



NIMBIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Inc

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NCOC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH MINUTES

Thursday 7 March 2024

Venue: Bush Theatre Café

Zoom: None

Meeting Commenced: 1.35pm.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. **MINUTE TAKER:** Nicole Lindner
2. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Hyett, Aline Binetruy, Diana Roberts, Nicole Lindner, Caroline Todd, and Chris Ardill-Guinness. Absent: Ariescia Matheson (apologies) & Ben Hartley (apologies)
Guests:
 - a. Andy Parkes (LCC, Strategic Planning) – Nimbin Place Plan discussion
 - b. Jeanne Platel – MDA Travel
3. **NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON:** David Hyett
4. **NON-CONTENTIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT:** Nil
5. **ADOPTION OF DRAFT MINUTES:** A motion was made by Diana Roberts and seconded by Aline Binetruy for the adoption of version 01 of the draft minutes from February 2024. Resolution: Carried.
6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**
 - **Follow-up on Membership Onboarding**
 - a. The Chamber is in the process of onboarding new members, including Jeanne Platel from MDA Travel, Anna Conley from Ethos Digital Agency and Aurélie Billot.
 - b. The automated membership system via the Chambers website is almost complete. An update was anticipated from Aether Agency regarding these onboarding issues, but no new information has been received. **Action Item:** David Hyett to undertake further follow-up with Aether.
 - c. The completion of the membership list confirmation has been noted. David Hyett is scheduled to collaborate with Ariescia Matheson to ensure the confirmation of payments from all members.

- **Illuminate 2024 Grant Submission Update:** The NCOC has submitted a grant application to Create NSW for \$25,000 to support the Illuminate 2024 event. Sponsorship has been confirmed from various sources, including a \$5,000 contribution from NCOC. A request for \$3,000 from LCC is pending. Additional support comes from Rainbow Power Company and Nimbin Hills, contributing a combined total of \$35,000. For the grant and sponsorships to be effectively utilised, it's noted that the event must take place after the start of the new financial year on 1 July, to align with the sponsors' payment cycles. Furthermore, it is imperative that all participants and contributors are remunerated according to the appropriate Arts awards, ensuring compliance with industry standards and fairness in payment.

Action Item: Nicole Lindner to email Tina Irish (LCC) with notification of the proposed date for the Illuminate 2024 event. This step is critical for securing alignment and facilitating smooth planning and execution of the event preparations.

- **Nimbin Medical Centre Update** - The proposal to commission a mural on the south-facing wall of the Nimbin Medical Centre's car park, carried over from February's meeting, remains under consideration. This initiative represents a unique opportunity to enhance the aesthetic appeal of a key health service building in our community.

It has been proposed that the Chamber of Commerce manage the project, initiating an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to select a suitable mural artist. The vision is that once the exterior of the building is prepared, the selected artist can proceed with creating the mural. The next step is to establish a definitive timeline for the mural's completion. This aspect requires further discussion and will be a priority agenda item at the next meeting in April.

- **2023/2024 Fiscal Year Budget Planning** - Discussions regarding the budget planning for the 2023/2024 fiscal year, which were initially introduced in the February meeting, are ongoing. Key focal points include allocations for sponsorships and funding towards several significant events and projects within the community, namely the SBRVL, Nimbin Roots Festival, Mardigrass, Illuminate 2024 and multiple mural funding.

Action Item: Aline Binetruy has been designated to collaborate with Ariescia Matheson to review the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce's (NCOC) financial commitments to these initiatives.

- **What's on in Nimbin Brochure** – Caroline Todd has proposed the creation of a weekly brochure detailing events and activities happening in Nimbin. This initiative aims to provide residents and visitors with up-to-date information on local happenings, with a particular emphasis on smaller-scale, frequent activities such as yoga for example.

Action Items: To move this project forward, Caroline Todd will consult with Ben Hartley to discuss potential support and resources he might offer. The brochure is also intended to be shared with the Lismore City Council (LCC) to widen its reach.

Jeanne has introduced the idea of engaging a student intern to assist with the digital marketing aspects of promoting chamber events. This suggestion underscores the need to explore the practicalities and benefits of integrating an intern into the chamber's promotional strategies.

Regarding the Chamber's online presence, David Hyett has been assigned the responsibility of updating the Chamber's website with upcoming events and activities, ensuring the community has digital access to this valuable information.

- **SBVRL Rate Levy Update** - The discussion on the SBVRL was revisited from the February meeting. Diana Roberts provided an update confirming that the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce

(NCOC) will retain control over the management of the SBVRL. A new requirement has been outlined by Tina Irish from Lismore City Council (LCC), which necessitates the completion of a specific template for every invoice that the NCOC issues payments for. This step is aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of the levy. Moreover, the NCOC intends to explore the possibility of expanding the geographic area from which the levy is collected. This includes assessing how newly commercial properties, such as industrial sheds, could be incorporated into the levy framework. The goal is to understand the council's process for integrating these properties into the levy system and whether adjustments or expansions are feasible to support economic development.

Action Items:

1. Nicole Lindner to email Tina Irish, requesting the specific template required by the LCC for invoice documentation and to enquire about the council's methodology for including new commercial properties in the levy scheme.
2. Diana Roberts and Aline Binetruy will take responsibility for the ongoing management and acquittal processes associated with the SBVRL, ensuring that the Chamber's compliance and strategic interests are effectively maintained.

- **Work Experience Email to All Members** - Following February's discussion, the updated NCOC membership list is ready.

Action Item: Nicole Lindner to email members about work placement opportunities, leveraging the latest list for comprehensive outreach.

- **'Out There' Book Project Support** – Chris Ardill-Guinness, in collaboration with Quinten and Gough, has been diligently working on the "People of Nimbin" book project, with advisory support from Sean Campbell of Arts Northern Rivers. Thanks to their efforts, \$21,000 has been successfully raised towards the project. The plan is to print 300 copies of the book and explore various distribution channels, including the possibility of placement in the Byron bookstore. Considering the project's significance and its potential contribution to economic development and cultural preservation, Quinten and Gough have approached the NCOC seeking financial support for the book's publication and launch. They have offered to recognise the NCOC's contribution in the book.

Motion Passed: The NCOC has agreed to purchase 20 copies of the book at a price of \$100 each, amounting to a total investment of \$2,000. This decision aligns with the NCOC's commitment to economic development. Additionally, the NCOC will donate a copy of the book to the Richmond Tweed Lismore library as a gesture of community support and to ensure broader access to the publication.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Tina Irish – LCC - Tina Irish from LCC has proposed conducting the next 6-monthly Village Walk on Wednesday, 10 April, from 9-11am. **Action Item:** Nicole Lindner to confirm NCOC attendance, noting Diana Roberts will be an apology.
- From Dr Wil Polson – LCC - draft proposal for business education workshops slated for 2024. The draft, sent to both Nimbin and Lismore Chambers, outlines potential workshop themes and seeks input on their relevance and preferred scheduling for the local business community. The feedback emphasises the importance of Technology for Working Collaboratively, Attracting and Retaining Staff/Workforce Development, Crisis Preparedness and Resilience, and Public Transport - Bringing Back Business. It also highlights the need for Community Engagement Initiatives/Shaping the Place You Live,

enhancing Accommodation/Tourism, adopting Sustainable Business Practices, improving Financial Management, and providing guidance on Writing a Business Plan, grant writing workshops/ use of AI.

- Lauren from Carbon Positive Australia, a non-profit focused on climate action through tree planting and land restoration, has reached out for potential collaboration with the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce. With 20 years of expertise in revegetation, reforestation, and carbon offsets, their projects include restoring ecosystems, boosting conservation, reducing carbon footprints, and supporting tree-planting capacities in Australia, particularly in Northern NSW including Nimbin and Clunes. They seek partnership opportunities like past collaborations with businesses that support environmental efforts through various means like donations from sales, carbon offsetting, and educational campaigns. Examples include Byron Bay's St Agni, Clear Path Accounting, and We Are Feel Good Inc. Further details on their work and partnership opportunities are available at their website.
- Jane Laverty - Invitation to the Northern Rivers Economic Breakfast on 14th March 2024, featuring Business NSW Chief Economist Dr. Sherman Chan, at the Ballina RSL Club. This event, distinct from typical economist briefings, will provide valuable economic insights and intelligence.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Reflected in body of minutes.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Financial Report Acceptance: The financial report presented by Ariescia Matheson is accepted and The Chamber expresses confidence in its ability to pay its debts as they fall due.
- December BAS Submission: Acknowledgment that Ariescia Matheson and Peter Hughes have submitted the December BAS on behalf of the NCOC.
- **Action Item:** Nicole Lindner is tasked to apply for the signed copy of the new Constitution at a cost of \$75. Resolution: Carried.

10. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

The committee reviewed and approved the acceptance of a new member: Stuart Bright – Affiliated with AirBnB.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **NCOC Committee Presidency and Financial Authority Update** - Liam Brehme has decided to step away from the role of president of the NCOC. The committee accepts Liam Brehme's resignation with gratitude for his service.

Presidential Succession - In response to inquiries regarding the presidential term limitations within the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, legal clarification was provided by David Spain, Solicitor, on 20 February, 2024. According to Cl. 14.7 of the constitution, the presidency is restricted to a two-year term to encourage leadership renewal and prevent extended tenure by any single individual. Following the end of David Hyett's two-year term, Liam Brehme was elected as president. However, Liam Brehme's subsequent resignation after approximately two months, which was determined to be genuine and not premeditated, led to a vacancy in the presidency. This situation invoked Cl. 14.8 of the constitution, requiring the Board to elect a new president from among its members. Consequently, the Board's decision to re-elect the immediate past president, David Hyett, to the now-vacant position is considered valid. David Hyett has, therefore, assumed the presidency again, embarking on a new two-year term as per constitutional guidelines, effectively resetting his tenure in the role.

Bank Signatories Update - Nicole Lindner and Ariescia Matheson have been appointed as new

signatories for the NCOC's account at SCU, alongside existing signatories David Hyett and Diana Roberts. A requirement for any two (2) signatories to authorise withdrawals is confirmed. Resolution: Carried.

Action Item: Beneficiary Change for NCOC Summerland Bank Account - Liam Brehme is to be removed as the beneficiary of the NCOC Summerland Bank Account. David Hyett is confirmed as the new beneficiary. Nicole Lindner to action.

2. **Funding for Mural on Bakery Wall** - The committee discussed funding for a new mural on the wall of the bakery that adjoins the new path. David Hyett has been tasked with speaking to the building's owner to discuss the possibility and logistics of adding a mural towards the back of the building. The theme for the mural has been suggested to focus on fauna and flora, with artists encouraged to incorporate this theme into their designs. The artwork will be painted directly onto the wall. A budget for the mural project needs to be determined. Caroline Todd has been tasked with finding an image or concept that could serve as inspiration or a guideline for the mural's design. The NCOC has agreed to contribute \$3000 from the mural fund towards this project.
3. **Review of the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan** - The Chamber has committed to actively promote and contribute to the review of the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan, specifically focusing on the economic development section. As part of the review process, the Chamber will organise a breakfast for its members to engage in one of the workshops dedicated to discussing and providing feedback on the plan. This event aims to facilitate direct input from the business community. Additionally, a second workshop will be held in the evening, which will be open to all members of the community. This inclusive approach ensures broader participation and feedback.

The Chamber aims to play a crucial role in the plan's development, with a special emphasis on fostering economic resilience within the community. The workshops are scheduled for the end of April or beginning of May 2024. Nat has been designated to oversee the execution of these workshops, with the NCOC responsible for their promotion. The designated venue for the event is the Nimbin Hall, with the breakfast session planned for Monday, 29th at 7:30 AM.

4. **Proposed Meeting Regarding Agrotourism and Legislative Changes** - A meeting is planned to discuss agrotourism and recent legislative changes, with the aim of promoting these sectors within the community. The Chamber is considering the Nimbin Valley Dairy as a potential venue for this meeting. Cameron, from the LCC strategic planning department, will address interested parties. The council is awaiting a confirmed date for this event. This initiative is a follow-up to an email received last year, indicating the ongoing interest in facilitating discussions on agrotourism.

Action Item: David Hyett is tasked with approaching the Nimbin Valley Dairy to inquire about their interest in hosting the meeting. Following this, the committee will be able to respond to Wil with details and further arrangements.

5. **Place Plan Submission Task** – Diana Roberts has been tasked with drafting the Place Plan submission. After completing the draft, she will circulate it among the committee members for their comments. Once feedback has been incorporated, the final submission will be forwarded as per the committee's directive prior to 17th March 2024.
6. **Sponsorship Request for Nimbin Mardigrass** – Caroline Todd, on behalf of the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, has requested that the NCOC contribute a donation towards the 2024 Nimbin Mardigrass. A motion for a \$1000 sponsorship to the Nimbin Mardigrass was proposed by David

Hyett and seconded by Nicole Lindner. **Resolution:** The committee agrees to sponsor the Nimbin Mardigrass with a contribution of \$1000.

7. **For Information: 2024 Roots Festival Announcement** - The committee is informed that the 2024 Roots Festival is scheduled to be held again in October. Additionally, an opening night event is planned to take place in Lismore on the Friday prior to the festival.
8. **New Executive Committee Member** - Jeanne Platel has been officially confirmed as a new member of the NCOC Executive Committee. With a rich background and extensive expertise in the tourism industry, Jeanne's addition to the committee is highly anticipated. The NCOC warmly welcomes her, looking forward to the valuable insights and contributions Jeanne will bring to the organisation's endeavours in promoting and developing the local community.

Due to time constraints, the following items are carried over to the April meeting:

1. Review of Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) Membership Policy and Engagement
2. Review of Financial Discrepancies and Pending Payments
3. Section 88 Work Experience Opportunities – David Hyett
4. Sub-committee List – Nicole Lindner
5. Website Update – Aline Binetruy
6. WIB Event de-brief - Aline Binetruy/ Nicole Lindner
7. Regular Distribution of Email
8. Prioritisation of Work for Aether and Determining Direction

End of meeting: 3.05pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 3rd April 2024, 1.00pm.