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**What a sizzler!**

The Nimbin Show weekend saw temperatures in the mid-thirties, although the breezes at the Showground helped, as did the availability of a variety of cool drinks.

The hot conditions may have accounted for visitor numbers being down, but there were plenty of competitors, particularly in the beef cattle and poultry sections and pavilion exhibits, and the Champion Dog Show had over 200

entries, though horse numbers were down.

Sustainability Alley and the Blue Knob Farmers Market again provided a horticultural perspective, and there were carnival rides for the kids.

A&I Society President Phil Williams said, "Overall I thought it was a real good show."

The Society is looking for new members. Phone Phil if interested, on 0427-045-978.



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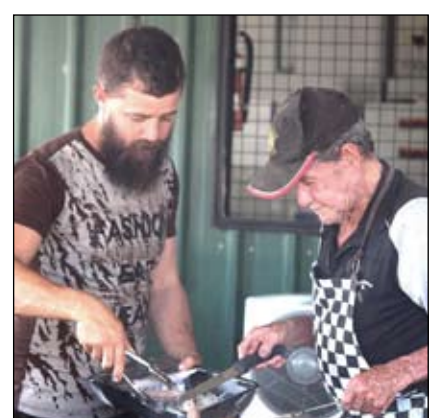
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# Survey to document impacts of flood

It is now six months since the Northern Rivers was devastated by Cyclone Debbie and the floods, and the recovery process is still continuing.

The University Centre for Rural Health (UCRH) has launched a major survey to find out the impact of this natural disaster on community wellbeing.

Speaking at the launch, James Bennett-Levy, Professor of Mental Health and Psychological Wellbeing at the UCRH, said we have seen a lot of distress and amazing resilience over these last months.

"All of us across the Northern Rivers have been affected in some way. This survey is about finding out how we are doing. Are we OK?"

"Just as it's important for business to document the impact of floods on their livelihoods, so it is important to get a snapshot of the mental health and wellbeing of our communities for future planning and to advocate for resources," Professor Bennet-Levy said.

UCRH Director Ross Bailie said, "We're working in partnership with a large range of community and business organisations, local and state government agencies to ensure this



The Lismore levee overflowing at Spinx Park. Photo: Alex Clarke

research is relevant to the needs of the community."

"This is an opportunity to turn our flood stories into the evidence we need, to help policy makers understand where the gaps in services are, and what works best for community recovery," Professor Bailie said.

This survey is for everyone 16 years and over, whether your home, business or property was flooded or not, across the Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed, Ballina, Byron and Kyogle local

government areas.

The survey is available online at: [www.ucrh.edu.au/after-the-flood](http://www.ucrh.edu.au/after-the-flood)

Paper surveys are available at libraries, Lifeline, Red Cross, Interrelate, Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul stores. Or have one mailed to you by phoning UCRH on 6620-7570.

The questionnaire closes on Monday 6th November.

♦ See also Elly Bird's column on page 11

## Richmond Valley Council secures multi-million dollar cannabis cultivation deal

A Canadian company, PUF Ventures Inc has announced its intentions to build a 1-million-square-foot greenhouse operation to grow medicinal cannabis near Casino.

The company has entered into a purchase option agreement with Richmond Valley Council for a 27-hectare parcel of council land on which to construct the \$51 million facility.

At full scale, the new facility will have the capacity to support annual production of 100,000 kilograms of high

quality cannabis, with an annual revenue generation potential of between C\$800 million and C\$1.1 billion.

PUF president Derek Ivany said under the agreement, the council would provide the land for no cost for five years, with an option for the company to purchase the land on "favourable terms" after the fifth year.

The company hopes to begin production within 12 months, with the first crop expected to be planted in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Richmond Valley Council

general manager Vaughan MacDonald said, "We look forward to working closely with PVA to bring this project to reality, and working to create a new agricultural industry of medicinal cannabis in our region and across Australia."

Nimbin HEMP Embassy President Michael Balderstone was quick to comment.

"With this announcement that the heart of redneck land, Casino, is going to grow the biggest crop of weed in the land, no, the Southern

Hemisphere, you'd think the debate about whether pot is really medicine or not would be finally over," he said.

"They don't even have a licence yet, this Canadian mob, but no doubt their fat wallets and government connections have oiled the way smooth.

"The hippies are shell-shocked by the news. This is not what we meant by re-legalisation. We reckon there are twenty thousand jobs waiting to happen if they'd allow it to be a cottage industry."

## Veteran musician loses leukemia fight

**James Thornbury**  
(James T)  
5/9/1949-1/10/2017

Obituary by Nick Hanlon

James T, 'The Cincinnati Cat' was born in Southern Ohio and spent his earliest years in Northern Kentucky at about the same time that Rock'n'Roll was born in America. The young man was so moved by what he heard that he gave himself a mission, he would be a real working musician by age 22 or succumb to the workaday world.

Texas blues rocker Lanny Ray offered James his first tour of the states. This tour lasted five years. His great natural talent developed quickly and the young James was invited to play with many luminaries of American Blues.

In 1984 Henry Vestine, founding member of Canned Heat came across James performing in Oregon – the two hit it off famously and joined forces. Not long after that he was invited to join



Henry Vestine, Larry Taylor and Fito De La Parra as a member of Canned Heat. James T then spent the next 10 years touring the world playing stadiums and huge festivals as singer, guitarist and harp player with this great band.

James T shared the stage with many great musicians in his time including John Lee Hooker, Junior Watson, Albert King and Harvey Mandel. James told me his most memorable moments were sharing the stage with musicians of this calibre.

He toured with Country Joe, The Band, Alvin Lee

and Big Brother and the Holding Company and too many others to name, and recorded over 25 albums in his career.

He moved to Australia in 1995 after falling in love with the mother of his children, the wonderful Mallika. They had two daughters, Juliette and Dhyana, who were his absolute proudest achievements, he shone with pride when he spoke of them.

Mallika and his daughters were with him throughout his illness and when he passed away. James T was

a true gentleman, a humble and generous musician and a great friend who touched many with his kindness and sage wisdom. We will all miss him a lot and in the words of this loveable man, "Be thankful... love from down the road apiece."

### Tributes

"To me he was the pole star, you could steer your ship by him." – Long time bass player, producer and close friend Dirk Dubois.

"James T was a kind generous man who was an inspiration to me and an honour to work with. I'll always feel blessed to have shared time with such a humble talented legend on stage and in the studio. He will be missed but never forgotten." – Diana Anaid.

"We've truly lost a brother of the blues. I honour his great talent and true friendship." – Matt Taylor

"R.I.P. James – it was a true honour having you in Canned Heat" – The Canned Heat Family



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# Tweed Rail Forum calls for transport solutions

A forum about the rail corridor in the Northern Rivers region was held at the Murwillumbah Community Centre on Monday night, 25th September with about 60 to 70 people attending.

Dr Mehreen Faruqi was held up at Sydney airport, so she sent a film of her speech that was shown on the night.

Dr Faruqi made the point that "Transport effects every single part of our lives, how we go to work, school or university, how we connect with each other. Whether you live in Sydney or in regional NSW, everyone has the right to affordable, efficient, fast and safe public transport."

"This region has a population now close to 300,000 and is one of the fastest growing areas in NSW, but due to poor coverage just 1% of trips to work are made by public transport."

She said, "We are left scratching our heads... why isn't this government investing in better, cheaper, more sustainable public transport, like the rest of the world? When you look a little deeper you realise that what looks like a transport agenda, isn't. It's not conceived for the community or the environment but to meet the narrow, political needs of this government which are heavily influenced by big money and big corporations."

Tweed Shire Council Mayor, Katie Milne, talked about wanting to look after our communities first, "There's been no consultation meetings or forums, or anything that we normally do with council these days. We do shopfront consultations, public meetings, surveys, we do online, there's a whole variety of



Tweed mayor Katie Milne addresses the well-attended forum.

ways in which you can consult... I've never felt in my heart of hearts that we've asked the Tweed community where they want to go with this."

Katie said, "There was that (rail) feasibility study that said it would be \$953 million dollars, but when you think about the Sextons Hill bypass that was \$365 million for one kilometre of road, well \$953 million doesn't sound like that much to get all the way down to Casino."

In answering a question, Katie said, "\$200,000 has been agreed to by state governments for a feasibility study to look into extending the Gold Coast light rail into the Tweed, and down into South Tweed. I didn't realise it, but apparently the corridor has been preserved all this time. That is being looked at now."

Katie Milne concluded, "In the end, a solution needs to be driven by

the community. We need to support each other and come together instead of being divided."

Someone called out that the train was never going to come back. Bill Fenelon, new co-ordinator for the local NR Railway Action Group responded by saying, "The greatest expense of building a railway is buying the land and surveying the land, and we've done that already. Even if we had to replace all the bridges, that's nothing really. They're building a bridge across the river at Grafton for \$245 million and it's not even on the highway."

He went on to say, "I'm a cyclist, and I think we need more cycleways, but more importantly we need the infrastructure for trains. I'd like to see both operating on this corridor, but I've been on many rail trails and the track can be misused. In

Launceston I had a close encounter with a kid on a motorcycle travelling at very high speed."

Geoff Reid agreed there were concerns with rail trails. "Across the world, vandals and dirtbikes are the scourge of rail trails, gates are left open and fire by accident is the traditional nightmare of every property owner. The State government, due to serious concerns, is asking farmers to have biosecurity plans to stop the spread of disease to animals, that has occurred in other countries. A rail trail through grazing properties is a concern, as on-farm quality assurance means zilch if unknown visitors wander in and out of properties."

Beth Shelley stated, "We need a plan for the big picture of transport between Qld and NSW as well as public transport for Northern

NSW. The Price Waterhouse Coopers report of 2004 suggested a plan for a 16 train-per-day commuter service to be developed over six years at a cost for repairs of less than \$7 million per year."

PWC report states, "A lighter weight railcar service, with air-conditioned rolling stock, could offer a lower cost and higher frequency service. In order to minimise the cost of reinstating the line, a strategy of relying on repairs and upgrades instead of large scale replacements would be possible. There are long-term economic benefits involved in a Murwillumbah to Coolangatta rail link, the cost of which could exceed several hundred million dollars."

Beth stated, "The Federal government has given \$460 million to the Gold Coast light rail and this is a cross-border issue. We need to be asking the Federal government for help in linking Qld and NSW by rail."

Dr Faruqi said, "I'm thoroughly sick of hearing that spending money on trains in the regions is unfeasible when tens of billions of dollars are being wasted in Sydney on projects that we don't really need and will cause more congestion, more pollution and more greenhouse gases."

"It's no secret that the Northern Rivers needs public transport, but what isn't there is the political will. Let's not forget that in 18 months we have a NSW state election coming up. We need to bring people in who will commit to making sure that the Northern Rivers has a better integrated transport system which will be good for the economy, good for the people and good for the environment."

## New co-ordinators for Community Centre



The Nimbin Community Centre would like to welcome our two new co-ordinators, Teresa (Biskit) Biscoe (pictured, left) and Inez Price (pictured, right).

Both of these wonderful women have been living and working in and around Nimbin for many years, and the team at NCCI feel very fortunate to be benefitting from their collective skills and knowledge. Inez and Biko will be in the office from 3rd October.

### An invitation to NCCI's AGM & Tenant & Community meeting

All interested tenants and community members are invited to NCCI's Tenant and Community meeting on 16th November, 4.30pm-5.30pm at Birth and Beyond. Nibbles will be provided.

The tenant meeting will be immediately followed by NCCI's Annual General Meeting at 6pm.

### Market Co-ordinator sought

NCCI are seeking Expressions of Interest from anyone interested in co-ordinating the Nimbin Market. See notice with details on Page 9 in this edition. Please forward all Expressions of Interest to: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)



**NIMBIN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**

**NEWS**

by Cath Smith, President

NEC had an information stall in Sustainability Alley, making a colourful contribution to this year's Nimbin Show. It was a very hot weekend and crowds were down from last year, but lots of signatures and opinions were gathered on surveys and petitions.

Volunteers talked to many folks about the Stop Adani campaign, and raised the profile of this extremely important and pressing issue.

Spring in the Northern Rivers has brought to a head several struggles which are of concern to the Northern Rivers Guardians:

#### Limpinwood

The unauthorised clearing of native forest on private land has become a major issue, partly because the owner of the land at the end of Boormans Road, Limpinwood (between Tyalgum and Chillingham) has a Private Native Forestry Agreement with the state government that he got when he bought the 800 acres of forest in 2013.

Native forests in NSW are being destroyed and vital biodiversity with them. Is it a coincidence that logging operations at Limpinwood started so soon after the new Act came into force last month?

NEC joined with Northern Rivers Guardians and Caldera Environment Centre to draw attention to the value



of this piece of land which lies in the forested corridor between National Parks and Nature Reserves in our World Heritage areas.

We need the NSW government to act urgently to protect this region from damaging activities such as unregulated logging and roadbuilding that cause environmental damage in significant wildlife corridors.

We call on the public to urge NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton to order a stop work and delegate compliance power to the Tweed Shire Council.

The minister may also direct the EPA to make a full audit of compliance to the PNF Code of Practice. NEFA reps found clear evidence of important breaches and notified Council that logging is taking place in Environmental Protection Zones that require prior Council approval.

#### Rail corridor

A forum about the rail corridor in the Northern Rivers Region took place at the Murwillumbah Community Centre on Monday 25th September.

NRRAG spokesperson Beth Shelley said, "A day commuter rail service that extends to the Tweed and Gold Coast is the big picture future for this region. Connecting cycleways with rail and buses to develop an integrated plan to get cars off the road will cut transport emissions and deliver real transport and ecotourism outcomes for our people."

#### Water extraction

The threat to underground water posed by mining has taken a new twist.

Several properties in the Tweed Valley currently remove water from bores to sell to bottling companies like Coca Cola Amatil. The entire population relies on water for life. Now our most precious common resource is being commercially exploited for the benefit of the few.

No science has been done to demonstrate what removal of underground water will do to neighbouring properties, effects on nearby springs and the whole natural system of water transfer.

We join with Tweed Water Alliance to call on the NSW government to refuse to allow off-site transport of extracted water until and unless it can be scientifically proved that it will not result in environmental damage.

# Earthship pioneer to speak in Nimbin

by Duuvy Jester

Michael Reynolds, a pioneer for off the grid sustainable architecture is heading to Australia this October where he will be presenting a series of talks and workshops on developments in ecological housing known as Earthship Biotecture.

Renowned for his dedication to creating environmentally friendly and self-sustainable forms of housing, Reynolds' work is the feature of the film *Garbage Warrior*, a documentary which highlights that we are at the tipping point in human history, where the need for progressive movements towards greener technologies and self sufficiency has never been more urgent.

Mike will visit various cities around the country and speak about the Earthship concept, a revolutionary approach to construction that allows people to be self sufficient and has grown into an international movement. His talk will be of interest to people seeking new solutions to issues such as indigenous housing, affordable housing, sustainable housing, do-it-yourself housing, community building projects and living off-grid.

## What is an Earthship?

An Earthship is a self-sufficient home or building that is built for the most part using locally-sourced, recycled materials such as car tyres, cardboard, aluminium cans, glass and plastic bottles.

Earthships use solar and wind power in order to be self-sufficient in terms of electricity. But they also reduce the amount of energy needed to run a home. They are built in accordance with the principles of solar passive design, while exploiting the benefits of thermal mass and natural convection (ventilation). Design elements such as a sunroom (greenhouse), underground cooling tubes, earth-berms and roof vents, create a stable



temperature year-round, cooling without air-conditioning and providing warmth without heating – a naturally comfortable building.

Rainwater is captured and stored for use in tanks, then filtered for drinking water and household use. Once used, the water is used for irrigation to grow food in an indoor greenhouse on the northern side of the home which is part of the passive solar design.

The indoor garden beds in the greenhouse clean the greywater naturally to a quality suitable for toilet flushing, thereby recycling (or "upcycling") the wastewater.

Finally, blackwater from the toilet flows outside to a septic tank and then to sub-surface irrigation systems for lawns, gardens and fruit trees. Therefore, there is no need to connect to mains water or the sewage system.

The ability to grow food indoors, year-round, inspires Earthship occupants to be more thoughtful about the chemicals they use (shampoo, conditioner, detergents etc), but moreover, to become more self sufficient in food – fresh, organic and home-grown! Even tropical fruits such as bananas can be grown during the harsh winters of Taos, New Mexico, USA, from where the concept originates.

At the core of the concept an active community has



grown and continues to thrive. Hundreds of people now live totally off-grid in Earthship communities in the USA.

Reynolds began developing this concept in the early 70s in Taos, which now serves as the headquarters of Earthship Biotecture. It has also become the base from which the Earthship Academy passes on the skills and knowledge to new generations. These workshops are regularly attended by people from across the world and all walks of life.

Training is also organised in other countries, with recent projects taking place in Indonesia and Colombia. Most recently, the first fully-fledged Earthship Academy building course in Europe, was conducted during July and August in Dordogne, France.

Earthships have been built as homes, community

centres, schools and even hurricane shelters in countries all around the world, from Malawi to Uruguay to the Philippines.

While there have been "Earthship-inspired" structures built in Australia, including Terraeden's Earthship outside Bundaberg and in Nimbin, there still has not been an official Earthship Biotecture project. Hopefully though, Michael Reynolds' tour will change that.

The Nimbin lecture will be held on 20th October at the Nimbin Town Hall on Cullen Street. The doors will open at 6.30pm. The talk will run for an hour and a half, followed by a break and then an hour of Q&A. Food and drink will be available at the venue.

For further enquiries and for information on where to get local tickets please contact me at Phone 0491-128-964 or email: [jesters.caviar@gmail.com](mailto:jesters.caviar@gmail.com)

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# Repair Cafe continues mending

This month's Repair Cafe at Djanbung Gardens will feature a workshop on welding and using the MIG welder donated by Bunnings, so bring your small welding jobs along.

The last cafe in August featured small motor maintenance and brought a number of lawnmowers and trimmers back to life, plus numerous tools and other items that were repaired.

The October cafe will be the final one for 2017 and the workshops will resume again in February next year.

A big thanks to everyone who has supported the inaugural year of Nimbin's Repair Cafe. Initiatives like this bring community together in a fun and practical way, sharing skills and empowering each other.



Nimbin Repair Cafe is held on Saturday 21st October, 11am-4pm at Djanbung Gardens, 74 Cecil Street, Nimbin. The Abundance Cafe will be open for light refreshments. Check

the Facebook group 'Nimbin Artists & Forgotten Arts' for details and confirmation of special skills support for mending things for this Repair Cafe.

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**In your neighbourhood...**

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

[www.nnic.org.au](http://www.nnic.org.au)

**Mental Health Month**

This year's theme is 'Share The Journey'. Connecting with others is important for our health and survival. Research tells us that feeling connected, valued and loved by others gives us a sense of security, support, purpose and happiness. One way we can do this is by offering a helping hand and giving more of our time to people and the community. This can be small everyday actions like holding the door open for someone or larger commitments like volunteering for a cause you're passionate about.

There are many organisations in Nimbin who rely on volunteers and would love to have you on board. For more info about volunteering around Nimbin drop in and see us at NNIC. For more info about Mental Health Month see <http://mentalhealthmonth.wayahead.org.au/about-mental-health-month>

**Sustainability Survey**

Many Nimbinites will remember completing our big long sustainability survey sometime between late September and November last year. Apologies for the delay, but the full Report on the Results of that survey is finally now available on line, (hard copies from NNIC), and it makes for a fascinating read. Check it out on our website – see 'About Nimbin' – 'Surveys' for the link.

**Nimbin Day of the Dead**

Come along to Nimbin Markets on Sunday 29th to celebrate those who have gone before us, plus pick up info on wills, power of attorney and grief and loss. Community members are invited to bring along pics of your departed loved ones including your furry family members, and flowers to add to the shrine/s on the day. Brought to you by Death and Beyond.

**7 Sibley Street update**

By the time this is published we will hopefully have our Construction Certificate. Then it is all systems go for Stage One. The first step will be to construct a retaining wall along the footpath edge. This will cause some temporary interruptions to footpath access along Sibley Street at the front of the site for safety reasons, and we apologise in advance for any

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inconvenience caused. Once the edge of the footpath is retained, the new footings will be constructed and then the old house will be prepared for its short journey across the site to its new location at the front.

We are looking for someone with a ute or similar and some volunteers to help us clear the site of the demolished old deck materials and some green waste. We are also putting a call out for more people with building skills to assist our builder with (careful) demos. Contact us at: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au)

**Nimbin Show and Sustainability Alley 2017**

Many thanks to Guy, Nat and Steph who made Sustainability Alley happen, to the Nimbin A&I Society who made the 98th Nimbin Show happen and to everyone who braved the un-seasonally hot weather to enter events, participate in activities and come along and be a part of it. Special thanks to Karly and crew for the Paddock to Plate Café. We hope to see you all next year.

**Best Shop Display**

And the winner is... Nimbin Hemp Embassy for the imaginative futuristic display – they receive the honour of hanging the coveted Perpetual Pumpkin Trophy in the shop until next year's show. Second place went to Lifestyle Real Estate for their scarecrow display and the Green Bank came in third for their very sweet show-themed diorama.

**Sustainable House Day and Tweed Home Expo**

Was held on 16th September 2017-around 1000 people came along to check out the Build It Local Design Competition entries, the Expo, attend workshops and Speed Date Designers. To see the Competition winners and pics from the day see: [www.sustainablehousedaynr.org](http://www.sustainablehousedaynr.org)

**Community Xmas Lunch 2017**

We are in need of donations of good quality gifts for kids aged up to 12 years. If you can help, please contact Gail Clarke via NNIC.

**Public access showers**

We are seeking quotes from licensed builders who would be interested in taking on the job of converting one of the public toilets into a shower. Please contact us at NNIC at: [admin@nnic.org.au](mailto:admin@nnic.org.au) if you would be interested in providing a quote.

**NNIC AGM**

Wednesday 15th November 2017  
5.30pm at NNIC. All members welcome.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals to support the community to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome. Lots of useful local and other info is available on our website. For appointments, phone 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.

**Nimbin Hospital information**

**Child immunisation clinic**

For 0-5 year olds, held on second Tuesday of the month. Next Clinic: 10th October. Phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre)

**Early childhood nurse**

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments phone 6620-7687.

**Women's health nurse services**

One Thursday a month. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6689-1400 for appointment.

**Wound clinic**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

**Cannabis clinic**

Every Monday. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

**Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist**

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

**Nurse practitioner clinics**

• Diabetes Clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 19th October.  
• Respiratory Clinic: second Tuesday of the month, next is 10th October. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

**Community Registered Nurses**

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6689-1288 – leave message, will return call swiftly.

**Nimbin NSP**

Needle and Syringe program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see Community Registered Nurse.

**Health advice line**

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

**Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary**

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the hospital, at 10am. Next meeting: 11th October. New members welcome.



# Sepsis education on song at local hospitals

## BUNK Health News

by Noelle Lynden-Way

World Sepsis Day was held globally on 13th September to promote the importance of early recognition of sepsis through hosting education sessions with nursing staff and management.

Sepsis is a medical emergency resulting from a patient's overwhelming inflammatory response to infection. It is a very serious condition that can be treated but the symptoms must be recognised immediately by medical staff.

Vicki Wale is the nurse educator at our local MPSs and each year she brings creativity, music and cake to her World Sepsis Day education sessions.

This year she dressed as torch singer Shirley Bassey and wrote and sang new words to the song 'Fever' to highlight the importance of recognising Sepsis.

This year World Sepsis Day focussed on early recognition and treatment for maternal, newborn and paediatric sepsis. For more information on Sepsis, please see the World Sepsis Alliance YouTube: <http://bit.ly/SepsisExplained>



### Fundraising

Hospital Auxiliaries are doing excellent work in our communities to support our health facilities.

Funds were raised in August for the Kyogle, Bonalbo and Urbenville MPSs by the three hospital Charity Mountain Bike Ride. This endurance ride was managed under the auspices of the Urbenville Hospital Auxiliary who also organised with the local hotel a BBQ dinner and a raffle for participants and local community members.

\$12,500 was raised in

### Vicki Wale (centre) and MPS Managers on World Sepsis Day

donations, and over the past five years of this event, \$75,000 has been raised for local hospitals.

In Kyogle in September the Semitones Choir concert and raffle monies totaling \$1200 were given to the Kyogle MPS Auxiliary for the Aged Care Unit. And at the Nimbin Show, the local Auxiliary again raised funds for their local MPS.

The United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW (UHA) is an incorporated organisation and a registered

charity with its own constitution, which has been going since 1933.

Each Auxiliary operates autonomously and raises money used to purchase a variety of equipment or services to improve the welfare of patients and staff at their local health care facility.

So if you see a table where raffle tickets are being sold by your local Auxiliary members, remember that the money raised will be going to improve services for everyone at your local MPS.

# Rebuilding the Nepalese village of Bolgaun



by Helen Simpson

There has been some successful recent fundraising by the Nimbin Nepal Relief Fund for rebuilding Bolgaun, devastated by the 2015 earthquake.

The monsoon this year has been severe, the road to the village is worse than ever apparently, and floods have created havoc with more casualties and devastation in Southern Nepal and Bangladesh as a result.

Having finished and paid for four earthbag houses in April, before the monsoon, the Nimbin Nepal Relief Fund is signing off with Good Earth Nepal Kathmandu for another four houses, and volunteers are ready to go as soon as the road opens. The first group is heading off at the end of October. Ideally, we are keen to raise enough to do another six houses this season.

The Classical Concert in Nimbin on 27th August organised by Tony Coiffet was awesome, thank you Tony and the musicians for donating your time: Bob Oort, Millie Simpson, Tony Gibson, Melanie Gershabach and Peter Warne. "A great way to spend a Sunday afternoon" was one comment. We raised almost \$2,500, nearly enough for one whole house.

Thank you to Tuntable Falls Community (Co-ordination Co-



operative) who have essentially donated a whole house, their second. I feel so blessed to live on this community.

Individual donations have been forthcoming and heartening and have included some quite large amounts. All money goes directly to the village and houses, though our fund is paying for one day of theoretical training in earthbags for volunteers, a jeep to the village, and tents. A local cook is hired in the village. Diet is very basic, dahl baht and some limited veg at times, so we also take extra food. Being off the tourist trail, there are no hotels or teahouses in the village.

Eight women volunteers and two men are going at this stage (ages from 12-82). Some more men would be advantageous as the bags are quite long and get heavy when filled. Plenty of work for everyone though, and having the volunteers is very motivating to the locals. They will be taking warm clothes for the local children, and more fruit trees and chickens.

Our aim is to skill up the locals, so they can help each other, and the volunteers in earthbag techniques. Although a labour intensive construction, it is very cheap, solid

(earthquake resistant) and recycled materials and earth from the sites can be used. One Nepali supervisor/foreman from Good Earth Nepal and a few other Nepali people from Kathmandu go up to help with translation.

So far, they love their houses; a young couple had a baby in the first house before the walls were finished and the second, an elderly couple who were injured in the earthquake. We have ideas about looking at these techniques for affordable housing in Australia.

Thank you fundraising and research team- Jan, Jo, Glen, Mick, Rachel, Ella, Zelly, Sabina and Cedar, and all those collecting clothes to take and knitting. If interested in volunteering contact Helen Simpson on 02 6689-1417, email: [helensim7@gmail.com](mailto:helensim7@gmail.com) The Good Earth Nepal webpage has great information about the buildings. The Remember Nepal Help Nepal Relief Fund is supported by the Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service auspiced by Nimbin Health and Welfare Association.

If you would like to donate, Summerland Credit Union BSB: 728728, Nimbin Nepal Relief Fund, account number: 22305642.

# NIMBIN BOWLO



25 Sibley Street  
Phone 6689-1250

## What's On in October?

- **Sunday 15th** – Visiting Club: Nth Rivers Fishing Club
- **Open Mike Nights** – Wednesdays 11th & 25th
- **Thursday Nights** – Entertainment with Joe Blow
- **Friday Nights** – Raffles, Entertainment
- **Social Bowls** – Sundays, 9am
- **Courtesy Bus** – Enquire at Bar
- **Social Membership** – \$5



### BOWLO BISTRO

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Sunday brunch
- Takeaways
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FOR APPOINTMENTS  
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**NR Climate change**

The climate change projections from the Nature Conservation Council in the NGT last month did not take into account important local factors.

In a report developed by Tweed Climate Action, we showed that regional modelling by CSIRO and OEH understate the impacts due to averaging, calendar seasonal analysis, exclusion of flood network rain gauges and other factors.

Average rainfall in the July through September period has already declined by 36% on the Far North Coast. When it does rain, the intensity has increased sharply, causing more rapid floods with less warning and higher peaks.

Over the next twelve years the frequency of heatwaves is likely to double, and the apparent summer period will stretch to five months. In some years, an extra 25 days above 35 degrees can be expected.

It is these extreme years coinciding with El Nino or La Nina events that will have the biggest impacts on people, wildlife and vegetation patterns. With a likely reversal of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation in the next few years, the pace of change is expected to accelerate.

Record hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico are an early sign of increasing storm intensity and a wake-up that we must redouble efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions despite Malcolm Turnbull.

Australians are amongst the highest emitters per person in the world, and unless we are prepared to lead, then other countries will lag. Half measures will not be enough.

The full analysis on North Coast climate modelling can be accessed at <https://tweedcan.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Adjustments-to-OEH-far-North-Coast-Climate-projections.pdf>

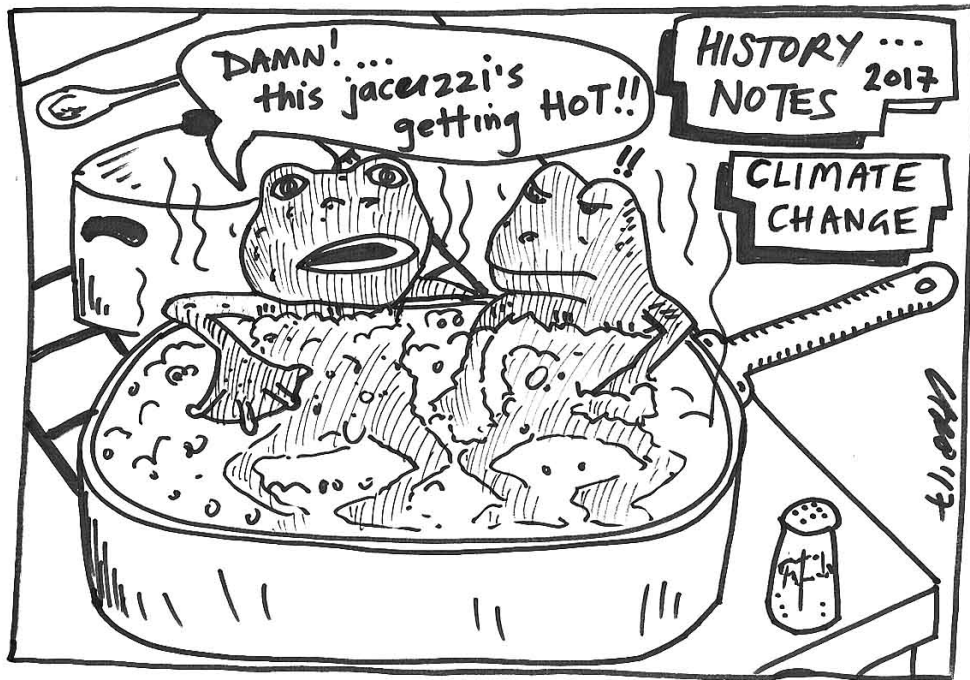
Greg Reid  
Mount Burrell

**Lobbyist questioned**

Would you vote for a party that is headed by a promoter of unnecessary, outdated, destructive industries that push up your electricity bill and threaten your future, and that of all future generations?

Larry Anthony is President of the National Party and former MP for Richmond. This party looks to the agricultural industry, farmers and rural communities for their support base... and their votes. The people most impacted by these projects.

He remains executive director of a company that works for coal and gas mining companies lobbying the government to proceed with destructive developments like Santos's 850 CSG wells



nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

currently threatening the water resources of the Great Artesian Basin so essential for the Narrabri farming community and far beyond.

And Shenhua's Watermark coal mine is still threatening the iconic Liverpool Plains food bowl and the livelihoods of that community. Not to mention Australia's future food security.

Sheila Parsons  
Bentley

**Rail can reduce emissions**

With all this talk about bike paths instead of rail in the Northern Rivers, it seems to be forgotten that climate change is happening right now and urgent action is needed.

Re-introducing rail in this country is essential to reducing emissions. Rail has been neglected for 40 years especially in NSW, because of road lobbyists.

An interview on ABC Radio National with engineer Frank Szabo called 'Reducing Transport Emissions' states, "In 2015, the transport sector overtook electricity generation as the biggest energy user in Australia. By far the biggest slice of these emissions is from road transport at 87 per cent. Cars alone account for 49 per cent. Rail is a highly efficient, low-friction mode of transport. In many cases, by using less energy, rail can give significant emission reductions compared to road transport."

With two million tourists

to Byron Bay every year, an increasing population and a huge number of trucks on the highway, we should immediately repair the Casino to Murwillumbah railway line for passenger and freight use. With a surplus of over \$4 billion, the NSW government could easily do this, but are still captive to the road industry.

The North Coast community and communities across NSW need to demand we turn to rail as the answer.

Beth Shelley  
Booerie Creek

**TOOT scaremongers**

Can we afford a train at the expense of ignoring or being unable to improve existing public transport?

How much financial support do bus companies require to be able to run commuter friendly buses early in the morning and the afternoon?

Would the governments be able to provide a higher level of funding to improve safety on our local roads if they poured hundreds of millions of dollars into the old railway?

TOOT and Northern Rivers Railway Action Group make a noise about improving public transport BUT concentrate solely on trains!

Large car companies are increasing their research and production of electric vehicles. Alternative energies are improving and becoming cheaper so I expect in the near future that not only cars but buses will also be powered by locally produced electricity.

TOOT and NRRAG are ignoring or obscuring three facts:

1. Restoration, running costs and ongoing maintenance for an old track are prohibitive;
2. The Tumbarumba rail trail legislation keeps that entire route in public hands, and could revert in the future to some form of public transport – even the Greens supported the legislation;
3. Just a fraction of the railway costs put into buses, community transport

etc would improve public transport across our whole region straight away.

It is time TOOT and NRRAG stop their scaremongering, cast aside their paranoia and support a transport system that will reach every small town and village in the Northern Rivers area and be achievable right away.

Richard White  
Lismore Sustainable Transport Group

**Rail costs overcooked**

In 2004 the NSW Labor Government removed the backbone of the Northern Rivers public transport network (ie the Casino to Murwillumbah railway line), leaving no major public transport infrastructure in the area.

The NSW Liberal National Government has estimated the cost of reinstating the 130km Casino to Murwillumbah rail line at \$900 million. That's more than \$6.5 million per km.

Equivalent disused regional heavy rail lines in Victoria have been reinstated for \$0.124 to \$0.265 million per km. This is 50 times less than the costs estimated by NSW Government. These inflated prices create an imbalance that favours roads over rail projects.

Massive over-estimation of rail project costs is hindering re-establishment of much needed public transport infrastructure in the region, and indicates both the Labor and Liberal National Parties' bias against rail projects and lack of a long term vision for transport planning.

Northern NSW needs effective, efficient rail services to link up our regional communities and create more employment and tourism opportunities.

David Norris  
Pottsville

**Thank you Nimbin**

I am writing to express my gratitude and heartfelt thankfulness to Nimbin

Notices

**Annual General Meetings**

• Nimbin Independent Media Inc (Nim-FM) AGM Thursday 26th October, 5.30pm in the Comskool room at the Nimbin Community Centre. All members welcome.

• Nimbin Aquarius Landcare Group AGM Friday 27th October, 12pm at the Nimbin Bush Theatre. All welcome.

**Bitcoin seminars re-scheduled**

Due to a high level of local interest, the Nimbin Bush Theatre had decided to move its monthly crypto-currency seminars to the first Saturday of every month to enable more people to attend. Next Seminar: Saturday, 4th November, beginners: 11am; more experienced: 12pm. Free entry.

**Meditation and energy transfer classes**

Join Jazmin for relaxing and healing meditation and energy transfer classes every Tuesday, 11am-noon at the Nimbin Community Centre, 81 Cullen Street. Donation. Phone 0427-822-128 for more information.

**Hire spaces**

The Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio and the Birth and Beyond Room are available for hire at \$11 per hour or \$33 per day, with a \$20 key deposit. Please phone 6689-0000 to make a booking.

**Coolest places in town**

Bottlebrush House, the rainbow-coloured building at the Nimbin Community Centre, is open to anyone suffering heat stress, 10am-4pm Monday to Friday on very hot days only. At the other end of town, the hospital waiting room is cool 24/7, and in the centre of town, the Neighbourhood Centre is air-conditioned 10am-4pm Monday to Friday. Don't risk heat exhaustion!

**Happy birthday**

Bruce Priddle, one of our oldest regular readers, turns 90 this month. Many more, mate.

and to the many beautiful souls who offered me such unconditional love and encouragement after my stand-up performance at the recent Fantasies Cabaret, produced so fabulously by Judy and Jaz Who.

I was deeply moved, and quite frankly, a bit overwhelmed by the amazing response from so many Nimbinites. All the sharing and connections after the show has profoundly deepened my love and adoration for all that Nimbin stands for, as a way-showing community for the whole wide world.

You inspire me to set aside that which I have used to hide behind and to the best of my ability I shall continue to live the "yes" vote you have all just given me.

In deepest gratitude, thank you Nimbin.

Amalyana Dee  
Uki

**Same sex marriage**

Most people tolerate two people of the same gender doing whatever in privacy. However, legalising same sex marriage is going too far.

Can't gay couples be given the same legal rights as defacto/married couples except the right to raise children? Every child needs a father and mother so they can grow up knowing how to relate to the opposite sex. Many children of gay marriages are now bravely speaking out about this.

If SSM is legalised, schools will be forced into the 'Safe Schools' program teaching gay and lesbian sexual activity by getting very young children to role play in a same sex relationship. This will make puberty a nightmare.

Where are childrens' rights? Young children are being asked to decide their own gender – how confusing! How much harder will it be for our

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NGT is auspiced by Nimbin Community School Co-op Ltd., 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**Wednesday 25th October**

Email [nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com](mailto:nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com) or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

kids to find a heterosexual mate to reproduce with if homosexuality is normalised?

Normal parents have the right to protect their children against politically correct communist ideologies at school. So parents need to speak up now.

Obviously normalising SSM results in decreasing human reproduction (part of the global elite's agenda and Agenda 21).

SSM is too much of a social experiment with no known long-term consequences. Why not wait and see how it's working in other countries first? Otherwise the result could be potentially catastrophic, especially as our Islamic population grows to the point where Sharia law is implemented. Sharia law calls for death to homosexuals.

More depopulation anybody?

Menkit Prince  
Uki

## Unvaccinated exclusions

Further to my letter last month titled 'Vaccinations', the NSW Parliament has now passed a Bill making it mandatory to exclude all children that aren't fully vaccinated from preschools as of 1st January 2018.

This legislation will also allow Public Health Officers to exclude non-vaccinated children from secondary schools when there is a disease outbreak.

As a result of these changes, children who are "unvaccinated" due to their parents' conscientious objection will no longer be able to be enrolled in early childhood education;

including preschool and day cares.

In a recent statement, Minister for Health Brad Hazzard said, "All it takes is one unvaccinated child and dozens of others could be put at risk of serious illness", and "...we are being very clear that choices of conscientious objectors, which are not evidence based, will no longer be allowed to impact other families."

So, it is still legal to be a conscientious objector to vaccinations and you still have a choice whether or not to vaccinate your children BUT they will not be allowed to access early childhood education services if they haven't had every single childhood vaccination listed in the NSW Immunisation Schedule.

Sebastien Sledge  
Lillian Rock

• Ed's note: Sebastien's letter last month was wrongly attributed to Scott Sledge.

## Recognising protests

A great historical account 'Remembering Nightcap' by Sophia Hoeben (NGT September), and a story that should not be forgotten.

The Terania and Mt Nardi protests (1979-1982) brought a major change at the time in NSW government policy and the foundations of the National Parks of northern NSW, which now so many enjoy. These protests to save the rainforests from logging are recognised by many as the first historical recorded community actions for the protection of rainforests worldwide in western

societies.

They have a significant place in not only local history but our national history.

They were the inspiration of other forest protection activities to follow. They were indeed recorded nationwide at the time and internationally. Sadly, there seems to be some systematic attempt to now erase this positive moment from history. National Parks as an arm of government does little to recount the significant protest events on its website for regional parks information and history, nor actually little at the parks and areas where the protests occurred. This needs to be corrected.

The 2018 Aquarius Festival is a great opportunity for the community to once again rally and give tribute to those (still with us) who took part in those historical protests.

The festival in its 45th year could start a campaign to raise funds for some form of large monument to be placed at the park at Protestors Falls (and later Mt Nardi), and possibly some large murals in Nimbin and The Channon to remind visitors and new locals of the historical significance of these regional community protest actions against rainforest destruction.

Not only could this help history not to be forgotten or erased but also add a new facet to local eco-tourism and visitation to the area. This local and national history needs to be recognised and promoted and a local remembrance action group might even be formed

to steer the recognition campaign.

Trevor Reece  
Kingscliff

## Tweed transport issues

Congratulations to Tweed mayor Katie Milne re the rails on track meeting. It proved a point that we need the trains back.

Geoff Provest and Thomas George should get their act together and make it happen, as both have done little for the Tweed Shire, only putting a police station in the CBD of Tweed Heads with poor access to the rest of the region.

Get the person who wants to invest \$90 million in Lismore Square, to be washed away in the next big flood, to invest in the rail service, including a sky rail along the Tweed River to the Gold Coast Airport – what a way to bring tourists into the area.

I'm disappointed taxpayers' monies are being wasted on changing the Marriage Act. It would have been better spent on finishing Kirkwood Road to Fraser Drive.

Then get Murwillumbah back as our central hub of the Tweed Shire again, before it becomes a ghost town.

Come on you negative councillors, do something for the prosperity of the Tweed.

Gordon Lee  
Tweed Heads

## TICKS WANTED

Unengorged FEMALE\* paralysis ticks wanted, \$2.00 each.

Deliver to Lismore Vet Clinic

22 Uralba St, Lismore Ph: 6622-0033



## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### Nimbin Market Co-ordinator

NCCI are seeking Expressions of Interest from anyone interested in co-ordinating the Nimbin Market.



The markets operate on the 4th & 5th Sunday of each month.

The role incurs monthly expenses of approximately \$300 which covers the following costs:

- Insurance
- Electricity
- Management of bookings and enquiries through the NCCI office
- Grounds hire
- Music
- Grounds maintenance
- Council DA
- Bin management

The approximate gross income is currently between \$500-\$600 per month depending on stall numbers. This generally doubles on months with a 5th Sunday.

The market has great potential to expand significantly. NCCI would like to find someone with the skills and vision to build on the current foundation and create a thriving market for the Nimbin community and our visitors.

Please forward all Expressions of Interest including any relevant experience to: [ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au](mailto:ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au)

For further information, please contact the Nimbin Community Centre Co-ordinator on: (02) 6689-0000.

## Remembering Brian Bellion

Brian Richard Bellion was born at Cronulla 69 years ago. Brian's childhood wasn't easy or carefree. He was mostly raised in children's homes, some of which were run by the Salvation Army.

When Brian was still quite young, he ran away from home and became a street kid in Sydney. Fortunately, some homeless alcoholics took him under their wing and cared for the young boy, keeping him safe.

When Brian wasn't living in foster homes, he lived with his grandmother, who was a positive influence on his life. Here he learnt to swim and surf, which developed into a love of water that continued into his adult life.

With his flowing blond hair and surfer image, Brian was a natural choice as a model for Bolle sunglasses. He later worked as a fashion designer for Supre and won a David Jones award for his designs. He used his artistic talent

to set up creative workshops for women in Byron Bay who had suffered abuse.

In the 1960s, Brian went



to Bali, not only for the good surfing, but to avoid being called up for the Vietnam war. Then in the early 70s he moved to Nimbin, where he was one of the original Aquarius hippies.

Brian has the courage to speak out against injustice where he saw it. His constant phone calls to Bob Hawke's office resulted in a change to

child custody laws.

Brian made friends easily and connected well with people. He was interested in numerology, and invented a 'Navigator' system he used to help people connect and bond with each other.

However, he also loved his solitude, and would often retreat to his tree-house that he had built.

When he was diagnosed with cancer two years ago, Brian was determined to fight the disease, trying all types of medications, both traditional and alternative. Friends Merryn and Ron cared for him, making his life as comfortable and stress-free as possible for him.

Brian's death on 13<sup>th</sup> September has left a huge gap in the lives of those who loved and cared for him.

Ron said, "Brian loved love", and you can't ask for more than that in a person. A memorial service was held at Kyogle Uniting Church on 20th September.

## Notification of Proposed nbn Fixed Wireless Facility

The nbn™ is an upgrade to Australia's existing telecommunications network. It's designed to provide Australians with access to fast, affordable and reliable internet and landline phone services as quickly and as cost effectively as possible. As part of the Fixed Wireless Network, nbn™ is proposing to establish a series of fixed wireless facilities to provide high quality fixed wireless broadband services to customers in the rural and rural / urban fringe areas of the Lismore City Council Local Government Area.

As part of the Fixed Wireless Network, nbn™ is proposing to establish a radio network base station at Lot 2 on DP1011886, described as 1 Stanger Road, Stony Chute NSW 2480 to provide high quality wireless broadband services to customers in the surrounding locality.

The facility proposed will involve the installation of –

- A 45m monopole;
- Three (3) panel antennas;
- One (1) parabolic dish antenna; and
- Associated radio equipment housed in small shelters adjacent to the monopole.

nbn™ regards the proposed monopole as Complying Development under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* and the associated antenna and equipment facilities as Exempt Development under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007*. The site does not require planning approval from Lismore City Council.

For general info on the nbn™ please visit our website at [www.nbn.com.au](http://www.nbn.com.au)

Further information on this specific proposal can be obtained from James Duncan on 1300 745 210 or [nbnwirelessqld@visionstream.com.au](mailto:nbnwirelessqld@visionstream.com.au)

Closing date for public comments will be 27 October 2017



[nbn.com.au](http://nbn.com.au)