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## Lismore joins World Naked Bike Ride

Text & photos by Midjimberi

After many years of peaceful and colourful bike activist rides in Nimbin and Byron Bay each March, Lismore is now officially peddling in on the fun.

Described variously as political protest, street theatre and a party-on-wheels, our annual ride which highlights the vulnerability of cyclists and pedestrians and which reminds local politicians to consider creating cycle-friendly and walkable

communities, attracts a wide range of participants.

We ride the streets of Nimbin and then return to the Bush Theatre. It's not an arduous ride, but is the best fun you will have all year. It's as bare-as-you-dare, but please remember your bike helmet (there are huge fines these days for not wearing one).

The Phoenix Rising Café will be open for you to buy refreshments before and after the ride. Why not stay for a nude lunch while enjoying ambient live music

on the banks of the peacefully flowing Mulgum Creek?

So now would be the best time to check your bike for road-worthiness – especially the brakes – and to write in your diary, WNBR Nimbin, Saturday 11th March (meet at the Bush Theatre at 10am to strip and paint).

See more details on Facebook: *World Naked Bike Ride – Nimbin* and *World Naked Bike Ride – Byron Bay*. You'll find Lismore's details in the Nimbin and Byron Facebook groups.

## Get things fixed, over a coffee

by Robyn Francis

Most of us have things that need a little repair or maintenance, but often it's hard to find the time and/or the tools or skills to do the job. The idea of the Repair Café is to bring people together to help each other repair and maintain things in a fun and sociable atmosphere.

Nimbin's first Repair Café will be held at Djanbung Gardens on Sunday March 5, 10am-4pm.

We will be hosting regular Repair Cafes throughout the year on the first Sunday of the following months

(March, April, June, July, August and Sept) as part of the 'Forgotten Arts' initiative.

The March Café will be focused on mending clothing and maintaining garden tools. Bring your favourite clothing that needs a hole darned or patched, a seam sewn etc. Please bring sewing gear, we'll also have some basic needles and thread available for use. We hope to find someone to bring a sewing machine to do quick jobs for a small fee.

We'll also have an area set up for garden tool maintenance, learn how to sharpen your secateurs,

brush hooks, blades and knives, sand and oil handles. We'll have sharpening stones, sandpaper, linseed oil and other basic maintenance resources available for use.

You are welcome to bring other items you'd like to repair by hand, please bring what you need for doing it. This could include things like restringing your guitar or mending a basket.

Future Repair Cafes will have special themes and workshops, such as bicycle maintenance and taking care of your mower and small motors, drum tuning and re-skinning. Let us

know if you have skills to share with the community to help maintain, repair, and extend the lifecycle of things.

Abundance Café will be open with yummy food and refreshments for sale. Djanbung has a kiddies play area. Free wi-fi. We simply request that you take home what you bring (we don't want abandoned items left here) and make a small contribution to the donation box for materials and tools we provide for use.

For more information, contact Robyn Francis at Djanbung Gardens, on 6689-1755 or 0429-147-138.

## Action Group to tackle local logging

by Omega Breakspear

The Nimbin Action Group held its first meeting at the Community Centre on 28th January. An interesting collective of local activists and a few visitors came along to show their support for taking action on a number of local social and environmental issues.

The over-policing and frequent police raids in Nimbin proved to be the hot topic. A plan to pressure members of Parliament, including the new Premier, and the police force with letters, petitions and meetings was enthusiastically adopted. The devastating effect on the local tourist industry will be one of the main aspects of these raids that will be highlighted in this campaign.

The logging happening in Gungas Road was also another hot topic. Reports of large old growth rainforest trees being harvested on private land was particularly disturbing. We determined to find out more and approach Lismore City Council about the legality of the logging and what can be done to stop it.



Finally the proposed water harvesting at Uki by a former state agriculture minister on his land was discussed. We heard from the Northern Rivers Guardian's Sledge and Danielle that a well attended meeting with over 100 concerned residents had been held in Uki. The removal of huge quantities of bore water using an existing farmers license stands to significantly impact our area by reducing flows in all

our spring fed creeks, rivers and dams. The impact of large articulated trucks transporting the water along local roads was also noted.

The meeting was deemed a success and one will be held on the last Saturday of every month, with more info available at *Nimbin Action Group* on Facebook, where there is an article about the inaugural Nimbin Action Group meeting.

# Snap your community

Seniors, we want your snap-shots. Take a photo of something you particularly value in your local community and contribute to the Snap My Community Exhibition in March 2017, part of Seniors Week Festival 2017.

Please submit your photo by Friday 24th February with a sentence or two explaining why it is significant to you. Your photo can be digital or printed, taken now or previously – and if you do not have a camera, we can help you take digital photos on one of our ipads – just ask in early February and we'll book some time with you.

A panel of local judges will select 10 exceptional entries to be framed and exhibited in March, with prizes for the most outstanding. The emphasis will be on image content and personal significance, rather than photographic expertise. All entries will be exhibited online at the Snap My Community webpage hosted by NACRS from March onwards.

Submit photos by email to: [jenny@nacrs.com.au](mailto:jenny@nacrs.com.au) or bring prints for scanning to Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services (NACRS) at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre



(please label your prints for return).

Deadline for entries is Friday 24th February, so get snapping.

Any enquiries for help with taking photos, or about any aspect of this

initiative, please phone Jenny on 6689-1709. This is a Nimbin Health & Welfare initiative, in partnership with Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services and FACS.

## The return of the standing stones

by Steven and Evan Strong

Three years ago we re-introduced to the public and media the work of Frederic Slater (ex-President of the Australian Archaeological and Research Society) and the crowning glory of his extensive on-site research, the Standing Stones Complex found near Mullumbimby.

But from the very beginning this amazing collection of mounds and ten acres of intricate stone arrangements was lacking in one vital ingredient - the 184 stones that stood on the main mound. Without those holy stones, the map charting the position and sacred meaning of each stone, along with the actual mound still intact, are interesting relics of a tragic tale of destruction that can never be put right.

Or so we thought, through providence and spiritual guidance Original women of the Old Ways have come upon the larger stones which were removed from the mound and later hidden.

What had been covered with soil for nearly seventy years is far more than we ever expected. The map we now have, which was compiled by Slater two months before the ten acre site was bulldozed and disc-ploughed, gives an aerial perspective. We assumed that the larger rocks marked on the map weighed one hundred, perhaps two hundred, kilograms, never tonnes.

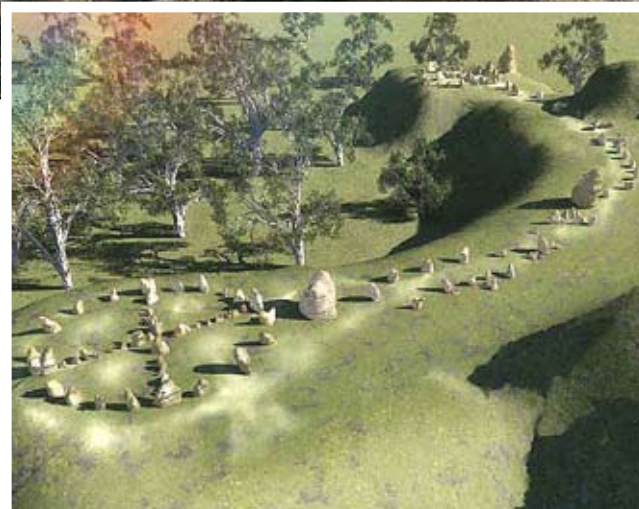
At first impression, most of the rocks seem to be columnar basalt, more than half measuring in the metres and tonnes. The logistics in removing these rocks up



to three metres in length from anywhere to the mound in pre-Cook times is a challenge today, and requires heavy-duty specialist machinery.

According to every accepted historical account, such a technological feat is beyond the skills and understanding of anyone in Australia until the last century. But it did happen, 184 times over.

The evidence is in, the four stacks of over five hundred rocks were imported in the early 1950's from the complex and are not part of the immediate geology.



is the "oldest temple in the world." More importantly, he found that this arrangement of stones "formulated the basis of all knowledge in the beginning, now and to come."

However, there is one party mistakenly assuming they are natural to the property, but one visit by a qualified geologist will immediately dismiss such a geologically impossible notion.

Slater often referred to this site as "Australia's Stonehenge," in this respect it is the only mistake he made. It is so much more, Slater was adamant that this

We now have the stones, map, names and mound and there is no reason why these four elements cannot become one entity once again, with 184 stones standing proud on the larger mound.

Read more at: <http://forgottenorigin.com/the-resurrection-of-the-standing-stones-australias-stonehenge-the-rocks-have-been-found>



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Nimbin, Lismore, Kyogle and surrounds...

# Oz Day: Time to pay the rent

Why did I want to be involved in Survival Day, Invasion Day, Day of Solidarity, Day of Mourning, also known as... Australia Day?

Because no, I didn't do it. I did not murder any of the Original inhabitants, nor did I poison waterholes and blankets or spread disease. I did not declare nor recognise *Terra Nullius*, waged war to steal all the land, did not chase the people living on this land into camps, did not introduce, advertise and impose alcohol and sugar. I did not steal countless children traumatising whole communities, did not design nor sign racist laws, rules and regulations, nor did I commit cultural genocide ...

Although, wait. Yes, this last one could be disputed with relative ease. But overall: I did not do those things. But, nothing in me can deny that every day since my arrival in this amazingly beautiful continent I – like every immigrant to this country in the last 228 years – still reap the benefits every single day of what was done. Yes, I reap the benefits till today, and Aboriginal Peoples are still facing the detrimental consequences every day.

Though I think it is not my place to apologise for what was done in the past, I do think that I do have a choice to feel and behave co-responsible for transforming the detrimental consequences of the past. Simply because those consequences are here and now and injustice is still happening. Specially in the form of everyday patronising policies, in the form of racism and exclusion, in the form of absence of Self Determination, of Sovereignty,



by Saskia Kouwenberg

of Treaty. It is actually truly amazing and totally admirable that, against a million odds, Aboriginal Peoples have survived!

So what about behaving co-responsibly? I love the quote that is attributed to the Murri activist group that Lila Watson was part of: "If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

I do want to walk together, but I do not have answers on how to do that, nor clarity as what is needed either. That feels pretty scary, but I believe that the finding out is in the doing. I saw this Aboriginal quote the other day which really struck me: "Traveller, there are no paths. Paths are made by walking."

So with this in mind and in our hearts, and as a token of wanting to walk together in Nimbin we came up with the idea to pay some rent. After all, we are on Aboriginal land. Wai:bal land here in Nimbin. So the idea is that we – newer

immigrants to this magnificent land – boat and plane people – propose to pay the rent of the Nimbin Aboriginal Culture Centre.

We do not propose this in the belief that we can buy forgiveness or forgetfulness for the disastrous consequences of the colonisation. It is meant to show a bit of responsibility and solidarity. It has been done before in Nimbin, and we just want to pick up and honour that good habit.

The Pay the Rent concept is new and old. A Quaker settler, Robert Cock in 1837 paid interest on one-fifth of the value of his land as a 'yearly rent'. Pay the Rent is a way to acknowledge (some) responsibility, accept obligation and allow compensation and aims to promote understanding, mutual respect and goodwill between colonial societies and Indigenous sovereign nations.

We ask businesses organisations and individuals to consider to pay a monthly contribution that fits your budget. With a group of around 60 to 80 people we can do it. Pay \$5 a month if you can, pay more if you can, pay less if you cannot.

And yes: I personally do have reason to celebrate that I am here, I am truly grateful that I am in this magnificent, beautiful, massive, strong-spirited country. And in Nimbin of all places! What a fantastic place to be.

Again I bow deeply to the elders and Original people who looked after this country for countless thousands of years. A very, very, very long time and we need that wisdom and knowledge because see what we, of western origin did in less than 250 years. I reckon to look after this country we need to walk together.



Gilbert Laurie (top), Dennis Walker (above left) and Darren McElroy on the tongs at the Solidarity Day BBQ in Allsopp Park on 26th January, organised to show respect for the Aboriginal custodians and community.

# Records broken at annual pool olympics

by Sue Edmonds

The 2017 Nimbin Pool Olympics was a wonderful morning, attracting a record number of competitors and spectators. The weather was perfect, not too hot, and it didn't rain for the first time in our history.

All the events were highly competitive, five floaters shared the glory of lasting the distance, grown men and children delicately rounded up the plastic ducks and rescued baby dolls stuck on little rocks from the bottom of the pool. The blow-up crocodiles tested the competitors with their wily ways of losing air, at least they were docile.

Barry, a dark horse from Lismore, romped home first in the walking backwards, and local girl Beverly won the walking forwards. Twins, Luca and Karcha shared the prize for most babies saved and marathon floating. Lismore lad, Allen was too strong for the locals in the marathon (four circuits), and local horse-loving Sally beat them all in the medley and the backstroke.

Sophie and Kiani held them off in the three-legged race, and Sophie capped off her morning winning the junior poolside fashion parade with a stunning parade. Michael and Sue were dressed to kill, and were victorious

in the adult poolside fashion.

The synchronised swimming had to be seen to be believed. This year Slippery When Wet, with their startling choreography by Inez, out-performed Blue Knob Family Ninjas (pictured left), whose costuming was something to remember.

Many thanks to John who maintains the pool at such a high standard and to Pete and Chris who manage the whole facility. Maybe you have wondered who keeps the BBQ area consistently clean? Thanks to the Friends of the Nimbin Pool and all the willing workers who made the Olympics such a resounding success.

The Friends of Nimbin Pool will continue to lobby for LCC to apply for funding or commit funds to resurface the aging pool and to provide toilet facilities for the busy public area of BBQ area, children's playground, skate park and pool.

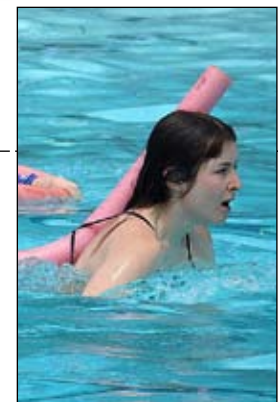
A note to pool users. A couple of people have taken their dogs into the pool. When this happens the pool must be closed while the water is retested for our safety, so please leave your dogs at home if you're going to the pool. Taking them in the water compromises everyone. Unfortunately, some foolish people take in glass bottles, it's a very stupid, selfish and dangerous thing to do.



Photos: Sue Stock



Photo: Michael Birch



Photos: PAC

# Rainbow Power turns thirty



by Mark Sollom

Rainbow Power Company is 30 years old this year. It started with Peter Pedals, Dave C and Jack van Hest selling solar torches out of the back of a van at The Channon and Nimbin markets.

In May 1987 a group of Nimbin locals interested in the off grid lifestyle, got together and formed the company that began its life in the shop on Cullen St which now houses the Nimbin Apothecary. It didn't take long to outgrow those premises and the visionary workers of Rainbow Power found the land and built the mud-brick factory that is their current premises on Alternative Way, using money loaned to it by the shareholders of RPC.

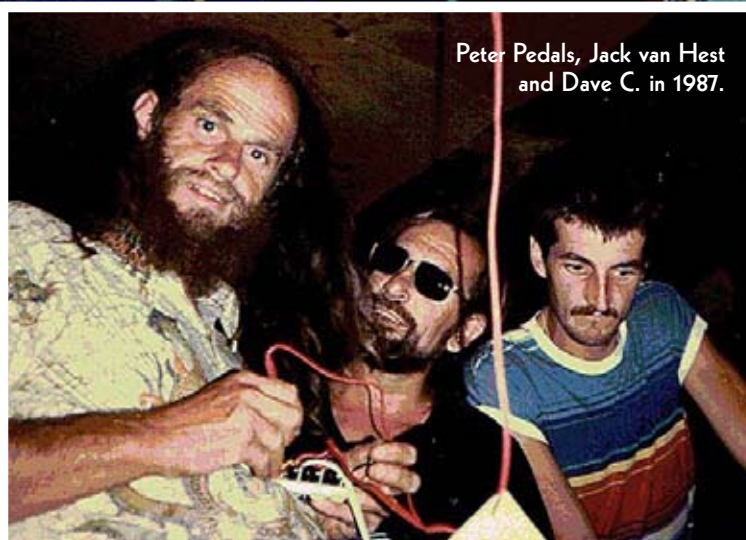
In the last 30 years, RPC

has advised on, designed and installed thousands of stand-alone and grid-connected solar systems; designed and manufactured dozens of ground breaking products and employed hundreds of local Nimbin people, in addition to supplying and installing systems in the Pacific region and teaching the benefits and management of renewable energy systems to all.

These days the majority of their work is in the design and installation of Off-Grid systems for domestic homes, with sales of Grid-connect and pumping systems coming a close second. The rest of the world has since

caught up to the levels of RPC's original innovation, so although they no longer make machinery nor instruments, the expertise and experience built up over 30 years is now used to evaluate their suppliers' products, giving confidence that they are supplying the best value and most reliable equipment in the solar business to their customers. Customers who keep coming

Peter Pedals, Jack van Hest and Dave C. in 1987.



back.

RPC is still going strong, they are a major employer in Nimbin and a strong supporter of local businesses, sporting teams, music festivals, charities and community groups. They believe it's important to support the wonderful Nimbin Community and continue to be a big part of it for the next 30 years and beyond.



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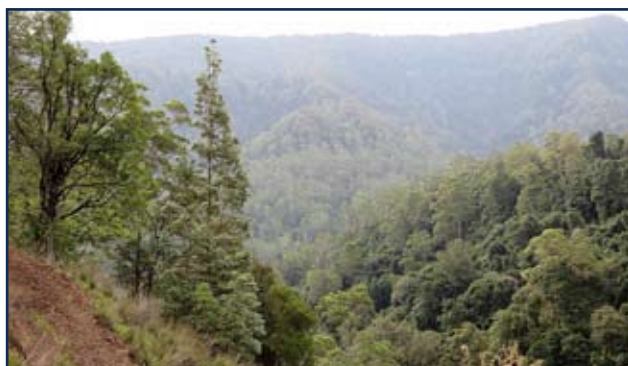
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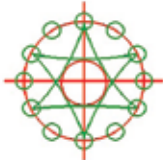
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# Polly on road to recovery

Polly the Pig was injured during an attack at Djanbung Gardens permaculture college last December.

Workers at Djanbung Gardens had found the dead chickens with broken necks and other broken bones, and the 12-year-old Pig, Polly, was found with serious external and internal injuries, early on Wednesday, 14th December.

Police described the incident as "despicable" and said they had "never seen anything like this". A number of tools were also missing.

Two men, Reece Park, 22,



and Bradley Presbury, 20, were arrested at a Teven address a week later.

Both men were charged with bestiality and two counts of torture, beat and cause death of animal, and

were refused bail.

The matter has been adjourned until February 21, with police awaiting forensic results. Both men remain in custody.

A gofundme campaign has

been established to support Djanbung Gardens and Polly the pig to recover from this horrific attack.

Polly's injuries have already necessitated several visits and treatment by the vet. The gardens also lost half of its flock of heritage chickens, which need to be replaced.

There will also be costs to install security measures on the farm, plus repairs and improvements to the animal housing.

You can donate via the website: [www.gofundme.com/help-save-tortured-pig-polly](http://www.gofundme.com/help-save-tortured-pig-polly)

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## In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

### Nimbin Women's Dinner and Comedy Gala

Wednesday 8th March, Nimbin Town Hall.

In celebration of International Women's Day. Featuring a bunch of funny gals and starring the very famous and hilarious Fiona O'Loughlin! Contact NNIC for tix/bookings/info and see the poster in this edition of NGT. \$30 dinner and show. (\$25 concession). Not to be missed. All women welcome.

### Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

The first meeting of 2017 will be on Thursday 16th February at 2pm, at NNIC. New community members very welcome to join us.

Nimbin CDAT's purpose is to identify and respond to harm arising in our community because of drug or alcohol use, and to prevent and reduce that harm where we can. Look out for the *Adventures of Freddy Foolhardy* and *Captain Competent* with their harm minimisation messages. To join Nimbin CDAT contact: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

### Farewell to Ruth and hello to Cat!

Ruth Shinn, our front of house community access worker has gone to a new full time job with the CONC Brighter Futures program. The NNIC team and all our clients and customers will miss her a lot but wish her all the best in her new position.

Cat Anderson has come back to fill the

role for a few months, and we are very happy to have her back on the team, so welcome to Cat!

### And farewell to Teena also !

Teena Kavasilas, our long time community worker is also moving on after more than nine years at NNIC. Again, she will be missed by us all. As a result, there will be some temporary disruptions to our normal services, but we will do our best to meet your needs in the meantime and apologise for any inconvenience.

### Volunteers wanted

We are looking for some new volunteers to assist our community access worker and we will also be needing volunteers to assist with the demolitions at Sibley Street. Send your EOIs setting out any experience, qualifications and areas of interest to: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

### 7 Sibley Street updates

Many thanks to the Tunttable Falls Co-op for their donation of \$2000 towards Stage One of the project. Now we only have \$5000 left to raise to bring this stage over the line.

Step 1 will be to remove the four Cocos palms at the front of the site. These will be replaced by four not-weed trees elsewhere on the site. We hope the building works will commence in late February to early March. So-o-o exciting to finally get things moving along!

To donate towards our new windows, doors, roof, gutters, or new decks, contact

NNIC at: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) or see the project website for how to donate on-line: [www.sevenonsibley.com](http://www.sevenonsibley.com)

### Annual Nimbin Community Xmas Lunch

Thanks to Santa and the elves and the energetic Soup Kitchen team for yet another fabulous Community Christmas Lunch at the Nimbin Town Hall. Extra special thanks to Gail-the-hero without whom it would simply not happen.

Thanks to the Emporium and the Bakery for donations. And of course thanks to everyone who came along to share the Christmas fare and frivolity.

### Did you know?

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

To donate and receive a tax deductible receipt, or for information about how to include your local charitable organisation in your will, please contact Nat at NNIC.

*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: 14th February. 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 16th February
- Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 14th February

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 ED department.

### Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

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

# Rebuilding has started in Nepal

by Helen Simpson

Thank you Nimbin. Rebuilding has started in Bolgaun, Baruwa Nepal using Earthbag techniques.

Twenty-one months after the 2015 earthquake totally devastated this village and many people perished, the road has only just opened. In December the village sites were surveyed by Good Earth Nepal engineers accompanied by Jo Peterson and myself. We selected 40 sites of people who didn't have victim cards, meaning they couldn't get subsidies from the Government for rebuilding.

At that stage only five out of 20 were suitable for Earthbag techniques because of size of plots and clay content. We will be looking at other options for the houses not suitable. The other 20 are being surveyed this week.

Two houses have started with the supervisors from Good Earth Nepal, training local people and materials but paid for by Nimbin donations. Whoohoo. \$3000 per house, but as more locals and volunteers are trained up, this can reduce markedly. Our volunteers are going up in early March to keep up the momentum and train in the technology.

The Good Earth Nepal Earthbag designs, which are earthquake resistant, have now been approved by the Government as accepted modules, which means those getting subsidies can build with Earthbags.

I would like to thank the Nimbin Community for their support. This project could not have happened without your kind donations. We have made a difference and your money has gone where we wanted it to go. The village people are so appreciative, thankful, and excited about their new homes.

We have enough funds for another five houses. I will start fundraising again when I return from Nepal in March, though the Nepal Relief Fund supported by the Nimbin Health and Welfare Association Account is still open. Summerland Credit Union: BSB 728728; Account: 22305642.

We are chipping away at becoming a charity, so donations can be tax deductible, it's a long process, and a lot of paperwork and time is needed for this. This poor village has been beset by problems since the earthquake due to its isolation: extended monsoon, landslides, fuel blockade at the Indian border for six months, road cuts and absolute lack of priority regarding Government help in rebuilding. It has been a long haul.



Anyone wanting more information or wishing to volunteer or donate, contact me on 6689-1417 or: [helensim7@gmail.com](mailto:helensim7@gmail.com) Volunteers (self-funded) will be leaving at the beginning of March, then more in November after the monsoon.

## Chamber Chat

by Teresa Biscoe, President

The Year of the Rooster has officially started, and hopefully the new year will prove to be positive and productive for us all.

The Chamber begins its year with a General Members meeting to be held in Birth and Beyond on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 6pm. We are inviting all the newly elected councillors from LCC and our community to attend. This is a great opportunity to discuss issues relevant to Nimbin and see what commitment the new LCC council can give for Nimbin issues.

An agenda has been prepared which will be forwarded to the councillors attending; this is to ensure that we have informed answers and to keep the focus on our village and issues that directly concern our town. Please feel welcome to come and see what the new Council has for Nimbin.

Special projects for the Chamber this year include street beautification, mural restoration, and the under-awning and mural lighting project. We have been co-ordinating our efforts with the Community Centre who are currently developing a funding ap-

plication for the lighting project. They are seeking letters of support from local building owners and resident businesses for the project, and we ask that the community get behind this. The lighting project, which will be powered by a solar array, will enhance our evening ambience and show off our colourful and unique community artscapes.

As president of the Chamber, I have been regularly representing the community at the PCCC meetings held bi-monthly at the police station, and this has been a great forum in which to give community feedback and express community concerns around policing issues to our local police officers and to Chief Inspector Nicole Bruce from Lismore. Any community organisation or individual is welcome to attend. I had the opportunity to meet one of the new people stationed in Nimbin, Sgt Tory Turner who seems keen to tackle the issues with the community.

At this meeting, I raised concerns expressed to me by some villagers that it was difficult to get a response to emergency situations after hours from the local police. The new Sergeant and the Inspector were



also concerned, and made a commitment to follow up the issue and investigate the incident that had been brought to my attention. The suggestion was made by the police at this meeting, that all after-hours calls to police be made via the emergency 000 number, as this will ensure that all calls are properly logged and recorded, and if there are any criticisms of the response, they can be systematically followed up by the police.

The Chamber is interested in feedback and participation from our community. We would like to hear your ideas and visions of how we can contribute to our town and are happy to support any project that we believe will contribute to the quality of life offered here. We live in an exciting time. Our town is going through development and change, and we have an opportunity to participate and contribute to that future and perhaps guide that future into something we can all be proud of, that reflects the alternative values of the community that has grown here.

## Sign on for the mighty Headers return

After a strong 2016, the new season is almost here. The Nimbin Headers intend to field three men's teams and two women's teams in 2017, so players of all ages and ability are needed.

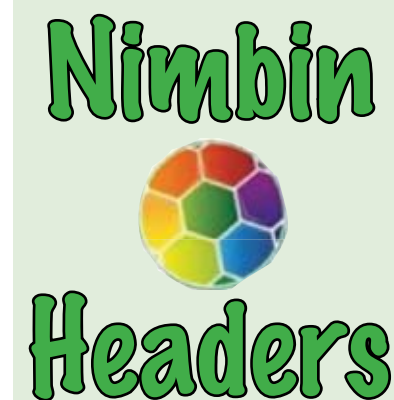
Only paid-up players can be approved to represent the club, so you will need to sign up before the season begins.

You can sign up on Saturday, 11th February at the clubhouse, between 10am and 1pm. All ages welcome. Registration will be cash only, and no part-payments

are accepted.

There is also a work day at the grounds on the 11th. Please come and pitch in any time from 9am – there are so many jobs that need doing! There will be a BBQ afterwards.

Full details and contacts are on the Headers Facebook page (search "Nimbin Headers"). You can also sign up for the Headers or renew your registration directly online at: <http://myfootballclub.com.au>



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## What's On in February?

**2017 MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE** – \$5 social; \$85 full

- **Sunday 5th** – Club visit: Iluka
- **Tuesday 26th – VALENTINES DAY** – Romantic Dinner with set menu for lovers and others
- **Open Mike Nights** – Wednesdays 8th & 22nd, 7-11pm
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays, 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** – Enquire at Bar



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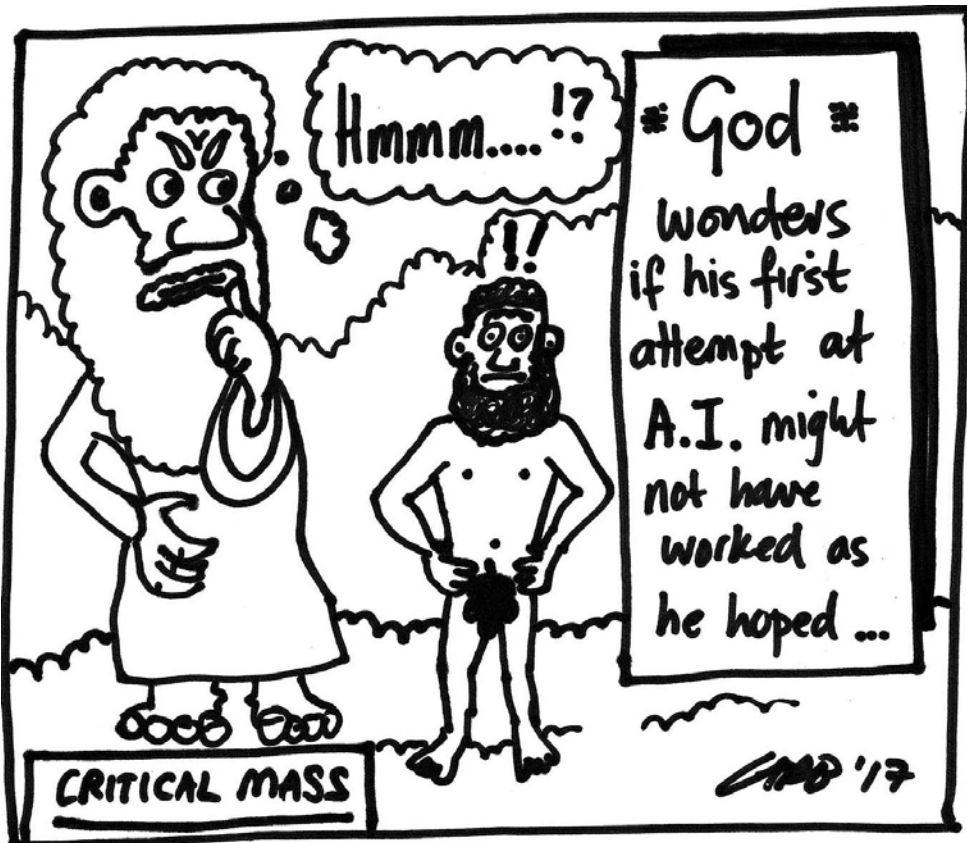
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**Phone tower physics**

Alan Roberts in his phone tower article (NGT January 17, p.4) spends much time in avoiding the words "microwave radiation", which is what the concern is, and instead focuses simplistically on heat, as do the outdated and flawed standards the Telcos and Government use.

There are now between 15,000 and 25,000 peer reviewed scientific papers that have been published in scientific journals showing harm from microwave radiation exposure which phone towers emit.

Is Alan Roberts, in saying there are no "non-thermal" effects, claiming that all these papers are wrong?

Anton Vanderbyl  
Mullumbimby

**Hospital praise**

I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to the wonderful staff at Nimbin Hospital for the excellent treatment I received there on the evening of New Year's Day.

I was suffering from a very painful bladder infection and was seen to immediately by a very capable nurse aided by two other equally helpful staff. After urine testing which confirmed my diagnosis, they also tested my blood pressure, heart rate and kidney function.

After many years of reoccurring issues such as this, I have never been offered so many tests and reassurances

as to my welfare.

I left within half an hour equipped with appropriate medication and an enquiry as to whether I was homeless or needed housing or counselling.

Many thanks to these wonderful folk. After 35 years of visiting Nimbin from Sydney, you have reassured my faith in what a wonderful place our Nimbin is!

Judy Quinn  
Sydney

**Stone Age resources**

Again I have to agree with Geoff Dawe's column (NGT Jan 17, p.20) concerning the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, and as Geoff writes, off we go back to the Stone Age.

I ask, would that be a bad thing, folks? I have written on this subject before: "The disease is greed." Be it from the highest power and wealth-mongers or the homeless, it affects us all to some degree. Otherwise why is there such a large gap from the top to the bottom of humanity, financially speaking?

I can recommend a book called *The New Confessions of an Economic Hitman* by John Perkins (2016), and for those who haven't read it (or the original 2004 version), seek it out as it will open your eyes, I'm sure.

Paul Brecht  
Mullumbimby

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

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

**A new paradigm**

Aiden Ricketts' clarity around 'Unity in Diversity' (NGT Jan 17, p.5) is timely and inspiring. Long ago I addressed a large family reunion on the same topic. My family reflects a similar range of beliefs around politics and religion as does society. Are they dogmatic below the facades? You bet! Does anyone ever sway another to their opinion? Unlikely! Do I wish them ill because of their views? No, naturally I love them all.

You don't want family to fall through the cracks of society. Similarly, the ingredient of unity in diversity are absolutely essential to make society work well. Anger expressed repeatedly and nastily, or physically, from 'shirt-fronting' to killing, creates more of the same. Trump will press ahead, demonstrating the predatory characteristics of capitalism both at home and abroad, and the world will understand why it's not working. I expect other nations will demonstrate that it is better to cooperate on all levels, that it is not viable to let some nations perish, as per capitalist principles.

I believe we are in a paradigm shift in human evolution. So history and



**Open letter to the new premier**

Dear Ms. Berejiklian and Mr. Barilaro,

I write on behalf of the Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc whose membership of more than 600 are dedicated to responsible development in our area.

We congratulate you both on your recent elevation to high office. We hope that you will adhere to the highest standards of public service and remember that you are there to serve, not to rule.

We want to raise with you a few issues that are hot topics around here:

1. Local decision-making: The broken campaign promise when the Coalition first took office that planning decisions will devolve back to local Councils. We oppose the use of state power to impose developments on local populations against their will. The JRPP is unable to give fair consideration as their record of approving developments shows. We are happy that Mr. Barilaro has said that he will oppose forced Council amalgamations. If there is any good reason to take away the most direct access to democratic governance, we would like to hear it.
2. Fossil fuel mining does not deserve a place in this region, or any region which wants to be "Fit for the Future." Please rescind mining licences that are detrimental to local industries and/or health. Remove heavy penalties for people who protect us through action to preserve our environment.
3. Marijuana: Legalising marijuana for medical use is a no-brainer. Get on with it. Talking about it while people suffer or get arrested at police discretion is not good enough. Many times people in the

Northern Rivers have suffered major police paramilitary raids, which are totally inappropriate to this mainly peaceful area. We recommend decriminalising recreational use of marijuana as well to alleviate social discord and help reduce the problem of prison overcrowding in NSW.

4. Environment first: Please take all possible action to assist the planet to avoid the harmful effects of climate change. The proposed container deposit scheme needs to be expedited. All committees should consider the environment as a first priority. The economy cannot grow without a fully protected environment. We have no other planet to leave for future generations.
5. Rail transport: Please bring trains back for passengers in our area and connect to the Gold Coast. This should focus on commuter trains rather than distant connections. Electric trains will help reduce pollution and traffic congestion.
6. Land clearing/ wildlife corridors: The community expects government to regulate to preserve native flora and fauna. The recent legal changes could allow for self-assessment by landholders. Please ensure that well-credentialed officers are empowered to oversee land use and resourced to prosecute illegal land-clearing. We welcome recent announcements of funding to help connect habitat for wildlife corridors.

Sincerely,

Scott Sledge  
President  
Northern Rivers Guardians

pundits will be a poor guide. The big shake-up catalysed by Trump and other events, will take some time to produce results. We are dealing with a shift in consciousness.

This snippet of history is relevant: Moses led the Jews through the desert for 40 years before they settled, thus enabling their slave consciousness to dissipate. We need to recover from the slavery of capitalism: shackles of dollars.

Abundantly available for some, dollars are scarce for most. Abundance consciousness allows the recognition that we can have all we need by using our labour for a limited amount of time, with time to spare, if

we would just exchange it by barter in small communities.

Since there is no manna falling from heaven so far, it is urgent to start prototype communities in many locations at once. While Trump demonstrates capitalism's shortcomings, he will act as the catalyst for new initiatives. Capitalism and government are joined at the hip, supporting each other at our expense. We must wean them off their bad dollar habits, by creating new systems. That power for change lies with the people, and the aim must be no less than transformation of both capitalism and government.

Many of our youth already have a compassionate

consciousness, and are waiting for the aggressive leadership of paternalistic old codgers to step aside. But don't wait. This is an opportunity for a new vocation without an unappealing higher education.

Start researching local, global and native communities for the best concepts. Include land acquisition, food growing, community harmony and effectiveness. Create an eclectic board of respected community elders as advisers.

Utilise the new manna: internet information and links to a global team of independent cells that cannot be controlled.

Hayo van der woude  
Mullumbimby

About us

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

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
Wednesday 22nd February

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

# Australia Day awards



Lismore Mayor Isaac Smith (*far left*) and Australia Day Ambassador David Bitton (*far right*) with the 2017 Australia Day Award winners (*l-r*) Anthony and Belinda Smith, Courtney Linton, Caitlin Bargwanna, Barbara 'Jane' Boorman, Julie de Nardi, Julian Louis, Margaret and John Hildebrand and Barry Fisher.

Barbara 'Jane' Boorman (*inset*) was named Lismore's 2017 Australia Day Citizen of the Year. She has been volunteering at St Joseph's Nursing Home for 24 years, where she helps residents relieve pain and provides comfort, through massage and friendship. "Barbara has provided support and kindness to people going through tough times for more than two decades with no thought of recognition or reward. Her compassion and generosity toward others in their greatest time of need is an example to us all," Mayor Isaac Smith said.




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## Reflections on Australia Day

This morning I went to the Citizenship and Australia Day Awards Ceremony to welcome new citizens and recognise members of our Community who contribute greatly to making our community stronger.

Whilst both those things deserve recognition and I was pleased to witness them, it was hard to be there because as we all know, the 26th of January is also commonly known as Survival Day, and Invasion Day. A day of mourning and sadness, a day to recognise the genocide and systemic eradication of the First People of this country and to recognise the inter-generational trauma that exists.

It should be a day of acknowledgement and an opportunity to take steps along the path to reconciliation. It is not the right day to blithely celebrate being Australian and, in doing so, ignore our past. Alongside many others I think we should change the date, so that we can celebrate and reflect on our heritage, our identity and our community together. It is one thing amongst many that we could do that has some meaning.

The year is picking up pace, with the Trump years well and truly upon us. It's a surreal, frightening and nonsensical world we find ourselves in as the first actions of the Trump administration are announced; restricting

the sharing of information about abortion; re-opening negotiations to build the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines; restricting government agencies and the EPA from communicating with the media and with the public; restricting refugees from entering America and banning refugees from certain countries; building the wall between America and Mexico; and supporting the use of torture!

The list goes on, like some nightmare we can't wake up from; terrible actions are being inflicted upon the global community, and it's only been three days since the inauguration. The only choice we have is to channel our emotions into action in the face of the onslaught of nationalism, conservatism and fear.

We face a similar political climate here at home as well. It is up to every one of us to speak out against injustice when we see it, to raise our voices to state loudly and clearly the values that we stand for, and to engage with those people who are caught up in it if we can.

As we stood at the ceremony today and the national anthem was sung, the line in the second verse was particularly poignant, 'for those who come across the seas, we've boundless plains to share.' If you agree, be sure you don't forget the refugee walk planned for 10.30am on 25th February in Lismore.

Another opportunity to help bring about the world



**Word of the Bird**  
by Cr Elly Bird, LCC

we want is coming up in the form of the Lismore Women's Festival, from 5th to 12th March, with many talks and workshops being organised as part of the festival. I'm sure it will be an inspiring and empowering week for our community. You can see for yourself what is happening and get involved at: [www.lismorewomensfestival.org](http://www.lismorewomensfestival.org)

While we are speaking of women, at the State level we have a new female Premier. Gladys Berejiklian has replaced Mike Baird who leaves behind him a trail of destructive policies. Hopefully with the new Premier we may see a shift in state politics in 2017.

The Lismore City Council year is picking up as well, our first meeting is on 14th February, and we will be visiting the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce on the 15th.

The 'Fit for the Future' requirements of the state government which the

previous Council has worked hard to prepare for, will start to be implemented this financial year, with Council working to find one million dollars of savings internally.

Then, we will be looking at where we can find a further million dollars in savings, and also looking at whether we need to go to the community for a special rate variation to ensure that our council remains financially viable to meet state government conditions and manage the significant burden of maintaining our infrastructure.

Whilst our rates are often regarded as high, we are in a better situation than some of our neighbouring Councils with Byron and Ballina, both looking at asking their residents for significant rate rises to meet the Fit for the Future requirements.

Alongside our Fit for the Future measures, the draft of our updated 'Imagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan' will come to Council in the next few months, it will be good to see the outcomes of the community engagement process and to look carefully at what we are aiming to achieve in the next ten years and how we are going to do it.

The coming year will be a big one, full of challenges and opportunities and I am looking forward to getting stuck in to the work we have ahead of us.

I can be contacted for Council matters on 0418-639-927 or at: [elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elly.bird@lismore.nsw.gov.au)

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