Woodstock Downunder – again

by Benny Zable

During Nimbin Aquarius 2018, the Woodstock official ambassadors to Nimbin Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton (*pictured right*) treated us with interviews and the results of over 20 years of filming and photographing Nimbin's social experiment.

They have and continue to document Nimbin and surrounding communities, engaging in healing our Earth and each other.

They first started this demanding project 20 years ago after the Lismore council accepted the Woodstock request for Nimbin to be their sister village.

One of the highlights of their tour this time was visiting the Mullumbimby Community Gardens. This project has greatly benefitted the youth in our region. Community outreach growing food in a Permaculture learning, living, healthy, actively-

shared environment. The 45th Nimbin Aquarius was run by an energetic team and was full of interesting events. In spite of it being relatively small in attendance, we all had a great time together.

Thank you all who put so much energy into this gathering.





See Mayor Isaac Smith's comments and Kevin Hogan's tribute in Federal Parliament on Page 11.





Rainbow Road comes a step closer

by Ian Brooke

Rainbow Road, the long-awaited walking trail on the eastern fringe of Nimbin, designed to reflect Nimbin's values in a living, interactive experience, is a step closer to being realised, maybe a few steps.

Bundles of tourism surveys reveal the obvious: visitors are fascinated by Nimbin and its reputation, and want to see evidence of alternative lifestyles, rainforests and off-beat hippie philosophies.

They want to see experiences that reinforce Nimbin's position as an alternative lifestyle leader... and they want to walk. That and more is what the original Rainbow Road planners had in mind.

Beginning at the Cullen Street School of Arts, a system of pathways and stairways follow a designated legal rightof-way that allows access to Djanbung Gardens, Jarlanbah Permaculture hamlet, the perimeter of the Nimbin



The sustainability hub, Seven on Sibley, will become a walk addition and provide a wide range of easily adopted sustainable practices including beekeeping, worm farming, hemp masonry and alternative building.

Currently most tourists stay just a few



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*a.k.a. Síndhu

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Headers' soccer fields and back to town along Cecil Street or traversing the creek to Rainbow Power Company and Alternative Way.

Recycled materials and coloured finishes will form some of the pathways. Sculptures and other art forms will describe the advantages of environmental awareness, love, and social cohesion.

Several themes will be incorporated into the walk; the future and sustainability, indigenous contemporary culture, pre-history and legends, hippies, Aquarius and psychedelia, early white settlement: cedar getters and farmers, and sport and fitness. hours in Nimbin, spend between \$15 and \$20 in coffee shops freak-watching, but they self-describe wanting more activity.

Encouraging them to stay just one night for an engaging activity like Rainbow Road is expected to increase that average spend to \$250 and add \$10 million to Nimbin's economy, thus strengthening the town's capacity to both serve its residents and its political position within the State. More local jobs will result.

The extra bonuses for the town are that Rainbow Road provides off-road walking access to east Nimbin, the Headers fields and showground. Residents will also have a unique experience to share with their own visitors, and a fitness activity with plenty of excuses to stop.

Survey

Rainbow Road's construction depends on Lismore Council's support. Council has an on-line survey from 6th June, and its results will have a bearing on Rainbow Road's future. Go to: www. yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Milestone for Sustainability House

by Guy Stewart

The old community-owned house at 7 Sibley Street was moved onto its new foundations on an overcast morning on 6th June.

Building anything is a race against the rain in Nimbin. Jason, the builder from Jazz Constructions, told workers he had booked the weather 'til lunch time, and sure enough about 30 minutes after 80 tons of Universal Crane successfully moved nine tons of 100+ year-old house, it began to pour down.

In May 2012 a bridging loan was secured by Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre to purchase the site, to become a demonstration building modelling a range of sustainable building techniques and technologies. There have been many community consultations around the plans for the site.

The loan was paid off in February 2015 after several fundraising events and many donations from individuals and groups. Further fundraising was needed to repair the house and re-locate it to higher ground alongside the footpath.

Big thanks to the Nimbin Community and the NNIC for sticking with this ambitious project for years now. Also thanks to NSW Family and Community Services (FACS) and the Social Housing Community Improvement Fund (SHCIF) which is supporting stage 1 with \$50,000 of funding.

The biggest part of stage 1 was moving the house; now we need to make it beautiful again by rebuilding the verandahs, replacing the windows and the rest.

Look out for more announcements about new community services at 7 Sibley Street now that we are approaching a useful premises. Hurray!







Greens select candidate

Environmental lawyer, farmer and local resident, Sue Higginson (*pictured*) has been announced as the Greens candidate for Lismore for the 2019 state election.

She said, "I'm humbled and very excited to be endorsed as the Greens' candidate, and I am looking forward to continuing my track record of standing up for communities across NSW, taking on the big issues, findings solutions and working in the public interest."

At the last state election, Greens candidate Adam Guise came within a handful of votes of winning, and with the forthcoming retirement of National MP Thomas George, a candidate with the profile of Sue Higginson



lawyer for the Environmental Defenders Office NSW, Sue Higginson is no stranger to Macquarie Street, having spent many hours advising Members of Parliament from all parties about the meaning of our laws and how they impact on communities and the environment.



Uranium mine to close

The operators of the Ranger uranium mine, situated in the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory, have announced that it will stop operations by January 2021 and close by January 2026, and rehabilitate the site in accord with its lease provisions.

Energy Resources Australia, 68% owned by Rio Tinto, ceased mining in 2012, instead processing its large stockpile of uranium ore into yellowcake to meet its contracts.

"It comes down to supply and demand," company chief executive Andrea Sutton said.



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could see the Greens take Lismore next year.

"It's time for a change in the seat of Lismore," said Sue Higginson. "The Nationals are a party of the past who left the farm a long time ago to look after big business with policies that serve the wrong interests across the State."

"As we saw with Coal Seam Gas, if the community had not rallied together and stood up, the Nationals would have happily sold out our region." Formerly an environmental "I have stood up for the small guys in courts against governments and big business not playing by the rules, and I have won," she said.

"A new vision is needed for a fairer and livable future for our communities. The Greens have that vision. We stand on a platform of sustainability and fairness and we are informed by science and evidence. And we are the only party whose hands aren't tied to vested interests." NSW will go to the polls on Saturday 23rd March, 2019. "We've seen the demand continue to be soft following the natural disaster in Japan and it really hasn't recovered as quickly as we would have expected."

The decision has been welcomed by environmentalists, who have protested against the open cut radioactive mine since its controversial development in 1980.

The company maintains it is on track to fully rehabilitate the site by the 2026 deadline at an estimated cost of \$509 million. The Environmental Defenders Offices in both NSW and the Northern Territory have been engaged by the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Environment Centre Northern Territory to provide legal expertise and advice on the closure planning process.

Principal Lawyer of the Environmental Defenders Office Northern Territory, Gillian Duggin said, "Getting the rehabilitation right is critically important, and will be a complex and time consuming exercise." Nimbin, Lismore, Kyogle and surrounds..

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OPEN 7 DAYS

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NAMBAN

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Médecins sans maisons

by Dave Fawkner

The Nimbin Medical Centre has embarked on a national search for new doctors after the departure of one in May, and the planned departure of another at the end of July.

The practice employs doctors Lisa Lloyd, Mohammad Tarawneh, Felicity Chapman and Vanugopal Vemula – and until last month – Dr Syed Javed.

But Dr Javed has reluctantly left for family reasons, while Dr Chapman, who has been fulfilling the GP component of her registration over the past year, will be leaving to pursue further training.

The practice has now engaged two medical recruitment agencies in a search for practitioners who will be right for Nimbin, according to practice manager Kim Bevan.

"The Nimbin Medical Centre has been operating under its current management since August 2016," Ms Bevan said.



Nimbin Medical Centre manager Kim Bevan with Dr Mohammad Tarawneh and receptionist Rachel Wood.

"During that period we've developed a better understanding of the demographic of the area.

"As a result, we now have more nurses on staff, and recently introduced a Chronic Disease Management Program, which gives patients the opportunity to discuss wider health issues with a nurse before seeing their doctor about a specific matter.

"We see it as vital that we recruit new doctors who will be the right fit for Nimbin." The loss of Dr Javed has highlighted an additional factor in securing medical practitioners, according to Ms Bevan.

"It may come as a surprise, but it's not just the poor who have difficulty finding suitable accommodation in the area," she said.

"Along with the need to live within 15 minutes or less of the Nimbin Hospital when on call, doctors require reliable internet and good

mobile phone coverage. "In Dr Javed's case, the nearest accommodation he could find was in Lismore."

A bus shelter story

by Yagia Gentle

This is a story about an innocuous little bus shelter at the edge of town. Most people would drive past it and not even notice it, or the almost billboard size advertisement taking up one of its walls.

I noticed it when it first went up outside the local hospital about a year ago. The sign advertised that, for a modest fee, "You can advertise here". Pretty soon a local business took up the offer. So now, as people come and go between Nimbin and Lismore it shouts at you. Like good advertising should. And this is one of its problems.

As any visitor to Nimbin can attest (it is the third most visited place in NSW), it is the signage and the artwork that they come to see. With all the street art in most of the shop signs and buildings, and the colour of the people and the town, the attraction of the village is rapidly moving from a recreational drug venue to a showcase of how to keep a country town creative and alive. Lismore Council seems to want to put the brakes on.

An enquiry to the council resulted in a reply to the effect that if I had a complaint I need to talk to the owners of the bus shelter. The logic that this would be a conflict of interest did not seem to matter. Obviously, the owners would not remove advertising as they make money from renting the space. A call to the ombudsman ended with them saying the council did not break the law.

The next step became political. Kevin Hogan, from the Nationals, our sitting member of parliament, came to town for a meet and greet soon after a wonderful praise of Nimbin in the Federal parliament. He listened and nodded in agreement to the points I was making and handed me a form. Six months later when I called his office, his assistant told me that the council had not broken any law.

Nothing happened for a while. I happened to mention the scenario to a couple of friends who are in a local community organisation. They agreed with me on the points of argument. Namely that:



- Tourists and locals entering the village should be greeted with a suitable icon rather than an out-of-place modern metal structure with a big advertisement.
- It is unethical for a company to profit from a constant revenue stream at the expense of the town's heritage and commercial values.
- The Nimbin community was not consulted
 The ambience of the village and surrounds are being affected by increasing inappropriate architecture and signage
- Why can't the town have a timber bus shelter at the hospital that does not require advertising for its existence and maintenance, like the existing bus shelter in the centre of town?

At one stage there was a meeting arranged with two of the Lismore councillors, but they didn't show up. Eventually I was given the name of a person in the council who deals with planning. She was a very pleasant person who engaged well in conversation, looked at the powerpoint presentation I had made, and thought the whole idea of replacing the bus shelter with something more appropriate was feasible. Even the idea that a local school could be involved in the design and construction phase.

The last email between us politely said that the 'Assets' manager didn't agree. Maintenance costs... can't be bothered... etc.

Maybe I'm being concerned about something that doesn't matter, though everyone I've talked to about it seems to agree with me. If you agree, then write to the council. It seems like the next stage is public pressure. It worked to stop fracking at Bentley. It seems to be working to stop the destructive Adani coal mine. It may work for the Nimbin bus shelter.

Namely that: work for the Nimbin bus shelter.



Nimbin A&I Society members Neville Plush, David Williams and Phil Williamsenjoy a break in the shade of the new poultry pavilion

by Dave Fawkner

judging arena in the late 1950s," Phil said. "There were never proper foundations and

Nimbin Advisory Group May meeting

Reportback by Megan James

Nimbin Parking Strategy

This was approved by LCC and it is expecting to complete the following by the end of June: line-marking in the western carpark; signage for new timed parking; signage indicating location of western carpark and its availability for all-day parking.

Enforcement of new timed parking sites will begin one week after signs go up, so please read the signs and be aware that some will change. There will also be some advertising through NGT and Nim-FM to alert community to these changes.

The concerns of residents about provision for long vehicle parking opposite the Bowlo will be addressed before this space is established.

A dialogue between Council and Nimbin Central School staff and parents regarding the possible extension of the western carpark is expected to begin soon.

The NAG group asked for clarification of where revenue raised from parking fines is spent and whether it could be spent on improving Nimbin footpaths etc.

Rainbow Road Walking Trail

A Councillor briefing after July is required to discuss financial support, right of way issues and ongoing maintenance costs. Gwen & Megan will walk the trail with Council staff in June as a pre-requisite for this briefing. account as they will be managing the project. Using information given by an experienced painter, the mural in the park will be protected by painting the back while leaving the edges unpainted to allow for evaporation. There will be no roof over it.

Sport & Rec Plan

Stage 1 completed last December. Stage 2, community engagement, is just about to start. There will be information and a survey on the Council website 'Your Say Lismore' and people are also encouraged to participate in focus groups.

Friends of the Nimbin Pool have a list of preferred options for actual pool upgrade, rather than the proposed upgrade of surrounds.

Building works on the Fitness Park were deferred due to MardiGrass, but will go ahead shortly.

LCC Draft Operational Plan and Budget

This is now on exhibition until 17th June, and submissions received before that date will be considered by Councillors, with final approval for the budget occurring at the June 19 Council meeting.

The urgent need for funding for CCTV cameras for Nimbin Community Centre was discussed and there has been a confidential briefing with councillors held to discuss this and any other matters relating to funding.

Cows on Stoney Chute Road

Issues discussed. Information was given that rangers will only attend when police are present to manage traffic. Council can issue a Fencing Order once police have given specific property and owner details.

Pedestrian Crossing

Visibility is to be improved through removal of shade trees. Access, lighting and signage discussed also.

Diana Roberts reported on her productive meeting with the Hospital Auxiliary, who suggested swapping the current disability parking with the Post Office 15 minute spots and replacement and re-siting of Post Office bench seat to beside the public phones as well as moving the garbage bin there to the south side of the Hall laneway.

Murals

No DA is required for painting work on parapet murals, and \$3000 seed funding will be now be released to the Community Centre

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NAG roles

Recruitment, membership obligations and roles of Nimbin Advisory Group was discussed and interested people introduced. It was decided that it is not appropriate for the group to write letters of support for projects or proposals.

20-year Anniversary

Nimbin Community Centre celebrates 20 years of operation in early September, and is hoping for Council and community support for a big birthday. Poultry exhibitors can expect VIP treatment at this year's Nimbin Show following the completion of a new pavilion.

While taking up the same footprint as the old, the new building provides a lot more space and height, and a far better environment for poultry.

Constructed with funds raised from camping fees, the pavilion features a higher, insulated ceiling, extractor fans, and two banks of four roller-doors mounted on facing walls to provide flow-through ventilation. The old wood and corrugated iron pavilion was beyond saving, according to Nimbin A&I Society President Phil Williams.

"It was a pretty makeshift building when it replaced an even smaller pavilion and a pig as a result it was prone to dry rot and attack by white ants. A lean-to storage section added at a later date was in even worse condition and had become a safety hazard.

"It was also poorly ventilated, with a low unlined roof and a west-facing layout.

"Apart from the safety issues, the heatwave conditions at last year's show made it clear that – from an animal welfare point of view – the pavilion had had its day."

Combining the two spaces into one has provided a lot more room and flexibility, and may allow for the housing of other animal events such as the guinea pig judging. A coming refurbishment of the poultry cages will include the addition of small wheels to enable better storage when not in use.

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New love for Kyogle's Fawcetts Creek

by Graham Gibson

Fawcett's Creek in Kyogle provides a boundary to the Kyogle Recreation Reserve and within the reserve, the area known as the Botanic Gardens. The Botanic Gardens has great potential as an attraction for locals and visitors alike to use and enjoy. But the area needs some help.

Major help is set to come from a Conservation Volunteers Australia program. This will see a group of volunteers working on Fawcetts Creek, one day a week for seven weeks starting in June.

Many CVA volunteers are recent graduates from natural resource management or environmental science courses. Others are backpackers looking to make a contribution. They work under professional supervision and there is an opportunity for local people to join in this volunteer work.

With Kyogle Council currently finalising a Management Plan for the Recreation Reserve, including Alcorn Park and the site of the future Labyrinth, this area is set for greater attention.

While Aboriginal people used and cared for this area over millennia, the area has a long history since European settlement. In the 1930s the local forester planted hoop pines. At some stage pecans were planted. A 1988 Bicentennial grant was used to support community involvement, including weed control and planting of rainforest species.

Following this a period of neglect, call it benign neglect, set in and weeds flourished. Weeds continue to be a major management issue.

In 1999, Landcare Coordinators were employed and interest in the site was renewed. In 2001 Kyogle Landcare volunteers started working on the site. From time to time since then funding has been received for maintenance work and various Work for the Dole, Green Corps and Corrective Services groups have been involved.

To raise awareness of Fawcetts Creek and the work to be done, Kyogle Landcare is hosting two events on



Kyogle Landcare members Sharon Faulkner, Mark Oldrey, Wendy Sibley, Cris Matthews and Jhabel Downie at the Fawcett's Creek Reserve

Fawcetts Creek – a "Before" and an "After". The first of these is on Sunday 17th June, starting at 11am with a guided walk. The walk will be led by Bob Jarman who has extensive experience and knowledge of the area. The walk will take about 40 minutes and will be followed by a barbeque.

The proposed work will be explained and opportunities for involvement presented. It's also a chance to gain a greater appreciation of this undervalued area with so much potential – "Before" the work starts. For catering purposes, please RSVP to Sue on 0458-136-344. The second event will be "After" the CVA program is completed. This will be a celebration of the work, with another guided walk and discussion about the work that will be needed to maintain the area into the future. Full details of the "After" event will be provided later.

Rob Drury, President of Kyogle Landcare, sees this as an exciting opportunity for Fawcetts Creek and the local community. "Kyogle Landcare exists to support the environment, people and their interaction," Mr Drury said. "And this is well demonstrated in this project."

NEWS





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



by Scott Sledge, President

Hello from the newlyelected President of the NEC. At our AGM in May those attending voted unanimously: no one else could be enticed to stand. For those who might think that I may not do a good job as I have too much on my dance card – I am also President of the Nimbin Community Centre and President of the Northern Rivers Guardians – I think there is much overlap between the activities and concerns of the NR Guardians and the Nimbin Enviro Centre.

I will try to juggle all the necessary tasks and if I drop the balls I will pick them up again and keep juggling. I have great confidence in the new Committee, despite Cath Smith and Lee Kirk standing down. Many thanks to these stalwart defenders of the Universe. Triny Roe stays on as Secretary, Marco Bobbert as Treasurer and Mark Palmer as Public Officer, along with committee members Daniele Voinot and Lisa Costello. Mark comes onto the Committee along with Cassie Hall and Saskia Kouwenberg. New members always welcome. We meet monthly. Next meeting Wednesday June 13th 2018 at 5pm in the Community School Room, Nimbin Community



Centre. The monthly meeting will be followed by a gathering at the Birth and Beyond Room next door to the NEC shop to raise community awareness about the destruction associated with forest logging and promote a better alternative for our public forests – one fit for the 21st century.

Forestry issues: Doors open for soup and bread (by donation) at 6:30pm and the meeting starts at 7pm with a 17-minute film, followed by expert advice on what we can do to stop the wanton destruction of forests and wildlife in NSW. NEC is part of the North East Forests Alliance (NEFA) which proposes changes to regulations which hand control of forestry to government bureaucracies that are meant to be preserving native forests for the future but in fact promote unsustainable logging. Logging at Limpinwood - Tweed Shire Council is considering legal action against illegal logging

and road building. EPA investigated and affirmed many breaches of the rules but only issued a warning letter. Further information from Limpinwood Logging Non-Violent Direct Action Group facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/ groups/841175852717156

North coast activists are ready to blockade if necessary. Interested people can put their names down at the shop with email and phone numbers. Tweed Water mining:

The Tweed Shire Council has received a proposal to take land from the Uki Memorial to widen the road at the junction of Rowlands Creek Road and Kyogle Road. This intersection has been functioning as it is for the last 90 years and is not an accident hotspot. A former NSW politician wants the road widened to run large water tankers with our groundwater to a water bottling plant in Queensland. MardiGrass: NEC members joined the march

in Nimbin on 6th May to end marijuana prohibition which co-incidences with our principles of replacing fossil fuels with renewables such as hemp products. NEC had a stall together with NRG at this year's World Environment Day at Murwillumbah on Sunday 3rd June. The shop continues to

operate well, providing information to locals and visitors. All staff are unpaid volunteers and profits are directed towards environmental protection. NEC wants to encourage young people to get involved and we are looking to find a dedicated meeting and work space for NEC projects.

New to the shop: *The* Bentley Effect DVD now available to purchase with lots of new material that Brendan Shoebridge and his team could not fit into the film. Also new book Shallow Thought – Deep Mind by local (Kyogle) psychologist/activist Dr. Wayne Somerville. Stop Adani: Benny Zable thanked NEC for their support and helping him get to FLAC camp. The controversial railway line is not advancing at this stage. CSG in the Pillaga update; the new documentary film Sacrifice Zone will be shown at Birth and Beyond on Thursday 7th June, 5.30pm for a 6pm screening. Free entry. Refreshments by donation.





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

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Great news! Art in the Park receives grant funds!

Many thanks to Northcott's Fundability grant program, which has provided funds to purchase equipment and materials to make it easier for people (aged 15 and above) with all skills and abilities to participate in Art in the Park. Such equipment will include items for people with vision impairments, mobility issues, dexterity issues - including wheelchair easels, modified scissors and paint brushes and textured paints.

If you have any ideas about materials or equipment that would increase your or someone else's ability to participate in Art and the Park, get in touch with us at NNIC and let Kath or Nat know your thoughts.

Art in the Park is a free community activity which happens in Allsopp Park every Friday (weather permitting). Anyone can come along and join in – each week there is a specific project you can make or else you can just use the materials to make your own project. You can join in just for fun or you can work towards creating a piece or pieces to submit to the next Spring Arts Exhibition. So come along and get your creative juices flowing.

More great news! **Nimbin Holiday Club** survives!

We are pleased to report that Nimbin Holiday Club, aka Vacation Care, will continue to be funded until June 2019 at this stage.

This program, along with numerous others, will be subjected to an independent review during the next 12 months so who knows what may happen after that...but at least for now it will continue.

Thanks to everyone who supported us during the last six months of campaigning to save the Holiday Club.

Winter is here -**Donations** needed

NNIC is collecting CLEAN blankets, sleeping bags, small tents, towels and socks to





give out to people in need. Donations much appreciated. Please drop off any of these items (and ONLY these items) to Kath or Vicki during office hours Monday to Friday. (Please do not leave items around the Centre or outside our doors).

IMPORTANT: Survey of Health

Consumers 4-17 June NNIC has partnered with the North Coast Primary Health Network to ensure that members of our community participate in the 2018 Local Health Needs Assessment survey happening between 4th and 17th June.

This is the most comprehensive assessment of health needs undertaken in our region and it is important that the voices of Nimbinites are included as the data will be used to inform health service priorities.

Hard copies of the surveys can be collected, completed and returned to NNIC during our opening hours. We will be

posting links to more info and the online survey form on our website and facebook page.

Captain Competent at MardiGrass

Nimbin CDAT's Harm Reduction Super Hero was out and about during MardiGrass, spreading drug and alcohol harm reduction messages to the punters. He and the CDAT crew and supporters also featured in the

Parade on Sunday. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped wrangle our Superhero over the weekend and carry our placards and banner in the parade. Captain Competent will next be appearing at Crankfest on 30th June. To join Nimbin CDAT contact Nat at NNIC.

2018 Sustainability Alley

Shout-Out to possible speakers, workshop presenters, and stallholders. 2018 will be the 99th Nimbin Show, and this year Sustainability Alley will

feature the Conversation Café – a café space where the workshops and talks will be held.

We are looking for people to run workshops or do talks or set up displays about anything to do with sustainability.

Please contact Guy at: guy@ nnic.org.au or Nat at: admin@ nnic.org.au to register your interest in participating in the 2018 Sustainability Alley.

Struggling with household bills? Got unpaid fines?

We may be able to assist with electricity and telephone bills, and you may be eligible for a Work Development Order enabling you to pay off your fines via volunteer work.

Phone us on 6689-1692 or just drop in to make an appointment with Vicki, our fabulous Community Case Co-ordinator.

Did You Know?

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

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

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments, phone 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays. www.nnic.org.au

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 12th June. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

Cannabis clinic

Every Monday. Confidential counselling, Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/ psychologist

Nimbin NSP Needle and

Syringe program open Monday to



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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.

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

Nurse practitioner clinics

• Diabetes Clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 21st June.

+ Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 12th 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.

to see Community Registered Nurse.

Thursday. Arrangements can be made

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 first Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 4th July. New members welcome.



Northern Rivers Children's Health Fund

by Noelle Lynden-Way

In 2001 the Northern Rivers Children's Health Fund (known as 'Our Kids') was founded by Dr. Chris Ingall, a Lismorebased paediatrician, with the aim of improving health services for children in the Northern Rivers area.

The Paediatric Wards, Special Care Nursery and Emergency Departments in Northern Rivers Hospitals and MPS (Bonalbo, Urbenville, Nimbin, Kyogle) provide medical care to 10,000 children per year.

'Our Kids' raises awareness and funds to purchase lifesaving medical equipment and since its inception has purchased over \$1.5 million worth of equipment for our region's health facilities.

Without this equipment many children and new-born babies (neonates) would need to be sent to other locations for paediatric care.

At present money is being raised to purchase two Cosytherm Cots to keep babies safely warm as they put on weight and grow. Dr. Ingall says that the addition of these cots means many babies can be taken out of humidicribs when they are still just 1.8kg in weight and be closer to their mothers. This means they can go home just that little bit sooner.

This organisation also provides annual community grants for families or organisations that care for children with special needs. These grants purchase equipment, medicine and therapeutic items to help with the children's care. Applications for these grants opened on 1st June.

'Our Kids' is also a major stakeholder with Our House, a purpose-built 20 unit motel-style accommodation in Lismore for



patients and their families receiving medical treatment.

Local nursing staff who work in the paediatric field can access financial assistance through the 'Our Kids Paediatric Education Fund' set up in 2017. These funds support continuing professional development to ensure nurses are up to date in their knowledge and latest research.

'Our Kids' is self-funded through community donations, and operates under the patronage of the Northern NSW Local Health District. A Fundraising Coordinator works with a team of volunteers who promote and raise funds through local events and projects.

The group's Management Board includes a paediatrician and representatives from the Northern NSW Local Health District and the community. The Board meets each month to discuss the Our Kids Fund and new requests for financial support.

You can read more about how to donate to this very worthwhile organisation and about their fundraising, community events and community grants on the website: ourkids. org.au

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THE

GREENS



MEMBER FOR BALLINA

TAMARA SMITH MP



Last month I introduced a Fair Price for Solar Bill that would reward the thousands of solar households and businesses across NSW that are doing the heavy lifting for us within a global, clean energy revolution and on a warming planet. It's high time the government got serious on renewables.



Congratulations to everyone who supported the commuter bus service from Byron to Lismore which will continue for a further 12 months. For decades our community has been starved of public transport so let's get behind this service and demand more public infrastructure for our community.



It's time for a grown-up discussion on cannabis. The Greens policy is to legalise it, to take it out of the hands of criminal suppliers, free up police resources, halt injustices and put billions of dollars back into the economy. The war on drugs has failed. Let's make cannabis a health issue, not a crime.









When our community agreed to a sand mine being built | Congratulations to disability advocates across the state | The government told us they would be guided by science on behind Lennox Head two decades ago we were told that at for their strong #StandByMe campaign that forced a the end of the lease mining would stop and the land would partial State Government backdown on funding cuts to be restored to its original condition. Twenty years on and disability advocacy services. I continue to support the the land has not been restored and the developer is trying rights of people living with disabilities and the advocacy to extend the mine for another three decades! For more services that support them. information visit tamarasmith.org.au/nosandmine

shark mitigation but they've ignored their own science! The second North Coast shark net trial was another failure in terms of catching target sharks but succeeded in killing dolphins, turtles and other harmless marine life. I continue to support scientifically proven non-lethal shark mitigation strategies shark spotting with drones and SMART drum lines.

TAMARA SMITH, MP Office 1, 7 Moon Street, Ballina NSW 2478 T 02 6686 7522 E ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au tamarasmith.org.au | Authorised by Tamara Smith, MP. Produced using Parliamentary entitlements. June 2018.

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Letters

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Over-packaging

In response to the article 'Moving towards #ZeroWaste' by Mehreen Faruqi (NGT May 18 page 11), I was always told the best way to solve a problem is to solve it at the source.

For years now, multi-billion dollar profit companies have been shifting the blame for their over-packaging on to us the consumer, letting us believe it's our fault the world has too much rubbish.

At no point in the article is the source of the problem even mentioned. I'm talking of course about the companies that make the products we consume. Only 10 companies control almost every large food and beverage brand in the world. The companies are Nestlé, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Unilever, Danone, General Mills, Kellogg's, Mars, Associated British Foods and Mondelez.

These companies don't care about being green – they're only as green as the tick box makes them be.

When I buy a tube of toothpaste I don't ask for the cardboard box that contains

my tube of toothpaste, yet I have to take it from the shop to my home, then because it's now in my home I'm made to feel responsible for the ethical disposal of the packaging that I didn't want in the first place.

Companies like Apple and Samsung spend millions on designing packaging to make their products look good. This kind of designer luxury packaging has even got its own genre of videos on YouTube, called 'Unboxing', in which people stand around pontificating about how beautiful the box and packaging is!

For years now governments around the world have spent many billions telling us the consumer that it's our fault and that we need to be responsible for it. Millions have been spent on recycling centres and public education by governments around the world trying to get us to change our ways.

We are not the sole source of the problem. If those many global billions had been invested in researching biodegradable packaging and other types of ethical

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy.

packaging, imagine how much cleaner planet earth would be if we actually held those that are the source of the problem responsible. If we were allowed to take all our packaging back to the shop we purchased it from instead of to a recycling centre, and made it the retailer's responsibility, let the retailers take time to sort out their glass from their cardboard etc, the world would be a much cleaner place.

It seems governments around the world think it's better to try and change the habits of billions of people rather than a dozen or so



property in 2018. His Property Management Team did an excellent job for us. They have a highly professional approach, are always willing to give quality advice and have gone well beyond our expectations in providing an exemplary service to us. It was a pleasure to deal with Denny who was 'Photographer-Magnificent', and also plays a mean Piano'! John and his team make selling your house a great exercise. There was none of the false promi They got on and sold our house. I would recommend this team if you want your house or property sold.

But then there was Klaus! Klaus provided us with a remarkable service! He made the sale an exciting time, completely stress-free with his calm, honest and personable support and skill. We appreciated Klaus's efforts to keep us informed with what was happening during the sale process. He gave us exceptional assistance, was easy to contact, very responsive and always willing to do extra to assist us. As with the Nimbin Hills Team, we had every confidence from the moment we first met Klaus, that he would sell our home. Thank you for the very professional way in which All your staff have managed our property- it has been a delight to deal with (Happy Customers! 2018) Nimbin Hills Real-Estate. - Em and Mary



CEOs who could actually do so much more and make a real difference.

But then I guess those CEOs donate much more to various political parties than we ever do, and as we all know, money talks!

Tony Quinn

Toilets

In my retirement I am enjoying travelling around visiting small towns on the mainland. I live in Cygnet, the

country town known as the hippie capital of Tasmania.

Your main street is a great example of community spirit with fabulous murals for the tourist photos, more coffee shops than you can count on one hand, and a very helpful tourist information centre.

They directed us to the barbecue area near the Bowling Club for our picnic lunch, a lovely spot with brightly painted tables and seats and a cute drinking fountain.

There is one major problem, a huge one for me as I have recently had a hip replacement and can't walk long distances. THERE IS NO PUBLIC TOILET !!!

In our travels we have stopped in many small towns for lunch and there is always a toilet near the picnic ground. How come Nimbin missed out? Are there any plans to provide this necessary facility?

Nimbin is sold to the public as a tourist destination yet one basic need is not met. I went to the Bowling Club

About us

Assistant Editor Sue Stock **Photographers** Sue Stock, Peter Chaplin, Chibo Mertinei

many composting toilets in our travels and recommend the council investigate this as an option. What do the local folk think about this problem?

We had a lovely visit to your town, pity about the toilet situation.

> Joan Bishop Cygnet, Tasmania

The cruelty to sheep

The cruelty to sheep being 'live exported' is disgusting. If I treated our pet dog in a similar manner I would be in gaol within the hour.

Sussan Ley MP has come out as the hero with a 'private members bill' to eliminate the trade over five years.

What she is not saying is that the ban will only be to the 'Middle East'. Why over five years?

Why only to the 'Middle East'?

The ban should be immediate and to all areas of the world.

Sarah Henderson MP believes an immediate ban would be catastrophic.

Money is more important

NEXT DEADLINE: Wednesday 27th June

War, what is it good for?

In the coming months young Australians will be asked (yet again) to fight in a war on the other side of the globe.

Our politicians will argue (yet again) that sending troops is about helping those in need and that Australia must do its part.

Young people will be reminded how their grandfathers fought in Vietnam (that ended so well) and how their great grandfathers fought in Korea (which also ended so well). They will be told the same tired old bullshit, told to each young generation throughout history, that 'fighting' is the best way to maintain the 'peace'.

Yet somehow I'm reminded of J R R Tolkien's words:

"The way is shut. It was made by those who are Dead, and the Dead keep it, until the time comes. The way is shut."

Perhaps it's time young Australians listened to the poets and writers, rather than the old men in parliament sitting safely on

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and they graciously allowed me to use their facilities as there was no way I could walk up the road to the only public toilet in town. Meantime my husband climbed through the wire fence for some relief and reported he is obviously not the first person to have done so, it reeked. The area is a health hazard. What a pity the local

council hasn't provided for the public. Why have a free gas BBQ, tables, seats etc with no toilet? We have seen to her than this immoral, cruelty to animals. Imagine if the allies, at the end of WW2, had allowed axis concentration camps to be phased out over five years. Where is the gutless RSPCA?

Let our MPs travel in their own excrement, penned up so they cannot move or get a drink of water and see how fast they will act to remedy

the situation.

Claire De Ellae Urbenville





nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

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The end of Star Earth Tribe

by Pauly Stephens

To my much loved community of Nimbin,

After an unforgettable 25 years as co-caretaker of this sacred land, I write this article to sadly and yet with peace in my heart let you know that the land we have called Star Earth Tribe Sanctuary has recently been sold and a new chapter is birthing.

I am deeply grateful and honoured to have lived, loved, shared, received, taught and learnt on this precious land for all these years.

When my mum and I first arrived on the land in 1993 it was a sparse pastoral soil, hardened by years of heavy hooves and void of plant diversity. Now it is an abundant and wildly alive eco-system, home to a plethora of exotic and native, food, medicinal and textile plants, flourishing with wildlife.

Star Earth Tribe has



a level of cruelty that would have local owners imprisoned. New Zealand

abolished it more than a decade ago.

their own faeces; ankle deep in their

dead comrades; in temperature well

over 30 degrees on huge rolling seas.

Yet still it goes on and the only

to be an economic one. It's worth

Our moral guide is money - only

money. If that's the case we should

return to slavery – there is heaps of

The government has already decided

to become an international gun runner.

dollars turning a profit from the misery

Go into slavery, you might as well -

we all know where the true north of

They're happy to spend billions of tax

of war, why not go the whole hog.

millions in trade... that's it.

money in it.

argument for this abomination appears

That's what we're doing.

Packing animals in their thousands

on board ships to travel for a month in

had many different cycles, all rich with beauty and unforgettable memories, all with the underlying theme of returning to tribal living, learning and sharing within the harmonic principles of nature's lore.

We began as a tipi village, a special time of living simply, tribally and deeply connected to the land, learning and sharing practices for living with the awareness of our spiritual essence, with reverence for the magic of nature and the power of tribe and community.

A few highlights of Star Earth Tribe include hosting the first Australian Rainbow vision quest gathering, sharing culture with Tribal Elders from both Australia and around the world, fundraising for the Tibetan Monks who shared with us a Global Om chant, and functioning as a sanctuary for numerous travellers to experience the potential for living sustainably and returning to a sense of togetherness that the world has become scarce in and I believe yearns for: an

alternative way of life in which Nimbin is a pioneer.

I have grown from boy to man and from son to father here, all the while being deeply held and supported by this land, caring neighbours, the Nimbin community and this mystical mountain.

It has been an honour learning and sharing with tribe from around the world, teachers of many different paths, deepening through the diversity of those who came and shared space here.

I thank all that were a part of this journey, in particular I thank the Elders past and present. I thank the Aboriginal Tent Embassy for blessing our presence on this land back in 1998 and for the continued connection and collaboration with the local Wyabil custodians/family.

I have done my best and given my all to caring for and honouring this land, and I trust it will continue to flourish for the future generations to come.

your moral compass draws the needle. Accepting cruelty in any part of a society increases cruelty throughout that society. If it's OK to brutalise sheep, then it becomes more likely that domestic violence is an ordinary state of affairs, which it is.

If we are content to send refugees to off shore gulags then we are more likely to have mass shootings – that have started again.

It's about our souls – and we are in great peril of not being able to recover our souls.

Remember that compassion isn't an optional extra, it's the bedrock of a civil society.

Keep up the pressure – keep writing the letters and keep Labor to their promise that if they win this next election to stop this horrendous trade. Keep looking in your heart, keep feeling and don't turn away. This is our

feeling and don't turn away. This is our responsibility.

Planning starts for Uki Public School 125-year anniversary

In 2020 it will be 125 years since Uki School began educating the children of the Uki District.

Revenge of the Loon

by Laurie Axtens

Neither major party has honestly tried

Each has been in power when the

graphic reality of this appalling animal

cruelty has been telecast to the nation;

to phase out the live sheep trade.

To begin the planning to celebrate and mark this significant occasion in the history of Uki Public School, a meeting will be



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SOLAR PANELS

The MOB says thanks

The MardiGrass Organising Body extends a big thank-you to the people of Nimbin for their support and tolerance over the big weekend in the village.

We apologise for those things that did not work well, and hope the number of things that did go well will allow those affected to forgive us.

Our thanks also to

held in the school staffroom on Monday 6th August at 6pm.

Please come along if you are interested and would like to be involved in the planning for this occasion. It is anticipated that a formal committee will be established at this meeting to fully plan and co-ordinate the celebrations.

Enquiries may be made to the Principal of Uki Public School, Rachel Watkins, through the school office on 02 6679-5128.

Pictured is Mrs Betty Brims, who drove the school bus to Uki School from 1956 until 2010. She is accompanied by her son Wayne, who attended the school from 1973 to 1980 and who now drives a school bus, and little Rose who is currently enrolled. the festival volunteers, Jungle Patrol, musicians, performing artists and speakers.

And of course, to all the brave souls who came despite the intense police presence, to make a statement about the law, the way it is enforced, and the social damage it causes.

> See our musings on MardiGrass on page 19, followed by our pictorial Centrefold



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