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Australian Teak Edition

August 2022

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Come to Nimbin, if you make it

by Bob Dooley

According to Lismore’s mayor, Steve Krieg, Nimbin attracts tens of thousands of visitors a year.

Its importance has been recognised by Council’s appointment last year of a Nimbin Economic Development Officer, Wil Polson, whose role is to develop tourism to the village.

That’s if tourists can get here without breaking an axle.

Built on an ancient songline, the only route from the Wilson-Richmond River system over the caldera to the Tweed, Nimbin Road is the only reason for the existence of Nimbin village, and its only access.

And the state of this State road since the floods is appalling to say the least, and still deteriorating, with new potholes appearing every week.

Sections of the road are

severely pock-marked as if by mortar fire, and have caused serious damage to hundreds of cars in the past five months.

Of these sections, the most serious are to the north at Websters Creek, and to the south in two places near Goolmangar. While some have 40km speed limit signage, most do not.

Reported damage to cars has ranged from punctures to buckled and cracked wheels, broken steering and suspension components, headlight globes and other electrical systems failing, and airbag replacement. Booking times for motor mechanics is currently about four weeks.

Major tourism initiatives are planned for Nimbin in September, including the MardiGrass weekend, the Performance Poetry weekend and the Nimbin Roots Festival weekend, plus the two-week long Spring Arts Exhibition.

The Nimbin Show

weekend, also scheduled for September, has now been cancelled, partly because of the state of the road.

Council has undertaken geotechnical studies, and has now received \$2.2 million to re-seal sections of the road, with work scheduled to take place from August to October 2022.

A new page on Council’s website will list weekly pothole repair schedules at: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au>

Owners of damaged vehicles can lodge a claim for compensation at: www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/lodge-public-liability-claim-transport-nsw

However, many Facebook posts show there is rarely a successful claim, with one person saying, “I have applied three times with zero outcomes. I had dash cam footage each time.”

For those who must travel the road the advice is to drive slowly, preferably in daylight.



Photo: Michael Balderstone



Photo: Sue Stock

MardiGrass

16, 17 & 18 September 2022

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