

Gaelic football comes to Nimbin

by Gordon King

In a fantastic show of community spirit, the Nimbin Headers Soccer Club and the recently reformed Nimbin Demons AFL Club will unite for a fundraising match with a twist on 7th February, 2026.

The two local teams will battle it out in a game of Gaelic football, bringing a unique sporting spectacle to the Nimbin Headers' home ground at Cecil Street.

This special event will feature a fully stocked canteen, BBQ, raffles and other activities for the whole family. Be sure to mark your calendars for this one-of-a-kind sporting event and help raise much-needed funds for



both clubs, ensuring they can continue to provide sporting opportunities for the Nimbin community.

With rules from Gaelic football – a game combining elements of soccer and AFL – the match promises to be a thrilling and unfamiliar challenge for the local athletes, offering a highly entertaining display for spectators.

“It’s a great opportunity to bring our clubs and the wider community together for a fun day,” said a club representative. “We encourage everyone to come down, enjoy the action, and support our local sports.”

The match will be played in the evening with the first bounce at 7.30pm. Make your way down to Cecil Street and show your support for the Nimbin Headers and the Nimbin Demons.



Nimbin athlete three-time National Champion

Recently, Mikayla Frey, a local athlete from Nimbin Central School (pictured), travelled down to Melbourne for the Australian All-Schools National Athletics Championships, where she won National Gold in the under 17 triple jump, with a jump of 12.69m.

The Australian All-Schools Championship is the top athletics competition in the nation for high school athletes. Mikayla competed for NSW against the best athletes in the country and absolutely dominated the field, with an astounding 80cm separating her and the next best competitor.

By winning the event, she successfully secured her third consecutive National All-Schools title, having won the title the previous two years in a row – a difficult feat to achieve.

Her jump of 12.69m currently ranks her in the top 10 in the world for triple jump in the under 17 age group (athletes born 2009). Following her victory in the triple jump, the next day Mikayla competed in the under 17 long jump event where she placed 5th in Australia.

After being crowned Australian Champion for her third year in a row, she has her eyes set on qualifying for international competitions in 2026.

RainbowRoos soccer program

Nimbin Headers Sports Club is excited to partner with award-winning local organisation RainbowRoos to offer a fun, inclusive soccer program in 2026.

RainbowRoos is a registered charity and NDIS provider delivering joyful, non-competitive soccer programs for children of all ages and abilities across the Northern Rivers.

Their sessions focus on building confidence, co-ordination and connection in a safe and supportive environment where every child is welcome.

A Holiday Program will be held at the Headers sportsfield on Wednesday 21st January, with two sessions:

- **BabyRoos** (ages 2-4): 10am A gentle introduction to soccer for toddlers still finding their feet, using engaging games to support early development.
- **MiniRoos** (ages 5-10): 11am Fast-paced, fun sessions that channel enthusiasm into skill development,



while supporting physical growth, emotional wellbeing, and social connection.

In addition to the holiday program, BabyRoos weekly sessions will run in Nimbin on Wednesday mornings during Term 1.

MiniRoos Bandicoots raring to go in 2024

For bookings and more information, visit: www.rainbowroos.com.au or find RainbowRoos on social media.

Nimbin Crossword solution

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Why I love sport

by Jedda Bayles

Joining the local Summer Socials soccer competition this year has been an unexpected highlight for me.

I used to play soccer when I was younger, but like many people, life shifted once I had kids. Between work, parenting, and everything in between, the sport I loved quietly slipped into the background.

When my workplace, Rainbow Power Company, decided to enter a team into the Summer Socials competition, I thought it would simply be a fun way to get a bit of exercise. Instead, it's become something much more meaningful.

The relaxed, friendly atmosphere has made it easy to ease back into the game, rebuild confidence, and remember why I loved playing in the first place.

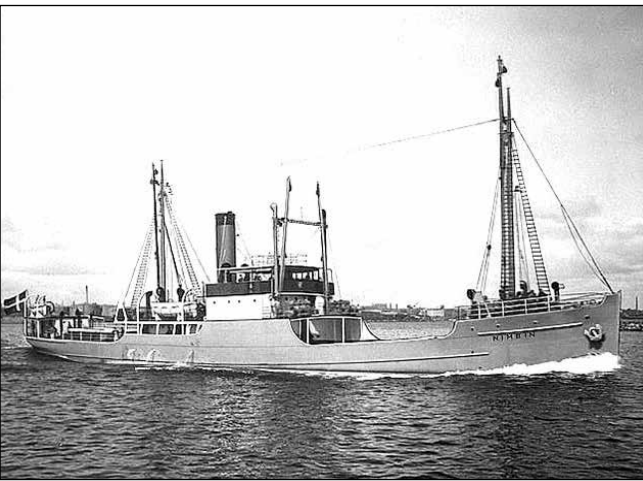
What surprised me most is how much being part of this team has reignited my passion for soccer.

The weekly games have been a great balance of fun, fitness, and community connection, and they've given me the push I needed to take the next step. Because of Summer Socials, I now feel inspired to join the Nimbin Headers for the upcoming season.

It's exciting to be returning to a sport I once loved, this time with fresh motivation and a community around me.



The curse of the MV Nimbin



By Simon Alderton

The Northern Rivers is littered with shipwrecks. Many of our beaches and places are named after them.

Tallow Beach earns its name from the wreck of the Volunteer in 1864, which was carrying... you guessed it, tallow (rendered animal fat).

The next day the beach was covered with barrels of tallow, most of it recovered and sold off by entrepreneurial locals.

As we now know, the legend of 'tallow' beach refused to die and eventually became the beach's official name.

Then there's the Wollongbar I & II. The first ran aground in Byron Bay just off the jetty during a storm in 1921.

The ship couldn't be budged off the sandbar. It remains there today just off

Byron Bay township and is known by surfers as 'The Wreck'.

The Wollongbar's replacement ship, Wollongbar II had an equally eventful fate, being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine en route from Byron to Sydney in 1943.

Two years later, the ship Tassie III suffered a similar demise to the Wollongbar I. A storm blew it off the Byron Bay jetty causing extensive damage to the wooden pier. It later sank in the bay.

There were no casualties, however this ship had been requisitioned by the US navy to carry condemned ammunition.

Most of the ammunition was removed from its watery grave, but some local boys had managed to swim out to the sunken wreckage and found ammunition the navy missed, which they of course souvenired.

It later detonated, causing

them injuries and quite a stir in Byron town during the final chapters of World War II. Never play with live ammunition, kids!

The MV Nimbin

In the long history of local shipwrecks, none seemed more cursed than the MV Nimbin. In 1940, she became the first Australian merchant ship sunk in World War II.

Sailing from Coffs Harbour to Sydney with bundles of plywood and a load of pigs, she hit a German mine off Norah Heads and sunk, killing seven crew. Another 13 crew survived by clinging onto bundles of plywood and avoiding hungry sharks until rescued.

The dramatic end to the Nimbin was reported in all the papers. But, just when you think that the fate of the Nimbin would make a great movie, stories of her mishaps started long before her explosive last night.

The Nimbin was the first motorised vessel to sail the Northern Rivers to Sydney run. Built in Copenhagen in 1927, she was bought by the North Coast Steam Navigation Company and named after the dairy town of Nimbin, as you well may have guessed.

Soon after her maiden voyage, the Nimbin was sailing between Ballina and Lismore delivering a load of sugar when her second officer slipped down the stairs. He died of his injuries

the next morning in Coraki hospital.

Years later, Coraki was the scene of another deadly incident involving the Nimbin when she collided with the tug boat 'Teven', killing the Teven's captain.

Throughout her life, the Nimbin had several run-ins with the Ballina sandbar. The worst was in 1932 when at 6am on 22nd February, she ran aground off Ballina during a heavy fog. Over the following weeks, several attempts were made to re-float her.

But just when she seemed lost to the Ballina sandbar forever, a rescue ship from Sydney managed to haul her off. A lucky escape.

In 1934, the Nimbin lost her propeller up the Clarence River and had to be rescued yet again. She was repaired in Yamba and served another seven years before becoming the first Australian merchant victim of World War II.

I guess it wasn't easy being a merchant vessel in the treacherous waters of the Northern Rivers, but the Nimbin seems to have been ill-fated from the beginning.

The stories of the Nimbin, the Wollongbar I & II, the Tassie III and the Volunteer are short snippets in the long and colourful history of Northern Rivers shipwrecks.

But, I hope this modest article sparks an interest in some of our unique local maritime history.



Loading bananas at Coffs Harbour – 1930's
Photo courtesy Coffs Collections

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0 0 0
Agent: Jacqui



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3 1 2
Agent: Samara



SOLD

JACQUI SMITH

43/4505 Kyogle Road,
Wadeville 5 Acres
SOLD BY JACQUI

2 1 4
Agent: Jacqui



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Contact Agent

9 7 10
Agents: Jacqui



SOLD

JOHN WILCOX

5329 Kyogle Rd
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SOLD BY JOHN & JACQUI

2 1 10



SOLD

SAMARA

63 Zouch Rd
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