

NEWS BRIEFS

Birth options

THE Northern Rivers Maternity Action Group will hold its next meeting on Wednesday from 10am until noon at the Lismore Workers Club.

The group will be discussing birth options available to women on the Northern Rivers and how they can be best suited to our community.

Everyone is welcome to join the meeting and support the group.

For more information contact Vicki on 6689 5783 or Sandy on 6628 7002.

Become a carer

PEOPLE who are interested in the care and conservation of local wildlife are encouraged to attend an upcoming training day being organised by the Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers.

It will be held on April 18 at Wollongbar, from 9am to 4pm, and costs \$7.50.

New members can join on the day for an annual cost of \$15.

Due to licensing restrictions, new members must be over 18 years of age.

To book or for further information, please ring Karin on 6688 0118.

Entries closing

ENTRIES for the 2007 Telstra Business Awards close on Friday, April 20, and Telstra is urging North Coast businesses not to miss out on the chance to share in \$400,000 worth of prizes.

For more information on filling out the entry form, businesses should call 1800 262 323 during business hours, or visit www.TelstraBusinessAwards.telstra.com



NEW BEGINNING: Ron Woodham, NSW Corrective Services Commissioner, and Probation and Parole officer Viviane Fahs at the Casino RSM Club. Mr Woodham was in Casino last week to discuss progress on construction of the new Tabulam jail. Picture: HELEN JACK

Tabulam's new jail ready for early opening in July

Staff accommodation now complete as town prepares to house 70 inmates in State's newest correctional facility

By HELEN JACK

helen.jack@northernstar.com.au

NSW CORRECTIVE Services Commissioner Ron Woodham says Tabulam's new jail is progressing well.

"It is ahead of schedule," said Mr Woodham.

"We are hoping that it will be finished by the end of July and we are now in the process of appointing a manager for the facility."

Mr Woodham said the staff accommodation was now complete.

"The facility will accommo-

date 70 inmates, both male and female."

Women inmates with children will be able to have their children with them at the Tabulam facility.

The jail was the reason 100 probation and parole officers and psychologists met at the

Casino RSM Club last week.

Discussing the logistics of returning psychologists to Probation and Parole offices from the State's 27 correctional facilities, Commissioner Woodham was excited at the change.

"Probation and Parole has a presence in Casino so this change will help this community too," he said.

Thirty-four psychologists will be moved into the com-

munity, with over 150 psychologists in total being employed by the department.

Probation and parole officer Viviane Fahs said staff from the two departments, Corrective Services and Probation and Parole, were working together to make the change.

She said offenders in jail often had to wait three months for assessment by a psychologist.

Telstra

Country Wide

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1800 687 829

Primex's popularity could force it to seek a bigger site

By RACHEL AFFLICK

rachel.afflick@northernstar.com.au

PRIMEX is becoming so popular organisers say the exhibition could be moved to an even bigger site in future years.

Still two months away, the event, to be held in Casino from June 14-16, is already 90 per cent booked.

Primex marketing director Bruce Wright said spaces were selling even faster than last year's event, which sold out.

More than one-third of exhibitors had also committed to Primex for three to five years.

"It shows great confidence in the region and in the event," Mr Wright said.

"It's exciting for us to put on a show which is in line to be booked out and, looking at it from the other perspective it is great news for the North Coast and means a great injection into the local economy."

Because Primex was booked out in 2006, and heading down the same path this year, the organisers, Exhibition

Marketing, said they would be looking at what kind of 'improved opportunities' they could offer exhibitors in the future.

They are currently gauging interest from potential stakeholders on the North Coast to house a purpose-built Primex facility.

"Our intention is to stay close to Casino, but if opportunities come up in the immediate area we'd at least have to consider it," Mr Wright said.

The 2007 event will remain at its current Casino site.

Touted as '10 exhibitions in one', this year's Primex will include everything from agricultural machinery, cars and 4WDs to livestock, finance and education products, clothing and more.

The biggest exhibition of its kind on the North Coast, Primex 2007 is expected to inject several million dollars into the local economy and will feature \$90 million dollars worth of equipment on display over the three days, including new exhibitors and new equipment not seen before.

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