

HOW TO SORT PLASTICS

by Steph Seckold, Co-ordinator

1: Remove contaminants
Did you know stickers, labels or any other foreign items must be removed before recycling.

2: Wash it!
Hot water and a grease cutting agent works well.

3: Dry thoroughly

4: Check for numbers
We use: #2 PLASTIC #5 PP
Keep these aside and recycle the rest.

5: Sort by colour

6: Add to the project

Cut and keep this information

nimBINCHICKENS – our first year!

by Steph Seckold, Co-ordinator

Our dedicated team Carl, Kat and Catherine have been busy learning how to use our plastic recycling machines and developing product prototypes.

Local schools and community members have been collecting suitable plastic that isn't otherwise recycled, and we now have colourful house numbers and key/pet tags available.

Our most exciting development are the Nimbin Rainbow benches which you may have seen at the Nimbin Showgrounds or Cones and Cream. We'll soon have these available for sale.

Next, we'll be experimenting with soft plastics (stretchy, not crunchy or foil lined), so start saving your clean packaging. Save our handy guide (at left) for plastics we can recycle. We'd especially like to thank the

Nimbin Show committee for providing our workspace and our helpers for sorting and cleaning the raw materials.

If you'd like to find out more about this community project, our open days are the first Tuesday each month at the horse shed at the southern end of the showgrounds.

There's so much more we can do and no shortage of plastic waste, so if you feel inspired to get involved, come on down!

TRIBAL MAGIC

Alternative Department Store

Safe and happy new year to all

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Yaibai mumbala: Flowing water

by Annie McGovern

The Nimbin Water Collective was instigated in 2024 by the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan – Workshop 10: Water.

The sustainability of our Nimbin water supply and the sustainability of the Nimbin environment in relation to that supply was recognised as a high priority for the community to consider.

This thinking is based on the preferred option of the Sustainability Workshop 10 – Water, which is that Nimbin and its community should be able to retain an independent position in relation to providing water for the town and the 76 households along the pipeline who also receive water provisions from the Mulgum Creek water supply.

We know that the yearly cycle, dominated by the wet season, flows through times of abundant water and times where that is less the case. The syphoning off of water for the town supply at the weir at a consistent rate, has been the norm for many years now.

What is noted here is that flows for environmental purposes are determined by what comes over the spillway and is extra to water that has already been taken off for the town supply. This regime therefore ensures supply to the town, but water to the environment is determined by the levels at the weir and what water is still able to rise above the wall and flow down Mulgum Creek.

This, at times lack of flow, has been the crux of concerns expressed over recent years, especially with the increase in developments and population. The local response to this situation has been a general call for restriction to any new developments that require reticulated water from the town supply.

Since embarking on this local initiative, it has become apparent to the collective that there is much more in the 'pipeline' than was first understood in terms of bigger plans for Nimbin and the Northern Rivers water supply.

There are two major initiatives that are focused on planning for the future, one being implemented by the State Government Water Authority and the other by Rous County Council (RCC). Both were instigated during 2020 and are based on the premise that an increase in population would necessitate increasing access to water.

Both their objectives appear very similar, however it is difficult to get a sense of either their overall intentions, timelines or how they interconnect with each other.

With this in mind, the collective focused on looking at ways to conserve water usage and to potentially find ways to enhance water storage. Assessment of the creek flows and impacts is under consideration. In order to

fully understand this cycle it requires observation over time.

Looking at ways to improve the ecological balance of rivers, creeks and streams will also enhance opportunities for accessing clean water. Proposed flood mitigation measures require scrutiny, there is much to act upon.

This thinking is based on the preferred option of the Sustainability Workshop 10 – Water, which is that Nimbin and its community should be able to retain an independent position in relation to providing water for the town and the 76 households along the pipeline who also receive water provisions from the Mulgum Creek water supply.

That is, with good management and careful use of the water supply available, together with increased ability to retain water through provision of rainwater tanks etc, that Nimbin could be self-sustaining in terms of water needs.

This also means having recognition within the community that we have reached maximum saturation in terms of development and that we focus on ways to maintain a dynamic social framework within the existing realities of what is viable for the future of our natural environment.

As we have one of the highest yearly rainfalls in Australia, this might be possible if as a community we are committed to sustainability.

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The NSW Government is investigating options aligned with the Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy.

The options being considered include:

- connecting the Tweed Shire and Rous County Council bulk water systems
- regional desalination plants – large-scale or modular
- integrating independent town water supplies into the bulk network

- using Toonumbar Dam to support town supplies, especially Casino

- linking to the Southeast Queensland Water Grid.

The Water Group within the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is currently preparing a preliminary business case assessing these and other related options.

Project Status: "The NSW Government is preparing the preliminary business scenario to test the case for investment and narrow down the options to a shortlist. The project will explore and refine options through detailed analysis and stakeholder engagement to see which, if any, options stack up. If approved to progress to a full business case, the Water Group will then complete detailed assessments of the shortlisted options." (Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water fact sheet.)

From the 2025 FWP2060 Project Update Final at rous.nsw.gov.au it is learned that an extraction regime has been established, accessing water through a Bore at 220 metres into the Clarence-Moreton sub-aquifer.

This 'Bore Testing' was conducted from October 2024 until May 2025 with a finding that there is no interconnection between the sub-aquifer and the surface aquifer. However, it is also widely understood that surface aquifers are readily subject to recharge through rainfall events, while deeper aquifers are generally old waters that are held in-situ with far less recharge from rainfall.

Notably, the 'Bore Test' period was conducted throughout a fairly consistently wet period of last summer and into autumn.

When delving into literature about the Clarence-Moreton Basin, there is a general theme that not a great deal is known about this aquifer. One point that is consistently raised is that the aquifers of this region should remain in a saturated state to prevent oxidation of the acid sulphate soils, potentially causing toxicity within the local environment.

The Nimbin Water Collective aims to follow up in coming months with input from both the local and scientific communities. Please contact: steph.sibley@nmc.org.au

investigation into desalination and water purification systems. Interestingly, the latter is not included as an option by the Department.

Despite several references within the Future Water Project 2060 to Environmental Assessment, it would appear that this has been an internal process with no obvious links to independent, scientific or public scrutiny. Does the new water license that has been gained by RCC to access the Alstonville Plateau basalt aquifer and the underlying Clarence-Moreton Basin have appropriate public scrutiny?

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Current usage from LCC Data (Litres per person per day)

150 L Low
180 L
220 L High

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We're living in a time when the wider system is showing real cracks. Housing is becoming unattainable for younger people, ageing in place is increasingly difficult for elders, and communities everywhere are being pushed to become more self-reliant.

Jeni is sharing her contacts, notes and reflections from those gatherings to help guide PanCom's renewal.

Diana Roberts, a founding member of the original Pan Community Council, has opened up access to decades of documents and communications from 1986-97 – the era when PanCom became a vital link between communities across the region.

That's why I'm proud to share that I am working with elders and community advocates to reform the Northern Rivers Pan Community Council, under the original Northern Rivers

Centre of town fuelling the opium of the masses, alcohol. I suggested to Michael Balderstone to have a team formed towards turning the Nimbin Hotel into something along the lines of the Winsome Hotel in Lismore – a totally clean safe space from consuming drugs and alcohol consumption.

I visited the Tumbal Falls community for the first time in decades. They are also collecting stories of days gone by. The youth there played a big role in organising that event.

The recently opened Nimbin walking track is being revegetated around a body of water with indigenous plants

– another on-going legacy since Aquarius to turning a once poisoned denuded landscape into a green oasis.

Before I left to go back to Melbourne, it was good to experience the Nimbin drumming circle assembled around the IMAGINE circle. This takes place every Friday night following the Hari Krishna feast.

The drumming circle gives this space in the centre of Nimbin a fresh life for collective creative interactions.

The painted version of the IMAGINE circle is an exact copy of the IMAGINE mosaic in Central Park NYC.

Since the Aquarius Festival landed here through the Australian Union of Students in 1973, many creative initiatives have sprung up towards healing body mind and spirit. It's great to see more great art expanding around Nimbin. Much credit to Julie De Lorenzo and team.

The Nimbin Aquarius Archive team in the Community Centre is gathering the centre. It would be another example, a win-win for all, both visitors and locals who live in and around the village.

The shelter next to the war memorial was occupied mostly by alcoholics, smokers and drug traffickers. There are many broken traumatised people who come through Nimbin looking for help.

Thank goodness for the local Wyabal/Wigabal mob who care for country by listening and connecting us to Aboriginal lore.

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Buyback auctions end year on a high

The Minns Labor Government has exceeded its target of selling 42 flood buyback houses before Christmas after 60 people attended the last auction in Lismore, with sale prices ranging from \$7000 to \$25,500.

Over 130 buyback properties have now been offered for sale in the Northern Rivers since December last year, capturing nationwide attention.

In October a Christmas target of offering 42 houses up for sale was set and then exceeded by three houses at the 11th auction for the year.

PRD Lismore auctioned off 10 homes at the Lismore Workers Sports Club at Goonellabah, attracting 30 registered bidders, including four phone bidders.

All 10 properties sold for a total value of \$140,300. They were:

- 20 Rhodes Street, South Lismore: \$25,500.
- 30 Newbridge Street, South Lismore: \$16,100.
- 95 Crown Street, South Lismore: \$12,000.
- 85 Elliott Street, South Lismore: \$7000.
- 1 Newbridge Street, South Lismore: \$8500.
- 51 Newbridge Street, South Lismore: \$16,000.
- 49 Newbridge Street, South Lismore: \$11,000.
- 34 Elliott Road, South Lismore: \$6200.
- 25 Crown Street, South Lismore: \$22,500.
- 12 Crown Street, South Lismore: \$15,500.

Eleven buyback auctions have been held with the first Casino sale, where two houses were sold for \$500 and \$8605 respectively.

It's been a year of firsts for the auction program with high interest in the bargain sales, including one house for \$1, and the most expensive house going for \$200,000. It wasn't just the prices making it one of the most accessible housing opportunities in Australia.

Minister for Recovery, Janelle Saffin said, "Seeing young families and first-home buyers walk away with keys to a safer future is incredibly uplifting."

"These homes are part of our shared history, and the fact they can now be repurposed and relocated to flood-free land gives our community real hope."

"This program has always been about people, not price, and giving these houses a second life and delivering safer housing opportunities for our community."

All homes earmarked for relocation have been purchased by the NSW Reconstruction Authority through the buyback stream of the \$880 million Resilient Homes Program, jointly funded by the NSW and Australian governments.

All house owners will now have until the end of 2026 to relocate their property to flood-free land. Every property is unique, with homeowners expecting relocation costs upwards of \$100,000 depending on the property.

The auction program has paused over Christmas and will resume in early 2026.

For more information on upcoming auctions, go to: www.walimurray.com.au/pages/real-estate/ra-auction-houses-and-www.prd.com.au/northernrivers/relocation-homes

All NSW proceeds from the home sales (after costs) are reinvested into the Resilient Homes Program to support more flood-affected residents.

Nimbin Natural Caskets
You're Going to Die
ENQUIRIES 66891831

The House of Love

by Jimmy Willing

Back in the day before The Joy Love Art Studio, this was my neighbour Joy Love's house, but before Joy married Alf Love she was known as Joy Mary Grace Pheeney, and this was the site of Pheeney's Farm, the go-to place to get fresh milk.

Joy was born and bred in Lismore and she taught my family all she knew about responding to the floods, and it was a good thing that she took us under her wing.

As it were only yesterday, I can hear her calling across the fence to my wife warning of the coming water. I'd be painting away in the shed and I would hear every word of her berating me.

"Jimmy can't sit around painting today, there is work to be done, he needs to put

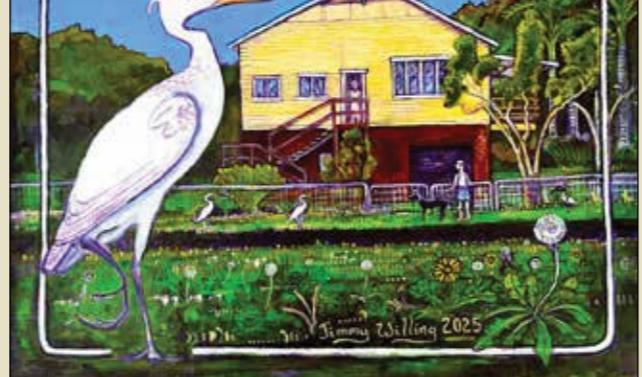
down those brushes and get cracking, the flood is coming and this is no time for painting!"

So, I would do as I was told and get cracking because although her name was Love, she was known as Joy Mary Grace Pheeney, and this was the site of Pheeney's Farm, the go-to place to get fresh milk.

Joy and Alf's great passion was raising and racing greyhounds. Those magnificent dogs were working class racehorses, and they would race them most Tuesdays nights just across the river from us.

Back then Tuesday night was greyhound night and you would see the bright lights and hear the barking of the dogs and the whirring of the electronic hare hanging in the night air as it whizzed around the ring.

Joy and Alf loved those dogs and not only did they teach us how to deal with the



floods but they also taught our little dog Circus to race on the track at the yearly Jack Russell Races.

This painting shows Joy on the landing and Alf walking one of the treasured hounds. In the foreground is one of the egrets that are always found hanging out with the cattle. The painting was commissioned by the Love family who continue to come

look and a yarn.

Now one year on, the Loves have stated that the house and grounds are in better nick than when they left, they also understand that this is a squat and a rebel outpost and yet they are very happy to gift me the building.

However, the Loves don't call it The Joy Love Art Studio, they simply refer to it as "Jimmy's House".

Congratulations Jerome

by Michelle Agoritis, Secretary

Nimbin A&I Society wish to congratulate Jerome Reid coming third place in the Far North Coast Region 1, Fruit Cake Finals held at Lismore Showground on Saturday 29th November.

The 1st place winner can then submit a cake in the Sydney Royal Easter Show competition representing our region. Jerome competed against seven other cake bakers.

Also on the day, the 'Woollen Article - Garment and Quilted Patchwork' Competition was judged. The competition rules will be uploaded to our website.

So come on Nimbin, start your entries for the 2026 Nimbin Annual Country Show, 19th and 20th September.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th January, 6pm at the Showground.

Membership fees of \$5/year will be collected at the meeting, so if you would like to join the society, or have an interest in the operation of the showgrounds, please join us at the Secretary's Office.

Venue hire

In past years, various groups hosting local events have made use of the showgrounds for their own AGMs, meetings, events and gatherings. The A&I Society has a process for casual hire of the grounds, whether open space or buildings, and kindly



Jerome Reid displaying his ribbon and cake with Nimbin A&I Society President, Denise Whitney.

requests that all groups wanting to use any part of the grounds follow this process.

The form for 'casual hire' of the showgrounds is available on the website: www.nimbinshowsociety.org.au and should be submitted to: secretary@nimbinshowsociety.org.au with a minimum of two weeks' notice.

Please note that not all buildings are

available for hire, and hire charges are likely to apply to enable the Society to cover costs of wear and tear and maintenance and will be made known to the applicant following review of the application.

Consideration will be given to not-for-profit groups and the intended use of the grounds when advising hire charges. We look forward to an eventful 2026.

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Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, President

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce enters the new year with a solid foundation built on collaboration, local investment and ongoing community support.

The past year saw the completion of several long-running projects and the continued strengthening of Chamber governance, membership and partnerships.

The Chamber welcomed two new committee members: Linda Bell, a renowned music photographer, and Stuart Bright, owner of one of Nimbin's established heritage homestay venues, Arunga.

Mural developments

Several community projects celebrating local artistic works were completed during this period. The Newsagency now features a mural depicting local wildlife by Miranda Williamson, while the Bakery wall facing Armonica Café displays a reproduction of Burrie Jerome's *The Warrior*, accompanied by a plaque acknowledging the artist's contribution to the community.

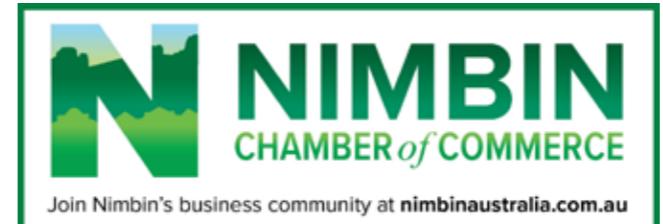
This transition reflects the maturity of Chamber-driven programs and the strength of networks that continue to support connection, mentoring, and enterprise within the region.

Chamber membership continues to grow, with new organisations joining and existing members renewing their involvement.

January is a time to reset, refocus and continue working together to ensure Nimbin remains distinctive, welcoming and strong.

We extend our sincere gratitude to both our local community members and visitors for their on-going support. Your contributions help preserve the unique character of the village we cherish, now and into the future.

Nimbin is more than a place you pass through. When visitors stay local, eat



visitors alike.

These funds were complemented by CBD levies collected by council and managed by the Chamber, ensuring that the original artistic vision was honoured and completed. This model of shared contribution continues to demonstrate the value of collective effort in delivering lasting community outcomes.

Encouraging visitors to engage with locally owned accommodation, hospitality, arts, entertainment, and regional produce helps keep value circulating within the community.

This approach strengthens collaboration between businesses, supports local employment and skills, and reinforces Nimbin's identity as a place shaped by people rather than uniform experiences.

As the year unfolds, the Chamber remains committed to supporting locally-owned businesses, maintaining transparent stewardship of funds and fostering a resilient, creative, and connected village economy.

These works now stand as visible outcomes in the village and mark a milestone in local artistic investment.

Importantly, the funding that kept these mural projects alive came directly from the community. In the case of the Newsagency mural, this included a generous contribution from building owner Royce Jenkins, along with donations placed in counter tins across local businesses and supported by locals and

amid much shop talk, many promises of volunteer assistance for the year to come were overheard, key to the hugely important work of the Aquarius Archives. Material has been pouring into the archives at such a rate that our ambition for next year is to make it all accessible.

Before celebrations kicked off, I held court at the final Aquarius Archives fortnightly meeting of the year, and later recorded the festivities, photographing famous and infamous guests alike (recognisable to those in the know) for the *Nimbin GoodTimes* social pages.

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Aquarius Archives soirée



by Greg Bork

Nimbin's super-fab Aquarius faithful braved a torrential downpour to flock to the inaugural Aquarius Archives soirée, in the newly glamorous hallway venue at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Those gathered hobnobbed over the tasty spread of finger food while raising a glass to a jolly good year.

In lieu of a speech, Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc President Bob Dooley plucked up a rousing rendition of Eric Idle's *F*ck Christmas* on his trusty guitar.

Meanwhile, other punters were heard lamenting the brutal and predatory, Christian-capitalist-heteropatriarchal exploitation of prior so-called pagan celebrations and traditions. They were applauded with a cataclysmic thunderclap.

A massive thanks to our sponsors and to everyone who helped prepare the feast. Resident OG artist and collections guru Franca Wolfe dressed up our sandwich board signage, while new volunteer Uncle Teacoy fired up the donated telly.

We watched the 1991 episode of *Couchman*, a Q&A-style forum filmed at Nimbin Town Hall, and marvelled at how frighteningly young and fresh faced everyone looked.

Fellow new volunteers Judy and Diana have also joined us in recent months, providing a surge of expertise and energy to carry us into 2026.

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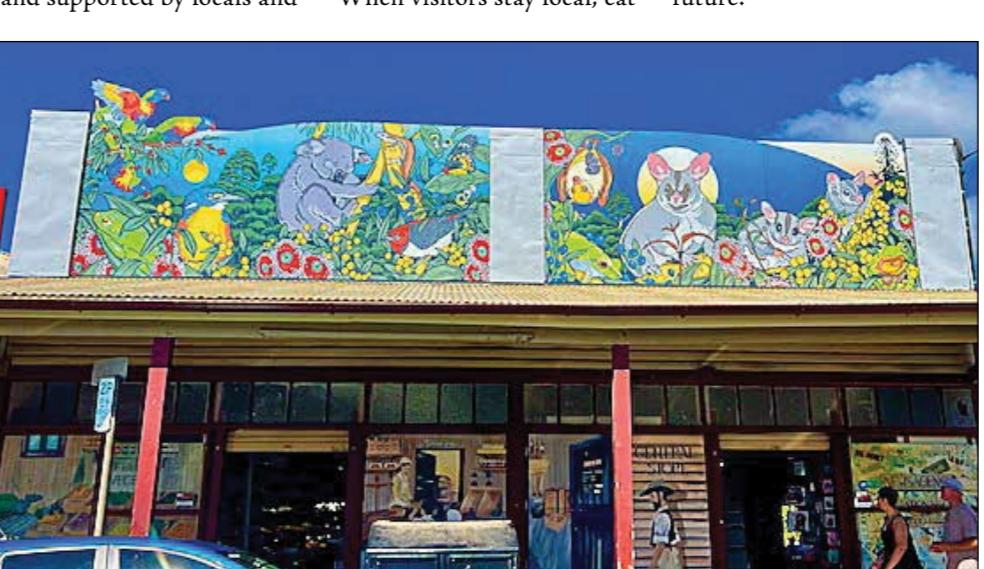
Tess (aka Peace Out) to pivot her renowned creative talents towards bringing the archives to life through workshops and special events.

A big thanks to the Rainbow Power Company for being our crucial partner in storing the archives, a key objective for our launch. Thanks to the Nimbin Community Centre for providing our headquarters.

Thanks to Erika Taylor at Tweed Regional Museum for her invaluable mentoring and direction, and thanks to the Nimbin Community, to every individual and organisation that donated money and time, for making our debut year a resounding success.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without being part of Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc (NAFI). This year, NAFI reached a major milestone by obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. This status opens up significant new possibilities (and responsibilities) for our charitable purpose to advance Nimbin's culture.

At our recent, well-attended AGM, there was a palpable sense of reinvigorated energy. Looking forward, from the next generation's perspective, what do the stories and culture of Nimbin have to offer? Let's keep the Aquarius spirit alive.



nimbingoodtimes.com