

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 31/01/2018**

## **MEDIA RELEASE: CAR FREE FEB RIDES, RUNS AND BUSES INTO TOWN**

What you would do if suddenly you didn't have a car to get around?

This is the question Social Futures is asking people to consider as part of the new public transport initiative Car Free Feb.

"We are challenging people to leave the car at home for a day in February and try using a different transport mode," Social Futures' Transport Development Officer Alex Lewers said.

"That might be catching a bus, riding a bike, walking or carpooling with a colleague or friend."

"As extra incentive, we have some great prizes to give away including a \$500 Flight Centre Voucher, 3 x yearly Spotify subscriptions, and some free weekly bus tickets."

"To enter the draw to win, simply post a selfie going 'car free' on the Northern Star Facebook page with the hashtag #carfreefeb by midnight 28 February."

Car Free Feb was developed to raise awareness of public transport across the Northern Rivers.

"In regional areas we are so used to getting in the car to go anywhere that many of us never really consider public transport as an option," Alex said.

"As a result, we generally don't know much about what services are available in our area."

"Car Free Feb is a great opportunity to test out some of the different transport modes available to us here in the Northern Rivers."

As part of the event some bus companies will be providing free public transport on 27 February for Car Free Feb:

- Northern Rivers Buslines
- Blanch's Bus Company
- Ballina Buslines
- Brunswick Valley Coaches
- Casino Bus Service

People wanting to check public transport in their area can visit [www.goingplaces.org.au](http://www.goingplaces.org.au) or [www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info).



*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we live and work and their continuing connection to land, water, sea and community. We pay respects to Australia's First Peoples, to their unique and diverse cultures, and to Elders past, present and future.*

- ENDS -

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**Notes to editors:**

1. Social Futures is a social justice organisation based in Northern NSW. We have more than 40 years' experience as a regional leader, advocating with the communities we work in; working in partnership with others; and providing services that promote inclusion, fairness and social justice. Our work encompasses homelessness and housing supports, youth and family services, programs that promote genuine participation for people with disability, community sector support, professional development, and systemic advocacy.
2. Car Free Feb is delivered by Social Futures in partnership with Northern Rivers Buslines, Blanch's Bus Company, Ballina Buslines, Brunswick Valley Coaches, Casino Bus Service and media partner Northern Star.
3. Lismore MP Thomas George and Ballina MP Tamara Smith are ambassadors for the event and will be going 'car free' one day in February.