



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Funky, phat and FREE

Cabbage Tree Palm Edition

June 2012

81 Cullen Street
Nimbin 2480
Phone 6689-1148
nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Community invests in sustainable house

After months of effort, the Nimbin community has secured 7 Sibley Street for the proposed Sustainability House project.

But the purchase is dependant on finding another \$100,000 by the end of this year to pay back a \$145,000 bridging loan provided by a community member.

The purchase builds on Nimbin's 30-year history of acquiring its own property for community purposes at a time when local and State governments are divesting themselves of public assets, according to Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre team leader, Natalie Mayer.

"The Sustainability House concept was the key visionary idea to emerge from the Sustainable Nimbin planning day held in June last year," Natalie said.

"It has the potential to tie together the many goals of the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan."

The project involves planning, designing and developing a multi-purpose community building and landscape that demonstrates sustainable design and technologies. It will bring together many aspects

of Nimbin's sustainable community initiatives and provide a marketing and economic platform for local sustainability projects and businesses.

Natalie said the first and biggest hurdle was always going to be the securing of a suitable site for the project at an affordable cost.

She described the last six months as 'a nail-biting roller coaster ride' for the teams at the Neighbourhood Centre and the Nimbin Community Centre, involving negotiations with Lismore City Council, many meetings, and several rival bids on the property.

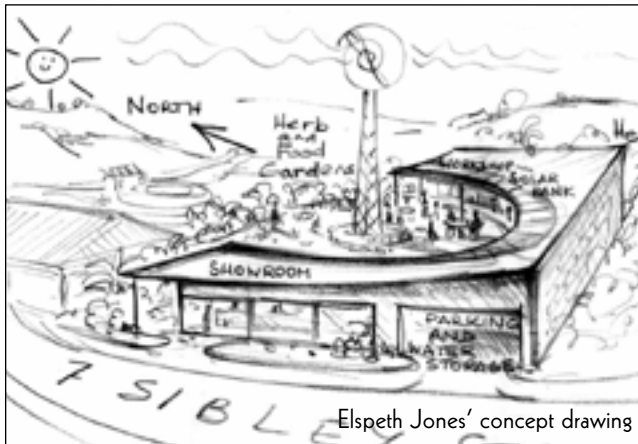
Now a generous community member has provided bridging finance of \$145,000 to secure the purchase. But this was only possible due to the many community members who pledged donations and gave the financier confidence that their loan will be repaid.

"Both the community financier and the Community Centre have taken on considerable risk to enable the purchase of the site. We owe it to them to raise the funds to repay it quickly as possible," Natalie said.

"The loan will be interest free until December 2012 and our aim is to repay the



Committee members celebrate the exchange of contracts on the property.



Elsbeth Jones' concept drawing

loan by then.

"Community members have already pledged around \$45,000 to the purchase and we are now calling for these to be honoured.

"But a further \$100,000 needs to be raised by December 2012. There is no real possibility that any external funding will be found to repay the loan so it's up to us, Nimbinites, to raise this money ourselves.

"We need 100 people with \$1000, or 200 people with \$500 or 400 people with \$250... and so on. Of course all donations are very welcome, no matter what amount."

The Nimbin Community Centre has agreed to hold title to the site and give the NNIC a secure long-term lease. This will enable the NNIC to focus on finding funds to get the project started.

While securing further funds to develop the Sustainability House itself options are being explored to use the existing building to generate income and contribute towards the loan

repayments.

The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre is planning a series of community consultations to gather more detail and interest in the project and to establish a working group to guide it to fruition.

The first of these will be a Community Forum on Saturday 16th June between 2pm and 4pm at the Nimbin Town Hall.

Donations can be deposited into the Summerland Credit Union, BSB 728-728, Nimbin Community Centre account number 2229 0728. (on-line three letter key is: NIM).

Please include your name, and either 'anon' or 'public' in the reference. The Neighbourhood Centre will track all deposits and the loan balance and report back via our website and regular NGT column.

For more info or if you are interested in joining the Working Group visit www.nmic.org.au or else drop into the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre.



Gasfield free roads,

by Len Martin

When 7000 people marched in the recent Lismore Rally against coal seam gas, there was a forest of signs, each bearing the name of a road. In each of these roads, local community groups had asked each resident: "Do you want your road/land to be CSG free? Yes? No? Not sure?" In all cases, the response was overwhelmingly "Yes". The road was declared "Gasfield Free - Protected by Community" and each road group was able to proudly carry their sign in the rally.

At the time of the rally, the only communities with completed road surveys were: The Channon, Keerong, Dunoon, Modanville, Jiggi, North Lismore, Coffee Camp, Goolmangar and, notably, Ewingar from the Clarence Valley. Not only was the Goolmangar community one of the quickest to complete their survey, one respected member of the Goolmangar farming community and his wife travelled to Chinchilla to find out for themselves, by talking to locals, how the coal seam gas industry had affected farmers up there, returning even more fired up to fight the battle against CSG.

The CSG industry's catchcry is that opposition comes from a minority of activists. The results of our road surveys put the lie to that. Consistently, the "overwhelmingly YES" vote has been well over 90%. The vast majority of local citizens express a strong desire that their roads and lands remain CSG-free. These surveys were not the commercial-type involving a small randomly selected group from the total population. Our surveys are

comprehensive and cover every residence, in every road, in every community.

The surveys continue to spread - a network of opposition to CSG radiating north to Nimbin and to Cawongla and Barkersvale in Kyogle Shire, and into The Tweed with Tyalgum; east to Rosebank and Tregear; south to the Clarence Valley communities; west to Rock Valley and beyond. The whole of the road from the roundabout in North Lismore, to the junction of Blue Knob Road with the Kyogle Murwillumbah road is about to be declared Gasfield Free - protected by over 90% of the citizens of the communities of North Lismore, Goolmangar, Coffee Camp, Nimbin and Blue Knob.

With an interim total of 3344 individuals polled, 3270 (97.8%) want their roads and lands to remain CSG-free; 63 (1.9%) were not sure, while only 11 (0.4%) did not want their roads and lands to be CSG-free.

These statistics must give politicians and the CSG industry a strong message that the citizens of this region are not prepared to have their homelands, farmlands, landscapes, health and peace of mind disrupted and destroyed just so some large corporations can make a fast buck by mining a non-renewable resource and exporting the doubtfully-clean product to India and China.

To find out how to go Gasfield Free, please visit our website: www.csgfreenorthernrivers.org

Anyone around Nimbin who wishes to help in the survey process, contact Len Martin on 6689-0254 or at pteropus42@smatchat.net.au

Nimbin Community Forum

NIMBIN'S SUSTAINABILITY HOUSE PROJECT
7 Sibley Street

community kitchen shop front
electric vehicle local trading hub
recharge site ? tourist attraction
storage area herb garden
workshop facility demonstration site

Saturday 16th June
2.00 to 4.00 pm
Nimbin Town Hall

Open house 12.30 to 1.30 pm
Come and check out the house before the Forum

all welcome