




NAMASTE, BITCHES



Inside this week	Council's parting gifts for residents before Christmas – p9	A vital youth service lost – p13	Cycling in the Shire – p16	Beauty takes many forms – p20-21	Mullum Shop Local – p26-27	Gigs? Here's a bunch of 'em – p39	 Byron Shire Council Notices Page 49-50
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Uplift and spirited away...



A melting pot of consciousness at Byron Bay's 2014 Uplift Festival has bubbled for the last four days. Hundreds of people enjoyed the hybrid music festival/conference, which promotes peace, spirituality and ecological sustainability. Oregon's Agnes Baker Pilgrim is pictured with local elder, Luis Walker. Photo Jeff Dawson
■ See Sharon Shostak's short documentary on Uplift in Echonetdaily.net.au – echo.net.au/spirits-soar-uplift.

Steamrolled

Byron Shire Council's general manager Ken Gainger has refused to explain why a chemical-free steam-weeding trial – operated by a contractor – is not being given the opportunity to produce the best outcomes.

Contractor and garden maintenance operator Paul Sommers says despite 'repeated' advice that best results would be achieved by another treatment within a few weeks, he was instead instructed by staff to undertake sporadic sprays.

Questions put to the GM by *The Echo* were instead answered by Council's infrastructure services director, Phil Holloway. He now backs steamweeding, despite questioning its effectiveness recently to *Echonetdaily*.

Mr Holloway said, 'We are convinced that this weed-control method should be embedded into Council's ongoing weed-control program, so we are currently investigating the purchasing of our own equipment and the licensing and training of our own operators.'

'We are confident that the elected Council will support this initiative and provide us with the budget required to do this effectively,' Mr Holloway said. He added the outcomes of the trial will be reported to Council in February.

Bewildered

Mr Sommers told *The Echo* he is 'bewildered' why Council staff would first ignore his advice on producing a best trial outcome, downplay the effectiveness of chemical-free spraying and then announce intentions to invest in the machinery themselves.

The technology used is manufactured by Australian company Weedtechnics, who claim there are currently over 80 chemical-free weed control projects in place across the country. The invention steams weeds with a patented nozzle, and has been taken up by councils across Australia to achieve chemical-free open spaces and parks.

Rail costings revealed by free market

Hans Lovejoy

The cost to establish a privately owned diesel rail shuttle service from the Arts and Industry Estate into Byron Bay has put the credibility of a \$2m government-funded rail study into question.

At around \$300,000 per kilometre, the 3.4 km railway project planned by the North Byron Beach Resort will come in just under \$1m, according to manager Jeremy Holmes.

He told *The Echo* that only one in seven sleepers need replacing, along with repairs to the Belongil Creek bridge, platform construction and upgrades to level crossings at Kendall

and Shirley Streets. And a 100-seater two-car currently being restored is, 'Technically not light rail, but is regarded as lighter than normal rail,' he said. Ongoing costs would be subsidised by a passenger fare in the order of \$3 for a one-way journey, according to the resort's website.

No government analysis

So what does the 2013 government-funded *Casino to Murwillumbah Transport Study* say about railcar shuttle costings and viability?

While no detailed analysis of light rail or rail shuttle was undertaken, consultants Arup claimed that the estimated construc-

tion cost to 'reinststate rail line to a level suitable for XPT services' from Mullumbimby to Byron Bay would be \$202,326,700.

Light rail and rail shuttle costings were not analysed, according to the report, because, 'It has also been recognised that a rail commuter service (either light or heavy rail) would not be viable without a significant level of ongoing government subsidy' [page 8]. Additionally the report concluded, 'Light rail provides fewer transport benefits than heavy rail' [page 67].

But those comments are at odds with findings from a 2004 Tweed Shire Council study which compared XPT (heavy rail) and railcar shuttle. Included in the Arup report, it claimed

railcar shuttle could be 'implemented with little or no impact to current main line services.'

Overall, the Tweed Council report found it provides a 'good rail service at frequencies that are relevant to customers', despite the assets 'being in poor condition.'

The Echo asked MP Don Page (Nationals) if he was concerned with the lack of costing analysis for rail shuttle in the rail report, and whether it could result in skewing poor public transport outcomes.

He replied that the section of rail between town and the North Byron Resort is in fairly good shape.

continued on page 5 >



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Calls to protect World War I trees, planted by locals, from govcorp

The gaffe-prone NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust (NCHP) that run all three caravan parks and some reserves in Brunswick Heads has again infuriated locals.

This time, it's the alleged mismanagement and the possible planned removal of endangered cypress trees that were planted nearly 100 years ago by locals in memory of World War I soldiers.

Many descendents of those who planted and maintained the trees still live locally.

An urgency motion by Cr Di Woods at last Thursday's Council meeting saw a unanimous vote to ask NSW minister for the environment Rob Stokes to intervene and place an interim heritage order within the Terrace Caravan Park, formerly known as the Brunswick Heads World War I Memorial Park.

The motion will also see, 'Council work with community members to identify and map the tree line to provide to the minister.'

The National Trust was in support, Ms Woods said,

and claimed current operators of the park, NCHP, were neglecting the trees and removing branches.

'This is appalling management by NCHP,' she told councillors.

Earlier in the day, Bangalow RSL secretary Col Draper spoke in favour of the interim heritage order and confirmed longtime local Darcy O'Meara's research.

The plantings were recorded in the *Mullumbimby Star* and *Northern Star* circa 1918, 1919, and 1930.

Ms Woods said that those tasked with maintaining the trees back in 1918, 'travelled in the back of trucks, on horseback and on foot to plant, water and nurture the seedlings.'

Local names

She read a list of some local names - the complete list is: Bangalow: Beckinsale, Blanch, Reading, O'Meara, Miller, Boyle, Connolly, Jackson, Sansom, Virtue, Armstrong, Slattery. Billinudgel: Moffitt, Boyle, Kelly O'Donnell, Devereau, Ryan,

Riley. Byron Bay: Hatfield, Bannister, Smith, Timperley, Fredricks, Brownell, Werne, Walsh, Flood. Brunswick Heads: Lofts, Souter, Riley, Devine, McMahon, Peoples, O'Meara, Wraights, Bashforth, Fordham, McDonald, Gray, Hodgers, McLeod, Walker, Coleman, Bell, Minchington, Coates. Mullumbimby: Ward, Mills, James, Richards, Hollingsworth, Healey, Harkness, Bower, Walker, Tralington, Montgomery, Mules, Budd, Mallam, Fisher, Lindsey, Guiran. For Billindugel, Mooball and Burringbar: Boyle, O'Donnell, Moffitt, Kelly, Ryan and Devereau.

A number of these men fought at Gallipoli and on the western front, she added.

NCHP plans

The 200-page plan of management for the Terrace Caravan Park from April 2014 claims that the trees and others like it 'are being lost as they become old and dangerous, but there is no recruitment of new trees to replace them.'

While NCHP's plans for the trees are fairly vague, their root systems at least appear to be within their sights.

With the park 'surveyed and mapped', areas will be identified, 'where the presence of coastal cypress root systems are significant constraints to developments such as installation of in-ground services and construction of buildings and infrastructure in the holiday park.'

Evans Head park residents evicted

Meanwhile, plans by NCHP are going ahead to evict holiday vans and their owners from the Silver Sands Park in Evans Head.

ABC reported on December 10 that Richmond Valley mayor, Ernie Bennett, says the state government ignored community concerns when it took over control of the site from the council. 'The local community, [in] a low-socio-economic area, could afford to go there in the past and had their vans and stuff there.'

Wednesday's child was full of woe...



'til she learned that Wednesday would be the day she gets to read *The Echo*.

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New road upgrade thanks to council partnership, resident fundraisers

After four years of working with Council, the Skinners Shoot Road upgrade and sealing was completed last week.

It ends years of constant complaints and grievances from residents about the poor condition of the rutted road and the increasing concerns associated with the fine white billowing dust which some residents claim was causing health problems.

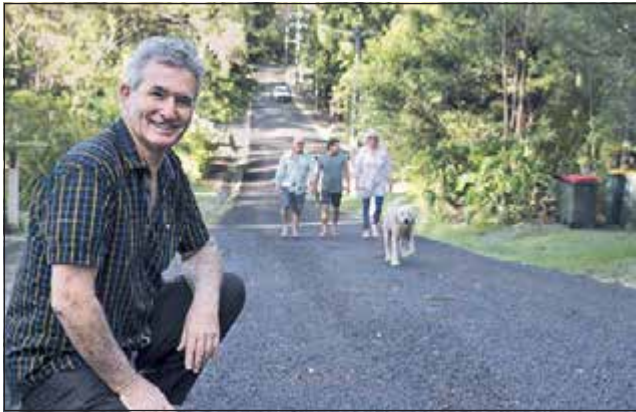
Representatives for the group, Terry and Christine Ahern, said that what started out in 2007 as a petition to Council for a road upgrade has now ended in a council-community partnership and an excellent outcome.

Fundraising

They say residents raised \$100,000 for the road contributions to upgrade the last 750 metres of Skinners Shoot Road south of Yagers Lane.

Mr Ahern said, 'The Skinners Shoot residents wish to acknowledge the unerring support of councillors and, in particular, mayor Simon Richardson, who organised meetings between the residents and Council staff, helped facilitate flexibility in resident contributions and kept track of the process to its completion.'

In addition, he thanked Council staffer Phil Holloway and John Bashforth from



Skidders Shoot Road resident Terry Ahern celebrates the resurfacing of the road. Photo Jeff Dawson

Bashforth's road constructions in processing the works to completion.

'Initially, Council staff's standard recommendation was that the cost be attributed by length of road frontage, estimated to be around \$200,000. After Tony Pangallo and Christine Ahern spoke at Council's open access on three occasions to request a different approach, a Council resolution was made to obtain road engineering specifications.

'The resolution also questioned the requirement for kerb and guttering, and engaged a private contractor to quote and allow residents to make their own arrangements as far as contributions were concerned, especially when four of the landowners chose not to contribute.

'This allowed others to cover the shortfall. In all, resi-

dents raised \$100,000. Twelve of the sixteen landowners gave \$5,000 to \$11,000 with one resident contributing \$13,000 to get the funds to target. The mayor was instrumental in adding \$16,000 of Council funds towards a total cost of \$116,000.'

Lobbying

In 2010, he says, extensive lobbying by Christine Ahern on behalf of the Skinners Shoot Residents Group led to a formal parliamentary petition which was presented to parliament by Don Page MP (Nationals).

'It had the outcome of an "all weather access" upgrade of Skinners Shoot Road (from

Arts Factory to Yaegers Lane) being placed as a condition of consent in the Lismore to Mullumbimby electricity upgrade 3A approval.

'The electricity supplier Country Energy undertook these works costing around \$1,000,000. This has now made Skinners Shoot road infrastructure excellent and improved the amenity for the community immensely.

Strengthened community

'It is a fine example of a small cohesive community lobbying and Council responding, to achieve what was not possible to attain under standard Council practices and policy.

'A partnership formed between the community and Council and has forged an outcome to improve road infrastructure in a rural area.

'This exercise has created a friendly, sociable coterie in the neighbourhood that was absent before. It has strengthened community ties and as such we will have a strong voice on direction and future planning decisions for Skinners Shoot.'

Paid parking in the Bay

Paid parking in Byron's CBD moved closer after councillors voted on Thursday to support a staff report that would see locals exempt.

A general fee of \$3 per hour would apply, 'except

Main Beach and Clarkes Beach car parks and the length of Bay Street, where \$5 per hour applies.'

More meetings and reports will be tabled prior to moving to the next stage.

Telstra exchange mural makeover

A second mural in a series of anti-graffiti projects has been completed

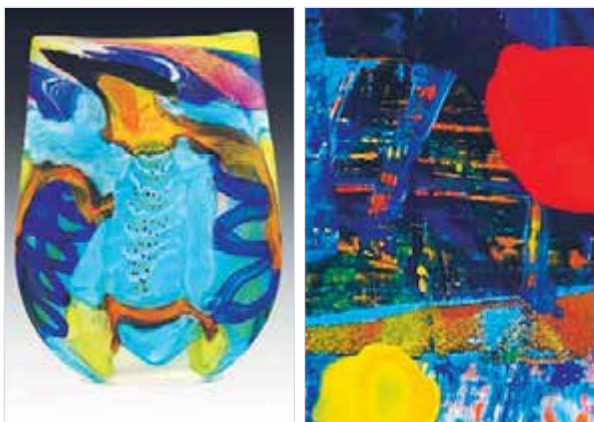
Entitled *Postcards from Byron*, it is the result of a partnership between Byron United, Byron Bay's chamber of commerce and Telstra.

The mural on the Telstra exchange on Fletcher Street

is called *Timeless Byron Bay* and is a celebration of the counterculture that came to the region in the 60s and 70s.

Businesses interested in joining the anti-graffiti program can contact Francis Cloake on 0401 592 114 or email info@byronunited.org.au.

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Bay FM gets ready to boogie



That's the way, I uhuh uhuh, I like it: Bay FM crew with the Magic Bus. Photo Rudiger Wasser

Bay FM's newly elected management committee is calling everyone to come and take a trip back to the love-child decade of the 70s with a Bay FM fundraiser 'Boogie Wonderland' this Saturday December 20 at the Bangalow Bowling Club.

DJs include Dan Jupiter, Al Royale, Noodles, Scoota

and Casual P and North Coast Events will provide décor and lighting.

Bay FM's president Oliver McElligott said, 'We are making this fundraiser the first of many that will help support the station.'

'Bay FM also wants to give something back to the community by getting us all

together and throwing a fabulous discotheque fundraiser. If you need a ride to the party, Tim from the Magic Bus will be picking up people from Byron and Suffolk Park.'

To pre-purchase tickets for the discotheque or to book a seat on the Magic Bus (essential), phone Bay FM on 6680 7999.

Free market reveals rail costings

► continued from page 1

'It's much better than in other places including through the Tyagarah area, which is in very bad shape.

'The costings in the transport study were only one factor which led to the conclusion that any combination of trains, regardless of cost, would not meet the public transport needs of the northern rivers region.

'Rail not being able to serve two of the three largest populated centres (Ballina and Tweed) was a major reason trains were ruled out, as was likely patronage levels.

'The original transport study was not skewed towards a rail trail. The rail trail proposal was subject to a separate study later on which said if trains aren't viable at this point in time, rail trail is a good option.'

Council's position

And with the most recent government-funded rail trail study supporting the removal of the tracks, what is Council's position?

At the October 9, 2014 Council meeting, Cr Ibrahim put forward a contentious motion that saw Council writing to minister Don Page 'fully supporting' the Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT) project, despite it being far from united; the vote was 5-4.

But the motion also says, 'In the preparation of the

concept plan and design for the rail trail, considerations of multiple uses such as that already approved for the North Beach development [should] be incorporated.'

Investment

Cr Ibrahim told *The Echo* the motion was about 'securing regional investment', referring to the promise of \$75m from the government and the recent rail trail study.

'I had it on good advice that the northern rivers was in a good position to secure a massive investment in regional tourism, the precise sort of tourism that our own strategy is aiming for.

'I campaigned for the rail trail and many people I spoke to during the campaign told me that the rail trail was a no-brainer, and that trains would never come back for the simple reason that hardly anyone would catch them.

'It was time for a resolution just about the rail trail so we could join our [Council] neighbours in supporting the project.'

No accurate information

But mayor Simon Richardson told *The Echo* that, 'The whole rail corridor debate has been underpinned by a lack of accurate information and a lack of goodwill from protagonists to find a

solution for the good of all the community.'

'When thinking about the most important piece of infrastructure we have in the shire, isn't it rational to do our due diligence and look at all the options, cost and design them, and then choose the best option?'

'I applaud the efforts of NRRT to turn a disused piece of infrastructure into something that may be used by ten per cent of residents and ten per cent of visitors. Ten per cent is better than zero per cent. But is that the best Byron can get?'

'Shouldn't we expect that costings be provided about services that may be used by the other 90 per cent?'

'With some of the TOOT leadership not wanting to have a trackless transport service costed even if it meant a light rail service would be costed also, and the NRRT leadership not wanting their stated belief of a rail-based service alongside a rail trail to be costed either, the opportunity to get out of the trenches and to shake hands rather than fists, for the good of all the community, has been lost.'

The mayor added the only winners would be the state government, as they could 'finally kill the albatross of broken public transport promises that has been hanging around their necks.'

Nimbin rallies against holiday health cuts

Darren Coyne

Nimbin residents rallied Monday in protest against a lack of health services during the holiday period.

The rally follows reports that nursing staff hours at the Nimbin Multi-Purpose Service will be reduced, and that there is no replacement for the doctor. Greens candidate for Lismore, Adam Guise, has condemned the cuts.

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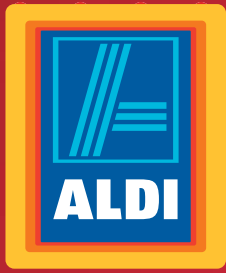
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Goonengerry Public School gifts to locals in need



Instead of holding out their hands to Santa this year, the children of Goonengerry Public School decided to hand Santa the gifts. Toys, food and other festive items were donated to local families in need. The School's press officer Christina Larmer said it was an incredible act of generosity, which will see goodies destined for distribution through the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Photo supplied

New mosaic seating for Bruns

A flora-and-fauna mosaic seat, the second of ten seats planned along Tweed Street in Brunswick Heads, is almost finished, says Kim Rosen from the town's chamber of commerce.

It will be launched Friday December 19 at 11am by Cr Paul Spooner and the artists involved. All are welcome. Mrs Rosen says, 'Each of the seats will depict an aspect of Brunswick Heads' history and culture.'

The wave-shaped bench seat was co-created by sculptor Rod Johnston and Tweed Street taskforce member and mosaicist, Pauline Ross, she says. But it's also had input from local school children.

'Families and children attended workshops on November 29 and 30 and chil-

dren from every class from kindy to year six at Brunswick Heads Public School had a go last week,' says Mrs Rosen.

'They completed sections of the gorgeous colourful images of local flora and fauna created by Renee Hinchcliff.'

Mrs Rosen says, 'It's been an amazing collaborative effort from businesses - including principal sponsors North Coast Holiday Parks and Brunswick Sails Motor Inn.'

She says Council, the Brunswick Heads Public School, and many locals have also been involved.

Fundraising for the trees next to the seat and the story on video by Sharon Shostak via a QR code continues, and donations are still most welcome. For more information contact Kim on 0412 316 299.



From left are Misty, Spike and Daisy. Photo Kim Rosen

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One last pedal with Pocket principal



The Pocket School says goodbye this week to the principal for this year, Johanna Presgrave. Johanna and her family head off to Canada for a year next week, but not before one last almost six-kilometre ride to the school from Billinudgel. Johanna instigated a group cycle with the kids three times a week during her year at the school to help promote fitness as well as road safety. Photo Eve Jeffery

Coorabell Public celebrates upgrade



New playground equipment was unveiled at Coorabell Public School on Monday, thanks to a generous local donation.

It is valued at \$30,000, and the school's Lee Rowthorne says it complements a recent veggie garden, an ongoing mural and sandpit.

'The sandpit was funded by the NSW Department of Education & Communities,' she said.

Photo Jeff Dawson

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LIMITED STOCKS ON SOME LINES - BE IN EARLY FOR THE BEST DEALS

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Local governance end-of-year finale show

Hans Lovejoy

Decisions, declarations, diatribes and debate were aplenty at last Thursday's Council meeting, which was the last for the year and the last for retiring planning director Ray Darney.

Well done Ray, you made it! And thus, in no particular order, here are some highlights: Telstra's plans to plonk a tower 50 metres next to the Ocean Shores school on council land were deferred, despite some morning lobbying by representatives assuring us soothingly that there is nothing at all to worry with electromagnetic radiation.

Councillors voted unanimously to delay a decision

until they had the opportunity to inspect the Ocean Shores site in the new year.

Resident Ray Musgrave told Council during public access that, in the initial plan, the tower would have been, 'right in front of my living room, no joke'. Mr Musgrave said that after some talk, Telstra reps came back to suggest moving the tower 15 metres. Despite the concession, Mr Musgrave says Telstra is still not complying with NSW telecom guidelines.

Broken Head estate refused

Moving on, a highly contentious development proposal to turn a former sand

quarry at Broken Head into a community-title housing development of around 40 blocks was knocked back.

Councillors also voted against a staff recommendation that the developers be given the opportunity to reconsider the proposal.

But they agreed to require the property owners demonstrate that they were adhering to the terms of their existing DA by remediating the former quarry and regenerating the ecologically endangered vegetation at the site. Mayor Simon Richardson said, 'Byron is the third most bio-diverse region in Australia and Broken Head is our jewel in the crown.'

'If ever a precautionary principle should apply it is in

Broken Head.' Cr Chris Cubis was alone in not supporting the council resolution.

Mayor harangued

The late withdrawal of a motion by the mayor over the multi-use of the disused railways caused some awkward moments.

Butler Street resident Paul Jones and fellow residents were upset that he wasn't given the opportunity to speak on the mayor's *Collaboratively Preparing A Rail Corridor Project That Responds To Byron's Needs*.

Along with fellow residents, Mr Jones is facing the prospect of an unwanted bypass and is hoping Council would consider their Grab The Rail proposal. It's made even more awkward by the fact that the current bypass option is unlikely to even address any long-term solutions.

Mr Jones expressed his disgust and then left the chamber. Later he told *The Echo*, 'All along the mayor has sided with Council management to ram this bypass through.'

'He is prepared to sacrifice not only his own community's heritage neighbourhood and culture but a huge swath of SEPP 14 wetlands at the end of Butler Street known to contain a large diversity of plants and animals when there is a proven and far superior alternative.'

'We could build a first-class bus transit centre alongside town, with perfect convenience and safety for travellers and utilise the old railway station.'

■ Additional reporting by Chris Dobney.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now – Chinese proverb



School's out! Wilsons Creek's departing students planted this tree to shade future generations at the small school, encouraged by federal Labor MP Justine Elliot. Children received certificates, music was played, and TURSA, Wilsons Creek Landcare and Santos food store were recognised by Ms Elliot for supporting the school. Photo contributed

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Drinking in teatime at Kulchajam



Byron's Kulchajam launched an organic teahouse and exhibition space for over 30 local artists last Tuesday. Pictured is Georgie Greenaway and Rachael Torise. Photo Jeff Dawson

Community colleges wrapped in new government red tape

A new coalition policy for vocational funded programs has added more layers of bureaucracy for the Byron Community College, director Richard Vinycomb has told *The Echo*.

Known as *Smart and Skilled*, the NSW government will overhaul Vocational Education and Training (VET) from next year, and the government claims students will 'have more choice when selecting courses and training providers.'

But it's come under intense criticism; according to the NSW Teachers Federation, it will see a significant rise in student fees and debt and has followed TAFE teacher redundancies.

And *The Australian's* (News Corp) John Ross reported recently, 'Public servants have rechristened the program "Dumb and Dumber".' He reported that under the new scheme, 'places will be contracted out centrally from the Education Department's Sydney headquarters.'

And there's little to no

transparency: 'The government has refused to discuss the process, and contracts,' he writes.

But Mr Vinycomb says he is confident Byron Community College will provide the same level of education, despite 'government restrictions and very restrictive funding limitations.'

'Our successful short courses and full-fee-paying qualifications will continue in 2015,' he says, 'but there is now an emphasis on funding community colleges in NSW for sets of accredited units, especially for disadvantaged learners.'

'This is fine for some students, and we will offer these, but we have currently lost the opportunity to have any significant places in funded full certificates, such as much-needed children's services.'

Ad hoc allocations

'Also there is a concern that there have been some strange decisions with ad hoc allocations all over NSW to education providers who do not have any track record in a

particular region. It's good to have healthy competition and deregulation, but some fly-in-fly-out organisations are even asking local community colleges if they can use their training rooms or hire their staff. This outside contracting may work out well for large providers expanding, but there is a need to be vigilant on quality training.'

Mr Vinycomb warned potential students that 'If you or anyone you know or see deals being promoted in vocational training, look into the detail beyond the fees. Who is providing this training, where are they from and what sort of personal face-to-face training support will you get?'

As for local representation, retiring MP Don Page (Nationals) told *The Echo*. 'I've always had a good relationship with Richard Vinycomb, who I regard as an excellent advocate for community colleges.'

'Richard and I have discussed the new *Smart and Skilled* contract arrangements and I have made both

written and verbal representations to the minister for education in relation to his and my concerns.'

Meanwhile NSW Labor has vowed to scrap *Smart and Skilled* if elected next year, and the coalition say they will review it after one year.

Mr Vinycomb says, 'For funded courses, which attract low income learners for skill gaps, we are in danger of heading deeper into an uncaring, bums-on-seats, drip-fed, centralised funding approach.'

'This can lead to single-minded vocational adult learning where the notion of individual attention, life enhancement, sustainability and community networks are completely sacrificed.'

'One thing community colleges in NSW and Victoria have generally done very well is caring about every student's learning journey and helping them achieve their desired goals. We are the major deliverer of vocational training and life-enhancing education in the Byron Shire for over 21 years.'

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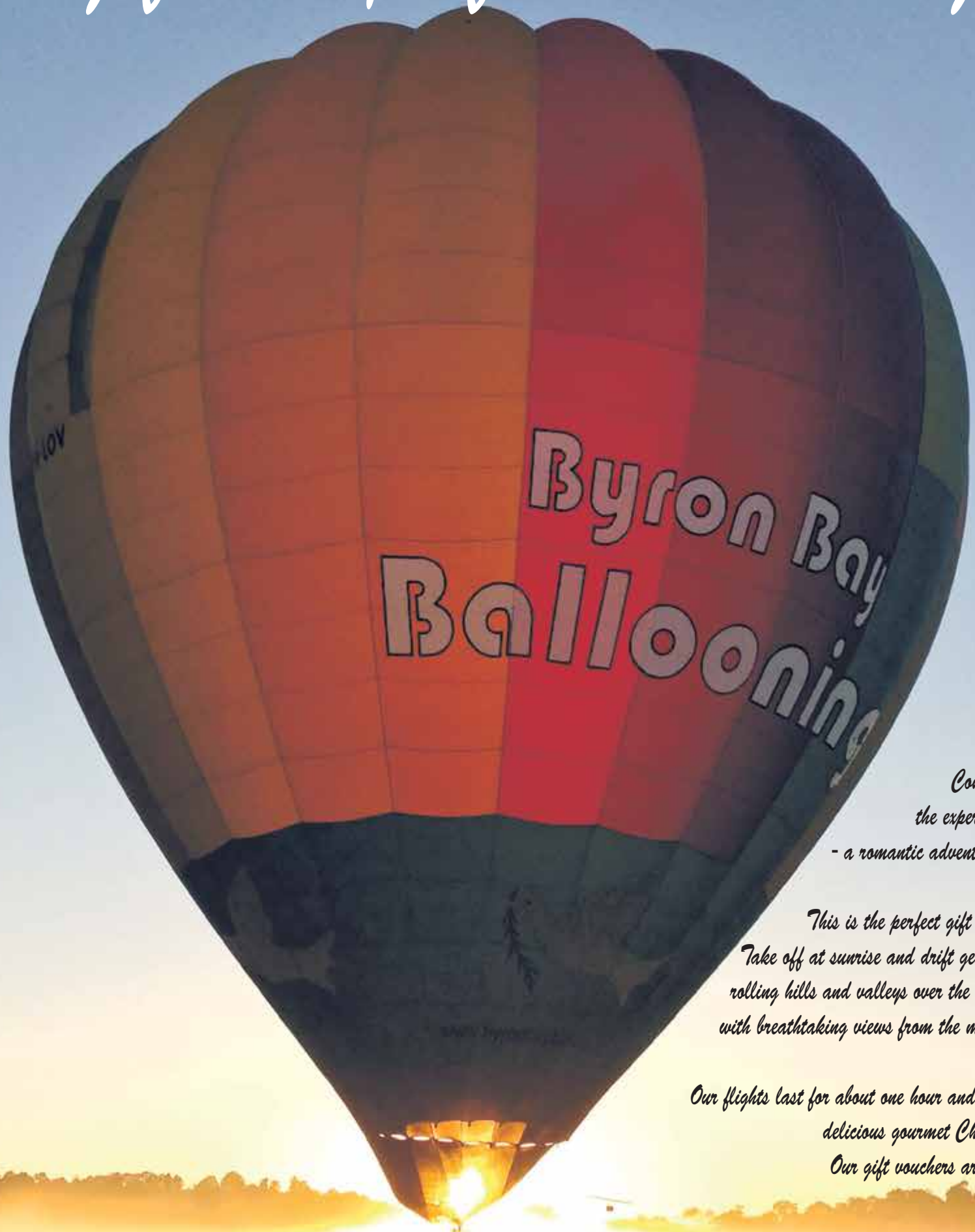
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Volume 29 #27 December 16, 2014

Don't drown, okay?

That august institution, Surf Life Saving Australia, launched its annual National Coastal Safety Report on the weekend.

Life savers had the pleasure of the prime minister's company for the launch in Sydney at the Queenscliff club, Mr Abbott's turf (or sand). Fortunately for all concerned the prime minister resisted the lure of Speedos and remained fully clothed throughout the ceremony.

It was a good year for drownings, in that there were less of them. Thanks to the good work of Surf Life Saving volunteers and lifeguards, there were no drownings between the red and yellow flags, or more exactly, in the water out from the flags.

In his keen grasp of the bleeding obvious, Mr Abbott remarked, 'If you swim between the flags you can be very confident you will be looked after and you will be safe.'

It's one of the great Australian services which no whacky piece of legislation has been able to undermine as yet.

'Beach patrols, surveillance and emergency response measures combined to help reduce the number of coastal drowning deaths by almost a third in 2013-14,' notes the report. Nevertheless 84 people drowned at the beach.

Of those, 89 per cent were male. Among the blokes most of them were aged 60 to 64, of which 91 per cent died while boating, fanging about on jetskis, rock fishing or diving.

It's a timely warning to old codgers of my age to not get pissed and go fishing without a lifejacket in a tinny with a clapped-out engine in a squall.

I've given it up entirely, and make sure to read books between the flags in my living room.

What amazes me is not only the number of people who get into the water drunk but also without a decent knowledge of how to handle the surf and prevailing beach currents. Beachsafe offers a good guide to rips at <http://beachsafe.org.au/surf-ed/ripcurrents>.

Australian beaches can be deadly, and with good reason. It keeps so many people from bothering the sharks and stingrays or from getting knocked out by a dolphin as they try to commune with its marine spirit.

It's far safer to drink fruit punch under a pandanus and admire the young gun surfers riding a spray of their own testosterone into the shoreline.

Seriously though, play safely at the beach (and in swimming pools) these summer holidays because there's nothing like a dampener on other people's free time than you drowning in front of them. Get a good handle on swimming and less on the drinking.

And if you are of the male persuasion and aged 60 to 64, then by the plaited beard of Neptune stay well away from the ocean. Someone's got it in for you.

Michael McDonald

Libs run a blitzkrieg on healthcare

One of the more irritating aspects of our frequently exasperating prime minister is that even when he does a backflip, he doesn't do it properly.

There is never an apology, or a retraction: he was always right and now he's still right.

It was a good policy, now it's a better policy. You should have been happy before, and now you ought to be delirious.

But the punters are not convinced.

Of course, there are times when Tony Abbott won't admit there is even an issue in spite of overwhelming evidence.

Take, for instance, the ludicrous and hypocritical suggestion that the problems in his office stem not from the obsessive and dictatorial arrogance of his chief of staff, but from the sexism and misogyny of his colleagues. Those of them who have had a gutful of Abbott's enforcer, whether her name is Peta, Peter, Lucrezia Borgia or Genghis Khan, are not impressed.

And even when he moves to assuage or counter public criticism, he can't bring himself to offer more than a token.

Julie Bishop's belated announcement of the \$200 million to the World Climate Fund – the despised Bob Brown Bank, masquerading as environmentalism under the guise of socialism – is better than nothing, but not much. Even Abbott's fellow recalcitrant, Canadian Stephen Harper, has kicked in half as much again, while Japan's contribution was a full billion and without strings attached: Australia will pay its instalments over four years, if it makes the payments.

And it will not be new money anyway: Abbott will raid the already depleted foreign aid budget, something Bishop had vowed never to do. Another public slap down from the prime minister to his loyal deputy.

But by far the important tergiversation of the week is the apparent ditching of the \$7 GP tax in favour and of its replacement. This is not only serious, but downright sinister.

The headline good news is that pensioners, children and concession card holders will be spared, which comes as a welcome relief to much of the neediest section of the population.

But the far more ominous bad news is that the changes will, if passed, be the most determined and far-reaching attack on the Medicare system ever contemplated other than

gaps they demanded they would have to bill for themselves, involving their own bookkeeping.

But if they chose to stick with the rebates, there was virtually no paperwork: patients would sign a form assigning their payments to Medibank and Medibank would send the proceeds to the medicos' accounts – a big saving in time and money.

The specialists were not interested; they demanded real money, and much of their income came not from the Commonwealth but from the states, through the public hospital networks.

The ominous news is that the changes will, if passed, be the most determined and far-reaching attack on the Medicare system ever contemplated.

by Mungo MacCallum



downright abolition.

To explain, we need to go back to the long and fraught history of our much-loved universal health-care scheme.

When, nearly fifty years ago, doctors Richard Scott and John Deebie provided Gough Whitlam with what was then Medibank, their peculiar genius was the idea of bulk billing.

The determinedly independent body of Australian medicos would not submit to any concept of what they called socialised medicine, so they did not get it: they were allowed to continue to set their own fees at their own levels.

But there was a sweetener; after consulting the profession, Medibank set up a schedule which would determine the Commonwealth government-funded rebates which would apply for the appointments and procedures.

The individual doctors could charge what they liked, but any

The Medibank rebate was a welcome bonus, but that was all. But a great many GPs, after some initial resistance, came round to the idea of a guaranteed minimum income without the need to burden a secretary or a receptionist to double up as an accountant.

And so bulk billing became the core of Medibank, and, when it was reformed and rejigged by the government of Bob Hawke, of Medicare.

As time went on the Medicare levy of 1.5 per cent rose to 2 per cent (with a surcharge for high income earners without private health insurance) but it was not sufficient to secure the rising health budget.

Hawke tinkered with the idea of a co-payment, but was rebuffed by his colleagues and by the GPs themselves, who had settled very comfortably into the longstanding regime. It took another generation for Abbott to revive the idea.

Obviously it was wildly unpopular with the public, and it was attacked by Labor and many others as an attack on the whole idea of universal Medicare. It was, but at least the co-payment was up front: the patients had to cough up their \$7, which the medicos then handed over to consolidated revenue under the guise of a research fund. It would be expensive and time-consuming, but it was, in its own way, straightforward.

However the new version, even though the amount of the impost is to be reduced, is underhand, mean and sneaky. Instead of a co-payment from the patient, there is to be a deduction in the rebate from the doctor.

The government is still to get the loot, but the doctor is faced with the choice of collecting it from the patient, or simply forgoing the income. Thus the GP will have to select whom and when to charge the \$5 (or a part of it) and go through the unpleasant task of getting it, processing it, and banking it him- or herself.

The frustration and resentment will fester on both sides. And in the end, a lot of doctors will decide that it simply isn't worth it: they may as well forget bulk billing altogether and go back to a system of user pays, where they can charge their own fees, which will, because of the extra expense involved, inevitably go up.

The Liberals have never liked the idea of Medicare and public health; now they have devised, under the façade of a compromise, an insidious and possibly fatal attack on it.

This is not barnacle removable – it is blitzkrieg. It is to be hoped that the senate will have the perspicacity and determination to hold the line and protect what has been acknowledged as the Whitlam government's greatest and most enduring legacy.

The Byron Shire Echo
Established 1986



Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor

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'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' – Finley Peter Dunne 1867-1936

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Could it be?

When I was at high school there was one French teacher who never became a permanent member of staff. This was because she also worked for the United Nations as a translator and would often whip off to South-East Asia to work for that organisation.

She caused a great scandal, I remember, by turning up at the 5th Year Revue with a man who wasn't her husband. Later she divorced her husband and married this man – Sir John Kerr.

At the time of the events of November 1975, it occurred to me that South-East Asia at the time of the Vietnam war was an excellent opportunity to pick up a CIA contact – just a thought.

David Gilet
Byron Bay

A vital youth service lost

There are many people in our community who quietly, with no fanfare, work hard trying to make other people's lives a little better. One of those people is Karen Ford, a youth worker at Byron Youth Service. Karen took over as facilitator of the Links to Learning program at the beginning of this year. She was thrown in the deep end, with no handover, as the previous two workers had already left to take up jobs in Fiji and Alice Springs.

Karen had to run the program with a big reduction in resources, funding and support workers. She has done an amazing job and put a number of young people through training programs including

hospitality, event management and a building course for boys.

Links to Learning has been running out of BYS for as long as I've been there, which is nearly 16 years. It's a great program and has been instrumental in keeping many young people engaged in training and education. Its vocational education courses also incorporate life skills, information relevant to current issues for young people, referral, support and casework, a range of wellness experiences and yummy lunches.

We have recently found out that the Links to Learning program has not been refunded, which while it has

a huge impact on our local young people, also effectively means Karen has lost her job. Karen is a dedicated, committed youth worker and she has the gift for it.

Links to Learning is a very effective program which assists many of our local young people in training and education and finding employment. I commend Karen for the excellent job she's done and I personally feel powerless, sad and increasingly dismayed at the ongoing losses to our organisations this year, which impact our ability to continue providing youth services.

Deborah Pearse
Youth Connections
co-ordinator, BYS

Bucket list

It strikes me as odd that when it comes to maintaining the highways and surrounds that we can manage to supply three trucks with giant flat-screen TVs stuck to the back of them warning us of what's ahead, two massive lawn mowers to cut the grass, the fuel and the people to drive and look after these machines but we cannot get it together to have a couple of guys with sticks and a buck-

et to pick up the rubbish by the side of the highway before it gets shredded and sprayed all over the place.

Matt Andrews
South Golden Beach

Rail debate goes on

I heard a great program about the need for rail in this country on ABC RN the other day. It was based on statistics and facts, not political donations, and it was enlightening to

put our local rail issues into a national infrastructure perspective.

If you believe rail is the future, join TOOT. If you'd like to hear the program, here is the link: <http://ab.co/1vu2cvl>.

Parissa Bouas
Byron Bay

■ I am speaking to people on a daily basis about the rail trail and I can feel the excitement rising as it starts to become

more of a reality. With the increasing traffic problems in Byron, many say they would ride their bike into town or the industrial estate if it was safe to do so and they had more bike racks to lock their bikes to. Even shopping can be achieved on a bicycle with suitable carriers, making the whole experience much more pleasant.

Having to find somewhere to put your car before you can even start can be a major stress and in fact it can

Letters to the Editor

Send to Letters Editor Michael McDonald, fax: 6684 1719 email: editor@echo.net.au Deadline: Noon, Friday. Letters longer than 200 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

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YOU & Holiday Letting

Council has drafted the Short Term Holiday Accommodation Strategy to manage the problems that Holiday Letting has brought to our Shire.

Go To: www.byron.nsw.gov.au (The Home Page)

Go To: "Have your say" (Centre column, 3rd Item) & follow Links

- POINT ONE:** Holiday Letting is not going away!
- POINT TWO:** The State Government is limiting Byron Shire Council's ability to deal with the problem. VOHL favoured Precincts or Zones where holiday letting is either permitted or excluded. The State Government disapproves.
- POINT THREE:** We are left with REGULATION.
- VOHL** has attended numerous meetings with Council and Holiday Let representatives. The latter proclaim that their Self-regulation is working effectively and is all that is required. When did you last ring the Noisy Neighbour Hotline? AFTER being disturbed?

PLEASE MAKE A SUBMISSION! Use any or all of these:

- 1 Holiday letting in Residential Zones 2(a), now R2 is prohibited and should remain prohibited and there should be no "open model" (ie: allowed anywhere)
- 2 All Holiday Lets must be registered with Council and regulated by Council. (Self-regulation by some is effective and may be within Council's regulation)
- 3 All Holiday Lets to submit a Plan of Management with their applications including details of a person who will be on site within 30 minutes, 24/7 to resolve complaints. (After two valid written complaints a holiday let will be deregistered)
- 4 All Holiday Lets to have hard-wired smoke alarms & fire safety equipment.
- 5 Holiday letting to only be permitted in freestanding detached houses. (Not granny flats, medium density, units or Strata Plans in Residential 2(a) or R2)
- 6 Holiday lets in Complying Development & DA Categories to pay business rates

PLEASE MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION BY MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER at 4:00pm to GM, BSC, PO Box 219, Mullumbimby, 2482 or to submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au

Since 1997 house prices and rents have QUADRUPLED in Byron Bay. A huge number of people have been forced to find more affordable housing outside Byron Bay. Others are struggling to pay high rents and greater numbers are sharing one house. VOHL estimates that 25% of our dwellings in Byron Bay are holiday lets. You are losing your neighbours, and your community to be replaced by strangers in your street.

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Wednesday 17 December PAT TIERNEY	<p>IS TONY'S 'LEADERSHIP' LOOKING A BIT SHAKY...?</p> <p>GET BETTER RESULTS, TONY!</p> <p>MAKE PEOPLE APOLOGISE TO ME!</p> <p>AND CLEAN YOUR ROOM!!</p> <p>IT'S CLEAR TO SEE WHO'S WEARING THE POLITICAL PANTS HERE!</p> <p>YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY BE LISTENING TO ME, YOUNG MAN!!</p>
Thursday 18 December TOM RICHARDSON	
Friday 19 December RAGGA JUMP	
Saturday 20 December BOHEMIAN COWBOYS	
Sunday 21 December HARRY HEALY	
Monday 22 December RICHIE WILLIAMS	
Tuesday 23 December MATTY ROGERS	



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Echonetdaily.net.au

The state of play in Council

■ Last Thursday, Council's true state of play revealed! First Mayor Richardson moved that Council adopt the new Community Charter for Good Planning. The charter expands community participation in government decision-making. It received wide support from NSW communities, including Suffolk Park, Byron Bay and Ewingsdale. Cr Rose Wanchap, who before elections championed public consultation, voted against the motion.

Next up was Wanchap's motion directing Council staff to spend up to \$15,000 on a design making Ewingsdale Road three permanent lanes: one outbound and two inbound funnelling through the Jonson Street North carpark to Bay Street along Main Beach.

Mayor Simon Richardson explained that planning for Byron town centre fell within the scope of Byron Bay Master Plan Group, noting the group report that an overwhelming majority of 1,500+ submissions so far had one theme: get cars out of our town centre. He said that across Australia, councils are moving traffic away from beachfronts.

Ignoring the mayor's sound arguments, the motion was passed by the Gang of Five (Wanchap, Ibrahim, Woods, Cubis and Hunter). The impact? The slowest point of our present traffic jam, at the roundabout, might move a dozen car-lengths closer to Main Beach.

At an earlier Council meeting, Ms Wanchap proposed a trial run over Christmas. The other Go5 members balked. They passed a resolution that it occur in April 2015. As a Council staffer leaving Thursday's meeting said over two differing Go5 resolutions, 'I've no idea what we're supposed to do.'

Wanchap trumps our mayor and tourism rules Byron. She's part owner/managing agent of a large block of holiday units in Byron central. According to an *Echo* editorial (14/10/14), 'The extent of the damage caused by Cr Wanchap's defection is hard to over-estimate.' Agreed.

Christine Wilmot, Sunrise, **Peter Gough**, Ewingsdale, **Lissa Coote**, Coorabell, **Don Maughan**, Suffolk Park, **Jim Beatson**, Byron Bay

■ The mayor at last week's Council meeting put forward a Charter for Good Planning for Council to endorse. This well-intentioned feelgood document was designed by a number of community groups but is so vague that Eddie Obeid would have happily signed it.

I note that one of the objectives stated in the document is to achieve an 'open, accessible, transparent' and 'corruption-free planning system'. The mayor in his summary of the document however leaves out the phrase 'corruption-free', Byron Council in his mind evidently being so straight that the idea

of favouritism, arm-twisting or misdirection is too ridiculous to even consider. Staff reports that don't tell the whole story? Support for a bypass without a cost-benefit analysis? Sportsgrounds that should have cost a third of what they did? Annual accounts seriously challenged by the Department of Local Government? Nah; that's just Fast Bucks and his conspiracy theories. Just smile and all is well, eh, Simon.

Every single councillor has repressed the fact that in terms of transparency and accountability this council has gone backwards. The abolition of Public Questions – which I'm still trying to get over, a year down the track – is the most obvious retrograde step. Public Questions were introduced locally by Tom Wilson after I made him aware that Max Eastcott had it on the agenda in Margaret River. Yes, I'm comparing Simon Richardson unfavourably with Wilson and Eastcott, in this respect at least.

The ability to ask questions of councillors or Council staff is essential to democracy, improved performance, probity, public awareness, good planning, etc.

This is especially true, Simon, where the questions might embarrass or humiliate the person at whom they are directed; that is the whole purpose, you chump. The day you abolished Public Questions was the day the senior staff and the Ross Tucker end

of politics had quiet celebrations and laughter all round. Yes, of course they smile at you, Simon; it's because you're so harmless, so gullible.

The other very serious retrograde step is that the GM has removed nearly all mention of legal matters from the agenda. Up till about a year ago there was always either the legal services committee to consider cases as they progressed through the courts, or there were fairly comprehensive three-monthly reports published in the agenda for Council deliberation.

Now it is the GM alone who makes the decisions. If anything this particular regression is more serious than the Public Questions issue because of the potential for compliance matters to become heavy-handed and political once more and because of the potential for out-of-court settlements and cost agreements to become selective and inconsistent.

I've asked the GM to explain the legislative basis of his unilateral decision to so drastically change the agenda but he seems to have ignored me. None of the councillors would have a clue as to how and why, either – nor would they care; less work for them.

Under the circumstances Simon's move to subscribe to the Charter for Good Planning is an exercise in self-delusion; indeed it is quite offensive.

Fast Bucks
Coorabell

► continued from page 11

take a lot longer for a quick trip into town if you go by car. Our little town of Byron could be perfectly suited for a large percentage of the population to ride or walk, especially once we have the rail trail and feed in cycleways connecting to it.

It is happening all over the world as cycling and walking become the preferred way of commuting short distances. In European towns a lot of residents don't even own a car and are puzzled why anyone would want to take a car if travelling under 5km. You see old people, young kids, mothers with babies, businessmen in suits and young ladies dressed in finery riding bikes and it is just normal!

Marie Lawton
Byron Bay

■ Operating a local or regional rail service is not a life-or-death question. It is rather

a question about individual rational choice, in terms of it's good/bad for me so I am in favour/against it, or a collective rational choice, in terms of it is good for the region as a whole, our communities, and therefore I support it.

Striving for collective long-term benefits is rational, too. Having a plenitude of personal freedoms in our little paradise does not require to look for more of it, more entertainment, more personal benefits; rather make inclusiveness our aim.

Enlightened thinking does not end there, at the thinking bit, but rather requires actions which translate into better outcomes on the ground. Lazy thinking stops asking for something better. It is fascinated by slogans, in our case such as 'no-one will use it'. Vision is needed and there is plenty in our midst, to imagine a different future, paired with a strong conviction,

to overcome any bribery/blackmail attempts, such as 'you have to vote for this, or you lose any funding'. Plus critical thinking to overcome the short-term money-grab mentality cloaked in some form of fiscal responsibility.

And a sense for some communal benefits to strive for a rail service in the northern rivers, which has socio-economic benefits that outweigh any costs.

Jens Krause
Byron Bay

Mother Nature

Ziggi Browning (Letters, December 9) is quite right, the poincianas (*Delonix regia*) are magnificent across the shire at the moment, but November/December flowering is not unusual. This is just Mother Nature adjusting to a long dry season before the rain comes to assist with seed/embryo development.

I was born in Byron Bay

and have seen this happen with poincianas, flame trees and many other species over many decades.

We can all do our little bit towards climate change, but changing Mother Nature is not one of them; she does her thing regardless.

Tina Petroff
Ocean Shores

Showground shame

The cloud still hangs over the Mullum showground, re Ruth Grayson's letter in last week's *Echo*.

Not only were Keith and Margaret wonderful caretakers, they were also lovely, friendly people who always had time for a quick chat to the regular walkers around the showground.

The showground was always immaculate while they were there. Not now, as I watch the grass grow and the rubbish lay on the ground. What will happen now to our

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CHESS by Ian Rogers
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As 2014 draws to a close a decision by the International Olympic Committee has ended chess's Olympic ambitions.

The IOC recognised chess as a sport two decades ago but ruled out 'Mind Sports' from participation in the Olympics.

Undeterred, the world body FIDE started lobbying to have chess included in the Winter Olympics program. But this week the door was slammed shut by the IOC announcement that in future only sports played on snow or ice would be considered for the Winter Olympics.

Admittance as an Olympic sport has been a long-standing dream of the FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, leading directly to chess players being drug tested for substances which could not possibly help their chess, such as human growth hormone and steroids. A corrupt tribunal system has ensured that no grandmaster has ever been sanctioned, while amateurs have been banned for crimes such as using asthma medication.

In the meantime, the scourge of computer cheating has received only token attention despite fears by some top players that the credibility of their profession is at stake.

Even at the Tromso Chess Olympiad cheating was absurdly easy – and the chief arbiter merely tut-tutted when the possibility was drawn to his attention.

The IOC's decision gives FIDE the perfect opportunity to drop its absurd and expensive drug testing regime and concentrate on effective anti-cheating measures.

This may be a forlorn hope. Drug testing gives FIDE officials kudos for making chess a 'real' sport and the absence of problems with performance enhancing drugs among top players allows FIDE to boast about how clean chess is compared to other sports.

However, dealing with computer cheating effectively is difficult and an admission that chess may have a problem.

As many sporting bodies have discovered – from cycling to baseball to tennis – it is better for a sport's image to treat every individual case as an aberration and otherwise let sleeping dogs lie.

showground? Who will clean the toilet block? Who will mow the grounds?

The Showground Trust has made a terrible mistake in letting Keith and Margaret leave. They were the best caretakers we have ever seen. Shame on the Trust members!

Cheryl Tyler
Mullumbimby

Holiday letting

Not worried about holiday letting next door to you? Well, you should be.

Council is busy drawing up a new Short Term Holiday Accommodation Strategy behind closed doors at their chambers. If enough negatively affected people do not write a submission to Council to tell them what they want, then all of Byron will be opened up for holiday letting.

Do not let this opportunity go by. Have your say while this is in the planning stages. Even if you are not being affected now by holiday letting, any of your neighbouring properties can become holiday lets at the whim of an investor.

Write an email to the council and tell them what you think and feel and what you want. Protect our current R2 zone where holiday lets

are illegal and call for regulated holiday letting in the R3 zones closer to town before it gets any worse.

Say NO to R1 (holiday letting over the entire town). Send your email to submission@byron.nsw.gov.au.

The deadline is now December 22. Copy and paste this into your browser for details: <http://tinyurl.com/opb34x3>.

Lorraine Ward
Byron Bay

■ With the impending opening up of the whole town for rent, the out-of-towner-tax-avoiding-double-gearers certainly won't be dirtying their hands picking up their guests' rubbish from our beaches.

And besides, all of our kids will have meaningful employment serving at fast-food outlets and cleaning holiday flats. Of course they'll have to live in Casino because they certainly won't be able to afford to live here.

But who cares, as long as there's money to be made?

Why let little things like the planning laws stand in your way? That's why I'm converting my house to an abattoir by day and a bordello by night.

Marc Salmon
Byron Bay

Weed management is complex

Sweeping generalisations about weed management are not serving the community or the environment well. Could we please separate the discussion into different, though related, areas?

1. Urban parks and public space. This is a focus for many participants in discussion, and the results of trials of the steamweeder will be of great interest.

2. Rural roadsides. Decades ago, the slasher and its side arm were introduced as an alternative to wholesale roadside spraying. The results are beautiful in many circumstances, but the machinery also spreads serious environmental weeds such as Morning Glory, Madeira Vine and, topically, Jumpseed. The side arm smashes Coral Tree into fragments, all of which are capable of growing into new trees. Now we find ourselves needing herbicide to control weeds that spread from the roadside to adjacent private land. We're possibly not imagining the steamweeder getting around our whole rural road network and dealing with the terrain?

3. Bush regeneration in na-

tive vegetation. Skilled bush regenerators efficiently remove competitive exotic vegetation using small quantities of low-toxicity herbicide. Hand weeding can produce excellent results in some circumstances, depending on the weed species, though sometimes herbicides can be more appropriate (avoiding soil disturbance and enabling translocation through a whole plant from stem injection) as well as more efficient. Herbicide toxicity?

Please check your sources. Read about 'predatory open access publishing' in Wikipedia and refer to lists of pseudo-scientific, pseudo-peer-reviewed journals.

4. Industrial-scale agriculture, based on GMO crops, with poor regulatory oversight, driven by unscrupulous multinational companies. Truly terrible, but no-one is doing this in Byron Shire.

Weed management is complex and it will be helpful to recognise that what works for parks and gardens may not be appropriate for other situations. In addition, everyone can work together to prevent some of the weed

problems, for instance by preventing the dumping of garden refuse in the bush and ensuring that invasive plants are not bought, sold and planted.

Strategies that prevent the spread of weeds, or perhaps eradicate them completely,

will obviously reduce the need for herbicide in the future. We can even aspire to respectful sharing of informed opinions. At the end of the day we all want good things for our environment.

Barbara Stewart
Wilsons Creek

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*Actual results may vary, but it's certainly good news for Wednesdays



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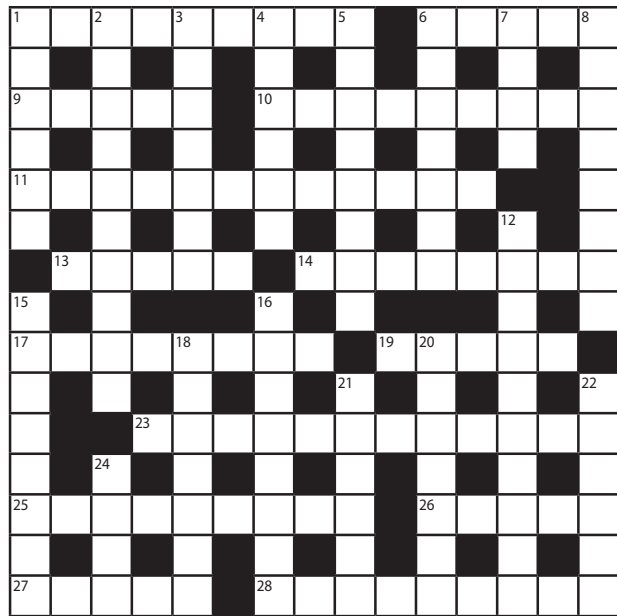
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BANGALOW

Mungo's Crossword

N050



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Dominant orders: Let us farm (9)
- Letter reveals five in debt to fifty (5)
- Daughter hindmost – how gloomy (5)
- Shabby misers met colleague of 23, perhaps (9)
- Acrobatic, or as in circus; more colleagues of 23. (12)
- Warden has small team (5)
- For instance, a sultanate; first class returns for outrageous self-interest (8)
- Divorcee evacuated, without one; freed from duty! (8)
- Shop around for fish (5)
- Shy about spiv and five workers; they claim to know the future! (12)
- Fire trial destroyed ventilator (3,6)
- Animal heard greeting Mrs Sharples (5)
- Dress custom (5)
- Strikes out over monster, maybe what a priest does when confronted by 12 (9)

DOWN

- Up-to-date fashion, with service (6)
- Material for client of 23, perhaps (10)
- Each reach marred by pain (7)
- Notre taillless rodent – very well known (6)
- Girl consumes asafetida – heaps of it! (8)
- Failure met vain war (7)
- Cat suitable for 5 (4)
- Superman's enemy, an ardent fellow-worshipper with Joh Bjelke-Petersen? (8)
- The scanner reveals these to be even less likely than 23. (10)
- Another colleague of 23 breaks the plate (8)
- Disparage shrink? (8)
- Tropical tree expert, or another colleague of 23... (7)
- ... and yet another one produces a lament and a boot for the audience (7)
- Go too far and rove about before party (6)
- Very big vehicles for the awards (6)
- Cheat from the cradle (4)

Quick Clues

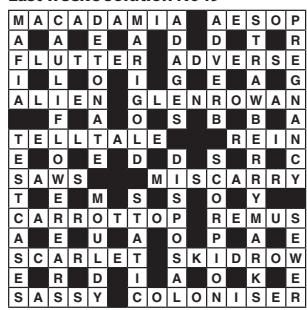
ACROSS

- Dominant, powerful (9)
- Letter that is not a consonant (5)
- Dull, gloomy (5)
- Hypnotist, often a quack (9)
- Mystics from the Rosy Cross order of medieval Germany (12)
- Twist, turn (5)
- Obsessive self-regard (8)
- Excused from duty, left out (8)
- Fish found in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic (5)
- Seers who claim to have visions, usually of the future (12)
- Ventilator, device for purifying the atmosphere (3,6)
- African carnivore, noted for its laughter-like bark (5)
- Custom, usage (5)
- Cleanses of evil, removes a curse (9)

DOWN

- Up to date, new (6)
- Striped cotton fabric (10)
- Otagia (7)
- Well known, celebrated (6)
- Large amounts, flagellations (8)
- Country in south-east Asia (7)
- Leather thong used for beating (4)
- Oldest and largest branch of the Protestant church (8)
- Wizards, sorcerers (10)
- Mind reader (8)
- Disparage, demean (8)
- Fortune teller who studies hands (7)
- Pertaining to extrasensory forces (7)
- Carry to excess, overstretch (6)
- Film awards (6)
- Child's cot (4)

Last week's solution N049



Cycling the shire: perils and triumphs

Josh Scott-Jour

My name is Josh, and you may have seen me pedalling through town over the last ten years on my 'Bent' bike (Recumbent that is).

During this time I have been a regular weekday cycle commuter between my home in Bruns and my work at Shearwater school at the back of Mullumbimby.

This week, with some cycling friends, I am celebrating a 'milestone' because all of my small rides in the Shire have added up to the distance around the world! Getting to that distance has not seemed all that hard to me, because as Paul Kelly so eloquently puts it: 'from little things, big things grow'. Small regular rides do add up over time. The scary thing is how many times we drive our cars also adds up to many times 'around' the world without anyone realising it.

Beginning

When I was in high school I biked to school, locking my bike in the 'cage' with all of the hundreds of other kids' bikes each morning. Of course once I got my P plates my poor bike was left in the garage to rust. Fast forward 25 years and my doctor is telling me that if I didn't lose weight fast my knees would start to give out. I bought a bike, and my partner and I culled the family car fleet from two down to one, and we never looked back.

At first I was a bit scared of traffic and worried about how long riding would take. Interestingly I have since found that a trip that appears difficult, dangerous and long when viewed from inside a car is often quite the opposite on a bike. There is a profound perspective change, and some



Participating in the 'victory' lap ride were (from left to right) Roy Atkins, Monte Goldenberg, Josh Scott-Jour, Phil Preston, Marco Goldenberg, and Louise Moore-Jour. Photo Annique Goldenberg

Einsteinian time dilation going on, I'm sure. The rational part of me has pondered the odds of injury and premature death from riding, and worked out that while I may have a slightly higher risk of a crash, there is a much larger counterbalancing reduction of my risk of heart disease and cancer, so overall the odds are well in the cyclist's favour. To help keep the balance in my favour I choose to never drink and ride, I wear a helmet, I have bright front and rear lights for night riding, and also I never wear earphones so I can always hear the traffic.

Good drivers

For ten years people have said to me, 'What about all the dangerous drivers on the road?' My experience is that nearly all the drivers I have shared the road with have been careful and courteous, and I appreciate that sometimes people do have to wait a little when there is no room to pass.

Only once in ten years did one car cut me off, and even that was at low speed.

Three cheers for the bus companies and their excellent bus drivers!

What a truly great service they provide! These unsung heroes are professional drivers, and always give me the right amount of space on the road when they pass. For me each busload of school students represents 50 fewer cars on the road that day.

The best bit of road on my ride is Mullumbimby Road (pictured), from the top of the hill and going into town. This bit of road was upgraded by the council in the last five

years when some tubing was laid between Uncle Tom's and Mullumbimby. It has a generous cycling lane with a clearly marked white line on the edge, and minimal pothole action. I heard a rumour that a previous councillor, Peter Westheimer, was responsible for the inclusion of this excellent bit of bikeway. Hopefully our current and future leaders will also seek glory and a measure of immortality through this means! It is my personal dream that all of the main connecting roads between towns and schools in the Shire could be upgraded to this standard, and I hope that the political will can be found to do this.

Be prepared

Regular cycling in the Shire is very doable. Getting rained on, for instance: I reckon that I only get seriously wet about four times a year. Often we have a pattern where rain will blow in quickly, but by waiting for 10 minutes or so a fine patch often appears and then I can get home without getting wet.

As well as this, some pre-planning is required so as to have changes of clothes and shoes available at work for when you arrive. A shower, or even a small fan on the desk works to quickly cut down on sweat. Heavy things like laptops are a pain to carry on a bike, so I carry the data only on a large SSD drive – it is light and has no moving parts or screens to break. This also keeps me in the discipline of having computer files backed up as a bonus.

The disk drive travels in a waterproof lunch box for those rare soaking moments.

Yes, to do a regular cycle requires buying some extra stuff: pump, puncture kit, tyre levers, rain coat, chain lube, waterproof bag and new tyres now and then.

This can add up to a few hundred dollars a year, which seems a lot but is actually an absolute bargain compared to the cost of owning a second car.

Not only that, but instead of putting \$ into petrochemicals you can give them to the very cycle-friendly Jay or Dave at True Wheel Cycles instead and feel a warm inner glow about that! (If you count each week's rides as a substitute for a gym membership fee then it looks even better!)

Slower pace

After I started commuting, I grew confident enough to ride socially. I don't go fast enough to keep up with the serious lycra heads (MAMILS) but there are plenty of other riders who love a slower pace and enjoy sharing the many wonderful back roads and countryside that we are blessed with.

Trust me, it is fabulous out there, and you will see and experience the journey at least ten times better in the open air on a bike, than you possibly could from the confines of a motor vehicle.

All good roads eventually come to an end, and so I am off to Melbourne with my bike for a sabbatical year. I hear they have some seriously long bike paths and some very well patronised rail trails there. I'll start my next 'circumnavigation' while I check them out to see if they stack up to the Shire.

Happy riding!

2ND APRIL - 8TH APRIL 2015

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Mudhoney Beauty

Mudhoney Beauty has re-opened above the well-known Mudhoney Hair Salon in Byron Bay on Browning St. Kamon, the manager of the beauty and day spa, has been working in Byron Bay for some years and brings know-how and passion to the business.

Mudhoney Beauty uses the 100 per cent organic and Australian-made product La Clinica for all beauty treatments, and offers facials, massages, nail treatments, waxing and spraytan.

Mudhoney Beauty also offers Bio Sculpture Gel nails as well as Shellac for a complete nail offering. 'Everybody loves the feel and look of the salon as well as the convenience of being able to have their hair done downstairs and then just step upstairs to get the beauty treatment,' says Kamon.

15 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Phone 6685 5545.

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New too is the Oxyoasis Hyperbaric Oxygen machine for fresh, beautiful dewy skin.

So if you want to indulge in first-class facial treatment in a secluded, peaceful, air-conditioned atmosphere in the heart of Byron Bay call Judy for a range of facials and waxing.

For more information call 6685 5870.

Celebrate and win at LiveLife this Thursday

Join us for festive cheer and great gift ideas to wrap up your Christmas Shopping at our LiveLife Rewards Christmas Event on Thursday Dec 18 from 10am to 1pm.

To celebrate the season, come in and enjoy refreshments on arrival and your chance to win one of our lucky door prizes of beautiful Christmas baskets. We are also offering three for two in our gift department. Buy three gifts and get the cheapest free!

This year's Christmas Catalogue has great savings on fragrances and gift packs. Jurlique has natural skincare packs and Clarins has a range of beautiful gifts. Gift vouchers are available as is free gift wrapping, making your gift-giving decisions that much easier.

Come along for a fun event with the team!

LiveLife Pharmacy.
Woolworths Plaza,
Jonson Street,
Byron Bay. Phone
6685 7401.

Relief from Psoriasis: Fresh Hope



The prognosis for psoriasis sufferers is excellent at the Good Skin Clinic, because we are addressing what triggers the condition rather than just symptomatic relief, according to Barry Donnelly BHSc CM N

WHM ND. As important as relief is,

clearing the condition to the point of not requiring ongoing medication is our goal; it is what we strive to achieve with every client.

The clinic offers products for sufferers to help bring the condition under control and the products are developed using only herbal materials and essential oils. These remarkable products and protocols have the highest efficacy and are designed by Dr Tirant, biochemist and medical research scientist.

Other skin conditions that are also successfully treated at the Good Skin Clinic include eczema, acne, rosacea, dermatitis, ichthyosis, psoriatic arthritis and nail / fungal infections.

For further information, call 1300 956 566 or email barry@feelinggr8.net.au or visit our website www.goldcoast.goodskincare.com.au or www.northernrivers.goodskincare.com.au.

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Clinton had been suffering psoriasis for 23 years with virtually no success in finding a resolution to his problem until attending the Good Skin Clinic and after only 3 consultations and 12 weeks of therapy his condition has dramatically improved for the better.

Now after 23 years Clinton is now enjoying the simple pleasures of going for a swim at the beach, his confidence has returned.

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email: barry@feelinggr8.net.au
or visit our website: goldcoast.goodskincare.com.au



Good Skin Clinic



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Utterly Delicious Simple Food - Belinda Jeffery

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves - for the young adult

Tristan Banks *Two Wolves* for the budding reader

The Children Act - Ian McEwan - a compelling and thought provoking read

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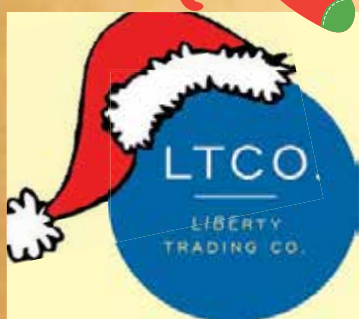
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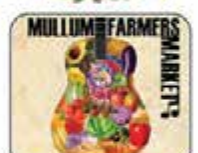
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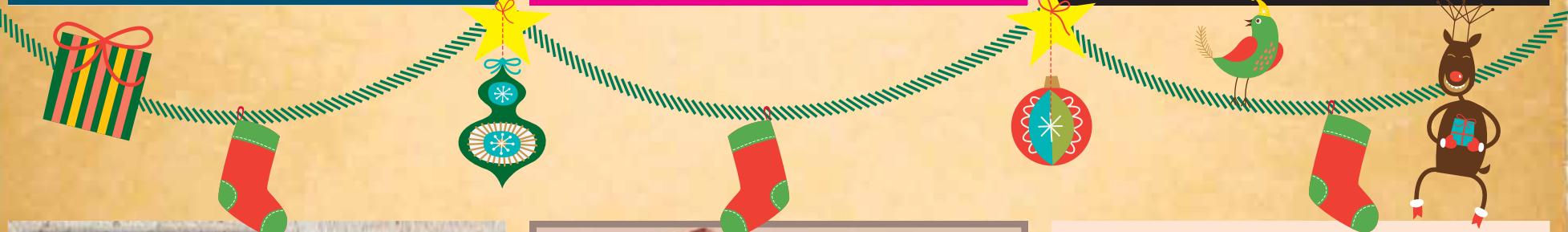
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Book now, these are sure to go off like bells at an elf disco. Head to spaghetticircus.com for more info & register today. Yay!

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Mullum Shop Local this Christmas



CHINCOGAN MECHANICAL

BJ & ML Lang
10 Smith St Mullumbimby
6684 3797

mullum heads
organic hair

p 6684 1327
63 stuart st mullumbimby 2482

From Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce: Welcome everyone to the Shop Local campaign being run by the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Echo Publications. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to support local businesses and for our local businesses to give back to the community.

Thanks to *The Echo*, we have \$3,000 to give away in vouchers to local shoppers to spend at local stores. This campaign is in keeping with the values of Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce, which include stimulating

the local economy, fostering employment opportunities, garnering transportation options, promoting the arts and entertainment, and managing the visitor economy, all with a mind to a sustainable future.

We wish you all a prosperous lead-up to the festive season and a wonderful start to the new year.

From *The Echo*: *The Echo* grew up around here and we're proud to support the Buy Local campaign, because those of us who've chosen to live here love it. You can walk down the street with your kids and

they'll know people in the shops. When you buy something, you know your money's staying local – you can see the local owners supporting the schools and other local businesses.

It's probably been like this for a hundred years: 'oyster bars' have been replaced by cool cafes, organic stores and computer shops; and it's a bit harder to get a park, but you can still see your friends from the hills shopping in Mullumbimby's main street or at the music festival. There's a great sense of community here that we should support by shopping locally.

CHINCOGAN STORE

OPEN 7 DAYS

6am – 8:30pm

6684 2214

31a Burringbar St Mullumbimby

Chincogan Store

... is the corner store with a difference, selling everything from buns and burgers to vegetarian, gluten free, espresso coffee and cakes. For the last 10 years, the quick and friendly staff have been swapping slightly crazy, inviting smiles with the happy fun people (their customers) that they call the most caring community anywhere.

31a Burringbar St, 6684 2214

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Customers use Global Web Pack to have a website that is easy to maintain, looks professional, and is secure. They have a range of services from web design and development to e-commerce solutions and online promotion.

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The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce

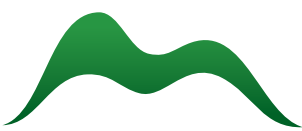
... represents the interests of Mullumbimby's businesses and community organisations. We are committed to stimulating the local economy and managing the visitor

economy, fostering employment opportunities, and promoting the arts and entertainment.

Phoenix menswear

It's the funky place to buy all your manly needs – vintage, retro, handmade and new men's clothing and accessories. The shop is located in the centre of town opposite IGA and is a must-stop shop for great Christmas gifts ideas ... and if you can't choose there's always the gift voucher! You'll find a unique and funky range of menswear here, sourced from far and wide.

Burringbar Street, 0487 160 691



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

info@mullumbimby.org.au
www.mullumbimby.org.au

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or community
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BUILDING BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

Dolphin Office Choice

... stock all manner of stationery products. Head to Dolphin Office Choice for just the right advice on your next project. Mullumbimby customers comment on how much they appreciate having the broad range of stock and services in their town. The business holds a firm belief in supporting their community by shopping locally themselves.

Burringbar Street, 6684 2026

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Mullum Shop Local this Christmas

is an initiative of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and proudly sponsored by The Echo.



Simply Sheer

Simply Sheer is a vibrant hair salon in the centre of Mullum's main street. Mullumbimby girl Cecily Ryan has owned this salon for the last three-and-a-half years, and aims to provide the best creative, individual and affordable hair services always using quality, nourishing products in a fun, fresh environment where clients can come sit and relax.

43 Burringbar Street, 6684 1441

The Source bulk food store

has a range of more than 300 foods including dried fruit, nuts and seeds, local raw honey, super foods, flours and grains and lots of tempting treats.

So treat yourself to healthy delicious food this Christmas and the convenience of being able to purchase just the right amount, from a teaspoon of spice to kilos of lentils.

Stuart Street. 6684 1007

Santos

Santos Organics is a vibrant organic health food supermarket dedicated to providing the highest quality fresh local produce, groceries and personal care/home products. There is also an organic juice bar that serves freshly made lunches, raw treats and fresh juices. From humble beginnings in the back of a van in Main Arm in the 70s, Santos has grown to become one of the Shire's most loved community businesses, with stores in Byron, Mullum and a fast-growing online space.

Burringbar Street, 6684 3404



the source
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Win one of 30 \$100 vouchers!

TO ENTER simply shop at any of the participating stores. Each Tuesday of the campaign at 12pm, five winners will be drawn out the front of the Newsagency

The Mullum Shop Local campaign is open to all members of the community. Simply shop at any of the participating stores and you will receive an entry form. Fill out your entry form, attach your receipt or have the store stamp your entry form, and drop the entry form into one of the boxes located at the newsagency, Stewart's Menswear or Santos. The campaign will see 30 x \$100 vouchers given away to local shoppers. Each Tuesday of the campaign at 12pm out the front of the Newsagency, five winners will be drawn except for the final week when 10 winners will be drawn. Each winner will receive a \$100 voucher to spend at a participating store. The winners will be announced on the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce website, in *The Echo* newspaper, and will receive a notification by phone or email.

Terms & Conditions: The Mullum Shop Local campaign runs for five weeks from 18 November and finishes on 23 December. Vouchers must be spent by 31 March 2015 and cannot be spent at more than one store. Winners' draws are final.



Last week's winners and where they bought their tickets from were: Hugo Tremayne – Mitre 10, Jean Chandler – Stewart's Menswear, Chloe Allan – Mullum Mac, Rime Turnbull – Santos, Patricia Byotes – The Source

There's more information on all 60 of the participating businesses and each week's winners of the Mullum Shop Local campaign on *Echonetdaily*.

www.echo.net.au/mullum-shop-local



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Why I want to see the North Coast CSG Free

“I think locals deserve to hear the real story about risky coal seam gas from independent experts rather than just being bombarded with industry spin from the CSG aligned National Party politicians and lobbyists.”

There is no life without water...

Independent research by the National Water Commission has found many potential dangers associated with coal seam gas developments and its impact on our precious water systems.

Out of the many risks identified by the commission, let me briefly touch on three standout threats that underpin my drive to see the North Coast declared CSG Free.

1. The commission warns that CSG drilling may cause reductions in surface water flows that could affect surface water systems, ecosystems, irrigation and grazing lands. It has the potential to also lead to land subsidence over large areas of ground;
2. CSG production requires large volumes of waste water to be treated. Should this water make its way into other surface water systems it could alter natural flow patterns and have significant impacts on water quality, and on river and wetland health; and
3. The practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, involves injecting water, sand, and chemicals into underground rock to free reserves of gas. Fracking has the potential to damage the quality of groundwater and result in cross-contamination between aquifers.

On the issue of water alone, I believe that CSG presents itself as just too great a poisonous risk to residents, the environment, farms, valleys, communities, and to our general prosperity.

Our region has already embraced renewable energy technologies like solar. Renewables need to be our focus as our entire economy transitions away from fossil fuels, including dangerous coal seam gas, into a *Low Carbon Economy*.

Justine Elliot

Justine Elliot MP
Pro-Community / Anti-CSG



Email: justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au

Phone: (07) 55234 371

Office: 107 Minjungbal Drive
Tweed Heads South



www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP

Trippy Folk

Photos and story by Matthew Michaelis

The 1960s saw beards, music, poetry and sex all freely available. At the time I was just a toddler; however, my full-sized bro was into it big time. Acid, dope and the familiar psychedelic posters lit with UV black lights, King Crimson, Uriah Heap, Sergeant Peppers, Stones, all albums spinning on my brother's homemade turntable blaring out across the valley.

It was an indelible period for those who were there. At the time it seemed like the beautiful people all lived in my brother's flat under my parent's house. I was a tot but I drank in the dulcet tones of Woodstock folk and rock with all of its depth and truth. These eccentric people with their alien colours and textures are now

either working corporate jobs or living somewhere in the northern rivers. The 70s and 80s followed with a much colder and more conspicuous trend; these times were definitely not as loving as the 60s and some of today's retro fit-outs are melding all three decades.



3.

To me it doesn't matter what era is being emulated, it's just heartening to see people squeezing the colour back into our lives again even if it's just in a fashion sense. Remakes, flares and hipsters and, of course, the real hippy survivors living peacefully in our part of the world di-



rect from the stage I've just described.

I wandered into Folk cafe on an afternoon excursion only to find myself having strange feelings – flashbacks? No, not that kind – the good kind. Here, on the outskirts of Byron Bay, is a cool little dig. The folk at Folk seem chilled. I swear I saw Joan Baez in the corner of my eye – certainly the costume was down pat. The experience here is kind of caring, childlike and soft (now I really sound drugged).

This is a feelgood place. It's open, but small; it's friendly but not imposing; the staff are chatty yet not too familiar; and the menu's uncluttered and simple with nothing over \$14. They serve down-to-earth food where you can taste every element – it embodies my metaphor – the 60s; it's either that, or they've slipped something in my chai. Anything negative, I hear you say? Only trivial stuff really. Everywhere in this region appears to be built on or near a paddock and flies in summer love to suss the folk sitting plump in their domains, so perhaps put sugar in lidded bowls (in fact *Sugar Man* was playing at the time – weird right?). Wait – an update, just in: I returned for a morning coffee (BTW: this was very



A cool little dig where the folk at Folk seem chilled.

well made, soft milk and a rich blend – not bitter) and found the sugar in pourers, hooray, they listen to advice too; what next, eh! Two young women had the floor and were very nice and accommodating, relaxed and not in the least uptight or self-conscious, like some hipster joints I've visited. A turntable was playing tunes in the corner, Rodriguez's *Cold Fact* was going on in the background with his timeless romantic protests. And finally, the rumours that this cafe is somehow the love child of Top Shop and Roadhouse is poppycock. The owners here are very much a couple of individuals, entrepreneurs recently returned from a three-and-a-half-year stint in Melbourne – cool and really quite happy looking too. They apparently packed up their kombi and drove from Melbourne until the horizon was azure and gorgeous. Folk appears to be the result of a trip and for me I'll be taking a trip here more than once.

■ Folk
Eat in or take away. 7 days. 7am until 3pm for food and 3.30pm for drinks, cakes etc Lot 1, 399 Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay (turn at Sunrise Boulevard)

1. Down-to-earth food where you can taste every element. 2. Brekkie burrito. 3. Colourful and friendly staff.

Japanese Italian

Bolo Ma

Barefoot bowls & dine at Bolo Ma – functions up to 180 with stage & dance floor in the club

@ the Bowlo 18-20 Marvell St, Byron Bay
Dinner from 5:30pm – Wednesday to Sunday

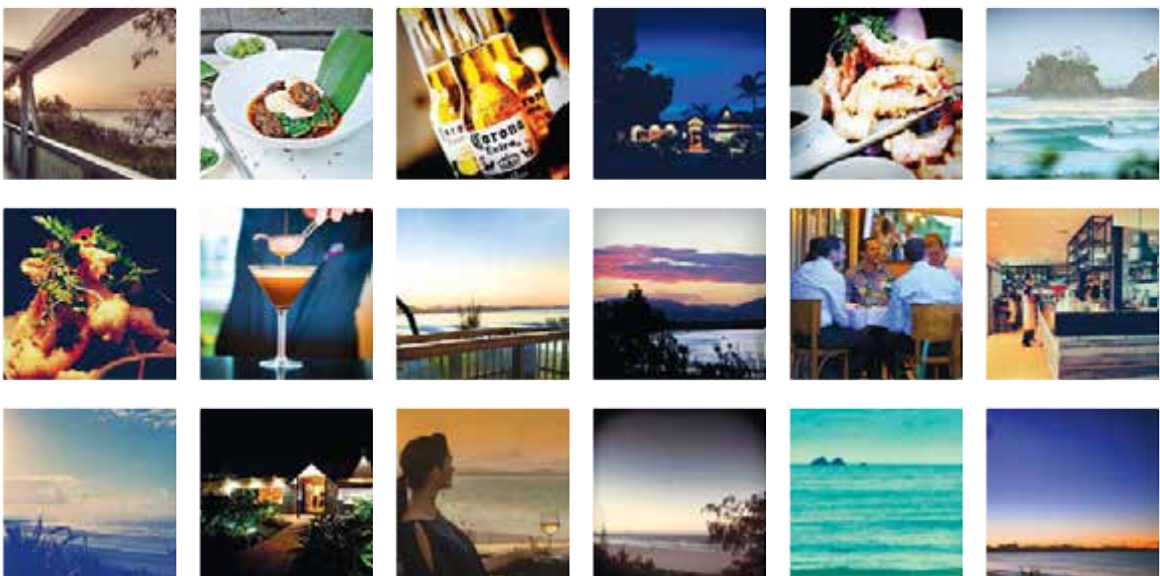
Rae's

ON WATEGO'S

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- see the organic medicinal honey processing.
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discussions on where we go from here



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A booming Australian organic market

Organic
round-up

By Alasdair Smithson

Since I co-authored the first Australian Organic Market Report in 2008, the latest research shows that the organic market in Australia has been growing at 15 per cent per year and is still growing.

Now worth an estimated \$1.72 billion it is very encouraging to see that the rate of growth is significant especially when compared to the growth rate of the conventional or chemically grown food market, which has only grown at 3.5 per cent from 2012-14.

This shows that our nation is starting to put more of an emphasis on a healthy diet and to seek food that is grown without pesticides, herbicides, growth hormones and GM ingredients. Perhaps consumers are also starting to join up some of the dots, realising that organic farming also provides positive environmental benefits, can help sequester

carbon in the soil – thus potentially mitigating climate change – and has the highest levels of animal welfare.

Although the market is growing it should be noted that the organic market still only accounts for about 1.25 per cent of total food sales in Australia. So while we're on the right track there is still a long way to go before organic food and farming becomes the norm and anywhere close to some of the more progressive Scandinavian countries, where organic food consumption accounts for about 15 per cent of overall food purchases.

After a closer read of the report it is also clear that Australia exports a large quantity of its organic food (mainly beef and grain) and that although Australia boasts

the largest number of certified organically farmed hectares in the world, 22.69 million; this is owing to a few large-scale and extensive organic cattle farms in the Northern Territory. Unfortunately there has been virtually no increase in new organic farmers taking to the land – probably owing to the fact that farming is still seen as a physical job with a low income and is not truly recognised as a profession, basically all the things that drive young people to go to work in the cities.

This either means existing organic farmers are going to have to get bigger to feed the

ever-increasing demand for organic food, or we're going to have to start importing organic food, or we're going to have to offer better opportunities to train and make organic farming more attractive to the next generation. The latter is my preference and we have recently launched a crowd-funding campaign to do just that. If you'd like to know more visit: www.chuffed.org/project/munchcrunchorganics.

If you'd like to read the full *Australian Organic Market Report* a free copy can be found at www.austorganic.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/AO_Report_2014_web.pdf.



The organic market in Australia is booming, according to the *Australian Organic Market Report 2014*, published three weeks ago by Australian Organic. Alasdair Smithson, resident Byron Bay organic farmer and owner of Munch Crunch Organic fruit and veg supplier, explores this phenomenon.



Support our crowd-funding campaign
Let's grow together!

Locals win National Organic Industry awards

Matthew Michaelis

Australia's best organic businesses have been recognised by the industry's most prestigious awards – the highly coveted 2014 Organic Consumer Choice Awards (OCCAs) – announced last Friday.

Conducted by the Centre for Organic Research and Education (CORE), the annual industry awards program is one of a national lineup of organic events and celebrations. The Awards were launched as part of National Organic Week (October 3-12). Consumers had one month to cast their votes for their favourite organic stores, brands, products, websites...

Queensland organic businesses dominated the awards again this year by winning six of the nine categories and Western Australia one. New

South Wales received two major awards, both of which were awarded to local northern rivers people – Sustainable Farmer of the Year: Alasdair Smithson (NSW) our very own 'Organic Roundup' editorial contributor; the other winner was sugar-free 'Living Elixir' turmeric ginger beer from Red Dragon Organics (NSW).

The awards ceremony itself was held at our very own Harvest Café in Newrybar. It was attended by prominent celebrities including Annie Brownjohn, Telstra's Businesswoman of the Year 2013 award winner and founder of leading organic food manufacturing company The Right Food Group, and National Organic Week ambassador Costa Georgiadis (*Gardening Australia*).

'Recognising the link between healthy food and our wellbeing is highlighted by

these awards,' said Costa.

'Every business that enters these awards wins whether they receive an award or not,' says Eric Love, chairman of CORE. 'Winning involves reaching out to all their customers and encouraging them to vote for them. This enhances customer loyalty and results in a significant increase in purchases of organic products for all participants,' adds Love.

Thousands of consumers around Australia voted for their favourite nominated organic businesses and products through the National Organic Week website. The 40 nominees attracted nearly 6,000 votes.

'I like the OCCA's public voting system. It is not biased, it is real. Everyone has a vote. A small independent producer such as Red Dragon Organics can win. I feel real

pride that discerning members of the public, rather than judges, voted our sugar-free Living Elixir as the best organic product of 2014,' comments Richard Patton, general manager of Red Dragon Organics.

The Australian Organic Industry is growing 15 per cent per year and is now worth \$1.72 billion. This indicates the general community's interest in eating healthful food and protecting our valuable farming resources.

In 2015, the voting for the NOW Organic Consumer Choice Awards will continue to target organic consumers through the internet and social media. National Organic Week 2015 will be held over 2-11 October.

Information is available at www.organicweek.net.au and on www.facebook.com/nationalorganicweekaustralia.



Strip-away your culinary inhibitions with Real Nude Food lessons



Real Nude Food by Charlotte Wild is a new business based in Brunswick Heads.

Folks may remember Charlotte from Let Them Eat Cake in Byron creating interesting cakes for 10 years in the Shire. Charlotte

is back into it and will be running cooking classes, catering events/festivals and supplying gluten-free and sugar-free party cakes.

'My real passion is feeding and teaching people about healthy food, espous-

ing the same principles as my food heroes, chef Pete Evans and I Quit Sugar Sarah Wilson, that is preparing refined-sugar-free, gluten-free, fermented and slow-cooked foods, nourishing traditional foods and super-

foods. Hence my business is called Real Nude Food,' said Charlotte.

Two-hour cooking class \$75. Dates: Saturday 10 January 10am-12 noon and Sunday 17 January 10am-12

noon in Brunswick Heads with chatting and eating afterwards.

To book call: 0403 677 684 or email: info@eatcake.net.au. Bookings and enquiries on 0403 677 684.

hot plate Duck Confit, Five Spices and Shiraz Sauce

Preparing duck

- Whole ducks – 4
- Salt – 420gm
- Sugar – 65gm
- Duck fat – 2kg

Using knife, take legs and breasts off whole duck (breasts can be used for something else).

Mix salt and sugar, spread over legs like seasoning (maybe not all the mix!). Refrigerate for a few hours.

Put on a baking tray or in a pot, cover with duck fat, cover with lid or foil.

Place in oven for 12 hours at 90°C.

Ingredients for duck sauce

- Remaining duck carcass
- Onions – 150gm
- Carrots – 150gm

Garlic – 1 bulb

Celery – 50gm

Leek – 50gm

Bay leaves – 2

Thyme – 1 branch

Rosemary – 1 branch

Tomatoes – 5

Honey – 50gm

Black pepper – 20gm

Juniper – 6

Clove – 8

Star anise – 8

Coriander – 20gm

Cinnamon stick – 2

Red wine (Shiraz) – 500ml

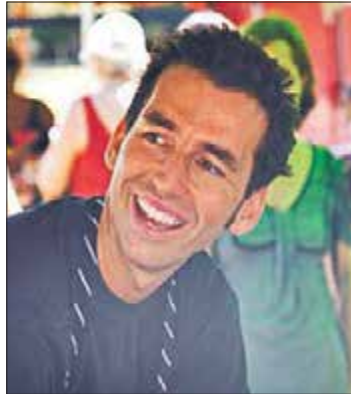
Cognac (brandy) – 50ml

Method

In oven at 220°C, roast the duck bones until golden then add all ingredients (except the wine and cognac); keep roasting until dark and caramelised.



Confit of Duck Leg, La Table Restaurant – Mullumbimby



Head Chef – Bruno Pouget

Place all in a pot, deglaze (this lifts all the good stuff stuck on the pan) and clean the tray on heat with wine and water, add into pot and

fill with cold water to cover the bones. Place on a really slow burner for 6-12 hours. Strain and reduce till rich and glazed. Add cognac, correcting flavours (maybe a bit of Balsamic vinegar!).

When you've tried cooking this dish, compare it with the real thing at La Table Restaurant.

Bruno Pouget is head chef and the owner of this French bistro and cafe situated at 72a Burringbar St, Mullumbimby.

Enquiries on 6684 2227 or email: contact@latable.com.au.

CHRISTMAS TRADING
As Christmas Day & New Years Day fall on Thursdays. Byron Farmers Market will operate Christmas Eve and New Years Eve for these two weeks only.

WED 24TH & WED 31ST DEC
All other days it is business Thursdays as usual. There is no changes to Bangalow Saturday mornings.

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BYRON BAY 🌻 every thursday
8 - 11am butler st reserve

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8 - 11am behind bangalow hotel

Byron Farmers Market @ByronFarmMarket

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Bangalow Hotel
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Lunch: 12 - 3pm
Dinner 5.30 - 9pm
All day bistro menu
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SMH GOOD PUB FOOD GUIDE 2013 AND 2014

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italianatthepacific.com.au

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Mon-Sat 8am-4pm
From December
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Join us for a flavoursome journey in Byron Bay.

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6680 7426
www.stelmodining.com

St Elmo is a place where you can enjoy great company, first-class food, sophisticated cocktails and an extensive wine list. St Elmo is plating up modern Spanish cuisine to be enjoyed amongst friends and family. Our menus change regularly and feature daily specials.

Traditional Thai
Dinner every evening 5.30-9.30pm

5/2 Fletcher St, Byron Bay
6685 5151

Here the curry pastes are freshly pounded to leave your palate dumbfounded.

Here the ambrosial meals are cooked to order and the scrumptious cocktails and mocktails thrust you into a land of wonderful tales.

Hog's Breath Cafe
Open 7 Days, 11.30am-2.30pm
Dinner from 5.30pm
9/4 Jonson St, Byron Bay
6685 5320
www.hogsbreath.com.au

Hog's Breath Cafe's menu just got better with some mouth-watering new steaks, salad, pasta and an abundance of delicious dessert selections. As usual, the diverse menu also offers chicken, seafood, snacks, burgers, ribs, kid's meals, a range of Lite Options, plus their famous Prime Rib Steak - slow cooked for up to 18 hours for maximum flavour and tenderness. Kids eat free Mon - Wed nights and you can grab lunch for just \$9.90, so there's something to please the whole family.

O-Sushi
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Byron Bay Woolies Plaza, Jonson St 02 6685 7103
Broadbeach The Oracle, 12 Charles Ave 07 5570 2166
www.osushi.com.au

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2014 WINNER!



BYRON BAY CONTINUED

BYRON BAY CONTINUED



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Rae's Fish Cafe
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Wategos Beach,
Byron Bay
6685 5366
raes@wategos.com.au

Overlooking the beautiful Wategos Beach, Rae's Fish Cafe is the must-visit restaurant while you're visiting Byron Bay.



Muoi's Feast
Dinner: Mon-Sat
11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay
Bookings Essential
6685 7557

Muoi's Feast has created a strong following since opening in 2003. Winning numerous awards for its international cuisine, the Asian section of the menu is the predominant favourite. Enjoy for dinner.



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Bombora Bar & Grill Cafe
Open 7 days for Breakfast and Lunch, with Dinner Thursday to Sunday.
50 Pacific Parade,
Lennox Head, East Ballina
6687 4333

New cafe lounge bar and grill in Lennox Head near the beautiful Lake Ainsworth and across the road from the beach. Tables are set amongst the tropical gardens on the front porch with glimpses of the ocean. Fantastic food and refreshments with a convenient takeaway coffee window for your early morning fix.
Great food, drinks and friendly service in a peaceful island style setting. Ease on down to Bombora.
Private function hire also available.



Lemongrass
Dinner Mon-Sun
Lunch on weekdays
Shop 3/17 Lawson Arcade
Phone orders welcome
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The only exclusively Vietnamese restaurant in town, this intimate space spilling out into a courtyard offers up fabulous dishes packed full of herbs, spices and varied textures. The traditionally light and healthy style of cuisine ensures the freshness and natural tastes of food are preserved as much as possible. It's a popular spot so bookings are recommended.



La Table
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Mullumbimby
Cafe 6684 2220
Resto 6684 2227
www.latable.com.au
www.facebook.com/la.table.byron

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Wed-Sun
18-20 Marvell Street,
Byron Bay
6685 6202
0487 427 611

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ALL YOUR NORTH COAST ENTERTAINMENT

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PASSING THE STARLIGHT TO A NEW GENERATION

TWICE A YEAR THE BANGALOW A&I HALL WELCOMES THE STARLIGHT FESTIVAL, AN EXPO THAT SHOWCASES NEW-AGE AND ESOTERIC HEALERS, PSYCHICS AND ALTERNATIVE-HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN OUR REGION.

It's the brainchild of Raym Richards, and this year Mr Richards passes the 'crystal' baton to his daughter Rosie, who will take on directorship of this popular event.

Raym, tell me why you have decided to step down as director of The Starlight Festival?

It has been 18 fun years and the event has been a large part of my life, but over that past few years I have been feeling the need to spend more time on promoting my own healing modality and writing. I have reached the stage now with Crystal Dreaming where I am teaching teachers.

The method is growing in popularity and receiving mainstream recognition as powerful tool for positive self-transformation. In 2015 I will be taking the modality overseas, where the first of my two upcoming courses in New York is almost sold out. My books are very popular as ebooks and I am working on a fourth, which is more of a novel than a collection of stories or a guidebook. I also find myself returning to my origins as a fine artist as I am writing poetry again.

My dilemma was who I could possibly hand the event over to who could maintain the ethics of sharing and peace associated with the Starlight Festival. When my daughter Rosie offered to take it over I was thrilled – she is the perfect person to continue the Starlight tradition.

What was the original idea – how long have you been running it – and how has it grown since then?

When I moved to the region around 20 years ago and I could see a wealth of world-class talent here in Byron that most people were not aware of. With my background in the arts as a creative individual, performer and festival organiser it seemed obvious to me that a festival that truly celebrated the abilities of local practitioners was a must. I visited all the local practitioners I could and suggested they participate. Fortunately for me they could see I was coming from the heart so they got on board and the first event happened at the Byron Surf Club some 18 years ago.

CONTINUED P34 →

GOOD LORD IT'S SHEPPARD!

BRISBANE'S SHEPPARD HAVE BEEN ON A STELLAR JOURNEY WITH 2014 SEEING THEM ACHIEVE MILESTONES SUCH AS THE HIGHEST-SELLING AUSTRALIAN SINGLE WITH *GERONIMO*, SOLD-OUT HEADLINE PERFORMANCES AT LONDON'S BARFLY, NEW YORK'S WEBSTER HALL AND LA'S THE LYRIC STUDIO.

The modest Brissie crew also chalked up a performance on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. So how does a group only together for a few short years manage such a coup? George Sheppard, one of the three siblings who provide the genetic and creative core for Sheppard, filled in the gaps. 'Our manager in the US is Scooter Brawn. He has a few contacts, and Ellen is a big fan of his, and when he proposed to put us on the show she heard our song and was really keen. You could see our numbers go up pretty instantly and there were a lot more people commenting on social media.'

For the sibs who grew up in Port Moresby it wasn't until they'd left school that their musical inclinations directed them to their creative calling.

'Amy was studying music at TAFE and had to write a song, and she thought it sounded bland and walked past the shower when I was singing and had a lightbulb moment when she heard me. She asked me to sing harmonies on the song, and it worked well so we decided to do stuff together as a duo.

I guess we were more like Angus and Julia Stone in style; that was for two years and it was as a bit of a hobby but started getting more serious as we added more members. We brought Jason Bambino up to play bass guitar for us and he started to play acoustic guitar one night and we realised we could write songs together.'

When it came to recording the super-successful *Bombs Away*, the band's debut album, it was basically a process of paring back what the crew had been throwing together over the years. 'We just wrote a bunch of pop songs over three years; we never really went in with the idea of a specific album.

We'd write a song and go in and record it and by the end we had 30 tracks to choose from. Choosing was hard. We had to decide what kind of band we were and what we wanted to release.

Because we weren't really a band we hadn't had that clear objective from the beginning, and the music itself is quite eclectic.

CONTINUED P35 →

the northern

WED 17 HOWLIN' GREEN
 THU 18 JOSH HAMILTON
 FRI 19 BOOTLEG RASCAL, HEMMINGWAY, DJ TAYA MILLS,
 SUN 21 CHRISTMAS RAFFLES 5PM NICK CUNNINGHAM
 MON 22 ZIGGY ALBERTS
 TUE 23 MARSHALL OKELL

SATURDAY
 20 DECEMBER
 TY SEGALL
 BABE RAINBOW
 DEAD BEAT BAND
 DJ SAMMOND

coming soon

26 DEC DROP LEGS
 27 DEC A LITTLE PROVINCE
 30 DEC WAXHEAD DACHAMBO
 NYE GOONS OF DOOM, OCEAN ALLEY, THE BADLANDS
 2 JAN LYALL MOLONEY
 3 JAN ELEGANT SHIVA
 8 JAN THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS
 9 JAN TROPICAL ZOMBIE

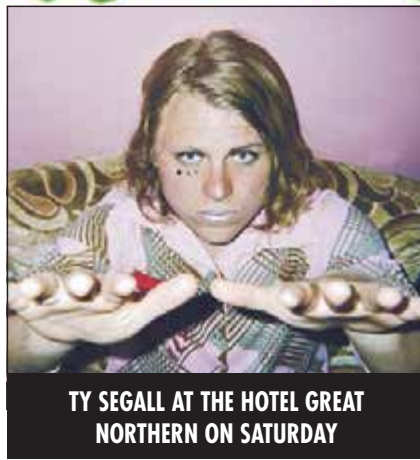
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!LIVE INSTORE! AT THE GUITAR BAZAAR
 BYRON BAY RECORDS GUITARS
SAT 20TH DEC 12PM
 NEW RECORD ON VINYL!! "NEW CROWN"
 COME GET IT SIGNED & MEET THE BAND!
 SHOP 4/103 JONSON ST (ACROSS THE ROAD FROM WOOLIES IN CARLYLE ST)
 FACEBOOK.COM/GUITARBAZAARAUSTRALIA



METHOD AT THE BEACH HOTEL ON THURSDAY, FRIDAY AT HOTEL BRUNSWICK, SHEOAK SHACK IN FINGAL ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT NIMBIN HOTEL



TY SEGALL AT THE HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN ON SATURDAY

seamlessly mixing known classics and 'must haves' from all over the globe over the past 50 years coupled with tight and colourful arrays of scratching will have you assured that skilled vinyl DJs are alive and kicking – or scratching. Playing strictly vinyl at the **Brewery on Friday** from 8pm.

TY ONE ON

Ty Segall will undertake his biggest Australian tour to date this December – announcing Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Byron Bay and Brisbane headline dates atop an appearance in the 'Sup for Meredith Music Festival. It's a run to match the garage prodigy's extensive new double album *Manipulator*, released tomorrow on Spunk Records – all seventeen glorious songs of it.

Dealing in both quality and quantity, Ty Segall's legacy owns eight studio albums and just as many genre-bending collaborations, while his cult live show has hit countless global stages from Coachella to Primavera and Bonnaroo. Call it searing garage-punk or visceral hard rock; Nuggets-schooled psych or thrashing, straight-up rock'n'roll. At 27, he's California's guitar laureate – rarely short of a new record or riff. Ty returns with a new galaxy of sounds and songs and plays the **Hotel Great Northern on Saturday**.

HERE COMES THE SUN: WELCOME TO THE SOLSTICE FESTIVAL

This **Friday and Saturday** sees Electric Forest present the **2014 summer solstice celebration** at Kohinur Hall. Featuring: DJ Magu; DJ LeOch; DJ Limes; Short Circuit; DJ Kamos; DJ Jade Sebire, Chocolate Yoga Cacao Ceremony and Karyln Boyter's Rebirthing breathwork.

Electric Forest events create a unique festival atmosphere where self-expression, freedom and personal journeys can meld into a positive life-affirming experience through dance within an immersive multimedia environment.

After many years of summer solstice parties, festivals and electronic music events in the hills of Byron Bay and surrounds, Electric Forest keeps the underground sound of Byron Bay well and truly alive, refuelling the passion for these memorable gatherings. **Kohinur Hall on Friday** from 7pm and on **Saturday** from 3pm.

GYPSY PARTY

The **'Zorba' Gypsy Party** is a becoming a tradition in the Byron Shire and usually taking place at Durrumbul Hall. This time The Zorba is coming to the Byron Bay Brewery. A big night of dance to Gypsy music by ShakShuka with special international guests from the Uplift Festival.

ShakShuka was founded by Shai Shriki, Laura Target and Rachel Myra. ShakShuka plays music from the heart and around the world, both heartachingly beautiful and contagiously danceable. Up-tempo eastern European Gypsy melodies, Middle-Eastern, Spanish, Latin and original songs are played on guitar, oud, fiddle, hip-moving grooves,

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Christmas Special

- gifts
- lunch
- fashion
- massage
- readings
- jewellery
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- fresh juices
- coffee or tea
- meet friends
- books & toys
- local food produce
- listen to the music
- dance to the drums



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REINCARNATION OF RAASA

Peter Davidian on sitar, and David Fernandez on tabla and bansuri, have a rare musical synergy. They will be performing an Indian classical music recital, on instruments dating back to the 12th century. They will be accompanied by Neti Read on tamboura, 'the sound of the universe'. They will serenade your hearts and minds with their incredible skills, sharpened from decades of devotion to Indian music. At the Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby, 4pm this Sunday.

LOVEABLE ROGUES

This **Saturday** night from 8pm the **Mullum Ex-Services Club** celebrates the festive season with the final showcase gig of the year with a double dose of blues, soul and roots music. The night kicks off with Devil's Kiosk featuring singer/harp-player Jamie Symons, who is the 2013/14 Höhner Golden Harmonica Championship winner. And that's not all: The Rogue Gene featuring Belle Hendrik and Barry Milan with John Hill on keys will be playing songs from their latest release and their last two studio albums. The band was nominated for a Chain award and their CD charted in the blues and roots top 20 this year.

DJ AT THE HELMY

Emerging from earlier years spent as a rock drummer and hand-percussion tutor, through to tour DJ for Triple J favourite, Illy, co-founder of Beats Working (Obese Records) and DJ for iconic Melbourne heavyweights, Helmy's style of



DJ HELMY AT THE BYRON BREWERY ON FRIDAY

CONTINUED FROM P33

The Starlight outgrew the Surf Club pretty quickly and with assistance from the Bangalow Chamber of Commerce we moved it to the A&I Hall, where it has been ever since. It is a venue that suits the energy of the Festival perfectly.

How does the community embrace the Starlight Festival – how do you think it provides a showcase for healers and practitioners?

The community support for this event has been fantastic from day one. The twice-yearly celebration quickly became a fixture in locals' calendars, and they bring friends and family back year after year. The healathon idea (people queue for free sessions) came from locals suggesting they would like to contribute without having to have a stand at the show. This has become a well-loved feature. Participating therapists understand that I have never been driven by profit so they really get involved, helping set up and pull down the event. We are also supported by a great network of volunteers; without them the whole show could not run so smoothly.

Tell me about Rosie, your daughter, and what you think she'll bring to your event.

Rosie is a 35-year-old successful businesswoman with a background in sales and event management. She runs her own annual international sporting event and has worked as an event organiser for a national wellbeing magazine. She also owns her own boutique in Kingscliff. She has a lifetime of experience in events as she has grown up with and helped at every event I have ever created. She is also an alternative therapist and Reiki master with a passion for health and wellbeing.

Rosie will bring a new enthusiasm and joy to the event, with more activities for women and children and a new sacred space for mediation, yoga and shamanic journeys. Her partner is a graphic designer and they both have an eye for quality presentation and promotion, so I expect the look and feel of the event to change for the better. The core values of the event, a chilled vibe, accessibility, peace, meaningful exchange of information and the creation of a space where profound transformation can happen will remain the same. Her job from now on is to constantly refresh the event and keep it interesting. She will keep her ear to the ground for stimulating presenters, particularly if they are local.

What should we expect for Starlight in 2015?

The same happy relaxed vibe that people love about Starlight, plus Rosie has brought in a few more prominent female presenters; she has created a sacred space for daily yoga and meditation practices as well as connection to the faerie realms. She has also persuaded celebrated psychic and medium Jason MacDonald to return for a special one-off presentation and she has found an outstanding gourmet vegetarian caterer. In January daily admission will also include attunement to Reiki level one, worth around \$150!

Starlight Festival, now under the directorship of Rosie Richards, at the Bangalow A&I Hall, 8-11 January.



BOOGIE WONDERLAND IS COMING TO TOWN!

Celebrate Christmas on the dance floor & support Bay FM with the **"Bay FM CHRISTMAS DISCOTHEQUE" Party!**
 Purchase your tickets from Bay FM NOW!!!
 for this special fundraising event at the Bangalow Bowlo this **SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER...6PM TO 1AM.**
 Pre-Sale tickets are \$18, Bay FM Subscribers pay \$15.

Dance! to Disco, Retro and Funk Classics with DJs....

- AL ROYALE
- SCOOTA
- BEAVER LOS VEGAS
- CASUAL P
- DAN JUPITER
- NOODLES

THE PARTY STARTS ON THE MAGIC BUS FROM BYRON & SUFFOLK TO BOOGIE WONDERLAND!!
 Book NOW to avoid disappointment on 6680 7999

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 6680 7999 | www.bayfm.org
 Bay FM public fund donations are tax deductible

We love our Subscribers!

great vocal harmonies and a live bellydancer in a fusion of contemporary and traditional sounds. Followed by DJ Chris Deckker (Medicin Drum), founder of Earthdance festival, producer of the Uplift Festival and more. Chris Deckker created and collected music of all kinds throughout the years and will be playing his high-energy dance Gypsy music set of traditional sounds fused with electronica. Saturday at the Brewery from 8pm. \$20/25

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Eltara is a dear friend to many in this community and she has recently been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The community are putting on a **FUN-raiser** as a financial benefit for her.

Kicking off at 6pm on **Friday at Durrumbul Hall** with Luscious foods, chai and cake, and commencing at 7pm for a night to remember. Murray Kyle, Deya Dova, Shai Shriki, Avishi, Amir, Darpan, Jarrah Tree and Lelama Sjamar will be gifting a night of absolute bliss with dance and song in a hall filled with beauty and divine sound.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH CAROLS

As has been happening in Lismore for 30+ years, and in the best tradition of King's College, Cambridge, **St Andrew's choir and St Carthage's choir** will combine in performances of Nine Lessons and Carols. This year will also include a small brass ensemble. Christmas poetry, prose, and prayers round out the service.

The service, modelled on the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols first held on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, has been described as one that 'presents the Christmas story in an ambience of mystery, splendour, hope and joy'. **St Mary's Anglican Church**, Ballina, on **Friday** from 7.30pm and **St Andrew's Anglican Church** in Lismore on **Sunday** from 7.30pm. Free.



SAY FAREWELL TO 2014 AND WELCOME 2015 WITH TIJUANA CARTEL AT THE BYRON BREWERY ON NYE

GOING TO TIJUANA THIS NEW YEARS

Stop. Look left. Look right. Look left again. Oh, yeah, and then check out what's behind. Sometimes it's good to know where you've been, where you've come from. And sometimes it's good to go right back there. Remember what that headspace was all about. And after ten years on the road, that's just what Carey O'Sullivan and Paul George do with Tijuana Cartel. Catch them at the Brewery for New Years Eve.

DRESS RETRO FOR BAY FM

Bay FM 99.9 invites you to dress retro and celebrate all things Christmas on the dance floor at **The Bangalow Bowling Club on Saturday** when they take punters back to the 70s. Are you ready to do The Bus Stop?!

The party starts on The Magic Bus, picking up at 7, 8 and 9pm from Suffolk Park BP, Lilli Pilli (Roadhouse Cafe), Byron main bus stop and Sunrise BP and returning 11.30pm, 12.15am and 1am. Bangalow Bowlo becomes a Disco Inferno featuring seven hours of retro, disco, funk classics. Six of the Shire's finest retro DJs will be spinning the platters that matter. Pre-sale discotheque tickets (\$18/15 Bay FM subscribers) and Magic Bus \$9 return bookings essential. Available now. Please phone Bay FM 668 0799. Tix at door as well.

A GREEN ORKEZTRA

This **Saturday, Lismore Orkeztza** perform their debut concert at the Italo Cub in North Lismore, raising bucks for the northern rivers Greens.

Local musician, composer and music teacher Pietro Fine, who successfully established and directed the exhilarating Orkeztza Glasso Bashalde in Melbourne, is leading fellow musicians in a new Lismore-based ensemble Orkeztza Lismore. They'll present a program of Middle-Eastern, Klezmer, Balkan and Flamenco music and song. \$10. From 3pm.

LAUNCHING TESS LATU

Local singer/songwriter **Tess Latu** launches her new CD *Stimulate My Mind* on **Thursday at Ginger Pig** in Byron. A collaboration with Dave Atkins from Hydro Funk Records (Resin Dogs) of dance tracks – clubby and hip-hop – Latu's release for 2014 is pumpin' hot.



SHERMER AT THE RAILS

Aussie expat Chris Shermer spends much of his time these days touring his special brand of percussive finger-style acoustic guitar playing across Europe. This southern summer he's leaving his home base in Austria to bring his reggae-inspired folk and blues and virtuosic instrumental approach to venues up and down the east coast. He plays the **Rails** on **Wednesday**.

CONTINUED FROM P33

GOOD LORD IT'S SHEPPARD!

We find the songs don't really sound alike but they sound like Sheppard songs – I guess, it's electro pop folk pop.'

A lover of Coldplay, George takes his lead from their creative courage.

'If you look at someone such as Coldplay they have grown with each subsequent album – I love seeing what they do next. They are my all-time favourite band – every album is different from the next but it still sounds like Coldplay.'

Sheppard is still very much in the 'discovery' phase of their musical cycle, with the world suddenly turning on to their unique sound.

'Discovery is exciting. The first time you get played on radio or the first time on TV – and because you don't know if it is going to appeal to the right audience, you have to take that leap of faith!'

Before they hit the US running in 2015 as top support for Megan Trainor on her US and Canadian tours, Sheppard look forward to featuring at Bluesfest.

'It will be awesome – I had the greatest time when I was last there and I never thought we'd be playing Bluesfest!'

For more program and ticketing information go to bluesfest.com.au.



The Falls Music & Arts Festival



BYRON

NEW SOUTH WALES

DEC 30 2014 *Until* JAN 03 2015



THE FALLS MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL being held at North Byron Parklands, Wooyung on **TUE 30 DEC 2014** (8am to midnight), **WED 31 DEC**, **THU 1** and **FRI 2 JAN 2015** (8am to 2am). Audio testing will take place on **Mon 29 Dec** between 3pm and 6pm.

TRAFFIC

Changed traffic conditions include:

- Barrier defined temporary turning lanes along Tweed Valley Way / Brunswick Valley Way, off ramps from the Pacific Motorway at Yelgun interchange and on Link Road. **Please follow directional signage.** Traffic infrastructure will be in place from Sat 27 Dec and will be removed by 5pm Sat 03 Jan.
- Reduced speed limits of 40km/h along Tweed Valley Way / Brunswick Valley Way south of the Yelgun interchange to north of North Byron Parklands main entry and off ramps from the Pacific Motorway at Yelgun interchange.
- Festival patrons coming from the north to the festival site will travel via Mooball using Cudgera Creek Road, Pottsville Rd and Tweed Valley Way.
- Local Resident Only access checkpoints will be in operation for Yelgun Road, and Jones Road at Tweed Valley Way.
- Traffic control personnel will be in place along Tweed Valley Way between the Yelgun Interchange and Jones Road.
- All Traffic Control will be managed by RMS accredited traffic controllers. However, please be prepared for **POSSIBLE SHORT DELAYS.**
- Festival camping patrons will begin to arrive at North Byron Parklands from 8am **MON 29 DEC 2014** and depart by 5pm **SAT 03 JAN 2015.**

PARKING & ACCESS

There is **NO PARKING** along Tweed Valley Way or in the streets surrounding North Byron Parklands. **Special Event Parking restrictions will be in place** and Council Parking Rangers will be on patrol throughout the event. **Fines will apply.**

Camping or sleeping in vehicles within the Byron and Tweed Shires is not allowed. Maximum Penalty exceeds \$1,000. Council Rangers will be on patrol throughout the event period enforcing this regulation.

There is **NO PEDESTRIAN** access into North Byron Parklands.

HOTLINE

An event Hotline will be in operation from 8am **Tues 30 Dec 2014** to 5pm **Sat 03 Jan 2015.** The hotline will be manned during the approved event hours of operation.

THE HOTLINE NUMBER IS 02 6680 4049

Local residents with parking, noise or litter concerns during the festival should contact the hotline and we will send our Community Response Team to assist you.

Residents can also email byroncommunity@fallsfestival.com

We thank you for your patience and understanding, and wish you and your families a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Falls Music & Arts Festival

SOAP BOX!

See Mandy live in *Echo* netdaily
www.echo.net.au/soap-box

Mandy Nolan

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD

Something weird has happened to me – I can't read the paper or listen to the news without crying. I'm putting this down to being peri-menopausal, that I'm some sort of hormonal nut bag set off by the endless sea of injustice, horror, sadness and just plain bad luck.

This morning I grabbed a copy of *The Australian* and sat down for my morning latte. It's not unusual for *The Australian* to make me cry – anything that far up Abbott's rectum is sure to bring a tear to the eye, but today I read the front page and it featured a picture of Australian cricket captain Michael Clarke with his bat and cap raised in a kind of sad gesture as he held back the tears, his innings of 128 from 163 deliveries achieved in defiance of a back injury, honouring his pledge to honour the memory of batsman Phillip Hughes and play on.

Of course this had me crying before I'd even read the story and I don't even like cricket. Why am I so moved by a sport that I'm not interested in? I decide to turn the page. Next story I read is about a two-year-old boy who has drowned in a lake somewhere in Perth. Tradies left the door open and he slipped out unnoticed and walked 700 metres to the water. Oh my God. That's awful. Unthinkable. I am starting to sob quietly. I notice other people reading the paper aren't crying.

I get in the car and turn on the news; there's a report on the death of the asylum seeker on Manus Island who died of sepsis after cutting his foot. The slow wait for a visa to allow him to be flown to a hospital that could provide proper treatment killed him. He died from a cut on the foot and systemic failure to provide adequate care. I tear up again. Fancy travelling all that way by sea, seeking asylum from your own country and then dying from a cut on the foot because Australia doesn't have the compassion to let you in.

Then there's the sentencing of someone in the Northern Territory for bashing his girlfriend's baby to death while she went out to get a light for her cigarette. News needs to come with a bloody content warning.

I'm hysterical now. Another story tells me a baby has died in Victoria after being hit by a forklift in a car workshop operated by his father. The family with four young children had been temporarily living in the Geelong workshop. Has housing got that bad that young families have to live in such dangerous conditions? Do we just ignore it, drink our lattes and move on?

A woman in the US is convicted of being part of a family sex ring that abused children and even abducted her own niece. An Islamic group in Iraq and Syria posted photographs of appearing to show jihadists throwing a man off a building for allegedly being gay. Another doctor dies in West Africa of Ebola and family members of great grandmother Helen Dawson ask why the lawn-bowls-loving 75-year-old was executed at point-blank range when she answered a knock at her front door.

And wait, there's more. A child died and four have fallen ill from gastroenteritis after drinking contaminated raw cow milk being sold as 'bath milk' in Victorian health food stores. Another little girl in the US died after her father and stepmother forced her to drink more than two litres of grape soda and water over two hours, making her brain to swell, resulting in her death.

I can't stand it. I finally get that Wim Wenders film *Wings of Desire* and the unseen angels who hold us in our sad desperation and moments of desolation. How does the average human being live with this constant bombardment of horror and not be outraged? Innocents dying in awful circumstances. One awful and completely preventable circumstance listed after the other in a factual tone by the newsreader. The newsreader must be made of concrete. Either that or they're on the verge of emotional collapse as well.

Everything I listed I heard in the space of half an hour. It doesn't feel right to just switch it off. Not listening doesn't make horrible things not happen. And it kind of feels worse to inoculate yourself against the pain of others by turning away. So I flick the news back on, have a cry, push down the sorrow with cake and wonder what the hell any of us can ever do to make a difference. Or is that just life? Oh, by the way, happy Christmas.



SONGS OF THE BENTLEY BLOCKADE CD LAUNCH AT KULCHAJAM IN BYRON ON FRIDAY

SONGS OF THE BENTLEY BLOCKADE CD LAUNCH

Songs From The Bentley Blockade is an achievement of unified community spirit and tells the story of conscious activation of the people and the land through protection of our land and waters. *Songs From The Bentley Blockade* features more than 20 songs by the community of artists who lived and sang at the Bentley protection camp.

These songs were shared in the chilly, foggy mornings at Gate A and around the fire at the main camp and were recorded at various studios around the northern rivers. Artists and producers all donated their time. Like Bentley, the creation of this CD is a testament to the strength of unified community. The CD launches at **Kulchajam** in Byron on **Friday** with a 7pm start. The Bentley All Stars and the Bentley Choir will also be sharing the stage.

WE WISH UKE A HAPPY XMAS

Miss Amber and Stukulele present the **2014 Christmas Uke-tacular** from 6.30 at **The Court House Hotel** on **Thursday**. This year it's a 50s rock 'n' roll party with guest vocalist The Tinsel Tones (Miss Amber and Kathryn Jones) and Misty Henderson. We'll be jingle-bell rockin' with Dave Sanders on drums and Rod Coe on bass with local favourite, guitar man Warren Earl. Bring your uke or just bring your smile. Make sure you bring the kids for photos with Santa.



XMAS UKE-TACULAR ROCK'N'ROLL PARTY AT THE COURT HOUSE HOTEL IN MULLUMBIMBY ON THURSDAY

Join the mailing list for the songbook at www.ukemullum.com. Entry still only \$10; kids under 15 at \$2.50.

BLESSINGS

Honouring the new cycles of light of solstice and new moon, longtime local and international sound artists and New Earth ambassadors **Lelama Sjamar**, **El'tara Mahatma** and **Focus Yidaki** offer a Concert of Blessings this summer solstice. **Monday** at 7.15pm at **Prestons Lane** (off Grays Lane), Tyagarah. Tickets \$20 at www.lelama.com.au or at the door.

Culture

AKMAL POPS YOUR CORK THIS NEW YEAR

This New Years Eve, do yourself a favour and find yourself at The Big Gig's Comedy Festival. Starring Akmal, Joel Ozborn, Greg Sullivan and emceed by Mandy Nolan, this is going to be a night to remember. Movies, sketch, standup, TV appearances, radio DJ and talk-show host, improviser and a published author, Akmal is one of Australia's most respected, successful and accomplished comics.

He displays an incredible ability to deal with hot topics in an hilarious and inoffensive way. Akmal has a fascinating past, originally migrating to Australia from Egypt with his family nearly 30 years ago. He sums it up in his own inimitable style: 'My parents didn't tell us where we were going. We thought it was two hours away. Twenty hours later, we got off a plane. We were on another planet.' This and many other bizarre incidents dot Akmal's life – suggesting a career in standup comedy was pre-ordained, either that or he



should have been committed early on. He is joined by Joel Ozborn, regular club favourite Greg Sullivan, and Mandy Nolan who promises to fire up with 2014's Top Ten!

With dinner music by Lou Bradley and a gorgeous two-course meal, this dinner show will take you up to midnight – with free entry afterwards to the band downstairs. Fireworks on the River. This is the place to be. And it's only \$64.90 – if you book a table of 10 it's \$62.90!

Kicks off with dinner and music from 7pm. For enquiries contact the Ballina RSL on 6686 2544 or go to their website: ballinarsl.com.au.

SUMMER STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

Local storytellers **Jenni Cargill-Strong** and **Annie Bryant** create Christmas and summer solstice magic at the **Byron Bay Library** from 10:30am this **Saturday** with free stories and songs for the whole family.

Just in time for school holidays, the morning will celebrate the spirit of giving, gratitude, finding the light within and creating peace in the home throughout the holiday season.

Jenni Cargill-Strong has five award-winning albums of stories and songs for children including *Molly Whuppie*, *The Mermaid's Shoes*, *The Storytree & Other Nature Tales* and, most recently, *Reaching For The Moon & Other Wisdom Tales*.

Annie Bryant has just released her third collection of seasonal songs and stories for children titled *Jump In*, and is the co-host of 99.9 BayFM's storytelling program *The Heart of the Story*.

All ages are welcome and 3–9-year-olds will particularly enjoy hearing Christmas and solstice stories grounded in the Australian culture and our local environment. This is a free event and bookings are essential on 6685 8540.

Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club

The Coolamon Tree Bistro

Open 7 Days

Lunch 11:30 - 2:00
Dinner 5:30 - 8:00
Daily Specials

The Rogue Gene

Devil's Kiosk

Sat December 20

Doors open 7pm show 8pm

Dalley Street, Mullumbimby - 02 6684 2533

KERO TAB FOXTEL SKY CHANGING WICI
Find us on Facebook

Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club practices Responsible Service. If Gambling is a problem for you or someone you know, call the G-line toll-free on 1800 633 635. NSW Permit numbers - All Lotteries - LTPW/13/00601, Wed Draw - 14/09/84, Super 10 - 14/00/478

LAST WEEK FOR BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS!

Congratulations to last week's winner of the \$70 Bluetooth Speakers being given away by Palings Lifestyle in Lismore. To promote the launch of their new Soundbars they have one more bluetooth system for a clever music loving reader who can answer this local music trivia question:

What is the name of the popular north coast roots band that has a type of jam in its title?

Simply email your response complete with your email address, name, and contact number to gigscomp@echo.net.au and you also get a subscription for our online *Echo* netdaily!

If you want to check out the sound that could change your world, head on down to Palings Lifestyle, Dawson St, Lismore.

Stars WITH LILITH

Another verbally vivacious week with high accident ratings, widespread impatience and temper flares, so keep calm, stay cool, look for the sweet spot...

♈ ARIES: As this week locks in changes that have been under way for a long time, surprisingly it's listening rather than action that will get the best results. If you feel like you're caving in under weighty obligations, don't make holiday responsibilities a chore. Take the weight off. Lighten up.

♉ TAURUS: Things to do but little interest in doing them? Rather just put your feet up? Why not. You've worked hard, now Venus in a fellow earth sign makes you an attraction factor for love, lust and money – how good is that? May as well kick back and just enjoy it.

♊ GEMINI: This week needs a concerted effort to direct thoughts, talk and action towards finding solutions rather than adding to pandemonium. Think twice (second nature for Geminis anyway) about buying sprees. Stick to a list. Keep receipts. Mercury's move to practical Capricorn brings welcome common sense to late-week lunar moodiness.

♋ CANCER: With over-committed, often under-funded holiday schedules approaching burnout, zigzagging plans and arrangement alterations make this week prime time for interpersonal turbulence. Shopping sports could be fraught, with best results achievable during late-week moon/Mercury's steadying influences. Your magic password if it all gets too much? *Enough.*

♌ LEO: Button-pressing Pluto and Uranus the planet of shocks and surprises are both active this week, so don't take risks in word, deed, at home, work or on the road. Jupiter retrograde in Leo is focusing for the next four months on your heart's true desire, so stick with that...

♍ VIRGO: This week has you pumped for taking care of festive details, but keep it fun – obsessing will only get others offside. During glitches and tribulations, step away from feisty, cranky, complaining types; when your planetary ruler Mercury heads into sensible Capricorn later in the week, people will be more reasonable.

♎ LIBRA: Now that December's into its major spin cycle, maintaining inner harmony's essential for dealing with this week's seasonal rock 'n' rollercoaster. Jupiter retro in your social sector requires a fabulous juggling act to balance the rich contradictory mix of arguments, goodwill, clashing egos, warm support, disloyalty, financial restrictions and excessive expectations.

♏ SCORPIO: If tension between Pluto and Uranus, planets of breakdown and renewal, shows up in the form of unexpected guests, sudden cancellations and/or unreasonable demands you'll need to put your favourite stress-release methods into practice, whatever they are. Late-week Scorpio moon fosters deeper understanding of seemingly irreconcilable differences.

♐ SAGITTARIUS: This week's astral lineup suggests not pushing too hard, moving too fast or spreading yourself too thinly. Living your truth without challenging anyone else's. Taking three deep breaths before you say or decide anything. Remembering that rolling stones gather no moss and zipped lips gather no feet.

♑ CAPRICORN: Mercury in Capricorn has you thinking long-term goals, but get short-term sorted first. Difficult people need space and patience. Easy people want acknowledgement and appreciation. As Capricorn Annie Lennox sang: *Everybody's looking for something; who are you to disagree?* Venus in Capricorn makes sweet dreams of this...

♒ AQUARIUS: Now the festive treadmill's under way it won't let up till the fat man clammers down the chimney, so keep your mind serene by not giving mental energy to negative thoughts about life, yourself or anyone else. If surprise news upsets holiday plans, create something wonderful with whatever's left.

♓ PISCES: This week wants results and progress, has zero patience with indecision or being kept waiting. If midweek seems like a minefield of push and pressure, use late-week moon for sorting problems, the weekend moon for discussing holiday plans with friends, and early next week's moon for locking them in.

ART ALCHEMY

Last chance to see **Geoff Cotton's Seeing myself dead at Art-Alchemy exhibition**, TransitioninG20'14 Day of the Dead – life death and politics. This quirky installation of 10 artists (eight also art therapists) exited Brisbane's G20 with their Day of the Dead re-installed at 165 Brooklet Rd, Newrybar. Catherine Volkov, Kate Finnilla, Kristy Thorburn, Debbie Tawhai, Fern Crowhurst-Waters, Silvia Herranz, Elise McKenzie, Carmen Nemet-Nicola Harris collaboration finishes **Sunday 6pm.**



SHORTS EXTENSION

Byron All Shorts celebrates the filmmaking talent of the northern rivers region and encourages audiences to experience the many amazing films and local stories that are produced here each year. Filmmakers from across the region are invited to submit their short films of up to 30 minutes in length and from all genres.

Prizes and cash to the value of around \$3k will include awards for Flickerfest Jury Award for Best Short Film, SAE Qantm Jury Award for Emerging Talent, SCCU Audience Choice and more prizes from Avid, In Your Face Productions, NRCF and Screenworks. If you live in the northern rivers, or have produced a film in the northern rivers, or have made a film about the northern rivers you can enter Byron All Shorts. Finalists will screen on 24 January at Bangalow A&I Hall alongside the best in the world at Flickerfest. Entry deadline is **Friday 19 December.** Info and entry forms at www.iQ.org.au or 0414 779 881.

PAINTINGS ON SCREEN

The latest film in the Exhibition on Screen program, bringing blockbuster art exhibitions from galleries around the world to cinemas, is **Rembrandt**, filmed at the National Gallery, London and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

In addition to showing the exhibitions' paintings, the films take audiences behind the scenes to discover what lies behind each exhibition creatively and technically, and what the artwork reveals about the artist and the particular historical period. Screening at **Palace Byron Bay Cinema** at 1pm on **Sunday 21 and Wednesday 24 December.** Tickets \$15-\$25 available at Palace box office or online at www.palacecinemas.com.au.

WHAT?

CIRCUS ARTS PRESENTS ALL OF ME AT THE BYRON ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN 16 KIDS RUN AWAY TO JOIN THE CIRCUS

Artistic director Simon Adams is excited to present his premier show with the Circus Arts Performance Troupe *All Of Me*. The cast of 16 have spent the year training in new disciplines and delving deeply into their own experiences to create a personal and touching narrative that combines physical theatre and acrobatics to explore the concepts of labels and stereotypes in their own lives. Perceptions are challenged and individuality celebrated as our characters strive to connect to each other and their inner selves.

All Of Me also marks the final curtain call for three of Circus Arts' Performance Troupe members who are leaving Byron Bay for adventures in the city. Fara, Mytharia and Kyaisha have shared blood, sweat and tears (and plenty of laughs) on the Circus Arts training floor over the last five years and are now taking their training further afield at NICA, Circus Oz and Circus Arts Gold Coast. Celebrate their swan song, along with the rest of the talented cast, on Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm at Circus Arts Byron Bay.

Byron Entertainment Centre, Arts & Industry Park, Byron Bay. Adults \$10, Kids \$5. *All Of Me* ticket bookings: 6685 6566 or www.circusarts.com.au.

Celebration of Life
a FUN-Raiser for Eltara

Awesome Raffle @ the Door

Deya Doua, Murray Kyle, Darpan, Amir, Aishah, Shai Shrikh, Telama Sjarar, Laura Targett, Jarrah Tree.

Fri 19th Dec Durrumbul Hall
\$20 Donation

DINNER 6PM PROGRAM 7 TILL 12PM

THE TANGLED WEBB AT FALLS!

COMEDIAN LINDSAY WEBB IS ONE OF THE FEATURED FUNNY PEOPLE AT FALLS FESTIVAL'S THE VILLAGE.

Take a break from the cut and thrust of festival action at 5pm every day and chill out with a beer and a laugh for an hour of comedy with some of the country's best.

This is what the world wide web had to say:



One of the weirdest things I've ever seen is... a lady's eye popping out from my making her laugh so hard!

Apparently my most annoying habit is... snoring when laying on my back.

I love it when... I have time with my family at home.

My father always says... 'May as well do it properly'.

The biggest disappointment for me was... elements of my childhood.

When I dance I... listen to music.

I am most comfortable when I... have eaten enough fibre and greens.

I would describe myself as... having a pretty good go at it.

My wife/partner would describe me as... loveable with traces of annoying.

My perfect day... is something I constantly chase.

My best gig involves... a huge crowd, fun people and a win for me.

My worst gig involves... a spruiker's mic and fancy-dressed guests.

I have nightmares about... not making it to the gig on time or arriving at the wrong venue (I have never been late in 16 years of gig, never called in sick).

If I could choose the soundtrack for my own funeral the playlist would feature... heaps of dance music and ads about my life.

My greatest regret is... not having any answer for this question.

The world would be a better place if... we ALL just had some more compassion and forgiveness... oh and fewer weapons.

I am most passionate about... raising our children.

If I could be a world leader for a day I'd... extend that tenure by 12 months.

When I'm old I am going to... try not to be a grumpy old man.

When I wonder who I am I... wonder if it's really me wondering!

The wisest thing I've ever heard is... advice from elders.

My greatest fear is... humans giving up.

The Falls Music & Arts Festival

FROM 30 DEC TILL 2 JAN
AT BYRON PARKLANDS.
FOR TICKET AND PROGRAM INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.FALLSFESTIVAL.COM.AU

FEELING LIKE A TOSCA

Based on a melodrama originally written for Sarah Bernhardt by French playwright Victorien Sardou, Giacomo Puccini's sexually explosive thriller *Tosca* depicts a corrupt police chief who sets his sights on a glamorous singer as he plots to destroy her lover, a politically rebellious painter. Screening at **Palace Byron Bay Cinema** on Sunday at 1pm and Wednesday December 24 at 11am. Sung in Italian with English subtitles, this performance was captured live from the Bastille Opera House in Paris on 16 October this year. Tickets \$15-24 available at the Palace box office or online at www.palacecinemas.com.au.



AUSTEN TAYSHUS

Lovers of the quick and sometimes diabolical wit of comedy legend **Austen Tayshus** can get his annual comedy download of the year that was when he performs at the **Byron RSL** on **Monday 5 January** with Mandy Nolan. Tix are \$20/25 at the club or can be booked on 6619 0529.



**THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE
SCREENING AT THE PALACE IN BYRON
ON WEDNESDAY AT 12.30PM.**

Cinema Reviews

By John Campbell

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2

You know the three girls in the white dresses? (I think the blonde is my favourite – she looks so sincere.) They have a jolly little picnic then, that night, turn up at a swank A-list party still decked out in the same frocks. All the while they are flogging some brand of sparkling booze, but to save my life I couldn't tell you what it is. There are a lot of movies that are like that – shiny and gassy, but when the end credits are rolling you suddenly realise that you've not taken a skerrick of notice.

This is one of those movies. It is generally agreed upon that sequels are rarely the equal of the original, but in this case any comparison, negative or otherwise, is difficult to make because, to be perfectly frank, *Horrible Bosses 1* was equally forgettable. The three leads are back – Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis and Jason Day – and this time out, as business partners, they are involved in a hare-brained plan to have the son of the retail magnate who has duded them (Christoph Waltz) kidnapped in order to recover the money that they have lost. Being a run-of-the-mill buddy flick, the guys prove to be totally incompetent and chaos and cheap gags ensue.

A stellar support cast includes Kevin Spacey slumming it for a paycheck, Jennifer Aniston, who worked with more conviction in *Friends*, and Jamie Foxx, now specialising as a dial-a-gangsta comic.

The jokes are occasionally okay, but Bateman, Sudeikis and Day aren't up to making more of them – Bateman in particular, whose stock in trade is blandness with a suppressed angst, appears uninspired to the point where he is struggling not to yawn. What is odd about the whole scenario is that there are no horrible bosses to be vanquished. If we get a rainy day and the beach is out of the question, you might find some pleasure in its slickness and harmless – indeed, effortless – stupidity.



PADDINGTON

I don't know what it is about teddy bears, but I am one of the scores of adults who remain susceptible to their vulnerable charm. As a child, Michael Bond's story of how the homeless bear was befriended at Paddington Station by the Browns and taken to their home was the first book I ever read. I was enchanted by it – just as I have been by Paul King's new screen adaptation of it. It begins in grainy B&W with the back-story describing how Paddington's aunt and uncle were discovered in Peru by a British geographer, who named them Lucy and Pastuzo, 'after an exotic wrestler that I met in a bar'. We then skip to the luxurious CGI of the bears' idyllic life in the jungle, which was brought to a tragic end by an earthquake. From there it is to England, where Lucy has sent Paddington to hopefully find the explorer who first made contact with them. Essential in any such movie that has real people acting with fantasy characters is the suspension of disbelief – if you can't accept that Paddington is a true being then the race is lost before it's properly begun. I had no problem at all in seeing the three-foot-six, golden-haired creature as a living thing.

Assisting greatly in the necessity of self-deception is the beautiful picture-book art direction by Steven Lawrence, who manages to create a London that is simultaneously olde-worlde and twenty-first century. Playing the wicked taxidermist who would have her horrible way with Paddington, Nicole Kidman is probably the main drawcard for Australian viewers, but it is Sally Hawkins – petite and spirited – who steals the show as the mother of the Brown household. Paddington himself is easy to love and his misadventures are great fun – the calamitous sequence of events that pile up after he first enters the Browns' bathroom is hilarious. This is an adorable film with a message of acceptance that should be heeded by everyone – young and old.

BYRON BAY LOUNGE CINEMA
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PALACE CINEMAS BYRON BAY
MOVIE CLUB PRICES Adult \$12.00 / Golden Club \$8.50

TUESDAY 16 DEC TO WEDNESDAY 24 DEC

Opera de Paris: TOSCA (CTC) (No Free Tix)
Sun 21: 1:00pm Wed 24: 11:00am

Exhibition On Screen: REMBRANDT (CTC) (No Free Tix)
Sun 21, Wed 24: 1:00pm

NT Live: A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (CTC) (No Free Tix)
Wed 17: 12:30pm

THE WATER DIVINER (M) (No Free Tix)
PREVIEWS Fri 19, Sat 20: 12:00, 6:40, 9:00
Sun 21: 4:20, 6:45, 9:10pm

ST VINCENT (M) (No Free Tix) PREVIEWS
Fri 19, Sat 20: 2:20, 7:10 Sun 21: 2:15, 7:20

ANNIE (PG) (No Free Tix)
Thu 18, Mon 22, Tue 23: 9:00, 1:30, 6:30
Fri 19, Sat 20: 9:40, 1:40p 6:30pm
Sun 21: 9:25, 11:50am, 6:35pm
Wed 24: 9:00am, 2:10, 6:30pm

PADDINGTON (G) (No Free Tix)
Tue 16: 9:00, 4:30 Wed 17: 10:45, 4:40
Thu 18, Mon 22, Tue 23: 12:35, 2:30pm
Fri 19, Sat 20: 9:30, 12:15pm
Sun 21: 9:15, 3:10 Wed 24: 3:10, 4:35pm

2D EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (M)
Tue 16: 11:20, 1:50, 8:30pm Wed 18: 9:00, 1:40, 8:30pm Thu 18, Mon 22, Tue 23: 9:40am, 3:50, 9:05pm
Fri 19, Sat 20: 9:20am, 4:10pm Wed 24: 10:00, 9:00pm

NIGHTCRAWLER (MA15+) Tue 16: 4:35pm
Thu 18, Mon 22, Tue 23: 11:50am, 6:45pm
Wed 24: 11:30am, 9:15pm

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (MA15+) (No Free Tix)
Tue 16: 11:00am, 2:15, 7:00, 9:15pm
Wed 17: 11:55am, 2:15, 7:10, 9:15pm
Thu 18, Mon 22, Tue 23: 11:20am, 4:30, 7:00, 9:10pm
Fri 19, Sat 20: 11:25am, 4:30, 8:50pm
Sun 21: 10:45, 5:05, 9:30pm
Wed 24: 1:50, 4:10, 6:40pm

ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE... (PG)
Tue 16: 9:30am, 4:50, 6:40pm
Wed 17: 9:00am, 4:50, 6:40pm
Thu 18-Sat 20, Mon 22, Tue 23: 2:10pm
Sun 21: 9:00, 11:10am Wed 24: 9:10, 7:20

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PT 1 (M)
Tue 16: 11:20, 6:30, 9:00pm
Wed 17: 11:10, 6:30, 9:00pm
Thu 18, Mon 22, Tue 23: 9:20, 4:00, 8:50
Fri 19, Sat 20: 4:00, 9:15 Sun 21: 4:05, 9:00
Wed 24: 4:55, 9:10pm

MY OLD LADY (M) Tue 16: 9:10am
Wed 17: 9:00am

INTERSTELLAR (M) Tue 16: 1:15 Wed 17: 4:00

All sessions are correct at the time of publication.
Current session times at: palacecinemas.com.au

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THUR 18TH TO WED 24TH
*12.05PM
3.50PM
6.45PM
*9.20PM
NO 12.05PM
FRI/SAT/SUN
*NO 9.20PM
WED 24TH

THUR 18TH TO WED 24TH
9.55AM
11.40AM
2.05PM
5.50PM

THUR 18TH TO WED 24TH
1.25PM
4.05PM
*8.45PM
*NO 8.45PM
WED 24TH

THUR 18TH TO WED 24TH
10.05AM
12.55PM
7.05PM

THUR 18TH TO WED 24TH
9.50AM
11.20AM
3.15PM
7.35PM

THUR 18TH TO WED 24TH
12.55PM
7.05PM

THUR 18TH TO WED 24TH
9.05PM
*NO 9.05PM
WED 24TH

ADVANCED SCREENINGS
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY
12.05PM

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Tuesday Dec 16
You're Not You (final) 6:30pm
Hector...Happiness 8:30pm

Wednesday Dec 17
YEW.TV Surf Film Festival
Special Screening 6:30pm
Two Days, One Night 8:30pm

Thursday Dec 18 - NEW
The Dark Horse 6:00pm
Hector...Happiness 8:30pm

Friday Dec 19
Two Days, One Night 6:30pm
The Dark Horse 8:30pm

Saturday Dec 20
The Dark Horse 4:00pm
NickCave:20,000Days 6:30pm
Hector...Happiness 8:30pm

Sunday Dec 21
Rise (Special Screening) 4:15pm
Hector...Happiness 6:15pm
The Dark Horse 8:30pm

Monday Dec 22
Two Days, One Night 4:00pm
The Dark Horse 6:00pm

Tuesday Dec 23
Hector...Happiness 8:30pm
Hector...Happiness 4:15pm
NickCave:20,000Days 6:30pm
The Dark Horse 8:30pm

Wednesday Dec 24
The Dark Horse 3:45pm
Hector...Happiness 6:15pm
Two Days, One Night 8:30pm

NOW SCREENING...
THE DARK HORSE
TWO DAYS, ONE NIGHT
NICK CAVE: 20,000 DAYS
YOU'RE NOT YOU
RISE
HECTOR & THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS
DAY ON EARTH
JOHN WICK

WEDNESDAY 17

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **HOWLIN' GREEN**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **PAT TIERNEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8.30PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BYRON BREWERY 7.30PM **OPEN MIC NIGHT W ANTHONY GEORGE**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJ SANCHEZ**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **THE FIRETREE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 7.30AM **CRISIS**

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 5PM **LUKE & SEBASTIAN** 9PM **HEY GERONIMO**
- BYRON BREWERY 8PM **DJ HELMY**
- COCOMANGAS, BYRON **PSY TRANCE & DEEP HOUSE**
- GINGER PIG, BYRON 9PM **DJ FLASHDANCE**
- CAFE OSKA, BYRON 7.30PM **PUREVELOUR**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJ JON**
- BYRON ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE 7.30PM **CIRCUS ARTS TROUPE 'ALL OF ME'**
- KULCHAJAM, BYRON 7PM **SONGS OF THE BENTLEY BLOCKADE CD LAUNCH**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 7.30PM **PIRATES OF THE TEMPEST**
- PIZZA PARADISO, SUFFOLK PARK 7PM **ABE STEWART**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **METHOD**
- MULLUMBIMBY FARMERS MARKET 8AM **TORA**
- DURRUMBUL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY 6PM **FUN RAISER FOR ELTARA W MURRAY KYLE, DARPAN, AMIR, AVISHAI, SHAI SHRIKI, LELAMA, LAURA TARGETT, JARRAH TREE & MORE**
- KOHINUR HALL, MULLUMBIMBY 7PM **MAYA SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 6.30PM **REAL JARRAH**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN **SLIM PICKENS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 8PM **SHAKE APPEAL**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9.30PM **JAMIEL**
- BALLINA RSL 8.30PM **CATH SIMES BAND**
- ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BALLINA 7.30PM **ST ANDREW'S CHOIR & ST CARTHAGE CHOIR: LESSONS & CAROLS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **NICOLE BROPHY**
- TATTS HOTEL, LISMORE 5PM **WILL MASSEY**
- RICHMOND HOTEL, LISMORE 9.30PM **TOTUM DUO**

THURSDAY 18

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **JOSH HAMILTON**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **TOM RICHARDSON**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8.30PM **METHOD**
- BYRON BREWERY 8PM **BELLYLAUGH COMEDY W MC MANDY NOLAN**
- COCOMANGAS, BYRON **DJ QC**
- GINGER PIG, BYRON 7PM **JALAPEÑO JAZZ TRIO** 9PM **TESS LATU**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **CLUB RAIDERS DJS**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 7.30PM **EL GRANDE W JOE MUNGOVAN**
- PIZZA PARADISO, SUFFOLK PARK 7PM **VIKKI GRANT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BRUNSWICK BOWLING CLUB 8PM **SYDNEY HOTSHOTS**
- COURT HOUSE HOTEL, MULLUMBIMBY 6.30PM **MISS AMBER & STUKULELE, WARREN EARL, KATHRYN JONES, MISTY HENDERSON**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 7.30PM **JAM NIGHT**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 7.30PM **JAM NIGHT**
- TATTS HOTEL, LISMORE 6.30PM **FINE JAZZ ORGANISERS**

- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7.30PM **CHRIS COOK BAND**
- IMPERIAL HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH 8PM **THE ROGUE GENE**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH 7.30PM **HIP SHOOTERS**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 6PM **MATT ROGERS**
- POTTSVILLE SPORTS CLUB **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN **KARL S WILLIAMS**

SATURDAY 20

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **TY SEGALL, BABE RAINBOW, DEAD BEAT BAND, DJ SAMMOND**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **BOHEMIAN COWBOYS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 9PM **SAMMY 2 TOWELS**
- BYRON GOLF CLUB 8PM **HARRY HEALY**
- BYRON LIBRARY 10.30AM **JENNI CARGILL-STRONG & ANNIE BRYANT STORYTELLING**
- BYRON BREWERY 8PM **ZORBA GYPSY PARTY**
- COCOMANGAS, BYRON **DJ QC & JIMMY D**
- GINGER PIG, BYRON 4PM **DJ ANTON LEAF** 8PM **DJ BANGO**
- BYRON ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE 7.30PM **CIRCUS ARTS TROUPE 'ALL OF ME'**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 7.30PM **TORA ARTIST**
- PIZZA PARADISO, SUFFOLK PARK 7PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 6PM **BAY FM BOOGIE WONDERLAND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **TED N KHAN**
- DOMA CAFE, FEDERAL 12PM **LUKE HORSFIELD**
- MULLUMBIMBY MARKETS 9AM **BROADFOOT**
- LULU'S, MULLUMBIMBY 11AM **GABY BOGART**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 7.30PM **SHYBABY**

SUNDAY 21

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **NICK CUNNINGHAM**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 6.30PM **HARRY HEALY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 3PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK** 9PM **MOTEZ**
- BYRON MARKET 8AM **SLIM PICKENS & DR BAZ & GATO NAVARRO**
- GINGER PIG, BYRON 3PM **DJ CHRIS BRADLEY & GUESTS**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 2.30PM **DJ EVA J & DJ LIGHTNING BOLTS**
- PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK **TESS & ALYSHA**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 3PM **SUNDAZE SESSION**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **THE LAMPLIGHTS**
- DOMA CAFE, FEDERAL 12PM **GAIR**
- DRILL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY 4PM **RAASA SITAR & TABLA RECITAL**
- YUM YUM TREE, NEW BRIGHTON 10AM **ELEN & WUNDERBAR**

- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 3PM **DOOT WHISKEY DROP**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JAMIE LOCKHART & HORACE BEVAN**
- THE POINT, BALLINA **KYLE LIONHART**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2PM **LEASH & THE DUSTY BOOT**
- ST ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, LISMORE 7.30PM **ST ANDREW'S CHOIR & ST CARTHAGE'S CHOIR: NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**
- SPHINX ROCK CAFE, MT BURRELL 1PM **GURIGURU**
- NIMBIN HOTEL 5PM **METHOD**
- UKI MARKET 8AM **MURRAY KYLE, BOOTLEG RASCALS**
- CUDGEN SLSC, KINGSCLIFF **NICKY CONVINE**

- COCOMANGAS, BYRON **DJ JIMMY D**
- GINGER PIG, BYRON 8PM **REGGAE DUB**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJ ED**
- PRESTONS LANE, TYAGARAH 7.15PM **CONCERT OF BLESSINGS WITH LELAMA SJAMAR, EL'TARA MAHATMA, FOCUS YIDAKI**

TUESDAY 23

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **MARSHALL O'KELL**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **MATTY ROGERS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 7.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- COCOMANGAS, BYRON **DJ JIMMY D & DJ TAYA**
- GINGER PIG, BYRON 8.30PM **DJ YOLANDA & DJ XFAKTA**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7.30PM **BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- NEW BRIGHTON FARMERS MARKET 8AM **BROADFOOT**
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MONDAY 22

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **ZIGGY ALBERTS**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **RICHIE WILLIAMS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8PM **DJ FAUX MEGA**
- BYRON BREWERY 4PM **BREWERY DJS**

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cyber tribal gathering

Magu Limes LeOch

Friday 7pm - 12 Saturday 5.30pm - 12

cacao ceremony

Short Circuit Kamos Jade Sebire

Kohinur Hall

19th/20th December

www.byronbaycommunitymarket.com

WHAT'S ON ★

Sundown Fun Centre for Kids
Every Saturday in the School Holidays
Starting Sat 20 Dec, 5.30pm - 9.30pm
Cost: \$30 - \$35

The Rainbow Circus featuring The Babe Rainbow Presented by Village Sounds and Parker and Mr French
Saturday 27 Dec, 6pm. Tickets: \$15 - All ages.

Soul St New Years Eve
Presented by Byron Community Centre
Wed 31 December, 4pm til late
Tickets: Free event

Flash Mob Dancing Workshops (over 50s) Wed 7, 14, 21 + Friday 23 Jan, 10am-12.30pm. Cavanbah Room, Upstairs. Free entry.
belle.arnold@byron.nsw.gov.au OR 6626 7226

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Wed 7 January, 7.30pm. Tickets: \$19.50 - \$30.50

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WHAT'S ON @ THE YAC...

Summer Holidays

Wishing all our awesome young people, volunteers, staff, friends of BYS, local businesses and management committee a Safe & Happy Christmas & New Year!

Please visit our website www.bys.org.au on how you may be able to help or donate to keep our youth programs running!

BYRON YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 18 DECEMBER TILL THE 12 JANUARY 2015.



ph 6685 7777 young people matter!

Byron Youth Activity Centre (YAC) is managed by Byron Youth Service (BYS) 1 Gilmore Crescent Byron Bay • bys.org.au

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LINE ADS: \$90 for 3 months or \$310 for 1 year prepaid
DISPLAY ADS: \$63 per week for colour display ad. Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 28mm high. New display ads will be placed at end of section.
Ads appear every day in Service Directory pages on Echoneta daily at www.echoneta daily.net.au
ACCOUNTS & BOOKINGS: 6684 1777

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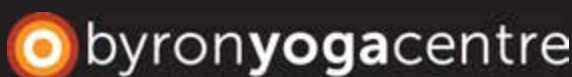
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Thurs	Chloe	Wong		
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CHANGES TO PUBLICATION DATES

The *Byron Shire Echo* will be published **EVERY TUESDAY IN DECEMBER** including the week after Christmas, December 30, 2014.

NEXT YEAR, THE ECHO WILL BE PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAYS starting Wednesday January 7, 2015.

Display ad deadlines next year will remain the same, but the classified ad deadlines will change to Tuesdays.

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4pm		Foundation Lucy		Yin Flow Leigh	Foundation Lucas	Flow Geoff	Stretch Geoff
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	8 - 9:30am	10 - 11:30am	6:00 - 7:30pm
M	Maria Free Flow Yoga	Laura Slow Gentle Yoga	
T	Daniel Hatha Yoga	Daniel Slow Gentle Yoga	Sharon Restorative Yoga
W	Daniel Hatha Yoga	Christina Slow Gentle Yoga	
T	Daniel Hatha Yoga	Daniel Slow Gentle Yoga	Sharon Restorative Yoga
F	Maria Free Flow Yoga	Grace Slow Gentle Yoga	Daniel & Friends - Kirtan 6:45 Fortnightly (See Website)
S	Grace Hatha Yoga	Grace Slow Gentle Yoga	

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monday	10am - 11.30am 10am - 11.30am 6pm - 7.30pm	Yogalates : mat work Yogalates : prenatal Yogalates : mat work	suffolk park bangalow suffolk park
tuesday	9.30am - 11am 6pm - 7.30pm	Yogalates/Pilates : mat work Yogalates/Pilates : mat work	bangalow bangalow
wednesday	6pm - 7.30pm	stretch with core stability	suffolk park
thursday	9.30am - 11am	Yogalates/Pranayama meditation	bangalow
friday	10am - 11.30am	stretch with core stability	suffolk park
saturday	8am - 9.30am	stretch and strengthen	suffolk park/bangalow

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CHANGES TO PUBLICATION DATES

The Byron Shire Echo will be published
EVERY TUESDAY IN DECEMBER including
the week after Christmas, December 30, 2014.

NEXT YEAR, THE ECHO WILL BE
PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAYS
starting Wednesday January 7, 2015.

Display ad deadlines next year will remain the same,
but the classified ad deadlines will change to Tuesdays.

THE BYRON SHIRE Echo



COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Council administration centre 6626 7000
 Opening hours: Front counter 9.00am to 4.00pm
 Switchboard: 8.30am to 4.30pm
 Email council@byron.nsw.gov.au
 Web www.byron.nsw.gov.au
 Emergency after hours 6622 7022
 Works Depot 6685 9300
 Resident parking stickers Fax: 6684 3018
 Sportsfield information line 6626 7111
 SES Controller 6684 3444
 Rural Fire Service 6684 3662
 Myocum Waste & Recycling Centre 6684 1870
 BRSCC (Byron Regional Sport and Cultural Complex) 6685 5911

Community Access Points: Documents on exhibition are available for review at the Council Administration Centre (Mullumbimby), Bangalow Post Office, Chincogan Real Estate Ocean Shores, Suffolk Beachfront Holiday Park and Brunswick Heads Library.

LODGING A SUBMISSION

Written submissions may be made to Byron Shire Council by post addressed to: General Manager, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482 or sent by email to submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au. Submissions emailed to this address only will be acknowledged.

Submissions will be made public in accordance with Schedule 1 Part 3 Clause 1(a)(vi) within Schedule 5 Part 2 of the GIPA 2009 Regulations as applicable including both the substance of the submission and the identity of the author. For assistance with this please call Council's Records Coordinator on 02 6626 7113.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Byron Street, Bangalow 2014 Christmas Eve Carnival

Under the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, Council will consider approval of the temporary closure of Byron Street, Bangalow between Granuaille Road and Market Street for the holding of the annual Bangalow Christmas Eve Carnival.

Subject to approval, the closure with detour available via Deacon Street, will be in effect Tuesday 24 December 2014 between the hours of 5.30pm and 10.00pm.

Submissions close: 19 December 2014

Enquiries: 02 6626 7080

For information on lodging a submission, and where to address it, refer to the "Lodging a submission" section within Council's advertising.

PROPOSED ACCESS DEED FOR PART COUNCIL OWNED COMMUNITY LAND SUFFOLK PARK

Council proposes to enter into an access deed for Council owned land, part Lot 1 DP 577559 Pecan Court Suffolk Park, for 5 years with 3 further terms of 5 years for the purpose of providing access arrangements to an existing telecommunications facility located on and near the decommissioned water reservoir.

In accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1993 interested parties are invited to make submissions about this proposal.

Submissions close: 12 January 2015

Enquiries: Leslie Beardmore 02 6626 7300

For information on lodging a submission, and where to address it, refer to the "Lodging a submission" section within Council's advertising.

BYRON RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE (MYOCUM LANDFILL) OPENING HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR PERIOD

Please note the Byron Resource Recovery Centre (Myocum Landfill) will be closed to the public on:

- Friday, 12 December 2014 from 11.30am
- Thursday, 25 December 2014
- Friday, 26 December 2014
- Thursday, 1 January 2015

There will be no change to the waste and recycling kerbside collection service over the Christmas / New Year period and bins will be emptied as normal. If residents experience any issue regarding missed services or damaged bins, please contact Solo Resource Recovery on 6687 0455.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ROAD NAME

Council has supported the following proposal.

Arakwal Court, Byron Bay

Reason: A resident request has been made to name the unnamed cul-de-sac (location A) as 'Arakwal Court', after the local Arakwal Aboriginal people.

Background: A local resident has advised he has gained support of the two school "parent bodies" and from "representatives of the local indigenous community" to name the cul-de-sac between St Finbarr's Primary School and Byron Bay High School as 'Arakwal Court'. East of the site is Arakwal National Park. Consultation with the Arakwal Corporation will take place. All these properties have a street address and location allocated and known and thus according to AS4819:2011 no name for the cul-de-sac is required. It is also noted this is not Council maintained.

Location: Cul-de-sac St Finbarr's Primary School and Byron Bay High School



Written submissions on the proposed name may be made to Byron Shire Council within 14 days of the date of this notice

Enquiries: Simon Bennett 02 6626 7080

For information on lodging a submission, and where to address it, refer to the "Lodging a submission" section within Council's advertising.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Council is currently rolling out a water meter exchange/replacement program. The water meters that need replacement have come to the end of their service life. Some are hard to read and others do not comply with Council's backflow prevention policy. The exchange/replacements will be done on any day of the week and only select meters will be replaced.

In respect of shift workers and sleeping babies, the water operator will not knock on the door, but will only exchange the meter at a time when there is noticeably no usage. The meter exchange is usually fairly quick and the water supply is generally isolated for only a few minutes.

Byron Shire Council apologises for any inconvenience and would like to assure you that our distribution network maintenance and upgrades provide you with a safe and reliable water supply.

Enquiries: Diana Bennett 02 6685 9304

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES ISSUED

(Section 101 EP&A Act 1979 and Clause 124 and 137 EP&A Regulations 2000)

The following development consents, together with any conditions imposed may be inspected free of charge at Council's administration centre during ordinary office hours. The validity of these consents cannot be questioned in any legal proceeding except those commenced in the Land & Environment Court by any person within 3 months of this notice.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED

10.2014.549.1 – NEW BRIGHTON, 5 The Esplanade (Lot 1 DP 531362) Alterations and additions to existing dwelling-house (raising of the building, alterations, deck additions and new detached studio building)

10.2014.687.1 – BYRON BAY, 130 Jonson Street (Lot 0 SP 63080) Multiple identification sign (Size: 2400mm 1600mm)

10.2014.606.1 – FEDERAL, 31 Lizray Road (Lot 2 DP 792568) Alterations and additions to existing dwelling

10.2014.627.1 – BYRON BAY, Jonson Street, (Lot 2 DP 827049) Byron Bay Community Association New Years Eve Event within Public Land (Jonson Street Railway Park, Byron Bay)

10.2014.280.1 – BYRON BAY 17 Marvell Street (Lot 14 Sec 27 DP 758207) Dwelling, swimming pool, associated upgrade of laneway including tree removal and strata subdivision

10.2014.586.1 – FEDERAL 67 Bougainvillea Drive (Lot 4 DP 805403) Subdivision to create two lots

10.2014.592.2 – BYRON BAY, 34-36 Browning Street, (Lot 2 DP 513583) S96 – removal of internal wall reducing dwelling from two bedrooms to one bedroom and other minor modifications to the approved design (secondary dwelling)

10.2013.82.3 – EWINGSDALE, 14 Bay Vista Lane (Lot 5 13 DP 258951) S96 – to correct council error (recreational facility - including yoga studio, amenity block, storage shed, carport and existing dwelling extension)

COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

16.2014.95.1 – BRUNSWICK HEADS 1 Bayside Way (Lot 2 DP 635614) Secondary dwelling

PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979

The following development applications have been received by Byron Shire Council and may be viewed at the Council administration centre during ordinary office hours.

For further information on making a submission please refer to the factsheet 'Making a submission on a development application' available at Council or online at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/submissions-on-development-applications.

There are also requirements in relation to the disclosure of political gifts and donations. Refer to Council's website to satisfy yourself that you are complying with your disclosure obligations prior to lodging a submission www.byron.nsw.gov.au/political-donations.

Please quote the development application and property description when making a submission.

EXHIBITION CLOSSES 22 DECEMBER 2014

10.2014.714.12 – BANGALOW
9 Station Street (Lot 1 DP 123326, Lot 33 4DP 755695, Lot B DP 327228)

Gordon Highlands Pty Ltd: Demolish existing dwelling and garage and all other structures on the site

10.2014.711.1 – EWINGSDALE:
Citriadora Drive (Lot 1 DP 1197382)

Ardill Payne and Partners: Subdivision of land to create seven lots

EXHIBITION CLOSSES – 6 JANUARY 2015

10.2012.407.2 – BYRON BAY
45-47 Lawson Street (Lot 7 DP 1060988)

Planners North: S96 – to modify approved development (demolition of existing motel and construction and strata subdivision of a three storey residential flat building comprising of nine apartments and associated tree removal, carparking and landscaping)



Special Event Parking Area - 29 Dec to 4 Jan 2015

Unless signed otherwise (e.g. 1P, 4P), a 2-hour (2P) time limit will apply within the Special Event Parking Area (SEPA) for the 7 days. The 2P SEPA limit will apply to on-street parking in Byron Bay that is east of the Belongil Creek Bridge on Ewingsdale Road; north of Seaview Street and north of Paterson Street and Browning Street intersection. This area covers Belongil and Wategos and the streets west, east and within

the town centre. Most streets in the SEPA area are residential where no time limit is signed; however, during SEPA a 2P time limit will apply for each 24-hour period. Exemption Parking Permits will be available within the SEPA boundary to residents (and their guests), workers and accommodation providers. **Collect your SEPA PERMIT from Mullumbimby Council office or the Byron Regional Sport and Cultural Complex until 23 December. Or see us at the Council tent at the Byron Farmers Markets on Thursday 18 December. Find out more at www.byron.nsw.gov.au or call 6626 7000.**

Pin This Up

DEADLINE FRIDAY NOON

Email copy marked 'Pin This Up' to editor@echo.net.au.

Op shop sale

Bangalow Anglican Op Shop will be having a pre-Xmas \$5 bag sale till 22 December. The shop will then close for the Xmas break and reopen on 3 January 2015.

Photos wanted

War Brides – Looking for photos (or memorabilia to photograph) of war-bride-related material for a new exhibition at the Ex-Services Club Mullumbimby in April 2015. Please email Debby at mullumww1@gmail.com. War Horses – Looking for photos (or memorabilia to photograph) of material related

to horses that were part of WWI. Please email Debby at mullumww1@gmail.com.

FoL meeting

Friends of the Libraries Christmas meeting at 11am followed by a celebration lunch at 12 on Wednesday 17 December in the Arakwal Room in the Byron Library building. All members past and present welcome and RSVP to byronbayfol@gmail.com or Beryl on 0449 680 665.

Mullum Market

Corner of Stuart and Myocum Streets, Mullumbimby, Saturday 20 December, 8am–3pm. Broadfoot playing live. See www.facebook.com/MullumMarkets.

Byron Market

The Byron Special Christmas Market is on Sunday

21 December at the Butler St Reserve, 8am–3pm. Slim Pickens and Dr Baz and Gato Navarra will entertain. Please leave dogs at home.

Dunecare Day

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday 21 December, 9am–12, meeting in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarkes Beach. Enquiries Udo 0413 173 786 or Veda 6685 7991.

Visitors Centre

The Byron Visitors Centre has a great range of local and national activities, plus a retail section, at 80 Jonson Street behind the main bus stop, open every day 9am–5pm.

Lone Goat gallery

'M' – paintings, prints and assemblages by Turiya Bruce

runs until 23 Dec at the Lone Goat Gallery, Byron Bay. The gallery also has an opening for ambassadors to be trained to assist in welcoming and providing information to visitors. Please register your interest at info@lonegoatgallery.com.

Repair Cafe

Mullumbimby's Repair Cafe at the Mullumbimby campus of Byron Community College in Burringbar Street on Saturdays 9am till noon. Volunteers will be there to help you fix things that might otherwise end up in the tip.

Liberation Larder

Liberation Larder is in need of volunteers to nurture our vege gardens on Fletcher St. A couple of hours from 7am Mon or Thurs. Info Helen 0439 409 655.

Carols

Carols in Burringbar Sun 21st 6.30pm in the park next to the Rural Fire Brigade. A barbecue also to raise funds for the RFB. Bring a rug or chair.

Mullum Library

School holiday activity at Mullum Library on Tuesday 23 December, 2pm. Places limited, book on 6684 2992. Contribute to our book of free-flowing verse.

End-of-life choices

To learn what your options are when making end-of-life choices, come to the meetings held quarterly. Phone Elaine for more details 0421 796 713.

Madness

December Madness at the Salvos – all clothes only \$2 each item. Volunteers needed for 2015.

Food For Farmers

Food For Farmers Christmas Appeal – non-perishable food items needed for Christmas hampers for farmers out west. New toys and gifts also appreciated. Drop off at Byron Bay Anglican Church Op Shop Mon–Fri 9am–1pm; Mullumbimby Uniting Church, Dalley St; Bangalow CWA Shop, Main St. Anne Thompson 6629 1041, 0412 910 523.

Meditation

Meditation teaching and practice now at the Living Yoga Sanga, first floor, 63 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby, 6–7.30pm, Mondays. Contact Mishaela on 0438 858 842 or mishaela@si.org.au.

Op shop

Uniting Church Op Shop, Dalley St, Mullumbimby, open each Saturday 8am–noon.

Alcohol a problem?

Call Alcoholics Anonymous 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 – 30 meetings a week in the shire. www.aa.org.au

Op shop

Uniting Church Op Shop, Dalley St, Mullumbimby, open each Saturday 8am–noon.

Family Drug Support

Are you concerned about the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Support meetings every Tuesday 7–9pm Byron Bay, upstairs at 75 Jonson Street (stairs beside Westpac bank). Phone Jane 0410 494 933.

Bangalow CWA

Bangalow CWA is happy to invite anyone who is interested in learning how to knit, crochet or embroider to join us on Wednesdays from 9am till 2pm or the second Monday evening of every month from 5pm till 7pm. Rooms 6687 0617 or Di Campbell 6685 4694.

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters practise public speaking and leadership skills in a supportive environment 1st and 3rd Mondays 6.15pm, St Finbarr's school. www.byrontoastmasters.org. MullumMagic Toastmasters meet 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays at 7pm, Presbyterian Church Hall in Mullum. Call Robyn for more info: 6685 1836.

Narcotics

Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings: 6680 7280.

Lions meeting

Lions Club of Brunswick–Mullumbimby meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Ocean Shores Country Club at 7pm. Phone 0417 019 343 for more information or write to PO Box 12, Mullumbimby 2482.

CoDA

Co-dependents Anonymous (CoDA) is a worldwide network of groups of men and women learning how to develop and maintain healthy and fulfilling relationships. For more information, and meetings in your area, visit www.codependentsanonymous.org.au or phone 9281 3330.

Christmas lunch

An invitation to anyone who may be having Christmas lunch on their own to come and join with other folk at the Uniting Church Hall in Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads, from 12 noon on 25 December. It will be an alcohol-free area. Contact Robin 6685 1487 for further information.

Please note: This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups, not for invitations to free events to be followed up by paid workshops.



Byron Shire Council Notices

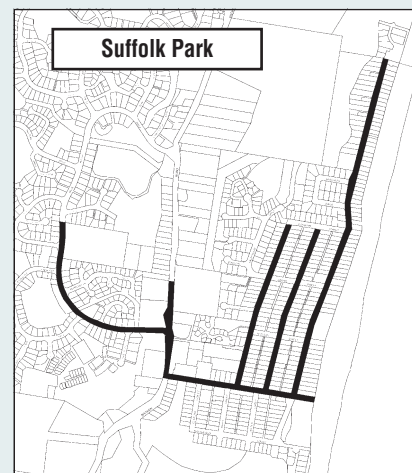
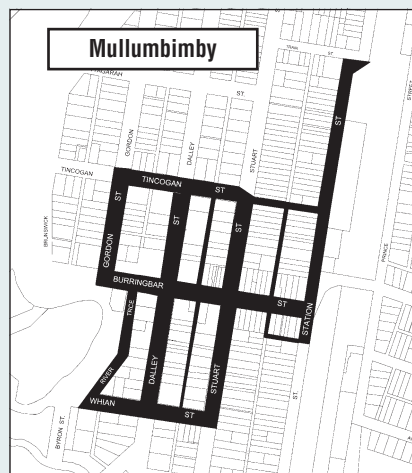
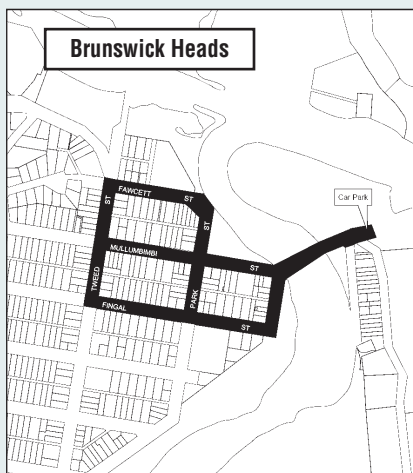
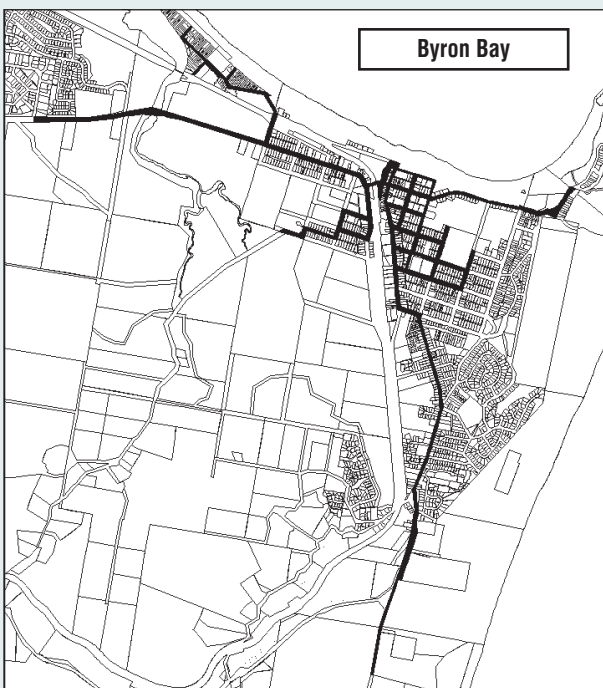
ADOPTED ALCOHOL-FREE ZONES ENFORCEABLE IN BYRON SHIRE

Byron Shire Council adopted (resolution 14-424) to re-establish alcohol-free zones (AFZ) to restrict the consumption of alcohol on specific roads and public car parks within Brunswick Heads, Byron Bay, Mullumbimby, New Brighton, Ocean Shores and Suffolk Park.

Alcohol-free zones are established under section 644-644C of the Local Government Act 1993 and in accordance with the Ministerial Guidelines on AFZ. The Alcohol-Free Zones will apply for a period of four years to re-commence with the updating of existing regulatory signs by 24 December 2014.

Any person who is in possession of alcohol, or who have been consuming (or continue to consume) alcohol within a designated AFZ, is guilty of an offence. These restrictions are clearly signposted and enforceable by NSW Police or enforcement officers. Any alcohol in the possession of a person within an AFZ may be seized and disposed of in accordance with the directions of the NSW Commissioner of Police.

These maps indicate the specific streets and public car parks that will be restricted under the AFZ. Alcohol will still be allowed in relation to approved footpath dining restaurants. For more details please go to Council's website www.byron.nsw.gov.au/alcohol-free-zones.



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Wed 1-1.30pm & Sat 9-9.30am

113-115 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park.

Wed 1-1.30pm & Sat 9-9.30am

15 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. 10-10.30am

1 Plantation Drive, Ewingsdale. 10-10.30am

1/36 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am

24 Mahogany Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am

Lot 12/24 Mahogany Drive, Byron Bay.

Sat 11-11.30am

14 Citriadora Drive, Ewingsdale. Sat 11-11.30am

25 Marvell Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm

18 Blueberry Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm

12 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm

2/18 Oodgeroo Gardens, Byron Bay. Sat 2-2.30pm

LJ HOOKER BRUNSWICK HEADS

12 North Head Road, New Brighton. Thu 1-1.30pm

LOIS BUCKETT LENNOX HEAD

3/18 Gibbon Street, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am

2/20 Gibbon Street, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am

43 Pacific Parade, Lennox Head. Sat 11-11.30 am

30 Amber Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 12-12.30am

381 Fernleigh Road, Fernleigh. Sat 1-1.30pm

MCGRATH BYRON BAY

2 Citriadora Drive, Ewingsdale. Sat 9.30am-10am

39-41 Main Street, Clunes. Sat 12-12.30pm

77 Cathcart Street, Girards Hill. Sat 12.30-1pm

RAY WHITE BYRON BAY

18 Heritage Court, Suffolk Park.

Thu & Sat 12-12.30pm

SCOTT HARVEY REAL ESTATE

191 Ballina Road, Alstonville. Sat 9.30-10am

359 Fernleigh Road, Fernleigh. Sat 11-11.30am

199 Ridgewood Road, Rosebank.

Sat 9.30-10.30am

AUCTIONS

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON BAY

Auction 2pm January 31

25 Marvell Street, Byron Bay

MCGRATH BYRON BAY

Auction 10am Saturday December 20

2 Citriadora Drive, Ewingsdale

Auction 12pm Saturday January 17

39 Main Street, Clunes

Auction 11am Saturday February 7

2/21 Marvell Street, Byron Bay

RAY WHITE BYRON BAY

Auction 10am onsite Saturday Jan 24

18 Heritage Court, Suffolk Park

NEW LISTINGS

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON BAY

- Lot 11, 591 Broken Head Road, Broken Head. Interest Over \$499,000.

- 1/36 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. \$820,000.

- 29 Myocum Ridge Road, Myocum.

- Interest Over \$899,000.

- 25 Marvell Street, Byron Bay.

- Auction 31st January 2pm.

LOIS BUCKETT LENNOX HEAD

- 381 Fernleigh Road, Fernleigh.

- Price Guide \$580,000+.

- 5 Palisade Way, Lennox Head. \$660,000.

- 3 Kell Mather Drive, Lennox Head \$620,000+.

RAY WHITE BYRON BAY

- 32 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Guide \$925,000

- - \$1M. 3/4 bed, 2 bath, 2 car home with loft on

- 1,453sqm.

Auction this Saturday



OPEN
Thursday 1-1.30pm

New Brighton
12 North Head Road

Auction – Owner already moved!
Gorgeous Timber Beach House

- Stylish, character filled, timber beach house
- Split level living, timber floors, high ceilings
- 3 living areas, 2 verandahs, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- DA approval for 2 more bedrooms, office & lounge
- Under house parking + storage, 569m² land rear lane access
- 80 metres to the beach, river, 3 mins to golf and shopping centre

3 2 2

View Thursday 1-1.30pm
Auction 11.30am December 20, 2014 at the Brunswick Heads RSL Auxiliary Hall

Contact David Mutkins
0421 906 460

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177

LJ Hooker

ljhooker.com.au

All information contained herein is gathered from sources we consider to be reliable. However we cannot guarantee or give any warranty about the information provided and interested parties must solely rely on their own enquiries.



OPEN HOUSE
Saturday 9.30-10.30am

You will fall in love with 'Glen Isle' 3 1 1

199 Ridgewood Road, Rosebank.

- ✓ Five minutes to Clunes cafe and shops
- ✓ 2 living areas, 11' ceilings, wood flooring with renovated bathroom
- ✓ N-facing verandah with stunning views
- ✓ New shed plus old dairy bails which could convert to workshop/studio
- ✓ Coopers Creek frontage
- ✓ New shed, 100 acres

- ✓ Your own private waterhole
 - ✓ Council consent for 3 cabins
 - ✓ The cattle agistment agreement earning \$120pw
- Interest from \$745,000.**
Contact Sonia Jervis on 0409 033 250.

SCOTT HARVEY
REAL ESTATE



OPEN HOUSE
Saturday 11-11.30am

AUCTION

Call to the country! 4 3 4

359 Fernleigh Road, Fernleigh.

- ✓ Large family home in Byron/Bangalow hinterland
- ✓ Beautiful property on 2.23ha with uninterrupted, elevated ocean and rural views.
- ✓ Generous bedrooms, all with built-ins.
- ✓ Sunken lounge room plus family room conveniently planned around as-new kitchen

- ✓ In ground pool, easy care gardens, ample water storage plus an area for a horse
 - ✓ This property must be seen!
- Auction onsite February 7.**
Interest from \$795,000.
Contact Gary Walsh on 0412 880 744.

SCOTT HARVEY
REAL ESTATE



Tallowood Ridge, Mullumbimby

- ✓ Only 42% of the site will ever be developed for housing
 - ✓ 84 acres for environmental protection, parks and recreation
- Contact Chincogan Real Estate 6684 3300
tallowoodridge.com



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Print advertising is a vital component of any marketing campaign for your property but if your agent isn't using *The Echo* you need to ask, **WHY NOT?**

The value an advertiser gets from *The Echo* is unrivalled in this area.

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WHY?

The Echo prints 48% more papers than any other paper servicing the Byron Shire. Unlike other papers, *The Echo* is delivered to almost every home in the Byron Shire and Lennox Head and is also bulk dropped to Lismore, Pottsville, Murwillumbah and Ballina, as well as hinterland villages.

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Exclusive Offer



Suffolk Park
Exclusive Private Offering
97A Broken Head Road

Immersed in the native flora and wildlife is the ideal setting to build your dream home. This rare parcel of land, located well away from Broken Head Road, has a private entrance and access to a private walkway through to Tallow Beach. The land size of 3939sqm (almost 1 acre) allows for a prestigious home to blend with the surrounding natural landscape. All services to the land have been connected.

\$1,250,000



63-65 Ballina Street, Lennox Head 02 6687 6155

Jason Crethar 0422 575 008

BRAND NEW

Beach Break @ Byron

183 -203 Broken Head Rd

STAGE 2

1, 2 & 3 bedroom

JUST COMPLETED – NOW SELLING

- From \$477,000
- 5% Deposit
- First Home Buyer Benefits
- Great Depreciation, Solid Returns
- Walk to Beach
- Pet Friendly
- All gardens maintained by contractor

6685 8575

Agency Declares Interest





300 + 310 Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay

300 Ewingsdale Road – Expressions of Interest Over \$750,000
 310 Ewingsdale Road – Expressions of Interest Over \$850,000

- Possible future development site or homes with spacious surrounds
- Potential for future subdivision or multi- development (STCA)
- Can be sold together or separately
- 4388m2 with character filled immaculate home (circa 1900s) plus multiple sheds
- 1113m2 with 3 bedroom home plus shed

Open: By Appointment
 Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660,
 Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698



Lot 11, 591 Broken Head Road, Broken Head

Interest Over \$499,000

- Premier coastal land – 2968m2 in 'Broken Ridge'
- Exclusive enclave offering space, privacy and nature
- Prestigious rural residential estate close to beach
- Surrounded by 100 acres of community land
- Build your dream Australian beach house!

Open: By Appointment
 Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660



25 Marvell Street, Byron Bay

4 4 2

Auction

- 'Sandhills' – Superbly crafted new beach house
- Prime position in town - walk to shops and beach
- Luxury residence with spacious proportions
- North facing outdoor entertaining area with pool
- Stunning kitchen and huge family living room

Open: This Wed, Thurs & Sat 12.00 – 12.30pm
 Auction: Saturday, 31 January 2.00pm
 Enquiries: Paul Prior 0418 324 297, Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698

Agency declares interest



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 the easiest way to find a home.

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113a Paterson Street, Byron Bay

4 2 2

Interest Over \$1,100,000

- 1752m² (almost 1/2 acre) in town
- Possible subdivision or multi dwelling development (STCA)
- Large and solid 4 bedroom home
- Walk to Byron Bay CBD and beach
- A rare find with this size land this close to town

Open: By Appointment
 Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660,
 James Young 0419 856 840



32-34 Byron Street, Bangalow

\$1,650,000

- Historic building in the main street of Bangalow
- Oozing with charm and character, fully renovated
- 5 tenancies all with options through to 2019
- Offering a potential nett return of 5.5%
- Prominent exposure with wide main street frontage

Open: By Appointment
 Enquiries: Paul Prior 0418 324 297, Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698



113-115 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park

4 2 2

LAND – Interest over \$370,000
 Build prices available

- 'Retreat At Byron'
- Only 4 lots available with DA approval
- 4 bed, 2 bath architecturally designed homes
- Walk to beach, fantastic rental income potential
- The most affordable house/land packages in Byron!

Open: Wednesday, 17 December 1.00 – 1.30pm
 Saturday, 20 December 9.00 – 9.30am
 Enquiries: Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698, James Young 0419 856 840



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CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE ITALIAN

CANAPES ON ARRIVAL, 3 COURSE LUNCH WITH A TOUCH OF FESTIVITIES \$140PP

12pm to 2.30pm or 3.00pm to 5.30pm
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
*BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

OPEN 7 DAYS FROM 6PM
(02)6680 7055
2 Bay St, Byron Bay (next to Beach Hotel)

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TOOKIES Christmas Specials

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NO INTEREST UNTIL 2015

Photographer Peter King's talented dog Tookie has expanded upon sales of his justly famous used tennis balls and recorded a CD just in time for Christmas. We hear he's in the running for a Grammy; Iggy Azalea, watch out. Do you have any unusual Christmas gift suggestions you'd like to share with our readers? For the trance party crowd, we can recommend timber tables embedded with photoluminescent resin. For the unreconstructed fishing bloke, the Erotic Carp Calendar (yes, it is real). And for gran, Bing Crosby Sings Death Metal For Christmas. Mr Google will help you find all of these, and have a look at The Slow Mo Guys while you're at it.

Rugby league star Greg Bird showed a ready grasp of the pun after he was caught urinating near a police car in Byron Bay a night after exchanging wedding vows. It 'put a dampener on our wedding weekend', he admitted. And obviously gave his new wife food for thought. The Gold Coast forward admits he may go dry after relieving himself in public, saying his latest run-in with the law has him considering giving up alcohol. He denied a police report that claimed he urinated on a marked police car. While Mr Bird's efforts to bring the game into disrepute fall far short of John Hopoate's performance on and off the field, it does suggest a new venture for an enterprising tourism operator: 'Piss Take - see where the famous and notorious have relieved themselves in beautiful Byron Bay.' We

could even change the street names (who's heard of those poets anyway?): Catheter Lane, UTI Boulevard, Jimmy Riddle Avenue, and so on.

According to the latest *TravelMag* survey, Byron Bay has been ranked the most expensive destination in Australia. The rates for the average cost per night were compared using a hotel comparison system called Kayak. Prices for the top three were Byron Bay \$176, Sydney \$136 and Hobart \$131. Cairns is the least expensive destination in Australia, according to the survey, with rates averaging at \$60. No wonder people sleep in vans by the roadside.

We guess that pre-Christmas stress has something to do with the following data. NRMA Insurance claims data

for NSW last year has revealed that carpark collisions in December increased by 15 per cent above the annual average, with Thursday being the most common day for a carpark collision, closely followed by Friday. There's probably a corresponding hike in alcohol and aspirin sales.

The Emergency+ app developed by the Triple Zero Awareness Work Group (TZAWG) uses the existing GPS functionality of smartphones to enable callers to provide emergency call-takers with their location information as determined by their smartphone. Emergency+ also includes SES and Police Assistance Line numbers as options, so non-emergency calls are made to the most appropriate number. We tried it and the GPS found us okay.

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- body treatments
- waxing
- nails
- spray tan

clay
Gift vouchers available for that special Christmas gift.

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NEW STORE

BEST CHAIR FOR BAD BACKS

This revolutionary chair was invented by a German doctor. The split back pads pivot around to fit every shape of back, giving the best support of any chair. The chair can be fully customised to fit any shape, even people with scoliosis.

20%
OFF

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A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS CHEER

GROUP BOOKINGS WELCOME

\$25-\$40 PER HEAD SET MENU

CASH BAR IF REQUIRED

SANTÉ 95 JONSON ST
BYRON BAY 6685 5009

Solar Power Breakthrough!

Affordable Batteries

Solar Power 24 Hours A Day

Sending power into the grid at 6 or 8 cents per Kwh sucks, when you then have to pay 30 cents/Kwh to get it back later. Our New Hybrid Inverter system allows you to use your own power instead of the grid - 24 hours a day! The average payback period is 5-6 years. Kills your power bill by up to 80%. 15 years experience in off-grid solar with our Clean Energy Council Certified installer.

Install New or Upgrade Existing Now!

Electricity Network to Tax Solar Soon!

New moves by the Network operators to change tariffs for all grid connected solar to tax peak usage rather than amount of power used will hurt solar homes. Battery storage eliminates peaks and will keep your bill lower now and after the changes. Prepaid Solar is your one stop shop for everything solar. We provide effective and high quality ways to save energy costs and gain more freedom now.

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