



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)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 08 December 2021, at Bush Theatre

Meeting commenced 1900 hrs

Acknowledgment of Country

1. **MINUTE TAKER:** David Spain
2. **BUSINESS MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diana Roberts [President], Theresa Biscoe (Co-Ordination Co-op), David Spain (Nimbin Law), Stephanie Seckold (Nimbin Markets), Peter Hughes [Treasurer], Samuel Herren (Geneva Building), Danielle Voinot (Food Co-op), Scott Sledge (NEC), Kerry Wilson (Nimbin Valley Dairy), Denise Whitney, Jodee Tichborne (Aquarius Café), Tash Fuller (Servo), Michael Balderstone (Hemp Embassy), Caroline Todd (Hemp Embassy), Linnet Pike (CWA), Liam Brehme, Karen Walsh, Tony Teniswood (Nimbin Caravan Park), Jane Mari (Armonica Café), Kylie Cain (Green Bank), Samantha Allen (Apothecary), Elen Jones (Nimbin Herbs), David Fawkner (AIS), Wil Polson (LCC), Dave Hyett (Bush Theatre), Baden Minas

**Apologies:** Laura & Stan (Animistic), Yvonne Campbell, Karen Ratcliffe

Biskit / Sam	That the apologies be accepted.	Carried
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3. **CHAIRPERSON:** Diana Roberts
4. **WELCOME BY PRESIDENT:** The president welcomed the members present, representing a wide range of Nimbin businesses at a time when the Chamber has taken many fresh initiatives.
5. **MINUTES OF LAST AGM:**

The chairperson traversed the draft minutes of last AGM on 20-11-2019 (taken by David).

Sammi / Biskit	That the minutes of 20-11-2019 be accepted.	Carried
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### 6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The president Diana Roberts advised that her full report (4 pages) will be posted to the NCOC website. She joined the Chamber in 1990 but served as a councillor for 12 years before rejoining the Chamber in 2016. Initially the Chamber was just reactive to members' concerns but in the last 5 years much more dynamism has come in. Work has continued on murals and improving village amenity. The bushfires, drought & Covid made Zoom meetings popular and much grant funding available. At the same time Lismore City Council withdrew its VIC funding, which empowered NCOC to develop its own self-funded VIC based at the Nimbin Bush Factory. This is being supplied & funded by Dave Hyett. NCOC has sought a grant to seal the carpark. Dr. Wil Polson, as an employee of LCC, has been appointed as Tourist Destination Officer. All of this made the Chamber an attractive & appropriate vehicle for grant funding. This has been applied to setting up a website, a signage & brochure project that has a QR code linking our website and production of a new village map and information brochure (thanks to Steph Seckold).

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Salient amongst projects is the proposed Rainbow Road pathway & revegetation grant of \$2.54m along the creek to the east of the village. Property issues are being negotiated and construction should begin in a year. Water security & town planning have been key concerns for NCoC. A one-day mini festival, Illuminate Nimbin, is planned for next March. Much effort has gone into informing the community about efforts, grants, Covid safety etc. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Aquarius Festival is due in May 2023 but as this could be a regional event it is too big for NCoC to take on. Instead, it is exploring funding for coordination and a community consultation event to gauge community support and interest. We now have over 60 members; it is this support & feedback that gives the Chamber credibility & clout.

Member feedback is sought for a contribution to the shortfall of rental on Wai:Bal cultural centre, currently around \$150 per month: this was strongly supported by those attending.

Kylie / Sammi	That the President's Report be received & noted	Carried
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In answer to questions re the recent LCC elections, Diana advised that the Krieg team will have 6 votes and the progressives 4. The Krieg team will be good for business & developers but unlikely to prioritise social & environmental advances. There are three good, progressive women [Ekins, Cook & Bird] on council, but in a distinct minority.

Theresa Biscoe thanked Diana for her expertise, reliability and attention to detail.

#### 7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer advised that last year the Chamber waived the membership fee, had spent \$6400 more than it received from levies and the SBVRL (mostly due to contributing \$20,000 to the Rainbow Road project), but some major grants have been received and not yet expended. The association is able to pay its debts as they fall due.

Peter / Biskit	That the treasurer's financial report be accepted.	Carried
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#### 8. **SIGNAGE PROJECT REPORT Steph Seckold**

In the wake of the bushfires, funding became available to install extensive visitor information signage throughout the village. Emphasis has been placed on dual language signage (Widjabul Wia:bal/English) although this is proving challenging. We are working on rejuvenating the sign & material (approved by the local kooris) for the Nimbin Rocks viewing platform. History plaques have been designed for various buildings & locations, and sound posts developed where walkers can push a button and receive a story. These themes will be environment, intentional communities and sustainability. There will also be sound trails where theme stories from locals can be triggered onto mobile phones via an app.

#### 9. **ENLARGEMENT OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Sammi / Biskit	<b>THAT</b> in Rule 13.1.2, the words 'three (3)' be deleted and the words 'between three (3) and seven (7)' be inserted in their stead.	Carried unanimously
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Sammi / Biskit	<b>THAT</b> in Rule 13.2, the words 'seven (7)' be deleted and the words 'between seven (7) and eleven (11)' be inserted in their stead.	Carried unanimously
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#### 10. **ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Theresa Biscoe was appointed to be Returning Officer and the Chairperson stood down. Eleven nominations in proper form were received pursuant to the procedure in Constitution. These were from Peter Hughes (Nimbin Tax & Accounting), Kylie Cain (The Green Bank), Theresa Biscoe (Co-Ord Co-Op), Samantha Allen (Nimbin Apothecary), David Spain (Nimbin Law), Caroline Todd (Hemp Embassy), Diana Roberts (All Natural Baby), Tashanna Fuller (Nimbin Servo), Jodee Tichborne (Aquarius Café), Elen Jones (Nimbin Herbs) and Dave Hyett (Bush Theatre).

Theresa Biscoe Declaration	That there being 11 nominations for 11 positions, the nominees are declared duly elected to the Board	-----
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**11. DIGITAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

Sammi / Biskit	<p><b>THAT</b> a new Article 8.5 be inserted reading as follows:</p> <p><b>8.5 Postal or electronic ballots</b></p> <p>(1) The association may hold a postal or electronic ballot (as the committee determines) to determine any issue or proposal (other than an appeal under clause 10).</p> <p>(2) A postal or electronic ballot is to be conducted in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Regulation.</p>	Carried unanimously
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Sammi / Biskit	<b>THAT</b> Article 22.1 be renumbered 22.1.1	Carried unanimously
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Sammi / Biskit	<p><b>THAT</b> a new Article 22.1.2 be inserted reading as follows:</p> <p><b>22.1.2</b> Where a physical place cannot reasonably be secured or used as a venue due to a public health order, natural disaster or civil commotion (including, without limitation, pandemic, flood, fire, earthquake, social violence, insurrection or military activity), then the committee may nominate an electronic address to constitute the place for meeting, <u>provided that</u> (a) such digital address shall enable the free &amp; open attendance of members using adequate equipment that is commonly available or accessible to see and be seen and to speak, be heard and hear, (b) all persons attending such electronic meeting may hear and be heard by each other (c) the chairperson can manage participation to enable good democratic order, and (d) all persons attending such electronic meeting shall and hereby do waive any &amp; all entitlement to claims of privacy or copyright in respect of their personal image or utterances.</p>	Carried unanimously
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**12. MOTION TO ENABLE ELECTRONIC VOTING**

Biskit / Sam Herron	<b>THAT</b> Article 22.11 be renumbered 22.11.1	Carried unanimously
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Biskit / Sam Herron	<p><b>THAT</b> a new Article 22.11.2 be inserted reading as follows:</p> <p>For the purposes of Article 22.11.1:</p> <p>(a) a requisition calling a meeting under Article 22.11.1 may be in electronic form, and</p> <p>(b) a signature may be transmitted, and a requisition may be lodged, by electronic means.</p>	Carried unanimously
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**13. NIMBIN TOURISM DESTINATION OFFICER**

Diana introduced Dr. Wil Polson, who has been employed by LCC full time as Tourism Destination Officer. Dr. Polson advised that he was born & raised in Nimbin. His new job necessarily involves promoting economic development that will improve the local community & culture and so attract tourists. He runs LCC’s “Visit Nimbin” website and Instagram & Facebook pages. He is point of contact between the Nimbin community and LCC as regards encouraging & facilitating tourism and, while his job is full-time until he has a permanent office he is available at Community Centre on Mondays and Tuesdays.

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**14. PRESENTATION TO DIANA & STEPHANIE**

Dave Hyett thanked Diana for her vision, guidance, initiative and productive energy, and Stephanie for her lively artistic flair & contribution.

Thanks to Bush Theatre for food & venue.

**Meeting Ended:** 8 pm: Adjourn to refreshments

**Next Meeting:** Next AGM November 2022