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# Nimbin students excel in HSC

by Cath Marshall, Principal

After a turbulent year, including bushfires, floods and a pandemic, Nimbin Central School HSC students successfully sat their exams and received their results last week.

The group attained some outstanding results, including three Band 6's, five Band 5's and E3 in Extension English.

Kai Prikulus, School Captain, attained an overall ATAR of 96.6 – an exceptional achievement – and is looking forward to studying Computer Science at UNSW in 2021.

The Nimbin Central School community would like to congratulate Kai and the entire 2020 HSC cohort on achieving these fantastic results and for the resilience,



Nimbin Central School's 2020 graduating class

fortitude and goodwill that they all displayed to complete their HSC in such

a challenging year. We are exceptionally proud of each and every

one of them and wish the graduating group all the very best for the future.

# What is that beautiful rainbow building?

by Rebecca Ryall and Jenny Martin

Have you ever wondered what takes place inside that colourful, rainbow-painted building in the northern grounds of the Nimbin Community Centre?

Bottlebrush Studio is the home of Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Service (NACRS), employing 20 locals in a variety of admin and support roles, delivering services to a diverse group of people throughout the local region, within approximately 25km of Nimbin.

Our purpose at NACRS is to promote wellness and assist people to maintain independence and social connection. Our service users include frail people aged 65 years and over, Indigenous people aged 50 and over, and people experiencing housing stress aged 50 and over.

We provide one-to-one in home and community assistance to adults in receipt of care packages under:

- The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP);
- Home Care Packages for seniors (HCP);
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS);
- Safe & Supported at Home (SASH) for under 65;
- Transitional care and ComPack programs for people after hospital admissions; and
- We also assist carers to access respite services via the carer gateway.

NACRS can also assist you to access other services, such as Meals on Wheels, transport with HART Services to medical appointments, applying for seniors travel card 2021 valued at \$250, contacting Seniors Rights Service or MyAgedCare, etc.

The NACRS centre is usually open to the public from 10am-2pm, Monday to Friday. Perhaps you need a



cool (or warm and dry!) place for a rest while in town, for a cuppa and a chat, or you may want some time on one of our free computers, or assistance with a phone call, a form, accessing services or information.

Our drop-in services have been impacted by Covid-19 infection control and restrictions, with a limit of 10 people at any one time inside the centre.

Cathie, our receptionist Tuesday-Friday ensures everyone follows Covid-safe protocols and the centre is touch-point cleaned daily Monday to Friday and deep-cleaned once a week.

Cathie can guide you to the appropriate member of staff to help you. The NACRS Aboriginal community support worker, Darren, is available Tuesday-Friday to assist people from the local Indigenous community. **Computers and internet:** We have two socially-distanced computers available at the centre (usually six).

Every Thursday, our volunteer tech guru Mark can assist with issues you may have with your phone, tablet or laptop. You can ring to book a half hour Device Advice session between 10am-12.30pm, or simply

drop in if you are in town. **Social groups:** NACRS hosts a number of social groups and bus outings for seniors throughout the local region, a fantastic, low-stress way to connect with others and visit some beautiful places in our local area.

Regular groups are shown at right. If you are interested in any of the options, please contact us – they are invite-only and Covid-safe protocols apply. NACRS support workers phone participants routinely in advance with times and venues.

We are eagerly anticipating the completion, furnishing and painting of the beautiful new Aboriginal Elders veranda at Bottlebrush Studio, which will extend the usable space into the open air, providing a culturally-safe undercover area for drop-in and social groups. We aim to complete this project in early 2021.

If any of the above interests you, or you need some assistance to access services or information for yourself or someone you care for, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Staff are available to respond to phone queries usually from 9.30am to 3pm Monday to Friday: (02) 6689-1709, or email: jenny@

nacrs.com.au or drop in and visit us the next time you are in town between 10am and 2pm, Monday-Friday.

**Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services**  
Based at the Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin Community Centre

**DROP IN SERVICES:**  
Monday-Friday 10am-2pm drop in for a cuppa and a chat, use computers, or get help to access services and useful information

**DEVICE ADVICE:**  
Thursdays 10am-12.30pm, help with your phone, tablet or laptop, with Mark.

Call NACRS or drop in **SOCIAL GROUPS** – all invite only:

- **Weekly Tuesday social group** at Bottlebrush Studio, 10.30am-1pm. Morning tea and light lunch (\$10)

- **The Channon Seekers & Sages group** 3rd Thursday of the month, 11am-2pm at various local venues

- **The Outsiders group** 1st and 4th Thursday of the month, 11am-2pm at various local venues

- **Koonorigan Hall social group** 4th Monday of the month, 11.30am-2.30pm, bring a plate to share

For information on any of the above, call NACRS on (02) 6689-1709

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# UK court refuses Assange extradition

After almost a decade of drama, a UK court has refused to extradite WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange to the United States to face 18 charges, including espionage which carry a maximum sentence of some 170 years in prison.

Judge Vanessa Baraitser refused the request citing Assange's mental condition and risk of suicide.

Assange will now have to remain in London's Belmarsh Prison until a bail application can be made at Westminster Magistrates Court.

In April 2010, WikiLeaks made international headlines when it released a classified US military video showing an Apache attack helicopter in Baghdad in 2007 gunning down 12 civilians, including two journalists.

WikiLeaks then released hundreds of thousands of US military messages and cables in a leak that led to former US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning being jailed.

In the decade since then, Assange has been at the centre of legal drama and political controversy. Assange has always maintained the information exposed abuses by the US military, and that he was acting as a journalist and is therefore entitled to



Graham Dunstan's Peacebus has long been campaigning for Assange's release

protection by the US's First Amendment.

He had spent many years holed up in London's Ecuadorian embassy to escape being extradited to Sweden to face allegations of sexual assault in a case that has now been dropped.

In April 2019 the Ecuadorian government withdrew its asylum and Scotland Yard arrested him for failing to surrender to the court.

He was found guilty, and in May 2019 was sentenced to 50 weeks in jail for breaching bail conditions.

Julian Assange's family have

begun directly pleading with Trump to issue a pardon before he leaves the White House.

Stella Morris, Assange's fiancée, made a direct plea to the President after the court's ruling, and Assange's mother, Christine, also called on Mr Trump and president-elect Joe Biden to pardon her son.

However, the US government is expected to appeal the court decision in the British High Court.

During his speaking tour of the Northern Rivers in December, Assange's father, John Shipton said he was

optimistic about the outcome of higher courts' judgements, citing support from governments world-wide.

Assange has been awarded several honours by European states, and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for the past two years.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has said he wanted his foreign minister to ask Britain if it could release Assange so Mexico could offer him asylum.

"Assange is a journalist and deserves a chance," he said. "We'll give him protection."

## Get on board Northern Rivers Rail Ltd

by Lydia Kindred, NRR Secretary

A new not-for-profit company, Northern Rivers Rail Ltd, has been registered to help bring rail services back to the Casino – Murwillumbah line.

As the major political parties declared in October that they did not want to bring rail back to the Northern Rivers, passionate rail supporters decided to form a company.

One of the aims is to refurbish parts of the line, to have rail services to Tyagarah with a 'park and ride' off the highway, then cruising into Byron Bay by rail, and extending services on to Mullumbimby and beyond.

An important priority is paying for the much-preferred option of establishing rail trails away from the tracks, from Casino to Bentley and from Condong via Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek, in order to bring rail services back in the not-too-distant future.

We are advocating for recycled plastic raised cycle/walking paths which are very environmentally sound, taking tens of thousands of tons of plastic out of landfill.

They are also better for the riders



themselves, as they are cooler to walk and ride on, and can be designed to take more interesting routes around trees, or for better views.

Becoming a member of the Northern Rivers Rail Ltd will allow you to be part of this amazing unique community-based journey that we can all share together. Email: [admin@northernriversrail.com.au](mailto:admin@northernriversrail.com.au) to access a membership form. You can email back your completed form and pay online or send it with a cheque to NRR, PO Box 83, Ocean Shores 2483.

To pay by direct debit, include your name with your \$20 membership to account: Northern Rivers Rail Ltd, Summerland Credit Union, BSB: 728 728, account number: 22330089.

Please share this with others who may also want to support the cause. Beyond the basic \$20 to join, if you can afford it, we will of course appreciate any extra

donations for this important purpose that is close to the hearts of so many.

Having as many people join us as possible quickly, will be a great way to show all levels of government the amazing community support for the return of rail to the Northern Rivers, so if you can get a few other members to join as well, please do. Many people have expressed their interest in joining Northern Rivers Rail Ltd – please join with us now.

The prospect of communities working together to bring rail services back to the Casino to Murwillumbah line is very exciting. It will create many jobs and support many people's lives with better more environmentally sound transport options, for locals and visitors alike, as well as heritage and tourist services.

Rail services and a bike/walking track nearby will be a win-win for all. Having our registered not-for-profit company now can serve as a vehicle for supporters of rail to "put their money where their mouth is" so we can move forward together and create the best outcomes possible for our region, socially, economically and environmentally.



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## Village voices – Will you be a councillor?

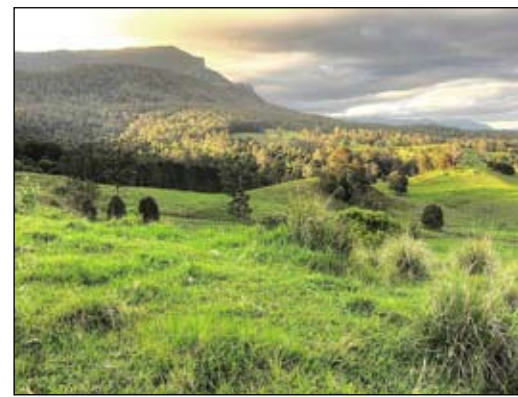
Since publishing a 'Call for Village Voices on Lismore Council' in the last *Nimbin GoodTimes*, we have received considerable interest from the community in support of having more appropriate representation of the villages on Lismore City Council.

As we enter a new year full of opportunity and promise, we intend to hold town hall meetings to engage with people considering standing as a candidate for Council, and to hear the concerns of the village communities.

In the interest of true democracy and representation, we wish to engage broadly with all interested villages and stakeholders before suggesting candidates for the community to support.

If you are willing to organise a town hall meeting in your village, please email: [VillageVoices2480@gmail.com](mailto:VillageVoices2480@gmail.com) or phone 0438-329-309.

Please join the Facebook Group: *Village Voices for Lismore City Council*.



## 2020 rear vision and the challenging road ahead

I've heard many people expressing relief that 2020 has come to an end, but I don't think it's going to be that simple.

2020 was certainly an unpredictable and at times difficult ride, but a cautious and critical voice inside me warns that we may well get to the end of this new decade and look back and wonder why we thought 2020 was such a big deal.

That word 'unprecedented' popped up repeatedly during 2020, but what if so many of the things that made 2020 difficult continue on their trajectories in a way that makes the unprecedented become exhaustingly familiar?

Climate change, not the pandemic, remains the number one existential threat to our collective futures. We started 2020 with catastrophic bushfires triggering an ecological holocaust on our already vulnerable native species. We have ended it with massive coastal storms stripping Byron Bay of its main beach and the prospect of more to come.

Worse still, in the midst of a supposed La Nina season that promised more rain, we still watched November heatwaves bring more fires that burned much of Fraser island and reminded us how sensitive we are to even small dry spells.

While governments around the world struggle to meet the very modest climate targets agreed to in the Paris agreement, Australia continues its descent into ever-deepening fossil fuel industry and mining-based corruption. We are simultaneously one of the most gravely threatened, as well one of the most recalcitrant, nations when it comes to climate policy.

What we see in Australia is a government with no policy and no agenda beyond pure corruption, and a federal opposition with no will to confront it. Tax cuts for the rich, billions being funnelled to billionaires such as the ever-toxic propagandist warlord Murdoch and the screeching insanity of our government's gas-lit recovery.

The pandemic gave us some opportunities. The opportunity to pause, the opportunity to self-reflect, the opportunity to set a new course. Crisis brings opportunity for a new direction, and the massive spending unleashed to deal with the economic effects of the pandemic was an opportunity for a grand vision for rebuilding our country and economy away from its addiction to toxic holes in the ground and toward a more sustainable renewable economy.

But all we saw in Australia was a junta of fossil fuel lobbyists appointed to make sure we remain firmly stuck in the grip of denial and corruption.

But there are ironies, for all of its insane worship of coal, our federal government has managed to provoke China into refusing to buy our coal.



by Aidan Ricketts

Coal is a dead industry, even the banks know this – in fact the only people still wanting to invest in it are corrupt politicians in both major political parties.

Still, things could have been worse. We dodged a bullet with the defeat of Trump, and the prospect of Trump denying the election and attempting a coup has been a wake-up call about the fragility of democracy.

As George Monbiot has observed however, we should not be complacent about the growing threat of fascism. We are just lucky that this time around the wanna-be dictator was actually an idiot. Next time around we may not have that luxury.

Trump wanted supreme power, but somehow thought he could alienate the military, FBI and intelligence community along the way. That's not really how successful dictators rise, so we need to see the election of Biden as little more than a temporary reprieve.

The insanity that dwells deep in the shadow of the American psyche will remain restless, continually fuelled by the propaganda machines of Fox news, Murdoch, ingenious conspiracy theories such as Q-anon that are themselves a brain-washing tool, and the divisive echo chamber effect of social media that is allowing people to gather in increasingly delusional, even psychotic, communities of fear and hate.

There is so much coming our way and so much work to be done. But what were the positives of 2020? There were quite a few at the personal and collective level.

One of the things that was really heartening was that so many people had time to pause and reflect upon their lifestyles and values. I recall in March that seeds, seedlings, laying hens, bulk flour and yeast all became highly sought-after as Australians reassessed lifestyle and need in the face of crisis.

Working from home for many also gave us pause to reflect on the groundhog existence of commuting to sterile workplaces, and has ushered in changes that aren't going to be reversed even if the pandemic ceases to be a current threat. The cities have begun to empty and there is a noticeable tree-change pouring into regional Australia (along with the sharply rising property

prices it is producing).

On a personal, emotional and spiritual level, many of us learned to live with ourselves and each other in new, more resilient and more internally aware ways. This can only be a good thing in a culture that was drowning in consumerist over-stimulation.

Probably one of the biggest lessons from the pandemic has been the importance of being communitarian in our outlook rather than individualist. It became obvious very quickly that those who could view themselves as part of a greater community and their sacrifices of personal freedom as being for the greater good were able to find dignity, strength and courage within from that sense of collective struggle in crisis.

Those who could not move beyond their own narrow individualist worldview became prone to paranoia, conspiracism and frustration, and made sometimes quite appalling spectacles of themselves having tantrums at Bunnings or in other places, demanding their special rights to do whatever they wanted.

The pandemic also showed us the hollowness of neo-liberal politics. All these years of governments cutting taxes and stripping back the public sector revealed the cracks left in our health systems, and governance in general.

Neo-liberalism is akin to the airline CEO who saves money by sacking the aircraft maintenance staff, but several years later planes start dropping from the skies. The dismal tide of evaporating government functionality since the early 1980s is because neo-liberalism is an anti-governance in fact deeply anti-social ideology.

But one thing we have really learned is that we still do have the capacity to pull together as communities in a crisis, make sacrifices for the greater good and achieve better outcomes.

Governments could not have contained viral outbreaks without the widespread co-operation of communities and we must never forget that it is communities working together in a spirit of mutual aid that is our most important social and political asset.

Whether we rise up as communities in struggles like the Bentley blockade, or as the Helping Hands collective following the floods of 2017, or whether we do it as the volunteer Rural Fire Service, or simply as communities and citizens prepared to work together for our common good, this spirit of mutual aid is the most important deep structure that will help us face the coming decade effectively.

Corporations will remain powerful, government needs to be revitalised with a Green New Deal, and we can't wait for the dreary and corrupt major parties to lead on this. But our communities and our shared sense of common good is our hope for survival.

Happy new weird to all, we are in this together.



# A new presence in Nimbin's main street

by Xenia and Mark

A new smile has appeared on the face of Nimbin's street. The Heart Connexion has opened its doors in the old Visitors Information Centre.

We are here to connect the dots between people, products and the local culture, because sometimes one and one makes 11, and not two like logic states.

When this happens, we call it magic: and magic is all about the art of living. And that's what we stand for.

We choose to nurture the art of living by connecting people to products and services created by the artists, producers, artisans and entrepreneurs of our region.

We are happy to promote, co-work and co-create, so if you have something you



produce or make from the heart that you would like to sell, then come and talk with us, and maybe we can be that connexion between you and the market place.

Promoting our local economy, products and the food medicine approach to life is our mission statement, with hemp food being at the heart of our

business manifesto. We have a growing range of hemp food, medicinal and body care products from local producers and remedy makers.

We also carry a selection of products, gifts, clothing and musical instruments to enhance the experience of life... the art of living.

We have a range of healthy cold drinks and organic low sugar sodas, along with Nimbin's own Naughty But Nice natural ice blocks and ice creams, and we are currently working with Chris to develop a range of hemp milk pops and ice cream tubs.

Keep an eye on us as we expand our range of hemp goodies in our fridge, freezer and shelves. May everyone have a joyous, abundant and prosperous new year.

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# Swimming pool tours part 6

by Sue Edmonds

Sometimes it's good for the soul to travel beyond our pleasant valley to foreign pools, and be home in time to check the chooks.

Over the hill, but not so far away, are the lovely swimming pools of Kyogle. Set in a grassy area, with a large grandstand overlooking the 50m pool, Kyogle is ready for the swimming public.

Mums sit in the kiddies' water play, chatting away, while toddlers safely frolic in the fountains, gaining confidence with water before progressing to the learners pool.

Kyogle recently received loads of dollars to revitalise the facility. The money came from the state and federal governments and the local council, making the total nearly half a million.

Dollars very well spent, improving their pool complex and enabling the Kyogle community to enjoy some largesse with water, water and more water. Maybe they were lucky to be in on the sport rorts.

Kyogle also has some very interesting exercise equipment, designed so differently abled folk can fit their wheelchairs up to the pull-downs and cycling.

A longer run from home takes us to Ballina, with its huge water slide. It is quite expensive: \$10 under 10, \$15 for older ones, providing a thrilling ride, landing in its own designated pool.

Ballina's pools are situated on the Richmond River, with a small beach close by, so when you are powering up the 50m pool, or wading waist deep in the heated indoor pool, you catch glimpses of glorious nature, just out there.

The toddlers' pool has a giant tomato which takes ages to fill until it reaches tipping point, and over it goes, tipping its contents on delighted children. The smaller pool with plastic walls is open all year, except for June, and is kept at 32°.

Alstonville is a lovely surprise, with its renovated 50m Olympic pool, which also provides a great venue for water polo. Swim camps of Olympic champions and wannabes train at Alstonville, creating a financial boost for accommodation and food providers.

The toddler's pool and the enclosed wading pool are well used and



Kyogle grandstand



Ballina waterslide



Lighthouse at Kyogle (in case the sea rises)

attractively set in grassy areas. The wading pool is open all year except for July and maintained at 32° by its extensive solar panel bank.

Ballina and Alstonville have the same council, and in the last three years each complex has been renovated, and it shows. The manager at Alstonville explained how Lismore swimmers are driving there, as Lismore Council has reduced their opening hours.

Lismore has two public pools to choose from, neither of which have any grassy areas for a leisurely lie around or picnic. They typify the utilitarian model, cutting down on mowing and weeding.

Goonellabah is under a huge roof, trapping chlorine odours and sound, with a fitness centre, in case you feel the need to pump weights, before or after getting wet.

The Lismore Memorial pools date back over 90 years, commemorating the First World War, all are now heat-assisted by the large bank of solar panels. The three pools of varying dimensions cater for the variety of

needs and ages of the clientele.

Murwillumbah has added three indoor pools to the original 50m pool. There is one pool designated for rehabilitation, a kid's learner pool and another 33m used for vigorous exercises, and lap swimming. All indoor pools are heated.

Presently Murwillumbah requires you to pre-book, allocating swimmers to particular lanes, and as the dressing rooms are closed they want you to arrive pre togged.

A good cheap day out, especially if you are a concession card holder, is to catch the bus from Nimbin to Murwillumbah for \$2.50, swim a bit, visit the excellent op shops to get the necessary new clothes and take in the library, with its free flower and vegetable seeds.

This can all be done in or out of bathers, maybe you can do the "change under a towel" sequence, best practised before leaving home.

Returning home to Nimbin, there maybe still some time for a free dip in our wonderful pool, and even limber up on the exercise equipment near the children's playground.

Let's hope the LCC apply for real \$\$\$ to bring us to standard with toilets and change rooms, a small ask considering our expanding community.

A New Year chant from me to you:

What do we want?

A sports rort

When do we want it?

Now. Now. Now!

**Channon Craft Market Inc.**  
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# In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

### Community Disaster Plan

Well, we were all wishing for rain and we sure did get some! Thanks to Lismore City Council who managed to repair some of the worst of the damaged main access roads and restore the mains water supply by the end of the following day.

The recent flood event was a timely reminder of our ongoing need to develop a Community Disaster Plan, a plan which helps us work together to address issues before, during and after disasters strike. Disasters can potentially impact us all and we all have a role to play in minimising those impacts as best as we can. Nimbin community members are working in partnership with Lismore City Council to develop such a plan and need all Nimbinites to get involved.

For the purposes of the Disaster Planning process, Nimbinites are defined as those people living around Nimbin who would be most likely to call upon Nimbin services and information sources, or evacuate to Nimbin in the event of a disaster (compared to eg. Lismore, Kyogle or Murwillumbah).

The **FIRST STEP** is to complete our survey. This will assist the Nimbin Disaster Plan Steering Committee gain insight into the disaster response and recovery needs in the Nimbin community. This includes your views and experiences of the 2019/2020 bushfire season, and other disasters that may impact our community.

The survey takes around 15- 20 minutes to complete. Your participation is invaluable in helping shape the plan, which in turn will help build our communities' resilience to potential disasters. You can access the survey by the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GNX8SZJ> Alternatively, there are hard copies available at NNIC.

The **SECOND STEP** is the community education event and workshop planned for 9th February. **SAVE THE DATE!**

### Nimbin Pool

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked through December including through Xmas and the New Year. Great job folks. We still have some time to go



until the end of the season and could still use some more volunteers. .

Willing peeps need to have a current Working With Children Check number (applications are free for volunteers) and undertake an induction session at NNIC, prior to being able to commence shifts at the pool. To register, email: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) with your contact details and WWC number.

The pool is open between 7.30am and 6pm, 7 days a week, unless significant weather events or a volunteer shortage forces its temporary closure. Updates regarding closures etc. are posted on our Facebook page, Nimbin Hook Ups and our website homepage: [www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au) or on the gate of the pool.

### Nimbin Holiday Club (aka Vacation Care)

We are still calling on Nimbin parents with children aged between 0 and 12 years to complete the survey which can be found online via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z9WCY86>

The Holiday Club has relocated to the Nimbin Central School and the Summer Program, packed full of fun activities and excursions commences on 4th January. See our website for the program details.

Many heartfelt thanks from NNIC and all the Vacation Care families to the Nimbin Community School for allowing us to use their premises as the base for the Nimbin Holiday Club for the past few years. Without this space we would not have been able to continue the service.

### Thanks for Xmas gift donations

They included Jane Treasure, Nimbin Servo and a couple of others – you know who you are. Much appreciated. The kids loved their gifts.

### Nimbin CDAT Youth Arts Competition

The WILD Winners have been announced! And the winners are... (drum roll):

**14-17 years:**

1st Prize \$500: 'Atrium' by Alako Myles (short film)

2nd Prize \$300: 'My Wild Side' by Charlotte McLaren

3rd Prize \$200: 'Wild Emotions' by Zion Joose

The judges had so much trouble choosing between so many fabulous entries, they awarded an additional Highly Commended prize of \$100 to: 'Into the Woods' by Grace Forster.

**18-24 years:**

1st Prize \$500: 'Fire Razor' by Finn Andrews

2nd Prize \$300: 'Harmonic Balance' by Venus Herbert

3rd Prize \$200: 'What's Wild' by Christine Smith

As above, Highly Commended \$100 prize awarded to: 'Wild Things' by Madelaine Carruthers (short film).

Congratulations to our winners and many thanks to everyone who entered. Thanks also to our peer judges, Emily and Joseph. The judges really did have to work hard to choose the winners. We think we might do it again next year.

### Loneliness in the festive season

As the Covid pandemic continues and many are separated from family and friends, loneliness can be a real problem. Many people have discovered new ways to connect this year.

If you don't have many social connections or your friends and family live elsewhere, now is a good time to reach out to on-line communities or to discover groups that meet up in person. There are lots of groups in Nimbin to connect with.

Drop into NNIC for more info or check out Nimbin Hook Ups or our own Facebook Pages and our website to get you started. If you need help learning how to use the internet, you are most welcome to make a digital mentoring appointment at NNIC and we can help you learn.

[www.nmic.org.au](http://www.nmic.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre)

## Nimbin Hospital information

### Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 12th January. 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 21st January. 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 12th January. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

• Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 21st January.

### 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

The Auxiliary is suspending all fundraising activities until further notice.

Monthly meetings of the Auxiliary have also been cancelled for now.





by Scott Sledge, president

I am an historian by training and inclination, and now believe we are on an historical tipping point. We must all turn to new ways of doing things, thinking less about individual rewards and more about social cohesion. It is time we stopped the burglary and the buggery that humanity has recently been prone to, and start a new era of peaceful co-operation.

**US elections**

I see the election of Biden and Harris to the Presidency in the USA as pivotal. We turn away from a narcissistic greedy fool towards a team that has years of experience in public service.

Biden may be old and slow but by all accounts, he is a decent, kind person, and the rise of Kamala Harris inspires. She is: 1. a woman, 2. of multi-racial heritage, and 3. has years of public leadership including the US Senate where she will be in the Chair. How's that for unique?

Biden had the foresight to see Harris as his likely successor, and that would offer a chance for the diverse groupings in America to unite for the common good. By the time you read this, the special Senate elections in Georgia will decide whether the new administration will have control of the Senate, which is the US version of our Upper House.

Already the Biden/Harris team has announced that the environment will be their top priority and that's great news. After all, we must all be environmentalists: we live in an environment! Many of the Trump-era favours to fossil fuel companies will be reversed. I say: put the Trumpster in a dumpster! (Someone else must have thought of that phrase before.)

**Power of the pen**

It is sad that the legendary political commentator Mungo MacCallum has passed away. After a lively career following political affairs in Canberra, Mungo brought his family to live in our wonderful Northern Rivers near Mullumbimby. He continued to share his insights on national politics via weekly columns in various newspapers.

In the 18th November 2020 edition of the *Byron Echo*, Mungo wrote: "Coal may be king in ... parts of regional Queensland, but is undeniably on the way out



*just about everywhere else in Australia, and indeed in the rest of the beleaguered planet... Mines are closing... There is no argument that the future is in renewables. The only question is how urgent the switch must be."*

We will miss his commentary. But there are others. I like most of the contributors to the *Nimbin GoodTimes*, including wordsmith Aidan Ricketts, and further afield the blunt truth-telling of Greta Thunberg and the practical wisdom of Christiana Figueres, a founder of the Global Optimism group and author of *The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis* (2020). She recently predicted the world will come together around the challenges of climate change in ways that will surprise us.

I personally worry about some of our responses to such challenges, especially about the global virus pandemic which, like the rain, falls on the just and on the unjust. The rain needs to be falling on forests and not on land prone to erosion through vegetation clearing. Our cities need more trees, and our people need more connection to nature to maintain their health and sanity.

**Nimbin DCP Review**

On a local level, we must all be mindful that Nimbin is on the verge of change too, but careful planning is needed. Lismore City Council has asked residents to contribute to its future planning document, and NEC has done that.

LCC has promised public consultation early in 2021. How do we want Nimbin and surroundings to look and feel in future? Certainly not littered with shonky tourist accommodation such as The Cubes.

The fate of Nimbin and surrounds will depend heavily on the availability of water and sewage for increased housing and businesses. Catherine Macleod, a contributor

to NEC's Submission on the Review of the Nimbin Development Control Plan stated: "Every extra connection to the town water supply can only worsen an already critical situation for the environment."

Our submission suggested LCC explore how to rescind approvals for residential DAs where building has not as yet commenced. NEC is vitally concerned about water and sewage. Until and unless these issues are managed properly, we see no viable prospect for growth in the RU5 Village zone.

A number of developments have already been approved by Council. In cases where the projects have not already started, some decisions need to be rescinded.

**Dunoon Dam**

We have reasons to be optimistic: Rous Water, which services the water needs of most Northern Rivers Council areas, considered asking the state government to approve a costly new Dunoon Dam that would submerge The Channon Gorge in order to catch any possible overflow from the existing Rocky Creek dam.

Of course, a substantial increase in residents' water rates would be unpopular. Probably even the high cost of seawater desalination would be preferred, provided it is powered by renewable energy from solar, wind or wave. Northern Rivers Guardians made submissions encouraging better ecology. Residents groups banded together from across the region to oppose the new dam.

On 8th December, a unanimous decision of Elders and Widjabul Wia-bal people was given to the Rous County Council General Manager, insisting that Rous abandon plans for the Dunoon Dam to save cultural heritage sites. At their meeting on 16th December, Rous Councillors voted 5:3 not to proceed with the dam. Congrats to all those who lobbied for this result. Thanks to Clrs Vanessa Ekins and Darlene Cook from Lismore, Basil Cameron and Simon Richardson from Byron and to Chairperson Keith Williams from Ballina, for their votes.

Christiana Figueres says that we face enormous problems, and fear can cause despair, but fear can also be a great motivator. That is what gives her hope. I hope that we all can be involved in a new, kinder, better world... starting now! Bring on 2021!



Photo: PAC

**Downpours cause flooding chaos**



Photo: LCC

The Prime Minister has declared Lismore a natural disaster area and councils throughout the Northern Rivers have been provided with disaster assistance.

Severe storms, heavy rainfall and flooding has wreaked havoc on roads in the Lismore Local Government Area, with culvert washouts, landslips and major damage to both the sealed and gravel road network.

Lismore City Council deputy mayor Neil Marks said the severe weather in recent weeks has resulted in major damage to Lismore's road network and city

infrastructure that is expected to exceed \$15 million. This includes major damage to a culvert on Blue Knob Road (pictured) cutting the road north out of Nimbin.

A severe storm that hit Nimbin washed away part of the refilling line between the DE Williams dam and the High Street reservoir, cutting off the town water supply.

Council has completed a temporary fix on the water main and the town water supply is now restored.

Crews will undertake permanent repairs over the coming weeks.

**NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB**  
 7 Sibley Street

**January Workshops Program**  
 \$10 unless otherwise noted  
 Bookings: text 0475-135-764 or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

- Tuesdays** (starts 10.30am)
  - 12th Jan: Paper/mud bricks. Getting down and dirty fun.
  - 19th Jan: Tipi raising. Learn how to construct a tipi frame to make your own cubby at home.
  - 26-27th Jan: Simple sandal making (2 days). \$25 including materials.
- Wednesdays**
  - Community Tools Library: 10.30am-2pm.
- Thursdays**
  - Nimbin Harvest Exchange. Bring your excess produce to swap, share or sell.
  - Community Gardens: Weeding, feeding and mulching. Light work - wear hat, gloves and sensible shoes. Donations of plants welcome!
- Saturdays**
  - Community Tool Library: 10.30am-12pm.
  - Next Seed Exchange: 6th Feb at Blue Knob.

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