

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin GoodTimes.

Psychosis and cannabis

As someone who both cares for patients with severe mental health conditions and have family afflicted with psychosis, this latest Australian study: [www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223\(26\)01385-5/fulltext](http://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223(26)01385-5/fulltext) shows conclusively the link between cannabis use and risk of psychosis.

I urge all readers to reflect on the harm done by use of cannabis in younger people and for it to be treated like any other mind-altering drug.

Dr Nathan Kesteven
Dunoon

Regarding the damn dams

The CSIRO hydrology modelling and flood resilience proposal for the Northern Rivers catchment finally arrived and was presented to the Nimbin community by the Dam Free Nimbin group on 30th and 31st August at the Nimbin Town Hall. The meetings were well attended and many questions and concerns were raised, including 960 houses inundated, farm buildings, vehicles and equipment under water, about 100km of public roads and infrastructure damage, private roads and driveways destroyed, emergency and health services disrupted, mental health and trauma, wildlife and natural environment, insurance, business and employment, real estate and investment values, etc.

The list of adverse consequences due to the construction of these proposed dams is a long



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one and these all need to be seriously considered in any feasibility study.

Speaking at both meetings, dam engineer and designer, Steve Posselt made it abundantly clear that the geo-technical elements involved in effectively damming the volume of water proposed by the CSIRO make it virtually impossible to achieve.

For those of us unfamiliar with Gegalitres, 1 glt of water weighs 1 million tonnes! YES, you did read that correctly.

The Goolmangar Creek Dam at Nimbin would need to resist the force of 53.9 million tonnes of water; Rock Valley, 94.3 million tonnes.

A terrifying amount of water when you consider the destruction wrought recently in Nepal where the estimated water volume released was 20 glts.

It's highly unlikely that we can even afford to build such structures and even less likely that it would be effectively maintained and managed. Our local authorities seem to have great difficulty just managing the Nimbin water supply.

The Northern Rivers is recognised internationally as a place of stunning beauty and wonder. To construct massive concrete walls throughout this landscape would be nothing less than an act of monstrous vandalism.

Lismore has a long history of flooding. Since 1850, Lismore has flooded 155 times. CSIRO lead scientist, Jai Vaze refers to the area around Lismore CBD as 'the basin.'

Is it intelligent to build and continue to maintain a city in a basin at the confluence of several rivers that drain an enormous catchment in a high rainfall region?

The report goes on to say that flooding "around the CBD is caused by local area generated runoff, which cannot be controlled by any detention upstream" (page 71 CSIRO report).

It goes against all sensibility to spend multiple billions of dollars flooding our beautiful valleys, ostensibly to protect Lismore CBD and still not attain or even get close to attaining the primary objective.

Keep Nimbin dam free!

Paul Finnegan
Nimbin

Beware the Sabatanian-Frankists

The reason David Icke has been banned for over six years from Australia is for one simple reason. And it wasn't because he is antisemitic.

David Icke has exposed a group of people who are trying to take over humanity. They are called the Sabatanian-Frankists.

These people were responsible for the biggest genocide event in history, the Bolshevik Revolution, which

is why no-one knows about it.

About 66 million people, mostly Christians, were murdered between 1917 and 1922. These people include Jacob Schiff, Alexander Parvus, Vladimir Lenin.

The Sabatanian-Frankists cult are the same people running Israel now and are also known as fake or crypto Jews. Their political arm is Zionism.

They hide behind Judaism, and are the ones who shout antisemitism when questioned about the genocide of the Palestinian People, the true Semitic people.

This cult is actually Satanic, and their God is technically AI. These are the most evil humans on the planet.

They are already in control of our governments, and they are in the final stages of capturing humanity's heart forever.

You have been warned. The only way to defeat this evil is for the human race to turn its back on it and walk away from it forever.

Brett Osborn
Lismore

UN walkout

Netanyahu was boycotted with a walkout by UN delegates representing 70 countries.

He condemned Palestinians and stated, "We must finish the job." Does this sound like the Nazi's final solution?

But now it's the Zionists' turn to commit genocide on Palestinians.

I'm sick and tired of reading and writing about this. What I'm doing now is called venting the spleen.

If only the pen was mightier than the sword.

Paul Brecht
Maclean

Lost at the Rails

In Byron Bay at the local pub, the Railway Hotel, a cultural evening for a change to raise money for the local library, so neglected by officialdom, those councillors who do not know anything!

The main event, a book launch, an account of the Burke and Wills expedition, two Australian heroes of colonial times, who lost their lives in the Great Outback.

And there they were on stage, people of importance, local identities, each reading a designated page, somewhat reluctantly, but enjoying their presence, as requested.

And the audience, most listening dutifully, a little bored by it all, others chattered in the background as the Chronicle continued, dissolving into nothingness.

Then later, the Panel, all known and knowledgeable, to examine the Big Issue, Burke and Wills, exploration or exploitation?

Definition and delineation, joking, judging events and places, cultures past, attitudes and races. The Grand Expedition was not what it seemed, just pointless stupidity, illusions, dream.

More condescending opinions... *Burke and Wills, they did not know, they did not understand, how ignorant they were, unlike the Aborigines, who tried to help them, kindly, as best they could.*

"You are wrong! Wrong! You do not know!" angry, confused, from the figure near the front, standing there, resolute in conviction, making his statement.

Brushed aside with brotherly clichés he is led outside, Les, an Aboriginal from the local park, who knew what they could never know!

John Stuart
Evans Head

Look after Country



Three generations of Wangan and Jagalingou Cultural Custodians celebrate five years of reoccupation of their home protecting Doongmabulla Springs from mining by Adani.

The sunset corroboree shared songs and stories from here and afar, thanks to the Yarrabah songline dancers.

Mala Neal, leader of the Yarrabah dancers said: "Look after Country, look after each other. Spirit, goodwill and truth brings us together."

See story on page 17.

Look out Australia – we're living in the sunburnt country



Photo courtesy Wired

by Bernadine Schwartz

When I received the Census my first reaction was, "What exactly are we planning for?"

Global warming waits for no-one, it has its own timetable and brought a summer that left thousands dead and millions, if not billions, barely survived, making 2026 officially the hottest year on record.

Temperatures were smashed worldwide, along with a prolific number of wildfires, that saw 616,000 hectares incinerated in Europe, the US roughly 3.33 million hectares and Canada over 4 million hectares.

Research from the World Resources Institute revealed wildfires have erased roughly 1.5 million square kilometres of forests in the last 24 years, equal in size to Mongolia, and tree cover loss has escalated to double the pace of 20 years ago, as the planet loses forests at an unsustainable rate.

Those nations worst affected are Brazil, Bolivia, Russia, Canada and Australia, where we've had 883 square kilometres of forests go up in flames from 2001 through to 2024.

Calum Cunningham from the University of Tasmania's fire centre explains, "Massive forest fire seasons threaten to reshape the atmosphere by releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide, which could create a feedback loop – more warming, worse fire

weather, more fire. That's the ultimate fear!"

In the past 25 years, wildfires and biomass have released roughly 150 to 200 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and today accounts for 20% of the planet's greenhouse gas emissions. These rising emissions are feeding one of the most powerful weather patterns on the planet, an El Niño and it's gaining strength.

Berkeley Earth is a non-profit research group and their data points to an unusually powerful El Niño for 2026 through to 2027, something scientists weren't expecting for another decade or more, and the odds are high and predicted to hit Australia hard.

Scientists gauge an El Niño's potential impact from the sea surface temperature in the Eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and projections suggest temperatures will hit 4°C higher than normal sea surface temperatures.

El Niños that reach or exceed 2°C are defined as a super El Niño, so what this one is capable of is anyone's guess and scientists warn, every El Niño from here on in will pack a bigger punch than the one before.

Back to back heatwaves brought temperatures 40°C and higher across Europe and provisional data and estimates show 35,000 to 36,000 people died from heat related deaths.

The data only covered half the

continent and doesn't include August, so the figure is much higher.

According to the World Health Organisation, heatstroke is the greatest natural hazard with studies uncovering approximately 489,000 people have died from heat related causes annually between 2000 and 2019.

Australians need to be reminded that they're living on the same planet and they seem to have forgotten our infamous nickname, the sunburnt country. Heatwaves are a standard trademark and since 1890 more Australians have died from heatstroke, than floods, cyclones, severe storms, fires and earthquakes combined.

Data collected by Monash University showed 1,009 Australians died from heat related causes between 2016 to 2019, so the risks for us as a nation are much higher, especially when this summer is predicted to bring record heatwaves, droughts and wildfires.

In addition, Australia has another climate driver associated with warmer and drier conditions, a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is developing, reducing moisture laden air to Australia, which means less rain.

A team of 60 international scientists put together a report for Planetary Boundaries Science Lab at Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and found of the nine established boundaries, seven have been breached.

Climate change, change in biosphere integrity, land system change, freshwater change, modification of biogeochemicals, introduction of man-made chemicals and ocean acidification.

Boris Sakschawski, head author of the report summarised it very clearly. "The risk of large scale, persistent and potentially irreversible change is increasing, while our margin for error in tackling these problems is shrinking."

Mother Earth is hanging on for grim life, yet society hasn't even got the decency to show some restraint and it seems the only solution is, put their hands behind their back and handcuff them! Or maybe a strait jacket is the only answer.

This is global warming in its infancy, so what can we expect when it reaches maturity? I doubt there'll be anyone left to tell the tale.

You reap what you sow, but all we did was reap. Now we're stranded on a planet that's becoming increasingly hostile and eventually will be uninhabitable. And no ifs or buts about it. Can you tell me what that spells? Extinction. Maybe it needs to be said again and again.

What does that spell?

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Freshening up Nimbin village



From the mayor's desk
by Cr Steve Krieg
Lismore City Council

With temperatures giving summer-time vibes, you'll be looking for the perfect place to cool off. The Nimbin Swimming Pool is now open daily from 6am to 6pm, extending to 7pm when daylight saving commences. With plenty of shady spots and a free BBQ, it's the perfect place for a cool swim and a family picnic. Best of all, entry is free. To help freshen up this much-

loved and well-utilised community area, two new bin enclosures featuring local artwork are being installed over the next few weeks. So, grab your swimmers and head to the pool. You may have noticed our Open Spaces team out and about giving the Nimbin CBD a thorough clean-up, with footpaths, bins and tables all receiving a pressure wash. Works at Allsop and Peace Park have also been completed, helping to freshen up these much-loved and well-used community spaces.

Landslip repairs
One of the things that makes Nimbin and the surrounding area so special is our landscape. The rolling hills, winding roads, abundant wildlife and beautiful scenery are part of what draws people to the area and makes it a great place to call home. At the same time, these roads can present challenges, particularly when navigating the many roadwork projects underway. I know many residents have had to adjust their travel routines

while this important work is carried out. Landslip repairs continue at multiple sites along Tuntable Creek Road. We've also made great progress on Oakley Creek Road with single-lane access now open while the remaining four landslips along that road are completed. If you're travelling through the area, please slow down, follow traffic controls and take care around road crews. They're often working in challenging conditions to restore critical infrastructure damaged by the 2022 natural disasters. To help plan ahead, I encourage you to visit the Flood Restoration Portfolio project schedule and interactive map on Council's website, where you can view current and upcoming works, road impacts and project updates. Thank you for your patience and support as we continue rebuilding and strengthening our local roads.

Tourist information
With the school holidays upon us and Christmas just a few months



Oakley Creek Road reopened via single lane.

away, many of us will have friends and family coming to stay. Make sure they get the most out of their stay with free visitor maps, What's-On guides and local tourist information, available from the Nimbin Candle Factory and Nimbin Artists Gallery. If your local business would like to stock visitor information and help visitors discover more of our region, please get in touch with the Destination Team at: tourism@lismore.nsw.gov.au Our recent collaboration with Australian Traveller, featuring Lismore's vibrant villages, was a standout performer on-line, demonstrating the continued interest in Nimbin and our villages as a drawcard for travellers. The strong performance reinforces the importance of showcasing our unique character, alternative lifestyle and authentic experiences. What truly sets our region apart is not just the places to explore, but the people and the welcoming, inclusive spirit of our community.

Medicinal cannabis driving reforms

by Janelle Saffin MP
Member for Lismore

I am pleased to report that in September, Parliament passed the Minns Labor Government's medicinal cannabis driving reforms. This is an issue that came up at the drug summit, and I am one who has argued for a fairer system for drivers who are on prescribed medicinal cannabis, instead of an immediate three-month loss of licence if traces of THC are detected. The legislation means drivers will no longer automatically be penalised solely because THC is in their system, provided they meet strict conditions and are not driving while impaired. This brings it in line with all other prescribed medicine/tablets that are not proscribed.

There will still be roadside drug testing, and a positive test will mean a 24-hour driving ban while the result is processed, but a result below 50ng/ml will mean no further action. Under the legislation, eligible drivers will need to register with Transport for NSW, provide evidence of a valid prescription, and complete an on-line module on cannabis and driving safety. Nobody should drive while impaired by cannabis, alcohol or any other drug and there are strict safeguards included in the legislation. The legislation, and the patient register and education modules are expected to come into force late this year or early 2027.



Photo: Alison Ayres

Leading the way on solar power

The Northern Rivers has a reputation for being a leader in renewable energy take up. The Lismore electorate is third out of 93 electorates for solar panel installation, and neighbouring Ballina is second. I know a lot of households and businesses would like to do more, like installing storage batteries, but have found the upfront cost to be a barrier. So, I want to go over some of the measures that the Minns Labor Government has brought in to support households and businesses to upgrade their energy efficiency. Under the Home Energy Saver

Program, eligible homeowners with a taxable income of up to \$210,000 can access a no-interest loan of up to \$15,000 for energy-saving upgrades, and the loan can be paid off over ten years. The money can be used for rooftop solar, home batteries, hot water heat pump, reverse cycle air conditioning, induction stove tops, EV chargers, double glazing, insulation and ceiling fans. This has proved very popular locally, and the Lismore electorate is eighth in the state for uptake of the loans. I encourage you to look into it. The NSW Government is also helping businesses reduce their power bills through incentives that cut the upfront cost of battery installations with discounts of 20 to 40%, depending on the size of the battery system. The incentive can be combined with the Australian Government's scheme for discounted rooftop solar for commercial buildings. As we move towards more solar power there is the issue of the growing amount of solar panel waste, with about 14,000 tonnes of solar panel waste a year in NSW. The Government is now consulting on Australia's first mandatory solar panel recycling scheme to ensure the valuable materials in solar panels, such as aluminium, glass, silicon, copper and silver can be recovered, reused and kept out of landfill. Information on the stewardship scheme and consultation is at: <https://yoursay.epa.nsw.gov.au/solar>

Kyogle Council Mayoral election

Kyogle Councillor Danielle Mulholland (*pictured*) has been returned to the Mayoral position for another two-year term. Mayor Mulholland was first elected to lead Kyogle Council in 2013 and served as Mayor until 2021. She was re-elected to the role in 2024 and has now been elected to continue as Mayor through to 2028. Councillor John Burley was also returned as Deputy Mayor. He has served in the position from 2014 to 2021, and was re-elected in the role in 2024.

Mayor Mulholland said she was both humbled and honoured by the confidence placed in her by her fellow Councillors. "I have always regarded the position of Mayor as a privilege, not a position of entitlement," she said. "Every term brings a responsibility to work hard, listen to our community and do everything I can to deliver the best possible outcomes for the Kyogle Local Government Area." Mayor Mulholland congratulated Cr Burley on his re-election as Deputy Mayor. "John and I have worked together throughout my time as Mayor, and I value the trust and respect we have built over many years," she said. "We don't always agree on everything, and I think that is healthy. But I know I can rely on John to be honest, to provide sound advice and, most importantly, to always have the interests of our community at heart." Mayor Mulholland acknowledged Councillors Olivia Taylor and Tom Cooper, who also put their names



forward for leadership positions. "I commend Olivia for nominating for Deputy Mayor and Tom for Mayor. I respect anyone who is prepared to put their hand up for leadership, and I wish them both well," she said. "Having served as Mayor across more than a decade, I understand both the opportunities and the challenges facing our community. "But I also know that no Mayor, Councillor or Council can achieve anything alone. Our strength is in working together – with each other as Councillors, and with our staff, our communities, our businesses, our volunteers and with State and Federal Governments." Mayor Mulholland said Council would continue to focus on practical outcomes for the entire Kyogle Local Government Area, including roads, culverts and causeways, flood resilience, economic development, housing, community services and strong advocacy for rural communities. "There is a lot still to do, and I am very conscious that people judge us not by what we say, but by what we achieve," she said.

Cannabis, driving and a glimmer of light in law



by Sue Higginson
NSW Greens MLC

We have finally got medicinal cannabis driving laws through Parliament – but importantly for anyone who uses cannabis and drives, even though the law has changed, the new scheme hasn't started yet, and it's not expected to until 2027. Until then the existing law still applies, and the presence of THC detected through roadside drug testing can still cost you your licence, whether you are impaired or not. When the changes do commence, they will apply to a specific group of medicinal cannabis patients. You will need an unrestricted NSW driver licence, a current prescription, registration with Transport for NSW and completion of an education program. Police will still be pulling people over and you can still be swabbed for THC. If you test positive, you will still be prohibited from driving for 24 hours while the sample goes to a laboratory. If that saliva test comes back with more than 50 nanograms per millilitre (ng/mL) of THC then you can face a \$722 fine and at least three months off the road. To put this plainly, a single use of cannabis could take one to three days before your body drops below 50 nanograms – and regular users could stay over the threshold for one to three weeks. If you use cannabis recreationally, or medicinally but aren't eligible and registered under the new scheme, the fact that you are completely sober when you drive doesn't protect you from committing an offence. So this is an incremental disconnect between medicine and driving laws, but it's also



a reminder of how long it can take governments to adapt to evidence! The Greens have been fighting this for years, and since 2019 we've been calling for NSW roadside drug testing to move towards an impairment-based testing system. Here at home, the Richmond-Tweed region was at that time recording 470 drug-driving convictions per 100,000 people, more than five times the NSW average. That work led to my Greens colleague Cate Faehrmann introducing laws in the Parliament in 2021 that would protect people with medicinal cannabis prescriptions from being targeted by these laws. But just six MPs supported the law being changed. Four years later, the Parliament has finally moved, and with the Greens in the balance of power, we have passed laws. There is some justice in that, and enormous credit belongs to the patients, advocates, doctors, drug law reform campaigners and people who have kept telling their stories. Losing a licence in Nimbin, Lismore or anywhere across our region can mean losing your job, being unable to get to medical appointments, struggling to care for family, or simply becoming isolated. Public transport is hardly an alternative for many people here. These practical consequences were recognised

through the NSW Drug Summit process as people called for a distinction between THC being present and a person actually being impaired. Somebody taking a medicine lawfully prescribed by their doctor, who is not impaired and is driving safely, should not lose their licence simply because traces of that medicine remain detectable in their body. The Greens' position is to legalise and regulate cannabis for adults and to remove criminal penalties for personal possession and use of other drugs, moving drug policy towards health, harm reduction and treatment. We have consistently supported drug-driving laws directed at impairment and actual road safety risk. Cannabis legalisation and drug decriminalisation are different things, and both form part of moving away from a system where criminal law has carried far too much of the burden of responding to drug use. Driving while impaired by any drug is dangerous and should remain an offence. But criminal law shouldn't treat the mere presence of a substance as though it proves impairment, particularly when THC can remain detectable for weeks after any impairment has passed. Thanks to continuous pressure from the Greens, a handful of other MPs, advocates and the community, the Government has now accepted that proposition far enough to create this new system for prescribed medicinal cannabis. The state has spent decades trying to police drugs out of existence; it's caused so much harm and cost so much in public resources. The Greens have been arguing for another approach for a long time. Regulate cannabis, decriminalise personal drug use, invest properly in treatment and harm reduction, and make laws about dangerous driving actually respond to dangerous driving. After years of campaigning, NSW has finally moved one piece of that puzzle. There is plenty more work ahead and we won't stop until the failed war on drugs ends.

Strong opposition to detention basins

by Dr Luke Robinson,
NSW Greens candidate for Lismore

Our communities don't want Hogan's dams. That has been the message loud and clear since the release of the final CSIRO Richmond River catchment flood mitigation report on 30th June. For an absurd proposal with so little social licence, how did we get here? The floodwaters had barely receded from the most devastating flood in our history on 28th February 2022, and Federal Nationals MP [for Page] Kevin Hogan – never one to waste a good crisis – was out of the blocks swiftly proclaiming "For everyone who is against engineering solutions... the debate is over. We are doing engineering work for flood mitigation." We were getting dams, like it or not. The Morrison government then commissioned the CSIRO to develop a hydrological computer model of the Richmond catchment with a narrow remit to only consider hard-engineering flood mitigation measures. Last year the CSIRO and the federal government's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) ran a handful of very limited and deeply flawed tick-box community 'consultations' (which I have previously written about in the NGT) to decide what vaguely defined measures they would model. Throughout this process, NEMA appeared very reluctant to publicly provide specific locations for the detention dams, let alone proactively consult the communities that would be affected. As has been evident in meeting after meeting since the final report was released, most people under threat from these dams had no earlier knowledge of them. They were very angry the dams were being foisted upon them, seemingly a fait accompli. Even now at the time of writing, we still have not been provided with the inundation maps for eight of the 10 proposed dams. Thankfully however, a hydrological expert in the community has stepped up to do this where the CSIRO has failed. See: <https://richmond-flood-maps.projects.earthengine.app/>

Labor's latest attack on free speech

Labor is once again attacking free speech with its proposed Digital Duty of Care laws. These laws would give Ministers and Government regulators more power to decide what you can see on-line. This means your on-line feed would be shaped by bureaucrats, you should be in control of what you see online. Keeping Australians safe on-line matters, but so does protecting free speech, open debate and independent journalism.

Look after our veterans

After the months of pressure from the Coalition, Labor has come to their senses and scrapped their \$5000 cap on veterans allied health expenses. Our Veterans have served the country and to think their allied health expenses would be limited is appalling, shame on this Government. We cannot risk leaving those who served our country without the care they deserve.



view/richmond-flood-maps

As I and others warned CSIRO lead scientist Jai Vaze in last year's 'consultations', if he proceeded to model these detention dams without genuine community engagement and social licence his report would face a fierce community backlash when released – as indeed it has. His team was also advised they needed to consider at least basic economic, geotechnical/engineering, environmental and cultural facts on the ground before choosing what to model. Their failure to do so has resulted in theoretical proposals that are absurd and unworkable in the real world: a computer la-la land that has cost the public millions of dollars and years of work, false hope and delayed action. But reality has now caught up, our communities are awake, they are angry and they are active. The few information sessions run by CSIRO/NEMA this July were very well attended. Attendees demanded (and got) a change of format to extended town hall style meetings where they could share their concerns together as a community rather than suffer the manifestly inadequate brief one-on-one 'drop-in' sessions first proposed. Since then, upstream communities under threat from these dams including Rock Valley and communities around Kyogle, Nimbin and The Channon/Dunoon have organised their own local meetings with action groups now joined under the umbrella of Valleys United. See: www.facebook.com/p/Valleys-United-Protecting-our-Communities-from-Detention-Floods-61593512023994



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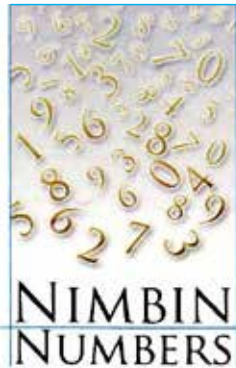


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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

NNIC is hiring!
Relief Community Support Worker wanted. Regular work for the next six months, then on-going relief as needed when staff take leave. Applications close 9th October and MUST ADDRESS the selection criteria in the Job Kit available on our website: www.nmic.org.au

October raffle
This month's raffle features a lovely big family hamper donated by Megan from AKG employment services plus some extra goodies. Tix available at NNIC: \$2 or three for \$5. Raffle will be drawn on the first working day in November. All proceeds go towards NNIC's service and activities. Check out our Facebook page for more info.

Donations
Many thanks to the Nimbin CWA for their generous donation of \$500 to NNIC and \$500 last month for the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group.

Nimbin Fringe
This new festival is on 31st October – 1st November. Great value at \$60 a day. Half price for young people, and children under 12 are free! 7 Sibley Street's NimBIN Chickens crew will be managing the waste at the festival and ensuring as much as possible is either composted or recycled. And of course, they will be looking out for lids for our own recycling project. 7 Sibley Street is also pleased to be hosting the youth space and event at the Fringe Festival.

Community Radio Day
A community UHF radio information and training day will be held on 15th November at the

Showgrounds to help the whole community prepare for disasters and the possible loss of normal communications, as occurred in 2022. Everyone is welcome to come along and find out how to use a UHF radio and how to connect with the established Nimbin Emergency Radio Network (NERN). You will get to use radios and learn some basic protocols. It's guaranteed to be a fun and interactive day. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Join our Management Committee
The NNIC AGM is coming up (date yet to be set – sometime in November) and we are always looking for new MC members to join our great team. See our website (About us – Structure and Goals tab) for some FAQs about what is involved, plus an EOI form – which you can download, fill in and send to us at: admin@nmic.org.au

Nimbin Central School Market Day
We really enjoyed hanging out at the NCS market day held on 18th September and were very impressed by all the great stalls and the student musos on the day. NNIC conducted a survey of the young people to see how we could better support them and some great ideas came out of that which we will work on going forwards...so WATCH THIS SPACE!

Leave a little magic behind
You've worked hard, paid taxes, survived family gatherings and accumulated an impressive collection of things you absolutely don't need anymore. So when the time comes to write your will, why not consider a bequest to NNIC? A bequest to the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is a lovely



way to leave a little bit of yourself behind – preferably the generous, community-minded bit, rather than the bit that still owes someone \$20 from 1997. NNIC has been part of the Nimbin community for decades, helping people find information, support, services, connections and, occasionally, their way through the glorious maze that is life in the Rainbow Region. Your bequest could help keep that door open for future generations – offering practical help, a friendly face, useful information and a

place where people can turn up and ask, "Does anyone know where I can...?" And someone, remarkably often, does. You don't have to be fabulously wealthy. You don't have to own a purple bus. You simply have to decide that, after you've finished distributing the books, the jewellery, the garden gnome and the mysterious box of cables nobody can identify, you'd like a little of what remains to keep something good going. Think of it as your final act of community participation. A last little wave from you. A posthumous high-five. Or, if you prefer, a small but meaningful contribution to keeping Nimbin weird, welcoming, connected and wonderfully human. Because you can't take it with you, but you can leave something useful behind, and that's a pretty good legacy. If you need more info, contact us on: admin@nmic.org.au

Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services
We assist frail aged people and their carers remain living at home and staying connected

Home & Community Care – our friendly, local support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, insured

SOCIAL CENTRE with air-con and Veranda: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm drop in for a cuppa, info on support services, computers, air-con

DEVICE ADVICE: Weds 9.30am-12.30pm, seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS - booking and fees apply
Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea at centre
Garrima Café Group twice monthly Thursdays, 11-2
Wise Ones, Koonorigan Hall 4th Mon, bring plate to share
Bus Outings: 2nd & 4th Tues, scenic drives, cafes & site-seeing

All NACRS aged care activities and services require MyAgedCare registration and assessment – myagedcare.gov.au 1800 200 422

Trustworthy Respectful kind Reliable Healthy
responsive Competent Boundaries
Empathic personalised authentic
Sensitive adaptive Supportive

Contact NACRS: 6689 1709 enquiries@nacrs.com.au
or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen St
www.nacrs.com.au

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation
Service available by appointment, phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse
Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments, phone 6630-0400.

Women's health nurse services
Third Thursday of the month, next is 15th October. Phone 6688-1400 for an appointment.

Wound clinic
Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

Drug and alcohol counselling services available
For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

Nurse practitioner clinic
Diabetes clinics: Third Thursday of the month, next is 15th October.

Community Registered Nurse
Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – leave a message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP
Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am to 12.30pm. NSP dispenses bulk injecting equipment during these hours. Come and speak to our friendly staff.

Health advice line
Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week, free service. A registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to an emergency department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary
Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the conference room of the Nimbin MPS. New members always welcome.

NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

At the September Nimbin Show, I collected a lot of letters to send to our local MP Janelle Saffin, NSW Minister for Recovery, from constituents in the area under threat of prolonged flooding due to the engineering 'solution' to the flooding potentially experienced by residents in the Richmond River catchment proposed by the CSIRO report commissioned by the Federal Government's National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA). Many residents who signed letters asked for more public consultation and consideration. Anyone wishing to have their letter hand-delivered to Janelle Saffin can leave it at the NEC shop on Nimbin's main street. Many residents of that region want input into the current feasibility study. There will never be a social licence for the deliberate flooding of homes and properties in the Rainbow Region. We prefer nature-friendly remedies which will be less expensive, more practical and more beneficial. What are these detention dams? The proposal is to build 10 huge dams. They

would detain water for two weeks or more in upper areas of the Richmond River catchment during floods, in the hope of reducing (but not preventing) flooding downstream. In other words, they would flood hundreds of homes, farms, businesses and natural environments upstream with the hope of reducing, but not eliminating, flooding downstream. These dams would be enormous! Some would have walls 39m high; others are up to 658m long. They range from 11 to 93 giralitres (Rocky Creek Dam is 14 giralitres). One dam alone is 6.6 times bigger than Rocky Creek Dam. And there are at least 10 of them being proposed. Together they equal 40 Rocky Creek Dams and are bigger than Sydney Harbour! These massive structures would destroy roads, houses, farms, businesses, community infrastructure and the natural environment. They would be enormously expensive, take decades to build and have tragic consequences. Major roads would be cut for long periods, isolating whole communities. The risk of dam failure is frightening. The amount of steel and concrete involved would add to climate change emissions at

a time in history we want to be reducing carbon pollution. The CSIRO report does not claim the dams would save downstream communities. The lead author tells us that the study's terms of reference, determined by NEMA, did not include reducing rainfall run-off with nature-friendly methods, but NEMA could have included such options in view of the \$11M paid on behalf of the public for commissioning CSIRO for this hydrology report. Instead, we are asked to wait while government committees sort through the requirements for a feasibility study, which is expected to report in about 18 months. Dam Free Nimbin asks that decision-makers kill off this poorly-planned proposal and divert funding to fencing off streams in upper catchments and re-planting riparian zones upstream to absorb and slow down rainfall run-off. Landcare initiatives take time and are not so easy to imagine, but building dams would require even more time and expense. The devastation required would destroy the very landscapes that contribute to the real estate markets that proponents dream about. Property owners and businesses, including farms, near the proposed dams are



NEC stall at the Nimbin Show

threatened with falling home and land values and need some assurance that this magic dream 'solution' will be recognised quickly as deeply flawed, rather than giving it lengthy consideration which it does not deserve. The chances are strong that our communities would engage in non-violent direct action to prevent the building of such dams.

Save Wallum: Update
On 7th September, the NSW Land and Environment Court dismissed Save Wallum Inc's urgent application seeking to prevent further slashing and vegetation works at the Brunswick Heads Wallum development site. This is a deeply disappointing outcome for activists seeking to protect the site. In the space of two weeks, the community has faced three difficult court decisions while machinery has moved on this rare coastal Wallum heathland. The next legal step is the Federal Court appeal. Save Wallum Inc is

preparing to appeal the judgement, with the appeal due to be lodged by 5th October. **Stop native forest logging**
The Greens decided to allow the new federal government Improved Native Forest Management (INFM) regulations to go ahead despite it allows some polluters to buy credits. These credits will be used to facilitate public lands management for the benefit of nature. We should be able to get action now on the already agreed-upon Great Koala National Park and establish other wildlife reserves such as the Richmond River Koala Parks. The Albanese government established the koala credits using regulation. The Nationals opposed the credits and on 11th September moved a motion in the Senate to disallow the regulation. It had the support of One Nation and

most of the Coalition. Three Greens Senators also voted to disallow, but the motion failed. Dailan Pugh, chair of the NorthEast Forest Alliance (NEFA), a long-term advocate for the use of carbon credits for protecting forests, recognised the carbon storage value of forests (along with tourism and water). "We now agree that the INFM is the best method we could hope for," he said, "and will deliver real carbon benefits, while providing a real incentive for the NSW Government to end all logging of public native forests in NSW, rather than logging to be continued with 10-year extensions to Wood Supply Agreements. Dailan said, "The future of the GKNP is an unknown. The Government has made great progress on implementing the park, so it's hard for them to turn back. We think that this funding will now allow forest protection to expand into all areas of NSW."

The summer of unpredictability

by John Macleay

The phrase "all politics is local" could just as easily be "all climate implications are local". And in a variation of another famous saying: "What happens in the Pacific Ocean doesn't always stay in the Pacific Ocean", El Niño is not only coming, it's almost already here. Welcome to the Summer of Unpredictability. If you're already planning your Christmas break with a bushwalk in the Border Ranges or a camping holiday by the beach, then think again. Nothing is going to be certain. By now, pretty much everyone is well versed with the terms El Niño and La Niña to know that the former – Spanish for boy child – is a harbinger of hot, dry aka bushfire weather. This El Niño is off the scale in terms of just how warm, relative to the usual temperature, the Pacific Ocean is getting on this side of the planet.

Sure, there are other factors at work including the relative temperatures of the Indian Ocean and its effect on the Monsoon on Northern Australia, and also how straight or distorted the jet stream circulating in the latitudes above Antarctica gets in coming months. The Richmond River is already the most degraded coastal river in the State. How drought plays out this summer with this vital environmental backbone of the Northern Rivers is an educated

guess, but it won't be pretty. It may not quite be a replay of the Black Summer of 2019-2020 but it won't be idyllic either, especially so as the Northern Rivers are already one of the most bushfire-prone regions of Australia. There have been several El Niños already so far this century. I was working with a large State Government department during the 2002-2003 event. This department had carriage over the water supply to regional NSW. Large, coastal towns such as Lismore, supplied by Rocky Creek Dam, as well as Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie, came within 10 weeks of running out of water. But it rained in time at the end of that summer, and all went back to normal. But you get the point, a double act of two winters without rain and single-digit water storage levels, pushes to the edge something very basic in terms of amenity, a reliable supply of drinking water. And these are towns on the coast, not inland where it is even hotter and drier!

Yet somehow our Federal Government can find the money – every six months, year in, year out, for the next 20 years – to give a cheque to Pentagon for \$US500 million (\$A700 million) for the US military industrial complex to help its assembly line build all its nuclear submarines. Total cost for

Australia's seven submarines: \$A368 billion and counting. Ah, priorities and just who makes the loudest noise, politically. Fast forward to 2022 and a La Niña. The floodwaters that put the Richmond and Wilson rivers into the headlines for the wrong reasons showed what happened when climate extremes meant the daily lorry carting supplies to the local IGA couldn't come and supermarket shelves were almost bare. You may not have heard of the French ecologist Olivier Hamant, but his message might resonate: we now live in the era of the unpredictable. He was talking about climate, but it just as easily applies to politics. World events in the Middle East have played out at the bowser, as all motorists know. The era of the Anthropocene is now upon us; humans do influence the climate. And it's not just a matter of a straight-line increase in global temperatures. The fingerprint of global heating shows up in more intense and frequent heatwaves, and the opposite – intense rainfall and catastrophic flooding. Parts of Casino flooded in 2022 for the first time in its white history. Nightcap and Border Ranges rainforests burn for the first time in the summer bushfire season of 2019-2020. In the 2002 drought, the local abattoir in Casino spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on its own water filtration because of blue-green algae in the Richmond River. Lest We Forget.

Olivier Hamant is calling for a society guided by robustness rather than peak performance. Robustness means resilience, having some give in the system where a strain won't break it. Peak performance, on the other hand, is all about efficiency, the maximisation of profit. But that has a downside. If the tankers from North Coast Petroleum don't deliver after two days, no-one in Kyogle or Casino will be driving a car. If the lorry doesn't deliver to IGA or Coles or Woolworths, no-one eats. And that's just petrol and diesel. Oxford University professor Paul Behrens, an expert in food security, estimates that climate change is responsible for about one-third the increase in global food prices this decade. Drought and heatwaves have already put food security under the spotlight in Europe. Crop yields are way down. Climate extremes are putting enormous strains on the yields for not just staples. Wine, coffee and chocolate may one day soon be only for the very rich. In a delicious irony, AI is now stepping into this picture. These great gobblers of energy and water are super-charging demand for fossil fuels that are pushing a liveable climate further over the brink. But this comes with the bargain in return. More and more of the information required to guide essential services are uploaded into the 'cloud,' that nebulous 'somewhere' that data centres are located. Trouble is, that link is easily knocked out in a flood or bushfire. Doomers and preppers are not the answer. That slippery slide of

anti-social behaviour robs people of agency, the power to actually do something, to think through how the forces acting upon them are shaping an ever-narrow range of alternatives. Hamant's message is that we must plan for events that push way outside the average. The 2022 floods are a good example. The naysayers will make the Dorothy Mackellar come back, that Australia is always a land of droughts and flooding rains. But that misses the point and is misleading. It is the frequency of the extremes of floods and droughts that are happening, supercharged by a climate that is now hotter than any time in the past 10,000 years when agriculture and civilisation first took hold. Temperatures globally were roughly stable over that period, now they are expected to shoot past 2°C of global warming sometime in the 2030s, and are already at 1.5°C degrees above their average and will be supercharged this summer by El Niño. The European history of what is now called the Richmond Valley is just shy of 200 years old; the Bundjalung history at least 60,000 years old. The perspective of deep time is everything. Tim Flannery noted that climate change is happening 30 times faster than it did naturally at the end of the last Ice Age. I said at the start that all politics is local. Climate is politics. It's up to you, dear reader, to either sit on the fence or become involved. Either way, you're going to be affected. Either way you're going to pay. Only time will tell how soon.