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## Playground upgrade needed

The children's playground in Nimbin's Peace Park is in a parlous state of disrepair, and is now considered by parents to be hazardous for their children to use.

The swing set has been removed, with high-vis bunting surrounding the framework, the climbing frame has rusted steps and in many places the ripped soft-fall material is a trip hazard, despite inadequate attempts to repair it.

Even the one seat for parents and carers requires caution to access it. It has been in this dilapidated state for many months, despite many requests to Lismore Council to remediate it, and it appears to have been overlooked in Council's 2026-27 budget.

This active play installation used to be a popular feature of the park, but now sits mostly abandoned due to its high risk and unappealing deterioration.

Local parents of small children are now planning a meeting on 12th July, 11.30am at the site to form an action committee to lobby Council for its remediation as a priority.



## Nimbin's roads go to pot

Potholes near the Gungas and Tunttable Falls Road intersection. Photo: Sue Stock

by Marty de Weerd

A combination of persistent wet weather, heavy vehicle traffic and general wear and tear has left the roads around Nimbin looking particularly rough of late.

Large potholes have opened up on practically every road in the area forcing drivers to exercise extreme levels of caution as they navigate the moon-like landscape of our roads.

While locals have filed many reports with the Lismore City Council in an attempt to have the potholes remedied, a succession of rainy days and an extensive backlog of work has meant little attention has been paid to the newly formed lakes and ponds plaguing every route in and out of Nimbin.

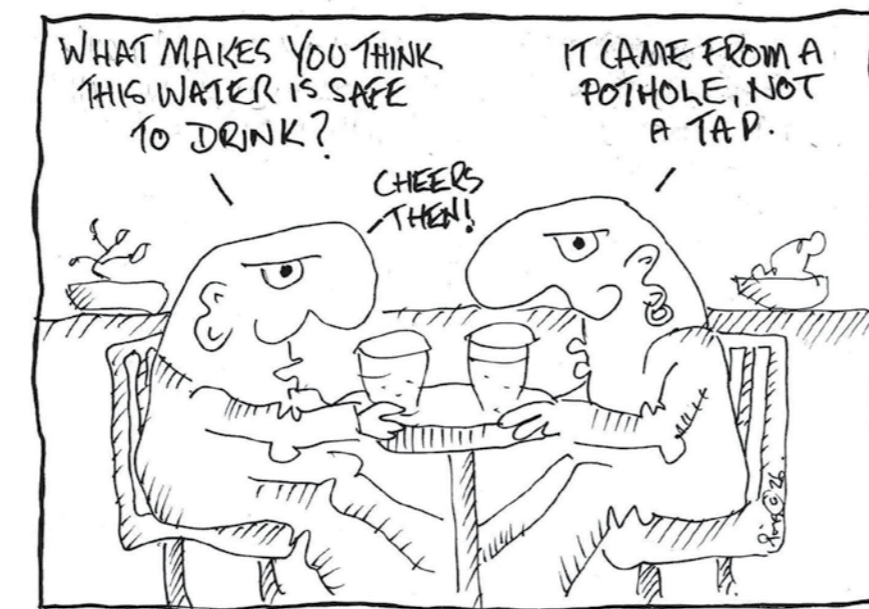
In addition to contacting the council, good Samaritans have been busily marking these craters with spray paint, traffic cones and anything else that may bring them to the attention of unsuspecting drivers, who risk significant damage to their vehicles should they venture into one of these chasms at speed.

With Tunttable Creek Road receiving

some much-needed improvements over the next twelve months to sections affected by landslides, one can't help but wonder what impacts the associated increased levels of heavy vehicle traffic may have on the roads

leading up to the roadworks.

In the meantime, we are left hoping that things will dry out enough for the filling of potholes to recommence and give us some hope that our vehicles can survive these roads.



Cartoon by Gumboot Productions

nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

## Circular Timber: how valuable timber can be saved from landfill

Australia has an opportunity to lead the way in recovering valuable building materials, according to a new research report from Living Lab Northern Rivers, Circular Timber.

The report shows that carefully deconstructing buildings – rather than demolishing them – can save high-quality timber, reduce waste and create local jobs, and recommends national guidelines so the approach can be adopted more widely.

After the 2022 floods, the NSW Government has approved offers for over 900 flood damaged homes, and currently owns more than 800 properties across the Northern Rivers through the Resilient Homes Program – part of Australia's largest property buyback program.

Led by Living Lab Northern Rivers with research delivered by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), the Circular Timber pilot was funded by the NSW Reconstruction Authority, in response to community interest in recovering the valuable timber in these homes.

### Deconstruction and re-use

At 125 and 127 Tweed Street, North Lismore, two uninhabitable homes were selectively deconstructed to recover their materials.

The work recovered premium old-growth hardwoods including ironbark, cedar, tallowwood and blackbutt from the region's Big Scrub rainforest, timber that is prized today and effectively impossible to source.

Local makers – builders, furniture-makers, artists and craftspeople – then transformed the salvaged timbers into more than 50 new pieces that honour their origin while demonstrating reuse.

It was a small-scale example of what could be achieved with right infrastructure and support. The pilot worked through the steps of deconstruction, material storage, product design and manufacturing, to develop the recommendations made in the report.

The pilot also showed why deconstruction isn't yet standard practice. Without national guidelines, recovery facilities or an agreed way to compare costs, it's difficult to contract deconstruction at scale – especially within the timeframes and budgets of a major recovery program.

The report's recommendations are aimed at closing that gap:

- Deconstruction guidelines. Australia has well-established standards for demolition, but nothing equivalent for deconstruction. Clear, practical guidelines would give councils, contractors and governments a shared way of working.



Project lead Berto Pandolfo inspects timbers

- Material recovery infrastructure. A facility to process, store and resell recovered materials would make deconstruction viable, and could in time grow into a regional hub for circular manufacturing and local jobs.

- A clear way to weigh the value of reuse. Deconstruction is often assumed to cost more than demolition, yet the report notes this has rarely been properly tested. A framework for comparing the real costs and benefits would help decision-makers see the full picture.

Australia's construction and demolition sector is forecast to generate around 42 million tonnes of material by 2030. Current waste systems already do a good job of diverting material from landfill through recycling such as woodchipping.

The pilot tested whether we could go one step further up the waste hierarchy – from recycling to reuse – which keeps more of each piece of timber whole and useful.

International research cited in the report indicates careful deconstruction can save an average of 7.6 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per home, and that deconstruction programs overseas support several times more jobs than conventional demolition.

"Demolition is fast, but it treats century-old hardwood the same as rubble," said Associate Professor Berto Pandolfo, the project lead from UTS. "This pilot showed that with care, timber can be recovered intact and re-made into things people value."

"What's missing isn't capability or community will – it's the guidelines, infrastructure and assessment tools that would let deconstruction operate at scale."

### Northern Rivers experience

Dan Etheridge, Engagement Director at Living Lab Northern Rivers, said: "The Northern Rivers has just lived through Australia's largest property buyback program. That gave us a rare chance to test these ideas in real conditions, and the makers proved the

concept. "The opportunity now is to build the systems so the next community facing this doesn't have to start from scratch." NSW Reconstruction Authority CEO, Kate Fitzgerald said: "As part of the Resilient Homes Program the NSW Reconstruction Authority has been prioritising the relocation, reuse and recycling of buyback properties wherever we can."

"To date we have had 450 homeowners opting in buyback contracts to salvage materials, and more than 400 buyback homes identified as suitable for reuse through relocation. We have also seen 74% of material from demolished homes recycled to date, excluding material contaminated by asbestos. "By finding new uses for these homes and materials, we are reducing waste, preserving valuable housing stock and helping address housing challenges in flood-affected regions."

"This approach ensures the benefits of the program extend beyond risk reduction, supporting local communities, creating opportunities for vulnerable residents to access housing, and making the most of resources that would otherwise be lost."

**Custodianship framework** Building on this project, Living Lab Northern Rivers and the RA are supporting Jagun Alliance to help turn this knowledge into practice through a First Nations lens.

This Aboriginal-led initiative is assessing flood-affected homes for culturally significant timbers, seeking to develop a custodianship framework to ensure materials are returned to community in ways that reflect their cultural and environmental value.

At the same time, the project will generate important scientific and practical insights into endemic timber species, helping inform future land use planning and revegetation across the Northern Rivers.

Oli Costello, Executive Director, Jagun Alliance said: "Many of these timbers are culturally significant species that reflect our cultural landscapes. They were once ancient forests as far as the eye could see, cared for by our elders of this place. They hold ancestral memories of kinship and custodianship that could help us."

The report frames deconstruction as a way to strengthen existing waste systems rather than replace them – one that keeps cultural and material value within the community. With demolition and rebuilding activity rising across Australia, the report's authors say there is a real opportunity to put these lessons to work.

The Circular Timber report is available at: [lhr.com.au](http://lhr.com.au)

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## RDT is a wicked weapon in the drug war



An RDT bus rolls through Nimbin during MardiGrass

by Michael Balderstone, President, Nimbin HEMP Embassy, Legalise Cannabis Australia (formerly Australian HEMP Party) and Nimbin MardiGrass

I have more contact with Legalise Cannabis's NSW MP Jeremy Buckingham than any of our other elected politicians. Possibly because I'm in his state, but also he's the most hippie of the four.

He has a piece of paradise in the Bellingen valley and could easily be there picking oranges in his orchard and doing what hippies do, like I am! However, he moved to Sydney with his family for the role and wears a suit every day.

I have a bit of an idea of what his job must be like from my own suit wearing days in Collins Street. It's all so straight in Macquarie street, the belly of Babylon. Whenever I go there, I'm struck by the world inside Parliament House, not exactly a rarified atmosphere but they live in their own little universe.

The Legalise Cannabis Party has only one policy, it's in the name, one job. Jeremy organised an inquiry which came out with the same results as the State's own Drug Summit: drug use is a health issue, decriminalise pot, move towards a regulated market, etc etc, but it all gets ignored.

His hemp committee has just helped to get \$20 million put into two real projects building hemp processing mills, one for fibre and another building hemp bricks and panels.

But his real mission has been to get the Roadside Drug Testing rules changed after the Premier ruled

out any changes to other cannabis laws, remember? Just before his own drug summit he announced that, WTF!

So every chance Jeremy got he tried to educate the teetotaler Premier on driving with cannabis is not the problem it's been made out to be. We were promised some change and I think we've just been offered the smallest possible. Tiny but significant.

Significant in that it's finally some acceptance of us driving and no longer automatically losing our licence, if we have a registered script. It's the beginning of a change as I see it and importantly it gets reviewed in a year.

Actually, I don't think the Premier has anything to do with the new proposed Legislation which will be put up and debated in August. This has all been devised by the transport people and the police, our drug experts.

As I currently understand it there will be no change to the roadside testing. The change will be what happens with your results. If you are a registered medic user and your lab saliva result is under 50ng nothing happens. If you're over 50ng you get two chances, the third time you go to court.

Fortunately, I have some experience on nanograms. A nanogram is one part in a billion. When I was first tested, over five years ago, I pleaded not guilty for some reason, so they gave me my lab result: 1200ng.

The lawyer refused to do my case saying it would look terrible in court so I didn't, though I argued it would make their testing look stoopid, wouldn't it?

So I changed my plea, and the magistrate let me keep driving when I told her my medical reason. The copper at

the court said I didn't appear impaired. My saliva was collected at least two hours after I smoked an excellent joint. 50ng is so small I suspect I might wake up with more.

Importantly, I only got my nanogram reading because I pleaded not guilty. Currently they test our saliva but don't disclose the readings, you're just guilty or not. Any presence is guilty, that's what will change. Why not disclose our readings, like with alcohol testing? It's very important we change that so they must in the future.

It's important to know that the 50ng limit they are using has no clinical evidence backing it regarding impairment. It's just an administrative guideline used to detect presence. A nanogram is one part in a billion!

So, for the hundreds of thousands of NSW adults who smoke a joint or have a cone or two in the morning (or have edibles, tinctures, gummies, capsules etc which are much harder to detect in saliva) the change is big, but only so long as you register. Otherwise RDT stays the same for you. No get out of jail card.

The NRMA is screaming and the Liberals will vote against it and the hippies in Nimbin are spitting in the dust in disgust. We are the only country on Earth testing like this. Of course people with pain, anxiety, PTSD, epilepsy, Parkinson's etc, people who love cannabis as their saviour, are better drivers with their medicine inside them.

The same as the millions who every morning take their pharma pills for the same medical problems, including a couple of million daily opiate users in NSW.

RDT is just another weapon in the drug war, and a lethal one. Weed might finally be legal, but you're not allowed to drive. Reefer Madness is alive and well.

In response to the NSW announcement Qld says it is doing the opposite and dramatically increasing its punishments for drug drivers to up to \$4500 fine for a first offence! In NSW it's currently a \$704 fine and three months loss of licence.

I keep seeing the NRMA and others screaming 60% of drug driving deaths are caused by cannabis. What they mean I think is, of all the deaths on the road which are using has no clinical evidence backing it regarding impairment.

All the other drugs are water soluble and out of our bodies in a couple of days, but fat-soluble cannabis stays for about three months. Our bodies' endocannabinoid system wants it and hangs on it, unlike all the processed and chemical drugs it throws out ASAP.

This is the same reason John Howard said cannabis was causing psychosis. Anyone entering hospital has their blood checked, like car accident deaths, and sure enough cannabis came up in heaps, because it stays there so long.

Misreading statistics, deliberately or not, is helping corral us into a corner where they want us to buy their legal weed and register as a user. The police promise Transport has the details and they won't use it to check drivers.

Remember the Grand Canyon of understanding between those who have had their eyes opened and those who haven't? It's still there of course.

## Logging halted by local forest protectors

Local forest defender Indi West, aged 21, commenced a tree sit at 10am on Tuesday 23rd June, 30 metres up in a eucalypt tree in Pine Creek State Forest, stopping logging trucks from entering Compartments 32 and 33.

These two compartments are the irrefutable home to the largest populations of coastal koalas in NSW, despite only being seen as plantation forest by Forestry NSW.

Pine Creek State Forest sits on Gumbaynggirr Country near Bellingen, in the gap between two reserves of national significance: Bongil Bongil National Park on the coast and Bindarri National Park in the hinterland escarpment.

Both parks were listed in 2021 as Assets of Intergenerational Significance for koalas, a protection category reserved for fewer than 200 sites in NSW.

Some parts of these compartments have been outlined as important for inclusion in the proposed ecological forest corridor (the 'Forest Bridge') that connects the national parks of the coast, having deep cultural and ancestral significance to Gumbaynggirr peoples.

The 'Forest Bridge' is a long-running community proposal, developed by Friends of Pine Creek, to permanently conserve roughly 1,650 hectares across Pine Creek and Tuckers Nob State Forests.

Ecologists argue this connection matters for reasons beyond simple habitat area: it lets koalas move safely between the two parks, supporting genetic mixing between populations and giving animals somewhere to retreat to during heatwaves, drought or fire.

Locals and community groups have been advocating for re-zoning of this part of the forest since 1995 to protect the significant and endangered koala population.

Although Forestry Corporation classifies much of the land as plantation, community ecological surveys say it contains intact native forest and mature koala feed and habitat trees, sections of



Protestors lock-on at Pine Creek State Forest

which have stood for around 60 years.

"What they tried to do today was an act of disrespect to the country. We need to protect these compartments and we need our community to show up," said a community activist.

Indi was supported by over 50 members of the community, who represent a range of community members in age from three years to over 78 years, including Gumbaynggirr Elder Alison Buchanan, who communicated with attending authorities such as National Parks, NSW State Forestry, and Coffs Harbour Police that there was no permission granted for logging to occur in this part of Gumbaynggirr Country.

Indi's tree-sit lasted five hours and logging halted by local forest protectors halted operations. She said, "I decided to sit up in the tree, as sitting in the tree is easier than watching the country be destroyed and colonisation continue. I deeply believe you show up for what you love, no matter what that is."

"We demand a halt to logging and an end to removing habitat through planting."

On Thursday 25th June, Viv, also aged 21, locked themselves onto harvesting

machinery to stop the destruction and extraction on Gumbaynggirr Country in Pine Creek State Forest.

"It's just ridiculous what we do at a time when we can't afford to take any more, it's ridiculous to think we have rights over everything that has given us life. Corporations, places that chase money; they are totally lost to what it actually means to be a part of this earth," Viv said.

This action came only two days after forestry and police moved on the community blockade, which had been established to prevent logging in compartments identified as critical for koala habitat connectivity.

Several other threatened species that survived the Black Summer bushfires, including the squirrel glider, brush-tailed phascogale, tiger quoll and yellow-bellied glider, are also reported to rely on this corridor.

Campaigners maintain that on-going logging within these compartments fragments the only remaining link between key sections of the planned Great Koala National Park, undermining the very assets the government has already recognised as significant.

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## ANZ, don't frack the outback!



Beetaloo, Courtesy Geoscience Australia

by Param Berg

On Monday 22nd June at high noon in Tweed City shopping centre, the ANZ branch was not too happy to be confronted by about a dozen activists from Rising Tide Northern Rivers.

But they coped pretty well, and the activists were keen to keep things light and friendly, even polite, so the manager agreed to meet with them outside the bank proper, in the arcade, with a couple of bemused security guards in attendance.

Alex and Rick, two ANZ customers of 26 years standing, had decided to close their account,

and for good reason, and this presented a great opportunity.

ANZ is the only one of the big four Aussie banks to not yet rule out financing the 1,500km abomination known as the North to East Australia Pipeline (NEAP).

This is proposed to run from south of Darwin to Gladstone, in order to export gas from a proposed gigantic gasfield called the Beetaloo Basin.

Rising Tide is starting a national campaign to convince ANZ it's not worth their while, by publicising this climate-destroying proposal, and inviting ANZ customers to close their

accounts because of it.

Without the pipeline, the Beetaloo Basin fracking cannot go ahead at any scale, and without ANZ funding, the pipeline will not be built.

If it were built, then a massive area of NT virgin outback gets covered with a network of gas wells, pumping stations, electricity hubs etc, all connected by roads and pipes with 10m cleared either side.

Just the kind of thing Northern Rivers citizens came together to successfully stop at Bentley back in 2014.

Alex and Rick presented the manager with a beautifully written letter outlining these reasons for

closing the account and cut up their ANZ credit card in front of him.

Activists unfurled the special banner, and chanted "ANZ, don't frack the outback" a few times, but were stopped from "shouting" by security.

Leaflets were distributed, and one passerby miraculously said he'd already divested.

With the necessary photos in hand, and accounts on Facebook and Insta informed, all present felt the point had been well made.

This campaign has a long way to run, meanwhile NGT readers with ANZ accounts... over to you.

# Finding true ground in the landscape of loss

by John Seed OAM

Dr Wendy Sarkissian's *Hold Fast: Navigating Personal and Climate Grief with a Reconciled Heart* is a work of extraordinary courage and intellectual rigor. It is rare to find a book that so seamlessly integrates the "inside voice" of private mourning with the "outside voice" of global activism.

As someone whose life has been consecrated to the service of the Earth, I recognise in Wendy a fellow traveller who has finally named the "thing itself": the Reconciled Ecological Self.

The book opens with a terrifying rupture: the 2016 car crash in rural Australia that claimed the life of her soulmate, Karl. Wendy's description of "midwifing" Karl's passing in the dark waters of the Tweed River is one of the most spiritually profound accounts of death I have ever read.

In the aftermath, she did not seek to "get over" her loss; instead, she explored "new languages of love that bridge the seen and the unseen," influenced by the teachings of Rudolf Steiner.

Part 2 of the book transforms this personal odyssey into a practical framework for all mourners. Wendy identifies Four Stopping Places (or Atchin Tan in the Romani tradition) where we can integrate the lessons of grief: Acceptance, Gratitude, Forgiveness and Service.

Her "survivor mission" – a tenacious campaign for road safety reform – illustrates how Service to Others becomes the "sacred work of sorrow". She argues that action is a vital component of healing, a sentiment that resonates deeply with my own activist roots.

However, it is in Part 3 that the book achieves its most significant philosophical breakthrough. Wendy turns her "widened lens" toward the planetary crisis, arguing that personal grief and climate grief arise from the same wound – our inability to "hold fast to what we love".

She situates her work firmly within the "Acceptance perspective", refusing false reassurances or "naïve optimism". Drawing



Wendy Sarkissian

on the science of 2026, she acknowledges that critical tipping points have likely been passed.

In this "long emergency," Wendy offers the Reconciled Ecological Self (RES) as our new "compass". This concept is a brilliant synthesis of Arne Næss's "Ecological Self" and Alan Wolfelt's "Reconciled Self". While Næss taught us to widen our circle of caring to include all life, Wolfelt taught us to carry loss forward without being destroyed by it. The RES is the self that emerges when we fully accept ecological unravelling while refusing to sever ourselves from the Earth.

Wendy's use of the "ecotone" metaphor to describe the RES is a stroke of genius. Just as a creek-edge is a zone of "coexistence and invention" between a forest and a woodland, the RES is a "living threshold" where grief and renewal mingle. She writes, "to be reconciled is to acknowledge that Earth... will not return to its former state. Yet this Self still chooses to live with integrity". This is the Active Hope pioneered by Joanna Macy, who Wendy honors as a foundational teacher.

The book does not shy away from the brutal political realities of 2026, documenting "annus horribilis" rollbacks in the UK and "delay and downplay" tactics in the US and Canada. Wendy's own "climate shame" regarding her decades of international flying is a



powerful act of transparency that invites the reader into the Stopping Place of Forgiveness.

She reminds us that "blame, when it calcifies, freezes the flow of energy we need for repair".

One of the most moving aspects of *Hold Fast* is its intergenerational focus. Wendy speaks to the "eco-grief" of young people who feel "locked out of home" by an uninhabitable planet. She offers them – and all of us – the "refuge" of a community that can "honor our pain for the world" as a proof of love. Our inclusion of practical "Heartfelt Rituals," like the Truth Mandala and the Council of All Beings, provides tangible ways for groups to move through the "spiral" of connection and

action. Ultimately, *Hold Fast* is the testimony of a "Guardian of Sacred Remembering". Wendy Sarkissian has taken the "bone-cold truth" of our time and transformed it into the "only thing more durable than hope: connection". She writes as a woman who has been "pummeled by grief" yet "released to love again". Her voice is playful, anecdotal and seasoned: the voice of an 83-year-old elder who "speaks plainly about what humans have done to the Earth" while sharing the "steadiness a long life can offer".

This book is part of the *Twilight River Trilogy*, and it stands as a magisterial conclusion to her lifetime's work. It is a "manual for our times" that helps us "belong in a world being remade by loss". Perhaps it is even the "Manual for Living with Defeat" that Leonard Cohen would have written had his muse allowed (Going Home, 2012)

By the end of these pages, the reader understands that "holding fast" is not about clinging to a dying past, but about staying aligned with purpose in the midst of danger.

I believe that the Reconciled Ecological Self is one of the most important psychological and ethical concepts to emerge in this century. Dr Sarkissian has given us the grammar we need to survive the Great Unraveling with our hearts awake and our hands extended.

*Hold Fast* is an incomparable gift to a grieving world, reminding us that even in endings, to love is never futile. As she concludes, "connection has been holding us fast all along." Amen to that.

## Swamps, leaps and bounds

by Stuart McConville

With inclement weather harassing our grand schemes, it is fair to say that the best laid plans of mice and men are bound to go astray.

The land at Rainbow Power Company, though of a wonderful position and outlook for our purposes, is poorly drained and has consistently failed to dry out enough to land our second shipping container on.

We managed to get one container into position during that brief dry spell seemingly ages ago now. It is mostly accessible only by flat-footed individuals who go un-fearing of foot rot (ducks!).

We eagerly await the next micro-drought so that CMC Hull can access the site with one of their more amphibious bobcats to build us an access track. Big shout out to Marg, Rhett and Adon at CMC for their commitment / contribution to our cause.

Using less physical parameters, we have been hitting a few home runs.

- Our official membership tally has grown to over 25, which is not bad for a bunch of homeless shedders operating on promise and a whim.

- We are fully-fledged insured members of the Australian Mens Shed Association, giving us access to a great range of resources developed specifically for Shed Men.

- We continue to receive donations for our market stalls and garage sales, limited only now by storage space for said items.

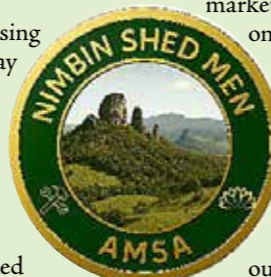
- We recently had our first Annual General Meeting, electing a full committee of men for next year's growth phase as we move out of admin and set-up into the nuts and bolts of building our space and initiating projects.

- We are now able to receive fully tax deductible gifts from individuals and businesses. Any donation, small or large, can be deducted from your taxable income. This was quite a process, and we have Brett to thank for his diligence and persistence.
- Our financial position is strong, mainly due to the donations of the containers by the Hemp Embassy, and wonderful raffle prizes donated by many local businesses previously acknowledged.

With winter on our doorstep, we will do our best to donate goods required by anyone doing it tough. We have things like sleeping bags, camp stoves, bedding, tents etc that we can give away to those in need.

Look for us on sunny Saturday mornings down near the Rainbow Walk, as we will be running more garage sales.

Anyone with items to donate, please get in touch and prepare to be patient as we need to wait for the next container for storage space. Contact us at: [nimbin.shed.men@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.shed.men@gmail.com)



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**Special workshops:**  
**Sat 11th July Furniture Revitalization.** Learn the fundamentals of decoupage and chalk paint, making a decorative key rack. All materials included, \$35.  
**Sat. 25th Useful Stuff!** Fundraising garage sale – tools, building supplies, cages and more.

**Workshops each month:** (by gold coin donation)  
 • **Sat. 4th July 9-10am and Wednesday 15th July 1.30-2.30pm Food, Seed and Plant Swap** Bring your excess, take what you need. Get to know your growing community, share tips, recipes and good vibes.

- **Tues 7th July nimBIN CHICKENS.** Join our community recycling project! Learn more about our plastic recycling project, check out our machines and turn plastic waste into useful stuff at our workshop space at the showground horse shed.
- **Thursdays 10.30am Spinners and Weavers**
- **Community Tools Library** (every Wed & Sat, 10.30-2pm) For home repairs, garden tools, food and craft equipment. Join at NNIC, Mon-Fri. Basketballs and pump available to use at half-court with \$5 refundable deposit.

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## Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

As we move further into winter, Chamber acknowledges this can be a difficult time for local businesses, particularly those relying on visitor spending.

Tourism is quieter through the colder months, and this year wet weather, potholes and the planned Tuntable Creek Road closure are adding pressure. The closure is expected to start on 6th July and continue for approximately 12 months.

Some residents who normally use Nimbin as their service centre may find it easier to travel elsewhere.

When making a buying decision, try to make it Nimbin first.

Every local purchase helps keep money circulating locally. It helps business owners maintain staffing

# Supporting local business through winter



levels, supports local households, and protects the village economy. Local businesses provide jobs, support events, welcome visitors and help give Nimbin its character.

**NAIDOC Day in Nimbin**  
 NAIDOC Day will be celebrated in Nimbin on Friday 10th July from 11am to 3pm at the Community Centre market site.

This free family community event will include live music, thanks to Blak Boi, activities for the jarjums, and a NAIDOC Day quiz with prizes.

Chamber encourages members and the wider community to attend.

**Dialogue Bubbles and the Nimbin Advantage**  
 Chamber acknowledges the recent Dialogue Bubbles session, organised and sponsored by Chamber.

The session was well attended and positively received, creating a useful

opportunity for local people, businesses and community organisations to connect and share ideas.

One strong outcome was the phrase 'The Nimbin Advantage', capturing the idea that Nimbin's creativity, culture, community networks, visitor appeal and independent business spirit are real strengths to recognise, support and promote.

## Water update

Chamber thanks Matt Potter, Director Water, Sewer, Waste and Open Spaces at Lismore City Council, for attending the June Chamber meeting to discuss Nimbin's water supply, water quality and future infrastructure planning.

The recent boil water alert was explained as a precautionary response to prolonged wet weather and turbidity issues associated with the temporary treatment plant. No contamination was

detected, and replacement membranes have since been installed.

The current plant remains temporary, with a permanent treatment plant planned for completion in 2027.

Matt also discussed water capacity, growth constraints, sewer and waste infrastructure, and communication during future alerts.

## Economic Development Strategy submission

Chamber has prepared a submission to Lismore City Council on the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2026-2036.

Chamber supports the Strategy's direction and welcomes recognition of Nimbin's role in tourism, creative industries, regenerative agriculture, local enterprise, cultural life and regional identity.

However, recognition must be matched by priorities, investment, delivery and measurable progress.

Lismore plays an important role as the region's service centre, providing essential services, health, education, retail and regional support. Nimbin offers a different but complementary strength.

Visitors are drawn to the Northern Rivers by scenery, culture, arts, music, events,

villages and distinctive local experiences. Shaped by the Aquarius Festival legacy and decades of community creativity, Nimbin remains a great cultural and visitor asset.

Chamber is asking Council to match its recognition of Nimbin's tourism value with practical support. This includes renewed investment in a Visitor Information Centre or suitable visitor information model, following the closure of the previous service.

Such a service would help travellers connect with local businesses, events, accommodation, food, arts, culture, nature and heritage, while encouraging them to stay longer and spend locally.

Chamber is also seeking greater investment in village presentation, including roads, footpaths, gardens, signage, public spaces, car parks, lighting, cleanliness and public toilets.

These are not cosmetic extras. They shape first impressions, support local business, improve amenity and strengthen the visitor experience.

Chamber has asked Council to identify first-stage priorities for 2026-2030, including a Nimbin Place Plan update, visitor

infrastructure, development pathways, community support, water and sewer planning, and Nimbin-specific reporting.

## Murals and village presentation

The Birth and Beyond mural, supported by Chamber, has been completed and is expected to be installed shortly.

Options are being explored for refreshing the Haberdashery mural, while the Allsopp Park mural requires Council funding approval. The Nimbin Mural Walk project is continuing.

Chamber thanks business owners for providing counter space for the Nimbin mural tins and thanks the community for supporting the mural program. A little change goes a long way.

## TAFE consultation and local skills

TAFE NSW held a Community Consultation Workshop on local skills, training and workforce needs on 30th July in Lismore.

Chamber will seek feedback from the local business community and attend.

Buy local. Back each other. Celebrate the Nimbin Advantage.

# Come along to the sewing days at Nimbin CWA

**Nimbin CWA doing**  
 by Sue Stock, Publicity Officer

A group of people meet at the Nimbin Branch rooms on the third Friday of each month for a sewing day. We explore visible mending, repairs, slow stitching and crafts. You can bring your favourite item for repair, copying or embellishment.

Come to the Nimbin CWA on the third Friday of the month from 10am to 3pm. These activities are open to the general public and all CWA members.

Currently we are focusing on Sashiko and Boro sewing techniques. Sashiko is the traditional Japanese running stitch and Boro is the resulting patched and mended textile to strengthen clothing, insulate garments and quilt layers of fabric together.

The Branch members are also doing wonderful work sewing wildlife rescue bags for the volunteers who rescue and care for injured, lost and orphaned wildlife. The bags are specifically designed and constructed to provide warmth, safety and security to vulnerable creatures.

The bags are constructed of an outer strong fabric like drill cotton (the cotton fabrics used to make uniforms and workwear); the insides can be a softer cotton like flannelette. We're fortunate to be able to utilise fabric resources donated to the branch Op Shop for creating these bags.

We're all improving our sewing skills and are pleased we can contribute to wildlife care in our



Wildlife bag

small way. If you want to donate fabric for Wildlife Rescue Bags, it needs to be 100% cotton drill and/or flannelette. It can be new or preloved as long as it's not perished or worn out; those little wallaby claws can be mighty tough!

A few of us have consulted on dates and we propose to have a couple more making days for the wildlife bags: Friday 10th and Tuesday 14th July, 10am to 4pm or whenever you can come.

## Meet our members

Every month, we'll hear from one of our members about their CWA journey. This time we'll meet Virginia Heydon, an enthusiastic sewing member.

Where do you live?  
 I live close to Nimbin Village.  
 Why did you decide to join the



Tash, Sue, Bev and Cheryl making wallaby bags. Photos: Virginia Heydon

## Nimbin CWA?

After relocating to the area, I was looking for a group to volunteer with.

What do you enjoy most about your membership?

I am impressed by the calibre of the members of the Nimbin Branch. I like being in a productive group of women; working and sharing.

I enjoy contributing with communities in collaboration with people who work to build capacity in the community, celebrate individuality and work for the well-being of all people, animals and the environment.

## When are we open?

Nimbin CWA rooms are open on Wednesdays from 10am 'til 4pm.

Our cooks provide healthy lunches for only \$5 as well as home-made cakes, including gluten-free.

The Op Shop is also open with many great bargains to be found.

We are open on Nimbin market days too, and have espresso coffee and tea and (yes) scones with home-made strawberry jam and cream available for purchase.

The Nimbin CWA rooms are in the Community Centre grounds, next to the Rural Fire Service on Sibley Street.



How to mend your jeans using Sashiko and Boro stitching. Photo courtesy Waste Free Planet

Below: More Sashiko stitching.



Branch Meetings are held at 3pm during winter, on the second Monday of the month, and new members are always welcome. For all general enquiries, please phone 0457-363-925 or email: [secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cwa.nimbin@gmail.com)