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TALK AT PLANNING MEETING RE: NTH BYRON PARKLANDS 10.12.18

OCEAN SHORES COMMUNITY CENTRE 10.30am

Speaker 20 – Tina Petroff/Ocean Shores Tidy Town Committee

For 6 yrs now, Nth Byron Parklands have been working hard behind the scenes to establish a world class, sustainable arts and cultural centre.

They've had to agree to, and work through, hundreds of conditions from BSC, which other event sites like the Blues & Roots Fest do not have to comply with. They're continually improving their 660 acre property, which, only a decade ago was a degraded cattle and sugarcane farm.

They've listened to locals and the wider community and improved roads internally and externally to get better traffic flow, installed expensive directional sound systems so those who don't attend get a good nights sleep, provided portable wi-fi poles for patrons, they've provided nearly 500 composting toilets and nearly 200 solar showers for patrons, and taught patrons and the wider community how to reforest the degraded property that they have cared for, for years now. It's an expensive endeavour, even though they don't know if they have a permanent place here, but they're willing to have a go for a better outcome for their patrons at this event site, and for the good of the local community and economy.

They're continually giving back to local groups with grants and funding each year, more than most people realise. If it wasn't for their generosity, Ocean Shores would still not have a children's playground and public toilets nearly 50 years after the town was established. Splendour donated the full \$15,000 to engage a specialist Playscape Designer that began the process and the professional consultation that all local Schools were involved in to find out exactly what our kids wanted in a Playscape, and now we finally have public toilets, public BBQ facilities, park seating and so far, our requested play equipment in a beautiful, natural, social space in Ocean Shores.

I don't know of any other town in Australia that had to wait 50 years for public toilets and proper playspace facilities. It's hard to watch 3 generations of kids miss out on play equipment, and until people realise how important this Park is for our kids and this community, you wont fully understand how important and generous Splendour donations are.

Splendour donations to our Tidy Town Team, provided mowers, brush cutters and harnesses, and replenished the tools we needed to continue our Landcare work in 4 public Reserves in Ocean Shores after 26 years of volunteering. We receive no support from Byron Council, so these community grants make our Landcare work so much easier.

I listen to many young people I've met when I've attended a number of Splendour and Falls Festival events @ Nth Byron Parklands, and I hear that Splendour has one of the best names in event management too, and students of event management flock from all parts of this country and around the world to learn their strategies. Everyone works from the ground up, learning recycling, repurposing and litter reduction, collecting rubbish throughout the events, and it's amazing what patrons leave behind. Hundreds of rubber boots, sleeping bags, tents, camping chairs and tables, blow-up mattresses, blankets and linen, and all are collected and laundered and given to many homeless youth in this area through their alliance with the Social Futures Connecting Homes Program. This is just one of many organisations, sports groups, Schools, Community Gardens, Junior Surf Life Saving, Neighbourhood Centres, Bruns Rescue Services, Homeless Shelters & Breakfasts, local Men's Sheds, Youth Theatre, Wires Wildlife Care, Meals on Wheels, Landcare and so many more community initiatives that they have supported over the past 17 years.

Wouldn't it be great if all levels of government supported us so well from petrol taxes, or parking fees for instance ?

They have their own Information Centre, and provide outing ideas and transport to local tourist adventures to encourage their patrons to experience more out of a day in the Byron Shire, and countless businesses benefit from this initiative too.

It's a great legacy to pass on to this community for sustainability, unity and the values we hold dear in vision and goals for strategic planning in Ocean Shores.

We support North Byron Parkland's Mod 5 Concept Approval proposal MP 09_0028, and we hope they are successful with their proposal for a permanent Art & Cultural Centre at Nth Byron Parklands, and we want them to know nomatter what happens after this day, many communities, especially those in the north of the Byron Shire will always be grateful for their support.

Tina Petroff

President
Ocean Shores Tidy Town Committee