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## New skatepark ready to Rumble

(L-R): Alex Anasson (CEO of Skate Australia), Matt Wilson (CEO Pacific Action Sports), Ella Ledingham (Skate Australia athlete), Ollie Macdonald (Skate Australia athlete), Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg, Alicemay Abagian (Skate Australia athlete) and Sam James (36 Chambers) at the Lismore skate park.

Lismore will take centre stage in Australia's skateboarding scene this April when it hosts Rumble on the River, an official Skate Australia Olympic pathway event.

Running from 16th to 19th April, the competition is a key stop on the Rumble Pro Tour, and one of only four national events to feature both Street and Park disciplines, showcasing Lismore's world-class skatepark as a premier venue for rising talent.

As part of Skate Australia's recognised Olympic pathway, competitors at Rumble on the River will earn points towards national team selection, an important stepping stone for athletes working toward future Olympic Games. Lismore City Mayor Steve Krieg said securing an Olympic pathway event showcases the city's ambition and its emergence as a destination for top-tier sporting events.

"Our skatepark is one of the best in Australia and now sits alongside Lismore's growing suite of world-class sporting facilities. Hosting an Olympic pathway event is a proud achievement for our city and reflects the success of our investment in Lismore's future," he said.

"Events like Rumble on the River also showcase a city that has turned challenge into opportunity. Lismore is demonstrating a national model for how resilient cities are built, through community strength, clear vision and smart investment. We are looking forward to delivering a fantastic event for the city."

Rumble on the River will put Lismore on the national stage, with livestreamed competition showcasing elite athletes, drawing visitors to the region and celebrating the city's passion for sport and community. It will also form part of Council's upcoming Youth Week program, where Council facilities will support a range of youth activities.

Rumble general manager, Matt Wilson said he is incredibly grateful to Lismore City Council for the opportunity to host this event in Lismore.

"The park itself is absolutely world class and I know the skaters love it! I also want to acknowledge and thank the local community for welcoming us and we look forward to spreading the stoke as far and wide as possible. Super excited to get this going in April," he said.

Alex Anasson, CEO of Skate Australia

said that Lismore skate park opening last year has been a welcome addition to the skateboarding landscape.

"Skate Australia is so excited to be working with Rumble and Lismore City to provide skaters of all ages an opportunity to compete alongside some of our nation's best. We can't wait for our athletes to showcase their skills during Rumble on the River," she said.

More than 150 competitors from across Australia are expected to compete across multiple divisions including U9, U12, U16 and Open categories for both men and women. The event also features a significant \$20,000 in cash and prizes, split equally across Street and Park, with equal prizemoney for men and women.

High-profile skaters will headline the four-day event, showcasing elite talent while also inspiring emerging athletes.

Spectators can enjoy live music, food trucks and a festival atmosphere across the weekend, with the Rumble Roadshow offering learn-to-skate clinics and pro demonstrations for all ages and abilities.

For more information, updates and registration details, visit: [www.therumble.com.au](http://www.therumble.com.au)

## Time to nominate our wonderful Nimbin vollies

The Legends of Nimbin – Volunteer Awards Night is happening on 31st March at the Bowlo, and nominations are now open.

Legends of Nimbin isn't a competition. It's a relaxed and quirky celebration of the people who keep this village going and without whom Nimbin wouldn't be Nimbin.

It's not a public nomination process, but any member of a local organisation can nominate a volunteer from any organisation.

There is also a group award and an "Outlander" award for those generous souls who volunteer without being formally attached to an organisation.

You can nominate as many people as you like. Nominations close on 17th March. Nominate online at: <https://nimbin.org.au/legends> or pick up and return a hard copy form at the Nimbin

Neighbourhood Centre.

Please pass this on to your members and nominate, nominate, nominate.

### More than an awards night

The Legends evening is part of the wider Nimbin Community Organisations Interagency initiative, a community-led effort bringing organisations together to strengthen volunteering, improve communication and share resources.

We're also working with Nimbin Central School to help students connect with community organisations, discover volunteering opportunities, and gain skills and work experience along the way.

The volunteer website ([nimbin.org.au](http://nimbin.org.au)) is now live as a central hub for organisation profiles, volunteer roles, news, meeting minutes, a shared events calendar and a Volunteer Honour Roll.

Groups without their own website can use it as a simple public profile to share information and resources.

Local organisations are encouraged to complete the Organisation Needs Survey on the website to help map volunteer roles, skills and training needs.

Volunteer stories are also being shared on air through regular interviews on Nim-FM Down the Pothole with Andrew, every second Saturday, 10am-12pm.

We've been visiting committees to share the project and the awards and are always happy to come along to other meetings if helpful – sometimes a few words in person work better than written updates.

If you'd like help creating your organisation profile on the website, or need support with nominations, just get in touch: [volunteer@nimbin.org.au](mailto:volunteer@nimbin.org.au)

# When community and council work together



by Abbey Hodson

In early February, The Channon village achieved something worth celebrating.

Following sustained advocacy and thoughtful due diligence by local residents, and further consideration by Council, a rescission motion on the proposed Standing Street-Mill Street footpath was supported and the footpath will not go ahead.

This outcome reflects the community's commitment to constructive engagement and Council's willingness to pause, reconsider and ultimately respond to the clearly expressed concerns of residents.

We would like to acknowledge that Council's original intentions were well-meaning. The funding was secured through a Get Active grant, with the stated aim of supporting community health, walkability and active lifestyles.

Our community is already highly active, and over time it became clear that this particular proposal would not enhance that goal but instead disrupt daily lives and require the removal of valued mature shade trees.

What ultimately fell short was not intent, but process, specifically, early and meaningful community consultation, which is a requirement of the grant

guidelines, along with the retention of existing shade trees wherever possible.

For those who were not closely following the issue, the community's opposition was not to safety improvements, but to how those improvements were being pursued.

The key issues raised by residents and the P&C included:

- **Insufficient community consultation at the outset:** The grant application was progressed without early engagement with residents. Later opportunities for feedback were limited in scope, timing, and reach, making it difficult for Council to hear the full breadth of local knowledge.

- **Mismatch between the proposal and actual usage patterns.** Only one child currently walks up Standing Street to school, using the existing grass verge and tree cover.
- **Potential creation of new risks:** The proposed pathway would intersect with a loading zone and terminate near the General Store petrol bowser, an area with known visibility and traffic issues.

- **Environmental and practical considerations:** Many residents were concerned that the proposal involved a two-metre-wide concrete path along the existing green verge, significantly altering the character of Standing Street. The grassy verge and mature shade trees are central to the village's identity and provide natural shade and buffering from the road.
- **Throughout the process,** the community undertook its own due diligence. Residents repeatedly offered constructive alternatives, including traffic



calming and speed-reduction measures, providing Council with options that addressed safety concerns without compromising community trust or Council's integrity.

Ultimately, Council's decision to listen to the community and reconsider the decision was a great example of democracy in action.

### Celebration

To mark this moment, the community will be holding a celebration at The Channon Tavern on Saturday 7th March at 6pm.

This will be an opportunity to: celebrate a positive example of community action for the common good, thank councillors for listening and responding to community concerns, and reinforce the strength and engagement of our village

A strong turn-out will send a clear and constructive message: when communities and councils work together better outcomes are possible for everyone.

All residents are encouraged to come along.

## Byron Council votes for rail-trail

The decision by Byron Council to rescind the motion from 2023 which supported a Multi-Use Rail Corridor (MURC) between Byron Bay and Mullumbimby, will disappoint a large section of the community who need better non-road public transport.

Local organisations are encouraged to complete the Organisation Needs Survey on the website to help map volunteer roles, skills and training needs.

Volunteer stories are also being shared on air through regular interviews on Nim-FM Down the Pothole with Andrew, every second Saturday, 10am-12pm.

We've been visiting committees to share the project and the awards and are always happy to come along to other meetings if helpful – sometimes a few words in person work better than written updates.

If you'd like help creating your organisation profile on the website, or need support with nominations, just get in touch: [volunteer@nimbin.org.au](mailto:volunteer@nimbin.org.au)

and the Arcadis Report, commissioned by council in 2019, which stated that both rail with trail would provide the best financial outcomes (\$1.50 returned for every \$1 invested).

In addition, the 'world's first' Byron Solar Train already has an established three km service.

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd, which has been working with the Northern Regional Railway Company (NRRC) for almost five years, applied for a rail authorisation to fix the tracks and run trains on our Northern Rivers line, from Lismore and through Byron Shire to Yelgun which, if approved, would override this council decision.

"We are convinced that having both a regular, climate friendly, all-weather rail service and the potential of a recreational bike/walking path in the corridor will provide the very best win/win outcomes for our region,"

Lydia Kindred said.

"We are determined to continue with this project's four stages, the first being from Byron Bay to Mullumbimby.

"Finding the funds to move forward with this state significant rail project is now our focus. This short-sighted decision by council attempts to counter what we have found through numerous surveys of individuals (over 85%) and businesses (over 90%) that overwhelmingly support regular passenger train services along our 72kms of track.

"Losing this crucial infrastructure will seriously harm the future sustainability of our region, so we are putting together a package for local investors who see the incredible benefits of rail for residents, visitors, the environment and our local economies," Ms Kindred said.

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# Why MardiGrass?

by Michael Balderstone

So it's 34 years now that we've been protesting the cannabis laws with MardiGrass, and the world then and now are like different universes.

We were a bunch of outsiders who really just wanted to be left alone to grow and smoke weed, instead of getting endless police harassment, on the ground and in the air.

Millions of dollars have been spent on policing weed in Nimbin, which did nothing to stem the flow, but put a lot of people in gaol, and gave many more criminal records.

We were the stoned idiot hippies to people then, carrying on about pot being good medicine. We were a joke to most, and still are to many; the stigma and judgement remain strong.

Back then the doctors said cannabis had no medical value, and they still say the same today. They have their own rules and requirements for deciding what's a medicine or not, and weed has never jumped through their hoops.

However, they are now the primary dealers, with the chemists. No-one saw it coming that I know of, we've been played like fools.

Mullaway's Tony Bower started it off by stopping children's epileptic seizures with his cannabis tincture. They couldn't ignore it stopping hundreds of daily seizures, often immediately; every seizure doing brain damage, as I understand.

So they set up a 'Special Access Scheme' to cater for this, even though they had no "evidence" of it working. That only happens when you do one of their special trials with placebos and it's not easy letting your child have seizures on a placebo when the kid next to you got the real thing stopping theirs!

Then came the pandemic and Tele-Health clinics and somewhere in the mess as lockdowns and fear took over, weed escaped. And escaped and escaped until now every man and his dog can get legal weed over the phone, delivered to your door the next day, if you don't want to walk to your local chemist with the script on your phone.

And now it's happening in Europe in the same way. It's like they copied us in Germany, where they prescribed two billion dollars worth of weed last year, doubling the year before. Doctors prescribing weed is starting up all over the planet in all sorts of countries. It's

like the Medicos suddenly decided we better join 'em because we're not winning this war against it.

New propaganda is out now of course, it doesn't turn you into a "Reefer Madness" rapist and murderer anymore, now it makes you sick, unless it's grown in a licensed establishment, which pretty much means hydro.

Very little of the legal weed is organic, and I'm not sure any of it at all is grown outside in the sun. Home-grown or weed off the street is unregulated and dangerous, they say. It's like there has to be a barrier between us and nature which is not to be trusted.

It's just more lies, like saying if you have cannabis in your blood, or urine or saliva, you're impaired.

What really muddies the waters every time is the money game. We cannot trust research even, as someone just proved by researching the researchers and discovering they held back or hid a huge percentage of the positive pot research conclusions.

Of course they did because profit is all-powerful. Same as the lies about impairment, or home-grown weed. All in the interest of maximising profit.

And so we come to the tiny one-pub village of Nimbin

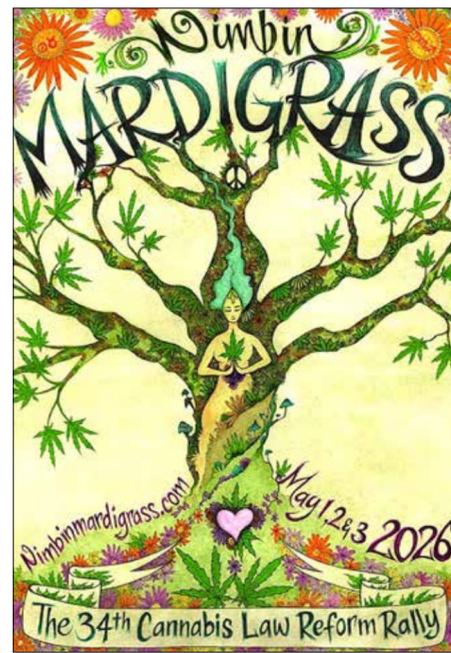
and its annual protest about the war on cannabis. It's been an enormous effort for a small community to keep the flame of truth alive on cannabis, arguably the safest and best medicine on the planet. Anybody anywhere could grow it, with any climate and soil.

Nimbin should feel good about MardiGrass. Nearly everyone now knows we are right, the law is the crime. Millions of people across Australia are using legal cannabis to relax, to lessen anxiety or depression, to take their pain away, and even maybe discover their spiritual life! The plant with a million uses, called God's gift for centuries.

Who makes money if people can grow their own medicine in their own backyard?

The hippies were right about weed all along, and many other things. Please come to MardiGrass this year, bring your friends, make a day of it. You will learn something new I promise, and maybe even enjoy yourself!

There'll be all sorts of terrific speakers, comedians, musicians and poets, performers and stalls. You'll be supporting one of the most important issues of our times which most people haven't



even realised it is yet.

The war on drugs is the forgotten war and its impact is all around us every day. It's insidious, picking on the poor and traumatised, the people who need help, not locking up. Our jails are stuffed full with strugglers.

And like other wars, there's all sorts of profit makers and industries feeding off it. Not just Big Pharma, but now doctors and chemists, jail owners and jail keepers, social workers and rehab

outfits, lawyers and courts, and of course the police, as the drug war creates most of their work.

The hippies were right all along. Check out the program as it's being built at: [nimbinmardigrass.com](http://nimbinmardigrass.com) and come to meetings if you can in the HEMP Bar, Fridays from 4.20.

Otherwise it's all on the web if you want to buy tickets or participate. Buy a ticket just to support us, you might even come!



## Have a say on the health of the catchment

Kyogle Council is calling on landowners, community groups, industry representatives and residents to have a say in safeguarding the health of the Upper Richmond River catchment.

The call comes hot on the heels of the launch of Council's Upper Richmond River Waterway and Wetland Health Assessment and Action Plan. The project will assess the condition of waterways and wetlands across the catchment and identify priority sites for rehabilitation.

Kyogle Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland said community knowledge – from on-farm observations to long-held local insights – would be central to shaping a practical and effective Action Plan which will guide future on-ground investment.

"Protecting the health of the Upper Richmond River is a responsibility we

all share, and local knowledge is one of our greatest assets," Cr Mulholland said.

"People who live and work in the catchment understand these waterways in a way no report ever could. Their observations will help us build a practical Action Plan that reflects real conditions on the ground."

Council will conduct a community drop-in session at Mummulgum Hall on 3rd March, 10am-12pm to provide an overview of the project. Those attending the session also will be able to share their local knowledge and personal observations and help identify priorities for future works.

Attendees are welcome to drop in at any time during the sessions and stay as long as they like.

People can also provide feedback through Your Say Kyogle, Council's

new on-line engagement platform: [www.yoursaykyogle.com.au](http://www.yoursaykyogle.com.au)

The project page includes a timeline, background information, and useful resources. Community members can participate in two ways: by completing an on-line survey, and using the places map to provide location-specific feedback.

Council is encouraging everyone to share what they know, what they've seen, and where they may have observed past or on-going rehabilitation efforts. Every contribution, no matter how small, helps build a clearer picture of catchment health and strengthens the final Action Plan.

This is a time-sensitive project, running through to 30th June. It is an initiative of Kyogle Council and is funded by the Office of Local Government.

[nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com)

# Citizen science to the rescue

by Daisy Nutty

As an avid supporter of Fridays4Forests, you can often find me out front of MP Janelle Saffin's office on a Friday morning; holding a banner, attempting to book an appointment or performing in a short skit for socials, choreographed by our dear Nanna Dot, highlighting the plight of our endangered wildlife and their habitat in Northern NSW.

This month I decided to find out what 'citizen science' is all about, and attended a camp in a state forest less than two hours away from Lismore.

If, like me, you consider yourself a local eco warrior, an animal lover or a keen amateur ecologist, then this crew is for you!

Scores of forest protectors gathered on the unceded lands of the Bundjalung nation. We shared skills, food, stories and knowledge. We collected scientific proof to help our fragile forests survive into the future.

Forestry Corp have breached hundreds of regulations over the years. To add insult to injury when they're found guilty by the EPA and fined, they use taxpayers' money to settle their dirty business debts.

The only thing that stops them is the people power of citizen science in what we call locally 'the Bentley effect'. It is working!

Our staunch crew went out diligently every day at dusk and spotted many greater gliders and dens! Rare frog and bird calls were heard.

We searched and found endangered Scrub Turpentine trees and even a suspected spotted quoll latrine!

This data resulted in the intended harvest plan being suspended in at least two locations.

Our beloved gliders, quolls, frogs and owls protected from the logging, clearing and destruction permitted by government in the final death throes of late-stage capitalism.

The success of the weekend has resulted in much more local interest, creating many new friendships and strengthening old ones.

I strongly recommend you sign up for some micro biome time with your local forest protecting family and let's all #EndNativeForestLoggingNow



Photo courtesy The Endangered Gliders Project

## Tour of resistance

The following week I found myself on the way to Lutruwita, so-called Tasmania.

The Bob Brown Foundation had invited us from the "north island" to join them in their annual Tour of Resistance, and help save these ancient forests being ripped apart and turned into paper and wood chips.

I was devastated after a picturesque morning in Liffy to witness the bulldozed piles of forest debris awaiting a napalm-like substance aerial attack from Forestry Tasmania, killing all the remaining wildlife sheltering in the detritus left after their habitats are destroyed in the name of profit.

I joined a group of over 100 forest activists, we set up camp, shared ideas and hot food while the locals showed us what's left the old growth forests on the stolen lands of the Palawa Pakana people.

We visited some local timber merchants let them know they have no social licence to log these sacred trees, habitat for swift parrots, cassie devils, masked owls and wedgetail eagles.

The tour was an immediate success. We held up work for hours, and many BBF volunteers risked arrest in the spirit of "doing it for the forests".

It was an honour to resist alongside such forest legends and admire their life's work and dedication to these trees and its inhabitants from the very small to the giants!

More new friends made and existing relationships more grounded.

The week concluded with a large 'endangered species banquet' held

at Salamanca markets in Nipaluna (colonised Hobart), where we performed as grotesque bloodthirsty profiteers of forest destruction.

The characters included PM Anthony Albanese and the premier of Tassie Jeremy Rockliff, and I got to play Suzanne Weeding, forestry's woman of the year with decades of family business experience in exploitation and extraction of our delicate ecosystems.

Let me assure you she had so much blood on her hands that some of the food colouring is still in my nails two weeks later.

We are excited that the March for Forests is returning to Lismore this year, starting 10am Sunday 22nd March in the Quad and hosting a huge range of regional talent including musicians, performers, choirs and passionate forest experts.

In 2025 the March for Forests was held in the main street of Byron Bay, bringing around 800 people out onto the streets to stand up for native forests.

The march attracts high profile regional speakers and musicians, and has caused a stir across NSW at recent events when David Heilpern called the Forestry Corporation NSW a "criminal entity" and listed in detail their serial offences.

Contact the BBF website or on socials to get involved. Join us at F4F and pursue your dream of being a citizen scientist.

If we can end logging in NSW, it will definitely end in Lutruwita. The forest dwellers and trees need us now more than ever.



Photo: Chibo Mertineit

## Rising up against violence against women

by Chibo Mertineit

On Valentines Day, 14th February, around 130 women and a few men were gathered above Main Beach in Byron Bay for the 14th time since the One Billion Rising event started, to kick off the wave of dances around the world to protest violence against women.

One in every three women across the

planet will be beaten or raped in her lifetime. One woman per week gets killed by a former or current partner in Australia.

The dance was rehearsed from 6.30am for a seven o'clock start, to the song 'Break the Chain'. Byron is one of the first places of the 70 participating countries with over 1000 events because of the dateline.

The theme this year is 'Rise for our

bodies, our communities, our future'. It's to shine a light on the rampant impunity and injustice that survivors must often face.

As Zenith Virago said, "For women to find their voice to say 'No, stop, Don't do that'. It's about solidarity."

Please check: [www.onebillionrising.org](http://www.onebillionrising.org) or look on socials.

There might be a woman who wants to organise this in Nimbin next year.

[nimbingoodtimes.au](http://nimbingoodtimes.au)

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# Nimbin Shed Men welcome landmark agreement with Rainbow Power Company

by Andy Kelly

The Nimbin Shed Men Inc are delighted to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Rainbow Power Company, marking a major milestone in the shed's journey toward establishing a permanent home in Nimbin.

After a year of focused work developing Nimbin Shed Men Inc to fully meet all government requirements, the organisation is now in a strong position to accept an expanded and more secure MOU with Rainbow Power Company.

This agreement provides the shed with much-needed capacity to safely store donated items, which can be sold to raise funds or retained for future use once a permanent venue is established.

Importantly, the new MOU includes a generous 2-5-year agreement that allows Nimbin Shed Men to locate a future shed venue on the lawned area of

Rainbow Power Company's land on Alternative Way.

This represents a significant step forward in turning the long-held vision of a local Men's Shed into a practical, physical reality.

The agreement reflects a shared commitment to community wellbeing, sustainability and mutual support, values long embodied by both organisations.

Rainbow Power Company has a strong reputation as a community-minded organisation, and its support of the Nimbin Shed Men reinforces that legacy.

The MOU was recently discussed at a meeting between representatives of Nimbin Shed Men and Rainbow Power Company CEO Matthew Wittemeyer, along with marketing co-ordinator Lizzie Buscaino, which highlighted a shared enthusiasm for the Shed's role in promoting a sense of purpose among local men.

Matthew Wittemeyer said the organisation was pleased to support the shed's next stage of



Nimbin Shed Men (l-r) Kieran Whelan, Stephen Binnington, Andy Kelly and Stuart McConville with RPC CEO Matthew Wittemeyer

development, while contributing positively to the broader Nimbin community.

"Nimbin Shed Men represent exactly the kind of grassroots, community-driven initiative that aligns with our values," Mr

Wittemeyer said. "We're proud to be able to offer support that helps strengthen connection, wellbeing and resilience in our local community."

A Nimbin Shed Men committee spokesperson said, "This agreement

gives us something every community group needs: security, breathing space and the confidence to plan for the future. It allows us to take real steps toward creating a place we can finally call home."

Nimbin Shed Men Inc expressed deep gratitude for Rainbow Power Company's confidence and acknowledged that this agreement would not have been possible without the dedication of volunteers and supporters over the past year.

With governance, compliance and organisational foundations now firmly in place, the shed is well positioned to enter its next phase of growth. Work to attract members and the funding necessary to establish and purchase the Shed Men's venue can now begin in earnest.

The Nimbin Shed Men look forward to continuing their collaboration with Rainbow Power Company and to the day when a Shed on Alternative Way becomes a place the whole community can truly value.



## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

March feels like a turning point in Nimbin. The peak of the tourist season has come to a head, the long summer stretch is easing, and attention shifts toward what we're building next.

Behind the scenes, steady work continues – strengthening collaboration, backing creativity and supporting the businesses and young people shaping our future.

## Working better together

Nimbin has an extraordinary number of active volunteer groups and community organisations. That is one of our major strengths – but co-ordination is what turns energy into impact.

The Chamber is working toward a more structured Interagency calendar, ensuring priorities are aligned and our collective voice is stronger when engaging with Council and government.

Connection is not bureaucracy. It's leverage.

## Making Nimbin more discoverable

The Chamber is driving discussions with Lismore city council and Aquarius Archives on a public art and heritage trail, supported by a physical map incorporating QR codes, directing visitors to information on the significance of the works, artist profiles. The aim is simple: make Nimbin's richness easier to discover.

We sometimes hear that there isn't much to do beyond the main street.

However in reality we offer artistic venues, scenic walks, craft studios, markets, sports fields, dairies, permaculture farms, parks, an historic butter factory, Flourish Sanctuary supported by an active community.

The opportunity isn't creating more – it's connecting people to what already exists.

Ideas being explored include interactive trails and family-friendly discovery experiences that encourage visitors to move beyond the obvious.

It's early thinking, but the intention is clear: help people stay longer and engage more deeply with the village.

Supporting local enterprise means backing the people actively investing in this village.

The Nimbin Short Film Festival is planned for November at the Nimbin Bush Theatre – an initiative



## Investing in local education

Nimbin Central School has been highly successful in securing grant funding for infrastructure and equipment upgrades – a credit to principal Mitchell Cross and current staff, who continue to seek meaningful improvements to support the learning process.

Recent additions include a refreshed website, a new sound system for the multipurpose unit and new equipment in the metal and woodworking department, including a CNC machine that expands hands-on technical learning.

These investments strengthen digital literacy, trade skills and practical experience.

When local schools attract funding and modernise facilities, they strengthen the long-term employability and confidence of our young people.

Education doesn't sit beside the economy. It underpins it.

## Movement in the village

There's fresh creative energy at the Bush Theatre precinct. The Spirit Burrow, Jen Harkness's vibrant mix of art, clothing and distinctive giftware, along with Om Alchemy, offering herbs, teas and natural skin care, have relocated to the space and brought new life to that corner of town.

The café is once again serving coffee, tea and cakes, with plans to lease the space and expand the offering further. Meanwhile, Nimbin Apothecary has refreshed its branding – another sign that local businesses are evolving and adapting.

Supporting local enterprise means backing the people actively investing in this village.

The Nimbin Short Film Festival is planned for November at the Nimbin Bush Theatre – an initiative



## Handicraft and cookery superstars!

Linda Myerson, Handicrafts officer with entries

## Nimbin CWA doings

by Sue Stock, publicity officer

It has been a busy month for the Nimbin Branch. Some members teamed up with CWA Lismore Evening Branch for the annual Branch Cookery and Handicraft competition in February. It was held at the Lismore CWA rooms in Spinks Park.

The winning entries go to compete at Far North Coast Group level in March. If our items win at Group level competition, they will then go to the State level competition in Forster later in the year.

Congratulations to our winning cooks Bev Gardner, Suzanne Snoeks and Tash Fuller. And special mention to Bev Gardner who received six first prizes in the Cookery section for her tomato jam, pineapple and onion relish, apple and cranberry chutney, coconut loaf, peppermint slice and plain butter cake.

In the handicraft section, Nimbin Branch proudly earned eight first places for our entries. Congratulations to Leanne Openshaw, Linda Myerson, Tash Fuller, Karen Ratcliffe, and Paulene Ahern.

Leanne entered four quilts and won enthusiastic praise for all four, earning Highly Commended for two quilts; plus, encouragement to enter the quilts in the Lismore National Show and of course the Nimbin Show in September.

## IWD

On International Women's Day, Sunday 8th March, there will be a women's gathering outside our rooms from 11am. All welcome.

## 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: 0457-363-925 or email: secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com

# Aquarius Archives oral history project launches with workshop

by Greg Bork

Would you be happy if someone recorded you without permission?

Recording oral history is not as simple as hitting the record button on your phone's voice memo app. It's crucial to make sure the person you are recording understands what you are going to use it for later and document their informed consent.

Aquarius Archives is holding a free Oral History workshop for the community on Thursday 19th March, 12.30-4.15pm at the Nimbin Community Centre, Comskool room.

Dr Jo Kijas of Kijas Histories will share her expertise in recording oral history in two sessions, with a break for afternoon tea (provided).

The first session, the oral historian as co-author, covers preparation, ethics and archiving. The second session, interview techniques, covers ways to facilitate the best possible experience and opportunity for someone to share their personal stories with you, the interviewer.

There's a lot to learn in a short time, and spaces are limited. Please book your spot by email at: [mail@aquariusarchives.org.au](mailto:mail@aquariusarchives.org.au) or by popping in to our headquarters at the Nimbin Community Centre at 81 Cullen Street when we are open 11am-3pm on Fridays.

Following the workshop, Aquarius Archives will begin to collect oral histories with the community. If and when the



person who is interviewed is happy with everything, the first purpose is to share the stories with the community, perhaps with an article in the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, or on a show on NimFM, or as an Aquarius Archives podcast. Which leads to the question of choosing the right equipment suitable for future use of the recording.

Video may make the person being interviewed feel less comfortable, requires a lot of additional equipment for a good result, and needs much more storage space to look after long-term. If you grab a phone to record a video interview, always hold it horizontally.

Audio is less intrusive, but there is still an important choice to make about your equipment: whether using a phone is good enough, or if it's better to use a dedicated digital recorder with specialised microphones.

Phones are handy when no other

equipment is available, however they present many challenges such as variable audio quality, limited storage capacity and battery life, greater potential for recordings to fail, more challenging controls, vulnerability to loss and data theft, and the expense of dedicated apps, microphones, a mount or stand, and other add-ons to improve their capabilities.

Plus, you always need to remember to put on "airplane mode" and silence notifications from all other apps.

Before recording oral history for the Aquarius Archives, we will further train up a core group of dedicated volunteers to borrow a dedicated digital recorder and microphones for pre-arranged interviews.

Volunteers are ready to record oral history interviews as an essential part of the story of our fashion and textiles collection, and our renewable energy collection. Are there any collections of Nimbin Aquarius stories you'd like to look after?

Of course, there's a vast amount of fascinating and important recordings in our collections already, many of them in redundant formats that require urgent care, digitisation and cataloguing (pictured). That's another approach to getting involved.

Aquarius Archives is a Working group of Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc, a registered not-for-profit charitable organisation with the purpose to advance culture. Donations are tax deductible. See: [aquariusarchives.org.au](http://aquariusarchives.org.au)



Alex Bryant-Clark, Liz Degotardi and Hugh Pratt

# Northern NSW welcomes new junior doctors

Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD) is excited to welcome 39 new medical interns to the region, providing a welcome boost to the local health workforce.

The medical interns are joining teams at Lismore Base Hospital and Tweed Valley Hospital, where they will work and learn from District's highly skilled and experienced medical staff.

Having completed their orientation, the junior doctors are already providing care to local patients and much needed support to the region's hardworking health staff.

Interns are medical graduates who have completed their medical degree and are required to complete a supervised year of practice in order to gain general registration.

The interns will work with and learn from NSW Health's experienced and highly skilled medical staff in one of the world's best health systems.

The new doctors starting their internship will be entering a training program with networked hospitals throughout the state, providing formal and on-the-job training.

They receive two-year contracts to rotate between metropolitan, regional and rural hospitals to ensure the diversity of their experience.

The interns also rotate across different specialties during the intern year, including surgery, medicine and emergency medicine.

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**Delivering for Lismore**  
Flood Restoration Portfolio

**Lismore**  
City Council

Landslip remediation work is now in full swing right across the Lismore LGA, with Lismore City Council and contractor CMC Hull JV crews progressing work across 10 locations including Stony Chute Road, Cawongla Road, and Oakey Creek Road.

Work on **Mountain Top Road** begins in early March. Initial site preparation is already underway on the first of 10 slips to be repaired along the road between now and late 2026, weather permitting.

Temporary road closures may be required. Timing and proposed impacts will be communicated with residents and the community in advance via Works Notifications. Subscribe to updates in your area at [Lismore.nsw.gov.au/frp-notifications](http://Lismore.nsw.gov.au/frp-notifications)

We appreciate the community's patience and support as this essential work is completed.

Work locations shown on Council's Online Project Schedule and Map.

Jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Australian Government NSW GOVERNMENT