

## **Nimbin Community Centre Inc President's Report 2021**

For many people in Nimbin, together with community organisations and businesses, the past year, in fact the past two years, have been particularly challenging. And this period has been similarly challenging for the Nimbin Community Centre and for many of its tenants and facility hirers. For much of 2020/2021 all rents were frozen while a number of tenants also had to request rent concessions due to personal hardship. During the past year casual hire of Centre facilities reduced considerably, and will likely remain reduced into 2022.

There were two significant achievements in the past year. The first was the purchase of 11A Alternative Way to create a park for Nimbin, both for locals and visitors. This purchase was achieved together with the Rainbow Power Company, and was aided by major donations from a number of Nimbin community organisations, businesses and individuals. The purchase however meant that major capital works at the NCC had to be postponed due to reserves expended on the venture.

The second major achievement, following the purchase of 11A Alternative Way, was funding granted for the Rainbow Road project which will be developed at 11A. This grant, through the bushfire local recovery fund, was a tribute to considerable work and co-ordination with Lismore City Council by Diana Roberts. Rainbow Road is a long term project which will provide a fantastic focus for Nimbin's future development and visitors.

Other grant achievements include the FRRR strengthening rural communities grant which provided funds for ongoing work on Centre walkways, specifically from the Casuarina to Acacia to Bark Hut buildings. The Centre also received funds from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) to install two water tanks on Centre grounds. Other funding was achieved from NSW Clubs to do an energy audit at the Centre which was completed by Rainbow Power Company.

New signage, mural restoration and maintenance of the Lighting Up Nimbin project have been highlights of the past year. While considerable work has been done by Diana along with Wil Polson in the scoping and detailing in preparation for the Centre's new website.

Nimbin Community Centre only functions on a day to day basis thanks to the work of Co-ordinator Teresa Biscoe and bookkeeper Helen Lynne. Maintenance co-ordinator Sam Herren continues to be an essential asset to the Centre engaged in major building work, painting, repairs and in the all important emergency callouts. While grounds and gardens co-ordinator Robyn Berry, and her team of volunteers, continue to keep the Centre looking well cared for. Thanks especially to Diana Roberts for upgrading all of the Centre's policy manuals this year.

Committee member Mark Yumol retired this year to be replaced by Wil Polson. Very special thanks to retiring committee member Linnet Pike who has been with the management for many years. And the Community Centre remains indebted to the ongoing volunteer management of Diana Roberts, Michael Balderstone, Louise Graves and Darren Maxwell.