

Nimbin joins Stop Adani Action Day

by Saskia Kouwenberg

Wow what a great turn out on Saturday 7th October in the paddock in front of 'our' sacred Nimbin Rocks!

In the week following, many people in the village voiced they would have been there for sure, if they had known. Our sincere apologies! We just started to organise the Tuesday before. The call to join the National Day of Action organised by #Stop Adani came indeed a bit late but the pull was too strong and the issue at stake just too big to ignore.

It is big indeed! Just imagine the area from Nimbin to Lismore, then to Clunes and back up to about Whian Whian forest being just ONE huge coal mine. That's about the size of the planned Indian-owned Adani Carmichael mine in the Queensland Galilee basin, an area as big as Laos or Great Britain with about 20,000 inhabitants.

They plan to mine half of the area above ground, half underground up to 150 metres deep. That's a phenomenal huge scar. The dirty high-ash coal they plan to take out yearly would also pollute our atmosphere to the equivalent to twice the output of Tokyo or the whole of Bangladesh yearly!

But never mind, say some, they only get the stuff out of the ground in Australia – yes, sucking nine million gallons of water daily from the Great Artesian Basin and in the process scratching and heating up a few reefs on the way – but never mind the real polluting will not take place in Australia.

And so this mine does not even add up to 'our' emission figures under the Paris agreement. The real polluting will happen in India. Nice and far away? Of course not.

It is utterly flabbergasting



that it is not yet clear to ALL politicians and big-bucks-makers that we, all seven plus billion humans, live on ONE planet with ONE atmosphere. What happens there, happens here and vice versa.

So Adani, we stop it here. No small task. Specially not at this point since legal state and federal licences have been given, Mr Adani himself has given the thumbs up and countless companies and Queensland politician's mouths are just drooling and can barely wait any longer to make real big bucks.

So yes, that looks bloody hopeless. Or? Maybe not. The local Native Title applicants, the Wangan and Jagalingou People are still contesting Adani's demand to extinguish Native Title over the area.

And there is still a slight financial problem. The over twenty-two billion dollars investment for the mine, railway and port is still not a fact. They are still searching for big investors and are pleading for a \$900,000,000 loan for the extension of the railway line from the Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) which is nothing

Want to get involved?

- Email your name to: nimbinenvironmentcentre@gmail.com so we can keep you informed (in time!) of local actions
- Support the Wangan and Jagalingou Peoples: www.waganjagalingou.com.au
- Boycott companies (e.g. via local council) that work for Adani, like Downer EDI Limited. For more info, see: www.marketforces.org.au
- Change the minds of politicians. It has been done before.
- Join the local protest in north Queensland. More info via NEC
- Sponsor and/or (emotionally) support someone who wants to go up
- Make 'protest' art for people to take up to Queensland end of November
- Connect with environmental groups in India. Let's make this struggle international! Make protest signs in Hindi
- Plead with Adani to only invest in renewable energy. He can do it! 'He' built India's biggest solar power plant in Tamil Nadu. Phone 1800-423-264, email: carmichael.project@adani.in
- Spread the facts. See: www.marineconservation.com.au or www.miningpeople.com.au
- Keep yourself informed: www.stopadani.org.au

else but taxpayer's money.

And then, of course, there is us: we the people who are absolutely and totally fed up with putting our planet Earth at risk any further. Action groups are popping up all over Australia and local protest – among them many farmers – is growing too.

#Stop Adani, an umbrella for over 40 organisations, had already dangerously rocked the boat: everybody

in Australia now knows about this disastrous project and they have effectively convinced tens of banks and financial institutions to rule out financing Adani's coal mine enterprise.

Have a look at the pictures of the nationwide protest they organised on 7th-8th October at: www.stopadani.org.au They look inspiring and powerful. And our Nimbin picture surely looks good among them.

Tower-free Nimbin

Concerned local residents have recently held a meeting to address concerns by residents about an application by the NBN network to install a tower at 1 Stangers Road, Nimbin / Stony Chute.

A lack of consultation has been identified, with clearly no consultation with Aboriginal traditional owners or a cultural site assessment being undertaken.

The visual amenity is another issue being raised with world heritage views affecting the landscape permanently.

Public health issues and safety, along with wildlife biodiversity issues, are of concern. The Stony Chute ridge is a high-use Koala corridor and it is a cultural asset.

These issues are currently



being sent to the head of planning for this project, after being raised at the NBN public meeting in October, which was not a community consultation.

If you would like to know more, contact Jane at: eloquence6@off07.com



by Benny Zable

On Sunday 1st October, I celebrated my 72nd birthday and wedding to my friend and helper Marsha Silvestri at Strawberry Fields in Central Park, N.Y.C. – a beautiful autumn day in a place of significant personal connections.

It was an affirmation / celebration / happening / sharing to express imagining what a Culture of Peace could be. The wedding ceremony incorporated the IMAGINE mosaic, decorated with flowers in the form of a peace symbol.

The ceremony was officiated by my friend Susana Bastarrica who is a co-founder of Vigil 4 Peace and Ecology in New York City: www.vigil4peace.org

I wish to thank you all for those awesome comments and well wishes sent through my facebook pages. It was a most heartfelt moment for us.

John Adams*

& ASSOCIATES

*a.k.a. Sindhu

Lawyers

www.johnadams.com.au

TICKS WANTED

Unengorged FEMALE* paralysis ticks wanted, \$2.00 each.

Deliver to Lismore Vet Clinic
22 Uralba St, Lismore Ph: 6622-0033

Ixodes Holocyclus. Females responsible for Paralysis

Male non toxic



IT MIGHT BE SMALL, BUT IT STILL GETS NOTICED!

For a limited time, you can buy this space for only \$40.
Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

It's never been easier to get into the GoodTimes

The Voice of the Alternative Nation
NIM-FM 102.3
FACE THE MUSIC
www.nimfm.org

Sunsparks Electrics
Solar Power Professionals



Design, sale and installation of solar power systems

16 years specialisation in renewables, grid connect or stand alone power systems

Shannon Lacy

Phone 6679 7167 or Mobile 0418 228 117

sunsparksselectrics@gmail.com
www.sunsparks.com.au

NIMBIN BUILDING MATERIALS

OPEN Mon-Fri 8am-4pm
Saturday 8am-12 noon.
50 Gungas Road Nimbin NSW 2480
Ph: 6689-1206
A/H Ralph Mob: 0429-048-808

For a broad range of new and new seconds at very competitive prices

Hardwood	Poly Pipe & Fittings
Decking & Flooring	Structural Steel
Pine Framing	Sand & Gravel
Roofing & Guttering	Cement
Doors & Windows	Plumbing
Cement Sheeting	Stock Feed
Architrave	Granite & Marble
Plywood	Gardening & Plants
LVL's/Smart Beams	Elgas Supplier
Hardware	Geohex Supplier

Delivery Available

sales@nimbinbuildingmaterials.com.au

www.nimbinbuildingmaterials.com.au

Activists gear up for frontline action on coal

by Benny Zable

The announcement of the Queensland state election on 25th November has been a catalyst for those opposed to the Adani Carmichael coal mine proposal to take action now.

I understand there will be buses heading up from the North Coast in mid-November. Check in with the Nimbin Environment Centre for bookings.

Actually we need lots of people out here *now*. Gautam Adani has not yet secured all of the funding needed. If we can slow the rail line construction down more often, they will have a very costly long-term fight on their hands. We can stop them getting federal funding. This is the time to blockade them. Please raise the alarm.

Significantly, the ABC screening of the *4 Corners* program revealed a whole lot of corruption and harassment by Gautam Adani, the Indian businessman who is the chairman and founder of Adani Group. According to Forbes, his net worth is estimated to be \$8.81 billion as of September 2017.

I attended two court cases at the Bowen Court House of arrestees from a previous action at the Adani-owned Abbott Point coal port facility. All pleaded guilty to trespass charges. It resulted in a lenient fine for the first set of arrestees by one judge. A week later another batch had their fines doubled by another judge. The two who locked onto the railway lines received a fine of \$4000 each. This was the trigger for frontline activists to get out and take action around some of the machinery we had discovered out there.

It turned out just as we suspected. Construction toward the rail link



from mine to port has begun. Gautam Adani is desperate to build the rail link needed for the mining to begin. Gautam Adani is funding some \$400 million while the Federal government is yet to make the decision to hand over billions of dollars to building and developing infrastructure, not only for Adani alone but for a whole string of coal mines if up and running.

We got a reaction from the Adani workers who came out to confront the support crew on the road during lock-ons. One particular Adani-branded worker Mick, who was head of security at the Maules Creek coal mine which devastated the Leard Forest is now working for the Adani Carmichael coal mine project. Frontline activists here know him. Thank goodness for the police who were bullied by Mick to arrest us, but backed off and observed the Adani workers and Aboriginal elder approach us.

The Aboriginal heritage worker for Adani was truly upset about us coming out here. The success of the Bentley blockade was due to unity



among Aboriginal mobs. Most of the mobs have signed off on the project. The outcome of the Wangan and Jagalingou peoples' native title claims could determine if the Federal government will match funding for the Adani Carmichael billion-dollar mine infrastructure rail link to the Abbott Point port facility and more. Gautam Adani is desperate for this rail link to be built.

You can follow and check out stories on social media at Frontline Action on Coal facebook, or with me. It is very costly at the moment because logistically our camp is four hours away from the construction work, and the fuel costs of maintaining a presence are sizeable. Please, if you cannot come out, donate to Frontline Action on Coal. BSB 633000 Account 161068879.

Festival for renewal

The Renew Festival, the annual festival hosted by COREM, is held concurrently with the Mullum Music Festival in November.

Festival goers are once again encouraged to not only nourish their souls with music; but also engage in workshops, walks and talks that are about living a more sustainable life and participating in positive actions for sustainable change.

Renew Fest Program

Weaving Workshop

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th November, 10am-12pm

Presented by Kim Tait. Meet at Renew Fest Stall at Festival Market Place,

Bringing style, ease and self-responsibility to your carry wears by weaving with recycled plastic waste including packing tape, computer cables, earphones, fruit and veg bags, festival armbands etc. Materials supplied. Purchase at the workshop or BYO reusable water bottle to do your bit to reduce single use plastics.

Nature Walks

Presented by Dave Rawlins & Joanne Green from Brunswick Valley Landcare

• Saltwater Creek Walk – Saturday 18th, 9.30-10.30am

Local Landcare has worked restoring Saltwater Creek for

nearly 20 years. Come and learn about their efforts and ways to restore our riparian areas. Meet at entrance of Petria Thomas Swimming Pool.

• Heritage Park Walk – Sunday 19th, 9-10am

Stroll along the Brunswick River and into the Heritage Park arboretum to learn about our local ecology, and the plants and animals of our region. Meet at entrance to Heritage Park at the Tennis Court.

What is Community-Owned Renewable Energy?

Sunday 19th 10-11am at Mullum Drill Hall

With Luke Reade (President Energetic Communities), Ella Rose Goninan (President COREM), Dave Rawlins (Vice President COREM) and Lachlan Rule (Campaigner Community Power Agency)

How can we ensure 'Community-Owned Renewable Energy' models 'stack up' across the 'triple bottom line'? Hear too from COREM about their latest Repower Byron Shire campaign in partnership with Enova Community and Zero Emissions Byron.

Putting the Humanity back into Housing

Saturday 18th 9-10am at Byron Community Centre

Lessons from community



and fresh visions for putting the heart and humanity back into housing. With Simon Richardson (Mayor, Byron Shire), Tamara Smith (Member for Ballina), Kelvin Daly (Bruns Eco Village), and MC, Thomas Keily (Economics Program Co-ordinator at RenewFest).

Waste Sustainability Festivals Saturday 18th, 10.30-11.30am at Byron Community Centre

Continuing on from last year, this panel is looking to further the 'Waste' discussion, to end game changing solutions. Hear from panelists how their sustainability waste actions of the last year measured up and what's in the works for further progressive practices in relation to the notion of 'Zero Waste'. How can we get more creative and bold when it comes to leading positive change in relation 'Best Waste' practices? With Simon Richardson (Mayor, Byron Shire), Kate Little

(Byron Spirit Festival), and MC Ella Rose Goninan (Creative Director Renew Festival).

Stories of the road to mental health recovery

Sunday 19th, 12-1pm at Byron Community Centre

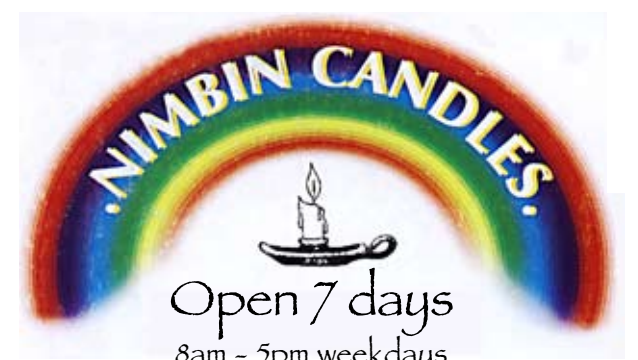
Facilitated by First Light Director Ella Rose Goninan

Come to listen or share stories of the road to mental health recovery. Our stories of recovery, or finding our way to recovery, are laden with insight and gifts for others and ourselves.

Join Wildspace to step outside our comfort zones

Saturday 18th, 9-10am at St Martin's Hall

With Joanna Macy's 'work that reconnects' as a guide, we journey inwards and outwards to reconnect with ourselves, with others and the interconnected life web of our planet. Facilitated by Juli Gassner, Founder of WildSpace



Ph: 6689-1010 fax: 6689-1210 email: nimcand@bigpond.net.au



Knit one, purl one, stitch one, send one...

by Gail Wallace

It all started when Helen, our community nurse, bounced into Bottlebrush studio during one busy Monday 'morning tea' session.

Conversation was buzzing delightfully over the Earl Grey brews and home-made date loaf with the monthly craft meeting in full swing.

Stitching, crocheting, yarning, weaving, swapping tales has been the order of the day here for some years now.

Since joining this women's creative pod a few months ago, it became apparent that the group offered far more than 'blanket stitch' techniques and joining knots together 'Russian style'. Within this potpourri of extreme talents lay the most amazing cures, tricks, tips, skills, wisdoms, best kept secrets and home-spun philosophies spanning centuries.

This month's theme was knitting, so needles were quietly and rhythmically clicking away as patterned cardigans, socks, beanies and booties were forming 'hot off the assembly line'.

Just one week earlier, I had discovered that the groups attached to the 'Rebuild Bolgaun' (Nepal) were heading over in October and November and were willing to take donations in their suitcases directly to needy villagers.

As well as re-building homes, these folk needed simple warm clothing to



Women enjoying the feel-good fun exercise as they gossip and giggle while stitching and knitting. Below: One of the finished products

get them through the high altitude winter.

Now, what did we have to offer in sweaty, subtropical Nimbin? Well, hello... light bulb moment! No brainer or what?

Of course, here, staring right at us, was a bunch of talented knitters who could join their woollen forces to knock up any number of possibilities.

Better than ever, they would be delivered directly to grateful recipients via our wonderful team of volunteers.

No middle men. No Admin fees, No excess baggage costs. P(ur)lfect!

The synchronicity was like joining the male and female parts of electrical plugs together. You guessed it...

We could put our combined knitting energies towards this wonderfully worthy project. Win-Win-Win and feel good to boot!

Helen's eyeballs both bulged and glistened at the very suggestion. She would ask



'her team' to fill their luggage with as much as we wanted to provide.

Since that serendipitous moment last July, the team, the 'Nepalese Knitters' (not Nannas) has assiduously taken up this challenge.

To share the job around and cater to all skills levels, the focus has been knitting 10" squares which can be stitched together to make cosy blankets.

This way, any scraps lying low and longingly in sewing baskets can be thoroughly

utilised at no cost.

'Crazy paving' blankets are emerging.

Excitement builds as our 'first shipment' is ready for 'export' at the end of October.

The heat is on to meet the deadlines and much merriment, mirth and love threaded their way into these very colourful creations.

We can't wait for the photos showing our blankets wrapped around those in far greater need than us!

Knit! Knit! Knit!
Win! Win! Win!



Image courtesy ozpolitic.com.au

Energy Guarantee?

by Rebecca Ryall
Rainbow Power Company

Solar news has been dominated in recent weeks by the announcement of the Federal government's proposed National Energy Guarantee (NEG), which will scrap renewable energy subsidies, and further embeds reliance on dirty power sources such as coal and gas, as cornerstones of the wholesale energy market.

The National Energy Guarantee is being sold to consumers as a plan for reliability of electricity (in response to several large scale power outages in recent years), and resulting in a decrease in electricity prices. Several State government premiers and ministers have criticised the proposed policy as a backward step, offering no significant savings to consumers.

Figures presented to the coalition party room in support of the proposed policy showed coal and gas would still contribute up to 72 per cent of energy in 2030. In their response, federal Labor ministers presented modelling showing an average saving to household of 50 cents per week in three years' time.

While for many years installing rooftop panels has represented a fiscal decision by individual households keen to reduce their electricity bill, a recent report suggests small scale rooftop solar actually plays an important role in modulating wholesale electricity prices for all consumers, whether they have their own solar system or not.

The report prepared by Energy Synapse Australia reveals the impact of small scale solar PV systems on the wholesale price of electricity in NSW. Despite contributing only 2% to electricity generation, the study found that small solar PV systems put significant downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices in the NSW market.

If there was no small solar installed in NSW, Energy Synapse Australia estimate that the average price of wholesale electricity would have been significantly

higher than the actual price, thereby delivering a real time saving to the NSW market. Each megawatt hour of power that was produced by small solar lowered wholesale costs by \$1,400-2,200. This benefit is shared by all consumers, regardless of whether or not they have installed solar PV systems.

So, while governments play schoolyard games, backing big business and overseas mining companies reaping huge profits while destroying our environment, mum and dad investors choosing grid connect solar systems may actually have more control over wholesale prices than governments.

Installation of solar on our own rooftops represents not only liberation from spiraling electricity costs, but also a small act of empowerment, bypassing government control and making a commitment to our environment, whilst delivering benefits to all consumers.

Until a couple of years ago, feed-in tariff incentives were virtually the main determinant in the economic viability of going solar in Australia. Since then, however, costs associated with solar installation have fallen considerably, meaning that an investment in a solar PV system is even more economically viable.

Most recent figures for solar feed-in tariffs in our area indicate that those with a grid connected solar array can negotiate between 9-17c/kW hour, Origin Energy and Enova Energy offering the best and most reliable rates.

RPC backs Enova Energy, as a community owned electricity company, empowering local consumers to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, and sending a powerful message to government that consumers want policy which promotes clean, green energy.

To discuss your options, upgrade your system, or invest in a new solar array, call in to Rainbow Power Company at Alternative Way, Nimbin, or give us a call on (02) 6689-1430 and speak to a consultant, or go to: rpc.com.au

Day of the Dead



Nimbin Death and Beyond, in partnership with the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre and the Nimbin Markets, held the 2017 Day of the Dead on Sunday 29th October.

Day of the Dead is a celebration of the lives of those we have known and loved who have passed away. A ceremony was held inviting community members to come together to pause and reflect.

On offer were resources related to grief and loss, wills and useful information when a loved one passes, a pet remembrance shrine and a tree honoring Nici Paitson.



Remembering loved ones who have passed, with a Remembrance Tree (left). Tarang and Megan (above) and children place memento moris in the space.

Photos: Vicki Bright, Chibo



A space was held to share memories and conversation with a raffle and baked goods on offer as part of fundraising for Death and Beyond and future resources.

Origins of Remembrance Day

by Paul LeBars

Everyone is invited to attend the Nimbin District Memorial on Saturday 11th November for the 2017 Remembrance Day Commemorative Service. 10.45am start, 11am minute silence.



Why is this day special to Australians?

At 11am on 11th November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare.

The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919 two minutes' silence was

instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom". The two minutes' silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920 the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triumphant in Paris. The

entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the unknown soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.

In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993 Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Memorial's Hall of Memory. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.

Four years later, in 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11th November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute's silence at 11am on 11th November each year to remember those

who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

Source: www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day

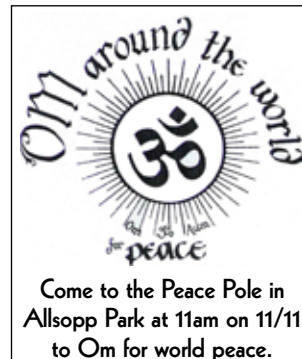
Remembrance Day badge selling suspended

The City of Lismore RSL Sub Branch and Women's Auxiliary wish to advise that due to a directive from RSL NSW State Branch suspending all fund raising in NSW we will not be conducting the annual Remembrance Day badge selling in Lismore Goonellabah, Dunoon and Nimbin this November.

This directive from State Branch to cease fundraising is extremely disappointing to members of both the Sub branch and Women's Auxiliary and the financial impact this will have on the Sub branch is quite significant.

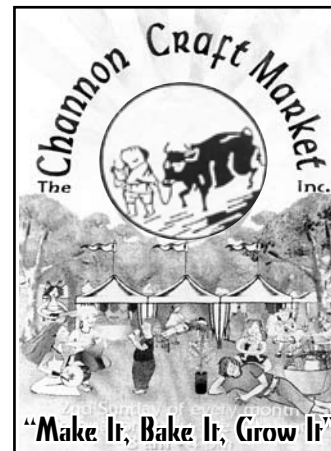
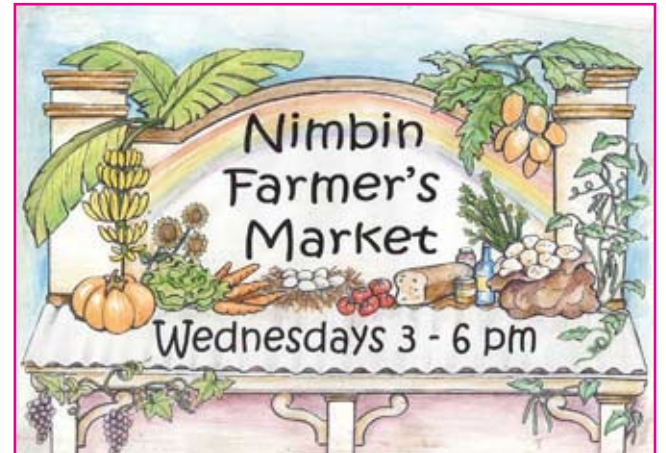
State Branch has indicated that they are hopeful the issues surrounding this decision will be rectified by next year thus allowing resumption of fundraising in time for ANZAC Day.

Poppies will be handed out free of charge at the Lismore Remembrance Day service.



Be **#1** on Google

Absolute – Guaranteed – #1 Position – in Google
Call Russell Lean at Web 2 Traffic Strategies
0468-382-600



Next Market
12th November
9am – 3pm

Main stage:
Monkey & the Fish
Buskers stage:
Lush
Charity of the day:
Tuntable Creek PS P&C
Enquiries: 6688-6433

Blue Knob Market
Farmers : Fibre : Fermenters

Every Saturday 8.30am to Midday
Blue Knob Hall Gallery
719 Blue Knob Road, Blue Knob, NSW
(10 mins north of Nimbin)
Enquiries 0448 685 925

Love it!

NIMBIN ORGANIC FOOD CO-OP
Fresh Certified Organic & Local Spray Free Produce
Organic Groceries, Treats & Speciality Foods
Member & Volunteer Discounts
Great Value in Organics

Grey Gum Lodge
2 High Street Nimbin

www.greygumlodge.com
stay@greygumlodge.com
02 6689 1713 – 0408 663 475

NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Cath Smith, President

Rain! What a blessing it's been – and it's rumoured that there's more on the way.

GetUp! organised their first national annual conference, 'PowerUp', 23-24 September in Sydney. 1,000 people signed up, and the auditorium was overflowing with people of all generations and backgrounds.

The purpose of the conference was to scale up action groups around Australian electorates, and Richmond's first meet was on 14th October at Mullum Commons, Main Arm. A second was held Saturday 21st October, also at Main Arm.

GetUp! has done careful study of what changes hearts and minds, how to run effective meetings and how to reach out to voters with persuasive conversations. This has created a modern organisation that can be effective, inclusive, and terrifying for right-wing politicians who had begun to believe they were rulers not representatives. Well worth connecting with, for actions on many issues.

Adani is the word on everyone's lips, and groups around Australia joined forces in a national STOP ADANI day of action on Saturday 7th October. See the article in this month's *GoodTimes* for



Young activists at PowerUp conference, in Sydney during September.

the full report.

If you're interested in participating in direct action to STOP ADANI, there's an opportunity to join a busload from the Northern Rivers NSW to Queensland's Adani hot spots. For security reasons, the date of the trip is only being disclosed to trusted people or closed groups.

To participate in the direct action, you need to be familiar with Non-Violent Direct Action techniques. To this end, we are organising an NVDA skillshare on Sunday 5th November, 9.30am for a 10am start, through to about 5pm, at Rock Valley Hall, Rock Valley.



Facilitators for starters, are Sarah Antill and Alan Roberts, with possibly more on the day. Consider this an opportunity to share skills with and learn to work with the people you could be bussing northwards with to save country and planet from the government-Adani debacle.

For more info, phone Alan Roberts, phone 6663-5224 or email: alan_roberts@ozemail.com.au

For an inspiring weekend of sightseeing, learning and action, the 'Spring into the Pilliga', at Pilliga Pottery near Coonabarabran is fully catered, with car-pooling options available.

Check Facebook 'Spring into the Pilliga 2017' and for more info, contact Naomi Hodgson on 0448-337-072.



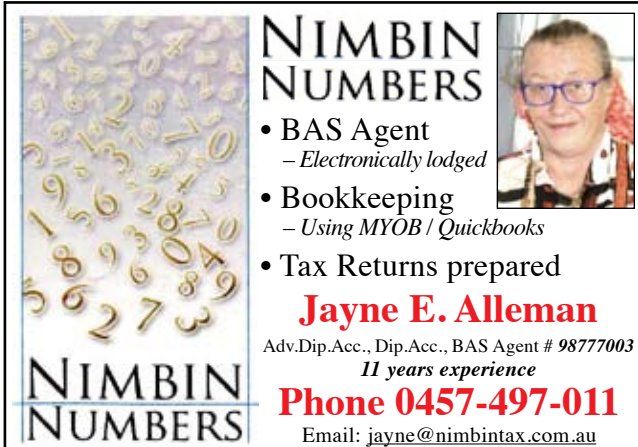
Nimbin Optical
6689 0081

Tina Fuller
OPTOMETRIST

Eye disease can sneak up on you. Have your eyes checked regularly every 2 years.

Quality Diagnosis
Honest Advice

66 Cullen Street Nimbin
Next to Real Estate



NIMBIN NUMBERS

- BAS Agent – Electronically lodged
- 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

Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls including white
- A range of Spelt breads baked daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY at 6am

Phone 6689 1769



Mr BOBCAT

6689 0044
0427 946 823

• 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • 4 tonne tipper

• NOW WITH EXCAVATOR •

Terry Brevington

PLASTERIN' NIMBIN'

0427 891626

Gyprock walls and ceilings
New work or renovations

Lic. No. 100169C

Did you know?

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



In your neighbourhood...

www.nnic.org.au

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Have you got what it takes to be a Super Hero?

Nimbin CDAT (Community Drug Action Team) is looking for people with an interest in drug and alcohol harm reduction to train up as volunteer superheroes... need to be of slim build and medium height to a max of about 6'. Acting skills (and special powers) an advantage. Also recruiting volunteer Superhero Wranglers, who assist our Super Hero when he is out and about in public. Contact: admin@nnic.org.au

Nimbin Youth Film Festival

Get your entries in – closing date is 17th November. NNIC is co-sponsoring this year's Sustainability Award, with Nimbin Environment Centre: a \$400 prize, and Nimbin CDAT is sponsoring the Party Safe Award: a \$500 prize. For more info see: www.nimbinyouthfilmfestival.com

Rhys' famous SuperDog Treats

Handmade with love and fresh, local and mostly organic ingredients. Available at the Nimbin Weekly Farmers' Market, and also at NNIC. Products include yummy dehydrated liver, roo strips, and healthy cookies

depending on availability of ingredients. Perfect for training your furry friends. T-shirts featuring Rhys' very cool SuperDog Treats logo are also available.

Do you love spreadsheets, P&L statements and bank recs?

Fancy a job as treasurer of the Management Committee of a dynamic community organisation? Then do we have the job for you! NNIC is looking for a new treasurer. The Management Committee meets once a month, generally on Wednesdays at 5.30pm. For more info or to express interest, contact Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au

2016 Nimbin Community Sustainability Survey Report

The full Report on the results of the survey is now available on line, (hard copies from NNIC), and it makes for a fascinating read. Check it out on our website – see 'About Nimbin' – 'Surveys' for the link.

Donations needed

We are in need of good quality gifts for kids aged up to 12 years, for the Community Xmas Lunch on 22nd December. If you can help, please

contact Gail Clarke via NNIC.

Public access showers for Nimbin
We are seeking quotes from licensed builders who would be interested in taking on the job of converting one of the public toilets into a shower. Please contact us at NNIC on: admin@nnic.org.au if you would be interested in providing a quote.

NNIC AGM

Wednesday 15th November, 5.30pm at NNIC. All members welcome.

Nimbin Women's Dinner, March 2018

Calling out for women comedians. This is a paid gig aiming to feature new and emerging female comic talent. To register your interest in performing at this event, contact Nat at: admin@nnic.org.au

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals to support the community to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome. Lots of useful local and other info is available on our website. For appointments, phone 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.

Nimbin Community Centre News

Co-ordinators' Report

Inez and Biko have had their first few weeks in the job and are settling in well. They say, "The position as co-ordinator is challenging and rewarding, it involves wearing a number of hats and fielding a lot of general enquiries. Between us we feel we have the skills and community connections to do the job."

"We would like to thank the Committee, the staff from the NCCI office and the community for all the encouragement and support we have received since taking on the position. We would also like to thank India Morris the last co-ordinator who did a great handover to us, and the previous co-ordinators who have contributed so much to the NCCI in their time in the position and clarified the role for future co-ordinators."

Nimbin Markets

Spring's in full swing at this month's



Nimbin Market!

NCCI would like to welcome new market co-ordinator, Stephanie Seckold. Expect to see some bright new faces at the monthly Community Centre market (4th & 5th Sundays). Produce, plants and local craft stalls as well as workshops, kids' activities and book readings by local authors are some features of the new-look Grassroots market, as well as our regular stallholders, retro and recycled goods.

If you would like to share skills, promote classes or book stall sites, contact Nimbin Community Centre at 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunitycentre.org.au

Membership


If you would like to get involved and

take part in the future of Nimbin Community Centre, why don't you become a member? Membership fees: \$15 (adult), \$10 (seniors over 60) and \$5 (youth). Your membership assists to guarantee the success of the organisation as an effective vehicle for current and future community initiatives. Memberships received before the NCCI committee meeting on 9th November can be approved in time for participating in the AGM.

Room Hire

Are you thinking of running a class or workshop? Do you need a meeting space? The Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio and the Birth and Beyond Room are available for hire at \$11 per hour or \$33 per day, with a \$20 key deposit. Information about classes is available from the co-ordinators at the Nimbin Community Centre. Please phone 6689-0000 to make a booking.

Nimbin Hospital information



Child immunisation clinic
For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 14th November. 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 November.
• Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 14th November. 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: 8th November. New members welcome.



Residential Aged Care

BUNK Health News

by Noelle Lynden-Way

In our Northern Rivers communities there are many good hearted, generous people who volunteer in local organisations. Bonalbo, Urbenville, Nimbin and Kyogle MPS (Multi-Purpose Services) each have an Auxiliary organisation whose members raise funds for the Hospital and Residential Aged Care.

There are now 60 MPS in NSW, and Urbenville was the first one in the Northern Rivers and the second one built in NSW. The original Urbenville hospital burned down in 1959 – all that was left was the Nurses' Home.

The Auxiliary was started probably around 1952 and was associated with the old hospital. Some of the early members were Margaret Hayes, Audrey Payne and Leone Flint. Their responsibility in those days was to sew and mend sheets or to patch them for the hospital.

The current Auxiliary meets every second month and has fifteen financial members. Their reason for being, to quote one member, is "to give the residents things the MPS cannot provide to make them more comfortable and to feel right at home."

Most of the Auxiliary are members of other community organisations such as the Urbenville/Woodenbong Progress Association, Country Women's Association (CWA) and the Woodenbong Campdraft and together they raise funds for community projects.

The recent mountain bike ride, which has been held annually since 2013, brought together all the community groups, including the Auxiliary, to raise money for Urbenville, Kyogle and Bonalbo MPS. It took three months to organise and at the conclusion a cheque for \$4000 was given to the Urbenville MPS.

The Auxiliary focusses on raffles. The vouchers given as prizes are sourced from the local community and as far away as Killarney. They generally raise \$1000 a year.

So how does the Auxiliary know what to purchase for the MPS? At a meeting with the Nurse Manager and Activities Officer, they are given a Wish List and then decide as a group what they will raise funds for:

Over the past ten years the following has been purchased by the Auxiliary for the Urbenville MPS.

- Air conditioning ducting into dining room of the nursing home
- Air conditioners on trolleys – two in acute section of hospital
- Outdoor and indoor settings – chairs and tables
- Awning over the deck to protect residents from the sun
- Low beds
- Lifters
- Shower chairs and shower beds
- Mattresses
- Curtains
- Overbed tables (six)

The Auxiliary is very happy to welcome new members and, if after reading this article you are interested in joining, give Val Flint, President, a call on 02 6634-1236. It's a wonderful way to immerse oneself in a rural community raising funds for your local health facility.

The Urbenville Residential Aged Care (RAC) Unit has 18 beds for high nursing care. RAC's used to be called Nursing Homes and the Urbenville one is very much like an older home, both in design and comfort. It is staffed by Registered and Enrolled Nurses, Assistants in Nursing and an Activities Officer. There is an active volunteers group from the community and regular on site social activities and bus trip outings for residents.

Michael Forsell, who was transferred to Urbenville RAC from Kyogle Hospital,



Urbenville MPS Auxiliary members Pam Stone, Thelma Cook, Val Flint, Gillian Allerton; Lorraine Stubbings, and Anne Varley. Below: Michael Forsell at the Urbenville RAC

describes the care he receives as "fantastic". The nurses really like working there and have told him, "We are here to help you. If you need us, just let us know." At the time of our visit on a rainy, cold day, a nurse, as if on cue, brought in an extra doona for Michael in case he was cold.

Michael had been admitted to Kyogle Hospital three times and ultimately realized that, even though he had Meals on Wheels delivered to his home, he had reached the stage where he could not look after himself. He has always been an independent person who started out as a machinist then doing factory maintenance where he learned many skills.

While working with Jennings Home Improvements, he found that at handover of a new extension, the owners often asked him to fix a door or a window in the existing house. This led to him inventing a capping track to put over existing track for a door to run smoothly, and earning money from the commission.

At 75 years of age, Michael Forsell built his own Yurt home at Stokers Siding, and later built another one on a property outside of Kyogle.

Well-loved in the area, Michael is a community Mr. Fixit, who never charges, but as a friend can repair anything and is always generous with his knowledge and time. He is looking



forward to joining the new Urbenville Men's Shed when he gets more energy and plans to give his multiplicity of tools to them.

At 87 years of age he went over to Nepal to help build earthbank houses 18 months after the devastating earthquake there. He flew to Kathmandu and with a group of volunteers at just below 10,000 feet, he noticed he had shortage of breath and that he was unable to go higher. He raised \$700 for the earthquake appeal.

Michael has always been involved in community activities such as Care Connections, Men's Shed, Kyogle Group Against Gas, Bentley and Doubtful Creek protests against CSG Mining and Red Cross Emergency Services. He has made many wooden objects such as three camphor laurel clocks, a wooden rocking horse and a 12-sided pottery clock to raise funds for local organisations.

Michael invites all his friends to visit him at the Urbenville RAC.

Don't forget Nepal: Rebuilding Bolgaun

by Helen Simpson

Volunteers are heading up to the village in about ten days' time, Kathmandu in four, and the road is being worked on after being cut off by a landslide after an exceptionally heavy monsoon season.

It is so exciting that this project is continuing and that the money is going directly to the village and the houses, and that Nimbin has had so much input both financially and practically. So many disasters are forgotten after a bit and to be continuing with this one village is very heartening and satisfying.

The aim of teaching the locals the skills, using their local materials, has come to fruition – earthquake resistant, quick and cheap houses. The locals like them and plus they look really good. And the volunteers are learning the skills and having a great experience up there as well.

Good Earth Nepal, with whom we have collaborated, has now become Good Earth Global, so their designs have become internationally accepted. With so many natural disasters happening, this is very significant in future sustainable aid, here as well as overseas.

Nimbin Market stall and a raffle at Open Mic are our last



fundraising attempts before we go. But watch out for raffles at the Open Mic at the Bowlo and on the street. We have started crowd funding in order to raise another \$6000 (two houses), to make ten houses altogether this season and before the winter. So far, four are totally completed and four more are paid for and will be starting soon. Charity status is getting closer.

Enquiries to Helen Simpson: helensim7@gmail.com or phone 6689-1417. Donations to Nimbin Nepal Relief Fund (auspiced by Nimbin Health and Welfare Association): Summerland Credit Union BSB 728728, Account No. 22305642.



Position Vacant

We are looking for a Steiner teacher for class 1 Main lessons and co-teaching in the combined class 1 & 2, starting in Term 1 on 15th January 2018.

Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education is located 10km north of Nimbin, and includes classes from Kindergarten to Class 8 at present.

Criteria for this position:

- Steiner training desirable
- Good communication skills
- Eligibility for teacher registration in NSW
- Commitment to the school's curriculum and professional development
- Artistic and creative abilities such as music, visual arts, drama, dance, storytelling and craft
- Ability and willingness to work as a team member throughout the school community

A job description can be obtained by contacting the school.

Please address the selection criteria and send applications with a covering letter and resume, to:

Administration, Rainbow Ridge School
279 Lillian Rock Road, Lillian Rock NSW 2480
Telephone 02 6689 7033

Apply by email to: admin@rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au

Applications close on Friday 10th November and interviews will be conducted in the week of 20th November.

Nimbin Computer Support

Computer Repairs
Hardware / Software
Desktop Publishing
Printing
IT Help

81 Cullen St
(In the Nimbin Community Centre)
0487263816
www.nimbin-computer-support.com.au

CROFTON'S
Retreat
MOTEL

02 6689 0030
0427 610 549

360 Crofton Road NIMBIN

Johnny Mc Towing
Lic No. 10004

Any Old Cars • Any Old Metals •
• Caravans • • Batteries •

Ph: 66897 322 Mob: 042 99 44 571
SPECIALISING IN UNWANTED CARS

TREEFELLAS
Timber Felling
Tree Climbing
BLUE KNOB
Mob. 0429 897 234

Adani

In a recent poll it was found that 77% of Australians reject the Adani Carmichael Mine in Queensland. Of those polled an amazing 25% had no knowledge of the Adani mine. When furnished with the details, the poll result reached 77%. For those of you that comprise the 25% here are a few facts for you to ponder.

The Adani company wants \$900 million of your money to build a railway, and has been offered four years of royalty free extraction. That is, you will pay for the railway and they will get the coal for free! For 60 years they will have unlimited free access to groundwater resulting in farmers losing, by Government admission at least 25% of their available supplies. Queensland is already under drought conditions in that area. Coal more important than farmers?

The company is under investigation for corruption, fraud, money laundering and tax evasion! In India it has already been prosecuted for illegal construction, and environmental destruction. Nine of the twenty Adani companies working in Australia are registered in the Cayman Islands, a notorious tax haven. Money gets sent there never to be seen again.

So if any of you that were unaware of all this and think that it should be rejected, get onto your State and Federal MP's and voice your concerns. Another thing that you can do is join movements that are working actively to have this mine rejected, such as 'Stop Adani', 'Galilee Blockade' or 'Get Up'. Check out their websites. Google 'Adani Mine' and prepare to be outraged!

Gwyn Hooper
Uki

Public Transport

Northern Rivers Rail Action Group's transport forum (25/9/17) was a misnomer. It was a RAIL ONLY forum!

Rail supporters quote track repair pricing from other rail tracks around Australia without consideration of differing landforms, soil types and rainfall. We live in high rainfall area with reactive clay soils along much of the track. Therefore, higher repair and maintenance costs.

Freight transport is dependent upon business needs. In the past, there was farming produce: dairy, bananas, fuel and fly ash from Grafton for road construction. TOOT and NRRAG should be surveying businesses today to demonstrate empirically what freight would be transported in 2017. I'm curious.

Engineering objections



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.

require more than anecdotal chat. Criticising previous feasibility studies and their estimates cannot realistically be condemned without similar detailed and qualified surveys.

The best thing for today is to preserve the 131 km corridor with binding legislation to keep it in public hands. This would prevent its disappearance like the Booyong to Ballina spur, closed in 1943.

Lobby for improvement to our secondary road network, which serves our widespread community and which no local government can afford to do properly, and pressure State and Federal government members to give us commuter transport, such as small, frequent buses, so people can get to work, appointments, shopping and entertainment, now!

Will the rail route be used for some form of public transport ever again? Who knows, but by the time governments decide, by the time the extensive repairs, as stated in the Pricewaterhouse Coopers 2004 feasibility study are completed (and imagine how much it's deteriorated in the 13 years since) we will have been without improvements to the public transport system for years.

1. Preserve the entire route now,
2. Upgrade the local roads to pothole free, wider and straighter

Roundabout

When are we the people of this planet going to take matters into our own hands and stop waiting for governments? We have to act too. There are seven billion of us and still nothing has changed, and I'm so dismayed.

Many seem ready to accept the changes that are happening in our local and global environment such as bees no longer in Europe, major rivers not flowing to the sea and our own koala on the verge of extinction. To me something is seriously wrong when a society becomes that desensitised and acceptance comes so easily.

An 18th century poet John Clare said, "Large cities are nothing less than overgrown prisons that shut out the world and all its beauties."

I believe this is a contributing factor as to why the world in general behaves and reacts the way it does. In 1950, 30% of the planet's population lived in urban areas and that figure was 74% in 2008. They've lost that connection with nature and we've become androids! Mankind seems to have deserted their empathy for any living thing but themselves. We just don't know when to stop being clever and don't appear to cherish life enough to save it.

I have a beautiful pictorial book published by the World Wildlife Fund showing the top 200 environmental hotspots on the planet and it's so saddening. These locations are in death throes and it's morally wrong of all of us to do nothing. WTF is wrong with all of us to think that we can just turn a blind eye. The public in general don't want their day spoilt and because of this inaction we are going to lose a whole planet.

The latest news is that we have a 5% chance of getting below 2 degrees this century and a 1% chance of getting it to 1.5 degrees. Instead the median global warming is likely to be 3.2 degrees! Another fact that we will react to for five minutes and then forget as quickly.

My god, 63% of the people of Australia aren't even prepared to pay more for renewable energy even though 70% want clean energy. We have our former PM waffling on that global warming isn't real and sadly he has an audience who will listen and agree with him.

All of us are on a roundabout with no exit apparently and around and around we go wasting precious time that we can't afford. I'm so tired of standing on my soapbox when it appears to fall on deaf ears or I'm considered a doomsday queen. I, like others, can't save the planet by myself. We need help but sadly there's not enough of us and I'm ashamed to be a part of the human race!

Bernadine Schwartz
Blue Knob

3. Increase funding to Community Transport groups such as HART
4. Provide incentives to get a fleet of small buses operating at decent times across the region. This will make local roads safer, take cars off the road and ease parking pressures in town, and around large employers such as the hospital and the University etc.

Richard White
East Ballina

Trains are about caring

One of the reasons I'm passionate about having trains on the Casino to Murwillumbah railway line is I used to work in a Domestic Violence Housing service in Lismore where over 50% of tenants were Aboriginal women and children.

About 90% of these women didn't have a car or even a license. Often the school system had failed them, so they dropped out in year 9, had anxiety about doing the

Notices

Handyperson wanted

Cawongla Playhouse Inc is seeking a handyperson to be on call for minor repairs, plumbing and painting jobs throughout the year. The person would need to provide their own tools and have required insurance. Please contact 6633-7167 (Tuesday to Thursday) or email: cawonglaplayhouse@yahoo.com if interested.

Nimbin Museum Site Meeting

A public meeting will be held on-site on Friday 17th November, 2pm - 7pm.

Hippies young and old, please come to our gathering to help create a magic vision that once was the magnificent old Nimbin Museum. We cannot bring it back, but we can hope to make the place something that the Nimbin community will be proud of. Our hope is to achieve beauty and amenity and opportunity for the whole community.

Free old car tyres

Suitable for earthships, sustainable constructions, retaining walls. Free delivery for truckload. Contact Richard during business hours on 02 6683-2259 or email: rush7@y7mail.com

Annual General Meetings

- Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre AGM Wednesday 15th November, 5.30pm at NNIC. All members welcome.
- Nimbin Community Centre AGM will be held on Thursday 16th November, 5.30pm at Birth and Beyond, 54 Cullen Street Nimbin. New members welcome. Please come along and show your support for Nimbin Community Centre.
- NCC tenant and community meeting is set down for Thursday 16th November, 4.30pm to 5.30pm at Birth & Beyond. All interested members of the community are invited to the meeting where the Management Committee will present plans for the year ahead. Ideas for the Community Centre will be welcome, as well as feedback on the projects already underway. Nibbles will be provided. The session will be followed by the Annual General Meeting.
- Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. AGM will be held on Friday 24th November, 4pm in the Community School Room, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin. New members welcome.
- Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Inc (NH&W) AGM will be on Monday 27th November from 3.30pm to 5.30pm at Bottlebrush Studio (part of Nimbin Community Centre). We encourage and welcome new members. Phone Jenny on 6689-1709 or pop in to see us to find out more.

Learner's computer test and other barriers in the way.

If they weren't local they took buses or walked, with small children and babies. If they were locals they'd call on family for lifts. We had a staff member from a local family and all through her work day she would get calls from family needing lifts.

The women and children in our service didn't have the luxury of a day at the beach or a train trip to visit family. Their lives were narrow and limited, stuck at home and in poverty.

When I worked at Casino

Youth service, I met large numbers of young Aboriginal people and only one that had a bike. Other youth workers said that in the past young people could catch a train to the beach and now they can't.

Politicians have forgotten the most disadvantaged groups in our region. We need trains to be fair to those who can't drive. I would love to live in a community where everyone had the same opportunities to a reasonable quality of life. Wouldn't you?

Beth Shelley
Booerie Creek

About us

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

Bookkeeper Martha Paitson
Web www.nimbingoodtimes.com
And find us on Facebook

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

NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 29th November

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

Same sex marriage fears

When I read the letter entitled 'Same Sex Marriage' in your October edition, I was both amazed and horrified... by its marriage of half-truths with un-truths in a chilling association of phobias and fears.

I don't think I have ever seen so many fears woven together in a single letter... homophobia and Islamophobia, fear of "Reds under our beds", and even fear of depopulation... because of a projected decrease in "human reproduction" if "same sex marriage" is approved.

Earlier in her letter she suggests that "gay couples (should) be given the same legal rights as defacto/ married couples (whoever they are) except the right to raise children (because) every child needs a father and a mother so they can grow up knowing how to relate to the opposite sex."

In so doing, she overlooks the many thousands of single-parent families in this country, together with the fact that a significant number of same sex couples are doing their bit to maintain our population... by way of artificial insemination or adoption. Since there were obstacles to overcome in becoming parents, their children are clearly wanted and not the fruit of accidental intercourse.

In the same-sex families with which I am familiar, the children are dearly loved. And if having a father and a mother indeed helped kids "relate to the opposite sex" when they are adults, there would surely be little or no domestic violence. Many of

the children actually available for adoption are the oft-abused caste-offs of what she refers to as "normal parents"!

Her claim that "if SSM is legalised, schools will be forced into the Safe Schools Program teaching gay and lesbian activity" is simply not true... no matter how many times it is repeated.

Just how "communist ideologies" are relevant escapes me... save that we are obviously dealing with a writer who is crippled by her fears.... and is obviously unfamiliar with the text: "Perfect love casteth out fear".

In her closing paragraph however, her longstanding Islamophobia and her homophobia are wedded... in her claim that if "Sharia Law is implemented" it would "call for death to homosexuals." Would that give her one less thing to fear?

Rev. John Tyman
Murwillumbah

SSM debate

Wow, what a can of worms the SSM debate has opened. "Society as we know it will fall apart if the Yes vote wins" seems to be the underlying message of the nay sayers.

Well society seemed to be doing relatively well prior to 2004 when John Howard, with a majority in both houses of Federal parliament, pushed through the legislation, to change the definition of marriage to, "a voluntarily entered-into union of a man and a woman to exclusion of all others". There was no public consultation then, it wasn't a core or even non-core promise taken to an election, it was

forced on us.

"Our rights will be impugned". Well tell that to all the people whose SSM were automatically annulled when this legislation was passed. Oh and that includes any SSM couples from other countries, where SSM is legal and is working, who emigrated here. Talk about a violation of human rights.

Tolerance, the capacity to endure what is difficult or disagreeable without complaining, is fine. Discrimination isn't. The LGBTIQ community are human like everyone else on the planet. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

There are a lot of single mums and dads out there, for a variety of reasons. What a slap in the face to those people to say children need a mother and a father. Children need love and nurturing from parent/ parents/family. There are societies where an extended family of "Aunties" and "Uncles" provide role models.

Young children being asked to decide their own gender, is their right, not that of some Christian moral majority telling them to conform to what they say is normal. When I was young, some time ago, and at a boy's school, students were bullied and ostracised, by their peers, for showing the slightest signs of being effeminate. Where were their rights to be who they were and how many of them were traumatised by that experience.

We live on a finite planet with finite resources. Estimates predict that by 2100 the population could reach 11.2 billion people. So

a non-binding, voluntarily implemented action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development, which was a product of the Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, known as Agenda 21, seems like a prudent course of action to take if we want to save this planet.

Stan Palmer
Blue Knob

Same sex questions

I have two questions for the very homophobic Menkit Prince out at Uki.

1. If children need a mum and dad, where does that leave the kids whose parents have divorced or died?

2. Do you think Tialeigh Palmer would still be alive instead of murdered by her heterosexual foster father after being raped and impregnated by her heterosexual foster brother? Tossed on the side of road like a piece of trash? Do you think Tia would still be alive today if she had been fostered by two gay guys?

If the Government wants to change laws they do it at 2am. Our "votes" won't change anything if past elections are anything to go by. I'm so glad I voted yes because it means I don't have to stand beside homophobic people like you and Muslims.

Miss Bliss
Murwillumbah

Capitalist plunder

Business manipulation of the world and governments has been an ethical problem since before the money lenders were ejected from the temple

in Jerusalem. 'Survival of the fittest' somehow implies losers are at fault, and are undeserving of compassion. Thus the world has spawned the evolution of predatory corporations.

Noam Chomsky in *Who Rules the World?* writes that there was a secret decision in 1945, while other nations were weak, to consolidate US global dominance. That is, presidents were tools for advancing US based corporations.

While paying lip service to new democracies, they supported coups to install dictators facilitating resource plunder: the replacement for colonial exploitation. White US workers temporarily prospered, but have now also become slaves to the new global octopus, just like any other group in this push to a New World Order.

Trump rightly recognised the exploitation of the US and its workers.

To his surprise and the controllers of the dual party system, the unfettered long shot won. It remains to be seen whether Trump will learn fast enough and chooses to bat for the 99%.

He well understands that mass media propaganda is 'fake news', structured along the opposing lines, effectively maintaining the political duopoly.

If we don't wish to risk perishing, the factions comprising the 99% must unite, and critically examine the nature of Capitalism.

Surely the trend in chief executive salaries to stratospheric levels is no accident. It buys a lot of loyalty from specialists who do not understand or care for

humanity as a whole.

Corporations and governments that these people control, are based on the patriarchal pyramid structure. Poor understanding of strata above or below makes for poor management decisions. Non-performers are readily fired or disposed of. The only accepted outcomes are strong profits, with unhealthy consequences.

The cream of global business leaders shun exposure, never espousing a vision for humanity. Some may be glimpsed at shadowy 'Bilderberg meetings', apparently deciding our future. Naturally they are closely and covertly in touch with media, religions, royalty, and governments.

As if magically exposed, all major institutions are ethically and financially rotten to their pinnacles. This is immeasurably beneficial for those working for a new paradigm.

It's past time for REvolution: a Radical Evolution of how we do business. Duty of care for our children demands attention from all of the 99%.

Realise that Capitalism is at the root of all our world's ills. That power will never be voluntarily relinquished. Head on challenge is impossible and also destructive of activists.

But solutions are already snowballing outside of media and public focus. An ethical David can vanquish the tyrant Goliath with three essential characteristics: transparency, inclusiveness, and small is beautiful.

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby

Looking for hand-built houses

by Mandie Hale

I'm working on a book featuring interesting hand-built homes in the Nimbin area.

The houses that I've already photographed and written about are the homes of people who have worked on these buildings for a number of years, learning the necessary skills as they went. They have a strong connection to the environment and feature the use of sustainable and locally sourced materials and alternate energy sources.

Most have been built on modest incomes, often making use of materials that are second-hand, recycled or sourced on-site, and involving labour exchanges or help from friends.

Each of them reflects the creativity of the people who live in them, in the details of the building, the surrounding gardens, and the imaginative



interiors. Their owners are all artists in some way.

Each building is unique. These homes may not be perfect, and they may not suit every-one, but the stories of the building process demonstrate that anyone with the inspiration, determination and capacity to learn new skills can create an interesting, beautiful and functional space.

My aim in producing this book is to inspire, but also

to focus on what Nimbin deserves to be better known for... creativity, sustainability, and a do-it-yourself spirit.

I would also like to include a few homes that have not been hand-built but stand out by reflecting the style and artistry of Nimbin folk, and also photographs of other small but creative structures, or works-in-progress.

If you have a house or structure that fits these criteria, or know someone who does, I'd love to hear from you. I understand that some people may choose to remain anonymous, and I will respect their desire for privacy; names and locations or identifying information need not be used.

A percentage from the sale of each book will be donated to the 7 Sibley Street Sustainability Project.

Contact me at: halegarden@yahoo.com.au or leave a message on 6689-1145.



by Sophia Hoeben, Nimbin Action Group

My fourth response from the NSW Police Minister's office regarding excessive police raids and the arrest of people for a small amount of cannabis in Nimbin, was slightly more promising than former requests to ease up on our town.

Not long ago, folks in Nimbin were being arrested for one or two joints, but this will no longer be the case. The Police Minister's office has put in writing that guidelines have been put in place "to encourage officers to exercise their discretion not to charge people for minor drug matters."

Although it has been a recent trend for

officers to issue cautions in other places, here in Nimbin they were still busting locals for a couple of joints a few weeks ago. This is forward movement, one small step towards acceptance of our use of the herb, and follows our latest submissions to the police and petitions to the State Government.

It is important to note that this does not represent a complete tolerance of possession or supply of large amounts of marijuana, but does provide some immunity for minor quantities by way of a caution.

So, if you feel like having a little puff whilst having your coffee in town, you can breathe easy. One small step for Nimbin, one giant leap for the government.