

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.

Anti-semitism in your backyard

While the Bondi tragedy has made world headlines, don't for a moment think that Rainbow Region is exempt from anti-semitic attacks.

A friend of mine was attacked by a neighbour who assumed she was Jewish, and hurled anti-Jewish abuse at her, while threatening to run her down in his car.

Local Police were contacted, but they did nothing except to advise her to apply for an Apprehended Personal Violence Order.

It took police months to serve the order, and even after it was served, they did nothing when she contacted them to stop the neighbour from stalking her.

It's all very well to call for Royal Commissions and public inquiries and so on, but racism and anti-semitism are alive and active in our regions.

Let's do something about existing useless laws that do nothing to protect victims of personal violence, and therefore enable racists and bullies to get away with their vile behaviour.

(Name withheld)

Politicisation of massacre

I have watched with horror the events relating to the Bondi massacre, itself a heinous atrocity.

However, I am writing to express my utter dismay and disbelief at the blatant politicisation of this horrendous event by the Coalition opposition.

To attribute personal blame to Anthony Albanese is not only patently untrue but cruel and offensive. He is not responsible, the two despicable men

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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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www.hollyenglish.com

who committed the Bondi massacre are solely responsible.

While it is completely appropriate to have investigations into the event to identify where laws, policies and responses can be improved, strident apportioning of blame is just offensive. It doesn't help and it shows no leadership on the part of the Coalition.

The Coalition's behaviour and commentary along with parts of the media has been the lowest of the low.

Australians expect that in critical times like these that the opposition (whether Liberal or Labor) will stand up together for the good of our country and communities.

What we have seen in the Coalition's response is blatant politicisation of this terrible event in an effort to deflect attention away from the woes of the Liberal party.

All this has done is reinforce the Coalition's absolute unsuitability to govern.

If Sussan Ley and the Coalition can't think beyond political point scoring and can only see that getting

Zionists feel like they're entitled to commit any crime they want, stealing land, raping prisoners, shooting children, starving infants, war crimes and crimes against humanity up to and including genocide, and furthermore they believe they're entitled to commit these crimes free from any criticism or accountability whatsoever.

Zionism has made Israel the most dangerous place in the world for Jews and Palestinians alike. It gets away with genocide mainly because the Zionist occupied media systematically censor and suppress the truth about Zionism.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Open letter

Dear Attorney-General Rowland,
I am shocked to learn that the Australian government has invited Israeli President Isaac Herzog to Australia in January 2026.

Findings by the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry indicate that Mr Herzog's statements and actions constitute incitement of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

These are crimes under international law. Under Australia's Criminal Code Act 1995, the Australian Federal Police has the power and duty to investigate such crimes, even if committed overseas.

Zionism defined

The root cause of conflict in West Asia today is the political ideology of Zionism, the movement it spawned, the project it inspires and the regime that implements it.

Zionism is an ethno-nationalist ideology, the movement is a Jewish supremacist cult; the project is a land grabbing settler colonial enterprise, and the regime is a genocidal apartheid entity.

Zionists believe that Jews from Australia, Britain, Canada, Europe, Russia, the US or wherever, have a God-given right to a nation and a state exclusively for Jews in Palestine, and the Palestinians don't exist, or if they do exist, they have no right to exist as a nation, or have a state for themselves in Palestine or anywhere.

Gareth W R Smith
Byron Bay

Vale Johnny Allen

Obituary by Graeme Dunstan

Johnny Allen died on 22nd December 2025.

He had been bed-bound since he had contracted Covid in Nimbin at the Aquarius50 commemorations in May 2023. Gratitude to his partner Warwick who had dedicated himself to Johnny's care.

Great sadness and loss wells up at his parting. Also gratitude when we reflect on the huge contribution he made to the making and shaping of the cultural life of our times in Nimbin, Sydney and NSW generally.

I am honoured to say that I walked beside him in the making of the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival.

He had been director of the Aquarius Foundation, the Australian Union of Students' cultural arm, and I, the director of the Foundation's biennial Aquarius arts festival. Captain Kultur and Superfest, we dubbed ourselves.

And before that we both had been active on the Kensington campus as undergraduates at UNSW. We shared a sociology of festivals and events.

We both understood that shared events create cultural movement. We reckoned that the more artful and engaging the event, the more artful and binding the culture shared, created and birthed.

Synergy was Johnny's organising modus operandi and credo. Synergy for him meant that extra magic which, when two souls are brought together, is much more than the sum of the parts. So bringing strangers together and making magic was his way.

At the time of our meeting we were resisting Australian engagement in the US War on Vietnam and conscription for it of 19-year old males. We both understood that our task was to create a distinct anti-war youth culture of peace as a counter to the culture of endless wars that we were



being sold.

The 1973 Aquarius Festival was synergy manifest. And it was delivered with a lightness of touch of which Johnny was a master. "The path to the Festival must be the Festival," he proclaimed.

In the organising, the Festival went through many name changes, one of which was The Nimbin Survival Softlick. That was Johnny's touch.

I recall him in those pre-Aquarius Festival organising days, dancing up Cullen Street from the Aquarius office in the former Nimbin RSL, confronting the folk there with a hug and question: "Are you in love?" Laughter. No offence taken. But that was only the beginning of Johnny's synergising career.

During the Sydney Olympics and their preparations, he was to become a respected festival advisor to the NSW Cabinet. He founded of the UTS School of Events Management and so doing, professionalised events management in NSW became a huge influence on people who create events in Sydney and NSW.

He was a big influencer in the founding and growth of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Festival and is venerated for it.

Always organising. Always thorough with the backup and the paperwork. Always polite. Always kind and interested: about him was gentility, dignity and bright intelligence.

Always he carried an affection for Nimbin. He shaped Nimbin culture in so many ways with the Aquarius Festival and he was of course shaped by Nimbin – by Nimbin magic.

Thank you, Johnny. Well may we say, an honourable elder has passed on.

Nimbin CWA doings



by Sue Stock, Publicity Officer

Happy New Year!

We are re-opening on 14th January for our first Open Day of 2026.

Open Days are held on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 10am-4pm, and we serve nutritious and affordable \$5 lunches.

Pop in and have a chat with our members, to see how the CWA contributes to the community, and consider participating. We'd love to meet you!

Mending class

One of our wonderful members will be running a new visible mending, repairs and crafts class each month beginning on Friday 16th January, 10am-3pm at CWA rooms.

Open to CWA members and general public, this activity will be held regularly every 3rd Friday of the month. A sewing machine and a few resources to work on garment repairs will be available.

We will also focus on slow sewing as well as a different project each month. All welcome to bring any sort of project.

Donations

In December, Nimbin CWA distributed our handmade thank-you Xmas baskets (pictured) to those businesses that have supported us

over the past year. Thank you again.

We thank everyone who has supported us with quality donations of clothes and bric-a-brac to distribute to the community over the past 12 months. Come and check it out. There are some wonderful bargains to be discovered.

Nimbin CWA will take donations of goods after we re-open on 14th January.

The community support from this and other activities has enabled us to make 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 & 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 Nimbin RFS firehouse via Sibley Street)

For all general enquires please phone: 0461-412-831 or email: secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com



Hospital Auxiliary wins award

The Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary has been recognised at a state level, winning the Andrea Mulligan OAM Trophy for Most Money Raised (Net) by a Multi-Purpose Service in NSW for 2025, awarded by the United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW Inc.

The prestigious award acknowledges outstanding fundraising achievements by hospital auxiliaries across New South Wales and highlights the strength of community support behind Nimbin Hospital.

Over the past 12 months, the Nimbin Auxiliary has translated community fundraising directly into improved care and facilities, investing \$22,405.45 in essential medical equipment and infrastructure for the Nimbin Multi-Purpose Service.

Key purchases include:
• **ECG machine (\$12,000):** Enables staff to monitor heart activity on site, supporting early identification of cardiac



issues.

• **Doppler (\$900):** Uses ultrasound to assess blood flow and circulation, supporting clinical decision-making.

• **Kitchen trolleys (\$1,200):** Support safe meal service and daily operations, improving efficiency for staff and comfort for residents.

• **Patient lift chair (\$3,400):** Provides safer, more comfortable seating for residents during treatment and recovery.

• **Bedroom and kitchen equipment (\$4,105.45):** Supports on-site accommodation for on-call health practitioners and upgraded kitchen facilities,

helping deliver appropriate nutrition and daily living support for residents.

• **Aged Care activities and special events (\$800):** Supports wellbeing, social connection and quality of life for residents.

Auxiliary President Marceliena Brumley said the award reflects the dedication of local volunteers and supporters.

"This recognition shows what a small, committed community can achieve," she said. "Every dollar raised goes straight back into improving care, comfort and safety for residents and patients at our local hospital."

At a time when some regional hospital auxiliaries across the Northern Rivers have been forced to fold, the Nimbin MPS Auxiliary remains active and strong, continuing to deliver tangible outcomes for local healthcare.

The Nimbin United Hospital Auxiliary is made up entirely of volunteers and relies on community fundraising, donations and local events to support the hospital beyond core funding.

Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services

Home & Community Aged Care www.nacrs.com.au

Service Scheduler

Do you thrive in a complex and dynamic role?

Do you excel at:

- ♦ Ensuring the smooth operation of rostering and service calendars
- ♦ Time management and triage skills
- ♦ Handling last minute demands and competing priorities
- ♦ Listening and building supportive relationships with clients and staff

You will need:

- ♦ Experience with scheduling systems
- ♦ Demonstrated customer service or community services experience
- ♦ Warm, patient and approachable communication style
- ♦ Problem-solving mindset with the ability to take initiative
- ♦ Strong digital literacy
- ♦ Reliable and self-motivated
- ♦ Criminal history check within 3 years

Duties include:

- ♦ Monitoring schedules and amending as required
- ♦ Liaising effectively with client, staff and other providers
- ♦ Checking end of booking staff reports and escalating as required
- ♦ Sharing Out of Hours contact roster (Recall & Allowances apply)
- ♦ Office based with some flexibility for remote work once fully trained

Hours & Pay: 12-18 hours/week over 2-3 days. SCHCADS Award SACS Level 2-4 depending skills & experience. Plus LSL, Superannuation, Employee Assistance Program. Casual with PPT options after training.

APPLICATIONS for Scheduler CLOSE: Tuesday 27th January

Interested? If you would like to join our vibrant team and have relevant experience, qualifications and people skills please **EMAIL enquiries@nacrs.com.au** with your letter of interest & current resumé. Are you training in Cert III Individual Support (Aged Care) - we'd like to hear from you. **Local, charitable, not-for-profit, all Aged Care Quality Safety Commission quality standards met June 2025**

WE ARE
RECRUITING

Home & Community

Care Workers Do you have the qualities to make a great aged care worker?

Are you suited to:

- ♦ enabling frail aged people stay independent and active
- ♦ handling a variety of tasks and last minute changes
- ♦ listening and building supportive relationships
- ♦ following specific instructions and procedures
- ♦ working in isolated rural environments
- ♦ taking instruction and critical feedback
- ♦ collaborating effectively with your team

You will need:

- ♦ **Cert III in Individual Support (Aged Care)** minimum (or training)
- ♦ Clean drivers license, reliable, tidy vehicle
- ♦ Comprehensive insurance for Client Transport
- ♦ Criminal history check and First Aid within 3 years

Duties include assisting with essential household tasks, personal care, shopping, transport, social support, respite care.

Rosters include weekdays, some evenings and weekends. Hours build up to minimum 12 to 30 hours a week.

Pay: SCHCADS Award Casual Home Care Level 1-4 depending on skills & experience. Plus LSL, Superannuation, First Aid Allowance, Employee Assistance Program, \$0.99/km reimbursement between bookings and for client transport.

APPLICATIONS for Care Worker—we want to hear from you

Recharge our batteries



I hope everyone had a nice relaxing festive season with family and friends. The Christmas/New Year period is always a good chance to recharge our batteries after a very busy year.

An early Christmas present came last month with Stony Chute Road reopening after large-scale restoration to repair damage first created in 2022 and then significantly worsened during TC Alfred early last year.

The site's severe instability meant a major reconstruction was needed, with a large section of road having slipped several metres from its original position.

More than 20,000 tonnes of rock and road base material was added to stabilise and restore the site – the equivalent of two Eiffel Towers! Enhanced drainage was also installed to improve resilience against future weather events.

A heartfelt thank you to the community for your patience and support throughout this process – your cooperation made this milestone possible.

This is the first of nine

landslip repairs along Stony Chute Road taking place this year. Work on additional sites is already underway, with road access being maintained throughout the year.

The newly opened section has a 40km/h speed limit in place until the guardrail can be installed in mid-January. Please allow for minor delays and follow all traffic guidance for everyone's safety.

Stay tuned for updates on further road restoration projects, as we continue to strengthen our local infrastructure, with the support of the Australian and NSW governments.

Want to see where's next? Check out the online Project Schedule and Map can be found on the 'Flood Restoration' page on Council's website www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

In further good news for the Nimbin community, a flood-monitoring camera has been installed on Nimbin Road at Coffee Camp. It is one of three key locations that are regularly affected during flood events. The other two are on Boatharbour Road at



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

Wyrallah Road, Monaltrie and Boatharbour Road at Boatharbour.

They will provide visual updates on road closures, flood levels and local impacts, and serve as a practical resource during heavy rain and floods from the safety of your home.

In dry conditions, images are updated twice daily. Once rising water levels are detected, images refresh every 15 minutes, offering close-to-live updates on Council's website.

This first network of cameras has been funded through the Federal Government's Preparing Australian Communities Local Stream program. Future installations may occur as additional funding becomes available.

2025 was a huge year for our community and this year will, no doubt, be just as big as we continue to rebuild from the 2022 disaster. But we are not just rebuilding. We are making our community stronger and looking to the future with a renewed hope and optimism for Lismore and its villages.

Let's stay safe from weather disasters in 2026

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

As we welcome the New Year, I want to extend my best wishes for a safe and positive year ahead. Summer is a beautiful time in our region, but it also brings challenges. At this peak season, I encourage everyone to have your emergency plans ready, for bushfires, heatwaves and floods.

Helpful resources are available at: nsw.gov.au/GetReadyNSW, and the Hazard Near Me app is an excellent tool to stay informed about local emergencies – well worth downloading.

Our area is blessed with stunning waterways, pools and beaches that attract visitors during the holidays. Please keep water safety front of mind for yourself and others.

Summer also means more traffic, including drivers unfamiliar with country roads. By staying alert and driving with care, we can all arrive safely.

Government initiatives

It's been a busy year for the Minns State Government as we have continued delivering on commitments to improve essential services. By getting rid of the wages cap we've been able to attract and keep frontline workers.

Statewide, the government has hired thousands more nurses and midwives, teacher and police recruits and more than 400 new paramedics, with our region benefiting from the new staffing levels.

As I've written about in past columns, we have also announced stable on-going funding for TAFE, brought in key planning reforms for housing and the most significant rental reforms in a decade.

I'd like to highlight two important initiatives supporting children and families that we introduced in the later part of the year.

ADHD care reforms

We've made ADHD diagnosis and treatment more accessible and affordable by allowing GPs to manage care.

Since September, 560 GPs across NSW have completed specialist training to prescribe ADHD medications. More than 100 North Coast GPs have applied to do the training.



Janelle Saffin MP, Housing Minister Rose Jackson MLC and Social Futures CEO Tony Davies turning the sod on a Lismore social housing project in December.

Thousands of prescriptions have already been issued, reducing long waits and costly specialist appointments. These reforms are part of the Minns Government's commitment to help people access timely care, no matter where they live.

Foster care support

We've introduced an historic increase in foster care allowances along with a major recruitment campaign.

Foster carers provide loving homes for children who cannot live safely with their families. Sadly, the previous government stopped recruiting carers, creating a shortage and forcing reliance on expensive emergency accommodation like hotels.

The need is greatest for children with disability, adolescents and sibling groups, and there are currently 37 sibling groups in NSW needing carers, many with children under five.

If you're single or partnered, if you're in a same-sex relationship, rent or own your home, young or older, you can make a difference. There are options for short-term, long-term and respite care. Visit: fosteringnsw.com.au to learn more.

We can work together to keep our communities safe and strong in 2026.



Once again, South Lismore Post Office went the extra mile with their decorated building.



Parliament recall after Bondi: Guns and democracy



by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

As we were all reeling in the immediate aftermath of the horrific mass shooting of Jewish people on the beach at Bondi, Premier Chris Minns announced that the NSW Parliament would be recalled to fix our gun laws.

On 14th December two hate-fuelled men, a man and his son, killed 15 people, including 10-year old Matilda, as they, along with thousands of other Australians, were celebrating the first day of Hanukkah.

Amongst the myriad of questions asked was, rightly, how did these men come to be in possession of the killing machines that fired over 100 shots in less than six minutes. Gun laws will not completely stop radicalised hate-fuelled violence, but mass violent shootings are inextricably linked to gun culture and laws.

In NSW there are over 1.1 million registered firearms. Gun ownership around Sydney is increasing, and more people are buying multiple firearms on a single gun licence. Some individuals, who are not dealers or collectors, own almost 300 guns each. 41% of licensed gun-owners live in Sydney, Newcastle or Wollongong. Before the Bondi mass shooting there was no limit whatsoever on how many guns a person can own.

As a rural landholder, guns play a part in my life, albeit very limited, so I do get that guns can be a useful tool in limited circumstances. But this year I saw our politics captured by the gun lobby here in NSW, when Premier Chris Minns made a deal with the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party to enshrine a "right to hunt" in our laws.

A right to hunt is the step before a "right to bear arms" in the all-American way. The Greens worked very hard with a broad section of the community and together, we stopped those laws.

Our laws recognise that it is a privileged responsibility to own and use a gun; this was deliberately enshrined in our gun laws after the Port Arthur mass shooting which was the trigger for Australia taking the path we have, in



Screenshot from a video shared on social media showing Bondi shooting hero Ahmed Al-Ahmed tackling and disarming one of the gunmen.

contrast to America, where gun violence is normalised and children are not safe at school from gun violence.

So, when the Premier announced that as elected representatives one thing we could do in the wake of the Bondi mass shooting horror was to come back to an emergency sitting of Parliament and fix our runaway gun laws, I for one was ready.

In fact, I wrote to the Premier and indicated that the Greens stand ready to work with the Labor Government to fix gun laws in accordance with the recommendations of the Australian Gun Safety Alliance, which is made up of the nation's leading expert bodies when it comes to firearms safety.

Anti-protest laws

In the shadow of that moment of leadership, Premier Chris Minns couldn't help himself, he then declared he was also going to foist a whole new tranche of draconian anti-protest laws upon the people.

He, and now others, tried to link the pro-Palestine marches and rallies that have taken place across NSW and Australia, calling for the end of Israel's brutal unlawful genocide of Palestinian people and the destruction of Gaza and the anti-semitic mass shooting at Bondi.

Conflating protests for peace in the Middle East with anti-semitic radicalised gun violence on Bondi Beach is wrong and must be rejected. It is shock-jock divisive politics, the type that doesn't accept that the people hold the real power and as a leader you should recognise and embrace this. The type of politics that goes hand in hand with authoritarianism.

It was disgraceful of the Minns Labor Government to use the recall of the Parliament to introduce an omnibus bill, which conflated gun law reform and anti-protest laws. I moved a motion to

Respect of religious freedom defines a multicultural society

The unseemly rush to assign blame for the Bondi atrocity to the Australian Government has been as revealing as it has been unifying.

Barely hours had passed after the mass shooting before alleged war criminal and leader of the Israeli government, Bibi Netanyahu, accused our country of fostering anti-semitism because we dared to recognise Palestine as a state; a state recognised by 157 of the 193 states that make up the United Nations. I think he should just present himself at The Hague to be honest and save us his obfuscations.

The real tragedy was that the increasingly irrelevant Liberal opposition jumped on the Zionist band wagon at light speed in their hunt for the product differentiation. So grotesque.

There is nothing we want less than the divisions of the Middle East playing out on our beaches and on our streets. We don't want anti-semitism and we don't want Islamophobia either. We want a multicultural society which respects religious freedom; where people are judged by what they do, not on the basis of what extremists do in the name of their faith.

The Minns' Labor Government's anti-protest laws will not make NSW safer, nor will they go any way to addressing anti-semitism. They will make us less democratic and they are proof that the Minns' Labor Government is willing to make undemocratic laws based on lies and misinformation.

The day the laws were passed, I stood with a coalition of civil society organisations who announced that they would mount a legal challenge to these anti-protest laws on the basis that they impermissibly burden the implied freedom of political communication within the Australian constitution.

This is the second time this year the Minns Labor Government has introduced anti-protest laws and faced such a challenge. The first challenge the community won.



Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

there to die until a Samaritan (an enemy of the Jewish people at the time) stopped and helped him, carried him to a nearby village and found him medical care.

In Bondi, as two radical Muslim shooters killed and maimed tens of peaceful participants, bronzed Aussie surfers and Jewish parishioners ran and hid from the bullets; until a Syrian immigrant, a Muslim, ran into the fray, disarmed a shooter; wearing four bullets in the process, and saved dozens of lives. And although he stood with the shooter's gun in his hands, he chose not to kill the terrorist he had disarmed.

They called him a Jewish hero, but he is a hero beyond and above any notion of religious devotion or nationality. He is a great human being and a really welcome part of our multicultural society. His name is Ahmed al-Ahmed, he runs a fruit shop and has a couple of kids.

That's the narrative that should outline this event. The story of the Good Muslim, the Great Syrian immigrant who showed us what courage under fire looks like and remember that just because you profess a faith doesn't mean you are a good person, and because you were born somewhere doesn't make you a courageous hero.

By our actions may we be judged, and not by the actions of extremists who kill in the name of our prophets.

On the same Page

by Kevin Hogan MP

The terrorist attack in Bondi was a tragedy not just for Jewish Australians but for the whole Australian community.

We have seen Islamic extremism on the rise across this country for the last two

years.

Leading up to this attack we have had synagogues firebombed, people celebrating the October 7th massacre outside the Sydney Opera House, and anti-semitism on full display in demonstrations across the country.

The Prime Minister and this Labor government need to do much more on clamping down on racism. Everyone deserves to feel safe in our great nation.



Lismore landfill site open

It is great to see the Lismore tip landfill site restored after the devastating 2022 floods.

Re-opening the site is great for our local infrastructure and is saving ratepayers \$1.7 million a year that was being spent transporting waste to Queensland.

This is a major project in our community and is fantastic to see completed. Well done to the Lismore City Council for all your work.

Let's hope our 2026 year is a more positive year for our community and our nation.





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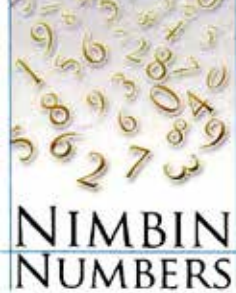
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OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY at 5.30am, SATURDAY at 6am
Phone 6689 1769

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Happy New Year everyone from all the team at NNIC. We hope the festive season brought you some joy, some rest, and you have come out of what can be a challenging period for many, relatively unscathed!

The annual Community Christmas Lunch

Over 200 community members came along to feast together on the 19th December.

Many thanks to all the Xmas fairies who made it happen: Rosie, Leanne and the gift wrapping crew; Morgan for decorating the stage and Santa's chair; Chandrika from Avedic for the big pot of food and Xmas music; Bev, Tash and CWA for the cakes; Gail and the kitchen crew Lilith Star, Paul McKeon, Rose Cubis, Vincent, Rachel, Bob and many more; Stefan for the falafels prep and cook; Darren, Sal, Chriskof, Saad, Chris O'Brien and Dave who helped with hall set-up and bumping in and out a ton of gear.

Thanks also to the many locals and businesses who donated gifts and cash towards the event, hampers and raffles: Nimbin Hills Real Estate, GreenBank, Nimbin Newsagency, Nimbin Farmers Market, Fingerprint T-shirts – Richard Lang, Hemp Embassy, Nimbin Building Materials, Nimbin Service Station, Nimbin Herbs, Nimbin Bakery, Nimbin Hotel, Nimbin Artist Gallery, Nimbin School of Arts, Rainbow Power Company, Gillian Scott, Tony Gibson, Aine, Paul Le Bars, Mandy (for the soaps). Special thanks to Leanne who made the beautiful children's quilt for the raffle, and to Nicole who did a lot of the heavy lifting in preparation for the event and on the day, and without whom none of it would have



Photo: Chibo Martinelli

happened. And to Ron our dedicated volunteer who also was a big part of making the event happen.

And of course, to our wonderful RFS Brigade and Captain Marcus for safely delivering Santa and his elves (Alison and Heidi) to us again this year. Many thanks to Santa himself for dropping by with so many wonderful gifts for about 50 children.

And finally, thanks to ALL OF YOU! who came along to share in the festivities and community spirit.

Women's Dinner 2026: performers and poster artists wanted

We are chasing fun, vibrant, cabaret style acts for the 2025 Nimbin Women's Dinner 6th March – paid gig. Contact: admin@nnic.org.au

We are also looking for original artwork for the poster – \$100 paid to the chosen work. Actual Intelligence ONLY please. Image only required – no text. The theme is 'Balance the Scales'.

Submissions/EOIs close 14th January.

Looking for work experience?

Perhaps you just want 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 an advantage. IT skills also helpful.

Community Workers at NNIC for help making your personal disaster ready plan if you need it.

Did you know?

We regularly advocate to policy makers about issues in our community, including:

- Disaster impacts and the NSW Landslip Policy
- Cost of Living Pressures
- Housing stress

In the past five years, we attended Parliament to give evidence at:

- Commonwealth Poverty Inquiry
- Commonwealth Inquiry into Disaster Resilience
- NSW Inquiry into the Reconstruction Authority Act
- NSW Loneliness Inquiry

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
Garrimaa 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 16th January. 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 16th January.

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

by Scott Sledge, president

Well, hello. We have entered another calendar year, and it seems the chaos and cruelty we saw prevailing in the world last year continues. Perhaps we will find a kinder, gentler year will begin in February, the pending Chinese Year of the Horse.

It seems that time continually speeds up, but I am told that impression is caused by information overload and our desire to process it all. Therefore, maybe we can all learn to ignore the tweets and notifications during periods of rest and relaxation. I will try.

Just when I thought we were doomed by Climate Change and I could only lie whimpering under a fan during hot December afternoons, a massive rainstorm came in to fill our tanks and water the gardens and forests. Much cooler too.

Now I learn that the US government has declared climate change is a hoax, so we can all relax and burn as much fossil fuel as we like without worrying. I have recently learned that seizing oil tankers is not piracy but good business practice.

Perhaps the Rising Tide people will change their tactics. In November this year about 8,000 protectors held

up the ingress of coal ships into the port of Newcastle and many concerned citizens were arrested by police for swimming and boating in the sea lane.

I suppose they will have to be fined to recoup some of the enormous costs of having the police out in force to guard the fossil fuel industry. We will find out in Court this month.

Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy

Closer to home, I joined others attending a consultation about water options in Lismore where we were not told anything except the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment, and Water (DCCEEW) are finalising the Water Supply Project that will implement the Strategy.

Details are available at: www.water.nsw.gov.au/our-work/water-infrastructure/regional-projects/far-north-coast-regional-water-supply-project

The options being considered by DCCEEW include:

- connecting the Tweed Shire and Rous County Council bulk water systems
- regional desalination plants – large-scale or modular
- using Toonumbar Dam to support town supplies, especially Casino
- linking to the Southeast Queensland Water Grid.

Heatwaves and more to come with global warming

by John Macleay

If you think summers in the Northern Rivers are hot now, just wait a decade and a bit and they'll be unbearable for most of that time.

And by unbearable temperatures, I'm not talking about the usual languid nights filled with humidity but something far more sinister: the inability of the human body to cope with temperatures and humidity so high that heatwaves become lethal for the most vulnerable, usually the very young and the very old, but also fit, able people who work or exercise out in the open in the heat of the day.

James Hansen, a former chief atmospheric scientist for NASA is one person who should know. Having spent a career modelling the atmospheres of other worlds, including being the first to find out that the clouds of Venus are basically sulphuric acid, he should know a thing or two about where our darling Earth is headed.

Having first raised the alarm about global warming as long ago as 1988 before a US Congressional hearing, Hansen could be forgiven for being a tad frustrated about the

glacial pace of change for politicians to do anything about the problem, including last month's climate talks debacle in Brazil that was COP 30.

Hansen and others say the ocean and many of the forested areas of the planet are no longer acting as carbon sinks, clouds are acting to reflect heat back down to earth and with it, humanity is now locked into at least two degrees of global warming.

Given that the world has already sailed through 1.5°C above pre-industrial age temperatures, the consensus among leading climate scientists is that we will reach 2°C warming some time in 2037, just 12 years away.

Two degrees warming means the collapse of all coral reefs, one of the nine major tipping points of the Earth's planetary systems, some of the others being the polar ice sheets at slightly warmer temperatures.

But Hansen says we can't rule out multi-metre rises – as much as five metres – in sea levels from these effects over the next 50 to 150 years. Two degrees warming means the economic collapse of North Queensland, an economy that is based on coral tourism.

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Flood mitigation
Dr Jai Vaze led the CSIRO's modelling of the Richmond River Catchment for potential flood mitigation options. In the November edition of the NGT, Luke Robinson wrote that Dr Jai Vaze said "Nothing could hold back the impacts of a 28th February 2022, 14.4 m flood in Lismore."

The National Emergency Management Agency plan would involve dredging a new channel from Richmond River to the ocean and construction of up to seven 'detention ponds' with flood gates.

Such solutions are both expensive and destructive to create, to say nothing of the costs to maintain and monitor. And then flooding occurs anyway once water overtops the walls.

The problem with these engineering solutions is that no thought has gone into nature-friendly solutions such as replanting the cleared forest areas in the upper catchments to slow run-off in heavy rain events, or fencing riparian stream banks to avoid siltation and bank collapse.

Nature Based Solutions are beneficial on many levels, such as retaining rain as groundwater.

NEC get-together

The NEC continues to support local projects such as the Rainbow Walking Track. The new birds sign there is a triumph. I suggest locals might direct visitors to



NEC volunteers at their end-of-year gathering.

explore the Track.

NEC is totally dependent on volunteers, and we celebrated such altruism with a get-together at the Nimbin swimming pool on 10th December. We admired the art applied by Julie DeLorenzo on the walls of the new toilet/change room facility there.

A raffle was drawn for one of the 20cm high statuettes being sold to support Benny Zable's quest to cast a life-sized statue of this artist/activist crusader who has called Nimbin home since the 1973 Aquarius Festival.

The prize went to Ann Jarman of East Lismore who has been active in the Fridays4forest campaign to save Northern Rivers wildlife. Congratulations Ann!

The NEC shop continues to be open daily for purchase of locally made products, good books and clothing. All proceeds go to protect our environment.

We are part of a new campaign to extend the wildlife protection zones

from the Coffs Harbour hinterland (when the Great Koala National Park comes into being) into our own public forests, mostly south of Casino, known as the Richmond River Koala Parks. The shop now stocks T-shirts with a koala image and the RRPK logo.

Timber from farm forestry

It is time to move away from colonial era attitudes (smash and grab) into farmed forestry in order to save our public lands from poor management by Forestry Corp and preserve habitat for hundreds of species of Australian wildlife threatened with extinction.

The publicly-owned logging corporation has been costing NSW taxpayers an average of \$22 million per year to destroy our public landscapes. This has to end!

I was disappointed to learn that Kyogle Council recently passed a resolution opposed to creating reserves such as the GKNP.

roulette, one where each bullet has the name of a coal or gas company but which all the barrels are loaded.

Joelle Gergis, an IPCC reviewer, who lives in the Northern Rivers, wrote an excellent essay last year for the *Quarterly Magazine* called 'Highway to Hell', with the subtitle 'Climate Change and Australia's Future'. It's compelling, if not scary, reading.

What's doubly scary is the increasing pace of climate heating and erratic weather. Australia's highly variable climate is already in a tug of war between the tropics and the cooler systems from the Southern Ocean.

Overlay this with collapsing ocean currents and weather systems that no longer play ball in the usual way and it's open season for a future Summer of extremes.

The nightmarish forecast of feedback loops of worsening weather systems could give rise to an Australia where average temperatures rise by between 4 and 7°C. But this is background warming. Maximum temperatures, Gergis says, often increase twice as fast as average conditions.

So, add between 8 and 14°C on top of your typical high-30s Northern Rivers' heatwave and the area becomes basically uninhabitable.

THE NIMBIN UNICORN



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street, Nimbin