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Diana Roberts awarded an OAM

This is Janelle Saffin's Community Recognition Statement which was lodged in State Parliament:

"I wish to congratulate Diana Roberts on being awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her services to her beloved community in the King's Birthday Honours List.

"Diana has co-founded and led many grassroots organisations in her town, such as the Nimbin Community Centre and Nimbin Environment Centre.

"She is the epitome of a community-minded person



who demonstrates great intellect, interpersonal skills and passion, working on projects which make a real difference.

"A former councillor, Diana Roberts served with

distinction as a Community Independent on Lismore City Council from 1991 until 2004.

"A successful businesswoman, she was proprietor/herbalist at the Nimbin Apothecary in Cullen Street from 1991 until 2019.

"She has served as president, vice-president and committee member of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.

"Other highlights of her community involvement include:

• Member, Nimbin Advisory Group, since 2010.

- Former member, Nimbin Neighbourhood Improvement Project.
- Former member, Save the Nimbin Hospital Committee.
- Member, Overseeing Committee, Rainbow Road Walking Track, since the early 2010s.
- Volunteer, Resilient Lismore, 2022.
- Member, Stony Chute Bush Fire Brigade, since the early 1980s, including serving as president from 1992 until 2002.
- "I value Diana Roberts OAM's counsel on all things Nimbin."

Iconic new building to open

by Ruben Mack

The people at Nimbin Building Materials are happy to be able to announce that they have a move-in date!

Nimbin Building Materials will be closed for our move starting from Friday 5th July and will re-open on Tuesday 9th July at our new premises 35 Sibley Street.

We will be closed for all business throughout this time period. Please be mindful of this, as we will be extremely busy in these days getting everything sorted. We do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We are very excited to finalise this project and get into the new site. We appreciate all the support and encouragement we have had from our customers and community throughout



this project, and we look forward to opening the place up for everyone to see.

Any enquiries or to view our range, please don't hesitate to get in contact. Phone (02) 6689-1206, email: sales@nimbinbuildingmaterials.com.au Website: www.nimbinbuildingmaterials.com.au

Friends of Palestine Rally celebrates major win

Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine hosted a powerful rally in Byron Bay on Sunday 30th June, with 300 participants marching from Railway Park to Apex Park, to hear speakers and live music by Áine Tyrrell.

A significant demonstration for human rights and freedom, the event celebrated a major win for the community.

The Byron Shire Council has passed a Ceasefire Motion, thanks to the efforts of Councillors Cate Coorey and Duncan Dey.

This motion reaffirms the community's commitment to peace, human rights, and international law.

Cate Coorey said, "We are asking for a ceasefire and



for aid, and we are asking to follow human rights, and for peace in our area."

Speakers at the rally included Waddah Ali, Áine Tyrrell, Mandy Nolan – Greens candidate for Richmond, Councillor Cate Coorey, Anandan McEwen, and Annie Pfingst.

Mandy Nolan said,

"Mothers are having C-sections and children are being amputated without anaesthetic. This must stop!"

Subhi Awad, spokesperson for Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine said, "We have seen 267 days of atrocity after atrocity; we must stop all trade with genocidal states, especially weapons

trade.

"This success in passing the Ceasefire Motion reflects the community's unity and commitment to advocating for peace and justice."

Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine thanks all participants and allies who helped achieve this significant milestone.

CWA Nimbin Branch doings



by Sage Bryant, Publicity Officer

Busy June

The CWA had the honour of catering hot drinks and cakes for the farewell service of a much-loved member of the local community.

We also catered coffee and cakes for the recent Mental Health Expo, along with womaning the CWA awareness table.

If you have catering needs for a local community event, please enquire via the contact details below.

Open Days

CWA Open Days are held on the second and third Wednesday of each month. We serve nutritious and affordable \$5 lunches, and it's a great opportunity to come in and chat with members to learn how the CWA contributes to the community.

Op Shop donations

If you have any unwanted warm winter clothes, bedding and blankets in good condition, please consider donating to the CWA op shop.

You can drop your donations in to the rooms on any day we are open, see

dates below.

Dates to remember

- Open Days: 10am-3pm, 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, pop in for lunch and a chat.
- Op Shop Days: 10am-3pm, 1st and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
- Community Market Days: 9.30am-3pm, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month.
- Street Stall: 10am-12noon, every Saturday, outside the newsagents.
- Branch Meeting: 3pm, 2nd Monday of the month, new members always welcome! For all general enquires, please phone 0461-412-831 or email: secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com

Nimbin loses its street cleaners

by Bob Dooley

After keeping Nimbin clean for 22 years, Chris Hellyer (pictured) now finds himself out of a job.

The Jungle Patrol contract with Lismore Council has not been renewed (see separate story), and Chris together with the other cleaners, Mark Quinn and Ben Hartley, had their employment terminated on 30th June.

It was a 4am start every day, starting with cleaning



the public toilets then emptying the street bins and picking up rubbish before sweeping the streets and cleaning the BBQ in Allsopp

Park. In addition, the streets and footpaths are washed with a high pressure hose once a week.

The shifts are four hours, but sometimes take longer, with MardiGrass requiring several cleaners along with volunteers and taking six hours.

In the course of his work, Chris has been assaulted a couple of times, and found a person with a drug overdose unconscious in the public toilets, who was able to be saved by his quick response.

For the last 10 years, Chris has been in pain from a severe tick infestation that he acquired from clearing lantana from the bush her his home, but he has carried on with the job regardless.

Chris said, "I'd like to thank all the people who have appreciated my work over the years."

Now in his mid-sixties, he is facing an uncertain future.

It remains to be seen if Lismore Council can provide the same high quality service to Nimbin.

Jungle Patrol bites the dust

by David Hyett, Treasurer, Jungle Patrol Community Safety Inc

I regretfully announce that after 22 years of service to the Nimbin community, Jungle Patrol Community Safety Inc is coming to an end.

Its daily presence on the village streets in the early morning hours will be replaced by the Lismore City Council's (Council) team of street cleaners.

From 1st July, Council has decided to take over the street cleaning services for Nimbin village. This decision comes after unsuccessful attempts to find an acceptable financial solution with Council to continue our services.

Council awarded Jungle Patrol the street cleaning contract in 2001, and the appointment has proven very successful, with the standard of cleaning and safety at night in the village improving dramatically.

In May this year, we communicated with Cliff Chadburn, Head of Fleet and Open Space at Council, informing them that Jungle Patrol could no longer provide the required services at the same rate as the previous Contract agreed upon in 2021.

Upon the Council's request, Jungle Patrol submitted a quote for the future street cleaning of the toilets and skate park service, which came in at

\$170,000 annually.

Council then revealed a budgetary constraint of \$120,000 annually, including consumables such as toilet paper and cleaning items.

Council acknowledged that Jungle Patrol's quote was competitive and realistic for the tasks required. We were asked to identify any potential savings through reduced services to bridge the gap between the council's budget and Jungle Patrol's quote.

Stringent workplace rules and regulations and increased operations made reductions impossible without significantly impacting service quality and community standards.

We don't understand how Council will be able to provide the level of service adequate to support our community members and ensure the valued experience of visitors, given the current financial constraints.

I spoke with Mayor Steve Krieg to garner support and express the importance of retaining a local workforce familiar with local issues. I advised that local knowledge can, at crucial moments, help alleviate situations.

I was informed that Council officers made decisions regarding budgets and operational implementation rather than Councillors.

This loss is a setback for Jungle Patrol Community Safety Inc and the entire Nimbin community. Our

efficient and community-minded team, run by a volunteer committee, includes five employees who will lose their jobs, which will knock on to the local economy.

Jungle Patrol is a non-profit organisation with a long history of contributing to the community beyond street cleaning.

In earlier days, Jungle Patrol provided visitor engagement services, such as meeting and greeting visitors. It also assisted with the increased use of stretchers from the retail strip up to the hospital during the early 2000's period of heroin addiction.

Additionally, the organisation has provided funding to support the Rainbow Walking Track, Nimbin Tennis Courts, Nimbin Swimming Pool and the annual MardiGrass festivals.

Jungle Patrol's commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Nimbin has always been at the forefront of its mission.

The Jungle Patrol team extends our heartfelt gratitude to the residents of Nimbin for their unwavering support over the years. It has been an honour to serve this vibrant community.

We also want to acknowledge and thank all current and previous employees and committee members, whose hard work and dedication have been integral to our success and the betterment of Nimbin.

Waste Transfer Station charges skyrocket

Lismore Council has released its new schedule of charges for the Wyrallah Road and Nimbin Waste Transfer Stations.

Many categories of waste that used to be free are now being charged in its new Fees and Charges 2045/25 document, currently available only on-line.

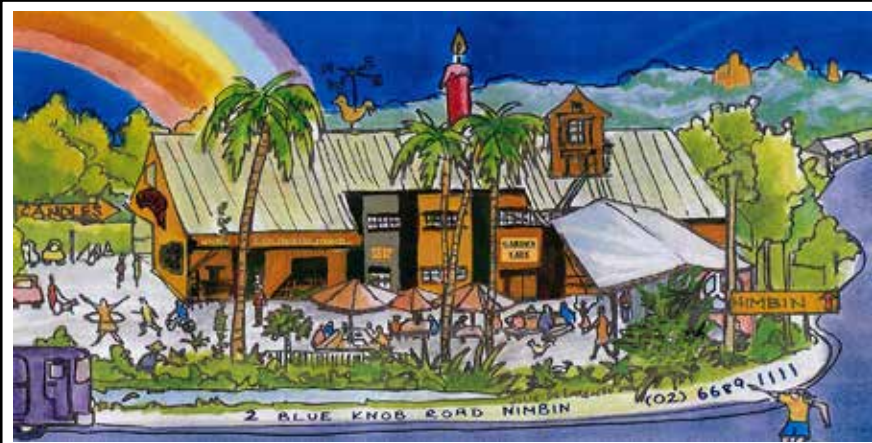
Among the many changes, there is now a fee for depositing recyclables, with a minimum charge of \$5 rising to \$25 for a trailer load. The charge is for co-mingled recyclables of paper, cardboard, glass bottles and containers, hard plastic bottles and containers, and aluminium cans.

While clean polystyrene, household batteries, ink cartridges, mobile phones and accessories, and X-rays are still accepted for free, mattresses of all sizes are being charged \$32, and household whitewoods \$29.

Other materials such as fluorescent light tubes, paint, e-waste, gas bottles,

car batteries, tyres, oil, fire extinguishers and asbestos will not be accepted.

For the full document, go to: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/1-households/3-waste-amp-recycling/documents/2024/nimbin-transfer-station-fees-and-charges-2024-25-website-display-version.pdf



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Rainbow Road Walking Track Dreaming



Martin Soutar on site with a young helper

by Michael Balderstone

Martin Soutar from Lismore Council emailed me with an invitation to check out progress on the walking track, but first a bit of background.

After years living simply and close to the Earth in India, Nepal and Patmos in Greece, I found it seriously hard settling back into Australia. I tried for years and couldn't, visited Nimbin a few times, camped in the visitor's spot at Tuntable once, but kept wandering and escaping expectations by disappearing overseas.

Eventually I settled here in Nimbin, probably the only place really suitable, but I wanted as little to do with the mainstream as possible. I scraped every bit of white paint off the old doors and windows I used building the house. I wanted everything natural as possible. I'd been living with dirt floors and no electricity for years, wanting nothing to do with the modern plastic capitalist world.

Nearly 40 years later now and with no protection from the weather, some windows are falling apart but me eye is always happy looking at natural wood.

I was on the Community Centre committee when the indefatigable Lady Diana's relationship with Grant paid off. Whoever Grant is, and Janelle Saffin knows him too and that helped, he clearly has access to all the cash and \$2.5 million for Nimbin to build a walking track was big news. Now three or is it four years later, and dozens of Lismore Council rules and regulations satisfied, it's starting to take shape.

I can't stand all the rules. Like there's meant to be no risk? I'm sure they mean well protecting us 'n all, but it always looks to me like insurance companies are driving the agenda. Banks in other words. Temples to the money god.

My walking track would have been all natural paths like the thousands of miles I've walked barefoot in the Himalayas. A concrete path is like, weird. So, I had mixed feelings about the Track but hung in like the stubborn mule I am.

The first meeting was a full reality check. Of course, they were never going to give the millions of dollars to us hippies in Nimbin to build our own track. It all had to happen through Lismore Council, it's suddenly their gig! What was I thinking? And of course, it was going to be concrete for wheelchairs and they need to be able to pass each other, like cars, so double width.

Fortunately, then we had choices to make on furniture and fittings, voting on our favourites. Everyone agreed, wanting

natural wood and stone, thank heavens! In all my planetary wanderings in the back of my mind I was always looking for a tribe of like-minded people. After a couple of years in Nimbin I realised I was standing in it.

I've known Lismore Council's Martin Soutar for decades it seems; was he in their parks and garden department? He appears to be pretty straight, but knows Nimbin a bit and listens well, trying to fit our funny ways into their schedules.

My visions of little hippy shacks and blackfella campfires selling ganja and other trinkets along the tourist walk had no chance, however much the tourists would love it. I know from the Museum days that many visitors want to visit a commune and talk to the animals in their natural environment.

"This a peaceful nature walk Michael, we can't replicate the rainbow serpent path of your Museum."

My long-time enemy OH&S was all over the planning meetings like a rash, but Martin knows them well and steered us through various rapids and waterfalls. Back in Lismore I imagine him locked in battle with mountains of paperwork juggling endless rules and regulations. Battering for us!

Plans are eventually accepted and drawn up. Wheelchairs can't easily handle more than a 7% incline for example. Bridges have to be built so wheelchairs passing each other at full speed in a hurry for the toilet can't possibly have an accident.

"Every possible danger is considered, incredibly thoughtful of them actually Michael when you stop to think about it."

Eventually the real work begins, but it never stops raining and finally last week Martin says come and have a look at progress. I'm late for the meeting and truly I was busy at home trying to stop the house falling apart, definitely in part because I took all the paint off which was protecting the windows.

Martin can hardly carry all the paperwork, but I can see immediately lots has happened, they've done heaps. And it looks terrific. The concrete path is not too wide like I feared. The beautiful trees planted by school kids 30 years ago are all still there. He's made the path go around some other big trees to save them.

You can see now where tables and seating are going to go. Already some wonderful sandstone artwork is in place. Ross Wallace's story-telling signage is under Martin's arm. The old composting toilet I was so desperate to keep is still there. It was impossible for it to pass OH&S of course, but maybe it can be



turned into a kid's cubby house we think.

The whole Track is a huge project I now see, as we follow the path with quite a crew of workmen fitting in fresh formwork for the next concrete pour. They're building a minor highway with bridges and gabions and it's going to add a whole new dimension to our town. Instead of being a one-street village we are now two!

The main entry will probably now be from the pool carpark I think, but the Track then wends its way through the big trees, past an impressive amphitheatre that I can now see clearly since the grass is gone, and the pond for bird-watching.

Then around the Headers ground and back into a long walk through the forest of natives planted by John Blatch over the last 20 years, and on to Cecil Street. John will be responsible for the regen work that's to happen adjoining the Track over the next few years. However, improving and managing Aquarius Park will be a community responsibility.

It's a great walk and the wheelchairs can go about halfway before any steps appear. I'm impressed and seriously grateful we have Martin in charge as our go between the worlds. He's taken it on very personally.

It's also going to take a bit of maintenance as we own the land. A landcare group is forming and if you'd like to help, please leave a message at: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au I'm in, and encourage other gardeners and lovers of nature to come along.

The official opening of the Walking Track is planned for September. It's going to be a great and significant addition to our village.

Drug overdose death danger warning

by Chibo Mertineit

Health workers have issued a serious warning that substances like MDMA (ecstasy), cocaine, ketamine, heroin, oxycodone, amphetamines and vapes can have a substance called Nitazenes in them.

This substance is over a hundred times stronger than heroin, and over a thousand times stronger than morphine. It killed over 16 people in Victoria and has produced quite a few non-fatal overdoses in the Blue Mountains.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare states that in 2022 there were 1693 drug-induced deaths in Australia registered, though the real number is much higher.

Nitazenes were developed in laboratories in the 1950s, but not used because they were too potent. Through the cut in the opioid production in Afghanistan in 2022, Nitazenes use rose as it is easier and cheaper to produce than plant-based opioids.

As the chief executive of the not-for-profit organisation The Loop Australia, Cameron Francis said in an ABC interview, "As drugs are made illegal, both in Australia and globally, it creates

a drive to innovate and that means more potent forms of drugs."

Naloxone is a nasal spray that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose. In cases with Nitazenes it might have to be used a few times. In some cases, the people have to have an infusion over several hours in hospital.

The advice from the health department is that users of the above-mentioned drugs should ALWAYS carry Naloxone with them. It should be in every first aid kit.

It's available cost free from the NSP (Needle Syringe Program) in Nimbin on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; at the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre by appointment; in Lismore at NSP weekdays in the morning, ACON, Riverlands and some pharmacies like in Woodlark Street, Southside and Centro shopping centre.

"We need to take our head out of the sand and embrace harm reduction. We need to put ideology aside and acknowledge the reality of drug use and embrace what works," said Dr. Marianne Jauncey, medical director of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Sydney.

The biggest problem is still that people are afraid to call 000 because of fear of the

police and the follow-up consequences. Please ring 000 in an emergency and they will talk you through the next steps.

It's good to see that Victoria and Queensland have now committed to have pill-testing facilities soon established and will bring them to festivals as well.

It's unbelievable that the former NSW government (Liberal/National) left the Ice report, costing millions of taxpayers' dollars, for two and a half years mostly untouched in a drawer while the impact of the Ice epidemic is hurting so many people in the community.

The Ice Enquiry came to Lismore a few years back to hear the heartbreaking stories of our communities.

As the president of the Law Society of NSW said then, "The inaction demonstrates the Government's lack of commitment to tackling the scourge of drugs other than by locking people up."

As law enforcement experts told the inquiry, "We can't arrest our way out of drug problems."

It's 25 years since the last NSW drug summit and it's urgent to have one asap. It's time for Labor to get cracking, as there is so much to do after the date is announced.

Assange freed

Continued from p.1

Gabriel Shipton produced the documentary, *Ithaka*, about Assange's UK prosecution for extradition to the US, which was directed by award-winning Australia director Ben Lawrence.

The documentary focused on John Shipton and Stella Assange's activism for Assange. Over 500,000 Australians watched *Ithaka* on iView.

The family took the film around the world, showing *Ithaka* in over 100 venues across Australia, the USA, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Brazil and several European countries, informing the world about the Assange case.

The Mexican President, Andre Manuel Lopez Obrador, invited John and Gabriel Shipton to be guests of honour at Mexico's National day celebration in 2023. They shared a table with President Obrador and his wife and the family of Che Guevara. The mayor of Mexico City granted them the keys to Mexico City on Julian's behalf.

Brazil's president Lula Da Silva, in London for the coronation of King Charles, called for Assange's freedom saying: "It is an embarrassment that a journalist who denounced trickery by one state against another is arrested, condemned to die in jail and we do nothing to free him."

"It's a crazy thing. We talk about freedom of expression; the guy is in prison because he denounced wrongdoing. And the press doesn't do anything in defence of this journalist. I can't understand it."

In April 2023, 99 Brazilian parliamentarians from five political parties signed a letter, addressed to the US Congress, demanding the withdrawal of

all charges against journalist Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks.

One of the powerful institutional voices fighting for Assange was the Australian Parliamentary Friends of Julian Assange, a cross-party group of Australian parliamentarians that was founded in 2019, the year Assange was charged with espionage by the US Department of Justice.

The founding members included Independent Tasmanian MP Andrew Wilkie, Tasmanian Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson, and Queensland National MP George Christensen, reflecting the diversity of support. The group included people from across the political spectrum, from hard left to hard right and everything in between, seemingly the most unlikely bedfellows, said Andrew Wilkie:

"It was uncharacteristically activist for a parliamentary group, which are normally more of a place for people just to get together and talk about things. But we campaigned, we travelled, we did what we could to increase political pressure on whichever government was in power to do something."

In May 2023, a delegation from the parliamentary group met with US ambassador to Australia, Caroline Kennedy and they discussed the possibility of a plea deal. In September, another cross-party delegation flew to the US to speak with US senators and congressmen about dropping the charges against Assange.

In February this year, Wilkie moved a motion of support for Assange that was passed in the Australian Parliament by 86 votes to 42, supported by Teals, Independents, the Greens and the ALP, with

Bridget Archer the loan supporter from the coalition. Most of the coalition voted against the motion, though Barnaby Joyce abstained.

Said Andrew Wilkie, "It was a very significant day because that was the first time in 14 years that the Australian parliament had backed Julian Assange. And it was the first time that the government formally, officially, including the PM sitting at the Dispatch Box, said this had gone on long enough."

"I don't know why the opposition didn't back it, because they had already said as well, that it had gone long enough. I think it was probably the reference to US war crimes that they couldn't stomach."

"Although this matter has evolved over time, I think that motion was a turning point of sorts. And I certainly sense from that point in time, the government was fair dinkum and that we were approaching the end game."

Wilkie gives the credit for the successful conclusion of the Assange case to the millions of people around the world and the great many Australians who have been protesting, campaigning, lobbying for years.

It was that groundswell of public opinion, which put pressure on politicians to get on board, he said. It allowed political support in the Australian parliament to grow from almost none to the majority of the parliament saying this has gone on long enough.

Much of the credit was to the community in Australia and other countries, notably the United States and the United Kingdom, growing the groundswell of public support for Assange, putting more and more pressure on those governments to come to the table and try and do a deal.

He praised the diplomacy of Anthony Albanese, Penny Wong, our High Commissioner in London, Stephen Smith and our ambassador in Washington, Kevin Rudd in achieving the deal.

"This matter was always, of course, a political issue and the solution was always going to be a political solution. Hence it was so important for the community, and people like me and the Parliament, and my colleagues, to ultimately convince the Australian government, the US government, and the UK Government that the matter had gone on long enough and had to be brought to an end."

"What happened this week was a remarkable achievement by the Albanese government, unfathomably complex. I mean, we're talking about three different national governments, all of whom have very, very different priorities and interests in this matter."

After corralling and torturing Assange for 14 years, the US can easily agree with Albanese that 'enough is enough', and Assange (and journalists everywhere) had been taught a sufficiently chilling lesson.

By releasing Assange, the Biden administration could even pose as champions of journalism and defenders of the first amendment by dropping the Espionage Act charges against Assange as *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Der Spiegel* and *El País*, all WikiLeaks partners in publishing the material, have urged because of the threat it poses to a free press and to all of them.

It also has the additional benefit of lavishing upon Anthony Albanese and his government an enormous public relations gift: the return of one slightly damaged Australian citizen named Julian Assange.



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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

Nimbin NAIDOC Day

It's on Friday 12th July at the Wia-bul Cultural Centre and the Community Centre grounds.

All are welcome to this FREE family event. Lots of activities and entertainment for jarjums as well as grown-ups.

Come on down and grab a feed and join in the celebrations. Contact NNIC at: admin@nnic.org.au or phone 6689-1692 for more info.

Nimbin Flood Recovery Support Service

We are aware there are people out there who may not have linked into any type of assistance. There is still time to seek help from our RSS team.

People out there grappling with the DRG, Resilient Homes and other programs – you don't have to do it alone. RSS caseworkers are independent of the Reconstruction Authority and can help you navigate the complex grants and appeals processes.

Contact the service via email on: nimbinrss@nnic.org.au or phone or text 0488-144-647.

Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP)

The final two workshops are coming up in July and August.

- ♦ **Sat 27th July:** Social and Political (Town Hall) 10.30am-2pm
 - ♦ **Sat 3rd August:** Water Security (Town Hall) 10.30am-3.30pm
- We have a lot to talk about and together we will be developing the overall Vision, a set of Goals and Strategies etc. (Bring your mobile phones to this one).

- ♦ **September:** Final presentation – Draft Revised SNCP (date to be confirmed)

More info will be posted on Nimbin Hook Ups,



NNIC and 7 Sibley Street Facebook pages, and our website, and look out for posters around town.

For regular email updates: get onto our email list via: sibley@nnic.org.au

Can't make it to a workshop? See the NNIC website for the links to the Drafts completed so far and the relevant Input Survey links.

Many thanks to the Northern Rivers Community Foundation for funding support.

Sustainability Alley – Nimbin Show September 2024

Last year people said they want more notice about Sustainability Alley and the opportunity to have stalls, or hold workshops etc.

So, this is a FIRST CALL for anyone interested in participating in Sustainability Alley this year – contact us on: admin@nnic.org.au

Struggling with alcohol or other drugs?

AOD support workers are now available five days a week at NNIC due to a NEW partnership with The Buttery, for people who use alcohol and other drugs in Nimbin and surrounds, and/or their families, friends and carers.

No referral needed. Drop into/call NNIC and speak with Nicole on our front desk for an appointment. Or call: 6687-1111 or email: intake@buttery.org.au

Take home Naloxone

Naloxone is a life-saving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. It is available for FREE at NNIC by appointment at NNIC.

It is also available at the NSP and the pharm acy.

Anyone who may become exposed to opiates, whether by prescription or otherwise, is at risk of accidental overdose. Naloxone buys valuable time for an ambulance to arrive.

Anyone at risk of an opioid overdose or adverse reaction, their carers, friends and family members and any other people who may become first responders are welcome to drop in and get some for your first aid kit.

WARNING: Nitazenes have been found in multiple substances linked to recent opioid overdoses in NSW including cocaine and ketamine.

Nitazenes are up to 500 times stronger than heroin. Carrying Naloxone is recommended. See: www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/public-drug-alerts

Did you know?

NNIC is a registered PBI Charity, and donations above \$2 to NNIC are tax deductible.

100% of donated funds are used to directly assist people in need via things like food and material aid. 0% of donated funds are spend on admin or overheads etc.

NNIC gratefully acknowledges all our donors in the past financial year. Thanks so much for helping us to support community members in need of assistance.

We really appreciate it.

www.nnic.org.au
www.facebook.com/pages/Nimbin-Neighbourhood-and-Information-Centre

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

We assist frail aged people, NDIS participants and carers to stay living at home and connect socially.

All NACRS support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, Covid-safe trained, insured and locally based.

SOCIAL CENTRE with Veranda – Monday-Friday 10am-2pm. Drop in for a cuppa, access support services, info and computers.

DEVICE ADVICE – Wednesdays 9.30am-1pm. Seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues.

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

- Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea, 10.30am-1pm. Tea/coffee, conversation, music and snacks, weekly \$5
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm at various rural cafes, self-funded plus donation to NACRS
- Wise Ones at Koonorigan Hall/Dunoon 4th Monday, 11.30am-1.30pm, bring a plate to share
- Bus outings – 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Scenic drives, cafes for morning tea & lunch (you pay), bookings essential, fees apply.

Phone **6689-1709** or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, the rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre.

www.nacrs.com.au



Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments, phone 6630-0400.

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next is 21st March. Phone 6688-1400 for an appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. 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 clinic

Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 20th June.

Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – 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 first Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the CWA room. New members are most welcome.



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by Scott Sledge, President

This month I want to lead with a rant against the imposition of nuclear reactors into the Australian electricity system proposed by Opposition Leader Peter Dutton.

First he announced a quick shadowy decision by the Federal Coal-ition caucus to pursue building seven nuclear reactors around the country, despite their reputation as the most expensive means of producing electricity for the grid and the most dangerous.

These reactors would supposedly save money by providing easy access to poles and wires as they would eventually replace existing coal-fired power plants. Of course, until the reactors are built, the coal and gas burning plants would remain open for many years, although they are wearing out with age and are due to be retired.

Does this make sense? Not really. Most states and the Commonwealth currently have a legislated ban on nuclear power plants. Furthermore, these very bodies would have to stump up for the cost of building and running these facilities and pay for extra security and monitoring of these dangerous facilities, and figure out how to safely store the radioactive waste over the long term – several hundred thousand years!

Yes, other countries have gone down that path, but none has solved the waste problem. There is one big advantage: the polities who support this can look forward to big donations from fossil fuel companies who would stay in business during the 15-30 years of transition.

If the voters endorse this at the next Federal election, the chances of moving to a climate change solution based on renewable energy technologies will be scuppered.

Nuclear also goes with “ballistic” so the only real value a country might gain by establishing a nuclear energy system is the ability to enrich the spent “fuel” to make lethal weapons. But don’t we already have many such weapons that no-one who is sane wants to use?

The man who could be our next Prime Minister attacked renewable energy with

outrageous lies. He provided no details about a proposal that would leave communities with high-level radioactive waste for generations. Dutton’s not afraid to spread questionable information in order to win the next election – especially with the Murdoch press and mining lobby backing his nuclear agenda.

According to Greenpeace, 40% of Australia’s energy already comes from clean, cheap, safe renewable energy, but much is yet to be done to achieve our climate goals. We can’t let the political stooges undermine the progress we’ve made for the sake of a few dollars more profit.

Having gone so far away from our readers’ locale, I might as well go further: The lamentable conflicts raging in Darfur, Palestine and Ukraine are catastrophic for the lives and livelihoods of local people and also for our world. Little is said about the explosions, smoke, and burning of precious resources that are just adding to the climate-changing pollution of war and military manoeuvring.

The Nimbin Nesting Box project

So far, the WildBNB team has installed more than 20 nesting boxes for this project on eleven properties to assist Gliders, Microbats, Parrots and Owls, with six more properties to go.

This project was made possible with funding from the Wires National Grant program. Congrats to all involved in providing much needed habitat for hollow dependent species in our region.

The project, with Nimbin at the centre, includes Byrrill Creek, Stony Chute, Websters Creek, Blue Knob, Tuntable Falls, The Channon and Whian Whian.

The NEC Calendar

NEC combined with Fridays 4 Forests to bring attention to the plight of endangered native species by marching, dancing and singing in the Lismore Lantern Parade. Congratulations to event originator Jyllie Jackson and Parade manager Virginia Waters.

The event was hugely successful with hundreds of “lanterneers” and thousands of spectators lining the streets to cheer



Fridays for Forests at the Lismore Lantern Parade. Photo: Glen Moller

us on. Virginia will make a fine Lismore Councillor if elected to local government this September.

Congratulations also to long-time NEC member Diana Roberts, who was recognised in the King’s Birthday honours with an Order of Australia Medal for her service to the Nimbin Community. Diana served 12 years on the Lismore Council and continues to represent Nimbin very well.

NEC held its AGM on 12th June, and the 2023 officers and committee were all returned: me as President, Triny Roe as Secretary, Marco Bobbert as Treasurer, and a committee composed of Ashoka Joblin, Lisa Costello, Cath Smith, Mark Palmer and Daniele Voinot. Daniele was also voted in as assistant to Shop Co-ordinator Triny Roe.

The next general meeting of NEC will be at the Community School Room in the Community Centre on Wednesday, 10th July. All welcome.

Note: The Caldera Environment Centre at Murwillumbah has decided not to stage its World Environment Day festival this year.



Trevor Acland, a stalwart of NEC for many years, with Scott Sledge. Photo: Cath Smith

seemed to convince the judiciary that we are not criminals. As the elected governments have been slow to implement climate friendly laws, this gradual recognition by many judges is very heartening.

We have made financial contributions from the shop profits to the Environmental Defenders Office and the NSW Nature Conservation Council and have continued to support the Wangan Jangalingu people defending their land against despoiling coal mine developments.

NEC hopes to assist concerned residents in the Georgica, Jiggi, Larnook and Billen Cliffs area who have become aware of a 550-acre clear-fell Private Native Forestry operation approved for the Georgica plateau.

The private land is for sale for the first time in over 120 years with a fresh logging approval on it, and contains extensive areas of old growth forest which, according to citizen reports, has not been properly mapped and is unprotected.

The Private Native Forestry approval is bound by secrecy clauses, however property sale documents can be accessed at: www.realestate.com.au/property-other-nsw-georgica-700298324

Note: We have a feral-cat trap that can be borrowed by phoning Glen Fewster at 0427-022-295.

Connecting with Woodstock

by Benny Zable

The Nimbin community is yet to signpost in and around Nimbin that Nimbin is officially a sister village to the famous Woodstock artisan hamlet in Ulster County, upstate New York.

This was initiated by Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton who run the Woodstock Museum in Saugerties. Harsha Prabhu exhibited the ‘Rainbow Dreaming’ photo exhibition (see: www.rainbowdreaming.org/intro.html) at the Woodstock Museum, which attracted a member of the Woodstock town board.

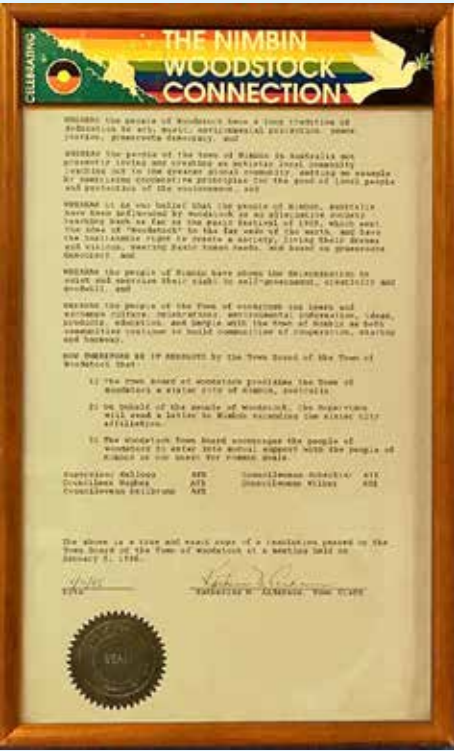
He put up the motion of Nimbin being a sister to Woodstock. It was passed unanimously. David Hallett was chosen to be the official ambassador to represent Nimbin to Woodstock for this momentous occasion.

A framed, stamped seal document (pictured) was sent from the Woodstock town board to me, which hangs in the Nimbin Community Centre. Nimbin also responded with a document for Woodstock.

Artists around Nimbin need to be made aware of this so when they travel to the USA to exhibit they can promote not only their work but play ambassador to Nimbin.

I had done it for a while before I had over-stayed my visa in 2017 and now am banned from entering the USA.

I suggest organising, in co-operation with the local arts community, a Nimbin-Woodstock travelling exhibition to be a way



forward to help revive the connection.

I plan now to move to Melbourne hopefully by the end of this year, am in the process of sorting out my archives to pass on to trusted sources before I head south.

Anyone interested in all this hipstory, you can contact me at: bennyzable@gmail.com



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

7 Sibley Street

July

What's On!

\$15 unless otherwise noted

Bookings: text 0475-135-764

or email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops: 10.30am – 1.30pm

- Sat 13th: Plastic recycling** – Make a chopping board from recycled HPDE lids (low temperature melting, safety precautions taken).
- Tues 16th: Knitting group** – BYO project, learn and share, by donation.
- Sat 20th: Cooking with the food forest** – A cooking class with a difference! Using sub-tropical food plants that grow so well in our local region, but are less

familiar to our Western diets. Bookings essential, limited places, \$50.

- Sat 27th: Community Forum: Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan** – 10.30am Nimbin Town Hall. Have your say! Focus on Arts and Culture. Refreshments available.
- Community Tools Library:** Every Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm. For home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC Mon-Fri. Basketballs & pump available, \$5 refundable deposit.

Letters

Illuminate Nimbin

Our winter solstice has passed. Did anyone notice that there was no 'Illuminate Nimbin' celebration? I sure did.

With a strong family focus, this event has been held for the past two years with great success and accolades (thanks Sam and Kylie).

Illuminate brought families together to the village on a cold winter night to experience music, art, fine food and beautiful lighting installations in celebration of the shortest day of the year.

The key word here is families, because the vibe of the two past events was fun, safe, positive and because of hard fought for funding, FREE!

This year, as cost of living pressures bite every single celebration of arts, culture and music, large and small, no funding to pay artisans and technicians was able to be secured from any level of government.

This may well play out to continue on into the future, so perhaps we as a community need to re-evaluate what celebrations are important to us and work out new ways of paying for them to happen.

I, for one, would love to see 'Illuminate Nimbin' on the calendar every winter solstice and I am sure anyone who had the pleasure of being in the village for either of the two inaugural events would agree.

I have been thinking about

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin GoodTimes.

other funding models, and came up with a few options that all could contribute to the event being funded next year:

1. Philanthropy from businesses and individuals
2. Go fund me (or similar on-line donation platform)
3. Donation tins placed in local shops, similar to the way Roadart was funded for many years.
4. Student-led school fundraisers

Your thoughts everyone?

Amanda King
Nimbin

Dear Loon

I am very much appreciating your serialised advice about preferences. I earnestly wish to do everything I can unseat a fair few of the existing council, so anything you have to offer on the subject will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks again Loon. I look forward to next month's instalment.

Virginia White
Goonellabah

Pamela Whitehead

Late of Wollongbar. Passed away peacefully on 4th June, 2024 with her loving family by her side.

Beloved wife of Trevor (dec). Much loved mother and mother-in-law of Sue and Didier, Rik and Donelle, Tod and Paula and her cherished grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Much loved sister and sister-in-law of Richard and Pam (both dec) and Robert and Joyce and and Barry and Sharon and a dear friend to many.

Forever loved and adored.



About us

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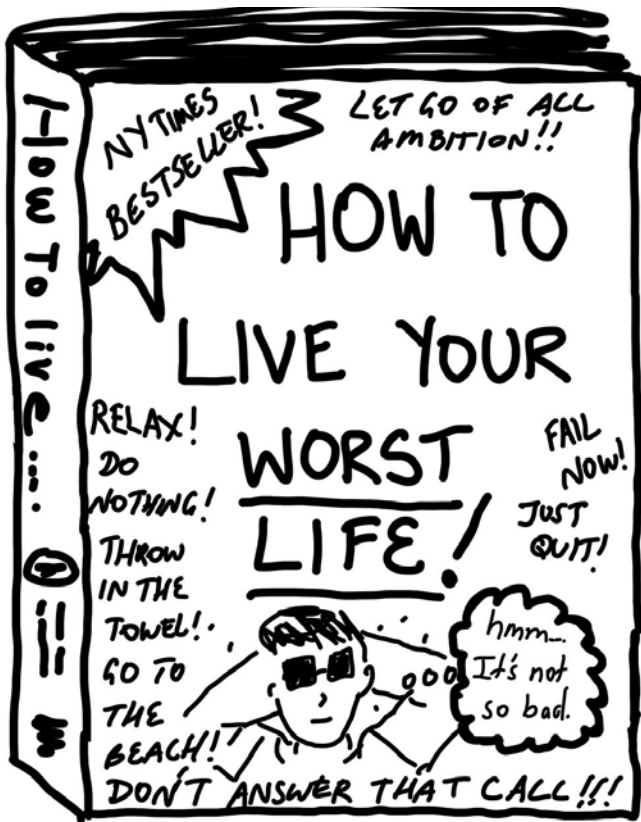
The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

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

NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

NEXT DEADLINE:
Friday 26th July

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



www.hollyenglish.com

Jethro Alan Gilmour

Born 18th July, 1997 in Lismore Base Hospital (LBH) and passed away at LBH on 19th June, 2024, Jethro is so dearly loved by mother Jane, father Mark, twin Jake Martin and sister Emma Jean.

Jethro was raised in the beautiful Billen Cliffs community and later lived in Lismore, studying at Trinity College and SCU. As a magical man of few words and few worldly needs, he lived a humble life as an artist and philosopher and was happiest in nature surrounded by forest or ocean.

Jethro was a gentle giant who faced his demons and osteosarcoma with endless courage, grace and humility. Never wanting to burden others with his suffering, his catch cry was "all good". He always said he had a good life, yet it was a life that was ended too soon by a rare cancer.

Our family greatly appreciated the kindness and support from the Princess Alexandra Hospital and LBH Oncology and Palliative Care staff and the Sony Foundation Youth Cancer Stay.

A public celebration of Jethro's life will be held at the Coraki Sacred Earth Sanctuary on Saturday 17th August at 11am. Please wear a touch of yellow and bring no flowers but plant a tree in his memory or save a tree in his honour.

Sweet dreams of flying machines, beautiful Jet.



Leonard 'Len' Martin

Len died peacefully on 31st May 2024 at Nimbin Hospital aged 90, having lived a full and extraordinary life.

His ceaseless fascination for the natural world, the universe, science, literature and the arts continued to his very last. Adventuring in wild places and appreciating wildlife and flora were defining passions shared with infectious enthusiasm.

Born 19th December 1933, North Finchley, London, only child to Sidney and Nora Martin, Len spoke of a happy family home and childhood, relishing countryside forays exploring hedgerows, ponds and streams, catching tadpoles and fish for his aquarium and butterfly collecting. Yet he was "born in the shadow of WW1 and matured during WW2" sharing distinct memories of the Blitz, military convoys, air raid sirens, rationing, evacuation and the dreaded doodlebugs.

In 1948, aged 14, Len emigrated to Australia with his parents, initially living with his uncle at Kalangadoo, near Mt Gambier, SA. In 1950 they moved to Sydney, living for a year in a 'bungalow', a 10' x 10' humpy made of flattened kerosene tins, then buying a plot in Padstow. Len helped clear scrub and build their house while commencing studies at Sydney University aged just 16.

As a student, Len indulged his lifelong love of theatre, performing in numerous student productions. He gained a Bachelor of Science degree (Zoology) with First Class Honours, followed by PhD studies on the mode of action of



female sex hormones.

There followed an impressive research and teaching career that took him, in 1965, to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London heading the Dept. of Hormone Physiology.

In 1981, at the University of Queensland (Dept. of Physiology & Pharmacology), Len began studying flying-fox reproductive biology, developing a unique understanding of Australian flying-foxes, bridging classic zoology and endocrinology.

Len and partner Kay helped initiate the Batty Boat Cruises on the Brisbane River in 1984, which continue today, educating people about flying fox conservation. He served as expert witness in several court cases against use of electrocution grids in orchards. Len retired from the University of Queensland as Reader in Physiology in 1996.

Len and Kay moved to their solar-powered house at Nimbin Rocks Co-op in 2000, with lawns, gullies and ponds planted to attract wildlife. Throwing themselves into the community,

RIP Murray Hudson

Murray's family moved to the Northern Rivers region permanently in the mid 80's, travelling back and forth from the early 70's.

Coming from a background and lifestyle in low-cost building and sustainability, this led him into the realm of environmental protection.

Murray secured the cafe behind the Nimbin Museum and this became the purpose of fund-raising for the Timbarra Sacred Mountain campaign.

It was to raise finance and be a meeting place to stop the destruction of traditional First Nations sacred sites near Tenterfield. The gold miners were using 700 tons of cyanide and desecrating the areas of high altitude wetland feeding



the tributaries of the Clarence River.

Many hundreds of people worked day in and day out and each shift was paid \$10 a day. Murray was the rock to stabilise and guide us all through the uncharted waters associated with such a big task.

The Timbarra Sacred Mountain Cafe also had the Timbarra Sacred Mountain Cafe in Glebe, Sydney and the Timbarra chai tent.

Murray personally carved the poles, brought the ropes and on dozens of occasions drove in his van to chai gigs, raising money and awareness for Timbarra.

With his stewardship and guidance, the Timbarra Sacred Mountain cafes and chai tent financed over \$100,000 of support for the traditional custodians to take court cases to the Federal Court and NSW Land and Environment Court.

I will always remember Murray walking across Oxford Street in Sydney with a big bag of two dollar coins from selling

cups of chai and coffee to pay for hiring the Tap Gallery where 40 Timbarra artists went on exhibition.

We were all of us successful in stopping three gold mines over seven years at Timbarra, with a small peppered frog on the verge of extinction finally putting a stop to it.

Murray was a vehement environmental activist passionately advocating for nature and creating a small personal footprint on the land for his own humble lifestyle.

I believe Murray was the stability of a group that we collectively needed. He led with kindness, honesty, generosity, gratitude and guidance. He was also an honourable brave warrior.

He will be sorely missed.

The internet: from digital democracy to digital dementia

The internet when it first appeared promised a new era of information democracy. The old media would lose control and new social movements, protests even revolutions could be organised from the bottom up from dispersed information sources. It was like that at first.

Progressive social movements are often first to take up new technologies because they are by nature unconventional and innovative. You really would not expect dreary conservatives and demented fascists to be at the forefront of cultural innovation.

As a result, we enjoyed several years of digital democracy, viral campaigning for human rights and the environment and a contagion of grassroots revolutions of various kinds toppling entrenched authoritarian regimes around the globe.

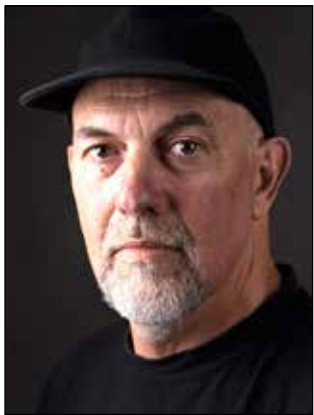
These halcyon days are now hard to recall. The internet today feels more like a dystopian cosplay convention for wealth scammers, wellness frauds, conspiracy peddlers, demented billionaires, aspiring populist fascists, and the same old vested interests.

Having seen the power unleashed by progressive social movements' digital campaigning (which relied upon unpaid viral reach), the big corporate elites and authoritarian regimes quickly embarked on two projects, firstly, using the internet's capabilities to actively surveil social movements, and secondly to build their own massive systems for algorithmic political influence on line.

But the big end of town didn't need to rely on unpaid viral reach, and unlike progressive social movements, it was never going to be constrained by any ethical framework that required honesty nor integrity.

The corporate elites have always been marketing experts, so it was easy to merge manipulative marketing with the porous reach of the internet into everyone's homes, phones and lives.

Giant 'communications' firms were set up, to take advantage as cynically as possible of the new



by Aidan Ricketts

opportunities to confuse, divide and influence the public. The great digital democracy was quickly converted to the great digital dementia.

It first became apparent during the Brexit campaign, how marketing firms were being paid by conservative forces to identify and target individuals with misinformation tailor-made to swing them into line with the hard right agenda, by sugar coating messages in the recipient's own value system.

Vegans in Britain were suddenly barraged with apparently random posts carefully explaining how EU policies (those terrible continental meat-eating cultures) were holding back animal rights reform in Britain, and that Brexit was the answer if you cared about animals.

We all now exist awash in a personally-targeted labyrinth of disinformation. Whether you are being constantly fed information about the resources needed to build EVs, or the concrete needed to build wind generators, this is being funded by the fossil fuel lobby to undermine renewables.

If you are being fed a daily feed of outrage over the extreme censorship being forced upon you by the terrible woke movement, or you are constantly being told that feminism has emasculated men beyond recognition, you should be aware that it is being curated and fed out to you specifically for the purpose of distracting you from the very much greater threats to liberty in the form of resurgent fascism.

Regardless of how you feel about political correctness, wokeness and whatever, it's not really anywhere near the threat it is being made

out to be. We have all been annoyed at times by holier-than-thou virtue signallers, but 'annoying' is all that it is. These people aren't pointing guns at anyone, in fact they have almost zero impact on anyone who isn't already sympathetic to their causes.

Fascism always generates scapegoats to distract and enrage the population, and also thrives in the kind of valueless chaos that currently populates our feeds.

There is simply no comparison between the faux battles that we are having our attention distracted onto, and the real power abuses that they are covering up for.

Of course, EVs and solar panels and wind turbines have impacts of their own, but it still pales by contrast to the Mordor-like horror of the coal or nuclear industries that are behind the anti-renewables disinformation.

Of course we can all get irritated by woke correctness, but compared to the real violence enacted by authoritarian regimes around the world; compared to the human rights travesty in Palestine; compared to the rise of angry, militant fascist and neo-Nazi groups; compared to the fact that we have already arrived a point in history where a convicted fraudster, rapist and aspiring dictator can still be even considered remotely electable to US president; why would we even be worried about a few green-haired college kids getting antsy about gender identities? Wokeness is just not a civilisational threat, fascism is.

We live in a mirror world where fascism weaponises the words 'freedom' and 'liberty', when history tells us that freedom and liberty are the very first casualties of fascism. There is simply no equivalence between the mere words of virtue signallers and the very real guns, violence and hatred of Trump's hillbilly Taliban.

Sadly, despite the insanity of the modern internet distracting us into faux battles within our own communities, the same old global corporations and authoritarian regimes continue as ever to run amok with their life-threatening agendas. We are still struggling to save ourselves from the very real

measurable empiric problem of human-induced climate change.

Multinational corporations still control the vast majority of the world's wealth.

The global and domestic distribution of wealth and income is steadily becoming more and more concentrated in the hands of a mega wealthy few. Major corporate interests still control the lucrative arms industry, and benefit from each and every global conflict.

The dismal tide of neo-liberalism still pushes for lower taxes on corporations and the mega wealthy and continues to leave governments with an ever-dwindling portion of revenue to undertake the important jobs of governance such as providing schools, hospitals, humane prisons, support for victims of domestic violence, housing for all and environmental repair.

One thing that has changed is that we have added a new layer of corporate overlords, the tech giants. The big tech companies, Meta, X, Amazon, Google and so on have anointed a new generation of psychopathic billionaires armed with all of the data they need to surveil you, to know your ideas and values, and to process all of this data about you and to sell it to the highest bidder.

The real threats to our on-going lives upon this beautiful threatened planet are not men, women or trans people, not dole bludgers, greenies or progressive politicians, not the medical profession, the climate scientists or the gun control lobby.

If we can do anything to protect our freedom and our future, it is to avoid being tricked into seeing small scapegoats in the lived community around us, when collectively what we all need is a re-invigoration of collective social action, redistributive economics, revitalisation of our lived communities and to look through the onslaught of deliberate misinformation to see that behind every cynical meme that mocks and stirs outrage against other humans, lies a giant global corporate elite that thrives on our confusion.

It is time to swipe left on the far right.

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