

PROFESSIONAL HOUSE PAINTING
BY FULLY QUALIFIED TRADESMEN

Free quotes

NORTHERN RAINBOW PAINTING

Sai: 049 039 4444
Rod: 041 323 7599

Specialising in exterior and interior repainting

Nimbin Village Laundry

Brighten Your Day

Under new management
nimbinvillagelaundry@gmail.com

0420-986-560
45 Cullen St, Nimbin

NIMBIN LIMOUSINES

Exclusive transfers & tours
Lux Mercedes Valente 7 pple max

Steve Taylor – 0400-615-288
info@nimbinlimousines.com.au
www.nimbinlimousines.com.au

Sunsparks Electrics
Solar Power Professionals

Design, sale and installation
of solar power systems

16 years specialisation in renewables,
grid connect or stand alone power systems

Shannon Lacy
Phone 6679 7167 or Mobile 0418 228 117

sunsparkselectrics@gmail.com
www.sunsparks.com.au

Mr BOBCAT

6689 0044
0427 946 823

• 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • excavator
• 5 tonne spreader • 8 tonne tipper

TREE SHAPE
QUALIFIED & EXPERIENCED ARBORIST/HORTICULTURIST

~PRUNING & REMOVAL OF TREES & PALMS
~WOODCHIPPING ~4WD TIP TRUCK ~BOBCAT
HELPFUL ADVICE

FREE QUOTES. REASONABLE RATES. FULLY INSURED.

66 886 297 / 0428 026 307
treeshape1@gmail.com

Northern Rivers residents face court over coal port blockade



The next wave of Rising Tide protestors ready to face court in Newcastle.
Photo: Rising Tide Facebook



Tom and kayak buddy Nat ready to head out and block the shipping lane.

36 of the 109 protesters arrested for last November's Newcastle coal port blockade appeared in court on Thursday 25th January.

The 32-hour blockade was organised by Rising Tide, a rapidly growing organisation using direct action to shine a spotlight on the world's largest coal port, as well as the hypocrisy of a government elected with promises of ending the climate wars, but who are instead expanding fossil fuel production.

Northern Rivers resident Tom Maughan was one of the Rising Tide protesters facing charges of Unreasonable Interference under the Maritime Safety Act, following his arrest last November.

"I took part in this blockade because I think that it's wrong that people in power continue to cash in on and exploit these outdated resources, whilst wilfully destroying our environment for future generations.

"This was my first arrest, and the organisation and support from the

Rising Tide community has been absolutely incredible throughout the process.

"Having grown up in a coal mining town in England, I know that transitioning away from these practices is possible. However, that was over 30 years ago and it is now essential for the well-being of our planet."

Magistrate John Chicken characterised the defendants, aged between 24 and 71, as being of "muscular good character" due to their strong records of community service. "There's no doubt that the people involved in this protest were all doing so out of a genuine desire to better the world. There is not one person here who has been charged with this offence who did so out of an act of selfishness."

Of the 36 protesters appearing in court, 30 received no conviction, with two receiving a conviction but no further penalty and one man pleading not guilty with his case to be heard in February.

Three women received convictions and

fines of \$200 to \$400 due to other recent protest charges.

Tom was one of those receiving no fine and no conviction, and plans to use the experience to encourage others to join the Rising Tide of everyday Australians standing up to the fossil fuel industry.

"With an overwhelming amount of negative news about our environment, I think it's fair to say that action is the best antidote to despair.

I remember very well the bewildered looks on the faces of police officers, not knowing what they were going to do with the huge number of peaceful protesters. And with this in mind I plan to help Rising Tide achieve their goal of getting 10,000 people to Newcastle in November.

Anyone who's keen to get involved, I would encourage to check out Rising Tide on social media, and to keep an eye out for Rising Tide Northern Rivers."

For more information head to: www.risingtide.org.au

Prestigious gongs for practical environmentalists

The Landcare Awards program for 2023/2024 is open for nominations and will close on 1st March.

Now in its 32nd year, the State and Territory Landcare Awards recognise and celebrate the individuals, groups and organisations that are making outstanding contributions to caring for the environment and vital agricultural lands in their local communities for the benefit of all Australians today and future generations.

In each state and territory, the Landcare Awards will be awarded to recognise the achievements that encompass climate action, environmental leadership, sustainable agriculture, First Nations, Women in Landcare, young adults, Coastcare and children.

Nominating is free and easy. You can nominate yourself, and/or an individual, group or organisation in your community making a difference in their community.

There are nine categories to cater for the priorities of various groups with a shared vision to protect, enhance or restore the natural environment in their local community through sustainable land management and conservation activities.

To nominate, or for more information about the Landcare Awards, please visit: <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/landcare-awards-2023>

Could we see cyclones in NSW?

by Jim Arachne

Surprisingly, tropical cyclones were once common in NSW!

Between 1945 to 1974, an average of one every two years hit the state, including eight in the 1950s one that reached Sydney and two that made it to the Illawarra region.

Many locals will no doubt remember the disastrous 1954 floods, caused by a Category 3 cyclone crossing the coast near Tweed Heads.

But then they suddenly stopped.

It turns out that specific conditions in the Pacific Ocean in this 30-year period allowed cyclones to reach NSW and these faded rapidly after 1974.

These conditions were due to changes in the 'Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation' (IPO). Unlike the familiar, annual La Nina and El Nino ups and downs, changes in the IPO can last for years and even decades.



'Tracks of NSW cyclones between 1887 to 2013' supplied by Prof JL Gray, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, University of Newcastle

NSW cyclone activity can be linked to a negative IPO, where waters along the equator are cooler while waters are warmer in the northern Pacific.

Unfortunately, these ocean conditions are now returning, and if a negative IPO is maintained for several years, cyclones in NSW become a possibility again.

Artworks in preparation for placement in the Nimbin Walking Trail



Donato Rosella with his stone monoliths



Detail of totem poles by Greg Bowering

The Nimbin Walking Trail is coming along, with off-site work being undertaken in preparation for installation. The 'Rainbow Road' will link to Nimbin's iconic main street, and will be over one kilometre long. The project includes concrete pathways, lighting, interpretive signage, way-finding signage, artwork, small bridges erected over the nearby creek system, park furniture and native plantings. Six local artists were selected for collaboration for the artwork production. These artists have shown exceptional artwork concepts

towards this project.

- Donato Rosella – Stone Monolith sculpture
- Rebekah Seriah Webster – Rock/Stone seating
- Jesse Dodd – Ground Concrete Snake
- Holly Ahern and Eden Crawford-Harriman – Kombi Convoy ABS seating
- Greg Bowering – Wooden Totems
- Crisanne Fox – Clay Tiles with drawings of local native animals and plants.

The track will be great for both locals and tourists. It should be finished this year.



Rock seating by Rebekah Seriah Webster

On-line petition to protest Casino incinerator plans

by Jo Immig

Residents Against the Richmond Valley Incinerator Inc. advocates urgent action to stop Energy from Waste (EfW) incineration becoming established in New South Wales.

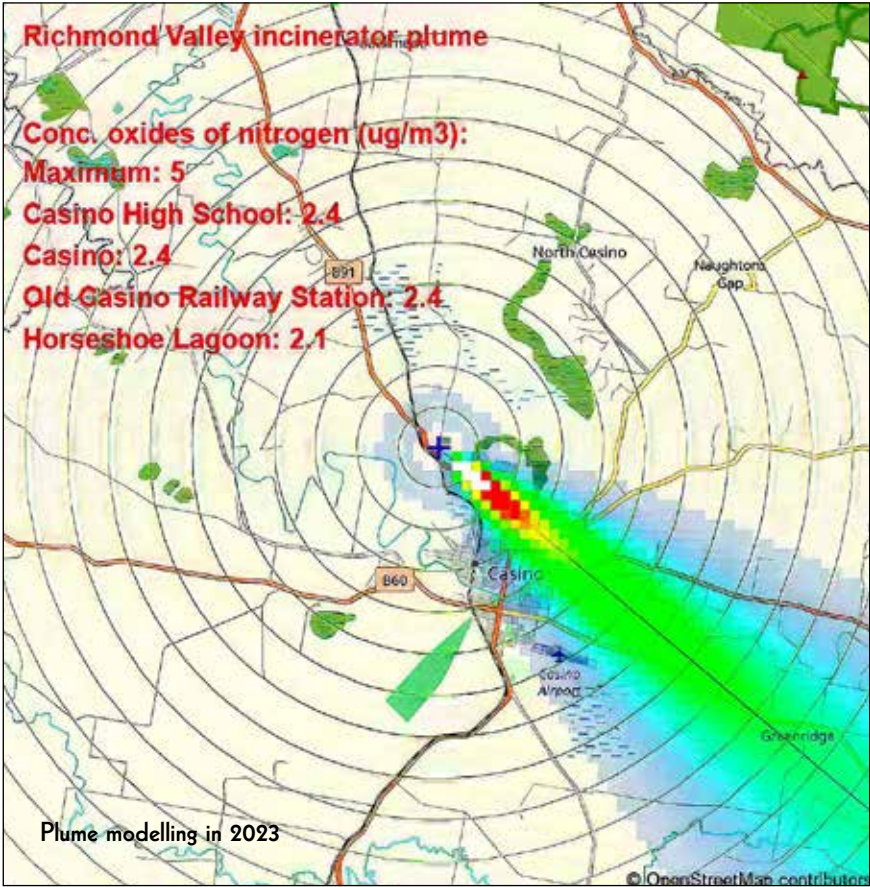
Residents Against Richmond Valley Incinerator (RARVI), a community organisation, is calling on concerned citizens to join forces and oppose the potential future construction of a waste incinerator in Casino.

Together with five other community groups around New South Wales, RARVI has launched an on-line petition directed towards the State Government to stop the introduction of EfW incineration in NSW. 20,000 signatures are needed by 9th April if this has a chance of being debated in Parliament. The e-petition was submitted to the Legislative Assembly by Janelle Saffin.

Residents are encouraged to engage in this crucial initiative by signing the online petition hosted on the official NSW Parliament website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/Pages/epetition-details.aspx?q=rxOVguqv9WYSEVVtphFzag

EfW incinerators pose serious environmental and health risks to communities, and RARVI is urging citizens to register their opposition to safeguard the well-being of the region. Information on the multiple potential dangers of EfW incineration can be found on RARVI's website: <https://norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/>

Richmond Valley Council (RVC) continues to issue reassuring statements saying 'there is no proposal for an energy from waste facility to be built in Casino' (Valley Views newsletter 11th November 2023). However, Council is on record as stating: "A detailed report is being prepared to inform the next steps of pursuing the introduction of energy-from-waste to the Northern Rivers of NSW" (Mayoral Minute,



RVC general meeting, March 2019).

In addition, at the June 2023 RVC general meeting a motion put forward by Councillor Deegan to amend the Richmond Valley Council Community Strategic Plan to oppose EfW within the Richmond Valley was defeated 5-2.

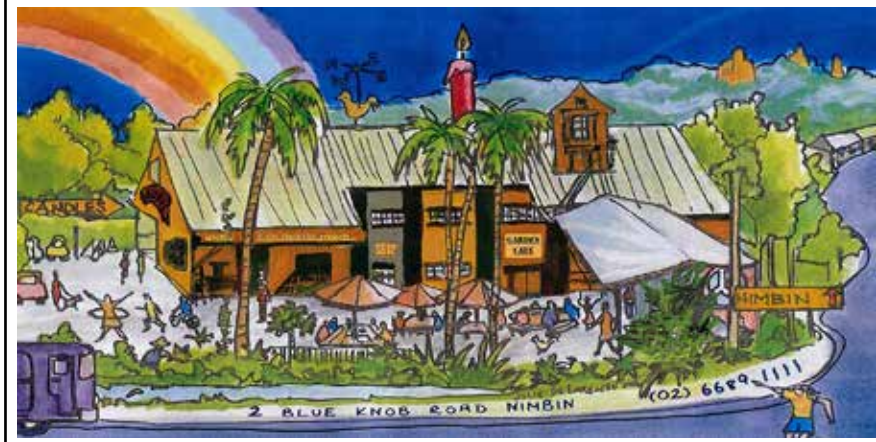
Council's webpage, titled 'Managing Richmond Valley's Waste' is heavily weighted towards incineration as an option for waste disposal. While there may not be a specific proposal for an EfW facility right now, despite Council's reassurances, it is clear that the option is still alive and the threat real.

Dr. Ros Irwin of RARVI emphasises the significance of collective action. "It is vitally important for concerned residents to voice their opposition

to Energy from Waste incinerators in NSW, and particularly the one proposed for the Regional Jobs Precinct in Casino. Together, we can make a difference and protect the health and environment of our community."

RARVI is a community organisation committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of Northern Rivers residents; protecting existing agricultural industries and the environment; reducing carbon emissions and seeking sustainable and responsible waste management practices. The organisation actively opposes the construction of EfW incinerators.

For additional information or inquiries, contact RARVI via email: info@norichmondvalleyincinerator.org or by phoning 02 6621-5906 or 0417-445-359.



Nimbin Bush Theatre Cafe
From the Garden to the Plate
Open 7 days, 9am-3pm

love and joy
MOTHER LOVE THERAPY
COUNSELLING WITH
DR ANTOINETTE ENSBEY
MLREMEDIES22@GMAIL.COM
6687 2511

Funky Corner

Jewellery, arts, craft & gifts
100% Hemp garments
ethically sourced
fair & sustainable

Crystals & Opals
1/46 Cullen St., Nimbin

I PAINT HOUSES

NIMBIN & SURROUNDS

RING BEN'S PAINTING:
0409 352 102

HARDY ELECTRICAL & SOLAR

YOUR LOCAL SOLAR SPECIALIST!

- Solar • Batteries
- Maintenance • EV Chargers

1300 748 948
hardysolar.com.au

CONTAINED IN NIMBIN



Relax, unwind and stargaze

Contained In Nimbin Accommodation offers two modern and comfortable cottages in a peaceful location just 3kms from Nimbin at 289 Crofton Road. Contained In Nimbin is a Quality Tourism and Sustainable Tourism Accredited Business. Info and Bookings: www.containedinnimbin.com.au



Ph: 6689-1206
OPEN Mon-Fri 8am-4pm
Saturday 8am-12 noon.

50 Gungas Road Nimbin NSW 2480

A broad range of construction,
landscaping and gardening products
at competitive prices

Hardwood	Poly Pipe & Fittings
Decking & Flooring	Structural Steel
Pine Framing	Sand & Gravel
Roofing & Guttering	Cement
Doors & Windows	Plumbing
Cement Sheeting	Stock Feed
Architrave	Granite & Marble
Plywood	Gardening & Plants
LVL's/Smart Beams	Gas Supplier
Hardware	

Delivery Available

www.nimbinbuildingmaterials.com

Forest vigil to save Clouds Creek

by Louise Doran

Since 8th January, the Save Clouds Creek Forest Vigil, organised by South East Forest Rescue (SEFR), has been held at Billys Creek to oppose NSW Forestry Corporation NSW's (FCNSW) plan to log endangered greater glider and koala habitats in the Clouds Creek State Forest west of the Blicks River, north west of Dorrigo.

SEFR Claims The FCNSW has not done competent surveys to identify glider den trees for their protection. Delays to the start of logging could ensure the protection of the greater gliders pending a Land and Environment court hearing at the end of the month.

If SEFR's legal action succeeds, the court may grant an injunction to delay logging while competent nocturnal surveys are undertaken to identify the endangered Southern Greater Glider (SGG) population and their den trees.

Since the vigils began FCNSW has not addressed any of the community's legitimate concerns, including increased fire risks to threatened species habitats, as well as the community, or improving fire safety and access for fire fighting crews.

Native forest logging on the Dorrigo Plateau by the FCNSW is increasing across the area proposed for protection in the Great Koala National Park.

Logging dries out the forest, adding to severe fire risks for koalas, greater gliders and a multitude of threatened fauna and flora species recovering from 2019 bushfire impacts. Industrial logging leaves 60% of a logged tree behind in the forest as logging slash. These extra fuel loads will dry out, adding to



an increase in fire severity in the event of a bushfire in local forest habitats now recovering from the 2019 Bees Nest fire.

Billys Creek is a fire-impacted community in recovery. Common sense informs our legitimate concerns about logging and fire risk in state forests surrounding our homes.

The logging of Clouds Creek SF along the Blicks River will open up the forest canopy, dry out the normally moist landscape and increase fuel loads on the ground, which contribute to fire severity and flame heights.

We believe the NSW Forestry Corporations logging plan is irresponsible, ignoring the potential for increased fire risk to local community safety. Many local residents are still traumatised by the fire devastation to local wildlife and forests during the spring 2019 bushfires.

Brutalising recovering local forest habitats adds to community distress and anxiety.

Community concerns include:

- The need for FCNSW to carry out competent nocturnal surveys to identify known greater glider populations surviving in fire refuge habitats within the Clouds Creek state forests to ensure den tree protections are instituted as required by

NSW native logging codes.

- Logging a promised local koala sanctuary makes no sense. Koalas occupying the approved logging area will be negatively impacted by logging operations: stress adds to disease risk for koalas with any injury incurred from logging operations unlikely to receive treatment due to a lack of wildlife rescue services in the area. Koalas observed in Clouds Creek state forest currently need urgent treatment for chlamydia, which is an infectious disease that will spread across the population if left untreated.

- Mapped fire trails in Clouds Creek state forest have not been maintained since the 2019 fires. FCNSW has no plan to improve existing fire trail access within protected koala hubs or on local trails outside the approved logging zone. This is unacceptable and endangers local fire brigade volunteers, the community and local wildlife due to the increased fire risks caused by logging of another massive block of forests west of the Blicks River.

- Over 7,000 hectares of fire-impacted state forests have been logged since 2021 east and west of the Nymboida River. The Clouds Creek state forest contains significant areas of old growth and maturing forests that are key catchment areas

for the regional water supply.

Left standing, these forests will support longterm water security and help to slow fire spread in the event of a bushfire. The logging in our area has been excessive, undermining the values of the proposed Great Koala National Park, increasing the local risks of catastrophic bushfire and impacting water flows in local streams during dry seasons.

Enough is enough! Stop the logging of Clouds Creek state forest! Protect threatened species in recovery! Manage local public forests sensitively in the public interest or go away!

The Clouds Creek Forest Vigil welcomes local community support and participation for our peaceful daily vigils to protect the Clouds Creek state forest koala and glider habitats.

Please join us early on weekday mornings to send a message to the logging industry and NSW politicians to "Save Clouds Creek" endangered species habitats and to stop logging our recovering forests to protect river flows and the local community.

Check out our Social media channels: Blicks River Guardians www.facebook.com/blicksriverguardians and Dorrigo Environment www.facebook.com/DorrigoEnvironment

Look Ahead Lismore community meetings

We all know the problems. Now it's time for the Lismore region to focus on solutions and start designing the sort of town we want to live and work in, and visit today and in the next century.

It's not easy, but we need to shift from surviving to thriving, and from rebuilding to reimagining, because we deserve a place in the future that's not only flood ready but beautiful too.

Look Ahead by Living Lab Northern Rivers is a series of events made to kickstart this transition by collecting local knowledge so it can be blended with technical expertise.

Communities rarely get the opportunity and government backing to transform somewhere from the ground up. This is our moment.

All the experts are ready – designers, planners, engineers and architects – but we need your ideas, dreams, values and memories to come up with something truly great.

Living Lab Northern Rivers' job is to make sure all the high-level research is underpinned by lived experience,



specifically for the Lismore CBD and surrounding neighbourhoods.

We'll be working independently of the Lismore City Council process (which will focus on the entire local government area). However, the outcomes of Look Ahead will be an important piece of work for their consideration.

So, whether you're a teenager or grandparent, tradie or tree-changer, a long time local or more recent arrival, please join us for an upcoming session.

Photo courtesy Living Lab NR

Help us create a stronger and brighter version of this place we love.

Event Details: Look Ahead Community Meetings are hosted by Living Lab Northern Rivers at the Lismore City Bowls Club, Molesworth Street, Lismore on Thursday 15th February, 4.30pm-7pm; and Saturday 17th February, 2pm-4pm. Please register via: www.llnr.com.au/lookahead

Fascism, collective insanity and ourselves

We need to have a talk about fascism. Never in my lifetime has the palpable risk of fascism been so high. People who have lived through the violence and mendacity of fascism describe a common pre-cursor: a collective collapse of reason, a retreat from rigorous evidence-based thinking, and emotionally healthy compassion.

Fascism is a collective mental illness, a societal psychosis. It thrives on uncertainty, fear and disenchantment with established institutions, and a collective loss of positive purpose in society.

Fascism also changes its costumes; it won't always announce its arrival with military uniforms and swastikas. The current threat is coming from charming manipulative narcissists and psychopaths seeking election. How can huge swathes of the population become actively or unwittingly supportive of mentally and emotionally unhealthy leaders? The answer is in the question; the rise of fascism is a very complex mass mental illness.

Emerging fascism beguiles us with its unorthodoxy, irreverence, and temporarily ignorable risks, but latter stage fascism quickly metastasises into a monster of such violence, insanity and hatred that is suddenly too terrifying to safely challenge.

Trump exemplifies the disarmingly comical, irreverent, anti-establishment, bumbling face of demented narcissism and has achieved a cult following who cannot see the ugliness he represents. The same applies to Millei in Argentina, Erdogan in Turkey, Netanyahu in Israel and more. Add this to the established fascist dictators in Russia, North Korea and China.

While Trump and Millei are the delusional grandiose narcissistic sub-variant, Putin however, represents the full psychopathic, cold, calculating, compassionless fascist archetype.

But the collective mental illness of fascism is, much bigger than those that lead it, where Trump may fail, the real risk for the USA, and by association Australia, is what type of fascist leader emerges after Trump.

So much for the risk, but what is our personal role in all of this?

I doubt that any of the good readers of the NGT would deliberately support fascism, but sadly, many of us run the risk of unwittingly helping to contribute to the conditions that enable it.

We are all disappointed with 'democracy', with politicians, government and maybe even mainstream society in a wide variety of perfectly justifiable ways. Many are suspicious of science, academia and experts in a variety of fields like medicine for example. This scepticism and



by Aidan Ricketts

dissatisfaction is normal. There has never been a golden age in which government and bureaucracy were guided entirely by the public interest or without corruption. But as we look back across history, violence and despotism is all too common, and the pursuit of a rational civil society always a challenge.

Numerous thinkers, activists and humanitarians have bequeathed to us the bare bones of workable civil society with which each and every generation hopefully works continually to identify and fight corruption, injustice and environmental destruction.

The first mental attitude that fosters the conditions for fascism is an overly cynical dismissal of the admittedly flawed systems of civil society that we have. It is easy and perhaps personally gratifying to repeat inane truisms about how bad 'all politicians are' but beware, these words do nothing more than provide deep cover for the very worst among them.

It is equally tempting for many to draw false equivalences between the clear and present danger of Trump fascism for example, to the unconvincing, significantly flawed and unsatisfying alternative presented by Biden and the Democrats, or in Australia our fatherly but risk avoidant Labor PM. As disappointing as our centralist politicians may be, they are our current best alternative to fascism.

Similarly, we can all find cause to critique our legal system and our judiciary, but by and large the professionalism and independence of the judiciary, and our concepts of due process are actually one of our most important bulwarks against fascism.

Our collective disenchantment with official institutions should activate us to hold government to account, to demand justice and better environmental management. This is traditionally the work of communarians and the left of politics and it is vital and never ending.

What is frightening is watching so many people retreat into a despair and confusion that dissolves all meaning, all communitarian motivations into a vortex

of madness, magical thinking, conspiracy theories, and the dangerous belief that 'anything' would be better. Fascism is a very much worse 'anything'.

This atmosphere of insanity, the collapse of meaning, watching friends disappear down wormholes of bizarre thinking is all part of the very same collective mental disorder that is the fuel of emergent fascism.

Fascists are masters of the false solution. They take the overwhelming human fear of uncertainty and replace it with promises of certainty, of 'cleansing' the system, of a new start for society.

The problems of our world are real, the evidence of the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis, the inequality crisis of late capitalism, of official corruption are all on display. We don't need to look for hidden evidence of a different secret crisis, controlled by a different set of secretive shadowy figures to know that there is much in our society that needs to change.

Whether it is fascists or Marxists or spiritualists offering us their all or nothing resets to our current predicament we need to see these 'solutions' as the power and control fantasies that they are.

History is path-dependent: we are standing in it up to our eyeballs. The path forward always involves accepting exactly where we have gotten to thus far, assessing what opportunities exist in the adjacent possible to pursue useful and constructive change and walking that long and difficult path out of the swamp we are bogged in collectively.

Our currently uninspiring centralist leaders are useful rear guards fending off fascism, whilst the real work of social change lies ahead where we must painstakingly forge our survival, our planet's future and our ongoing and never completed pursuit of social justice into the world that we and our children have no choice but to keep inhabiting.

The silver bullet of fascism, conspiracy theory or revolution always turns out to be made of lead and gun powder: the only monsters it slays are the innocent. Fascism is a delusional psychotic disease of the collective human psyche and no matter how it emerges its trajectory is always towards an orgy of violence and hatred.

We are in this together my friends, and the scientists, the experts, the boring old centralist politicians, the well-meaning greenies, the genuinely compassionate people in our community organisations, trade unions and churches, the medical professionals and judges and academics and what's left of the ethical journalists all have a role to play and something to offer. Please don't swap these sometimes-disappointing characters out for the snake oil salesmen of the Internet. By the time fascism has become obvious, it is much too late.

at Nimbin Community Centre

Handcrafted, Retro, Recycled, Fair trade, **Locally** made
Pop-up Art Gallery, Workshops, **Music**, Fashion, **Food**,
& Family Fun! 8am- 3pm nimbinmarkets@gmail.com

Next Market
11th February
9am – 3pm
Coronation Park, The Channon
Enquiries: 6688-6433

Fresh Certified Organic & Local Spray Free Produce

Organic Groceries, Treats & Speciality Foods

Member & Volunteer Discounts
Great Value in Organics

Free skills workshops

Registration is open for the free up-coming skills building workshops organised by Resilient Lismore.

These small group workshops are a great way to connect with each other and learn new and useful skills in a friendly, safe environment.

They are available to the whole community, with disaster-affected folks who are restoring their own homes given priority.

If that's not you and you still want to learn, please register anyway; there are a lot of people you can help once you know how!

• **Practice and Repair Night,**

Friday 9th February – A chance to bring something in to fix, or practise tool skills.

• **Plastering Workshop,** Thursday 14th and Friday 15th March, 9am to 2pm. This is a two-day workshop and participants need to be available for both days. Learn some introductory tips and tricks for plastering surfaces of gyprock, villa boards and plaster boards on walls and ceilings.

Please note: plastering requires a certain strength and dexterity. It can be hard work on your shoulders and your hands and you may need to climb up ladders.



If you are interested, please book soon as places will go fast! You can join the wait lists if sessions are booked out, as there may be cancellations. This also indicates interest for future workshops.

Enquiries: events@resilientlismore.org.au or call/text Emma on 0411-967-690. Resilient Lismore is a

registered charity and a grassroots organisation that first formed during the 2017 floods in Lismore.

We are supporting residents of Lismore and surrounding communities to recover from disaster by connecting them with rebuild help, donated goods, recovery information and other services.

Nimbin Natural Caskets

Locally Made from Local Timbers by Blow & Ins & Freaks

0415 679426
ENQ. CUSTOM MADE

TRIBAL MAGIC

Alternative Department Store

Embrace the Year of the Dragon!

Come and see what the Nimbin Spirit has created
74 Cullen St, Nimbin. Open: 10am - 6.30pm

LUPA

Lawn & Garden

Mowing & Gardening
Northern Rivers - All Property Sizes
Call Tristan 0410 819 075
lupalawnandgarden@gmail.com

The Voice of the Alternative Nation

NIM-FM 102.3
FACE THE MUSIC
www.nimbin.org

Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls including white
- A range of spelt breads baked daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY at 6am

Phone 6689 1769

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Happy Lunar New Year!

The Lunar New Year commences on 10th February, bringing in the Year of the Wood Dragon.

In Chinese culture, the Dragon symbolises power, nobility, honour, luck, and success. Here's hoping the Dragon blesses us all with a good year ahead.

18th Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner

It's on 7th March at Nimbin Town Hall, celebrating International Women's Day (which falls on the 8th March).

This year's IWD theme is Inspire & Include (oops! we got that wrong in the January edition of the NGT...sorry about that!). All women (not only from Nimbin) are welcome – come along and be Inspired!

For more info including table bookings and ticket sales, contact us on 6689-1692 or see our website: www.nmic.org.au

Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP)

Workshops on the Key Focus Areas of the SNCP will be held on the first Saturday of every month for the next few months. Venues to be advised. We will try and do on-line workshops also.

Mark your calendars for Saturday 2nd March. The two Key Focus Areas up for discussion will be: Housing and the Built Environment, and Economic Development.

More info including times and venues will be posted on Nimbin HookUps, our Facebook pages and our website, and look out for posters around town.

For regular email updates, get onto our email list via Steph: sibley@nmic.org.au

Many thanks to the Northern Rivers Community Foundation for funding support to enable us to undertake the work, pay for venues, materials, catering etc.



Community Care Team (CCT) Neighbourhood Gatherings

Over the next few months, Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group members will be visiting local neighbourhoods in the area to provide info about the CCT, including how to become a CCT member, as well as survival tips to prepare for disaster situations.

They will drop flyers into letterboxes in each neighbourhood prior to each local info session. If you happen to get one in your letterbox, it is not Junk Mail lol!

Be sure to go along if you can, to find out what you need to know – plus it will be a great opportunity to meet your neighbours.

For more info about the CCT, see our website: www.nmic.org.au in the News/ Updates section of the Disasters page.

Flood Recovery – Still struggling?

NNIC's Recovery Support Service staff are here to help. Contact the service via email on: nimbinrss@nmic.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 Flood or Bushfire Plan, see: www.myfireplan.com.au

Mental Health Support

The Nimbin Collaborative is a partnership between

NNIC and a diverse range of mental health service providers who offer support Tuesdays-Thursdays, mostly based at NNIC.

For more info about what is available or to find out how to make an appointment, drop into NNIC or call us on 6689-1692 during our opening hours, or see our website: www.nmic.org.au < Our Services < Mental Health.

Our mental well-being: isolation and loneliness

Maintaining connections with other people is important for our mental health.

Volunteering has been shown to significantly contribute to mental well-being.

With so many different opportunities for volunteering in the Nimbin area, there is sure to be something to spark your interest.

There is a full list of volunteering opportunities and contact details in the Welcome to Nimbin Kit – available from NNIC.

www.nmic.org.au

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

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

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



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

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

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

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

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

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

www.nacrs.com.au

Nimbin Hospital information



Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

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

Women's health nurse services

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

Wound clinic

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

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

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

Nurse practitioner clinic

Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 15th February.

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

Stimulus for Gas Ghouls

The Federal Government says it will “help” us cope with cost-of-living pressures by making voluntary the so-called mandatory code of conduct for gas-producing companies. Yes, they capped prices but now say the ghouls can charge what they like.

The idea is that if profits go up, the altruistic gas companies will reduce prices. What?! Oh, and they don't have to reserve any gas for us Australians if they can get a better deal overseas.

If this makes sense to anyone, please come down to the Nimbin Environment Centre and explain it to me. Just so we're clear, here's some info about fossil fuel giants from film star and long-time activist Jane Fonda:

1. The fossil fuel industry contributes up to 75% of the total global greenhouse emissions and 90% of the total global CO₂ emissions, directly contributing to rising global temperatures and extreme weather events.
2. Millions of people in vulnerable communities near fossil fuel operations are experiencing heightened rates of respiratory diseases, a consequence of the polluted air in these areas.

Biomass burning

A recent report condemns this practice, stating: “U.S. biomass-burning facilities emit on average

2.8 times the amount of pollution of power plants that burn coal, oil or natural gas.”

This is based on a peer-reviewed study of how health is affected by producing wood pellets and burning them to generate energy. For more, see: <http://tinyurl.com/4m46js7t>

Peg Putt, Co-ordinator of Campaigns and Networking, Biomass Action Network said:

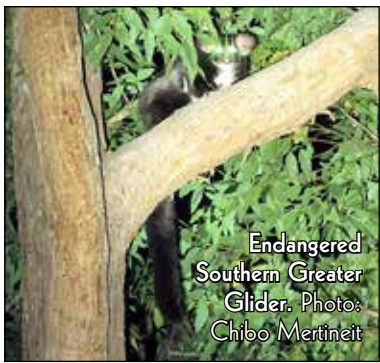
“We have been concerned for some time that the air pollution arising from biomass pellet production and burning is not highlighted alongside that from fossil fuels.

It's important because a transition from centralised energy generation from fossil fuels to burning biomass in generators instead will not address air pollution, but exacerbate it – another reason why an expansion of large-scale biomass energy in the global renewable energy target must not happen (on top of climate, biodiversity, and community impacts around forests).

It all comes down to an imperative to go Beyond Burning to combat the climate crisis.”

More forest news

a. To celebrate: Victoria and WA have now stopped logging of native forests, which gives hope despite the NSW government showing a lack of enthusiasm for a halt. See David Heilpern's opinion piece (17/1/24 *Byron Echo*), an excellent commentary on the NSW government's pledge to establish a Great Koala National Park: [http://](http://tinyurl.com/rdvkpueu)



tinyurl.com/rdvkpueu

b. Fridays4Forests: The NEFA-based group has started a calendar to keep track of this year's events. One focus is the 'March in March' event in Lismore on Sunday 24th March to increase pressure on government to stop logging in native forests.

Another focus is to protest the logging in the Richmond Range SF near Kyogle that's scheduled to begin in April. F4F will meet at the Richmond Range National Park in March to look for wildlife and survey prospective logging areas plus plan activities. Join us at Peacock Creek campground for night surveys.

c. NEFA lost its court case against the roll-over of agreements between state and federal governments without any review (and after more than 20 years a look at whether the RFAs are fit for purpose) because the judge said the decision was a political/administrative matter, not a legal one. Goodbye. Here's the link: <http://tinyurl.com/3f3dza6c>

d. South East Forest Rescue (SEFR) is seeking an injunction against Forestry Corp because FC is not doing the required wildlife monitoring before going in to log.

Citizens have taken FC to court for failure to comply with the law, called Coastal Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals, in particular failure to conduct wildlife surveys.

SEFR is asking the NSW Land and Environment Court to restrain FC from conducting any forestry activities in certain state forests on the north and south coasts until adequate surveys for Greater Gliders, Yellow-bellied Gliders, or Squirrel Gliders have been performed.

Mr Scott Daines, spokesperson for SEFR, said, “For too long this rogue Corporation has produced real harm to the environment and ecosystems. Much of the Glider habitat was impacted by the fires. This is why it is so important to protect any remaining habitat before the Forestry Corporation destroys all of our national treasures.”

e. Saving Species: NEC has donated to the Bob Brown Foundation to help with protest action in Tasmania's Tarkine Forest – the last nesting area for the unique Swift Parrot, which is under threat from logging. The parrot is believed to be critically endangered with only about 600 individuals remaining.

Mark Graham vindicated

Forest ecologist, Mark Graham had a win in Grafton Court in January.

The video viewed in court showed that he and his friend, Andre Johnston, were assaulted by forestry contractors, which was the opposite of what the contractors had maintained. (See *Sydney Morning Herald* article: <http://tinyurl.com/2dvt7dtn>)

Police and FC had conspired to impugn the protestors. They may be

ordered to pay damages. Here's an excerpt from the end of the article:

“(Upper House MP Sue) Higginson is still appalled by what happened. Antagonism between loggers and protesters was neither rare nor new, she told the Herald, but there was no place for violence.

“What she still believes to have been collusion between police, loggers and the FCNSW reflected a dangerous culture in which protesters are perceived by the government to be suspect automatically, while those who profit from resource extraction were above suspicion.”

Water issues

a. Nimbin water has been disturbed by storm damage to the weir at the mountain end of Gungas Road and the pipes that carry the water to the village.

Council has been working to restore the service since the 2022 floods, but their repairs were partly undone by a recent, less severe flood event.

Work on future water planning for Nimbin and surrounds has been in progress for years. NEC believes it is time for Council to hear locals who can advise on solutions.

We will work with others on an update to the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP.)

b. Clarrie Hall Dam: Council has invited community response to its proposal to raise the dam wall to increase capacity. See Tweed Council's website for more information.

Council will host a drop-in session at Uki on Tuesday 6th February from 4 to 6.30pm at the Holy Trinity Hall. Direct comments to: *Your Say Tweed*

Unravelling the PNF puzzle: Kyogle Council at the crossroads

by Kyogle Environment Group

The proposed Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Amendment, seeking to eliminate Dual Consent and exempt Private Native Forestry (PNF) from the Development Application (DA) process on RU1 zoned land, is poised to enter a pivotal phase.

The Department of Planning and Environment is now tasked with determining the fate of this planning proposal, a decision that continues to evoke concerns on multiple fronts.

A shroud of secrecy envelops private property logging, and the Local Land Services (LLS), responsible for greenlighting PNF plans, offers no transparency for public scrutiny regarding the precise locations of logging activities.

This lack of transparency extends to considering environmental and infrastructural matters only within the confines of the subject property.

Compounding the issue, the LLS neglects to assess the cumulative impact of private forestry across a broader landscape concerning public infrastructure and



community interests.

This oversight places Kyogle Council as the sole regulatory authority tasked with considering local amenity, potential damage to roads from heavy haulage, erosion, water quality, and the minimisation of noise and traffic impacts on the community.

It also places the responsibility on the council to co-ordinate planning with other essential elements such as wildlife corridors.

A critical concern arises when juxtaposing the fact that half of Kyogle Local Government Area (LGA) is already under a PNF plan.

The Council's push to relinquish DA responsibilities for an activity of high impact, especially when compared to other developments with significantly smaller footprints that still require a DA, raises questions about the coherence of such a decision.

This departure from sound planning principles is cause for concern.

Finally, the recent closures of native forestry logging in Victoria and Western Australia underscore the growing advocacy for similar measures in New South Wales.

This movement, if successful, could exponentially increase the demand for sawlogs from private forestry.

In light of these developments, the proposal submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination this month must acknowledge the enduring impacts of logging.

Moreover, it is imperative for councillors to prioritise policies that foster inclusivity and protection for all within the LGA.

Balancing economic interests with environmental conservation is not only a necessity but a responsibility for the long-term well-being of the community.

The forthcoming decision on the LEP Amendment should reflect a commitment to sustainable practices, community welfare, and the preservation of Kyogle's unique environmental assets.

Nimbin nesting box project

Nimbin Environment Centre is pleased to announce they have been successful in getting a Wires National Grant 2024 to install nesting boxes in the Nimbin Valley.

It can take up to 100 years for hollows to develop naturally in trees, and a number of species depend on hollows so they can successfully breed.

These include a range of birds such as cockatoos, owls and lorikeets to name just a few, and mammals like possums and sugar gliders.

The Nimbin Valley was heavily logged and grazed since European settlement in the 1880s. Most of the original forest that once covered the hills was destroyed.

While more recent settlers, since the 1970s, protected what little remained and also restored some of what had been lost, there are not yet a lot of really old trees with hollows.

The 2019 bushfires and the 2022 floods also damaged many old growth trees in the Nimbin area.



This project will address the lack of suitable nesting sites and provide more opportunities for hollow dependant species to raise a family.


NEC will work with WildBnB to select suitable sites to place nesting boxes and arrange installation with professional tree climbers.

Landholders who would like to be involved are invited to the information session on Thursday 22nd February, 6pm at the Birth & Beyond Meeting Room, 54 Cullen Street, Nimbin to find out more.

If you can't make it along on the 22nd, please send an expression of interest to: nimbinenvironmentcentre@gmail.com

Let us know the size of your property, what sort of vegetation you have and what wildlife you have seen there.

Applications will close on 28th March.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

7 Sibley Street

February

What's On!

\$15 unless otherwise noted

Bookings: text 0475-135-764

or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops: 10.30am – 1.30pm

- **Fri 9th: Monthly Crafternoon 5.30pm** – bring a project, join like-minded crafty friends, by donation.
- **Sat 10th: New to the area?** – Welcome to our unique piece of paradise. Tips for living on the land, \$15.
- **Sat 17th: Resilient Food Plants for the Northern Rivers** – Learn about the variety of sub-tropical food plant suited to our bio-region and produce abundance and future food security for your family and community. Growing methods, cooking techniques, taste test

- and incl. e-book Locavore diet. Off-site workshop, bookings essential, only \$50.
- **Sun 18th: Wet-Felling Hat making** – with Courtney. Bookings essential, all materials and lunch incl. \$120
- **Tues 20th: Knitting group** – by donation.
- **Sat 24th: Spinning Wheels** – learn to spin fibres. BYO wheel or try one of ours. Bookings preferred, \$15.
- **Community Tools Library:** Every Saturday, 10.30am – 2pm. For home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC Mon-Fri. Basketballs & pump available, \$5 refundable deposit.

Defacing of Captain Cook statues

For those that agree with the defacing of Captain Cook statues around the time of Australia Day, I just want to provide a quick history lesson.

Captain Cook was an explorer who circumnavigated the Pacific all the way from England, eight months travel time away, and did so in a wooden sailing ship. No-one from England had ever been to this part of the world before and at that time it was today's equivalent of travelling to another planet. It's actually pretty impressive, and he was one of the greatest explorers ever to live.

Captain Cook landed around Sydney in April 1770. He was killed in 1779. That is nine years before the first fleet arrived on 26th January in 1788.

The decision to colonise Australia was made in the years after Cook's death. He wasn't a politician and had nothing to do with this decision.

People can say that the islands of the South Pacific were peaceful and people were living in kumbaya and Cook brought death and violence, but they are lying to the themselves.

The world was a very different place back then, and if they think this is the case they may want to look into how Cook died.

Jeremy Johns
Tyalgum

Gaza

I find it absolutely ridiculous, cruel, short-sighted, ignorant and stupid to once again follow America's directive to stop funding an organisation that has saved thousands of lives in Gaza because of the 'alleged' actions of twelve individuals. This is the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.

UNRWA is the primary humanitarian agency in Gaza, with over 2 million people depending on it for their sheer survival. Many are hungry as the clock is ticking towards a looming famine. The Agency runs shelters for over 1 million

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.

people and provides food and primary healthcare even at the height of the hostilities.

Israel has now been formally accused of genocide; what actions is our government taking against that terrorist regime? What actions have they ever taken against a regime that has oppressed an entire race; a regime that has continually stolen land and killed unarmed Palestinians over a period of decades? Why do we, on a world basis, continually elect narcissistic idiots, halfwits, the dishonest, the criminally insane or the weak?

Peter Brooker
Nimbin

20 years commemoration

I've heard a rumour that Sue and Bob have been creating the vibrant and free Nimbin GoodTimes for 20 years now.

What a wonderful achievement, each month reflecting back our fabulously diverse communities and people, connecting and supporting us, providing a platform for many voices, enabling us to share skills, experiences, perspectives and opportunities.

NGT gives us an evolving community archive, providing a rich historical record. When I was still living in England, up until 15 years ago, Nimbin GoodTimes on-line helped me stay connected with my parents, Len and Kay Martin. I often saw stories featuring Mum and Dad, plus plentiful colourful and interesting yarns, information, events, photos, artwork, etc.

When my partner Tam and I finally arrived to live at Blue



Knob in 2008 (pre-Nimbin Hookups), NGT was an essential resource – who, what, where and when – helping ease us into the local way of things.

NGT supports many community services, including my place of work, Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS), printing news, updates and information, helping people know and understand what each service does and when things are happening, keeping us all connected.

Thank you, Bob and Sue, for all you have done, enriching our lives with NGT – long may it last.

Jenny Martin
Blue Knob

Congratulations to Bob and Sue on 20 years for their fine work editing the Nimbin GoodTimes.

The depth, breadth and quality of the articles in this fine newspaper reflect the diversity and calibre of the community it serves.

I am proud to have been a contributor for the past 12 years.

Triny Roe
Nimbin

Due to the machinations of Murdock, slimy sell outs, downsizing, assets stripping and just the incessant rolling in of the asphyxiating beige fog of neo liberalism... our region now only has two papers worth printing, let alone reading, The Byron Echo and The Nimbin GoodTimes.

And of these last remaining vestiges of hope, by far the most readable and amusing is the GoodTimes.

We owe this paper's editors Bob Dooley and Sue

Stock an enormous debt of gratitude for being the keepers of this flame.

For taking it over, and for building it into the region's number one champion of sustainability, social justice, non-violent action and participatory democracy.

The Loon salutes you both.
Laurence Axtens
Lismore

Blimey Charlie, two decades running the greatest little paper in Oz – Bob and Sue youse is flaming fantastic.

Since it's 2024, youse must have started in 2004, and we started living Nimbin in 1999, so you've been at it, providing enjoyment, culture and info for most of our Nimbin life.

I was 70 when youse first took over and now I'm 90 – that makes your achievements even more impressive to me; and you both still look so young.

So many good times with the Nimbin GoodTimes; the monthly read with something for everybody. A recent, particularly moving front page, for me, was the great tribute to Peter Pedals, who I knew, a fellow pushbiker; his exploits far outshaded mine, though a picture of my naked bike ride bum once featured in NGT as a "local tourist attraction".

Sue was ever-present, meticulous with camera, at local events. Whenever I saw her, I would say, "Watch out, here's the press."

Thanks to Sue and Bob, the NGT has represented our community so well.

So many good times meeting Bob's NGT deadlines for our monthly Nimbin Bushwalkers programs and reports with

Bringing back our trains

Richard White (NGT Letters, Jan 2024) asks about the recent on-the-ground study by Northern Regional Railway Company, licensed by Transport for NSW and UGL.

It reveals the cost to revive our tracks in the Northern Rivers will be between \$1.2 and \$1.8 million per kilometre (some sections requiring more bridge work). The often-quoted ARUP figure was \$7.25 million / km!

Estimates of costs have varied widely. In 2004 Railcorp estimated \$9 million per year (\$188 million spent over 20 years), to last 30 years with no maintenance. Transport Minister, Michael Costa, declared it too expensive and closed the XPT service down.

Later that year PriceWaterhouseCoopers developed a comprehensive report, stating that an eight train-a-day, lighter railcar service on the C-M line would be viable, costing only \$28 million over seven years.

A Parliamentary Inquiry in December 2004 recommended that Railcorp representations were not valid and that services should be returned. However, this Inquiry was ignored.

Local National MPs campaigned for years at election time on how affordable and how essential it was to have rail services. At the 2007 election, Barry O'Farrell quoted \$1.8 million to install a commuter service.

When the LNP finally got into government, they commissioned a desktop report by ARUP in 2013 that stated it would cost \$953 million!

This recent privately commissioned degradation study states the lines in the Northern Rivers are still viable and are not "abandoned". However, it's imperative that no more rail infrastructure is removed.

Australia's most popular regional tourism destination (2023), Byron Bay, sits half-way along our line and hosts 2.4 million tourists per year.

The world's first solar train currently operating in the Byron LGA is privately owned. There is genuine interest from the private sector to participate in operating the line.

Byron Shire Council supports the MURC / Multi Use Railway Corridor approach, which allows for a bike path alongside the railway, between Byron Bay and Mullumbimby.

Lydia Kindred
Rosebank

pictures! Possibly publicity for Blue Knob Hall Gallery art exhibitions.

I seem to remember; even making the occasional front page on something or other – campaigning against fracking for coal seam gas probably; Nimbin Needs Doctors, and Mulgum House campaigns? Perhaps.

I do remember rhapsodising about the chunky marmalade available at the Blue Knob Hall Saturday morning farmers' market which may have ended up on the NGT front page. Check the NGT archive to see, I'm too old to do so.

Good onya Sue and Bob, long may you continue your marvellous recording of Nimbin's culture and heritage, beautifully saved in that so easily accessible archive. Thank you, thank you and multitudinous blessings upon you.

Len Martin
Nimbin

I first became aware of the Nimbin GoodTimes when I was a Councillor on Lismore Council, and I rapidly became a dedicated reader and fan!

To me it has always been a source of so much interesting information about Nimbin, its people and its surrounds, which I rapidly came to understand was a fascinating,

creative and important part of the Lismore Local Government Area.

Some of the real strengths of the Nimbin GoodTimes lie in its editorial policy (and Bob and Sue) which ensures that, no matter your interest, there is a place for you and every point of view including alternate and dissenting views, unlike some local newspapers.

That it has gone from a 16-page to a 36-page edition when some other newspapers are reducing in size if not altogether disappearing says it all for me. I always read it and enjoy every article.

I particularly thank the NGT for the regular stories about koalas, supporting the great work that Friends of the Koala's volunteers carry out day and night, and also for printing so many articles and letters about political issues that are really important to our very diverse communities and our future.

Happy birthday NGT and may you keep up the great work for many more years to come.

Ros Irwin
Lismore

What an innings – 20 years and still going strong.

NGT is an institution, and like all awesome civil society institutions, it must be in trusted, responsible and hardworking hands, which

About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley
Assistant editor Sue Stock
Sub-editor Kitty van Vuuren
Layout Peter Chaplin, Bob Dooley
Photographers Sue Stock, Jagad, Chibo
Proofreaders Lynne, Kitty, Andrea, Paul, Jenny, Sue
Distributors Coralie, Chibo, Sue, Peter, Gordon, Bob, PAC, Rob & Lisa, Linda, Jock, Rosie, Trevor

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

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

NEXT DEADLINE:

Friday 23rd February

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

it is under Bob and Sue's custodianship.

Bob and Sue, through your positive vision and deep commitment to us, our beautiful region and justice, you have done us all very proud

Sue Higginson
Casino

The Nimbin GoodTimes was always an important newspaper for our region but now, with the demise of most mainstream print news, it's rare and even more treasured.

During my time on Lismore City Council from 2004 to 2016, I really appreciated the opportunity Bob and Sue gave me to communicate with the people of Nimbin and the region about council matters, but more importantly, give a voice to community concerns so that I and Council were better informed.

Our whole region owes a huge debt of gratitude to Bob and Sue for all that *the Nimbin GoodTimes* has done to provide information, encourage dialogue and enrich connection in our region.

Jenny Dowell OAM,
Lismore Mayor 2008-2012
Goonellabah

The Village of Nimbin has unique attributes both geographically and socially,

and one of those unique attributes is our fabulous newspaper *The Nimbin GoodTimes*. How can we possibly acknowledge the dedicated work of Bob and Sue in continuing to provide us with our treasured 'rag'?

In my 45 years in the Real Estate game – nearly all of those spent working in Nimbin – I have seen many changes in respect to the inhabitants and their choice of dwellings. At the same time much of the staple ideology, the main street commercial buildings and the fabric of our Nimbin community has stayed the same.

One thing which has remained a primary focus for Nimbinites is the way we seek our news and connect as a community. Whilst other hard-copy publications have faltered or fully converted to digital formats, our *GoodTimes* has not only resisted the full change but thrived.

Bucking the trend sits well with the people of Nimbin, and I can attest to the fact that our shop-copies of the *GoodTimes* are eagerly awaited in the first week of the month and continue to be popular throughout the month.

For advertising our home-grown and non-franchise

business, we at Nimbin Hills couldn't be more grateful to Bob and Sue. *The Nimbin GoodTimes* remains the best way for locals to know who is selling and who has sold, which in turn creates a connected society. And dealing professionally with Bob and Sue couldn't be easier. Their kindness is always extended.

So on behalf of our team and all who reside in our wonderful village, thank you sincerely for the hours (often the 'wee-hours') and weeks and years of service. We couldn't be more grateful or have more admiration for your dedication.

John Wilcox
Licensee of Nimbin Hills
Real Estate

Congratulations to Bob and Sue for a truly heroic effort as the volunteer editors of the NGT. Herding up cats like me, who often forget the deadline or are running late, must be a super tough job!

The NGT is a valuable part of the fabric of Nimbin, which helps us all stay connected and aware of what is going on in the community. We at Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) truly appreciate the opportunity to share information and updates about NNIC activities each month. It also helps the NNIC team to stay up-to-date about other community news and happenings.

The NGT is always filled with engaging content and has withstood the test of time, and even grown in distribution, despite the disappearance of so many other local papers.

Thanks so much for hanging in there Sue and Bob and for keeping the NGT coming out every month for the past 20 years. A job very well done and much appreciated!

Natalie Meyer,
Manager of NNIC
Nimbin

Let us tip our hats and raise a glass to local stars, Bob and Sue, who have edited and produced *the Nimbin GoodTimes* for 20 years now.

Their dedication has resulted in a very high standard of journalism that brings the views and

lifestyles of the Nimbin area to the world.

There is nothing quite like it, and I congratulate Bob and Sue for perseverance when getting the stories out: sometimes the editors had to attend functions themselves to put stories in the paper, but they truly got around in our community. Many thanks.

Scott Sledge
Lilian Rock

It's an amazing effort by you both, Bob'n'Sue.

Twenty years of handling PTSD OCD ADHD hippy dreamers who all want to be heard and preferably on the front page.

Thank you very much from the HEMP Embassy and MardiGrass for your terrific work.

Michael Balderstone
Sphinx Rock

Bob and Sue have developed a great service for Nimbin over two decades.

Both contributors and readers alike have been given valuable information at their fingertips.

In this free monthly, lots of local businesses have a lot to be thankful for, with such a consistent on-going service in this remote village of Northern NSW.

Happy anniversary *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

Benny Zable
Lismore

Thinking about the NGT, I was imagining it was not there.

Just imagine, Nimbin and surrounds without the *Nimbin GoodTimes*! No dedicated Bob, nor Sue nor team slaving away filling 30-plus pages to keep us updated, entertained, inspired.

The answer is simple: I cannot imagine it. And you know what? I know that even people who do not like the paper (for this or that reason...) read the *Nimbin GoodTimes*. Every month.

Keep up the good work, NGT team.

Saskia Kouwenberg
Nimbin

– Eds' note: It's not just us. It's all those in the community who have supported NGT – layout people, proofies, distributors, contributors, advertisers and readers. We thank you all.

Hemlocks

Books & Coffee

107 River Street, Woodburn

A great place to read a book, drink a coffee and seek virtue. Book orders welcome

0458-251-942 hemlockbooks@yandex.com

NIMBIN HABERDASHERY

TUE - FRI 10 - 4 SAT 10 - 12

SUE COOK (02) 66891466
0428 800 171

HANDMADE GOODS
MENDING/ALTERATIONS (SOME)
BEADS ZIPPERS BUTTONS
MATERIAL (HUGE INDIGENOUS RANGE)
COTTONS FABRIC DYES CHARMS
WOOL (COME CHECK OUT THE SHED)

Dying, Death & Beyond

A new comprehensive user-friendly 138 page practical guidebook on how to navigate this delicate period.
Favourite review: "A must read for those who will die" ☺

Order via:
Email ddbborder@gmail.com
Call 04 99 382 668
Price: **\$25.00** including GST & postage.

NIMBIN LAW
Solicitors, Barristers & Conveyancers

Highly competitive rates
Extensive experience in many areas, including:

50C Cullen St. Nimbin 2480
(at rear)
Ph: 02 6689-1003

• Conveyancing, Property & Family Law
• Wills, Estates, Probate

Web: www.nimbinlaw.com.au
Email: nimlaw@spains.com.au

NIMBIN VALLEY TREE SERVICES

- Professional
- Tree Removals
- Tree Surgery
- Wood Chipping
- Mulch Sales
- Free Quotes
- Fully Insured

0492 910 060
nimbinvalleytreeservices.com.au

Solitude's Echo: The Ballad of Niall

In a shack in the hills lived a man named Niall
A hermit, solitary, with secrets to conceal.
He cherished solitude and beer,
A recluse with a heart like a melancholy tune.



Oh, Niall the hermit, a Guinness in his hand,
Lost in the bush, a castaway on land.
His bones lay silent, a tale untold,
In the shadows of his solitude, memories unfold.

Guinness in hand, a flicker in his eyes,
A grumpy soul beneath the starlit skies,
He spoke to the creatures, the owls in the night
Yet his heart was guarded in the pale moonlight.

The goanna slithered, a visitor unseen,
To Niall's body where he had been.
Chewing on his bones, a macabre feast,
Nature's intrusion, a grim nature's beast.

His heart beat in rhythm with the creek that gently flows
In the bush, where only the weeds grow.
He left the world unnoticed, just bones and decay,
A hermit's final chapter, a solemn price to pay.

In the echoes of the forest where Niall once roamed,
His spirit lives on, in the stories we've honed.
A grumpy recluse with a fondness for the wild,
In the heart of nature, where he rests as a child.

– Anonymous, submitted by Mark Barber



0403-721-876

brett@digwise.com.au

www.digwise.com.au

- Rural roads & driveways
- Dam building & clean outs
- Wastewater systems
- House & shed cuts
- Underground services
- Horse arenas
- Turf prep
- Trenching and drainage

- Stump grinding
- 3 x excavators
- Posi tracks (bobcats)
- 2 x graders

- Rollers
- Water truck
- Tippers
- Float and more