

Nimbin Community Centre annual report

by Dick Hopkins
President

Overall, the past year has been a positive one for NCC. We welcomed The Buttery as tenants in the Fig Tree building and we hope soon to have an Aboriginal organisation as new tenants in the Wai:bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre. All of our buildings are fully tenanted. Use of the Birth & Beyond room and the Dance Studio has increased. In addition to yoga, tai chi and dance classes, children's belly dance classes, Nia, karate, and fitness classes are on offer.

NCC continues to operate from a sound financial base. We are slowly repaying the personal loan that was provided to acquire Birth & Beyond. Once repaid, this building will contribute significant funds to NCC while also serving as a valuable and valued community space. We have also made other investments this year to strengthen our financial position.

Last year we utilised \$2000 of our reserves to purchase two shares in Enova Energy. Enova is community-owned, renewable energy retailing and installation business. Given the considerable community and environmental benefit and the possible return for NCC, we consider this to be a sound investment for the future. We have



recently changed to Enova for our electricity supply. NCC has also moved our telecommunications to the NBN with an installation at the main Acacia building.

Having facilitated acquisition of the land at 7 Sibley Street, NCC is in the process of transferring part ownership of the property to Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, who are the drivers of the project. Once an agreed level of equity is reached, title will be transferred to NNIC.

A deed of agreement has been signed to change the ownership to a joint tenancy.

NCC grounds are a smoke free site. There have been a number of improvements to our buildings and grounds this year. We really appreciate the work of Robyn Berry each week to beautify our grounds.

A big thank you goes to Burri Jerome for his work

revamping the murals at 54 Cullen Street, including the door. NCC donated funds to Gito in appreciation of his beautiful artwork in the laneway nearby.

Sam Herren and others have undertaken considerable maintenance and improvement work. Improvements to our buildings and grounds this year include: the construction of a new bin storage area adjacent to Cullen Street, the removal of a large lemon scented gum that had been dying, and the painting both inside and out of the Birth & Beyond building.

Funding from Stronger Communities has provided for the upgrade of the lighting at the Aboriginal Culture Centre, the installation of a toilet in the building and the replacement of the roof over the stairs. Lismore City

Council heritage funding provided for the installation of awnings to protect the windows at 54 Cullen Street.

The Healing Foundation funded a commemoration of the Apology to the stolen generations. NCC also gained funding under the NSW Regional Aboriginal Arts Fund for an arts and culture project. Workshops in dance, traditional weaving and art will be held for Aboriginal people at the Culture Centre.

In line with our aims, NCC works closely with other organisations to advocate for improvements and services. We have been working with the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce to seek funds for a lighting project to assist with beautification of our streets and help with crime prevention.

We have been working

with Nimbin Central School student representative council to get greater input from local youth. We are working with them to develop applications for funding for youth activities.

NCC has actively lobbied Lismore City Council on community matters including development proposal and issues such as the Cubes, proposed phone towers, and parking.

Late last year local sculptor, Graham Knowles, donated the large sandstone sculpture he made for the highly successful anti-CSG blockade at Bentley to Lismore Council. It was welcomed into our grounds. We officially unveiled a plaque explaining the sculpture and the significance of environmental activism in our local area. We also installed a donation box for the many visitors to the

sculpture encouraging them to contribute financially to environmental campaigns. Small but ongoing donations to the Environment Centre continue.

Nimbin Community Centre is your Centre and the community input into making the Centre such a wonderful and vibrant place is valued by many, particularly the management committee. Committee members this past year were Dick Hopkins, Teresa Biscoe, Diana Roberts, David Hallett, Michael Balderstone, Linnet Pike and Daniele Voinot. We have truly appreciated the facilitation skills of Karlin Bracegirdle and have enjoyed having Scott Sledge at most of our meetings. Thanks to Helen Lynne for her very valuable contribution keeping our financials on task and Kerry Liddell is doing an outstanding job as our co-ordinator three days per week.

NCC's 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held on 17th November, 5.30pm at Birth & Beyond and everyone is encouraged to attend. Membership is due (\$15, \$10 seniors/unemployed, and \$5 under 25s). Please arrive early if you haven't paid your membership, or go to the office before the meeting. Ring 6689-0000 for more information or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Wrapping up 2016 with a meeting

Chamber Chat
by Teresa Biscoe, President

The year has almost finished and another AGM looms, it feels like yesterday that the new committee was elected.

Thank you for supporting your Chamber of Commerce during 2016. This year there were several new members of the Chamber committee, and we are all working toward making our Chamber an active and supportive organisation for our community.

The committee is a very diverse group who reflect a number of community interests, but we are all keen to contribute to and grow our local community and its economy. We would love to have interest from other members for the committee, if you have energy to commit.

Members of the Chamber attended this year's Sustainability Forum in Nimbin and took the Action Plan created through this forum to the Chamber, which has adopted same as blueprint for its own Action Plan. Some actions attributed to the Chamber have been dropped as they were outside its scope and ability, but the majority of the Action Plan has been taken on and we are slowly working our way through it.

This year the Chamber has

focused on our colourful and iconic murals that are such a strong part of our Main Street scape. We have contributed designated mural funding to the Nimbin School of Arts Inc., which requested help in restoring its murals. We are also currently working on getting a number of mural funding strategies happening, including placing collection tins around town to assist local businesses in restoring their own murals.

The Chamber also assists members to apply for the annual 'Local Heritage Assistance Grant' through Lismore Council, which will contribute to mural restoration and other local heritage preservation projects.

The Chamber sees a priority in getting to know the working and processes of the Lismore City Council. It has organised a number of meetings with various workers from Lismore Council in order to discuss local infrastructure planning including parking and traffic management, toilets and public showers, footpath maintenance, development approvals, funding provisions and the administration of the special rate variation levy so that it may best benefit our community.

The Chamber has also written to Council on several occasions to express concern over some

development decisions, including the proliferation of mobile phone towers around the High Street area, the parking and traffic planning issues that will be created with new developments in the town, and the need for more community consultation over these issues.

Nimbin Community Centre Inc. made an unsuccessful funding application this year, to fund a project to have solar powered lighting under the awnings on the street. They have presented the project to include lighting the murals as well. The Chamber endorsed this project as it would benefit the main street by highlighting our wonderful murals and creating additional ambient lighting, which increases the safety of the street and encourages activity at night. With NCCI we are exploring funding sources and will have developed a funding plan to renew this major project initiative in the next financial year.

Our Street Beautification project is well underway, with Jane Mari co-ordinating the replanting of the large planter pots in the street. We have organised regular watering and are funding the repainting and replanting of the pots. We encourage local businesses to adopt a planter pot near them and help keep it happy and healthy, as we need to come

together to ensure that the project sustains itself.

The Chamber has a regular delegate at the Police Community Consultation Committee (PCCC) and are channelling community concerns to the police via this body. We are also working on a Community Fire Action Plan with the PCCC in light of the distressful incidents we have had in the past few years and in recognition of how vulnerable our historic main street is. Once we have mapped the firefighting resources and have developed an action plan we will inform the community of the detail.

The Chamber is also exploring the introduction of a recycled Nimbin Community shopping bag, manufactured in Australia and printed with names or logos of local business sponsors. This could not only advertise local businesses but also contribute to reduction of landfill.

In the background is a desire to improve and communicate globally the positive aspirations of our developing culture – honest

co-operation and friendship, self-managing intentional communities, local self-sufficiency, permaculture, environmental regeneration and protection, medical marijuana, and our wonderful arts and crafts. This way we may be of real assistance to a distressed world.

The Chamber of Commerce AGM will be held Thursday 27th November, 6pm, at Birth and Beyond. We encourage new members to join and be part of the economic development of wonderful town. Application for membership can be obtained by contacting the Chamber Secretary David Spain, at: dspain@spains.com.au I would like to thank this year's Chamber for their individual contributions to the work of the committee and their enthusiasm for the task.

We hope you will all continue to support your local Chamber and appreciate the direction in which we are working; together we can contribute to the health, welfare and sustainability of our lovely town of Nimbin.



Progressives to lead new Tweed Council

by Scott Sledge

Voters turned out on Saturday 29th October to elect a new Council for Tweed Shire.

They voted overwhelmingly for new people, only two from the past group of Councillors remain – Katie Milne (pictured) of The Greens and National Party aligned Warren Polglase.

They will be joined by five new faces – Reece Byrnes (Country Labor), James Owen (Liberals), businessman Pryce Allsop, Christine Cherry and Ron Cooper.

Four of the successful candidates were endorsed by Tweed Community Voice and the Threatened Species Conservation Association. They are expected to form a progressive majority.

Councillor Barry Longland championed building an unpopular 'men's shed' project in the Black Rocks (Pottsville) conservation area and was not re-elected. The vote in the Pottsville area for the conservation candidates



was 1015 compared to only 125 for Longland. These results will go a long way towards seeing the men's shed built elsewhere.



Today is my turn to have the ladies on council (Darlene Cook, Nancy Casson and Vanessa Ekins) over for ladies tea. We are eating lots of yummy treats and having great conversations about the challenges ahead in serving the awesome Lismore community. We feel sorry for all the men on council who are missing out LOL. - Cr Eddie Lloyd

Council capers



On a bus tour of Lismore council facilities with the new councillors, watching organic waste from the green wheelie bin being shredded before composting - with Elly Bird, Tony Duffy and Adam Guise. Photo: Cr Vanessa Ekins

From the mayor's desk

Cr Isaac Smith, Lismore City Council

Council is a big diverse operation so we talk about a lot of issues. Not everyone will agree on the actions that come from everyone having a voice, but they should say that they had the opportunity to be heard.

I was very pleased that our first council meeting in October resulted in more listening. We listened to local views on hospital parking, we listened to local concerns about the greyhound industry and we committed to having more conversations with young people about the future of Lismore. Council needs to continue the love by embracing our new community panels and resourcing them to deliver on local priorities. So I look forward to listening to the Nimbin Advisory group and the local community panels around Nimbin for more good ideas in the year ahead.

Most councillors recently took the opportunity to tour around the major council facilities in our LGA. So we got the chance first hand to look at the Transfer Station, Community Pool, Skate park, information centre, (blow in) lane way boys and more. We also walked up and down Main Street as we went to the pub and enjoyed a great meal. Some councillors have not spent a lot of time in Nimbin so it was a real eye opener and great to have councillors together to experience the best of what Nimbin can offer.

I'm really looking forward to building the bridges between Nimbin and what is basically a new council. So hopefully new and returned councillors can join me at the Nimbin Youth Film festival in a few weeks and the launch of the Nimbin sound trails tour, which promises to make a visit to Nimbin an even more interactive experience.

We're seven weeks in to our term at Council, and it's been a very busy time so far.

We've had comprehensive briefings and trainings to bring us up to speed on new amendments to the Local Government Act, and to introduce us to the current situation with Council. We have some tough decisions ahead in the coming term as we work to satisfy the state government's requirements that Councils be 'Fit for the Future'.

I have just returned from

Word of the Bird

by Cr Elly Bird, LCC

the Local Government NSW conference where there was a lot of discussion about amalgamation, and the Baird Government's push for 'efficiency' for amalgamated councils. Amalgamations have caused a lot of pain in communities across NSW and there is still more to come with many councils waiting on further amalgamation decisions.

During the Australian Local Government Women's Association breakfast, the keynote speaker commented that "there is a funny smell in parliament" and very swiftly from the audience came the reply, "It's all the old men!"

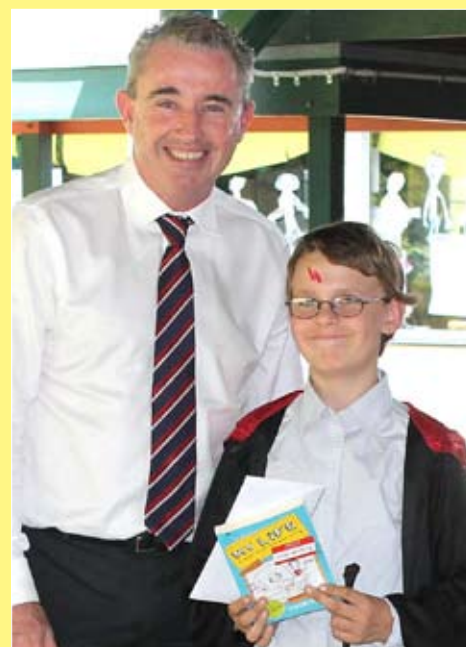
Hopefully we continue to see more women, and younger people entering local government and politics in general, because like it or not, it's the system we've got to work with and we can only benefit from a more accurate representation of our society in the sector.



New Rous County Councillors: Basil Cameron, Simon Richardson, Darlene Cook, Robert Mustow, Keith Williams and Vanessa Ekins (at front, taking selfie). Sandra Humphries and Sharon Cadwallader "too shy". Rous Water, Far North Coast Weeds and Richmond River County Council recently merged as Rous County Council. www.rous.nsw.gov.au

On the same Page

Kevin Hogan MP
Member for Page



I was at Jiggi Public School last week donating a book prize. Congratulations to Taylah McMahon (pictured) who was awarded this prize. It was also Book Week, with students dressed up as their favourite book character. Great school.

This week, medicinal cannabis moves from a prohibited substance to a controlled substance, meaning potentially hundreds of thousands of Australian's will have access to this life-changing drug.

Medicinal cannabis is shown to be a life changing treatment for childhood epilepsy, symptoms associated with chemotherapy, and multiple sclerosis. There is also growing evidence of cancer prevention and treatment.

I am proud to be part of the Government

that has allowed this to happen, and proud to be part of the Nationals team who listened to the community and pressured for this change.

On Monday I was pleased to announce almost \$400,000 for the Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA) Generator Program for creating new theatre works.

This grant will allow NORPA to continue the very high quality work being created in the Northern Rivers. The Generator Program produces outstanding, home-grown work telling local stories about our community, such as the popular and critically acclaimed *Railway Wonderland*.

Early this month, I spent several days cross-examining the bosses of Australia's big four banks as part of Parliament's Economics Committee. This was the first time these CEO's have been called before the powerful Economics Committee.

I am of the opinion that we need a tribunal to monitor the banks. If someone has a problem with a bank, there needs to be an independent process that can help bank customers.

Over these three days, much was learnt and achieved, and now we will put forward our recommendations to the treasurer.



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Tina Fuller
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Now launching Rhys' Super Dog Treats

Former Nimbin Central student Rhys Walden-Goodlet (*above right*) recently launched the sale of his SuperDog Treats at the Nimbin Weekly Farmers' Markets.

The production of the treats is a learning and working project for Rhys, who finished school in 2015. With the help of a mentor/support worker, Rhys is transforming local organic produce into healthy treats for dogs.

Over time, different products will be available. So if you have a furry companion, please support this worthwhile local project.

Rhys's SuperDog Treats are available from NNIC and the Farmer's Markets and watch out for them at the Food Co-op and Nimbin Emporium down the track.

7 Sibley Street updates

We are thrilled to announce that we got a grant for 7 Sibley Street. Yep, that's right, \$50,000 towards Stage One. YIPPEE! Thanks to NSW Government's Social and Community Housing Improvement Fund via Family and Community Services. The project will involve an additional \$25,000 in costs. We have \$10,000 in reserves, so we needed another \$15,000 for Stage One.

We say "needed" because \$7,500 was raised at the Art Auction on 15th October, which means we only need another \$7,500. To donate to this project to get it over the line – contact NNIC on: admin@nnic.org.au

Builders are wanted to help with the careful demolitions of 7 Sibley Street (as we will be salvaging and recycling whatever we can). We are

waiting for DA approval and in the meantime we are compiling a list of people willing to help with the demos. Please contact Nat or Guy at NNIC.

Art auction thank you

Many thanks to Mandie and Steve Hale for all their hard work in making the auction happen. A special thanks to Max for his excellent auctioneering, and to Guy, Chibo, and Chris for all the legwork. Thanks to everyone who came along and bid for the great art works on sale. And lastly but not leastly, thanks to all the people who so generously donated art works for the auction. A complete list of the donors can be found on our Sibley Street website: www.sevenonsibley.com

2016 Community Sustainability Survey

We ask the questions that matter! Do you live within 30kms radius of the Nimbin village? Have you done the survey yet? The survey closes 30th November 2016. Available at NNIC and can also be downloaded from our website. Please return your surveys to NNIC by 30th November 2016 (for people who live within 30kms radius of the Nimbin village). <http://nnic.org.au/pub/index.php/sustainability/introduction>

NNIC AGM

Wednesday 30th November at 5.30pm at NNIC. All members welcome. You can drop by anytime to join NNIC. Your membership helps us to support the local community.

Did you know...

NNIC is a registered charity and donations to our general

services and activities (excluding Sibley Street) 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.

Donations needed

We are seeking donations of good quality and preferably new toys for kids aged 0-12 years, for Santa to give out at Christmas time. Contact Heidi, Ruth or Nat at NNIC.

Non-perishable food donations also needed

The demand for meals and food is ever increasing due to increasing pressures on household incomes. Next time you are out shopping, why not consider buying a couple of extra items for our food cupboards at NNIC, so we can pass them onto people in need? Contact Heidi, Ruth or Nat at NNIC.

November mental health tip

Develop gratitude and count your blessings. Try writing down three positive things every day. This can lead to increased well-being. www.mindhealthconnect.org.au

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 Hospital Information



Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held on the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic 8th November. 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 17th November. 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: 3rd Thursday of the month, next is 17th November.
- Respiratory clinic: 2nd Tuesday of the month, next is 8th November. 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 11th November.



November social activities at NACRS

For all elders and carers in our local communities.

- ♦ **Craft Group:** 7th November, 11am-1pm, making cards with Margie Rojo, bring your favourite crafts, NACRS, Bottlebrush Studio Social Centre, Nimbin;
- ♦ **Nimbin Social Groups:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9.30am-1pm at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, with morning tea and light lunch, small fee;
- ♦ **Bus Outing:** Tuesday 8th November, bring your morning tea to Ballina Seabird & Turtle Rescue, lunch at Brunswick Heads Bowlo ;
- ♦ **The Channon Social Group:** Thursday 17th November, 11.30am-3pm, the Channon Pub for lunch;
- ♦ **Koonorigan Social Group:** Monday 27th November, 11.30am-3pm, Bring a Plate Lunch, Koonorigan Hall;
- ♦ **Home visits** for company or a break, phone to arrange;
- ♦ **Drop-In** at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm, for a cuppa, a chat, internet, computer, a quiet sit down – the coolest place in town.

We offer services to people 65+ years, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders 50+, anyone experiencing housing stress or homelessness 50+ and carers.

Phone 6689-1709, visit: www.nacrs.com or find us on Facebook.



Share your life skills and experience by becoming a member of the Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc.

Join this vibrant association in the heart of Nimbin which oversees Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS). NACRS offers a variety of services supporting older people to maintain well-being and social connection. Services include:

- ♦ a buzzing social centre at Bottlebrush Studio;
- ♦ a fantastic team of Aboriginal community workers;

- ♦ social groups at The Channon and Koonorigan;
 - ♦ home visits and one-to-one support;
 - ♦ bus outings to beautiful places;
 - ♦ free internet and use of computers;
 - ♦ the annual Nimbin NAIDOC celebrations; and
 - ♦ the fabulous NACRS Christmas Party.
- In addition, to help strengthen community capacity, NH&W convenes the bi-monthly Nimbin Interagency Forum, bringing together all the health and community workers offering services in Nimbin.

By joining NH&W you can bring your life experience and skills to our wonderful NH&W management committee (meeting monthly, usually at 4pm-5.30pm on the 3rd or 4th Tuesday). NH&W membership is only \$3.

Come along to our AGM on Tuesday 22nd November at the Bottlebrush Studio (the rainbow coloured building at Nimbin Community Centre), 5.15pm-6.15pm with a light supper afterwards. For catering purposes please RSVP, phone 6689-1709 and speak to Jenny.

Singing the praises of residential care

by Noelle Lynden-Way

As people arrive at an older age they often have to face difficult decisions about where they are going to spend the rest of their lives.

Are they going to sell their home and move to a smaller place, or have their adult children or a sibling or friends build a “granny flat” for them? Or can they find a place to rent that is amenable to an older person and which they can afford?

If one has a fall and injures oneself, a different kind of decision has to be made. After a discussion with family, friends and your local doctor, you may have to decide whether you can stay living at home with assistance, or do you move into a hostel or nursing home?

In Kyogle, Nimbin, Urbenville and soon in Bonalbo, the local MPS (Multi Purpose Service) provides integrated health and aged care services. The MPS receive Australian Government funding to deliver aged care services with the state/territory governments providing funding for a range of health services.

Beryl and Geoff Watkins at 81 and 83 years of age had to make one of those difficult decisions earlier this year. Beryl had her first fall just before her 80th birthday when she fractured her pelvis in two places and then another fall 10 weeks later that sent her to hospital.



Geoff visiting Beryl in her room at Kyogle RAC

She was home for two months before she fell again and this time, although there were no new fractures, she was offered a room at the Kyogle Residential Aged Care Facility (RAC) and they had to make up their minds whether Beryl should move there and leave Geoff at home living by himself.

It was a very hard decision for them both but it was made, as Beryl says, with the knowledge that Geoff, at his age, might not be able to lift her and take on the responsibility of her care if she fell again.

With the help of their two daughters they have worked out a new way of life – Geoff comes to the RAC each day to visit Beryl, and has assistance to still live in their home of 55 years. He sings

the praises of the friendly staff and the wonderful care that Beryl receives. Jeanette and Delma, their daughters who live on the Gold Coast and in Melbourne respectively, alternate visiting Kyogle to take their mum home for the day.

Geoff and Beryl first met at the Lismore Show in 1956 – he offered her a lift home in his car, an Austin A40. At that time he lived on a dairy farm at Collins Creek. Beryl worked at Junor’s Milk Bar and a number of different grocery shops. After they married they lived at Roseberry where Geoff worked at the sawmill, and then for 31 years with the Kyogle Council outdoor staff.

Thank you to these two heroes of Kyogle for the interview.

Autism support for families

Research indicates that a large group of Australians have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum, a condition which can have a profound impact on the person, their family and community.

While awareness of autism is greater than ever, support for children with autism and diverse learning styles and their families is still needed.

A workshop by Positive Partnerships to support families of school aged children on the autism spectrum is being held on Tuesday 15th November at Kyogle Golf Club.

Workshop facilitator Karen Evans said, “Particular challenges can arise for children with autism, including behavioural, social and learning issues, which also affect their families and teachers.”

“These challenges can be met with practical, evidence-based tools like those we’ll introduce at our upcoming Kyogle workshop for parents and family carers from across the region.”

At the workshop, participants will

- ♦ gain knowledge about how to develop effective family and school partnerships;
- ♦ find out about strategies to advocate for their child, support their child’s participation at school and develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs;
- ♦ access information about local school system’s processes;
- ♦ discuss issues with other parents/carers and community member; and
- ♦ learn about a range of topics relevant to students and their families.

The workshop is free (including resources) and morning tea, lunch and refreshments will be provided. Space is limited, so parents and carers of school-age children should register online as early as possible to avoid disappointment at: www.positivepartnerships.com.au

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Helping Children with Autism Package, and is delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia.

Setting the record straight on staffing at Kyogle hospital

by Wayne Jones
Chief Executive,
Northern NSW Local Health District

The Local Health District has not cut patient care from Kyogle MPS, and has in fact increased and enhanced the patient care, support services, and security for patients and residents.

In December 2015, NNSW LHD received funding to open three additional beds in the Residential Aged Care Facility (RAC) at

Kyogle MPS.

These beds became operational in March 2016, which saw an increase in staffing support of eight hours a day, comprising an additional four-hour Assistant in Nursing (AIN) shift and four-hour Wardsperson/Health Security Assistant (HSA) shift.

NNSW LHD has been in regular and ongoing negotiations with the Kyogle MPS staff, and both the Health Services Union and NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, for the past 10 months regarding

the proposed model of care for the RAC.

Wardspeople have been working eight-hour shifts, seven-days-a-week, at Kyogle MPS providing a range of patient care assistance for many years without any concerns raised by staff, patients, or families. Extending this model of care to the RAC on the evening shift has provided addition resources for patient care, and importantly, additional security resources.

The inclusion of Wardspeople/Health Security Assistants (HSAs) in the RAC

staffing in no way reduces the quality of care for residents. The Wardspeople/HSAs model of care is contemporary health care practice and is effectively utilised in many MPS RAC facilities in other locations across NSW.

Kyogle MPS RAC nursing staffing levels are meeting the requirements of the Public Health Service Nurses and Midwives (State) Award. In addition, the duties of Wardspeople/HSAs at Kyogle MPS are consistent with the duties specified within the Health Employees (State) Award.

Discarded syringes

This letter is directed towards anyone who uses intravenous drugs in the village.

My kids are 4 and 7 years old. I endeavour to teach them to be responsible and empathetic humans. They are diligent recyclers and composters, and we often pick up other people's rubbish because we don't want to live in a dump.

Recently in our beautiful village they were doing the right thing and one of them happened to pick up a (capped) syringe. I was chastised for not having taught my kids about needles. I have been on a roller coaster of feeling shame, guilt, anger, stupidity, disappointment, sadness and frustration.

I'm happy now to say F*** YOU to the lazy shit that left their garbage laying a few short steps from the public loos with syringe boxes in them. I really don't care about what lifestyle anyone wants to lead but pull your damn socks up!

I will not discourage my kids from doing the right thing. They now know what a needle looks like in the context of not being at a doctors (sadly).

It would be appreciated if you know a needle user, to kindly remind them to dispose of their stuff appropriately. Please. Luckily this was not one of the 'could have happened' situations.

Lisa Lucken
Blue Knob

THAT shed and koalas

I am troubled at reading some of the letters and articles in the Tweed and regional press in regard to the location of the men's shed at Black Rocks.

Whilst I appreciate that the concerns expressed are about the koalas' wellbeing, my experience is that koalas are relatively stoic animals that are not particularly concerned about the presence of humans. What they are highly vulnerable to is the loss of their food trees, disease, motor vehicle strike, dog attack and wildfire, which is endemic among most koala populations, even those in relatively pristine settings.

With this in mind, I worry that alternative sites are being suggested without, it seems, much thought for the welfare of koalas. The fact is that the

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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.

area around Lot 3 Centennial Drive has most of the same attributes the opponents of the Black Rocks men's shed complain of. This includes breeding koalas, core koala habitat, breeding bush stone curlews and an active osprey nest.

However there is one crucial difference; the existing cleared area at Lot 3 is small and will almost certainly need to be expanded into core koala habitat to accommodate the men's shed, sufficient parking and bushfire setbacks. How can this be better for koalas?

Also, from what I understand, there have been at least three other similar suggestions made that would also require clearing of koala habitat or divert precious council resources away from improved koala management.

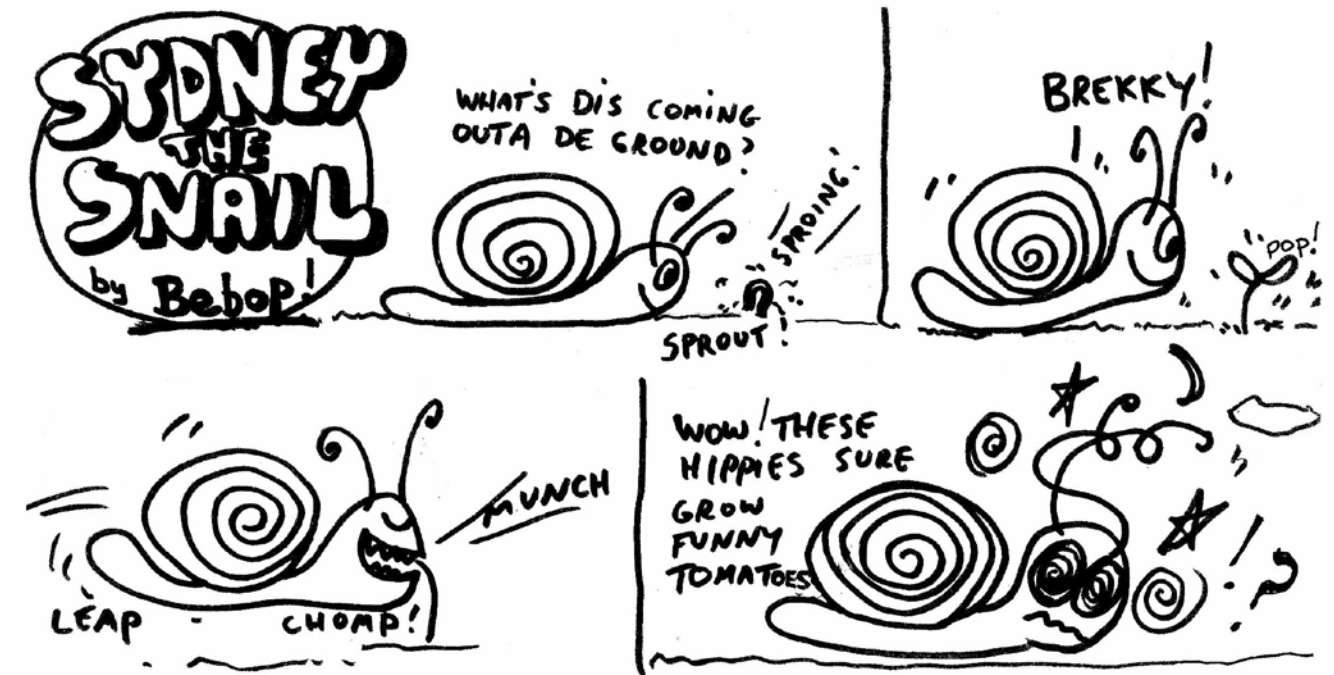
If readers really want to help koalas on the Tweed coast, they need to ensure that incoming councillors commit to Council's Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management (which is by far the most comprehensive and rigorous plan of the four in which I have personal involvement) and ensure it is properly resourced.

Lorraine Vass
President, Friends of the
Koala, Inc.

Domestic violence

I'd like to support Bettina Arndt in her exposure of a domestic violence industry (NGT, Sept, 2016). Part of what Bettina is saying is that attitudes toward this very real problem are biased in favour of seeing men solely as the cause. It's the half look that exacerbates the condition; the same half look that appears in examination of weeds or drugs.

Womens' bodies are



involved in the half birthing of humans by caesarian section and statistically they are shown to be half breast feeding. Admittedly all this has been done with mens' support. To say this half raising of humans at the most impressionable time of their lives has nothing to do with these humans becoming involved in future domestic violence, is a half look at causes. (All respect given to Birth and Beyond and others involved in the home birthing and breast feeding movements.)

It is rare for a male to be involved in domestic violence without him feeling provoked. The provocation he feels he experiences, more often than not is consciously seen to have come from a woman who is involved in violent speech and/or violent attitude. This may be true or not, but women can be involved in violent speech and/or attitude. Admittedly, women rarely resort to physical violence for obvious reasons.

Domestic violence is real and a great shame for our society. However, there cannot be hope for its healing while scape-goating is the response rather than an understanding that it is a shared problem of both sexes underlined by the fact as Bettina says, "large numbers [of children] are being affected by their parents' two-way couple violence which impacts a third of all couples." This inter-generational impact is the major violence of domestic violence.

Since there is currently an erosion, Bettina writes, of "[l]egal protection for men falsely accused of violence", one could predict there would be an increase in men's anger.

The domestic violence industry can't hope to have a positive impact on the reduction of couple violence, while its response is violent.

Geoff Dawe
Uki

Bypass the system

The sacred cow elephant in the room called Earth, named capitalism, is the most destructive power on the planet. It so dominates life that we fail to see its presence in all our major problems.

The mass media can't and won't debate it, as though that were sacrilege. It is owned and controlled by those very interests, just as politics is. We are conditioned not to question it, let alone encouraged to debate how we might change it for the better.

Money was meant to be a convenient tool for the exchange of effort or goods. Big Capitalism has made it a tool for exploitation. Investments are always a gamble, and most will inevitably fail. The collateral damage plays havoc with individual lives, nations, infrastructure and finances.

Thus Capitalism is not a fount of wisdom to guide mankind's wellbeing, but we must not throw this baby out with the bath water. Its selfish nature and power to protect the patch of its stakeholders, makes reform impossible from the inside.

Governments are too large, cumbersome and controlled to initiate effective change. Their measures of wellbeing are trending the wrong way, yet they blindly cling to the deadly rules of Capitalism, which say there is not enough to go round. Hence they will govern only for their followers.

This is absolutely without logical foundation. The fruits of labour need to be shared differently. Everything ever achieved comprised of human effort and the free resources that nature supplies.

To break this deadlock, people must look to innovate in their own communities, with maximum people involved in voluntary exchange of efforts. Solutions can only evolve organically by trial and error. All can learn from the experience of others. Large scale mistakes are too

costly, like the upheavals we regularly experience now. So small is beautiful.

It's imperative to bypass engagement with governments, corporations and money as much as possible. This minimises the percentage of effort creamed off up the pyramid. When the masses withdraw masses of spending, businesses must adapt or die out, and governments will seek relevance to survive.

True power and ideas always lies with the people! The establishment will feel challenged, but adhering to and circumventing laws will avoid needless effort and pain.

Keen innovators must start by seeking guidance from respected elders from all subsections of community, such as racial, religious, sport, social and creative groups, youth activities. Pinpoint those who have fallen through the cracks. We all deserve happiness and a sense of belonging.

Which people are in most need, who has time and skills, and whose assets are available for use?

People with inadequate income, accommodation, health issues, are very likely to be enthusiastic time-rich contributors. Unemployed skilled people of all ages can contribute, be they healers, teachers, childminders, carers. Assets like land for food production, micro-finance, or temporary shelter are highly valued.

When full value for effort is retained, up to 20 hours weekly will provide for an abundant life. And a fulfilling one! Do some figures!

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby

Sledging Trump

Scott Sledge ("Will we get Trumped?" NGT October 16, p.9) appears quite ignorant of the fact that racism is being used as a tool (Black Lives Matter funded by George Soros - look it up!) to create news bites, racial profiling

and bedlam as a distraction from the real issues that confront USA Inc.

Viz: a fiat currency that is being refused worldwide (Global Financial Reset, October 1, 2016); food and essentials shortages at home (see closure of hundreds of Walmarts); the loss of international prestige and the karma that is visiting them from the violent overthrowing of sovereign nations (Obama/Clinton) that continues to this day as 'the new American century' dogma unfolds.

However good or bad he is, Trump has alerted the people of the United States to the fact that they are governed by a private corporation (USA Inc, 'Federal System' based in Washington DC - not part of the Republic!) and that they need and want to reclaim their republic.

As for giving Clinton your vote, wow! Sledge, I am disturbed that you can support such a neocon warmonger with such a despicable record. Shame on you Sledge, why aren't you supporting Dr Jill Stein, the Greens presidential candidate? She needs your vote.

Anthony Green
Coraki

US elections

Perhaps Scott Sledge should ask an adult for their political view - that way he doesn't look like an uninformed idiot when his "article" goes to press (NGT October 16, p.9).

A vote for Hillary Rotten Clinton is a signature on Julian Assange's death warrant. She has threatened to assassinate him twice, yet msm brushes it off! That's what you need to know... oh and she left an American ambassador to be brutally raped and tortured by filthy Muslims while the dementia-riddled old hag slept.

Corrupt Clintons have stolen billions of dollars from starving Haiti and took money from Saudi Arabia under the guise of

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 23rd November

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



Newborn bison calf on show

It's calving time at Aranyani Bison Adventure Tourist Park, and one of the calves this year was born blind in one eye and has undetermined vision in the other eye. She was taken from the herd and bottle-fed and is now being hand reared by the staff. She's a feisty girl and is winning the hearts of everyone who meets her. There is a naming competition for her, seeking Native American names with meaning.

Zookeepers Brooke Bishop and Mark Spain will join owner Damen Wells to introduce her on US National Bison Day, Saturday 5th November at 1pm at Aranyani Bison Park, located at Myrtle Creek between Grafton and Casino. There will be loads of fun activities and raffles and prizes all day.

Bring your lunch to barbecue at Aranyani's camp kitchen. There are some grocery supplies at the kiosk, with bison sausages and steaks available to purchase. General admission prices of \$18 per person apply – check the webpage at: www.aranyanibison.com or phone (02) 6661-7866.

"donations". Saudi Arabia – modern day slave traders of blacks, women and children. Hang the homos in Saudi right?

She endorsed the head of the KKK. Lied and destroyed over 30,000 classified emails. Bleached computers. Took hammers to blackberries. Her husband is up on 39 rape allegations for God's sake! She is on charges of intimidating her husband's victims.

She defended a monster who left a little girl in a coma and infertile after being viciously raped. Apparently the kid fantasised about older men, according to this vile woman. Causing racial disharmony to disarm voters.

Who would vote for that? Uninformed voters who no longer reside in USA, who rely on children to make a decision, I guess. What an absolute fail...

M Bliss
Byron Bay

Cancer cures

Cancer is ever on the horizon. Alternative cures are working. It is patently clear that convention medical cures do not work – chemo and radiation. Figures quoted by the American Cancer Society are manipulated.

Cancer is increasing very quickly – far too quickly for it to be a genetic disorder. In the 1960's 1 in 20 women had breast cancer; just 45 years later 1 in 8 are diagnosed. Between 1985 and 1996 (11 years) prostate cancer cases rose from 85,000 to 317,000. (USA).

The American Cancer Society is stating that 40% of Americans will develop life threatening cancer. That was 12 years ago! At these rates, we are likely to contract it if we do not counter the effect of the chemicals that are all around us.

It is better to be aware of your options before you are found to have it. Once

Notices

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

For Sale

Kobuta L3400 tractor with all implements. 220 hours. \$17,500 + GST. Phone 0468-834-522 or email: thewholeearthgardener@gardener.com

Large tent wanted

Tunable Falls Community School is asking for a large tent to take on school camping trips. Any 'large' size would be helpful. If you can help, please email: tunablestool@gmail.com or phone 6689-1423 between 9am and 3pm.

Annual General Meetings

- Nimbin Aquarius Foundation AGM Tuesday 15th November, 4pm in the Community School Room, Nimbin Community Centre.
- Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group AGM Wednesday 16th November, 12pm in the Community Centre grounds. All welcome.
- Nimbin Community Centre AGM Thursday 17th November, 5.30pm at the Birth & Beyond room, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin. New members welcome. For further information please contact the co-ordinator on 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au
- Nimbin Chamber of Commerce AGM Thursday 27th November, 6pm, at Birth and Beyond. All members welcome.
- Nimbin HEMP Inc AGM Friday 2nd December, 5pm at the HEMP Embassy, 51 Cullen Street Nimbin, followed by the Nimbin MOB (MardiGrass Organising Body) AGM.
- Nimbin Organic Food Co-op Special General Meeting Monday 5th December, 6pm at the Co-op Shop. All Members Welcome – see in shop for details.

you have been diagnosed there is a big rush to have you enrolled into the 'big three' – surgery, chemo and radiation. Surgery only works if you catch it very early. In the majority of cases the cancer has already metastasised.

Because successful cancer cures that are available are not prescribed by doctors and clinics, no-one believes they work. They do, and many testimonials exist to prove it. View: <http://alternativecancer.us/> for an impartial web site of alternative cures and things you can do to counter the huge amount of chemicals

that have infiltrated our water, air and food.

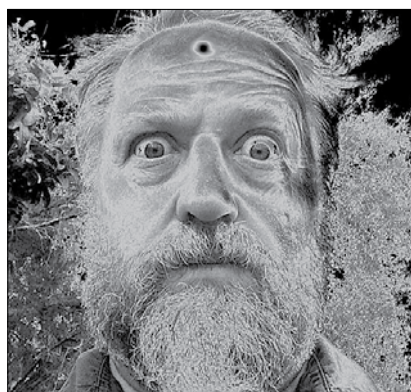
The important aspect about cancer is to be prepared. Do not find yourself at the mercy of conventional medicine.

Another very good source of information is available to download as a pdf and is called "Outsmart Your Cancer": www.energymed.com.au/Outsmart%20Your%20Cancer%20202E_Rev4.pdf

Cancer is a complex disease, and it is now becoming clear that emotions play a big part: anger is the main contributor.

Feedback/comments: tigerfishthree@gmail.com

Alex Pooley
Lismore



by The Loon

Dar dump, darr dump, darr duMP. DARR DUMP. (Pauses for effect).

Fellow Humpbacks, it has come to my attention that several of you have taken to exiting the ocean and sunbaking on the beaches.

And as a consequence a small number of you have been attacked by infant humans, occasioning death and

Fellow Humpbacks

severe injury.

It is horrifying how much damage a plastic spade can do!

To address this, we will be installing razor wire around all the major beaches and sand dunes. It's the only thing that works, that keeps the fiendish things out. We expect there will be human deaths, in fact we expect the death of hundreds of terrestrial mammals; kangaroos, wallabies, even quolls every summer from now on.

This is unavoidable – the pastimes and economic interests of Humpbacks are sacrosanct. If you Humps want to sunbake and we have businesses built around sunning, then we have no choice but to cull every human that dares to come within a kilometre of you. And not just humans – we will

sterilise the beach of everything but crabs and gulls.

We've been in discussions with the allied dolphins and sharks union and they're happy to go ahead with the human cull/fencing.

Of course, some of you feel that this would be wrong, that all life is sacred – even human life. Please remember our numbers are only just recovering from whaling (where we were killed by humans en masse). Each Hump is important to our survival as a species. There are seven billion humans on the planet – I'm pretty sure they'll bounce back after losing a few to the razor wire. Shame about the quolls.

It's a matter of perspective – Hump pastimes are more important than human lives. If that's not obvious, I don't know what is?

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