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The Nimbin Bowlo is back and here to stay

by Kate Imeson, President

The Nimbin Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club – affectionately known as the Nimbin Bowlo – is back, and we have no plans on closing anytime soon.

We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to everyone for your continued support and patience, we couldn't do what we are doing without it, so thank you.

Re-opening just in time for the Nimbin Roots Festival weekend was certainly a bold move.

However, as I continuously say, when we stood for the board, we made a commitment to both the club and the community, and it's important we honour that commitment.

The Nimbin Roots Festival weekend was not only a lot of fun, but also a great success, with the club performing in line with previous years.

A sincere thank you goes out to all our volunteers, especially our incredible bar staff, whose efforts made it possible.

Preston said, "I'll be offering two menus, one for indoor dining, and an



Club Treasurer Matt Ryan and chef Preston behind the refurbished bar.

that the bistro is back open under the direction of local chef Preston Nancarrow and his latest venture 'The Parting Glass' with a dining experience new to Nimbin.

Preston said, "I'll be offering two menus, one for indoor dining, and an

additional choice for outdoor dining and takeaways.

"We will offer a range of small plates and tasting plates, which will offer lots of delicious options."

The bistro will be open Wednesday to Saturday as before.

Open letter to the Prime Minister

by Michael Balderstone, Legalise Cannabis Party President

Dear Prime Minister Anthony Albanese,

Firstly, congratulations Albo and thank you for Labor preferences on the Senate tickets. It looks like you have an opportunity to stay at the helm for a while and bring in some significant changes. Fair to say we were disappointed by our result, even though we got more than half a million first preference votes.

The Legalise Cannabis Party grew out of the Nimbin HEMP Embassy, which in truth grew out of the Nimbin community.

We've come to understand, here in this refugee camp from the 'drug war', how dreadful this war is; particularly on cannabis (in our case), but really on all illicit drugs.

When you understand it's all a scrap over who gets to profit from our pain relief, the best business on the planet, it starts to make sense. It is all about money, Albo, you must know that.

The Big Pharma lobbyists endlessly walk the corridors of parliament and police insist we maintain the war which keeps their jobs and power. Totally vested interests from both of them.

We all know it's an unwinnable war and drug use is really a health issue, but it goes on relentlessly. The jails are stuffed full, there are more Aboriginal deaths in custody than ever, and our health bill is out of control.

Our "end the drug war" voice is literally crying in the wilderness. Even with four Legalise Cannabis state MPs, their efforts are being ignored, even mocked, as we saw in Victoria last week.

The war on Cannabis sativa is 100 years old in Australia now, while increasingly people are realising that it is good medicine, like we've been saying forever. We've been scapegoats for 50 years for our cannabis use.

This is an invitation for you to visit



this safest of medicines.

Nimbin is sometimes described as a "free-range pot hospital". I was here for years before I realised how many epileptics lived here, and alcoholics who don't drink anymore and so on.

They're not having seizures because they smoke cannabis and it is the best substance for getting off other drugs.

The other thing is the massive numbers of Aboriginal people in jail. They love cannabis as it keeps them off the grog a lot. It chills them out. It's anti-violent. It takes the inflammation out of our bodies and our emotions.

It's a peaceful herb that in biblical times was known as "God's gift", not only for medicinal and spiritual benefits but as a fantastic high protein seed and best quality fibre for clothing.

Please consider our invitation to visit Nimbin, Albo. It's the appropriate place for you to make some announcement saying it's time we started reducing the stigma on cannabis use.

Maybe the hippies were right after all; even on the environment and war as well.

Best wishes and love from Nimbin to you and your family, Prime Minister.

The technology button

by Bett Taylor



trying to be heard weakly. says: "NO! Don't press that shiny button!"

The other little button, hanging half off the table

sensibilities, creativity, individuality, relationships, and the magic word LOVE. "You will have no 'feelings'

0-0-0-0-0-0-0

but only be programmed for physical survival, maybe forever! Some people live forever in heaven – do you think so?"

The shiny gold button says, "Don't be so ignorant! Get with it! March down the road with the times!"

"GO AHEAD PRESS THE BUTTON! DO IT NOW! OR ELSE.

"Get back to where you came from!" (where have I heard that before?) Walk backwards! Live in the past with all its ails and woes, war and destruction!

You haven't set a good alternative really, have you? More of the same for you? Just change the dates, eh?

So there's two buttons for our decision: GO or STOP. Where is your finger poised?

0-0-0-0-0-0-0

Nimbin Storytellers presents 'Surrender'

Nimbin Bush Theatre invites everyone to join them as they wrap up another year of Nimbin Storytellers.

Come and re-discover the magic of real stories told live at an evening dedicated to true tales shared from the heart.

On Saturday 6th December in the Nimbin Bush Theatre's beautiful Garden Café there will be a night of storytelling, connection and community.

This event's theme, 'Surrender' invites storytellers to share moments of letting go and giving in, embracing the unknown and finding peace in life's chaos.

Expect stories that are witty and light-hearted, tender, inspiring and uplifting. Each true tale reveals the strength and vulnerability that make us human, reminding us that every experience helps shape who we are today.

The atmosphere is warm and supportive – a place to laugh, reflect and feel a sense of belonging through the power of storytelling and a shared human experience.



Come along to celebrate storytelling, surrender and the spirit of community. Doors open 5pm, with dinner served 5.30pm – please pre-order your meal and dessert on-line at: shop.nimbinbushtheatre.com and bring your confirmation to the counter. Stories: 6.15-8.30pm, free entry. Learn more about Nimbin Storytellers at: www.nimbinstorytellers.com

In amongst the weeping tree

by Jimmy Willing

When Shakespeare's Macbeth uttered the lines "A tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing", he may as well have been talking about my neighbourhood of North Lismore.

I say this because the noise, the dust and the din only stops late at night and sometimes not even then, because that's when the houses get on the move.

One would expect that they would walk off like Baba Yaga's house on their stilt like chicken legs or set off across the land like Howl's Moving Castle, but that's not how it's done.

Before you even see the houses, you hear the rumble of the truck engines, it shakes the walls and everyone wakes up and can be seen in their pyjamas watching from verandas as yet another home leaves town.

The houses are cut into pieces and are almost unrecognisable in the flashing lights of the police escort, but on one particular night I could tell that it was my kids grandfather's house by the pink paint.

After seeing the house go down the road that night I went soon after with family to where the house had once



stood. I knew in my heart that the outcome would be brutal, but nothing could prepare us for the shock.

A great wail came out when it was seen that the garden had been destroyed and that the grave of a well-loved family dog, which was marked by a beautiful Grevillea bush, had been bulldozed out of existence.

My family is weeping but we are not the only ones, for lots of folks in North Lismore are weeping and even the toughest have been seen to shed a tear or two.

My latest painting 'In Amongst the Weeping Tree' was not created to be a lament for North Lismore, but maybe it is. The painting was not a conscious decision and simply happened because the Dawsons River Weeper was in full blossom and I was able to take armfuls back home to the studio and study it.

Everything is changing, but by the time you read this The Joy Love Art Studio will officially be one year old. Although The Joy Love is a squat and a rebel stronghold after a year of occupation I am without a doubt the occupier at law and I do have squatters rights.

When the dust settles on my neighbourhood and the tumult is gone, I will return with a Weeper Tree and plant it back upon our dog's grave.

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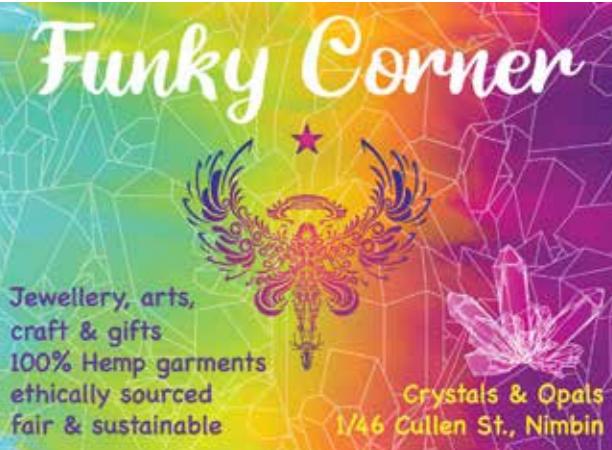
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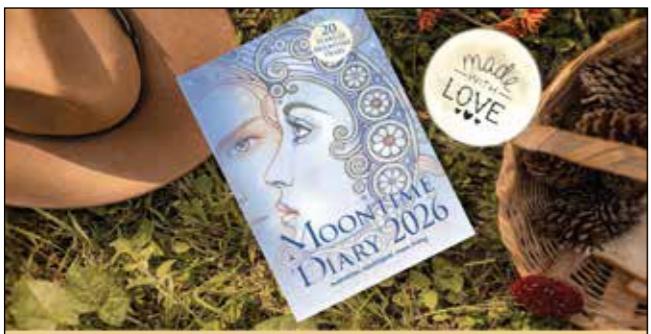
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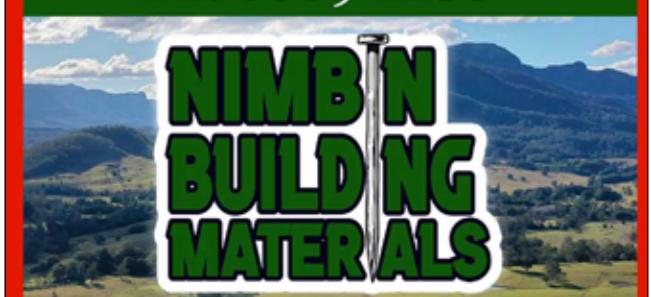
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Flood mitigation – a tale of two studies

by Luke Robinson

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." – Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

A little dramatic perhaps, but I was reminded of this famous quote recently as I reflected on two very different experiences of community engagement, for two related studies both funded by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

One, led by Dr Jai Vaze, is the CSIRO's modelling of the Richmond River catchment for potential flood mitigation options, which has however focused solely (for now at least) on likely highly destructive and expensive massive hard engineering measures.

In the other, Richmond Landcare Inc (RLI) is delivering a pilot study in the upper catchment using revegetation as a Nature Based Solution (NBS) for flood mitigation.

RLI is collaborating with several universities, including Southern Cross University, Australian National University and Macquarie University, and will quantify the impact of NBS on flooding at a landscape scale under a range of flooding scenarios.

I have commented previously in this paper on how poorly the recent community "consultations" on the use of their flood model were, run by NEMA/ CSIRO.

In contrast, it was a delight to join a large audience in Lismore on Thursday 16th October for 'Science in the Club: Nature-based Solutions for flood resilience'.

The aim of this event was to educate interested community members about the use of NBS for flood mitigation



Richmond Landcare presentation at Science in the Club

across the world and nationally, and to introduce their local pilot project.

Associate Professor Dr Roslyn Prinsley (ANU lead scientist), Lou Rogers (RLI NBS project manager) and their teams showed how community engagement should be done.

They gave highly professional and engaging presentations, then took questions from the floor which they answered openly and clearly with expertise and nuance.

Afterwards, there was the opportunity for more in-depth and specific one-on-one discussions.

In stark contrast with the CSIRO consultations, attendees were enabled to hear each other's perspectives and concerns, not just of those running the project, and robust discussion of the economic, environmental, social and cultural implications of potential mitigation measures, green or grey, was welcomed rather than dismissed or feared.

We heard that NBS approaches use natural processes to address challenges such as flooding, while simultaneously delivering environmental, social and economic benefits.

Inspired and powered by nature, NBS work with – rather than against – natural systems to protect communities, enhance resilience, and provide multiple co-benefits that traditional engineering

solutions often cannot match.

Reviewing previous studies of NBS around the world, the ANU team inform us that "With careful planning and design, combined NBS can effectively mitigate moderate floods (up to a 1-in-20 year flood) and reduce the impacts of rare floods (a 1-in-100 year flood).

The review observes that "NBS are less effective in mitigating very rare floods (over a 1-in-1,000 year flood), and single NBS may often only mitigate the impacts of moderate flood events."

Our community looks forward to the results of the studies for this catchment, and expect that decision-makers give NBS the serious attention they deserve, not just for their potential mitigation of minor-moderate floods, but for their multiple environmental, economic, social and cultural co-benefits.

To end this 'Tale of Two Studies', let us note that there is agreement from experts in both that no mitigation measures, green or grey, will stop catastrophic floods.

As Dr Vaze acknowledged in a recent interview, nothing could hold back the impacts of a 28th February 2022, 14.4m flood in Lismore.

Ultimately, in our new world of climate change, to keep people and property safe from more floods like this, we need to get them off the floodplain.

Good news for our forests

by Dot Moller

The Wilderness Society has won their court case to make the federal government legislate mandatory recovery plans for key species.

"For the first time, greater gliders, ghost bats, sandhill dunnarts and Australian lungfish will each have recovery plans to help them survive and recover – by July 2026." Source: wilderness.org.au/news

By naming these key species, the habitat they live in is protected for all other species who are also living there.

This Federal change will have impacts at the State level. Wait and see on that one. Nevertheless this is a serious win, "holding the government to account after decades of neglect". (Wilderness Society)

A great sense of relief was felt by so many upon the announcement of the end to logging of the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) in September, appropriately, Save the Koala Month.

Alongside a plan to transition workers and support local communities affected, this was a long-awaited outcome following a concerted campaign involving scientists, business groups, communities and activists.

Not the least was our Fridays4forests Lismore group celebrating with a "Better late than never" skip on the pavement outside Janelle Saffin's Office.

A new National Park is now being proposed for the Northern Rivers (see map). Richmond River Koala Parks is the working title for this proposal. It is supported by all those who wish to see the end of native forest logging in our area.

Now that we have a precedent in the GKNP, the model can be replicated in other species rich forests which are being devasted daily with logging.

Fridays4forests Lismore is holding information stalls at a number of events to give our community an opportunity to see and discuss what this new National Park would mean for us.

Activists who have worked so hard for these wins are being fined, abused, losing their rights and jailed under State Government protest laws.

As members of our community who live and work here, they deserve better for putting their bodies on the line to protect the precious places we have left in our forests.

Under the Minns government, this is a major challenge for protectors of



RICHMOND RIVER KOALA PARKS
LISMORE WOLLONGBAR ALSTONVILLE BALLINA
CASINO WARRELL CORAKI BROADWATER WOODBURN EVANS HEAD
CHERRY TREE MOUNT PIKAPENE ROYAL CAMP CARWON GROVE ELLAWAN BUNGABALIN DOUBLEDUKE TABBIMBLE DEVES PULPIT
MOUNT BELMORE FULLERS MYRTLE WIMPORIE BAYLARIA GUMBERAGE MOROBO HARWOOD YAMBA
MOUNT MARSH CAMINA
Legend
Richmond River Koala Parks
Richmond Ranges
Pine Plantations
Existing National Parks



Friday 4Forests members outside Janelle Saffin's office

the forest. Many of these activists are respected academics and scientists. They are looking at new ways to stop the behemoth that is Forestry Corp – a rogue government contractor that is in charge of logging our forests.

Citizen Science, where sightings and sounds are recorded and uploaded to the on-line platforms, is being utilised. The recording of endangered species has been of little concern to Forestry Corp no matter how they bleed to the contrary. If you don't look you won't see...

Citizen Science records however, are a proving useful to save species. For example, Ewingar State Forest has many Greater Glider dens recorded by community Citizen Scientists. Forestry Corp marked very few. Uploaded records stopped the logging.

Look out for Fridays4forests outside Janelle Saffin's Office every Friday 10am with a highway action once a month. We will be at The Channon Markets on Sunday 14th November with a petition you can sign for the new National Park.

Let's save our koalas, owls, and quolls. May they always be with us!

www.facebook.com/groups/fridays4forests

Let's all have a picnic for peace

by Zoe Humphreys

A picnic to observe Armistice Day will be held on Thursday 6th November, 4pm at Lismore Quad (or a venue of your choice).

This is an open invitation to all people of good will. Let's come together, somewhere nice, to create a picnic honouring all those, past, present and emerging, who have, do and will dedicate their lives to love, peace and understanding.

My family, on all sides, served in both World Wars and other conflicts, some never came home from battlefields, prison camps, bombed our streets and towns.

What is agreed is that there are more conflicts now than at any time since World War II. See: <https://geneva-academy.ch/research/rule-of-law-in-armed-conflicts-rulac>

It has always distressed me that, due to passions on all

sides, peaceful protests can shift into name calling, "flag waving" and worse.

For protests calling for peace, love and understanding, in its many forms, it calls the depth of our call into question (in my opinion).

So I have been thinking about this. Where are the places people gather? Share a space, while eating snacks, nattering and watching our kids running around, playing and making new friends.

I want to make a picnic that is an excellent kids' party. In my imagination: leftover easter eggs will be hidden, for melting amongst the mulch; only the fairy bread will be eaten; stories will be read; songs will be sung and heard; co-operative games will actually be enjoyed; some kind person will bring fruit salad and other stuff that I

forgot.

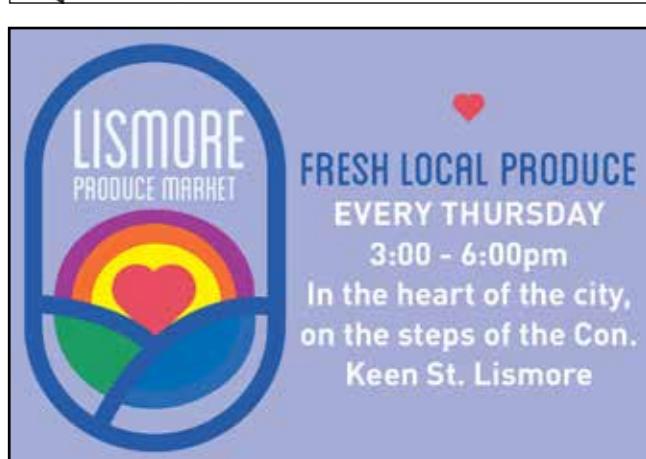
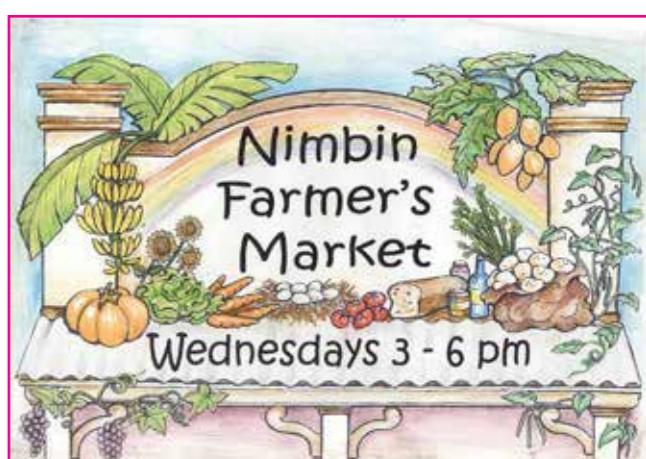
You can make your own list of activities and venues. Try and bear in mind intended/unintended consequences. Clarify what you actually want to have happen.

To paraphrase the timeless Sinead Connor's song 'Lay Down Your Arms' I'd add – and open them to let the wild things in, for cupcakes, cuddles and a kiss.

May peace live in your life and heart. Shalom, Salaam, Shanti, Paix, Friede, Pace, Mir, Hiewa, Cemelle. The list is illustrative not exclusive. All of these countries know too well the cost of war.

See you somewhere, I'll be one of the grandmas goofing off, thanks to our delightful delegation skills.

Feel free to DM me – on Facebook I am Zoe Tufnell. If you actually know me, send me a text or a Signal.



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Unearthing Nimbin's living history

by Diana Roberts

A few weeks ago, I finally did something I'd been meaning to do for months – I started volunteering one day a week at the Aquarius Archives.

My plan was simple (or so I thought): spend some quiet time there while working on my memoir of "Nimbin things". I imagined myself tapping away at my notes, drawing on the inspiration of the past.

Well, that was wishful thinking! Within hours I realised that the archives are an entire world of their own – and I could happily lose a lifetime in their depths.

Instead of writing, I found myself diving headfirst into boxes of documents, old newsletters and yellowed minutes that tell the story of Nimbin's post-Aquarius evolution.

Much of my time so far has been spent alongside a wonderful crew of dedicated volunteers, all of us surrounded by the energy of the Nimbin Community Centre, where the archives live.

Lately, I've been working my way through the Pan Community Council (PanCom) files – and what a trip down memory lane that has been!

PanCom was originally created to bring together local communities, sharing skills and ideas to strengthen the region's co-operative spirit. Those early days were filled with optimism and creativity.

Before long, PanCom evolved into a strong lobby and advocacy group, especially as the concept of multiple occupancy – that defining feature of our region's alternative lifestyle – came under pressure from both Council and the NSW Government.

As I sift through folders and photos, so many familiar names leap out at me – friends, colleagues and community pioneers who helped shape Nimbin's story.

A great deal of this material comes from the tireless work of Peter Hamilton, who dedicated decades to documenting this vibrant history.

It feels deeply personal to be cataloguing these



PAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Pan Community Council (Pan Com) was formed in 1987 with the primary aim of promoting social interaction between communities; assisting in dealings with councils and government bodies; fostering sustainable economic initiatives, and protecting the environment.

Pan Com produces a Newsletter, holds community meetings, lobbies the Government and its Departments and issues media statements on policy matters. It produced a model MO Development Control Plan for use by Councils as an aid in the implementation of the former SEPP-15.

treasures, preserving memories that might otherwise fade away.

The hardest part? Deciding what's "archival gold" and what isn't. The Aquarius Archives office is stacked floor to ceiling with boxes – sometimes it feels like if we didn't resurface for a week, no-one would notice (and we'd still be sorting happily!).

Recently, we had a visit from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation, who have provided funding support and came to see how the archives are progressing. Their interest and encouragement gave us a real boost – it's heartening

to know this work is valued beyond our little office.

The Aquarius Archives are open every Friday from 11am to 3pm in the former Community Centre office the Acacia Building, fronting Cullen Street.

If you'd like to volunteer, or just drop by to see the enormity of the task – and the magic – of preserving Nimbin's living history, please come and say hello. It's a day when we acknowledge those

who died or suffered while serving in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

This is the anniversary of the Armistice of 1918 that ended fighting in World War I. We are always honoured to play a small part in paying tribute to their memory.

Raffle

Don't forget our Spring fundraising raffle. The first prize is a one-night stay at Donna's Art House, located at Alstonvale.

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

Dates to Remember

- Open Days: 10am-3pm, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- Toastie & Op Shop Days: 10am-3pm, 1st and 4th Wednesday of the month.
- Community Market Days: 9:30am-3pm, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month.
- Street Stall: 10am-12noon, most Saturdays, outside the newsagents.
- Branch Meeting: 5pm, 2nd Monday of the month, new members always welcome! Find us at Figtree House, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin (next to the firehouse via Sibley Street).
- For all general enquiries please phone: 0461-412-831 or email: secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com

Remembrance Day

Our poppies and poppy waterfall will again grace the shrine on Remembrance Day at 11am on Tuesday November 11th in Nimbin.

Thanks to all who have made the poppies, including some for the animals affected by war.

It's a day when we acknowledge those

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Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

As the days become warmer and longer, Nimbin is embracing the vibrant energy of the summer season.

The village is coming alive with a renewed sense of community engagement, an influx of visitors and a range of events, all signalling a promising and busy start to the tourist season – often affectionately known as the "silly season".

Attend, connect and help shape the next chapter in Nimbin's story.

Local projects and community updates

The market signage project is advancing, with new A-frame signs and reusable posters now promoting the Sunday and Farmers Markets as Chamber-supported events.

The mural above the Nimbin Newsagency is nearing completion, thanks to the support of property owner Royce Jenkins. Additionally, the iconic Warrior Mural by the late Burri Jerome, which had deteriorated beyond repair, has been re-created in more durable materials.

This tribute is now featured on the wall next to Armonica, complete with a QR code linking to information about the artist.

Supporting youth remains a key focus. The Nimbin Youth Voices project continues to equip young people with creative and digital skills.

The up-coming Crime Story Work Readiness Program, scheduled for 8-9th December, will bring students together with local employers for hands-on, skill-building experiences.

AGM

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce is set to hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 18th November, 5:30pm at the Nimbin Bush Theatre.

This event offers members and the community an opportunity to reflect on the past year, celebrate achievements, and look ahead to the future.

The meeting will include more than standard reports and elections; it is a platform for sharing insights, hearing from partners, and connecting with those shaping Nimbin's business and cultural life.

Attendees are invited to enjoy canapés and drinks, and are encouraged to RSVP for catering purposes.

Meeting agenda

- CMC (Hull): A visual presentation on upcoming local roadworks and their potential impacts on the community.
- Lismore City Council: Introduction to the new Nimbin Business Insights report, highlighting valuable data on local trends and visitor activity.
- Councillor Virginia Waters: Updates on issues and initiatives specific to Nimbin.
- The Aether Agency: Information on how the



Nimbin Shed Men
by Stuart McConvile

Living in any rural area can be tough on an individual doing it alone.

Around here, factors such as weather, roads, unemployment, socio-economic capacity and substance abuse (sometimes leading to loss of license) can make it very difficult.

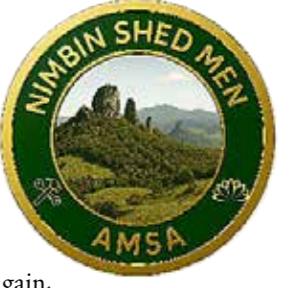
I remember spending countless hours alone working on my property in the late nineties before I knew many local people, travelling to Byron often to catch up with my social network down there.

I had big (pipe!) dreams and wanted to make things happen, but I had not the wherewithal to accomplish much. I did get quite depressed and felt that the isolation was overwhelming me.

Luckily, I had a solution. I became a WWOOF host and had countless meaningful interactions with travellers from the world over.

Being a bit of a workaholic, I found solace in the many projects I completed whilst transforming my cow paddock into an organic eco farm.

For me, it was the simple act of completing a project, standing back and admiring my own tenacity to get stuff done that saved me from depression time and time



find a larger piece of land in Nimbin to build an actual shed on.

This is something that still eludes us, so if you have any ideas on a slice of community-owned land we can operate from, please reach out.

Our fundraising efforts have been paying off and we made another \$500 or so at the last Nimbin Market.

We have been getting some fantastic donations, a big shout out to Jim Nugent at Blue Knob who has donated a large wood turning lathe, and Terry the builder who has given us his old Makita drop saw.

Charlie from Gungas Road has donated a load of workshop tools and specialist items, some of which we will sell at the next market stall.

Joel's Garage has donated a tool bench and some shelving, all brand new, which will be put to good use very soon.

From a bureaucratic perspective, we are now a tax-exempt charity and well on our way to being a deductible gift recipient, so if you're going into the next tax bracket this year, come and talk to us about how we can help you avoid that.

We are meeting fortnightly on Wednesday nights at 6pm at the Aged Care Centre opposite the Oasis. Next meeting: 5th November.

For more info, email: nimbin.shed.men@gmail.com

Not just lonely men

Nimbin Shed Men
by Stuart McConvile

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Delivering for Lismore

Flood Restoration Portfolio

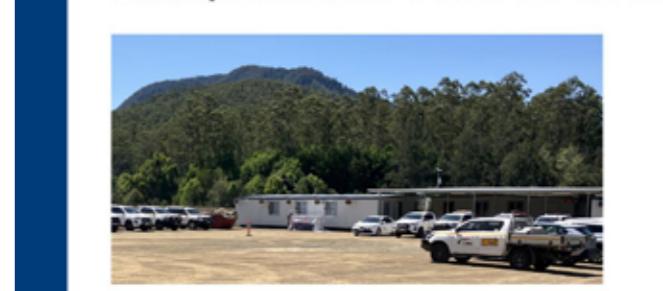
Lismore

City Council

Essential road landslip restorations are now underway across Lismore LGA, as part of Council's efforts to get our community back on track following the 2022 natural disasters. Up to 60 damages will be restored between now and late 2027, with road works staggered to reduce impacts on local communities.

Contractor CMC Hull JV will undertake the work on Council's behalf from its base on Blue Knob Road.

Works Notifications will be distributed to impacted residents. For more information or to view the Project Schedule and Map, visit www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/landsliprestoration or scan the QR code below:



Jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

