

Nimbin Community Collective (Interagency) Meeting – 18th October 2025 – MEETING NOTES

“Strategies for Community Collaboration and Volunteer Engagement”

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome, acknowledgement of country

2. Present, apologies

Aline (Chamber of Commerce), Nat (NNIC/NDRG), Rain (Nimbin Youth, Community Centre), Wick (Nimbin Youth, Community Centre), Rebecca (Nimbin Central P&C), Diana (Nimbin Landcare/Rainbow Walk), Virginia (Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group and Lismore City Council), David (Nimbin School of Arts), Gwen (Bowlo, Health and Welfare Association, NNIC volunteer and Village Advisory Group member), Denise (A+I Soc Village Advisory Group member), Paul (Enviro Centre), Linnet (CWA), Kate (Bowlo).

Apologies: Max, Sledge, Steph

3. Around the room – Intros strength/challenges

Nimbin A&I Soc – just held Nimbin Show. 2026 Show dates are 19th and 20th September.

ACTION: Everyone put this date into your calendars.

Currently caravan group camping there and spending money uptown while they are here. ABC Back Roads coming to Nimbin in November – have approached various groups – focus is ‘community’ – seems they are interested in agriculture also.

Nimbin Health and Welfare – AGM on 4th November. Seeking Committee members.

CWA – managing expectations vs capacity is an ongoing challenge. Strength is their committed volunteers.

Nimbin Central P&C – more active members needed.

NNIC – also looking for Committee members plus a range of volunteers.

Enviro Centre – Picnic in the Park being held on 9th November at the harbour at Rainbow Walk

4. Council updates from Cr Waters

Western Carpark – illegal camping and antisocial behaviour; This was raised at the September Council Meeting. Council resolved to increase the presence of parking enforcement staff and request more regular police patrols. Councillors extended this to include the Nimbin CBD area. It was also noted that the carpark requires more regular cleaning and maintenance. Discussion highlighted that the previous Jungle Patrol service had maintained a stronger presence and cleaning standard. There is also a need for clearer signage in the area.

Hot water service – new amenities block; This issue is ongoing. It’s believed a line item for funding has been identified in the developer contributions.

Grant applications; Two grant applications are currently being prepared, based on priorities identified in the Nimbin Place Plan. As far as I know, they relate to:

Playground and skate park upgrades, and Road safety audit and associated works to reposition the crossing and progress a Healthy Roads initiatives.

Village Advisory Group (VAG); We’ve held our first Lismore Villages Advisory Group meeting. Thanks to Gwen and Max for representing Nimbin, and good to see Denise representing the Jiggi/Leycester area.

Homeless services – Social Futures; A positive development: Social Futures have acquired the former aged care facility in McKenzie Street, Lismore, and have converted it into 58-bed temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.

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Bellevue Park; Discussions are continuing regarding the transfer of Bellevue Park to the Nimbin A&I Society.

Rural Women’s Conference – village tour; I’ll be tour guide for the Rural Women’s Conference to be held in Lismore on 24–26 October. The purpose is to showcase our village. The tour will include Aquarius Park, the CWA rooms, the markets, and the village centre on Sunday.

Forthcoming GM visit to Nimbin; The General Manager’s visit has been postponed a couple of times but is now expected within the next few weeks. I’ve highlighted several key areas of concern for attention:

Walkways between the western carpark and Cullen Street
Lighting in the back carpark (several lights not working)
Lighting at Allsopp Park, also not operational

5. David Hallett – replacement event to Blues and Roots Festival

This is the final year of the Nimbin Blues and Roots festival. The event brings much needed income into the town venues.

Proposal to replace it with an arts festival held at the same time of the year (last weekend in October) which features not only music but all the creative arts – can feature local and also guest artists. Fine art displays in all the shops. Fashion show.

Lindal Gray has developed some costings. There could be a possibility of getting 3 years funding support as a ‘signature event’ – need to have ducks in a row to apply around Feb/March 2026. Working group needed.

ACTION: David and Diana will call a meeting.

6. Update on actions from the last meeting

James Frizzle grant

Grant secured from James Frizzle Foundation under auspice of NNIC as only orgs with DGR status eligible to apply. Scope of grant = volunteering specifically – total \$ is only about \$6000 – will be used to fund secretarial support of this group (by Aline) plus costs of Volunteer Celebration Event and volunteer website (see below).

Save the Bowlo update

AGM was held and all Board positions filled. The Bowlo was re-opened with great community support. Unfortunately, however there were two resignations, one of them being the Secretary/Licensee which forced the Bowlo to temporarily close again. The situation has now been resolved and the Bowlo re-opening on Wednesday 22 October and gearing up for the Blues and Roots fest. More volunteers to join the roster will help.

It has become apparent that significant refurbishments are needed at the premises e.g. electricals/wiring, equipment and machinery.

Suggestion to hold a big fundraising event once they get on their feet.

Need more people in Nimbin trained in RSA and RSG. Also some needing First Aid.

A big acknowledgement from every one to all the people who have stepped up at the Bowlo.

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ACTIONS: ALL MEMBERS: please let everyone in your organisation know that the Bowlo could use a few more vols over the Blues and Roots weekend and if they are able to do e.g. a 4 hour shift to contact Kate by email kmi.imeson@gmail.com and copy in Gwen gwentrimble@gmail.com.

This group consider supporting a community fundraising event for the Bowlo.

Members are kindly requested to complete the Volunteer Needs Survey on nimbin.org.au and/or can send their list of vol training needs to volunteer@nimbin.org.au – Nat/NNIC will keep an eye on free/training opps and/or volunteer grants.

Volunteer Celebration Event- “Heroes of Nimbin”

- Need a different name – ‘heroes’ not suitable. Super Volunteers of Nimbin?
- The AIM of the event is to encourage volunteering in our community - volunteering is fun! AND appreciated. So come on down and join the volunteers – so much to choose from! Etc.
- General support for it being humourous with funny categories
- A free event (but food available for purchase)
- Locally hand-made quirky trophies
- Oscar type format – the nominees are: with little stories on each...AND THE WINNER IS
- Agreement to have a jury panel to judge the entries
- Nominations: can come from each org OR from the community (not all vols are connected with orgs) – need to develop a nomination form to share online
- Discussion of whether nominees should be asked if they agree to the nom? Agreement that No (everyone might refuse!).
- All nominees to receive and official invite “this is to invite you to the XX event as you have been nominated for an Award...”
- Need a working group
- Possible date: Sat 14th March 2026 at Town Hall. Tentative booking made.
- Possible alternative venue – Bowlo?

Overall, would be good to have as annual event but needs to be sustainable – i.e. no significant costs involved – this event creates the templates etc so that any group of members can keep running it.

Actions:

- Invite members to working group when the notes from this meeting sent out
- Agree on Event name
- Agree on Award categories
- Develop nomination form and agree on criteria
- Agree on panel members to judge the nominations.
- Develop judging form for the panel.
- Publicise Award nominations with a close date.
- Agree on the event date.

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- Catering? Drinks? Tea Coffee? Options include CWA, or Tuntable School may be up for catering as a fundraiser. People would be charged. Possibility of at least providing free drinks to people as they come in?

Volunteer Expo with youth focus

Discussion around the aim. To encourage young people to volunteer? Feedback from the young people themselves is that they are looking for paid work and have no real aspirations to volunteer and indeed most are looking to leave Nimbin because they want work or study opportunities, plus affordable housing is an issue here. Idea to issue certificates of competence (awards) highlighting attitude and competence (keep it simple). Action: Aline to prepare a template. This is valuable for finding work. Exploration of avenues for what could count as ‘work experience’.

Nimbin Central School holds annual Career Day where orgs can have stalls and answer questions about what is involved in working in that sector etc.

Also has a market day. We could attend that as a bit of trade show type section of the market and do a Quiz with prizes to encourage them to go around and check out the stalls. This will introduce them to the tradition of volunteering, without which Nimbin would not be Nimbin. **ACTION:** Nat/ NNIC will try coordinate this with the P&C and the school.

NIM FM interviews - Andrew and Aline organised – 1 x Saturday per month – 2 hr show. Aline will be in contact with members to schedule an interview. Has developed a set of questions as a guide for the interviewer. Interviews can be transcribed for the Good Times of social media.

Website nimbin.org.au – Wick gave a demo of the site nimbin.org.au for use for listing volunteer opportunities. nimbin.org.au It is easy to edit your own profile and your volunteer listings. **ACTION all members** add/edit your profile and enter your volunteering needs and details. (Can also share policies and other document templates). See the existing organisation entries. Same password as for the Nimbin Village platform. Contact Wick if you need help logging in.

Surveys – there are two surveys in circulation – one sent out a few weeks ago for orgs to fill in their info including vol needs – link is forms.gle/VMPDhDzL9kNYtDH48 and one available on nimbin.org.au

ACTION: Please can **ALL MEMBERS** complete both surveys if you have not done so already.

Other actions from the May 2025 meeting

Agreement that we have enough to go on with for now and can re-visit the list of ideas in 2026.

7. **Meeting date, frequency, convenor etc** – agreement that twice or maybe three times a year is sufficient. Working groups can meet in between or things can progress via email.
Next meeting: After Mardi Grass 26 – late May. Date to be set by Aline and Convening org.
Next meeting convenor (previous agreement to rotate this role): Nimbin Health and Welfare Association proposed. **Gwen** to ask the Committee. **Aline and Nat** to send relevant materials/templates.

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8. Meeting closed: 12pm.