

Shining light on our vibrant communities

by Wil Polson

Nimbin’s streets were buzzing once again with life, laughter, and a warm feeling of nostalgia as the Illuminate Nimbin micro-festival took place on Friday 24th June.

Music filled the air, with buskers stationed along Cullen Street serenading the crowd and setting the scene for a captivating evening.

Clusters of delighted children, faces painted and fists full of free snacks provided by local businesses, gathered around street performers, their cheers of joy echoing down the street.

As the sun set, the village was illuminated with lightshows and projections, creating dazzling displays across Nimbin’s heritage-listed muralled façade.

Uncle Gilbert Laurie led a procession of lantern-carrying pre-schoolers and primary school students in a smoking ceremony, enveloping the village in the aroma of Country and inviting us to share in our First Nations People’s deep knowledge, connection, and responsibility for the land we call home.

A Welcome to Country in the hall kick-started the official program for the evening with school bands, belly dancers, live music and a magician keeping the audience enthralled into the evening.

The aim of Illuminate was to provide a free, family- friendly event for community to come

together and reconnect after a tempestuous few years.

Feedback from the Nimbin community and street businesses who participated in the event has been overwhelmingly positive, and has prompted the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce to consider seeking funding opportunities for more community-orientated events in the future.

Seeing throngs of children get excited, get involved and make similar memories to what we did growing up in Nimbin, I think, is the best demonstration of the event’s success.

Illuminate Nimbin was supported by a \$15,000 grant from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment through the Festival of Place – Summer Night Fund and a \$5000 contribution from Lismore City Council.

This event was a Nimbin Chamber of Commerce initiative, supported by Lismore City Council, that provided an opportunity for the Council to work alongside the Chamber on a specific local initiative to support the renewal of Nimbin as the dynamic and flourishing business centre it used to be.

A special thank you to the program co-ordinators Kylie Cain and Samara Burcher, without whom this magical event would not have been possible.

More photos on p.32



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