



NIMBIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Inc  
ABN: 49 142 400 194

✉ PO Box 20433, Nimbin, NSW 2480

🌐 [www.nimbinaustralia.com.au](http://www.nimbinaustralia.com.au)

@ [chamber@nimbin.nsw.au](mailto:chamber@nimbin.nsw.au)

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday 06 February 2023,  
At Bush Theatre Cabin, and by Zoom

[Meeting commenced 1740hrs

Acknowledgment of Country

- 1. MINUTE TAKER:** David Spain
- 2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dafydd Hyett [President], Diana Roberts [Vice President], Peter Hughes [ Treasurer], David Spain [Secretary], Liam Brehme, Nicole Lindner, Aline Binetruy, and  
**By Zoom:** Samantha Allen  
**Apology:** Carolione Todd      **Guest:** Wil Polson
- 3. CHAIRPERSON:** Diana Roberts
- 4. NON-CONTENTIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Nil
- 5. PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Diana / Sammi	That the v04 minutes from 14-11-2022 be adopted	Carried
Dafydd / Aline	That the v05 minutes from 05-12-2022 be adopted	Carried
Dafydd / Nic	That the v02 minutes from 09-01-2023 be adopted	Carried

### 6. BUSINESS ARISING

#### From 05-12-2022 meeting

- Dafydd tried to ring **John Walker**, after he stepped down from LCC's GM, but could not get through;
- Village map** – Liam has developed ideas for a **style guide on the map** but needs needs approval to change the brochure map. As the artwork now belongs to the Chamber Liam was advised this is not an issue
- Diana & Caroline have not yet walked the village to assess what businesses exist. Before this can occur the new brochure map needs to be drawn up. We must then consider if, or to what extent, they all fit on our map;
- Request from Mitch for contribution towards required monies of \$15000 – not granted or resolved;
- SCU signatories**, for both our account and the AQ50 account, are any two of Peter, Sammi Diana & Daffyd;

- (f) **Incoming emails:** Aline met with Sammi to establish an outline for handling emails. The inbox will be constantly emptied into exclusive folders, where they will be managed by specified persons. Persons will be automatically notified of new mail automatically (by software to be tailored by Liam). The main folder labels are, so far (others can be added if necessary):- Events and projects, Finances, Grants, Lismore City Council, Marketing and Communication, NCOC Management (Minutes, Applications for Membership, among other things) and General (all other general emails we receive). All folders are then subdivided. Sammi & Aline are to consult and make recommendations of who will be the managers of each portfolio, will submit to the committee and then Liam will establish the automatic sending of notification to each portfolio manager.
- (g) **Mural tins, mural audit** [Caroline job – carried forward];
- (h) **Membership Applications:** Sammi offered to take over the processing of membership applications. This task involves checking candidate's financials, uploading candidate's business to Chamber website, harvesting email addresses into the membership batch, and emailing confirmation to the candidate. Diana will supply Sammi with the procedural instructions she prepared for Baden a year ago, and Sammi will further discuss with Baden.
- (i) **Grant opportunities:** LCC has a free "Grant Guru" facility, accessible online. Wil will ascertain how the Chamber can access Grant Guru. It is best to plan an action in detail beforehand and then, when a likely grant is located, to tailor the proposal to meet the criteria.

#### **From 09-01-2023 meeting [ Aquarius 50<sup>th</sup> ]**

Dafydd, as Facilitator of our proposed AQ50 committee, advised that sadly the loose alliance between NAFI, NCOC and a group of motivated locals fell apart today. Blocks of disagreement developed, causing too many interferences, so NCOC will have to back off. It did not help that leading inspiration Johnny Allen caught Covid and that Nick Lindner fell badly ill. In the end, three groups want to continue but in various opinionated, irreconcilable ways.

NAFI controls the name Aquarius Festival and originally wanted to own the festival. However, NAFI then delayed in accepting NCOC's proposal to enable running of the festival via an NCOC sub-committee, which would include a range of stakeholders including NAFI, thereby supplying the benefits of a respected name, stable financial administration and various insurances. This delay hamstrung fundraising so the sub-committee became unable to generate adequate funds to cover payment of the administrative contractors deemed essential to this organization. NCOC was unwilling to enter agreements to pay the contractors using funds it did not have and might never get. NAFI, perhaps with some help from individuals (especially Jenny Kendall, Jenny Cornish, Michael Balderstone & Caroline Todd), will proceed with its own shortened program during May.

NCOC, as proposed principal engaging two contractors at a cost of nearly \$90,000, required certainty of funding, which in the event became unavailable. Although Christopher Dean offered \$10,000 this was contingent on matched funding. NCOC did receive \$10k from the Hemp Embassy and can put in \$10k of its own, in addition to the \$2.5k spent on preliminary research by David Hallett. The AQ50 account we administer currently has \$14500 (from the said sources) but we can top it up a bit when we receive the next tranche of BCRRF grant. LCC indicated that it would contribute \$15k, which has been advanced but we can't use that now and might have to return it.

The AQ50 co-ordination team of two contractors (Greg & Dex) is owed a month's wages plus another 1.5 weeks to wind up. They appreciate the situation and will accept termination on the basis of being paid \$10k each, total \$20k, which we can cover.

Our contractors have developed a beautiful program but we need more time (and money) to deliver it. NCOC does not have regular, certain income, so there is essentially a cashflow problem making it difficult to plan a major event. We can plan for a separate happening, maybe to another Illuminate festival in May 2024, with the existing planned events being utilized as a precursor. We have some plans & assets developed for the AQ50 this May, which might be useable by NAFI (to which we continue to bear goodwill) – Dafydd to assess.

Dafydd / Diana	That the chamber withdraw from involvement in planning or delivering an Aquarius Festival 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary this May, due to lack of funding and an excessively short time frame	Carried
----------------	---	---------

Dafydd / Diana	That our two contractors be paid for fees to date, being one month + 1.5 weeks for windup, in a total (amalgamated) amount not exceeding \$20,000	Carried
----------------	---	---------

**7. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**02-02-2023 Letter from Tina**

The visitnimbin (one word, no capitals) website is owned by LCC and is on the same platform as NCOC & NCCI as LCC pays the ISP hosting so this is cheaper. LCC has two other websites on this platform, visitlismore and cometothe heart. This platform, on which this total of five websites is being hosted, will no longer be supported after December 2023, as the software in which it is written is very old will no longer be supported by the original writer Yari McGauley. All five websites are interlinked within the same customised software. Consequently all five websites, including the NCOC and visitnimbin websites, must be migrated to a new website platform and the interlinking can then be disconnected & separated.

Historically, NCOC contributed substantially to the visitnimbin website and was able to arrange postings onto this site, but this had to be done through LCC which retained admin keys and all backend access. This has become difficult due to the administrative turmoil at LCC. However, Tina Irish, as head of LCC’s economic development section, has recently agreed in principle that LCC will support NCOC if it wishes to establish and manage a new Nimbin tourism website. She can grant NCOC \$3000 for “technical separation”, which probably means disconnecting the interlinking conjoining NCOC’s site. However, possibly it means funds that could be used to support the Chamber in establishing a new Nimbin tourism website, with associated training or establishment costs.

Tina has also indicated that NCOC could obtain carriage of the visitnimbin website, but this shift will require LCC consent. It is not clear that such consent would go so far as to give NCOC the url & domain name so much as just administrative & management keys.

It has been suggested by Dogwhistle that the Chamber’s site could be migrated to a Wix platform as this is more modern & flexible and the online shop is already on a Wix platform. Diana suggested that to maintain our website and the online shop into the future requires resourcing – either by a volunteer or by a paid resource. Updates re events currently are lagging behind and the online shop needs to get local product added to it – it was always hoped that the shop would provide an income to support the VIC, but it hasn’t been developed beyond the initial set up or promoted. Promotion is currently happening through the social media strategy’s implementation, initial setup of which was funded by the bushfire resilience grant.

The visitnimbin site is a more complex situation. The site is currently unnecessarily complicated. This has occurred historically as Council has developed it into a multi-purpose site. The website content needs simplifying. Into the future the website needs managing and this is not a job for volunteers – it requires a paid resource, arguably funded by Council but managed locally.

It was suggested by Diana that the above and ongoing management is far from a \$3000 exercise and this needs to be the subject of our meeting with Council on 20 February. Liam suggested that the important element of the visit Nimbin website is the url as we need the traffic (potentially 7000 visitors a month) if we’re to develop a site that could possibly generate an income through an online shop. Liz from Dogwhistle has suggested that it is more important to obtain the domain name ‘visitnimbin’. Previously Council did not want to part with either the url or the domain name – hence the complicated situation we currently find ourselves in.

...4...

The events platform on the websites has proven very difficult to manage. Both are useless unless constantly updated & maintained under NCOC's direction, and that requires a local person with ear to the ground, hence expense. It was hoped that Wil's position as Tourism Destination Officer would include seeking out and uploading event information. This is a critical element to foster visitors staying longer. While Wil can approve events listed by others, he has not been actively seeking details of events. Nicole took on this role at the Chamber's December meeting but it has been unclear where to send the information to for uploading.

Ideally, what we want is the url, the domain name 'visitnimbin', a grant to migrate the content and a grant for future local maintenance. If we can't get these, we may have to walk away from it all and lose both existing traffic to visitnimbin and the SEO credentials that its traffic brings. This would rather diminish the online shop, but local businesses can be enabled to enter own data. It is the events calendar that needs constant updating by a manager.

**Action:** Nicole to check out under "business info" on the home page of the Chamber's website what is required to upload event information to the Chamber's website. This then appears on the visit Nimbin website – once approved by Council

**Action:** these issues to be included as agenda items for discussion with Council on 20 February

#### **Dogwhistle Invoice**

An invoice has been received from Dogwhistle to implement the social media strategy. The actions will take place for 6 months from January 2023. Information about events coming up will be critical to the effectiveness of this process. Currently Dogwhistle are doing their own research about upcoming Nimbin events which is not how it should be. A working events calendar will give Dogwhistle more raw material to work with.

Action: Dogwhistle to be paid 50% of the invoice received for this work now and 50% on completion of their contract.

#### **Brian Alexander Photos**

Brian died recently but had an extensive collection of 'early Nimbin' photos (but only from 1976 onwards). His executors are willing to co-operate with any proposed gallery display.

**End 1935hrs,** Adjourned to next Monday, Bush Theatre cabin.

--- DWS