



Walking trail open day

by the Nimbin Community Centre management team

At the beginning of 2021, the Nimbin Community Centre, with the support of the wider Nimbin community, purchased the property at 11a Alternative Way to facilitate and support the long held community plan for the Rainbow Road Walking Trail, and to increase the green belt in the village.

Lismore City Council, with support and input from the Nimbin community, secured funding of \$2.6M to build the walking trail from the state and federal funding bodies under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, in June last year.

The Community Centre is extremely grateful for the opportunities it will deliver to our community, and for the support received from both our

local members when we were seeking funding.

There has been considerable background work since the funds were approved, and Lismore Council is now ready to seek community feedback on the design.

On Sunday 11th December, 11am-3pm, the Community Centre is hosting a free community BBQ at the Nimbin Headers Sports Fields, and guided walks (in groups of 8-10) through the proposed trail.

The plan is to ensure that Lismore Council delivers a track that feels like Nimbin and reflects the community.

The route is non-negotiable, but there is so much more to the walking track: things like furniture such as shelters, tables and seating; lighting; wayfaring and interpretive signage; regulatory signage; plantings; habitat protection and enhancement; bird watching;

development of the island and the area around the dam; maintenance into the future and more.

Anyone interested in attending and enjoying the free BBQ, please RSVP the community Centre at: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au or phone 02 6689-0000, to ensure that everyone can be catered for.

It is expected that the track will be fully operational by the end of September 2023.

For more information on the project, visit: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/nimbin-s-rainbow-road>

People can also give feedback on the above link if unable to attend.

The Community Centre is looking forward to working with the community to get the best possible outcome on an exciting project that will contribute to the amenity and experience of our beautiful town.

Lismore GM quits

Lismore's acting General Manager, John Walker has decided not to run for the permanent position, claiming that Council is dysfunctional.

In a statement he said, "I have reluctantly withdrawn my application for the permanent role of General Manager of Lismore City Council after serving on an interim basis since 8th February."

Mr Walker became the fifth General Manager at the council in five years when the newly-elected Council voted to terminate the contract of then GM, Michael Donnelly.

Walker's appointment was controversial from the start, with criticisms of his past performance as GM of the Richmond Valley Council and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Council in WA.

In the acrimonious statement he released on social media, Mr Walker said, "Unfortunately, I find myself unwilling and unable to work with this elected Council, as a number of councillors are clearly opposed to me. That division is unworkable and not good for anyone.

"Lismore needs a council that is prepared to work with its General Manager and staff. There must be a common direction, but that does not exist at Council.

"This has led to Council becoming dysfunctional, as evidenced by the constant flow of Code of Conduct complaints, social media commentary and unruly monthly meetings."

Lismore councillor and



Photo: Valley Watchdog

former Mayor Vanessa Ekins told *The Byron Echo*, "The interim GM is blaming councillors. The councillors have been working really well together ... Our meetings are conducted with civility, and we are getting through the business of the council."

In June this year, Mr Walker avoided being sacked after Greens Councillor Adam Guise brought a motion for his dismissal, which was defeated 8-3.

Mr Walker wrote, "I would like to thank staff for ... their recent vote of confidence in me as General Manager."

The Council is currently advertising to fill three vacant senior positions in finance and logistics.

Mayor Steve Krieg said Mr Walker had taken the role of GM at a difficult time.

"The term of his contract has literally been like no other, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to stand beside Mr Walker during what has undoubtedly been the most difficult period in our city's history," he said.

"The current recruitment process is continuing and I am confident of finding a suitable replacement."



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