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The Nimbin GoodTimes

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Poets prolifically performing

The 23rd Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup will be held at the Nimbin School of Arts in Cullen Street on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September.

Thirty-two interstate and local poets are coming to compete in the Heats starting at 9.30am on Saturday, with 16 poets advancing to the Semi-finals starting on Sunday at 11.30am.

Each poet performs eight minutes of original poetry that is judged on poem, performance, audience reaction and timing.

Eight poets will compete for the \$2000 first prize and the coveted Cup at the Final, held on Sunday night after dinner at 6pm.

The event is run by Gail M Clarke with

a small group of volunteers, sponsored by Nimbin people, businesses and organisations. Please support this local endeavour and the poets.

Entry to the heats and semi-finals is a gold coin donation, tickets at the door to the Final are \$10/15.

Details are on the 'Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup' Facebook Page.



Poets Jamie McAvinue (left) and Hayley Ricketson (right) Photos: Reelpix

nimBIN Chickens: Fully fledged and ready for Phase 2

by Steph Seckold

Our nimBIN Chickens plastic reclamation project is expanding, and now ready for the local community's clean plastics!

Under the tolerant supervision of Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre and 7 Sibley's Sustainability Hub, and with many thanks to the Nimbin Showground for providing us an incredible workshop space, we have been learning, playing, and practising many new skills over the last two years.

Our group of volunteers has expanded to include carpenters, engineers, and plenty of others, with an amazing collection of knowledge between them.

We have been making weatherproof benches for Nimbin, along with gates, caravan fittings, property numbers, tiles and more, limited only by the imaginations of our Binchickens... and our supply of plastics!

We were generously gifted quite a large amount of plastic lids with the re-



Weatherproof benches made with reclaimed plastic

moulding machines, which, along with a steady trickle from the community, has comfortably fed our experiments until now.

That supply is now almost gone, and we've only just reached full processing ability. We need to reclaim more plastics from the local waste streams, and we would love your help!

We have created Binchicken Bins – 20L square buckets which can fit neatly next to your kitchen bin, or even hang on the wall. They are available free of charge to local households, businesses, and community groups.

You can pick them up from the Sustainability Hub at 7 Sibley Street, or from our workshop at the Showground on Tuesday mornings. Each Binchicken Bin comes with a handy poster, to make it simple to know what goes in there. Our favourite resources are lids, milk bottles, and certain dessert tubs and squeeze bottles, though anything under 10cm diameter and made of 2, 4, or 5 plastics is appreciated!



When the bin is full, bring it back to us for emptying. Every 12 buckets separated is equivalent to a full recycling bin – a massive difference if you don't have bin service, and even if you live in town, it's a satisfying change to make for our environment (particularly when you realise that all street bins go to landfill, due to incessant contamination of recycling trucks by a small number of careless individuals!)

10 to 15 kilograms of plastic – around 5000 milk bottle lids – makes one bench, which is weatherproof enough to last for years, even in local rainforest conditions. Saves timber, removes plastic scraps from the environment, and also reduces reliance on fossil fuels in multiple ways. It's an absolute win-win.

Be part of the solution – pick up your Binchicken Bin next time you come into town, and feel free to come join the workshop fun any Tuesday morning.

You never know what we'll make next, your experiment could become the next big thing!



Nimbin Organic Food Co-op, Nimbin Bakery and the Nimbin Food Pantry, who kindly donate food each week. Your support helps create a welcoming space where young people feel they belong.

We're also looking for one more volunteer to join our Wednesday afternoons. If you have a current NSW Working With Children Check and would enjoy spending a few hours supporting local young people in a safe, welcoming environment, we'd love to hear from you.

Please get in touch at: office@nimbin youth.org.au

Engineering flaws in CSIRO Report

by Steve Posselt

Engineers often look at the world slightly differently. It is usually from a rational base, even if some people say they are a bit weird about numbers.

So let's look at a number. The volume of Sydney Harbour is 562 million cubic metres. The combined volume of the proposed detention dams is 565 million cubic metres. Imagine Sydney Harbour sitting up there in the hills.

A dams engineer has estimated the total cost of the dams to be up to \$50 billion. Imagine what that would buy. Imagine taking that out of the economy.

If you think about it though, to capture a Sydney Harbour in the Richmond Valley hills would be quite an undertaking.

Figure 10 (pictured), on page 18 of the report, purports to be a representation of the proposed dams, but would someone draw something like that? Maybe, but certainly not someone who knew anything about dams. It is likely to be an AI characterisation.

That's speculation though. What is not speculation is the very serious engineering failures not recognised in the report.

When you draw water down in a dam, some of it remains in the soil on the sides until it slowly releases. If the water remains trapped, it causes loss of friction and the slope slides away.

Different soils have different rates, but the rates advised in the report are all very high, especially in country that has already demonstrated that it is prone to landslips.

Even just flooding the hills may well trigger landslides into the water that is being stored. It is highly unlikely that the chance of failure could be limited



to 1 in 10,000 which is the probable minimum level of safety required. The control gates are shown as full height. This is nonsense. Dam gates sit on top of spillways to control the release of water.

At the bottom of the dam there is usually a pipe to drain the dam and on this pipe is a cone valve. This looks a bit like a jet engine and is very expensive.

Sluice gates are gates that lift up, allowing flow underneath. CSIRO community sessions seem to describe overflow gates, known as tilting weir gates. Either option is nonsensical in engineering terms.

ANCOLD, Australian National Committee on Large Dams, would almost certainly be involved with guidelines that must be followed.

In fact, under the NSW Dam Safety Act and Regulation it would be classified as a dam. That would mean the dam would need a spillway capable of taking

the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF).

The PMF for Lismore in 2022 was a river height of 16.5m. That is 2m higher than actually occurred. New Australian Rainfall and Runoff requirements will increase this significantly. These would be very big spillways indeed.

To bring out a report without considering whether the recommendations are feasible is certainly putting the cart before the horse.

The question is why? Was it just to give the people who commissioned the report the answers they wanted? Maybe time will tell.

In the meantime, a lot of unlucky people will have watched their property values plummet and been subjected to significant personal stress. For what?

Steve Posselt has been a civil engineer in the water industry for over 30 years, and is a member of Engineers Australia.

Politicians weigh into dams debate

by Kyogle Mayor Danielle Mulholland OAM



I have now worked my way through the CSIRO report again and, I have to admit, I'm not a fan. But, at this stage, it's just a report with a couple of options.

If it is possible, where are they going to find the billions of dollars required, and how many decades would it take to complete? I don't know, but then again, neither does anyone else.

At this stage it feels less like a practical plan and more like an expensive doorstep commissioned by the Federal Government.

Once you dig into the detail, you begin to understand the sheer scale of what is being proposed.

The proposed detention basins are enormous. Around 650 metres across. Prime agricultural land at Grady's Creek, Collins Creek, Eden Creek and other rural valleys appear to be directly in the firing line.

Looking around my own valley, I genuinely struggle to see how structures of this scale could be accommodated without fundamentally and significantly changing the landscape.

What happens to the roads? The bridges? The farms that have supported families for generations?

At the moment, there are far more questions than answers. There is no clear information about what land would need to be compulsorily acquired, how much productive farmland would disappear, or what historical, cultural and environmental assets would be lost in the process.

There has been little discussion about the impact on native wildlife, habitat destruction or the long-term consequences for the communities expected to shoulder the burden.

From my perspective, it is a hard no. Kyogle Council has always been willing to work constructively with our neighbours. But collaboration cannot mean one community bears such a cost while another receives almost all of the benefit.

Frankly, I find it extraordinary that proposals of this magnitude have progressed this far without first answering the most basic questions about who pays the price.

Member for Ballina, Tamara Smith MP has applauded the extraordinary level of community engagement at this week's Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative drop-in sessions, saying the turnout demonstrates just how important future flood mitigation remains to local communities.

"Flood policy is deeply personal in our region, it affects people's homes, businesses and the environment. During these sessions, there were clearly strongly held and often competing views, and that's understandable."

"These important conversations have a vital role to play in ensuring that future flood adaptation plans are community centred and informed by the best available scientific data."

"The CSIRO's role was to develop a sophisticated hydraulic model of the Richmond River catchment and use it to test a range of flood mitigation scenarios."

"For the first time, we have a catchment-wide modelling tool that allows decision makers to test ideas and see their impact before making major investments."

"The modelling tells us what is technically possible, but it is the government's role alongside communities to decide which options deliver the best overall



outcome for our community and future generations.

"Science can help us understand what may reduce flood impacts, but it can't tell us what governments should prioritise."

"Those difficult decisions require policy makers to weigh up costs, environmental impacts, agricultural impacts, community expectations, and the number of homes that could be better protected."

"It's important that these conversations continue to happen outside of these sessions, where people and governments ask themselves, what will bring the best possible outcome to a scenario that will continue to impact communities here in the Northern Rivers and across Australia."

"Do we invest primarily in large-scale flood mitigation infrastructure, or should more funding go towards house raising, adaptations and stronger planning controls?"

"Is the right answer a combination of all of these or something else entirely?"

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Halt pod village evictions until reuse is finalised

by Chels Hood Withey,
Founder, House You

After countless calls, meetings and conversations with anyone we knew connected to the pod villages – the Ministerial offices for Recovery and Housing, the Community Housing Providers (CHPs) village managers (Northern Rivers Housing, Uniting, and Baptist Care which no longer manages Coraki, yet no-one can confirm who does), State MPs, councillors, the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Homes NSW, and pod residents themselves – we still do not have a straight answer to two fundamental questions.

- Why are 259 households being evicted from functional community housing from 29th July when there is nowhere else for these families to go and no final decision has been made as to what happens to the villages after December?
- When the need for housing in our community is this severe and rental vacancy this low, why can't the pod villages continue as community housing – in place, or relocated together with their residents and managed for continuity by the current managing CHPs?

The Northern Rivers has already lost five of its 11 pod villages. Of the six that remain, five – Coraki, Mullumbimby, Lismore, Tweed Street Brunswick Heads, and Ballina – are now being emptied too.

Only Wardell continues as intended: emergency accommodation until a genuine long-term housing pathway is realised, for flood-affected residents returning to the rebuilt Cabbage Tree Island.

Evictions

If a decision isn't reached between those responsible for the pods hundreds of people will be evicted into homelessness over the next three months because Homes NSW cannot offer actual housing pathways, even to those on the social housing waitlist, with nowhere to house them privately in the region.

The staggered eviction dates – 29th July for those without social housing, 30th September or 3rd November depending on priority, and full decommissioning by 18th December – are being driven entirely by the end of a funding cycle.

We've been told directly that the pods must be handed back to the NSW Reconstruction Authority by 18th December because the four-year NEMA funding period is ending, and whatever comes next needs separate funding that is still being finalised.

Some sites may well continue operating as community housing after that date, which makes this much worse because the pod villages won't disappear, they will sit empty for an indefinite period while the reuse arrangements are sorted out.

We have seen the eviction notices handed to Brunswick Heads residents in April 2026, giving roughly three months' notice for a 29th July deadline.

These notices should have gone out 18 months ago if there was any genuine care or commitment to finding long-term housing pathways for pod residents without a boot on their neck.

Social housing

The pod villages exist for one essential reason: to house flood-affected residents and people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, until long-term housing pathways were made available.

Only Wardell is still fulfilling that promise, not because it has more funding or capacity, but because it has an actual plan and residents have been given a real pathway home.

None of the other five villages are



granted the same promised arrangement. Best case is Lismore, where social housing is planned on-site with no construction date confirmed. Worst case is Mullumbimby, where we still don't know if the site will stay or go. Whatever the outcome for any individual site, there is no valid reason residents need to vacate by 3rd November.

Residents applying for social housing are told they can secure an extension from 29th July to 30th September or 3rd November. Even if approved, there is no public or community housing available in the towns they live in and the Northern Rivers has the lowest rental vacancy rate in the state at 0.3%.

Social housing approval doesn't mean there's anywhere to move to. It means your name is added to the end of an already extremely long queue while you're still forced from the pod you call home. As with community housing, most pod residents are already paying a percentage of their income.

Communication channels

We still have not been able to reach an actual decision-maker at Homes NSW, the agency everyone involved in managing the pods has told us repeatedly holds overarching responsibility.

Every call to Homes NSW has been transferred to the wrong office or organisation, left on hold for hours, and eventually met with the response that the CHPs manage the pods and we would need to contact them directly.

When we push back and point out this isn't what we've been told, we are told the decision sits above the officer's paygrade. Homes NSW staff have to their credit, been kind and tried to help but can only offer a callback from the relevant decision-maker.

Meanwhile, Northern Rivers Housing, Uniting, and previously Baptist Care, the people who actually run the villages and know the residents – along with the Minister for Housing's office, all say the same thing: Homes NSW makes the final call. These CHPs can advocate, but they cannot decide who stays past 29th July.

If Homes NSW contracted these providers to manage the villages, it needs to let them do the job and not hold every decision at arm's length while being nearly impossible to reach.

The human cost of this mismanagement is real and devastating. Some residents have disclosed to us that they are suicidal under the stress of imminent homelessness. Elderly residents have been advised to rehomed their pets and prepare to move into their cars. Single parents are at breaking point, unable to provide stability for their children.

Survivors of the 2022 floods, who have done everything asked of them, are being pushed into homelessness over an arbitrary date based on funding that nobody can properly explain.

Residents are paying the price, mentally and physically for this institutional failure.

Site-specific information

Here is what we know about each site.

- Lismore:** land owned by Southern Cross University, managed by Northern Rivers Housing. Social housing is planned here but no construction date is confirmed. Residents should have

the option to move into the new social housing on this site or relocate with the village, whichever offers a faster housing pathway.

- Tweed Street, Brunswick Heads:** land owned by Byron Shire Council, managed by Uniting. The site itself may continue, possibly as Council-run key worker housing. If so, why evict people who need housing to make way for others who also need housing? Council could build key worker housing on a different council-owned site and let Uniting keep managing this village as community housing for the current residents.
- Coraki:** land owned by NSW Health. Baptist Care no longer manages this site and no-one can confirm who does beyond Homes NSW being named as responsible. This site should remain as community housing for its current residents with a named, accountable manager confirmed immediately.
- Ballina:** land owned by TAFE NSW, managed by Northern Rivers Housing. In discussions, outcome uncertain. This site should also remain as community housing for its current residents until that outcome is confirmed.
- Mullumbimby:** land owned by NSW Transport, managed by Northern Rivers Housing. In discussions, outcome uncertain, may close, relocate or remain. If relocated, it should move within Mullumbimby so the pod resident community can move with the village.
- Wardell:** stays open because it has a plan and is being allowed to keep it. The other five villages need to do the same.

What needs to happen?

- Do not evict residents until the reuse of each village is determined and every resident has a confirmed long-term housing pathway, applying Wardell's standard for every village.
- Automatic priority social housing wait-list placement for every pod resident, with public reporting on how many are rehoused.
- Written confirmation of exactly who is accountable for this eviction and decommissioning decision, an end to Homes NSW and the CHPs passing responsibility back and forth, and a joint decision-making process bringing Homes NSW, the NSW Reconstruction Authority, the CHPs and landowners to the same table so decisions affecting hundreds of residents stop being made in isolation.
- A funded, public plan for the reuse of these sites including whether the pods could simply be gifted to the CHPs already managing them with a lease agreement secured with each landowner rather than requiring those same providers to apply through the Reuse Program for something they're already running successfully.

If the current site is no longer available, the pods should be relocated with their residents, instead of residents being displaced with nothing to move into.

Residents have already lived through the floods, years of displacement and repeated uncertainty. They do not deserve to end up living in their cars because a funding period ran out before the next one was organised.

This is a housing matter now which the NSW Government and Homes NSW need to take responsibility for. We invite them to meet with us to discuss a genuine path forward and ask that no residents will be evicted while these decisions are finalised.

Forced eviction and homelessness for hundreds of families while the pods themselves will likely sit empty until reuse actualised is indefensible and entirely preventable.

A five-year celebration of reoccupation

by Brett Thompson

Since 26th August 2021, Wangan and Jagalingou Cultural Custodians have kept their sacred fire alight at all times, even on blistering hot days and cold stormy nights, in the ceremonial bora ring next to the Adani Carmichael coal mine in central Queensland.

Their on-going presence means they can care for their ancestral homelands, monitor damage and destruction on their Country, and hold those who harm their lands and waters to account.

Despite Adani's attempts to remove and antagonise them, they have continued their cultural ceremony unhindered. And they have made history – their rights to practise their culture on a mining lease have now been recognised under the Queensland Human Rights Act.

Waddananggu Mala is a three-day celebration and ceremony to celebrate Waddananggu's fifth birthday. Held from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th August, the event connects Country, ceremony, yarns and live music by special guests, including of course Gurridyula!

Waddananggu started because the protection of the land, air, animals and sacred springs are more important than Adani's destruction of the environment

and cultural heritage for coal mining. However it has become much more.

Waddananggu has become a community hub for mob to learn and share in the culture – providing a safe space for their at-risk young people to learn new skills and reconnect with their culture.

It is also a place for allies to experience what land rights and sovereignty for Wangan and Jagalingou people really means.

They are 100% volunteer-run, and funded through community donations. Every contribution will help keep their ceremonial camp going, so that they can continue standing strong and caring for their land, waters and cultural heritage.

Along with others, I have been asked to cater for Waddananggu Mala, and have been busy growing food on a property at Stony Chute to bring up for the feast.

The Nimbin Organic Food Co-Op has offered to supply food at cost price, and have set up a store card for people to donate to this worthy cause. So please visit the Nimbin Organic Food Co-Op, do your shopping and donate some money to the Waddananggu store card number 2520.

Your help will be greatly appreciated and will help keep the fire burning at Waddananggu.



The first week of Waddananggu
Photos: Leah Light Photography



For more information, or to donate directly to Waddananggu, visit: standing-our-ground.org/donate-to-waddananggu

Stop Iron Gates Inc launches Save Evans River & Environment group

There was a well-attended community gathering on 4th July at Evans Head, organised by the Stop Iron Gates Inc group which is opposed to the controversial residential development at the Iron Gates.

The meeting was organised to bring the community up to date about the Iron Gates development and various environmental issues affecting the community, and also to launch the new environmental group Save Evans River & Environment (SERE).

Various speakers addressed the friendly gathering, including well-known and successful campaigner against the Iron Gates in the 1990's, legal activist Al Oshlack.

In his address Mr Oshlack spoke about the outstanding 1997 Land & Environment Court Orders against the Iron Gates developer for remediation of the Iron Gates site which had never been undertaken, even though there was a two-year time limit for completion, and risk of fines and a jail term for the two developers named in the Orders which included Graeme Ingles.

Those Orders are still outstanding, raising questions about compliance with Court Orders and the message it sends to the community about failure of institutions charged with responsibility for keeping the rule of law.

Mr Oshlack also spoke to the failure of Aboriginal Cultural issues to be heard by the Land & Environment Court, particularly the comprehensive 2016 Cultural Anthropology Report about Evans Head prepared by Dr Inge Riebe.

He asked why this report from an 'experienced and well-recognised Cultural Anthropologist' had not been admitted, and why Dr Riebe had not been called to give evidence, particularly when the individual giving evidence for the developer did not have a strong background in Cultural Anthropology.

Mr Oshlack said it was the same individual who had given evidence in the recent North Lismore Plateau case in



Richard Gates speaks at the meeting

the Land & Environment Court which led to a win against the development.

In his final remarks, Mr Oshlack said that the Iron Gates case at Evans Head was not yet over and that the community needed to attend to the 62 pages of compliance requirements set out in the July 2024 Land & Environment Judgement which gave the green light to development at the controversial fire and flood prone site.

The meeting was also addressed by the secretary of Evans Head Residents for Sustainable Development Inc, Dr Richard Gates, who spoke about the Iron Gates development and the precedent the Court had set with regard to the concept of "designated development ... providing a more streamlined process for developers..."

See: <https://www.surveyors.org.au/news-item/17141/planning-focus-court-decision-eases-path-for-land-subdivision-involving-protected-areas>

The Land & Environment Court certainly seems to be living up to its long-standing reputation, described in State Parliament as 'The Land & Developers Court'.

He also spoke about the continuing problem of the legacy contamination of Salty Lagoon in Broadwater National Park being made worse by a doubling

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The changing face of Nimbin

by Michael Balderstone

Nimbin isn't the tourist town it used to be. Twenty years ago, three buses a day came over from Byron full of curious backpackers. And where else could you easily buy weed?

We had three backpackers hostels, now we have none, and there are no daily buses from Byron, or not that I notice.

Occasionally a big bus from the Goldie still turns up with over-eighty-year olds. Chicken George used to love selling 'em cookies by the dozen back then, after a tour and talk on the village history.

I try to explain why Nimbin's different to visitors who ask. The Aquarius festival in 1973 bringing special trains of university students from afar to this village full of empty shops, which the hippies promptly bought.

Then they proceeded to try and live an alternative lifestyle. More sharing and caring for each, rather than competing in the "who dies with the most wins" game. Or even just the mortgage and stuck in a job-I-didn't-like game either. Freedom!

They can be great conversations,

depending on who you're talking to. Sometimes I get straight to the point, it was drugs that did it.

We had visions of where we were heading and the damage it was doing to the Earth and ourselves so decided we should live our Truth and get back to the garden as Rusty says. They all get that.

There is still a steady trickle of visitors coming through the village, we're still a curiosity but in many ways as messengers it's job done on that level.

Hippie wisdom is mainstream and there if you want it. Football clubs use meditation and yoga. Big supermarkets have little organic sections. Weed is legal, and definitely the pot smoker stigma is eroding slowly.

Nimbin is not the unique novelty it was, and the entertainment on the coast for visitors has grown a thousand-fold in the last few decades. Van travellers visit us and the Showground is good value. And cannabis users will always like us.

For a while there, backpackers' visits to Nimbin included buying some cookies, but for the new generations weed is no novelty any more. In fact there are quite a few figures showing youth use

of pot is way down where it's legal and deglamourised. The forbidden fruit zone. I've long thought we should prohibit organic apples.

Speaking of which, a huge percentage of the Nimbin visitors for 50 years came to enjoy the village and culture but also to score their weed. Their medicine.

Epileptics, Parkinson's sufferers, anxious and depressed mental and physical pain sufferers. Often saving up and scrimping to be able to afford some medicine out of their fortnightly cheque.

Many of these long time Nimbin visitors no longer need to come. They get their weed in the mail, or at the local chemist.

It wasn't meant to happen this way, in my hippy dreaming anyway. We wanted to grow our own and have co-ops for small growers to sell their produce.

Micro-licences rather than Big Cannabis dominating the market. Hemployment using the amazing growing knowledge Australians have garnered in the last 50 years. Instead, the doctors have cornered the market.

I see it is very tricky changing from illegal to legal. The gulf between the experienced, and not, is massive and incomprehensible.



Tourist coaches – no longer a regular sight in Nimbin

Who knew half the counties in California don't allow retail pot sales?

Currently they estimate Americans spend about \$100 billion on weed each year, but only one third is legal.

Highly organised gangs using forbidden seriously toxic chemicals are growing endless cheap crops in states where pot is legal and the consequences not so bad. All they need is water and it can be grown on desert land, with chemicals!

It's transported in semis across the country where there are huge price variations.

Canada, with nationwide legalisation, estimates nearly 80% of sales are legal with widespread retail access. The patchwork of state laws in America is just what we don't need here.

Lots of people I talk to are happy with their legal weed. It works for their whatever. They don't care it's

indoors, not organic, irradiated and grown in Canada or Thailand. It's cheaper than the street and it's legal. Huge that it's legal.

It's different for us in Nimbin where pot is openly part of our life, way more accepted and understood, but out there in the big smoke, no-one wants trouble with the coppers.

And most will happily register their use with the proposed new driving system if it happens, because no longer will they be anxious drivers. Simple.

Most supermarkets do have tiny organic sections but Nimbin supermarket is one third organic, a whole department upstairs in fact.

Plus we have another excellent organic shop in our one tiny street of shops, run as a co-op with volunteers, open every day.

We are different, it's just not so obvious these days. And some people will always want outdoor grown-in-the-sun organic pot.



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

As winter begins to give way to spring, Nimbin has been enjoying the simple pleasure of sunshine again.

The long run of rain served its purpose, replenishing the landscape, but by the end it had everyone looking skyward for a break.

A few bright days have transformed the mood of the village. Smiles are returning, the streets feel more alive, and the sunshine seems to have invited visitors back to experience all that Nimbin has to offer.

Our local businesses are at the heart of what makes Nimbin such a distinctive destination, creating the experiences, hospitality and character that people travel here to enjoy.

Sunshine brings out the smiles after the rain



In return, every coffee shared, meal enjoyed, purchase made and event attended helps keep dollars circulating through our local economy, supporting local businesses, local employment and the continued vitality of our village.

One of the highlights ahead is the ABC-TV *Back Roads* episode featuring Nimbin, airing on Thursday 27th August at 8pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our village, its people and its remarkable story to audiences across Australia. We encourage everyone to tune in, spread the word and invite friends and family to discover what makes Nimbin unique.

Your Chamber continues to maintain a positive and constructive working relationship with Lismore City Council, advocating on behalf of local businesses and the wider community while working collaboratively to achieve practical outcomes

for Nimbin.

Council has advised that approximately \$300,000 has been allocated towards upgrading Nimbin's main public toilet facilities. Chamber's focus is ensuring this investment delivers practical, accessible, attractive and durable facilities that meet the needs of residents and visitors alike.

For many visitors, these amenities provide one of their first impressions of the village. They are an opportunity to demonstrate that Nimbin values its visitors and takes pride in presenting a welcoming, well-cared-for community.

Council has also agreed to investigate funding opportunities for a new mural in Allsopp Park after it became clear the existing artwork cannot realistically be restored by the original artists. This provides an exciting opportunity to celebrate local creativity and further enhance our village.



Photo: Lismore City Council

Preparing Nimbin for the busy visitor season is about more than major projects. The Chamber has also raised the importance of ensuring our streets present at their very best. Council has been asked to undertake pressure cleaning of the village footpaths, helping refresh the streetscape ahead of spring and the increase in visitors.

At the same time, Chamber is working constructively with Council to review current street cleaning arrangements and explore opportunities to further strengthen the presentation of our village.

A dedicated Visitor Information Centre remains one of Chamber's highest advocacy priorities. While budget limitations present challenges, we believe creative thinking, collaboration and practical partnerships can help turn this long-held vision into reality.

Chamber will continue working constructively with Council and the community to keep this important

project moving forward.

We're also encouraged by the upcoming NSW Government Night-time Economy venue improvement grants, which may provide valuable opportunities for local venues, businesses and community organisations. As more information becomes available, we'll ensure it is shared with our members.

Youth engagement also featured strongly in recent discussions. Chamber supports initiatives that strengthen pathways into employment, training and volunteering, while Council has indicated its willingness to assist community organisations in identifying suitable grant opportunities.

Congratulations to the Nimbin Show Society on receiving the NSW AgShows Innovation Award for operating the Show primarily on renewable energy through solar panels and battery storage.

Congratulations also to Rainbow Power Company for its expertise and support in

planning and delivering the project. It is another example of Nimbin leading through innovation and sustainability.

The Chamber-sponsored Dialogue Bubbles conversations continue to inspire our thinking around 'The Nimbin Advantage'. That phrase reflects the creativity, resilience, innovation and community spirit that continue to define our village.

Every successful project, thriving business and volunteer contribution strengthens that advantage.

The Chamber is strongest when it reflects the voices of the businesses and people it represents. If you have an idea, see an opportunity, or would like to contribute to shaping Nimbin's future, we'd love to hear from you.

Together we can continue building a vibrant, resilient and prosperous village that reflects the very best of the Nimbin Advantage.

The Nimbin Advantage: Ideas. Collaboration. Community



Aquarius Park Landcare

Aquarius Park Landcare members take a break from tackling a truckload of woodchips during their monthly workday on 25th July.

The chips, donated by local arborist Joe Little, are being used to mulch plantings and suppress weeds adjacent to the Rainbow Walking Path.

The group meets on the third Saturday of each month at 8.30am beside the Nimbin Pool. The next work day is 15th August.

The Rainbow Walking Path is a popular destination for locals and visitors alike, with its many seating options, artworks and colourful signage to see, as well as its natural attributes. Follow the path from Alternative Way.



Useful mulch



NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB

7 Sibley Street

Open 10.30am – 2pm Wednesday to Saturday

Special workshops:
• **Sat 15th Yakisugi** Non-toxic timber treatment to protect against insect attack, wood rot and fire \$20
• **Sat 22nd 10.30-12.30 Re-love market** This month's theme: Bric-a-Brac \$10/stall

Workshops each month: (by gold coin donation)
• **Tues 4th 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 11am-1pm 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.

August What's On!

Workshops start 10.30am

For bookings, email:
sibley@nnic.org.au

Koala hospital needs support

It has been a busy few weeks here as phase two of the Northern Rivers Koala Hospital expansion is underway.

It is an exciting time, though it also brings some disruption for our koalas, volunteers and the entire team over the coming months. We are grateful for their patience as the site comes to life around them.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we raised \$194,718 towards our hospital expansion. We still have a way to go and



fundraising efforts continue. Every donation brings us closer, and your support truly means the world to us and to the future of koalas in our region.

Chiko

Chiko, a four-year-old male, was admitted at the end of

June, after being hit by a car. He sustained a fractured left femur along with some internal bleeding. He was stabilised with intravenous fluids and pain relief before undergoing orthopaedic surgery at Casino Vet Clinic.

Chiko is now recovering well in our ICU ward, but still has some way to go. A huge thank you to Casino Vet Clinic for their generosity, expertise and support. Working alongside our own veterinary team, they helped make this complex surgery possible.

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