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Garden Club donation

by Kerry Hagan

On Tuesday 21st May, I had the great pleasure of donating \$500 to Barkers Vale School at a special assembly.

The school already has an established herb and veggie garden, as well as an air garden. The air garden has only been running for two terms and is already producing beautiful healthy lettuce, kale and herbs.

The donation allows the school to expand this wonderful programme, and is part of Nimbin Garden Club's commitment to support our local schools through our fundraising raffles, held every month at our meetings.



Rainbow Road walking track progress

Lismore City Council is moving ahead with the Rainbow Road Walking Track project, despite recent wet weather causing delays to construction of about 3-4 weeks.

A contractor has now been appointed to manage vegetation along the track. Small design changes have been finalised such as the addition of a new ramp linking the Nimbin Recreation Precinct to improve accessibility to the track.

Local artists are also



progressing beautifully with the construction of the Kombi Konvoy, a series of unique seating designs for placement along the track.

Decisions have also been made on furniture, including bespoke sandstone seating and special features to further enhance the beauty, interest and user experience along the trail.

Wheelchair accessible car parks have also been identified for placement and wayfinding signage designs are nearing completion.

Council will post regular updates as the project progresses. To stay up to date on the project, access design plans, explore frequently

asked questions, or to find out more, please visit: yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au and go to the Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track page.

Council wishes to thank the Nimbin Community Centre, Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and private landowners for making this project possible, and for their continued support throughout construction.

The project is fully funded under the NSW and Federal Government Bushfire Local Economies Fund.

Dementia fundraiser

The Lismore MyWay Memory Jog & Walk was blessed with a beautiful sunny morning for its inaugural fundraising activity on Sunday 19th May.

134 registered participants lined up for the 10km, 5km and 1km events, which started from Albert Park Baseball Grounds and continued along the riverside pathways to the Lismore Transit Centre and back.

A warm-up was led by Serina from Serina Smith Fitness (at F45 & F-fitness) and tasty food was provided by the Goonellabah-Wollongbar Lions Club.

Janelle Saffin, MP for Lismore awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for each event. Best-dressed individual went

to Sue Ellen Shortiss and her sassily-dressed doggy companion Esther. The best dressed team went to Cycling Sisters for Jenny.

The event raised \$8,821 (and counting) with the highest individual amount raised by Jessica Edwards, followed by John Eakin and Glenys Ritchie. Jessica's team, Cycling sisters for Jenny, NR Runners, Swan Bay Market and Beating Hearts of Lismore also made commendable team fundraising efforts.

Dementia Australia have thanked Lismore and said, "We are so grateful that you could give your time, effort, and voice to the over 421,000 Australians living with dementia, their families and carers."



Northern Rivers Runners team

The funds raised will provide vital services such as private and group counselling, in-home assistance, as well as education and training.

Showground seeks community support

by Dave Fawcner, secretary

The Nimbin A&I Society is seeking support to secure the area known as Bellevue Park for the community.

The 1.8ha site, which many people may presume is already part of the Showground, is directly behind the water tanker filling site at 29 Cecil Street (see map).

The area is part of the former Stewart family farm, and was set aside as community land at the time of the development of Jarlanbah, Djanbung Gardens, and other properties.

In 1989, Lismore City Council granted a 21-year lease to the A&I Society to create a space for an oval for the Nimbin Demons AFL team. This lease included a boundary adjustment between Council and the A&I Society.

In 2004 the A&I Society surrendered a 13m-wide section of the lease's northern boundary to allow the construction of the water-filling station.

In 2010 council granted a five-year extension to the lease and shortly after made enquiries as to the A&I Society's willingness to purchase the land. Negotiations began but were interrupted by the Covid epidemic, and the natural disasters of 2019 and 2022.

Its proximity to the Nimbin Preschool, Discover Fitness Gym, the Nimbin Headers fields and the new walking track – along with regular use by emergency groups such as the rescue helicopter – make it a vital piece of open space within the village precinct.

It has been maintained by Showground volunteers for the past 35 years at no cost to council.

Negotiations have now recommenced and your input can help to influence the way Council proceeds. You can make a short statement supporting the showgrounds via email to: nimbinshow2@y7mail.com or by mail to PO Box 200165, Nimbin.



Bellevue Park, outlined in blue, adjoins the Nimbin Showground site in Cecil Street. Photo: Lismore Council

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Photo: PAC

Wild ride scars township

by Bob Dooley

Just before 7pm on Thursday 30th May, a black BMW X5 left a trail of destruction through the Nimbin village.

It crashed into three parked cars in Sibley Street, demolishing a verandah post at the Nimbin Hotel, then continued on at speed to crash into the stone blister wall at the pedestrian crossing in Cullen Street, where the vehicle came to rest.

Peter Laurence was closing his shop, The Nimbin Unicorn, across the road from the hotel when he heard the noise of the collision and saw sections of the verandah in-fill panels falling down.

"The car then reversed, hitting another parked car, and got one of the pieces of the in-fill panels caught under its nearside wheel, and when it took off at speed it couldn't steer, and crashed into the blister," he said.

NBN reporter Andrew Du interviewed two young men who said they had to jump out of the way of the car and were shaken by the experience.

Bystanders reportedly detained the 35-year old male driver, before police arrived and arrested him. Peter Laurence said he exhibited aggressive behaviour as the police were putting him into the police car.

Following mandatory testing at Lismore Base Hospital, he was charged with drive vehicle under the influence of drugs, and will appear before Lismore Local Court on 15th July.

The passenger, a 43-year-old woman,



Photo: Sky Hallett and Tim Dowsett from Lismore What's Happening

was airlifted to Gold Coast University Hospital, where she remains, for a medical issue believed to be unrelated to the crashes.

Meanwhile, the scars to the village streetscape will take some time to be healed. The structural repairs to the hotel are now underway, but replacing the panels will be more difficult, as they were part of an original frieze depicting historical perspectives of the village, hand-painted by Lismore artist Jimmy Willing.

Moon, a barmaid at the hotel whose car was badly damaged (pictured at right), has been informed that the out of control car was uninsured.

Peter Laurence said, "She's going to be seriously out-of-pocket. It's already cost her \$600 for towing. Perhaps the community might be able to help her



Photo: PAC

out?" Any offers of assistance can be made at the hotel.



Call-out for Bentley Art Prize entries

The 37th annual Bentley Art Prize will be held on the weekend of 12th-14th July at the Bentley Hall.

It will feature various

'Girl Gang' (detail) by Angela Parr won the Champion Casino RSM Acquisition Prize last year.

categories of art, including painting, sculpture and photography.

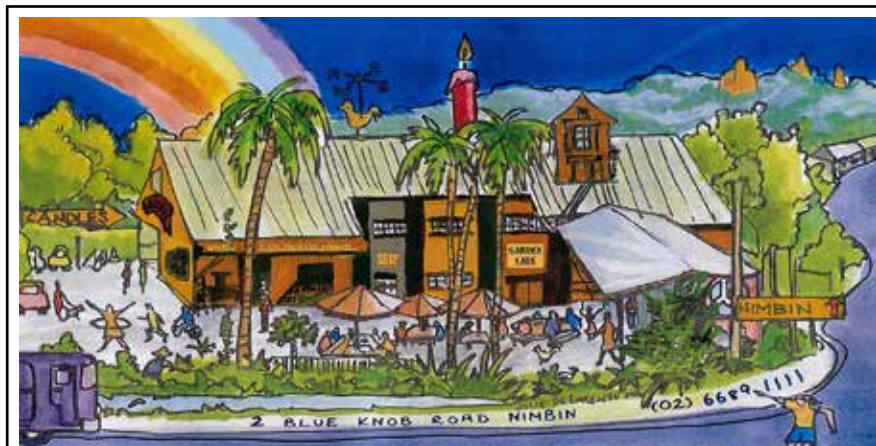
Enter your own artwork for the chance to take out a prize. Please email: bentleyartprize2@gmail.com for your entry form.

Entries close on Friday

28th June.

Richmond Dairies are the major sponsors for the Bentley Art Prize 2024.

It has been operating in Casino for over 100 years producing dairy and non-dairy products for local and international markets.



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Wellness featured at Nimbin Mental Wealth Expo

by Rain Wickham

Nimbin, get ready for a day dedicated to enhancing your mental well-being at the Nimbin Mental Wealth Expo, happening on Saturday, 22nd June from 10am to 4pm at the Nimbin Town Hall and the Birth & Beyond room.

This free event is packed with activities and resources aimed at promoting mental health in our community. Attendees can look forward to Qi Gong sessions, laughter yoga and meditation, all designed to help you relax and rejuvenate.



In addition to these activities, there will be informative talks on a range of topics, including 'Trauma and Mental Health', 'Mental Health First Aid', 'Herbs and Nutrition' and 'Emotional Intelligence', and a variety

of stalls offering valuable information and services.

Plus, don't miss out on the free lunch and the chance to win exciting prizes with our lucky door prizes!

The Nimbin Mental Wealth Expo is organised by

Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc with the support of the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).

This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, learn new techniques for managing stress and discover local resources that can help you maintain a healthy mind and body.

Mark your calendars and join us at the Nimbin Town Hall on 22nd June for a day of wellness and community spirit. For more information, visit: nimbinhealth.org.au

Let's come together to build our mental wealth!

Exciting times ahead for Nimbin Youth

by Rain Wickham, Project Co-ordinator

Nimbin Youth is thrilled to announce a series of exciting projects and new opportunities for our community's young people.

We have been working tirelessly to secure grants and spaces that will enable us to expand our programs and make a bigger impact.

New project

We are proud to share that we have recently secured a grant to run a 'Youth Fest' (Youth Festival) in

Lismore.

This festival promises to be an incredible event, filled with activities, performances and opportunities for youth engagement.

We are especially excited about involving young people from Nimbin in this festival and showcasing their talents and energy.

Drop-in space

In addition to the festival, we are on the verge of securing a new drop-in space for Nimbin Youth. This space will provide a safe and welcoming

environment where young people can gather, participate in programs and access essential support services.

Stay tuned for more updates. Keep an eye on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NimbinYouth and website: www.nimbinyouth.org.au for the latest updates and announcements.

We will be sharing more details about our new projects, upcoming events, and how you can get involved.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to creating amazing opportunities for our youth together!

CWA State Conference highlights



by Sage Bryant, Publicity Officer, Nimbin CWA Branch

CWA is a member-driven organisation, and our state Conference is the most important event of our calendar year, with members setting the agenda of advocacy to the appropriate bodies to achieve improvement or change where needed.

This year's conference was held in beautiful Coffs Harbour and was hosted by the North Coast Group who did a fabulous job in ensuring everything went smoothly without issues.

211 branches from across NSW were present with voting delegates averaging 446 per business session.

Numerous motions were presented and debated over the three days of business, ranging from advocating for 24-hour policing in rural, remote and regional areas, to advocating that cash always be an option and always be available.

Over the next 12 months, CWA of NSW will fundraise for medical research into a cure for pancreatic cancer.

Green stall

Held over both days of the MardiGrass, our green stall was a huge success. We helped many visitors and locals don the green and dress to impress for the main parade.

The crocheted bootie shorts (pictured) were a big hit with the younger crowd!



Dates to Remember

- Open Days: 10am-3pm, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month, pop in for lunch and a chat.
 - Op Shop Days: 10am-3pm, 1st and 4th Weds of the month.
 - Community Market Days: 9.30am-3pm, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month.
 - Street Stall: 10am-noon, every Saturday outside the newsagents.
 - Branch Meeting: New time – 3pm, 2nd Monday of the month, new members always welcome!
- For all general enquires please phone: 0461-412-831 or email: secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com

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A win for Assange?

by John Jiggins

John Shipton travelled to London to attend his son Julian Assange's appeal against extradition to the United States.

The UK High Court had granted Assange's Defence three grounds for a final appeal against extradition to the USA where Assange would face prosecution under the 1917 Espionage Act.

The first ground of appeal was that Assange could be exposed to the death penalty in the United States and the US hadn't given any assurances that they wouldn't seek the death penalty. The other two grounds of appeal dealt with the fact that as an Australian citizen, Assange would be unable to get the benefit of the free speech entitlements in the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

This proved to be the trickiest for the US, and the thrust of the argument in the appeal was largely concerned with this.

Although the US prosecutor argued that Assange could seek to rely on the First Amendment protections, the US government couldn't guarantee this because of the separation of powers between the executive and the courts.

The Defence argued that there was a clear line of case law in the United States, which showed precisely that as a foreign citizen you do not benefit from constitutional protections, including First Amendment rights.

In this battle, Assange's lawyers prevailed, and Assange was granted leave to appeal against his extradition to the US before the UK High Court.

John Shipton (JS) spoke with me (JJ) about his observation of the trial and his reaction to the decision to allow a further appeal.

JS: The decision was good news for us. In the court, there were two US marshals. There was also a car with US marshals in it. If the decision had gone the other way, Julian would be taken and put on a plane to the United States. So for us it was a moment of joy and relief.

In the court hearing, it was extraordinary to see the United States representative prosecutor trying to suck a golf ball up a garden hose. The allusion is to the effort that he was putting in for the impossibility of justifying an assurance that the United States would allow Julian to apply for the protection of the First Amendment free speech legislation in the United States.

In Europe and the UK, Article 10 of the European Human Rights Act

protects free speech, so Julian found benefit from that. The appeal hearing can deliver itself to judging whether Julian would be able to receive the benefits of Article 10 legislation in the United States if he was extradited. The Defence quoted judgements of the US Supreme Court that denied First Amendment protection for non-nationals.

JJ: Stella, Julian's wife, tweeted she was very relieved with the decision, and you were too obviously, but this is not the end of the matter. The US was granted another chance to give these assurances and you'll be back in court again.

JS: Well, maybe, there may be further hearings. The speculation is that the United States Department of Justice doesn't want a hearing in the United States over a First Amendment matter before the election. That's what people say. From my point of view, and I say this with all the firmness I can possibly gather, that since the involvement of the Australian government in the matter of Julian Assange's prosecution and persecution, it's become a state-to-state matter.

State-to-state relationships, particularly between friendly states or associated states, like the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, and the involvement of Australia in AUKUS, the matter has changed its character and complexity altogether.

The demeanour of the court, in the last two hearings since the Australian governments made its concerns known, has completely changed, and the good manners and provision of seeing and careful consideration of Julian's lawyers and supporters is altogether different, fundamentally different.

So we all must keep firmly in mind that it's the supporters generating an upwelling of enthusiasm for Julian's fair treatment that has brought into being a political circumstance that the Australian government has to address.

JJ: It's been quite a burden on you, your family, and Julian. How much does it cost, for example, just to have all these court appeals which you've had to sit through?

JS: I don't know. Many, many tens of millions. There's an article written by Declan Hayes some time ago which estimated that the supporters worldwide since 2016 have spent about \$100 million on Julian's defence. For us, you know, we just spend everything. I mean, you know, the houses go, savings are gone, and we exist, politically and financially, on the support of our supporters. We rest upon the shoulders



John Shipton at MardiGrass last month. Photo: Sue Stock

of the supporters worldwide, and in particular in Australia.

I've got to say that so firmly: without the support of the Australian people, and the Parliament and the government, and the delegations that travelled to the United States, Julian would be extradited to the United States and Australia's sovereignty would have suffered a severe blow.

JJ: Jen Robinson refers to this as process as torture.

JS: They use the phrase 'punishment by process' and, of course, the process is the legal process. That just goes on and on for now, nearly 15 years. The United Nations Rapporteur on Torture, Professor Nils Melzer, he goes out at it even firmer and harder, which I agree with, and he says that it's psychological torture, constant smearing, never knowing where things are going to end, never knowing where the next court case is going to happen, never knowing if you've got enough money to pay the lawyers and so on.

In that sense, it's sadistic, and I feel after so many years, it's obvious to many people that that sadism and maliciousness is on behalf of the United Kingdom Crown Prosecuting service and the Department of Justice in the United States. That malicious sadism can only be consciously deliberate by the bureaucrats that inhabit those institutions.

JJ: Is there anything you would like to add?

JS: Well, just my gratitude: particularly in the Northern Rivers. You know they've been a rock upon which we had rested in this fight for Julian's freedom. I mean, they're magnificent. What can you say? They've been magnificent.

NB: This is the sixth year Julian has spent incarcerated in the high security Belmarsh prison, although he has never been convicted of any crime.

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State Government Inquiry visits Save Wallum

by Holly Galbraith

On 31st May, four NSW State Ministers visited the Save Wallum site in Brunswick Heads to learn more and report on how the NSW planning system can have better outcomes for the environment and communities, and the impact of 'Zombie DAs'.

The State Inquiry into 'Planning system and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities', chaired by Sue Higginson (Greens, MLC), attended the historically approved proposed development, along with



Photo: Mac Maderski

Anthony D'Adam (ALP, MLC), Jacqui Munro (LIB, MLC) and Peter Primrose (ALP, MLC).

Meeting with traditional owners and the Save Wallum community, they were on site

for about one hour, which included a brief ecological tour.

Information delivered by Traditional Owners of the Bundjalung Nation and local ecologists appeared very well

received.

This NSW State Government Inquiry, established in August last year, had already heard from representatives of other Zombie DAs, including Manyana Matters Environmental Association on the NSW South Coast.

They also visited South West Rocks on the Mid North Coast last week in relation to concerns over Zombie DAs impacting its unique coastal environment.

The exact same issue is being faced at Wallum, and an estimated 200 other Zombie DA sites across NSW.

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Community Wellbeing Survey

This quick and easy survey is conducted annually by neighbourhood centres with the aim of getting an understanding of how people in our communities are doing in terms of well-being, using key indicators (belonging, connectedness etc) to help us better understand what our focus should be and where resources may be needed in our community.

It is not a survey about the neighbourhood centre specifically and is also not being conducted by any Government agency. (We may use the information gathered, however, to lobby Government around community issues/needs.)

The survey is completely anonymous and the information is also collated at a State level on behalf of the participating neighbourhood centres by the LCSA (which is our peak body in NSW).

If you are a Nimbinite and reading this and have not done the survey yet, you can find paper versions at NNIC during our opening hours (10am-4pm weekdays) or see our website or Facebook page for the link to the survey on-line.

Get in Quick!... the survey closes on 30th June.

Nimbin NAIDOC Day

Set down for July 2024, final date to be confirmed. Watch out for posters and info on socials and our website – there will be games and activities for families, the annual NAIDOC Day language and culture quiz (with prizes), music and food of course, and maybe some story telling?

Grant-writing training

Grant-writing skills is a regular theme in Nimbin and has also come up in the SNCP.

A free on-line workshop is being offered via Parramatta City Council on 14th June, 2-3.30pm. See our website/socials for the link to register for this training (link too

long to post here).

The workshop is ideal for any NGO, Not-for-Profit, Aboriginal, Multicultural, Arts, Sports, School and Community Organisations interested in finding out more about current Grants Funding and how you can prepare for future grants funding – what funding exists and how you can use it to support your organisation.

Good news for Nimbin Flood Recovery Support Service

The program was due to wind up on 30th June but has been extended to the end of 2024, which is great news for those people still awaiting outcomes of their DRG grant applications and policies to be finalised with regards to landslips.

The road to recovery has been very slow and painful for many community members, and for some still in limbo whilst awaiting key policy decisions to be made (yes – even more than two years since the floods), it remains particularly challenging and emotionally exhausting.

We at NNIC share their frustration and we have been like a broken record advocating for landslip-impacted residents at every opportunity ever since the 2022 floods, and we will continue to do so.

Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP)

Thanks to the 70 people who so far have participated in the SNCP review workshops. We are nearly there folks... There are only two remaining Focus Areas to workshop: Social and Political, and Water.

♦ **Sat 27th July:** Social and Political (Town Hall) – issues may include future-proofing volunteer-run organisations, mechanisms for community input into decisions by all levels of government which directly impact the community, upcoming Council elections... and whatever else you may come up with.

♦ **Sat 3rd August:** Water

Security (Town Hall) – 10.30am -3.30pm we have extended the time frame to five hours for this new Focus Area due to high interest and the fact that unlike the others we are starting from scratch, which means that together we need to develop the overall Vision, a set of Goals and Strategies etc.

♦ **September:** Final presentation – Draft Revised SNCP (date to be confirmed).

More info will be posted on Nimbin Hook Ups, NNIC and 7 Sibley Street Facebook pages, and our website, and look out for posters around town. For regular email updates, get onto our email list via: sibley@nnic.org.au

Can't make it to a workshop?

The Draft Revised Plans for each Key Focus Area are circulated for further input and comment following each workshop. See the relevant KFA's section under the Sustainability Tabs on the NNIC website for the links to the Drafts completed so far and

the relevant input survey links.

NOTE: Some strategies proposed so far still need someone to lead them. If no lead is identified by the time the 2024 version of the SNCP is finalised, those strategies will most likely be removed from the Plan. So please have a look through the survey relevant to your area of interest to see if you can contribute.

Many thanks to the Northern Rivers Community Foundation for funding support.

Did you know?

NNIC is a registered PBI Charity and Donations above \$2 to NNIC are Tax Deductible and 100% of donated funds are used to directly assist people in need via things like food and material aid. 0% of donated funds are spent on admin or overheads.

NNIC gratefully acknowledges all our donors in the past financial year. Thanks so much for helping us to support community members in need of assistance. We really appreciate it.

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

Third Thursday of the month, next is 21st March. Phone 6688-1400 for an 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 20th June.

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 first Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the CWA room. New members are most welcome.





by Scott Sledge, President

Bentley Blockade anniversary

This month I will concentrate on the celebration of the Gasfield-Free Northern Rivers struggle which culminated in the Bentley Blockade's success 10 years ago.

On May 15th 2014, we received the stunning news that the NSW government had decided to withdraw plans to send hundreds of police to smash community resistance to development of a coal seam gas industry in our region.

We had built an amazing network, prepared for a forced entry onto a grazing property at rural Bentley between Lismore, Kyogle and Casino, and were ready for the Battle of Bentley to commence.

Several hundred volunteers kept watch, camped on a neighbouring property for four months, bolstered by thousands of supporters whenever an alert went out.

The news the government had suspended the licence to drill an exploratory well swept through the camp and across the district like a wave of joy, but the relief was somewhat anti-climactic.

We continued political pressure until Metgasco, at their Sydney AGM in December 2014 (which I attended), accepted a government offer to buy back licences to drill in the Northern Rivers.

A group of some participants in the Gasfield-Free Northern Rivers movement gathered to recognise the 10-year anniversary of success at Bentley, hastily organised by Knitting Nannas Against Gas stalwart Anne Thompson who asked me to comper a simple program.

Speakers featured communities organiser Annie Kia, law lecturer Aidan Ricketts, arborist Don Durrant and Lismore Councillor Adam Guise. Many people then shared anecdotes about their memories of the blockade.

Some said it was the most important event of their lives when community became empowered to do something to save their environment from threats of pollution.

Other successful efforts to protect land, air and water soon followed, such as at

Gloucester NSW and James Price Point north of Broome in WA.

With the anniversary approaching, Anne thought, "Someone should organise an event" and then realised that she was someone and made a few calls.

A large hay shed now stands where the protestors camped 10 years ago, and that will be available in October for a much larger commemoration so the rest of our movement can celebrate what may well be the first such victory of people power over the interests of the fossil fuels industry.

A remarkable feature of the Gasfield-Free movement has been its insistence on Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA). What violence occurred during confrontations between protestors and agents of invasive gas mining was by police who were sent to force a way through community resistance.

The government eventually conceded that some areas simply refused a 'social licence' despite the gas companies being entitled by mining licences.

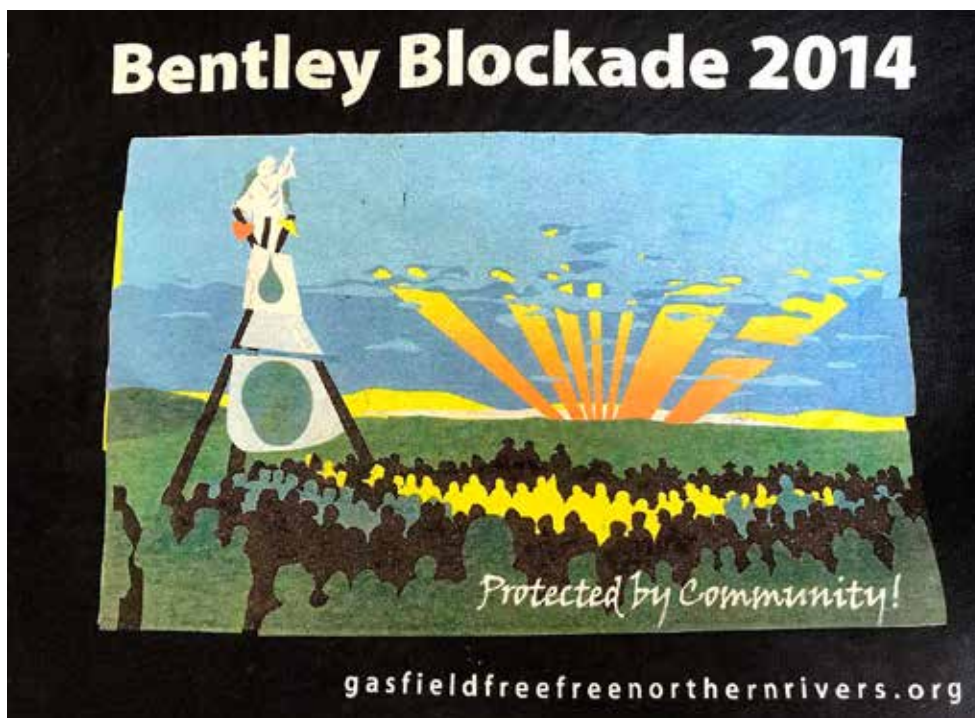
A referendum conducted by the AEC during the 2012 local government election proved that 86% of Lismore voters resoundingly rejected gasfield development.

It's also worth noting that a leaked report from police to NSW Cabinet stipulated there was no community support for police to break the blockade, which would require about 800 police, and predicted "there will be casualties."

Today the Northern Rivers stands proudly gasfield-free thanks to the commitment of its residents to prioritise people over profit, environment over pollution, and we stand committed to reducing fossil fuel emissions to save our planet from disasters due to climate change.

In the award-winning film *The Bentley Effect*, Keerong Gas Squad activist Judy Emmett said, "This is a crazy place to try to establish a gasfield. What were they thinking?"

Aidan Ricketts said it best: "We always felt that, from the gas industry's perspective, if they could defeat the Northern Rivers, they could defeat anybody, so we felt like we were carrying a symbolic load for the rest of Australia."



Future Gas Strategy

Imagine, then, our dismay at the release last month by the Federal Government of its 'Future Gas Strategy' said to be essential to achieving a low-emission economy by developing new gasfields until 2050 "and beyond."

Reminiscent of Scott Morrison's 'gas-fired recovery' policy, this "industry" will totally scupper any chance of Australia reaching carbon targets agreed at various global climate summits and reduces our credibility as a caring country to rubble. This would be funny if it was not so serious.

Lock the Gate spokesperson, Carmel Flint said, "It's a massive capitulation to the gas industry that will cost us all dearly."

Sorry to be blunt, but this policy is a massive contradiction, equivalent to the US Army policy during its war in Vietnam of "destroying a village in order to save it."

How can we reduce fossil fuel emissions by increasing them? Anyone who believes that gas is a less polluting fossil fuel, a "transitional fuel", on our way to net zero is either a liar or ignorant.

Gas may burn cleaner, but that argument misses the point that we have to make a real change away from pollution, and the whole industry leaks methane at every stage while permanently destroying the precious fresh water which makes up only 3% of the Earth's water.

When we started to look into gasfield development, we were struck by the illegal dumping of the toxic chemical cocktail removed from fracking and stored in plastic lined ponds which leaked into groundwater when ripped and overflowed in rainy weather.

I shudder to think what persistent pollution would have befallen our lot during the floods of 2017 and 2022.

I suppose our major political parties have decided that they may fool enough people to believe that the fossil fuels giant corporations have their best interests at heart, but I have yet to see evidence these profit-driven organisations have any heart at all.

Their priority is to influence political policy by donating to campaign funds and lobbying government and media.

National environment laws ignore climate

On 16th May we got the devastating news that the Federal Court has ruled against a challenge by the Environment Council of Central Queensland that was seeking to ensure that the impacts of climate change on the environment were considered by our Federal Environment Minister in her decisions on coal mine projects.

The Court made it clear why they had to reject the appeal was because our national environment laws are outdated and ill-suited to addressing the threat posed by climate change on the Australian environment.

Lock the Gate said: "We need a climate trigger in national environment laws to prevent the approval of more coal and gas projects in Australia, including those earmarked in the Future Gas Strategy."

Please go to their website to sign a petition calling on PM Albanese and Environment Minister Plibersek to act today, to amend our outdated environment laws and put climate at the heart of decision-making and drop the Future Gas Strategy.

Land clearing laws

My column for last month's NGT described my disappointment that ALP-led NSW and Federal governments have yet to provide any improvement on laws restricting land clearing or protecting endangered species.

I thought they were wanting to have a bet each way to gain wide support in coming elections.

Now I am angry that both levels of government have swung to the dark side, and I am reliably informed there is little courage in either major political party. Nevertheless, in all policy the environment must come first, then all the rest will benefit.

Footnote

Here's a comment from Gavin Newsome, Governor of California:

"The science on climate change is clear: unless we act boldly, and with speed, we are going to see more drought, more wildfire, more severe weather, more disease, more famine, more climate migration, and more human suffering."

David and Goliath court victory

NSW Supreme Court of Appeal allows appeal against Forestry Corp

A volunteer conservation group has won a legal battle against the NSW government's native forest logging operation.

The court victory has established a precedent that could be huge in the fight to save greater gliders and other threatened species from logging destruction of their habitat.

South East Forest Rescue (SEFR) won their appeal of the Land and Environment Court's decision that SEFR could not bring matters to court because they did not have a "special interest" in the subject matter.

The unanimous decision of the Supreme Court of NSW Court of Appeal found that SEFR has a sufficient special interest in circumstances where it had an approximate 20 year history of taking active steps and concrete action in relation to its beliefs and concerns, namely a deep concern regarding logging and its effects on the welfare of forest-dependent threatened species, including the Greater Glider.

"This decision is an important step forward in removing roadblocks to public interest litigation in NSW by environmental organisations," said Ms Natalija Nikolic, lawyer for SEFR.

"There is now no doubt that environmental organisations have the right to challenge Forestry Corporation's breaches of the law. It is a historic and momentous decision."



SEFR's position is that the Forestry Corporation is not performing adequate surveys for den trees, and therefore necessary exclusion zones around den trees are not being implemented.

SEFR say the impacts of logging on glider habitat are all the more critical for consideration in the wake of the 2019/20 fires.

"This case is so important," Mr Daines, spokesperson for SEFR said. "The Forestry Corporation have produced real harm to environment and ecosystems and for so long they thought they were untouchable, well they're not a law unto themselves."

The case has now been sent back to be heard in the Land and Environment Court.

NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

7 Sibley Street

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

Workshops: 10.30am – 1.30pm

- **Sat 15th: All about Bananas** – Learn how to grow, manage and harvest organically AND discover the many unusual ways you can utilise this incredible plant in your food system, \$50, bookings essential (offsite).
- **Tues 18th: Knitting group** – BYO project, learn and share, by donation.
- **Sat 22nd: Broom Making** – Learn about growing and processing broomcorn and the technique of making traditional straw shaker brooms.

Bookings essential, \$30 materials included.

- **Sat 29th: Learn to make Felt Hats** – Presented by Courtney of Pan's Ancestral Crafts. Full day workshop includes lunch, all materials provided \$120 (bookings essential).
- **Mon-Fri** – Recovery support services
- **Community Tools Library:** Every Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm. For home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC Mon-Fri. Basketballs & pump available, \$5 refundable deposit.

Driver impairment

One of the many needs our society needs is a universally applicable driving test designed to detect driver impairment.

Whether it's alcohol, drug, mood, attitude or otherwise affected, we very much need to have safety on our motor vehicle-inhabited roads.

Too many people are killed and injured constantly.

Bob Hopkins
Homeless in QLD

Infrastructure priorities

Once upon a time if a small rural community like Nimbin recognised a need, it either fundraised or lobbied their government representatives.

That is how the Nimbin pool was built, way back in the 1970s.

Times change and now we have evolved this process of community consultation and grant-writing. Nimbin has done well as we have a cadre of skilled grant writers.

A recent example of a successful grant would be the lights at the Headers fields.

However, not all projects are as successful. Take the 'parklet' out the front of the Greenbank as an example. I don't recall the town hall meeting where we all lobbied for a wee park under a large electrical transformer.

Where the whole process has gone off the rails is that the grant writers are no longer just seeking grants in response to the community's needs but are scouring government publications seeking out what grants are available and applying for them, as well.

Apparently there are some funds for a library and presto... Nimbin suddenly needs a full time bricks and mortar library. Let's whack a tourist information centre in there, as well. Really?

It has a whiff of a political play rather than the outcome of years of community lobbying.

Surely, we need to repair our crumbling infrastructure. After 45 years of living here, I have never seen the village looking so depressingly run down.

How about no more new projects until we get our

footpaths and drainage sorted?

What is the point of spending \$2.5 million on a tourist walking track if visitors can't walk down the main street without falling over.

The western car park is a disgrace. Allsopp Park is a gloomy, dank cluttered mess...and the retaining wall is about to slip into Sibley Street. The Rocks viewing spot coming into town is... well words fail.

So... maybe the grant writers could ease back on new projects and we, as a community, concentrate on desperately-needed infrastructure repairs.

Adrian Williamson
Nimbin

Disabled DV victims

I have great empathy for women fleeing violence, but I feel that all sections of society need to talk about violence as a whole.

I am a survivor of domestic violence. I had four abusers in the family; two siblings and my mother and father. My dad died when I was 7 and my mum when I was 18. My mother used me as a punching bag.

My sister and I have found that there are people out in society and support organisations not willing to hear about abuse my mother dealt out, and they quote statistics about how men are mainly abusers.

I also survived rape, predatory behaviour by a boss, and have been bashed by females as an adult. Now I hear the Albanese government will not extend the \$5000 payment to women who are disabled and fleeing violent carers and situations. All of us matter.

Shame on the Australia government for its treatment of very vulnerable people, who can't fight back against domestic violence.

As a woman of 60 and having survived incredible trauma and now having PTSD as well as a physical disability, I am lucky to have loving friends, my sister, an older mentally disabled brother, and a special young man who I consider as a child



www.hollyenglish.com

that I never had.

I am lucky to be looked after by an organisation that won't tolerate abuse towards clients.

Come on Australia, it is time to discuss all forms of violence. We matter to God but evidently not to the Australian government.

Helen Coyle
Monaltrie

Rape allegation

Simon Cohen's article (NGT May 24, p.22) comparing the Random Drug Testing he endured to rape didn't do him much justice, neither did it show any sympathy for the women, men and children who have been raped.

Rape is a horrific crime, and cannot be compared with this depiction of his experience.

Bob Hopkins
Homeless in QLD

The future of festivals

The May 2024 edition of the Nimbin GoodTimes was a feast of vibrant community spirit.

A valuable insight was the idea by Harry Gumboot on page 36 that the MardiGrass committee consider "...a festival in line with the original ethos of Aquarius". Spot on!

The value of festivals of course is not only that an event celebrates the area's unique qualities, but that the number of visitors boosts the

local economy.

Celebrating hemp might be wiped out when use of the plant becomes legalised. US and EU are going that way, Australia can't be far behind. A few years at most. It spells decline.

The absence of over-policing noted in the NGT seems to indicate the writing is already on the wall.

This area will hopefully never run out of things to protest, and having "Protestivals", so the region would still attract regional visitors, but the wind could be out of the sails.

Parts of the MG translate well in events: follow your heart, fun, celebrating creativity, DIY gusto, renewable powers, community parades, minimalism, consciousness expansion.

The Age of Aquarius is anti-materialist, kind and plant-based, doing more with less, boundless creativity, co-dependence on nature, no abusive powers against victimless crimes.

The coming Aquarian Age is 100 years away, and celebrating its egalitarian mindset and creative flamboyances may last to boost small towns and the joys of rural living.

Maybe a Sustainable Lifestyles Festival? But it is clearly in the court of the MG committee, the wider Nimbin valley community,

the Chamber of Commerce and stall-holders.

Community development includes planning for the future.

Pieter Verasdonck
Larnook

\$10 will save the world

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small!
TEN DOLLARS WILL SAVE THEM ALL!
The starving children,
The blind to see,
The chained elephants and bears,
The koalas and the trees,
The poverty and sickness,
The monkeys and the bees!
TEN DOLLARS WILL SAVE THEM ALL!
Really? REALLY? REALLY?
There must be a better way?
Cancel one fighter plane or one nuclear submarine?

Bett Taylor
Kyogle

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.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of several Nimbin stalwarts, well-known for their contributions to village life.

- **Holger Wesselbaum** volunteered at the Hemp Embassy, and had a weekly radio show on Nim-FM.
- **Ian Simpson**, former president of Nimbin Headers and previous owner of the Emporium.
- **Michael O'Halloran**, a musician from Larnook
- **Jodie Tichbourne**, owner of the Rainbow Cafe which burnt down, later owner of the Aquarius Cafe.
- **Len Martin**, a retired academic who was active in lobbying for improved health services in Nimbin, collected data for Lock the Gate, and wrote and performed poetry.
- **Daisy Stewart** was the owner of Daisy's Cafe and welcomed the hippies who came to town for the 1973 Aquarius Festival.
- **Michael Bales**, known for his One Mob clothing label. Rest in peace.

Memento mori

Remember that your greatest wealth Is not your money, but your health!

While we are healthy, life is great. Do we appreciate that enough? This is a time to celebrate, For the road ahead may well get rough.

Do not postpone your heart's desire, Do what you want to, while you may: Too soon we lose that youthful fire! Our fate can change in just one day,

Not really 'if', but rather 'when' A final illness comes our way And robs us of our dreams, and then We're sliding down, till at the end A prolonged life means prolonged suffering. And Death is welcomed as a friend....

Hendrik de Vries

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

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.

Notices

Annual General Meetings

- Nimbin Environment Centre Inc AGM: Wednesday 12th June, 6pm at Community Centre Comskool Room, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin. All welcome. Nominations for executive and committee members will be accepted from the floor. Must be a financial member to vote. NB: General monthly meeting will be held at 5pm before the AGM.
- Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd AGM: Wednesday 26th June, 5.30pm at the Comskool Room, Nimbin Community Centre

Report of Nimbin Advisory Group meeting

by Gwen Trimble, NAG member

The bi-monthly Nimbin Advisory Group meeting was held on 16th May, attended by Lismore Council councillors and staff, and elected Nimbin community representatives.

Allsopp Park

The "No dogs" signs will be replaced with "Dogs on lead and clean up after your dog" signs.

It was noted that the two signs in Allsopp Park are incorrectly spelt and will be replaced to correctly reflect the name of the person for whom the park is named, possibly including a brief description of who he was.

It is believed that Allsopp Park was named for William Leslie Allsopp, a WW1 decorated veteran who, after his return to Nimbin, became a respected businessman, President of the Bowling Club for many years, and who built the Masonic Hall.

If you can provide more information, please contact Council, Reference Number 13094/2023, or Gwen Trimble: gwentrimble@gmail.com

Caravan Park/Pool entrance

Council is aware that the road/drive to the Nimbin Caravan Park and Pool is in a very poor state of repair and the parking at the pool also raises concerns.

Work to repair and improve it relies on priority of works, resourcing and weather.

As this access road is identified as part of the Rainbow Walk infrastructure, it is likely the repairs will be prioritised to align with the opening of the Rainbow Road Walking Track.

Fire hose

Council received a question asking whether they would install a fire hose in the centre of Nimbin. Their response was no it would not be possible for safety reasons.

The primary water supply line in the CBD of Nimbin is equipped with numerous fire hydrants for use by firefighters. Some individual premises may have firefighting hoses they choose to make accessible to staff or others.

The NAG acknowledged that because there can be considerable time before detection and the arrival of the RFS, swift action by bystanders when the fire is detected is crucial to limiting damage.

It was suggested that the community might canvass support to install taps and regular hoses throughout the village for that purpose.

Maintenance

There was a long report on maintenance issues, with the main effort focused on beautification of the entries to Nimbin with a request for feedback from the community on two items (see below).

Brush-cutting and slashing these areas, including the northern entry 'Centre Garden' (between the two bridges) have been added to the



Caravan Park resident Steve Huntley negotiates the potholes on the entry road. Photo: Sue Stock

maintenance schedule.

Other maintenance matters:

- Public toilet – roof cleaned, hand dryers, soap dispensers and lighting repairs undertaken.
- Pedestrian crossing – unauthorised signage removed, vegetation pruned.
- Allsopp Park – inoperative solar lighting will be replaced.

Feedback please

1. Council offered to mass plant lomandras in the 'Centre Garden', but pointed out that once they were established, there would be no room for the signs currently there.

If that wasn't acceptable to the community, maintenance would need to rely on brush-cutting.

2. The western side of the bridges (northern approach) are now very overgrown with weeds, and are deemed unsafe for staff to brush-cut.

Staff have asked to be allowed to apply herbicide now (and in the future) to control the weeds in this area.

NAG members felt that would not be acceptable to the community, and as an alternative suggested we seek a group of volunteers to weed the problem area, then mass-plant Council-supplied lomandras.

New amenities/toilet block

Council provided an update on their progress towards construction of the proposed Peace Park Amenities block utilising NSW State Government grant funding of \$400,000.

We were told that community engagement will be undertaken shortly, so no significant progress appears to have been made.

It was disappointing to see Council's report re-presented the initial shipping container concept plans, commissioned by NAG, prepared in June 2021 and not new plans reflecting the March 2023 NSW State grant funding awarded.

While several ideas for revision and improvements to the plan as presented were discussed, including disabled amenity and access/use of all the facilities when the pool is closed, there seems to be a great deal more work to do.

Nimbin water supply/security

The new 200mm diameter water main installation has been completed. There are plans to make repairs and improvements to the weir, but the start date is subject to flows in Mulgum Creek.

LCC will engage a consultant to assist it develop long-term water supply options and improve water security. Using Flood Restoration funds, the design of a new Nimbin Water Treatment Plant is underway and community consultation will be sought before finalising the design.

The temporary membrane water treatment plant, currently in use, is unable to supply treated water to Nimbin's rural supply customers, who will continue to receive a raw water supply, with a boil water notice, augmented by weekly bottled water delivery.

A consultant will be engaged to review how the new treatment plant might supply treated water to the rural customers.

Nimbin pool

Draining the pool requires treatment to protect wildlife living downstream.

It has been suggested that by leaving the pool filled as soon as maintenance is completed, will protect the hard surface from breaking down, reducing maintenance time and expense.

In that instance, to comply with health requirements, the water would need to be treated outside the swimming season. It was suggested that the cost of both options be compared and the issue discussed at the next meeting.

Friends of the Pool have identified a need for improved disability access into the pool possibly via a ramp.

Rainbow Road Walking Track

The Nimbin Rainbow Road Walking Track construction is underway, with the track expected to be completed in August, weather permitting, followed by final art installations, landscaping and wayfinding signage, ready for opening to the public early in 2025.

Nimbin Place Plan

The consultation process, which began in February, is nearing its final stage. A draft of the Plan will be open for feedback on Council's Your Say page from 3rd June.

The project team will be at the Nimbin Hall all day on Thursday 6th June for people to drop in and discuss it with a formal workshop held from 5.30-7pm.

Information on the Your Say webpage: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/nimbin-place-plan>

DA updates

Council Planning staff have recently adopted a 'Fast-Track' system to process DAs so that simple, low risk DAs are processed in 5-10 days.

DA Tracker is publicly available to everyone at any time using: <https://tracker.lismore.nsw.gov.au>

Help us envision the future of Nimbin

Council is now seeking feedback on the Draft Nimbin Place Plan

GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK ONLINE

www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/nimbin-place-plan

OR IN PERSON

Drop-in session at the Nimbin Town Hall.
Wednesday, 12 June / 11am-5pm
OR Workshop from 5.30-7pm

lismore city council

NIMBIN HABERDASHERY

TUE - FRI 10 - 4 SAT 10 - 12

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