Nimbin Community Sustainability Survey 2013

REPORT

This is the third Community Sustainability Survey conducted in Nimbin by the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC). The first was in 2009 and the second was in 2011. This survey period was between September and November 2013.

The survey was widely distributed via the NNIC website, the Nimbin Hook-Ups' Facebook page, the sustainability email list, numerous community events including Sibley St fundraising events, the Nimbin Women's Dinner and the Nimbin Agricultural Show.

The survey was completed by 240 people, compared to 155 people in 2011 and 140 in 2009.

Of those 240 people, 115 gave their names and/or email addresses, and because all surveys were distributed by hand by NNIC team members, who checked that each respondent had not already done the survey, we are confident that no respondents completed more than one.

Not all respondents answered every question. The percentage symbol shown against each question is the percentage of people who answered that particular question. The percentages shown have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

The 2013 survey was the most comprehensive to date and the questions covered the nine Key Focus Areas of the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP).

SURVEY RESULTS

SECTION ONE: General demographic questions

Q1: Your gender?
Total responses: 240
Male: 94 (39%)
Female: 143 (60%)
Transgender: 3 (1%)

Q2: How old are you?
Total responses: 240.
18-25yrs: 10 (4%)
26-35yrs: 16 (7%)
36-45yrs: 45 (19%)
46-55yrs: 74 (31%)
56-65yrs: 63 (26%)
66-75yrs: 24 (10%)
76yrs+: 8 (3%)

Comments: *This is reasonably representative of the age demographic of the community.*
However, it is clear there is a need to engage more young people in future surveys.

Q3: Have you ever done the Nimbin Sustainability Survey before?
Total responses: 240.
Yes, in 2009: 14 (6%)
Yes, in 2011: 48 (20%)
Unsure: 35 (14%)
No: 143 (60%)

Comments: *We asked this question in order to establish the value of comparing the results to those of the two previous Community Sustainability surveys, as well as the value of aggregating results. The results give an indication of the extent to which we have surveyed the same people over the three surveys. This is limited by the fact that 100 more people participated in this survey than the first one in 2009 so it follows that at least 100 respondents did not participate in 2009. Further, only 26% of respondents were able to say they had participated in the other two surveys, and only 6% did the original one. On the other hand, 35 people were unsure if they had done one, or both, or none, so it is possible that some of them had previously participated.*

Overall, based on the above figures, around one third of respondents had participated in the previous surveys.

For the purpose of aggregating results across the three surveys (for example in relation to ***Q19****), it seems reasonable to assume that at least 50% of the respondents to those surveys were different sample groups and that some estimated aggregation is possible, although not conclusive, nor particularly rigorous.*

Q4: Where do you live?
Total responses: 234.
Within 5 kms of Nimbin village: 96 (41%)
6 to 10 kms: 49 (21%)
11 and 15 kms: 36 (15%)
16 and 30kms: 53 (23%)

Comments: *this is a good representation of people across the catchment area. People were asked to write down their locality, which we are mainly interested in in relation to the questions about biodiversity. Participants came from across the catchment including Tuntable Falls, Tuntable Creek, Uki, Wadeville, Cawongla, the Channon, Mt Burrell, Barkersvale, Goolmangar, Lillian Rock, Blue Knob, Crofton Rd, Gungas Rd, Keerong, Kunghur, Larnook, Mountain Top and the Nimbin village.*

The village of Nimbin is located in Northern New South Wales in the Northern corner of the [Lismore Local Government Area.] However, the actual catchment area of Nimbin cuts across the Tweed and Kyogle Local Government Areas and extends to Kyogle in the South West, Uki to the North, Goolmangar to the South. The catchment area, or bio-region, has been identified by data from NNIC, Nimbin Hospital and the GP clinic. The bio-region is also determined by geological and topographical features *such as creeks, valleys and mountains that form a natural boundary around the catchment area.*

<u>SECTION TWO: Health and Well-Being</u>

Q5: Do you feel proud to be a part of the Nimbin community?
Total responses: 232.
Yes: 208 (89%)
No: 1 (1%)
Unsure: 23 (10%)

Comments: *In 2003 NNIC conducted a small survey of Nimbin residents to ask whether they felt proud to be part of the Nimbin community. The overwhelming response was 'no'. At around that time there had been regular incidents of serious vandalism in the town and violence on the main street was a major and ongoing community concern. Numerous community forums were held on the issue of violence in Nimbin, an issue which was also regularly featured in local media. It was around this time that NNIC decided to change direction and started work on a community sustainability platform. We also began to proactively promote a more positive profile of Nimbin by focusing on its strengths and considerable achievements. We feel encouraged that in 2013 the majority of respondents to the survey said they feel proud to be a part of the Nimbin community, which is a major turnaround from 10 years ago.*

Q6: I feel optimistic about the future of Nimbin?
Total responses: 237.
Strongly agree: 114 (48%)
Agree: 94 (40%)
Unsure: 29 (12%)
Disagree: 0
Strongly disagree: 0

Comments: *as with* ***Q5****, this is an encouraging result, especially since not one respondent disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt optimistic about the future of Nimbin.*

Q7: Please rate your current level of happiness (1 = low, 5 = very high).
Total responses: 229.
1: 7 (3%)
2: 6 (3%)
3: 45 (20%)
4: 88 (38%)
5: 83 (36%)

Comments: *this is the first time we asked this question and the purpose is to register a baseline 'happiness index'. We are encouraged by the level of happiness of people in the community.*

Q8: How often do you get exercise (e.g. sustained exercise for at least 15 mins)?

Daily: 149 (63%)
Weekly: 69 (29%)
Monthly: 5 (3%)
Rarely: 13 (5%)
Never: (2%)

Comments: *as above. The purpose of this question was to establish a baseline in relation to the amount of exercise that participants engage in, as this is an indicator of health and well-being. It would seem that community members are quite active and fit!*

Q9: Please rate your current level of health (1= very poor, 5 = excellent).
Total responses: 229.
1: 5 (2%)
2:10 (4%)
3: 71 (30%)
4: 89 (38%)
5: 61 (26%)

Comments: *as per **Q8**. The answers to **Q9** seem to corroborate the answers to **Q8**.*

Q10: Do you have access to health and welfare services when you need them?
Total responses: 233.
Always: 107 (46%)
Often: 56 (24%)
Sometimes: 5 (22%)
Rarely: 12 (5%)
Never: 6 (3%)

Comments: *we asked this question because ensuring access to services is the core business of NNIC. As the primary information and referral agency in Nimbin it is our job to ensure that people who need services are able to access them. However, the reality is there are not necessarily enough services in place for some issues and it is sometimes difficult for us to find services to refer people onto. For those who responded rarely or never, this could mean that no relevant services exist at all, or else we (NNIC) need to do a better job at reaching out to those people to ensure they are able to access relevant services. We will endeavour to make contact with those people to check they know what we can offer them etc.*

SECTION THREE: Sustainable Jobs and Skills

Q11: Are you currently working in/interested in working in any of the following sustainable industries?
Total responses: 411 (NB: % = % of 240)
Renewable energy: 55 (23%)
Local fibre production: 32 (13%)
Sustainable building: 60 (25%)
Local food production: 115 (48%)
Recycling and waste management**:** 52 (22%)

Creative arts/music: 90 (38%)
Other: 7 (3%)
Other included: alternative education, complimentary medicine//herbs/healing, permaculture, circus, conservation and land management, photography/documentation, aquaponics, bio char/soil regen, IT services, youth green projects, weed management, musical instrument manufacturing.

Comments: *we asked this question to get a better understanding of areas of interest for job creation and development. This question also feeds into the 7 Sibley St project, as we were trying to find out more about what kind of industries could be established at, or via, the project, which would meet the brief of providing jobs and industry for the community that members feel passionate about. Note that people could tick as many boxes as they liked. Most respondents ticked more than one box, with some ticking all the boxes. It averages out to around three boxes ticked per respondent.*

Q12: Can you connect to the Internet at home?
Total responses: 239.
Yes: 196 (82%)
No: 43 (18%)

Are you satisfied with your current level of connection (speed, cost and reliability)?
Total responses: 165.
Yes: 105 (64%)
No: 60 (36%)

Of the 60 who responded No, their comments included: 'slow', 'drop outs', 'unreliable', 'satellite expensive and unreliable', 'slow', 'slow'. 'SLOW!!'. The overwhelming response was 'slow'.

Comments*: We asked this question for two reasons. Firstly, because internet connectivity is identified in the Sustainable Nimbin Community plan as the key to local jobs creation and business development. The second reason was to feed into the community discussions around the NBN and to gauge the level of community need for the NBN. We note that of the 'No' responses regarding satisfaction, several people made comments along the lines of 'I would rather have slow connection than the NBN towers'. Two people said 'I want the NBN', and 'We need the NBN'.*

SECTION FOUR: Sustainable Transport

Q14: What is your primary means of transport?
Total responses: 268.
(some folks ticked more than one box)
Small car (1.8 lt/4 cyl or less): 85 (32%)
Med car (2-2.5 lt/6 cyl): 90 (34%)
Large car (8cyl) or ute: 16 (6%)
Motor bike: 5 (2%)
Pedal bike: 8 (3%)
Public Transport: 8 (3%)

Diesel vehicle: 33 (12%)
Electric vehicle: 4 (1.5%)
Walking/Hitching: 19 (7%)

Comments: *we have already identified that our biggest weakness as a community in terms of carbon emissions is in relation to transport. This question is the same as in the 2009 survey and the results are almost the same. In 2009 38% drove a small car, 45% a medium car and 6% a large car.*

Q 15. How many kms would you on average travel per week?
Total responses: 238.
50kms or less: 58 (24%)
51-100 km: 72 (30%)
101-150km: 58 (24%)
Over 150 km: 50 (21%)

The people who ticked 101 km or more were directed to **Q16**.

Comments: *the same question was asked in the 2009 survey and the results are very similar. In 2009, 22% travelled 50km or less, 31% 51-100km, 22% 101-150 km/wk and 25% drove more than 150km per week.*

Q16. If you travel more than 101 kms per week, how often do you travel with only one person in the vehicle?
Total responses: 164
Never: 23 (14%)
Sometimes: 64 (39%)
At least 50% of the time: 57 (35%)
Always: 20 (12%)

Comments: *The same question was asked in the 2009 survey, and again the results are similar. In 2009, 11% said never, 35% said sometimes, 47% said at least 50% of the time and 18% said always.*

We asked the question to ascertain if there had been any changes in behaviours and also to identify where the community could potentially make some carbon emission efficiency gains.

Overall, the results indicate very little behaviour change in relation to vehicle ownership and travel between 2009 and 2013.

Q17. Do you have problems affording fuel for your vehicle?
Total responses: 217
Always: 9 (4%)
Often: 19 (9%)
Sometimes: 68 (31%)
Rarely: 55 (25%)
Never: 66 (30%)

Comments: *we asked this question to ascertain how much of an impact increasing fuel prices are having and whether there is any link between e.g. fuel prices and the uptake of public transport. It would seem that so far most people are not struggling with the costs of fuel, and that until they are they will most likely continue to favour their own vehicles to public transport (see below).*

Q.18. What are the main barriers to you catching the bus?

The most common response by far was 'no service' or 'no bus'. It is unclear from this whether people don't know about the availability of the public buses or whether they want to travel on routes where there are no buses. A number of people specifically stated that there is no transport to Brisbane /Gold Coast or in a Northerly direction. Although there is a service to Murwillumbah (Gosels), it is very limited and does not provide a service during public holidays or weekends. A number of people also correctly identified that there are limited or no services at all outside of school terms, and therefore they cannot rely on public transport.

The second top response was: 'timetables do not suit/times'.

The third most common response was: 'too expensive. Cheaper to use my car'. It is likely that people are not factoring in the real costs of using a car, such as insurances, registration, wear and tear, tyres etc., when they assess the bus fare as being more expensive than using their car.

Many people said it is 'inconvenient" or that they cannot carry their shopping to and from bus stops, or that they cannot even get to the bus stop in Nimbin from where they live.

A fairly common response was that people do not want to travel on a bus full of noisy etc. school children.

And a couple of people identified that they had disabilities and cannot easily get on or off the bus or walk to the bus stops etc.

We will forward this information to Wallers and Gosels, who provide the main bus services in and out of Nimbin.

<u>SECTION FIVE: Sustainable Energy</u>

Q 19. Do you (tick as many as apply)

Total no. of responses: 949. (NB: % = % of 240)
Have stand-alone solar power? 71 (30%)
Have Grid-Feed Solar power? 55 (23%)
Have Hydro power? 0
Have Wind turbine power? 1
Have a composting toilet system? 114 (48%)

Purchase Green Power? 29 (12%)
Recycle water? 100 (42%)
Compost food scraps etc 196 (82%)
Recycle glass, paper, tins etc.? 181 (75%)
Have Solar Hot Water System? 109 (45%)
Have a Heat Exchange HWS? 19 (8%)
Have Gas HWS? 74 (31%)

Comments: *this is the third time we have asked this question. In 2009, 37% had stand- alone solar arrays, 18% had grid feed solar PV systems, 5% had hydro power. In 2011, 30% had stand-alone, 2.5% had hydro and 25% had grid-feed solar PV systems. If we aggregate the results over the three surveys, taking into account the comments made above re* ***Q3****, then we can see that at least six people have hydro power systems, and that rates of ownership of either stand alone or grid feed PV solar arrays are high.*

Purchasing of green power has dropped from 18% in 2009, to 10% in 2011 and 12% in 2013. This is most likely because of significant scepticism about green power since the concept was first rolled out, as well as ongoing uptake of PV solar.

*(*Note: this time we did not ask the average daily power use question as in the previous two surveys.)*

In 2009 we did not ask if people had solar-hot-water systems. In 2011, 25% of respondents had solar HWS. In 2013 it is 45%, indicating an increase in the installation of solar-hot-water systems.

In 2009 47% had a composting toilet system. In 2001 it was 42% and in 2013 it is 48%. Overall, the results are fairly static, and if aggregated it would seem that the number of composting loos in the community is very high.

The remaining questions about recycling etc are fairly static across all three surveys.

Q20. If you have a PV Solar array, when was it installed?
Total responses: 109.
Before 2009: 54 (50%)
Between 2009 and 2011: 26 (24%)
Since 2011: 19 (17%)
Unsure: 10 (9%)

Comments: *we asked this question to gauge whether the solar rebates which are now mostly phased out, or the Feed In Tariff, which is now closed, had any impact on the uptake of PV solar arrays, and whether this uptake fell once the rebates were removed. It does seem from the responses that the rebates did have an impact on the take up of solar, but notwithstanding this, people have still been installing PV arrays. We note that the price of PV solar has fallen considerably since 2011, which may have mediated against a large drop-off in uptake since 2011.*

Q 21. If you do not have solar HWS or PV solar, what is the main barrier?
Total responses: 82.

Renting: 31 (38%)
Cost: 43 (52%)
Too much shade: 8 (10%)

Other: responses included – associated needs e.g. pumps, asbestos roof, don't consume enough electricity to justify the cost, concerns about the embodied energy in PV solar panels, too lazy, too slack, I just moved here, I don't use any electricity, too many trees, am currently waiting for my array to be installed, happy with gas hot water.

Comments: *We asked this question simply to find out what barriers exist for people, to inform future work around PV solar and solar hot water.*

Q22. Would you be interested in investing in a local community-owned solar farm project in the future?
Total no. of responses: 203.
Yes: 163 (80%)
No: 40 (20%)

Comments: *we asked this question to gauge interest in a community solar project. We were surprised at the number of people who stated they would be interested in investing, which indicates that the idea is worth further investigation.*

Q23. Do you have problems paying your electricity bills?
Total responses: 204.
Always: 16 (8%)
Often: 16 (8%)
Sometimes: 49 (24%)
Rarely: 35 (17%)
Never: 88 (43%)

Comments: *we asked this question for the obvious purpose of ascertaining what impact that increasing electricity prices are having on the community. Given the low socio-economic demographic of the community, it seems that the high level of ownership of solar arrays, as well as energy efficient behaviours, are mitigating some of the pressures of increasing electricity prices.*

Q24. If you have a composting toilet, have you had any servicing issues/problems?
Total responses: 132.
Yes: 13 (10%)
No: 119 (90%)

Comments: *given the high level of composting toilet systems in the community we were curious to learn if people were having any issues in maintaining them, and if they are, whether there is the potential to set up a small business to address this need. (see **Q25**). At this stage it does not seem that there is enough demonstrable need for this. As more and more composting toilets come on line, however, or as the community ages, this may become an issue so we will continue to monitor this.*

Q25. If YES to Q24, would you be interested in some kind of regular servicing of your system?
Total responses: 62.
Yes: 14 (23%)
No: 48 (77%)

SECTION SIX: Social and Political

Q26. Do you volunteer at all?
Total responses: 227.
Yes: 137 (60%)
No: 90 (40%)

If YES about how many hours per week?
Total responses: 53.
Total hrs: 446
Mean: 8.4hrs

Q.27. How often do you socialise?
Total responses: 238.
Daily: 73 (31%)
Weekly/Fortnightly: 127 (53%)
Monthly: 18 (8%)
Every few months: 9 (4%)
Rarely: 11 (4%)
Never: 0

28. Approximately how many community events have you attended in the last six months?
Total responses: 232.
None: 10 (4%)
Between 1 & 5: 143 (62%)
More than 5: 79 (34%)

Comments: *Levels are volunteering and social participation are useful indicators of the strength of communities. The results indicate high levels of both.*

SECTION SEVEN: Housing and the Built Environment

Q29. What is the nature of your housing?
Total responses: 221.
Own home: 102 (46%)
MO/Landshare/shareholder 61 (27%)
MO/Landshare/ renting: 19 (9%)
Private rental: 33 (15%)
Community/public housing: 6 (3%)
Other: answers included: bus, caravan, caravan park, homeless, leased farm, van, share house, woofing, shed, live with my family.

Q30. Are you looking to renovate or build your home?

Total responses: 211.
YES: 119 (56%)
NO: 92 (44%)

Comment: *This question feeds into the 7 Sibley St project and demonstrates the level of demand for home building skills and information.*

Q31. Are you interested in sustainable building design and technologies?
Total responses: 201
YES: 186 (93%)□
NO: 15 (7%)
As above in **Q30**.

Comments: *we asked **Q29-31** to gauge community interest in sustainable building as this is directly relevant to the 7 Sibley St project.*

SECTION EIGHT: Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

Q32. In the last six months have you seen any of the following within 500m of your home?
Echidna: 130 (54%)
Pademelon: 161 (67%)
Platypus 43: (18%)
Red Belly Black Snake: 95 (40%)
Turtle: 67 (28%)
Green Tree Snake: 112 (47%)
Regent Bower Bird: 78 (33%)
Lyrebird: 13 (5%)
Wompoo Pigeon: 89 (37%)
Feather Tail Glider: 14 (6%)
Sugar Glider: 34 (14%)
Richmond Birdwing Butterfly: 20 (8%)
Koala: 58 (24%)
Green Tree Frog: 129 (54%)
Fleays Barred Frog: 21 (9%)
Dingo: 49 (20%)
Bandicoot: 143 (60%)
Micro Bat: 114 (48%)
Bell Miners: 59 (25%)
Indian Myna: 65 (27%)
Cane Toad (140) 58%
Fox 49 (20%)
Rabbit 49 (20%)

Comments: *this is the first time we have asked any questions related to biodiversity. This was a popular question and feedback from participants was positive. It is clear that the community is very interested in our wildlife and highly engaged in this topic. It may be worth conducting a more detailed survey specifically on this topic in the future so we can find out more about the health of our local environment.*

We have identified that there is no baseline data specific to our bio-region and as a result it is almost impossible to track biodiversity, species decline or general environmental health, which in turn limits the community's ability to identify or develop focussed strategies to maintain or increase local environmental health.

As a rule, flora is most commonly used by scientists and researchers as indicators of environmental health, however we asked about fauna instead because most people can more accurately and reliably identify birds and animals. However, some of the species listed are difficult to identify so these results are qualified on that basis. We provided a picture board for participants with images and descriptions of the animals, birds and reptiles listed, to assist people in the identification process.

The species we chose are indicators of environmental health for different reasons. For example, increasing numbers of bell miners are suspected to have a negative impact on certain tree species such as the flooded gum, due to their highly territorial behaviours which drive out other bird species, in particular those that feed on lerps at different stages of the lerp lifecycle. The lerps can completely defoliate the trees and even kill them if not controlled.

Wompoo pigeons are indicators of the health of fruiting native trees such as the fig varieties.

Similarly, the gliders are indicators of tree health and tree flowering and sap levels, and the tiny feather glider is highly at risk of predation by e.g. domestic/feral cats.

We are particularly interested in koalas because anecdotal evidence from locals is that koala numbers are increasing, and these survey results together with those of the Great Koala Count conducted in November 2013 seem to confirm this.

Two of the species listed are in significant decline or endangered – the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly and the Fleays Barred Frog. The latter is almost impossible to distinguish from the quite common Greater Barred Frog, so we will be following up the Fleays sightings to find out more, as there is reason to believe there are numbers of this critically endangered frog in pockets of forest in the bio-region and we would like to positively identify this. We will also be following up the butterfly sightings to find out if we can try and support the population by expanding the numbers of their food plants in places where they are currently found with a view to maintaining and enhancing the health of the Birdwing butterfly population.

The last four species are invasive pest species that threaten our native wildlife. Ten years ago it was rare to find a cane toad in the bio-region but it is clear they are penetrating the catchment and their numbers are increasing, so we are seeking to monitor the influx of this species and track its impact on e.g. red belly black snakes. It is encouraging to see that 40% of respondents reported sightings of black snakes so at least we know they are still around in reasonable numbers.

Over time we will keep collecting information about these species with the aim of monitoring and identifying any sudden declines (or increases in the case of the pest species) to assist the community to manage our biodiversity in a more informed way and identify conservation needs and strategies.

SECTION NINE: Food Security

Q33. Do you grow your own food? If so, what food do you grow (tick as many as apply)
Eggs: 72 (30%)
Poultry: 37 (15%)
Dairy products (milk/cheese): 10 (4%)
Vegetables/herbs: 184 (77%)
Fruit: 121 (50%)
Grains: 1
Honey: 21 (9%)
Meat: 20 (8%) – Types of meat produced: top answer, beef; second top answer, pigs; then sheep, goats, rabbits and ducks.

Comments: *this is the third time we have asked this question. There has been a steady increase in people raising poultry, from around 5% in 2009 to 15% in 2013. Similarly, the production of honey has increased from 7% in 2009 to 9% in 2013. This is likely to be a reflection of the local Nimbin Natural Beekeepers group which established in 2012.*

Q34. If you grow your own food, can you estimate how much of your weekly food you grow yourself?
Total responses: 198.

10% or less 103 (52%)	*cp: 57% in 2009, 44.5% in 2011*
11-20% 41 (21%)	*cp: 19% in 2009, 13.5% in 2011*
21-40% 29 (15%)	*cp: 19% in 2009, 19% in 2011*
41-60% 14 (7%)	*cp: 3% in 2009, 7% in 2013*
61-80% 6 (3%)	*cp: <1% in 2009, 3% in 2011*
81-100% 5 (3%)	*cp: 2% in 2009, 2% in 2011*

Comments: *overall the figures are fairly static, although there has been a small increase in people growing a larger amount of food.*

Q35. Has there been any change in how much food you produce since November 2011?
Total responses: 198.
YES: 112 (57%)
NO: 86 (43%)

Q36. If your answer to Q35 was Yes...what has changed?
Total responses: 89.
Food production decreased by:
10% 25
30% 1
40% 1
100%, 1
Food production increased by:
10% 55

20% 1
50% 3
100% 2

Comments: *overall the trend is a slow but steady increase in the amount of food produced since 2009. We note that the past 12 months has been one of the driest years on record for the region, which has had a direct impact on the amount of food grown as the survey responses indicate.*

Can you comment on why your food production has increased or decreased?
The comments about **DECREASED** production included: water, weather, lack of rain, new house/new garden, children left home, now have full time work, bush turkeys trashed my garden, laziness, water issues, kids lost interest, moved from an MO into own home, just worked harder at it, dry weather, no rain, water tank sprang a leak, fruit flies, lack of motivation, lack of $$, just moved here and not used to different climate and weather conditions yet, still learning how to garden, got too busy, have been away a lot, new house and new garden, personal mobility has decreased, I am not a good gardener, hot weather, failed to take good care of vege patch, too many animals – need fencing, moved from the bush to urban house.

The comments about **INCREASED** production included: got off my bum and made the effort, moved house and now have town water, I am getting better at it as I learn more, raised my garden beds, removed shade trees, got more organised, moved to better land, better health, have been working less so more time for garden, new gardens, got chickens/rabbits/pigs, moved to new property with better gardens and can now keep chooks, more commitment to growing own food, have extended my vege gardens, started my first vege garden, I just moved here, am studying permaculture, improved soil, WOOFERS, have expanded the farm, I now garden every day, I now have my own garden, built a new dam, have started growing vegies in foam boxes.

Q37. Is the food you grow...?
Total responses: 197.
Accredited organic: 16 (8%)
Non-accredited organic: 145 (74%)
Biodynamic: 11 (6%)
None of the above: 25 (13%)
Other: bushfoods, permaculture

Q38. Do you shop at?:
Blue Knob Farmers Market: 131
Nimbin Farmers Market: 134
Neither 42

Q39. If you do shop at either of the above Farmers Markets, how often?
Total responses: 187.
Every week: 77 (41%)
Fortnightly: 41 (22%)
Once a month: 26 (14%)
Sometimes: 33 (18%)

Rarely 10 (5%)

Comment: *This is a significant increase on the past two surveys. In 2009 we asked if there was support to establish a local farmers market and 94% said yes. In 2011, 65% of respondents said they shopped at the local farmers' market. However, the regularity of shopping at the farmers' market has increased from only 23% saying they shopped there on a weekly basis in 2011, and only 11% saying they shopped there on a fortnightly basis. This is a 30% increase with around 64% of people in 2013 shopping at the farmers' market on either a weekly or fortnightly basis, compared with 34% in 2011. This increase can most likely be attributed to the opening up of a second farmers' market in the actual village of Nimbin since the 2011 survey was conducted.*

Q40. If you DON'T shop at either of the Farmers Markets, what are the main barriers to you doing so?
The barriers listed included: too busy/times, go to Lismore organic market/Lismore Farmers market, go to Kyogle market, go to Uki market, distance, grow my own, no transport, not enough variety, too expensive, forget it is on, work in Lismore, shop at Nimbin organics instead, attitude of stall holders, I am slack.

Comments: *some of the comments reflect the nature of the bioregion – for people who live in the Southern end of the bioregion, Lismore is closer than Nimbin, as well as the fact that many people who live in Nimbin work in Lismore. The issue of price and range is an ongoing issue around all Farmers' Markets as they are by nature seasonal and by definition have less range than eg a supermarket. Similarly, small growers cannot produce food at the same cost as large scale producers which sell directly into the supermarkets. Additionally Farmers' Markets can never compete with the buying power and cost structures of the large supermarkets. This is a matter for ongoing community education about the value of local food production and consuming seasonal produce.*

SECTION TEN: Questions relating to the performance of NNIC

Q41. Have you heard of any of the following?
Total responses: 240.
Nimbin Neighbourhood and Info Centre's services and activities: 205 (85%)
NIS (Integrated Care Nurse Practitioner who works at NNIC): 91 (38%)
Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan: 164 (68%)
Nimbin Community Grain Mill: 157 (65%)
Nimbin Community Food Equipment Library: 106 (44%)
7 Sibley St – Nimbin's Sustainable Living Hub: 183 (76%)
NAG – Nimbin Advisory Group (advises Council re consulting with the community): 98 (41%)

Q42. Have you ever visited our NNIC website? (www.nnic.org.au)
Total responses: 232
YES: 102 (44%)
NO: 232 (56%)

Q43. Have you ever visited our 7 Sibley St website?(www.sevenonsibley.com)
Total responses: 229
YES: 73 (32%)
NO: 156 (68%)

Q44. Do you think NNIC is doing a good job of:

Consulting with the community?
Total responses: 222.
YES: 152 (68%)
NO: 2 (1%)
Unsure: 68 (31%)

Overseeing the Sustainable Nimbin Community plan?
Total responses: 182.
YES**:** 110 (60%)
NO: 3 (2%)
Unsure: 69 (38%)

Comments: *these questions were designed to enable NNIC to evaluate our own performance as an organisation in the community.*

*It is encouraging that most people know about NNIC's basic info and referral services. It is also encouraging that 68% of people know about the SNCP. Many people asked for more information about one or more of the services or projects listed in **Q41**, and this information has been provided to them.*

Considering that 32% of people had not even heard of the SNCP, it is not surprising that a similar percentage were unsure as to whether we are doing a good job at overseeing the plan!

It seems we need to do more to promote our websites, especially www.sevenonsibley.com

Overall, although the results indicate that NNIC is doing a good job, we need to continue to promote our services and projects and maintain and expand our community consultation especially around the sustainability platform.

General Comments: at the end of the survey people were invited to make any further comments and many people took the opportunity to do so.

The comments were overwhelmingly positive and supportive of NNIC and we enjoyed reading your feedback (some of us even teared up a little!).

There is not the space to list all the comments here – anyone wishing to see the full range is welcome to do so – contact NNIC for a copy.

The following list of comments capture the range and nature of the feedback:

- *Congratulations Nimbin on being such a vibrant community.*
- *I love Nimbin.*
- *Keep up the good work.*
- *Great survey.*
- *Thanks to NNIC and to Nat and Ghost of Momo – you are doing a great job.*
- *Bring back Terania Shire Council.*
  Need to network with other bio-regions to share ideas and support events – eg Mullumbimby
- *Congratulations on the sustainable hub project.*
- *I call dingoes 'wild dogs' (Q32).*
- *It has been hard to merge into this community as an older lady but I thank you NNIC.*
- *Congratulations to NNIC on the Green Globe Awards.*
- *Love NNIC – great facilities and friendly people.*
- *Make Sibley St a sustainable bamboo building.*
- *Nimbin is the most practical, involved, interesting, supportive and generous community I have ever been involved with. I am proud and humble to be a part of it.*
- *NNIC and its activities are a big part of the reason for my positive community experience – an amazing organisation well done!*
- *The women's dinner is fabulous.*
- *Survey too long.*
- *Survey very thorough and indicates how progressive and passionate people are here I love it!!*
- *I would be keen to be a part of helping to create a sustainable and beautiful place to live.*
- *NNIC is doing an amazing job facilitating the community and projects. I hope the support and funding increases in the near future.*
- *Thanks NNIC for all its efforts – it's important for what makes Nimbin Nimbin.*
- *The Nimbin community is an inspirational and very complex group of people and initiative unique for this country. NNIC and other groups have been instrumental and supportive. Good onya.*
- *We are new to the area so we welcome any new information.*
- *You're doing a great job – notice the correct use of the apostrophe!*
- *Great job and thanks.*
- *Thanks NNIC!*

Thanks everyone who responded and for all the positive feedback. Your participation is incredibly valuable and your input is highly appreciated.