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It's time to get wet all over

by Sue Edmonds

The new season of swimming pool happiness has commenced.

The tired old pool has had a remarkable makeover. Greg, the new manager with a history of managing swimming pools, recognised the work required to bring the pool up to standard.

The machinery in the pump house, which keeps the pool ticking, has been repaired, the cracks and splits in the surface were ground back and filled and the whole surface was repainted.

Greg commissioned a handyman to paint the perimeter with bright colours, which now looks stunning.

Kids from Nimbin Central school have painted all sorts of water creatures, starting with fresh-water animals, continuing around the pool and finishing with salt-water creatures ending with a big shark.

To top it all off, the long-awaited amenities block is fully operational. On the poolside there is an accessible shower and toilet, same on the park side with another toilet.

Three toilets and two showers all up, funded by the State Labor government and organised by our busy local member, Janelle Saffin.

The recreational area of children's playground, exercise equipment, BBQ area with newly painted tables and bench seats and the skate park are now more user friendly.

Nimbin's very talented artist, Julie de Lorenzo, has



muralled all four sides. It's now a tourist feature rivalling painted silos, but more people-friendly than a silo (you can't relieve yourself or have a shower in a silo).

When you are swimming northward, there are fabulous sea creatures and a waterfall on the door to head towards.

Friends of Nimbin Pool (FONP) was originally formed 15 years ago to lobby for a toilet block.

Along the way FONP installed all the seating, had a water drinking fountain installed at the BBQ shelter shed, successfully lobbied for exercise equipment near the children's playground and supported various pool attendants when they needed extra equipment.

Last year we funded a creepy crawly cleaner which fusses around at the southern end sucking up slime and other stuff.

For 12 years, FONP has organised the Nimbin Pool Olympics, raising money for the projects.

Membership of FONP



is free. To join just send your email address to: friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com

Nimbin pool opens at 7am and closes at sunset, free for everyone who wants to swim, wade or paddle.

A prayer to the elements

by Julie de Lorenzo

It took the whole season of winter for a mural to emerge and I'm thrilled that this one is finally complete.

Students from Nimbin Central School have also livened up the inside edge of the pool with a swirling spiral of sealife and Peter Alchin painted a quirky scalloped rainbow around the outside edge.

It all sits together beautifully, manifested by an original vision of Greg Rekkers, the owner of Nimbin Crystal Caravan Park.

The first day that I met Greg and he shared his vision for the pool, I knew immediately that we were aligned in what was about to manifest.

With attacks on humanity and our Mama Earth, we are living in intense historic and transitional times.

This project has inspired me to keep returning to my vision and hope for love and peace in the face of opposing forces of darkness.

Bearing witness to so much death and destruction in the form of poisons, bombs and carelessness, fuelled by greed and power, is a tough one to process, yet alongside the love, kindness and compassion I witness around me, I'm urged to create something beautiful, some kind of balm.



I can honestly say that witnessing a genocide and the resilience of Palestinians on my phone screen has shown me what steadfastness truly is.

In Arabic it's called Sumud, and I could say I found my own sumud through this project.

What began as a commission to make a toilet block reflect the environment and the spirit of Nimbin, evolved into a mission to show the interconnection of all life.

The thing I feel so incredibly blessed with, is to live in a community that honours this connection.

I couldn't do that literally in a visual sense and although I have excluded any

human figures (with the exception of the face of Mother Earth), I placed emphasis on images of nature itself, especially local native animals and plants, and gentle transitions of the colours of the spectrum and light to invite viewers to contemplate our connection through feeling the elements.

As a prayer to fire, earth, air and water, we honour the vitality that each provides and exists within us.

There's a lot more going on in this mural but I'll leave you to explore it for yourself. You can view the mural at the Nimbin Pool and between Peace Park, with its skate park, and the Nimbin Bowling Club.

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Performance Poetry World Cup success

Gail M Clarke and her dedicated team of volunteers have run another successful two-day event that hosted poets from Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the local area.

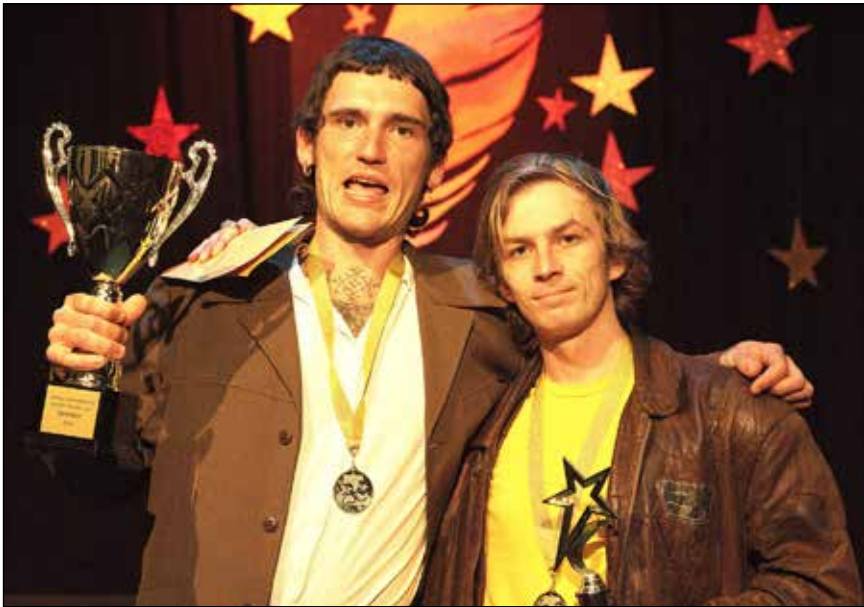
Thanks to all the Nimbin people, businesses and organisations who contributed time, goods and money, because it is your generosity that allows the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup to happen.

With thousands of dollars of prize money on offer, the Cup is one of the most lucrative opportunities for poets in Australia, yet the primary motivations for poets attending are not economic.

The main reasons for poets to enter are the challenge of winning Australia's premier performance poetry competition and the chance to experience the creative community of Nimbin.

This has resulted in the standard of poets and positive vibe of the weekend getting better every year.

This year had poets from 20- to 80-years old sharing their words using a wide range of poetry styles in an effort



Winner Harry Maslen (left) with People's Choice winner Otto de Pele. Photo: Reelpixs

to entertain the audiences and impress the judges.

This year the energy of youth prevailed, with the People's Choice Award going to Otto de Pele and the Nimbin Performance Poetry World

Cup being won by Harry Maslen.

Details about the event and videos of the performances of all eight finalists are available on the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup facebook page. **More pics on p.36**

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Show your support for Nimbin Youth

Nimbin Youth, our grassroots youth space at the Nimbin Community Centre, is calling on the village to stand behind our young people as they fight to keep the doors open.

For the past year, Nimbin Youth has provided a safe and welcoming place for local young people. It offers food, internet access, crisis response (youth care), mentoring, advocacy and pathways into adulthood. Many young people rely on the space for social connection, support and opportunities.

But without urgent operational funding, Nimbin

Youth is at risk. Wick and Rain, who currently fund most of the space themselves, with some valued contributions from local organisations, say it's no longer sustainable without backing from decision-makers.

Nimbin Youth is seeking:

1. Letters of support – local organisations, groups and businesses, individuals are invited to write a letter. A template is available, email: office@nimbinyouth.org.au

2. Petition signatures – community members are encouraged to add their names in support of funding for

Nimbin Youth. Go to: www.nimbinyouth.org.au/news/sign-our-nimbin-youth-petition

"You don't have to live in Nimbin to support us," says Rain. "If you believe young people deserve safe spaces and strong futures, your voice matters. I love each young person who walks through our doors. They inspire me every day and I want to be able to offer them more – targeted programs, projects and opportunities that help them grow and flourish."

"Right now, Wick and I are personally covering most of the costs to keep Nimbin Youth

open. With the rising cost of living and caring for our own family, it is becoming harder to meet the increasing needs of our young people.

"We want every young person to feel supported, to know they belong in this world and to have access to better opportunities as they step into their future. Keeping our doors open means giving them that chance."

Together, as a village, we can make sure Nimbin Youth not only survives, but has the support it needs to continue standing strong for our young people.

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Local wins at ocean photography awards

Byron Bay photographer Craig Parry has been awarded first place in the Human Connection Award: People and Planet Ocean category at the internationally renowned Ocean Photographer of the Year Awards.

Craig's winning image, 'Stranded' was taken along Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Head and captures the moving story of a community coming together in the face of tragedy.

"In the early hours of 1st July 2023, we received a call about a stranded humpback whale," said Craig. "Local wildlife volunteers quickly assessed the situation and contacted SeaWorld Marine Rescue and other key agencies to coordinate a response."

"For 15 hours, rescue teams and the local community worked tirelessly in a unified effort to save her. Sadly, despite their dedication, she could not be saved."

The Ocean Photographer of the Year competition is one of the world's most prestigious celebrations of ocean imagery.

Each year, the awards showcase 118 powerful ocean photographs, judged by a panel



of internationally recognised ocean photographers, editors and curators.

Designed to celebrate the beauty of our blue planet while highlighting the urgent challenges it faces, the awards attract both professional and amateur photographers from around the globe, with the winning images reaching millions worldwide through exhibitions and media.

Craig, whose work is known

for its emotional depth and striking perspective, says this recognition is particularly meaningful: "While the outcome from this moment was heartbreaking, witnessing the collaboration and compassion shown by multiple agencies and volunteers was incredibly moving – a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose."

With a background in visual arts and a deep passion for the ocean, Craig collaborates with leading conservation groups and global brands.

His unique perspective invites audiences to connect more deeply with the environment and inspires action through his imagery.

For more information, visit: www.craigparryphotography.com

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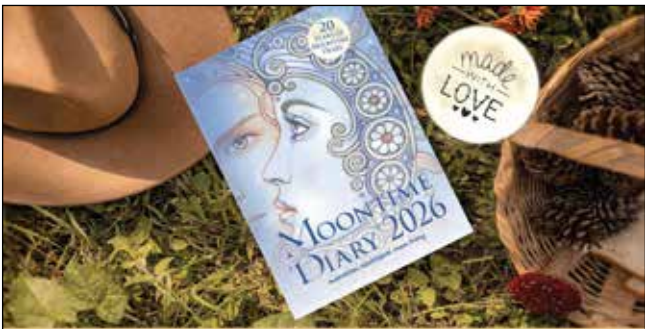
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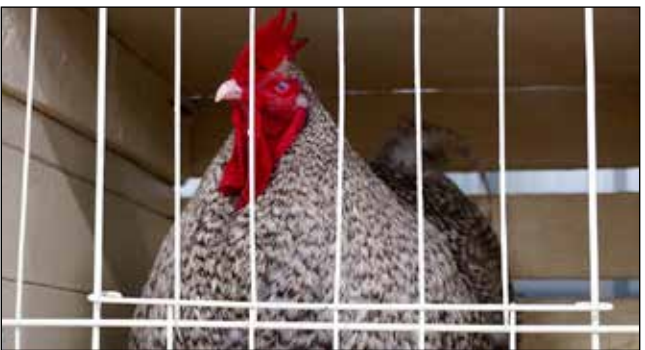
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Industrially revolutionised weed

by Michael Balderstone

I love the Organic Food Co-Op in Nimbin which is run by volunteers who get a big discount. Our Emporium supermarket also has a huge organic section.

Organic gardening was always an important hippy value and I've never been able to comprehend why the mainstream largely turns its back on it. Money is always the answer, eh?

Our health system is in the news every day struggling to keep ahead of the ever-increasing ailments we spend billions on endlessly researching. I don't think organically grown food is ever taken seriously as a possible helper with lessening illness.

Two words say it for me, hospital food. As I understand it, Lismore Hospital meals are all made in Casino and frozen. Nothing will be organic, it's not even a factor. Please tell me if I'm wrong. I don't even think nutrition is a big factor in their healing thinking.

My trip to Bangkok left me with lots to mull over. The huge Thai Stick Company medical cannabis factory especially. It used the latest technology state of the art production with about 3000 plants per room.

Everything monitored and managed by computers, the temperature, the light, and the food that was trickled into a block of rockwool through little tubes, just like people in hospital.

We had to don freshly clean laboratory clothes, shoes and hats to enter the grow rooms and even changed outfits for another trimming area, to avoid any contamination. The only living things in the massive buildings that I saw were the weed cuttings and the humans. Not even one cockroach poo.

The plants looked terrific, powering away in what the computer no doubt worked out as the ideal climate for them to have no worries, no stress, no bugs, no breeze even.

And the buds were perfect, trimmed to perfection, they smelled delicious and smoked smoothly. They were hung up drying for two weeks before the trimmers got to them. I smoked so much different weed in two weeks over there it was hard to tell what worked best. Some certainly tasted better than others and some were stronger. Sometimes it left me edgy, nervous.

Don't believe the strangely behind-the-times Aussie media still telling you the Thailand cannabis industry is winding back, we saw no sign of that at all. There are legal pot shops everywhere, hundreds of them, some selling joints and a few strains in tiny hole-in-the-wall dispensaries, while others were big loud shops with their own branded bong and clothing.

Many of the bigger bars sold alcohol as well, but it wasn't easy finding lounges to smoke



Cannabis retailers are everywhere in Bangkok

in, especially during the day.

Although I think the Angkor Wat temple-tops look like buds, and many Thai villagers traditionally still grow a few plants in their gardens and often throw a bud or some leaves in their evening soup so everyone sleeps well, I didn't see locals smoking weed at all.

Most of the dispensaries were staffed by young people, and sure, many of them are tokers, but the bars and hotels had signs everywhere saying, "No smoking marijuana."

Not everyone likes the smell, and no doubt they had plenty of troubles with people mixing their weed with grog. The Buddhist Thais are such polite people, but I'm sure they'd have little tolerance for vomit in the street.

We spoke with dozens of dispensaries and only one wanted us to buy a prescription. Some wrote you out one for free if you spent 40 bucks! No-one was worried about the future and if new rules are enforced, I have no doubt they will easily find a way to work with it.

There are two types of doctors there I was told, pharma-trained doctors and herbal doctors, and the latter will be looking after weed, if anyone does.

Virtually all the weed for sale was high THC with minimal CBD – every strain imaginable, and more. The Thai Stick Company had head-hunted a Canadian grower, and I think many North American growers had gone straight to Thailand when the health minister legalised weed in 2022. I even know some Aussie growers who went over to try their luck. Like a green gold rush!

Thai companies have to be 51% Thai owned, and the country was never taken over by colonial powers as much as its neighbours. Currently there

are thousands of small and big weed growers in the country.

Getting a licence is not expensive or difficult. Definitely some are growing outdoors in the soil and even a few organically, but the majority not. And the same in Australia now, thanks to prohibition prices and decades of helicopter raids.

The health minister who opened the weed door was elected prime minister last week! He gave away a million plants when he changed the law a few years ago.

Can you imagine our Dimples doing that? He should be advising people not to mull with spin and "Go slow, start low" might be just what's needed for the people trying legal weed for the first time.

Because it is stronger than ever, now that the clever hippies have had 50 years to breed it that way. The endocannabinoid system we all have was only discovered a few decades ago, and only now we are realising there are dozens of other cannabinoids like CBD which are important in balancing the effect.

I've smoked some one-to-one weed, supposedly 7% THC and 7% CBD. It was marvellous, calming. People in America are now breeding seeds like that. We have so much more to learn still about the plant and its potential.

I've toured Cymra's legal medical cannabis operation near Alstonville where they are growing in big tents, but at least in the ground organically. I feel much better about it but would love it to be in the sun.

Aussie growers with many more rules and regulations will struggle to compete with countries like Thailand who is now exporting between three and five tons to Australia every month. The Thai Stick Co grows only for here and it's considering doubling its output of nearly 400kg a month. Wages are obviously much cheaper over there.

Then there's irradiation. All imported foodstuffs to Australia are irradiated, including herbs. All legal weed grown here is also irradiated. What does it do? Well, the seeds don't grow! The computer told me the goal with irradiation is "sterilisation with making the products radioactive." Farrrrk, sounds terrible.

I'm happy more and more people are discovering the magic in cannabis, and without becoming criminals like we all had to, but seriously, the same as growing your own tomatoes or oranges, the sooner we are allowed to grow our own the better.

Weaving festival in Nimbin



Flax weaving workshop
Photo: Bec Massey

Over the past 21 years, the Nimbin Weave and Mend Festival has worked its way into the fabric of the village.

Venues have included the Town Hall, Community Centre, Central School and Djanbung Gardens, but for the past four years it's been held at the Nimbin Showgrounds.

This year's event, to be held on 8th and 9th November, will offer participants the chance to experience a range of techniques used in the production and repair of woven items.

This includes thread spun from plant and animal-based materials, freestyle circular weaving, loom weaving, and the production of cane baskets.

The program will also include the presence of a group of Indigenous weavers from Lismore.

Entry is free but participants can camp overnight at the showground for a fee.

The event will begin at 9am on Saturday, 8th November.

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Aquarius Talks: Landsharing – the Tuntable experience

by Megan James

Since late 1973, 700 hectares of Widjabal-Waibal land at Tuntable Falls, adjoining Nightcap National Park, has been the Co-ordination Co-operative.

I bought a \$200 share in 1975. In the 50 years since, a thousand others have bought shares and many more lived here. Faces and personalities change, but number of residents stays constant at 200-250 souls.

Originally, shares were also bought by people keen to support the dream, not necessarily to live here. Regulations requiring active status has led to those shares being lost.

Creating and maintaining an intentional landsharing, multi-generational community on the Co-op is a story of what changes and what endures.

I can speak of what I've learned. I can't speak for thousands, though our ongoing survival as a large intentional community speaks loudly of the enduring power of a dream realised.

In this multi-faceted gestalt relationship, we share with the land and each other we have forged a living, growing place to live that is like no other, and yet in many ways is a microcosm of human society everywhere.

I've proudly watched a community and hundreds of kids grow and mature, many returning to have their own children here... my own grandkids live just down the road.

I've served on dozens of committees, worked as a mediator, helped establish schools, the hall and community shop, birthed two babies, delivered two more and enjoyed rich supportive friendships.

I've had the fulfilment of giving my kids a happier childhood in a safe, pollution-free community with a lifelong group of friends and extended family. I've built my own home and pick fruit from trees I've planted. I have the satisfaction of seeing rainforest restored through my efforts.

I've enjoyed hundreds of gatherings, dances, workdays, human kindness and compassion in action and seen many healthy new rituals and practises of community evolve over time since the early, rougher pioneer days.

It has also been hard physical, mental and emotional work, not always appreciated by those who've come after.

Good friends have left or died. My hamlet has changed radically from the supportive group it once was. I've been regularly amazed by the persistence of old negative habits, deeply entrenched in human nature, spectres



Photo: Peter Derrett

since the early days which continue.

A genuine care for our land and our neighbours is something that we need to constantly work for, especially as people settle or leave the Co-op. The mobility of modern society makes it challenging.

Our land is held in common, although we each hold a license to occupy the area of our house. The communal orchards and shared kitchens of the early days gave way to the 130 council-approved houses which have been built here. In our first 10 years, driving on the property without a heavy load was prohibited.

Now we spend 40% of our income on roads – affecting how often we actually see and talk to each other and observe our natural environment.

A co-operative is definitely a challenge for minds, heavily influenced by western thinking. It can be difficult to establish respect and trust needed for good sharing relationships.

Conflicts occur, often between neighbours – sometimes driven by obvious territoriality, other times by personality or position-bound, factional, sexist, ageist, elitist or other prejudiced thinking.

How does any society or relationship work towards harmony? Intention, good boundaries and workable, enforceable rules! Our Co-op rules and bylaws have been formulated and reformulated (and re-reformulated!) many times. They're generally effective but can be hampered by lack of capacity for enforcement.



Co-ordination co-operative amphitheatre meeting, 1980

Once we were proud of our ability to deal with our own problems. Increasingly, we now call on outside agencies to deal with intracommunity problems.

We're currently without an effectively functioning process for conflict resolution. I strongly hope this will change. Unresolved conflict tends to create more work, more problems and a whole lot less fun.

Fun is something we still do very well though, as well as funerals, babies and working together when really needed. We still have our monthly Tribal Meetings where issues can be raised, and we have had workable conflict and grievance resolution processes in the past.

In our first 20 years, we enthusiastically created our own pre-school and built a school, hall, healing centre, fire shed and community centre – almost entirely with volunteer labour and capital from our annual levy and fundraising.

Since then, as our original volunteers aged, moved, sought tertiary education or paid work elsewhere, we increasingly pay for skilled work such as building and admin tasks. Non-shareholders who rent houses may not be as committed to community.

New shareholders may or may not be actively involved once they have bought a share and a house after their compulsory year of probationary residence.

The cost of buying a house, restricted to the cost of rebuilding it, makes purchase more accessible, but more difficult for members to leave when they need or want to. It can mean differences in status and experience between home-builders and home-buyers also.

There's a thread of duality in my thinking, so evident as I write. Fortunately, we're a big

community, so we could do big things like community buildings. Unfortunately, we're a big community, so some treat us as an institution to be rorted.

Fortunately, we were established at a time of great youthful energy and hope. Unfortunately, insurance companies and legislators have since tightened regulations to an onerous degree and computers have doubled admin load and expense.

Fortunately, we have had many new residents over the years bringing different ideas and energy. Unfortunately, differences of experience and expectations can result in lack of understanding, conflict and distress. Fortunately, in 1973 many of us were aware of global warming and the need for community. Unfortunately, the world at large was not so aware. Fortunately, we live in an area of astonishing natural beauty with abundant water. Unfortunately, bushfires and catastrophic landslips have taken much energy and finance since 2020.

Fortunately, we have an immense store of social capital to draw on in such times. Unfortunately, more residents now work full-time and are unavailable to fulfil much of the day-to-day business of self-sufficiency and looking after the land. I could go on...

However you look at it though, we have survived and gone far beyond being a social experiment of the 1970s. We have thrived and will continue, with valuable learning and sharing for all.

This article is part of a talk delivered at the Aquarian Talks on Landsharing held at Nimbin in May this year.

Aquarius Foundation projects

by Megan James

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation is set for more creativity and hard work, with a new treasurer, Nuro Oliver and secretary, Megan James.

Bob Dooley continues as our president and we now have Greg Bork as assistant treasurer and public officer and Annie McGovern as vice-president, with Tess Schofield and Franca Wolfe as ordinary committee members.

So we are still cooking, with quite a bit of activity bubbling away in several big pots.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 19th November at 4pm at the Yellow Door Studio (Bark Hut) at Nimbin Community Centre.

Please come and sign up as a member to contribute to some of our exciting activities.

The speakers from the Aquarius Talks will continue to have feature articles in the



Nimbin GoodTimes and we are beginning to think about the topic for next May. Jeni Kendell has been keeping the fire burning for this, with Talisha's expert assistance.

The landsharing talks this year were a great success, generously sponsored by Nimbin businesses. We may have to ask for assistance

again for next May unless we can get grant funding – and we will definitely need lots of helpers for before, during and after the event.

Please get in touch with Jeni or Meg at: secretary.nafi@gmail.com if you are interested in being involved or have any ideas.

Aquarius Archives now has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, which means any monies donated can be claimed as a tax deduction, so please do consider donating towards this valuable heritage resource.

The Archives project also has a re-designed office space in the old Nimbin Community Centre office, with three workspaces to allow room for hardcopy archives sorting as well as computer work, and much material is ready to move down to the storage/exhibition space at Rainbow Power Company.

Two Apple Mac computers have been donated by PowerMax in Lismore, thanks Amelia Ahern.

The office is open every Friday if you have archival

material that you would like to speak to us about or donate.

You are also very welcome to come learn about archiving techniques and processes and to view the hallway exhibition outside, which is looking great and getting lots of interest. Come along and check it out!

Crystie and Nuro are offering regular art and printing classes at the Yellow Door Studio. Enrolments can be made through the Open Learning Centre and you can also contact them directly.

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Spring creativity and seasonal opportunity



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

Spring is well and truly in the air, and with it comes a burst of colour, creativity, and renewed energy across the village.

It's a good time for local businesses to have a spring clean – physically, mentally and strategically.

With the days growing longer and warmer, we're seeing more people out and about, which makes now the perfect moment to refine your offering, get ready for the tourist season, and reconnect with both regulars and newcomers.

Events and cultural highlights

The Spring Arts Exhibition, currently open daily from 10am to 4pm at the Nimbin Town Hall until 12th October, is a stunning reminder of how alive and thriving Nimbin's creative spirit is. It showcases some of the finest artistic talent from Nimbin and the Northern Rivers region.

Several fantastic events were also held over the past month, reinforcing Nimbin's reputation as a vibrant cultural village.

The Nimbin A&I Show brought colour and community to the showgrounds. It is not so often that the carnival equipment rolls into town, much to the delight of youth and young at heart.

The Show is both a valuable reminder of the value of our agricultural roots and provides connection to country living for our visitors.

Adding even more flavor to the weekend, the Nimbin Town Hall hosted 'Two Plays and Canapés', an evening of theatre featuring the romantic comedy Chop



and the supernatural romance Blood Moon. A big shoutout to Mussy and his dedicated crew for a fabulous night of local performance.

'Sonic Bloom', our solstice dance party series, drew a strong crowd of around 250 people and featured five local DJs, dazzling lighting, a high-end sound system, fire dancers, and costume flair.

Friday night movie screenings are on at the Nimbin Bush Theatre, an on-going cultural staple in the village that celebrates cult classics and community cinema. These events offer unique experiences for locals and visitors alike, while also contributing to a thriving local economy.

Across all these events, there's a noticeable uptick in spending across food, fuel, dining, and retail. Each gathering injects valuable energy and income into our village and reinforces how interconnected our creative and economic life really is.

Road recovery works by CMC contractors

On the infrastructure front, CMC Contractors have been awarded the Road Recovery Program for our region.

This significant undertaking is expected to bring 50 to 100 personnel into the area, with flow-on benefits across accommodation, hospitality, and other local services.

It's a welcome economic boost for the village as these workers support our food outlets, cafes, fuel stations, and retail offerings.

Market support and artisan promotion

Meanwhile, the Chamber continues to support the Nimbin Markets, with initiatives underway to refresh signage and bolster promotion.

Wick and Rain from Aether Agency have been instrumental in this work, helping to highlight the contributions of our artisans and makers. In addition to the iconic fourth and fifth Sunday community markets, don't forget the weekly Wednesday afternoon

Farmers Market, a vital part of our village economy and food security.

Collaborating on economic insights

The Chamber has been collaborating with the Lismore City Council's Economic Development Team to review Commonwealth Bank's analytical data, which shows business segment spending in Nimbin.

This data helps identify patterns and sources of economic activity, such as the origins of visitors' spending. The data is entirely anonymous, with no personal information included, only aggregate spend by business category.

Once our review is complete, we will make this information available to local businesses for consideration, so they can determine the most useful and appropriate format in which it should be shared.

Summerland Bank amalgamation

Summerland Bank has announced their plans to amalgamate with Regional Australia Bank.

The community session at the Nimbin Bush Theatre outlined future directions and goals an informative gathering attended by staff locals and stakeholders.

The member vote is scheduled for November, at the respective AGMs. If approved, the legal merger is expected to take effect 1st July 2026

Looking ahead

As we move further into Spring, the sense of momentum in the village is undeniable. Whether it's through art, music, markets, or meaningful conversations, Nimbin continues to thrive because of the passion and resilience of its people.

Let's keep building on that energy – supporting one another, welcoming visitors and showcasing the best of what our village has to offer.

Here's to a vibrant season ahead, filled with creativity, collaboration, and connection.



by Sage Bryant, Publicity Officer

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Nimbin community for your ongoing support throughout the year.

Because of this, we were able to make our end-of-year donations to eight local community organizations and emergency services, totalling \$4,000.

During September, the CWA Nimbin Branch hosted the CWA Far North Coast Group meeting and luncheon. These quarterly meetings are an opportunity for us to gather with other CWA branches from our region and discuss important issues we'd like to take to the state level.

Held at the Bush Theatre, our members cooked and served a delicious lunch, which was appreciated by all. Several policy motions were put forward to be sent to the CWA of NSW State Executive before being presented at the State Conference next May.

Nimbin Show

In the lead-up to the Show, our members made an incredible 250 scones and 15 litres of strawberry jam!

The CWA served our famous scones with jam and cream over both days of the show, along with tea and and Mountain Top Coffee's award-winning blends.

We had a very successful weekend, and we would like to thank the Nimbin community

for their continued support. We also thank the Nimbin A&I Society for the use of the lovely little canteen, as this made our job so much easier. We look forward to doing it all again next year!

Spring raffle

Our Spring raffle has been announced, and the first prize is a stay at Donna's Art House, located at Alstonville. The prize includes one night's stay, wine on arrival, and a continental breakfast.

Tickets are available in the CWA rooms every Wednesday, on Community Market days, and at our Saturday street stall.

Bunnings fundraiser

We'll be running a cake stall at Lismore Bunnings on Saturday 11th October, and will be selling loads of yummy cakes and slices. If you're in town that day, pop by and say hi and grab some goodies.

Thank-yous

We wish to express our gratitude to the following for their generous donations:

- Phoebe from Bidfood Lismore for donating 15kg of raw sugar, 15kg of white sugar, 15kg of scone mix, and 6kg of butter. Also Lisa from Nimbin Candles for her donation of candles.
- Donna from Donna's Art House AirBnB in Alstonville for her generous accommodation donation as a raffle prize.



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.

To Kevin Hogan: Protect Australians on flotilla

There are Australian nationals on board the Global Sumud Flotilla, an international convoy of about 50 boats and ships carrying humanitarian aid across the Mediterranean Sea to Gaza.

The intention of the Flotilla is to break the Israeli siege of Gaza and open up a humanitarian corridor for food, medical supplies and aid to reach the besieged, injured and starving Palestinians.

Among the hundreds of international volunteers on the boats are seasoned seafarers, human rights and peace activists, politicians, doctors, nurses, lawyers, journalists, and a few high-profile personalities.

It's not a comfortable ride. All participants have undergone rigorous training for this exercise.

Sailing in international waters, they present no threat to anyone in their peaceful mission. To interfere with their journey in any way is against international laws of the ocean.

All crews are committed to peaceful action. There are no weapons on board any of the ships.

It's an incredibly courageous mission, because the flotilla has been threatened with violence, bombardment and imprisonment by the state of Israel.

For days now there have been drones flying over the boats at night, dropping incendiary devices and foul-smelling sulphur 'bombs'. The boats' communications systems are being jammed.

There is great and growing danger for the people on the boats.

Other nations whose citizens are in the Flotilla are committing military assets to help ensure safe passage to Gaza.

In the past two days alone, Italy, Spain and Libya have sent bigger ships, well-equipped and carrying first aid supplies, to defend the Flotilla sailors.

We who seek a peaceful solution to the relentless invasion of Gaza are calling on our national representatives to do everything in their power to protect and support the Global Sumud Flotilla – and our Australian citizens on board – in their mission to break the unlawful siege and bring aid and relief to the suffering Palestinians.

They are doing what international governments should have been doing, but have so far failed, to address the genocide – now recognised by the UN – unfolding before the eyes of the world in Gaza.

Whether through diplomacy, or better still, direct action in the form of Australian Navy ships to accompany and ensure safe passage for the Flotilla to Gaza, we urge you to do anything in your power to keep these brave sailors safe from harm.

Jennie Dell
Lismore

Deliberate sabotage

So, the Zionist Israelis carried out a precision bombing of a meeting of Hamas leaders in a country that had provided a space for negotiations.

Qatar had provided the neutral ground for attempts at negotiation over the last several years.

Qatar had gifted President Trump with a billion dollar 'Presidential' aircraft, so I guess the meeting of the Hamas leaders was probably made in good faith that it might be a 'safe' place to try to negotiate an end to the genocide.

The radical Israeli Zionists do not want negotiations to happen.



www.hollyenglish.com

The Hamas leadership might be a pack of bastards. They might deserve selective assassination. Netanyahu and his cohorts are something far worse.

If the Hamas leadership had been gathered to discuss the return of the remaining Israeli hostages (which is probable), the Israeli action was deliberate sabotage, to prevent a possible negotiation, a declaration of intention to continue inexcusable genocide.

They appear determined to continue the massacres, the destruction of schools and hospitals, with laughable excuses of propaganda, bombings, and the intention to create a generation of children brain damaged by malnutrition.

This is what Bibi Netanyahu is hanging on to desperately, to save his pathetic little political life.

The weak little bleats of protests from our, and other, governments is not enough to deter blatant acts of neo-nazi fascism, that seem to be claiming more oxygen than it deserves in Australian media space.

Warwick Fry
Nimbin

Trumpian power

When a single person, such as Trump, gains absolute power, they can become a tyrant by positioning sycophants into areas that will maintain and be unchecked by any system of accountability.

With no-one to challenge their decisions, their desires can shape entire societies, often leading to oppression, violence, and suffering.

Those who follow such a leader, whether out of fear, loyalty, or manipulation, may justify cruelty or commit atrocities in the name of maintaining power or order.

This blind allegiance can create a culture where human rights are disregarded, and individuals become instruments of terror, perpetuating horrors that spread far beyond the original intentions of the leader.

History has repeatedly shown how a combination of absolute power and unquestioning followers can result in devastating consequences for countless lives.

Mark Pestell
Nimbin

War fuels climate change

I am bemused, that while household consumption, road vehicles, the reluctant phasing back of fossil fuel production (in Australia an expansion) are on the agenda of all parties, the connection of global warming and climate change has rarely been connected to wars between nation states.

Apart from the industrial requirements of the factories and the mining required to create the weapons of war, the missile, or bomb that destroys the infrastructure, is destroying the energy resources required to rebuild it.

The smoke and flame of a single bomb, probably as much as several years of the carbon emissions of a gasoline powered vehicle.

It still costs incrementally, and ultimately exponentially more than the pathetic carbon credits bandied around like poker chips in the climate change gamble.

The war between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza, fuelling the tanks, the planes, the troop-carrying vehicles, the transport of the bombs, the mines, the bullets, the massive budgetary requirements to maintain a defence industry still dependent on fossil fuels, diverted from the development of the technologies and resources and damage

limitation that the whole planet needs.

An intelligent address to foreign policy might, just might, enable survivable emission targets.

But with a madman subverting intelligent peacekeeping options (US veto powers) from the UN we might as well resign ourselves to lying back and thinking of England and hope to die before we see it happen to our grandchildren, dolphins, coral reefs and several billion other species that will have to start all over again.

Warwick Fry
Nimbin

Donations sought

The North Lismore Plateau is a very special place, holding much Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Unfortunately, the plateau is still under threat and the land is being battled in court. The next case will be held on 7th to 9th October. Security of funds is urgently required for court costs.

Please show your support for this GoFundMe action. Donations can be made directly into the bank account: BSB: 728 728, A/C: 22302856, Reference: name and donation. Thank you.

Dot Moller
Lismore

Remembering Randolph Alvin Nielsen

18/02/1945 – 7/09/2025

Randy and Ruth arrived from the United States on a beautiful sunny day in early May 1965 after five and a half weeks on a small, dilapidated freighter.

After a year living and working in Sydney they headed north up the coast, spent some months in far north Qld and over a year in Ross, Tasmania.

Then it was back to Sydney for a few years before heading north again and living in Upper Burringbar, and from there attending the first Aquarius Festival which led to buying the place of their dreams in Barkers Vale in August 1973.

In addition to the usual endless small farm tasks dealing with animals, fences etc, Randy spent his time caring for their four children: Zoe, Noah, Seth and Jason; his grandchildren and his community through his involvement with the Nimbin Home Builders, Barkers Vale school, the Rural Fire Brigade,



Hanging Rock Hall and Hanging Rock Falls.

Although he had two shingrix vaccines last year, Randy contracted shingles and despite antivirals the infection spread to his central nervous system. He spent seven weeks in the new Tweed Valley Hospital where he was treated with much kindness and consideration before passing late on 7th September. He will be greatly missed.

A public celebration of Randy's life will be held in Hanging Rock Hall at a date yet to be set.

We love you, Randy.

About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley
Assistant editor Sue Stock
Sub-editor Kitty van Vuuren
Layout Bob Dooley, Andy Gough, Marty de Weerd
Photographer Sue Stock
Proof-readers Sue, Karen, Kitty, Kerry, Paul
Distributors Coralie, Chibo, Sue, Bob Gordon, Miriam, Bob, Rob & Lisa, Linda, Robert, Rosie, Trevor

Ad Sales Talia Fietje
Bookkeeper Lyndal Gray
Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com
And find us on Facebook

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 24th October

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.



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Marching for Palestine

by Julie de Lorenzo

The 7th October marks two years of genocide and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians on their homeland.

Gaza has been razed to the ground. Thousands of people are missing and unaccounted for under the rubble of homes. They are babies, children, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents and friends.

More people continue to be torn to shreds by the shooting and bombs. Elders who lived through the Nakba in 1948 are being evacuated yet again with what little they have left and can carry. Then there are those who are being targeted while evacuating or attempting to collect food aid.

Here on our side of the world, many of us don't feel the distance or the separation and we are rising up, standing in solidarity with Palestine. In the Northern Rivers just in the last month there have been plenty of events, rallies and vigils to raise much-needed funds awareness, and open hearts.

On 3rd August, 250,000 people turned out for the Sydney harbour bridge March for Palestine, and more people rallied around the country for the National March for Gaza, in some 40 towns and cities on 24th August.

Our small group from Nimbin joined Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine in Brisbane, thanks to Nimbin Limousines who donated the van ensuring a safe journey there and back. About 25,000 people took to the streets demanding an end to the genocide. It was an uplifting day to see so



March in Brisbane Photo: Nala Morris

many people showing up for Palestine.

We marched behind a banner listing the names of children killed by the IDF; a 'Free Palestine' banner with an image of a mother holding her baby; and another stating 'Killing journalists is killing the Truth'.

Around 100 of us marched wearing home-made press vests to honour almost 300 journalists who have been killed. Each vest bore the name of a martyred Palestinian journalist. As Israel's assault on Gaza worsens, more ordinary people are taking serious actions.

Although Prime Minister Albanese announced on Sunday 21st September that Australia recognises the state of Palestine, this needs to be backed up by sanctions. I've heard Palestinians say that they don't need recognition to exist, first and most importantly they need this genocide to stop.

In late September, a group of people gathered in protest at Janelle Saffin's Lismore office to demand sanctions on Israel. Local weekly vigils continue to take place in

Lismore, Kyogle and outside the Nimbin Farmer's Market.

Earlier in September, three women from Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine climbed for a second time onto the roof of Tweed MP Justine Elliott's office.

Previously in May, three men climbed up to protest, including Surya McEwen who is currently on a sailing boat carrying medical supplies, baby formula and food, as part of the Global Sumud Flotilla's mission to break the siege on Gaza.

Flotillas

Since 2010 there have been attempts by the Freedom Flotilla to break the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, but with one boat sailing at a time, and under Israeli attack, they were unsuccessful. In May 2010, Israeli forces boarded Flotilla boats killing nine members on one boat and wounding 30 others.

The Global Sumud Flotilla is now sailing with over 50 boats from 44 countries. These are all ordinary people who believe in human dignity and the power of non-violent action.

They are organisers, humanitarians, doctors, nurses, artists, clergy, lawyers, seafarers. These civilians must be protected under International Law and the Geneva Convention as they carry humanitarian aid.

Israeli forces are surveilling the Flotilla with drones and dropping chemicals and bombs onto the boats. Fortunately, there have been no serious injuries or deaths, but this could change.

Following widespread support in Spain, Italy, Tunisia and Greece, Italian dockworkers shut down all of Italy's trade, and two Italian naval ships and a Spanish ship joined the Flotilla to provide protection.

We will continue to hold vigils at the Nimbin Wednesday and the Sunday markets until the genocide ends and Palestine is free. We gratefully accept donations, which will support the Global Sumud Flotilla.

The more visibility the Gaza Freedom Flotilla has on social media means that any war crimes committed against them can never be hidden.



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The weekly vigil in Lismore

by Gwilym Summers

When we were children we knew innocence, and love flowed freely. Hate (which often led to war) was instilled in some of us, it came from parental ancestral trauma. Nevertheless it was multiplied by numbers of parents, at some point just wanting to hate some other nation because they decided that the people living there were less than them.

These hate-filled people did not feel the

pain and grief they were putting onto others.

In so doing, at the same time they were painting themselves as victim.

I now know where this is headed, to Palestine.

I am begging everyone to feel the pain of genocide and take action from that place, because from that place there is compassion and love, which go hand in hand. We can all do something towards peace, we are all connected in some sense and I for one can't walk past my brothers and sisters in Palestine while they are

being exterminated.

We have been united in our call for sanctions. We all have, as individuals, ways of stopping this genocide, war is not inevitable but we have been programmed only in those terms.

Firstly we must consider if we have a war going on inside ourselves, and ultimately we have to change our consciousness about war because it is so imprinted in our DNA.

The other thing about war is how much it is costing the earth (all the greenhouse gases).



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