



# THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

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## Community sustainability loan repaid in full

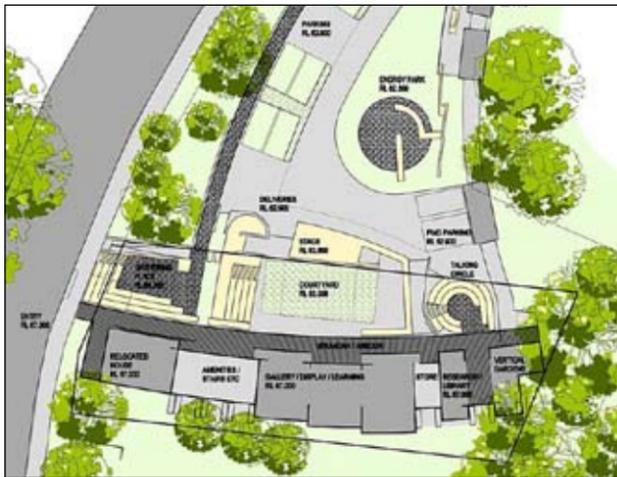
by Natalie Meyer

The Nimbin community is concerned about climate change and the wellbeing of our environment and the community in general. In June 2011 the community came together to review and update the 2009 Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP). The idea of a Sustainability House emerged from that process.

The concept involves a demonstration building which models a range of sustainable building techniques and technologies, and is relevant not only to Nimbin but to the Northern Rivers as a whole. A site was needed on which to undertake the project, and 7 Sibley Street was identified as being ideal.

In May 2012 a loan was secured to purchase the site. Since that time there have been many community consultations around the plans for the site, including the building/s design and uses.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre and the Nimbin Community Centre are thrilled to announce that, thanks to all the hard work and contributions made by Nimbin community



groups and community members, plus many folks outside of Nimbin, the Sibley Street loan is now paid off.

A million thanks to everyone who answered the call for

a final chuck-in and especially to the donor who put in a spectacular \$3,500 to get us over the line. A full list of all donors will be published in the March GoodTimes.

In the meantime we will be getting something together to celebrate this incredible milestone. Watch out for announcements in the next couple of weeks. We will continue to raise funds, but from now on these funds will be for Stage One of the project – much more exciting than paying off a loan. Stage One is to repair, retrofit and relocate the old house to the front of the site. The estimated cost is \$70,000.

We currently have the funds, thanks to a Heritage Grant from Lismore City Council, to tidy up and paint the house where it stands, with the aim of removing the old flaking paint, and stabilising and preserving the timber walls. We are looking for a couple of people to assist Ben with the prep work. The work is due to commence immediately. If you can help, please contact Nat, Cat or Guy at NNIC. If we can get five or so people, then it will only be a few hours work each.

For more info or to donate to Stage One of the project, see our website: [www.sevenonsibley.com](http://www.sevenonsibley.com)

## Naked fun with serious message

by Mijimber

Summer frivolities may be coming to a close and the resumption of a routine life is looming. Just a minute, is that some people on bikes I can see up ahead? And they're nude?

Ah some relief from the humdrum of life, the World Naked Bike Riders are saddling up, and getting ready to pedal back into town. On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March in Nimbin and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> in Byron Bay, local riders will strip and take to the streets on their bikes.

To the many who line the route of the naked bike ride and cheer us on, it looks like a lot of fun and something that we do to entertain the crowds one weekend a year. The ride, fun as it is, does however come with a serious message: bike riders and pedestrians are vulnerable on our roads (we ride naked to highlight this vulnerability). This message is particularly poignant here in the Northern Rivers where our roads are narrow, winding and pot-holed.

In fact sharing the roads anywhere in Australia can be dangerous. We live in a car culture – not surprising with the distances between towns and between home and work. Despite that, bicycle



sales in Australia have out-stripped car sales each year for over a decade now and the National Cycling Strategy 2011-2016 which was signed by the transport ministers, aims to double the rate of cycling by 2016.

With the popularity of cycling continuing to grow, the imperative is to make it a safer form of transport, starting with raising awareness amongst all road users of the need to share our roads.

The Nimbin ride starts at the Bush Theatre Café on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Riders will start meeting there at 10am to strip off and paint their bodies. The café will be open and serving beverages and delicious meals and snacks. We then do a few laps of Cullen Street to

rapturous applause from the assembled throng, so it isn't an arduous ride and if you're not ready to be completely naked in public, it's a 'bare as you dare' ride.

In Byron Bay, riders will meet on the platform of the old railway station on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm to strip and paint. The ride is then around town.

Both these rides are a lot of fun and if you haven't been on one of them yet, come and join us, get exhilarated and feel the freedom of riding the streets of your local town in your own skin.

To keep up with details of the rides, join us on Facebook: *world naked bike ride – nimbin* and *world naked bike ride – byron bay*

Photo by Brian Alexander



## Olympics a splash hit



• See story page 3. Photos by Nat Meyer



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