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Rainbow Café DA on public exhibition

Lismore City Council has placed the Development Application (DA) for the redevelopment of the former Rainbow Café site in Nimbin's main street on public exhibition for 28 days.

The Cullen Street site has been empty since the café burnt down in a devastating fire in August 2014, which also destroyed the Nimbin Museum and Bringabong.

The proposed new café (*artists impression pictured*) includes the demolition of two existing buildings on site and the construction of a new single-storey café with seating for around 50 people as well as a small detached dwelling, landscaping, fencing and associated infrastructure.

The DA proposes construction with masonry, colorbond, metal and chamferboard, as well as a mural on the building's façade in keeping with the existing streetscape, which is one of Nimbin's most recognisable heritage features.

The DA will be on exhibition until 12th April. Copies of the DA documents and plans are available in



the DA Tracker on Council's website at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au using the DA number 5.201752.1

For full details of the plans please go to: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-LHR-83-76-58

Submissions outlining grounds of objection or support can be made online, by email to: council@lismore.nsw.gov.au or mailed to the General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A, Lismore NSW 2480.

Get cooking with the food co-op

Since the beginning of the beginning figs have symbolised abundance, and are greatly valued as food and medicine.

Romulus and Remus were suckled by a she-wolf under a fig tree, and Buddha gained enlightenment under a Bodhi tree, a type of fig.

The fig tree derived its name from Sykeus (Syko in Greek means 'fig'). Sykeus was the son of Gaia (earth). During the Clash of the Titans, Sykeus was one of the giants who waged war on the gods, and when pursued by Zeus he hid with his mother (the earth) and was transformed into the first fig tree.

RASPBERRY FIG BARS (vegan and gluten free)

Ingredients

1 cup rolled oats
1 cup pecans
1/2 cup maple syrup
1/2 cup almond meal
15 dried Mission figs
2 cups raspberries (thawed if frozen)

Method

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Line 8x8 baking tray with baking paper or brush with coconut oil. In a processor blend nuts and oats 'til coarse, add figs



Anyone with a passion for food, and wishing to be involved in a much appreciated community resource can contact the Nimbin Organic Food Co-Op volunteer coordinator on 0497-833-717. There are many roles on offer, such as customer service, administration, stock deliveries, IT, and writing articles for NGT.

and maple syrup and blend until it all comes together. Pour in bowl and stir in almond meal.

Press 3/4 of mixture into bottom of pan. Bake for 12 mins. Remove from

oven and cover with raspberries. Cover raspberries with remaining mixture, pressing down on top of raspberries, and bake for a further 25 mins. Cool before slicing (if you can wait that long).

Thinking about erosion control?

In the wake of the floods, a new product is available to help restore solid ground.

We all know how muddy and boggy it can get after a good rain, and it's always the same – you have to repair the washed-out soil to stabilise the ground and spend another fortune.

The Geohex Erosion Control System is a unique, permeable and innovative ground stabilisation and sediment control technology that has been designed, engineered and manufactured in Australia to Australian Standards (ISO9001:2014).

It is a paver, 500mm x 1000mm x 42mm, designed as an interlocking system for use in multiple applications, that is cost-effective, easy to use and quick to DIY install. MO's will love it.

It is made from high impact resistant 100% recycled plastics, and is inert and non-reactive to solvents, oils or chemicals and non-toxic to humans,



animals or plants.

Once installed, the Geohex Erosion Control System is 99.7% water permeable, and can be used for embankments, soil, turf and road stabilisation in or around driveways, backyards, footpaths, rural gateways,

water troughs, stockyards, sheds, landscape engineering, equestrian centres and many more applications.

For more information, ask Ralph at Nimbin Building Materials at the Mill Farm, phone 6689-1206 or 0429-048-808, or go to: www.geohex.com.au



The remains of Pratts Bridge, Blue Knob
Photo: Jenny Martin

Massive flood event devastates region



Nimbin Bowlo under water Photo: Natasha Tiffany



Keen and Woodlark Streets in Lismore under water
Photo: Alex Clarke



Wilson's River spills into Spinx Park Photo: Alex Clarke



Magellan Street shops Photo: Kristen Gardner



Pollies survey the aftermath Photo courtesy Koori Mail



Canny residents abandon cars for kayaks Photo: Andrew Sooby



The clean up Photo: Cr Eddie Lloyd



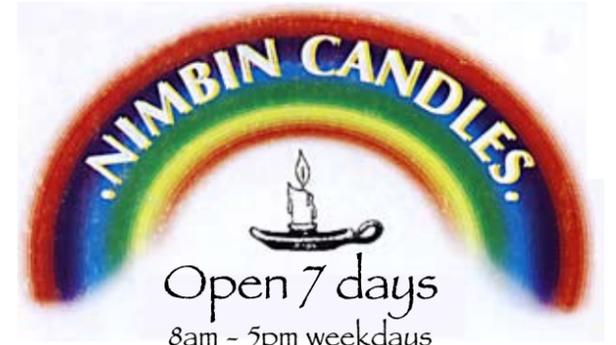
Devastation at Molesworth Street Newsagency Photo: Isaac Smith

Massive downpours in the wake of Cyclone Debbie caused flooding across the region, impacting towns, cutting off roads, submerging bridges and causing landslips.

Nimbin got off fairly lightly compared to Lismore and Murwillumbah, which suffered the worst flooding. Businesses in the Lismore CBD were devastated when floodwaters topped the levee and filled the streets. The cleanup continues.

Lismore received a flying visit from prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, who surveyed the damage and met with locals.

• Read more on the flood on Page 11.



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Nimbin, Lismore, Kyogle and surrounds...

Activists pack venue for Stop Adani Roadshow

by Alan Roberts

Brisbane's 'Stop Adani Roadshow' was packed. 1000 tickets were sold for the 800 seat Brisbane city hall venue then an extra 200 ticketless people turned up on the night – all of whom were shoe-horned in by the volunteers. It's an encouraging sign that people are rising up to combat global warming.

Cyclone Debbie stopped the Townsville event, Sydney and Canberra were sold out and Melbourne was up to 1500 tickets.

A strong Indigenous component grounded the roadshow. Tiara Stanley and Uncle Sam welcomed us to country for the traditional custodians of Brisbane. Then two very impressive young Bundjalung women spoke, Amelia Telford of Tweed Heads via video and speaker Larissa Baldwin of Lismore, as well as Wangan and Jagalingou's Adrian Burrungubba and Murrawah Johnson via video. They all conveyed a very strong sense that connection to country was essential for life on Earth to survive.

MC Mandy Nolan ("I'm not an expert on anything except maybe childbirth, I've got five kids, they're in the car, don't worry it's electric, but there's nowhere to plug it in.") electrified the



audience with "We are here to stop the Adani mine, I come from the Northern Rivers of NSW (applause – the audience likes us). Now if you've ever believed that people can't stop anything, that you united don't have a voice to stand up against corporations, you just have to look to our community where farmers, Indigenous and environmentalists came together and aligned at Bentley and stopped... (lost in applause). We have reached a line in the sand when it comes to climate change, we cannot go on. Not long ago we had 30 years to turn back, then we had 20, then 10, then 5." This closing opportunity Mandy likened to Indiana Jones rolling under a closing door in the 'Temple of Doom'.

"We've only got one foot

through, we have to get through, we have to stand as people shoulder to shoulder against government and big business..."

Via video, climate scientist, Michael Mann, who was in Sydney during the February 2017 heatwave, said, "If we continue Business as Usual then, by mid-century, this tremendously uncomfortable dangerous heat wave will become a typical summer day, that's what most summer days will feel like. And, the worst summer days? There is no analogy for what that will be like."

Dr Vaishali Patil hails from an environmentally biodiverse hot spot in Maharashtra where she detailed some of her community's fights with Adani. The community wanted their environment and fishing

back, not miserable financial compensation.

Larissa Baldwin, a marvel of eloquent expression, was able to convey how songlines enabled conversation between people of widely separated geographical areas and their deep connection to nature that survives the western

onslaught. Thus she respects the fight of the Wangan and Jagalingou who stand to lose their soul, their dreaming and everything with it, if we let Adani get his way.

Larissa is just back from the NT where the previous six wet seasons have been so dry that they've had to truck in water and this present wet season is so wet that they've had to fly in food. Climate change has wrecked 50000-year old traditional systems. Aboriginal communities have been forced to make the choice between mining and health services, mining and clean water, mining and housing – being bullied by government saying this is the only choice. Indigenous communities will lead the way on climate change, but they are only 3% of population and so need

everybody's support.

Danny Kennedy – "I'm the token businessman" – the Australian renewable energy entrepreneur who had to relocate to California, pointed out rather starkly that any money loaned to Adani whether by banks or government for coal will be lost and the costs socialised so that the community will pay by loss of health services, education services, housing affordability etc. Adani will fail but won't lose.

The website with all the detail about the campaign is at: www.stopadani.com There is a film to download, a signup, what you can do now and info on ongoing campaigns for everyone. Many organisations are behind it but, as was explained to us volunteers, "We are all Stop Adani now."

Rail projects picking up steam

by Stewart James, president, Nimbin Environment Centre

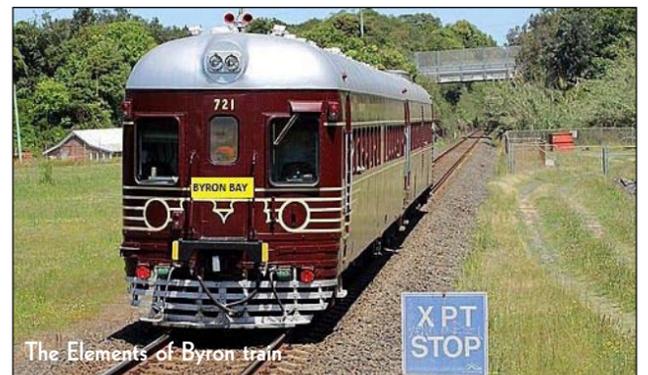
It won't come as a surprise that I'm a great advocate of public transport and in particular that I'm desperately keen to see the re-opening of the Casino to Murwillumbah rail corridor for regular commuter rail services.

There are many environmental and social benefits of rail transport; fewer cars, lower carbon emissions, greater transport safety, better social equity, better transport utility for kids the aged and the disabled, less road congestion, improved tourism opportunities and more. I have been active the past two years with the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG) and we've been talking to councils and trying to stimulate some momentum towards reinstatement of a commuter service.

It's pleasing therefore to see some active developments and proposals for rail services near the coast. There are three noteworthy rail initiatives under way right now, two of them using the old line.

The privately funded rail service on 3.5kms of the track from Byron centre north to Belongil Beach and the Elements of Byron Resort is to commence operations this June, with two carriages and operating numerous services a day in each direction. Its engine will run on solar power when weather conditions permit, which should be most of the time. What an exciting, environmentally responsible innovation!

The Mayor of Byron Council, Simon Richardson, mid last year convened an action group of various commercial, environmental, pro-rail and other interested stakeholders to do a feasibility study into commencing a frequent commuter service from Bangalow to Yelgun through Byron's centre. It's expected this would be a boon to locals and tourists alike and hoped that it could fairly quickly



be economically sustainable, which the study will either confirm or disprove.

In February, Gold Coast City Council announced that it is doing a detailed evaluation of the route for a Southern extension of its existing light rail service from Broadbeach down across the border to Tweed Heads via Gold Coast Airport at Coolangatta, and possibly as far as Byron Bay. Discussions between the Qld and NSW governments and the Council have apparently been ongoing since mid-last year and the extension looks a good chance to get approval in the not-too-distant future.

While the commuter rail initiatives I mentioned above are very welcome, and would, if realised, protect substantial parts of the corridor from conversion to other uses (e.g. commercial development), they are disjointed and none address, so far, the possibility of services between Casino and Byron through Lismore.

I think it's high time for people to think big and join the dots. We should be capitalising on the interest and momentum at the coastal end of the line to press for services running all the way to Casino. It's disappointing that Lismore Council has so far done nothing about rail. It seems that even those that profess in-principle support for public transport, including rail, aren't prepared to mount or back any specific initiatives for local commuter rail services to serve their citizens and tourists.

While I acknowledge that rail transport is a state not local responsibility, it's not different in kind to the matter of mining and gas. That's a state responsibility too but it didn't stop Lismore City Council doing a plebiscite on CSG nor declaring its opposition to CSG mining and activities in the LGA and refusing to cooperate with mining-related activities that needed its approval. The attitude of Council matters even on state issues, and it's time that Lismore and Richmond Valley councillors rolled up their sleeves and started to actively investigate the possibility of regional commuter rail services linking their towns, the coast and south east Qld.

The public can see the benefits and councillors, instead of focusing on presumed barriers to rail, should be acting as advocates with a vision and collaborating with other Councils to pro-actively explore the feasibility. Once the opportunity to get trains running on the corridor is gone it will be gone for good. It will be excruciating and deeply disappointing to look back from the future and see that there was a small window in which it was possible to act, and discovering how suddenly and irrevocably that window slammed shut.

Next month NEC has its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 10th May, 5pm at Birth and Beyond. Everyone's welcome to become a member and vote for NEC's new committee.

THE ADVENTURES OF Reckless Rita, Freddy Foolhardy & Captain Competent

#4



The Dr says I shouldn't drink alcohol AT ALL since I am 6 weeks' pregnant with our baby...

Great! We can all go out and get drunk & you can be our designated driver!

That doesn't sound like much fun for me!



FREDDY...IT'S YOUR BABY TOO! YOU CAN HELP RITA & YOUR GROWING BABY BY AVOIDING ALCOHOL TOO.

Consuming alcohol during pregnancy may lead to lifelong and serious health problems for your baby including Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) which cannot be cured. Fathers have an important role in supporting Mums to avoid alcohol while they are pregnant and breast-feeding. For more info about FASD see: <http://www.nofasd.org.au/>

Brought to you by Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (Nimbin CDAT) c/- NNIC P.O. Box 20168, Nimbin NSW 2480. www.nnic.org.au

Tips for fireplace safety and efficiency

by Sebastien Sledge
Lillian Rock Firewood

Within a few weeks it's gone from scorching days to chilly nights to heavy rain – time to think about firing up the fireplace, to fend off the mould invasion and to keep cozy in the coming months.

There are some things to consider to maximise efficiency and not burn down the house. It's also a good time to check or install smoke alarms.

Flue/chimney cleaning

A properly tuned fireplace burning quality seasoned wood, with regular hot fires will not need to be cleaned often. However, it is good practice to clean the chimney once a year. A blocked chimney will affect efficiency and can catch on fire.

Manual cleaning can be done in a number of ways. I find the easiest and cheapest way is to brush the inside of the chimney flue using a dome cobweb extension broom, this can be purchased for around \$10 and can be further lengthened if needed by duct taping on timber, bamboo etc.

For those who don't want to or can't get on the roof, there are some flue cleaning products around. Smartburn is an Australian-made product. It claims to dissolve soot/creosotes accumulations and prevent further build-ups, making your wood burn longer, reducing emissions and lasts about three months in your fireplace. Sounds



pretty good but I have yet to try it. It retails for \$50 in Lismore or a few dollars less online.

I have heard that potato peels burned regularly can help keep chimneys clean. Now I'm not sure on the validity of these claims or the science behind this but many people say it works. Some recommend drying the skins first.

People with small children may get them to climb down the chimney and take the soot off on their clothes: I recommend you don't do this. If a child gets stuck, the chimney will be blocked until you get her/him out.

Fireplace seals

An often overlooked important aspect is to make sure the seals around the door and glass are in good working order and not sucking in excess air. Damaged seals can usually be replaced.

Wood quality

Quality seasoned hardwood is obviously a very important factor. Green or unseasoned wood burns cooler and clogs flues. Heat is not only lost and transferred into pollution, but will in effect cost you more, as you will need to burn more wood with less heat in return.

I recommend a good mix of hardwood, as the different varieties/densities complement each other. Some of the premium firewood such as iron bark or brush box can burn too hot on their lonesome, and can cause damage to fireplaces, particularly to hot water jackets.

Efficient operation

All fireplaces respond differently and most people know how to get a fire happening but there are a couple other points worth considering for continuous optimum operation.

Open vents right up for at least a few minutes before adding more wood. It is very important to get wood burning well before turning it back down. Adding wood into a simmering fireplace might seem like it will continue to chug away slowly as an economical fire, but will usually result in a cooler and polluting fire, and will not give you the best bang for your buck.

It's also a good idea to regularly have a raging hot fire to help clean everything out. And if you plan to let the fire go out, say in the morning, to let it burn out hot.

For best maximum efficiency, burn only well-seasoned wood and keep your fireplace in good working order. Parts are available locally from Attards and BBQ Galore in Lismore and online. I know Attards can replace seals and make other repairs if you pop off the door and take it in to them.

Nimbin Community Centre News

Co-ordinator wanted

Nimbin Community Centre would like to extend a warm thank you to Kerryn Liddell for her contributions to the community during her time with the Nimbin Community Centre as the Co-ordinator. We wish her well in her work at the Base Hospital.

This issue of the *Nimbin GoodTimes* contains an advertisement for the position of Co-ordinator at the Community Centre. If you feel that you'd like to take on the coordination of the centre and be involved in many worthwhile community ventures, please apply for this 28-33 hours per week position.

Aboriginal Culture Centre

Nimbin Aboriginal Culture Centre Incorporated has recently become an incorporated association, based at the Community Centre. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are welcome to become voting members. Associate membership to help support the organisation is also available to other people.

Arts and cultural activities for Aboriginal people, funded by a NSW Regional Aboriginal Arts grant, started at the Centre in February with the Galibal Dubais weaving group from Casino, and more are planned.

Big Map

Lismore Council have just let us know that the "Big Map" will be returning to

Allsopp Park very soon. It was removed due to its rotten structure and will return to its original spot, freshly painted by the original artist, Kathy Stavrou. Thanks for all your work over the years Kathy.

Cullen Street lighting

NCC in conjunction with the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce has submitted an application for \$17,850 Community Safety Funding. If successful in gaining the grant, the Lighting Up Nimbin project will install a solar powered supplementary under-awning LED lighting system in the Nimbin CBD. The solar system will also power extra security lighting in the alleyway between 52 and 54 Cullen Street, improving safety for one of the key pedestrian access points between the car park and the main street.

Additional lighting will be used to highlight some of the town's iconic murals, brightening the overall ambience of the CBD at night. The installation of the solar lighting system will provide increased security for local businesses and improve safety for people accessing the town after dark. The reinforcement of the space as "public space" will act as a deterrent to criminal behaviour.

Tree pruning

Trees in the Community Centre grounds are checked by a qualified arborist each year, and safety work is carried out according to the recommendations

made. Work has recently been done and the gardens will soon be enjoying an extra layer of wood chips made from the trimmings. Please report any unsafe trees and branches that you may notice.

Office space

We have a medium-sized office room available in the Acacia building at the Community Centre. It has two huge sash windows looking east and is bright and light filled. Please come and see us or call if you are interested in looking at this room.

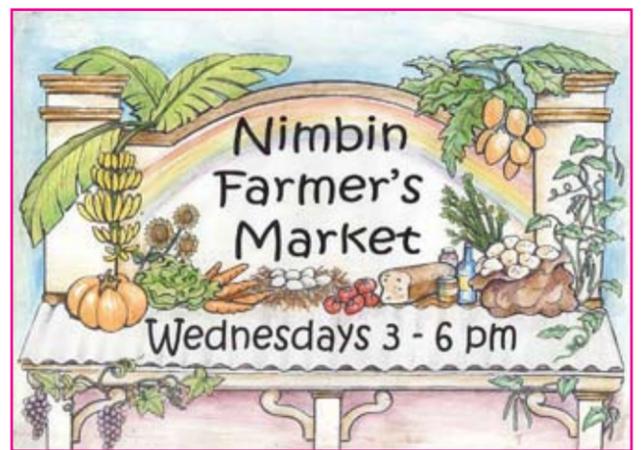
Casual hire rooms are also available. If you have a reason to meet, something to share or teach, please enquire about our community spaces. Only \$11 per hour or \$33 per day, with a \$20 key deposit. Please ring 6689-0000 to make a booking.

Drug policy

Nimbin Community Centre aims to be a drug free area. Please report drug related activities and incidents to the police or to the Community Centre.

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: \$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.



Channon Craft Market
The Channon Public Hall Inc.

"Make It, Bake It, Grow It"

Next Market
9th April
9am – 3pm

Main stage:
Koby & Mo'Fyah Band

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Loa

Charity of the day:
The Channon Public Hall

Enquiries: 6688-6433

Blue Knob Market
Farmers : Fibre : Fermenters

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Did you know?

All our links are clickable in the web edition. Visit www.nimbingoodtimes.com and click away!



Women's Dinner thank-yous

Thanx so-o-o very much to all the hardworking volunteers who helped us pull off yet another successful Nimbin Women's Dinner: Cat, Jane, Judy, Gail, Heidi, Sue, Pauline, Vicki, Sandi, Lil, Pam Pussycat, Teena and Sonia.

The Town Hall looked magnificent and we all had a good laugh. Thanks to Gondwana Nursery and Kaali for the gorgeous native flower displays. Thanks to Steph and the Truffula Seeds Cafe crew for the food. To our cakemakers – Chris, Bev, Judy, Vicki.

To everyone who donated raffle prizes, helped us pack up at the end or helped in any way whatsoever. Thanks to all the fantastic performers who kept us laughing all night, to Simone for rounding quite a few of 'em up for us, to Fiona O'Loughlin for coming all the way from Melbourne to be here, to Disco Sista for the sound and lights, and to all you women who came along.

And may you all be ever blessed by the presence of Thalia, the goddess muse of comedy.



Drug Action Team (CDAT)

The next meeting will be at NNIC (Elmo room) at 2pm on Thursday 20th April. To join Nimbin CDAT contact: admin@nnic.org.au or just come along to the next meeting. We are after some feedback... check out Nimbin Hook Ups to contribute to our poll.

We are also looking for some volunteers to wear our new Captain Competent superhero costume during MardiGrass and other upcoming events.

Wanted – banner-makers

A banner is needed for Nimbin CDAT for the Mardi Grass parade. Can anyone help us make a banner? If so please contact Vicki at: veejbee@gmail.com

NIS – update

So far we have had little success in recruiting a suitable clinician to backfill for Genevieve whilst she recovers from surgery. We apologise for the delay and recruitment efforts are continuing.

Nimbin Food Pantry update

We are still working on the logistics but will hopefully have the new food pantry (to provide rescued and other food to people in need) up and running by around September this year. Watch this space.

Energy efficient appliance offer

Have you got a fridge which is six years old or older? Or a plasma or CRT TV? The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage is offering discounts on new energy efficient fridges and TVs so you can replace your old inefficient models.

New appliances can cut your energy bills, improve your household and family living costs and help protect our environment. 40% discount on fridges and 50% on TVs. For more info and to apply on line see: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/appliance-replacement-offer.htm

Volunteers wanted

Sustainability Alley 2017 – we need a volunteer assistance coordinator and some vols in general to help us make Sustainability Alley happen again this year – and to make the event, well, sustainable into the future! Send your EOIs setting out any experience and qualifications to: admin@nnic.org.au

Mental health tip for April

Grief is a normal reaction to the loss of loved ones, and is not seen as a mental disorder. Most people manage to go through the grieving process with the help of family and friends but sometimes grief can lead to depression and other chronic mental health problems. Here are some tips to help you deal with grief and loss:

- ask for help, understanding and support from family, friends or a support group;
- tell people what you find helpful and

what is not helpful;

- focus on the things you can control and avoid making major decisions;
- if you are religious, talk to the appointed person in your church, mosque, or temple;
- take care of your health – try to eat, drink water and get some rest;
- be patient with yourself;
- try to do some gentle exercise;
- find ways to express emotions.

If you think your grief has become chronic or you think you may be depressed it is important to seek help from your doctor or a professional counsellor. <https://wayahead.org.au/loss-and-grief>

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.

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 second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 11th April. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)
- Early childhood nurse**
Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments phone 6620-7687.
- Women's health nurse services**
One Thursday a month. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6689-1400 for appointment.
- Wound clinic**
Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.
- 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.
- Nurse practitioner clinics**
 - Diabetes Clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 20th April.
 - Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 11th April. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Community Registered Nurses**
Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1288 – leave message, will return call swiftly.
- Nimbin NSP**
Needle and Syringe program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see Community Registered Nurse.
- Health advice line**
Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week free service. Registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to Emergency Department.
- Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary**
Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 12th April. New members welcome.



Bringing colour to the walls

by Noelle Lynden-Way

There are good people around who freely give of their time and energy to enrich the life of others. Jim Hourigan, an artist from Yamba, is one such person.

After he had spent time gazing at blank walls in an Oncology unit while his wife was being treated for cancer, Jim decided to do something about the atmosphere. He began with organising paintings by local artists to be hung on the walls of the facility and noticed that they brought about more positive interaction and conversation amongst relatives and patients.

Through the internet he was contacted by Elaine Poggi, an American living in Italy. Her mother had had cancer and like Jim, she had spent hours staring at bare walls in facilities. In 2002 she started The Foundation for Photo/Art in Hospitals in the USA, a non-profit organisation, providing photographs of natural landscapes for hospitals throughout the world.

Elaine and Jim have been working together over the past few years to bring colour and interest to walls in hospitals and Residential Aged Care (RAC) facilities in NSW

On the website: healingphotoart.org you can read the story of Elaine and her mother and how the Foundation has now provided 6000 photos to 300 facilities on seven continents – an astonishing achievement. On the web page click on 'About Us' at the top and scroll down to 'Map of facilities' and then 'Around the World'. You will find that Nimbin, Kyogle and Urbenville MPS are included. In an interview with Jim he says that Bonalbo MPS will receive a donation of photos for their walls when the new facility is finished.



Staff from Nimbin (top), and Kyogle MPS with Jim Hourigan, displaying the photos.

The photos donated by photographers all over the world range from tropical beaches, hills in Tuscany to Japanese cherry blossoms. They are intended to provide colour and comfort to residents,

patients, staff and visitors of all cultures as nature speaks to a full range of human diversity. The photos bring an appreciation too of the Earth's immense beauty.

Sacred Mountain of Wollumbin has a powerful history

by Elliot Knight,
Githabul/Ng'Arakbal elder

Wollumbin (Mount Warning) was a special place that held immense significance for all Ng'Arakwal/Githabul people, and others.

The mountain itself holds an air that is far too spiritually powerful to be a place of simply gathering and

walking on. In those olden times, it was restricted to a few select clever men, though many ceremonial grounds had a view towards Wollumbin (e.g. the Men's initiation site at Cedar Point, just south of Kyogle.)

Ritual combat, massed battle and other ceremonies for fighting men had an important place in the calendar of events.

These had strong associations with the Sacred Mountain of Wollumbin. It was treated with great reverence as the place of the most powerful of all the old Spirit Beings of the Mountain Country.

Spirit beings were said to inhabit certain peaks and ridges throughout the ranges in the Northern Rivers and elsewhere.

Fighting amongst warriors echoed the exploits of the ancestral spirit men who fought battle in the Butherum (spiritual dimension).

The thunder and lightning that regularly happens up on top and the 'scars' (from landslides) on the side of the mountain were believed to be evidence of it. This story comes from the stars – Butherum lore.

Nimbin Advisory Group to broaden scope

Lismore Council's Nimbin Advisory Group, the NAG, is to transition into a group with a broader purpose.

At its last meeting, Council canvassed our interest in becoming more of an action and project focussed group, rather than a group that exists to advise Council on community engagement. Those present decided this would be an appropriate direction in line with other rural areas.

NAG will continue to be serviced by Council, will meet quarterly (more if the group wants) with meetings attended by the Mayor where possible, will receive a small budget and will prioritise and implement actions established in Council's Community Plan. They will also be a key group for Council to consult around Nimbin issues.

More information will be available from Council, but it is this group that will most likely advise Council on planning for upgrading of our swimming pool and associated facilities in the not too distant future.

Council is now advertising for up to 15 community members to form the revamped NAG. All those interested are

encouraged to think about applying. The group needs to be more diverse than the current NAG, and needs younger blood (younger than 60, please) with more men involved.

Council will personally contact those who have previously applied for membership. Applications close on Monday 17th April.

Several other issues were discussed at the recent NAG meeting:

- Council has plans to construct a traffic-calming device in Cecil Street following complaints by residents about speeding vehicles, and subsequent monitoring of traffic speeds by Council.
- Council's long-term car parking strategy for Nimbin village will be presented to Council and then the community in a few months, so keep an eye out. No-one in Thorburn Street responded to the invitation for a specific information session, but if you would like this please make us aware – you can leave a message for Diana Roberts in the Nimbin Apothecary and she will pass it on.
- Tony Duffy, Council's Manager Major Recreational and Cultural Facilities,

attended the meeting to discuss recreational needs for Nimbin. There was much discussion about the desire for recreational equipment in Peace Park. Council will provide \$20,000 if we can find matched funding. Now there's a fundraising challenge! Keep an eye out for grant opportunities. Council only wants to provide good quality equipment to reduce maintenance costs into the future.

• Tony is hoping to get funding next year to revisit Council's sport and recreation plan, which will assist to identify gaps in the current plan. This is of particular significance to Nimbin and to those who use the pool.

• The NAG took the opportunity to brief Tony on the Nimbin Walking Trail project which has been on the back-burner for a while due to lack of funding opportunities, but is currently being revitalised thanks to support from Rainbow Power Company.

The next meeting of the NAG will be held 11th May, and will consider applications for membership of the future NAG.

NIMBIN BOWLO



25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250

What's On in April?

- **Saturday 9th** – Visiting Club: Tweed Heads
- **Thursday 13th** – Big Easter Raffles, drawn 7.30pm
- **Friday 14th** – Good Friday Rock 'n' Roll Bowls
- **Sunday 23rd** – Visiting Club: Condong Bowls
- **Sunday 30th** – Visiting Club: Gold Coast Masonic
- **Open Mike Nights** – Wednesdays 12th & 26th, 7-11pm
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays, 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** – Enquire at Bar



On the Green
at Nimbin Bowlo

- Lunch & Dinner Wed-Sun
- Takeaways available
- Ph. 6689-1473



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Shenanigans and Smarties – Ep #1 – Oscart Studios



Wish you were here

We didn't just lose the Rainbow Cafe and the Museum which were in the middle of town, we lost our heart. The laneway boys, forty-two or more of the best part of this town, not to mention the dozen or so of our older boys in jail.

The town is a mess. It's never been like this for as long as I can remember. The heroin problem I recall so well in the late eighties and early nineties was nothing compared to this. And ice isn't the problem, well it is, but nothing compared to our missing boys. They did more than most in our town, for our town. There isn't a business here that hasn't suffered since the boys have gone. As soon as the boys were old enough to do so, they stopped the heroin trade in town more effectively than the police. And until now they kept our town clean of rip-offs, parasites and crime.

Twice this month, maggots were caught by locals selling cookies from the emporium in place of mull cookies to tourists. Thanks to one of our elders it was knocked on the head quickly. And that's besides the poor tourists being ripped off blindly by people who have suddenly turned up after being kicked out of town by the laneway boys before.

Maggots stealing and selling a local old mate's charger from his electric trike while he was at the hospital seeing a doctor. The police know. But no charges laid yet.

I feel sorry for recreational smokers. I feel sorry for medicinal users. I feel sorry for Nimbin. But mostly I feel sorry for our laneway boys, and their families and friends.

Good luck in court.

Ant
Nimbin

Break Corporate Control

Capitalism is both a great creator and a great destroyer. The print media never offers constructive criticisms of capitalism, or That Which Must Not Be Doubted. It promotes the fake news that capitalism is the cure-all!

I like the Trumpism that every problem can be solved, and all family hurts healed. But not with his approach.

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

That's possible only in a transformed system catering for all.

So what are the principal defects that keep humanity in bondage? I like the metaphor of Jeremy Tager at Politics in the Pub (March 22, Mullumbimby) that the planet is governed by a capital driven monster, whose three heads are corporatism, government and media.

The above-mentioned media is the essential source of propaganda, without which people would not willingly stay enslaved. It continuously promotes the myth that divides us, that a choice between incompetent warring red and blue teams is democracy in action.

The standout defect is the absence of ethics or morality, since it is only the bottom line that ultimately matters. It permits no compassion. Economic defeat of an individual or business opponent is a virtue, with no concern over consequences. It may result in the inability of a person to adequately provide for a family, and often all manner of personal disasters at once.

It's intolerable that some corporations span the globe and are more powerful than most countries. We need the naked proof that many more have entirely corrupt business practices, to the detriment of Mankind. Their 'human right' of equality with people before the law must somehow be stripped away. Individuals are no match against legal budgets more mighty than armies.

Governments created laws that caused corporate power to be superior to human power. But the genie monster

is out of the bottle. Its power to stop reversal of these laws cannot be overcome.

But what about peaceful revolution by irresistible people power, employing only the highest principles? Meet the monster on its own territory with ethical competition, and full transparency.

Engage with and take care of all who are hard done by or discarded by all three heads of the incompetent monster.

What are people's prime daily needs? Answer: food, shelter, safety and companionship. What stops them having it? Lack of work and slave pay. The monster can't or won't provide them.

Develop only small experimental communities. Small is beautiful, manageable, forgiving of errors. Large presents targets for corporate weapons of mass destruction.

Bypass laws and regulations to the max with inventiveness. To engage them invites endless and legal obstruction.

After communal land is secured, co-operation provides the basics of life cheaply. It takes only months with creative methods to build a basic family home. Two people can grow enough food from their backyard for 250 people (ABC RN story).

The community currency is 'contributed hours'. No tax, no profits creamed off which demand more than half your life.

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby

Why fear vax research?

Numerous false news and half-truth reports are now in circulation about vaccination from people without knowledge of the chemical composition modes of immunology and preservatives.

Look at some facts: over 50 years ago our children nearly died from measles – it was a frightening sight to see children struggling for life and thankfully they survived. Hospitals were overloaded, the doctor visited five times a day; they were unvaccinated because it was not available at that time – they were all later vaccinated.

Measles, mumps and rubella vaccinations were originally individual vaccinations that



New York Nimbin Woodstock mission

by Benny Zable

On August 15th and 16th 2019, it will mark 50 years since the legendary Woodstock Aquarius arts and music exposition. This will take place during the buildup to the 46th presidential race for the White House.

Whatever one feels about the state of the world, it is an opportunity for artists to inspire and awaken the world to what is possible for the healing of our planet.

I think Nimbin with all its warts and all, has developed and successfully demonstrated a culture template for healing ourselves, one another and the Earth. Indeed, with the original people of this place, Nimbin during the Aquarius Festival in May 1973 was a turning point for the Northern Rivers and aligning districts. Then it was a dying dairy district, a ghost town surrounded by a wasteland of ring-barked dead trees.

Now it is a global permaculture centre, an arts and thriving rainforest tourist destination. Our collective efforts to take on the most difficult of outlawed issues by non-violent peaceful, creative methods has been a model that has inspired others to adopt both locally and globally.

As the current Nimbin Aquarius Foundation cultural ambassador to Woodstock New York, I am on a mission to broker with the Woodstock Museum an indigenous led space with artists and friends for the 50th anniversary of "Woodstock".

There is mob interested in coming along. May 2018 is the Nimbin Aquarius 45th anniversary. This is also a good opportunity to bring people's attention to the good things we have as an alternative culture achieved.

There is the shadow side to all this Nimbin popularity, as real estate and business prices rise. But that is another story.

little children handled well, it was only when they combined them and added specific preservatives that reactions were reported. It appeared that the combined MMR is more than some little bodies could handle.

An independent Scientific Royal Commission is needed to study vaccine components and how they react to provide immunity pathways as it is reported the methodology effect and chemical additives are very different today.

What an insult to education when people are condemned by Pauline Hanson suggesting parents should go out and do their own research, instead of supporting restricted dogma. Such stupidity from writers would end research and education.

US government acknowledges there is a serious problem, and set up The Vaccination Court to compensate victims, with currently about 22,000 adverse Gardasil reactions reported. Why?

We all must do our research and be satisfied we make right decisions for our children – it may be a life and death decision.

Here's some research: Dr Stephanie Seneff discusses how vaccines work and their specific components: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Fdrj7oMDZA

US Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports on vaccinations: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Fdrj7oMDZA
Dr Andrew Wakefield speaks on links between

MMR vaccine and autism: www.youtube.com/watch?v=q62DcaNs_0M
Gil May
Forestdale, Qld

Save our Koalas

Koalas are rapidly vanishing as a species. There were millions once, but now there are only thousands. On television, charities ask for donations to help preserve koalas. Visiting VIPs get their photos taken with our cuddly Australian animal ambassador.

Legislation was passed in April 2012 to make koalas a "threatened species" and their habitat as an "endangered ecological community", yet developments are still legally proceeding, reducing an even more endangered koala population some five years after koalas were granted protection under federal law.

It was common knowledge among developers and planners that this legislation was coming into effect at least two months in advance, so there was a major push to lodge development documents before the legislation came into effect, so as not to be caught under those restrictions. Five years on- 2017- these

developments are still 'in play' and the koala population is even further reduced than it was in April 2012.

Lawmakers need to further enhance Federal environmental legislation with a 'sunset clause', namely that after, say, three years that a development lodged prior to the legislation, must be considered under that legislation regardless. This is the only way we can seriously protect our koalas and other unique native fauna and environments.

I live on a property in central-western NSW, where koalas live in remnant white box, yellow box, Blakeley's red gum woodland – an endangered ecological community of which only 3% remains in NSW. We have a development proposal waiting for federal approval, to remove over 110 hectares of forest from around here including koala habitat.

Please close this loop hole and save our koalas and other threatened species before they all go the way of the Tasmanian tiger and we can only see them on beer labels or stuffed in museums.

Ingrid Saywell
Pyramul

About us

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Bookkeeper Martha Paitson
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And find us on Facebook

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

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 26th April

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

Sidney Patrick McGowan from Nimbin passed away five days before his 99th birthday, on Monday 20th March.

Born in Leichhardt in 1918, Sidney was the last survivor of his five other siblings who passed many years ago. Sid survived the depression and World War II, of which he was a veteran.

Sidney hated talking about the war, and only very rarely opened up after a few beers.

After his military service, Sid married Mary Sherian in 1950, and lived at Harris Park for a short time before moving to Seven Hills. There Sid built his first home which took two years, with building materials in short supply after the war.

Mary and Sid had six children: Danny, Cathy, Peter, Theresa, Julie and Margaret. Sid worked as a lithographic artist for 30 years. Mary and Sid moved to the Central Coast, where Sid built a two-storey home at the age of 65. This home then became their retirement home, where many a huge family Christmas was held with the



RIP Sidney McGowan
25/3/1918 – 20/3/2017

many grandchildren.

Mary passed away in 2013, after 65 years of marriage to Sid. Sid was devastated, as were their children and grandchildren.

Sid's health declined. He developed type 2 diabetes, lost his sight from diabetes, heart disease, angina, diverticulitis, a touch of dementia, kidneys in stage 3 from all the

pharmaceuticals, and he was off to hospital every three months with heart pain.

Working with a naturopath, daughter Theresa was able to slowly get Sid off all his prescription drugs, and was able to reverse his diabetes.

Theresa and her partner Rob then decided to buy a 29-acre property in Nimbin with a 35-foot waterfall, so they could set up a retreat while still being able to care for Sid, and moved here in June 2015.

After a Bowen therapy session, the therapist noticed a hard lump which turned out to be bowel cancer that had metastasized to the liver. Just as Sid was starting to feel better and respond to treatment, he went backwards on a ramp and fell hard onto tiles on his back. Since then, Sid went downhill fast, not wanting to eat or drink, as he was in pain from his back even with numerous massages through the day. He became so tired then started to have trouble swallowing. He went downhill fast until he passed away.

Rest in Peace Sidney.



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Success in Texas



by Shakira Jefferys

In October, I wrote an article for the *Nimbin GoodTimes* to share my passion for sport, including my achievements as an aerobic gymnast, holding state and national titles for the sport and my acceptance into Zoo Athletics in Helensvale on the Gold Coast, where I joined the sport of cheerleading.

In September last year, our team obtained the highest score at the Spring Carnival, and we won the bid to compete in Texas at the NCA All-Stars National Championships.

Also at this time I requested sponsorship and donations to raise the \$4000 needed to help me achieve my goal.

I am so overwhelmed and grateful to all those individuals and businesses who came together and supported me. Collectively, you provided me with \$2100 towards my costs.

Thanks to Discover Fitness for getting behind me and providing an incentive award encouraging people to support me by generously donating one month's personal training sessions. This award goes to the members of the A&I Society.

I would also like to acknowledge businesses: Happy High Herbs, Bringabong/Phoenix Rising Cafe, Mark Whitlam Electrical, Rainbow Power Company and Sean Ardern Electrical. Without everyone's contributions, my dream of competing internationally would not have been achieved.

Thank you to everyone that is supporting me and sharing my Facebook page, Shakira Jefferys International Cheerleading fund. Please feel free to visit my page.

Our team came seventh in the event, and we are very happy with the result.

Our local member for Page, Kevin Hogan, made a speech in parliament acknowledging our achievements. This can be viewed on his Facebook page, or mine.

Letter of appreciation
Dear Beautiful People of the *Nimbin GoodTimes*,

Thank you for the energy you hold and the things you do!

It is not easy being on the front line, yet you are speaking for so many that do not have a voice! We are there in spirit with you.

Well, pass on my blessings and love, hope you stay high and dry!

PS How about a raffle? To uncuva undacuva, and have dinner with the legendary writer, as I really miss their input. Big fan I am.

Just a voice in the crowd.

Brett Osborne
Nimbin

Notices

Wanted: café proprietor

Now that the Rainbow Cafe DA has been submitted – along with plans for a shop/office, and a small residence behind – we are looking for preliminary expressions of interest from potential café proprietors. We will not be doing the fit-out, so talking with the future lessee before long will be to everyone's advantage.

With LCC being helpful, and a good design crew, we hope to begin the build later this year. For information on the café, please contact Karlin Bracegirdle as co-ordinator of the re-build on behalf of the Co-ordination Co-operative. Email: karlinterry@gmail.com

WIRES Hotline

WIRES have a 24 hour, seven day a week hotline available for all calls to WIRES at 6628-1898. Other numbers are not 24-hour, and the message may be delayed in reaching us. Thank you for helping WIRES help our wildlife.

Sustainable composting talks

Free public talks with Andrew De Vries from Compost Central every Saturday, 10am sharp to 11am in April and May at Santos, Bayshore Drive, Arts & Industrial Estate, Byron Bay. Learn About Compost Buckets, Garden Ships, the Troff and more. Visit: www.compostcentral.org for more information.

Beginners Tai Chi

Mondays 5pm at Nimbin Community Centre, starting 24th April. Phone Mel on 0431-968-443 to register interest and for more information.

Al-Anon

Is your life being affected by somebody else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups can help. Meetings held throughout the district. For more information, email: www.al-anon.org.au or phone 1300 ALANON (1300-252-666).

Wanted: Nimbin News

The Nimbin Community School had 30-plus boxes of old issues of the *Nimbin News* that had been taking up lots of space for years and years. They had to go. But where? Nobody had the heart to drop them into a recycling bin, sending them into oblivion forever.

When *Nimbin News* finished in 2013, they did a fantastic job donating whole sets to the Aquarius Archives and Lismore Library. Now good homes are needed for the content of these 30 boxes. So we sorted and sorted and now have 12 sets. None of them complete, but without exception informative, inspiring heritage of unique Nimbin.

Now, as a last try, it is hoped people may want to clear our their clutter, and donate issues that are missing: any issues between 1 and 100, issue 109, 111, 142, 148, 152, any issues between 1982 and 1985 and since 2000, the issues 10 to 17.

For more information, or any offers of assistance, please contact Judy via Nimbin Community School 6689-1477 or Saskia 6689-1765.

KERR, Leslie Noel "Les"

Passed away on Friday 3/3/17
Aged 90 years

Formerly of Nimbin and Vanuatu

"Uncle Les" was a wonderful presence in the lives of hordes of nieces, nephews, family and friends. A gentle spirit with a great sense of humour.

Reunited with his parents and brothers.

Privately cremated.

POSITION VACANT

Nimbin Community Centre Co-ordinator

Must have excellent administrative and communication skills, with a proven ability to take initiative and work unsupervised.

Part-time: 28hrs pw

For more information email:
ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

**Applications close 5pm,
Wednesday 26th April 2017**



Join an Advisory Group

Lismore City Council is seeking passionate community members to join its Aboriginal Advisory Group and Nimbin Advisory Group (North West Community Panel).



Aboriginal Advisory Group

The Aboriginal Advisory Group provides advice and guidance to Council on a variety of issues, including projects or services that affect Aboriginal communities.

The group meets quarterly and members discuss reports coming to Council that may affect Aboriginal people. If you are a proud and passionate Aboriginal person who would like to make a difference locally, we urge you to nominate today. For further information, phone Sandra Campbell on 1300 87 83 87. People can nominate for the Aboriginal Advisory Group at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au until 5pm on Monday, 17 April.

Nimbin Advisory Group (North West Community Panel)

The Nimbin Advisory Group prioritises and implements actions established by the Group, identifies funding and partnership opportunities and works in partnership with Council and local community groups. The group meets quarterly.

If you are a local and passionate Nimbin community member who would like to make a difference locally, we urge you to nominate today.

For further information, phone Tina Irish on 1300 87 83 87. People can nominate for the Nimbin Advisory Group at: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au until 5pm on Wednesday, 26 April.