



## Bonalbo Multipurpose Service Program Revitalising Rural Health

COMMUNITY UPDATE

AUGUST 2017

### Milestone event for Bonalbo MPS

The Member for Lismore, Thomas George this month laid a ceremonial brick in the new Bonalbo Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) as part of a Topping Out ceremony to mark the completion of the new facility's roof.



*Pictured, Thomas George, MP, lays a ceremonial brick to mark the completion of the Bonalbo MPS roof and structural frame.*

Work is progressing to schedule on the multi-million-dollar project with Stage 1, comprising 15

residential aged care beds, a 24-hour emergency department, inpatient beds and consultations rooms, due for completion by the end of the year.

Stage 2, comprising 'back of house' staff facilities, kitchen, and staff accommodation is due for completion mid-2018.

**Stage 1 on track  
for completion  
December 2017**

The completion of the roof, structural framing, and internal framework marks a significant milestone for the project and

provides the community with a glimpse into how the finished building will look.

The Bonalbo MPS project has brought a range of employment opportunities to the region, particularly for the Aboriginal community.

To date, there has been the equivalent of 28 full-time positions created, totaling more than 20,000 work hours.

This includes two full-time Aboriginal staff members - one working as the administrative site assistant, and the other employed as a site supervisor.

There have also been several Aboriginal sub-contractors during the past six months, which is believed to be a good outcome for the local Aboriginal communities.



*Northern NSW Local Health District Chief Executive Wayne Jones addresses community members and dignitaries at the Bonalbo MPS milestone event.*



## Cyclists peddle into Bonalbo MPS to make a donation

Thirty cyclists arrived at the Bonalbo MPS recently to make their annual donation to the hospital.

Organisers Marcel Little, Francis O'Reilly, and Greg Watson have been co-ordinating the three-day charity bike ride from Kyogle to Bonalbo to Urbenville and back to Kyogle for the past five years, with \$73,000 raised to date for the three MPS facilities.

Mr Little said each year about \$15,000 was raised for the Kyogle, Urbenville and Bonalbo health facilities, with the riders spending their first night of the three-day 250km fundraising ride in Bonalbo.



*Pictured, members of the charity bike ride with Bonalbo staff*

"We've been doing this ride for the past five years, riding from Kyogle to Bonalbo on Day 1, Bonalbo to Urbenville on Day 2, and then Urbenville back to Kyogle on Day 3," Mr Little said.

"We all enjoy the ride and, with help from our sponsors, we can raise funds for our hospitals."

## Community consultation for Aboriginal Garden

Members of the Bonalbo MPS Project team visited Jubullum Village, Tabulum recently to discuss the proposed Aboriginal Garden contained within the MPS landscaping.

The location, suitable plants, and the concept of selecting a name for the garden in the local Wahlabul dialect was discussed.

Ongoing consultation with Jubullum Elder, and Keeper of the Language, Uncle Harry Walker, will be held in the coming weeks to determine a suitable name.



*Pictured, from left, Decmil Australia Project Manager Chris Kotyka, Landscape Architect Nick Alderson, Jubullum residents Judy and Krystal, Bonalbo MPS Executive Officer Nancy Martin, and Health Infrastructure Project Director David Bedingfield.*