



Caring for Community, Culture and Country

Report on Achievements

2009 - 2023

Large Projects – progress so far...

There are several large projects (e.g. involved longer timeframes or significant resources) that have been listed under more than one Focus Area of the SNCP since it commenced.

Nimbin Community Solar Farm – the first community owned solar farm in Australia – listed under the 2009 SNCP – 45kW solar farm launched in 2011 - located across 6 community-owned buildings and between 2011 and December 2016 exceeded its annual generation target of 61,000 kWh per year. The solar farm operated as a farm and generated income for NNIC and the Host organisations during that period. When the gross feed-in-tariff ceased on 31 December 2016 the farm was no longer able to generate income and so we supported the Host organisations to analyse their electricity use and make adjustments in order to enable their transition to net metering and obtain the highest value from the arrays installed at their sites. In early 2017 the ownership and operation of the arrays was transferred to each of the host organisations, and since that time have been added to and continue to generate power for those organisations and contribute to a reduced community-level carbon footprint.

Nimbin's Sustainable Living Hub – listed under SNCP since 2011 – site purchased in 2012 via community donations and fundraising – 7 Sibley St - loan paid off in 2015 - community consultations held around site name, design and options for the existing old house – house relocated and renovated in 2018 – site opened to the community in 2019. Tools Library established and opened for borrowing in 2019. Many workshops related to sustainability in particular food and fibre processing and sustainable building technologies held and continue. Demonstration solar powered hemp masonry composting toilet constructed on site.

Rainbow Walk – Nimbin's Walking Track – listed in all versions of the SNCP since 2009 – Funds secured; Various design/route changes made over time due to circumstances as change of land ownership; Extensive landowner negotiations completed; Aquarius Park (11a Alternative Way) purchased by Nimbin Community Centre and Rainbow Power Co in partnership to secure a primary section of the walking track when that land came onto the market - Stage One of the walking track due for completion in January 2025. Includes art installations, educational & directional signage with dual language where appropriate.

Farmers' Markets – listed under the 2011 SNCP – two Farmers' Markets established: Blue Knob Farmers' Market (now transformed into a general community market) and the Weekly Nimbin Farmers market held on Cullen St.

Nimbin Food Coop – listed under the 2011 SNCP and established in 2014.

Buy Local Campaign – listed under the 2016 SNCP - developed and launched in 2019 and continuing. Includes branding and promotional opportunities for local businesses.

Anniversaries of the Aquarius Festival Celebrations – listed under the 2011 SNCP (40th Anniversary) and the 2016 SNCP (50th Anniversary). Week long event held in in 2013 (40th Anniversary) featuring a main event in Town Hall with speakers, music, food and shopfront displays and films throughout the week, plus the production and distribution of the Rainbow Dreaming book (ed Harsh Prahbu).

Large 10-day event held in 2023 to mark the 50th Anniversary – 10 days to reflect the duration of the original 1973 event – many original Aquarians came to town to celebrate – a week of talks, events, music, art and celebrations.

Aquarius Festival Archives – listed in 2009 and 2011 SNCP – significant material collected and uploaded to the NSW Library collection in 2015: <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/under-rainbow-nimbin-aquarius-festival>

Welcome to Nimbin Kit – listed under 2016 SNCP – launched in 2019 and continues to be updated and distributed. Available at Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre and online.

Reactivation of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce – listed under 2016 SNCP – achieved by 2017 and continues to be highly active in the community. Around 64 current members.

Investigate feasibility of establishing a bio-gas plant at Nimbin Valley Dairy – listed under 2016 SNCP – funds secured via partnership with Sustain Energy and significant investigations undertaken. Unfortunately, a biogas plant was not feasible due to insufficient available on-farm feedstock. Much was learned about biogas through this process, however.

Nimbin Community Disaster Plan – listed under 2016 SNCP – developed in partnership with Lismore City Council and launched in 2012, initially focused on disaster preparation. Revised with community consultations to include a community response and recovery plan following the 2022 floods and relaunched in early 2023. The Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group (NDRG) oversees the implementation of the Disaster Plan.

Other Notable Achievements under the SNCP between 2016 and 2023

Arts and Culture:

New events

- Nimbin Blues and Roots festival – annually – October.
- Illuminate Nimbin festival held in August 2023.
- 7 Sibley St – regular workshops and events, e.g. Crafts and Fibre festivals, Youth BBQs held for 5 months in 2023.
- Friday night drumming – regular free outdoor event.
- Open mike – Wednesdays – Bowlo.
- Comedy Open Mike – Bush Theatre/Bowlo.

New venues opened:

- Flourish Sanctuary (formerly Black Sheep Farm).
- Church of Aquarius - Cullen St.

New Murals:

- First Nations mural installed in Allsopp Park plus interpretive sign.
- New sunshine mural above the Optometrist building.
- Mural outside new Youth Hub renewed.

Economy:

- Signage installed throughout the village telling Nimbin stories.
- Plaques installed on village buildings giving their history.
- Visitors' Sound Trail developed and deployed.
- Visit Nimbin website rebuilt with 100% local input. Now being managed by Lismore City Council.
- Production, printing and distribution of a Nimbin brochure & map for visitors
- 2020 – community workshop organised by Chamber of Commerce - to identify priorities for visitor service provision & develop a list of ways to enhance the visitor experience & extend length of stay. LCC developed a tourism strategy that is built on many recommendations from this workshop.
- Following withdrawal of LCC funds for tourism a self-funded Visitors' Information Centre was opened at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. Success was thwarted by Covid impacting visitor numbers and it is now recognised that a self-funded model for Nimbin requires more investigation.
- 7 Sibley St - possum box building in 2019, yurt installations, Sustainable house Day design comp winner displays.
- Local businesses provided with workshop opportunities, facilitated by Chamber of Commerce and LCC, to learn skills to more effectively utilise social media and other promotional opportunities.
- Visitors' Survey conducted in 2018 by Chamber of Commerce (funding via the Nimbin Advisory

Group/LCC) – info used to attract grants for specific projects.

- Women in Business initiative commenced in 2023 by Chamber of Commerce to support and network local women in business.

Ecosystems and Biodiversity:

- Significant plantings at Bush Factory along the creek – 2020
- Significant native regen plantings around the back of Alternative Way, behind Headers etc – thanks to John Blatch – 2019 to 2024.
- 2023-24 Nesting Box project – Nimbin Environment Centre (funded by WIRES) – 30 nesting boxes installed locally.
- Nimbin Rox rehabilitation project – Nulingah Land Council commenced 2018.
- Ngulingah Nursery established at The Rocks in 2019.
- NimBIN Chickens plastic recycling project – equipment donated in 2023 – project launching in 2024

Energy:

- Community information sessions held when the gross feed in tariff ended in 2017, around metering options, smart meters etc.
- Enova Energy was established in 2017 and implemented numerous local renewable energy projects before winding up in 2022 due to pricing regs forcing Enova out of the market. There was high uptake in Enova shares by the Nimbin community and it was disappointing that Enova was unable to survive the perils of an energy market occupied by some very large players.
- Rainbow Power Company installed EV (non-fast) charger on site, and purchased EV vehicle.

Food and Farming:

- Fruit trees planted between Basketball court & Sk8 Park.
- Developing demonstration urban permaculture at 7 Sibley St.
- Nimbin Neighbourhood Food Pantry commenced in 2023 (operated by NNIC) – 170 members so far.
- Regenerative ag/syntropic courses hosted by 7 Sibley St project, as well as cooking classes featuring bio-regionally appropriate food plants.
- Nimbin Seed Exchange meeting monthly at 7 Sibley St.
- Nulingah Nursery growing bush tucker plants.
- Native food plants planted around Nimbin Community centre grounds.

Health and Wellbeing:

- NNIC website – added Disaster section, Death and Beyond section.
- Flood Recovery Support – Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre obtained funding in 2022 – case management service (until February 2025).
- Nimbin Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) – Multiple campaigns – Cannabis Harm reductions workshops and film, Sharp Things booklet developed and printed, film and arts competitions held e.g. Party Safe theme; Short animated films produced (party safe themes) and – Drinking and drugging at home alone movie produced and distributed during COVID pandemic.
- Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre became a registered provider under the Take

Home Naloxone program.

- Nimbin Auxiliary purchased multiple equipment for our local hospital (MPS).
- Shower is part of the proposed amenities block for Peace park/Swimming pool. Funding secured via ALP. Funds now with Council – is in Council hands.
- Static Exercise equipment achieved – installed behind playground in Peace Park.
- Regular medicinal cannabis forums held.
- Community Surveys have been measuring happiness, belonging, connectedness, service access.
- Healing Hub has been doing outreach to Nimbin on Thursdays in Allsopp Park since 2023.
- Community Cooling Plate purchased by Death and Beyond group and now available for loan/hire via NNIC.
- Community Food Pantry commenced in July 2023.

Housing and The Built Environment:

- MO (Multiple Occupancies aka Rural Land sharing Communities) Tank convened and met 5 times. Did not reconvene after NNIC handed it over to the MOs. MO Think Tank Facebook Group established.
- Diverse workshops delivered at 7 Sibley St relating to alternative building technologies.
- 2 x DAs lodged in relation to 7 Sibley St itself.
- Off grid hempcrete bathroom/loo at 7 Sibley St completed. Materials/equipment used in the Compost Loo at 7 Sibley St were shared to other local hemp builds and vice versa.
- Skate park lighting upgraded – via funds raised by Matt Raikes and crew following the Museum fire.
- Nimbin Chapter of the Lismore DCP amended to take account of sustainability priorities.
- Disaster planning and preparedness incorporated into Sustainability Alley. Many events held post 2019 bushfires and 2022 floods.
- Lobbying council has commenced regarding installing additional fire hose connection in the village.
- Nimbin Showgrounds opened up for camping, dog walking, exercising horses and community events. New shed, toilet block and kitchen area installed. Main Pavilion restored. Capacity of show grounds for use for community events including the annual show significantly enhanced.
- Emergency evacuation equipment installed at the Showgrounds (NDRG project under Disaster Plan – equipment owned and insured by NNIC).
- Local RFS Brigade membership significantly increased since the 2019 bushfires.
- New footpaths and lighting installed on Cecil St by LCC – improved pedestrian access and safety.
- Culvert on corner of Alternative way and Sibley St upgraded by Council – pedestrian hazard improved.

Social and Political:

- Nimbin Youth Events secured funding to hold post flood Youth Events in 2023.
- Nimbin Youth secured funds to run a website design course which was held (in the 2024 Spring school holidays – funding auspiced by NNIC). Also to organise a Youth Fest in Lismore.
- Bundjalung language Quiz conducted by NNIC (in consultation with Elders) at Nimbin NAIDOC Day since 2019.

- Art in the Park commenced in 2019 and ran for 5 years every Friday in Allsopp Park. (*Ceased operating in January 2024 due to a lack of a volunteer art facilitator to lead activities*).
- Bundjalung language words list displayed at NNIC
- Signage installed at the Rocks viewing area, and next to the big mural in Allsopps Park.
- Wia-bul Elders gathering at held at Nimbin Showgrounds in 2018.

Transport:

- Red Tickets promoted. For a period of time Wallers Bus Co and NNIC worked together to provide discount multi tix but community uptake was very low and Wallers decided was not worth the effort.
- Overall, not much achieved since 2016. Transport is a challenging issue for the community or even Council to tackle as it is largely the responsibility of the State government.
- There were also set backs to local transport amenity when significant damage occurred to local internal roads and fire trails during the 2019 bushfires. There was further significant damage to local public roads, internal roads and fire trails due to landslips caused by the 2022 flood events. LCC has undertaken significant roads works in the area since 2022.

Water: NEW Focus Area added into the 2024 SNCP. (Nil to report from 2016 to 2023).

**Achieved between
2009 – 2015
(report compiled in 2015)**



ART AND CULTURE – Progress 2009 to 2015

Key Result/Vision: The community celebrates diversity and encourages participation and involvement through arts and culture.

Goal 1: Permanent visual art collection/s established (virtual)

- Aquarius on-line Archive launched in December 2015. See <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/under-rainbow-nimbin-aquarius-festival>

(see also some documents and newspaper article in the National Library archives):
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-243256599/findingaid>

Goal 2: 2013 Year Long Arts and Culture Festival - 40th Anniversary of the Aquarius Festival

- Many community events occurred as part of the Aquarius 40th year Anniversary.
- Rainbow Dreaming book – produced and promoted.

Goal 3: Nimbin's public art is maintained and supported

- Nimbin murals sustainability plan was developed in 2012.
- Multiple murals have been restored or replaced. (unfortunately Benny Zable's iconic mural above Rainbow Cafe was lost in the August 14 fires).
- Donation tins installed around the village to raise funds for the murals restoration and repair.

Other achievements relevant to this Key Focus Area but not identified in the SNCP as strategies:

1. Increased number of venues. Some venues have opened and some have closed.

2. Regular Arts and Culture events held in Nimbin:

- Weave and Mend festival – every year in October/November
- Spring Arts Exhibition – Sept – School of Arts
- Autumn Arts Exhibition – April – School of Arts
- Blue Moon Ball and cabarets – School of Arts
- Annual Nimbin Women's Dinner – March – NNIC
- Regular exhibitions at Blue Knob Gallery
- Poetry Nights – 1st Thursday every month
- Poetry World Cup – September
- Open Learning Centre classes
- Mardi Grass – May – MOB

- Nimbin Country Show – September – A&I Society
- Regular events at the Bush Factory
- Regular events at Hanging Rock Hall
- Regular events at Lillian Rock Hall
- Regular events at Billen Hall



ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY -Progress

2009 to 2015

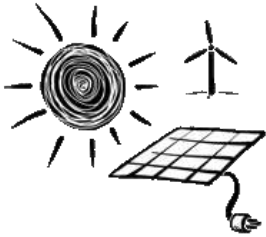
Key Result/Vision: A clean environment, with high biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.

Goal 1: A thriving natural environment which is preserved and protected and its biodiversity fostered and rebuilt

- Some baseline data was gathered in 2013 regarding local environmental health (fauna).
- Koala workshop in 2013.
- Great koala count in 2013.
- Community Survey 2013 – identified Richmond Birdwing Butterfly “hot spots” and possible Fleay’s Barred Frog (endangered) locations.
- Water Security survey conducted in 2015 by NNIC and Djanbung Gardens partnership.
- CSG PEL affecting Nimbin cancelled. Metgasco PELs buyback to be considered by shareholders by end of 2016. If they agree to the buyback then a gasfield-free Northern Rivers will have been achieved.
- Tuntable Creek Land Care Group meets monthly – has been regenerating Tuntable creek.
- Tuntable Farm – 500 Swamp Mahogany trees (koala food) planted – EnViTE.
- Garden Club – has carried out public garden works.
- Tuntable Falls School – currently creating an ethno-botanical garden.
- Mulgum Creek Land Care group – has been working on area between the gate and the dam.
- Djanbung Gardens permaculture activities.

Goal 2: A community that is well informed and educated about environmental issues

- The 'Our Pets Our Wildlife' workshop was held in Nimbin in 2014 (NNIC with ALEP).
- 'Living in Wildlife' series - factsheets developed by ALEP available at NNIC.
- Nimbin Edible Weeds tours held in 2012.
- Nimbin biodiversity featured at Nimbin Show Sustainability Alley from 2015 to 2023 – nest boxes, Richmond Birdwing Butterfly and weeds management. Top 5 Biodiversity Tips
- Expansion of Nimbin Environment Centre to Lismore and Casino in 2014.
- Some baseline data collected in 2013 to enable ongoing monitoring of environmental health.
- Regular articles in the Nimbin Good Times about weeds and other environmental topics (EC, Triny Roe).
- CSG local roads surveys conducted (Len Martin – Gas field-Free NR).
- Nightcap Action Group – accountability of NPWS.



ENERGY – Progress 2009 to 2015

Key Result/Vision: A community which is self-reliant in our energy needs with a minimal ecological foot print and a model for other communities.

Goal 1: Increased local production, local storage and local distribution of renewable energy

- Solar Farm – generating ca 61,000 kWh p.a.
- Energy efficiency – the solar farm hosts alone reduced their carbon emissions by 28.81 tonnes CO₂-e in the first 2 years.
- Biochar has been promoted at many events.
- Lismore City Council investigated the potential for micro-hydro power at Nimbin weir but not feasible.
- NNIC has worked in partnership in the development of community energy projects across the region and these will eventually lead to outcomes in Nimbin.
- Nimbin Valley Dairy Biogas plant investigated and costed – not viable – insufficient on-farm feedstock.
- Level of interest for community investment in solar projects was assessed in 2013 as being worth pursuing.

Regional Energy Projects which Nimbin has been involved in:

- Sustain Energy partnership (Sustain Northern Rivers)
- Z-Net town project
- Enova Energy
- NR Biohubs project
- Lismore Farming the Sun project
- North Coast Energy Forums
- Coalition for Community Energy (National Coalition)

Goal 2: Energy demands of the community are minimised

- Community sustainability surveys conducted since 2011 indicate that Nimbin community members' electricity use remains well below the NSW and National averages.
- 7 Sibley St Project – Site purchased in 2012 and loan paid off in January 2015. Building relocated and restored and opened to the community in 2019.

Goal 3: Raise Community Awareness and Energy Literacy to high levels

- A regular presence has been established at the Nimbin Country Show through Sustainability Alley.
- Energy audit tools for community organisations and housing are available online (see link on NNIC website/facebook page).
- Information regularly provided to the community around 'green' Energy Retailers.

- Info regularly provided to community members re e.g. How to Read Your Power bill.
- Nimbin was represented at the inaugural Community Energy Congress in June 2014.
- Bioenergy community consultations held in October 2015.



FOOD SECURITY – Progress 2009-2015

Key Result/Vision: The community is autonomous and actively participates in ensuring an abundant, local and resilient food network for all.

Goal 1: At least 50% of food consumed locally is locally and sustainably grown/produced.

- The Farmers market has expanded and now there are 2 – the Blue Knob Farmers market (Saturdays) and the Nimbin Weekly FM (Wednesdays).
- The Nimbin Seed Exchange.
- Nimbin show has been promoted through
 - Window shop display competition for local stores
 - Most sustainable in show exhibit category
 - Local Food Bytes Short Film Competition 2012 and 2013 - 2013 winner won the Byron Short Film competition.
- The grain mill averaged around 950kgs milled per year to 2016. (now relocated to 7 Sibley St)
- Biochar – 35 tonnes of biochar made and put onto farms and gardens to 2016 - Biochar project.org.
- 1500 hemp plants grown for medicinal, building, fibre and seeds – Biochar project.org
- 30 acres of forest managed sustainably for biochar - Biochar project.org
- Nimbin natural Beekeepers – started in 2011 – by 2016 approx. 15,000kg honey being produced each year by around 140 members (between 250 and 300 hives). (Sadly the appearance of the Varroa Mites has impacted the number of beekeepers and hives since 2016)
- Community Supported Agriculture project regarding hemp – achieved by Australian Hemp Masonry (Klara). Links established between Nimbin and Ashford hemp growers and Hunter Valley growers.
- Goats – There has been at least a five-fold increase in beast numbers since 2009 from approximately 50 animals to 270 animals in 2015. Herd sizes vary from 5 (backyard flocks) to 200 animals (Nimbin Valley Dairy).
- Nimbin Valley Dairy expansions since 2012 – currently processes 15,000 L of goats milk, 5,000 L cows milk per week.
- At least 20% increase in local food production and distribution since 2009.

Goal 2: We Grow Good Tucker - there is an emphasis on quality and nutritional value rather than quantity and/or price

- Seed exchange trading events have been occurring regularly
- Ongoing awareness raising has occurred.

- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen garden established at Tumble Falls Primary School (winner of Most Sustainable In Show 2013).
- Bush Food Garden established at Nimbin Community Centre.

Goal 3: The Community is engaged in local groups which work together and which work cooperatively with all local food stakeholders inc farmers, schools etc. No-one is left out!

- Emporium supermarket development application has been finalised - there will be space for local food.
- Year of the Farmer 2012 – promoted via Nimbin’s Sexiest Farmer competition.
- A survey of local cafe’s has been conducted.
- The new Nimbin Food Co-op involves partnerships between NNIC, Nimbin Regional Food and Fibre Hub, The Farmers Markets and Permaculture College Australia
- Strong relationships with Nimbin Show Society has developed around Food Security issues and Sustainability Alley.
- Food Equipment Library for members.

Goal 4: The community is well educated about food security issues such as seasonal food, sub-tropical diets and crops, and food miles

- Sustainability Alley aims to increase this awareness.
- Best Shop Display competition held 2015 – 2019 – (Nimbin Show disrupted by Covid/Disasters between 2020 and 2022).
- Djanbung Gardens hosts regular permaculture classes/courses.

Goal 5: The community has overcome inappropriate regulatory barriers.

- Legal barriers regarding on farm animal slaughter, herd sharing and un-pastured milk appear to be unsurmountable at this time. NNIC has investigated Herd Share models and obtained legal advice from EDO (Environmental Defenders Office) – The advice is that Australian and NSW legislation effectively prohibits Herd Share models which involve on-farm slaughtering.
- Work is continuing on the legal barriers relating to hemp grown for fibre (licenses available) and food (i.e.-seeds – the barriers remain significant).



HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Progress 2009-2015

Key Result/Vision: Inclusion - Interaction - Integration

Goal 1: Resident inclusion in and utilisation of health and welfare facilities and resources is maximised

- A list of local complimentary health practitioners is now available via the NNIC website.
- The Nimbin Rainbow Living Health Expo was held in 2012.
- Funding secured by NNIC to support the NIS mental health nurse practitioner (mental health/alcohol & other drugs).
- Inaugural Nimbin Day of the Dead held in November 2015 – info about wills/power of attorney, palliative care options, grief and loss, dealing with the loss of a pet, launching of the Nimbin Book of the Dead and next of kin/best contact register for transient or isolated people.
- Nimbin's potable water supply currently being upgraded.
- Palliative care/hospice house established at Tuntable Falls Coop.

Goal 2: There is a high level of interaction and participation by community members in community life

- Sporting outcomes
 - Rescuing of Nimbin Tennis Courts - transfer ownership to Nimbin Headers
 - Old skate park is to be recreated into "energy park" as part of the 7 Sibley St project - multi-use community activities – focus on interactive kinetic equipment in the long term – general community use in the short term - resurfacing completed on half the site and new basketball hoop installed.
 - Potential acquisition of Bellevue Park by Nimbin Show Society under negotiation with Council – potential indoor sports facility.
 - Annual Fun Run organised by Discover Fitness.
 - Weekly swimming lessons for kids – Mr Everingham.
- Nimbin pool - Much work has been undertaken and more to come - New seats installed. New bubbler installed.
- Annual Nimbin Pool Olympics – Australia Day each year – Friends of Nimbin Swimming Pool.
- Local services have been promoted by NNIC via website, face book page, Hook Ups and Nimbin Good Times.
- 2013 Community survey – 60% (of 227) regularly volunteer in the community at an average of 8 hours/wk.

- 2013 Community survey – 31% said they socialised on a daily basis, 53% on a weekly basis, only 4% said they rarely socialise.
- 2013 Community survey – only 4% said they had not attended any community events in the prior 6 months, with 62% attending between 1 and 5 events and 34% attending more than 5.

Goal 3: A local integrated health and wellbeing model

- New MOU executed between NNIC, Nimbin Health Welfare Association and Multitask re Mulgum House community independent living units
- Repairs to the bookshelves at Birth and Beyond were completed in 2011.
- Birth and Beyond was reinvigorated between 2010 and 2013, but now has ceased to be active.
- Birth and Beyond building secured by Nimbin Community Centre in 2014. This building houses the Environment centre, the Apothecary and various therapeutic services by independent practitioners.
- Establishment of the Healing Collective (located on Community Centre site). (*no longer operating*).
- Establishment of Nimbin Death and Beyond group.
- Medical Cannabis trial approved by NSW and Federal Governments in 2015.
- Regular Medical Cannabis Symposiums held by Nimbin Hemp Embassy during 2015. Attendances – ranging between 100-300 per event.



HOUSING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT – Progress 2009-2015

Key Result/Vision: There are safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable and varied housing choices for all ages, linked by appropriate transport corridors and serviced by facilities and enterprises that support the ethos of Nimbin and surrounds.

Goal 1: A range of safe, affordable, sustainable housing options are available for rent, low income land owners and the elderly.

- New Lismore City Council by Laws have come into effect regarding secondary dwellings. DA/s94 costs are significantly reduced to promote the development of more affordable housing, for a 2 year period.
- MO Register – an initial list was compiled. *More work needed.*
- Sustainable House Day 2014 and 15: 2014 Ultimate Green Granny Flat Design comp and 2015 Universal, Adaptable Housing for Life design comp.
- New MOs retained in the Lismore LEP. New MOs are now under threat outside of Lismore and Tweed Shires.
- Some MOs have developed lower cost rehousing options – example Tuntable Falls Coop.
- Some of the existing MOs have expanded their housing capacity.
- MOU developed and executed in 2015 between NNIC, Nimbin Health and Welfare Association and Multitask in relation to the 3 community independent living units at Mulgum House.
- Meeting held 2015 to establish home safety and security strategy in the face of a pattern of increasing home break and enters. Nimbin CSI Facebook group established. The main culprit for multiple B&Es was identified and apprehended.

Goal 2: There is a well-developed and connected knowledge and skills base for housing and the built environment.

- The Sibley St project will act as a repository of knowledge about sustainable building, and has been involved in Sustainable House days and other activities promoting affordable and sustainable housing.
- The Sibley St community building will incorporate education and training to increase community building skills.
- Sibley St will also act as a sustainable Living Centre demonstration site to showcase local achievements, provide information on sustainable building and regulations.- (e.g. BasIX)
- HEMP masonry workshops held in 2014.

- Building with bamboo workshops held in 2013.
- Biotecture group has constructed several 'Earthships' structures and held workshops.
- Ongoing support and information provided to householders by RPC re PV Solar installations.
- Composting toilets expertise in the community.
- Water recycling and grey water management expertise in the community.
- Djanbung Gardens courses and workshops – e.g. in 2015: Introduction to the World of Masonry, Appropriate Technology and Natural Building, The Craft of Masonry floors and paving, The Art of Rock walling and stone masonry.
- Nimbin Garden Club activities.

Goal 3: Buildings and their surrounds are sensitive to and provide a "liveable" environment, including both passive and active recreational opportunities

- The Nimbin Walking Track project is awaiting funding. Project is design-ready.
- Nimbin Garden Club activities
- Djanbung Gardens activities.
- Old skate park remedial work commenced. Basketball hoop installed.
- Local DAs promoted and community participation encouraged – e.g. Cubes development. Museum site development.

Goal 4: Bushfire and village disaster risks are addressed

- Reserve Roads – no longer a viable strategy due to divestment of reserve roads by the NSW Government.
- Following the Nimbin Fires of August 2014, numerous local businesses have reviewed and upgraded their insurances and addressed fire hazards around their premises.
- New buildings must adhere to the new Building Code fire regulations – issues of additional expense and conflict with e.g natural airflow/light optimisation.
- There are 2.5 active local bushfire brigades, which have been regularly called upon to fight fires. Membership is an ongoing issue.



LOCAL JOBS AND SKILLS (renamed to ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) Progress 2009-2015

Key Result/Vision: A sustainable community that allows and enables people to achieve their employment and skills aspirations and generates environmentally sustainable and innovative jobs and industry.

Goal 1: Establish a strong tourism industry that showcases the community's cultural diversity and sustainability achievements

- Tourism = Sibley St Project, Walking Track Project, Living Museum projects. FUNDING needed to progress all 3.
- Walking Track design and costings completed.
- Sibley St project site purchased, and loan paid off. Stage One Designs and costings completed. Master Concept Plan developed and discussed. Total staged development indicative costings completed.
- The LCC Nimbin Visitors Centre won the NSW Tourism Award in 2014 and 2015 (*no longer operating*).
- Nimbin Rox YHA won Best Hostel in 2013 and 2014. (*no longer operating*).
- Expansion of the Nimbin Show to include a focus on Sustainable Agriculture and other sustainability practices via the Sustainability Alley.
- Aquarius 40th anniversary was well promoted and well attended. Generated a lot of positive media about Nimbin and subsequent tourism.

Goal 2: Nimbin is re-established and recognised as a leading Sustainable Community

- Nimbin is now recognised as a leading sustainable community, as demonstrated by NNIC winning the Green Globe Awards in 2013 and being a finalist in Sustainable Community Award category in the NSW Regional Community Awards in 2014.
- NNIC is also the Lead Agency for the NR Biohubs project, reflecting the acknowledgment of Nimbin's high energy literacy and willingness to be innovative.

Goal 3: Sustainable local knowledge-based industries are operating

- Nimbin Valley Dairy – local cheese-making in bioregional and organic conditions.
- NNIC Hemp Masonry Labour Hire project – providing personnel skilled in mixing and handling hemp masonry products to building project.

Goal 4: Local training capacity and capabilities have been established and developed

- Djanbung Gardens – PAC and SIT students.
- Rainbow Power Co – traineeships – 3 plus one apprenticeship since 2009.
- Earthship Workshops.
- Hemp Masonry Workshops held.
- Weekly Talks held at the Blue Knob Farmers Markets.

Goal 5: Investment sources to foster local employment are identified and targeted

- Solar Farm income was used to employ a Community Development Worker at NNIC.

Goal 6: Alternative transaction processes are developed and promoted

- Nimbin LETS got back up and running for a short time in 2012 and 2013 but has not been ongoing. This needs a new champion.

Goal 7: The local supply chain is enhanced

- Local food supply chain between growers-retailers-customers enhanced via: Nimbin Farmers markets, Nimbin Food Coop.
- Nimbin Emporium – increased stocking of local produce in particular meat products.
- Most cafes in Nimbin source local produce.
- Locally made sustainable products sold at the Green Bank - estimated 40%.
- Locally made products sold at the monthly Nimbin Markets – 100% locally produced.

Goal 8: Raise telecommunications to current Australian standards

- The NBN fixed wireless is now available in Nimbin. We note that community views are mixed about the technologies involved. We lobbied for fibre at least to the village but were unsuccessful.
- New Telstra mobile phone tower for High Street – the DA has been lodged with Council. Again, we note that community views on this are mixed.



SOCIAL AND POLITICAL – Progress 2009-2015

Key Result/Vision: A community that is autonomous, mutually inclusive and respectful of all life.

Goal 1: Establish a community council which empowers the residents of Nimbin to exercise control over the community outcomes.

- Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) has ensured/promoted community consultations around
 - Nimbin potable water supply
 - NBN in Nimbin
 - Nimbin waste and the Waste Transfer Station
 - Lots of issues regarding roads –especially Cecil St and Thorburn St
 - Traffic management on Sibley St near skate park
 - Tennis Club
 - Nimbin Pool
 - Village signage
 - Nimbin Public Toilets – Graffiti Paint job – thanks to Zac Price
 - Nimbin Physical Activities Centre – develop and implement new model of operation
 - And lots more.

- The Woodstock Village model was researched for board of management template for Nimbin BUT it does not easily translate into the local government model.
- NOTE: potential merger between Lismore City Council and Kyogle Council will make our LGA even bigger and Nimbin a smaller part of it.
- Lismore City Council held annual Community Meeting in Nimbin in November each year – until 2015 –scrapped in favour of community panels (ie NAG).
- Lismore City Council – Imagine Lismore process – randomly selected community panels – good process.
- Lismore City Council - Community Reference Panels.
- Local Development Applications – submission were made by community members in relation to e.g. Shopping Centre, NBN Towers, Telstra Tower, Police Communications Tower, The Cubes Motel. Some of these resulted in changes being made or plans amended, and the Police Communications Tower was removed altogether. The Cubes DA is still under consideration by Council.
- NNIC made submissions to LCC in relation to the proposed closure of the Nimbin Waste Transfer Station and the LEP in relation to MOs and sustainable development.

Goal 2: Establish an agreed Community Charter of ethics and behavioural standards based on respect

- Many local Nimbin residents participated in non-violent communication workshops held at the Doubtful Creek and Bentley blockades.
- Positive impact upon the village and local youth culture as a result of the Nimbin Skate Park has been significant. This is demonstrated by the respect shown towards the skate park vicinity and one another by the people who utilise the area for recreational activities. There is an excellent family-friendly atmosphere and a well maintained park (thanks to Neil, FONS, the skater crew and their parents).
- Footpath Trading issues were examined by LCC but insufficient resources to police it.
- Smoking now banned in all cafes and buildings and their vicinities (pursuant to legislation and Council By Laws).

Goal 3: Identify community leadership skills and strengths

- Nimbin is represented on the Lismore Leaders Group by Diana Roberts.
- NNIC consulted with local young people about the 7 Sibley St project to seek Young Project Ambassadors.



TRANSPORT – Progress 2009-2015

Key Result/Vision: A carbon neutral transport system which promotes social inclusiveness by integrating vehicles powered by renewable fuels, cycling and horse riding, and which utilises trails including the gazetted roads network.

Goal 1: Maximise the efficiency of existing transport options

- Local bus route map has been completed.
- Information about all bus timetables relevant to Nimbin have been collected and are located on the NNIC website.
- Car-pooling occurs via Nimbin 'Hook Up's
- Red tickets promoted. For a period of time Wallers Bus Co and NNIC worked together to provide discount multi tix but uptake was very low and Wallers decided was not worth the effort.
- NNIC followed up with Lismore City Council regarding implementing road weight limits (re limiting use of Blue Knob Rd by large trucks) however this is within state jurisdiction, not local council jurisdiction.
- NNIC participated in regional consultations with NSW Transport and one of the outcomes of these workshops was the expansion of the Trip Planner app to the Northern Rivers. You can use this app to type in your starting point and destination and it will work out your bus route/s for you (see <http://www.transportnsw.info/>)

Goal 2: The community has access to sustainable transport options

- Nimbin Bus Extension trial was completed in 2012 and many of the additional bus runs have been continued by Wallers Bus Company (between Lismore and Nimbin)
- NNIC continues to explore EV transport options and projects.

Goal 3: The transport needs of the community are reduced and road conditions improved

- NNIC continues to lobby for services to come to Nimbin to reduce transport needs of locals. E.g. Legal Aid.
- Road conditions – volunteer management of local roads project – this was considered by Council in 2013 but rejected due to untenable public liability and other risks.
- Nimbin Organic Food Co-op model moving towards increased stocking of local products.
- RoadArt – decoratively marking potholes and road hazards near you- helping to make our roads safer (and adding to the love).

Goal 4: The community has access to a range of non-vehicular transport/movement corridors between housing and services

- Reserve roads - Divestment of reserve roads by NSW Trade and Investment (formerly Lands) - major setback to this strategy as the roads are all being sold off to adjoining landowners.
- Also CSG and concerns re access to properties.
- Loss of Hutchinsons Rd - ALFA and NNIC fought to save it but we were not successful.
- Restore rail network - NNIC and many Nimbinites lobbied for the reinstatement of the rail and were also involved in the Rail Trail consultations. *(since that time the Rail Trail network around the region including the Lismore to Bentley trail has made significant progress, and there is no chance that a rail network will be restored).*