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A passion project with heart

by Luca Barbieri

In the quiet, creative community of Nimbin, a small but meaningful project has been making tails wag for years. It's called 'Rhys' SuperDogTreats', and behind it is Rhys Walden-Goodlet, a young entrepreneur with a love for dogs, food and hands-on work.

The idea first took shape back in 2016, when Rhys began selling homemade dog treats from a table at the Nimbin Farmers Market. Fresh out of high school, he was looking for a way to keep learning, creating, and staying connected to the community.

What started as a simple idea quickly grew into a genuine project rooted in care, curiosity and dedication.

Rhys' interest in dog treats began during his high school food technology classes. "One day we made dog treats," he said. "I liked doing it, and our dog Tommy loved them."

From there, the idea evolved. With the help of his mum and a support worker, Rhys began researching what dogs can safely eat. They explored books, on-line resources, advice from vets, and even held small tasting sessions to see what dogs enjoyed most.

Over time, they experimented with a wide range of ingredients, from dried fruits and vegetables to nutrient-rich baked biscuits made with organic blueberries, turmeric and parsley. They even tested plant-based options for four-legged vegans.

For several years, the project ran in collaboration with the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, where Rhys had access to kitchen equipment, dehydrators and a supportive learning



Rhys Walden-Goodlet with his dog treats

environment.

The space offered much more than tools. It provided opportunities to build skills, confidence and independence, while being part of a vibrant community.

Then Covid arrived, and like so many small projects, things had to change. The collaboration came to an end, but Rhys didn't stop.

Today, he continues to produce treats on a smaller scale, focusing mainly on dried liver snacks, a favourite among dog owners and especially popular as training treats.

For Rhys, the project is about more than just selling treats. It's about learning, routine, responsibility, and understanding nutrition for both dogs and humans.

When asked how people react to SuperDogTreats, Rhys smiles. "People love my treats because they help them train their dogs. They also like the project and want to support it."

And when asked about the future, his answer is simple: "Yes, I want to continue. It makes me happy!"

Rhys' SuperDogTreats are currently available on Fridays in Kyogle, or in Nimbin town by appointment. Orders can be made directly, phone 0491-190-494.

Supporting this small local business means supporting passion, perseverance and a love for dogs that shines through every batch. And treat your dog while you're at it.

You can follow Rhys' journey on YouTube: Rhys' Super World.

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Nimbin cops to the rescue

by Ela Zerubbabel

A shout out and heartfelt gratitude to the fantastic efforts of Stephen Buchanan and Ryan Laver from Richmond Police District (Nimbin station) whose commitment saw them finding and bringing back my two grandsons (9 and 11 years old) and their father who were lost in Mount Nardi forest, making it out at around 2.30am.

Heartfelt thanks to David Richardson, Georgia Waddington and Kyle Gowans from NSW police, who were also involved in the search party.

The search was smoothly co-ordinated by Fergus Hayes from police search and rescue.

The team's willingness to venture into the forest at night on a difficult track with countless barriers, to bring them home safely, avoiding a long cold night without shelter, was a bloody brilliant effort.



Trees on corner to be removed if path goes ahead.

Billie Beasley-Payne on the existing shaded walkway.

Community opposes footpath plan

Residents of The Channon are calling on Lismore City Council to halt plans to construct a footpath on Standing Street, a proposal the community has consistently opposed since 2023.

In December, Council voted 10-1 in favour of the footpath, despite sustained objections from residents and local organisations.

In 2023 residents of every occupied house in the village signed a petition opposing the footpath as detrimental to the village. After continued objections, in 2024 Council commissioned a safety audit and argued the footpath was required due to pedestrian risk.

Residents say key questions remain unanswered, including why no safety audit has been conducted on other, more hazardous streets in the village, and how concreting over an existing grass verge improves safety.

The Channon Public School P&C has written formally to councillors stating it does not support the footpath. P&C president China Tisdall said the decision was unanimous.

"The P&C has met and it is unanimous that we do not support the proposed footpath at all. We believe it would reduce safety for our children and represents an unnecessary waste of

resources," Mr Tisdall said.

The project is funded under Transport for NSW Get Active program, intended to encourage active transport. Under Get Active guidelines, shade trees should not be removed.

"We don't need this path. Concrete paths are slippery in the wet, increase runoff and drainage problems, and this 1.8-metre-wide path would remove shade trees and permanently change the character of our green village."

Councillor Jasmine Knight-Smith has lodged a rescission motion, giving Council the opportunity to reconsider the decision.

"We are asking councillors to listen to the community this time and take our very real concerns into account," Ms Beasley-Payne said.

A community letter calling on Council to review its decision has been endorsed by a wide range of local groups, including The Channon Public School P&C, The Channon Pre-School Committee, The Channon Hall Committee, The Channon Resilience Hub, The Channon Tennis Club and The Channon Fishing Club.

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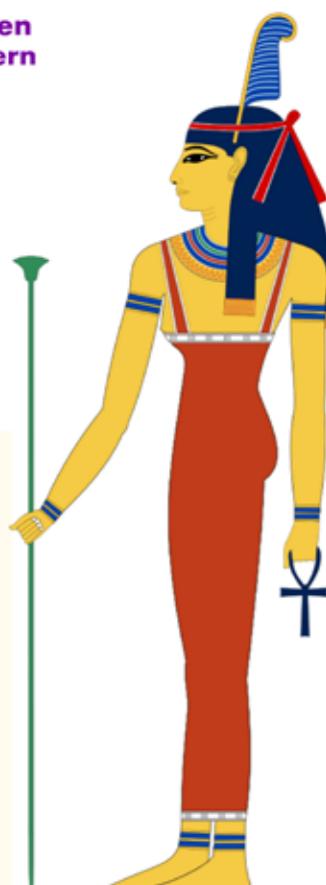
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Ancient Egyptian
Goddess of Balance: Ma'at

Why is our best and safest medicine still illegal?

by Michael Balderstone

Someone said to me, "MardiGrass has sold out, gone commercial." No place does rumours as well as Nimbin with our cannabis infused imagination in top gear most of the time.

Later I realised it will be because Oztrix are selling the tickets this year for the first time. They're a young Brisvegas crew who've been to MardiGrass before, love it and want to help us.

Ticket prices are still the same; haven't increased in a decade, I think. Oztrix has put a tiny surcharge on top. There's no sell-out, and I assure you we'll be as grassroots as ever.

We had our first MardiGrass meeting this year, totally unexpected but excellent. I ended up with a big list of jobs, but much is already in place. All the signs are for a good one with some legendary and interesting visitors from America coming, I hope.

Ethan Nadelman has been to MardiGrass years ago, and it'll be good to hear firsthand from him how it's going in Trumptyland.

He's the founder of Drug Policy Alliance, an influential non-profit organisation working to end the war on drugs, and he's had widespread backing from billionaire George



grow our own plants, and we're still not allowed to drive with any THC in our saliva.

As I write this, we're impatiently waiting for the NSW Premier to tell us the outcome from his 'expert working party' on whether he will allow us to drive if we have a doctor's prescription, similar to all the people taking Big Pharma opiates, like Endone.

It's bad enough that they are funnelling us all down the doctor's race to buy their legal and mostly imported hydroponic and irradiated mediweed. Now we are only allowed to drive if we use that medicine rather than our own. This all greed and fear-fuelled nonsense but the doctors are the new dealers and they have to protect their patch as I see it.

The general feeling is the prescription licence is better than nothing. We've all seen the highway patrol cars hanging around the village this summer with their little blue saliva collecting sticks, looking for likely transgressors of the new world order.

If Premier Minns decides not to let us drive legally there is talk of a march down the highway to his office. Might take a month or two but there are plenty of takers.

Other stuff happening, and in the pipeline

includes a \$1000 prize donated to the most creative and best message in the Sunday Rally. A terrific line up is already locked in for the Sk8 Park High Vibes stage, and any musicians who would like to play at MardiGrass should contact us soon please.

Best is to fill out the forms on: nimbinmardigrass.com under 'participate.' If you want to play music, or perform in other ways, or have a stall, or volunteer, send in an application on the website. Anything else you're keen to tell us or suggest please email: head@hempembassy.net

She has some sight difficulties, so if she can't make it, I'm thinking of inviting the smoking nuns from California, the Sisters of the Valley. They're not normal nuns, but wear habits, live in a community and put their faith in the healing power of cannabis.

For anyone still wondering why we are protesting with so much legal weed available these days, there are two big issues on the top of the agenda: we're not allowed to

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God You're Here and
more!)
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letter 'F'

Nimbin Numbers on the move

by Jayne Alleman

Well, it's been a hell of a ride, and I've enjoyed every minute of it (I have been in business for 23 years), but it's time to get in the slow lane and give up doing tax returns.

I would like to thank the thousands of clients since 2008 who have had faith, trust and loyalty in me over these years to do their tax returns.

I will be continuing my BAS and bookkeeping agency but from a different office in town, which is conveniently situated.

My present BAS and bookkeeping clientele have advised me that they will to continue being my clients, which means I have a decent client base already. I thank them for their faith in me and my work.



I will also be doing volunteer work for certain not-for-profit agencies around town, playing bowls, swimming, reading and watching Judge Judy.

I wish all the thousands of ex-tax clients a lovely life and a beautiful day.

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AI-driven cultural hegemony

In the late 1920s, an Italian named Gramsci developed a theory called cultural hegemony.

Gramsci was searching for a reason that could explain why people voted contrary to their own interests and often strenuously maintained and worked for a system which exploited them and enriched a small minority at their expense.

Over the years his concept was shortened to the adage: ruling class, ruling culture. The novelists George Orwell and Aldous Huxley developed these ideas in their dystopias as they elaborated the means by which ruling elites control and subjugate the populous.

However, neither divined the complexity, specificity and universality of the mechanism of control that would emerge in the 21st century during the computer age.

Neither for a second believed that people would happily offer up all their personal information; their fears and prejudices, their job titles, their earnings... even the make-up of their meals to unscrupulous operators who would sell those details on.

The benign outcome of this was when we even mentioned goods and services anywhere near our devices... adverts for these items, seemingly by magic, suddenly appear on our 'feeds'. Annoying but easily ignored.

Unfortunately, one of the services we get is political representation. Our governments are formed by the parties we buy into, and these parties determine whether we want a system that respects the law and our right to our day in court or wants to return to a period where the ruling classes have no such restriction on their power.

This seems to be increasingly the nature of the new divide.

The new player in this hegemonic space is a real time AI-driven platform called Palantir. This US/Israeli company has created a flagship product called Gotham which allows government agencies, the



Paint or die

by Jimmy Willing

As I sit at my work bench painting my picture of the old Richmond River High School, I'm set to thinking of my own school days and my eccentric art teacher Mr Burke who was irreverently nick named Bushy.

Bushy was a lovely old man, however he could not control his class and fell prey to the bad deeds of a bunch of bad apple brats of which I was one.

There were some teachers/wankers/bashers that deserved tooth and nail what we gave out to them, but not the hapless Mr Burke.

Mr Burke was a soft easy target and now that I'm old I do feel ashamed of what we did to him. The endless

supper I can hear his funny mantra in my head. The old school house went up in flames last year and its clean up and demolition are now almost complete.

As I work at recreating the old school in paint, I

can hear the rumbling of

the machinery crushing up

the last of it and loading the

rubble into the trucks that

thunder down my street.

It's a crazy world, I came back home to paint a picture of local legend, Hector the crocodile and I now find myself chronicling the last days of North Lismore as we know it.

It's all very perplexing, but at the end of the day, "Mine is not to reason why, mine is

but to paint or die."

It's this program that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is using to monitor the citizens of their country, notably Minneapolis; by using it to racially profile people at the fringes of society, enter their homes, schools, hospitals and kidnap them without warrants or any judicial overview whatsoever.

This is the real time dystopia that Orwell was searching to describe but he failed to see how complex, integrated and all pervasive the systems would become.

It can be challenging to stay in harmony within myself and with others. This isn't simple or easy, but I do know that my weekly visits to the Nimbin GROW grassroots mental health group help.

It helps to share what is in my heart and mind with others who are committed to understanding me, themselves and others. The world can feel very unfriendly so being with friendly people who help me keep my balance, is medicine for my soul.

The real horror of this is that 20% of people across the globe are so controlled by their Palantir-driven feeds that they sing the praises of the lawless gangs and believe they're actually under attack from their nannies, their gardeners and other minimum wage compatriots with a different skin colour.

We are just as under attack from Palantir as the people of the US. Do yourself a service and make sure you go off social media for a week before any election. They will try to manipulate your vote... they know your fears and if the Palantir-owning classes can scare you at the right time with the right piece of misinformation, they will get you voting for people who don't have your interests at heart.

The language has been updated to be more inclusive and accessible, and there are now two versions of the program

available. One version of the book is purely secular for those who prefer not to engage with references to a faith-based content.

The other version contains both the secular program plus faith-based options. Both versions can be used together in groups. GROW groups have people with many different spiritual frameworks and everyone is welcome, from atheists to agnostics to devout followers of different faiths. Some groups have wiccans, Bahais, and even the odd Jedi Knight!

You can join the Nimbin GROW group face-to-face, or online via Zoom. The GROW Group is now in our third year and we enjoy wonderful, honest, friendships. We support each other to improve our mental wellbeing by practising and sharing GROW's unique

program.

GROW's program is written from lived experience of what has worked for people to improve their mental wellbeing. It's not everyone's idea of a good time, but for those of us who love to talk about the deeper issues of life, and like this structured way of working together, it has a profound impact.

It has become a weekly activity for supporting our wellbeing.

GROW is free, anonymous, confidential and meets every Wednesday from 12.30 to 2.30pm in the dance studio at Nimbin Community Centre.

There are also weekly groups in Lismore, Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Mullumbimby (women's group) and online. For more information call Jo on 0483-888-844 or visit: grow.org.au

Timing, and future advocacy. Member participation is warmly encouraged.

The Chamber recently joined the community in recognising the vital contribution volunteers make across the village.

On Tuesday 31st March at 6pm, Nimbin Interagency will host a volunteer awards night to honour those who work behind the scenes to make our village the special place it is. Nomination details are available at: nimbin.org.au

The Chamber continues to work closely with Lismore City Council during a period of significant internal restructuring.

Council has invited the Chamber to review and comment on a draft Economic Development Strategy, alongside discussion of the current Destination Management Plan, which has a stronger tourism focus.

Together, these provide an important opportunity to shape how Nimbin is represented and supported within broader regional strategies.

Accommodation remains a key economic driver for the village. The Chamber is promoting an accommodation directory via: nimbinvillage.au – a local platform featuring

business profiles, events, community groups and a local marketplace.

We provide free clothing, bedding and kitchenware to rough sleepers as needed, provide free clothing to local preschools when requested and purchase new winter clothing and bedding to distribute for free to those in need during winter months.

We post regular donations of quality clothing to remote op shops, eg Fitzroy Crossing. We also keep on hand emergency clothing supplies for community members in need, and collaborate with Nimbin Youth when requested to supply free bedding, clothing etc to youth in need.

Finally, all monies raised after expenses are directed back into the community.

Thank you to everyone for hosting the first Sewing Repair Day. It was a great success. Sharing the space and chatting all things sewing with wonderful creative people who love up-cycling and restyling.

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

The next session is Friday 20th February. Come along and bring a project if you have one.

For all general enquiries please phone: 0457-363-925 or email: secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com

Practising social cohesion in tough times

by Jo Young

As watching the news becomes more bizarre and distressing, it feels like hard work to not go crazy in a crazy-making world.

I ask myself, what can I do to rival dehumanisation, 'othering', and build hope in my community?

It can be challenging to stay in

harmony within myself and with others. This isn't simple or easy, but I do know that my weekly visits to the Nimbin GROW grassroots mental health group help.

It helps to share what is in my heart and mind with others who are committed to understanding me, themselves and others. The world can feel very unfriendly so being with friendly people who help me keep my balance, is medicine for my soul.

It is the plurality of people, united by practising intentional friendship, growing our understanding of each other, and learning how to navigate life's challenges together that makes the GROW movement so unique.

The GROW grassroots mental health core program was last updated 15 years ago, and in February 2026 updated and modern Blue Book – the GROW program will be launched, the culmination of a four-year, user-led project gathering lived experience input from members all over Australia, New Zealand and Ireland.

This seems to be increasingly the nature of the new divide.

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Page 6 The Nimbin GoodTimes February 2026



'Old School Flying Lesson', acrylic paint on canvas



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A special acknowledgement goes to parents running businesses while juggling childcare and family responsibilities over the Christmas-New Year period. The effort required to balance work, family and community during this time deserves recognition.

Together, these provide an important opportunity to shape how Nimbin is represented and supported within broader regional strategies.

Looking ahead, the Chamber remains focused on balancing day-to-day advocacy with longer-term projects that strengthen the village economy, culture and visitor experience.

Next committee meeting: Thursday 19th February, 5.30pm at Nimbin Bush Theatre.

Results will help guide marketing priorities, event

To improve safety and resilience, the work includes road height increases between 150mm (15cm) and 450mm (45cm) in select locations.

Assessments show these changes are unlikely to alter existing stormwater flow or affect nearby properties.

The road will remain open under single-lane throughout the project, with stop-slow traffic control in place as needed. Please allow extra travel time.

We thank the community for its patience as this work progresses. Visit lismore.nsw.gov.au for updates.



nimbingoodtimes.au

Busy start to 2026 for CWA

Nimbin CWA doings

by Sue Stock

After the holiday break, Nimbin CWA reopened its doors on 14th January with a nutritious and affordable lunch of pumpkin focaccia plus two varieties of home-made cake, much appreciated by all.

The op shop was in full swing, receiving donations and selling lots of very low-priced and quality clothing and bric-a-brac to happy customers.

Our op shop is pretty amazing and provides support to our Nimbin community and others.

We collaborate with Nimbin Neighborhood Centre to provide material aid such as blankets, clothing and kitchenware for those in need, on a daily