

Students shepherd ideas on Dungog flood and sustainable village living

By ELLIE-MARIE WATTS

Oct. 22, 2015, 11 a.m.

 Like 0  Tweet 0  G+1 0



BUILDING CONNECTIONS: Architects and students attending an ArchiCamp at Shepherd's Ground in Butterwick over the October long weekend.

CLOSE to 70 architecture and design students from six states gathered in Port Stephens over the October long weekend for a unique kind of camp.

ArchiCamp took place at Shepherd's Ground, the location for a future sustainable village in Butterwick, between October 2 and 5.

The camp, organised by University of Newcastle student Jiri Loew, was a grassroots event for architecture students, professionals, artists and craftsmen featuring camping, design workshops, tours, talks, discussions and entertainment.

"ArchiCamp is about the enjoyment of sharing ideas with others and building connections and professional culture nationally and internationally," Mr Loew said.

"[It] has no sponsors, receives no funding, and has no budget beyond the sum total of participants' contributions towards communal meals.

"All guests and mentors donate their time."

This year's camp focused on architectural solutions for the April flood-ravaged Dungog and design ideas for Shepherd's Ground.

A creative brief was presented to participants at the opening of ArchiCamp.

The rest of the weekend students chose to create one or more design concepts with help of experienced tutors, and presented them to community representatives.

In the weeks after ArchiCamp students can continue working with an experienced mentor on their concept through design development to development application submission, construction drawings and construction itself.

A community hall and youth housing concept was developed for Shepherd's Ground.