



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Tuned in, turned on and **FREE**

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Storm damage brings out community spirit



Photos: Sue Stock

by **Gaz Moore**,
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Sometime on the evening of 21st May, in the midst of wild winds and flooding rains, Johnson's Bridge, on the only access road into the Tuntable Falls valley, collapsed and was washed downstream. This left a gaping hole in the road and stranded around 200 people.

By the next afternoon safety warning signs were erected, steps had been cut into the steep bank and long wide planks provided a walkway across the downstream side of the damaged roadway.

A part of the Tuntable Community was on the Western side of the damaged road and these members were able to access Nimbin. It was obvious a plan had to be developed to assist those stranded members as no-one knew how long it would take to fix the damaged roadway. People assisted each other as best they could and a Community meeting was held on Sunday 24th at Tuntable Hall.

This meeting created a co-ordinated response to the situation and a roster was made for members to provide a base of operations at the Tuntable Community Centre.

A decision to refer to the damaged roadway as the "chasm" provided the opportunity to create lists and contact details of members on either side to coordinate access to town. A bus was hired and extra school bus runs were organised.

Over the following days, as the Lismore City Council crew worked on creating an access, the Community Centre was distributing food choppered in by the SES and co-ordinating transport and supplies. The school on Tuntable was re-opened and the walkway over the creek was kept safe with added gravel and hand railings erected. There was a

deja vu feel, for me, with people strolling down the road to the chasm and chatting in groups there and at the Community Centre.

On Friday 29th around 1pm the first vehicle crossed over the new causeway and the chasm was no longer. There were many people who had helped things, in this time of upheaval, to be successfully and even enjoyably managed. As secretary of the Tuntable Board I would like to thank all those members whose assistance was so generously given.

I would also like to thank the Lismore City Council, whose staff were friendly and professional. I

pay tribute to the SES as well as to the

Nimbin bus driver who did extra work to help out. I am also grateful to the media who helped to report our Community's plight and aid us in its speedy resolution.

I am so fortunate to be part of the Tuntable Tribe and it is refreshing to see the way in which we responded to this dramatic event. There is a lot of uncertainty in our world these days and seeing how things were done at this time helps me feel confident of meeting the challenges we face together in the future.



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