

Rainbow Region Property Guide

Nimbin Hills Real Estate — the trusted experts in rural property

94 Hutchinson Road, Nimbin
3 bed, 2 bath, 10 car, 68 hectares
\$2,400,000

In a shifting property landscape, genuine expertise has never been more essential.

And when a property of true rarity comes to market such as this remarkable circa 1887 homestead, the importance of working with seasoned specialists becomes immediately clear.

Positioned with sweeping views of the iconic Nimbin Rocks, this distinguished residence embodies a masterful blend of heritage charm, absolute privacy, and real working capability.

Atop an elevated plateau and framed by radiant poinciana trees, the homestead presents timeless grace.

Wraparound verandahs, soaring ceilings, polished timber floors, and elegant French doors speak to its historic character.

Thoughtful contemporary renovations have gently modernised the home delivering refined comfort for the buyer

while maintaining its original beauty.

Beyond the home, the land itself is a story of possibility. Frost-free paddocks, gently undulating contours, creek frontage, and reliable spring-fed dams create an ideal setting for grazing or a multitude of agricultural ventures.

Significant infrastructure including a commercial-scale machinery shed and extensive workshop facilities enhances both functionality and future potential.

Guiding this exceptional offering is Nimbin Hills Real Estate, the region's top-ranked agency and long-standing authority in rural property.

Known for deep local knowledge, strong results, and exceptional personalised service, the team at Nimbin Hills delivers standout outcomes for sellers and unmatched support for buyers.

Strategic marketing ensures premium exposure, while



dedicated guidance helps clients navigate each step with confidence.

For those considering a sale, now is the perfect time to partner with the area's most trusted

market leader.

Contact the team at Nimbin Hills Real Estate to discover

how their expertise can help you secure the strongest result for your property.



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\$ CONTACT AGENT Jacqui Smith



Two Family sized homes with northerly views taking in all the icons. 4-car garage, 3 sheds, mango orchard and grazing. The Ridgeline House offers open-plan living, wide decks, galley kitchen, 3 ensuites, king master retreat, plus separate lower-level apartment for further income potential. Orchard House is a new 4-bed, 2-bath steel-frame home with large deck. Includes workshops, cattle yards, 38-panel solar, 7 dams. 8k Nimbin, 35 min Lismore.



Rural Living with Stunning
Views and Income Potential

32 Morton Road, Nimbin

37.5 Acres

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Samara Burcher



Located just 2.6km from Nimbin, this home offers stunning views of the iconic Nimbin Rocks. Recently renovated with high ceilings, bathroom, new roof, verandahs, carports, and sheds. The property features fertile creek flats, native plantings, three paddocks, and five income-generating Hipcamp campsites. Combining privacy, rural charm, and sustainability, it's ideal as a family home, hobby farm, or lifestyle retreat.



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Building trust in a complex market

Building a home is rarely just a financial transaction; it is the realisation of a long-term dream, often a family's defining asset.

Yet, in today's construction climate, the focus too often shifts to "volume" rather than "value."

For prospective clients, it is crucial to recognise that the cheapest quote on the table can often become the most expensive option once construction commences, hidden behind unforeseen variations.

As a local builder committed to quality, I believe it is time for a more transparent, partnership-driven approach.

The "low-bid" trap

It is tempting to accept the lowest tender, but I urge homeowners to look deeper. Often, unnaturally low prices are achieved by using transient, unverified trades or by creating tight, unrealistic and "invisible" cost allowances.

When these projects run over budget, you are left with the stress and financial burden of rectifying issues.

Value through transparency

True value in construction stems from transparency! A detailed, honest tender that allows for realistic costs from day one.

This means knowing exactly what has been allowed for, ensuring that when an occupancy certificate is issued, it reflects a home built for the long term, rather than just a quick handover.

The power of partnership

I encourage homeowners to seek builders who are willing to collaborate early, often



called Early Contractor Involvement (ECI).

Bringing a builder into the planning stage ensures that site challenges are addressed before they cause delays and that your budget is optimised for efficiency.

Building for the future

A good builder is not just someone who lays bricks and bails frames; they are a partner in ensuring your home performs for decades.

My team focuses on sustainable practices, modern design trends, and, most importantly, clear communication.

If you are looking to build, I encourage you to look beyond the initial price and focus on the partnership, transparency, and reputation of the builder.

Let's build something that lasts.

Call Josh on 0435-712-018 or email: info@ftbd.com.au

Rainbow Region Property Guide

Renewables in New Zealand

by Lizzie Buscaino

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, long before solar became commonplace, Rainbow Power Company was part of a wider grassroots renewable energy movement that extended well beyond the Northern Rivers.

One of those early connections was with SOMA Power in New Zealand, where Dave Mackay and Wardie Ward (pictured) were manufacturing small wind turbines and micro-hydro systems for off-grid homes.

"We were not part of Rainbow Power, but we were suppliers," Dave said. "At the time, solar was still expensive and not very efficient, so wind and micro-hydro were often the most practical solutions. People were moving back onto rural land and looking for alternatives to diesel generators."

Like Rainbow Power, SOMA Power grew from a hands-on, community driven approach to sustainability. Systems were designed and built by people who believed in renewable energy long before it was widely accepted or commercially viable.

As solar technology rapidly improved through the 1990s, panels became more affordable and reliable, and solar quickly



overtook small wind and hydro in Nimbin as the preferred local solution.

Rainbow Power played a key role in helping households transition as this shift unfolded.

Dave remained deeply involved in renewable energy, eventually helping develop a larger hydro project on the west coast of New Zealand's South Island.

The scheme now generates

1.7 megawatts of power, supplying around 1,200 homes and offsetting thousands of tonnes of carbon each year in a region once dominated by coal.

Recently, Sue and Dave Mackay visited the Rainbow Power office in Nimbin to reconnect and share stories from those early days, a reminder of the strong community roots behind today's renewable energy landscape.

Size matters



Smart solutions for tricky blocks and gentler surfaces



Not every job has easy access, flat ground and room for big machines, especially around Nimbin.

Many properties here are steep, tucked away, or only reachable by narrow tracks. That's where experience, creativity and the right equipment really matter.

Nimbin Landscaping specialises in working with hard-to-access areas and small-scale excavations that bigger operators often shy away from.

Whether it's shaping a garden on a steep slope, creating access paths, or preparing foundations in tight spaces, they know how to get in, get it done, and leave the place feeling better than they found it.

They also understand that concrete isn't always the right answer.

For many properties, more natural and breathable surfaces make better sense – things like gravel, decomposed granite, stone, steppers, timber permeable paving and compacted road base.

These options not only look more in tune with the landscape, they also allow water to move naturally through the ground, reducing run-off and erosion.

The approach is simple: find practical, long-lasting solutions that suit the land, and how you actually live on the property.

If you've got a tricky block or want alternatives to hard concrete everywhere, Nimbin Landscaping offers honest advice, smart problem-solving and thoughtful landscape construction designed for Northern Rivers conditions.



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Feature artist – Celebrating the gentle guidance of unseen worlds



by Linda Frylink Anderson

Katie Lloyd continues to give great joy with her feature exhibition at Nimbin Artists Gallery continuing until the end of February. She is a Nimbin-based artist and intuitive whose work explores womanhood, the divine feminine, and the natural world. Part of the Northern Rivers arts community, she creates intuitive, process-led paintings using watercolour, ink, and acrylics.

Here, her practice unfolds in real time, with paintings created, exhibited and shared in the same space. Deeply connected to land, place and community, her studio reflects the rhythms and spirit of its surroundings. Visitors are welcomed during open hours of Nimbin Artists Gallery to immerse themselves in an ever-evolving exhibition of original works, alongside fine art prints and her imagery brought to life on gorgeously colourful, soft cushion covers.

Nimbin Art Fair Nimbin Artists Gallery will be presenting the Annual Nimbin Art Fair opening on Saturday 4th April. Applications are now open for submissions. The Margaret McLaren Art Foundation is pleased to announce the sponsorship of two Art Prizes to be awarded at the 2026 Nimbin Art Fair: the Margaret McLaren Art Prize valued at \$3000 and the Emerging Artist Art Prize valued at \$2000.



2025 winners of the Margaret McLaren Established Artist Prize, John Whittaker and Charlotte Sayer.



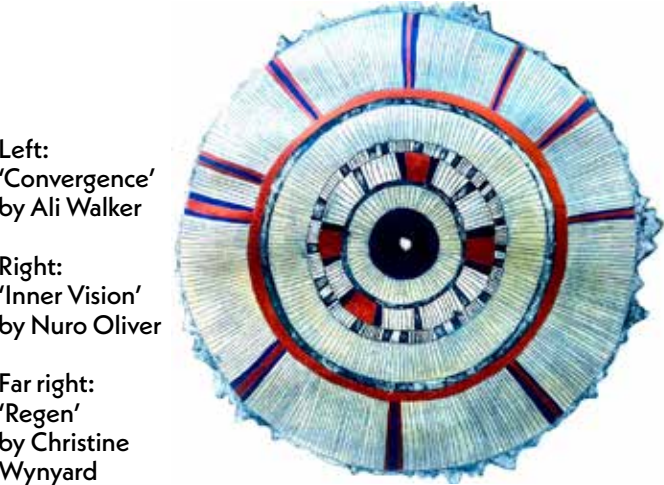
volunteer at the Nimbin Artists Gallery where she helped support both the community art scene and individual artists. Application forms are available at Nimbin Artists Gallery, 49 Cullen Street, open daily from 10am to 4pm. For more information, contact the gallery on 02 6689-1444 or email: nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com

Back to the garden and immersed in print



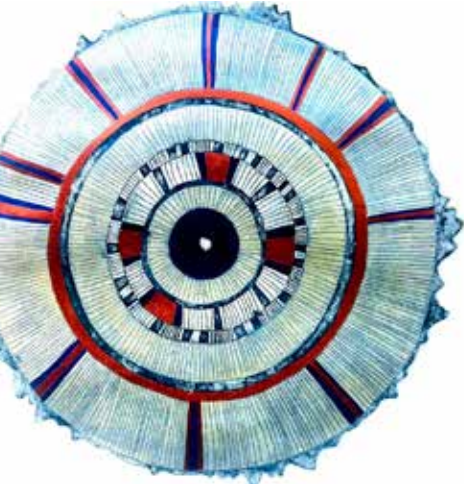
by Ali Walker

‘Back to the Garden’ is the latest exhibition in the members’ space at Blue Knob Gallery. Artists and creatives were invited to respond to themes of nature, regeneration and community – drawing inspiration from land, cycles, care and connection. The exhibition reflects a collective return to what sustains us, inviting viewers to reconnect with both the natural world and one another. The solo space at Blue Knob Gallery offers artists a dedicated platform to showcase their work, and the new exhibition, ‘Immersed



by Ali Walker

in Print’ is a collaboration between local printmakers Crystie Saulwick and Nuro Oliver. Together, they bring their shared passion for printmaking to the space, informed by their practice and teaching at the Yellow Door Studio in Nimbin, where they run hands-on print workshops rooted in creativity, process and community. After a fresh update, the café is now under new management. We’re delighted to welcome Bronte Colman and Kin Café to Blue Knob Gallery. We look forward to seeing you on the newly refurbished verandah – check our



Facebook page for updates. **Sound Journey with Amma** – Gentle Breathwork Flow and Sound Journey Mediation will be on Wednesday 4th February at 6pm in the gallery. Cost is \$20. Bring yoga mat and cushion. **Life Drawing** – In collaboration with Nimbin Life Drawing, we will be hosting life drawing sessions at the gallery starting on 18th February and hopefully continuing on the third Wednesday of each month, 5-7pm. Check the Nimbin Life Drawing facebook page for updates. A minimum of five participants is required, and the cost is \$25



per person. **Blue Knob Writers Group** meets weekly at Blue Knob Cafe on Sundays. For more info phone Alex 6689-7268 or Helen 0487-385-134. **Blue Knob Singers** meet on Thursdays from 4pm. Everyone is welcome, just turn up, or for more info call Peter 0458-487-865. Blue Knob Gallery and Café are open Thurs-Sun 10am-3pm, Sat 8.30am-3pm, Ceramic Studio open Thurs-Sat. Located at 719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock. Phone (02) 66897-449, Email: bkkgallery@iinet.net.au Web: www.blueknobgallery.com

Drawing the human form

by Lisa Carsley Dowall and Marty de Weerd

Life drawing is the practice of drawing the human form from a live model, usually nude, to study anatomy, proportion and movement. It builds observation skills and a deeper understanding of the body, and is valuable for artists at all stages. From cave paintings to ancient Greek sculpture, revived during the Renaissance by Michelangelo and da Vinci and later formalised in art academies, life drawing remains a core practice for many artists today. Nimbin and Blue Knob Life Drawing offers untutored, informal two-hour sessions. Our models are local Nimbin or Northern Rivers residents, along with experienced professionals passing through.



Drawing by Lisa Carsley Dowall also available for adult beginners. Similar to Nimbin and Blue Knob, the cost is \$25 per session, self-tutored and bring your own materials. Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting Jehu Burgoyne on 0427-545-398.

Grand gestures at Serpentine



by Corinne Batt-Rawden

‘Grand Gestures’ is an exhibition that celebrates scale, movement and bold creative expression. Bringing together large-scale works by artists from across the Northern Rivers, this exhibition invites viewers to experience art that takes up space – physically, emotionally and conceptually. From expansive paintings to works that embrace sweeping mark-making, immersive presence, and confident form, ‘Grand Gestures’ explores what happens when artists let go of restraint and work big. These works speak through energy, rhythm and intent, offering an engaging and dynamic experience for audiences. The exhibition runs until 7th February. **Upcoming Show** Serpentine is proud to present a triple showing



featuring Ariel Rowan, Maya Wilson and Dean Leslie Heaton. Opening night is Friday 13th February. Serpentine Gallery is located at 104 Conway Street, Lismore.

Community, care & ecological learning

by Aviva Reed

Grafton Regional Gallery presents ‘Lunar Biome’, an immersive ritual performance art show that invites audiences to slow down and enter a space where art becomes a tool for learning, connection and care. ‘Lunar Biome’ brings together notions of grief, imagination and play in response to the collective existential reckoning of the time that seeks new modes of collective meaning in a rapidly changing climate and its ensuing social uncertainty. This work responds to climate collapse and ecological loss through quiet participation. Drawing on eco-philosopher Joanna Macy’s *Work That Reconnects*, the project frames grief and uncertainty as essential parts of environmental awareness. By collectively acknowledging extinction, impermanence and



planetary change, audiences are guided toward a deeper understanding of interdependence between human and more-than-human worlds. Visitors are encouraged to reflect on cycles of life, death and regeneration, and on how cultural narratives shape



our relationship with the Earth. The exhibition opens at 3pm on Saturday 14th February, at Grafton Regional Gallery, 168 Fitzroy Street, Grafton. To see more, go to: graftongallery.nsw.gov.au

Local artist showcases cartoon at Behind the Lines

Behind the Lines is an annual cartoon exhibition that celebrates the talent of this country’s best cartoonists. Held at the Museum of Australian Democracy in Canberra’s Old Parliament House, it presents a unique time capsule of the year in Australian politics. In its 30th year, the exhibition is considered an Australian cultural institution and will tour the country in 2026. Holly says, “My cartoon was drawn after an experience at the polling booth in Byron Bay for the 2025 Federal election.” She describes how a Labor volunteer handing out the ‘how to vote’ cards didn’t appear to understand the preferencing system and provided incorrect information. She has



witnessed this at previous election. “Additionally, I was dismayed that Labor voters who strongly agree with a ceasefire and claim to be upset about the situation in Gaza were none-the-less complacent about Australia

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Walk, swim and paddle



by Peter Moyle
Nimbin Bushwalkers Club

With the warmer weather with us for another couple of months, we have organised some walks and paddle so we can grab a swim as well to cool off.

Our away camps/walks start in March and details will be available next month.

The Evans Head walk is always popular, the coastal vistas along with the varied coastline make this an enjoyable and not too strenuous day out.

We always have a refreshing swim afterwards before a stop in town for a drink or coffee. This is the only walk we schedule every year. Come along and you will see why.

Walks programme
Saturday 14th February
Goanna Headland at Evans Head
Leader: Peter Moyle
0412-656-498, please ring to register.
Grade 3. Some rocks to walk and track can be slippery; care needed at drop-offs.
Meet: 9.30am at Chinaman's Beach car park. Two beautiful coastal walks: a walk to Goanna Headland followed by lunch at the beach before a walk through Dirrawong Reserve to Joggly Point. Each walk about 1.5 hours
Bring: water, lunch and a hat. Good sturdy footwear needed.

Sunday 15th March
Minyon Falls, Nightcap National Park
Leader: Sha East 0421-653-201, please ring to book in. The full track has re-opened.
Grade 3. Some rocks and tree roots to walk over and track can be slippery; care needed at drop offs. There should be plenty of water on the falls and always an enjoyable walk. Comfortable but appropriate footwear for bushwalking required,
Bring: the usual, hat, lunch, water.
Meet: 9am at Minyon Falls picnic area.

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Fast tracking global warming

by Bernadine Schwartz

I'm not sure if anyone else questions what our role is here on planet Earth but I do! Every single species, whether it be an earthworm or a blue whale, and everything in between, all are in synch with mother Earth and contribute in one way or another.

Us? We can't be tamed! Our biography isn't a tale for the faint-hearted defining exactly what we are. We are a top predator, and deadly to all that stand in our way. And it has always come with a clear conscience. Not surprisingly our arrogance has led us to believe we're running the whole show, living on our world of terra firma, forgetting it covers only 29% of the planet's surface, while another world, far larger than ours is disregarded.

The oceans are where all life began and they are Mother Earth's engine room, covering 71% of the planet's surface, dictating the well-being of all that exists, and of utmost importance, regulating the climate. They're tireless contributors, currently storing up to roughly 40,000 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases, while absorbing 93% of emissions and 90% of the planet's excess heat from the atmosphere every day. They generate 50% of the world's oxygen supply, which wouldn't be possible without the assistance of the coral reefs.

These hotspots of marine life cover less than 1% of the planet's surface, giving back more than their fair share. And what a mighty job they do, protecting the coastline from storms and serving as a nursery ground and home to 25% of the planet's marine life, making their contribution crucial. So, it's deeply disturbing to learn these forests of the ocean are under attack for the fourth time since 2020. This may be their last battle.

Before the 1990s, mass bleaching was extremely rare. Not anymore. According to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, 84% of the planet's coral reefs are dying, caused by rising sea temperatures and acidification, that ultimately leads to bleaching.

Coral cannot survive without their companion, a symbiotic alga (*zooxanthellae*), the very thing that gives them their vibrant colours. So, when the sea surface temperature rises, coral expel the algae and begin to starve. The survival rate depends on the species of coral but those that do manage to recover are left less resilient, leaving them more prone to disease and may not reproduce for another one to two years.

In Southeast Asia, a staggering 95% of coral reefs are under threat and in



Devastating coral bleaching at Lizard Island, 2024. Photos courtesy Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation

the Caribbean 80% are already dead and buried. In the Indian Ocean the devastation is widespread, stretching as far as Tanzania, Kenya, Mauritius, The Seychelles and the west coast of Indonesia. South Pacific island nations aren't immune, including Fiji, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, French Polynesia and Kiribati, where 80% of the coral has vanished.

Closer to home is the Coral Triangle, situated in the Western Pacific Ocean, covering a vast area and a global epicentre of marine biodiversity known as 'the Amazon of the seas', surrounding the waters around Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste.

It's a treasure chest that's home to 76% of the planet's coral species and 37% of reef fish. The biggest jewel of all, is our very own Great Barrier Reef found in the aptly named Coral Sea, ranging in age from 8,000 to 9,500 years old.

In the last 25 years, 50 per cent of the coral in the Great Barrier Reef has died and there's no improvement in sight after several consecutive years of bleaching. The destruction is widespread, including large stretches of the coastline from Townsville to Cape York, covering more than 1,300 kilometres and it's a reoccurring problem. Last August, Lizard Island suffered the most, with up to 70% of the coral now dead. This is the severest and largest coral fatality ever recorded on the planet and the prognosis doesn't look promising, when the frequency of these events leaves little time for recovery and over time will inevitably affect the health of the entire ecosystem.

In our world, the economy is the engine room, where we put a price on everything, but we foolishly forget to put a price on nature. In the words of environmental accounts, "natural resources underpin the global economy, from pollinators supporting agricultural supply chains, to forests ensuring water quality and availability." Lisa Mandle, an ecologist at Stanford University puts it very bluntly, "if there were no nature, there would be no economy."



Global warming has been a work in progress, unhindered for decades, and the unbearable weight of our inaction is pushing the oceans to an inescapable point of no return, fast tracking global warming in the process.

Last October, for the first time in recorded history, mosquitoes were found in Iceland. Is there any need to say more? They say seeing is believing, but how much more do we need to see? There are those still biding their time sitting on fences, others hiding down rabbit holes and many who think the planet will just bounce back like a rubber ball.

I've searched high and low long enough to know with absolute certainty that we don't belong here! There's nothing remotely natural about our sleek, self-made world, that serves us and only us, founded on slaughtering and evicting nature at every turn. This isn't madness, this is suicidal!

Fungi - wrinkled rainbows

by Scott O'Keeffe

Have a look at this photo. I've seen this thing many times and wondered, "Is this animal, vegetable or mineral?"

None of the above. This thing is the leathery goblet (*Cymatoderma elegans*), a fungus. It's a member of the huge fungal group *Basidiomycota*, which consists of thousands of species of decomposers and pathogens. We know almost nothing about most of them, but a little bit about the leathery goblet.

The leathery goblet reproduces by means of tiny spores. These develop in the wrinkled folds on the lower surface of the funnel-shaped caps. The caps are the above ground part of the fungus, and the only part you'll be able to see without a microscope. They have short stalks and are up to 23cm tall. The caps have a leathery or sometimes woody texture. The goblets become woody when they desiccate in dry conditions.

Their interiors usually have a number of concentric brown, yellow, white or sometimes pink coloured bands that distinguish them from some other similar shaped fungi. You can see the coloured banding in the photo. The lower surface of the cap is paler with longitudinal ridges where the reproductive spores are produced.

As with other fungi, the spores are probably dispersed opportunistically by wind, water and animals.

The bulk of the fungus is made up of the hyphae; small thread-like structures that penetrate the dead wood on which the fungus subsists. The hyphae break down the wood, extracting nutrients and returning the detritus to the soil.

Leathery goblet fungus is found in moist forests, on dead and decomposing wood. Locally, they



Leathery goblet fungi

are found in rainforest, wet eucalypt forest and wooded landscapes where exotic trees are a primary component of the canopy or sub-canopy. The caps appear singly or in small clusters, always on dead wood on or close to the ground.

Like many other fungi in the *Basidiomycota* group, leathery goblets are important to nutrient cycling in forest ecosystems. Their funnel-shaped caps accumulate forest debris creating small niches that support algae and small animals.

I often see leathery goblets at regeneration sites dominated by camphor and privet. In forests where camphor laurel and large-leaved privet are prominent, leathery goblets colonise and break down dead limbs

and trunks of these exotics.

This helps maintain soil structure and improve water retention. It might also help break down chemicals in privet and camphor laurel wood that inhibit native plant germination and growth. Leathery goblets have certainly adapted to these environments, and bush regenerators should recognise the valuable role they play in repairing forest ecosystems.

In Australia, leathery goblets are found on the east coast from Cape York to Southern Victoria, in many types of wet forest. They are also found in PNG, Java, Indonesia, parts of Africa and South America.

Leathery goblet fungi are not toxic, but unless you're an invertebrate, they're not edible either.

New home for Resilient Lismore

Resilient Lismore invites the community to their upcoming community events including tool skills workshops, an open day at their new premises, and a community picnic day.

"People can now find us at 172 Casino Street in South Lismore. This great new space includes a workshop for making flood resilient cabinetry and running community tool workshops; space to train community volunteers for future floods; our popular tool library and our offices. Working from this great building in South Lismore is an exciting new chapter for us," Resilient Lismore executive director, Elly Bird said.

"We are kicking off 2026 with our first Tool Skills Workshop for the year over two afternoons on the 9th and 10th of February. Participants will learn how to use a variety of tools for their repair jobs and home projects in a supportive and fun environment," events coordinator Emma Newman said.

"On Friday 13th February from 3pm to 6.30pm we are inviting folks to come along

to our Open Day. Drop in, have a look around, chat with the team to hear about our projects and have a bite to eat with us."

On Saturday 28th February we are hosting a Community Picnic Day at Nesbitt Park, South Lismore from 3.30–7pm.

For bookings and more information visit the Resilient Lismore website: www.resilientlismore.org.au/ workshops-events or check their Facebook page.



Some of the Resilient Lismore Team at the new 172 Casino Street, South Lismore Hub

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Tues. 9th 10.30am nimBIN CHICKENS Join our community recycling project! Learn more about our plastic recycling project, check out our machines and turn plastic waste into useful stuff at our workshop space at the showground horse shed (every 1st Tuesday each month)
Thursdays 10.30am Spinners and Weavers
Sat. 14th Oil lamps learn how to quickly make emergency lighting with household materials plus make traditional clay oil lamps
Sat. 28th Cob basics Want to build an oven or wall panels? Get down and dirty with this hands-on ancient art
Community Tools library every Wed. & Sat. 10.30-2pm: For home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC Mon.– Fri. Basketballs and pump available with \$5 refundable deposit

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