



Bonalbo Multipurpose Service Program Revitalising Rural Health

COMMUNITY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2017

Excitement builds as Stage 1 nears completion

Staff of Bonalbo Hospital are starting to feel the nervous twitter of excitement as the impending move from the old hospital to the new Bonalbo MPS looms just around the corner.

Construction work is anticipated to be completed in December, with the decanting and commissioning process then commencing.

"Like any move, there is quite a lot that has to be done in preparation for the relocation," Northern NSW Local Health District MPS Network Executive Officer/



Nurse Manager Cheryl Ducat, left, and EO/DON Nancy Martin.

Director of Nursing (EO/DON) Nancy Martin said.

"The existing Bonalbo Hospital was opened more than 25 years ago, so there has been a lot of old equipment, paper work and office furniture that has built up over the years.

"The new Bonalbo MPS will be a contemporary, state-of-the-art facility with new, modern equipment and furniture.

"Currently our staff are sorting through what will be transferred across to the new MPS, relocated to elsewhere in the Health District, or disposed and discarded."



The nurses work station being installed.

The Project Team seek your patience during the construction of the Bonalbo MPS and wish to advise that strategies are in place to keep disruption to a minimum.

For inquiries contact Lee McDougall on 0429 422 873.



REMINDER:

The speed limit within the hospital and nursing home grounds is 10kph.



A new home for a small slice of Bottle Creek history

Bottle Creek's Beverley Smith struggles now to pinpoint the exact year that the Bonalbo Hospital received its new theatre light, but she is fairly confident that it is "at least 45 years ago, maybe closer to 50".

Mrs Smith was pleased to learn that the old theatre light, which has graced the ceiling of the Bonalbo Hospital's Emergency Department for the past two decades, will be donated to the Kyogle Historical Society prior to the demolition of the existing Bonalbo Hospital.

"My father-in-law Frank Smith was one of the Trustees of the Bottle Creek Hall," Mrs Smith said. "The decision was made to sell off the Hall as the cost of maintaining it and paying for the (Public Liability) insurance was becoming too costly.

"So the Trustees decided to donate the proceeds from the sale of the Hall to the hospital, with the money used to buy the theatre light."

As was often the case 50 years ago in small, remote, rural hospitals, the Doctor was often called upon to also be a surgeon, performing a range of minor surgical procedures for the local community.

The theatre light was originally located in the old Community Health building, prior to it being relocated with the construction of the new Bonalbo Hospital in 1991—with it remaining in the Emergency Department ever since.

Keen to avoid the light being destroyed with the demolition of the hospital, the Bonalbo MPS project



team contacted the Kyogle Historical Society, who became the trustees of Bonalbo's history when the Bonalbo Historical Society folded, to see if they would accept a donation of the light. Thankfully, the answer was: "Yes"!

"I'm so pleased the light will be saved," Mrs Smith said.

"The history of the Bottle Creek Hall and the purchase of the light for the hospital is significant from the local community's perspective so I am glad the story won't be lost."

Note: The Bonalbo Hospital will be demolished early next year as part of Stage 2 construction of the new Bonalbo MPS, which will see the building extended to provide 'back of house' facilities including kitchen, laundry, administration areas, staff kitchen, and Ambulance bay.