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# Volunteers sought for Nimbin Show

by Dave Fawcner



Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary volunteers in the main pavilion during the 2019 show

With less than a month until the first Nimbin Country Show in nearly four years, the Nimbin A&I Society is giving a shout out to its volunteers old and new.

While the committee and the regular Wednesday work crew have been busy preparing the pavilions and grounds for the September 23 and 24 event, there are still plenty of things that need doing over the two-day show, according to A&I president Denise Whitney.

“It takes around 80 volunteers to run the show,” Denise said.

“While we are in contact with many of our regulars and know that others will turn up on the day, we are also aware that some have left the district

since the 2019 show.

“As a result, this year’s show will be the first for many people who have moved here in the past four years.”

Because the show attracts entries from the Qld border to Grafton, and from Mullumbimby to Woodenbong it’s a chance for people to make new friends and catch up with old ones.”

Volunteering can range from assisting with setting up the main pavilion prior to the show to helping out for just a couple of hours on one of the two days.

To volunteer email: [nimbinshow2@y7mail.com](mailto:nimbinshow2@y7mail.com) leave a message on 0457-614-433, or just turn up and make yourself known.

You’re assured of a friendly welcome and a fun and interesting experience.

# Nimbin Food Co-op gets a make-over



Photos: Nikki J Photography

Mike, Tony (foreground in hi-vis) and the boys packed everything up, took it away and brought it all back after the painting.

by Chaquita McGlinchey

A long-awaited spruce-up of the inside of our fabulous Organic Food Co-op got a big boost on the weekend of 13th August, with a painting and packing and re-stocking crew getting the walls

nearly all cleaned up and painted in one Saturday evening/Sunday for less closed time for the produce and customers.

It’s the first time painted inside since well before it became a Co-op around nine years back. So much gratitude to all the volunteers who keep the Co-op

running daily and all the fabulous customers and their patience too – making it all possible.

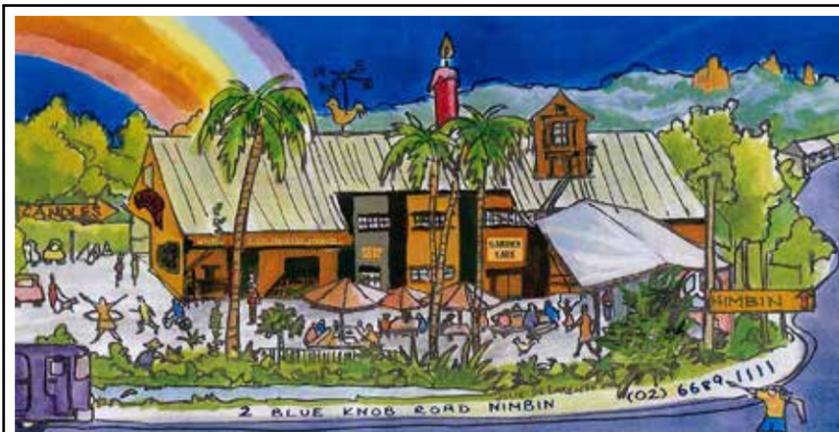
The benefits to volunteering go beyond the fab discounts – being part of connecting with a beautiful community, in crew and customers, to name one.



Chaquita, Flynn, Ra and Mike in front of shop



Bozena re-stocking shelves (Chaquita in background)



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I will continue to fight for one in Tenterfield, ensuring that our regions are not forgotten



Janelle Saffin MP  
MEMBER FOR LISMORE

03 6621 9524 - [JanelleSaffin@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JanelleSaffin@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

55 Carrington Street (PO BOX 54), Lismore NSW 2480



# New video shows environmental impacts of 2022 flood

Richmond Landcare, in collaboration with Border Ranges, Richmond Valley Landcare Network, and the Department of Planning and Environment, has announced the release of a compelling video documenting the 'Environmental Impacts of the 2022 Flood Disaster on the Richmond River Catchment.'

This video, which aims to raise awareness and promote sustainable land management, showcases the devastating ecological consequences of the 2022 floods in the region.

The floods of 2022 wreaked havoc on the Richmond River Catchment, leaving behind a trail of destruction that affected both communities and the environment.

In response to this, the Department of Planning and Environment initiated and funded the collection and collation of invaluable footage. With the support of Landcare networks, this culminated in a comprehensive visual representation of the aftermath.

This video makes the collected footage available for the wider public, providing a valuable tool for landholders to analyse the landscape, understand the triggers for erosion and landslides, and comprehend the contributing factors to land loss, making landholders better equipped to implement effective mitigation strategies.



Casino to The Channon view

Richmond Landcare recognises the benefits of building a strong member base comprising individuals who are passionately invested in bolstering the health of the Richmond River Catchment.

With a focus on projects contributing to riparian restoration and their recent accolade of the Nature-Based Solutions project, that will work in the upper Wilsons River catchment, they are actively striving towards developing environmental solutions that can withstand and mitigate the impacts of future floods in the region.

"We are excited to release this

significant video, as it sheds light on the profound environmental cost of flooding in our beloved region," Shaun Eastment, chair of Richmond Landcare said.

"Through this powerful resource, we hope to foster a greater understanding of the environmental consequences of flooding and engage our community in developing innovative land restoration techniques that can endure and resist these severe floods."

For more information about the video and Richmond Landcare's initiatives, please visit: [www.richmondlandcare.org/environmental-impacts-of-the-2022-flood-disaster/](http://www.richmondlandcare.org/environmental-impacts-of-the-2022-flood-disaster/)

## Saffin appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery

The NSW Premier Chris Minns has announced the appointment of the Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin, as the Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery.

Janelle Saffin experienced the devastation of a natural disaster when unprecedented floods hit the Northern Rivers in early 2022.

She has remained a fierce advocate for her community's recovery since the beginning and will have an even stronger voice – for the Northern Rivers and communities across NSW – in this role.

This announcement represents another stage in the new Government's reset of the Northern Rivers disaster recovery response.

Premier Minns met with local mayors and MPs from the Northern Rivers in June to directly listen to their concerns.

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully, and the Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib, visited the region together last month to further



hear community feedback and to see first-hand how reconstruction programs are progressing and what more needed to be done.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority will continue under its current arrangements reporting to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Emergency Services, now supported by the new Parliamentary Secretary.

Further strengthening the Government's focus on natural disaster preparedness and recovery, Premier Minns announced NSW Reconstruction Authority

chief executive officer Simon Draper PSM as the new Secretary of the Premier's Department.

Mr Draper's experience will bolster the Premier's Department's whole-of-government disaster response co-ordination role and the Department's focus on supporting frontline agencies to deliver for communities.

Mr Draper's appointment recognises his reputation as one of the state's most respected and experienced public servants.

"I am thrilled that the Member for Lismore,

Janelle Saffin has accepted the important role of Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery," Premier Chris Minns said.

"Janelle is a tireless advocate for her community and, having personally faced a devastating natural disaster and its aftermath, I can think of no-one better for this role," he said.

"I'm honoured to take on the important role of Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery," Janelle Saffin said.

"I've seen first-hand the devastation that natural disasters such as floods can cause communities such as my local Northern Rivers community.

"I've also experienced first-hand the vital role that a well-co-ordinated response and recovery, throughout the short-term and long-term stages of disaster recovery can play and the need for continuous improvement in preparedness.

"The better prepared, the better response, the better recovery."

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# An appeal to listening to each other in the midst of fear and confusion

by Benny Zable

In the last month, I attended a couple of events in Brisbane. During the Talisman Sabre war game exercises, over 28th to 30th July, I participated in a Pacific Peace Networking Conference organised by IPAN (Independent and Peaceful Australia Network), partnering with World Beyond War, calling solidarity for a Nuclear-Free Independent peaceful Pacific.

There was much discussion about Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, (AUKUS) preparing for a war with China in the future.

It is important now more than ever that people are made aware of the great cost of war and encouraged to contribute to a growing peace movement.

The environment is on the edge of massive collapse as climate change/boiling is at a tipping point around the world. War and preparations require large amounts of fossil fuel releases into the atmosphere...

Some weeks later, on Saturday 19th

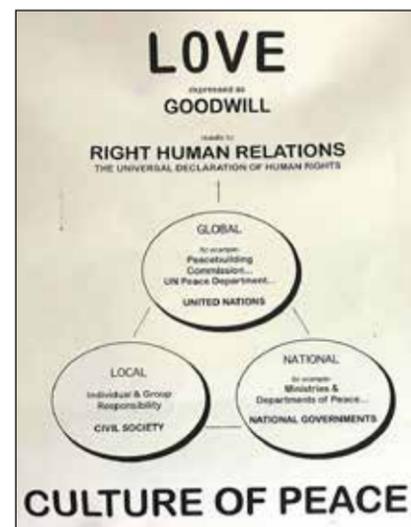
August, the Australian Greens founder Bob Brown led us environmental protesters outside the ALP conference, now the national government. Bob made it clear to the leaders inside: "If you keep cutting the forests you will go".

Now back to the approaching Referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. At the Channon Market on Sunday 10th September around the Rainbow Chai Tent we will be discussing the upcoming Referendum. Latest information will be available.

The First Nations People had organised themselves, held an important meeting at Uluru, in the heart of the continent. They spoke, exchanged stories and dreams, much of which has been recorded and can be read.

They produced a statement to the people of Australia that outlines what they would like to happen. This Statement from the Heart requested to be listened to: with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait advisory body to the Australian Parliament.

It is our responsibility to vote Yes to this change in the Australian



Constitution. To make sure they are heard, the enshrinement of indigenous voice in the Constitution would help in legislating for needs.

Importantly the Yes vote for The Voice in the Constitution could not be reversed by any changing government without another referendum.

It is so well explained by this guy on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/reel/673417038177330](https://www.facebook.com/reel/673417038177330)

# Aquarius: after the 50th, what next?

by Renee English

As we all know, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc is now in a time of transition. We may have been quiet lately, but there has been ideas and magic happening.

The aim of our group now is to go forward into a new time with a core group of original volunteers guiding a new direction for the NAFI Bark Hut space, a new direction that is in keeping with the grass-roots culture and inclusive, loving intention upon which the community-owned and run spaces in Nimbin have been set up.

NAFI has always been run by volunteers as a not-for-profit Foundation. We will be in and around the space in the next few months, preparing for a time of change and new input by creatives and people committed to keeping community grassroots organisations alive and well in Nimbin.

Because we have some reporting requirements to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and other bodies, we have changed the 2023 AGM to Friday 17th November at 3pm, in the Comskool room at the Nimbin Community Centre.

This will give us a chance to launch our new ideas for transitioning forward and include interested people from the community who want to see inclusive Nimbin culture stay strong and vibrant.

NAFI's original aims and objectives (formed in 1993 after the 20th anniversary)



NAFI stalwarts Benny Zable, Annie McGovern and Katie Cawcutt

are written below, and this will be a chance to re-group and change our aims if needed, into a new time when rather than running events and gathering crowds, we find a way to express the Aquarian culture in new ways from both young and old hearts, but hearts that beat with the love of equality, community and the expression of love and caring.

This has been our mission statement up to this point. Perhaps we will find a new way to express this going forward. It reads:

To operate for the public benefit to advance the arts and raise funds to direct towards:

- The organisation and promotion of Aquarius celebrations to help create a peaceful and sustainable lifestyle in the spirit of the Aquarius vision.
- The continuous restoration of the street murals in Nimbin, which have now attained Heritage status.
- An exchange programme with the town of Woodstock USA, our official Sister Village, including cultural exhibitions such as 'Some Children of the Dream'.
- The establishment and promotion of Cultural Exchange Programmes with the local Bundjalung Aboriginal Community.
- The collection and display of archival material such as posters, documents, flags, film and video, stories and posters, and to display them



on the worldwide web. Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc has held strong through many years and many changes in our town, and has worked closely with many other community organisations including the Wiabul Widjabul Cultural Centre, Nimbin Community Centre and Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, and has had major input from members of the surrounding intentional communities and grassroots groups.

There is great value in having groups and associations that spring from the original values and intentions of this community. The core group of volunteers in NAFI at the moment sees our role as caretakers of the Association, as we move forward into a new expression of the Age of Aquarius.

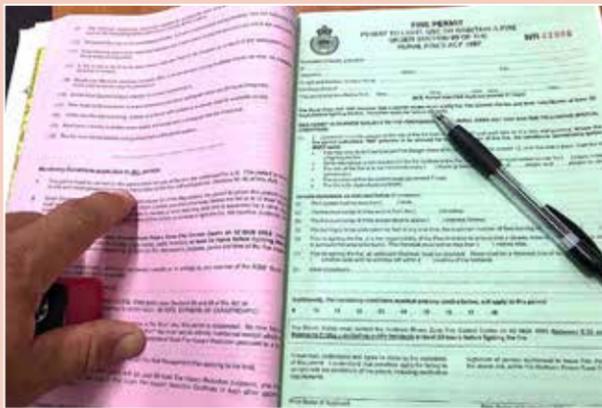
# Fire permits season starts

by Marcus Mantscheff,  
Nimbin RFS Captain

As of Friday 1st September, the LGAs of Lismore, Kyogle and Tweed entered the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP).

Nimbin has already seen days of high bushfire danger ratings and the August winds have helped a number of local hazard reductions and pile burns escape.

To keep up to date with your area's bushfire danger



rating, you can look at the RFS website: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans)

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans)

Burn notifications to RFS and neighbours are a year-round requirement, and from 1st September, if you are burning more than a small, contained, cooking and/or heating fire, you also need a written permit from the brigade prior to commencing your burn.

Permits are free.

For Nimbin residents, can be requested by texting your name, number and address to 0428-221-210. A permit officer near you will then be in touch.

# Nimbin RFS celebrates 70 years



Marcus Mantscheff being winched into Toonumbar Nature Reserve Fire in 2017.



Oscar Bradley-Gunn and Chris Anderson at the Tower Mountain Fire (June 2017).

by Marcus Mantscheff,  
Brigade Captain, 2017-present

After a difficult 1952/53 fire season for local farmers and residents, the Nimbin community petitioned the then Terania Shire Council to establish, and provide equipment to, a volunteer bushfire brigade to service the village and its surrounds.

With inaugural Captain, Bill Tomlinson, Nimbin Brigade set about with leather beaters and galvanised tin knapsacks of water to prepare for and meet the challenges of a difficult 1954 flood season.

Undoubtedly there were pre-1953 firefighting efforts in and around Nimbin – including indigenous practices thankfully being rekindled today – the establishment of Nimbin Volunteer Bushfire Brigade began 70 years of organised emergency response and community firefighting.

It's hard to miss how the old guard of Nimbin Brigade membership is a who's who of Nimbin roadway nomenclature: Cullen, Allsopp, Williams, Nardi and Salkeld. There are settler families that persist in the brigade today: Harris, Soward, plus the Whitneys in Jiggi Valley... and then there's the new(er) settlers.

Fast forward nearly 70 years, Nimbin RFS found themselves – after a difficult 2019/20 fire season – training and preparing volunteers across two wet, pandemic-stricken years, being challenged by a catastrophic 2022 flood season.

Today Nimbin Brigade is in a healthy place: more diverse in age, gender and experience than it has ever been. A wealth of fire-ground experience is being shared with a fresh charge of new and younger members, themselves pushing through a big 2023 training season.

While it may be difficult for everyone

to wind back their thinking by 70 years... some fundamentals remain constant. One key driver that has shaped this rural village fire brigade is that smaller, remote populations mean there is 'not' always someone else who will do the dangerous, but necessary thing.

Thinking about those who have given their time and energy to the Nimbin Brigade, we would like you to help us recognise and celebrate that 1953 milestone on Saturday 28th October at the Nimbin A&I Showgrounds.

There will be an honour roll/ gallery of past members, some firefighting themed games, medal presentations and complimentary lunch by the CWA. Some of our emergency colleagues will be there and it is a chance to mingle with past and present brigade members without the rush of sirens and beacons on somebody's worst day.

We hope to see you there.

# Nimbin Health & Welfare Association seeks new members

by Kirsty Pamplin

We are seeking new members for our not-for-profit association.

Are you looking for an opportunity to use your skills to contribute to your community? How about giving some time and expertise to help run Nimbin Health & Welfare Association (NH&W)? We welcome new members from all walks of life and

encourage both young and old to join us in shaping the future of our community.

NH&W is a not-for-profit incorporated association with a long history of developing and facilitating projects to enhance community and individual well-being.

Examples include Nimbin Bushwalkers, Nimbin Physical Activities Centre at the Showground, Nepal Earthquake Relief, Nimbin NAIDOC, Nimbin Needs

Doctors, and Nimbin Interagency Forum.

In particular, the NH&W committee provides guidance and governance for Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS), our local home and community support service employing nearly 30 local people and providing routine individual and social support to over 140 local residents.

As the governing body for NACRS we have an increased need for business

and financial expertise.

NH&W meet once a month in town, usually on the second Tuesday afternoon at 3pm.

We are also holding our Annual General meeting on Tuesday 10th October, at 3.30pm at Birth & Beyond.

If you are interested in joining the NH&W Association or have any questions, or require further information, please email: [nhwa1@outlook.com](mailto:nhwa1@outlook.com) or phone 02 6689-1709 and leave a message for Kirsty.

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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

## Flood recovery – need help, or need a bushfire plan?

NNIC's Recovery Support Service staff are here to help. Contact the service via email on: [nimbinrss@nnic.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)

## New Friday night youth BBQs

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 Fridays from 5.30pm at 7 Sibley Street.

Proudly brought to you by NNIC and the 7 Sibley Street project.

## Sustainability Alley back at Nimbin Show

We are sooo happy that the Nimbin Show is back in action this year on 23rd and 24th September, and we will be back with Sustainability Alley. Make sure you get along to this great community event and support our local Show.

If you would be interested to run a demo, hold a workshop/talk or have a stall at Sustainability Alley, contact Nat on: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) Updates, including the program for Sustainability Alley, will be posted on our Facebook pages soon.

## Neighbourhood food

You can find the food pantry at the garage in the carpark next to the Neighbourhood Centre, open every Wednesday between 1.30pm and 3.30pm for community members to purchase a range of groceries for very cheap prices. Membership is free.

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](mailto:fob@nnic.org.au)

## Community survey results

Have you ever wondered about the findings or outcomes of the various community surveys you complete for us? We publish the results on our website so you can find most of them there – see: [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au) <About Nimbin <Survey Results.

## Take home Naloxone

Naloxone is available for free (also available at the NSP and the pharmacy), by appointment. Naloxone is a lifesaving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose.

Anyone who may become exposed to opiates, whether by prescription or otherwise, is at risk of accidental overdose.

Naloxone buys valuable time for an ambulance to arrive. It is available for free at NNIC to people who are at risk of an opioid overdose or adverse reaction, their carers, friends and family members and any other people who may become first responders.

Naloxone can be administered by injection or delivered through a nasal spray.

To get some for your first aid kit, make an appointment with Nat or Nicole.

## Help us support you

NNIC is a registered DGR charity, which means that donations to our charitable activities, or bequests in your will, are tax deductible. Your donations help us to help and support our local community. Contact us at: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) for more info about how to donate.

# WOOHOO! IT'S FRIYAY!

## YOUTH BBQ AND SKATEPARK HANGS

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- Burgers (veggie options available)
- Salads
- Natural local drinks!
- Home made sweet treats

Food at 7 Sibley St (cash only)



## Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

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

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

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

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

**SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS** – booking and fees apply

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

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

[www.nacrs.com.au](http://www.nacrs.com.au)



# Nimbin Hospital information

## Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

## Early childhood nurse

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

## Women's health nurse services

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

## Wound clinic

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

## Drug and alcohol counselling services available

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

## Nurse practitioner clinic

Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 21st September.

## 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

On 11th August, local forest protectors demonstrated outside the Tweed Heads South office of Federal Labor MP Justine Elliot as the ALP National Conference was starting in Brisbane.

On 12th August, 500 people assembled in Lismore and marched to support the forests.

Did you know that multiple B-double loads of wood chips are every day taken from the Thora sawmill to Broadwater sugar mill to be burnt for electricity?

NEFA president Dailan Pugh notes that Forestry Corp must prepare a "sustainability report" every year on the wood taken from state forests and its destination, including biomass and stated, "We have tried to get the figures for "sawmill waste" before with no luck. Cape Byron Power refused to tell us, and Forestry Corp just supplies the logs to mills; it's up to them how much is chipped."

He also observed that many truckloads are being exported through Queensland Commodity Exports.

### Court action

We have succeeded in protecting important natural heritage forests through court action in both Coffs Harbour (Newry SF) and Casino (Braemar and Myrtle SF.)

While the courts consider arguments for and against protecting conservation areas, the loggers have voluntarily agreed to

stop cutting trees in these areas. We're expecting decisions in mid-September.

Meanwhile, NEFA and Aboriginal custodians are celebrating, despite truckloads of logs departing the coupes, because the truck convoys are also taking out the logging machinery. I am hoping that they will never be allowed to return. That would be a great outcome for our future prospects in the face of climate change disasters.

### Logging in native forests

Both WA and Victorian State Governments have announced that logging of public native forests will cease at the start of 2024. Research released in August 2023 by the Australia Institute shows strong opposition to native-forest logging.

See: <https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/polling-labor-voters-back-native-forest-protection-ahead-of-national-conference/>

Key findings are:

- 69% of Australians support extending native-forest logging bans to New South Wales and Tasmania.
- A majority of voters for each political party support an end to native-forest logging in New South Wales and Tasmania.
- 85% of Greens voters, 75% of Labor voters, 58% of Coalition voters, and 57% of One Nation voters support the policy.
- A majority of Australians in every age group support ending native forest logging in New South Wales and Tasmania, with the highest support among those



Woodchips at Thora sawmill destined for the Broadwater sugar mill.

aged 18-29 (79%), and the lowest among those aged 60 and above (61%).

Results of the National ALP conference held in Brisbane in August did not reflect these sentiments, instead claiming that local economies would suffer. LEAN (Labor's environmental arm) did not win its argument to ban native forest logging, but it got some concessions and a commitment for the party to rewrite its national forestry policy.

The Conference passed the following motion:

"Labor supports the sustainable future of Australia's forests and forest products industry and recognises the value and role of our forests in storing carbon and protecting biodiversity. Labor will work with states and territories to update the 1992 National Forest Policy Statement to ensure it is contemporary and fit for purpose. We will:

- Expand Australia's plantation estate to meet domestic and international demand for high-value, sustainably sourced wood products, and will develop an industry plan that facilitates regional job growth and vibrant sustainable communities.
- Deliver the management and

restoration of native forests, recognising and rewarding carbon and biodiversity values and the need for their active and on-going management.

- Consistent with current government policy, ensure the application of National Environmental Standards to Australia's native forests.
- Harness the social, environmental, and economic benefits that our forests can provide.
- Recognise the skills, knowledge and competencies of timber workers and their communities, as well as the central role First Nations communities play in restoring country and determining social, economic and environmental benefits flowing from forest management activity."

### Global climate effects

On a different front, shops in Nimbin, including the Nimbin Environment Centre, have been handed leaflets that warn against a purported global conspiracy, but ignore the consequences of being distracted from the existential threat to humanity (and other species).

Most of us know that the global climate is shifting. Temperatures

soared to record-breaking heights in many places this year, and we experienced the tangible impacts of climate change. The tragic Maui wildfires that claimed over a hundred lives burned most of the town of Lahaina, and the recent devastating floods in Vermont showed another side to the chaos of unbridled global warming.

In Canada, wildfires have burned over 50,000 square miles. In India, heatwaves are filling morgues and overwhelming hospitals. The North Atlantic Current may slow or stop, changing landscapes in large parts of the U.S. and Europe.

At home, Australia's south-east is predicted to suffer a marine heatwave that is literally off the scale, raising the prospect of significant losses in fishing and aquaculture as well as the return of severe bushfires. The cost of home insurance has climbed steeply and may soon be unaffordable.

Water temperatures, too, are increasing significantly. The Bureau of Meteorology expects a patch of the Tasman Sea off Tasmania and Victoria will be at least 2.5 °C above average from September to February, and it could get much hotter than the top of the scale, which is 3.5 °C. Around Cape Byron, the predicted temperature increase is more like 1 to 2°C.

I close by quoting George Packer, author of *America in Crisis and Renewal* (2021): "Climate change was relentless, and so was the pandemic that seemed like a dry run of the world's ability to survive..."

"Trump's enduring legacy will be his 30,000 presidential lies: super-spread by social media and cable news. They will linger for years, poisoning the mental attitude like radioactive dust."

## Genie in a bottle



What one food producer sees as waste, Mick and Cassie Real see as top ingredients for fermented or dehydrated food products.

They established the Shedhouse Farm label two and a half years ago at Homeleigh where they live on 18 acres.

An ever-increasing range of pickles, rubs and brews is emerging from the Shedhouse Farm where Mick passionately strives for sustainability. He sources local organic harvest and by-products from food processing to minimise food miles.

The Shedhouse Farm tag line is 'Real food, low travel'; and the goal is no-waste processing.

For example, Mick salvages the residue remaining after producers press pecans for oil. The 'waste' is full of protein and carbohydrate which Mick dehydrates and grinds to a powder used in two products.

First he makes cold brewed coffee left to drip for 10 to 12 hours, then adds pecan powder. The result is a delicious pecan-

infused iced coffee without milk or sugar; vegan friendly. The remaining coffee grounds are dehydrated and combined with pecan powder, smoked habanero chilli and some South Australian salt to produce a punchy rub for meats, fish or vegetables.

Shedhouse Farm pickles are fermented using solely brine. This gives a flavour profile similar to the original vegetable rather than using vinegars. With Silver Slicer cucumbers from a friend's farm, Mick makes sandwich pickles with the best cucumbers, usually fermented about two months.

The remaining cucumbers are fermented with dill seeds and chilli. The liquid is used as a drink, tonic or mixer. The solids are dehydrated and ground into Chilly Dilly pickle salt.

The ingenious Shedhouse Farm products can be purchased on-line, at a few local retailers and at the Rotary Kyogle Bazaar.

And there are plans for fermentation workshops to help "preserve preservation," says Mick.

## Calico Creek rehabilitation

The Calico Creek Riparian project is a collaboration between local landholders, Webster's Creek Landcare, Nimbin Environment Centre funded by the NSW Government Flood Mitigation Program.

The project aims to restore native vegetation along the creek banks to mitigate erosion and enhance biodiversity in the long term, whilst in the short-term for bank stabilisation, coir logs were installed along with mass plantings of *Lomandra hystrix*.

The project builds on previous restoration works carried out by the landholders over the last 30 years.

The new planting site covers both sides of the creek on land owned by local forestry company Super Forest Plantations and land owned by John Vanderkallen and Jane Morgan.

John and Jane have been planting trees and restoring native vegetation on their farm for over 30 years. They have over one kilometre of creek running through the property and have many planting sites and remnant rainforest patches.

These are all under active regeneration which provides employment for young, local bush regenerators.

Super Forest Plantations have been carrying out

rainforest plantings over the last 10 years in the paddocks near the creek which can be admired when driving along Blue Knob Road or when stopped at the traffic lights on Nardi straight.

Flood event after flood event have smashed the many plantings that both landholders have done but the resilience and determination shown by them is to be admired as they continue to replant.

They are very thankful for being supported by local community organisations Webster's Creek Landcare and Nimbin Environment Centre as well as community volunteers and the Local Land Services.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

7 Sibley Street

**September What's On!**

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

**Workshops:** 10.30am – 1.30pm

- **Fri 8th: Monthly Crafternoon 5.30pm** – bring a project, join like-minded crafty friends, by donation.
- **Sat 16th: Preparing poles with hand tools** – with Amanda from Electric Tipi. Choosing suitable poles (hardwood, pine, bamboo), bark stripping and de-notching \$15
- **Tues 19th: Knitting group** – by donation (every 3rd Tuesday each month).

- **Sat 23rd and Sun 24th:** Join us in **Sustainable Alley** at the Nimbin Agricultural Show
- **Sat 30th:** Learn to make your own **sourdough bread** \$15
- **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.

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.

**Dogs and koalas**

I was saddened to read last month's letter to the editor regarding four koalas being killed in the Blue Knob area by dog attacks.

It is well recognised by koala research organisations that dogs are a major threat to koalas, along with habitat loss, disease, and mortality by car hits. Just one dog can decimate a koala population within a very short period of time.

As a resident of Blue Knob, I have been fortunate enough to have seen koalas in our area. Unfortunately, I have also had other people's domestic dogs roaming on my property and threatening the native wildlife.

Earlier this year, I personally had to take an injured koala to the Friends of Koala Hospital at Lismore, only to have the koala die. The koala was a healthy breeding female.

Dogs can be great pets, but if allowed to roam they can also become killers.

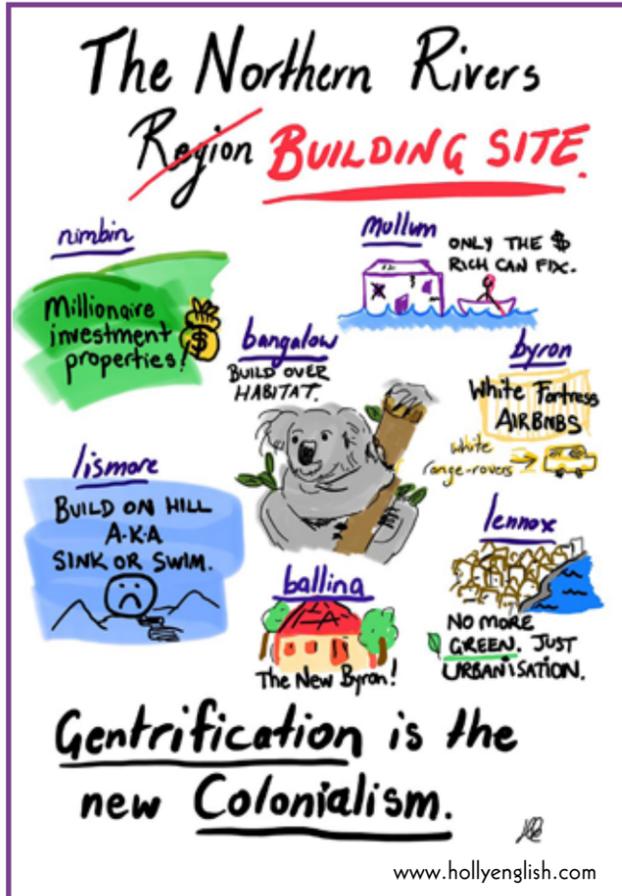
John Allen  
Blue Knob

**Fiddling as Rome burns**

With my first morning coffee, I skim postings on the world wide web made by the four major news-makers with ho-hum interest.

I am purposefully unresponsive.

I'm well into my ninth decade, which means that most of what passes for news I've seen many times in many forms over many years as a repetitive kind of psychopathy, sad evidence of human stupidity emulating itself again and again. I find it interesting. I know that this year Australia will suffer devastating wild fires, just like most of the rest of our



planet is.

Fascinating, don't you think, that humans know what a rising level of CO2 is doing to life on Earth, yet they/we/I continue to pump out this super gas in greater – yes 'greater and greater' – volumes. I think I share everyone's death wish: I've just bought myself a new air conditioner. I'm a worshipful consumer.

I do confess to some surprise, that our newsmakers haven't noticed we are on the brink of World War three – Mr Ping and Mr Biden will see to it, mark my words, ho-hum. If I was a youngster I might be re-learning the arts of shooting arrows and throwing spears. This morning, as again and again, the news is all about that crazy ex-president Donald Trump, who is a symptom of our malaise: he is the proof of it, he's not the cause.

What's the cause? I'm sure you all know, I know, everyone knows; yet for some strange reason all decline talking about it. It's much more comforting and fun to fiddle while the world burns.

Michael Brooke  
Kyogle

**Questioning The Voice**

Is there a question? Indeed, there are far too many.

According to AIATSIS there are hundreds of First Nations. Is the Voice to be a third chamber with representation from each? No. Such a considerable congress would have no point without legislative capacity.

Is the Voice to have capacity to make or break law? No.

Will the Voice recognise First Nations by amending any clause of the alleged 'Constitution'? No.

Will the Voice recognise First Nations by adding a schedule wherein delegates can ratify their nation joining in to the alleged 'Constitution'? No.

The indigenous populations resident when the British arrived are not and have never been one homogenous nation; the 'Aboriginal' flag is not possible.

The true descendants of indigenous populations aren't just mere 'Traditional Custodians' but the sovereign people of this land; the rightful owners of this land; the people whose claim of Allodial Title and Eminent Domain is inherent.

There are no treaties with these people; they never sold their interest. As Great Britain was, and Australian Government remains, a foreign, occupying power on this land without treaty, it is not First Nations which need a treaty from us, but we who need a treaty from them to finally have de jure standing at law. Will the Voice address this situation? No.

Australia has no treaties with the sovereigns of this land, and no constitution to amend, just a defunct colony federating document.

So what will the Voice do? According to Robert French, ex-chief Justice of

**The Voice or a Treaty?**

by Mark Pestell

An argument used against the Voice is the support for a Treaty instead of the Voice. Treaties between governments and Indigenous peoples have failed to achieve desired outcomes.

Here are a few examples of where treaties have faced difficulties and have been perceived as unsuccessful:

**United States and Native American tribes**

The history of treaties between the US government and Native American tribes is complex. Many treaties were made and subsequently violated or disregarded by the US government.

Treaties were often used as a means to dispossess Indigenous peoples of their lands, leading to forced removals, conflicts, and marginalisation.

**Canada and First Nations**

While Canada has a history of treaty-making with First Nations, there have been instances where treaties have been seen as inadequately implemented or violated.

Some treaties have been disputed over issues such as land rights, resource extraction, and inadequate consultation in decision-making processes.

**New Zealand and Maori**

The Treaty of Waitangi, signed between the British Crown and Māori chiefs in 1840, is regarded as a foundational document in New Zealand.

However, its interpretation and implementation have been subject to ongoing disputes and legal challenges.

Māori have raised concerns over land confiscations, breaches of treaty principles,

and inequities in areas such as healthcare, education, and justice.

**Scandinavia and Sámi people**

The Sámi people, an Indigenous group residing in northern Scandinavia, have historically faced challenges with treaties and land rights.

The Sámi have raised issues of land encroachment, cultural preservation, and consultation in decision-making processes, leading to ongoing debates and tensions.

The list of treaties essentially determined the territorial boundaries and spheres of influence for European powers, disregarding pre-existing people, political systems and territories covers all populated continents, except Australia.

Though a Treaty for Indigenous Australians will eventually occur, its impact for supporting 'First Australians' will be limited, against the Voice.

Treaties read great and have good intentions, but in the end they have failed.

The Voice will give greater Self Determination to allow Indigenous Australians to make decisions which they recognise is best for their peoples. The Voice is critical to the healing process.

Under the United Nations Charter of Human Rights, we are required to fully recognise Indigenous people's rights to self-determination, cultural identity, and participation in decision processes that affect their lives.

Is it not about time we fully recognise Indigenous Australians, to give this culture a Voice?

The Voice is a way forward as there is still much work to be done to improve outcomes for Indigenous people in Australia. As human beings, we can help create a better fairer society with the establishment of the Voice.

the High Court, a 'Yes' vote will grant moral authority for Australian Government to 'listen' to the Voice. Who or what is the Voice? How long is Australian Government supposed to 'listen' to an unknown entity?

Australians have long granted moral authority to the Australian Government to help First Nations. To date it has done nothing but make a mountain out of molehill; a political industry out of a myth.

Why would Australian Government suddenly be competent to solve anything?

All we know is the Voice will forever divide Australia, indigenous and not. Why would anyone want to vote 'Yes' for that?

Edward Kent  
Alstonville

**RIP John Wright**  
23/10/52 – 22/4/2023

by Gudren Buhler

My dad, John William Wright passed away unexpectedly and yet peacefully in his sleep on 22nd April at his home in Doonbah.

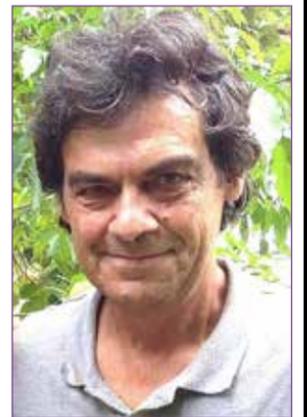
His funeral was held beautifully at The Sacred Earth Funerals in Coraki on 5th May.

My dad left much of his work in this town, the Nimbin Hall sign, the wooden chandeliers and stairs to the stage, the Birth and Beyond extensions and the door-stop sculpture.

The snake and goanna in the park, the cave Cultural Centre doorway, the silky oak cabinet that faces the street in the Artists Gallery, the pub verandah and the Bush Theatre renovations are a just a few of the many things he contributed to the community.

Before he passed, we were planning an exhibition in honour of Johnny Bales and Burri Jerome with my dad's sculptures and Burri's paintings.

My dad was making a clay sculpture of Johnny Bales



which was washed away in the floods. His intention was to have a reminder that JB started the Cultural Centre.

Since my dad has passed, I have found a local Lismore artist Benny Saunders who would like to make this sculpture and sees it as a worthwhile project.

Any ideas on raising money or donations for this cause would be greatly appreciated.

I plan on going ahead with the exhibition, to be held at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre on 20th October for two weeks.

It's my dad's birthday on the 23/10/23, and even though he's only here in spirit, I would like to follow through and make his dream come true.

**Notices**

**AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc will be held on 10th October, 3.30pm at Birth & Beyond.

**Free notices**

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

**About us**

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

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson  
Web [www.nimbingoodtimes.com](http://www.nimbingoodtimes.com)  
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NEXT DEADLINE:  
Friday 29th September  
Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

# Another fire threatens Nimbin shops

A fire started in a structure at the rear of Mingle Park on the evening of 17th August, just when the Nimbin Trattoria was closing.

Jedda Bayles saw the flames and raised the alarm, and quickly Trat worker Bennett Horsfield took a garden hose and wetted down the ground and fence lines next to the adjoining timber buildings.

Bennett said, "It was well alight, with so much heat the garden hose was useless for anything else."

The Emporium next door had left their fork-lift, with gas bottle, in the adjoining driveway, but with quick work by locals, the keys were located and the fork-lift moved.

When the Nimbin fire brigade crew arrived about 20 minutes later, it took them only about ten minutes to extinguish the blaze, then an



Photos: Gina Horsfield



Photo: Sue Stock

hour to douse the smouldering remains.

The vacant block, with its temporary stage structure, had long been a haven for itinerants, whose possessions were stacked inside the

structure.

Brigade crew leader Charlie Cohen said, "We have responded to dozens of fires at the museum/rainbow site, and almost all of them produced a toxic plume full of carcinogens.

"Last night, again, we didn't lose half our town."

The Emporium building was not badly scorched, but much of its wiring was melted.

Investigations into the cause of the blaze are continuing.

## Buy Back Nimbin struggling to die

by Michael Balderstone

We had a meeting in Mingle Park to decide what to do with Buy Back Nimbin, in a circle sitting on the old Nimbin Central School chairs recently replaced with flood money.

All the BBN officials, President, Secretary, Treasurer, more, I forget who was which, but we had to have five directors. Basically we were told by lawyers, no doubt well-meaning and totally reasonable I am sure, that to raise money like we were dreaming of, like a million or two, we had to be, like, official. Register as a thing and so on.

So, Buy Back Nimbin Pty Ltd or whatever, was formed. You know the game I'm sure. It was hard enough finding the five people to sign up. Hippies in general have great immunity against the lawyer virus.

Then letters arrived from some obscure possibly new government department that all directors of anything have to join a special directors club and they need more information about who we are. As if we aren't paranoid enough already, living in the hills, hiding in the forest, smoking illegal plants that remind us Paradise is available here and now with the right attitude. No wonder they're out to get us!

Then another letter arrived. We were supposed to tell them how it was going, give them all our money details and so on. We had missed the deadline. No interest in donating of course. In fact we were getting a fine for being late. It was like being back at school.

In that time we got about ten grand in donations and never withdrew any money. A couple of the hard-core dreamers spent their own money when needed rather than even think about

using the three signatures needed to withdraw from Summerland, which was no doubt playing with our money in New York every night. We know how savage Nimbin can be on corruption accusations, so we kept it simple!

Also in that time, some of the official directors, like treasurers and secretaries, important positions, now feeling quite claustrophobic, resigned. Some rejoined only to resign again. Not so simple. Resigning is complicated. You can't just resign.

More officialdom, more paperwork, more forms. Always more forms. I have nightmares about forms suffocating me. Absolutely no trust in the authorities – it all started at boarding school.

By now the lawyer virus has more than started to get hold of BBN; it has a firm grip. No-one wants to come to meetings anymore, the letters sit in the too-hard basket. The owners of the land we call Mingle Park have put in another Development Application.

Putting one in is like entering a lawyer virus hospital. Almost impossible not to get infected. Only lawyers are immune, as they can fill out their own forms. Lots of forms and officialness needed with new rules being created daily. Control is the name of the game. Chasing certainty.

Pretty much everyone at the meeting thought we should fold up Buy Back Nimbin, easily the majority anyway. Even though we know the idea of having a park, a chunk of Green in the middle of the village, is still a great idea, the officialdom had us beat.

So, anyone who would like to get their money back, and Summerland bless them kept track for us best they could, should get in touch. The three signatures still apply and we're all still around, thank Goodness. No-one's

going anywhere, except I do notice dying is getting quite popular with the old hippies these days.

Imagine if a director died. Or a signatory. The mind boggles at the forms. It's a world of no trust. And everything's now on-line with new passwords needed to play and I can never remember them.

In the Official Papers totally bedridden with the virus, the rules say any money left over from BBN we must give to a similarly minded not-for-profit community. No doubt more forms and another meeting needed. Meanwhile I will have to seek advice from lawyers on how to get rid of the virus infected idea.

And I'm going to write to that bearded Atlassian billionaire and ask if he will buy it for us. He'd already have a huge team of lawyer virus doctors. Imagine their bill!

### And then the fire...

Back in the real world soon after the meeting, yet another fire in Mingle Park nearly burnt down the Emporium. Pretty much the village church. I went pale just at the thought.

Thank Goodness again there's no structures left to burn and blessings to the fire brigade and to the local boys who found a hose and keys to move the forklift with gas bottle attached.

It did remind me of the Catholic Church burning down days after they boarded it up. Perhaps it is better if Mingle Park is filled with fireproof buildings, but homelessness is a growth industry and it would be good if we could offer a safe space somewhere in the village for people to sleep.

Of course, it can never be official or it will be infected with the virus. Which seems to be breeding a lot in insurance companies, I might add.

# GROW



Mental Wellbeing Peer Support Group

Nimbin group starting 2nd August  
Wednesdays 12.30 - 2.30pm  
at Nimbin Community Centre

Free, no referral needed, join anytime  
Enquiries, phone Jo 0483-888-844

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