

Nimbin's NAIDOC celebrations

by Darren McElroy

On Friday 14th July, Nimbin celebrated the richness of its Aboriginal culture, starting with a reconciliation march from the hospital to Peace Park.

The NAIDOC theme for 2017 was 'Our language matters' highlighting the importance of language and culture for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, many of whom have 2-3 languages other than English, which were not allowed to be spoken in Australia's recent past. Thank you to Nat (NNIC) for the Aboriginal word game, we need to more of this during the year.

On the day, people were treated to a diverse range of entertainers. Billy Smith, who also led the parade with his rich singing, then continued to share that richness at the park. Blakboi, a regular musician at Nimbin NAIDOC celebrations, gave a performance of heart and education. Blackboi adds new friends at each annual celebration.

Indigenoise, a 5-piece band, were outstanding in their hip hop music, dancing and poetry. Nimbin NAIDOC participants were stunned by their amazing performance, and look forward to watching their success in the music industry.

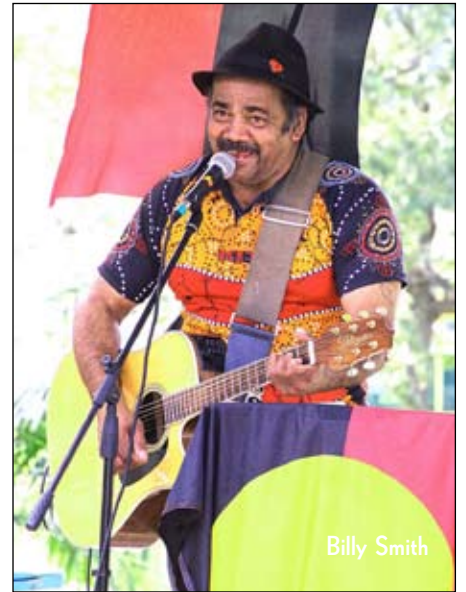
Many thanks to NNIC soup kitchen, Nicolette and Ryan and NACRS workers for their outstanding food preparation and serving. Aunty Viv said she had "the best feed ever."

The jumping castle, face painting, craft activities and popcorn machine provided entertainment for the jargums.

Big thanks to everyone who represented and contributed to the celebrations and made this another memorable NAIDOC day.



Uncle Reg and Uncle Gilbert



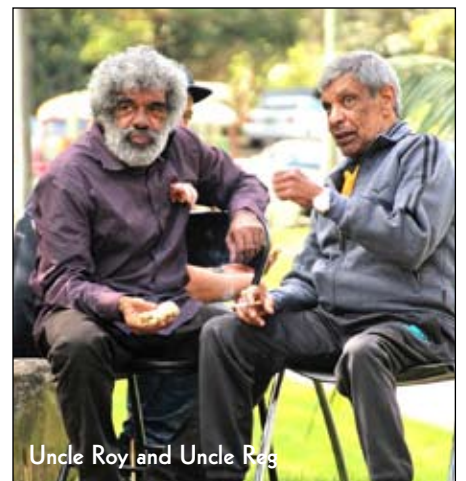
Billy Smith



Uncle Gilbert leads the Solidarity Walk



Aunty Viv and friends



Uncle Roy and Uncle Reg

Small motor maintenance with coffee



At the last Repair Café in June over a dozen pushbikes got a new lease of life and their owners learned how to adjust brakes, oil chains and numerous other tips. A big thanks to Skot Poad and Djanbung's handyman, Andrew Anderson, for sharing their knowledge and skills with everyone.

Keeping whipper-snippers, lawnmowers and small motors in good running order will be the special

theme at the next Nimbin Repair Café, Saturday 19th August, 11am-4pm.

People with skills are invited to come and share with those wanting to learn to maintain their machines and do simple repairs to keep them in good running order.

At every Repair Café a sewing machine and sewing kit is available for mending clothes, sharpening stones and gear for giving new life to knives, machetes,

garden shears and secateurs, and a collection of other tools to help you repair and maintain your garden tools and do basic repairs.

Nimbin Repair Café received a generous donation from Bunnings of some power tools, a few hand tools and a mig-welder, plus some tool-boxes for our small but growing collection of useful tools to help people repair, maintain and mend. An experienced person is sought to conduct a workshop on welding for the following Repair Café to be held late October.

One of the best contributions we can make to a healthy planet is to reduce consumption and keep what we have in use. The repair café is essentially about reclaiming the lost art of maintenance and repair through a community skills share event.

If you have skills and passion for maintaining and repairing things, please come along and let us know in advance if it's something special so we can get the word out. Likewise if there's a theme you'd like to have for a Repair Café let us know so we can try to find people to help.

Nimbin Repair Café is held at Djanbung Gardens, 74 Cecil Street, Nimbin. Abundance Café will be open with refreshments and lunch.

John Adams*
& ASSOCIATES

*a.k.a. Sindhu

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Harsh sentences reinforce need for law reform

On Thursday 27th July, 31 young Nimbin men arrived at Lismore Local Court for sentencing after being charged with various offences relating to the supply of a prohibited drug under the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act* (1985).

These charges came about from an undercover police operation that involved the use of images obtained from a hidden camera in Rainbow Lane Nimbin.

Unfortunately, the questionable nature of the 'evidence gathering' or its ability to substantiate the police claims were not on trial, as the majority of the group had agreed to a 'plea bargain'.

I was told by one of the accused that he (and others) had been led to believe that by pleading guilty to a perceived lesser charge of 'participate in supply' some other charges (eg. conspiracy) would be dropped and a more lenient sentence (good behaviour bond for those without prior convictions) would apply.

The waiting room outside the courtroom was already packed with the 31 accused, their family, parents, children and supporters. The accused and their families "looked forward to the whole thing being over". Most of them had been awaiting trial for over 12 months, living under very strict bail conditions. The atmosphere was tense but generally positive.

The nervousness grew as the news that an 'unknown judge' from Sydney would preside over the sentencing.

The first sentence came down. Magistrate Alexander Mijovich sentenced a father of three to 12 months gaol. His partner, holding their baby, was in tears as she left the courtroom. People were in shock, the lawyers visibly shaken. As the consequences of the news sank in, comments such as "we've been stitched up", and "we've been tricked" could be heard.

More gaol terms were handed out and then a suspended sentence was given. A pattern seemed to appear, those without prior convictions or minor convictions were given suspended sentences, those who had broken a bond or who had prior 'supply' convictions were given gaol terms effective immediately. In one case the pattern was broken, a sole parent of an eight-year old, with one prior possession (small) charge, was sent to gaol.

By lunchtime, half my son's high school class had been sentenced to gaol. By the end of the day, 18 had been given prison sentences (11 suspended), one received a good behaviour bond and one a dismissal.

Magistrate Mijovich was very clear early on that he



Hang'em High is a Hollywood Western movie that questions the justice system. Clint Eastwood's character Cooper confronts Judge Fenton who he feels is too quick to hang.

Judge Fenton: "You think I judged him too harshly? Used him as a piece of kindling for my fire of justice?"

In *Hang'em High*, Cooper is questioning the severity of the sentencing and the fairness of a trial, and so am I.

felt under obligation from the High Court to impose a custodial sentence on all cases of 'supply a prohibited drug'. In some cases he was willing to suspend the sentence. His remarks suggested that any lesser sentence was not possible under the High Court's directives towards sentencing these cases.

A suspended sentence is a sentence served outside the gaol with a strict behaviour bond applying for the length of the sentence. Should the bond be breached, the full length of the term would apply, and a further sentence.

For a person having such a sentence imposed, it is on their record as a gaol term. On any application forms (for jobs, licences, visas etc.) when asked: "Have you ever been sentenced to gaol?" they must always answer "yes" even if they did not serve the term in a prison. This sentence significantly reduces and influences their future options for employment, career pathways and travel. It is far more weighty and consequential than a good behaviour bond.

Whilst it is true that the *Misuse of Drugs and Trafficking Act* clearly states that custodial sentences are applicable for all cases of supply a prohibited drug, the court does have large discretionary powers when sentencing if 'exceptional circumstances' can be proven. Even when entering a plea of guilty, the court has the discretion not to convict and give a Section 10 dismissal instead, if it is found to be appropriate in the circumstances.

In every case, what is required is the making of a discretionary decision that takes into account the circumstances of each individual case, and the purposes to be served by the sentencing exercise.

There is a common law principal that "imprisonment is a sentence of last resort", and that therefore, a court should not pass a sentence of imprisonment unless they are fully satisfied that no other sentence is appropriate in all the circumstances of the case.

Circumstances that the

court can take into account include: rehabilitation, cessation of criminal activity, good character, remorse, age, maturity, psychological state, capacity and other personal circumstances.

In his remarks Magistrate Mijovich made it clear that he wanted to get through the cases swiftly and often interrupted, shut down or was dismissive of the lawyers as they spoke on behalf of their clients. I don't believe that the circumstances of the young men on trial were taken into consideration to the extent that they could have been. For example:

Achieved rehabilitation:

There was considerable evidence presented for the offenders that they had achieved and were achieving rehabilitation. Attaining employment, undergoing counselling, and adherence to the bail conditions for over 12 months.

Cessation of criminal activity:

As far as I am aware all the offenders had ceased the 'offensive' activities for over 12 months, since their arrest and charge.

Good character: Many of the young men had references attesting to their good character both in the workplace or in undertaking voluntary activities beneficial to their community.

Pleas of guilty avoid very long and costly trials. It is in the interests of the offenders that the useful value of such a plea is suitably and publicly acknowledged.

A gaol term is a form of punishment. Its effectiveness relates to its ability to deter and set an example for wider society. It is also used to protect society from those considered too dangerous to be 'at large'. Its effectiveness as a method of rehabilitation is known to have little merit due to its punitive nature. A gaol term can interrupt and even nullify rehabilitation previously achieved.

In many of these particular cases, the young men sentenced to gaol terms would lose their current employment. It would also cause hardship to their

families already under financial and emotional distress. When a father is sentenced to gaol, his partner and children also suffer the consequences, including loss of income, where the father was the main earner; lack of support, particularly when the children are very young; and the stigma attached to having a father 'missing' or having to visit them in gaol.

Some of the solicitors argued that the men had been brought up in an atmosphere where cannabis was not seen as a dangerous drug. Magistrate Mijovich was both dismissive and at times derisive of these claims, saying, "I don't care where you grew up" and at one point addressing the spectators saying, "Nimbin needs to grow up" and "That's why you are all here, you need to grow up". This appeared as a clear bias against Nimbin that was then applied to the men on trial.

I doubt if there has been another case where 31 young men from the same small town have been brought to trial for the same offence.

Most of these men are in their twenties. It's a generation of young Nimbin men who grew up alongside the Nimbin MardiGrass, a cannabis law reform rally that seeks to change the drug laws in relation to Cannabis. In 1999, during their formative years, there was a positive push towards decriminalisation in Australia, in relation to cannabis. The 1999 Drug Summit was held in Sydney's Parliament House, to scrutinise the drugs policy in New South Wales.

In light of this global trend, and the overwhelming evidence gathered from these countries experiences proving the societal and economic benefits of decriminalisation and legalisation of cannabis, it must be time that Australia re-addressed the way cannabis is treated under the *Misuse of Drug and Trafficking Act*, and revisit the issues raised at the 1999 Drug Summit.

At the very least, the severity of the sentences that occurred on 27th July in Lismore need to be appealed and reassessed. The circumstances of each young man needs to be taken into account and the sentencing must be fair and befitting the nature of the crime.

The sentences should serve to improve our society and further the rehabilitation of these young offenders, not wreck their lives.

If the Local Court is unable to make appropriate decisions of this nature, then maybe the High Court is where these matters need to go.

As Cooper said to Judge Fenton, "When you hang a man, you better look at him."

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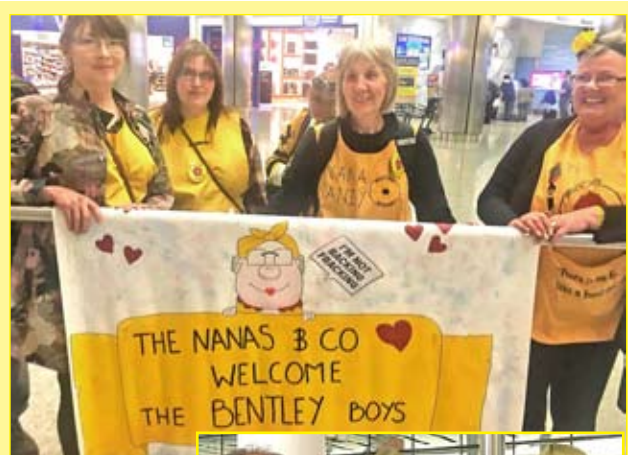
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After a 28-hour flight, Brendan Shoebridge (director) Ian Gaillard and Simon Clough arrived at



Heathrow airport in London at the start of 'The Bentley Effect' film tour to delightfully discover that these Lancashire Nanas had driven five hours just to greet them.

Bentley flow-on effect

Brendan Shoebridge, who spent six years making *The Bentley Effect*, had received many requests to take the film to the UK, which is under threat from unconventional gas in many places.

With a conservative government subservient to the fossil fuel industry the threat is great. Rather than just show the film he decided to run workshops and have an extensive question and answer session after each screening.

In order to raise sufficient funds, the project was crowd funded through the Mullumbimby based site Planetfunder and raised nearly \$15,000. We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated to make this tour possible. There was definitely a sense that we were ambassadors for the Northern Rivers presenting what we had achieved as a community through Brendan's amazing work.

The tour stretched from Brighton in the south to Findhorn in the north. The tour would not have been possible without the support of so many protectors who organised the screenings and workshops as well as accommodation. In all there were 35 screenings and 14 workshops travelling 4,000 miles and engaging at least 2,000 people over five weeks.



by Phil Micone

The O'Heart Festival is a three-day, conscious living/indie folk event that is deeply rooted in environmental awareness, alternative energy technologies and sustainability solutions.

This festival, running from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th August in Tyalgum, will be filled with yoga, singing, movement and well-being workshops. Body, mind and spiritual healing are a big part of the event, woven together by various music stages featuring over 30 acts.

There will also be market stalls, environmental talks and films. It will be plastic bag and illicit drug free, using solar powered stages and with a zero waste outcome.

This non-profit weekend is a culmination of inspired folk coming together to help rebuild and restore the hearts of many people who have suffered during the devastation of the March floods in the Northern Rivers region.

It will be fundraising directly for the mayoral fund that continues to support those who lost so much during this time.

Our hearts' desire is to join with others in encouraging and educating as many folk as we can to know that with every action we make, we can be part of a growing consciousness, creating a difference. Join with us in helping be the difference.

More info at: <http://oheartfest.com>



Change of venue for weaving festival

by Jacinta Duivenvoorden

Nimbin's Weave and Mend Festival will now be held beside the Rainbow Power Company, at 11a Alternative Way. The three-day camp is on Friday 29th to Sunday 30th September, and all people interested in weaving are welcome. Entry is by donation to Our Young People's Trust Fund.

After attending last year's Festival (my first), I left knowing I had been deeply gifted, and not just with some skills and techniques for go forth and create some of the beautiful baskets I have made since.

We sat together as mothers, daughters, grand-daughters, sisters and aunties as children laughed and played around us. We ate together, spoke of birth and death, shared our joy, our grief and our stories.

Our Weave and Mend festival is about coming together as women on a journey. It's about creating, holding space for healing, mending, strength and renewal, and not being alone.

We hope you will hear our call, step out of time and join us for this heart-filled and spirit-changing gathering.

"As above, so below"

Many stars came down from the heavens and landed at our last year's Weave and Mend Festival. Matching this wonder we acknowledge Spider, master weaver above Mother Earth, spinning her web she weaves and mends the sheer fabric of our world, our community and ourselves.

– Granny Breath Weaver

Generous donation for Auxiliary & MPS



by Maureen Lombard President, Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

At the July monthly meeting of the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary the Nimbin Garden Club members donated a \$500 cheque to the Auxiliary from funds raised from their raffles. The Club regularly makes a number of donations also to the local school and other organisations within the Nimbin Community.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary thank the Nimbin Garden Club for their generous donation which is very welcome in the Auxiliary's efforts to raise funds for the purchase of equipment and comfort items to the Nimbin Multi Purpose Service for use by both the patients and residents.

The Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary has donated a total of \$33,616.69 for the last financial year to the Nimbin Multi Purpose Service. These included two lounges, a bladder scanner, three lift chairs, spirometer, a mobile lifter and various other items.

The Auxiliary thanks the Nimbin community and surrounding districts for their continued support and also to those members who work tirelessly to organise and work at our various fundraisers throughout the year.

A warm welcome is extended to those who wish to attend the Annual General Meeting and also a celebration of the Nimbin Hospital's Auxiliary 70th anniversary which is to be held on the 9th August in the Nimbin Uniting Church, Cullen Street, Nimbin. The AGM will commence at 10am followed by the 70th celebrations at 11am.

Please contact secretary Margaret McQuilty on 6689-0090 by the 7th August if you wish to attend either the AGM or the Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary's 70th anniversary celebrations, to assist with our catering and seating arrangements.

If you would like to join the Auxiliary, you can attend meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Nimbin Hospital or please contact Margaret McQuilty.



NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

NEWS

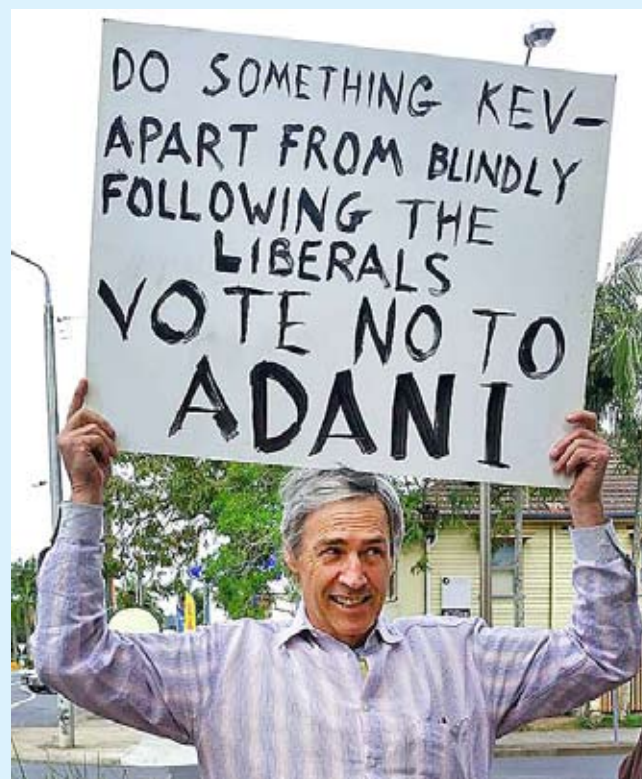
by Cath Smith, President

Many people have been interested in the Adani undertaking and how they can be involved in resisting this unsustainable "development" – ironic how that word is used so often for destructive activities!

You can join a Facebook page, Galilee Blockade, or Lock the Gate Alliance, to keep in touch with information and resistance actions.

At present, Adani has not built the necessary infrastructure to begin operations, so the proposed protest camp and blockade at Abbott Point is on hold until set up is warranted.

In NSW, once again Kevin Hogan has been put on notice that he should acknowledge the wishes of his electorate with regard to our continuing rejection of CSG mining. A recent protest in Lismore (pictured) presented him with a letter of demand to this view.



The 'Ciska Collection' sale in Nimbin School of Arts hall in July was a wonderful community event which raised nearly \$4,000, to be spent on rainforest-

preserving activities, as requested by the late Ciska.

Both Rainforest Rescue and the Nimbin Environment Centre will benefit in this way from

these funds.

The remainder of the goods are to be sold at the Nimbin monthly markets.

National Tree Day was observed on 30th July, with tree-planting sessions at the Duck Pond in South Lismore and at the Casino Wetland.

An interesting festival will be held at Tyalgum from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th August. The O'Heart Festival is all about sustainability, awareness and folk music, and it's free! For more information check out their website at: <http://oheartfest.com>

Don't forget to look out for the NEC stall in Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show, the weekend of 22nd-24th September.

NEC meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Community School room in the Nimbin Community Centre. Next meeting is at 5pm on Wednesday 9th August. All welcome.

Meet the Healing Arts Collective

by Satya McVeity

The Healing Arts Collective was opened in March 2015 by a group of women who worked with natural and alternative healing.

Over the past two years the women involved have changed, but as it stands it still has five women doing a day a week and occasionally on the weekends in a space at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Our present roster is:
 Monday: Betti – Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy;
 Tuesday: Sarah – Herbalist, Naturopath and Masseuse;
 Wednesday: Satya – Remedial massage, Pranic Healing and Chinese Acupressure;
 Thursday: Chell – Kahuna massage;
 Friday: Anne – Aroma Therapies, Aromatic Medicine, Massage, Reflexology, Biodynamic Craniosacral therapy and Holistic Counselling



Nimbin is a place of healing.

We as therapists are passionate about helping others heal. This of course involves healing ourselves along the way. Our room is at the front of the Nimbin Community Centre to the right as you walk through the front door, (past the big hand). Adjacent to the room is a bookings book on a stand with space to book appointments. Therapists'

contacts are on the stand also. You will need to contact them also for an appointment as well as writing your name in the book.

For some time now the Collective have offered Open Clinic days. On these days which are approximately every eight weeks, our therapists offer free consultations and treatments to local people that maybe

couldn't afford to have this work done on themselves.

We offer half-hour sessions for those on low incomes or holding a current Health Care Card. Donations for our sessions are always greatly appreciated. Our next Clinic Day is Monday 7th August from 11am-3pm.

Following on from that we have more planned for Monday 4th September and Monday 23rd October.

The Cup runneth over

by Robin Archbold

This year's 15th NPPWC takes place on the first weekend of September, a month later than its traditional early August date. The inaugural Cup was organised in 2003 for the same weekend as the Byron Writers Festival (BWF) because the festival provided no forum for performance poetry.

The steady advent of performance poets into writers' festivals has provided the catalyst for the two events to separate. The BWF now hosts the Northern Rivers heat of the Australian Poetry Slam, and despite the special powers of performance poets, it was proving difficult for them to be in two places at once if they wished to compete in both events.

Paul Sherman Community Poetry Award recipient and Brisbane poetry icon, Gaius Gracchus, aka Reverend Hellfire from Kurilpa Poets, called the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup (NPPWC), "Australia's premier outlaw poetry event."

While the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup doesn't carry the cachet of the Australian Poetry Slam – some past winners have conveniently omitted "Nimbin" from the event title on their resumé – it is recognised within Australian performance poetry circles as the spiritual home of spoken word.

It's bloody hard to win and performers keep coming back. International festival stars Candy Royale and Scott Sneddon clawed their way through years of Nimbin Cups until they won. Spoken word legend Tug Dumbly is the only person to win twice. All have regularly returned since their victories. Five previous winners reached last year's final. It's bloody hard to win.

The prize money of \$2000 for the winner and \$300 for the other seven finalists outstrips similar events. The format is gruelling, with separate eight minute performances in heats, semi-finals and the final. Poets rejoice at reaching the final, which they compare to winning at other competitions.

The poets' natural inclination to masochism is catered for and compensated by the longer time limit – most slam competitions are two minutes – which allows for a more challenging, complex and varied performance. Two minutes of each finalist simply will not do, considering the exhilarating skills on offer.

Cup competitors overwhelmingly endorse the highly appreciative audiences that 'get' them, and the quality of the judging. Every final at the Nimbin Town Hall has been sold out, and spectators leave exhausted and ecstatic.

For new Cup entrants and audience members, the event can be a revelation. Two days of unexpected brilliant wordsmithery and emotional transportation, a chance to mingle up close with some of the best spoken word practitioners on the planet, a village that welcomes you into its various bohemian delights, and the quest over two days to reveal the champion.

Cup founder and organiser, Gail M. Clarke and sidekick Janie Treasure, get local sponsorship and fundraising, and there is a wide and generous spread of prize money over the weekend including a \$500 People's Choice Award.

As befits the Nimbin ethos, the grassroots event is beholden to no government, arts establishment or corporate influence, but to those in the know, it's the most intimate and inspiring spoken word event in the country. Come and see for yourselves.



Presenter Dean Kesarlal with client Adel McDonald

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The presenter and founder Dean Kesarlal and co-founder Warren Morris, travel around Australia and work closely with clients with their health issues. They hold free presentations, free consultations, free phone support and free email support.

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Lismore presentation will be held Sunday, 20th August for a 2pm start at Lismore Workers Club, 231 Keen Street. RSVP to: going2event@gmail.com

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Welcome to new staff
NNIC is pleased to welcome to the team Vicki Bright who is our new Community Case Coordinator, Kath Moyes who is our new Community Access Worker (front of house) and Rangi Tutaki who is our new Disability Support Worker.

Food Recovery Program
We are also pleased to announce the much-awaited CONC (Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres Far North Coast) Food Recovery Program has now commenced and we have been taking deliveries of fresh fruit and vegetables each week at NNIC for distribution to people in need. We are in the process of purchasing new equipment and securing a space for the Food Pantry in Nimbin so watch this space. Donations of non-perishable food items are always very welcome.

Public access showers
Progress is finally being made in relation to the lack of public access showers in Nimbin and at the time of writing this column the designs are being drawn up for the purpose of costing the proposed works. More details soon.

Don't feed the birds
Many birds are busy making nests in preparation for the upcoming nesting season. Soon they will have new chicks to feed. It is essential that baby birds receive the correct diet from their parents or they can develop deformities and will not survive. NEVER feed them bread as this can be fatal to chicks. Feeding nectar eaters, like lorikeets, seeds and especially sunflower seeds, can also be fatal.



NNIC supported NAIDOC with catering from the Soup Kitchen

Sunflower seeds are the equivalent of mars bars for birds – they can cause fatal fatty tumours. Feeding meat-eating birds minced meat can cause beak rot and death. It is best to avoid feeding any wildlife altogether but if you absolutely must do it please contact WIRES on 6628 1989 for information on the correct food to give and never feed any wildlife the scraps from your kitchen.

NNIC Memberships due
NNIC memberships fell due on 1st July. If you are an existing member please drop in to renew your membership. To join NNIC simply drop in and fill out a membership form. Membership is a mere \$5.50 inc GST – the cheapest membership in town! Your memberships are invaluable to the health of our organisation. So don't put it off... join NNIC now!

Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)
Introducing Clued-Up Claudelia – our NEW harm reduction superhero who will be joining forces with Captain Competent to prevent drug and alcohol-

related harms in our community and around the region. See the cartoon in this edition of NGT.

The Captain's first official outing was to the PASH Conference in Lismore in June and he also went to Splendour in the Grass. We are looking for more official CDAT superhero wranglers to help our superhero get out and about. To join Nimbin CDAT contact: admin@nnic.org.au or just come along to the next meeting. The next meeting will be at NNIC (Elmo room) at 2pm on Thursday 17th August.

Sustainable House Day
The design comp is now open. Three categories – professional, community and young people and prizes to be won! This year's theme is 'Build It Local' – which is similar to the food miles concept. For competition details go to the website: www.sustainablehousedayn.org

The SHD committee is also looking for people with sustainable homes in the Lismore, Byron, Ballina or Tweed LGAs who would be willing to open their homes on the 2017 National

Sustainable House Day. Contact us at admin@nnic.org.au for more info.

Soup Kitchen
Every Friday from 11am to 2pm on the NNIC front veranda. All welcome.

Sustainability Alley Nimbin Show September 2017

Calling for stalls, exhibits, workshops and volunteers
The Alley will continue with the DIY/Traditional Skills/Makers Faire type theme initiated in 2016. Do you have traditional skills or can you make stuff and are interested in exhibiting at the show or else running a small workshop to teach some of your skills to others?

Are you interested in having a stall at Sustainability Alley? We are also looking for volunteers to help with the set up and pack down and various other tasks involved in keeping Sustainability Alley sustainable. Contact Guy on guy@nnic.org.au

SuperDog treats are back

After a short break Rhys is back in production so look out for his handmade mostly organic treats at the weekly farmer's market. We also have T-Shirts for sale featuring Rhys' hand-drawn (and super cool) SuperDog logo.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals to support people in need and the community to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome. If we can't help we probably know who can. Lots of useful local and other info is available 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: 8th August. 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 17th August.
• Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 8th August. 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. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 9th August. New members welcome.



Game of Mates: How favours bleed the nation

Reviewed by
Dr John Jiggins

I was reading *Game of Mates* while watching the recent *Four Corners* exposé of the Darling River irrigation scam, and thinking how well the book captures the forever failing “utopia” that is contemporary Australia, where the regulators of the common wealth collude with the thieves of that common wealth in a Game of Mates.

As a consequence, authors Cameron Murray and Paul Frijters argue that Australia has moved from one of the most equal societies in the world to become one of the most unequal within one generation.

Murray and Frijters began their research as environmental economists, investigating land rezoning by the Queensland government agency, the Urban Land Development Authority. The land rezoned by this authority increased in value by hundreds of millions of dollars as a consequence of the rezoning, a very generous ‘grey gift’ to the successful developers.

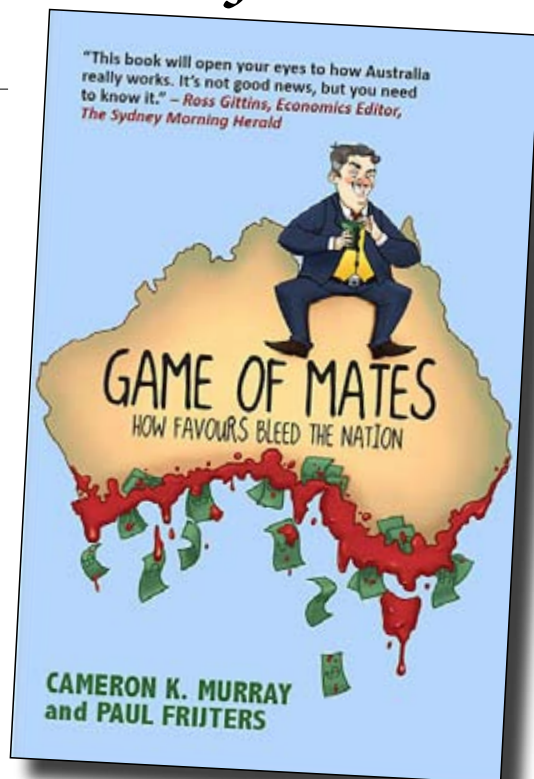
In examining the characteristics of landowners whose lands were rezoned by this government agency, Murray and Frijters discovered that you were far more likely to be rezoned if you had connected relationships – common business connections, membership of lobby groups, or had directors with business connection to the regulating board.

In the successful group, 90% were clients of professional lobbyists. The lobbyists had a 100% success rate, with no landowners who employed lobbyists missing out on the rezoning. And 70% of rezoned landowners were political donors who donated to both sides of politics – they were “equal opportunity” donors.

Murray and Frijters concluded that success in land rezoning in Queensland depended on how well you played a Game of Mates, which was a process of joining the club of insiders who were connected to the regulators.

Their book, *Game of Mates*, provides a template for understanding politics in Australia by extending this analysis beyond land rezoning to many other major sectors of the Australian economy, including mining, superannuation, banking, and public health. The Game of Mates is a complex favour-exchange network that evolves among operators who have overlapping careers in politics and business and corporate regulators where they control and distribute what the authors call ‘grey gifts’.

Murray and Frijters identified three core ingredients in the political favouritism that contributed to the Game of Mates.



Grey gifts

Firstly, there must be a honey pot, a ‘grey gift’, a valuable economic gain, able to be given to private entities with a degree of discretion about who receives it. In their original study, this was the untaxed wealth gained through the process of rezoning, but there are many other discretionary gifts in mining, banking, health, and other spheres for mates to allocate, and which spawn other Games.

One of the best ways to circumvent the Games of Mates, they argue, is to remove the various honey pots that Games of Mates form around. For example in land rezoning, the ACT successfully implemented a system where they charge landowners 75% of the value gained from the rezoning. They also do not allow private developers to convert land from rural to urban uses, ensuring a public agency captures these value gains as well. They estimated that the ACT raised \$183 million from these systems in the previous year. Scaling up, they estimated that Queensland could garner \$1.8 billion in revenue in a single year with similar laws; this amount was what Queensland government and councils currently give away to developers as ‘grey gifts’ through planning decisions.

Loyal group of mates

The second necessary ingredient for the Game is that there must be a loyal group of mates who are able to sustain an implicit system of trading favours, a powerful club, which other powerful players can join, and which has a revolving-door relationship with the regulating authority. Their ethical code is simple: mates look after mates.

Instead of taking direct bribes for each decision, they simply give favours to other group members, who later reciprocate, ensuring that any wealth diverted to the group is eventually shared widely among all members.

Political parties with their mutual back-scratching and trading of favours and the revolving door between industry and politics, which has emerged in recent decades, have been important factors in institutionalising the Game of Mates in Australia.

During the Coal Rush of the past decade, Alan Jones used to boast a list of 400 individuals who had moved from well-paying jobs in politics and government, where they were charged with regulating mining, to even better-paid jobs with the mining companies.

Just a few familiar examples from among these hundreds:

after leaving politics, Martin Ferguson, the former Labor Resources Minister, became chairman of the advisory committee for the peak oil and gas industry, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association; his colleagues Greg Combet, former Gillard government Minister for Climate Change, and Craig Emerson, former Minister for Trade, both worked as economic consultants to AGL and Santos, two of the biggest players in CSG in New South Wales.

Former National Party leaders John Anderson and Mark Vaile also moved into high profile roles in mining and CSG companies after politics; John Anderson became chair of Eastern Star Gas, and Mark Vaile became a director and then chairman of Whitehaven coal, the company behind Maules Creek.

The third factor that is needed is a plausible story to make the public believe that this trading of favours is in the public interest. Influence traders in the media, particularly Rupert Murdoch and his empire, and the ‘libertarian’ Institute of Public Affairs play major roles, promoting business-friendly fables such as Public Private Partnerships and the need for market-based solutions to problems like the Murray-Darling system; schemes that bankers and politicians and the public glibly swallow and which the mates cleverly milk.

As Ross Gittins, economic editor for the *Sydney Morning Herald* commented: “This book will open your eyes to how Australia really works. It is not good news but you need to know it.”

Seniors day out enjoying the elements, seafood and song

by Betti Wille

The monthly bus outing, organised by Nimbin Aged care and Respite Services (NACRS) ventured to Evan’s Head this July, with a stop at Lismore’s Blue Kitchen for morning tea.

It was a fine day and the ocean presented like a rough slate. Even those staying inside the bus while parked at the headland could see the Humpback whales making big white splashes in the distance. Just outside the bus, at the verge of the elements, big soap bubbles were sent racing along on gusts of wind.

A wee bit further inland, at the Riverside Cafe overlooking the estuary most people chose fish and chips for lunch which turned out to be ‘chips and fish’ as there were too many chips.



The tide was low, exposing a huge sandbank and many seabirds had gathered to find an easy catch. Some of us took a walk along the river before boarding the bus which was cosily warm after being parked in the sun, a welcome change after being exposed to the fresh estuary winds.

On our way back to Dunoon and Nimbin some good old songs got the space vibrating. Especially delightful were Len Martin’s performances, sung with gusto and a lovely, deep timbre.

Days out for seniors are currently happening once a month on Tuesdays. The fare is \$15 for clients of our services. Visit us at Bottlebrush Studio, the rainbow coloured building next to the market grounds, or ring 6689-1709.



Photos by Len Martin

NIMBIN BOWLO

25 Sibley Street
Phone 6689-1250



What's On in August?

- **Sunday 6th** – Visiting Club: Woodburn Wanderers
- **Thursday 17th** – Visiting Club: Ballina ex-Navy Friends
- **Sunday 20th** – Annual General Meeting, 9.30am
- **Sunday 27th** – Visiting Club: Kingscliff Butcher Birds
- **Open Mike Nights** – Wednesdays 16th & 30th, 7pm
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays, 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** – Enquire at Bar
- **Social Membership** – \$5



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Aussie Dream

As the mother of three adult children, trying to make their way in the world, I am very aware of how totally impossible it is for most young people today to live the great "Aussie Dream" of buying their own home.

Last October, smug fat cat Bernard Salt created a furore by saying (apparently tongue in cheek) that the reason young people could no longer save money to buy a home was because they were eating too much avocado on toast at hipster cafes. With the average house deposit around \$35,000, that's a lot of avocados!

Isn't it time that these greedy, psychopathic, predatory capitalists were knocked off their perch? Their sense of entitlement and smug self-satisfaction, while they oversee the destruction of the planet, makes me sick!

Meanwhile most of the people in the world are starving and they are turning the planet into a garbage tip!

Nora Sheridan
Nimbin

On Freedom

Just an update on Brendon O'Connell, who had fled Australia for fear of his life and is seeking to return here to take his case to the High Court. BO was jailed in WA for several years under the hate crime legislation. New details are at his blogspot: <https://isolatebutpreserve.blogspot.my>

The world we live in, and have done so for the last several centuries at least, under private central banking fiat usury rule, and all the power, mind control and corruption that money can buy, can well pretend to be the good witch of the West, sending any dissenters to Coventry or the Tower of London for speaking up, but the revisionist view of history, indeed the truth, can testify as to who and what were behind most of the violent events that have caused so much harm.

I include both world wars of the 20th century, the invasions of the Middle East this century and consequent weaponised migratory flood of predominantly military aged single males to disrupt the West, the depressions, unemployment, and Fukushima in those categories, but I would go to jail and the *GoodTimes* would be burned to the ground were I to express that 'freedom' in detail which the good witches say we have, until it is exercised, as Brendon discovered 'over there'.

Gilad Atzmon has a new book out, comparing Athens of old to what we are under, which is the real hate against us which cannot be named. It boils down to a closed system (eg mafia) vs an open system (eg Jesus).

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd AGM Wednesday 16th August, 5.30pm in the Green Room, Community Centre.

House-share

One person wanted to share large house in Nimbin with an older couple – one a muso and one a healer. \$200pw plus small amount for power as the house has solar panels. No alcohol, no tobacco. If you are friendly, clean, quiet and independent, please call Robin on 0411-288-809.

Tunable Community School and Preschool Fete

Saturday 9th September, 10am-3pm. Music and circus, stalls with garden produce, clothes, books, toys and plants, cakes and coffee and more.

Larnook Mini Market

Mulvena Road Bus Stop every Saturday (weather permitting), 11am-11pm. New stall holders welcome, \$5 per stall. Just starting, help make us grow. Phone Brooke 0498-560-816.

Fundraising thanks

Nimbin Holiday Club would like to thank everyone in the community who helped us on our PJ day to raise \$214.90 for the Pyjama Foundation. Especially the Reka cafe, Nimbin Pharmacy and Michael and Cindy.

Community Open Clinic

The Healing Arts Collective is inviting people on a low income to attend a Community Open Clinic offering 30-minute treatments for free or by donation. The next Community Open Clinic is Monday 7th August from 11am until 3pm (see also story p.5).

Home Education Workshop

The Home Education Association presents Tamara Kidd with two workshops on 13th September at Birth and Beyond in Nimbin from 10am to 2pm. \$10 per session or \$15 for both. BYO lunch. Contact Susan: rainbowregionhomeschoolers@gmail.com (see also story p.30)

See: www.gilad.co.uk/books/being-in-time-a-post-political-manifesto-usa-canada-europe

Peter Godden
Nimbin

It's time

The other night I watched what happened to a widowed mother of five young children who were sent to the workhouse in the 1930's in England. The mother was separated from her children and was made to work on a sewing machine seven days a week for 15 years until the workhouse closed. Her children all died and she never saw them again. In those days poor people were treated with complete, callous disregard by the rich.

In England the 1942 Beveridge Report spelled out a system of social insurance, covering every citizen regardless of income. It offered nothing less than a cradle-to-grave welfare state so that poor people and their children no longer had to die of starvation or freeze to death.

Whitlam delivered even greater benefits to create equality for all people in Australia. Free university education, income support, refugees, universal healthcare, Aboriginal land rights and environmental protection laws.

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.

I remember when we lost the Commonwealth Employment Scheme (CES) which had great skills trainings. Howard privatised them in 1996, we lost the Lismore Youth Refuge in 2000 while funding was also cut to child protection. In 2004 State Labor took our train away after it was neglected for many years. Since then it's been a race to the finish between Labor and Liberal parties, especially in the State government as to who can cut more services. I campaign for rail services but really I want back all the things our most visionary politician gave us. We need another Gough.

Beth Shelley
Booerie Creek

Shenanigans and Smarties – Ep #4 – Oscart Studios



Govt can't ignore our growing experience forever

To the government, Nimbin seems to be the "Terra Nullius" of the Australian Cannabis industry.

Nimbin is arguably the cannabis capital of Australia, though people with ailments curable by Cannabis are still having to risk criminality by visiting Nimbin to get the healing Cannabis oil or the raw product.

State and Federal governments cannot continue to turn a complete blind eye forever to up to 40 years of growing experience with Cannabis on the North Coast of NSW. This area has proven to have some of the best growing conditions in Australia.

This experience in the Australian conditions cannot be ignored forever and cannot be replaced with government officials and others still learning about the pitfalls of growing this amazingly diverse plant. The hills growers cannot be omitted or ignored as long as there is a shortage of medicine.

It is governmental cruelty to those who await healing to omit and continue to ignore the growing skills attained through years of firsthand experience.

Many of the strains used around Nimbin are a conglomerate of strains amalgamated over the years which has given Nimbin its own diverse brand. The market for a diverse and purely organic 'rainbow strain' of

Nimbin Cannabis grown outdoor has proven over time to be very effective. Cloning plants for indoor regularity appeases the market which demands regularity of product.

It would not be good for the Cannabis Healing market to grow all of the marketable strains of cloned Cannabis indoor, as happens at present. This is also not good enough for the extreme and wholesome health fanatic and naturalist, who don't agree to fiddling with the natural organic product by putting it under artificial light.

It can be proven by scientific study and argued that indoor Cannabis, having not seen the sun, lacks some essential sugars that can assist in better healing. The outdoor market of a 'Rainbow strain' would ensure the diversity and purity of the product. Seasoned growers know that every strain of Cannabis has its own character.

The government cannot keep up with the demand of health and healing that this incredible plant offers. Recognise the growing experience gained in this area, so more people can heal quicker and more lives and families can be saved all the pain. Change the law sooner rather than later and decriminalise now.

Binnah Pownall
Cawongla

Yes it's Time

Time for Australians to become a Republic. It's time for us to stand alone. Move away from America and run our own race! It's so stupid for us to be cutting back on our own people and school children to finance wars overseas that have nothing to do with us.

Arabs have been killing each other since Adam played fullback for Jerusalem. President Trump said the highlight of a recent trip was selling a trillion dollars of arms to Saudi Arabia. They are suspected of supplying arms to Isis.

It has been said America has to have a war going on somewhere for things to be great back home. What a great chance to have a fresh start. Sack State governments, learn from our past mistakes that are mainly other people's wars. Spend our money here on our kids and our future.

I'm hoping women and students will read this and start a 'Stand up Aussie' site. They are the ones who really care.

I am not computer literate

About us

Editor Bob Dooley
Assistant Editor Sue Stock
Layout Andy Gough, Peter Chaplin, Bob Dooley
Photographers Sue Stock, Peter Chaplin
Distribution Peter, Coralie, Andrew, Sue, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Dominique, Aengus, Soul Kindle (Bellingen)

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson
Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com
And find us on Facebook
NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin

NEXT DEADLINE: Wednesday 30th August

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

myself the Prime Minister and Opposition leader are committed. Let's go. People power can do it.

Peter Twohill
Tweed Heads

Protect koalas

The Commonwealth Games are upon us and the endangered koala has been made the official Games mascot. Meanwhile, the Tweed Shire Council 'development at any cost' faction led by the National Party Councillor Warren Polglase, is quoted as saying "the region needed to do more before it missed an important opportunity" in relation to Government funding helping the

Northern Rivers capitalize on the Games. Cr Polglase has for many years convinced his faction to vote for inappropriate development and ecological vandalism in the Tweed which in turn contributes to the very demise of our Games mascot, the endangered coastal koala. Economic advance is not the same thing as human or environmental progress. We shouldn't have to continually fight with our Council and Government to protect our koalas and the environment, we should be able to live in a world where the environment doesn't need protecting.

Andrew Bennett
Murwillumbah

Vale Martin Gill

Eulogy by Martin Preedy

My friend Martin Peter Gill passed away on Monday 10th July.

I first met Martin at his shop Stringworks, which he opened in Nimbin in 2013. Even though we had lived in the Nimbin surrounds for years, we had never met and knew nothing about each other. That didn't last long.

Armed with coffees from the café next door, I asked for advice on how to fix my guitar. He invited me to sit in one of the huge armchairs. I suggested that perhaps I could help out in exchange for advice.

It wasn't long before I was spending every day in Stringworks, helping out where I could and learning about the non-playing side of musical instruments. Pretty soon it was decided



that to avoid name confusion he would be 'M1' and I would be 'M2'.

M1 was an amazing man and I got to see his generous spirit on display on a daily basis.

He helped publish books of poetry, fixed more laptops than you could stack, and patiently helped

the computer illiterate to understand the Interweb.

He welcomed students from Nimbin Central School, to gain work experience in the shop and musical knowledge, while helping him to repair at least 300 guitars, along with other stringed instruments. We played loud music, invited other musos to play outside the shop, and rattled the neighbours on more than one occasion.

At one point M1 confessed he had always wanted to sing on stage. I told him I could show him and we could start a men's choir. Every Wednesday afternoon a group of men got together and sang outside Stringworks.

When we were invited to sing a few songs on stage at the seniors Christmas party, Martin fulfilled his dream.

His display of emotion may have been part of a change that had occurred in his life sometime earlier when he had met and fallen in love with the beautiful Sophia Watson. In March they were married surrounded by friends and family, then embarked on a long honeymoon.

He closed the Stringworks shopfront and moved operations to a workshop on the edge of town.

At his memorial service in Kyogle on 21st July, amidst the colours of his beloved Nimbin Bowling Club, and between eulogies from his family and a visual presentation of his life, we played the Stones' 'Jumping Jack Flash', Joplin's 'Piece Of My Heart' and Dylan's 'Make You Feel My Love'.

I am going to miss you Martin, you'll always be M1 to me.

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Activists diary - New York, July

by Benny Zable

Friday 7th July, more than 120 countries approved the first-ever treaty to ban nuclear weapons at a UN meeting that was boycotted by the Australian government and all nuclear-armed nations. Much thanks to Scott Ludlum (the former deputy of the Australian Greens) for coming over to New York and represent us in witnessing the final touches for this agreement to end a most dangerous and costly threat to all life on Earth. The Treaty comes into effect in 3 months time. Now it is up to us the people to get on with the job of making sure our elected government representatives sign this Treaty.

July 8th-9th. Check out this immersive, performance, spectacular, magical mystery tour with the Electric Circus Mansion Experience. Master Zen and friends drove me and Marsha to this most extraordinary event. We got to decorate the main outdoor staging area with my flags, before they were removed by security. We were left alone to dance with the flags. It was a most creative experience, were elaborately dressed folks wandered around in a specially prepared performance arts space, to observe, listen and interact at a old reused abandoned mansion through the day and into the night and morning. A great creative happening. See: <https://youaresolucky.com>

Tuesday, July 25th., I was honoured to be allowed inside this highly secured zone of the UN to witness and listen to a most informative forum with the most informed experts on issues related to water pollution, climate, humanitarian, and world peace issues. Fabian Cousteau the grandson of Jacques Cousteau the famed pioneering deep sea oceanographer, was the keynote speaker. He screened a clip on the work he is doing continuing the futuristic oceanic project, started by his grandfather. You can watch this particular forum on the UN United Nations Web TV - Search Results for UNSRC SALUS Well Being Network, Water for health, Water for Life, featuring Fabian Cousteau. It is most inspiring to observe the influence and the effects of NGO groups with individual brought into the United Nations towards influencing changes within the the UN. and government policies world wide. See:



<http://webtv.un.org/search?term=Unsrc+SALUS&sort=date> Please copy and listen to this and share. Thank you.

Had finished reading this years recipient of the Sydney Peace Prize, Naomi Klein most recent book, *No Is Not Enough*, which I bought and had signed by her at the book launch in New York City last month.

It is a road map to shock resistance in the Trump era from internationally acclaimed activist and bestselling author Naomi Klein.

"This is one attempt to uncover how we got to this surreal political moment. It is also an attempt to predict how under cover of shocks and crises could get a lot worse. And it is a plan for how, if we keep our heads, we might just be able to flip the script and arrive at a radically better future."

- From the Introduction in the book
Donald Trump's takeover of the White House is a dangerous escalation in a world of cascading crises. His reckless agenda - including a corporate coup in government, aggressive scapegoating and warmongering, and sweeping aside climate science to set off a fossil fuel frenzy - will generate waves of disasters and shocks to the economy, national security, and the environment.

Acclaimed journalist, activist, and bestselling author Naomi Klein has spent two decades studying political shocks, climate change, and "brand bullies." From this unique perspective, she argues that Trump is not an aberration but a logical extension of the worst, most dangerous trends of the past half-century - the very conditions that

have unleashed a rising tide of white nationalism the world over. It is not enough, she tells us, to merely resist, to say "no." Our historical moment demands more: a credible and inspiring "yes," a roadmap to reclaiming the populist ground from those who would divide us - one that sets a bold course for winning the fair and caring world we want and need.

This timely, urgent book from one of our most influential thinkers, offers a bracing positive shock of its own, helping us understand just how we got here, and how we can, collectively come together and heal - from the Prologue in the book.

The Leap Manifesto is the positive outcome from a workshop she had facilitated in Canada on caring for the Earth and one another. She told us during the launch, it was discussed at her recent visit to Australia.

This transformation is our sacred duty to those this country harmed in the past, to those suffering needlessly in the present, and to all who have a right to a bright and safe future. Now is the time for boldness. See: www.naomiklein.org

Assistance

If you like what I do, could you please throw me a bone? I do not receive grants or belong to any groups that finances my work and journey. I rely on my pension and generous donators. I wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to my journey and work. If you wish to contribute, go to my website: www.bennyzable.com for bank details. Thank you.



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Tumble Falls Community School

Download an information package from our website
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tumblefallsschool@gmail.com or call 02 6689 1423
Applications close: Monday 28 August 2017

Has Your Hot Water System Been Checked Lately?

Ever Heard Of A Sacrificial Anode?

A sacrificial anode is a vital part of your water system, and having it inspected can be the difference between an efficiently working system and a costly replacement.

Manufacturers recommend that you maintain the anode in your system in order to prevent damage from rust + corrosion. After its 5th birthday - warranty expires.

THE ANODE IN YOUR SYSTEM SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO CORRODE AWAY, WHATEVER TYPE OR BRAND OF SYSTEM YOU HAVE - Solar, Electric, Gas or Heat Pumps.

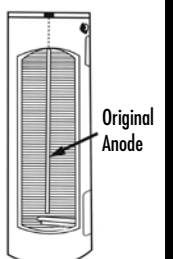
FOR A LIMITED TIME we will check your anode in your area free of charge.

**"REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T LOSE.
NO ANODE REPLACEMENT, NO CHARGE"**
Comes with a 5 year warranty
Make your Hot Water System last for 30 years
without replacement.

AUSSIE ANODES

Arrange a free inspection: phone

1300 166 673



Cutaway section of a typical electric hot water heater

"If democracy means anything, it means the freedom to tell people things that they don't want to hear." - George Orwell