



NIMBIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Inc
ABN: 49 142 400 194

✉ PO Box 20433, Nimbin, NSW 2480

🌐 www.nimbinaustralia.com.au

@ chamber@nimbin.nsw.au

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

[Special Meeting to progress AQ50]

Monday 09 January 2023,
At Bush Theatre and by Zoom

Meeting commenced 1730hrs
Acknowledgment of Country

1. **MINUTE TAKER:** David Spain
2. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dafydd Hyett [President], Diana Roberts [Vice President], David Spain [Secretary], Nicole Lindner, Carolione Todd [by Zoom].

Apologies: Peter Hughes [Treasurer], Samantha Allen, Aline Binetruy

Guests: Wil Polson, Greg Bork, Derrick Tallow (Dex)

3. **CHAIRPERSON:** Dafydd Hyett.
4. **Dafydd**, as Facilitator of the AQ50 organizing group, advised that it had met several times and had made good advances in approaching a ten day event to happen next May, a week after Mardi Grass, each day with a dedicated theme. This leaves us 17 weeks to prepare. David Hallet's original event planning, commissioned by NCOC, has been incorporated. Main venues around Hall, Bush Theatre and Showground (which will permit 2-week camping and make the pavilions available). Most (if not all) events will be on private land so DAs can be avoided, but some LCC permissions (that fall short of street closures), e.g. for food trucks and where events spread onto street blisters, may be required.

Following advertising and a selection process, Greg Bork and Dex Tallow have joined this group and it is proposed that they anchor planning, as secretary & event production manager (cohering logistics & venues), each to receive remuneration at \$40ph (plus 10% superannuation), at a projected total of \$37500 each. Each would work four days pw for the initial 6 weeks then 5 days pw for remainder including two weeks windup.

Funding in hand or promised is \$10,000 from Hemp Embassy (with possibility of a further \$10,000), \$10,000 promised by NCOC and a reliable \$15,000 from LCC (contingent on economic benefit, which should be provable). Liaison is proceeding regarding major public grants (some of which provide tax deductibility e.g. the Australian Cultural Fund), with Destination NSW [attn. Michael Thurston], with possible philosophic & businesses (to whom a structured tier of benefits is offered), and for sponsorship & live streaming rights. Jenny Cornish & Jeni Kendall, from the team. will concentrate on raising funding. Some events will be ticketed; discussions are proceeding to involve a marketing strategist.

...2...

Greg Bork advised that he had been on the organizing group since October and would be supplying secretarial services including agendas, minutes, letters, advertising, press releases. Pertinent images would be helpful, such as of the existing village murals. The chamber's help would be useful in relating to its members, such as offers to sponsor a particular event.

Dex tabled a spreadsheet envisaging about 320 'happenings' at 120 events over the ten days. The events are colour coded, with green & blue being relatively simple to organize or attend, orange ones being music & theatre (so require specialist administration), and the yellow-red are either expensive or complex.

David tabled a set of draft motions and said that, from the Chamber's point of view, we are keen to assist an AQ50 event promoting aspirational ideas, but want to run a tight ship with minimal scope for messy outcomes, bad publicity, damage to reputation, financial exposure or litigation. If the AQ50 organizers become standard or honorary members of NCOC, as an incorporated entity, then they could be appointed as a committee (for specific purposes and subject to restrictions or conditions). This would tend to minimize exposure to litigation (especially claims asserting the existence of implied interpersonal partnerships), bring the entire operation under NCOC's insurance, enable proper financial accounting, and supply some arms' length supervision. We need details of the AQ50 organizers (names & addresses), signed application forms, and details of the credentials & experience of the contractors --what tasks are they to perform in what timeframe, and what milestones are they to meet? Operating via a committee under the auspices of a reputable, insured entity would maximize credibility for fundraising purposes. NCOC is negotiating in good faith but has no legal relationship with the AQ50 organizing group unless documented by resolutions or in writing.

Diana said that she is most concerned about the proposed financial exposures. We only have 35k plus a 2k loan from Johnny Allen, but the proposed budget will take \$76k for paid administration by the two proposed contractors Greg & Dex. It is very difficult to win grants or actually get money out of people. We are not geared to be an employer and have to engage the contractors under monthly invoice at an agreed rate; NCCI wont be involved. To avoid double payments & confusion, all AQ50 invoices should go thru Dafydd for endorsement then Sammi should set up invoice batches and Peter be sole second factor batch processor.

Dafydd said that Benny Zable (as an Aquarius original and well-known artist), and Annie McGovern (as a personal deeply trusted by the local kooris), are part of the organizing team but are psychologically or culturally unable to join a committee. David suggested that Nimbin Aquarius Festival Inc. [NAFI], which was incorporated in 1993, could itself join NCOC and nominate these two as its representatives. Dafydd said that NAFI would not join, so these two would just have to be involved as non-voting guests.

End 1915hrs

--- DWS