoration of the personal freedoms which make us a true democracy.

If the hippies were right, and love is the answer, let's start walking the talk again.

Wendy Ford
Goonellabah

Conspiracy theorists

I congratulate the NGT for its exposé of the fraudulent deadlines of conspiracy theorist Dave Oneeglio etc.

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Community Centre AGM 2023 will be held Thursday 16th November, 5-8pm at the Birth and Beyond meeting room, 54 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

Bush Dance

Tuntable Community is celebrating its 50th Birthday with a Bush Dance on Friday 20th October and all keen dancers are welcome to come and celebrate with us! Food available on the night from 6pm, dancing from 7pm. Bring the kids, this is a family event.

CWA Nimbin Branch

Open days on 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays monthly and Nimbin markets. Branch meetings on 2nd Monday monthly. Winter clothes \$1 sale through October. CWA room is behind the Furies shed on Sibley Street.

Remembering the dead

A gathering will be held at 7 Sibley Street on Sunday 29th October at 2pm to remember the dead. It will be followed by drinks at Nimbin Hotel.

Zonta Club of Northern Rivers

The Zonta Club meets at 6pm on the third Wednesday of the month at Alstonville Bowling and Sports Club, 10-14 Deegan Drive, Alstonville. The focus of the club (and Zonta International) is to build a better world for women and girls. Contact: Bobbi Crane, President on 0409-980-729.

behind the scam 'Aussies Helping Hands'.

Years ago, someone asked me to join his cult: "Just pay copious amounts of money and you can believe in whatever you want."

It's pretty much the same formula with conspiracy theorists. You don't need any qualifications or expertise to start your own conspiracy theory.

Find yourself a good scapegoat, preferably one that's already disliked or misunderstood. Popular choices are the government, foreign agencies, persecuted minorities... and pedophiles are a good choice as no-one is going to defend them.

Now, add lots of hate and paranoia, then start ranting! Don't worry about positive solutions because that's not what you're about, and if anyone gives you a tricky question, just include them on the list of conspirators.

If you're lucky, a splendid opportunity will arise for you to start recruiting converts: floods, recessions, wars and pandemics are perfect opportunities.

Stay close to State borders in case you need to avoid legal detection, but remember, if you are uncovered it's never going to be your fault because as a conspiracy theorist, you are always right and everyone else is wrong.

How good is that? Happy days! Except for the poor sods that actually believe you.

Simon Alderton
Murwillumbah

Free-Thinking the same Free Thoughts

A few years ago, when Covid was nascent and vaccines

were not vexed, I published an article warning my fellow progressive thinkers of traps that had been laid for them by some very unscrupulous people.

The world was in lockdown, anxiety was rife, and all that some of us had left was the internet. Facebook and YouTube cashed in big time, filling our virtual worlds with whatever material was most likely to get us intrigued or enraged, preferably both.

The bait in these traps was always some juicy piece of news. Whether the stories had a slight grain of truth was utterly irrelevant, anything that touched a certain nerve would do. It's still going on today.

Countless videos with ominous music and fast-talking hosts warning of the 'elite' who somehow secretly control everything in this chaotic human realm. The tone is urgent and views are stated with absolute authority. Freshly baked facts are slung at you ten at a time with no chance to question them. They go straight into your brain like a subliminal ad.

The picture they paint is of a simplistic, caricature world populated by goodies and baddies – heroes who 'speak out' and just the right number of villains. Anyone who dies suddenly is without the slightest doubt a victim of vax. This universe is a nuance-free zone.

The greatest thing about the freethink paradigm is that everything fits together like an eight-billion-piece jigsaw puzzle. No matter what happens in the world, the free thinkers know immediately who is responsible and why it was done. No room for

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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
And find us on Facebook

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NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday 27th October

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

doubt. No need to question their sources. Everything makes perfect sense.

I have watched in dismay as friends have descended the same tediously predictable path from liberally minded progressive to freethinking clone. From vaccines to WHO, WEF to Soros, climate change denialism to sneaky support for the despot exploits of Putin.

Hmmm, I wonder who could be making up all this bullshit? Surely not Wagner or the richly funded fossil fuel think tanks or right-wing book burning gay hating ideologues? No! Truth Tellers only of course.

The thing about bullshit is that you can keep on making it up and lay it on as thick as you like until facts are so smothered in a squelchy, sticky layer of excrement that they are mulched out of existence.

No prizes for guessing what type of weeds grow out of this ideological compost heap.

Exchanges with free thinkers on social media rarely rate as conversations. Always the same repetition of supposedly suppressed information spruiked by a thousand angry podcasters.

Vehement, combative, insulting, unable to assimilate new information or critique their own views. It feels like they are reading the chapter of Pfizer from the Bible of Rant.

Those who fail to buy into the freethink fantasy, are branded as foolish, mask wearing sheeple brainwashed, by the MSM.

I've been pretty patient to date, but now I've had a gutful. The reason is the Voice.

Now that I see my gentle, hippy friends lining up with Hanson, Dutton, Murdoch, Abbott, Palmer and all their insidious crew to scuttle the one chance in our generation to say YES to our Indigenous siblings, I have had enough.

Every day I see new lies being excreted from the disingenuous disinformation matrix about The Voice. I don't mean the no case as presented by some Aboriginal campaigners for whom it is not enough. I am talking about absurd and damaging nonsense.

It's not the elite or the communists or Bill Gates or the WHO pulling the strings of this referendum folks. It's a majority of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters asking to finally be heard.

Simon Thomas
Lismore

Fish Tank

I felt drawn to comment on the varying perspectives surrounding the Voice referendum.

Perception involves incorporating and re-evaluating various points of view; it is always an active process. It is easy to forget how we often bring our backgrounds, life circumstances and complexities into discussion without noticing or reflecting on them.

This is not clear-cut, yet we are often unable to see past the boundaries of our current frame of mind.

Let's take into consideration the 'Fish Tank Paradox'. If we all sat around a rectangular fish tank and observed a side from an assigned position: top, the ends, front and back we would all have a different perception of what was happening inside the tank. Our lenses of perception are relative to our position.

I hope that within this ongoing conversation on the Voice referendum we aim to facilitate a reciprocal and respectful dialogue, bringing an awareness to what we carry or bring with us as we engage relationally.

Let's hope that during this historical time we can sense into our 'blind spots' and be open to each other's viewpoints.

We are after all, sitting at various sides of the tank.

Kate Parker
Byron Bay

Closing the gap

It seems that this 'Closing the Gap' is all the wrong way around!

Our political legislation or system has been in this country for just over 200 years and we are expecting the original inhabitants to abide by our rulings and accept that we will allow them to become part of our social system!

Shouldn't it be that they have had a working tribal system for over 65,000 years

and survived without any gaps?

So maybe we should ask the Tribal Elders whether they would accept us as part of their functioning system and close our own Gap!

The Gap that we have created, in a world that we are advised is becoming unhinged!

Bett Taylor
Kyogle

Native plant speaks

I am a Rare and Endangered Australian Native Plant who has been dug out and kidnapped by humans and grown in a nursery, or the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens by humans who breed like flies and build concrete jungles where few of us and the Australian Native Animals and Birds survive.

We supply the oxygen they breathe, but the ungrateful beasts run our Australian Native Animals down with in their polluting vehicles, which produce carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, and they shoot our Native Animals

for food or bring in Exotic Weeds which strangle us. They will regret this.

Stupid humans light fires or fight each other with explosions, which destroy massive amounts of environmental land or destroy our waterways, swamps and lakes with pollutants.

Some Native Plants have been grown in her garden by this crazy lady who bought us – at least we feed Birds and Aussie Native Bees, our pollinators, and some freshwater animals.

Humans used to create National Parks and Reserves, having overstocked Australia with sheep, cows, goats and pigs. Now they de-list National Parks and illegally log and frack and mine inside our few remaining National Parks.

Please help them change their ways for us, and themselves.

From Eucalyptus and my friends.

Anne Sutherland
Robina



RIP Frances Hood

30. 7. 1962 – 23. 9. 2023

Frances Moonshadow Hood moved to Nimbin from Victoria to live and help at the HEMP Embassy in 2015.

It feels like she's been here forever as she knew so many people and networks, and was so at home here in the community.

She will be missed by many around the globe as well as locally, as she was a fierce defender of the underdog and a tireless campaigner for legalising cannabis.

She ran several cannabis groups on facebook and brought years of medical cannabis experience with her to Nimbin, years of experience advising people how it can help them and their animals.

She's been a big part of the Australian cannabis community for a long time, running as a candidate in elections for Legalise Cannabis, and well known internationally as a long-time dedicated law reform activist.

She was also a loving mother to her two daughters, Jade and Teagen, and grandmother to Oliver.

She passed away at her home near Nimbin on Saturday 23rd September with her beloved dogs Kali and Barney.

– Michael Balderstone

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