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# Rally to support local libraries

NSW Greens MP, Dawn Walker joined 60 community members to protest Lismore Council's proposed cuts to local library services. The cuts, backed by Lismore Labor Mayor Isaac Smith, have been the subject of a significant community backlash which culminated in a rally outside Goonellabah Library on Friday.

"The Lismore community have made their voices heard loud and clear. Lismore Council's short-sighted decision to cut nearly \$80,000 per annum in funding to library services is unacceptable

"Lismore's slogan is 'Come to the Heart'. Well libraries are at the heart of this community and Mayor Isaac Smith needs to go back to the drawing board and reverse these irrational cuts that will deeply impact the local community" said Greens MP Dawn Walker, who recently spoke out against the Council's cuts in the NSW Parliament.

Lismore Greens Councillor, Adam Guise joined the community protest against the library cuts and said he sees a diversity of people that depend on libraries and worries about the future of this public resource. "Making budget cuts to libraries hollows out library services and means the quality of service drops and they're less available to the community.



"I always think of libraries as important public places that are free and open to anyone and we don't have many of them left in the community. "They provide an essential service in terms of computers for people who don't have access to internet at home, they have books and DVDs that people love and they offer lots of extra curricular activities," he said.

The proposed cuts to Lismore library services will result in reduced opening hours for Lismore City library, the closure of Goonellabah library on Wednesdays and the sacking of student employees.

**Proposed cuts to library services passed at the May Lismore Council Meeting include:**

- Staff leave replacement: 25% cut = \$15,000
- Periodicals reduced: 25% cut = \$2,500
- Remove blue phone: \$1,100
- Thursday evening closure at Lismore Library at 5pm: \$14,300
- Saturday closure at Lismore Library 12 noon: \$11,200
- Close Goonellabah Library on Wednesdays: \$15,000
- Resources budget decreased: \$11,500
- Junior shelver hours removed from staff structure: \$9,300

# Green Army improves koala habitat

The end has arrived for Lismore City Council's Green Army, but teams have left their mark by improving habitat for our local koalas.

Over the last 2 1/2 years, 45 young people on five Green Army teams have worked to restore koala habitat in the Lismore local government area. This final project focused on Nimbin and surrounds.

Envite Environment Green Army supervisor, Morag Turnbull said "The teams have planted over 6000 koala food trees, propagated 5000 trees and controlled weeds to restore existing koala habitat of over 68 hectares."

The teams worked with private landholders wanting to restore koala habitat on their properties. Committed landholders have helped with fencing, tree planting and weed control.

Dan Cox, Envite Environment Restoration Ecologist, met with landholders and conducted site assessments to select project sites. Dan said "So many landholders in the Nimbin area want to restore koala habitat and other native vegetation on their property. The demand for assistance far exceeded what the Green Army teams could undertake. The work that has been done will make a difference but there is still much more to do."

Morag said "The work has been challenging. Lots of steep slopes, hot, then wet conditions, plus all the usual leeches, ticks and prickly plants. Despite this the teams have done a great job. A lot of the participants were attracted to this project



Lismore City Council Koala habitat restoration team graduates with Mark Wilson from Friends of the Koala, Morag Turnbull, Envite Environment Green Army supervisor, and Angie Brace, Lismore City Council

because they really want a better future for koalas in this area."

Green Army participant Kirby Petty said "I had a great time participating in the Green Army. I really enjoyed meeting new people learning new things and making a positive impact on the environment. It also provided me with great skills for the future."

Koalas are a threatened species in New South Wales. The greatest threat to koalas is the loss and degradation of their habitat which increases their susceptibility to disease, cars and dog attacks. The Green Army projects were implemented with support from Friends of the Koala who assisted with site selection and provided training to Green Army participants about propagation of koala food trees and threats to koalas.

The Green Army teams have been able to provide practical support to landholders to improve and connect koala habitat.

They have gained skills in plant propagation, bush regeneration and working as a team. Participants have gained directions and hope with some progressing to work as bush regenerators while undertaking training in Conservation and Land Management at TAFE. Others have entered horticulture traineeships, found employment or gone onto further study.

Green Army participant Natasha Matthews said "I enjoyed the bush regeneration aspect. The highlight was how rewarding it was to finish plantings and have met our quota."

Green Army is an Australian Government programme. These projects have run in partnership with local councils, Landcare groups, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and others. In late 2016 budget cuts led to an early



Striated pardalote female

end for Green Army. The last of over 50 Green Army projects run locally by Envite Environment will end in mid 2017.

Envite Environment and Lismore City Council are sorry to see the end of Green Army. We thank all participants for their contribution to restoring koala habitat and wish them all the best for the future.

# Greens MP rails against 'random' drug testing

continued from page 1

This doesn't mean these drugs cause the accidents. This data doesn't show the amount of the drugs in people's system so it doesn't prove that drivers were impaired when the accidents happened. We know from studies on cannabis for example that people can test positive despite not having consumed cannabis for days.

What we can say is that there are more crashes where drivers have benzodiazepines in their system than cannabis and that the number of crashes where drivers have cocaine in their system is pretty much the same as for drivers with MDMA. So it is astounding that the police's drug testing excludes benzodiazepines, includes MDMA and excludes cocaine.

When asked how this could be the case, police and their government defenders of the scheme will say that benzos are often taken following a prescription, and therefore will be taken in such a way that they don't impair driving. This response misses the fact that there are generally warnings on benzos against operating heavy machinery, specifically because they are known to impair judgment.

The most comprehensive international study of drug driving entitled 'Driving Under the Influence of Drugs' also known as the Wolff report after its main author, estimated "that the increased risk of a road traffic accident in those consuming benzodiazepines



David Shoebridge MLC visiting Armonica's Cafe during MardiGrass

compared to non users ranged from 61% to 290%." That's a lot of additional risk. It also found that even low doses of benzos can interact with common medicines or with low level alcohol consumption to produce significant impairment.

The machines the police currently use to test for cannabis, methamphetamines and MDMA can also test for cocaine and benzos but the police switch that setting off. Seriously, they dumb down the machines because they don't want to know.

However we don't just want to roll out the currently flawed scheme to all other drugs, because the NSW MDT scheme is fundamentally broken. Most importantly it does

NOT test for impairment, regardless of the drug. Clearly, if it is to have any road safety value, that is its only valid role.

How is it possible that this scheme could get it so wrong? It is our opinion that this is further proof that the roadside drug testing regime is about politics and social engineering and not road safety. It is about pursuing the failing war on drugs by any other means.

MDTs are more about moral policing of drug users than they are about road safety. This can only serve to undermine police credibility more broadly, and damage the relationship between police and many communities and individuals for little positive outcome. Nimbin is a good example of this where MDT testing,

focused on cannabis, is driving a deeper wedge between police and the community.

But it's a specific and limited form of moral policing, and not all illicit drug users are caught by it. MDTs do not test for cocaine, only for cannabis, ecstasy and methamphetamine. There is a clear class divide at work here and is another example of the ways in which police targeting poor people becomes standard practice.

So let's fix this. Change the scheme so not only do we test for impairment, but we need to make sure the scheme includes all drugs, legal and illegal that are known to have an impact on road safety.

If they can't do this, then they need to get rid of it.



## MardiGrass – gone but not forgotten

The struggle for cannabis law reform continues, and after the 25th annual MardiGrass, there is much to reflect on.

See our four-page pull-out MardiGrass Wash-up section, starting on page 19, for both positive and negative commentary including that of HEMP Party president Michael Balderstone (pictured), and the Nimbin Action Group, plus a centrefold of great photos of the event, taken by some of the best photographers in Nimbin.

If you missed MardiGrass this year, here's a way to find out what happened. If you were there, you'll love our coverage, too.

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# Trains vs trails...

The Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG) has requested equal time to speak to Lismore City Council about the Casino to Murwillumbah railway line after Council allowed the rail trail group to give a half hour presentation recently and then approved \$50,000 for a business plan.

NRRAG is still waiting on a response while Richmond Valley Council has been fair in approving a presentation for the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Beth Shelley, NRRAG Chairperson says, 'We have a lot of new information we'd like to share. For example all rail corridors in NSW are protected under section 99A of the Transport Administration Act 1988, which only Parliament can amend. Even the construction of rail trails requires specific amendments to the Act. (*Northern Star*, Hamish Broome, Aug 2016).'

In looking at recent rail trail legislation for the Rosewood to Tumbarumba line, it states, "Accordingly the rail infrastructure owner authorised under subclause (1), may sell or otherwise dispose of the land concerned and remove the railway tracks and other works concerned."

Once the rail trail legislation passes through parliament, any part of the Casino to Murwillumbah rail corridor could be sold off.'

Beth Shelley says, 'We suggest it's time Lismore Council looked to the future. Byron Council has given \$200,000 for a feasibility study into multi-use of the rail corridor. Investors in Byron would like to extend the rail shuttle about to start operating from North Byron to run services from Bangalow to Byron and Mullumbimby.

There are many privatised railways in Victoria. We wonder why the NSW



government hasn't tendered out the railway for private investment? Won't it be strange if there are rail services in the Byron shire while Lismore and Tweed have rail trails and no prospect of future rail services?'

Also in a recent article in *The Star* ('Rail trail at the crossroads', April 26, 2017) it was revealed that the South Gippsland Shire Council was asked to consider taking over the management of the Great Southern Rail Trail (GSRT) recently.

The article states, "Of the 17 rail trails in Victoria, 15 are managed by local councils. The GSRT and the Grand Ridge Rail Trail are the only two managed by volunteers.

Committee secretary Robert Knight said, "We have realised the job is a big one, beyond the capacity of a volunteer group to continue to manage," he said.

Mr Knight said the committee was on call 365 days a year and the work had become onerous since the trail was completed in 2016. "We believe council is the appropriate body to take over the rail trail's management. Council has the skills and is already heavily involved."

The rail trails will not protect the corridor and generally councils have to pick up the costs. In the future we will need trains for passengers and freight. Let's keep our tracks safe till then.

# Get wrapt in Nimbin

In 1994, Paul Tait and Jeni Kendall made a documentary for local people on one of Nimbin's quintessential fashion parades called *Wrapt in Nimbin*. Wonderful fashion designers, models, music and dance made it such a special event.

Because of requests from Polly Stirling and others, Paul and Jeni have re-edited it and remastered it onto DVD, and it will be available for sale at the Fibre Festival at Blue Knob Hall on Saturday 3rd June, 9am-1pm at the Backyarders Table.

If you can't get there, it will be available at the Farmers Market on the following Saturdays and



also by arrangement with Paul Tait on 6689-7236 or email: [gaiafilm@linearg.com](mailto:gaiafilm@linearg.com)

Paul said, "I hope you enjoy it – it's good to see the doco having a second life. It's hot!"

## New action plan launched in National Reconciliation Week

Lismore City Council has launched its new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2017-2018, which was adopted by Council in April, and builds on the work of Council's inaugural RAP launched in 2013.

"We have come a long way in four years and I am immensely proud of the practical measures we have taken to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," General Manager Gary Murphy said.

"Our first RAP turned symbolism into action, taking our good intentions and laying out a clear plan of action to affect positive change both within our organisation and the broader community.

"This new RAP consolidates the work we have done in employment, community engagement and cultural awareness, and pushes us to continue enhancing our understanding of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander culture and people, and to build opportunities for increased employment and a voice in Council decision-making."

The new RAP includes three focus areas based on the key principles of relationships, respect and opportunities.

**Focus area 1:** Community engagement (relationships). Actions include continuing the Aboriginal Advisory Group established from the 2013 RAP, developing a Memorandum of Understanding with Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council, and participating in National Reconciliation Week events.

**Focus area 2:** Cultural awareness and competency (respect). Actions include implementing a Cultural Competence & Training Strategy for Councillors and staff, hosting NAIDOC Week events, and ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols such as Acknowledgement of Country are practised.

**Focus area 3:** Employment and procurement (opportunities). Actions include continuing the Aboriginal Employment Strategy in order to achieve a workforce that is 6% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and work with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to increase the supply of goods and services.

## Nimbin karate classes

by Mish Songsmith

Rachel Whiting (pictured) is now running two karate classes per week in Nimbin. The classes have quickly become extremely popular, as she only started them eight months ago and already has over 20 students per week.

Rachel is a bright, shining light for young people to develop their self confidence, self reliance and self discipline to equip them with all the skills necessary to go out into the world holding their heads high.

Traditional Karate, which Rachel has been training in for over 30 years, specifically Okinawan Goju-Ryu, has an aim to cultivate its students not only to be able to defend themselves but to create a sense of responsibility, justice, courage and personal awareness that they can uphold in their daily lives.

Karate classes start by sitting in meditation and end by reciting the 'Dojo Kun' precepts:

1. Work to perfect your character,



Hall. The classes are suitable for 10-100 year olds, and cost \$15 per class.

Rachel has also combined her successful Youth Mindfulness program with her martial arts training to create the 'Wise Warriors' school program. This develops physical and mental strength through the art of self-discipline and self-defence, combining karate techniques and ceremony, with mindfulness and meditation.

The 'Wise Warriors' school program has been designed to contribute to our young people's mental and physical health, and most notably help them survive teenagehood and reduce youth suicide.

For more information on this program for your school or organisation, email: [coolcalmconnected1@gmail.com](mailto:coolcalmconnected1@gmail.com) or phone Rachel on 0427-778-837.

Rachel will be attending a grading for her 3rd Dan black belt in early June, and is at present in training for this very important step in her Karate career.

2. Always act with good manners,
3. Refrain from violent and uncontrolled behaviour,
4. Cultivate a spirit of endeavour and perseverance, and
5. Have fidelity in seeking a true way.

Karate has a necessary and important role to play in contributing to the health of the community by cultivating people with strong bodies and strong minds who can grow and function to benefit the community.

Class times are Tuesdays during school term from 4pm-5.30pm, and Fridays from 4.30pm-6pm at Nimbin

## THE ADVENTURES OF Reckless Rita, Freddy Foolhardy & Captain Competent



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

# Adani coal... corruption, stupidity – both?

by Aidan Ricketts

Everything about the Adani coalmine project is wrong. It is environmentally, scientifically, economically and politically one of the stupidest proposals we have seen for a long time.

The galling sight of QLD Labor Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk worming on her belly to offer larger and larger taxpayer incentives to this insane Ponzi scheme is virtually a daily dose of poison for the climate change credentials of QLD Labor and by association federal Labor. Now and into the future.

The Adani mine is a reef destroying, climate change tipping juggernaut that defies all rationality.

At exactly a time when the world needs to, and actually slowly is downscaling its reliance on coal for power, this scheme proposes to open up the largest coal mine ever in the Southern hemisphere to export it through the embattled Great Barrier Reef.

The environmental consequences alone would be nothing short of a major intergenerational crime.

The economics don't even stack up. Many key global financiers who in previous times could have been expected to embrace such a proposal with open wallets have turned their backs. Still others have been deterred by marginal returns coupled with the prospect of a massive campaign of non-violent resistance to every aspect of the project.



The stupidity of the proposal is in plain sight, but what is also in plain sight is the power that the coal industry has over our major political parties. The federal LNP is actively wanting to offer billions of taxpayer dollars to offer rail infrastructure to the project, whilst the QLD premier has not ruled out a multi-billion dollar royalty holiday. What the project lacks in financial viability, our major political parties are prepared to stump up in taxpayer dollars. To add to it, the federal LNP government actually tried to force changes to Native Title legislation through the parliament specifically to stymie the upcoming Court challenge to Adani by the traditional owners of the area. Thankfully Labor found a spine on that occasion and voted with the Greens and cross benchers to reject the Native Title Act changes. Now that has failed to pass the Senate, the federal Attorney General is intervening in the court case again on behalf of Adani.

What we are seeing yet

again is the way that the major parties are captured by the mining industry. The LNP is probably not so much captured as just openly complicit, but the Labor Party is clearly captured. Labor has everything to lose by continuing to back the Adani project at both the state and federal level. Despite a few dissenting voices in federal Labor and some weasel words, Bill Shorten simply won't come out and oppose the Adani project outright.

Watching the QLD Labor premier and the federal opposition duck, weave but generally prostrate themselves to the mining industry over this, I am struck by what a lose/lose proposition it is for Labor.

Smart politics for the QLD premier would have been to stick to her pre-election commitments not to seek to subsidise the mine, and let it die its own quiet death in the financial markets. That would have been a win/win, she could have tutt-tutted at the market making the decision for her and championed her government as the saviour of

the reef, but no she has instead tied herself and her party to the mast of this leaking pirate ship as it runs aground on what will likely become the Grey Barrier Reef.

I am reasonably confident that the project will be defeated, but not without massive effort from the traditional owners, from environmental activists, from the Greens in parliament, and from rational thinking people wherever they can still be found, some even in the financial industry. In the process the Labor Party, particularly in QLD but federally as well is likely to suffer the ignominy of failing doubly, by destroying their climate change credentials by backing a shameful project that never eventuates. If I am wrong and the project ever does run to completion, then Labor will still be saddled with the shame of having helped impose it upon the world.

Don't get me wrong, the LNP is much more complicit in all of this, but my despair is that beyond the Greens, it is so difficult to establish any genuine national leadership on the issue of climate change and the reef, and that lurking behind the lack of political will is the ever present power of the mining industry having captured our major political parties and by proxy our parliaments. All of this is why we need to embrace collective action against this project and pursue new politics.

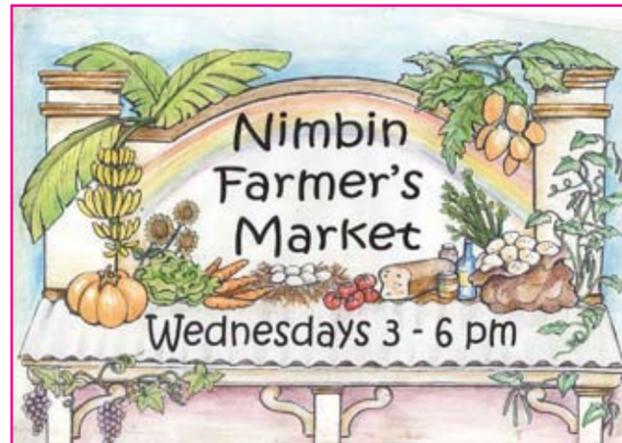
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## NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Cath Smith

In May we had our AGM, and said thank you (but not goodbye) to some outgoing office-bearers: Stewart James, who has been our inspiring president and Lisa Green, our energetic and scrupulous treasurer.

However, we are lucky to have Triny Roe continue on as our dynamic and competent secretary. Our new treasurer is Marco Bobbert and president, Cath Smith (right).

It was a well-attended AGM and subsequent meeting, and discussions included upcoming actions and activities such as World Environment Day, which we will co-host with Northern Rivers Guardians on Sunday 4 June in Knox Park, Murwillumbah from 10-3.

On Thursday 1st June at 6pm in Birth and Beyond there will be a screening of *Black Fish*, a powerful documentary about the lives of captive marine mammals, which is one to look out for if you miss it this time around.

Friday 2nd June brings an organised protest against the Commonwealth Bank in Lismore (pop-up bank), as it still supports Adani with a 60-year unlimited water license.

The planned Abbott Point blockade is still in the pipeline due to flooding, but NEC members will be joining this crucial protest when the camp is up



and running. NEC supports people and assists them to attend blockades by means of subsidies for transport and at times, court cases. There is upcoming training in non-violent (compassionate) communication, to train people and encourage effective behaviour while involved in protests.

Events in the last month included a film night showing *Guarding the Galilee*, highlighting the critical nature of the fight against Adani's planned coal mine. Nimbin Bushwalkers organised a glorious presentation of

rainforest fungi photography-both stills and time lapse-held at the Bush Theatre, which was a great inspiration to appreciate the treasures beneath our feet.

I am pleased to be given this privilege and hope to be of some service in the year ahead. Our meetings are at 5pm at the Community Centre schoolroom on the second Wednesday each month, and all are welcome to attend.

You can call the NEC on 6689-1441 for information about activities and actions between meetings.

## Blue Knob Market

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### Drug Action Team

The next CDAT meeting will be at NNIC (Elmo room) at 2pm on Thursday 8th June. To join Nimbin CDAT contact: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) or just come along to the next meeting.

### Integrated Services

We are thrilled to welcome back our dual diagnosis Nurse Practitioner, Genevieve, who is now back on deck for three days per week. She is working through the long backlog of clients and if you are an existing client who had your appointment suspended while she was off sick you should be hearing from her soon. If not contact us at NNIC.

### Rhys' SuperDog Treats

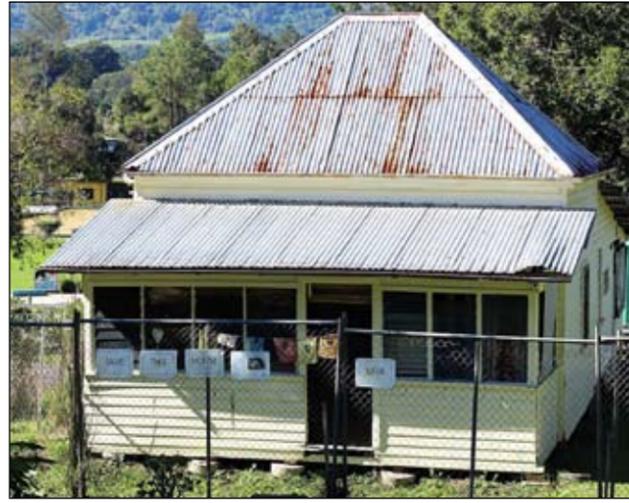
Don't forget to pick up your healthy organic SuperDog treats for your fur babies made lovingly by Rhys each week at the Nimbin Weekly Farmers Market.

### Flood Recovery Updates

Most Flood Recovery Centres wound down at the end of May. Disaster Recovery Allowance for Tweed and Lismore only – lodge assistance claims by 4th October. For info call 180 22 66. NSW Disaster Welfare Service – call 1800 018 444. Or visit [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au) or drop into NNIC for more info. Mental Health Flood Support line 1300 137 934 Mondays to Fridays 8am-6pm.

### Sustainability Alley September 2017

Call Out for stalls, exhibits, workshops and volunteers – the Alley will continue with the DIY/Traditional Skills/Makers Fair 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 at: [guy@nnic.org.au](mailto:guy@nnic.org.au)

### Sibley St DA mods

We were unable to meet one of the DA conditions of consent – namely that the awning over the street achieve a minimum height of 3 metres above the footpath. We could only achieve 2600mm. Accordingly we have submitted an amended DA application to take the awning over the street out of the design and extend the front verandah by an extra one metre. This is now on exhibit via Council's DA tracker and you can lodge any concerns or objections during the exhibition period. We looked at all possible options for retaining the awning over the street and still meeting the min height requirement.

We considered the following options:

1) Lift the house up higher.

This was rejected because it would compromise disability access and would also impact on the floor level (and eventual roof height) of the building proposed to go in behind the old house.

2) Raise the footpath edge of the awning to achieve the min height and install a box gutter between the awning and the roof. Considered not ideal due to the drainage hassle caused by box gutters and roofs sloping in towards each other. We note that Council was not amendable to this idea anyway.

3) Construct a parapet in front of the house to run the awning from to achieve the height. Again not ideal as this also would have involved some complex engineering and another box gutter scenario. Plus Council again indicated that it would not support a parapet being constructed.

4) Scrap the front verandah altogether and construct a proper shopfront on the front wall of the house leading directly off the footpath. We thought about this one a lot. It was a choice between having a shopfront and the awning OR the additional covered

space provided by the front verandah. Because it could be some time before we gather the funds to proceed with the Stage 2 building works we decided on balance that the best option would be the one that preserves as much covered space as possible for community use.

### Positions Vacant at NNIC

1. Assistant Vacation Care Coordinator (casual),
2. Vacation Care Casual child care staff (casual).

Applications close Friday 16th June 2017. All applicants MUST address the selection criteria in the relevant Job Kit, available from Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre at 71 Cullen St, Nimbin, (02) 6689 1692 from 10am 'til 4pm Monday to Friday, or by emailing: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

### 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 NUMBERS**

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- Bookkeeping – Using MYOB / Quickbooks
- Tax Returns prepared

**Jayne E. Alleman**  
Adv.Dip.Acc., Dip.Acc., BAS Agent # 98777003  
11 years experience  
**Phone 0457-497-011**  
Email: [jayne@nimbintax.com.au](mailto:jayne@nimbintax.com.au)

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## Nimbin Hospital information

### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 13th June. 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 15th June.  
• **Respiratory Clinic:** second Tuesday of the month, next is 13th June. 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

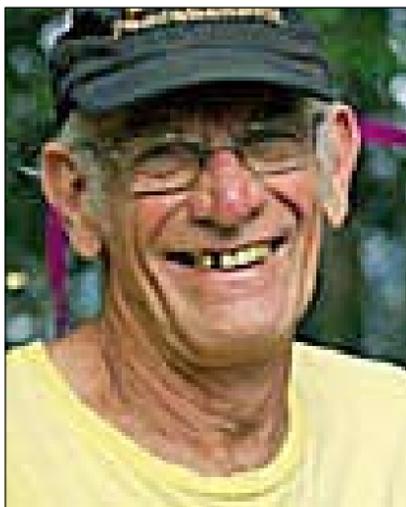
Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

### Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 14th June. New members welcome.



# Nimbin Community Centre news



## Vale president and friend

Dick Hopkins was a most treasured member of our community and is sadly missed. Dick lived in Nimbin for over 40 years, and during that time he was involved with the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre, Nimbin Progress Association, Nimbin Health & Welfare Assoc, Nimbin Central School P&C, Uncles Project (Nimbin Branch), Nimbin Market Organiser, Nimbin A&I Society and Nimbin Central School. He held the position of President of the NCCI Management Committee from 2006 until 2017.

## New co-ordinator

The Centre is finally able to welcome our new, permanent, Coordinator India

Morris (pictured, right). We would like to sincerely thank all those who applied for this position. Our final decision was extremely difficult. Thank you so much India, who says:

*"I am a born and bred Nimbin local with a passion for building community capacity and sharing a cup of tea. I have a strong background in the community services sector and have been working in the Northern Rivers region for over five years. I am so excited to be back home in Nimbin working with the amazing team at the Nimbin Community Centre and I really can't wait to see what we can achieve together. I look forward to seeing you all around and hopefully catching some of you for a cuppa."*

India's first day in the office will be Monday 29th May. She would love to meet you all. You are invited to the office at any time and we will be walking around the grounds, so may see you there.

## Volunteering at the Community Centre

This month we welcome two new volunteers to the Centre grounds. They will be spending time in the gardens and helping to keep the buildings clean and tidy. The Centre is always happy to talk to anyone with volunteering or work for the dole requirements. Over 55's volunteers with administration experience are being sought at the moment.



## Invitation to consultation meeting

All interested members of the Community are invited to this hour-long meeting where we will present our plans for the year ahead. We welcome your ideas for the Community Centre and your feedback on the projects already underway. The meeting will be held on 10th August, 4.30pm to 5.30pm at Birth & Beyond. Nibbles will be provided and the session will be followed by our normal monthly Committee meeting. We will be holding similar consultation meetings on a regular basis from now on.

## Casual room hire

Casual hire rooms are available. If you have a reason to meet, something to share or teach, please enquire about our community spaces. Only \$11 per hour.

# The life of a physiotherapist

## BUNK Health News

by Noelle Lynden-Way

Physiotherapy is an allied health profession that is all about identifying abnormal and painful movement and restoring normal movement function. Physiotherapist, Lewis Grove (pictured) now practises at the three Northern Rivers MPS hospitals: Kyogle, Urbenville and Nimbin. Lewis was born and raised in Kyogle, educated at Kyogle Public School, then attended Woodlawn St. Johns College and studied Sports Science at Lismore CAE (now Southern Cross University).

Moving to Sydney, he completed a Physiotherapy degree at Sydney University (Bachelor of Applied Science) and worked as a physio in community health at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA). As a young man he continued to travel, working in Cancer Care at Royal Marsden Hospital in London for 12 months in 1995 and then moving on to the USA. He ended up staying in the United States for 18 years first in Florida at a Neurological Rehabilitation Centre and then at the Spine and Sport Institute. In 2004 he moved to Arizona working at the St. Joseph's Hospital Barrow's Neurological Institute and Mohammed Ali Centre for Movement Disorders. Mohammed Ali had donated money to the

Foundation for research and treatment of Parkinson's Disease and movement disorders. In 2010, Lewis attained a Clinical Doctorate in Physiotherapy at the Northern Arizona University.

In the end of 2014 he returned to Australia to be closer to family, following the unexpected death of his father. It so happened that the former Northern Rivers MPS physio had retired and he was successful in his application for the job.

A typical day for Lewis in our Kyogle, Nimbin, Urbenville MPS starts at 8am when he goes to the hospital general ward to see recently admitted patients. Nurses assess and refer a new patient to the Physiotherapist if there is a risk of them having a fall or if there is difficulty in mobility and movement or respiratory problems.

Depending on demand, he then goes to Residential Aged Care (RAC) to see residents or he may have an appointment to see an outpatient in his Community Health rooms at the local MPS.

Outpatients are listed to be seen in order of urgency (triaged).

There are five categories for the Physiotherapy Adult Outpatient Priority System. Generally Lewis treats only the first two Categories.

Category 1 is when a patient has been discharged



from Lismore Base or is coming back to a hospital they know to convalesce. These patients may have an exacerbation of a chronic condition or acute traumatic injuries, stroke, post-surgical or orthopaedic conditions; a joint replacement or a fracture.

Category 2 is a new condition of two weeks to six months' duration where the patient has not had a previous treatment. This might be injuries caused by overuse where the person is unable to work.

At his initial assessment Lewis will take a full history and physical assessment on why the person has come to see him. Patient records are

maintained on Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

In the afternoon at the RAC Lewis spends time on Falls Assessment and risk screening of the residents. Physiotherapy is also a consultative role at the MPS and Lewis is involved with the preparation of Care Plans for Aged Care residents. His assessment includes whether the resident will need a lifter, slide sheet, assistance to get out of bed and prediction of likelihood of having a fall. He sits on the Falls Prevention and Hazardous Manual Tasks Committees. If someone has a fall at the facility there is always a post-fall assessment and treatment plan.

In recent years the Federal Government initiated the Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) plan which is funded by Medicare. People who satisfy the criteria for "chronic pain" are entitled to up to five treatments per calendar year from allied health providers which includes Physiotherapists. The way to obtain these five visits, which are bulk billed, is through your local doctor (GP). Patients are generally referred to a private Physiotherapist for these five visits.

Thank you Lewis very much for your time and clear explanation of your role at our local MPS. We are very glad to have you here in the Northern Rivers.

# NIMBIN BOWLO

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Phone 6689-1250

## What's On in June?

- Sunday 4th – Visiting Club: Burleigh Camels
- Sunday 11th – State of Origin Bowls
- Saturday 17th – Flem's Karaoke, 7.30pm
- Sunday 25th – Visiting Club: Cobaki Cobbers
- Open Mike Nights – Wednesdays 7th & 21st, 7pm
- Social Bowls – Sundays, 9am
- Courtesy Bus – Enquire at Bar



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Shenanigans and Smarties – Ep #3 – Oscart Studios



Developed to death

The North Lismore plateau mega-development referred to by Paul Brecht (Letters, May 17) is actually a 1500-lot development.

Anyone who has experienced Lismore's almost daily traffic gridlock would understand why Council's planning staff originally rejected this proposal. Among their concerns were lack of infrastructure and traffic bottlenecks.

On the other hand, our elected Council representatives, led by Mayor Jenny Dowell, decided to fast-track this development.

In the name of a more transparent and accountable local government, I request Mayor Isaac Smith to enlighten us with a few home truths. In the last 10 years:

- How many new residential blocks were approved by LCC?
- How many Council-owned assets and parklands were sold or prepared for sale?
- What is the size of the Council debt that ratepayers are now carrying?
- Is there a debt ceiling, or can Council borrow as much as it wants?
- How many residential lots approved around Nimbin are yet to be occupied?
- Does Council think it's a good idea to push more subdivisions up the Nimbin Road, regardless of the many blind corners and almost complete lack of road shoulders and verges, resulting in increasing numbers of accidents and deaths?
- How does increasing debt and the resulting rate increases make housing more affordable?

G Rosen  
Nimbin

Not the lucky country

It is so sad that our once great country has fallen so low as to be cutting funding to such important things as hospitals and education.

I mean, what is the most important, the future of our kids or the following of America into another phoney war in Syria?

If you combine the \$70 billion we're spending on fighter planes with the \$30 billion allotted for submarines, you get \$100

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.

billion, which is a huge sum for a country with just 24 million people, especially as we don't have a war and most countries are broke.

Education is not free any more, and my kid tells me so many of his talented friends who could be doctors are not going on to universities because of the huge HECS fees. We should be setting up a nationwide scholarship scheme. If we don't, you had better get used to seeing more Indian and other foreign doctors.

And remember the American policy: "We'll bomb the crap out of the place and then call tenders to rebuild it."

Peter Twohill  
Tweed Heads

Homelessness solution

There are solutions to homelessness that are affordable and quick to construct. Search "Tiny House Village" on Google and Youtube to see what they are doing in the U.S. Alternatively, a village of cabins for families who need more space than a tiny house. Other options are domes, yurts and converted shipping containers. While not as good as a real house, at least they provide shelter from the elements and other dangers.

Such villages need community facilities and rules (no drugs, alcohol, violence or disruptive behaviour + community work).

I wrote to Council in December suggesting this, but only three councillors replied (Mayor Milne, Cr Cherry and Cr Cooper). Mayor Milne forwarded my email to the General

Manager who replied that according to council's Homelessness Policy, council only offers support to agencies dealing with homelessness. Land seems to be the biggest problem, however my suggestion that council lease land to a community organisation (Rotary, church groups) so they could fundraise to build tiny houses was ignored.

When the NSW State government gives us \$12 million for housing, how much more bang for our buck if we only have to spend \$3,000-\$30,000 per tiny house?

It only takes four councillors to vote to change council's Homelessness Policy especially now with many hundreds displaced from the recent flood or forced into homelessness by the rental crisis. Please write to them requesting a new policy otherwise homelessness will get exponentially worse with human population growth and Australia's immigration policy.

If Gosford council can do it, why not Tweed?

Menkit Prince  
Uki

Due process for Shed

Recently Mayor Katie Milne publicly stated Pottsville & District Men's Shed (PDMS) needs to be more patient. This perplexes me somewhat.

In December 2015 Council approved the PDMS D15/0160, on a temporary five-year lease. As part of Council's DA assessment process Council resolved to continue looking for permanent locations (21/08/2014). These are two separate issues.

First – the outstanding execution of the approval documentation of the temporary licence at Black Rocks Sports Field. All that is needed is a signature. Specifically, the Mayor's.

Second – the continued search for a permanent location for when the five-year lease expires.

What is getting lost within the Koala argument being touted by the Mayor and Threatened Species Conservation Society, is that due process has been done. The Men's Shed have complied with all 104

King Coal vs the Earth

I hear that the Queensland government is being gammoned by Gautam Adani. He refuses to sodomise us unless he gets nearly \$1 Billion as a "loan" to build a rail line to export coal via Abbot Point (and further damage the Great Barrier Reef, which is on the brink of extinction already) but he now wants a \$325 million royalty "holiday."

Aside from the fictional jobs promised this royalty money was to be some recompense for the devastation of the tourism industry and unlimited use of river and underground waters. Everyone else on the Earth's driest continent has to ration water wisely, but not this coal mine! By the time any royalties come due the world will be too busy dealing with the disastrous effects of climate change and no one will be buying or using this toxic fuel anyway. So why would anyone start another coal mine? Adani doesn't use the old capitalist model: he doesn't need to make a profit. He taxes all the inputs and siphons a percentage off to untouchable banks accounts in tax-free Cayman Islands. With all the subsidies and "loans" (he will never repay) Adani is tipped to bank \$3 billion without ever making a profit. Not bad, but he wants more! His cupidity and our stupidity is frankly astounding.

I hope good sense will prevail. Australia is a country, not a quarry! It is insane to give away any commodity that belongs to



us all, especially coal which will destroy the livelihood of those tourism operators who depend upon the GB Reef. Many agricultural enterprises will be compromised due the absurd use of precious water to rinse coal. And for what? A handful of jobs that create not prosperity but health problems (like black lung disease) and climate change for our planet. Byron Bay is tipped to go underwater with rising sea levels. There are more jobs in renewable energy and that leads to sustainable industries and development.

The Queensland ALP and Federal Coalition governments are on their knees begging to be bugged by Adani. A give-away now will soon backfire on the ALP in Queensland. I believe that many Australians will take action to stop this environmental vandalism.

Why not instead give these subsidies to locals to start up new industries. Australia can be so much more than a coal mine. Stop the fossil fools. History will judge the decision-makers. Which side will you be on?

Scott Sledge  
President  
Northern Rivers Guardians

Council requirements. Rigorous ecological and planning assessments have been undertaken by Councils environmental scientists, planners and ecologists. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage also contributed. An independent assessment by GHD Australia also recommended approval.

Yes, in five years PDMS will need a permanent location. Yes Council has committed to assisting with that process.

Conveniently absent from the 'alternate fact' that PDMS refuse to consider alternate locations is the simple distinguishing between temporary and permanent locations. PDMS have DA approval in a temporary location at Black Rocks Sports Field. There is five years until this lease expires, during which time PDMS will work with Council on suitable permanent location options. To consider an alternate TEMPORARY site/s is fundamentally flawed based on financial prudence alone.

As of 15/09/16 Tweed Shire Council had spent \$51,000 on the Black Rocks DA. Per Council meeting agenda papers of 15/09/16 (page 49) the Council resolutions of 17/07/14, 21/08/14 and 16/10/14, and the December 2015

DA approval, could entitle the Men's Shed to request financial reimbursement for costs already incurred if required to move to another location. Those same Council papers outline that it is likely approvals for the Men's Shed to move to another location would be similar or greater. Is that good governance taxpayers? Perhaps Mayor Milne this money could be better spent on the services you said were "missing out in the Tweed", which you wrongly blamed on this Men's Shed debacle.

Another 'alternate fact' is that Lot 3, Pottsville is a suitable alternate location. Again, Council meeting papers (15/09/2016) provide insight into the unsuitability of this option. "The proposed alternative location on Lot 3 DP1062338 Centennial Drive at Pottsville does not offer any ecological advantage", as:

- The exact suite of threatened species exists at both locations;
- Relocating to Men's Shed to Lot 3 may result in clearing vegetation. BRSF will not;
- Lot 3 vegetation includes areas mapped as preferred Koala habitat under the Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management. The intended position of the Shed at BRSF is 20m from any vegetation and WILL NOT impact vegetation; These are publicly available facts that dispute the misleading 'alternate facts' being spewed forth by the minority and being forgotten by some Councillors. Stop stalling the documentation execution, Mayor Milne. That and fact sharing is good governance in my opinion.

Penny Hockings  
Pottsville

About us

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NEXT DEADLINE:  
Wednesday 28th June

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



## Vic's retiring

Popular Nimbin diesel mechanic Vic Florey is giving up the spanners after 52 years.

He started working at 13 for a car hire firm in England, washing cars and doing mechanical work, then served his time as an apprentice for three years at Lovebonds wine importers, before setting up his own firm, South London Diesels, which he ran for seven years.

After that, he worked around the UK maintaining earth-moving equipment.

Vic migrated to Australia in 1982 and worked as a tow truck driver in Redfern for six months before starting up on his own as VLF Mechanical Repairs, and later as Express Truck Repair in Annandale. After some 19 years, he moved to Nimbin to start all over again, running Nimbin Crane Hire and Mechanical.

Vic said, "I would like to say thank you to all the people I have worked for over the years. In that time I have made some great friendships, met some lovely people and seen the beauty of our Northern Rivers countryside.

"Take care and thank you. Much love from clean hands Vic."

## Make your own herbal health food



by Wayne Wadsworth

Oils made from the flowers of herbs have very many health and medicinal benefits.

The oil from the flower of the hemp plant is a lipid, it dissolves into other oils quite easily.

Here is a recipe for an oil that can be made using the Magic Butter machine, which is the ultimate KISS machine, keeping it simple and sustainable.

- 1: Fill a 2 litre jar with good healthy herbs packed in tight.
- 2: Get a large frying pan and half fill with water and bring to simmer.
- 3: Place a pot inside the frying pan.
- 4: Pour 1.5 litres of organic olive oil into the pot.
- 5: Put in a generous tablespoon of dried organic turmeric into the pot and stir.
- 6: Put in a quarter of a teaspoon of organic ground black peppercorn and stir

for 5 minutes.

- 7: Put in a good grind of Himalayan salt or organic iodized sea salt and continue to stir.
  - 8: Put in half a tablespoon of organic ginger and continue to stir for a few minutes.
  - 9: Pour content over the good organic herbs and let stand in the fridge a week or more.
  - 10: Place the good healthy herb into the Magic Butter machine slightly below the max line.
  - 11: Pour in oil just above the max line.
  - 12: Push temperature button to the centre temperature and the time button to eight hours.
  - 13: Pour contents into a vessel. Enjoy a tablespoon or three a day to keep the doctor away.
- It's worthwhile making extra oil, as it tends to soak into the herbs. Organic Olive oil is a stable oil and makes a good base for all sorts of healthy herbal oils, soaps and cosmetics.

## DICK HOPKINS

9/1/47 – 26/4/17

Obituary by Diana Roberts

Nimbin recently lost a highly valued community stalwart after a short battle with cancer. Dick was raised in the USA and came to Australia in 1972 after serving in Vietnam as a diesel engineer. He met his first wife while on R&R in Sydney and moved to Nimbin in 1977, where he purchased his home of 40 years in Hensen Road.

Dick's working life in Nimbin started at Nimbin Emporium. Nimbin was small in those days and if you went to the village, chances were you knew most people. Everyone would have known Dick. He lost his job there after staunchly defending the new settlers and refusing to apologise to a customer. So Dick moved on to other things.

Dick drove a bulldozer, built water tanks and was well respected by the local farmers for his prowess in getting machinery to work, thanks to his mechanical and engineering training.

He became one of the familiar faces on the front desk at the Neighbourhood Centre and he brought a Nimbin market to the Nimbin Show at a time when local Shows were struggling for relevance. This birthed the monthly Nimbin Market, which Dick and his second wife, Val, ran for several years. It continues to this day.

During the 80's Dick became an active member of the Nimbin Progress Association and through this association became involved in Nimplan, a community planning exercise designed to shape the future development and growth of the village. Dick often referred to this work and the community effort that went into it.

In 1990 Dick got the job as general assistant at Nimbin Central School. At



his funeral a former student thanked him for the fathering role he served for many of the students there.

It was in his role as general assistant that Dick obtained notoriety of sorts. In 1997 the *Sydney Morning Herald* ran a headline: "Everyday this man saves children from danger and disease". The article was about Dick whose role at the school included picking up needles every morning – the school hazard manager. In the NSW Parliament's Hansard there is the following account of Dick from our local member, Bill Rixon:

"The Nimbin community is extremely fortunate to have a general assistant who does his work with such diligence, dedication and professionalism ... I was a teacher for 28 years before entering Parliament in 1988 and I have worked with many good general assistants, but I have never known one who works as hard as Dick Hopkins, during and after school, for the benefit of students." The Minister for Local Government at the time also paid tribute to Dick for his contribution to the school.

He left Nimbin Central School to

become general assistant at Wilson Park Special School in Lismore and retired in December, a month before his cancer diagnosis. At his funeral the principal from Wilson Park spoke warmly of the special contribution Dick made to their school, above and beyond that expected. Nimbin Central School staff clearly felt the same.

In 2003 Dick joined Nimbin Community Centre's management committee and soon became President, a position he held until his recent death. He made extensive contributions to the work of the Community Centre and he will be deeply missed. Dick's other community involvements were numerous but included serving on Lismore Council's Nimbin Water Supply committee, active involvement in the Nimbin Garden Club, founding member of Nimbin Flix, the local film club, Nimbin Health & Welfare Association, Nimbin Central School P&C, and the Nimbin branch of the Uncles Project. He was also on the board of ACE in Lismore for many years and was a regular attendee at Bentley, directing traffic in the dark during the campaign to keep Metgasco out.

Dick ran a small engine repair business from home for a number of years, which enabled him and his third wife Gill to meet many of the new people who came to Nimbin. This expanded their rich social life and Dick built many loving friendships. Overseas trips, motorbike rides and a rich family life made Dick a very happy contented man in the last years of his life.

Dick was a doer and it's what we do that defines us. He found himself by serving others and as a community we were blessed and are truly grateful. His input, his equanimity, his good humour, his very essence will be greatly missed. He is survived by his daughters Marama and Noni, his dearly loved wife, Gill Jones and his wider family.

## Global Women's March for nuclear disarmament



by Deborah & Mick Stacey

This year, more than 130 nations are ending the decades-long disarmament deadlock and negotiating a treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

The new ban will set a new global standard, placing nuclear weapons on the same legal footing as chemical and biological weapons, landmines and cluster munitions.

The Australian Government is boycotting this historic negotiating conference; choosing instead to side with the bomb and those who wield these weapons of mass destruction.

National Day of Action against nuclear weapons will be held on Saturday 17th June in all major cities across Australia, and worldwide, to demand a good treaty that prohibits these weapons of mass destruction once and for all

This is a women-led initiative and is inclusive of all genders, ages, cultures and faiths to support the ongoing negotiations in the UN to "Ban the Bomb".

People are also encouraged to organise local events.

The Brisbane day of action will be held at 12pm at Queens Park, corner George and Elizabeth Streets, Brisbane City. Bring banners or something white.

In Brisbane, the campaign is being led by The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Just Peace, Friends of the Earth and Believing Women for a Culture of Peace.

Google "Ban the Bomb rally Brisbane" for more info.

## Notices

### Arts and Crafts at Rock Valley

Rock Valley Hall is now open from 9am on Thursdays for Arts and Crafts. Gold coin donation. Everyone welcome to come and share ideas and skills in an informal atmosphere. Bring your own projects. Coffee cart available for morning tea. Enquiries, phone 6629-3329 or email: [betty.m.olivieri@gmail.com](mailto:betty.m.olivieri@gmail.com)

### Bush dance?

There might be a Tuntable Bush Dance on Saturday June 24th, but please check around town for posters to confirm!

### Al-Anon Family Groups

Is your life being affected by somebody else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups can help. Meetings are held in your district, for more information visit: [www.al-anon.org.au](http://www.al-anon.org.au) or you can also phone 1300 ALANON (1300-252-666).

### Correction

In the April edition, there was a contribution from Elliot Knight, titled "Sacred Mountain of Wollumbin has a powerful history". Unfortunately, the attribution to Mr Knight incorrectly stated he was a Githabul/Ng'Arakbal elder. He is in fact a Githabul/Ng'Arakbal elder. We apologise to Mr Knight for any issues arising from this error.

### Another correction

An article on Page 10 of the May edition, 'Makeover for Nimbin's big map' wrongly attributed the creation of the big map in Allsopp Park to Leonie Lane. The map was actually painted by Kathy Stavrou. Apologies for any offence taken.

### Free notices

Keep it short, not for profit, and of interest to our readers, send it by deadline and we'll run it for you for free.