



## SLOW...ing down...

by Marilyn Devlin

It's Christmas morning as I write... still in the last days of 2025. I woke after an unsettling night of lucid dreaming... they all felt so real.

You know... that line, where it's hard to tell, if this is happening here and now... in Earth time... or have I wandered into an alternate dimension.

I heard piercing alarms... setting my heart racing. Piercing alarms and explosions. Exhausted from these journeys into who knows where... I levered myself off my bed, dragging my head off the pillow... and stumbled out, eyes still closed... to check my phone, even though I knew it was turned off. It sounded urgent... maybe someone was trying to contact me.

Nothing to see... I fumbled back to bed. My heart still racing, my body activated by anxiety... I managed a few more hours of undisturbed sleep.

Sun only just crossed the horizon... my first cup of chai, my ritual awakening. Tired and a bit beaten up by the unsettling night... I become aware of the deep emotions unfurling in my body... like the ocean waves on the sand.

I let them be... I knew I had to feel them... not try to escape. 2025 was a big journey... for many and especially for some. It pulled and challenged... took me to a new edge. Tools I've used no longer adequate for these new feelings rising from the depths.

I promised myself an early morning play in the waves... when the sun's a bit gentler on my changing skin. God... how glorious it was... how glorious it is. There's nothing quite to compare... the immersion of our treasured body... into those early summer, still refreshingly cool... primordial life-giving waters of Earth.

Bit by bit people arrived... Christmas morning on the beach... nothing rushed... there feels a shift in the chaotic busyness on Christmas morning... a brief interlude within the frantic doing-ness of our western lives.

It brings up a lot... it involves so much... aside from all the commercialism... there's a deep activation of things we've forgotten, put aside in our busyness. It's a human thing... reminding us of our communal ways... our need for love, caring and acceptance. The joy and importance of generosity and giving. True things... coming from inside of us... not just some trivial ritual.

I'm more of a Solstice girl... it makes more sense to me. Our great central Sun... providing life giving rays for everything here on earth. It's generosity... makes sure no-one misses out. Stopping to take a few breaths... assimilating and digesting his journey in the southern lands... before embarking on his new journey up north.

Nothing is separate... we're all connected, to everything. It's not possible to be separate... yet in our minds we are. 2025 challenged us... still actively operating in old ways that don't and won't work. We're invited to slow down... get in touch with what's going on... inside of us. 'Cause that's where everything is.

Sun's on his way today... December 25th... fresh from his brief rest... giving us all time to catch up with our selves. His compass set, his direction clear. He's on his way to our friends in the north.

2026... when you'll be reading this... is only days away... there's something about it... something new. There's a space to breathe, there's a cleared connection to our self. Can you feel it... I can... even in my weariness.

There's something promised... something to look forward to. Amid it all... somehow, we've come out of this rigorous year with a new sense of self, and willingness to try again.

It's loud even though it's surrounded in the usual noise... it wants you to know... this is a new beginning. We live in new times... so we won't be going back to old ones... it'll take focus... but it's been uncovered... it's freshly emerging... small, but steady and focused steps.

There's much to be accomplished. Much love.

## Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

### Questions

1. Earth's Moon has many craters. Even its craters have craters, and they are all more or less circular. But, in space, the objects smashing into the Moon must come from all angles and trajectories, right? Why are there no long skinny craters from glancing blows? Why are all the craters round? *Image courtesy apod.nasa.gov (Tom Glenn).*

2. Cajun cuisine is of a rustic style incorporating aromatics such as capsicum, onion and celery with spicy elements such as cayenne and protein often provided by various seafoods and sausages. Often prepared in one pot, where did this style of cooking originate?

3. In December, what award was presented to Australian sportsperson Nicola Olyslagers? For a bonus point, can you name the other Australian recognised at the awards?

4. As you enter Nimbin from the north, a creek runs around the old butter factory and crosses under a new bridge where Blue Knob Road becomes Cullen Street. What is the name of the creek? For a bonus point, name the 20th century decade in which the Nimbin Butter Factory was built.

5. True or false. In December last year a raccoon broke into a liquor store in Virginia and rampaged through the aisles sampling many tipplers until it passed out as drunk as a skunk. Raccoon??

6. Stone, yeti and mole are all kinds of what creature? Which four letters can be arranged into words to mean a "smoke" that you have when you're not having a cigarette and a word that means to lay a durable surface on bare ground?

8. While satellites in Earth orbit move at different speeds and altitudes, how fast do typical orbiting satellites travel: eight kilometres per second, minute or hour?

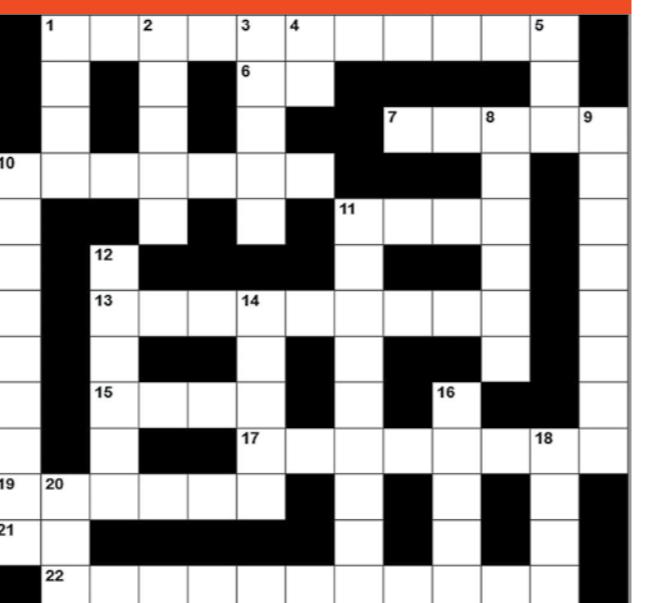
9. In December, Mikayla Frey claimed her third consecutive Australian championship competing in the Under 17 competition at the Australian All Schools National Athletics Championships. What is the field discipline that Mikayla so clearly dominates?

10. Animal, Mineral or Vegetable: foglove, fluorite and frogmouth? Take a point for each correct answer.



## Nimbin Crossword

2026-01  
by 5ync



### Across

- 1. Cooked breakfast (4,7)
- 6. Therefore? Partner (init.)
- 7. Midday meal
- 10. From, say, Lhasa?
- 11. Ship's body
- 13. Purpose? Aim.
- 15. Foam bullet?
- 17. Immortal (treatment)
- 19. Author of *On the Origin of Species*
- 21. (and 5 down) Improvised (2,3)
- 22. Of/from a large land mass

### Down

- 1. Much filmed Japanese

Solution: Page 38

## Help us spread the GoodTimes

Call out for helpers to distribute The Nimbin GoodTimes across the Rainbow Region  
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## NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street Nimbin  
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### INFO FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS

#### Club opening hours

Wed-Sat 2.30pm to close, Sun 8.30am to 4pm  
Bistro open Wednesday-Saturday

- Open Mic, Wednesday 14th January, 6.30pm
- Social bowls, every Sunday from 9am

### Answers

www.nimbingoodtimes.com

## Music program hits a high note at Barkers Vale School



by Iris Vos, Music Teacher

Music is alive and well at Barkers Vale Public School, with a dedicated program that is hitting all the right notes with students.

A specialised music teacher visits the school once a week, providing a comprehensive lesson for each class, which for many is a highlight of the week.

Students are given the fantastic opportunity to showcase their hard work several times a year during school assemblies.

These performances are always popular, drawing a large and supportive crowd of parents and caregivers.

This term, our young musicians are mastering a range of impressive skills. The Gabul (senior) class is

busy practising their singing and instrumental abilities, while the Burringui (junior) class is building essential skills on the ukulele.

Both classes are also developing their rhythmic and pitch skills on the marimbas, learning to listen carefully, and working together as an ensemble.

This valuable work is enhancing their overall performance and practical music skills.

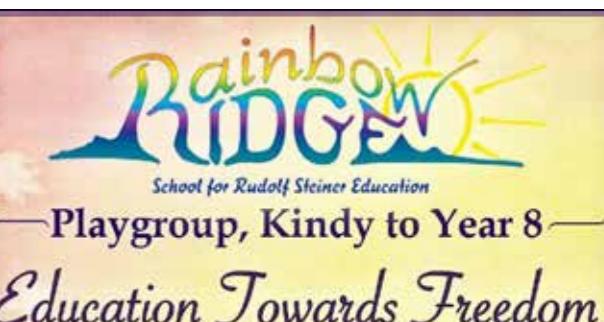


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## University of the Third Age

by Margaret Bruce  
for Lismore U3A  
Committee

2026 is now upon us and we would love to support your leisure time this year by inviting you to be part of the Lismore University of the Third Age.

We offer 30-plus courses each week of the four terms.

If you are thinking of retiring from the workforce, Lismore U3A can become part of your life by keeping both the brain and body active and well oiled.

Included is an active social calendar with functions each term.

U3A is run by members for members on a voluntary basis and we welcome new ideas for classes; you may have a special talent to share.

Why not come to our Open Day on Wednesday 21st January where you can meet our tutors and gather more information?

Another successful year was finalised with a lunch for over 80 members



It will be held at the Goonellabah Sports Club at 202 Oliver Ave, Goonellabah from 10am to 1pm.

We invite returning members, new members and the interested public to attend.

Cost for new members is \$65 which entitles you to join any or many classes for

the full year of 2026. There will be facilities for you to enrol on the day.

Visit our website: www.lismoreu3a.com.au to see our range of current courses, or call Pat McLaren-Smith, 0490-483-049.

We welcome you to join us and look forward to meeting you.



# 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.

## 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,



MiniRoos Bandicoots raring to go in 2024

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.

For bookings and more information, visit: [www.rainbowroos.com.au](http://www.rainbowroos.com.au) or find RainbowRoos on social media.

## Nimbin Crossword solution

From Page 36



## 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



nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

# The curse of the MV Nimbin

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.

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.

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.

Then there's the

Wollongbar I & II. The first

ran aground in Byron Bay

just off the jetty during a

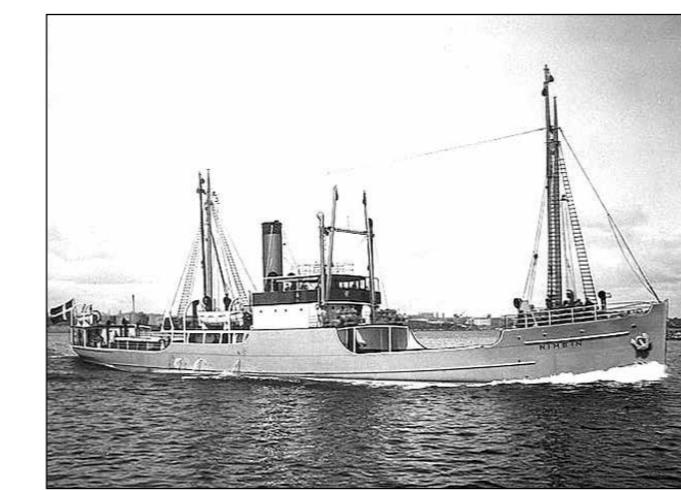
storm in 1921.

The ship couldn't be

budged off the sandbar. It

remains there today just off

It later detonated, causing



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.

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.

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 Tiven'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 refloat her.

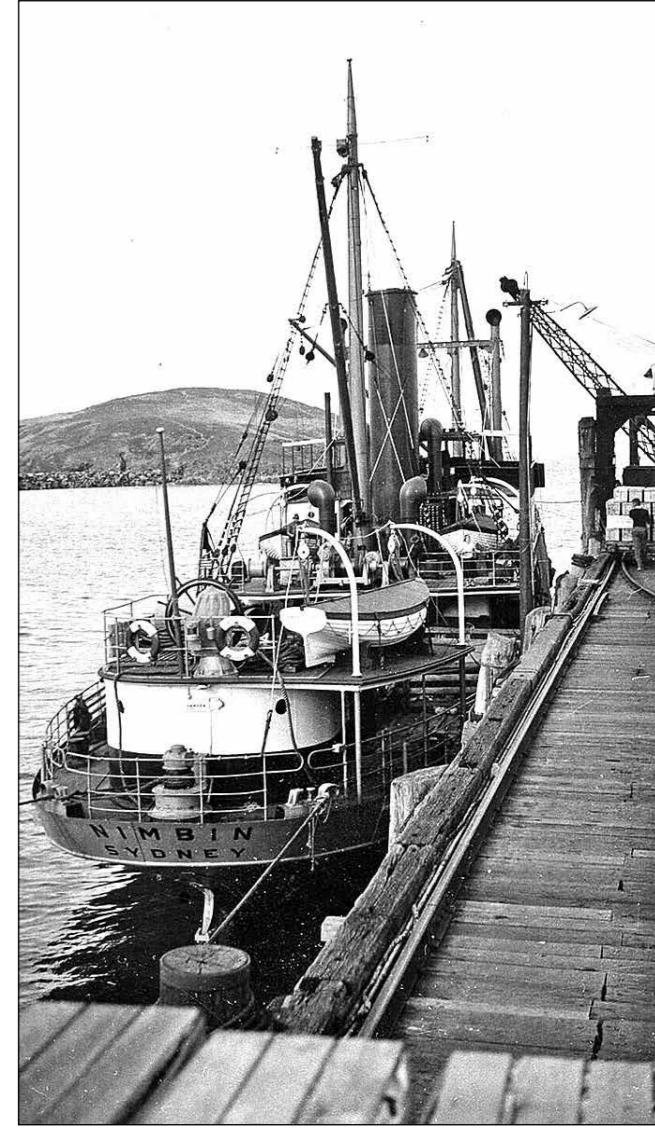
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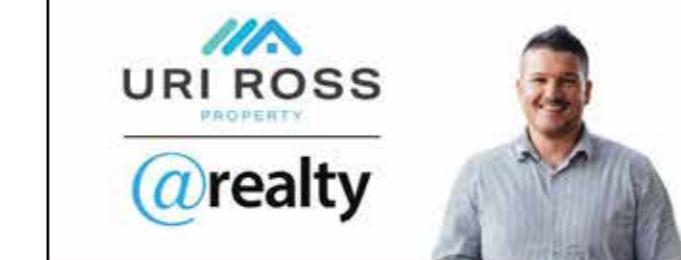
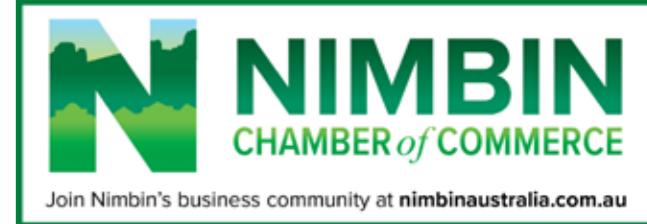
I guess it wasn't easy being a merchant vessel in the treacherous waters of the Northern Rivers, but the Nimbin seems to have been ill-fated from the beginning.

The stories of the Nimbin, the Wollongbar I & II, the Tasse 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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257 Creegans Rd  
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SOLD BY SAMARA!! Agent: Samara



**SOLD**

43/4505 Kyogle Road, Wadeville 5 Acres 2 1 4

SOLD BY JACQUI Agent: Jacqui



**NEW  
PRICE**

711 Mountain Top Road, Nimbin 57 Acres 9 7 10

Contact Agent Agents: Jacqui



**SOLD**

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**SOLD**

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