



**NIMBIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Inc.**  
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A/C: Summerland Credit Union BSB 728 728 - A/C No: 22206093

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday 03 June 2019, at ComSkool Room, Acacia Building

Meeting commenced 1740hrs

1. **MINUTE TAKER:** David Spain
2. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diana Roberts [President], Theresa Biscoe [Vice President], Stephanie Seckold: Kylie Cain, Cat Anderson, Peter Hughes [Treasurer], David Spain [Secretary]

**Delegates from LCC:** Ms Shelley Oldham, General Manager; Peter Jeuken, Acting Manager of Sustainable Development

3. **CHAIRPERSON:** Diana Roberts
4. **LCC ISSUES:**

- (a) **Nimbin & DCP:** Shelley was asked to present an overview of how LCC sees Nimbin. She commenced the GM job 6 months ago, with priority to resolve financial issues. Councillors & staff were unaware of the dimensions of LCC's dire financial challenge. There is a possibility of going under administration, which means cuts everywhere for 5 years. A new budget is proposed for late June. Villages, with sense of community & mutual support, are at the heart of Lismore shire but are rather being railroaded by state-wide development procedures. There is no real strategy to preserve & integrate the villages.

Diana said NCoC is aware of the financial problems and is keen to suggest cost-neutral improvements. The NAG originally came from a community consultation as a vehicle to inform LCC of activities in Nimbin & wishes of its citizens. We had a DCP, developed with extensive community consultation, but it has largely been disregarded, LCC has made decisions impacting the entire village, especially the approved shopping centre in Sibley Street, with 6 shops & 40 houses on the northern side, due to be finished by end of 2021. Traffic & vehicular delivery issues were inadequately considered. Planning for cycleways & pathways, and main street beautification have been sidelined & lost. The DCP needs to be updated & honoured, not overridden by State level entitlements. The lack of a dedicated local councillor is a problem.

Peter Jeuken advised that general Nimbin planning formalities (DCP, heritage, place within Growth Management Strategy) will have to be considered for the next Strategic Plan as State requirements now include "local Strategic Planning" statements addressing the character of development. However, unfortunately State entitlements prevail regardless of local DCPs and best efforts & investment by LCC itself. The entity to lobby is the State member.

- (b) **Walking Trail:** Diana said that the Walking Trail (Rainbow Road) feasibility study cost the community \$70,000 but negotiations were then administered by the tourist section which let it all lapse. At a NAG meeting in November 2018, Shelley indicated support but foresaw problems and suggested the community buy the land encumbered by the ROW. At the ensuing meeting with Peter Jeuken last December LCC's legal opinion was viewed and problem issues

were discussed. Peter took the issue away for further investigation. The next thing Nimbin learnt, by reading "Council Matters" delivered by mail in March 2019, was that LCC had canned the project. It appears that LCC canned the project mostly as a knee jerk reaction to their budget blowout, but we believe that any relevant insurance would be available within LCC's standard Sport & Recreation package. Also, LCC should take steps to ensure that Stage 2 of the proposed walking trail, from Alternative Way up the gully across to Cecil Street, is properly secured by registered encumbrance across John Callinan's land -- he is happy for this to occur.

Shelley said the Walking Trail is too threatening to LCC due to potential liability issues; there is a registered ROW which can be enforced but public use of it is too risky. The insurers won't insure against a pre-known public liability risk. Under the Act a council cannot knowingly put itself into an uninsured situation. The main danger is the hostile attitude of the residents at 12 Cecil Street; if that were removed the project would be less daunting. Normally the structure is built, or built by the developer, then the ROW is dedicated; here the reverse has happened.

Biskit asked if the ROW could be transferred to NCoC. David said that this is an "easement in gross" in favour of a public authority and such can be transferred to a corporation approved under the regulations, which requires legislative amendment of the regulation. However, in this instance the ROW is expressly already registered in a deposited plan for benefit of "*LCC and all persons authorized by it*", so (subject to LCC's legal advice), all that would be necessary is for LCC to resolve that NCoC is an authorized person for purpose of developing & maintaining the footway, according to an approved plan, at own cost for council's general sport & recreation purposes.

- (c) **LCC Responsiveness:** Diana said there tends to be little substantial response to NCoC correspondence, such as parking concerns & pedestrian safety, all amidst increasing developer pressures. However, some officers, especially Paula Newman & Kath Parry, have been excellent; having a dedicated Nimbin officer would help. Shelley said that she is working on transforming the functionality of LCC, including improving software support services, but there was a flood in March 2017 requiring (belated) disaster relief and often 3-5 departments need to review drafts and it all takes time. Proactive rather than reactive councillors would be a help. However she would consider dedicating Cath Parry as officer to marshal Nimbin communications.
- (d) **Traffic Issues:** Shelley said that traffic issues did not contribute to the Cecil street death; the traffic management committee (which includes the local MP, police & NSW RMS) under Cr. Moorhouse recommended the sort of traffic calming device that was installed at local request. This committee creates priorities and instructs LCC what is to be done. Diana asked that LCC put on committee agenda a request that Nimbin representatives be allowed to address it.
- (e) **Parking Issues:** Diana said that planners declared that there should be no parking on the Museum site and that the Cubes was "merely" required to paint bay lines in the existing carpark. As a result, there is way too little planning to acquire new land (in particular the school land behind western carpark) & fund more parking space, possibly tiered. She asked that LCC negotiate with Department of Education for an agreement in principle; DOE was very generous when the community purchased the central school site. If there were at least an MOU plan, there would be something for developers to contribute to. Peter said that funds collected under s.94 for specific purposes can end up being applied to such purposes at a distant location or diverted to a subsequent s.94 plan.
- (f) **Nimbin VIC:** Diana said that the rent paid for Visitors' Information centre is relatively dead money; the job could be done largely by volunteers (who know & love the area) out of 7 Sibley Street, with LCC's savings directed to local (i.e. Nimbin!) initiatives. Shelley said the Byron VIC is run by volunteers, who get discounts, which is a good model, but staffing & the unions are difficult. Nimbin is one of the biggest tourist attractions in NSW and should be a concern of the State tourism authorities.

- (g) **Developments around Village:** Redcoates farm (Crofton's Road) DA was originally a large lot rural residential, but once LCC staff permitted connection to sewerage the housing density increased. This potentially prejudices the future capacity of adjoining village uses, such as Bush Theatre. As regards development of the Museum fire site, the community thoroughly endorses the current DA and requests LCC's co-operation in expediting it, lest the current vision be abandoned or the site transferred to a less empathetic developer.
- (h) **Control of Weeds:** David expressed concern that certain types of weeds, such as groundsel & Devil's Fig, were not being managed either along roadsides or on private land, were being allowed to flourish and threatened native habitat. This impacts our attractiveness to tourists. Whilst this is the responsibility of Rous County Council, did LCC have influence? Shelley said LCC contributes funds to Rous CC but she was unsure how they were applied; there is a new constellation of state departments that is addressing weed species.
- (i) **Nimbin A&I Society Inc.** are negotiating with LCC to purchase "Bellevue Park", adjacent to the showground and held by it from LCC under a peppercorn rent. A&I have been using it as a community football field for many decades and managing the land. They have some income from Mardi Gras but LCC is demanding a steep price (pursuant to a valuation as sports ground at \$116,000) and is indicating that a commercial sale (presumably for residential development) could occur if negotiations are unsuccessful. NCoC urges LCC to transfer this land to the (non-profit) A&I Society at minimum cost in the interests of the community. Shelley said she had no power to reduce the asking price; a valuation & council resolution are required to enable such a sale.

1917hrs; guests were thanked & departed.

**5. MINUTES OF LAST COMMITTEE MEETING :**

The chairperson traversed the draft minutes of last committee meeting on 06-05-2019.

Cat / Biskit	That the v02 draft minutes of 05-05-2019 be accepted.	Carried
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**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST COMMITTEE MINUTES : Nil**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE: Nil**

**8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Nil**

**9. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer tabled a Financial Report. We received \$200 from LCC for books at VIC. The website invoice has not been paid. Biskit reported that Elen has fixed the operability of the forms (which had been going into spam). Some more images are being uploaded to create pages on the site

Peter / David	That the financial report be adopted	Carried
Biskit / Cat	That the web designer's invoice be paid	Carried

**10. BUY LOCAL CAMPAIGN:** Steph tabled a draft (oval) 'Buy Local' logo for our 'Caring for Community Buy Local Campaign'. This will be used for identifying labels on locally made product and laminated signs on local businesses. Steph will prepare a general introduction poster, info brochure for businesses, sample signs, labels and the public mailout flyer. Kylie will coordinate the mail-outs. The campaign will be launched at the General meeting on Wednesday 19th June.

The version with light-olive ink & black lettering is preferred. 'Contributes' to read 'contribute'; a space required between 'thank' and 'you'. Diana to proof read final draft of all stickers & literature.

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Printing can be done on round stickers from Avery. Printing to be done via NNIC. NCoC to pay for printing and ask for SBVRL funds. NCoC can supply members & shops with laminated signs and stickers and recover some outlays.

Biskit / Cat	That the draft logo & supporting literature be approved in principle, but to be subject to Diana's proof-reading. Printing as per costing on NNIC quote is accepted. Secretary to seek release of SBVRL funds once material is finalized.	Carried
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11. **LIGHTING GRANT:** Biskit tabled advice from lighting expert Roger Foley-Fogg and expressed concern held by NCCI that RPC seems unwilling to implement the aesthetic, ambient, novel lighting approaches (under Cullen Street awnings) preferred by NCCI & NCOG . Foley-Fogg has supplied a detailed proposal within the same budget but will not work with RPC. RPC hasn't really put many hours into it.

Biskit / Kylie	That NCOG encourages NCCI withdrawal from any arrangements with RPC regarding installation of lighting, and supports negotiation with Roger Foley-Fogg as substitute	Carried
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**End:** 1940hrs

**Next NCOG Meeting** -- GM on 19-06-2019 at B+B

-- Committee 5.30pm on 15 July 2019 at Nimbin Law  
(Diana, Kylie & Cat can't come on 01-07-19)