



NIMBIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Inc  
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# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday 05 September 2022, at Bush Theatre and by Zoom

Due to Technical Zoom difficulties at 1730hrs, Meeting commenced late at 1800 hrs  
Acknowledgment of Country

1. **MINUTE TAKER:** David Spain
2. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dafydd Hyett [President], David Spain [Secretary], Peter Hughes [Treasurer], **and present by Zoom:** Tashanna Fuller, Jodee Tichbourne, Samantha Allen, Diana Roberts, Caroline Todd. **Apologies:** Theresa Biscoe [Vice President], Kylie Cain, **Guests:** Wil Polson [LCC], Baden Minas [VIC].
3. **CHAIRPERSON:** Dave Hyett.
4. **NON-CONTENTIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Nil
5. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Diana/ Jodee	That the draft minutes of the previous committee's meeting on 01-08-2022, as tabled, be accepted	Carried
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## 6. **BUSINESS ARISING from minutes**

**LCC Letters:** The secretary wrote three letters to LCC, regarding Potholes and Allsopp Park. There has been no reply regarding potholes, but as regards Allsopp Park LCC advises it will co-operate with the volunteer group.

**Policing:** The secretary wrote to State & local police regarding RDT testing at MardiGrass. The local officer in charge, A/Sgt Nicole Pitt, invited him to a discussion that happened on 31-08-2022. David said that Nimbin involves many aspirational aspects, such as permaculture, intentional communities and sustainable technology, so it is inappropriate for police to highlight the drug aspect, which is proportionately low-key anyway. NSW placing police at all entrances to the village & conducting RDTs last year was excessively heavy-handed, interrupting & upsetting far more locals than was appropriate; there were only 29 charges laid arising from 1500 tests. This behaviour damages community trust in the police badge and is contrary to desirable engagement, respect, trust & co-operation. Nicole protected the police position, saying RDT is part of the law they must enforce and is managed by Highway Patrol, i.e. out of local police hands. All she can do is deliver our concerns to the Inspector in charge of the district. She said that, aside from event patrolling, parade street barriers etc., there will be some roadblocks & RDT, mainly to address drug-takers coming into the district, attracted by the MardiGrass magnet, and endangering citizens. David suggested that at least these roadblocks be placed say 10-15km away from the village, where they could be more likely to catch imported drug addicts and less likely to interfere with normal, local civilian traffic. She said she would convey this suggestion to the inspector.

**Fire Site:** The proposed plans of the Museum site owners appear to be uncertain. There may be some changes with the permanency of accommodation and pop-up shops – the DCP does not permit accommodation but is only a guiding document. There are limited new business outlets possible on the main street, so maybe we should encourage business outlets not accommodation at the rear of the main shops. We received a few responses to dissemination of the plans, including from Jane Mari, Catherine McCloud, Gina Horsfield & Natalie Meyer. Sammi to email David the Facebook correspondence. We should send a copy of the letters to Simon Rose as feedback, so he can evidence community input, but tell him we won't be further involved.

Diana/ David	That we forward all feedback to Simon Rose and advise him that we will not be ascertaining or forwarding further comment	Carried
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### Regional Business Award

David / Diana	That Nimbin Apothecary be endorsed as our nominee.	Carried
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**Circular Economy: Steph attended an LCC meeting** on this initiative. We should invite her to attend our next meeting.

### 7. CORRESPONDENCE:

Date	From /To	Comment / Details
22-07-13	To Police	From NCOC re Mardi Grass Strategy
22-07-22	To LCC	From NCOC re potholes etc.
09-08-22	To Minister	From MP Saffin to NSW Minister for Regional Transport & Roads
19-08-22	From LCC	Reply to our letter 25-07-22. Approves Allsopp Park group if insured e.g. under NCCI or NNIC
30-08-22	Regional BC	Regional Business Awards Invitation
02-09-22	BRCCF	BRCCF Grantee Survey (completed & returned by Diana)

### 8. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer tabled financial figures and summarized that we are showing a surplus of \$15000 which represents some unspent grant and some unspent SBVRL levy. We got some \$1200 refund from ATO. There is \$1400 in the mural account.

Sammi has entered into Quickbooks over 100 items, out of the source documents (since 2019) and some allocation in Cashbook, for the BRRF grant. However, she is struggling for time. We may need to engage Helen to catch us up but the items must be sorted into categories, which will require Peter's input. It was agreed that Peter & Sammi will discuss categories & posting at 0930 tomorrow week, engage with Helen and complete the task by 15 October.

Baden volunteered to compile list of unpaid membership dues and send out arrears notices. Members who do not renew will be removed from website. Tash will put this on Facebook page and Baden will phone them where possible.

Diana / Tash	THAT members who have not renewed their membership by end of September will be removed from the Chamber website and the Visit Nimbin website	Carried
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Sammi / Tash	THAT the financial Report to be sent out with Agenda a week before the meeting.	Carried
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Sammi / Tash	That we pay Sam Herren \$200 upon invoice for collecting Elspeth's 'Nimbin World A' painting from Goonellabah, cut to shape, glue rear, install on wall in Birth & Beyond for future access (4 hours @ \$50ph)	Carried
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**9. Applications for membership**

Nicole Lindner, trading as “Contained in Nimbin” at 289 Crofton Road, has two accommodation cabins holding full LCC approval, obtained after considerable bother.

Sammi / Tash	THAT Nicole Lindner trading as “Contained in Nimbin” be admitted to membership contingent upon payment of annual fee	Carried
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- 10. Admin Support** Diana said that it is increasingly unrealistic to expect the chamber to operate on a voluntary basis. We need reliable administration support for at least two hours per week, to assist (at least twice weekly) with distributing emails to the relevant persons, keep track of follow-ups, attend to invoicing, forward emailed invoices to Sammi for payment, forward useful social media material to Tash for uploading, enter digital financial data and be a telephone contact point. The usual rate for such a support person is \$50 per hour, which is \$100pw = \$5200pa that could come out of SBVRL funds. NCOC wishes to avoid being an employer, so possibly we could incorporate 2 hrs pw into the work of NCCI admin staff. Diana to draft a job a description for comment.

Diana / Tash	That we agree in principle to pay NCCI two hours pw at \$50 pw funded from SBVRL for its staff to perform routine administrative tasks	Carried
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- 11. Disaster response & recovery** This is a major document produced by the Nimbin Disaster Management Group. We need to identify what businesses can contribute in the event of disasters. NCOC can supply business contact details, disseminate information about grants, enable use of Chamber website & Visit Nimbin websites, and facilitate regional & State networking. It was decided to commence an email thread and discuss for two weeks
- 12. Phone at VIC:** The VIC number exists but needs to be better advertised on our websites. We also need better physical signs at entry road into Bush Theatre. These signs would have a white “I” (we are not allowed legally to use a yellow “I” as we are not obtaining full accreditation). Daffyd said that these signs would be organized prior to Mardi Grass but cost not yet known. Baden to email costing to NCOC for approval.
- 13. Traffic History Issues:** Wil advised that the LCC Traffic Committee is preparing a Traffic Management Plan to facilitate upgrade of some streets and the main pedestrian crossing. He requested any relevant past minutes or correspondence. The Hospital Auxiliary were concerned historically with this issue and should be approached.
- 14. Meeting with John Walker:** The new LCC GM wants to meet with us in Nimbin on 7 November. He wants to meet just the Management Committee, without councillors or our membership. He will come to our November meeting. We have to prepare a list of issues. Diana has already circulated an extensive list of material to the GM; an agenda should be developed from this.
- 15. Copyright Claim:** We have received by email a demand for payment of \$158 for a copyright fee in respect of a photo of firefighters that was posted on our website (and is now taken down). We are uncertain where the photo came from but maybe through NCCI. The demand is from PicRights, based in Switzerland, on behalf of Agence France Presse. Internet search indicates that PicRights is a scammer. Decided to ignore the demand.
- 16. Mural above Newsagent :** This mural is fading and would have to be taken down (3 panels). Miranda Williamson is happy to restore it for \$2000. Cost of materials will be extra. We can use the \$1779 in the mural account (only has \$1400 at present) and top it up from the general account. There would have to be final preservation treatment. Wil to discuss with MW

Diana / Tash	That we pay MW \$2000 on invoice to take down the mural, retouch it, coat it with preservative and remount it. Payment to be on completion within 3 months from dismounting (not to be dismounted before MardiGrass).	Carried
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17. **CWA Rent Assistance** – CWA has rooms at the community centre under a 3-year lease and wrote on 17 August seeking assistance to cover 5% rental hikes. CWA has supplied food & essential services during fire & flood emergencies, takes an active part in Disaster Planning, liaises with Hospital Auxiliary and schools & childcare organizations, provides low cost clothing.

DS / Diana	That NCOC contribute \$1656 from SBVRL to CWA over the next three years as a contribution to their emergency and disaster response efforts	Carried
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18. **Transport for NSW Funding:** TfNSW, partnering with LCC, issued a Media Release dated 14-07-22 regarding a funding boost for Nimbin CBD. On the same day Wil, as liaison officer, emailed it to NCOC with comment. This comment includes the following paragraph *“Attached is the official media release, received today from TfNSW – please feel free to circulate and distribute amongst relevant networks and share this incredible win for Nimbin street businesses and community”*. Diana forwarded the entire email (with the comment) and the TfNSW Media Release, to our entire membership including NGT. However, NGT then published (on p.2 of its August edition) Wil’s comment, rather than the TfNSW Media Release. This put LCC in breach of its funding agreement with TfNSW and caused Wil grief with LCC as his employer. Arguably, NGT breached journalistic ethics (by printing something other than that authorized), but equally arguably the email was ambiguous and contributed to a miscommunication (about the need to limit the distribution to the official Press Release). In retrospect, perhaps Will should have just forwarded the official TfNSW Media release without comment.
19. **SBVRL** Diana said we must report by 15 October on our SBVRL expenditure for the f/y ending September, in the form of a template supplied, together with text about the outcomes. Wil, Daffyd & Peter to attend to this job
20. **BRRF Grant:** This was for signage, website, photographs (delayed due to Covid & rain) and social media strategy training. Sammi is to email Peter pdfs of all invoices and Peter is to finalize acquittal. There is a template for the report and also the last interim report can be used. Daffyd to discuss with Diana and, in her absence, take on completion of the project with the support from the committee.
21. **AQUARIUS 50<sup>th</sup>** There is a lot of regional interest that is relevant to fundraising & promotion. Daffyd attended a couple of regional chamber meetings including Destination NSW (Jane Laverty). As arranged by NCOC, David Hallet has assembled a good basic program but we don’t have money to pay for its administration. The eventual outcome may happen at mini or maxi levels according to funding raised. Both NCOC and LCC will put in funds, and Aquarius Foundation also has some funds (Caroline to ascertain how much). NCOC would need to write a grant application to carry the effort, especially its administration.

Extensive discussion ensued about funding and workloads. Diana said she needs to shed workload and is not prepared to anchor oversight of this project. There was general concern that, without her political experience, contacts and organizational dynamism, the NCOC committee members (each with their own family & business obligations) could not carry it reliably. However, all agreed that we will never get an opportunity for public profile and cultural outreach like this again. There is no other local group likely to take this on.

It was agreed that Diana would approach Kitty van Vuuren to write a grant application for over \$100k, to be made to Tourism NSW’s “Regional Recovery Events”. Also, a new local named Nic Lindner (who has joined NAG) has experience vetting grant applications in the Attorney-General’s department and may be willing to assist. We would have to contribute 25% (about \$25,000), which we could just manage using SBVRL money, assuming some help from Aquarius Foundation but leaving nothing for actual co-ordination. The grant would not cover co-ordination, but LCC funds could be applied to that. We could always return the grant if we decide not to proceed.

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Diana / Jodee	THAT in principle we wish to engage Kitty van Vuuren using SBVRL funds, to write a grant application for Regional Recovery Events seeking \$100,000 to bring David Hallett's suggested program to fruition. Diana to approach her this week then Wil to follow up.	Carried
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**22: Small Business Grant:** These grants are being made available from the NSW Small Business Commission and would be applied to workshops & training next November. Our application (seeking \$4900) has been made and was lodged by Diana on 03-08-2022 but is not yet assessed.. The project is worth \$7450 – the difference is the Chamber's in-kind contribution.

**END:** 2130 hrs

**NEXT MEETING:** 10 October 2022; venue to be announced. [03-10-22 is a public holiday].

--- DWS