



IN THIS ISSUE

Local News
PAGE 2

Local News and What's Coming
up
PAGE 3

Vaccination News, Next Issue
and Vaxfacts
PAGE 4



First issue

Welcome to the first issue of NRVS News, a way for our group to stay up to date with all the great work that is being achieved by our group in our region, as well as vaccination issues more generally.

I'll try and stay across what's happening in the group, but if you have news or photos that you would like to share for the next newsletter, feel free to send it through.



Sarah
NRVS News
lady

What's happening at the NRVS?

We are now a group of 225 strong, like minded and concerned community members.

As we enter our second year, our membership continues to grow in numbers steadily, as does our presence in the community and in the media.

On the NRVS horizons:

- Continued lobbying of the local, state and federal government on issues surrounding vaccination, including third trimester pertussis boosters, copayment etc.
- Increasing community awareness of our group to provide education and support.
- Working with local public health unit and other community groups to ensure ongoing efforts to increase vaccination rates in our area.



Northern Rivers Update

DID YOU KNOW?

Preservatives are used in some vaccines to prevent bacterial or fungal contamination. The need for this arose from many incidents in the early 20th century of children who developed severe and occasionally fatal bacterial infections after administration of vaccines contained in multi-dose vials. Because we use preservatives, issues like these are a thing of the past



Poster Presentation at the National Immunisation Conference

In a big step forward for the NRVS, Alison Gaylard has recently presented a poster on the NRVS at the 14th National Immunisation Conference. This was met with great enthusiasm and positivity, as well as making some great contacts. Well done and thank you Alison!



NRVS in the media

For a relatively small group, we've had quite the media presence. Since our 1st birthday and media release in May, we've have several media opportunities. Including but not limited to:

- Heidi Robertson's piece in The Skeptic Mag (get your copy here if you're interested: <http://www.skeptics.com.au/publications/magazine/>)
- Kathy McGrath, discussing 3rd trimester boosters on ABC <http://tinyurl.com/opocnty>

- Debs Proctor has done a recent piece on Kidspot as well as in the Tweed Daily News: <http://tinyurl.com/lqummh>
- Following our press release, Alison Gaylard and Trevor Lowe were on ABC North Coast Radio
- Here's Dr Rachel Heap in the Daily Tele from last year: <http://tinyurl.com/kxko7x3>

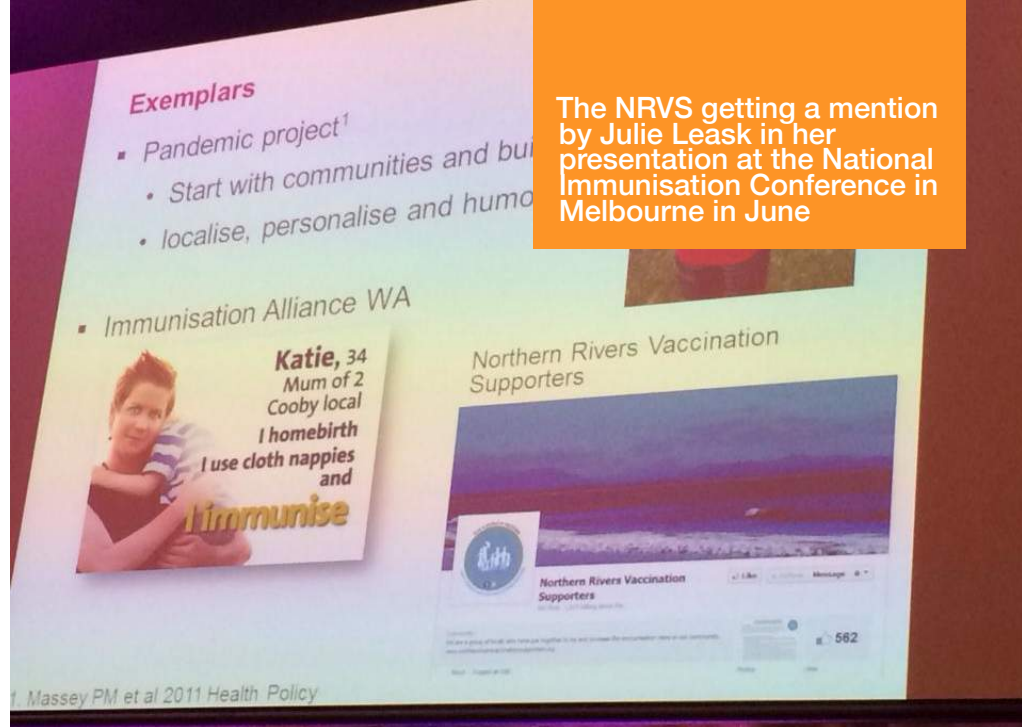
Feedback re: NRVS

"I was listening to your interview on ABC radio this morning and would like you to know that as a grandparent with my grandchildren living locally that I was encouraged with the interview and what you are doing. At long last our local ABC is allowing a pro vaccination view to be aired on radio."

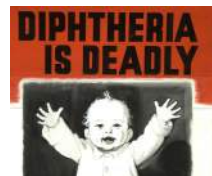


What else have we been up to?

- Letter of complaint has been sent to RBWH regarding their link to the AVN in their birthing booklet - Thanks to Belinda for bringing this to our attention.
- Letter to the NSW Minister for Health has been sent in the wake of QLD funding third trimester pertussis boosters, urging NSW to consider the same
- Thanks to a great idea from Kathryn, we are in the process of collating information regarding the immunisation clinics in our area to put on our website.
- Rebel has been spreading the vaccination word via the Kidspot website. Check it out here: <http://tinyurl.com/mmeez5b>



The NRVS getting a mention by Julie Leask in her presentation at the National Immunisation Conference in Melbourne in June



In the coming weeks...

Poster drop

We continue to spread the word of our group across the region, at GP and immunisation clinics, as well as around the neighbourhood more generally, childcare centres etc.

If you are available to put up some flyers in your local area, please PM Alison (via the group page) your details and she will post you some, or send us an email to NRVS.Group@mail.com

We are also testing some of our memes, to see how effective these might be in our population, and so we might see the roll out of these across the Northern Rivers also.

Brisbane Skepticamp

Our lovely admin Alison Gaylard will be giving a talk about the NRVS at the Brisbane Skepticamp on the 19th of July. Heidi White will also be presenting regarding chiropractic.

They are currently sold out for the event, but the website states to email the organisers if you are keen to attend.

See <http://brisskepticamp.org> for more info.

Chasing responses from:

- Today show re: flu story
- Channel 9 re: whooping cough
- RBWH re: birthing booklet

It takes a village to raise a child



in turn, vaccinated children protect that village.

Community immunity matters.



NEXT ISSUE

Update on progress re: third trimester pertussis boosters

Update on Men B vaccination being added to schedule

Find out what our admins have been getting up to

Progress of the NRVS Poster campaign across GP sites and the community

Getting to know our members with member profiles

Vaccination News

Dengue Fever Vaccine showing promise

Recent trials published in the Lancet in July 2014 show that a dengue fever vaccine being developed is currently 56% effective.

What is dengue fever?

Dengue fever is a viral illness carried by infected mosquito's and subsequently transmitted to humans.

The CDC estimates there are up to 400 million cases per year (mostly in tropical and subtropical regions), and there is no specific treatment or available vaccine.

It is occasionally fatal, particularly if the individual develops dengue haemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome.

Meningococcal Vaccine made compulsory for college students in Missouri

In what may be seen as a controversial move, Missouri has just passed a law to make Meningococcal vaccination compulsory for all college students living on campus, by July 2015.

What should I say if someone asks me about mercury in vaccines?

- *Thiomersal is a mercury containing preservative*
- *The mercury (thiomersal) in vaccines is different to the type of mercury than can accumulate in our body and become toxic*
- *The only vaccines in Australia containing thiomersal are Engerix-B (HepB) and one multi use Influenza vaccine, so concerned parents can avoid thiomersal completely if they wish*
- *Scientific studies have shown that Thiomersal does NOT cause Autism*

Vaxfacts

Refusing vaccines because they have mercury in them is like refusing to drink water because hydrogen and oxygen are explosive.

Here is some chemistry to explain;



ELEMENTS		COMPOUNDS	
Hydrogen H ⁺ Chemical element. Gas. Explosive		Water H ₂ O	
Oxygen O ₂ Chemical element. Gas. Explosive. Vital for life.		Thiomersal C ₉ H ₉ HgNaO ₂ S	
Carbon C Chemical element. Building block of all life. And diamonds		Methylmercury CH ₃ Hg ⁺	
Mercury Hg Chemical element. Liquid metal.			

AND, no vaccine on the childhood schedule, other than a multi-use influenza vaccine used in epidemics, and Engerix-B (one brand of a hepatitis B vaccine) contains thiomersal.