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The Channon Craft Market marks its 50th anniversary



by Robyn Kelly

In 1976, a small group of locals came together with a simple idea: create a place where the community could gather, share their skills and creativity, and celebrate the things they made, grew and produced.

What began as a humble village market soon became much more than that. It became a meeting place for people from across the local community – a place to catch up with friends and neighbours, discover local produce and handmade goods, share stories, and enjoy the simple pleasure of coming together.

From the very beginning, the markets were about community. The founders wanted to create somewhere that belonged to the community, where people could participate rather than simply pass through. It was a place where skills could be shared, local produce could be celebrated and people could support one another.

For the people who started the markets, the idea was simple but important. They provided a space for local growers, makers, artists, craftspeople, musicians, and small producers to share what they did and connect directly with the people around them. The market stalls reflected the character of the region: home-grown produce, handmade creations, fresh food, plants, crafts and all kinds of things made with care and imagination.

Over time, the markets became a regular part of local life. What may have started with only a small number of stalls grew into a much-loved gathering that brought together people from all walks of life. There was something particularly special about the atmosphere of those early markets. They were not simply places to buy things. They were places to meet people. Conversations happened naturally between stalls, friendships were formed and local stories were exchanged. People came not only for what was on the tables, but for the sense of connection that surrounded the whole event.

The markets also became an important part of the region's local economy. For stallholders, the markets provided an important opportunity to establish a customer base, test new products, build a reputation and earn an income directly from their work. For many small and emerging businesses, the market offered a valuable place to start and grow.

Their economic benefits extended far beyond the market itself. By attracting visitors to the area, the markets helped support local businesses, accommodation providers, cafés, service providers, growers, producers and other



Megan Jack
Rainbow Chai Tent
Photo: Chris Hoisie

enterprises. Visitors who came for the market often spent money elsewhere in the region, creating a valuable flow-on effect for the wider community.

The markets also provided an opportunity for people to share knowledge and skills that might otherwise have remained within families or small circles. Growing food, preserving produce, making things by hand, creating art and crafts, cooking, gardening and other practical skills were all part of the culture of the markets. In this way, the markets helped celebrate the knowledge and creativity that existed within the local community. As the years passed, the markets continued to evolve while retaining the spirit with which they began. New stallholders joined those who had been there from the early days, and new generations of families became part of the market community.

Many people involved in the markets also cared deeply about the natural environment around them. Some would later become involved in efforts to protect the forests and country of the Nightcap, helping to build the community movement that contributed to the protection of what is now Nightcap National Park. The strength of the market community was tested over the decades. The devastating fires that affected the region brought significant challenges, with disruption to local businesses, fewer visitors and uncertainty for many of the people who relied on the markets for their livelihoods.

Then, in 2022, the region was hit by a major flood, creating another enormous setback. The flood had a profound impact on the wider community and placed considerable financial pressure on the market and its stallholders. In its aftermath, more than 100 stalls were lost for a variety of reasons. Some businesses were directly affected by the floods, while others faced financial difficulties, disruption, changing circumstances or could simply no longer continue trading.

The loss of more than 100 stalls was not just a financial blow to the market; it represented the loss of many individual businesses, makers, growers, artists and producers who had contributed to its character

over the years. Rebuilding the market community after such a significant loss was a considerable challenge. Their survival has depended on the commitment of stallholders, organisers, local businesses, visitors and the wider community.

Nearly five decades after those first gatherings, the original idea remains just as meaningful. The markets are a celebration of local people and the things they make, grow and produce.

The Rainbow Chai Tent and main stage on the oval will be a highlight of the 50th anniversary celebrations, with a full program of activities, guest speakers and special moments throughout the day.

The celebrations will begin at 9am, with Gilbert Laurie offering a Welcome to Country and acknowledging the beautiful Country on which we gather.

Throughout the day, hear from guest speakers and market team members as they share stories, memories and moments from the market's 50-year journey. Young and curious explorers can join Nan and Hugh Nicolson for a special BioBlitz, discovering the incredible natural world around us and getting curious about the plants, animals and wildlife that call this place home.

And what's a 50th anniversary celebration without a little dressing up? Get into the spirit of the day with our Fancy Dress Competition! Bring out your inner hippie and come dressed in your most colourful, creative and groovy outfit. Dust off the tie-dye, embrace your inner free spirit and join us for a celebration of the era that helped shape the markets. There will be a prize for the best dressed, so the more colourful, creative and wonderfully groovy, the better!

Their history is not only a history of stalls and trading. It is a history of people – the growers, makers, artists, cooks, musicians, families, visitors and countless others who have contributed to the markets over the years. What began in 1976 continues as a living expression of that original idea: a place where people can come together, share what they have made and grown, support local businesses and enjoy being part of something local.

The story that began with a simple community market is ultimately a story about the power of people coming together. It is a reminder that communities can shape the future of the places they call home, and that sometimes, the most important movements begin in the most ordinary of places.

Come and join us on Sunday 11th October, between 9am and 3pm, and help celebrate our anniversary.

Snakes impress at Nimbin Show

by Lois McWhinney

Grandma doesn't like snakes, but my 8-year old granddaughter would not be moved.

The trio of musos at the Nimbin Show were marvellous, but it was announced the reptiles were up next, so we fronted.

You see, crossing the Victorian Maribyrnong River to go horse-riding meant tiger snakes – I never saw one;

no doubt golf balls, as we hoofed over the fairway first, were more hazardous.

Nimbin had red belly blacks back in my hippie days. When I retired here, pythons were negotiated necessarily.

But I had bypassed every snake in captivity by choice, until the intrepid snake handler and assistant poured them, one by one, out of their sacks.

Nothing but a canvas enclosure.

Yikes! Four venomous snakes, each given a bio. What skill: to narrate,

inform plus manage the reptile on display.

How wonderful for the junior family herpetologist who already knows much and has handled some in captivity.

Grandma bought the snake bandage kit to show support. Hopefully not to use it! Good to get first aid reiterated. Red belly, Tiger, Death Adder plus Brown. Excellent presentation.

Thanks, ya'll, for bringing it to the Nimbin Show.



Photos: Ken Jones, Jimmy Guertsen, Sue Stock



Community rallies to save beloved Bangalow Bowlo

More than 1,000 people gathered in Bangalow in September for one of the strongest demonstrations yet of community support for the return of the Bangalow Bowlo.

Families, sporting clubs, bowlers, musicians and supporters filled the grounds for the Save Bangalow Bowlo rally, raising around \$50,000 towards the community campaign and its legal and professional costs.

Save Bangalow Bowlo spokesperson, Greg Nash described the rally as a "red letter day for Bangalow."

"We expected a big turnout because our community is very loyal. We care about our community assets, and we want the Bowlo back on reasonable terms," Mr Nash said.

"I was overwhelmed by the very heartwarming attendance. There were over 1,000 people there, and we had all of the local sporting organisations represented," he said.

Children took to the grounds for demonstrations of soccer, rugby, cricket, tennis and other sports, while local musicians performed throughout the day and into the evening, donating their time to the campaign.

The event was hosted by the Bangalow Lions Club and organised by the Save Bangalow Bowlo Steering Committee, with an enormous contribution from local volunteers, sporting groups, musicians, businesses and supporters.

But organisers say the biggest thank you belongs to the Bangalow community itself.

"People turned up in droves, with open wallets and open hearts," Mr Nash said.



"The generosity was extraordinary, but just as important was seeing the whole community together. Kids were playing sport, the bowlers were there, local musicians gave their time and people of all ages came along because they care about what happens to the Bowlo," he said.

Bangalow's bowling community was strongly represented, with both men and women bowlers supporting the event and contributing to the campaign's fighting fund.

The rally comes almost 11 months after Norths Collective closed the Bangalow Bowling Club in October 2025. Since then, the community campaign has sought a pathway for the property to be returned to community ownership, and for the Bowlo to reopen as an established sporting, social and cultural hub.

The campaign has also raised concerns about reports of some Bangalow members being unable to access their Norths membership accounts.

Subsequent inquiries confirmed that Bangalow membership numbers had

been changed without notification and that membership renewal was no longer offered.

This is just the latest example of a carefully curated process designed by Norths to negate the rights of Bangalow members. Practices include not responding to correspondence, demanding unreasonable settlement terms, ignoring agreement commitments, and failing to maintain the Bowlo property, now accumulating mould behind closed doors.

Despite the ongoing dispute, organisers say Saturday's rally was overwhelmingly about community connection rather than conflict. The turnout brought together generations of Bangalow residents, and demonstrated the continuing role the Bowlo plays in the town's sporting and social identity, even while its doors remain closed.

"The message from Saturday couldn't have been clearer," Mr Nash said.

"Bangalow hasn't forgotten its Bowlo. This community is still here, we're organised and we want our Bowlo back," he said.

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Pod residents facing eviction

by Chels Hood Withey

On 16th September, 12 pod residents, backed by a joint statement signed by more than 90 residents from the Northern Rivers pod villages, disrupted an address by NSW Minister for Recovery and the North Coast, Janelle Saffin, at the 'Disaster Ready Together' Summit in Lismore.

They demanded the government halt plans to close the villages before residents have somewhere to go.

Minister Saffin was not present to receive the residents' petition, but with banners reading 'Stop Evicting Flood Survivors: Save the Pods', 'Janelle Makes Flood Survivors Homeless' and 'Pod Residents Have Nowhere To Go', pod residents were given the floor.

They shared their stories before the NSW Reconstruction Authority CEO, Kate Fitzgerald intervened, telling residents she understood their concerns and would make space for a conversation afterwards.

The residents' action was met with huge applause and also tears from Summit attendees.

The House You representative pointed out that Minister Saffin is making hundreds of flood survivors homeless by closing the pod villages prematurely, before there is public housing available in a region with the lowest rental vacancy in the state.

The pods are already community housing; residents pay rent, and as some of the only community housing available in a region with next to none, the pods must remain open until residents have an actual pathway home. Not a place on a decades-long waitlist, not a tent, a car or a motel room.

Homes NSW says no-one will be made homeless, yet these are real housing options some residents have already accepted, or are actively being offered as a transition from the pods. That is not housing. The pods are already homes.

Karena, a Lismore pod resident, asked



Pod Residents at 'Disaster Ready Together' Summit. Photo: Chels Hood Withey

the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Homes NSW to please keep the pods open: "We still need the pods open, because we've got nowhere to go. It's just me and three boys.

"I'm a single mum myself. It's been so hard trying to find housing I've got no support. I'm doing everything all on my own, and I just can't do it at the moment.

"Can you please keep the pods open for us? Please. We can't go back into the motels," she said.

Alison, who lost her home in the 2022 floods, told the Summit, "Where am I supposed to take my children? I'm not putting them on a riverbank in a tent. There are so many of us who have been through so much already. Find us housing, please."

Michael, a Lismore pod resident, addressed the summit, "I've been homeless eight times. I don't want to be homeless for a ninth time. At the end of the day, we're not just fighting for ourselves, there are hundreds of other people who will be homeless before Christmas."

Evictions from the villages are staggered, running from 29th July until the end of December, when the National Emergency Management Agency funding cycle expires and the pods are transferred to a new funding

and management model.

Reuse arrangements are not yet confirmed for any village, yet 157 households are still being evicted from the pod villages across the region.

The pod residents' joint statement, signed by more than 90 residents and centred on the core demand that the pods not be closed, was handed to NSW Reconstruction Authority CEO Kate Fitzgerald and Executive Director Kristie Clarke in paper form.

Fitzgerald and Clarke spoke with residents after the disruption, hearing their stories directly, but made no commitment to keep the villages open.

House You points to Wardell as proof that keeping villages open is possible: Wardell residents remain housed in their pod village because they have a confirmed pathway home, once Cabbage Tree Island is rebuilt.

Wardell shows residents can remain housed when government provides a plan and sticks to it, and is calling for the same commitment at Lismore, Mullumbimby, Coraki, Brunswick Heads and Ballina.

Not one more resident should be displaced from their pod home into homelessness or housing insecurity, while that same home will sit empty for an undetermined amount of time as reuse arrangements are finalised.

Ideas sought for buyback land uses

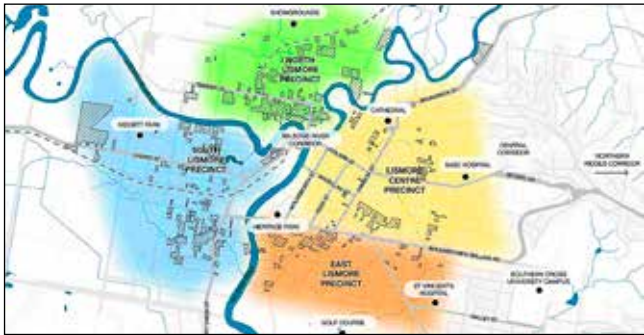
Lismore residents are being called on to shape the future of newly created public land – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the city's flood buyback land into vibrant community spaces.

More than 600 flood-prone properties have been bought back through the Australian and NSW Government-funded Resilient Homes Program (RHP), totalling over 70 hectares.

Until 1st November, locals, businesses, and community groups can share their vision for four key precincts across Lismore (see map) as part of a planning process.

The consultation is being held to gather suggestions as to how this land can be re-purposed to keep the community safe and support local outcomes like playing fields and public open space.

It is hoped that the precinct planning process will unlock practical, flood-compatible land uses that deliver lasting community value – from expansive new parklands and recreational hubs to cultural, recreational, environmental and commercial spaces.



The land cannot be used for housing, and any future use will strictly consider flood risk, community benefit, environmental and cultural values, economic opportunities, costs and ongoing maintenance, as well as impacts on neighbouring residents and businesses.

The community can help shape the plans for the precincts by completing an on-line survey, attending drop-in sessions, and participating in targeted workshops across the four precincts.

Drop-in sessions

Residents are invited to stop by at any time during these time slots to learn more about the project, ask a question or

share feedback. No booking is required.

- Thursday 15th October, 5pm–7pm at SCU Library Event Space
- Friday 16th October, 10am–12pm at Koori Mail
- Thursday 22nd October, 3pm– 5pm at Norma's Kitchen, Lismore Showground
- Friday 23rd October, 10am–12pm at South Lismore Bowling Club

People who own non-buyback land and would like a potential future use for their property to be considered can register their interest using the form on the project webpage.

RA will also be reaching out to people who have been involved in the

Compelling arguments for rail line

by Louise Doran

Apart from the \$2m of public money the Liberal National Party (LNP) spent on a dodgy study to justify refusing to honour their promise to "get the trains running" on the Casino to Murwillumbah (C-M) train line, many investigations and credible surveys have shown most of the heavy gauge rail line, which connects most of the local, growing population centres, is in reasonable condition and could have commuter trains running on it very quickly, as in Byron Bay.

The 130-year-old timber bridges on the line should have been replaced decades ago, but successive State Governments have refused to maintain the line – there's not enough votes in it for them. That does not justify wasting millions destroying it!

The study carried out by Southern Cross University revealed that 28 trains a day would be needed to service transport demand in the region when the line is connected to the Queensland rail system and the airport at Coolangatta. In 2004, then candidate, now MP for Richmond, Justine Elliot, promised \$150m for trains and thanked the community which "ran a tireless campaign for trains."

All local LNP politicians promised commuter train services on the C-M line and to plan the rail connection to the Queensland rail system at Coolangatta, where the majority of traffic comes from, as "we will need more trains and more tourist trains" and "they will cost less than the (empty) coaches that replaced the train" they said.

The two million tourists to Byron alone justify the need for public train services in the fastest growing region in Australia.

Given the growing danger from climate disasters, oil shocks and petrol price hikes, the lack of public transport in the region, and the cost to locals of building and maintaining roads for millions of tourists, destroying the line is an outrageous waste of public money.

The traffic congestion and parking problems in our towns are created by millions of tourists, not a few thousand locals. We know the traffic coming over the border at Tweed and into our towns has almost doubled in 20 years and will continue to grow.

Research shows most of the North Coast population live within walking distance, a bike ride or short drive from the train line, but there's no plan to deal with this growing traffic other than to spend more public money on roads, and we know what that means; more traffic.

In the last decade, \$32m million has been spent on the little-used Byron by-pass, (which council wants to encourage more people to use) and an ugly bus shelter; \$12.5m was spent on roundabouts on Ewingsdale Road and Bayshore Drive – a total of \$44.5m spent on roads within walking distance to a train line and train stations.

Has this spending reduced traffic in



the town – certainly not! If that amount of money had been spent restoring the line for train services and passengers paid just 50c per trip, as they do on the Gold Coast, traffic would be reduced, towns would be safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and taxpayers would still save money on road building and maintenance.

Despite the lack of community consultation and no social licence, Byron Shire Council spent many thousands of ratepayer dollars investigating the line, assessing the work needed and the cost to build a rail trail from Crabbes Creek to Mullumbimby. Council then applied for, and was refused, \$42m federal funding for the project.

The \$2.8m per kilometre cost of this section of trail contrasts with the \$660,000 per kilometre cost to restore the line in Byron Bay to run a solar train, which carries between 200 and 430 passengers daily during the busy summer period.

Regardless of the money spent on road upgrades, the traffic in Byron Bay is so bad and dangerous, Byron Council wants to allocate staff resources on the design and implementation of a full low speed traffic zone project throughout the CBD to try and make the streets safer for all.

The Council staff time spent on this project and the rail trail will cost ratepayers tens, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars. Then councillors tell us they need a rate rise of 35%! But regardless of how much money is spent, the traffic will continue to increase despite 'low speed zones'.

If councillors believe we need to be resilient and forward thinking, the safest, most cost effective and 'forward thinking' option will be to demand the state government stop wasting public money destroying the rail line and just get the trains running to reduce the



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Negotiating peace in the drug war

by Michael Balderstone

I remember joking on the Hemp Hour (NimFM 102.3, midday every Friday) about getting horses to ride into town when they first started talking about testing stoned drivers. That was over 20 years ago.

It was always going to be a problem, and we talked a lot about how popular smoking joints while driving is. Weed smells so much that on the road was always a safe place to have a choof.

NSW passed the legislation creating random roadside drug testing (RDT) using saliva samples in 2006. It was the Labor Government under Morris Iemma and no-one really opposed it. They said it was for truckies on speed.

I remember Lee Rhiannon from the Greens supporting it on the understanding the system only targeted relatively recent cannabis use, “about one hour” after use she was told. She was misled, as the legislation created a presence-based offence and police did not have to prove impairment at all.

The testing actually started on 31st May after our 15th MardiGrass in 2007, and by the

end of that year they’d busted 319 people out of 13,195 tests. Over the next five years they busted about 4000 more people, doing about 20,000 tests each year. MardiGrass was never the same again.

In 2018 a major expansion was announced by then Liberal-National Coalition led by Premier Gladys Berejiklian aiming to do 200,000 tests each year. They tried hard but only managed to do 116,000. Testing fell a bit during Covid, but in 2023 they did 156,000 tests. The next year they caught up, doing 231,258 and busted 19,000 people.

In 2025 they did 215,625 tests and busted 28,298 in the Highway Patrol figures reported to Parliament. A much higher percentage, as they clearly learnt to target cars flagged from previous busts, and setting up on roads like Nimbin to Lismore was like shooting fish in a barrel. Not so random now.

So, they’ve done well over a million roadside drug tests with the little blue plastic Securetec DrugWipes costing who knows how much. I’ve seen prices between \$49 and \$25 quoted but in June last year NSW Police refused to

disclose the current unit price, saying supplier pricing is now commercially confidential. Wtf, nice little earner for somebody.

It’s been a real issue getting info from the cops about their testing, and Jeremy Buckingham has asked a string of ‘Questions On Notice’ to Parliament trying to get figures.

The police are notoriously secretive on this and won’t even tell you the nanogram results from our saliva they test, which is ridiculous and seriously unhelpful. They’re happy to tell you alcohol readings but why not weed? Because there will be stupidly low readings that might get challenged in court is no doubt the reason. Jeremy’s working on getting that changed.

The whole RDT thing was really about stopping people using cannabis it seems, but now medical is legal they are being forced to review the situation. Begrudgingly, they will not charge people in the new legislation with less than 50ng, if they have a current prescription and are registered with Transport NSW.

Graciously, if you are over 50ng you get two warnings, and third time go to court. Importantly you must have no other drugs or any

alcohol in your system! We are all tarred with the same brush. Someone who has smoked for 50 years like me is treated the same as someone having their first puff.

And most people who use cannabis smoke because you can tell when you’ve had enough. I have an old doctor friend who only ever likes one, maybe two sometimes, tokes on a pipe. Just enough the take the edge off and kick your imagination into gear.

But that smoke goes everywhere in your mouth and is the most likely to set off the spit stick. Dr Judith Perl of the police’s Impaired Driving Research Unit famously said that in court. She also said, “If it is ingested it will disappear out of the oral fluids very rapidly, or if it is ingested in a capsule form, it will not even be detected.”

I refuse edibles constantly because I can never be sure how strong they are. Sure enough, I got sucked in the other day by a chocolate cookie and two hours later I’m on the floor. Smoking is way safer if you’re driving, but I know many people use edibles because they rarely come up on the spit stick.

The simple truth is road safety should be all about impairment. Be

it old age, dementia, any drugs legal or not, anger, tiredness or whatever.

When the cops test us for alcohol, they get a real chance to notice if someone looks impaired and they already have a sobriety test on their books they can use.

Get out of the car mate, walk up and down, count backwards from 20; there’s a bunch of simple tests they could do. And all on camera! Instead, they have to have a machine to do it for them, can’t think for themselves, or rather, not allowed to think for themselves, and must use up all of the 200,000 tests.

When they send your saliva to the lab they can test down to 5 nanograms, five parts per billion! They take your licence away and fine you \$704 for anything over ten nanograms.

Because I pled not guilty, they gave me my result, 1250 nanograms, and that was at least two hours after smoking.

The cop agreed I didn’t appear impaired as we drove to Lismore together for the saliva collection. Probably take me a week of not smoking to get under 10ng, that’s how ridiculous it is.

The police influence drug trends enormously, and I feel for the good cops who are locked into enforcing laws they know are unfair while building more and more disrespect for the Force.



Chamber Chat

by David Hyett, president

There has been a great deal happening around Nimbin lately, and much of it reflects something the Chamber would like to encourage more strongly: connection between local people, businesses and organisations.

Many people around Nimbin work from home or independently on small enterprises, creative projects, services and new ideas. That can be productive, but it can also be isolating. Someone may spend months developing something without knowing that another person nearby has exactly the skill, experience, equipment, contact or enthusiasm they need.

Making those connections can move an idea forward quickly.

Connecting locally, supporting locally



Just as importantly, talking with others creates a cross-fertilisation of ideas. A fresh perspective, a useful question or somebody becoming genuinely enthusiastic about what you are doing can strengthen a project, lead to collaboration and produce a better result.

Plenty happening around Nimbin

We have seen a string of strong recent examples of events, with plenty more to come as we move into the warmer months and the local events calendar gathers pace.

The Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup again brought poets and audiences into town, with the Chamber contributing \$500 in sponsorship. The Nimbin Fashion Show made a very successful return, showcasing local designers, sustainable fashion and wearable art, with \$1,000 support from the Chamber.

The Nimbin Annual

Country Show was another particularly successful and well-attended event, and received the NSW AgShows Innovation Award for its renewable energy approach, with valuable support from Rainbow Power Company.

At the Nimbin Bush Theatre, Sonic Bloom drew an excellent response, including visitors from as far away as Brisbane.

Chrissy’s Pilates, yin yoga and sound-healing sessions are back, while the monthly cacao ceremony and ecstatic dance have both built regular followings of around 20 people. Friday night movies also continue to be well supported.

At the Town Hall, the Spring Arts Exhibition continues through the school holidays, while the Nimbin Theatre Troupe presents ‘Two Plays and Canapés’ on 22nd, 23rd and 24th October. Then comes the Nimbin Fringe Festival from 30th October to 1st

November, with a strong multi-venue program across the village.

The Chamber has contributed \$1,000 to the Fringe, bringing direct Chamber support for the Poetry World Cup, Fashion Show and Fringe Festival to \$2,500.

Keeping dollars moving locally

These activities range from small gatherings to major events, but collectively they keep people moving through the village. Visitors eat in cafés, buy groceries, fill up with fuel, browse shops, visit markets and stay in local accommodation.

A good experience can lead to repeat visits, friends returning with friends, and sometimes even people deciding Nimbin and the surrounding district is somewhere they would like to live.

That matters while household budgets are under pressure from interest rates, fuel, food and other everyday costs.

Supporting Nimbin’s retail strip, cafés, regular markets and farmers markets, grocery businesses, fuel, hardware, accommodation and other local services helps keep dollars circulating locally.

It has also been good to see local tradies get some respite from the persistent wet weather, allowing more



Nimbin Central School students enjoying the school's Community Market day

productive days, a chance to catch up on delayed jobs and a welcome lift in spirits.

Welcome to the Chamber

We are pleased to welcome Tommaso Cau of Nimbin Pizza and Cucina as a new member of the Chamber.

Tommaso has invested significantly in modernising and opening up the premises, and it is encouraging to see that enthusiasm and confidence in the village.

Aquarius Archive Centre

The Aquarius Archive Centre is seeking community support to raise more than \$600 per month towards ongoing rental costs.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible, and even small regular contributions can help. Donate to: Aquarius Archive Centre ACC: 22353157, Summerland Bank BSB: 728-728.

Small Business Month

October is also NSW Small Business Month, and the Chamber is exploring the possibility of a practical AI workshop for local businesses.

The common thread is simple: the more we connect, share ideas, support local activity and keep money circulating locally, the stronger the whole community becomes.

The power behind Nimbin’s community events

by Lizzie Buscaino, Rainbow Power Company

It was a busy week in September for Rainbow Power Company in Nimbin.

We joined students and families at the Nimbin School Markets on Friday, sponsored the Headers MiniRoos presentation and its outdoor activities, then spent the weekend at the Nimbin Show with our Rainbow Recharge Lounge.

At the School Markets, it was especially good to talk with young people about the opportunities available in renewable energy.

We welcome four Nimbin Central School students for work experience this year, giving them a chance to see the range of skills involved in a local solar business.

At the Show, the Recharge Lounge offered visitors a place to sit, charge their phones and have a chat.

The Show itself runs on solar power from a system Rainbow Power Company installed. It was a practical example of renewable energy helping bring the community together.

These events give young people a place to take part and neighbours a chance to

connect. Thank you to the organisers and volunteers who make them happen, and to everyone who stopped by to see us.

We are now looking at ways to support the Nimbin Fringe. From creating opportunities for local students, to helping power the Show, we are proud to play a part in the Nimbin community.



RPC's Recharge Lounge at the Nimbin Country Show

NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABLE LIVING HUB
7 Sibley Street
Open 10.30am – 2pm Wednesday to Saturday

October What's On!
Workshops start 10.30am
For bookings, email: sibley@nnic.org.au

Workshops: (by gold coin donation)
• **Tues 6th 10.30am-12pm nimBIN CHICKENS** Join our plastic recycling project! Check out our machines and turn plastic waste into useful stuff at our workshop space at the showground horse shed (every 1st Tuesday each month).
• **Sat 17th Lanterns** Butterfly lanterns from recycled milk cartons (for Fringe lantern parade 30th Oct).
• **Wed 21st 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.
• **Sat 24th Nimbin Pantry** Home-grown, preserves, brews and bakes \$10/stall
• **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 deposit.

Trivia Night

Goolmangar School of Arts Hall
Saturday 10th October
7pm for 7.30 start

\$10 per person, up to 8 people per table
BYO nibbles and drinks

Come along and have fun
Tombola, quizzes and games
Lots of prizes to win

For bookings phone Carol
0428-867-111

Nimbin CWA News

by Sue Stock, Publicity Officer

September has been a busy time for members of the Nimbin CWA.

September is Nimbin Show time and Nimbin CWA took the opportunity to have a stall at the Show serving tea and espresso coffee plus a wonderful assortment of scones, roasted sandwiches and home-made cakes.

Members were legends, busy both before the Show baking a heap of scones and cakes and during the weekend.

All profits will go back into the community.

Congratulations also to our members who entered and placed in the cooking, handicraft, art and photography competitions.



Nimbin CWA AGM

Our AGM will be held on 12th October at 6pm, where Branch executives and branch officers will be elected.

Thanks go to those members who have served on the Executive and as branch officers in a volunteer capacity.

CWA members at the Show
Below: Wildlife bags



When are we open?

Nimbin CWA rooms are open on Wednesdays from 10am 'til 3pm. Our cooks provide healthy lunches for only \$5 as well as slices of superb home-made cake, including gluten-free for \$3.50.

The Op Shop with both clothing and bric a brac 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

Established since 2009

Nimbin Bowling Sport and Recreation Club

Dear Members,

Directors were encouraged by the significant engagement of so many members at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 26th September.

The new board is off to a very positive start, and all directors are looking forward to a co-operative and productive working relationship.

Since the AGM, the board has become aware that there was a misunderstanding in the advice of the result of the Special Motion to adopt the proposed Constitution.

The Board has concluded that the motion was, in fact, not passed. Therefore the current Articles of Association remain the guiding document for the Board.

The Board also recognised that the Articles of Association are not fit for purpose.

We will consult with members on a Constitution that all members are comfortable with, and is fit for purpose as the club's guiding document.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Ken Jones, President
30th September 2026

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