

NIMBIN COMMUNITY CENTRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018

Scott Sledge

The year started with my temporary appointment by the Management Committee as President following the death of former President Dick Hopkins. I have been a volunteer for NCC since the beginning and been part of the committee for more than 20 years.

I was reluctant to take on this role because my other work as President of 2 other volunteer organisations that require a lot of concentration, as the environmental threats to our world grow in number and intensity. For this reason, I will not stand again for the Management Committee at this year's AGM which will be held on 15th November, 6pm at Birth & Beyond. All members welcome

This year has been difficult for Management as the political cycle has arrived on hard times for community services. Funding became tight after Lismore Council cancelled its annual contribution to the Community Centre. The Committee works hard to maintain the aging buildings and cracking pavements of the former Central School grounds as an asset of the community and space for community service organisations, despite cost increases. We contend with falling branches, rotting timbers and rusting roofs, and have still managed to improve the facilities. We also own and manage and maintain Birth & Beyond (B&B). As a result of funding issues we have reviewed our rental rates to ensure we can continue to manage our facilities and infrastructure.

This year we have freshly painted in rainbow colours the Bottlebrush Studio for the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service. We managed to secure a grant from Building Community Partnerships, with additional funds from Aged Care and NCC. We also received a Lismore Clubs grant of \$2000 to contribute to improving access to the service.

We have opened up the Community Centre area by pruning the shrubs and removing the old school fence along the sidewalk. We will be looking to improve the walkway along from the north side of the building down to the Fig tree building and carpark next to Sibley Street over the next year.

Much credit for grounds improvement -both at NCC and Birth & Beyond - goes to our gardener Robyn, markets coordinator Stephanie Seckold and our hardworking volunteers Rod and Trevor. Our Truth and Beauty sub-group headed by Biko, Steph and Linnet has some great site design plans for future grounds and buildings improvements.

The Casuarina Building home to NIM FM radio, Aboriginal Broadcasters, the Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Jungle Patrol and the new addition The Hemp Club, has benefited from the new high awning with major drainage works. The Aboriginal Cultural Space has had a new toilet installed inside funded through the Stronger Communities Program. Early in the year police broke the special leaded glass in the doors of the Cultural Centre during a pursuit which turned out to be a case of mistaken identity. Sadly, they refused to pay for their malicious damage but fortunately our insurance company came good.

Lismore City Council, assisted NCC, funded a new mural in Allsopp Park, created by Aboriginal artists from the Cultural Centre. The mural was dedicated by Lismore Mayor Isaac Smith at a public ceremony. NCC has secured funding for an interpretive sign which to accompany the Allsop Park mural art. The sign will explain the dreamtime story illustrated in the mural. The artists Gilbert Laurie, Oral Roberts and Lewis Walker will tell their story in both English and the original Bundjalung.

A number of healing modalities are established in the Acacia building near the NCC office including The Healing arts Centre, The Remedy Room and the Nimbin Herbs Learning Centre our most recent new tenant which complements the move towards health and healing arts in the building. This year we spent a lot of time and money to re-surface the floor in the Dance studio, which required gap filling sanding and coating. No more splinters for our dancers and yogis!

NCC in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce has auspiced a project to provide solar-powered lighting for under the awnings and the murals along the western side of the main shops block with the equipment installed by Rainbow Power Company at B & B. Stage one has been completed (power installation) and the lighting will be installed once a design has been completed.

Other projects the centre has managed this year include;

- Refurbishing the pond with Nimbin Central School Students
- Supporting the monthly Flix film group
- Coordinating mural refurbishment in the business precinct with funds from the Nimbin Advisory Group, The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce and the building owners.

This year marked 20 years since the Community Centre commenced operation and we celebrated in September with a weekend of events showcasing the services offered to the community and celebrating the numerous volunteers who have contributed to the centre over the last 20 years, you have all been much appreciated. I want to thank our Coordinators, Inez and Biko for making it such a good celebration. Inez has now left the job and Helen Lynne has stepped up her hours to keep the Office open 4 days a week in tandem with Biko.

The Community Centre would like to celebrate and honour the contribution to community made by our beloved late President Dick Hopkins. We have had a memorial stone carved by local artist Donato Rosella which is located at the basketball ½ court in Peace Park. We are having an unveiling ceremony at 10.00 am on the market Sunday, (the 25th) in November. We are asking those who wish to attend to bring a flowering shrub to plant and we will create a lovely memorial garden around the stone in his honour.

Finally, I want to thank the Committee Volunteers; Diana Roberts, Michael Balderstone, Linnet Pike, David Hallett, Darren Maxwell, and Daniele Voinot who have served the community so well. Also a big thanks to Karlin Bracegirdle who has volunteered her services as meeting facilitator for many years.

Farewell and thanks to all.