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Nimbin Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes May 2024

Date: Thursday, 2nd May 2024

Time: 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Location: Nimbin Bush Theatre/ Zoom

Opening Section

1. Call to Order

- David Hyett, the Chairperson, officially called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM
- Acknowledgement of Country was made by David Hyett, recognising the traditional custodians of the land.
- **Members Present:** David Hyett (President), Aline Binetruy (Vice President), Nicole Lindner (Secretary), Ariescia Matheson (Treasurer), Diana Roberts, Chris Guinness & Ben Hartley.
- **Apologies:** Jeanne Platel & Caroline Todd.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

- None declared.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the meeting dated 4th April 2024 were approved as presented. **Motion:** Nicole Lindner moved the March 2024 minutes be accepted. **Seconded:** Diana Roberts.
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Ordinary Business

4. Carried Over Topics from Previous Meeting/ Business Arising from Minutes

- **Review of financial discrepancies and pending payments update** – Ariescia emphasised the need for clarity in reports using QuickBooks.
Action Item: Regarding SBVRL allocation, Ariescia will ensure proper allocation of funds to SBVRL. QuickBooks Familiarisation: Ariescia to be given access to treasurer@chamber email account and access to NOCCs Stripe account to facilitate this process.
- **Review of Financial Commitment to Nimbin Cultural Centre.** The Chamber reviewed its financial commitment to the Nimbin Cultural Centre, which currently stands at \$100 per month, totalling \$1,200 per year. Concerns were raised about the economic benefit of these donations. Members discussed that the \$1,200 yearly commitment does not fit into any of the Chamber's predefined categories for economic benefits, questioning its impact on the Chamber's objectives.
Motion: David Hyett proposed NCOC advise the Nimbin Cultural Centre that financial support for their rent will cease at the end of June 2024, with the rent being back paid from December. The motion was seconded by Aline Binetruy.
Action: Nicole will write to the Community Centre and ask for an invoice to cover the last six months

of rent for the Nimbin Cultural Centre.

- **Nimbin Medical Centre mural project update and timeline planning** - Wil provided a brief update on the Nimbin Medical Centre mural project. The painting of the building has not yet been funded, and the project is currently on hold as they await further information from the health service. The council has agreed to fund the mural, with the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce (NCOC) supervising the installation. Further updates will be provided once more information is available.
- **Proposal for enhancing street aesthetics** – NCOC will hold off on discussions or planning until the Nimbin Place Plan is released.
- **Review of Lismore Council's proposed contributions plan** - The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce (NCOC) missed the deadline to respond to Lismore Council's proposed contributions plan. The primary concern is that Nimbin is now considered part of a larger area, and all funds collected from this area should be distributed accordingly. This issue was raised with the council during the bi-yearly walk. The council has agreed to provide an indication of where the money has been spent. Submissions for feedback closed on April 26th. While there is a need to review how funds have been spent previously, it is equally important to focus on how they will be spent going forward. A letter from David Spain contains relevant points that should be considered. **Action:** *David is tasked with following up on this matter.*

5 Correspondence

- Tim Parry (Broker) NCOC Public Liability Renewal notice and comparison quote from Trae Hill (Broker) via QBE Insurance. **Motion:** *Diana Roberts proposed the Chamber renew its Public Liability Insurance with Tim Parry, as his quote was more affordable compared to the alternative option presented by Trae Hill via QBE Insurance. This decision aligns with the Chamber's objective of cost-effective resource management. Seconded: Nicole Lindner.*
- Notices of Unsuccessful Funding: The Chamber received notifications indicating that the funding applications for the Illuminate Nimbin project were unsuccessful. These included a grant from Create NSW and the Premier's Discretionary Funding through Janelle Saffin's Office.
- Dr Wil Polson – Business Education Workshop Opportunity in June - Effective Workplace Solutions. Date: Tuesday June 18, Time: 7:30am – 9:00am, Location: Nimbin Bush Theatre Cost: Free. **Action:** *Nicole to respond to Wil accepting offer for the workshop and that date is appropriate for economic development.*
- Dr Wil Polson – EV Destination Charging Grant availability. **Action:** *Nicole to forward to NCOC membership.*
- Kim Kraynen (Service NSW Business Bureau) Online workshops being delivered online by NSW Procurement Specialists during May & June – for online promotion. **Action:** *Nicole to forward to NCOC membership.*
- **Correspondence and Actions Regarding Mural Projects**
- Request from Nimbin Community Centre: The Centre has requested NCOC funding for a \$3,000 mural by Gilbert Laurie. **Action:** *Nicole will respond, explaining that while the Chamber is supportive of community art projects, the mural budget for this year has already been fully allocated.*
- Newsagency Mural Update: Previously, Miranda Williamson committed to refreshing the newsagency mural but has now withdrawn. Due to high costs associated with mounting the mural on boards, this plan has been revised. **Action:** *Caroline is tasked with locating the original images of the artwork, while David will discuss with Miranda the necessity of recovering the already purchased paints. Motion:* *David proposed setting aside \$2,500 (SBVRL) for the restoration project, to be completed by September. Seconded by Aline Binetruy."*
- Bakery Laneway Mural: The Chamber has committed \$3,000 (SBVRL) for a new mural on the brick wall in the bakery laneway, with completion aimed for September. **Motion:** *David proposed this*

allocation, seconded by Aline Binetruy. Additionally, a Mural Sub-committee consisting of Ben, Caroline, and Chris has been established to oversee this and future mural projects. **Action:** Chris will engage Neil, the building owner, to discuss his contribution and involvement in the design.

6. Business Arising from Correspondence

Detailed above.

7 Financial Report

A financial debrief was presented by Treasurer, Ariescia Matheson outlining the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce's (NCOC) current financial commitments and standing.

Motion: Ariescia Matheson proposed acceptance of the financial report and that the Chamber can meet its financial obligations and pay its debts as and when they fall due. **Seconded:** David Hyett.

8 Committee and Task Force Reports: Nil

9 Applications for Membership

- Stuart Bright – Arrunga Farm Stay

Motion: David Hyett proposed that Arrunga Farm Stay be added as members to NCOC.

Seconded by: Nicole Lindner.

Membership Invoicing Update: Ariescia has prepared a draft letter outlining the trading terms for July invoicing, which is pending review. **Action:** Ariescia and David will collaborate to finalise the terms, ensuring alignment with NCOC's financial policies and member expectations.

10. General Business

- **Website shop front operations (Ben Hartley)** - Ben reported that he only has user access to the website shopfront. He highlighted the need for updated shipping information and pricing, as the current details are outdated and require a refresh. Additionally, there was mention of the mural survey, which is going out, with mural tins collected and set to be deposited in the NCOC bank.
- **LCC Bi-annual village walk** - The de-brief focused on traffic management issues arising from Nimbin's growth and expansion, which are to be considered in future planning. **Action Item:** David will contact LCC to ensure that additional contributions are included in the walk-around notes.
- **Approval of Public Speaking Workshop and Request for Funding to Lismore City Council** - The proposition for a public speaking workshop originated from the Nimbin story-telling group. Tony Kirton, who delivers workshops on public speaking, was suggested as the facilitator. The workshop requires a budget of \$5,000, with half of the funding proposed to come from the Lismore City Council. The ticket sales aim to cover the remaining \$2,500, with each ticket priced at \$120 per head. The workshop will consist of two half-day sessions, with the date proposed for September. There is also \$1,000 available from unallocated levy funds that can be used for professional development. This proposal will be further discussed in the next meeting.
- **Decision on NCOC Visa debit card limit** - The committee agreed to set a Visa Debit card limit of \$1,000 to streamline financial transactions while maintaining control over expenses. This would involve creating a separate account under the NCOC account, with Nicole Lindner and Ariescia Matheson holding the account cards. **Motion:** David Hyett proposed setting the card limit at \$1,000. **Seconded:** Aline Binetruy.

- **Update: Nimbin Brochure Reproduction** - There was an update on the reproduction of the Nimbin brochure. It was decided to reproduce the existing brochure for the time being. The Lismore City Printery will be responsible for printing and folding the brochures. Diana will contact the printery within the next week to chase up the printing and obtain a quote for \$400, determining how many brochures that amount will cover. Once printed, the brochures will be distributed accordingly.
- **Expansion of the SBRVL – (Report)** The Chamber discussed the expansion of the SBRVL and the allocation of funding levels in different areas by percentages. The proposed allocations include 15% for events, 30% for promotion for example. Aline has responsibility for keeping the table current and up to date. **Motion:** Aline proposed that NCOC adopt the report. Seconded by: David Hyett.
- **NCOC Website Updates** - The Chamber discussed several website updates that are required, including adding previous minutes, Chamber Chats, our submission regarding the Place Plan, and the President's 2023 report. It was noted that the business directory is also not up to date. **Action Item:** *Ben Hartley will update the Chamber's website by uploading the latest Chamber Chats and meeting minutes by the next meeting date, ensuring members have access to recent discussions and decisions. The Place Plan submission will also be included. Nicole will start sending the PDF minutes to Ben and will work with him on updating the business directory. David will send Ben the Chamber Chats.*
- **Review of Aether Interim 6 hours per week** - There was a review of the agreement for Aether's six hours per week of work, which was initially agreed upon as an interim measure. It was decided to return to the original two hours per week. **Action:** *David and Aline will meet with Aether to reconfirm the Chamber's requirements and to adjust their workload back to two hours per week.*
- **Aquarius Grant Funds** – The acquittal paperwork has been completed and there is a final signature required to receive funds. Account to remain empty after finalisation of all AQ50 invoices.
- **General Meeting Planning** - The next general meeting is planned for Monday 20th May and will follow a similar format to previous meetings, starting with an introductory drink and snacks, followed by a presentation on the Chamber's status and an introduction to the new committee. Several members have been asked to present, including representatives from Black Dog Honey, Flourish Sanctuary/Black Sheep Farm (discussing Nimbin as a centre of spirituality), The Emporium, Jeanne from MDA Travel, and Nicole from Contained in Nimbin Accommodation. The plan for the next general meeting will include a "meet the council candidates" session, with June Waters representing Nimbin. **Motion:** *David Hyett proposed committing \$1,000 in funds for the May General Meeting. Seconded: Nicole Lindner.*
- **SNCP – Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan** - Discussion on SNCP Input Session: The recent input session for the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan was noted to have low attendance, attributed to its morning scheduling. Despite this, several Chamber members participated. Significant concerns were raised regarding the extensive responsibilities being allocated to the Chamber, necessitating an evaluation of our capacity to manage these effectively. The Chamber was also urged to enhance communication strategies to improve member engagement and public perception.
- **Buy Local Campaign** - The discussion highlighted the potential benefits of reactivating the Buy Local Campaign to support local businesses and the community. It was resolved to place this item on the agenda for the June meeting, where Steph will be invited to present strategies for revitalising the campaign. Additionally, a comprehensive review of the campaign's representation on the Chamber's website will be conducted to ensure it aligns with current objectives and community needs.

11. Announcements – Nil

12. Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- a. Mardigrass weekend pending
- b. Julian Assange movie night airing at Nimbin Bush Theatre
- c. Roots Fest line up announced
- d. \$500 Donation to Nimbin World Poetry Cup by NCOC

13. Open Forum

- a. Open Discussion
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Closing Section

14. Next Meeting

- Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 6th June at 1:00 PM at Nimbin Bush Theatre. Note: Zoom participation will not be available for this meeting.

15. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3.15pm by Chairperson David Hyett.
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