



Nimbin Community Sustainability Survey 2016



REPORT

This is the fourth Community Sustainability Survey conducted in Nimbin by the Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC). The survey is intended to engage the community in, and measure the results of, the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP). The scope of the survey includes questions relevant to the nine Key Focus Areas of the SNCP.

The survey period was three months between September and December 2016. Previous survey years were 2009-10, 2011 and 2013.

Interest and engagement in the survey continues to grow. This survey was completed by 264 people, an increase from 240 in 2013, 155 in 2011 and 140 in 2009.

Some questions are asked over multiple surveys in order to track certain trends. Each survey features questions particularly relevant to the survey period, or according to updates to the SNCP, or because the need to measure something new has arisen in the community.

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

The survey was widely distributed and advertised via posters/flyers displayed around town and at key businesses in the catchment area (e.g. Wadeville Woolies, Mt Burrell shop), the NNIC website, the Nimbin Hook-Ups' Facebook page, Nimbin Good Times, the sustainability email list, numerous community events including Sibley St fundraising events, the Nimbin Women's Dinner and the Nimbin Agricultural Show. It was available at NNIC for the survey period, and on numerous occasions on the main street of Nimbin at our NNIC 'pop-up' street stalls.

The majority of surveys were distributed and collected by hand by NNIC team members, who checked that each respondent had not already done the survey. The survey was also made available on line and 39 surveys (15%) were returned electronically. Although it is possible that an individual respondent undertook more than one survey, it is highly unlikely given its length and nature and the level of commitment required to complete it.

The results were entered and collated via an electronic data base which generated the raw and cross-matched data, on the basis of which this Report is produced.

SECTION ONE: General demographic questions

Q1: Your gender?

Total responses: 264

Male: 117

Female: 143

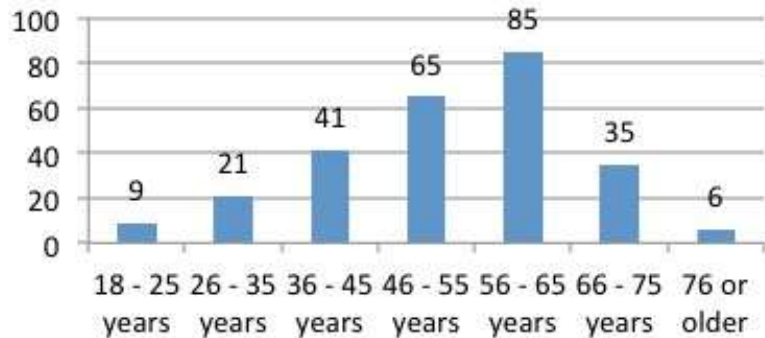
Other: 4

Q2: Your age?

Total responses: 262

Comments: While the gender response is reasonably balanced, the majority of respondents were aged between 45 and 65 and the

18 - 35 age group makes up only 11% of the sample. This is similar to the previous surveys and is partly a reflection of the age demographics of the Nimbin community, but also indicates a continuing need to work harder to engage younger people..



Q3: Have you ever done the Nimbin Sustainability Survey before?

Total responses: 280

Yes in 2009: 13

Yes in 2011: 15

Yes in 2013: 49

Unsure: 52

No: 151

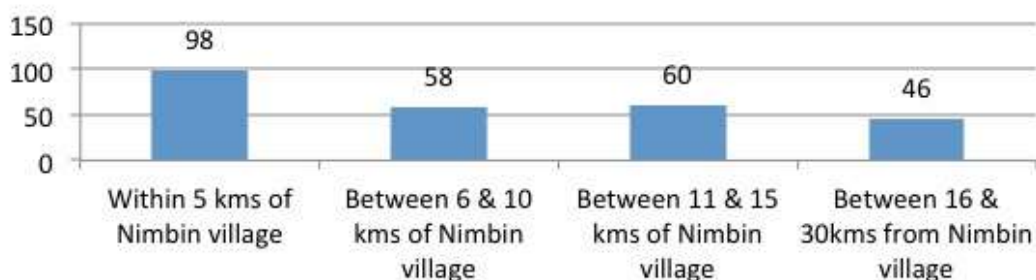
Comments: This question allowed for multiple responses (for those that participated in multiple years) which explains the response rate of 280 when only 264 people were surveyed in total.

27.5% knew they had previously participated in the survey and 53.9% knew they had not, with 19% being unsure. The aim of this question is to determine the extent to which we are surveying the same people each time. The results indicate that at least 50% of respondents are new to this survey. Since 2009 an estimated 500 people have participated in the Community Sustainability Surveys.

Almost double the number of people completed the 2016 survey compared to 2009 (140).

Q4: Where do you live?

Total responses: 262



Q4b: Your locality:

Places with more than 5 respondents are listed below.

Nimbin	34
Blue Knob	26
Lillian Rock	20
Tunable Falls	19
Wadeville	10
Stony Chute	7
Barkers Vale	6

A further 75 places were listed, including Nimbin Rocks, Coffee Camp, Mt Burrell, Gungas Rd, and Jarlanbah.

***Comment:** this is a good representation of people across the catchment area. 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.*

SECTION TWO: Health and Wellbeing

Q5: Do you feel proud to be a part of the Nimbin community?

Total responses: 262

Yes: 225

No: 6

Unsure: 31

***Comments:** 86% responded that they were proud to be a part of the community, compared to 89% in 2013. Only 2% were not proud.*

Are you proud to be part of Nimbin?



Q6: I feel optimistic about the future of Nimbin?

Total responses: 261

Strongly agree: 101

Agree: 103

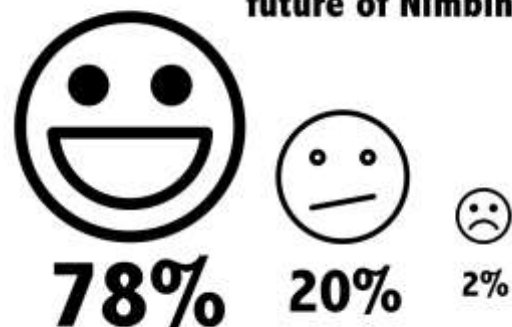
Unsure: 53

Disagree: 4

Strongly disagree: 0

***Comments:** 78% agreed or strongly agreed that they are optimistic about the future of Nimbin, down from 84% (of 232 responses) in*

Do you feel optimistic about the future of Nimbin?



2013. With only 1.5% disagreeing, however, optimism remains high and is a measure of community cohesiveness.

Q7: Do you feel safe in the Nimbin village?

Total responses: 262
Always: 119 (45%)
Usually: 122 (47%)
Sometimes: 16 (6%)
Rarely: 4 (1.5%)
Never: 1 (0.5%)



Comments: This was the first time this question was asked and it is encouraging that 91% of respondents do feel safe. But there is work to be done to make sure everyone feels safe, including the 8% who currently feel less so.

Of those who answered sometimes, rarely or never, 57% were female and 43% male. 38% were in the 46-55yr age group, 28% in the 56-65 age group, one person was from the 18-25 age group, two from the 26-35 age group and three from the 36-45 age group. These age groups reflect the demographics of the survey respondents overall and no specific conclusions can be drawn as to the ages or genders of people in our community who feel less safe than others.

Q8: please rate your current level of happiness (1= low, 5= very high)

Total responses: 251
1: 3 (1%)
2: 8 (3%)
3: 54 (22%)
4: 82 (33%)
5: 104 (41%)

Comments: It would seem that we are slightly happier than we were in 2013, when 36% rated their happiness at level 5, 38% at level 4 and 3% at Level 1.

Q9: How often do you get exercise (i.e. sustained exercise for at least 15 mins)?

Total responses: 261
Daily: 158 (61%)
Weekly: 70 (27%)
Monthly: 2 (0.5%)
Rarely: 29 (11%)
Never: 2 (0.5%)

Comments: this is slightly down from the 2013 results, where 63% said they exercised daily, 29% weekly and 7% rarely or never.

Q10: Please rate your current level of health (1= very poor, 5= excellent)

Total responses: 255
1: 4 (1.5%)
2: 9 (3.5%)
3: 59 (23%)

4: 112 (44%)
5: 71 (28%)

Comments: *There is no significant change from the 2013 results.*

Q11: do you have access to health and welfare services when you need them?

Total responses: 260
Always: 102 (39%)
Often: 76 (29%)
Sometimes: 57 (22%)
Rarely: 17 (7%)
Never: 8 (3%)

Comments: *As the primary information and referral agency in Nimbin it is NNIC's job to ensure that people who need services are able to access them. 68% (compared with 70% in 2013) said they always or often have access when needed and the other results are consistent with 2013. These results reflect our experience relating to unmet needs deriving from the lack of services available for a range of issues such as drug detox/rehab and housing/homelessness in particular.*

Q12: Can you connect to the internet at home?

Total response: 261
Yes: 215
No: 46

Can you connect to the internet at home?

YES 82%



Comments: *It seems there has been no improvement in connectivity since the 2013 survey with 18% of the respondents continuing to report (18% in 2013) that they are unable to access the internet at home compared to 14% nationwide, (source: 2016 ABS). the Nimbin community which remains at a comparative disadvantage in spite of the commencement of the NBN Fixed Wireless service in Nimbin since 2013.*

As services are increasingly being delivered via the internet (banking (72%); social networking (72%); purchasing goods or services (61%); and entertainment (60%) and with around 46% requiring internet access to undertake home-based work, people without home access will be clearly disadvantaged. Locally, the concern remains that the proposed decommissioning of the copper telephone infrastructure will leave a significant percentage of the community without even a telephone, due to the equally poor mobile phone connectivity in the catchment.

Q13a are you satisfied with your current level of connection (speed, cost, reliability)?

Total responses: 236
Yes: 121 (51%)
No: 115 (49%)

Comments: This is a worse result than in 2013, where 64% were satisfied and 36% were not. Again indicating that the local NBN rollout has not improved connectivity and the pressure on the ADSL system continues to increase resulting in ever slower speeds. The situation has worsened even still since the March 2017 floods, due to damage to local infrastructure.

There were more comments by respondents on this question than any other and they were overwhelmingly dissatisfied, with slow speeds, regular drop outs, poor reliability, inability to connect at all for long periods and high cost being the main complaints. People on satellite services reported very poor connectivity and a number of people said they had to come into the village (e.g. to NNIC) as their only way to access the internet.

SECTION THREE: Sustainable Transport

Q14: If you travel more than 100 kms per week, how often do you travel with only 1 person in the vehicle?

Total responses: 206

Never: 48 (23%)

Sometimes: 54 (26%)

At least 50% of the time: 74 (36%)

Always: 30 (15%)

Comments: Transport has been identified as our community's most significant carbon footprint. The same question was asked in the 2009 and 2013 surveys, and there is some behaviour change indicated, with the number of respondents who never travel with a single vehicle occupant doubling from 11% in 2009 and significantly increased from 14% in 2013. The remaining results are fairly consistent with prior surveys, however, and the trend needs further monitoring before it can be concluded that any significant reduction has been achieved in terms of transport-related carbon emissions.

SECTION FOUR: Sustainable Energy

Q15: Do you (tick as many as apply):

Have stand-alone solar power: 88

Have hydro power: 6

Have composting toilet systems: 117

Recycle water: 96

Recycle glass, paper, tins etc.: 200

Have a Heat Exchange HWS: 17

Have Grid-Feed solar power: 74

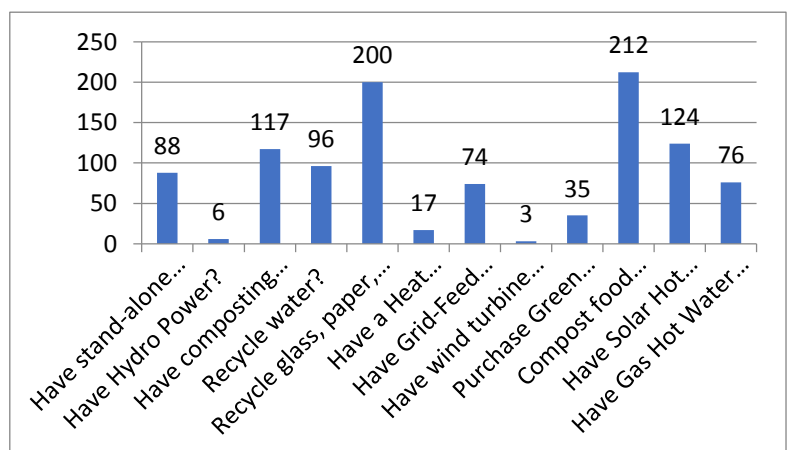
Have wind turbine power: 3

Purchase Green Power: 35

Compost food scraps etc: 212

Have solar hot water system: 124

Have gas hot water system : 76



Comments: Nimbin now has improved access to free and high quality recycling services at the Nimbin Waste Transfer Station and via Lismore City Council, yet there has been no

improvement in the rate of recycling since the 2013 survey (75% in 2013). This result deserves further investigation and possible action to increase recycling in the community.

33% of respondents had stand-alone solar power systems, consistent with prior surveys, and similarly, ownership of composting toilets remains high at 45%.

Grid-interactive solar arrays continue to steadily increase, with 28% of respondents compared to 18-23% in prior surveys, stating they have such systems. Similarly, solar hot water systems appear to be slowly trending upwards, from 25% in 2011, 45% in 2013 and 48% in 2016.

Interestingly, there were 6 people with hydro power compared with 0 in 2013, and 3 with wind power compared to 1 in 2013.

Q16: have you upgraded your solar array since 2013?

Total responses: 223

Yes: 53

No: 170

Comments: *The cost of installing solar equipment has fallen by at least 25% since 2013. With almost 24% of respondents upgrading it would appear that falling prices are having an impact.*

The end of the 60c NSW Feed In Tariff may also result in system upgrades and, in particular, the uptake of battery systems which so far has been low (see Q17).

Q17: Do any of the following apply to you?

I bought shares in Enova: 29

I am planning to switch to Enova: 33

I am looking to go off grid: 46

I am interested in battery technology: 114

I have purchased battery storage (on the grid): 8

I have signed up as a customer of Enova: 11

I don't know about Enova: 44

None of the above: 67

Comments: *This was also a new question aiming to understand more about behaviour change within our community as new initiatives emerge.*

Enova Community Energy is a locally based energy retailer which was set up as a result of the work of people involved with Sustain Energy and the North Coast Energy Forums, with seed funding support from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. The aim is to retain funds that were previously lost to the region (and indeed the State of NSW) in the form of electricity payments, as well as to apply any profits to renewable energy innovations and projects in the Northern Rivers region. The company itself was established via a community-based share offer.

NNIC is a member of Sustain Energy, a shareholder in Enova and believes in the economic and renewable energy benefits to the community. It appears from the survey results that Enova has some work to do in order to more effectively penetrate the Nimbin local electricity market.

Although actual uptake of battery technology was low at this point, interest in battery technology is high at around 44% of all respondents.

Q18: how do you feel about the end of the 60c feed tariff?

Total responses: 261

I feel well prepared: 13 (5%)

I haven't thought about it: 21 (8%)

I am worried about the impact on my electricity bill: 39 (15%)

I need more information: 43 (16%)

N/A Does not apply to me: 145 (56%)

Comments: This question was asked due to the 60c FIT ending on 31 December 2016. The results indicated an overall lack of preparedness and this bore fruit in early 2017 when customers were required to change their meters and their billing arrangements, and NNIC received a flurry of queries from community members.

Q19: do you have problems paying your electricity bills?

Total responses: 240

Always: 8 (3%)

Often: 18 (7.5%)

Sometimes: 42 (17.5%)

Rarely: 36 (15%)

Never: 136 (57%)

Do you have problems paying your electricity bills?

72% Rarely or Never

Yes 28%



Comments: there is no significant change from the 2013 survey and the degree of electricity stress remains steady. 28% of people have problems paying their bills at least sometimes but the majority (72%) rarely or never have such problems. This is a reflection of the uptake of solar, including stand-alone systems, in the community (see Q15). It is anticipated that electricity stress will increase as prices increase and the 60c Feed-In-Tariff ends.

Q20: do you have difficulty understanding your electricity bills?

Total responses: 231

Yes: 63

No: 168

Do you have difficulty understanding your electricity bills?

NO 73%

YES 27%



Comments: Whilst it is pleasing to note that 73% of respondents do not have difficulties, indicating a high degree of energy literacy within the community, it is nonetheless concerning that so many of us do have difficulties.

For those on grid-interactive PV solar systems, there is likely to be continued confusion with the changeover to net-metering as well as fluctuating feed-in-tariffs.

It is important that people understand their electricity notices in order to manage their household usage and subsequent costs, and to ensure that any solar arrays are in fact performing.

Q21: did you know that NNIC can assist with electricity vouchers for people in electricity bill stress?

Total responses: 242

Yes: 66 (27%)

No: 42 (17%)

I do now!: 134 (56%)

SECTION FIVE: Social and Political

Q22a: Do you volunteer at all?

Total responses: 251

Yes: 136 (54%)

No: 115 (46%)

Do you volunteer at all?

YES 54%

AVG 6.7
hours per week



Q22b: if YES how many hours per week?

A total of 911 hours were volunteered each week by

136 volunteers. An average of 6.7 hours per volunteer. One response was as high as 60hrs with seven people reporting one single hour.

Comments: overall this is slightly less than in 2013 with 60% indicating they volunteered at an average of 8.4 hrs per week in 2013.

Q23 How often do you socialise?

Total responses: 254

Daily: 85 (33.5%)

Weekly/fortnightly: 136 (54%)

Monthly: 11 (4%)

Every few months: 11 (4%)

Rarely: 10 (4%)

Never: 1 (0.5%)

Comments: there is no significant change from the 2013 survey results.

Q24: approximately how many community events have you attended in the last 6 months?

Total responses: 252

None: 30 (12%)

Between 1 & 5: 154 (61%)

More than 5: 68 (27%)

Comments: only 4% in 2013 responded 'none', with 34% stating 'more than 5'. This could indicate a downward trend in community engagement, but could also indicate a reduction in the number of community events held in the relevant period compared to 2013.

SECTION SIX: Sustainable Economic Development

NOTE: Questions 12, 13 and 17 are also relevant to this Section.

Q25a are you happy with your current level of employment?

Total responses: 246

Yes: 172 (70%)

No: 74 (30%)

Comments: The survey results are consistent with the 2011 ABS data (2016 data not yet available) which states our local unemployment rate at 11% with only 40% of people in full time work. Underemployment is a concern for our community, with 30% of respondents unhappy with their current level of employment. This is further reflected in the comments from respondents in Q25b (below).

Q25b if No, briefly explain:

Contract work has dried up; Difficult to find sufficient work; I feel my talents are going to waste and my brain is atrophying - as an older person I have found it hard to get work; I am currently looking for paid work- but am either too old or over-qualified for most local work available; I am employed I would like to work 2-3 days a week; I have a disability - nearly impossible to get job; I have a limited hours but I would like more work; I need more hours of paid work to exist; I want a job even if it's in Ballina; I've just moved to the area after travelling for 2 years and am currently looking for work; Need more stimulating & challenging work; I want to work in film; I'd like more paid work as a musician; It's improving; No job security; Not enough hours; No jobs & not enough support for self-employment.

Q26: are you currently working in a field or area of your passion?

Total responses: 243

Yes: 160

No: 83

SECTION SEVEN: Housing and the Built Environment

Q27a: what is the nature of your housing?

Total responses: 246

Own home: 117

MO/landshare- shareholder: 56

MO/landshare- renting: 10

Private rental: 42

Community/public housing: 3

Other: 18

Q27b: Other (explain): Answers given were:

Bus, car, farm, homeless, hovel, tent, living in garden shed, rent-free on MO, Mum owns house & I work for rent, shack, staying with friends, share house.

Q28: we are planning to set up a community tools library at Sibley St. Would you be interested in accessing a tools library?

Total responses: 251

Yes: 159

No: 92

Q29a: if yes, what sort of tools would you like to be able to borrow?

Total responses: 220

Basic tool kit- hammer, screwdrivers, spanners: 33

Basic gardening kit- shovel, rake, mattock, garden fork: 36

Cordless drill: 42

Jigsaw: 46

Lawnmower or whipper snipper: 63

Comments: *we asked questions 28 and 29 to further investigate interest in the community tools library proposal, which NNIC has subsequently obtained funding for, and to gauge what type of equipment is most needed.*

Q29b other (please specify) *a very large range of tools was suggested. We will consider this list when developing our community tools library over the next 12 months.*

Q30a: are you a member or former member of the Food Equipment Library?

Total responses: 232

Yes: 21

No: 211

Q30b: would you be interested in joining the Food Equipment Library?

Total responses: 219

Yes: 126

No: 93

Q30c: what equipment do you think we should add to the Food Equipment Library?

As in Q29b, a large range of equipment was suggested. We will consider this list as we expand the Food Equipment Library.

Comments: *We asked Q 30 to inform the reconfiguration and re-launch of the Food Equipment library when the capital works at its new home at 7 Sibley Street are completed.*

SECTION EIGHT: Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

Q31: in the last 6 months have you seen any of the following within 500m of your house?

The following table compares the 2016 and 2013 results.

Species	2013	2016	Increase/Decrease/Steady
Roaming dog	N/A	100	Not included in 2013.
Roaming cat	N/A	96	Not included in 2013.
Rabbit	49	40	Decreased.
Fox	49	77	Increased.
Cane toad	140	189	Increased.
Indian Mynas	65	82	Increased.
Bell Miners	59	75	Increased.
Eastern quoll	N/A	6	Not included in 2013.
Phascogale	N/A	12	Not included in 2013.
Yellow-tailed cockatoo	N/A	132	Not included in 2013.
Red-tailed cockatoo	N/A	44	Not included in 2013.
Glossy black cockatoo	N/A	83	Not included in 2013.
Micro bat	114	115	Steady.
Bandicoot	143	185	Increased.
Dingo	49	54	Increased.
Fleay's Barred Frog	21	33	Increased.
Green Tree Frog	129	149	Increased.
Koala	58	63	Increased.
Richmond Birdwing Butterfly	20	28	Increased.
Sugar Glider	34	33	Steady.
Feather tail glider	14	15	Steady.
Wompoo pigeon	89	108	Increased.
Lyrebird	13	23	Increased.
Regents Bower Bird	78	76	Decreased.
Green Tree Snake	112	127	Increased.
Turtle	67	74	Increased.
Red bellied black snake	95	99	Increased.
Platypus	43	62	Increased.
Pademelon	161	174	Increased.
Echidna	130	146	Increased.

Yellow = non-native pest species, or problematic (bell miner) species.

Red = vulnerable, threatened or endangered species.

Pink = koalas - local status unclear but suspected to be vulnerable.

Green = included as indicators of health of local forest and wildlife food sources.

Comments: We first asked this question in 2013 to establish a local baseline and will continue to do so with the aim of tracking trends in local environmental health. We are using fauna as an indicator of biodiversity, rather than flora, as most people are more familiar with, and able to correctly identify, our local fauna. 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.

Several species were added in 2016. For example roaming dogs were added in order to ensure people distinguish between dingoes and other wild/roaming dogs. Roaming cats were also added due to the risk they pose to our wildlife.

We also added the quoll and phascogale and the cockatoos due to their endangered or vulnerable status.

The list of species is a very small selection from our local area, chosen because of things like vulnerable status, ease of identification, or value as indicators of environmental health for different reasons (see more information in the 2013 Survey Report).

It is encouraging to see increased sightings of most species. If we allow for the additional number of respondents in 2016, many of the increases are minimal but at least indicate no significant decline.

Of concern are the large number of roaming cats and dogs and the increased sightings of most of the pest or problematic species (indicated in yellow), the increases in sightings often being greater than any increases in wildlife sightings. Cane toads continue to spread through the area, but so far the frog-eating red bellied black snake population does not appear to have collapsed as we feared. Similarly, sightings of green tree snakes have increased. Other potential casualties of the cane toad invasion are Tawny Frogmouths (nightjar - nocturnal) and Land Mulletts (reptile), which are not included in the survey.

There has been a small increase in sightings of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, which we have been campaigning to save by encouraging community members to remove Dutchman's Pipe vines and replace with Birdwing Butterfly plants.

Interestingly, six respondents reported sightings of quolls, thought to be on the brink of extinction in the area – these sightings were at Blue Knob and Lillian Rock.

And twelve people reported sightings of phascogales – similarly endangered in our area. Locations were Blue Knob, Kyogle, Lillian Rock, Mount Burrell, Mountain Top and Tunttable Falls.

SECTION NINE: Food Security

Q32 Do you buy food at:

Total responses: 248

Blue Knob Farmers Market	108 (44%)
Nimbin Weekly Farmers Market	167 (67%)
Nimbin Emporium	209 (84%)
Nimbin Organic Food Coop	141 (57%)
Nimbin Newsagency	93 (38%)
Other Farmers' Markets	68 (27%)

Note: This question allowed for multiple responses.

Q33 Please estimate the amount of food you grow yourself OR buy in Nimbin (vs buy from outside of Nimbin).

Total responses: 247

None - I buy all food from outside Nimbin	14 (6%)
Between 5 and 25%	80 (32%)
Between 26 and 50%	62 (25%)
Between 51 and 75%	50 (20%)
Between 76 and 100%	41 (17%)

Comments: since 2009 we have been tracking the level of local food production and consumption. Patronage of our local farmer's markets remains steady overall, with the popularity of the Weekly Farmer's Market in the village overtaking that of the Blue Knob Farmer's Market since 2013. Patronage of our local family-owned supermarket "Nimbin Emporium" is strong with 84% of respondents shopping there. It is encouraging to see that 57% of respondents buy food from the Food Coop, which was established in 2014 and was therefore not included in the 2013 survey.

The first Goal in the Food Security Key Focus Area of the SNCP is: 'At least 50% of food consumed locally is locally and sustainably grown/produced'.

The first step towards that goal is that at least 50% of food consumed locally is purchased locally, which seems achievable given that 37% of respondents purchased between 51 and 100% of food in Nimbin and another 25% purchased between 26 and 50%, averaging at 31% purchasing 37% locally. More work needs to be done to engage those who are not buying food locally at all, however.

100% of the food sold through the Food Coop and the Farmer's Markets is locally and/or sustainably grown. Around 20% of food stocked at The Emporium is also local and/or sustainable product.

SECTION TEN: Questions relating to the performance of NNIC

Q34a Have you heard of any of the following?

Total Responses: 231

Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre`s services and activities: 209

NIS (Integrated Care Nurse Practitioner who works at NNIC): 93

Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan: 138

Nimbin Community Grain Mill: 113

Nimbin Community Food Equipment Library: 105

7 Sibley Street - Nimbin`s Sustainable Living Hub: 173

NAG - Nimbin Advisory Group: 114

Nimbin CDAT - Community Drug Action Team: 69

Comments: there were no major differences from the 2013 survey. We added Nimbin CDAT to this question in 2016 as it was not operating in 2013.

Q35 Have you ever visited our NNIC website?

230 responses. Yes 94(41%) No 136 (59%)

Q36 Have you ever visited our 7 Sibley St website?

258 responses. Yes 71 (26%) No 187 (74%)

Comments: engagement with both our websites is slightly less than in the 2013 survey.

Q37a Do you think NNIC is doing a good job of: Consulting with the community?

257 responses. Yes 163 (64%), No 6 (2%), Unsure 88 (34%).

Comments: This is slightly down from the 2013 results. It is encouraging that only 2% said No, but with 64% saying Yes (compared to 68% in 2013) and the remainder being Unsure there is room for improvement.

Q37b Do you think NNIC is doing a good job of: Overseeing the Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan?

248 responses. Yes 136 (55%) No 6 (2%) Unsure 106 (43%)

Comments: The responses to Q37a are consistent with the 2013 survey. Q37b results are slightly lower than in 2013 (where 60% said Yes, 2% said No and 38% said Unsure). We note, however, that in Q34a, 138 respondents indicated they knew about the SNCP, yet 136 of them thought we were doing a good job in Q37b and 6 said we are not... so we can only assume that at least 4 people answered that question either Yes or No even though they had never even heard of the SNCP!

Overall, although the results indicate that NNIC continues to do a good job, there is always room for improvement and we must continue to work hard to maintain our level of engagement with the community.

General Comments by the Respondents: at the end of the survey people were invited to make any further comments and many people took the opportunity to do so. There is not the space to list all the comments here – anyone wishing to see the full list is welcome to do

so – contact NNIC for a copy. The following list of comments captures the range and nature of the feedback, which was mostly positive:

Positive Feedback:

- Beautiful area to live. Nimbin town is great!
- Communication is key. This has been the feedback I've been given. I think NNIC is doing an awesome job at this - I guess it's just reiterating the importance of sharing info & asking for options and ideas.
- Good on ya's.
- Great initiative!
- Great survey I appreciate the thought and time gone into it.
- I love Nimbin!
- I love our community and am proud to be an active member and raise my children here x.
- I love the NNIC!!
- Keep up the good work educating sharing info.
- Love Nimbin.
Love the Community Centre & Neighbourhood Centre
- Love your work you are ace.
- Sustainable Nimbin Yes, yes, yes.
- Thank you for creating a local census with questions that matter.
- Thank you for your ongoing efforts to preserve and improve Nimbin. Well done.
- Thanks for the opportunity.
- The NNIC has been very supportive for me.
- This is an integral and essential part of the community. It should get all the help it needs.
- This survey is a great tool for community consultation. I answered "unsure" to Q37b because I have not actively engaged in this project before. It is not a criticism. I look forward to hearing and learning more. :)
- We're super lucky to have you as part of our community.
- A good process. Happy to help when my health is better. With thanks.

Negative Feedback:

- Lots of questions?!
- Although I live just outside of town I avoid Nimbin and do any shopping or dining in other towns where folk are less paranoid, aggressive and judgemental. I've tried, but Nimbin is not a very accepting or friendly town even when merely going about one's business.
- Have heard Sibley St talked about but never had it explained to me or a reason for its existence.
- Concerned about the Cubes development.
- My greatest concern for Nimbin is the prospect of increasing tourism & 'associated development'.
- Parking in Nimbin is a problem.

Other feedback/comments/ideas:

- Could we have some control over the cutting down of Mature Fruit Trees on council lands, many have been lost in the last 2 years.
- As I have lived here for 36 years, the big change has been a large decline in native animals (redbelly black snakes and carpet snakes due to cane toads). Quolls very rare due to domestic animals gone feral.
- Homelessness is all around-community needs to remember the displaced disenfranchised and the impoverished can call a place home.
- Keep murals fresh.
- Youth club for near skate park.
- Have paths adjacent (to) shops high-pressure washed occasionally.
- Keep Nimbin weird and wonderful
- More updates posted to nhb would be great e.g. Grant info activities services monthly update.
- Nimbin could have a work register. Drug rehab a priority
- Nimbin is a great place to live - the one thing that could make it better is more face to face communication.