

You can't help but get a buzz out of visiting Nimbin. And it has nothing to do with anything you can purchase in town or even the beautiful sights and sounds. It is all about the people. Like any place, it will live and die with the aspirations of locals who make daily decisions about investing time, energy and spirit into place.

The Nimbin Advisory Group has served Nimbin well over the past four years because the people on it bring an energy and advocacy that propels the village forward to whatever is coming next. The Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan, now in its second iteration, provides the NAG and council with evidence that the community does know where it wants to be and what it wants to be in the future.

With our community panels having developed or currently developing plans, we are getting an amazing picture of what people want and

From the mayor's desk

by Cr Isaac Smith, Lismore City Council



how council can best support that vision. I believe our rural villages and localities are what sets us apart from our neighbouring shires. So their ongoing health and connectedness need to be a council priority.

The November council meeting was largely uneventful with some good notices of motion to support gender equality in council staffing and using the rainbow to represent our region though some sort of public installation. There was a push from some councillors to include Nimbin as a possible site for public statement, but the mover wanted Lismore as the sole location.

There were a few rural residential proposals

that came to council last month and the issue of MO's and the new rural land sharing communities. Land use is one of the biggest areas of contention that council has to deal with. There are many competing factors such as supporting agriculture and our clean green image and providing affordable housing options in rural areas. But the biggest issue is always where do we put it.

The council has a policy of concentrating growth in rural land sharing and rural residential to existing growth areas. This was to reduce the impact on primary agricultural production areas and to do what we can to promote community connection. The only sustainable option is putting new growth

to existing services and community hubs. We do not need to be building new assets in green field areas when existing villages have wonderful connections that turn buildings into a community and people into neighbours.

I am very interested in hearing from residents in and around Nimbin on the future of rural areas bordering the village. While I get plenty of feedback on Nimbin Hookups, I know that the NAG and other groups are working hard to make this a positive conversation.

Speaking of Hookups, I was very pleased to follow the recent discussions around supporting the Nimbin pool. This is a critical part of Nimbin life and council is committed to making sure it stays that way. So having community and financial support coming from Friends of the Nimbin pool makes it much easier for council to support the continued maintenance and future upgrades. Like all community assets there needs to be buy in from locals and this is clearly on display. Thank you Nimbin!

Elly's year in review

It's been a very rocky ride this past month, we're facing the stark reality of four years with Trump as president in America and it's brought up some real questions and concerns for the future.

Like many of you, I'm worried about what the future holds and the global trend towards fear and mistrust. As we continue to pass temperature and climate change milestones almost daily, it's hard to find hope that we can turn things around, especially when our largest superpower might not be making the changes or showing the leadership that the world needs.

We've just seen the final acts of the Baird government for 2016, ramming through an attack on ICAC and a new biodiversity management act that will put land clearing back on the agenda. It's another blow for the climate, and for protection of our environment and our native species.

Just this week across the state, Grey-headed Flying Fox pups are being abandoned by their mothers; the vulnerable species is in trouble and it looks like a generation may be wiped out. We really need to be protecting what we've got, not weakening and removing the protections that exist.

I was recently invited to attend 'Homelessness Exposed', an exhibition of photographic works showing the experience of homelessness on the North Coast, with photos taken by clients of 'Connecting Home' a program run by Social Futures. 20% of the State's rough sleepers are here in our region. Connecting Home saw more than 3000 clients last year, but they are funded for much less than that. They are doing very important work for the most vulnerable people in our community and they need our support, if you can donate please give them a call on 6617-0017, all donations are tax deductible.

As I write this, I have just been at the North



Word of the Bird
by Cr Elly Bird, LCC

Coast Energy Forum, where Lismore Council's innovative partnership with the community, 'Farming the Sun', and our goal of 100% renewable energy by 2023 featured. I am keen to explore what else we can do to tap in to community desire for action on renewables. Something you can do is to look at the 'Home Grown Power Plan' and then make a submission to the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund Draft Strategic Plan, submissions close December 16.

In my non-council time, I'm very excited to be supporting the roll-out of Gasfield Free Brands which is a licensed trademark, a label that can be put on produce, farm gates or on businesses to show that our community remains committed to a gasfield free future. If you would like to know more, especially if you are interested in becoming licensed, go to the website: www.gasfieldfree.com.au to register.

Registration is very easy and I'm really looking forward to seeing it out there at farmer's markets and on our supermarket shelves. The concept came from the community as a natural progression of our Gasfield Free campaign and there is undeniable support from consumers who want to use their shopping dollars to support landholders and businesses who are gasfield free.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the people of

Standing Rock, who are on the frontline of militarised industrialisation of our planet in the relentless push for fossil fuels. The footage and stories coming out of Standing Rock at the moment are very confronting.

We came very close to experiencing similar scenes at Bentley and my heart goes out to the people over there who are fighting for their water and their future, just as we have done here in the Northern Rivers. There have been a number of benefits locally for their campaign, I congratulate everyone who has been part of putting those events on, and I really hope they win soon. We can at least take some comfort in the global interest that it is generating, with millions of people engaging with the campaign on social media.

As the year winds up, I've been looking back on 2016 and it really has been very challenging to say the least. It is so important to remember to appreciate and be grateful for our life here in the Northern Rivers, to be mindful and to enjoy the little things day by day: planting in our gardens, spending time with friends, family and community, listening to good music and eating good food, whilst still remaining active and engaged in bringing about a better future for our community.

I will be at Woodford Folk Festival over the New Year for the 18th year running, and I know that I will be reflecting deeply on the year that has passed and digging deep for the year that is to come. Woodford always helps me to replenish my hope and commitment to humanity and community in these challenging times. Best wishes to you all as the year draws to a close. I hope you find some time to rest and enjoy the company of your loved ones.

As always, I can be contacted for Council and community matters at: elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au or on 0418-639-927, see you in 2017.

On the same Page

School building grant

It was great to announce a grant of \$150,000 for the Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education at Lillian Rock to build a new administration block and refurbish learning areas.

The grant, which will be matched by the school, will allow the construction of the new administration facility including reception area, offices and meeting room.

The existing staff room will also be refurbished and a small general learning area turned into two large general learning areas with break-out spaces.

This grant will ensure students at Rainbow Ridge have the infrastructure necessary to help them get the most out of their time at school.

Congratulations to Principal Marga Helms and the school's board.

Book Prize

Every year I offer schools in our community a Book Prize Award for a student of their choice who has excelled in some aspect of school life.

I would like to congratulate Hayley Hutchin from Tuntable Creek School, Daniel Frey from Nimbin Central School and Quinn Lamerton from Larnook Public School.

Grants for GPs

The Government has streamlined the former Rural and Regional Teaching



Kevin Hogan MP
Member for Page

program for GPs to better respond to the needs of communities like Nimbin.

Under the new \$13 million program, existing GPs can apply for grants to teach, train and retain the next generation of health workers.

Grants of up to \$300,000 can also be used for a range of infrastructure projects, including construction,

fit-out and/or renovation of existing GP buildings, supply and installation of information and communication technology equipment or medical equipment.

Volunteer grants

All community groups play an important role in our area, which is why I recently announced grants to help them in their work.

This is a great opportunity for community organisations to apply for a grant of between \$1000 and \$5000 to support the important work of their volunteers.

These grants can be used by organisations for anything that helps with costs incurred by their volunteers, such as first aid training, background security checks or transport for volunteers who may have a disability.

Community organisations can also purchase much-needed equipment, such as iPads or printers, so they can keep pace with technology.

Applications close 20th December. For further information, go to: dss.gov.au/grants Alternatively, contact the Volunteer Grants 2016 Hotline on freecall 1800-020-283 or email: grants@dss.gov.au

Gender equity at council

by Vanessa Ekins,
Greens Councillor, Lismore City Council

Great to be back in the chambers with nearly half your city councillors women. Remember the 1970s and all the policy on affirmative action, equal pay for equal work and gender equity? Well many decades later, we still have a long way to go. In NSW only 25% of councillors are women and while 46% of council employees are women, only 16% are in senior management.

So at our November meeting, I put a motion to council to measure the ratio of female applicants and successful appointments, draw upon female networks to encourage women to apply for vacancies, and establish strategies to mentor women into leadership roles.

Strangely enough, your conservative male councillors Battista, Bennett, Morehouse



and Marks attempted to change the motion to include mentoring all CAPABLE people into leadership roles, not just women.

It was pretty funny, but fortunately sense prevailed and the gender equity motion was passed.

Shark-free swimming at Nimbin pool

Already this swimming season, hundreds of people have been enjoying the Nimbin Pool, and it's great to see local schools using it for lessons.

Each morning John, the pool manager, takes the temperature and writes results on the noticeboard. Lately it's risen from 16 to 25 degrees, so there's no excuse to stay dry.

It's interesting to note that despite Lismore City Council's financial cutbacks, they voted to spend over \$50,000 to deliberate on the viability of resurrecting the South Lismore pool with the proviso there would be no future funding to act on the results. \$50,000 is one third of the cost to resurface the Nimbin pool.

At a meeting with Friends of Nimbin Pool three years ago, Scott Turner, Assets

Manager for LCC, stated he would seek funding for resurfacing the pool, along with providing a toilet block to service the children's playground, the BBQ area, the pool and the skate park. At the time he explained the problem of the lifting surface was created by groundwater. This has not changed. It still crumbles away.

Most public parks have toilet facilities. It's a long walk for a 2 or 3-year old from the children's playground, up the hill across busy Sibley Street to the only public toilets in town. No wonder the area gets inappropriate use. It's time Nimbin's recreational park got some serious allocation of funds.

Meantime, swimmers are preparing for the 2017 Pool Olympics on 26th January. Pauline Ahearn has created

more fabulous trophies to inspire the friendly competition. Some ideas have been floated for synchronised swimming routines, (a very popular spectacle), and this year a medley will be added to the programme. So here's notice to get your butterfly, breaststroke and backstroke up to speed.

There is one guarantee: there will be no sharks in our pool, thanks to the vigilance of the Friends of Nimbin Pool. The only shark has been netted and transferred to the South Lismore Lake Pool.

The Friends of Nimbin Pool look forward to working with the new council on issues relating to the sustainability of our important public facility. The Friends welcome new members, and can be contacted by email at: friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com



Community Centre news

Committee renews

At the recent AGM on 17th November, the current committee members were re-elected unopposed. They are: President: Richard Hopkins, Vice-President: Teresa Biscoe, Secretary: David Hallett, Treasurer: Diana Roberts, with Daniele Voinot, Michael Balderstone and Linnet Pike.

Culture Centre tenancy

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Nimbin Aboriginal Culture Centre Incorporated as the new tenants in the culture centre. The planned art and culture workshops will commence in mid-January.

Capital works

Over the next month a range of capital works are planned. On the weekend of 25-26 November the walls and ceiling of the hallway and bathroom at the main Acacia building are being repainted. Work will also resume on the improvements at the Casuarina building with new roofing over the stair area, near Nim-FM.

Jungle Patrol

Each month we try to highlight one of our tenants. This month we'd like to celebrate the work done by Jungle Patrol. This group grew from the volunteer groups of early MardiGrass celebrations. At those times they patrol the streets, encourage people to keep the peace, and bear witness when they do not. They provide visitor information,

crowd safety, primary first aid, event communications and security/police liaison. In 2002 Jungle Patrol was awarded the Nimbin town area cleaning contract by Lismore City Council. Although the Jungle Patrol Community Safety had not previously undertaken similar works, it was felt that this would allow a degree of community ownership of the village, which would hopefully provide for a cleaner and safer environment.

Those of you in Nimbin in the early mornings will see them hard at work day after day, and we would like to offer our sincere thanks to those workers who keep our streets clean.

Space for hire

Are you thinking of running a class or workshop? Do you need a meeting space? The Nimbin Community Centre dance studio and the Birth and Beyond room are available for hire at \$11 per hour or \$33 per day, with a \$20 key deposit. Information about classes is available from the calendars on our website. Please ring 6689-0000 to make a booking. The office is open 8am to 3.30pm (Wednesday/Thursday) and 8am to 12pm (Friday).

Membership

If you would like to get involved and take part in the future of Nimbin Community Centre, why don't you become a member? Membership fees are \$15 (adult), \$10 (seniors over 60) and \$5 (youth). Your membership assists to guarantee the success of the organisation as an effective vehicle for current and future community initiatives.

Nimbin Advisory Group news

The Nimbin Advisory Group November meeting was our first since the LCC elections and was chaired by Annie McWilliam who represented Council.

Annie advised that due to the formation of the new Council and its necessary settling in period, some of the topics discussed at our previous meeting had not seen action. In particular, the Revision of the Sport and Recreation Plan (*see below*), community consultations with residents about the parking situation on Thorburn Street and a decision by Council on the members of the NAG for the coming year. On a positive note, however, testing strips have been placed on Cecil Street with a view to using that data to develop a strategy to mitigate speeding vehicles and thus protect wildlife and pedestrians.

The next NAG meeting will be held Thursday 9th February, 2017.

Crime Prevention Consultation

Suzie Coulston, representing LCC crime prevention, advised us that community safety funding is available from the Attorney General's department, but very specific criteria must be met to qualify. Should that funding be granted, it could be used to augment the Chamber of Commerce's proposed use of their Special Rate Levy funds to install lighting under the street awnings from the bakery to the trattoria, light the murals and install solar powered CCTV onto the car park near the public toilets. The first step will be to undertake a review of the community safety audit and have it completed by January 17.

Rainbow Café site

Karlin attended on behalf of Tuntable Co-op to provide an update on their plans to rebuild on the site. The new Rainbow Café will comprise a brick building, in the style of the others on the main street, with a retail rental premises to the rear and with a small (1 bedroom) residential area, murals in keeping with the streetscape and extensive gardens and deck. The application for a DA is expected to be sent to LCC early in 2017.

Car parking

Karlin particularly wanted to bring to our attention an early consultation session with stakeholders, during which council officers specifically identified and favoured the creation of two very suitable disabled parking sites on either side of the blister. We then discussed the very few effective disabled parking places in the village, the fact that those near the exit from the western carpark were going to be lost

to private parking for The Cubes development and agreed that it would be good to support Council's desire to create the two places near the Rainbow blister.

Gwen asked for ideas about creating a place where people currently living in their cars in the western park, could be better placed with access to toilet and bathing facilities. However, during a brief discussion no viable solutions were identified.

Safe place

The Rural Fire Service has identified Peace Park as a "neighbourhood safe place" in the case of a bush fire or other emergency and will be letting the community know more of how that will work.

Nimbin pool

Sue Edmonds reported that the patching repairs to seal the pool are now failing and suggested funds be found to resurface the pool rather than repeat patching. Estimated cost to resurface the pool is \$150,000-\$200,000. Discussion continued on the value of the pool to this community, its school and its tourists.

Sport and Recreation Plan discussions took place about the limited nature of Nimbin community's engagement with Council's processes to inform its sport and recreation plan. Some discontent about this circumstance was expressed. While Council's scheduled review of this plan has been delayed, a commitment was made to engage with both the NAG and Nimbin sporting community to remedy this situation in 2017. Council's new manager of major recreational and cultural facilities, Tony Duffy, will attend the February 2017 NAG meeting to discuss these next steps.

Advisory groups

Many advisory groups exist within the LGA – the NAG is unique among them in its make-up and role. NAG's current role is to act as a conduit between Council and the Nimbin community. Council floated the idea that the NAG change to operate like the other rural community panels. There was agreement to look closer at the changes that would entail. More discussion and possibly a decision will be made at the next meeting.

Allsopp Park

The safety and condition of the mural is still unresolved. Identified as requiring urgent repair in our meeting on November 15, Council staff have not made repairs and the structure is now unsafe. We have again asked for it to be prioritised for repair.



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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

The NNIC team wishes everyone a SAFE and happy festive season, and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. Please don't drug or drink drive. It just isn't worth it.

windows, doors, roof, gutters, or new decks this contact NNIC on: admin@nnic.org.au Or see the project website for how to donate on-line: www.sevenonsibley.com

End of the Feed In Tariff Important! GOOD NEWS!

So just when we had given up all hope of EE coming to the party we have just been advised that Essential has now advised that an appropriately qualified electrician can rewire the single phase gross meter for net and submit a notice of service work to Essential Energy. They will then change the gross meter register 70 to net in their system.

This is only applicable for single phase installations and the cost is around \$180 as opposed to \$385 for a new Net meter. If the installation is 2 or 3 phase a 3 phase net meter must be installed at a cost of around \$645.

This is relevant to people who either do not want smart meters OR cannot have smart meters due to poor mobile phone reception.

No smart meter for NNIC

In the interests of avoiding adding to the aggregated EMR levels in the village, NNIC has decided to err on the side of caution and replace our gross meter with a non-smart net meter (hopefully a rewire of our existing meter).

Save the date – Nimbin Women's (Comedy) Dinner

Wednesday 8th March 2017, Nimbin Town Hall
Coinciding with International Women's Day. Some great performers are already lining up... more info in the New Year.

Closure times over Xmas

NNIC will be closing on Friday 23rd December and re-opening on Monday 9th January.

The Centrelink Agency will also be closed from 23rd December but re-opening on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Annual Nimbin Community Christmas Lunch

Friday 23rd December, Nimbin Town Hall

Come along and share Xmas lunch with all the trimmings and Santa with gifts for kids (aged under 12 years). Doors open 11.30am. Santa arrives sometime around 1pm. All welcome. (Donations of good quality and preferably new gifts for kids aged 0-12years accepted at NNIC. Please do not wrap them.)

Get your Super Dog treats

A great Xmas gift for your furry friends or friends with furry friends. Former Nimbin School student Rhys Walden-Goodlet is transforming local organic produce into healthy treats for dogs. Rhys's SuperDog treats are currently available from NNIC and the Nimbin Weekly Farmer's Market.

7 Sibley Street updates

Well, the DA has been approved and so it will be all systems go in 2017! We will need to raise another \$7,500 to complete Stage One. To donate towards our new



Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

We are looking for more members from the community. Nimbin CDAT's purpose is to identify and respond to harm arising in our community because of drug or alcohol use, and to prevent and reduce that harm where we can.

Look out for the Adventures of Freddy Foolhardy and Captain Competent with their harm minimisation messages.

To join Nimbin CDAT, contact: admin@nnic.org.au

2016 Community Sustainability Survey

The survey is now closed. We will compile all the data and get a report out to you all ASAP. Watch this space and our facebook page for details.

Did you know?

NNIC is a registered charity and donations to our general services and activities (excluding Sibley St) are tax deductible. You can also make tax deductible bequests to NNIC.

To donate and receive a tax deductible receipt,

or for information about how to include your local charitable organisation in your will, please contact Nat at NNIC.


Mental Health Tip

For some people, the festive season can be anything but joyous and merry.

The holiday period can trigger stress, anxiety and depression. Be kind to yourself and set realistic expectations during this time.

Exercise has been shown to improve mood. Taking a brisk walk for 35 minutes five days a week (or 60 minutes three times a week) can do the trick. See: www.health.com/health/gallery

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments call 6689 1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.



NIMBIN NUMBERS

- Book-keeping – Mobile service avail.
- Tax Preparation
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged BAS Agent: 98777003
- Tax returns lodged for Centrelink recipients

Phone Jayne 0457-497-011
Email: jayne@nimbintax.com.au



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Nimbin Hospital information



Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held on the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic 13th December. For appointments, phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. For appointments phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next clinic 15th December. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6688-2401 to make an appointment.

Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm. Phone 6689-1288. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home and co-ordination of aged care packages.

Wound clinic

New service run by community nurses every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Referrals from Nimbin Hospital, GPs, self-referral. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288.

Nurse practitioner clinics

- Diabetes clinic: third Thursday of the month, next is 15th December.
- Respiratory clinic: 2nd Tuesday of the month, next is 13th December. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Free health checks

In front of the Neighbourhood Centre every second Friday, 11.30am – 1.30pm. Cardiac, diabetic and stroke risk assessments, run by a Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse. Smoking cessation advice and assistance. Weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, cholesterol levels. Referrals to appropriate health professional, if required.

Cannabis clinic

Every Monday. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

Nimbin NSP

Open Monday to Thursday, 9.30am-12pm. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Health Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. It's a 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to the emergency department at your MPS.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next is 9th December.





Peg's memories

by Noelle Lynden-Way
Community representative,
BUNK Quality & Safety Committee

What better compliment can you have about a family than when the mum says, "I am very proud of my children – they have all done well with their education and worked very hard at good jobs. They are 'dinky di' people."

These are the comments made by Peg Constable (pictured), former Kyogle Citizen of the Year, now 90 years old and living in the residential aged care (RAC) at the local MPS. Peg was a powerhouse in the community in the P&C, Red Cross, Far West Children's Home, Sunshine Club and did the bookwork for many different organisations.

She was born to Ellen (Nellie) and Mick Moy. Mick worked with the bullock teams, cutting wood and hauling logs around Unumgar to the local sawmills in the area. Sadly, he was killed instantly one day when a log fell off the bullock team.

Nellie and Peg's grandfather and three uncles moved to work at the mill at Wiangaree, which was where Peg grew up and went to school. She worked from 14 years old at Junor's Store where she learned how to keep books and stood in for the owner when he was away.

As a teenager, this was the era of the Saturday dances at the local halls – Grevillia, Findon Creek, Wiangaree, The Risk and even out to Afterlee sometimes.

Peg remembers well getting all dressed up, and the local musicians who would be playing at the hall when they arrived. Sometimes there could be 20 young people standing on the back of the old cream lorry with the rails around and off they'd go to the dance singing and laughing together. You wouldn't miss one, says Peg.

It was at a dance that she met George Constable, who worked at the Grevillia sawmill. Their first child died at 10 months old and they eventually had five more children who grew up to be the dinky di adults.

It was a different time for women then – Peg describes getting up at 4.30am to make breakfast, then packing morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for George and one of her uncles who would set off from Wiangaree on their pushbikes for the Grevillia mill. There were no gears on bicycles in those days, just your foot on the back tyre to slow down when you were going too fast!

Peg and George moved into Kyogle a few years ago. George died two days after they had settled into their new house. It was a very difficult time for Peg, and she now thinks that he knew it was going to happen and was making sure she was OK for the future.

She continued with her community work, drove her own car for many years, and her family grew to 15 grandchildren who are now having their own children.

Like many older people who can become unsteady on their feet, Peg had a fall and spent some time at the local MPS in respite. She and the family had a chat with her doctor about the difficulty of staying at home because she could have another fall at any time.

She decided to move into the residential aged care in Kyogle when a bed became available. It was hard to get used to not being independent but she found that she knows everyone there. She either knew them growing up, or as a member of one of the community organisations she has been part of.

Thank you Peg for the delightful time we spent together reminiscing – what a full, wonderful, generous life!

Mates don't let mates drink and drive

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team

Stopping a friend from driving under the influence of alcohol may be one of the most important decisions you ever make. But it's not always easy or possible to convince an inebriated buddy to exercise the necessary cautions.

Taking your friend's keys away may be a useful strategy if you are unable to convince them not to drive simply by talking to them. Some tactics you can try:

- Ask your friend for the keys, telling them you need to get something from the car (or put something in the car);
- Offer to move your friend's car to avoid a parking ticket;
- Ask your friend if you can borrow the car to do a run to the shop (or even the bottle);
- Wait until your friend is distracted and take the keys and hide them (but don't forget where);
- Depending on how drunk your friend is, they will likely forget soon after they have given you the keys;
- Consider moving their car to a different spot, so they can't easily find it until they hopefully sober up, in case you have to give the keys back. Offer to drive your friend home; and
- Avoid mentioning the keys that are now in your possession. If your friend asks for them, say you already gave them back. They are likely to think they have lost them. You



can even help them look for their keys.

You might feel bossy, or nagging or dishonest, but really you are performing an important community service. You are being caring and insightful for recognising that there is an issue that needs to be dealt with quickly to keep your friend and all other road users safe.

If your friend is a regular drink driver, talk to them about it when they are sober. Breaking the silence could save your friend's, or someone else's life.

For more great tips on how to keep your friend from driving when intoxicated, see: www.wikihow.com/Keep-Your-Friend-from-Driving-Drunk

Workplace support skills

A Rural Adversity Mental Health Program course in Kyogle will provide employees with essential support skills for work and everyday life.

The course is designed for those who come into contact with distressed persons within their workplace, and would like to be able to deal more effectively with stressed clients and difficult conversations.

Open to all service providers and community members, this 3-hour short course will cover:

- stress—impacts and coping techniques;
- effective communication skills;
- delivering unwelcome information;



- how to deal with an angry or distressed person;
- signs that a person may be struggling with their mental health;
- seeking and providing help;
- available mental health services; and
- how to look after your mental wellbeing.

The course will be held on Tuesday 6th December, 10.30am at Grove House, 8 Geneva Street, Kyogle.

Bookings can be made by contacting Nicola Mercer, community projects officer, Dept. Planning and Environment, on 0417-025-919.



The Nimbin Aged Care drop-in centre at Bottlebrush Studio will be closing for Christmas on Wednesday 21st December at midday and opening again on Monday 9th January at 10am. Our last Nimbin social group for 2016 is on Tuesday 13th December. Our first Nimbin social group for 2017 is on Tuesday 10th January.



Rooster rage



Council referred to NAG a complaint from a resident requesting Council deal with the nuisance of roaming roosters. It is not NAG's role to handle this type of issue – if individuals would like Council staff to act on matters of public nuisance, requests and supporting evidence of nuisance need to be directed to the relevant Council department.

Addressing the road toll

There is much sadness and some anger in people because of the tragic and unnecessary car accident that killed Simone Rutley in November.

We live on some of the most dangerous roads in Australia. People's dangerous driving behaviours need to be addressed or tragic accidents like this will continue to happen.

First, it is not OK to drink and drive. We as individuals, groups, community, etc, need to start taking action when we know/see that a person/people are going to drink-drive, or are on other drugs that impair their ability to drive. We can take action by taking car keys away from the person: it is not OK to stand by and let someone drink-drive.

If it turns ugly, seek help/support from others so they can back you up, if that fails, then call the police and report the person/people and situation. This is for all our safety and the thoughtless drunk person too.

Then there is the speeding. Slow down, you idiots! Think about others, rather than just yourselves! Drive to the speed limit; that's why we have them, to try and prevent accidents.

And why do people have to cross the double unbroken white lines? They are there for a reason – to keep us safe and on the correct sides of the roads! Why don't some people understand this? It's just as bad as drink-driving, so please people, start reporting bad drivers. If possible, get their number plates and ring the police.

All of these three things that so many of us do need to stop now! Our community of Nimbin has seen too many deaths from road accidents and we need to act to prevent further tragedies from happening, so please drive responsibly and safely, and think of others.

Marie Cameron
Nimbin

Sustainable development

Oh dear, a nutjob in charge of the White House. How unusual, although there wasn't much choice. The major difference between a professional politician and a real estate salesman, or in our case a merchant banker, is the spelling. Which unprincipled, lying thief did

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

your vote go to and in which universe does this make any sense?

Speaking of the rise of the real estate salesman, the highway is through and the developers are gathering for their real estate bonanza. We've been watching it happen for the last 30 years along this coastal corridor. As soon as the highway's done, here they come. Whatever we have learned about sustainable living in this area is in imminent danger of being overwhelmed by a tidal wave of completely unsustainable variations on suburbia; the only development models available.

If we are to have a sustainable future, any increased development without some effort at creating sustainable development models is ill advised to the point of reckless irresponsibility. We hear from councils apparently sincere concern about affordable housing but, in our current development models, that will only happen in the less expensive western suburbs of our future conurbation, which then get more expensive and affordable housing will have to move again. It's almost disappeared already here in the more expensive eastern suburbs.

Affordable housing is not possible without sustainable development models. Byron and neighboring councils are uniquely positioned to take advantage of the knowledge resources available to them in this region and start creating. Here's another incentive. The sustainability movement has discovered that sustainable practice makes far better economic sense than anything we've done so far. For instance, check out

what renewables are doing to coal. That means there is the potential to economically outcompete our current development models. Not just here, globally. Rather than being overwhelmed, this region could become a net exporter of the major growth industry of the 21st century; sustainable living.

Are there any visionary entrepreneurs with a concern for our future interested in this simple equation? We need sustainable development models and they are likely to be economically smarter than current models, particularly at scale.

Councils would probably like to help.

Robin Harrison
Binna Burra

Stuck in the short-term

Biodiversity Conservation is stuck in the short-term. It cannot hope to overcome habitat loss with short-term measures. A more holistic view is called for. The *My Local Native Garden* booklet launched in Lismore, while big-hearted, is a piecemeal attempt at habitat renewal by native plantings on soil near human habitation that is primarily required for human food.

Anyone who has made a study of the environment in a university would know firstly, that industrialised agriculture is unsustainable. Jeremy Rivkin found it "is the most inefficient form of farming ever devised by humankind." Second, the native bush was cleared mostly because it was thought people could not grow food "efficiently" unless this occurred.

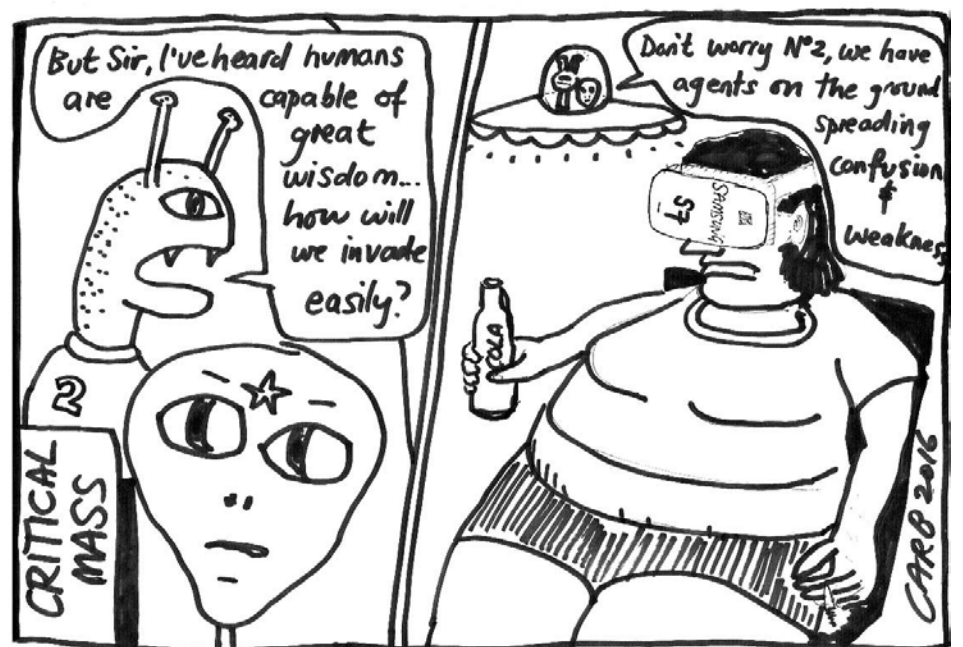
The antidote to an unsustainable, excessively, industrialised agriculture and the belief that food cannot be grown unless the bush is cleared, lies in a more hands-on approach by more people growing food.

This means back yards, front yards and nature strips are required primarily for growing human food. The result, from a more long-term perspective, is that a lot of rural land is able to return to habitat.

This occurs with even greater effect if there is scaling down of the export of agricultural produce and timber because Australia's exceptionally thin soils can't afford it.

Moreover, Professor Jared Diamond in his book, *Collapse* writes "... over 99% of [Australia's] agricultural land makes little or no positive contribution to Australia's economy." So it can return to habitat with little economic loss.

The idea that humans need to engage directly, hands-on, for the replenishment of native animals' food comes mostly from denial of how civilised human food sources are dysfunctional, not just in



their growing, but often in the selection of so-called 'human food', high level processing and long-distance transportation.

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture are one.

Geoff Dawe
Uki

Trumped

My distaste for Trump's attitude to many fellow humans was hardly unique. No politician attributes system failure for the people's plight. By selecting causes most plausible to the masses, Trump achieved the desired bottom line result. Of course it's really Capitalism's shortcomings that are at fault.

Parties across the global spectrum are feeling energised by stealing a jump on the 'Trumpoline'. Every one of them is merely responding to the stimulus of opinion in order to maximise votes and relevance. But each promises only to advance the interests of a portion of the population. That is, survival of those deemed fit to benefit, and forget the rest, because there is never enough.

But party actions are driven mostly by the power of money. It's legal to throw loads of business money at politicians by means of lobbying, but barely ethical considering the lack of such resources available to 90% of people. And if lobbying doesn't work, there are loads of hidden means to achieve corporate goals.

Spare a thought for all the politicians we expect to work this system for the people. Even if they are initially ethically motivated, they can be easily compromised and influenced in bad systems around the globe. Naturally they strongly resist corruption investigations. So rather than primarily focus on human weakness, let's focus on the system.

Consider the upside of a Trump presidency. It could be a new beginning for humanity with capitalist principles at the front of government, rather than manipulation from the sides.

The system and philosophy will be fully scrutinised warts and all. The scum should float to the surface.

To set an example on conflict of interest, Trump may dispose of all his businesses.

Either he tries to govern for all, or he succumbs to the powers that be. Either way the outcome has positive potential.

Capitalism is badly in need of transformation so as to be inclusive: a tall order in the short term. Trump may still be deciding what to do on behalf of humanity, with this unexpected opportunity. If he moves too strongly, he may suffer Kennedy's fate.

All politicians bend the truth. Trump is no orphan, so we really have little idea of his direction. A poor start, but having seized the reigns, he could resolve to do better. Let's hope, in the absence of party chains, he sees his unique potential of benefitting all humanity.

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby

A punter's review

I saw *The Bentley Effect* at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore. I was impressed.

The world is seeing increasing confrontations against fossil fuel corporations wanting maximum profits through resource extraction regardless of cost to people and communities, regardless of the impact on our climate, and regardless of the many renewable energy alternatives.

Filmed here in the Northern Rivers, *The Bentley Effect* is a truly inspiring film which tells the story of the courage, heartbreak and creativity of ordinary people doing extraordinary things to protect their communities and land from a large-scale invasion by Metgasco and other gas companies.

The Bentley Effect documents a glaring failure of democracy, where 87% of the community had voted 'No' to coal seam gas and were ignored by the New South Wales government and the gas industry. The crisis was only resolved by concerted

and broad community action using large scale civil disobedience, culminating in the Bentley Blockade and the final back-down by the NSW government.

This is a 'must see' film! Visit: www.thebentleyeffect.com for screening dates and other information.

Tom Driftwood
Rosebank

Medical cannabis

Having read your latest publication, now that "organic" medical cannabis has been proved to be a genuine alternative to harmful pharmaceutical drugs, will anything be said for all of those thousands of Australians who were prosecuted and persecuted for doing what the Government is legalising "organic" cannabis for?

By my reckoning, the Governments of Australia owe these people a big expensive apology. But if the Government were to offer those who were prosecuted for growing the "organic" stuff, licenses to grow it legally under contract, they might be forgiven for the disturbance they caused in their lives. Then a monetary reward would most likely suit those who got caught with a smoke. It should be no less than the maximum of what a Federal politician is entitled to claim in their living expense for one sitting week.

I googled the stuff and found that two thousand years ago in China, cannabis was found to be the best solution in suppressing stomach reflux so I told my doctor and he laughed at me.

I'd like to see him laugh at the native population pre-Australia when they cured their illnesses from what grew from the ground that they walked upon.

Neville C Thompson
Banora Point

Armchair experts

Some people on social networks appear to think Google empowers them with the same depth of understanding as those whose

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NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 28th December

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

The rap sheet

by Laurence Axtens

Ever since the festival, Nimbin has had a bad rap. Considered lawless, the debt crushed suburbanites of Australia believe the Nimbin community to be both violent and drug addled.

The truth is absolutely to the contrary – statistically there is more violent crime committed in the suburbs per capita, more class A drugs are produced in the suburbs and there is much more loneliness and psychological ill-health in the suburbs.

More and more invasive laws are being enacted to protect the people against this violence and psychopathy but they don't work, they just deepen

the crisis. What we need and what Nimbin has in spades is a community not scared to govern themselves. Community members not scared to intervene to protect their own, and by that I mean the entire community from the selfish few.

We don't need more laws and more gun toting officers of the state, arriving late, after the event to clean up the mess – we need a strong community determined to intervene before the fact; to talk people down, to pinch their car keys, to stand between them and the object of their fear.

The law is not the answer, the lore is. The voice of the empowered and educated community is the answer. One is imposed, the other arises



from the community and is a direct presentation of our own morality.

Nimbin in so many ways remains a beacon of how we should be as a country. Don't drop the ball – we look to you for a livable future.

professional experiences are based upon the same subject!

Being discerning about the sources upon which we rely is important. Yet of equal importance is the recognition that internet cannot provide the same depth of understanding as a lived experience. It is a reference point only and only then if the information is accurate, current and written by someone with the sort of experience we ourselves lack.

If like us, the authors we rely upon have only Googled their subject – then we risk becoming part of a disconnected game of Chinese whispers with no connection to anything based on firsthand involvement.

Our age is characterised by an unprecedented access to information, not all of which is true or real. Indeed, the internet is brimming with articles written by people with no background in the subjects they claim to know. Consequently, some individuals 'appear' informed, yet in truth have worked hard at misinforming themselves!

A failure to recognise this, places each of us at risk of becoming an armchair expert adrift in a virtual ego-trip. Being tentatively aware of something is one thing (if we're lucky), yet claiming authority is entirely another.

"Don't pretend to know something you haven't experienced." – Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī

R J Poole
Lismore

Foreign investment

Australia depends on America for backing against invasion. Darwin's port has been expanded and army facilities modernised, with American army units using both facilities. Then Australia sells the port to China, together with a couple of electrical power grids. China tries for the NSW grid. China already owns huge areas of land in Australia.

China says Australia is paranoid. China's expansion into Africa has been followed by flooding the projects with Chinese workers, resulting in most of the money returning to China.

China has now cancelled its One Child policy. What do you think might happen in the future with global warming destroying countries' abilities to feed their people? If China decided to migrate to Australia, would America help Australia to stop the boats?

The reason for the fire sale of Australia is due to the exorbitant expense in feeding the three cuckoos known as local, state and federal government. Voracious eaters, they are always eating more and more, thereby reducing their feeders little by little into bankruptcy and destitution.

Wake up, wake up!

G Pagura
Goonellabah
• Edited for length

Diabetes help

I was a diabetic, but now from a very simple and effective treatment, I am no longer a diabetic.

Take one small teaspoon of Dutch ground cinnamon morning and night for the first two weeks of treatment, then one small teaspoonful thereafter, every morning without fail for 12 months, mixed with breakfast food.

This cinnamon has a very special glucose, which a lady scientist found only exists in ground cinnamon. This cinnamon can be purchased at Woolworths at a very cheap price. It is suitable for children of all ages.

I would like the sufferers of Type 1 diabetes to consume a heaped small teaspoon of ground cinnamon twice per day for two months as a human experiment to see if it improves their health at least 50% better than they have been in a long, long time.

Fred Armstrong
West Ballina

Notices

Keep it short, and if it meets our criteria, we'll run it.

Babysitter available

My name is Philippa and I am a 25-year old offering babysitting during the day and evenings. I recently moved to Nimbin from Melbourne where I was working at a Steiner childcare/kindergarten. I have a Certificate 3 in Early Childhood Education, Foundations of Early Childhood Steiner qualification, first aid certificate, working with children's check, drivers licence and a car. For more information, phone/text 0431-943-896 or email: pnilant@gmail.com

Accommodation wanted

Active, bicycle-riding mature gent seeks granny flat, share house or similar in Nimbin. Applicant considers himself well-read, intelligent and funny, and is looking to establish a citizen journalist news service for Nim-FM. Contact Doug on 0415-929-224.

Bull wanted

Wanted, a bull to borrow to service my six cows at Koonorigan. Contact Michael on 0474-644-704 or email: koonorigan@gmail.com

Nimbin Markets

The December market will be held a week early, on Sunday 18th December, as Christmas Day falls on the fourth Sunday.

Tai Chi Qi Kung classes

For mind body integration, improved balance, increased stamina, calm peaceful mind, improved pain management. Taught by Daniel Keszler on Wednesdays 6.30-8pm during school terms at Nimbin Town Hall, back stage room. Cost: \$20 per class / \$100 per term. Phone 0419-182-989 for more information.

Develop journalism skills

Bring local stories to life and help sustain a functioning democracy. Expert mentoring available for audio, video, web, and mobile content development. Nim-FM is starting a news service and has been offered mentoring by expert, experienced journos from sister station Bay-FM. If interested, contact Doug on 0415-929-224.

Al-Anon family groups

Is your life being affected by somebody else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups can help. For more information and meeting times, phone 1300-252-666 (cost of a local call) or go to: www.al-anon.org.au

Happy anniversary

Johan and Maria will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on 28th December.



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