

Feature Artist Marty de Weerd

by Linda Frylink Anderson

Marty de Weerd is a Nimbin-based artist who is our Feature Artist this month; working primarily in acrylic, inspired by the Australian landscape, native fauna and the changing moods of light and atmosphere. Largely self-taught, Marty combines observation and abstraction through expressive mark-making, colour and composition.

His exhibition at Nimbin Artists Gallery features landscapes, native birds, waterways and seascapes at sunrise and sunset, alongside a new series of abstracts inspired by the ancient Gondwana rainforest.

Marty is pictured at far right with his display including some of his delightful small works.

Spring Fair Arts & Crafts Exhibition

From 26th September to 11th October this exhibition is open from 10am to 4pm daily. The Nimbin School of Arts hall is next door to the Nimbin Artists Gallery at 47 Cullen Street.

This large exhibition showcases a diverse range of work by artists in northern NSW.

There are People's Choice Prizes of \$100 for 1st prize and \$50 for 2nd prize. An exciting exhibition not to be missed.

Here is a sample of work on display at the Spring Fair:



Above: 'Family Portrait Series #1' by Lucienne Manzart

Right: 'Guardians of the Forest' by Jenny Mac



Below right: 'Runner Ducks Standing' by Bernard Pollock



Treasured objects and memories on show

Blue Knob Hall Gallery enjoyed a wonderful opening event for our two current exhibitions, with a fantastic turnout from the community.

Guests were treated to a beautiful musical performance by Peter Walker, Trevor and Denise White, adding to the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the occasion.

It was a pleasure to see so many people coming together to enjoy the exhibitions and celebrate this unique community space. *Earth's Treasures* may be found in the natural world or in treasured places, memories, people, culture and the beauty of everyday life.

It was wonderful to observe the many ways our artists have interpreted this theme in this group exhibition, celebrating their unique perspectives, creativity and connection to the world around them.

Relics & Keepsakes brings together the work of local artists Renita Glencross and Christine Wynyard, whose very different practices are united by an interest in the stories and memories held within objects.

Christine's paintings draw on the personal objects that surround us – gifts, family heirlooms and treasured finds.

By incorporating these familiar items

into her compositions, she gives them new meaning and invites us to consider the memories, relationships and stories that make ordinary objects extraordinary.

Renita's sculptural works combine natural fibres, dyes and found materials with traditional weaving techniques, incorporating basketry, felting, binding and stitching.

In 'Relics (#VI)' she explores themes of grief and remembrance, using fabric remnants and human hair as vessels for memory, energy and connection.

Both exhibitions will run until Saturday 31st October.

Writers Group – meet weekly at Kin Cafe on Sundays. For more info contact Alex 6689-7268 or Helen 0487-385-134.

Blue Knob Singers – meet on Thursdays from 4pm. Everyone is welcome. For more



Above: 'Family Tree' by Renita Glencross

Left: 'Frozen Fish' by Vicky Burkhardt

info, call Peter on 0458-487-865. **Open Mic and Poetry** with the Future Elders Collective on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 1-4pm.

Life Drawing – is held every 3rd Wednesday in the gallery from 5-7pm. All welcome. Cost is \$25.

Healing Arts Circle – Art Therapy with Monika –Thursdays 10am-12pm.

Art Jam – with local artist Lisa Wildling. Bring along your art projects, materials and

creative ideas for a relaxed and inspiring time. Make art, share ideas and enjoy some creative time with fellow artists in a fun and welcoming atmosphere.

Blue Knob Hall Gallery & Kin Café – open Thurs, Fri, Sun 10am-3pm; Sat 9.30am-3pm. Blue Knob Ceramic Studio Thurs-Sat. Phone 02)6689-7449, email: bkhgallery@inet.net.au Web: www.blueknobgallery.com 719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock NSW.



The gallery is proudly owned and operated by Kyogle Council, with the valued support of local community members and volunteers.

Expressions of Interest now open for 2027

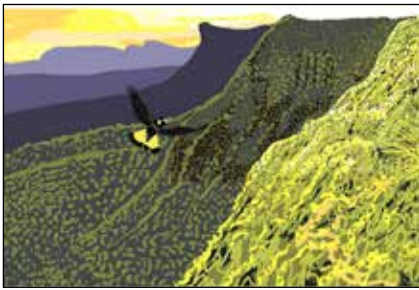
Artists interested in exhibiting at the Roxy Gallery in 2027 are invited to submit an Exhibition Expression of Interest, with



Over 160 people attended the opening event of Garan Hale's 'Works in Wood' exhibition.

applications open until 30th October. Submissions will be assessed by a panel of arts professionals, with emerging and professional artists, and artists interested in solo or group exhibitions, encouraged to apply. Details and application forms are available on-line at: roxygallery.com.au

A creative October at Serpentine



Left: 'Sienna Shallows' by Brenda Bryant Above: 'Caldera' by Michael Fairweather

Right: 'Raven' by Liina Flynn Below: 'Aerial Landscape' by Malcolm Poole



by Corinne Batt-Rawden

Two big exhibition openings, new work and local artists are plenty of reasons to come and meet the artists at Serpentine Community Gallery this October.

The two exhibition openings bring together an exciting mix of established and emerging local artists, experimental practices, friendship, memory and a love of making. 'Still Wet' invites Serpentine's exhibiting artists to show us what they have been making lately.

The exhibition is a chance to see new works, experimental styles and explorative processes as artists push their practices in new directions.

Come and see what is new with some of your favourite local artists and perhaps discover some new favourites along the way.

Showing alongside 'Still Wet' is 'M & M' which brings together Malcolm Poole and Michael Fairweather, long-time friends who studied art together and continue to "egg each other on" creatively.

Malcolm's paintings explore landscape from an aerial perspective, inspired by a lifelong fascination with dreams of flying and views from above. Maps and typography often provide a starting point before giving way to abstraction while retaining a sense of place.

New to Crystal Creek, Michael has turned his attention to the landscape surrounding his home, creating what he regards as "postcards from Crystal Creek". His digital works, presented as A1 size Giclée prints, celebrate his discoveries of the local environment.

Later in the month, Serpentine opens three very different exhibitions, opening on Friday 30th October, 5.30-8.30pm: 'Liminal', 'The Beauty in

Nature', and Liina Flynn: 'Raven'. 'Liminal' brings together Michelle King, Rowena Kempton, Arabella Barnard and James McKay – four artists connected through friendship, family and a shared compulsion to make.

Working with found, natural and discarded materials, their practices span photography, cyanotype, mixed media, weaving, ceramics, digital design, timber and metal.

Michelle explores cyanotype and woven forms using materials foraged from her property, while Rowena has moved from ceramics into weaving with vines, natural fibres and barbed wire.

Arabella combines a background in visual arts and graphic design with textiles and digital technologies. James draws on decades of theatrical construction experience to explore locally sourced hardwood, discarded timber and the creative possibilities within natural materials.

Alongside 'Liminal' is 'The Beauty in Nature' by local artist Kathleen Harding. Working predominantly in acrylic, Kathleen explores flowers, birds



and landscapes through colour, texture, realism, impressionism and abstraction. Her aim is to bring the beauty of nature onto the canvas, creating works filled with colour, calmness and, almost, fragrance.

Kathleen has exhibited widely across the region and received the People's Choice Award at the Bentley Art Prize in 2013.

Also opening is 'Liina Flynn: Raven', a retrospective celebrating the extraordinary creative life of Liina Raven Flynn (30th September 1972 – 29th June 2026). Curated by those who loved her, the exhibition brings together ceramics, paintings, drawings and prints spanning a lifetime of creativity.

Visitors are invited to celebrate Liina's life and creative legacy, including by selecting and stringing beads from her vast collection – a beautiful, participatory connection to an artist whose creativity touched so many.

With two major opening nights across October, Serpentine Community Gallery invites the Northern Rivers community to come along, meet the artists, discover new work and share in the conversations, connections and creative energy that make the local arts community so special.

Catering is kindly provided by the exhibiting artists. Feel free to contribute to the community food table if you wish to.

So come along, have a look, meet the artists and see what is happening behind the doors of Serpentine this October at 104 Conway Street, Lismore.

For more information, go to: www.serpentinearts.org or phone 0492-964-819. Have a creative day.

The Ballad of The Church Mouse and The Crow

by Jimmy Willing

My commission was to paint a Torresian Crow with something in his beak, the rest was up to me, which is how I like it.

There is a fictional road that keeps appearing in my paintings, so I decided to go down it and see where it would lead me.

I wasn't very far down that road when I spied Edgar Allan Poe hitch-hiking, and as soon as I let Edgar through the door, a whole host of Gothic influences came tumbling in with him.

Before too long we were passing an old white-washed church deep in the forest and the whole affair took on a Bush Gothic look in its genre

and intent for behold there was The Crow in a Bloodwood Tree with a Church Mouse in his beak.

The old saying "Poor as a Church Mouse" is because there is very little food in a church. Think about it, a mouse would grow far fatter in a pub or a bakery than on a few crumbs of sacramental wafer.

Anyway I'm not sure where this little fable is going, for example is the church mouse dead or is he playing dead like some smart arse Br'er Rabbit?

So here I am still travelling that fictional road without knowing exactly where it's heading.

However, it's wide open to interpretation, and you are welcome to travel down it with me and come to your own conclusions.



A TASTE OF ART

blueknob hall gallery

Blue Knob Ceramic Studio
Blue Knob Cafe

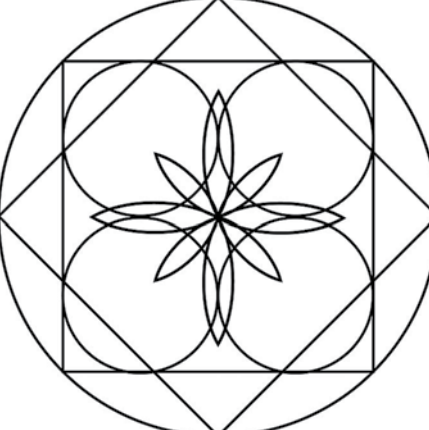
Gallery & Cafe hours:
Thurs 10am -3pm, Fri 10am -3pm
Sat 8:30am - 3pm, Sun 10am - 3pm
Ceramic Studio: Thurs - Sat 10am - 3pm
Ph: 0266897449 www.blueknobgallery.com

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

OPEN DAILY
10am - 4 pm

49 Cullen St, Nimbin

CONTACT: PH 02 6689 1444
www.nimbinartistsgallery.org
nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com



ROXY GALLERY

131a Summerland Way Kyogle
Open: Wednesday to Saturday 10am – 3pm, Sunday 10am – 2pm

TREEFELLAS

Timber Felling
Tree Climbing
BLUE KNOB
Mob. 0429 897 234

Did you know?

All our links are clickable in the web edition.
Go to: nimbingoodtimes.au and click away

2026 Cannabis Cup and Hashish Dish wrap up



by a special correspondent

On a gloriously sunny winter's day in July, the legendary Nimbin Cannabis Cup and Hashish Dish rolled out once again, marking what some whisper is the 28th derby of the green gods.

This year, the gods were clearly smiling, as a record-breaking squad of about 50 seasoned (and admittedly enthusiastic) judges gathered to partake in what can only be described as the ultimate cannabis celebration.

The setting? A secret idyll nestled within a lush permaculture garden in the verdant Nimbin Valley, a place so beautiful even the buds seemed to puff out their chests (or colas) in full anticipation. The growers and caretakers, proud yet a little nervous, had prepped their prized green wonders, each nug like a tiny masterpiece waiting for its moment in the sun (or under the scrutinising noses of the judges).

As the judges tiptoed into the judgment hall, an almost reverent hush fell. One could have heard a seed drop. Before them lay a dazzling array of 32 cannabis entries and eight hashish marvels, each one practically bursting with

resin and promise.

Round One was all about the senses, inspecting, sniffing, squeezing, and comparing buds with the precision of horticultural detectives. Judges were tasked with spreading their love points, three per person, to the flower and hashish champions who best embodied the artistry and craft of cannabis cultivation.

After a well-earned break, Round Two was where things got interesting. The judges' faces became a study in concentration and appreciation as they awaited the symphony of effects to roll through their endocannabinoid systems. It was a masterclass in professionalism, savouring each puff and puffing each savour.

Here are the finalists, resin-drenched beauties strutting their stuff like runway models, each one with a story etched in trichomes and terpene profiles.

- The first round saw some clear front runners:
- Crikey (Plate 30) stormed ahead with 28 points, a true firecracker.
 - Good Arvo (Plate 12) earned a respectable 17 points.
 - Flambe (Plate 11) lit up with 13 points.

- The Ultimate (Plate 10) secured 9 votes.
 - Frozen Black Cherry (Plate 3) had 8 votes.
- After the smoke settled, the final round tallied with more tight drama.
- Crikey (Plate 30) still topped with 22 points.
 - Flambe (Plate 11) was hot on the heels with 20 points.
 - Good Arvo (Plate 12) kept strong at 10 points.
 - Candy Man (Plate 26) scored 8 points.
 - And tied at 6 points each: F***ed #1 (Plate 1), Gorilla Glue #4 (Plate 6), and Deep State (Plate 17).

The 2026 Australian Cannabis Cup champion, with a solid overall score of 50 points and a robust 22% THC, is none other than Crikey (Plate 30). Hat tip to Frosty of Frost King Genetics for breeding this indoor organic masterpiece that wowed everyone from stem to smoke.

And then there was the Hashish Dish... with eight finely sieved specimens laid out like edible treasures on the judging table.

This wasn't just any competition, these hashthletes ranged from rock-



hard nuggets to soft rubs, medium gloops, and those ultra-refined, manicured magical dusts crafted by alchemists whose wisdom is the stuff of legends (or at least lunchtime gossip).

Round One had the judges putting their senses to work, touch, smell, and even microscopes (because if you're gonna judge hash, you might as well get nerdy about it).

The crowd magnet, plate 5, none other than Mooks 48, Prumoured to be the long-lost sibling of the mythical Mooks 47 took an early lead with a whopping 32 votes, while the four closest contenders jostled tightly between 16 and 22 votes.

The scoring table nearly collapsed under the weight of votes pouring in for Mooks 48, with an extra

38 in Round 1. To alone to seal its dominance. In the end, the legend remained, Mooks 48 smoked the competition, racking up a staggering 50 votes in total. So closed another chapter of the Nimbin Cannabis Cup, a sparkling saga of green greatness, where flavour, power, lineage, and love all found their rightful place.

Huge thanks to our elegant host Lady Robyn and the Ganja Faeries with the power of providing an unforgettable venue and an endless parade of munch worthy hors d'oeuvres fuelling judges through the haze.

Already, the gears are turning for next year's edition, promising even more entrants, from passionate growers to inventive seed breeders and medical cannabis pioneers.

Fabulous funky fashions on show

by the Fashion Show team

Shining light on talent and legacy, the iconic Nimbin Fashion show rolled down the runway for a fabulous day and night of design delights in September.

Classical en pointe dance, styled by Poppi Rose, opened the parade with her beautifully considered creation.

Tunable youth Skylah Moore's colourful clothing and energetic models brought fun to the stage with tops and trousers that have look and comfort front and centre.

Marley Tan continued the show with a stunning design and exciting ideas for clothing with a difference. As did Gypsy and Ruby with their costumes.

Veterans Pauline Ahern, with clothing made to enjoy and endure; Gill Jones' lush looks and comfort clothing; and Bobbin Joy's fabulous fashion brought the essence of Nimbin's historic commitment to design with a difference.



Photos: Paul Tuthill



Kaali King brought wearable arts to a new level using natural flora elements woven into a breathtaking piece, and Michelle Margaret inspired runway energy and excitement with her upcycled collection.

The shows featured a pictorial tribute and heartfelt farewell during intermission, celebrating our cherished haute couture legend, Pol. A moment to honour his extraordinary contribution, creativity and legacy through the Nimbin Fashion Show.

The beautiful renderings of Inez and Julia, followed by Billi

Jay, lightened the runway with lovingly-created offerings.

Cobbler John changed the vibe with his amazing leather armour featuring full hooded masks and chest plates – mind-blowing detail from a local maker's personal collection.

Silvia presented a lovingly crafted collection, followed by KND Creations' colourful fun.

Kirsty Mootz upcycled home linen designs were a delight of colour and patterns spun from her love of reusing everyday fabrics.

Filled with funky fun ready for the dancefloor, Fuck the Clock

rocked the runway with velvety textures and flowing fabrics.

Hemp Courtier places design and function at the heart of their fashion, with a collection full of great wearable art.

HoneyCut made carefully constructed beauty look easy with a steampunk-themed collection.

Once again, the development and emergence of so many young models and designers makes this event vital to empowering our community at its grassroots.

Samara Burcher, alongside Kylie Cain, delivered an absolutely amazing show! Their combined talent, passion and dedication to events shine through in everything they do. Together, they brought this long-standing show to life

once again, ensuring it continues to be a treasured community event.

With models, craftspeople, tech and photographic talent coming together to highlight the astonishing work of these dedicated artisans, the Nimbin Fashion Show 2026 is thrilled to thank all involved for their support.

Don't wait until you need care

by Myles Beaufort, Operations Manager, Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services



Most of us want to stay in our own homes for as long as we can. Around here, that means different things to different people. It might be a house in town, a property up a winding road, an off-grid home, a community, a garden you've spent 30 years creating, a few animals, familiar neighbours, or simply the comfort of waking up somewhere that feels like yours. That independence matters.

But one thing we see quite often is people waiting until life has become really difficult before asking for help. There can be a feeling that accepting support means giving up some independence. That once you need a bit of help around the house, with transport or with personal care, you have somehow crossed a line into 'aged care'.

I think that gets things backwards. A little help early can be exactly what allows someone to stay independent for longer.

Maybe cleaning has become harder on the back or knees. Maybe driving into Lismore isn't as easy as it once was. Maybe getting in and out of the shower feels a bit less safe.

Maybe somebody is spending more time at home because getting out has become difficult. Or maybe a husband, wife, partner, friend or family member has slowly taken on more and more caring without ever really thinking of themselves as a carer.

None of those things necessarily means there is a crisis. But they can be signs

that life is starting to get a little smaller. And that is where a small amount of support can make a big difference.

Community aged care should not be about taking over people's lives. It should be about helping people keep living the life they already have. That might mean a couple of hours of help at home. It might mean transport. It might mean getting out to a social activity, having somebody visit, getting some help with personal care, or giving a family carer a chance to have a break.

Here in Nimbin, staying connected can be just as important as getting practical help. Our social groups at the drop-in centre at Bottlebrush Studio, along with groups held in other parts of the area, give people a reason to get out, see familiar faces and meet new ones.

Mellow Rhythm & Moves offers the chance to dance, move and enjoy music together, while our regular bus outings make it possible to head out for lunch or visit somewhere different.

We are also planning an intergenerational group to bring younger and older people together. The idea is simple: share skills, stories,

activities and time. Older people have a great deal to offer, and ageing well should not mean becoming separated from the rest of community life.

Sometimes the most useful thing is simply talking to somebody who understands the system. Because, to be fair, the aged-care system is not always easy to understand. There are phone numbers, assessments, websites, acronyms and different programs, and it can be hard to know where to start.

You do not need to understand all of that before asking for help. And you certainly do not need to wait until things fall apart. If something is becoming harder, or you are starting to worry about someone close to you, having the conversation early is usually much easier than trying to sort everything out during a crisis.

At Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services, we regularly help local people understand what support may be available and how to get started through My Aged Care. Sometimes people just need somebody to sit with them, explain it in plain English and help work out the next step. That is part of what community is for.

If you think a little help might make life easier for you or someone close to you, call us on 02 6689-1709 or email: enquiries@nacs.com.au

You do not need to understand the system or know exactly which service to ask for. We can talk through what is happening and help work out the next step.

None of us gets through life by doing absolutely everything ourselves. Sometimes accepting a little help is not giving up your independence at all. It is how you keep it.

The Tweed named as top destination



Cabarita beach
Photo Luke Marsden

The Tweed Tourism Company is thrilled to announce that The Tweed region has been included in the *Lonely Planet Best in Travel 2027*. The global list shines a light on stand-out destinations and experiences around the world every year.

This year, The Tweed finds its moment, as the only destination in Australia to be included, and only one of three destinations included across the Oceania region.

The Tweed was named in the Top Destinations Hotlist 2027 from regions around the world. It sits proudly alongside the only other Australian travel experience to be highlighted, the Northern Territory's Red Centre.

The selections across the board and around the globe this year tap into what *Lonely Planet* is seeing and hearing most from travellers. That is, a desire to slow down, escape the crowds and seek out meaningful experiences that go beyond the obvious.

The Tweed fits perfectly within that profile, given its majestic landscapes, vibrant arts and culture and memorable eco experiences. From its pristine coastlines and ancient rainforests to its picturesque riverside villages and rolling rural landscapes. The Tweed invites visitors to connect more deeply with place, people and nature.

The accolade reflects The Tweed's growing reputation as an idyllic travel destination for rest, renewal and adventure. From sunrise surfs to countryside rail trails, hinterland hiking, snorkeling trips and riverside sips, The Tweed offers experiences to suit every pace and every mood.

Its National Parks, wide open spaces and year-round sunshine are guaranteed to have visitors leaving refreshed and renewed.

Lonely Planet praised both The Tweed's emerald coastlines and charming riverside settings where nature is both backdrop

and playground. The region is loved for its unique combination of outdoor adventures, creative culture, diverse wellness experiences, flourishing food bowl and exceptional paddock to plate dining options.

While it is increasingly gaining recognition, The Tweed still remains a largely hidden gem for many, offering a gentler and uncrowded charm that sets it apart. It is a place where visitors can step off the plane, feel the sun on their skin and settle into a slower rhythm, and a more thoughtful, authentic and calmer alternative to more heavily travelled coastal regions.

Tweed Shire Mayor, Cr Reece Byrnes said: "Of course, they are telling us what we here in Tweed already know. To be recognised by *Lonely Planet* as one of the world's must-visit destinations is a wonderful honour for the Tweed and a proud moment for our community.

"This recognition celebrates our spectacular natural landscapes, vibrant villages, rich culture and outstanding local businesses. We warmly welcome visitors to experience The Tweed at a slower pace, support local and respect the places and communities that make our region so special."

The *Lonely Planet* article also applauds The Tweed's decision to launch a Visitor Pledge: a voluntary commitment inviting visitors tread lightly when they visit and help protect the region's natural beauty, and support local travel moments.

This on-line pledge invites holidaymakers to travel with care, respect, and curiosity, embracing the people, culture, and green beauty of its verdant landscapes. It is an invitation to soak up local flavours and experiences, but also to respect Bundjalung country for unforgettable moments, that are kind to both the traveller and the environment.

From burning rubbish to resource recovery

by Diana Roberts

On cold winter mornings in the late 1980s, smoke from the Nimbin rubbish tip would drift across the village, settling over homes, businesses and the local school.

At the time, burning rubbish was simply how country tips operated. Plastics, tyres, treated timber and household waste all went onto the fire in an effort to reduce the growing mountain of rubbish. Most people accepted it as normal. A handful of locals did not.

In 1990, members of the newly formed Nimbin Environment Centre began asking what was really being released into the air each time the tip burned. More importantly, they questioned why so much useful material was ending up as waste in the first place.

Those conversations led to the formation of Nimbin Wastebusters, a volunteer group that would help change waste management not only in Nimbin but across the Lismore Local Government Area.

Their vision was remarkably simple but well ahead of its time: reduce waste, recover valuable resources, educate the community and keep a local waste service operating.

At the time, the Nimbin landfill was managed by Charlie Soward, who salvaged materials with commercial value before they were buried. Wastebusters volunteers worked alongside Charlie each week, learning how the tip operated while sorting recyclable materials and seeing first-hand just how much could be saved from landfill.

Those weekly working bees soon evolved into planning sessions. Volunteers discussed traffic flow, public safety, recycling facilities and how a community-run recycling depot might work. They prepared site plans, sought grants and lobbied Lismore City Council to support a different approach.

It was not an easy campaign. Council argued that stopping tip burning would shorten the life of the landfill and increase costs. Many residents feared losing their local tip altogether, forcing everyone to transport rubbish to Lismore.

Wastebusters insisted there was another way. Recycling, they argued, could significantly reduce the amount of waste entering



Judy Lancaster and Wally Wallace at the tip face.

Photo: Brian Alexander

landfill while allowing Nimbin to retain a local waste facility.

The campaign gathered momentum. Public meetings attracted strong community interest, and the issue reached the State Pollution Control Commission. When the Commission advised Council that continued burning could lead to legal action, the debate changed dramatically.

Ending routine tip burning was no longer simply an environmental aspiration; it became a necessity. The challenge then became finding a long-term alternative.

Wastebusters continued demonstrating that community-based recycling could work. Their philosophy extended beyond collecting bottles and cans. They believed lasting change depended on people taking responsibility for the waste they produced by reducing, reusing and separating materials before they reached the tip. Their persistence paid off.

In 1993, consultants engaged by Lismore City Council concluded that expanding the landfill was impractical and that a waste transfer station with expanded recycling facilities offered the best long-term solution. The report also acknowledged that Wastebusters had substantially reduced the volume of waste entering landfill through its recycling efforts.

Council resolved to establish the Nimbin Waste Transfer Station, and after an initial tender process was revised, Wastebusters was awarded a three-year agreement in 1992 to operate the recycling centre. Council provided establishment

funding and operational support, while the volunteers contributed practical experience, community commitment and an enormous amount of unpaid labour.

The recycling depot quickly became a hive of activity. Steel, aluminium, cardboard, glass and paper were recovered, while reusable household goods and building materials found new owners instead of being buried.

Years before "reuse shops" became common around Australia, Wastebusters was showing that yesterday's rubbish could become tomorrow's resource. At the same time, the facility gave birth to Nimbin Building Materials – now a highly valued local business.

Like many volunteer organisations, however, sustaining that effort proved difficult. As volunteer numbers declined, Council gradually assumed responsibility for operating the transfer station. Yet by then the hard work had already achieved something much larger than running a recycling depot. Wastebusters had changed the conversation.

Today, transfer stations, resource recovery, composting, reuse shops and community education are accepted parts of waste management. In 1990 they were innovative ideas being championed by a small group of determined volunteers in Nimbin.

The modern Nimbin Transfer Station bears little resemblance to the old smoking landfill, but its emphasis on recovering resources rather than simply burying them reflects principles first advocated more than three decades ago.

Perhaps the greatest legacy of Wastebusters is not the organisation itself, but the example it set. It showed that informed, committed volunteers could work constructively with local government to influence public policy and create lasting environmental change.

The smoke that once drifted across the Nimbin valley has long disappeared. The questions first asked by Wastebusters, however – how do we reduce waste, value resources and build a more sustainable future – remain just as relevant today.

This article was compiled from research undertaken for the Aquarius Archives.



Banana seedlings

Weed workshop

Nimbin Environment Centre Inc, in association with Rous County Council, presents a Weed Workshop on Saturday 10th October, 9am-midday. The location is 6km from Nimbin village.

The event includes a plant identification workshop (weeds and natives), and experiential learning... hands-on weeding practice if you're up for it. Bring gloves and hand tools.

Register your interest with Nimbin Environment Centre by email: nimbinenvironmentcentre@gmail.com or phone 6689-1441 during opening hours, 10am-4pm, or call into NEC shop at 54 Cullen Street and leave your contact details.

This project is financially supported through the Rous Community Grants.



SEPTIC TANK PUMPING
GREASE TRAP CLEANING
LIQUID WASTE REMOVAL
* OILY WATER PROCESSING
NIMBIN & ALL SURROUNDING AREAS
Local Since 1932
RICHMOND PUMPING
6621-7431 After Hours 0407-433-405

Be seen across the region



Promote your business or event in the GoodTimes

16,000 copies distributed throughout the Northern Rivers

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Horsemanship superstars

by Suzy Maloney
B.Eq.Sc.Dip.Couns

We have never had greater access to horse training than we do today.

With a few taps on a phone, we can watch some of the world's most accomplished horsemen and horsewomen work their magic. We see seemingly impossible transformations, flawless liberty work, perfectly soft transitions, and horses that appear to read their handler's mind.

It's inspiring. It's educational. And sometimes, it's completely discouraging. The truth is, both of these things can exist at the same time. Watching highly skilled trainers can expand our knowledge enormously. We pick up new exercises, better timing, fresh perspectives, and creative solutions to problems we've been struggling with for months.

Many of us have become better horse owners simply because we now have access to information that was once only available by attending expensive clinics or apprenticeships. But there is another side to the endless stream of polished videos filling our social media feeds.

Without realising it, many everyday horse owners begin comparing themselves, and their horses, to people whose entire lives revolve around training horses.

These trainers are, in many ways, the equine influencers of our world. Their job is horses. They spend every day riding, observing, learning, teaching, filming, editing, and refining their skills. Many have worked with thousands of horses over decades. They are professionals in the truest sense of the word. Most of us are not.

Most horse people work full-time jobs, raise families, study, run businesses, or juggle countless other responsibilities before squeezing in an

hour or two with our horses after work. Sometimes we only ride on weekends. Some weeks we barely see our horses at all. Yet somehow we still expect ourselves to produce the same results. It's a comparison that was never fair to begin with.

Imagine expecting yourself to cook like a Michelin-star chef after making dinner three nights a week, or feeling disappointed that you can't play piano like a concert musician who practises eight hours a day. We would immediately recognise how unrealistic that comparison is.

Yet in the horse world, we make these comparisons constantly.

When we see a video where a difficult horse quietly loads into a float after 20 minutes, or a young horse calmly accepts their first ride, it's easy to forget that we're seeing a carefully selected snapshot. We're rarely seeing the years of experience behind the trainer, the countless horses that taught them their feel and timing, or the preparation that happened before the camera started rolling. Instead, we watch the highlight reel and wonder why our own horse still won't stand quietly for the farrier.

The danger isn't the videos themselves. The danger is forgetting the context. That doesn't mean we should stop watching them. Far from it. The best trainers have an incredible amount to teach us.

They challenge old ideas, demonstrate better communication, and encourage us to think differently about our horses. Their content can inspire us to improve our own skills and remind us that there is always more to learn.

The key is changing how we measure success. Rather than asking, "Why can't I do that?" perhaps a better question is, "What can I learn from this?" Maybe we won't achieve the same level of refinement, and that's okay. Maybe your horse doesn't need to perform at that level either. If our horse



is becoming calmer, more confident, easier to handle, or more enjoyable to ride than they were six months ago, that's real progress.

Our journey doesn't have to look like someone else's highlight reel. Professional trainers aren't succeeding because they found a secret trick. They're succeeding because they've invested thousands upon thousands of hours developing their knowledge, timing, feel and consistency.

That level of expertise deserves admiration, but it shouldn't become the standard by which every recreational horse owner judges themselves.

Our horses don't care how many followers we have or whether our groundwork looks Instagram-worthy. They care that we're fair, patient, consistent, and willing to keep learning.

So, watch the superstars. Learn from them. Borrow their ideas. Let them inspire you. Just remember that inspiration should leave us feeling motivated, not inadequate. Our horse doesn't need us to be an equine influencer. They just need us to be the best horse person we can realistically become.

Happy Horses Bitless – Considerate Horsemanship
Email: suzy@happyhorsesbitless.com
Web: www.happyhorsesbitless.com
FB: Happy Horses Bitless Bridles
Phone 0401-249-263

the natural meeting places to gather at the end of a day's hiking. Share meals, swap stories and delight in intense sunsets! We highly recommend O'Reilly's Retreat.

Walks Programme

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th October

Dorrigo Music Festival

Leader: Alison 0434-982-922
Single day tickets are available, Fri \$95/ Sat \$145 / Sun \$120. Camping at the Dorriggo showground next to the festival is \$22 pp per night and can be booked. If you are not going to the music or just prefer to stay at a smaller campsite, you can book at Dangar Lodge Campsite: www.dorrigofolkbluegrass.com.au

There is plenty to do around Dorriggo if you're not interested in the music or just want to do one day of music and a day of walking.

Sunday 25th to Thursday 28th October

Dorrigo and beyond

Leader: Alison 0434-982-922
Camping and some great walks in Cathedral Rocks/ Oxley Wild Rivers and maybe Guy Fawkes River National Park on the way home.

Current proposal is to leave Dorriggo Sunday afternoon and drive approx one hour to our campsite. Several options, Alison is talking to NP's re best one, first big walking day will be Monday 26th October.



Nimbin Garden Club notes



by Peter Brooker

Weather trickled attendance at the Garden Club's AGM last month.

"We did not arrive all at once. We came in pieces, like a puzzle being put together by a trembling hand, until finally, we were there." – Lang Leav, novelist and poet.

That's how it seemed as about ten members of the NGC sat, or stood, in Hayley's well equipped 'shed' debating whether we could proceed with our AGM.

Occasionally there was a gentle rain, but not much, and not often, but Stanger Road was wet, and it was muddy and we waited at its end. Perhaps all these things had conspired to either delay members or keep them away until next month, a warmer month deeper into spring.

We decided to wait a little longer before abandoning the meeting; we still had hope, and as Oscar Wilde wrote in *The Importance of Being Ernest*, "If you are not too long, I will wait here for you all my life."

Thankfully it didn't take that long. Within a few minutes we could see the first of a gathering crowd walking down the driveway, filling the room and allowing the AGM to start.

Kerry opened the meeting with a review of a year, punctuated by cancelled garden visits and glimmers of hope, a year of rain but not bitter cold, a year where we were able to make a



number of donations to worthy causes, tidy the hospital gardens and prepare for a busy Spring.

Mandy, our treasurer, who, like the Hindu god Lakshmi makes sure our funds are looked after and raised ethically, then rose and informed us we were indeed financial and everything was in order before Kerry declared all positions vacant and indicated she was keen to pass the presidency to someone new.

When the AGM came to a close and before we wandered through Hayley's property, Russell had taken up the reins of power, Linda had joined the committee, Sharon had resigned and all other committee members had retained their positions with Kerry keeping fund raising and raffle prize collecting.

Thanks go to Kerry for her six years of dedication, and to Russell for taking up the challenge.

After the formalities, we moved outside and wandered around Hayley's 125 acres – well, not all of it. We headed toward the giant fig, affectionately called the Grandfather, and looked out across the dam below us towards the mass of Blue Knob. To our left, a short distance away, stood a smaller group of figs known as the Grandmothers.

We headed back toward the front of the property as Hayley explained the basic structure of the garden had been inherited by them in late 2017, but plans were afoot to make some changes. The orchard for instance will



be based on the syntropic style, meaning it will move toward higher levels of organisation, complexity and energy storage.

They will add more food plantings and fencing to better contain the cattle during rotational grazing but the existing garden with its sweeping lawns and various trees add colour and openness to the property.

Colourful tibouchinas are flourishing and the poinciana has had a good year. There are mango trees, two liquid ambers, one of which is out and one not; the driveway is edged with agapanthus and a scattering of jacarandas.

Breathing the air scented by the hidden jasmine, we headed back toward the house. Followed closely by the flock of Dorper sheep, we paused briefly at the macadamia, viewed the vegetable garden that lay fallow between seasons but still caused great excitement when an asparagus was spotted.

Bunya pines, *Araucaria Bidwillii*, grew where no-one was likely to stand or sit, and a mulberry tree was ripening its fruit near the *Pouteria Sapota* or sapote.

Here the tour ended, the rain began to fall and we returned to the 'shed' for afternoon tea. Our thanks to Hayley for a great meeting.

October's meeting will be held at Lurene's property, 2/10 Robb Road, Lillian Rock at 2pm on Saturday 17th October.

Don't forget to bring a chair, a cup and something to share.



Keeping old crafts alive

by Inez Price

It's Spring, and time for the Weave and Mend Gathering!

It's a gathering for everyone who likes to make beautiful things with their hands, a time to sit together, share and welcome those wishing to learn.

It's a sharing of natural fibres, skills and knowledge, sitting in circles and keeping old crafts and ways alive, all in a shady garden.

We will be gathering in the Nimbin Community Centre market area from 10am Saturday 31st October to 4pm Sunday 1st November as part of the inaugural Nimbin Fringe Festival, held throughout the village over the weekend.

Saturday 10am:

Introductions and celebration of Beltane. We will be making flower garlands, dancing the May Pole weave or possibly making a corn husk dolly. Bring your current projects, fibres and flowers or start a new project.

The Giving Tree (the big fig tree) is a place to honour and bless those who've passed. A place to spend a moment to remember the work of Moksha, Judy and other women who have kept this annual Weave and Mend tradition alive for 21 years. There will be an altar to place offerings, wishes and messages.

Saturday and Sunday 11am:

Fresh weavers' session. Introduction demonstrations to basic beginner weaving techniques.

Food and drinks available onsite

The CWA Nimbin Branch will be opening their rooms all weekend with espresso coffee, tea, delicious gluten free cakes and gluten free nachos. You may find a treasure in their op shop.

Camping is available at the Nimbin Showgrounds. Visit their website for details: <https://nimbinshowsociety.org.au>

Welcome all who wish to share and learn and weave friendships. We hope you can join us.



"Funerals with Heart"
SACRED EARTH FUNERALS



1300 585 778
Bespoke - Personal - Professional

2 locations:
Funeral Home & SANCTUARY - Coraki, NSW
LISMORE - 18/62 Wyrallah Rd Shopping Village

***Beautiful funerals**
***No service cremations \$2490**
***Burials and memorials**
***Pre-paid funerals**
***Pre-planning**

Everyone Welcome
DYING MATTERS CAFE
Lismore
1st Monday each month
10.30am - 12pm

www.sacredearthfunerals.com.au