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Covid cancels gigs but artists still gearing up for Nimbin's Spring Arts Exhibition

by David Hallett

While the Nimbin School of Arts has had to continue postponing or cancelling performance events, the 31st annual Spring Arts Exhibition is set to go ahead next month.

It will be held at Nimbin Hall during the Spring school holidays, opening on Saturday 18th September and open daily until Monday 4th October.

The School of Arts has had two additional invitation-only exhibitions this year, in Summer and Winter, together with Autumn's Nimbin Art Fair, which is managed by Nimbin Artists Gallery.

The Spring exhibition is open to artists throughout the Nimbin valley.

Registration forms for the Spring exhibition are now available at Perceptio Bookshop and Nimbin Artists Gallery.

For further information, phone 6689-1577.



'Tibetan Girl' by Jen Harkness

Raising \$2m to 'buy back Nimbin'

by Louise Graves

Buy back Nimbin (BBN) is a fast growing body of Nimbinites, initially dedicated to the protection and development of 62 Cullen Street (the old Museum site), as a parkland for the health and wellbeing of Nimbin residents, visitors, flora and fauna.

When the Museum burned down in 2014, I, as an original curator, felt deep sadness at an era passing. The Rainbow Café and the Nimbin Museum were icons representing what dreams can manifest. Indeed, for the life of the Museum there was no entry fee, it operated successfully on donation only.

After the smoke cleared and the ashes settled, the space that was left began to hold its own. The Mingle Park stage remained, providing shelter for the homeless. People began to gather, children to play. I, and many others, saw the land as the unpolished jewel in the heart of Nimbin. A view to Nimbin Rocks gave a feeling of protection. This same parcel of land seemed to be smiling with purpose as the sun warmed it and the rain nourished it.

Meanwhile, owners of the Museum site had the idea of developing it for more than a dozen shops. Twice they submitted a DA to council and each time it was rejected. Eventually they did get their DA approved, but now one of the partners wants out. The site

is up for sale with DA approval.

And so, this little gem has called in the dreamers. We've heard and we are gathering. We do not want anything else for this land other than it be allowed to grow, as a park, natural and beautiful. The way it is already leaning, all by itself. A park is needed more than any commercial retail, or backpackers, or more coffee shops etc. There is land and sites available on the edge of town for this sort of thing where an IGA supermarket is already planned.

We will polish this jewel so it shines and reminds us that not everything is about money. What nature gives us is greater than any financial gain. This park will repay in unlimited ways. The imprint of what we achieve today will bring joy and healing to all who rest in its shade, ourselves, visitors to the town, our grandchildren and into the future.

What we are attempting is not actually new in Nimbin. The citizens of this little town own quite a lot of real estate: the Hemp Embassy building, the Town Hall; we bought the entire old Nimbin school grounds and buildings now the Community Centre; the Birth and Beyond building, 7 Sibley Street, and the recently-acquired 11A Alternative Way. Community is in our blood.

The BBN group encourages all people

to become members. A contribution as low as \$50 gives you a lifetime membership. We have an account with Summerland Credit Union where you can donate.

We need to raise TWO MILLION DOLLARS! Is this beyond the grasp of a bunch of dreamers? I really don't think so. We ask for donations far and wide. We are setting up a charity and a GoFundMe page.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "Dreams at first seem impossible, then seem improbable, and finally, when we commit ourselves, become inevitable."

Today, the Nimbin we love and share is built on the courage a few dreamers had, to break away from the norm, risking secure futures and plunging into lifestyles built on belief, integrity, health, goodwill. Tunnable community, is a great symbol of what can grow out of dreams, where \$200 is all that was required for a share to build a life on.

"Nimbin is different, because of the people who live here," Michael Balderstone says, and I heartily agree. "That gives us a chance to do things differently and be an example of what is possible to the rest of the world."

If you would like to donate, below are the details.

Summerland Credit Union, BSB: 728-728; Buy Back Nimbin A/C: 22333763. Please include your name and phone number as a reference.

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Rainbow Road Walking Track

by Diana Roberts

The recent announcement of \$2.56m funding from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund – funded by both State and Federal governments – for the Rainbow Road walking track is for far more than 1.1km of track.

The funding is for the project in its entirety, a long-held community vision that, to my mind, will transform the local and visitor experience of Nimbin.

The track will run from Cullen Street, through the land where the Hemp Olympics are held, across the creek, along the boundary between the Headers Soccer fields and the caravan park to 11a Alternative Way, the land recently acquired by the Community Centre for a community park.

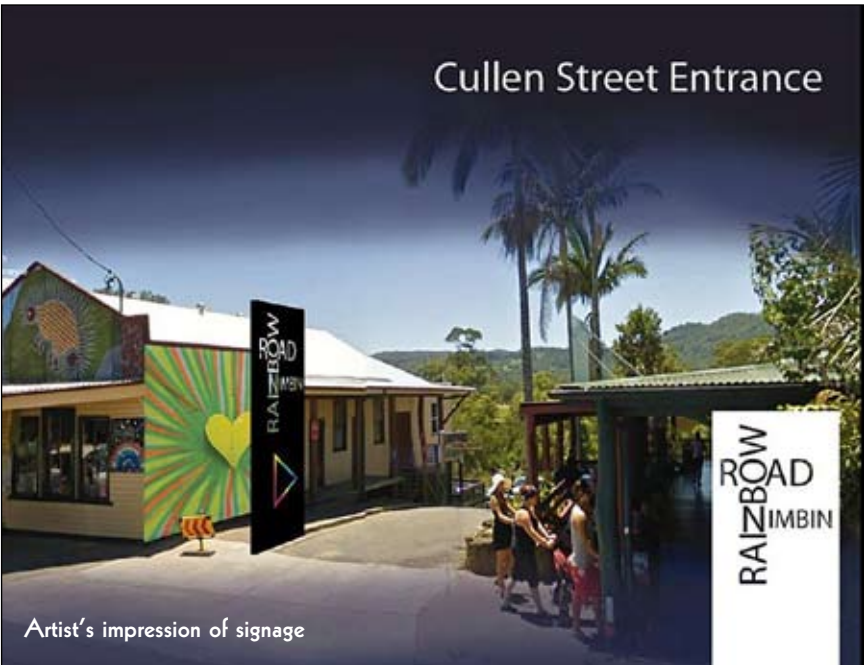
At this point the track will go north to Sibley Street and east to Cecil Street, along the drainage reserve that exists between Alternative Way and the Headers ground.

If you have never walked this, it's worth it as extensive regeneration has already been carried out by the developer of Alternative Way, and its potential to be an amazing walking track becomes obvious.

Quite a bit of the walk in this area will be raised, due to it being in a flood zone. We also plan to take the walk away from a few houses close to the track. This added to the cost of the track itself as it will be elevated above wetlands.

There is funding to acquire a small portion of land from the Dept. of Housing behind the youth flats off Cecil Street. This is not essential, but would deliver a slightly more attractive route.

- The 1.1km of track will be 2.5m wide in both brushed concrete and recycled plastic, dependent on location;
- Three bridges – one major and two minor;
- Weed removal and regeneration of the entire track with associated bush and amenity plantings;
- An entry statement adjacent to the Hall on Cullen Street promoting the walk;
- Three drinking water stations – locations to be identified. These will require water being brought to those locations;
- Solar lighting along the path – not intrusive lighting;
- Feature stone seating;
- Feature art installations (\$80,000 is in the budget for this);
- Park benches;
- An attractive shelter (\$50,000) with electricity supplied;
- A walkway arbour;
- Extensive signage – both directional and educational;
- A wishing well for donations;
- Digital promotion of the walk;
- An evaluation of the project's success in getting visitors to stay longer, using a social analytics program; and
- A healthy contingency fee to allow for



Artist's impression of signage



Elevated walkway design



A meeting of the walking track steering committee in 2007

budget blow-outs. This is a big project and there is much to be done before you see anything on the ground. The walk needs to be surveyed, agreements with landowners need to be finalised, engineering and design plans finalised and, most likely, a development application will need to be lodged.

Lismore Council will shortly appoint

a project manager (probably an internal appointment) who will work alongside a working group consisting of membership from local community organisations who have been engaged in the project to date.

This working group will also be tasked with ensuring the community is consulted effectively as the project progresses.



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Sleeping Lizard Hill returned to traditional owners

by Melissa Gulbin

After 20 years of dispute, during July Lismore City Councillors convincingly grasped the monumental opportunity for reconciliation and healing, returning Banyam Baigham 'Sleeping Lizard Hill' on the North Lismore Plateau to its rightful owners, the Widiabul Wiabal people.

All but one councillor supported Mayor Vanessa Ekins' motion to hand back 37 hectares of sacred country to Traditional Owners. Following a year of council division, compounded by difficult budget decisions, a palpable feeling of deep relief and joyful unity erupted in the chamber after the historic vote.

Banyam Baigham has been identified as containing some of the most significant and sacred sites within the Bundjalung nation.

Uncle Mickey Ryan, who represented Bundjalung Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation, the Bundjalung Tribal Society, his ancestors and community, said the Council decision was "real positive action towards reconciliation – more than just accepting empty words."

"I was approached by Vanessa (Ekins) and I can say they are honestly giving us back the land. At first, I thought it was fishy, but it's ridgy-didge. We have plans for bush regeneration and bush tucker and education camps on the site. We will care for country. This has always been my goal."

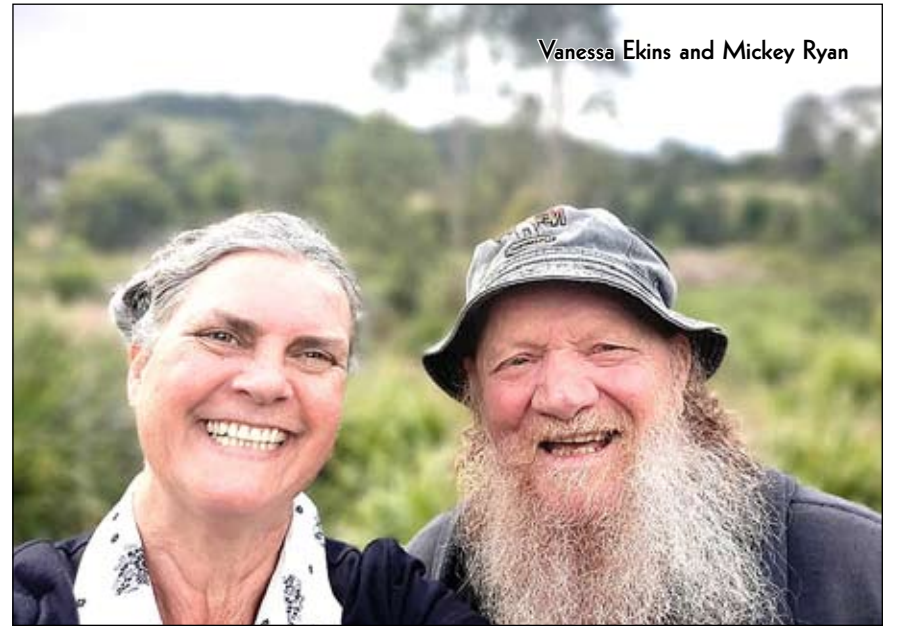
"This is a very big step by our community for Justice and Reconciliation, for all of us, Aboriginal and non-indigenous alike," said Mr Ryan. "In 150 years, whitefellas just took and took. This 37 hectares that they are giving back is a start."

Mr Ryan congratulated councillors for seizing the opportunity to "go beyond the personal politics."

The impetus for Mayor Vanessa Ekins' motion was the lodging of two development applications, currently before council, for 800 lots on the Lizard's back.

"We need housing, but these developments are on culturally significant land. We have discussed how the housing will benefit Lismore's growing population, but until now, we hadn't considered how we could take a better more just approach," Cr Ekins said

"I approached Mickey Ryan to see



Vanessa Ekins and Mickey Ryan

The battle history of the Sleeping Lizard

Dreamtime: The snake and the lizard had a fight. They got tangled up in each other and the snake bit the lizard. The snake won and moved on, making the rivers and paths. But the lizard liked it so much he stayed there overlooking the river. According to Mr Ryan, the lizard's head was cut off by Nimbin Road.

2014 and 2015: Uncle Mickey Ryan took the NSW Planning Minister to the NSW Land and Environment Court because the Minister and Lismore Council gazetted the land for development without any cultural heritage or environmental protection areas, even though they had promised to. Uncle Mickey won, which was no easy feat.

2019 and 2020: Mr Ryan took the Northern Region Joint Planning Panel to the Land and Environment Court over its approval for a 430-lot development. Mr Ryan proved the development application hadn't dealt with threatened species legally. He won again.

July, 2021: Council voted for the hand back of the 37 hectares of sacred country to traditional owners.

The future: Cr Ekins said there will be another application for housing development on the North Lismore Plateau, but the council-owned land will be given back to the Widiabul Wiabal people.

if he was interested in a hand back. I talked with Ngulingah Land Council and talked with NTSCORP about the native title process and to Council staff about the process – and everyone was supportive."

Mayor Ekins, who has served 17 years on council, has been committed to help protect the significant site from development throughout her service.

"It's a small but significant gesture. Through taking this path, we have forged a unique path on the journey of reconciliation. It is reflective of who we are as a community," she said.

"It was very encouraging, as mayor, to see such unity on such an important matter, it was indicative of a turning

point for Lismore City Council.

"There is a feeling of working together, achieving outcomes, and that we are on a strong path to stability after adopting the budget to recovery. I love our region and I love being the mayor of Lismore. There's plenty of work to do.

"If returned as mayor I will lead us in stepping up the sustainable delivery of Council services and building the resilience we need as we head into our changing climate. I intend to get real outcomes on closing our waste management cycle, delivering water security, protecting farm land, building affordable housing and working with the State government to invest properly in our region."

Richmond Valley land developments

by Mark Pestell

Debate is occurring within the Nimbin Community as to the pros and cons of building developments impacting upon the local infrastructure of roads, streets, parking, water, pollution etc

Along with other areas in the Richmond Valley, Nimbin is becoming a victim of this let's rush in, attack it, dig it up process.

All concerned want to act now, but as always they regret later when the damage is done to our community, our land, our water, our native flora and fauna.

Lismore Council is seemingly fixated on seeing regional communities grow in a disorganised cobweb around the valley, ignoring all the mistakes made throughout history in regards to successful sustainable urban planning.

The councillors and the established

developers in the rush for short-term profits conveniently forget about Lismore itself.

You do not need a university degree to see the situation Lismore is in. It is a tired worn-out city, with its commercial heart being broken up as various service and commercial companies move out away from their established locations.

Some might say, this university city which was once arguably the most important rural centre on the North Coast is being gutted, overtaken by Coffs Harbour and Ballina for importance.

Nothing is being done to really seek a brighter future for Lismore.

The concept of turning good productive farmland into semi-residential urban blocks is a folly.

A more practical solution for all stakeholders, being ratepayers,

landlords, tenants, employees, developers, builders, commercial investors, banks, estate agents etc is to encourage and allow for medium-rise four-storey apartment blocks to be erected within Lismore itself.

Such advantages are direct and obvious to those living inside such units. Good development and design of medium-rise buildings provide the following: more natural light, ventilation and fresh air, less noise, above flood height, less congestion, greater safety and security plus the feel of exclusive living.

For such essentials as electricity, sewerage, water, all the infrastructure: healthcare, hospitals, shops, sporting facilities etc are already in place.

It is hoped our remaining rural land be kept as is, and communities such as Nimbin village maintain their unique character.



Slaying of zombie gas exploration licences welcome, but Narrabri gas project should also be canned

The Nature Conservation Council welcomes the government’s announcement today that 8 out of 12 ‘zombie’ petroleum exploration licenses (PELs) will be cancelled, and calls for the remaining PELs on the Liverpool Plains to be cancelled as well.

“Coal seam gas industrialises the landscape and threatens water quality and quantity, so we welcome the cancellation of these eight zombie PELs. However, it is disappointing the government has not extinguished licenses relating to Santos’ Narrabri gas project,” said Chris Gambian, Chief Executive of the Nature Conservation Council.

“This highlights that if the 850 gas wells planned for the Pilliga Forest

area near Narrabri are allowed to go ahead, the gas field will eventually creep into other areas, including the highly productive Liverpool Plains.

“Australia produces more than enough gas to meet its current needs if properly managed. New gas mining projects will inevitably be white elephants as the world transitions away from fossil fuels.

“The Coalition promised to deal with land use conflict between mining and agriculture when it came to power a decade ago, but we continue to see a confused approach, with some areas being protected, while other areas are opened up to coal and gas.

“The conservation movement also welcomes the announcement that gas exploration in the far west will

not go ahead. The community in the far west – farmers, first nations and conservationists alike – is opposed to unconventional gas fracking the fragile environment.

“Gas is a fossil fuel and when fugitive emissions of methane from extraction and leaks from the vast pipeline network are taken into account, it has a big climate impact.

“Other jurisdictions in Australia and around the world are implementing plans to wean households and industry off gas and onto renewable electricity. We accept that will take time, but NSW needs to start planning for a future beyond gas now rather than go along with the pantomime of a ‘gas led recovery,’” he said.

New directions for water for our region

by Nan Nicholson,
WATER Northern Rivers

On 21st July, Rous County councillors voted for diverse and resilient water sources for the region, as recommended by all government and water supply advisors.

This gives us a chance to follow an exciting new direction in providing secure water for the future, away from an unsafe reliance on surface water.

The debate so far has unfortunately centred around a new dam vs groundwater. However, the problems with both the dam and with large-scale groundwater use could be avoided by a range of reliable options that are cheap, effective and can be rapidly deployed.

They can provide water quickly so that we can push back by decades the point where demand exceeds supply.

They can also help to defuse community conflict round water supply. Social cohesion is going to be important in bringing on new technologies and water systems, and in dealing with the climate crises which are predicted in the near future.

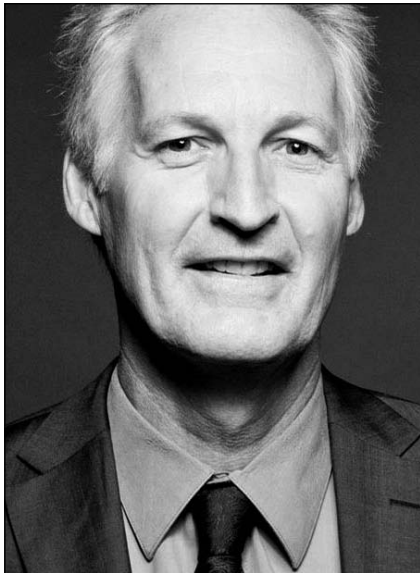
These alternative options are recommended by Professor Stuart White (pictured), one of Australia’s senior water experts, and the Director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF), University of Technology Sydney. He developed the first Rous Regional Demand Management Strategy in 1996.

Water efficiency

Professor White says, “In all the work that we have done around Australia with water utilities and internationally, we found that water efficiency represents the largest, the cheapest and the quickest way to meet the supply demand balance.”

He says that Rous County Council was the pioneer in developing the regional demand management strategy but there is much more potential for investment in expanded programs.

“If you invest small amounts with programs of rebates then you get small



uptake. If you invest more in retrofits and going house to house to ensure widespread coverage and if you look at the entirety of the non-residential sector, then you will get an increased effect. It will cost more, but the marginal cost will be much, much lower than either the Dunoon Dam or large-scale groundwater options.”

He advocates determining the opportunities across the entire region, and in all sectors, for replacing inefficient water-using equipment, processes and practices with efficient measures.

This means finding out where wastage is occurring at the consumer end and investing in new and improved ways of using water. ‘No regrets’ options that save water are prudent whatever else is done to improve supply.

Before spending large amounts of money on new supply, we can test the acceptable level of service in the community in terms of restrictions. Slight tweaking of the duration, times and amounts of water restrictions can mean large water savings

Contingency options

Contingency options can be prepared and then rolled out quickly if drought worsens or is prolonged. They do not



involve large investments up front, eg small-scale de-sal projects, and small-scale groundwater and other projects can be initiated but not activated until needed.

Prof. White says that it is good to see contingency options being canvassed in the Future Water Project 2060 Strategy, but there is an opportunity to explore them further.

Contingency options greatly reduce the financial risk of ‘stranded assets’ such as a large dam or large-scale groundwater works.

The stimulus for the building industry, trades and services from an investment in water efficiency would be significant, and much greater than the relatively short duration investment in large infrastructure projects.

There is an opportunity here for Rous County Council and the Northern Rivers region as a whole to be innovators and leaders on sustainable water supply in Australia. This will make our people, our businesses and our economy more water-secure and climate-resilient.

Professor White’s nine-minute talk to Rous County Council can be seen at: <https://waternorthernrivers.org/what-the-experts-say>

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Next Market

8th August

9am – 3pm

We send our love to the universe. We are all challenged with change. The market will operate under Covid-Safe restrictions.

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Market Talk
4th Sept
Funky
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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Nimbin NAIDOC Day

Our celebrations were unfortunately postponed to October due to Covid restrictions. Silver linings though...the weather is likely to be much better than it was on 9th July, when it was wet and cold.

NNIC Services

We are operating as usual, with Covid safety protocols in place to keep you safe. Masks are required for entry.

If you need NNIC services and support but you are either in isolation, or feeling unwell, or feeling nervous and wanting to maintain physical distancing, then you can call us on 6689-1692 and we can arrange a telephone appointment for you, so you do not have to come in personally.

Nimbin Death and Beyond

A Community Information and Q&A session on Death and Dying will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday 21st August from 1pm to 3pm. All welcome. RSVP if possible to: admin@nnic.org.au

Seeking more people power at NNIC

We need more people to help keep the wheels on the bus. People are needed for:

- Our management committee - in particular a Treasurer and Deputy Chairperson. Send EOIs to our Secretary, Reg Saunders at: nnicmc@gmail.com
- Our front of house - min Cert 2 Community Work quals required (or currently studying for). Contact: admin@nnic.org.au
- Our CDAT group - a really fun group doing a wide range of drug and alcohol harm reduction

Dying to Know
...about dealing with Death and Dying

With presentations by:
Zenith Virago, Celebrant and Deathwalker
and
Mimi Zenzamaier, Holistic Funeral Director & Celebrant
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Preparing for a home death Followed by a Q&A session Eco-friendly death options

Saturday 21st August 1pm - 3pm
at Nimbin Town Hall

Do I need funeral insurance? ALL WELCOME!! (RSVP: admin@nnic.org.au) The journey of grief

Brought to you by Nimbin Death and Beyond (auspiced by NNIC)

activities...we have costumes and a GoPro and lots of other fun stuff. Contact: admin@nnic.org.au

The Neighbourhood Centre was established in 1978 and incorporated in 1986, and is the longest serving welfare services and community development organisation in Nimbin.

The many services and activities we deliver are not possible without all the fabulous volunteers involved in our team.

Plus...volunteering is good for us! Lots of research has demonstrated that volunteering is excellent for our mental and physical well-being.

Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety, combats depression, increases self-confidence, provides a sense of purpose and helps you stay physically healthy.

Volunteering even makes us happy! By measuring hormones and brain activity, researchers have discovered that being helpful to others delivers immense pleasure. See: www.helpguide.org/

[articles/healthy-living/volunteering-and-its-surprising-benefits.htm](#)

Sustainability Alley is back!

After Covid forced its cancellation in 2020, we are all planning for the Nimbin Show to be back this year, bigger and better than ever, on 25th and 26th September. Woo hoo!

A packed program is planned for Sustainability Alley, with lots of info and activities around sustainable living, plus Disaster Resilience featuring strongly this year.

There will be plenty of fun and engaging activities for the kids with the aim of building their resilience to disasters such as bushfires, floods and storm events.

Take Home Naloxone

This medication is available for free at the Neighbourhood Centre (also available at the NSP and the Pharmacy, by appointment). Naloxone is a life-saving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. Anyone

using opiates, whether by prescription or otherwise, is at risk of accidental overdose. Naloxone buys valuable time for an ambulance to arrive.

It is available for FREE at NNIC to people who are at risk of an opioid overdose or adverse reaction, their carers, friends and family members and any other people who may become first responders.

Naloxone can be administered by injection or delivered through a nasal spray.

To get some for your first aid kit, make an appointment with our Community Worker on 6689-1692.

What is NIS?

Nimbin Integrated Services is a clinical service offered at NNIC, which provides a range of supports and treatment options tailored to the needs of individual clients experiencing problems as a result of mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues.

Face-to-face and/or telephone appointments are available Monday-Wednesday. To book an appointment, call 6689-1497.

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 9th August. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments phone 6620-7687.

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next is 19th August. Confidential service, checks, advice, 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.

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

Nurse practitioner clinics

- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 9th August. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.
- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 19th August.

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 a message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and Syringe Program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a 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

Monthly meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the CWA room. New members are most welcome. Fund-raising is now underway again.





NIMBIN

ENVIRONMENT NEWS CENTRE

by Scott Sledge, President

Global gloom

The world is getting stranger all the time. We struggle to contain a global pandemic and must remember at the same time that the biggest issue is the devastating effects of climate change. Flooding rain and record heat waves with cyclones in various parts, glaciers melting and species on the verge of extinction.

Politicians are still pork-barrelling, instead of offering real leadership to effect change. Sure, many of us want the system to survive, but not at the expense of Nature. We seem to be at war with Nature, but if we win, we lose.

Our best chance

The best chance we have in this region are the pending Local Government elections.

On 4th December we can elect responsible people who actually care about the future of our communities... and that includes the health of our forests and wildlife.

Please enrol to vote, go to: www.aec.gov.au to get on the roll or to update your details.

Some people think it's all hopeless, but that won't get us anywhere. Please give the young ones a chance to live in a cleaner, sustainable future world. For those who vote in Lismore shire, we have a good range of candidates, especially long-time Nimbin resident Gwen Trimble who is #2 on the Our Sustainable Future ticket.

Number 1 is Cr Elly Bird who is also running for mayor. If Elly is elected Mayor of Lismore, Gwen becomes top OSF candidate for Council and very likely will represent Nimbin for the next three years.

There are other good candidates, but I hesitate to mention any as the nominations haven't closed yet. Just be sure to vote for candidates who profess dedication to saving the environment: after all, we all live in it!

Remember that Council is the level of government closest to the people and can implement change on the local level, as well as advocate for us to the state and Federal governments. It all starts with Councils. Good ones can do wonders while bad ones cause pain and disruption and corruption to flourish.

Clean up our space

Of course we can (and do) join/support volunteer organisations which effect lots of good work.

As one such, Nimbin Environment Centre is involved with many aspects



Fridays4Forests volunteers learning how to search wildlife records at Nimbin Photo: Daniele Voinot Sledge

of our local scene, including the recent federally-funded weeds ID and control work along Mulgum Creek.

We also take an active role in strategic planning for the future of our village, especially the issue of future water security.

Water & Nimbin Development Review

Right now is the time for readers of the NGT to tune in to Lismore Council's public consultation regarding future development. Water to the village is supplied from the weir on Mulgum Creek at the end of Gungas Road.

During dry periods there is no excess water flowing out of the weir so the stream and riparian ecology is suffering. A colony of platypus has died in recent years. There is NO plans in place for water for "environmental flows".

However, the latest report of Council on exhibition does mention it in options under consideration. We need to install and monitor devices to meter water flows at the very least.

Council needs to review developments that have been approved to determine where they will get their water, and some (like the horrible "Cubes") should be revoked entirely. For those who don't know, The Cubes would replace the Oasis café with stacks of shipping containers where low-budget travellers can pay to be boxed in at Nimbin.

Increased storage on cleared land is an option. Already Mulgum Creek water is stored in the DE Williams dam off High Street for reticulation through the village and along the pipeline in the Gungas Valley. Another option LCC is considering is pumping groundwater out of bores in the village. This is likely to be unpopular as it will have unforeseen consequences for the underground hydrology and flows downstream of Nimbin. CSIRO's State of the Climate report reveals: "a clear trend of declining winter rainfall and streamflow with medium confidence and increased intensity of extreme Rainfall events is projected with high confidence." Thus the recharge rate is uncertain.

We should not be approving developments without requirements for these to have adequate rainwater storage and should not allow new connections to existing reticulated systems. It is time to re-think our ways. All this to save a village from the greedy.

Save our forests

We need to also help the helpless and give voice to the voiceless forest dwellers. The NorthEast Forest Alliance (NEFA) has been struggling for more than 30 years to preserve public native forests.

Forests provide shade and oxygen and hold water to be released slowly into streams and aquifers. Extreme weather caused catastrophic fires in the forests of Australia during the recent Black Summer and more than one billion animals died.

A NSW Upper House committee studied the situation last year and said that koalas would become extinct before 2050 unless we take action to protect their habitat. We need to lobby state and federal politicians to implement wildlife reserves such as the Great Koala National Park near Coffs Harbour and the Sandy Creek Koala Park near Casino.

Now the state and federal governments are determined to "harvest" our native forests so we can replace the buildings damaged/destroyed by extreme weather events.

The sawmilling industry says they need government assistance. More taxpayer money for fossil fuels.

A company in the Hunter Valley wants subsidies to truck trees cut more than 200km away to be burned as "bio fuel" for electricity, when there is ample renewable energy available. Burning trees actually emits more carbon than burning coal! Why not get timber for building from plantations? We get most from plantations already. Why not all? Also, we could use hemp, bamboo or other materials for construction. Are we so stuck in our ways that we prefer to go the way of the dinosaurs? I suggest we vote for a change for the better.

Nimbin Community Centre

by Teresa Biscoe, Co-ordinator

In spite of cancellations of events due to the current Covid outbreak, work continues unabated at the Community Centre.

Gumnut playground

Work at the Nimbin Early Learning Centre to expand and install an adventure playground has been completed. The new area granted by NCC to the Early Learning Centre has a new slide, a climbing wall, a cubby house, and a pirate ship wrapped around the giant camphor tree.

The work has been done with minimum disturbance to the existing trees, and once the new turf has had time to establish, we will see the children enjoying this wonderful new playground area.

Grant projects

The Community Centre was informed in June that we were successful in an application to the NSW Clubsgrant 21 fund to fund an energy audit of the site at 81 Cullen Street. Rainbow Power Company will be doing the work.

This will allow us to get a really clear picture of how energy is being used on site and enable us to plan energy saving and efficiency measures in the future.

We also have another grant from the FRRR-Strengthening Rural Communities program to replace a section of the walkways from the Acacia to the Casuarina buildings. This work will start soon.

11a Alternative Way (aka Aquarius Park)

The Lismore Council received notification at the end of June that the grant submission for Stage 1 of the long-heralded Rainbow Road Project was successful. This project was jointly funded from the Federal and State Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund program.

Both Federal MP Kevin Hogan and State MP Janelle Saffin visited the site to meet with the Community Centre Committee and Council to receive a briefing on the project and look over the site. Many thanks to the team that included Diana Roberts, Kitty Van Vuuren, Wil Polson, Lois Kelly and Martin

Souter who worked together to write this very successful application.

The project will cover the development and installation of: pathway of both brushed concrete and composite plastic (for the low lying areas), a footbridge, signage, artwork, a shelter, 3 x drinking fountains, walkway, seating, solar lighting, landscaping and regeneration of adjoining areas.

The Community Centre is forming a Landcare Group to help manage and maintain the area so it will continue to be a showpiece of native flora and community engagement. Anyone interested in joining this group please contact the Community Centre.

NAIDOC 2021 rescheduled

As you know, the Nimbin NAIDOC celebrations scheduled for July were cancelled due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid outbreak in Sydney. As a result, the events have been rescheduled.

The Masquerade Ball is going ahead on Friday 8th October, featuring some great young indigenous musicians and performers.

The Family Fun Day has been scheduled for 22nd October when indigenous comedian Sean Choolburra is available.

Participation

The Nimbin Community Centre is an unfunded not-for-profit organisation. We rely on the support of the community to manage, maintain and improve our grounds and facilities and contribute to community projects. We are also registered with Centrelink and accept volunteers for grounds, maintenance and office support.

We welcome your input to our Centre, either as a tenant, member of NCC, volunteer or sponsor. We welcome your ideas and suggestions and if you wish to donate or participate in a specific project will put those funds and your energy to good use on the selected project.

If you wish to know more about contributing in any way to the Community Centre please contact our office on 6689-0000 or at: nnci@nimbincommunity.org.au and they will be happy to direct you.



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB



7 Sibley Street

August What's On!

\$10 unless otherwise noted
Bookings: text 0475-135-764
or email: sibley@nnci.org.au

Workshops (start 10.30am)

- **Tues 3rd: Wax and oil cloth**
- **Wed 4th: Spinning & textile weaving wheels**
- **Sat 7th: Tools Revival** – Learn how to maintain and restore hand tools, starts 9am
- **Tues 10th: Making Paper Lanterns**
- **Wed 17th: Knitting and crochet** with Sue
- **Tues 24th & 31st: Simple Shoemaking** – make slippers or ugg boots with cotton wadding, \$20
- **Sat 28th: Weed block making** – \$25, bookings essential

Off-site

- **Sat 28th: Humane home butchery** – bookings essential

Regular events

- **Plant nursery:** Seedlings, cuttings, fruit and regen trees for sustainable gardens.
- **10 minute workshops:** Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or loom weaving

Community Clothes Swap

- **Sun 22nd at Nimbin Markets:** Email for more info



Shop 1, 66 Cullen Street
BRAIN TREE CLOTHING NOW IN STORE

