



NIMBIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Inc
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 20 November 2019, at ComSkool

Meeting commenced 1810 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 Sainot (Food Co-op), Wayne Wadsworth (Health Farms International), Samantha Allen (Apothecary), Saskia (Environment Centre), David Fawkner (AIS)

Apologies: Elen Jones Kylie Cain, Caroline Todd

Biskit / Sam	That the apologies be accepted.	Carried
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3. **CHAIRPERSON:** Diana Roberts
4. **WELCOME BY PRESIDENT:** The president read a report (to be printed in NGT "Chamber Chat").

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who put their heart and energy into combatting the recent bushfire emergency. To the multitude of businesses that contributed their time and resources, thank you. The fires severely affected many businesses and your generosity of spirit and resources during times such as this is so important to strengthening and enriching the community response.

It's hard to think about normal Chamber business so immediately after the dramatic time we've just had but it's my role to give an overview of our activities over the past year. Our small committee is made up of a group of people committed to community and together we have achieved much to be proud of. We have worked in close collaboration with the Nimbin Community Centre and the Nimbin Advisory Group, partly because our committee and work roles overlap, which has encouraged a pooling of resources delivering better outcomes for both local business and the wider community.

We have continued the Chamber's mission to restore and enhance the murals in our village. We have donation tins around town which trickle in funds. We have also used funds collected from local business property owners through Lismore Council's Special Business Rate Levy. We have seen two important murals redone this year and are financially supporting the restoration of two more murals and the creation of a new one above the soon to be constructed Rainbow Cafe. We were also engaged in the Light Up Nimbin Project which has seen a small part of the main street and associated murals beautifully lit up. We are hoping to extend this project over the next 12 months. In addition, the refurbishment of the Welcome to Nimbin sign at the northern entry to the village was also a Chamber outcome.

The Chamber has been actively engaged in supporting important local events such as the Nimbin Roots Festival and the Nimbin Poetry World Cup. We contributed to a Welcome to Nimbin kit for new residents, in partnership with the Nimbin Advisory Group and the Neighbourhood Centre and are grateful for support received in printing from the Nimbin Bush Theatre. The Chamber has also initiated a Buy Local campaign which we hope local businesses and community members will continue to support.

On a longer-term, strategic level we have made a lengthy submission to Lismore Council's economic development strategy (awaiting outcomes regarding this), lobbied for better pedestrian management around the village (especially Cecil St), written support letters for community organisations applying for funding, protested withdrawal of the Rainbow Road village walking trail from Council's delivery plan, advocated for delivery of DA approval for the fire sites, queried the distribution of developer contributions collected from Nimbin, and much more. In June we met with Lismore Council's General Manager, Shelley Oldham, and raised many concerns but at that stage Shelley was focussed on addressing Council's massive budget deficit so it was not the most satisfactory of meetings. A decision on whether to proceed or not with their proposed rate increase was voted on by Council in November with a 25% increase over 4 years recommended. However, following our meeting with Shelley, we now have a dedicated Nimbin liaison person in Council which improves communication lines considerably.

To keep you informed we make regular contributions to the Good Times in Chamber Chat. We have also launched a new website and are currently ironing out teething problems. It looks great but we need it to function effectively as well. Our thanks to those who are working on this. We also had a bit of a membership drive to encourage more local businesses to join us. Our committee for the past year has been comprised of myself, Teresa Biscuit Vice-President (Coordination Coop), Peter Hughes Treasurer (Nimbin Tax & Accounting), David Spain Secretary (Nimbin Law), together with Kylie Cain (The Green Bank) & Steph Seckold (markets coordinator). At our recent AGM Caroline Todd (Hemp Embassy) and Sammi Allen (Nimbin Apothecary & Clinic) were elected as ordinary members to join the previous committee. As set out in the Chamber's constitution, I will continue as President for the next 12 months, a role I have enjoyed thanks to my fellow committee members and others who have volunteered their time to Chamber initiatives. Hopefully our next 12 months will be as productive.

5. MINUTES OF LAST AGM:

The chairperson traversed the draft minutes of last AGM on 21-11-2018 (taken by David).

Steph / Biskit	That the minutes of 21-11-2018 be accepted.	Carried
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6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The president Diana Roberts delivered a report, which will be printed in NGT's Chamber Chat.

Diana / Biskit	That the President's Report be received.	Carried
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7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer tabled a Financial Report and ran through salient features. He advised that transaction records are available for inspection and answered some questions from the floor. Income has come from membership fees, occasional sale of books, donation tins towards murals, with occasional draws (for major projects) from LCC as trustee of our SBRVL funds. The association is able to pay its debts as they fall due.

Peter / Danielle	That the treasurer's financial report be accepted.	Carried
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8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Seven nominations in proper form were received from: Peter Hughes (Nimbin Tax & Accounting), Kylie Cain (The Green Bank), Stephanie Seckold (Nimbin Markets), Theresa Biscoe (Co-Ord Co-Op), Samantha Allen (Nimbin Apothecary), David Spain (Nimbin Law) and Caroline Todd (Hemp Bar)

Diana/ Biskit	That the 7 nominees be declared elected to the Board	Carried
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9. Questions from Floor

-- **From Sam:** John Ridley is in control of the control for the lights.

Meeting Ended: 1830hrs: Adjourn to refreshments

Next Meeting: Next AGM November 2020

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 09-12-2019 at 5.30pm, Nimbin Law