



Women's 3rd division vs Lennox Head in 2023. Photos: Nikki @ Photo Fables

by Liam Terry

It's more than a club, it's our home ground. You can feel it when you walk into the ground on a Saturday morning. It's the sound of kids laughing as they chase a ball, the friendly queue

at the canteen, and the sight of green shirts moving as one around the pitch. This is the Nimbin Headers. It's where our village comes to life. We're a club built by this town, for this town. Our success, the Championships, the grand final victories, and of

course, lifting the ANZAC Cup, isn't just a list of trophies. It's the proof of years of community effort, a clear sign of what we can achieve together at every level. That success has lit a fire, showing every young player in Nimbin that the path from the pitch to holding up silverware is real, and it's theirs

to take. But a club like ours doesn't run on silverware alone. It runs on people. It's the supporters and volunteers in the canteen serving up a hot pie and chips after a 3-3 draw, the local business that sponsors the jerseys, the committee member painting the lines, and the coach who shows up early. Every single one of them is a key player in the club's successes. Now, we're ready to defend our titles and chase new ones. We need you to help us write the next chapter. **For the players:** Do you want to be part of a winning tradition? In a team that plays for each other and celebrates as one? We need your energy and commitment to keep the (not built yet) trophy cabinet growing. Whether you're new to the game or a seasoned player, come and earn your place in a side that knows how to entertain the best supporters in the land. **For the parents:** We know you want a positive, winning environment for your kids, a place to be active, make friends, and learn about teamwork and resilience. That's the culture the club's successes are built on. Bring them down to join a community that will encourage and cheer them on every step of the way. **For the helpers:** The true engine room needs you. To compete in championships and cups, we need coaches to guide, volunteers to organise, refs to ref and hands-on deck to keep the Headers thriving. Your contribution is what makes every match day possible and this builds the heart of this Unique club. The new season is almost here, and the feeling is growing. Don't just watch from the sideline, be a player, a coach, a referee or a volunteer. Come down. Get involved. Be a Header.



Players needed to form junior competitive football teams

by Mark Wright

A few years back, a young Headers team formed from 11- and 12-year olds to make up the numbers required for 11-a-side Junior Competitive Football. In Grade 12 they came last, but had a blast and returned year after year, steadily improving as a team and as individuals. By Grade 15 they had topped Division 2 and matched it with the best in the region in Division 1. Now as young adults, most of these fine young women and men continue enjoying playing senior football. This could be you or your child! There is so much to be gained from a footballing journey: comradery, mateship, friendship, meeting new people, also skills to be learnt and developed, footballing and more, how to win and lose with grace, being part of a team working towards a common goal, leadership qualities. These are all character-building attributes that help form well-rounded capable young adults, while being a fun way to maintain physical and mental health. The Nimbin Headers are looking to create junior competitive teams, and any gender aged 12 to 16 can join and play. Don't miss out, be part of something great that is good for mind, body and soul. Be part of the greatest little club around and start your footballing journey with a mighty Nimbin Headers team.

Nimbin Crossword solution

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Gaelic football challenge

by James Alexander

Get down to the Nimbin Headers field on Saturday evening, 7th February for the inaugural Nimbin Cup, the Gaelic Football challenge between the Nimbin Demons AFL club and the Nimbin Headers soccer club. What is Gaelic football? Its neither Aussie Rules nor is it soccer, but being played with a round ball that can be handled by all players, it shares elements of both sports. This ancient form of football was traditionally played by the Gaelic people of Ireland and western Scotland, and was brought to this land in the 19th century, before the advent of Aussie Rules football. Having never played it before, the sport is new to both the Demons and the



Headers, so it promises to be an intriguing contest in which neither team has the clear advantage. Players have been learning the game under the instruction of local Irishman and Gaelic footballer, Jerone McMurray, and the contest will be umpired by a seasoned professional from Brisbane. The Demons are pretty sure of themselves, having stormed back into the Northern Rivers AFL competition last year, chalking up their first win after 15 years of recess; and the Headers are displaying their usual premiership-winning confidence. But who are the real sporting Kings of Nimbin?

Toad war - a kids story

by Stuart McConville

Brevis wiped the sweat from his beaded brow. It's a tough life for a Tusked Frog when you have to stare down a full-size adult male cane toad, even if you do have sharp tusks that work pretty well in battle. As luck would have it, this particular toad wasn't really interested in fighting. Brevis had been sent out on toad patrol to try to fend off the on-going invasion of his family's pond by these stupid but dangerous amphibians. In truth, they knew they were fighting a losing battle. No matter how many toads they saw off in a night, there were always one or two that slipped through the cordon to avail themselves to the pond, quickly mating and spawning their long sinuous trails of pitch black eggs. Their breeding potential was relentless, and while his family wasn't slow in reproducing, these ugly idiots were prolific. Unfortunately that wasn't the worst of it. No matter how hard they tried they could not teach all their young froglets to abstain from eating the trails of sticky eggs or the resultant toad poles. Food was in scarce supply and they were all very hungry, so occasionally a young Tusked Froglet would die as a result of consuming the poisonous toad spawn. The Tusked Frogs needed help and it was obvious that if they didn't get it soon their days were numbered. Brevis had no choice but to call in re-enforcements. Many other species of frogs at their pond were also suffering at the claws of these wary invaders. Individually their tribe's efforts were wasted, but together they could possibly raise an army large enough. Brevis and his family began the mystical process of calling in the council of all frogs, a gathering that was only known in froglore and myth. With ancestral knowledge and instinct combined, their calls stirred the other frog tribes to a battle council. The following night, all gathered to discuss their tactics at the flat rock at the end of the pond. The array of frogs was a sight to behold, many species had answered the ancient call. There were Striped Marsh frogs, Eastern froglets, Rocket frogs, Motorbike frogs, Banjo frogs, Whistling frogs and many more. All took turns to speak on how to rid the pond of Cane toads. A Perons frog suggested salting the edge of the pool so the invaders couldn't get to the water. "But that would also prevent us," said Brevis. Another frog suggested they all build a wall with

sticks so the stupid invaders that couldn't even hop would be excluded. T his idea was discussed at much length but ultimately given up on as it would take too long and then the humans would knock it down anyway. A very old wise Green Tree frog then spoke up in his deep croaky voice: "The humans may be the answer, I lived in their house for many years and they fed me and loved me. I think they'd love to help us, we just need to ask." "How can we ask?" said Brevis, they don't understand any of our languages. The old frog gave this some thought. "Hmm, perhaps not, but I understand theirs. Together with all of our different voices, we can build a song that will sing in their language." So for the next week, all the families sent their best caller to learn the language of the humans and call out together a song that would surely get the attention of the humans. With all their different pitched voices it wasn't too hard to recite the song the old Tree frog taught them. "We live in your pond and we sing every night, here is the story of our perilous plight. Since the toads have come our families are dying, despite all of our efforts and tireless trying,

We can't beat the toads that came down your track, so please help us before we are all dead and black Get rid of their eggs, long before they hatch, trap all the toad poles and send them all back, To their ancestors in some far-off land, or just kill them humanely, we will understand. The toads you can catch, they are really dumb, just shine a light and use a finger and thumb. Plant long grasses around our pond, so we can hop through but the invaders will stop." For weeks, the frogs repeated this song and the humans got the message loud and clear. The pond was protected and the frogs rejoiced. Now their young ones would survive to sing another year. Brevis and his family were made the protectors of the



Large cane toads collected in the Kimberley region Photo courtesy Sydney Uni

pond, and once a year the council met to continue their vigilance. Unfortunately the old Green Tree Frog passed away, so no more messages could be made for the humans, but they never forgot to listen every night just in case. Toadpole traps are available from: <https://watergum.org/tadpoletrapping> Stuart McConville runs Pool Solutions Waste Water and Composting Toilets. Phone 0427-897-496 Web: www.poohsolutions.com Email: poohsolutions@gmail.com

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