

Affordable housing

I feel we're at an important moment in the Rainbow Region, particularly around ageing in community and keeping our young folk here.

These issues are already serious, but with everything happening in the world (climate instability, rapid changes in work and technology, and rising living costs) they're becoming urgent.

There's a lot of talk nationally about the ageing population reshaping society, but here in places like Nimbin, The Channon, Kyogle, Uki and the surrounding land-share communities, we're already feeling it.

Many older folk want to age in place, surrounded by the neighbours, landscape and culture they've helped create over their lives. But the reality is that many rural communities and properties simply aren't age-friendly: steep driveways, uneven bush blocks, isolation, flood and fire risk, and buildings that are hard to maintain.

Even people who love their land deeply are finding that the land can become hazardous as they age.

At the same time, our young folk already contribute an enormous amount – small business, art, music, community organising, care work, hospitality, the market culture, and the creative spirit this region is known for.

But too many of them can't afford to stay long-term. If this continues, we risk becoming a region where elders age alone in far-away "facilities" and young people are pushed out, and that's the opposite of the community most of us want to live in.

So maybe it's time we start talking openly about what we can do. Some ideas already floating around include:

- Community shares or land-share pathways so younger people can secure a stake and build their own low-cost home
- Community shares/homes suitable for older residents

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 transfer to when needed
- Intergenerational living arrangements
- Community-led elder support
- Governance models that help communities co-operate rather than compete

We actually have the history to build on. Some locals will remember the Pan Community Council, for example, which once helped co-ordinate conversations between intentional communities and the various levels of government.

It might be time to bring that spirit back and see what's possible now.

I'm keen to hear from anyone who feels the same, or who'd like to be part of doing something practical about it.

Myles Beaufort Wadeville

Pension age

So, The World Health Organisation has stated that 65 is the beginning of 'old age' (Magenta Appel-Pye, NGT November). Hmmm, not in Australia.

The pension age is 67. Many lost jobs during Covid. Are we now looking forward to a future of forever 'work for the dole'?

Pat K Violet Goonellabah

Come on Nimbin

Returning after 40 years, the place smells like urine. Garbage abounds, both human and human made.

A little pride. Cut some grass, pull some weeds, clear out the meth heads before it's too late.

R Smith Nerang



www.hollyenglish.com

Is there a God?

by Bett Taylor

I say "God!" are you really up there

With your shining face and your silver hair? Are you the Father, sitting at the head?

Will I really see you, after I am dead?

Have you got angels, with harp and flute and drum To welcome me, 'g' day' and give me lots of fun? And will Saint Peter be standing at the gate Checking my credentials, to see if I should rate?

I hope you're up there like a shining star Cause I've been very good in this life so far

On the other hand, if you're in my imagination Then my life goes nowhere, without a destination

When I was a youngster, a little tiny tot I didn't really care whether you were there or not Now I'm getting older, and my time is running out Just whisper to me God, What's it all about?

I only want to know if you're there or not I don't want to be a hassle, or put you on the spot But, Dear God, if this life is all you gave

I want to kick my heels up before I hit the grave! Just a little message, to say that I'm on line It isn't unreasonable that you should give a sign I only want the chance before it is too late If maybe there is no-one at the Pearly Gate.

If it's just a picture to make me warm inside And all my friends feel happy that I should have died Gone to meet my maker there in Heaven above To kiss and cuddle each other with the arms of love Please God are you there or not? Or will I be recycled in the earthly plot? Come on God, show me where you are Like I said, I've been really good so far!

This is a poem from Coffee Breaks, Bett Taylor's book of short stories and poems. Copies of the book are available at the public libraries in Lismore, Casino and Kyogle.

Heads-up

The Nimbin GoodTimes is re-vamping its website, with a new look and improved functionality, to be launched in January. Watch for it!

- Eds.



Michael setting up for sound healing

On-going offerings at Flourish Sanctuary

- **Monday Morning Meditation** – 10.30am-12pm: A quiet space to settle, reflect, and return to centre.
- **Wednesday Morning Garden with Bodhi** – 9am-12pm: Hands-on, practical permaculture: learning by doing and cultivating the land together.
- **Wednesday Afternoon Beginner Mandarin and Taoism** – 2pm-3pm: An introduction to the language and philosophy, ideal for total beginners.
- **Thursday Morning Sound Healing with Michael** – 9.30am-10.30am: A soothing bath of vibration and resonance. (\$20)
- **Saturday Morning KYM Program** – 9am-12pm: Our weekly rhythm of Kirtan, Yoga, and Meditation, a beautiful way to anchor your weekend in spiritual practice and community connection.
- **Saturday Evening Haven with Mata** – 5pm-7pm: A fire ceremony open to all, supporting purification, renewal, and collective intention.
- **Sunday Satsang with Jagad** – 21st December, 1pm-3pm: An insightful dialogue on presence, practice, and the deeper questions of life, followed by a potluck shared meal.
- **Monday morning radio program** – 7.30-9am on Nim-FM 102.3 featuring Jagad, Bodhi, Miaka and Pritam. Tune in for reflections, community updates, music and lively conversation.

Is it time for Nat Zero?

It has been said "there are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics", but we might now add a fourth: 'Kev-inanities'.

The latest from our current federal member for Page, Kevin Hogan and his fellow fossil fools in the National Party is the dropping of any pretence of support for 'net zero', replacing it with a hotchpotch of misrepresented statistics and statements of faith that will do nothing in the real world to reduce either energy prices or carbon pollution.

The Australian Energy Market Operator and the CSIRO's GenCost report clearly tell us that renewables, including firming and transmission, are by far our cheapest source of energy. Cheaper than building new coal-fired power stations to replace our old worn-out and failing ones. And much cheaper than nuclear or more gas-fired power.

In fact, the skyrocketing global gas price following the Ukraine war, bears much of the blame for increased electricity prices in recent years. But more drilling and fracking is not the answer.

In Australia we have somehow decided to tie ourselves to the global market, export the vast

majority of our gas, massively enrich foreign shareholders and receive very little public benefit. We have no gas supply problem in this country, just a political problem.

Power bills would be higher still if we didn't have renewables in our network. It is the Coal-ition's relentless energy culture wars that have created uncertainty for businesses and undermined even more investment in renewables and cheaper power. And while purporting to be free market champions, they are now considering taxpayer subsidies to build uncompetitive fossil-fuel and nuclear energy plants!

All this before we even consider the costs of inaction on climate change. Current international and national policies have us on track for nearly 30C global heating by 2100. The National Climate Risk Assessment, finally released in September after a suspiciously long delay by the Albanese government, paints a dire picture if this is allowed.

We face huge economic costs for disaster responses, damaged infrastructure, loss of housing value, unaffordable insurance, lost agricultural and business productivity.



by Dr Luke Robinson

Our health, particularly in vulnerable groups like the elderly, will be hit hard by more extreme heatwaves and disasters. And our unique natural home, already under so much strain from our long abuse, will be hit with more devastating megafires, coral reef bleaching and extinctions.

Yet, Kevin Hogan and the Nationals seem to have no real desire, let alone a credible plan, to reduce carbon emissions. They will only make climate change worse, burn ever more fossil fuels, and clear ever more native forests.

As in the Voice referendum and their failed nuclear fantasy, the Nationals' tail has again wagged the Liberals' docile dog. They may win back a few One Nation voters but have co-signed themselves to

irrelevance with the rest of mainstream Australia. And Labor will too if it continues to fiddle round the edges while we burn.

The federal Labor government gleefully pretends its policies are reasonable and adequate by comparison with this pathetic alternative. The science tells us their current targets are far too little, and too late to play our part in limiting global heating to 1.50C as agreed to internationally.

Labor continues to approve massive new coal and gas projects, block enshrining a climate trigger in environmental law, and here in NSW, notwithstanding the recent and long overdue creation of the Great Koala National Park, continues to allow native forest logging.

All major parties are clearly beholden to their mates and donors in the fossil fuel industry but will maintain their faux fight as a convenient cover. In contrast, the Greens will continue to take on and expose the old parties and corporations, with real policies that actually protect our climate, nature and community, based on what the science says is required.

It's time we go for Nat zero and turn Page Green.

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 24th December
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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- Float and more

BIG Community Xmas Lunch
FREE! All Welcome!
Nimbin Town Hall
Friday 19th December
12.00 midday
Santa Arrives 1.30 pm

Nimbin CWA activities in November



The Christmas baking crew

by Sue Stock, publicity officer

As the year ends, CWA Nimbin Branch is busy baking Christmas favourites, available for purchase at our Saturday stall and in our rooms on a Wednesday.

We shall be cooking gingerbread, shortbread biscuits, rumballs and small Christmas cakes.

Weave and Mend

Nimbin CWA members catered for the recent Weave and Mend weekend held at the Nimbin Showgrounds on 8th and 9th November.

It was a very enjoyable laid-back weekend with sharing skills and weaving stories and memories not to forget the delicious food Nimbin CWA provided. This included tasty focaccia (vegetarian and chicken) which were served along with rice salad and green asparagus salad plus some delicious home-made cakes and pastries.

Remembrance and acknowledgement

Members gathered at Allsopp Park on Remembrance Day to decorate with handmade crochet poppies and a large poppy curtain. We are always honoured to play a small part in paying tribute to the memory of our fallen soldiers.

Nimbin CWA Branch was delighted to learn that our Vice President Karen Ratcliffe and Nimbin CWA Branch were mentioned in a recognition statement by Janelle Saffin in parliament.

We appreciate this recognition of our valued member and of our Branch. Thank you Janelle.

Christmas break

We are open until 18th December, then closed until 14th January.

Nimbin CWA are unable to take any more donations of goods until we re-open in January. We thank everyone who has supported us with quality donations of clothes and bric-a-brac to distribute to



Rosette waterfall Photos: Linnet Pike

community over the past 12 months. The community support from this and other activities has enabled us to make thousands of dollars of donations to community organisations over the past 12 months. All monies we raise go directly back into our community and our wider community.

Dates to remember

- Open days: 10am-4pm, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month.
 - Toastie and op shop days: 10am-4pm, 1st and 4th Wednesday of the month.
 - Community Market days: 9.30am-3pm, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month.
 - Branch meeting: 5pm, 2nd Monday of the month, new members always welcome!
- The Nimbin CWA rooms are 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



On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan MP

Christmas reminds us of the birth of Jesus, bringing light and hope to the world. It is a time to share and to gather with family and friends.

I hope this Christmas brings you peace and joy and may the New Year be filled with health and happiness.

Nimbin highlight
Reflecting on this great year in our community, a highlight was the opening of the Nimbin Walking Trail through Aquarius Park and the soccer fields. I was proud to secure \$1.3 million in

funding for this project. It has been a fantastic addition for locals and visitors.

Net Zero
The Coalition's Cheaper, Better and Fairer plan puts Australians first. We are committed to lowering emissions at the same rate as the OECD countries' average, without driving up power bills or hurting regional communities.

Labor's reckless \$9 trillion Net Zero plan increases the cost of living, risks jobs and weakens our economy. Australians deserve an energy policy based on common sense, not ideology.

Our approach is practical and responsible. It protects our economy, safeguards regional jobs, and ensures energy remains reliable and affordable.

Investing in a sustainable, cleaner, smarter future



Biskit and Kieran show Janelle Saffin the magnificent new roof on Tuntable Falls Community Hall.

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

Tuntable Community Hall

I was invited to the Tuntable Falls Community in early November to see the new roof on the Tuntable Community Hall, made possible with a Community Building Partnership Grant.

Community members Kieran, Biskit and Tony gave me a tour of the beautiful mud brick and timber hall with its impressive new roof. We saw children from the Tuntable Falls Community School using the space for a circus skills class.

The hall was built by community members 40 years ago using reclaimed timber from a church hall in Lismore, mud brick, handmade doors and windows, and a lot of patience and care. All without power tools.

The hall has several large water tanks, and with the community kitchen is a vital hub during and after bushfires and floods.

We were joined by Meg, Karen and Brodie for a delicious morning tea and informal chat about the past, present and future of this remarkable sustainable community.



recyclable.

Importantly, the plan introduces a first-of-its-kind 'green' and 'red' list of chemicals used in plastics – banning those harmful to human health and the environment.

We're also banning helium balloon releases and requiring food service businesses to accept reusable cups, helping shift our culture toward sustainability.

This plan builds on previous bans of plastic bags, straws and cutlery, and has been shaped through consultation with industry, councils and community groups.

Plastics phase-out

Plastic pollution is one of our state's biggest environmental challenges. It makes up nearly three-quarters of litter in our waterways, and only a small fraction is recycled. Without action by 2050 we risk having more plastic in our oceans than fish.

The Minns Government's updated Plastics Plan targets unnecessary and hard-to-recycle items, giving businesses time to transition while encouraging investment in recycling and reusable alternatives.

Key changes include phasing out plastic bread tags and pizza savers by 2027, non-compostable fruit stickers by 2030, and requiring tethered lids on plastic bottles. Small condiment containers like soy sauce fish bottles will also be phased out, and takeaway food packaging will be redesigned to be



Fighting for our forests with hope, pressure and action

When Federal Labor put our native forests on the negotiating table in exchange for the Greens support to usher their new national nature laws (the same ones BHP, Chevron and the Minerals Council support), they showed once again that they just don't get it.

They don't see or know our forests, they do not understand them as essential living communities of species and communities, they see them as political bargaining chips or even worse political wedges to try to splinter and smash the Greens.

That political gamesmanship does not reflect the reality of our precious public native forests. In NSW, we could end native forest logging tomorrow. It is entirely within the power of the State Labor Government. They have already shown this is possible.

When Premier Chris Minns announced the moratorium on logging in the proposed Great Koala National Park, operations ceased immediately.



That one decision put a stop to decades of destruction over a large part of public native forest estate, even though the area is not yet formally protected as a National Park.

While those forests lie in wait for permanent protection, others just beyond them continue to fall. In the Styx River State Forest near Armidale, citizen scientists have spent night after night recording the location of greater glider den trees – old, hollow-bearing eucalypts that provide critical habitat for this beautiful, wondrous, rare and endangered animal.

Their efforts have revealed hundreds of den trees that the Forestry Corporation either did not find or simply failed to survey.

Despite this, logging operations have continued, with precious trees marked for felling right up until members of the community locked on to logging machinery to stop it.

I can't believe our people have to keep doing this. I was part of an incredible blockade at Styx River State Forest in 1995.

It was a serious and very dramatic front line and part of the Save Our Old Growth campaign in the lead-up to the State election.

We had dragons, cantilevers, tripods, bipods and we even had a

"Bentpoint" which was a monopole with a lock-on at the top.

Here we are 30 years later still trying to protect the last of these forest giants, these greater glider homes, some of which are more than 100 years old.

Under the current climate and ecological pressures, otherwise known as the climate and extinction crisis, they will not be replaced once destroyed.

The stakes are so high now. Yet this government still won't stop the Forestry Corporation from destroying them. The Environment Protection Authority is investigating breaches of the logging rules in Styx River, but the damage is already done.

We have proved time and time again, under every economic, environmental and social scenario, our relatively small, but very significant public native forest estate is worth more standing to all of us, and our children's children.

That is why we continue to fight. The government's willingness to act in one



by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

forest proves that this is not a question of feasibility, but of political will.

We must keep building pressure until our public native forest estate in NSW is protected, for real prosperity, and survival.

We will keep working with communities, citizen scientists and defenders across the state. We will keep using every tool we can to hold this government and their rogue logging corporation to account.

We will not stop until we end native forest logging across NSW.

This summer, as we take stock of the year, it's easy to feel overwhelmed, but we should also feel hopeful. Communities are standing up, and people are watching the forests. They're writing to ministers and supporting stronger laws for wildlife and the places we love.

Here in the Northern Rivers, right now people are gathering to protect Ewingar State Forest, two hours west of Lismore and just south of Tabulam, because logging is imminent.

We are also progressing plans for the Richmond River Koala Parks, to connect our surviving koala populations through restored and protected forest corridors.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to thank all of you who have acted. Whether you've written letters, shared stories, volunteered your time, or just kept paying attention – your work matters.

Let's carry that energy forward into 2026, for the forests, the gliders, the koalas, and all the life that still depends on us.

Final stages of road restoration



From the Mayor's desk
by Cr Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

months of controlled disruption now than face another season where people wonder if the road will literally fall away underneath them.

Carols in the Heart

Amid all that, we still need chances to come together for something lighter. On Saturday 6th December, Carols in the Heart returns to Crozier Field in Lismore, with gates open from 3pm.

It is a free community event with Lismore local Rachael Beck headlining, alongside Rhydian and the Residuals, Bunny Racket, Isabella A Capella, Luke Vassella and Hillbilly Skank, and it finishes with a laser lightshow over the stadium.

There will be food vendors, plenty of space for a picnic rug, and a chance for families from Nimbin and across the hinterland to forget about traffic control signs for one night and simply sing together under the sky. I hope to see a strong Nimbin crew there.

In great news, Stony Chute Road is in the final stages of a major rebuild following severe landslide damage from 2022 and Cyclone Alfred, and will re-open to traffic soon.

We will confirm the official opening date with the community shortly, so keep an ear out for updates.

By the time you read this, Nimbin will be heading into summer with the hills still humming with machinery.

Flood pump upgrades are underway, landslide repairs are rolling on, and there will be even more visible progress over the next 12 months.

None of that is glamorous. It is noisy, dusty, and it tests your patience when you are stuck at the lights for the third time that week. But this is the work that protects homes, keeps businesses supplied, and makes sure a trip between Nimbin and Lismore is reliable in the next flood, not just in the

Lismore councillor's notebook – November council meeting

Summer is here, and with it a chance to pause, catch our breath, and spend time with the people and places that matter most.

As the year winds down, I want to acknowledge the steady, everyday efforts of community showing up, helping out, caring for Country and for each other. That is what keeps our region going.

Throughout November, I continued connecting with local organisations and businesses, including presenting a Council update to the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and speaking with Women in Business where I shared some of my own story, and reflected on the importance of women's leadership in business, community and civic life.

We need more women's voices in the rooms where decisions are made, and it's encouraging to see that leadership growing locally.

I visited the Tuntable Community School Fete and also the TAFE Ceramic

graduation show at the Lismore Regional Gallery, which was absolutely marvellous; do check it out. The students' creativity and craftsmanship were a real celebration of future makers.

It's incredible to see what can be created from earth with just water, air, fire... and imagination.

As always, Aquarius Landcare remains a grounding space for me each month, joining with community, learning and reminding me why we must protect and regenerate what sustains us.



by Cr Virginia Waters
Lismore City Council

Budget surplus

At the November Council Meeting, the Quarterly Budget Review Statement showed we are still tracking toward a surplus this financial year. While welcome, our long-term financial sustainability requires discipline sticking to budgets, making informed decisions early, and avoiding adding unfunded commitments.

Current organisational restructuring has made forward

planning difficult, and I understand the uncertainty this creates. Councillors only have oversight of Executive matters, so I am limited in what I can say, but increased stability is essential for restoring confidence.

Flood recovery continues to dominate Council's workload, with \$941.4M in approved capital works over the next three years, a scale unprecedented in our history. Monthly finance reports and a new

public tracking site for community on council's website are small but important improvements in transparency.

DA matters
A proposal to permit a timber yard relocation in North Lismore will be progressed to Gateway determination. I'll be watching with interest, especially to understand whether the precinct planning underway will influence the proposal and ensure alignment with the future vision for that area.

I raised concerns about a proposed licence to pump water from the Wilsons River to Lismore Lake. We were not provided with adequate environmental assessment, particularly given the Lake's importance as habitat for world-listed migratory bird species.

The suggested volume 100 megalitres appeared arbitrary and potentially costly, without clear evidence that it is even required. I will continue to monitor this closely and keep the community informed.

Policy changes

There were also disappointments at the meeting, including removal of several long-standing policies without proper review, and the defeat of a tiny-homes initiative aimed at improving housing options.

We need innovation; housing is in crisis. We need homes and more affordable pathways, and this concept could work. It's sad to see it not supported.

Advisory group

There are still two community positions open on the Lismore Village Advisory Group, to represent the Wyrallah and Northwest areas. If you or someone you know is passionate about community in these areas, please consider applying.

As we move into the holiday period, keep planting, keep holding loved ones close and remind them how precious they are.


I look forward to seeing you around the village and across our LGA in the new year.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of the Nimbin GoodTimes

My office will be closed from 25 Dec to 12 Jan 2025

Janelle Saffin MP
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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Happy Xmas from everyone here at NNIC and we wish you all a safe, relaxing and cheerful break over the Xmas holiday period.

Xmas closure dates
NNIC will be closed from COB Friday 19th December, and will re-open on Monday 5th January.

The Centrelink Agency will be closed from Monday 22nd December to Friday 26th December, and will re-open on Monday 29th December as usual, except for Thursday New Year's Day, 2026.

If you need help while we are closed:

- Kids Helpline** 1800-551800 free, private and confidential, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25.

- Lifeline** 13-11-14 crisis support for people feeling sad, lonely, suicidal or anxious.

- 1800 Respect** 1800-737-732 domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support.

- Suicide Call-Back Service** 1300-659-467 free telephone counselling 24/7 for people feeling suicidal, worried about someone, bereaved by suicide or supporting suicidal clients.

- Mental Health Line** 1800-011-511. A 24-hour service across NSW to connect people to the right care or service.

- 13Yarn** 13-9276, 24-hour crisis support for First Nations people.

For more information, see our website: www.nmic.org.au

Xmas Lunch
The annual big free Community Xmas Lunch will be held on Friday 19th December in Nimbin Town Hall.

Doors open at midday, and Santa arrives at 1.30pm with



gifts for kids 12 years and under. Everyone welcome!

Women's Dinner 2026
Shout out for performers: we are chasing fun, vibrant, cabaret style acts for the 2026 Nimbin Women's Dinner Friday 6th March. It's a paid gig – contact: admin@nmic.org.au to express your interest.

We are also looking for original artwork for the poster: \$100 paid to the chosen work. Actual Intelligence ONLY please.

NDIS funding
Thriving Kids and changes to the NDIS funding will be rolled out in 2026. We want to ensure the Nimbin community is supported, and the needs of or local families are met.

To do so we need more input from local families with neuro-diverse children aged nine years and under, who may or may not have been eligible for the NDIS.

NNIC is looking to better understand the needs of families in our community in the context of the proposed changes to the NDIS, so that we can better advocate for services for families in the Nimbin area.

If you are likely to be impacted by the changes, we would love to hear from you! Please do the simple (and anonymous) survey which you can access via this link: <https://forms.gle/o19WtEz8teNiDPV9>

Links are also available on our Facebook page and website. (Note there was

a glitch in the survey link which has now been fixed).

NNIC roles
Looking for work experience, or just to get involved in the community? We have lots of different roles at NNIC and right now are looking for front desk support volunteers.

Certificate qualifications in community services or similar are an advantage. IT skills are also helpful.

We have so many different things to do; there is sure to be something that you will enjoy. Contact us on: admin@nmic.org.au or have a chat to Nicole at our front desk.

Donate to NNIC
NNIC receives funding for various programs and activities to help us support the community.

Funding covers some (but not all) staff hours, a couple of hi-vis vests, and saves at least a few people from existential dread. But do you

know what it doesn't do? • It doesn't keep the lights on.

• It doesn't pay the dreaded insurance premiums.

• It doesn't cover the door handle that keeps falling off (don't ask).

• And it definitely doesn't fund the coffee that fuels our volunteers' souls (and prevents mutiny).

To donate, drop into NNIC or deposit directly into our Gift Fund account: Summerland Bank BSB 728 728; NNIC Gift Fund a/c no. 22205341. Ref: your name plus DON.

Double your impact with a regular monthly donation. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Email us or drop in for a tax receipt.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is committed to Cultural and Child Safety. See our website for our Statement of Commitment to First Nations People, and our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety.

Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services

We assist frail aged people and their carers remain living at home and staying connected

Home & Community Care – our friendly, local support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, insured

SOCIAL CENTRE with air-con and Veranda: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm drop in for a cuppa, info on support services, computers, air-con

DEVICE ADVICE: Weds 9.30am-12.30pm, seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS - booking and fees apply
Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea at centre
Garrima Café Group twice monthly Thursdays, 11-2
Wise Ones, Koonorigan Hall 4th Mon, bring plate to share
Bus Outings: 2nd & 4th Tues, scenic drives, cafes & site-seeing

All NACRS aged care activities and services require MyAgedCare registration and assessment – myagedcare.gov.au 1800 200 422

Trustworthy Respectful kind Reliable Healthy responsive Competent Boundaries Empathic personalised authentic Sensitive adaptive Supportive

Contact NACRS: 6689 1709 enquiries@nacrs.com.au or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen St www.nacrs.com.au



Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation
By appointment, 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 18th December. 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 18th December.

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
Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the conference room of the Nimbin MPS. New members always welcome.



NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

Scott Sledge, president

Picnic along the Rainbow Walking Track

The annual Picnic in Nature promoted by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC), was once again sponsored by the Nimbin Environment Centre. We celebrated the new Rainbow Walking Track through Aquarius Park in Nimbin on Sunday 9th November. The event was open to all and the village's new facilities were appreciated.

The permanent picnic tables near the Nimbin Headers soccer fields were augmented by portable gazebo shelters that served as a stage for speakers and the Blue Knob Singers, who entertained under direction of Peter Walker.

Information was available about environmental issues to complement the speeches by Virginia Waters, Lismore councillor from Nimbin, and NorthEast Forests Alliance (NEFA) president Dailan Pugh.

Virginia discussed alarming proposals from a CSIRO report into flood mitigation which would cause widespread damage in order to slow flood waters by creating "detention ponds".

Community consultation will be required to demonstrate public preference for nature-friendly measures such as re-foresting cleared land in the upper catchments and repair and replanting along creek and river banks.

Dailan explained the campaign to create wildlife

refuges instead of continued logging of the public native forests of the Northern Rivers region, which follows from the re-announcement of the Great Koala National Park in the Coff's Harbour hinterland.

Known as the Richmond River Koala Parks, this campaign is supported by the NEC. Petitions to support this project were available for signing and will be in the NEC shop.

The cause will promote plantation forestry for our future timber needs and public native forests devoted to recreation, tourism and conservation, including weed control.

The occasion was a good chance to praise the efforts of community members and organisations, especially Diana Roberts, Lois Kelly, John Blatch and Aquarius Landcare, to convert the landscape streamside through the village into a natural asset, and to thank Lismore MLA Janelle Saffin and others for their assistance or support in gaining funds for the Walking Trail project.

Dailan Pugh writes: I would also like to emphasise that it is not just about the Great Koala National Park. Many of us have been working on other forests and forest issues (as well as the GKNP) to pursue our goal of ending logging of public native forests.

We managed to see off the biggest threat to the future of our forests by stopping Redbank's approval for the second time (proposed

burning of biomass to generate electricity). It was another significant win.

Numerous people have been going out surveying for Greater Glider dens, and more recently Pugh's Frog, putting serious holes in Forestry Corp's plans and gaining traction for the need to protect Greater Gliders.

In the Northern Rivers we are making progress with the Richmond River Koala Parks and another campaign is about to start for parks in south-east NSW. The GKNP was just the start.

If we can keep the pressure up, then at some stage they are going to say enough is enough and give up trying to keep the Forestry Corporation going.

Environment legislation

Many people are disturbed by the Federal government's strange changes to the EPBC and other environment legislation. While most observers say reform is needed, the current Bill falls short.

It provides for an Environment Protection Agency but also allows the minister to override his own agency for whatever he/she deems to be "national interest."

This would include fast tracking of such damaging projects as new coal, oil and gas mining projects. Decisions would be entirely based on who sits in the Minister's chair, unless that Minister has passed responsibility to state and territory governments.

I think the way is open for



corrupt decisions on every level that will in no way protect our natural heritage for future generations. This is surely not the way to effect environmental protection!

This is a good time to enact meaningful reform as the ALP government promised before being elected with an overwhelming majority in the House. It is probably a blessing that the ALP does not have a majority in the Senate.

If the ALP government cannot turn the tide now to save us from climate disaster, when will it ever find the courage?

This is the submission on the Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025 that I made to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications: "I represent hundreds of Northern Rivers residents in NSW. We oppose this Bill because it goes substantially backwards, not forwards, on environmental protection."

This would be entirely based on who sits in the Minister's chair, unless that Minister has passed responsibility to state and territory governments.

I think the way is open for

environmental decisions, hands key decisions back to state and territory governments, and would allow the fast tracking of coal, gas and other damaging developments.

We need to protect the environment through stopping logging of native forests and the development of more coal and gas extraction.

Handing such decisions back to state level authorities is sure to fail, and you know that. Please help us have a sustainable future. You owe that to the electors."

Membership

Membership in NEC is open and costs only \$10 per year (a good investment in saving the planet, I reckon.) Any new NEC members in December will be good for the entire 13 months to January 2027.

Come in to the shop (open seven days a week) to sign up and do a little gift shopping for the holidays.

While there please consider buying a raffle ticket to win a statuette of Nimbin activist Benny Zable who has used his iconic costume to promote peace and

Happy holidays!



environmental sanity for many decades.

Benny's project is to raise funds to have a full-sized statue erected somewhere like the United Nations in New York.

And finally, I look forward to a more peaceful, less greedy world in 2026.

Happy holidays!

The greater glider needs more than promises

The greater glider – that wide-eyed, fluffy-tailed icon of Australia's forests – is slipping towards extinction.

Once common across eastern and south-eastern Australia, this gentle nocturnal glider has become a symbol of everything going wrong in our native forests: clearing, fragmentation and the on-going logging of habitat that simply cannot be replaced.

Logging removes hollow-bearing trees. It fragments forests. It increases heat stress. It destroys refuges. There is no form of native forest logging that is compatible with the survival of a species that requires centuries-old trees.

The Australian Government has released a 'Draft National Recovery Plan for the Greater Glider'. On paper, it contains many good intentions. But unless it squarely confronts



the main threats – land clearing and native forest logging – it will remain a plan in name only. And unless the community speaks up before Friday 19th December, it may be adopted without the changes the greater glider urgently needs.

The decline of the greater glider has been catastrophic. The 2019–20 Black Summer bushfires burnt around 19 million hectares, destroying an estimated 28% of the species' range in a single season.

Since then, surviving populations have been pushed into smaller, more isolated pockets of forest, with less food, fewer hollows and greater exposure to heat and predators.

Greater gliders depend on large, hollow-bearing trees – often more than 150–250 years old – for shelter and nesting. These hollows don't just provide a safe place to sleep; they provide shade and stable temperatures

in a rapidly warming climate. Inside a live, hollow tree, temperatures can be up to 8°C cooler than the air outside. For a small, heat-sensitive mammal covered in thick fur, those cool refuges are literally lifesaving.

In short: no big old trees, no greater gliders. The draft Recovery Plan proposes that "sustainable forestry" can co-exist with greater glider conservation. But for a species that depends on centuries-old hollow trees, this is a dangerous contradiction.

Artificial nest boxes are offered as technical fixes, but they are no substitute for intact forest. They do not replicate the cool, stable microclimates inside living trees, nor the rich network of hollows and food trees that healthy forests provide.

If we are serious about recovery, then the remaining native forests that still support greater gliders must be protected, not "managed" through ongoing industrial

logging. A meaningful Recovery Plan must include strong, enforceable commitments to:

- Protect all remaining greater glider habitat from clearing and logging;
- Secure conservation status for unburnt refuges and high-quality habitat;
- Maintain and restore forest corridors so populations can reconnect and recover; and
- Invest in active reforestation with native species to repair degraded forests and rebuild future hollow-bearing trees.

Right now, the government is asking for public feedback on the 'Draft National Recovery Plan for the Greater Glider'.

You don't have to be an expert to make a submission. A short email in your own words is enough. Public submissions close on Friday 19th December. Send your submission by email to: recoveryplans@dcceew.gov.au

FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

LOCALLY MINDED

0439333910

THE NIMBIN UNICORN

Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin