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Rally for global action on Climate Change

by Naomi Shine, Lismore Environment Centre

It almost didn't happen due to Covid-19 restrictions on public gatherings... but we couldn't help ourselves!

So about 80 students and adults gathered in Spinks Park, Lismore to join in the global day of action for School Strike for Climate: Fund Our Future, Not Gas!

Greed Dozer (Benny Zable) came along to make it seem like a real protest, and we spread out and aimed to be Covid-safe in the fresh air and sunshine.

Holly Richards and Laura O'Shannessy, both in year 10, spoke powerfully to both the people gathered and the media who came along.

They said: "Right now, the government is deciding how to spend billions in public money to help with the Covid-19 crisis. It's a critical opportunity for them to fund our future, by creating jobs that will Care for Country, fast-track solutions to climate change, and transition Australia to renewable energy."

"Instead, secret plans have revealed that the Federal Government is planning to give billions to their mates in the dirty



Saskia Kouwenberg addresses the rally. Photo: Chibo Mertineit

gas industry. Gas is a dangerous fossil fuel that will turbocharge the climate crisis. Even worse, many destructive gas projects threaten First Nations lands."

Holly also read out the three aims of the national School Strike for Climate:

1. Resourcing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led solutions that guarantee land rights and care for country.
2. The creation of jobs that fast-track solutions to the climate crisis and help communities recover.

3. Projects that transition our economy and communities to 100% renewable energy by 2030 through expanded public ownership.

Though we might have wished for hundreds or thousands of people attending, as we have in the past, it was a great day with Knitting Nannas, Northern Rivers Guardians, Lismore and Nimbin Environment Centres and School Strikers all represented.

It was a resounding "Yes" to a green future, and "No" to gas!

Theatre show to open

by James Straiton

The saga of Covid-19 has been a trying one for us all – it has been a confusing and chaotic time for many. But the people of Nimbin have shown admirable stoicism in their response to the crisis and the Nimbin Theatre Group is following that example.

For some time, the players have been meeting and rehearsing at the Jarlanbah Hall in order to bring a new local production to Nimbin and we hope to see you all when the show goes to stage.

The production is called *The Curious Savage* by John Patrick and is an elegantly written comedy, a gentle and charming exploration of what constitutes civilised (or savage) behaviour. At this point the dates will be the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th and 12th December, with more details to come in next month's edition of the *GoodTimes*.

We would also like to use this opportunity to encourage anyone who would like to be part of the creative



The character Lily Belle played by Ceri McGavisk

community theatre process, whether you are actors, writers, engineers, builders, painters or reaching out into art in any way, to get in touch with us and help us bring more quality local theatre to our region.

Young or old, it is an amazing time to be a part of the community in such an arts focused town and we will always be looking for new faces to be involved, at any level of skill or engagement!

Fundraiser for Beth

Nimbin Central School student Beth Cooper-Wares is a highly intelligent, quirky and creative young woman, just 17 years old. She was born with a severe brittle bone disorder called Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type III.

Since birth Beth has had over a hundred broken bones and countless treatments and operations. She has spent months in hospital in traction, or in full body casts, and experienced a whole world of pain. She has limited mobility and is wheelchair reliant.

In coping with the constant challenges and setbacks in her life, Beth has developed incredible resilience and a wicked sense of humour. She cannot stand social or environmental injustice and has a deep love for animals. Beth speed-reads, sings with perfect pitch and can bake up a storm.

In August, Beth was admitted to hospital for an operation and was recovering at home until she was rushed to Westmead



Children's Hospital with acute pain. It was discovered that, in layman's terms, her head had fallen off her spine.

After three further surgeries, Beth has now lost the mobility and independence she had, and it is unknown how much movement or strength will return, or when. Beth was planning on finishing school next year and going on to study creative writing at university.

A fundraiser has been started to help Beth and her family with all the support possible for the long journey ahead.

To donate to Beth's support fund, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/beth-cooperwares>

Nimbin Pool closed for September school holidays

The Nimbin Pool will remain closed during the September school holidays, as Lismore City Council works to comply with the Covid-19 Public Health Orders put in place by the NSW Government.

Council must have people on site at the free pool to monitor Covid-19 safety measures during opening hours, which is cost prohibitive for Council.

Council is currently working with the Nimbin community and Friends of Nimbin Pool to establish a volunteer roster and provide training, so the pool can open with the help of community volunteers.

"We need to work through some complex logistics and unfortunately we will not have this complete in time to open for the September school holidays," Council's Assets Manager Scott Turner said.

LCC will insure the volunteers, and conduct information sessions about this task. The Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre has agreed to co-ordinate the volunteers and are discussing details with the LCC that can be implemented permanently over the summer months.



Friends of Nimbin Pool spokesperson Sue Edmonds said, "There has been considerable discussion on facebook about how important the pool is to Nimbin folk. Let's hope this chatter is turned into action."

If you would like to help to get the pool open and can commit some time to volunteering, please email: friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com

Council will provide a further update in early October.

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Our unsung hero turns 75

by Chibo Mertneit

At the 'People's Climate Assembly', on 2nd February this year, the first day of the Federal parliament sitting after the summer break, I witnessed for the first time Benny Zable in action from the beginning to the end.

I've seen him lots of times doing his act educating, inspiring and hopefully motivating people, but here I walked 50 metres behind him, seeing him dragging a big suitcase with his costume and carrying flags and poles etc up the hill to Parliament House from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. So I gave him both hands.

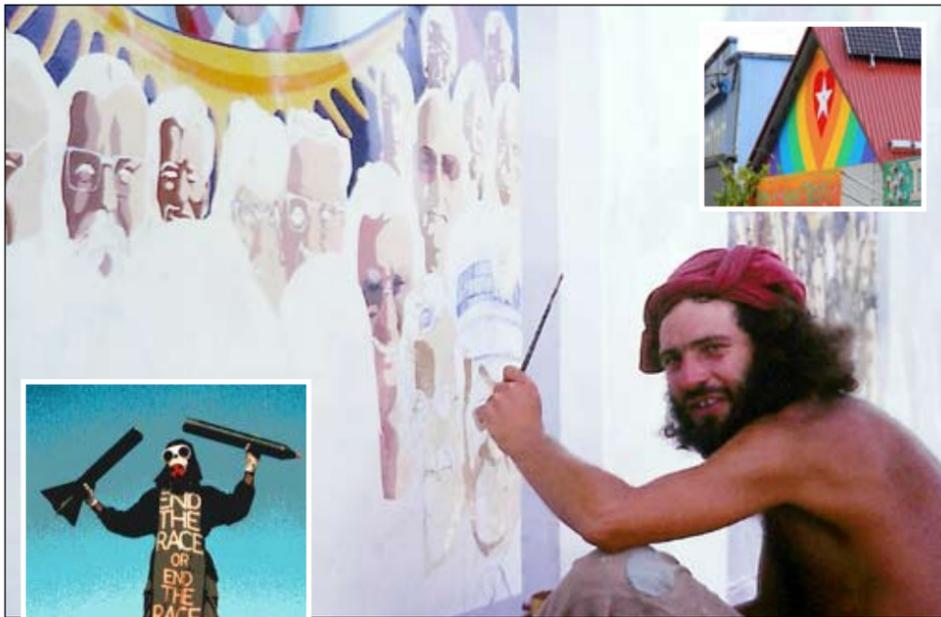
And as I have admired Benny for decades, his long and unbelievable commitment to his cause, I asked him about his birthday. I feel that he has done so much for so long for Mother Earth and Nimbin that I should write a story to learn a bit more about Benny Zable and some of his actions around the world and share it with the community.

On the 1st October 2020, Benny Zable turned 75 years of age.

For the Aquarius Festival in May 1973, Benny Zable pulled together a show in Melbourne, at his dance movement experimental intermedia workshop, and brought it to Nimbin. It was an adaptation of HG Wells *The Time Machine* with live music, poetry, magic, and lightshow for audience participation. Costumes and sets for the show sent on the train accidentally ended up in Brisbane.

In the meantime, he ran movement classes in the Nimbin Town Hall in the morning to warm up for day and night interactions around events. The Time Machine multimedia experience finally came together for one night in the ruins of the then Nimbin Buttery, which later became the Nimbin Bush Theatre auditorium.

Benny went on to help Paul Joseph with a roadshow around Eastern Australia, promoting ongoing social experiment and to purchase land at Tuntable Falls. Folks interested invested \$200 for shares to buy from property landholder Sam Mackey. In 1977 Graeme Dunstan



called for assistance with an arts festival in Nimbin, which ended up with Benny spending two years painting new murals on the rooftops of Nimbin's main street.

After completing that project in early 1979, he travelled to the USA to research the public art movement, do street art and perform his alter-ego character Zany Bubbles around the USA. As an international guest from Australia, he participated in the World Symposium on Humanities at the Pasadena Center LA. He met, listened, learned, exchanged notes and actions with many countercultural activists attending this event.

Rainbow peace activists invited Benny to their 1979 Nation gathering in New Mexico which was life-changing. The most urgent major public awareness action planned by many counterculture US peace activists was the NO NUKES series of public awareness concerts primarily to alert people to the dangerous radioactive Nuclear Power industry, triggered by the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor accident in Pennsylvania.

He joined volunteers to help out with crowd management at a large concert across the road from the once twin-tower World Trade Center, before

heading back to Australia supporting and performing at related Aboriginal abusive environmentally destructive projects across Australia.

At the Middle Heads sand mining coastal rainforest dispute, he set up a props creation workshop from recycling accumulated trash at the protest. He continued with flag and banner-making workshops and performing Greedozer and Company at protests which later morphed into the Fossil Fools character.

Benny missed the Terania Rainforest protests, but participated in the victorious Nightcap Rainforest actions near Nimbin in 1982. He joined the group calling themselves the Nimbin Action Group (NAG), which went down to support the Franklin Dam blockade in Tasmania and carried on with NAG at many peace, environmental and social justice actions over the following decades.

In 1989, Benny toured the Toxic Tower show internationally. From the Peace Brigade South Pacific solidarity actions in the Philippines, to many peace actions in the USA, including a protest action outside the gates of the Nevada nuclear test site near Las Vegas, and to actions which eventually closed down the Rocky Flats plutonium nuclear waste dump facility near Boulder, Colorado.

Also he assisted the John Seed lead Earth First roadshow some of the way across the USA. He discovered the American Colony of the Arts town

of Woodstock when attending the Yuin nations elder activist Gaboo Ted Thomas Dreaming camps at the Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources in Bearsville/Woodstock, a Native American centre in upstate New York.

The friendships that developed at that time progressed to the Nimbin Woodstock Connection sister city/town/village agreement, which Nathan Koenig and Shelli Lipton made possible in showing the 'Some Children of Dreaming' exhibition at the Woodstock Museum, created and sent by Harsha Prabhu and Graeme Batterbury, with support from the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre.

Nathan and Shelli brought to Nimbin some Woodstock films they showed at a number of Nimbin Aquarius anniversaries. They have made a documentary film series from recording the Nimbin MardiGrass during their visitations to Nimbin. Hopefully they will be back to screen them in Nimbin during the 50th Aquarius anniversary in May 2023.

Well, that was a lot of history and I'm sure Benny didn't tell me everything, but I take my hat off to such a committed activist still being active in our village.

At the end of September, Benny installed a mural on the Nimbin Emporium that he made to honour Roa Dart, who recently passed away.

Thank you Benny, and may the longtime sun shine on you, all LOVE surround you and guide your way on.

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The real threats to our liberty and survival

by Aidan Ricketts

The feeling that we are being surveilled and controlled, that our liberty is rapidly eroding and that dark forces are at work manipulating our society is not an illusion.

These things are very real and have been for a long time. Conspiracy theories merely pick up on these very real feelings of fear and powerlessness and channel them into fanciful even more manipulative directions.

True critical thinkers and free thinkers challenge both the dominant narrative of the mega corporations and politicians as well as the pop-nonsense conspiracy theories being peddled on the internet. The problems facing our world are very real and have been growing in our faces for a long time.

Let's look at liberty firstly. The single greatest threat to liberty is fascism and totalitarianism, and it is on the rise around the world. Putin in Russia, Trump in the US, China's far reaching totalitarianism, Duterte in Philippines, Bolsanaro in Brazil, Erdogan in Turkey, Dutton in Australia. In Australia, US and UK, fascism is being fuelled by fear of change, falling living standards, and the outrage of privilege in retreat.

But the dismal tide in our societies that has led to the sense of everything in decline, our personal living standards, our distrust in government, declining social services such as health, education and public land management, are all pretty much outcomes of the same political ideology that now offers fascism as its solution.

Neo-liberalism is the political theory that arose in the early 1980's under Reagan and Thatcher that proposed an ongoing dismantling of civil society and governance, in favour of handing more and more power and wealth to corporations.

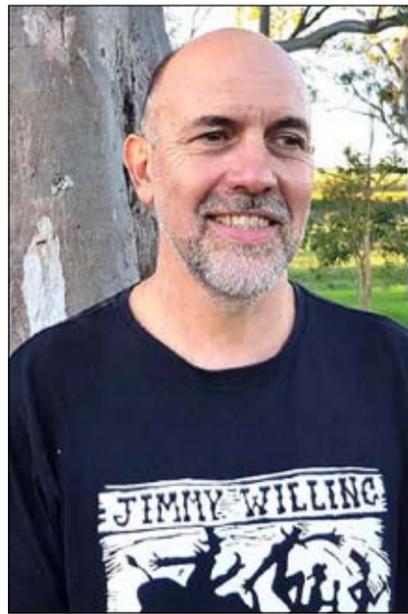
Our societies had by 1980 benefited from years of democratic socialist reforms to the underlying capitalist mode, and as a result we enjoyed free education (including universities) excellent public health systems, very strong welfare safety nets and strong investment in public goods such as science research (CSIRO), National Parks etc.

But all along, economic power has been concentrating into the hands of large multi-national corporations. These were consuming smaller businesses, and growing beyond national boundaries in ways that made it increasingly difficult for governments to control them or to resist their agendas.

Neo-liberalism was the political ideology sponsored by corporate think tanks that aimed to transform our societies to serve corporate rather than civil ends. We were fed disingenuous theories like 'trickle down economics' that argued that making the rich richer would eventually benefit everyone. Now more than 40 years later we are reaping the bitter harvest.

Neo-liberalism took an axe to society's infrastructure. It is the political equivalent of the corporate CEO of an airline who makes a short-term surplus by axing the aircraft maintenance staff. At first there's extra profits for shareholders, but eventually all you get is repeated mid-air disasters and a plunging reputation and trust of the whole enterprise.

This is the story of governance under neo-liberalism, it is how we got to the dismal tide we now endure. The financial crises, the draining of government services, the casualization of the workforce, climate change and much more. Our societies did not get



poorer, yet we were convinced year after year that government, and fairness in particular, had become too expensive and that services for real humans and the environment needed to be cut.

We worry a lot about billionaires, but these are just the human face of the much larger corporate behemoth. Corporations are the true economic giants that have economic control of our societies.

Corporations are a form of early artificial intelligence. Soulless institutions created to take the place of human entrepreneurs, immortal, emotion-less, and not born of the natural world. They are kind of formless - so much harder for us to imagine as villains than actual human billionaires but many times more powerful. Legally however, they have all of the powers of a real person, they simply have no heart, no soul and no moral faculty.

They have grown to become the dominant governance institutions of our times and in the process, are turning our societies inside out.

Under neo-liberalism government was less and less about real people or the environment and increasingly began to measure everything as a commodity and in fiscal terms.

Thankfully in Australia we still have the remnants of civil society, and of our great public institutions of health care, education and a very much dismantled welfare safety net.

One of the greatest problems we have is the corrupting influence of corporations on our political parties, and we see this is unrestrained in relation to the LNP, and a tragic problem for a largely well-meaning but sadly compromised Labor Party. (Thankfully the Greens refuse corporate donations).

Corporate donations and lobbying influence government decisions and nowhere is this more obvious than in the stranglehold that the mining and fossil fuel industry maintains over the major political parties through donations and other forms of political manipulation.

As a side note, there are important differences in our political parties. The Greens are the party that rejects corporate donations and pursues accountability for corruption; Labor, with its history of investment in the public sector in next best. The LNP is the party of the race to the bottom, the parasites that create and feed off the dismal tide.

The US is a society broken by neo-liberalism, now at a tipping point into fascism. Fascism is where the power of the state becomes merged with the interests of the corporate sector and this is the project that Trump, as insane as he is, represents.

Outside of government and politics, corporations are a major threat to our liberty and privacy as they use the

internet and our personal devices to surveil our lives, largely with our willing participation, and build profiles on our consumption patterns, social lives and preferences.

Recently a new keystone in the neo-liberal corporate project is approaching: the attempt to transition to a cashless society. There is already legislation drafted and backed by the Morrison government to begin this process. If we lose cash, we will have surrendered complete control of our financial lives to the banks and other corporations.

Our credit cards record every single transaction and build an endless profile on us. Furthermore, part of the push from the banks for cashlessness is so that they can begin charging us to hold our balances, rather than pay us interest.

Think about it: if you can't use cash, you will have no choice but to put all of your money in the bank, pay for the 'service' and be recorded every time you spend it. It will destroy farm gate stalls, op shops, busking, markets and all manner of folk transactions, as only sellers with electronic payment facilities will be able to participate.

We all look on in horror at China's social credit scheme in which every citizen has a credit rating from the government that measures their adherence to required norms. But in our societies, it is the banks and corporations who control the data and our finances through credit cards. It's a kind of privatised surveillance state.

Once cash is eliminated, it is easy to see how governments will use restriction of access to our accounts and cards as the new form of criminal penalty. With your card frozen you would be unable to travel, buy food or obtain accommodation. The life of a political fugitive would be nearly impossible.

These scenarios sound like sci-fi, they may even sound like conspiracy theories, but no, this is ordinary neo-liberalism, corporate control and political corruption of the kind that left leaning activists and community aligned political groups have been fighting for a long time.

All is not lost, we still have the basic structures of democracy, we still have powerful national legislatures, and an intact judicial system. We still so far have the ability to form political parties, to campaign, vote and to protest. Our democracy is under threat from rising corporate power, neo-liberalism and ultimately from fascism, but we can resist and rebuild our societies.

What we need to be doing though is seeing these real threats to our liberty, privacy and freedom that exist right in our face and not be distracted into ridiculous alternative theories about lizard people, underground bunkers full of children or radio waves that spread viruses.

Masks and social distancing are not the problem, it's the banks, the big multi-national corporations, your personal devices, and the rising threat of fascism around the world.

We need to regroup our civil society organisations, social movements and trade unions and political parties to fight for democracy and governance. We need to see through the kleptocracy of the Morrison government as it keeps funnelling our taxes to gas companies and media tycoons like Murdoch.

We need to see that community-based political movements and political parties that reject corporate donations can stand up to this corruption and put our support there.

We are not asleep, we are not without a critique on the way the world is going, but we also don't need to misdefine the problem through conspiracy theories.

Communities Environment Project on Mulgum Creek



Some of the people at the August workshop

Another on-site weed workshop will be held on Sunday 18th October, 8am – 12 midday, made possible with funding from the the federal government.

Led by local bush regenerators, John Blatch and Tristan Mules, participants will learn to recognise local weeds and discuss various ways to manage them.

Native species endemic to the area will also be covered. Learn to recognise emerging seedlings in situ. The event will also include a tree planting.

Hand and mechanical weeding has been continuing since the workshop in August, including some ring barking of camphor laurel and large giant devil figs and removal of medium-size privet and GDF with the tree popper.

Numbers at the event will be limited to conform with Covid-safe guidelines.

Please contact the Nimbin Environment Centre to register on 6689-1441 or email: nimbinenvironmentcentre@gmail.com or leave contact details at the Nimbin Environment Centre shop.

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NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

School Strike for Climate

On Friday 25th September, people around the world turned out in Covid-safe numbers to remind the media and our political leaders that temperatures are rising around the globe and the future for humanity and the rest of our environment is in mortal danger.

In the Northern Rivers, people demonstrated in Murwillumbah and Lismore supported by activist organisations such as Nimbin Environment Centre and Northern Rivers Guardians. In Lismore, TV stations Prime and NBN news covered the events.

Some impetus was added by that morning's local ABC radio (94.5 FM) report that the Siberian tundra is not only burning but the frozen tundra (called permafrost) is melting and emitting greenhouse gases at an alarming rate.

We do not have time for more fossil fuel developments, such as the Australian government proposes. Replacing ageing coal-fired electricity generation with gas is not going to save us. We need better leadership and the young people who organised the School Strike for Climate (SS4C) deserve our support, not repression.

I have learned that NSW Police contacted schools in our area and warned them of punishing consequences should they allow students to participate in gatherings, even those with strict Covid-safe measures, to prevent further spread of the virus. I suppose it is useless to point out that the Northern Rivers is hardly a high-risk area for Coronavirus.

I was proud of the courage shown by a number of high school students who turned out to demonstrate. "We Want a Future, Not Gas" one sign read, and another said: "Enough is Enough. It's time to stand up." This slogan is also being used for the campaign to save native forests and stop wanton clearing of bushland.

Koalas surface in Myrtle State Forest

Threatened Species Day in September was observed by some forest protectors who spent a cool night at the entrance of Myrtle State Forest to stop any machinery for logging coming into the



Protectors at Myrtle State Forest. Photo: Chibo Mertineit

forest.

They called for a halt to planned logging by the publicly-owned Forestry Corporation after their discovery of koala scats, which proved that some animals survived the devastating fires which swept through the region south of Casino last year.

North-East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesman Dailan Pugh said, "In a brief audit of seven hectares of burnt forest in Myrtle State Forest on 3rd September NEFA identified 1,118 Koala scats under 18 trees, with 516 scats under one tree, in an area where the Forestry Corporation has never identified Koalas."

"NEFA found Koalas in Myrtle Forest and want them protected," said Mr. Pugh. "Despite the Government's refusal to look before they log, NEFA have proven that Koala fire refugia exist in Myrtle State Forest, and are likely to be more widespread, making it clear that a full survey needs to be undertaken if the Government has any intent of honouring its promise to save Koalas," said Mr Pugh. "At Nambucca, NEFA is trying to stop Koala habitat being trashed."

No-one wins a koala war

Studies indicate that around 44% to 100% of Koalas (an average of 71%) died in the firegrounds.

The NSW state government nearly dissolved when the National Party

MPs announced they would quit the coalition unless the Koala SEPP which offers some minimal protection for wildlife habitat is repealed so that anyone can clear bushland without reference to habitat destruction.

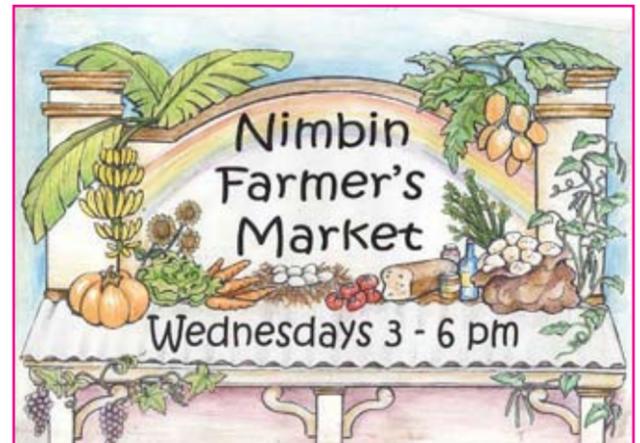
Dailan Pugh said, "The Koala wars ended with the Nats backing down though the SEPP is likely to be gutted. Now you can lick Koalas. The quiet but pretty denizens can't run away. As wild populations plummet, the Commonwealth tries to wash its hands of the environment, though it is having trouble getting them clean. Trees are more profitable than sheep. Oh, and by the way, the end is nigh."

If the State Government announces an approval for the Narrabri Gas Project to go ahead, the Pilliga Forest will be pillaged, the local farmers and graziers will lose their access to permanent water in the Great Artesian Basin and with it their livelihood so Santos and its reckless fossil fuel partners can start to construct gas pipelines across the entire continent: I kid you not.

We will get through this period of pandemic fear. We will survive an economic slump. We can cut down and trash everything that might burn in the next heat wave. But how will we tell our descendants that we told our kids not to protest when the world heats up, cities drown under rising seas and there is no shade or clean water left?



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- A range of spelt breads baked daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY at 6am

Phone 6689 1769

Mr BOBCAT

6689 0044
0427 946 823

- 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • excavator
- 5 tonne spreader • 8 tonne tipper

Terry Bressington

PLASTERIN' NIMBIN'

0427 891626

Gyprock walls and ceilings
New work or renovations

Lic. No. 100169C

NIMBIN DELICIOUS

Jams & Chutneys



In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

NNIC opening hours

NNIC is open as usual and available for face to face services, PC and copier access, support services and food relief Monday - Friday 10am to 4pm. Centrelink Mon-Thursdays 10am-2.30pm, Fridays 10am-2pm.

Physical distancing, hygiene and other safety measures will continue to be in place at the Centre. See our website for other Covid 19 updates and community info: www.nnic.org.au

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

Nimbin Pool

NNIC is working with Friends of Nimbin Pool to try and get the Nimbin Pool open this season. We are working out the details with Council to see what can be done, but in the meantime it is clear that volunteers will be needed to monitor Covid requirements such as physical distancing, in order to comply with Health regulations.

Volunteers will need to be reliable and able to commit to a regular shift if possible. If you are willing volunteer please email: friendsofnimbinpool@gmail.com with your contact details.

NEW!! Regional Youth Art Competition

Cash prizes to be won! 1st prize = \$500 in both age divisions. Entries close on 23rd November and must address the competition theme 'Wild'. Brought to you by Nimbin



Heidi Glover accepts a food donation from Snowy, one of the gardeners who donate their surplus produce to NNIC, where it is either put into a food parcel or cooked as part of meals for clients, homeless people or the Friday soup kitchen.

Photo: Chibo Mertineit

Community Drug Action Team (CDAT). For details including entry form see our website: www.nnic.org.au

Nimbin Centrelink Agency

Open Monday-Friday 10am-2.30pm at NNIC (closing 2pm Fridays) you can drop in for access to PCs including wi-fi access, assistance with your online Centrelink business and wrangling with My Gov, information about payment types, eligibility criteria etc.

Take Home Naloxone program

Free On-line Community Information Session: Thursday 15th October at 2pm with Darren Smyth, our new NIS Drug and Alcohol worker. This session is for friends, family members or indeed anyone who may be in the position of being a first responder if an opioid overdose occurs, including people who are

legitimately using opioids on prescription.

It is easy to accidentally overdose, especially if you are taking multiple medications and possibly lose track of what you have taken. Naloxone saves lives and is available for free to anyone who may be around opioid users.

To register for this workshop, please email: admin@nnic.org.au and we will send you an invitation. This session will be held via Zoom and participants will need access to a PC or tablet with speakers and microphone.

PLEASE NOTE: It is possible to be anonymous on Zoom if you wish, you can choose any name you want when you sign in, and you can type questions into a chat box without having to use a microphone. We only need an email address so we can send the Zoom link to participants, and will not be storing those email addresses or using them for any other purpose.

Still Wanted: Front desk assistant volunteers

Must have minimum Cert II in relevant field (e.g. Welfare, Community Development) or be currently undertaking Cert II or higher qualification. Must be reliable and able to do at least one day per week (6-hour shift). A great way to gain experience in the sector, connect with the Nimbin community and contribute to NNIC and Nimbin. Please send CV to The Manager, NNIC: admin@nnic.org.au (or drop it in). For more info, contact Kath at our front desk.

Mental Health and accessing the NDIS

If you have long term mental health issues and have been wondering if you might be eligible for NDIS, or how the NDIS works and what types of supports might be available, or need help working out how to apply for the NDIS, drop by or call us on 6689-1692 to book an appointment with Peter.

Have lost income as a result of Covid 19?

Are you either a) not eligible for Jobseekers or Job Keepers or b) you are eligible but you are still left with a reduced income and unable to pay your bills?

We may be able to help with some of your expenses including electricity bill relief, food vouchers, Telstra vouchers, food or other material aid. All services are confidential... don't struggle through this all alone. Call us on 6689-1692 or just drop by to make an appointment.

www.nnic.org.au
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: 13th October. 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 15th October. 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

- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 15th October.
- Respiratory clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 13th October. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Community Registered Nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1288 - leave 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.



Last chance to save railway line

by Beth Shelley, Northern Rivers Railway Action Group

The bill to close sections of the Casino to Murwillumbah railway line went to parliament last Wednesday.

Up until it was tabled in parliament, this proposed legislation had not been made available for consultation with the community which it directly affects. Moreover, the legislation seems to have been directly targeted to a specific result of closing both ends of the line.

The Northern Rivers Railway Action Group (NRRAG) were shocked to find that the Casino to Bentley section was to be closed and the railway tracks destroyed, along with the section from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek.

We had been told that funding for Casino to Bentley was supposed to be a partnership between the State and Federal governments, but the funding was only offered by the Federal government through Kevin Hogan, and both Geoff Provest and Janelle Saffin told us that the NSW Government was not interested in the Casino to Bentley section of the Rail Trail.

It seems suspicious that the Federal Government want to be involved in a project that appropriates land that belongs to the NSW Government.



Casino to Lismore line

Why are they interested in funding a bike path when it will annihilate our chance of ever having trains again? This is our rail connection to Sydney and Brisbane gone forever for Northern Rivers residents. What is really going on?

The reason for the proposed legislation change was to be about developing the rail trail from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek. However, rail trails don't require a change in legislation and can be established without removing the railway tracks. This has happened in other parts of NSW such as Dubbo and Oberon.

Tweed Shire Council decided to tender to include the option of putting the rail trail next to the railway track a year ago, but this idea was not investigated by Tweed Council staff. Instead the State government is insisting the legislation must

go through even before any tenders go out.

The legislation states that local councils will be responsible for ongoing maintenance and upkeep rather than the NSW Government. Are local ratepayers aware they will be paying for the maintenance of the rail trail?"

One of the questionable issues is what is going to happen with the high voltage power line that runs beside the track in Murwillumbah including through the tunnels?

Is Transgrid concerned about bike riders and walkers being within close proximity of the 80 KV transmission line?

Byron Shire has intentions to establish a local rail service and closure of the Casino end will result in it being orphaned from the rest of the State's railway network.

This legislation will pass through the Lower House of the parliament this week supported by the government and will then go to the Upper House. This will be our only chance to save our railway line, and we ask supporters across the region to ask Upper House MPs from Labor and the crossbenchers to vote against the change to the legislation.

Please contact us for any further information. Email: bethshelley4@yahoo.com.au



Swimming pool touring, part 3

by Sue Edmonds

Australia's exhibition at the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale, 2016, was 'The Pool'.

The creative team, commissioned to develop our contribution, explained it in these words:

"In Australia, the pool takes many forms. In the bush, a waterhole, on the coast, a concrete cavity gouged from the rocks, old time municipal baths with steep seating and signs about diving and running, millions of tame blue rectangles in suburban back yards. A pool is where the communal and the personal intersect."

There are thousands of pools to visit, but I will satisfy myself with a dozen for starters.

This tour had another slow start in Murrurundi... no water to be seen. Fortunately, the Op Shop cheered us up and gave hope to continue on this pilgrimage. The last five pools had been no-swim zones, due to the drought and bushfires, so reaching Scone we were thrilled to find the pool had an inviting sparkle about it, and it said, "Come on in, you deserve a swim".

It was empty of Sconeians, so we swam and duck-dived alone in the beautiful, sparkling water, all for \$4. This is the usual entrance fee, give or take 50c.

This swimming pool tour is enabled by the trusty reference bible, 3900 Campsites in Australia. Each night there was a free site with a tree to hang bathers and towels on, and a shady spot to sit and polish goggles and relish the latest op shop scores.

We still have 3856 campsites to visit. What



with swimming pools to visit, op shops for retail therapy, and free art galleries for a bit of collected culture, we may never go home.

Muswellbrook pool showed the wealth of the Upper Hunter region. Two outdoor pools and one indoors, and the attendant proudly said how the council would soon expand the complex, which to two small town Nimbin folk, seemed like a miracle.

It was late afternoon reaching Denman, and it appeared half the town was enjoying the water and surrounding picnic grounds. We stayed dry, strolling among the happy locals. The pool is located in a huge recreation area with a golf course thrown in for good measure, more Upper Hunter gold.

Tomorrow Singleton beckons, sure to have a pool with water.



Visual Multi-media

ART COMPETITION

WILD

Theme:

Get your CREATIVE BRAIN into gear and WIN CASH PRIZES!!!

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS (AND US)!!!

Open to ANYONE aged 14 - 24 years who lives ANYWHERE in the Northern Rivers.

Two Age categories = 14-17, and 18-24

1ST PRIZE = \$500, 2ND = \$300, 3RD = \$200!

You can enter as a team or an individual.

You can enter a poster, cartoon strip, short film, drawing, board game...any kind of visual art or media about anything to do with the **THEME**

The winners will be announced at an **Online Awards Event in December 2020.**

Entries close: **Monday 23rd November 2020.**

For more info and entry form see: www.nnic.org.au

Or contact Nimbin CDAT on admin@nnic.org.au or 6689 1692

Brought to you by the Nimbin Community Drug Action Team.

Sustainability hub takes shape

by Stephanie Seckold

Always new things happening at 7 Sibley Street!

The stone circle is in place, made possible by generous community donations, and the first of our new activity huts, a plant nursery featuring a bamboo reciprocal roof, made at one of our skills-share workshops in September (pictured).

The community garden is growing, soon our 'water feature' will be active, and next will be a 'Weavers hut' and bicycle 'Dyno hut' phone-charging station.

If you haven't visited yet, be



sure to come along and enjoy our evolving community

space - volunteers always welcome!

NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

7 Sibley Street

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

Tuesdays (starts 10.30am)

- 6th Oct: **Wild Weavers.** Basket-making techniques with natural fibres - preparing barks and branches.
- 13th Oct: **Knitting with Sue.** Learn crochet, knitting and knitting machines.
- 13th Oct: **Chemical-free rust and paint removal.** Restoring tools and furniture.
- 20th Oct: **Wicking beds and aquaponics.**
- 27th Oct: **Processing home-grown coffee.**

Wednesdays

- **Community Tools Library:** 10.30am-2pm
- **Nimbin Harvest Exchange.** Bring your excess produce to swap, share or sell.

Garment Mending: 2-4pm with Atelier Smith.

Thursdays

- **Community Gardens:** Weeding, feeding and mulching Light work - wear hat, gloves and sensible shoes. Donations of edible, medicinal and culinary plants welcome!

Saturdays

- **Community Tool Library:** 10.30am-12pm.
- **3rd Oct: Nimbin Seed Exchange.** Swap and share saved seeds and cuttings.
- **31st Oct: Making and Building with Weed Blocks.** \$25, bookings essential.