

Nimbin Cup: the Gaelic football challenge

by James Alexander

In what is touted to be a world first contest between an Australian Rules football club and a soccer club, the inaugural Nimbin Cup: Gaelic Football Challenge was played in good spirits between the Nimbin Demons and the Nimbin Headers Sports Club on the evening of Saturday 7th February in front of a large home crowd.

The 'Big Jig' began with a Welcome to Country and included the sound of bagpipes, iconic for the Gaelic people of Ireland and Scotland where this ancient version of football originated.

Despite the one-sided score at the end, the game itself was a tale of two halves. In the first half, the Headers got away to an early start, finding the net in rapid succession in fine soccer fashion.

In Gaelic football, a goal is worth three points, whereas kicking the ball over the cross-bar and through the big sticks, as in Australian Rules



football, is worth only one point.

As a team of Australian Rules footballers, the Demons managed to kick many Aussie Rules style goals, but struggled to land the ball in the net for the more valuable goals.

In the first half, the Headers utilised all of their soccer skills, speed and fitness to demonstrate why they are so successful at bringing home the silverware.

But the Demons were not done yet. The half-time break allowed them to regroup and recalibrate what was required of them to be competitive in the second half.

With heavy restrictions on tackling for the game, the Aussie Rules footballers had lost a major aspect of their game for this contest. Regardless, the Demons managed to stem the onslaught of Headers



goals and to find the net themselves in the second half.

It took half of the game, but the Aussie Rules boys managed to find their rhythm and get a handle on how to attack with the round ball, but the damage on the scoreboard had already been done.

The Headers ran out winners, scoring 37 Points to the Demons 11 points.

In the end, the Headers only had six more scoring shots than the Demons, but their capacity to put them in the net was a major difference.

The Demons learnt that in order to win in this version of football, soccer-type goals are needed, and the Headers gave them a lesson in how.

Former Best & Fairest winner for both the Demons and the Headers, Ruben Garcia presented the Man of the Match award, named in his honour, to Sam Russell of the Headers.

The large crowd was treated to an enjoyable, fast moving and high scoring contest.

Celtic musicians provided energetic music at half-time, and got the Nimbin Hotel jumping after the contest.

The players enjoyed trying on a game which none of them were familiar with, and all are looking forward to this becoming an annual event in the Nimbin sporting calendar.

Supporting women and girls in our club – a community effort

by Lucy Wise

Support has always been about more than just the game. It's about connection, confidence and creating spaces where everyone feels they belong.

At the Nimbin Headers, we're proud of the strong community that surrounds us – and especially grateful for the support of organisations like our local CWA, who generously contribute funds each year to help women and girls cover their registration fees.

That support makes a real difference. It means more girls can step onto the

field, more women can stay involved, and more families can say yes to sport when finances might otherwise say no.

It's a powerful reminder that when a community invests in its women and girls, everyone benefits.

Like many sporting clubs, ours has traditionally had a strong male presence – particularly in leadership, visibility and culture.

While that history is part of who we are, the future of our club is about balance. It's about creating space for women and girls not just to participate, but to feel valued, heard and encouraged to lead.

We're seeing more girls joining, more

mums volunteering, more women stepping into coaching, admin and support roles – and that's something to celebrate.

With continued community backing and a shared commitment to inclusion, we can keep building a club where everyone feels they belong.

To the CWA and all those who quietly support women and girls in sport: thank you. Your contribution isn't just financial – it's cultural. You're helping shape a club that reflects the whole community, not just part of it.

And that's something worth standing behind.

2026 SEASON - COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & GIRLS OF NIMBIN

Thanks to a generous donation from our local Country Women's Association, Nimbin Headers Sports Club is able to offer financial support to several senior women and junior girls who would love to play this season but are unable to afford the full registration fee.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this assistance, please reach out by email to nimbinheaderssportsclub@gmail.com and tell us a bit about your situation and how this support would help.

Applications close Saturday 7th March, 5:00pm. Your request will be treated with confidentiality.



NIMBIN HEADERS ARE AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING CLUB RUN BY VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Information for senior players

Registrations

On-line registrations for new and returning senior players can be made at: playfootball.com.au

The first round of registrations closed on 1st March, but registrations will still be accepted after this date if teams have spaces available.

Registration is not complete until full payment of approximately \$360 is received. Financial support options may be available, please contact the club.

Training

Most senior teams train twice per week and regular attendance is encouraged.

In 2025, training was held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting between 5.30-6pm and finishing around 7.30pm, depending on the team.

Boots and shin guards are required at training.

Games

The senior football season begins on the last weekend in March and runs through



Away games may include travel to Uki, Kyogle, Casino, Lismore, and coastal locations such as Ballina, Byron Bay and Lennox Head. Car pooling is commonly organised within teams.

Uniforms

Team shirts are provided by the club. Players are required to supply their own black shorts, socks (available for purchase from the club), boots and shin guards.

Team selection

Players are allocated to teams by the relevant coach and the team selection sub-committee. Selection is based on commitment, skill level, and other relevant factors. Nimbin Headers is a welcoming and inclusive club, supporting players of all abilities, ages and fitness levels.

Volunteering

All players are encouraged to help where possible, particularly during home games and on work days which are held a few times per year. All players are encouraged to register as a volunteer online via: playfootball.com.au

to August, with finals held in September.

Games are played during school holidays, but generally there is no game over the June long weekend.

Typical match days for men's teams are Friday nights or Saturday afternoons, and for women's teams, Sunday afternoons and occasional Friday nights. Wet weather catch-up games may be scheduled on weeknights. Game-day expectations may include arriving one hour before kick-off for coach talks and warm-up.

Most teams communicate via Messenger chat groups, where players can stay updated on training and match availability.

Travel

Approximately half of all games are played at home (Nimbin) and half away.

Nimbin Demons prepare for 2026 season

by James Alexander

The Nimbin Demons AFL club stormed back into the resurrected Northern Rivers Australian Football competition in 2025 after a 15-year hiatus, chalking up their first win in around 17 years.

Nearly 40 players pulled on the Demon's red and blue in the five games of the season, many of them living in the hills surrounding Nimbin, while others from elsewhere joined to assist the reboot.

As the local AFL competition fell victim to the region-wide flood damage in 2022, a short season was viewed as the best way to re-create it. This has been expanded to an eight-game season for 2026, kicking off in May, now with eight teams in the competition.

Every week of the season will see each team play at the one ground, making game days a region-wide community football carnival.

The Nimbin Demons are hoping to have access to their traditional home, 'Demon Park' in order to host one of these football events locally.

With 18 positions on the field and four on the interchange bench, an Aussie Rules team needs to start the season with around 30 players. If you've ever wanted to challenge yourself with a physical game, have enjoyed watching AFL on

The Nimbin Demons Australian Football Club has been resurrected and we are looking for players...
nimbindemonsafc@gmail.com
 Ph. 0427104094 or 0476037492

TV and want to be part of a community-based club, come and join in – no experience necessary, we'll teach you how.

Former Demons full-forward Tony Grumley is coaching, assisted by Jimmy Geurtson and Will Alexander. Training will commence in March, replicating what worked last year with training being held both in Lismore with the Swans and in Nimbin. An initial get-together to

kick the ball around and free BBQ will be held in Peace Park near the Nimbin pool/skatepark on Sunday 15th March at noon. Potential players, supporters, volunteers and enthusiasts of Australia's magnificent home-grown game are all welcome.

Contact Tony (0476-037-492) or James (0410-836-690) for details. Take the plunge and become a Nimbin Demon in 2026.

FOREST FRONTLINE Environmental Forum

We care deeply about our local forests and the wildlife they sustain, especially our precious koalas. Everyone's seen the headlines. But what's actually happening here in our region? And what can we realistically do together? Join us to hear from local experts about the importance of our forests, the river, and our wildlife, and our mission to secure protection for Richmond River Koala Parks

If you've been wondering how to get involved, this is your starting point.

21 March '26

SCU, Lismore
 more info at richmondriverkoalaparks.com

All we are saying is give peace a chance
 - John Lennon & Yoko Ono

Nimbin Crossword solution

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T	H	E	M	A	D	H	A	T	T	E	R	
		A	L							M		
W	A	R	I	W	A	L	R	U	S			
O	B	S	T	A	C	L	E	E				
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Starts 28th April 2026
 • Tuesday Afternoons 4pm
 • 10 week program
 • No weekend commitments
 • Gala day competition days available for players who would like to participate

Contact
 Alex: 0429 055 846
 Micky: 0431 494 551

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NIMBIN HEADERS MIDWEEK MINIROOS

REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!
 • HEAD TO THE NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL MINIROOS WEBSITE
 • SCROLL DOWN COLES MINI ROOS KICKOFF PROGRAM
 • CLICK ON FIND PROGRAM NEAR ME
 • SEARCH NIMBIN TO REGISTER

URI ROSS @realty

AGENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024

#5 AGENT FOR LISMORE GREATER REGION
 #1 AGENT FOR NIMBIN

PROPERTIES FOR SALE AND SOLD BY URI ROSS

<p>\$580,000</p> <p>90 CULLEN STREET, NIMBIN 1055SQM THE AQUARIUS CHURCH</p>	<p>\$995,000</p> <p>7 ROCKVIEW COURT, NIMBIN 3 BED 2 BATH 2 CAR 1542 SQM MODERN BUILD WITH VIEWS AND STUDIO</p>	<p>\$695,000</p> <p>1 LILLIAN ROCK ROAD, BLUE KNOB 2 BED 1 BATH 2 CAR 1309SQM RURAL RETREAT WITH ICONIC VIEWS OF LILLIAN ROCK</p>	<p>CONTACT AGENT</p> <p>20 CHARLTON AVENUE, SOUTH LISMORE 4 BED 2 BATH 8 CAR 49 AC RIVERFRONT AGRICULTURAL HOLDING</p>	<p>\$1,200,000 - \$1,250,000</p> <p>318 CLARK RD, JIGGI 4 BED 1 BATH 2 CAR 103 AC</p>
<p>\$1,200,000</p> <p>574 HORSESHOE CREEK ROAD, UPPER HORSESHOE CREEK 2 BED 1 BATH 2 CAR OFF GRID HOME 118 AC WITH CREEK FRONTAGE</p>	<p>SOLD</p> <p>6 COCHRAN STREET, LISMORE 5 BED 2 BATH</p>	<p>SOLD</p> <p>6/2 CORDYLINE ROAD, ROCK VALLEY 2.6 ACRE VACANT LAND WITH VISTA</p>	<p>SOLD</p> <p>1/4 ROCKVIEW COURT, NIMBIN 3 BED 2 BATH 1 CAR MODERN ARCHITECTURAL BUILD</p>	<p>SOLD</p> <p>133 GUNGAS ROAD, NIMBIN 3 BED 1 BATH 2 CAR PEACEFUL FAMILY HOME</p>

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Jacqui
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Samara
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Suzy
0429 492 477



Vicki
0409 914 433



Michelle
0489 238 889

For properties SOLD on realestate.com.au
Data from 1 January 2025 to 20 January 2026



876 Green Pigeon Road, Green Pigeon 7.63 ha
\$640,000
Agent: Suzy



1148 Tuntable Creek Rd, Nimbin 6.03ha
\$1,185,000-\$1,265,000
Agents: John & Jacqui



431 Borton Road, Tullera 5 Acres
\$1,300,000
Agents: John & Samara



3935 Kyogle Road, Lillian Rock 8 acres
\$680,000
Agent: John



8/78 Cecil Street, Nimbin 2120m²
\$900,000 - \$950,000
Agent: Jacqui



45 Hetherington Rd, Wadeville 80 Acres
\$1,150,000
Agents: John & Michelle



301 Wallace Road, The Channon 11.5 acres
\$975,000 - \$1,050,000
Agents: Samara & John



93 Cullen Street, Nimbin 1821 m2
\$680,000
Agents: John & Michelle



61 Tallowood Road, Lillian Rock 43 ha
\$1,950,000
Agents: John & Michelle



21 Thorburn Street, Nimbin 2056m²
Contact Agent
Agents: John & Michelle



10 Silky Oak Drive, Nimbin 786 m²
\$750,000
Agent: Jacqui



240 Stanger Road, Stony Chute 7.9acres
\$925,000
Agent: John



207 Whites Road, Homeleigh 33 acres
Auction
Agents: John & Michelle



37/74 Currajong Street, Evans Head
\$717,000
Agent: Vicki



158 Gungas Road, Nimbin 3.5 Acres
\$600,000
Agent: Samara



353 Gungas Road, Nimbin 28.49 ha
\$850,000 - \$900,000
Agents: John & Michelle

NIMBIN HILLS
REAL ESTATE
(02) 6689 1498
realestate@nimbinhills.com.au
www.hills2coast.com.au

Client Testimonial

Cait is the most professional and approachable Rental Manager I have ever dealt with. During my tenancy she's always promptly responds to my requests for maintenance issues & communicates very clearly.

Beyond her high level of professional conduct, Cait shows genuine kindness and understanding, making us feel valued as Tennant's rather than just a number. I highly recommend Cait to any renter or property owner, her professionalism is outstanding.

Cait is an absolute asset to Nimbin Hills Real Estate.

Jo-Jo - Tenant

