



media release
EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY JANUARY 18, 2019

NIGHTQUARTER TO CLOSE 1 FEBRUARY, 2019

The highly successful and much loved NightQuarter Helensvale has announced the venue will be closing its iconic container doors on 1 February, 2019 after failing to reach agreement with its landlord, SCentre over a massive rental increase.

Devastated owners, Michelle Christoe and Ian Van der Woude have been forced to make the heartbreaking decision after SCentre, owners and operators of Westfield Australia and New Zealand, delivered their contract extension with a rent increase of over double what they are currently paying.

The husband and wife duo are bitterly disappointed they couldn't reach a compromise and terms that worked for both parties.

"We had an agreement for an extended term at the site subject to agreement on revised rent. The landlord was seeking more than double the rent for an extended five-year term. We tried numerous times to negotiate a revised agreement that worked for both parties, even directly contacting SCentre CEO, Mr Peter Allen, however there was limited opportunity to get to a deal that would have enabled us to stay at Helensvale." Mr Van der Woude said.

Mr Van der Woude goes on to stress "Michelle and I are disappointed and saddened that we weren't able to keep NightQuarter at Helensvale. We have invested so much into the venue both financially and emotionally over the past three years."

"We looked at all the options, but in the end we needed to make a decision that was in the best interest of the company, our employees and our community of stallholders. We would have gone broke if we accepted what Scentre were offering."

For NightQuarter to accept the higher rent under the new agreement, they would have to pass on increases of over double to their vendors, many of whom are family run micro-businesses: which would be completely unfeasible and unrealistic for them.

Before making the final decision, the NightQuarter owners have been searching extensively for an alternate site on the Gold Coast; but have not yet been able to secure anything suitable.

NIGHTQUARTER

In addition to the increase in rent, there was a requirement for the owners of NightQuarter to undertake extensive infrastructure work to the site so that the Development Approval could be extended with council.

The venue has been under threat to close its entertainment due to noise issues with Liquor Licensing. To resolve the problem additional building works costing approximately \$500,000 were required. Such a spend could not be justified by the owners; particularly in an environment where competing activity has tripled with more and more free and subsidized events being hosted by the Gold Coast City Council including the new Major Events Gold Coast and HOTA.

Ms Christoe wanted to express that she felt privileged and humbled by the interest and support from the many local artists, the broader music community as well as the various media outlets who helped get them started when they commenced operation in November 2015.

She also wanted to thank the many partners in the community who helped make NightQuarter an icon for both the local community and visiting tourists, including Gold Coast Tourism, BlankGC, Queensland Tourism and Events, Oztix, Energy Entertainment, Magic Castle, Hula Hut and particularly, Aurora Training, whose partnership saw many young trainees land their first job in hospitality making them job ready for when they finalized high school.

NightQuarter will continue to operate until 1 February 2019, with a huge line up to celebrate the achievements over the last 3 years and say good-bye to the Helensvale community that they have come to love so much.

18 January NightQuarter Spectacular, Roving Fire, Elektrik Lemonade, Emily Brieger, Obi Sun and Mudslide

19 January Summer Ice Cream Festival featuring Icecream food trail with all the nostalgic classics like ice cream rolls, frozen yogurt, ice cream filled donuts, loaded ice cream cups, ice cream cocktails, dutch pancakes with icecream, ice cream cookie sandwiches, honey puffs with ice cream, ice cream donut sliders and more!. Entertainment will include NightQuarter Spectacular, Roving fire, Sunny Coast Rude Boys, Dual Frequency, Elska, Liv Heyer and Harry J Hart PLUS School holiday workshops: Living Art (adults) and Kids Painting.

25 January Patrick Topping & Eats Everything – ticketed Live in The Paddock only. The NightQuarter market features a roving fire show, Liv Heyer, Harry J Hart and Three Piece Band.

26 January Australia Day Fest BBQ, Beats and Beers. Will be a ripper of a night with Cockroach races, thong throwing, dunny roll throwing, sausage sizzle, snag eating competition, The Aussie Magician and Cozy the Koala, Kids Aussie Animal Painting Workshops. Entertainment will be featuring

NIGHT QUARTER

NightQuarter Spectacular, Roving Fire, Classic rock with Prime Ministers of Australia band, Magnetic force, Harry J Hart and more!

1 February UB40 featuring Ali & Astro supported by local DJ Connor and Bobby Alu – ticketed in The Paddock. NightQuarter Markets will feature for its last night a Roving Fire spectacular, Lock n Load, Harry J Hart Band, Obi, Elska on the harp & More.

Both Ms Christoe and Mr Van der Woude invite the entire Gold Coast community to celebrate the iconic venue each weekend until they sadly close the doors at NightQuarter Helensvale.

ENDS

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Key Achievements over three years

Ian Van der Woude and Michelle Christoe through their company Food Focus Australia Pty Ltd set out to create a cultural revolution on the Gold Coast more than 3 years ago in an area that needed an injection of art and culture.

The area has well and truly been brought to life over the three years that NightQuarter has been open.

As stated by the Gold Coast Bulletin back in November 2015, 'NightQuarter is the answer to the Northern Gold Coast's resounding cry for a cultural evolution'.

The venture was entirely self funded without any financial assistance from Local, State or Federal government.

Since November 2015 the 2000 capacity venue has sold more than 55,000 tickets for live music events and has hosted a range of touring acts and a stack of ARIA Award winners including:

The Cat Empire, Sticky Fingers, Safia, Bjorn Again, Salmonella Dub, The Living End, Dune Rats, DZ Deathrays, Waax, RÜFÜS, Kate Ceberano, Ross Wilson, The Delta Riggs, The Waifs, Bliss N Eso, Screaming Jets, Baby Animals, Glenn Shorrock, Shannon Noll, 1927, Pseudo Echo, Eurogliders, Paul Dempsey, Sunnyboys, Hoodoo Gurus, You Am I, Adalita, Jebediah, Pete Murray, UB40, Fisher, Amy Shark, Flight Facilities, Richard Clapton, Wendy Matthews, Katchafire, The Radiators, Never Ending 80's, Xavier Rudd, Spiderbait, The Superjesus, The Presets, Simple Plan, The Angels, Rose Tattoo, Killing Heidi, Illy and many more!

NightQuarter won Gold Coast Venue of the Year in 2016 at the and was a finalist for the Queensland Music Awards – Regional Venue.

NightQuarter's festival vibe has made an impression across the music industry. 'I love playing at NightQuarter and reckon it's the best gig in Australia right now' Dave Gleeson, The Angels.

NightQuarter has been a strong promoter and incubator of new talent whether for an entrepreneur setting up a market stall, a musician, an artist or a young trainee in hospitality services. The business's mantra has been 'if they go on and succeed beyond NightQuarter and we have been a part of that journey, then we have been successful'.

NIGHT QUARTER

NightQuarter was proud to be a finalist in the Queensland Training Awards in 2017. Over the past three years, NightQuarter has employed some 30 school-based trainees and several interns. It is proud of the students and their achievements, some moving onto become Event Managers, Graphic Designers and Bar Supervisors.

NightQuarter delivered a Food and Cultural Program containing over 54 events across the Commonwealth Games as part of Festival2018 which was fully funded and programmed by Food Focus. The program included local bands like Elektrik Lemonade, Matty Rogers and Colt Seavers Band through to Eat Local food trails, a Jimbelung Indigenous Area, Yugambah Dancers, Emily Wurramura, Baker Boy, live Wildlife Sketching, Soil to Supper Series, Native Wildflower workshop, Pacificana Long Lunch, live installations with Les Moutons, Brass Off with Kings of Leroy and Hot Potato Band, Pacific Dance featuring VOU and Jesswar, Cooking demonstration with native ingredients, Science in the Kitchen, Masterclasses, Panels, Cheese, Chocolate & Wine Experiences and more!

NightQuarter programming aligned itself with large programmes such as Bleach, Blues on Broadbeach and Broadbeach Country Music Festival to promote the Northern End of the Gold Coast on a larger scale.

In 2018 NightQuarter achieved 850,000 digital reach and had a \$5.25M economic impact on the region.

NightQuarter has worked on two integrated interior design projects with Coomera TAFE students giving them project management skills, working in with community for feedback and opening areas to the community, designed by the community.