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# Fifth anniversary of Nimbin fire

by Michael Balderstone



Photo:  
Eugenie Stephans

Five years have passed since the fire that knocked out Nimbin's two front teeth on 14th August 2014.

I made a small memorial window in the HEMP Embassy with a few remnants that survived that day.

I know the new owners of the Museum site, both old hippies who love Nimbin and what it stands for. Maybe that's a problem, but it should be an asset.

They have put considerable time and energy into designing something they reckon the community will like, but keep hitting major roadblocks from Lismore Council which I too have trouble comprehending.

The village is never going to be like it used to be, and inexpensive accommodation here is almost non-existent, unlike homelessness. One of the two owners, Dr Simon Rose, even wanted to run the accommodation himself for the first year!

These are genuine-hearted investors in Nimbin who we should be welcoming with open arms, I reckon.

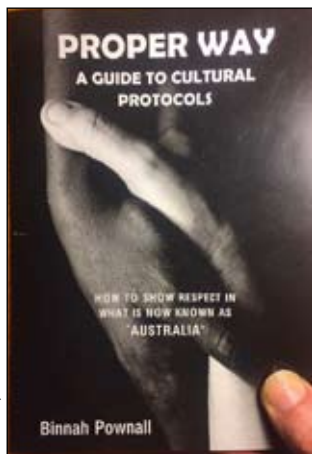
## Respect culture through proper protocols

Nimbin and surrounding areas of the Rainbow Region have a rich history of interaction with the Aboriginal tribes of the area.

Men from the Wahlerbul, Werlabul, Widjabul and Wiabal tribes honoured the Aquarius Festival in 1973 with the first 'Welcome to Country' ceremony of the modern time.

As a gesture of good faith, the hippies were customarily smoked with green leaves as a cleansing welcoming to this country. This is just one of the traditional protocols the Original custodians practice to this day.

A booklet has recently been published with



Original Protocols in mind as a way of assisting us relatively new settlers if we wish to use local protocols to assimilate into the tribal customary ways of this

land quicker than not.

The contents of the book were put together over ten years of drafts and gaining endorsements around the country.

If you wish to show respect to the Original Custodians of the land you now live on, the booklet *Proper Way*, compiled and produced by Binnah Pownall, has some pointers to assist activists, event organisers and others to explore avenues that may open up deeper trust and co-operation between both parties.

The author, community activist, musician and traveller, Binnah Pownall has worked with the

Originie people for over 25 years, mainly in Northern NSW. He is also a Spiritual Life Coach and writes in local journals and facilitates film, music and discussion on Original Spirituality.

The *Proper Way* booklet is available in shops locally at Planet Corroboree in Byron Bay, The Book Shop in Mullumbimby, and at the Lismore, Nimbin and Caldera (Murwillumbah) Environment Centres.

The booklet hopefully will assist in bringing us together to help steer ourselves through these troubled times and into calmer waters ahead.

Bugelbeh – all is good.

## Three shops destroyed in Tyalgum fire

In a capricious twist of fate, Tyalgum Village went from the jubilation of the hugely successful O'Heart Festival to the awful tragedy of losing three local businesses to fire.

One local resident was awakened by the noise and started shouting 'fire!' in the middle of the village. The owner of the local store, Steve Guinea, was the first on the scene with just a garden hose, trying to stop the flames as they rushed through the buildings in the centre of the village. Shortly after, the local fire service arrived around 4am on Tuesday morning and quickly brought the fire under control.

The fire began at the Orpheum bookshop before spreading up the street to Osiris Jewellery and Paddington of Tyalgum. Both the Orpheum bookshop and Osiris Jewellery were completely burnt to the ground. Paddington suffered extensive damage to one wall and the roof cavity, unfortunately this building cannot be saved.

Three businesses have been lost. Only Paddington was insured. The buildings were owned by a Gold Coast resident, who also had no insurance. All the buildings were also heritage listed and added greatly to the aesthetic appearance of Tyalgum Village. The loss of the businesses and buildings is deeply distressing for the village.



While so much has been lost, the quick response of neighbours and local fire service saved the wider village from this rapidly accelerating fire.

The village had just finished celebrating the hugely successful O'Heart Festival on Sunday evening. The owner of Osiris Jewellery, Kirra Springs, had been the main organiser of this wonderful festival that supported so many local artists, musicians, artisans and services, as well as being deeply environmental. She deserved some great good, not the loss of her business.

Kirra has launched a Go Fund Me campaign to raise money for the rebuilding of the Tyalgum shops out of the ashes and we would really appreciate your help. Go to: [www.gofundme.com/f/](http://www.gofundme.com/f/)



tyalgum-shops-fire-recovery

Over \$10,000 has already been raised, and there has been an outpouring of donations, assistance and so much more from the Tyalgum community and surrounds. After the heartbreak of the fire, the good news of people coming together to support one another is such a joy to share.

Osiris Jewellery, the Orpheum bookshop, Paddington of Tyalgum and Somewhere in the Sunshine have now re-opened in temporary shops at the Tyalgum Market grounds behind Flutterbies cafe.

A fundraiser BBQ in support of the shop fires is being hosted by the TDCA at the Tyalgum Memorial Park from 11.30am on Sunday 13th October.





by David Piesse

It is now five years since the museum burnt down, and my partner Dr Simon Rose and I bought the site a little after that. The vision from the beginning was a laneway with small interesting shops with affordable rents leading to a garden that would be open to the community use.

The inspiration was based on Nimbin as it appeared to us. In particular the Rainbow Lane is influenced by Asian, Middle Eastern and early European laneways to create a vibrant feel. We also wanted a lively enclosed garden area with a timber pavilion and various garden levels that would offer a sense of privacy in the garden.

We received an invitation early on to attend a meeting with council and our neighbours from the Rainbow Café and some community representatives to discuss what might be a good use for the land.

After that we had meetings with Rainbow Café particularly about the laneway garden vision of small shops on either side of the laneway and asked them to utilise this, but they did not share the vision of having small shops along the laneway on both sides, and in fact proposed a blank wall on their side for most of the lane's length.

We decided that we would move the position of the laneway south and we would build small shops on either side ourselves, but we would share the laneway at each end.

Over time we worked with local people and sought feedback from various community members. Out of this our first solid plan emerged, which we presented to a large meeting of council staff. The plans incorporated about 20 rooms for low cost/backpacker accommodation with appropriate facilities. After the meeting, due to the negative feedback of the council bureaucrats who felt that

it was over-development of the site, we removed all accommodation from the plans.

We again recently went to a meeting of council staff and they had various points that they were unhappy with. Mr Rod Mallam, a strategic planner in council, did not like the design at all and called it "disjointed". At the meeting, the council staff present said they did not want any table and chairs in the garden as this might benefit our takeaway outlets and related car parking requirement issues. We are in fact providing a space that the community can utilise freely. We are also providing access from Cullen Street to the western carpark along Rainbow Lane.

Basically Mr Mallam said that the plan does not fit into the DCP as it stands. The particular points that Mr Mallam expressed a disapproval for include: the Asian-inspired pavilion, the wavy Garden Walls and the cover over the laneway and entry with the Rainbow Serpent theme.

Disapproval was also expressed for the Moon Gates, the parapet designs along the laneway, the various individual shopfront designs in the laneway and garden, as he wants them all to look the same and fit into the DCP etc. It seemed to us that they basically do not like much about the design.

The council recently engaged a heritage consultant who supported council's position. We also had employed a heritage consultant who supported our design.

After that meeting we decided to remove the shop and medical centre facing the western car park and timber pavilion which we consider a loss to the development and the community. This has resolved a number of issues, in particular about the idea that our design was "disjointed" and solved most of the car parking issues and

as a result we should be able to have some table and chairs in the garden if the development goes ahead with our current design.

We have a very different design concept to what council wants, as expressed by Mr Mallam. What he referred to as disjointed we feel reflects Nimbin as it is today. We have put in a real effort to try to create a space that the community would embrace. And the design of the garden shops, laneway shops and garden pavilion were purposely designed with great love and detail to reflect Nimbin's eclectic character.

We respected the Cullen Street frontage by designing shopfronts that recreated what was there before the fire.

Mr Mallam expressed an opinion that the only input in the overall design of Nimbin that the newer members of the community have done is to paint the original buildings that were there and this seems now set in stone in the DCP. In other words, even though the community has overall embraced and loved the design, the community's view is irrelevant.

So no matter how beautiful and relevant a new building is to the town and community, nothing new is allowed unless it is something that strictly adheres to the DCP, like The Cubes!

We are having one more attempt to comply with the council interpretation of the rules. Council suggested we get together with their heritage planner and they can help redesign the plan to make it less "disjointed" and fit into the DCP. Failing this, we will put in a new DA and build four shops along Cullen Street that will fit into the DCP.

We are grateful to the Nimbin Community for your support and the Nimbin Advisory Group who are requesting a meeting with Council staff to discuss with them the community's views.



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# Woodstock50

## Remembering family connections and friends by Tedi Davis

We came from far away and we spread out through the sites to celebrate the Woodstock gathering 2019 return.

Melanie Kafka sang her classics and her daughter performed Sunday morning.

The son of Richie Havens did a Saturday night raga guitar solo. Michael Lang spoke at the opening drum circle at the Woodstock 50th Reunion Festival. All were accommodated here by Jeryl.

Woodstock is a forested region in New York state. A kind of green antidote to towering brash New York City. A diversity of country life abounds that soothes the savage beast.

The Zen monastery is murmuring mantras for all the world. The space between is evident. No cramped lifestyles here.

The Woodstock Museum of Shelli Lipton and Nathan Koenig were showing film archives extraordinaire. The Art Colony, The Mavericks, the grand houses, the estates of artists abound around Woodstock.

The trip and turn-on of Woodstock 1969 has grown into a cottage industry. The Woodstock spirit has expanded about here and has bloomed as far as Poland and of course Nimbin, with the AUS putting on the Aquarius Festival Nimbin in May 1973.

Please put in your diary May 2023 – it will be



Nathan Koenig and Tedi at Peacepole Peace Park 2019

Nimbin's 50th too.

May the highest codes of the Alternative Cultures become manifest. May Light and Love, Art and Music express the Divine in Humanity in all. May Peace return to Earth.

Photos: Fotorloka

## Woodstock 50th in Nimbin by Benny Zable

Over the weekend from 15th-18th August, the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc. celebrated 50 years since the iconic Woodstock Arts and Music Festival on Yasgur's Farm in Bethel, NY.

Posters for the event were created by John Tozeland. Art in the Park painted a banner for the event with some beautiful music wafting from around the IMAGINE mandala.

A pizza party was hosted by Nim-FM radio, with Kaleidoscope Chris and his sound and light show. Mark chalked up one of his designs in the car park, and he and a group of musos provided



Melani Kaftka



Tedi and Flowers



Micheal Lang

entertainment.

A display of flags, posters and stories about Woodstock and our Sister Village connection was portrayed on the outside wall of the Community Centre.

Meanwhile in Woodstock village, Tedi Davis was representing us from

Nimbin.

He hand-delivered a letter from the Mayor of Lismore Isaac Smith to the Woodstock Town Board Supervisor, Bill McKenna's office.

We wish to thank all the contributors for a colourful weekend.

# Byron blockade update

by Omega Breakspear

Environmentalists have been evicted from the Byron Bypass blockade site in Butler Street and Hazel Bros contractors have started bulldozing the forest and wetland for the proposed road and development.

A Byron Bay Council officer reinforced by police, including a Police Rescue Unit, arrived at the blockade on Monday morning, 12th August. They gave the environmentalists until 4pm that day to pack up the protest camp or face forced removal and arrest. This followed a police raid of the camp and several arrests during the previous week.

Long-time local resident Rosie McGlone, who was arrested for allegedly hindering the police, is worried about the potential flooding impacts not considered by the council. She is very concerned about the endangered species under threat, particularly the frogs.

"It's so simple," Rosie said. "They can put a bridge over the wetland, protect it and not cause flooding in Byron town during heavy weather."

Also opposed to the development is Al Oshlack. He is involved in potential litigation against Council on grounds that the Council and contractors

have breached the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act* by destroying the habitats of critically endangered species.

Ecologist Ross Wellington has confirmed that Mitchells Rainforest Snail specimens have been found living in the proposed bypass area. Byron Council's own ecologist admitted they knew these beautiful snails were present in the wetland already bulldozed.

Al feels that the Byron bypass encapsulates the very serious ecological crisis that Australia and the world faces. "This is a situation in which you purportedly have a progressive 'Greens' local government authority who are supporting an environmentally and financially problematic development," Al Oshlack said.

At present Byron Council is supposedly stopping further clearing in response to enquiries from the Office of Environmental Heritage and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy.

This is a unique pocket of wetland and rainforest including a significant stand of paperbark trees already partly bulldozed. When are we going to prioritize our endangered species and indigenous heritage above convenience and development?



Rosie McGlone arrested



Draining the wetland



Police raid the blockade





# NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE NEWS

by Scott Sledge, president

August was remarkable because we celebrated 40 years since the successful people's blockade saved forest at Terania Creek. Veterans of that and subsequent campaigns attended The Channon Markets on 11th August and heard how protests have created a network of public forest reserves and National Parks, mostly in the Northern Rivers region.

The documentary film *Burned: Are Trees the New Coal* has been screened already at many locations and is now available free on line, in either the 30-minute or the 70-minute versions. I recommend the longer one as it shows more the spread of biomass burning into Europe, where a case has been brought in the European Court to remove biomass burning from the list of methods considered to be "renewable energy." See arguments for the suit filed against the EU on its treatment of biomass energy as carbon neutral at: <http://eubiomasscase.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/EU-Biomass-Case-Main-Arguments.pdf>

On August 13, 2019 a group of about 60 concerned citizens gathered at Condong Cogeneration power plant to demonstrate their dismay at the process of burning forest woodchips to create electricity.

The Biomass Action Group (BAG) has come together with a common concern of how the biomass fuel industry seems to be accelerating the logging and clear-felling of forests in the Northern Rivers. BAG members come from various non-profit local groups as well as concerned individuals.

BAG presented a written set of questions to Cape Byron Power (CBP), which is owned by UK based investment company – Quinbrook. This group



NEC volunteers Lisa Costello, Daniele Voinot & Cath Smith at The Channon Markets

made previous attempts to question the operators of the Condong power plant about the sources and volumes of woodchips they use for fuel.

As a result of the protest, BAG got an offer to consult from the company. The delegations will meet on 2nd September.

The CBP's website lists among its fuel stocks "plantation timber grown specifically for energy production".

Environmental scientist Shaunti Kiehl spoke for the Biomass Action Group, saying: "Some plantations were in fact set up 20 years ago by companies investing with huge tax concessions, originally meant to produce high-value timber. The trees are now being chipped onsite in catchments around Kyogle, and reportedly sold for \$9/ton. We want to know how you can justify burning trees amidst a global climate emergency."

"We want to know what government subsidies, tax credits, grants, etc Cape Byron Power is getting. Our most important carbon sinks and water storage systems are going up in smoke, and we deserve to know why," Shaunti said.

Natalie Meyer said, "Investigations into the future of bioenergy in the Northern Rivers,

conducted between 2012 and 2016 by Sustain Energy, found that there is very little social license for bioenergy projects in the NR which would involve either combustion technologies or the use of wood as a feed stock. Their Report (see internet) found that people would need to be convinced that any wood used was indeed 'waste', had no better purpose, and was available as a sustainable supply into the future."

New legislation has removed most restrictions on logging NSW forests, furthering grave concerns about bioenergy, as companies can now receive Renewable Energy Credits to clear-fell and chip native forests by calling it "wood waste." The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) has stated that burning wood emits 50% to 80% more carbon than burning coal, along with a raft of other toxic pollutants.

We are very concerned for our health and for our forests, and want to stop this biomass burning industry before it balloons out of control here, as it has done in the United States and Europe.

Even if new trees are planted now, the current level of harvesting is just not sustainable. Forests take from 25 to 200 years

to grow back to the point of sequestering the carbon needed to rein in climate change.

North East Forest Alliance (NEFA), which includes NEC in its umbrella, was founded 30 years ago and celebrated its achievements during a weekend camp at Bungawalbin. The future seems certain to require peaceful protests to continue.

Actions pending include: Braemar State Forest near Casino and Kalang River headwaters logging near Bellingen. There may be action too at Ewingar and state forests near Woodenbong.

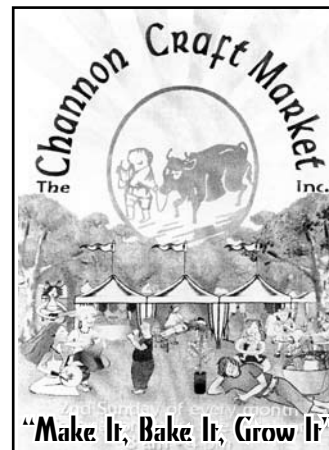
With forests on fire in Brazil and under pressure in so many other places, it is encouraging that so many people in the NR region care enough to stand up to protect ours.

There will be a global action to support the schools strike for a sustainable future on 20th September. Lismore, Byron and Gold Coast are advertised venues in our region.

NEC will share a stall with Northern Rivers Guardians at the Nimbin Show on 21st-22nd September. Drop by to sign a petition against burning forests and share information.



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Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

**Tools and Equipment Library**

The final piece of the puzzle is now in place and the new Tools and Equipment Library is now open for business. Opening hours are Wednesdays 9.30am – 2pm, and Saturdays 10am-1pm, at Sibley Street.

To join the library come into NNIC weekdays 10am-4pm or drop into Sibley Street Monday-Wednesdays. The membership fee is \$22 plus NNIC membership \$5.50 per year.

For more details including a list of the equipment available to borrow, see: [www.sevenonsibley.com/tools-equipment-library](http://www.sevenonsibley.com/tools-equipment-library)

**Nimbin Show turns 100**

After we were forced to take a break from Sustainability Alley in 2018 due to the work commitments at 7 Sibley Street, we are pleased to announce that Sustainability Alley will be back at the Nimbin Show in 2019 on 21-22 September.

**Best shop display** – local businesses are invited to help to promote the show to the community and visitors by setting up a show-themed shop display. Be in the running to win the coveted Perpetual Pumpkin Trophy. To enter the competition simply set up your display by Friday 13th September and let us know at NNIC.

**Sustainability Alley** – come along and join in the Community Weave and Fibre Art workshops, see the sustainability displays, demonstrations and workshops, the sustainable dog house, participate in the new Community Sustainability Survey and so much more. We look forward to seeing you there.

Anyone interested in holding a (free) stall, workshop or demonstration, or willing to help coordinate Sustainability Alley please contact us via: [sibley@nnic.org.au](mailto:sibley@nnic.org.au)

**Welcome Peter Hawkins**

Peter is our new community worker at NNIC. Now that he is on deck our usual services will be back to normal as from September.

**Youth survey**

The survey for Nimbin young people will be open until the end of September. We need to hear from our young peeps



Be sure to visit Sustainability Alley at the Nimbin Show

(aged 12-25 years), whose voices are often missing from our community development and service planning processes.

We need some guidance from our young people to help steer our direction and to help us find funds for services and activities for young people. Funds released for youth projects generally require strong evidence and input from young people themselves.

Please spread the word and encourage any young folks you know to do the survey. The survey is available in hard copy at NNIC or on-line via this link: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/W5XH28D](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W5XH28D) The link is also on our website and our facebook page.

**Art in the park**

Every Friday (weather permitting) 11am – 2pm. NOW incorporating music and dance activities. All welcome...just come on by and join in. For weather checks call NNIC Fridays after 9.30am on 6689-1692.

**Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)**

We are looking for more community members to join Nimbin CDAT.

Nimbin CDAT is an action-based group which mostly aims to attend events around the region and conduct engaging Harm Reduction activities. We have a lot of fun. We hold meetings generally once a month on Thursday afternoons.

We are always on the look-out for more superheroes. To be a superhero

you must be a max height of 6', med-slim build, and have some acting skills.

To contact us, email Nat at: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) or call NNIC to find out our next meeting date.

**7 Sibley Street updates**

The electricity is switched on and we are signed up with Enova Community Energy. We now have our final Occupation Certificate and are ready to open the Tools and Equipment Library for borrowing.

September workshops feature shoe making, making crystal pendants and making particle board out of weeds. The full program is available on our Sibley St website or in this edition of the NGT. Contact: [sibley@nnic.org.au](mailto:sibley@nnic.org.au)

**Did you know?**

NNIC is a registered charity and donations to our general services and activities (excluding Sibley Street) are tax deductible. You can also make tax deductible bequests to NNIC.

To donate and receive a tax deductible receipt, or for information about how to include your local charitable organisation in your Will, please contact Nat at NNIC.

*Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals. Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help, we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments, phone 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays. [www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)*

**Nimbin Hospital information**

**Child immunisation clinic**

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next clinic: 10th September. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

**Early childhood nurse**

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments phone 6620-7687.

**Women's health nurse services**

Third Thursday of the month, next is 19th September. Confidential service, checks, advice, general health information. Phone 6689-1400 for appointment.

**Wound clinic**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288. 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 clinics**

• **Diabetes clinics:** third Thursday of the month, next is 19th September.  
• **Respiratory clinic:** second Tuesday of the month, next will be on 10th September. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

**Community Registered Nurses**

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1288 – leave message, will return call swiftly.

**Nimbin NSP**

Needle and Syringe program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Registered Nurse.

**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 each month at the hospital, at 9.30am. Next meeting: 2nd October. New members are always welcome.







## Outdoor seating project

by Teresa Biscoe,  
co-ordinator,  
Nimbin Community Centre

The Nimbin Community Centre and the Nimbin Health & Welfare Organisation have been working on a project to create a terraced area and install a table and seating in the area in front of the Bottlebrush building where the NH&W provide their service.

The NCCI applied for funding of \$2000 from the Lismore Club Grants in 2017 for the project. The NH&W then contributed \$500 and NCCI contributed \$1000.

With the funds to date, we have been able to create the terraced area and have almost enough funds to purchase the table and bench seating.

Unfortunately, neither organisation is able to contribute any more to the project due to other projects and a very limited budget for the following year. As a result, we are now appealing to the community for donations to finish the project.

We are planning two more stages in the project; the first is to purchase and install the table and seating onto the new terraced area, the next is to lay a special matting called Geohex around the table area to make the surface easier for wheel chairs and mobility devices to move over.

In order to purchase and install

the table we will need another \$300. In order to install the Geohex and fine gravel needed to create a stable surface for those people with mobility issues will need another \$1,100. This is a sum of \$1400 in total.

We are appealing to the community to donate funds to this project so we can finish it this year. If we can find 14 people to donate \$100 each or 28 people to donate \$50 we can complete this worthy project. It will provide a really lovely space for the elderly and disabled clients of the NH&W service at the Bottle Brush Building to sit and enjoy the outdoor space when they are using the service and a space for the general community to enjoy as well.

If you are able and willing to contribute to this really great project, please deposit your donation in the Nimbin Community Centre account (22269886) at Summerland Credit Union (BSB: 728 728). Please mark the deposit 'table project' so we know what the deposit is for.

It would be fantastic if we could finish this project and have it in use before Christmas.

### Sticks 'n Stones

Last year as part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, we held the first annual Sticks 'n Stones sculpture exhibition. The event was an invitation for

the community to engage and create sculptural forms from natural materials that reflect the environment around us.

The Nimbin Community Centre is proud to host our second annual Sticks 'n Stones sculpture exhibition in our very own 'Quad'. Artists, young and old, are invited to submit works for an outdoor sculpture exhibition, using all natural materials.

Artworks will be on display for public viewing 19th-27th October and can be submitted/constructed on Friday 18th October.

Join us for Opening Day on Saturday 19th October with a traditional maypole dance to weave your new visions for our beautiful planet on the grass behind the Rainbow building.

Bring flowers to the Nimbin Markets on Sunday 27th October (the end of the Celtic month of Ivy, unravelling the webs woven) for a closing ceremony – creating and together dispersing a mandala to release those dreams in celebration of the cycles of nature.

For more info, email Steph at: [nimbinmarkets@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinmarkets@gmail.com) or: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)

Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street Nimbin, phone (02) 6689-0000, email: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au) Office opening hours: 10am to 2pm, Monday to Thursday. [www.nimbincommunity.org.au](http://www.nimbincommunity.org.au)

## Notes from the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) August Meeting

The NAG met on 22nd August and was chaired by Cr Darlene Cook. The following agenda items were of note:

- ♦ **Nimbin Water Supply project** – Council advised that the project is on hold until the Nimbin Water Treatment Plant is constructed and that following the construction, Nimbin shall have a very clean drinking water supply, not affected by wet weather events. The treatment plant project is in the planning stages and shall be finished in approximately 24 months. In the meantime, rural customers will be kept on the raw water main and wet weather protocols will remain in place.
- ♦ **Imagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan** – the plan is reviewed every four years by Council. Community consultations are due to commence in October 2019 with a survey, with further consultations to be undertaken in early 2020.
- ♦ **Pedestrian safety in Nimbin** – Council advised that this would be dealt with as part of the consultations relating to the Community Strategic Plan (see above). The NAG has requested that Council consider bringing forward the matter of pedestrian safety in the village, particularly on Cecil Street, as a specific issue in its own right, in order for it to be expedited as a priority for Council's 2020 Delivery Plan.
- ♦ **Museum Site DA** – The NAG has requested an urgent meeting with Council planning staff regarding their objections to the Development Application. The NAG is aware that the community is largely supportive of the development, the developers are sympathetic to the ethos of Nimbin and that submissions made to Council from community members did not object to the DA overall but rather were around specific issues which could have been addressed via the application of certain conditions to the DA approval.
- ♦ **Public Amenities/Toilet/Shower**

facilities – The NAG briefly discussed the ongoing need and that a new purpose-built amenities block to serve the Peace Park/ Swimming Pool recreational area has the potential to meet this need more effectively, and is likely to attract more funding opportunities, than the conversion of the existing public toilet block that the Neighbourhood Centre has been attempting to achieve for a considerable period of time.

- ♦ **Bollards in Western Car Park** – the bollards were installed as a response to concerns over speeding vehicles in the car park after hours. They are designed to prevent people from going around the speed humps, but it would seem they are not particularly effective and are taking up otherwise useful car parking spaces and so consideration should be given to their removal.
- ♦ **CCTV camera upgrade** – the upgrade has been delayed but progress is being made and installation will be completed before Christmas.
- ♦ **Welcome to Nimbin Kit** – the Kit is now ready for printing and will be available to the community shortly. The Welcome to Nimbin Kit is a project of the Nimbin Advisory Group, auspiced by Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) in partnership with the Nimbin Community Centre and the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce.
- ♦ **NAG Seed Funding** – The NAG has a budget of \$3000 to spend on community projects. Under consideration is the ongoing Village Murals Restoration Project, but the NAG is interested to hear from community members with project ideas. Contact NAG via email: [nimbinadvisorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinadvisorygroup@gmail.com) by Friday 27th September if you have any projects to suggest. The next NAG meeting is set down for 28th November. Community members seeking to bring relevant matters to the attention of the NAG can contact the NAG via email: [nimbinadvisorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinadvisorygroup@gmail.com)

## Chamber Chat



by Diana Roberts,  
President

In 2003, Lismore Council introduced a special business rate to generate an additional \$10,000 per year from business rated properties in Nimbin. The amount increases annually in line with rate increases, and in 2019 is anticipated to generate \$15,400.

While \$2000 is allocated annually towards provision of the Visitor Information Centre, the distribution of remaining funds is at the discretion of the Chamber of Commerce. We make recommendations to Council and hope they will be approved. Over the past few years we have allocated

funds as follows:

- ♦ \$18,000 to the under-awning and mural lighting project. While the solar power aspects of this project are now in situ, thanks to Rainbow Power Co., we have recently engaged Roger Foley-Fogg to design and install ambient lighting that reflects the atmosphere we are keen to create in our village at night.
- ♦ The National Film & Sound Archive has described Roger as Australia's most innovative lighting designer so, not only are we delighted he wanted to undertake this project, (he came to the original Aquarius Festival), we are excitedly awaiting the outcome of his involvement.
- ♦ This project has been undertaken in partnership with the Dept. of Justice, Lismore City Council and Nimbin Community Centre;
- ♦ \$2000 sponsorship of the 2018 Nimbin Roots Festival and \$1000 for the 2019 Festival. It's a really cool Festival that has a positive impact on our village, bringing together talented performers and high class acts combined with a

Roots music following that sees many first-timers visit our village.

This year the Festival will be spread between the Hall, the Bush Theatre and the Bowlo, with a range of related activities at other venues. Dates are 13-15 September and you can check out the program at: [www.nrfest.com](http://www.nrfest.com);

- ♦ \$3980 towards village murals – specifically the two new, stunningly beautiful murals and completion of the mural in Allsopp Park. These projects were undertaken in partnership with the Nimbin Advisory Group, Nimbin Community Centre and property owners;
- ♦ \$2000 towards production of a Welcome to Nimbin Kit for new residents. This kit will be launched shortly and contains a wealth of information about our village and immediate surrounds. Produced in partnership with the Nimbin Advisory Group, Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre, Nimbin Community Centre, Nimbin Bush Theatre and local real estate agents this kit will be a fantastic resource.

Originally designed to inform newcomers, it contains lots of information visitors would appreciate access to. Plus, it looks very impressive. Keep an eye out for the official launch;

- ♦ \$2500 towards the new Rainbow Café façade and mural;
- ♦ \$750 towards the restored Welcome to Nimbin sign on the northern approach to the village. Thank you to Steph Seckold for her painstaking work – it looks great – and to Reuben Mack for taking the sign down and reinstating it;
- ♦ \$500 sponsorship for the 2019 Nimbin Poetry World Cup – another wonderful community event worthy of support. We still have funds remaining, so if you have a project you think is deserving of the Chamber's support please contact us. If you've been a Chamber member and your membership has lapsed please consider renewing it. If you're a new business, please join up. There's a small committee doing a lot of good work at the moment and membership is very affordable.

### Do you support a rate rise?

If you are a property owner, you are no doubt aware Lismore Council is undertaking consultation with a view to gaining support for a significant rate increase over the next three years.

As part of this process, Council is undertaking a multi-pronged approach to consultation.

While there are opportunities to input online: [www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au) Council staff will also be seeking feedback at the Nimbin Show, and at a street stall in Cullen Street from 10am-12pm on Thursday 12th September.

Council has presented a compelling case for a rate increase, but can property owners and those the increase will be passed on to (such as renters) wear the impact? Please make sure you have your say. Feedback must be submitted by 30th September.

The Chamber meets on the second Monday of every month, and can be contacted through: [chamber@nimbin.nsw.au](mailto:chamber@nimbin.nsw.au) Also, feel free to approach me personally, or ring me on 0427-886-748.