



What are the remaining obstacles for the species moving forward? Politicians! – p9



What's in store for your cosmic week? Stars with Lilith – p33

Online in *Echo*netdaily
South Ballina park owner says he's lost it all
www.echo.net.au/south-ballina-park-owner-says-hes-lost-it-all



Into the wild Bruns

Every Thursday in Brunswick Heads, a bunch of very excited children gather to spend the day outside on nearby bushland to reconnect with nature and learn practical wilderness skills. Using art and crafts, ceremony, creative play and games, the children are guided by mentors in small groups. The school runs during school term every Thursday from 9am till 3pm for children aged six to 13 years. To book, contact Rohan on 0407 898 374 or visit www.brunsbushschool.com.au. Pictured left are Yoar and Spike with their koala impersonation, then Josephine, Yael Ray, Onyx, Tal and co-ordinator Rohan Stewart. Photo Jeff 'Where The Wild Things Are' Dawson

Epic fail

Councillors handed a report card at packed meeting by new peak community group

Chris Dobney

A new peak body of Byron Shire organisations used Council's Thursday public access meeting to hand the council a 'report card' based on what it says is its 'epic failure' to adhere to the Community Charter for Good Planning that it signed in 2014.

The new organisation, Community Alliance for Byron Shire (CABS), describes itself as 'a collection of community groups who are dissatisfied with Council's unsatisfactory procedures and practices and the unplanned and unchecked development that is taking place across the shire.'

The body consists of ten existing resident groups, progress associations and action groups shire-wide, as well as some individual direct members.

CABS says it compared the council's processes and decisions

on 20 key issues over the past 12 months against the five principles of the charter and found only one, the Byron Bay Masterplan, that addressed all five.

Sunrise Residents Association's Bethany Hudson said CABS wanted to convey the message that the council, 'must put the community and environment first'.

Charter for Good Planning ignored

'The dissatisfaction, frustration and anger that people are feeling about what is happening in our shire has reached critical mass and we are all pulling together to make Council accountable to us,' she said.

'In December 2014, Council resolved to adopt the Better Planning Network's Community Charter for

continued on page 5 >

Surfing beaches still under threat

Hans Lovejoy

Byron Shire's world-renowned surfing beaches and related 'tourist activities' are at risk owing to Council's relentless push to create plans that favour coastal protection structures, a state government department warned again recently.

But the warning appears to have made no difference to Council's right-wing controlling faction, who again barrelled through with yet another motion to continue on the path of overturning the planned retreat policy in favour of 'protection works.'

Structures such as rock walls are known to erode beaches over time.

At last Thursday's Council meeting, the controlling faction ignored staff recommendations that sought clarification over a newly announced coastal management framework.

Instead, Cr Sol Ibrahim again produced a last-minute lengthy motion – written in the lunch break – which aims to continue the preparation of a Coastal Hazard Management Study Byron Bay Embayment.

The project is led by consultants Water Research Laboratory (WRL), who the left-leaning councillors

point out are employed to engineer and build coastal protection works and therefore are potentially biased against planned retreat as an option.

Cr Ibrahim's fellow councillors Woods, Hunter, Cubis and Greens turncoat Wanchap all voted without explanation or debate for his motion.

The plans have been continually dogged by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), who say the cost benefit analysis (CBA) of WRL's plans is inadequate and, if done correctly, could demonstrate

continued on page 5 >



Councillors who have ignored their own charter of good planning policy are on notice to improve their governance. Photo Hans Lovejoy



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1 Billion Rising for Byron, Feb 14

The women of Byron Shire, together with children and many male supporters, will again be out in big numbers on Main Beach as the sun rises on Sunday, February 14.

The ancient tradition of Valentines Day has been re-branded V-Day to highlight the horrific epidemic of male violence against women and children. But in true Byron style, the mood is more a celebratory call for change than

a political confrontation.

1 Billion Rising was set in motion in 2013 by Eve Ensler, author of the *Vagina Monologues*, and last year more than 200 countries participated in various events, including a dance to gospel anthem *Break the Chain*.

The billion refers to the UN statistic that one in three women will be raped or beaten in her lifetime.

Byron Bay has its own high

incidence of sexual assault and V-Day is an opportunity to be involved in highlighting it, instead of assuming the real problem is elsewhere.

The last few years saw hundreds of women, children and men dance together in Byron – and organisers are hoping that this year the numbers will grow further.

The morning's dance and plunge on Main Beach will be followed by an evening event,

Vagina Conversations, at Byron Theatre, featuring contributions from Mandy Nolan, Ilona Harker, Zenith Virago and many more.

Main Beach dip

Rise for Revolution, the fourth annual V-Day dance event, Byron Bay Main Beach, Sunday February 14, 6.30am arrival for 7.30am dance. Wear something (or everything) red.

Govcorp moves in to evict van owners

It was an end of an era for caravan owner Kelly McKelvey, as her storage van left Brunswick Heads last week after North Coast Holiday Parks evicted the last onsite caravans owned by the public.

She told *The Echo*, 'We will miss the community, but have such fabulous memories. Thanks to *The Echo* for always supporting our stories and for publishing our content.'

Further north, van owners in Fingal Holiday Park claim a third of the park's caravan leaseholders are under threat of permanent eviction, with the first five van owners being told to vacate their sites before Easter. Fingal van owner Robyn Holland says another 17 van owners have just received letters from the Tweed Coast Holiday Parks Trust, 'informing them they are not permitted to sell their caravans due to future redevelopment plans.'

One of those evicted, Suzanne Collins, said she was devastated by the news.

'We have been enjoying family holidays here together for 10 years,' she said.

'What the Trust doesn't appreciate is our ongoing loyalty to the park and the fact that we are actually paying customers. Together, the long-term Fingal casuals contribute around \$400,000 annually. It might get busy at Christmas and Easter, but in the quieter months, many of the tourist sites sit empty, which means they're relying on this bread-and-butter income.'

'Many van owners have recently spent thousands of dollars renovating their caravans and annexes, and are angry that the Trust has



Kelly McKelvey's caravan leaves Bruns. Photo supplied

officially approved these improvements, knowing the future plans for redevelopment.'

Community destroyed

Ms Holland said the gradual removal of the long-term casuals would destroy the unique sense of community in the Fingal Holiday Park.

'Some of these families have been spending every weekend here for the past 30 years – they truly care for the beach, they support the local surf club and they make a regular, significant contribution to the local economy,' she said.

'It's the same situation at Kingscliff South Holiday Park, where every long-term van owner has been instructed to vacate to make way for the new foreshore park.'

'We understand the Trust's business needs to make an income but we believe there can be a successful balance, where the holiday park is available to both the loyal long-term van owners as well as tourists.'

'In the end, if you evict all of us, it's like tearing up a familiar neighbourhood and creating an artificial tourist town where nobody cares for the community.'

Mayor comments on Council's decreased legal costs

Further to last week's lead story on Council's declining legal expenses, mayor Simon Richardson told *The Echo* after publication, 'It is an important balancing act to get right.'

'[The] Greens and progressives on Council have always shown the courage and strategic understanding to say no to poor developments and to go to court if need be; this is still the case for me and the Greens and progressives and, hopefully, will always continue.'

'However, where we can avoid litigation and get a decent outcome we should also explore this possibility. Much of the previous high legal

costs came from a few big cases, and so, as these cases have dried up, so too has our legal budget.'

'We have avoided some court cases due to talking with the other side and finding good outcomes that benefit all parties.'

'We have deliberately tried to maintain our courage to say no to poor development, while acknowledging that most of our residents want to do the right thing and many have awesome ideas and projects, and thus, we have also tried to find a balance that enables us to support great development.'

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Coolamon Scenic Drive injury/ death 'matter of when not if'

A resident from the Shire's hinterland says Council has dragged its feet for a year over a dangerous stretch of Coolamon Scenic Drive near Hayters Hill.

The section of road is located about 100 metres past the house with the old petrol bowser out front towards St Helena hill.

Brad Garnham told *The Echo* that it is particularly dangerous owing to it being the first tight corner when travelling west from the highway.

'The evidence of multiple and regular wet-weather single-vehicle accidents here should be more than ample motivation for the council to sort it out. It's a disgrace that nothing has been done here.'

Mr Garnham says he followed up his initial contact with Council a few months later but no action has been



Federal resident Brad Garnham says this corner on Coolamon Scenic Drive needs urgent repair. Photo supplied

taken. He said, 'Disturbingly it's been 12 months since I lodged the alert.'

'I also followed up via phone, with a person who

heads the road repair department (I'm not sure it really exists) about two months after this application after yet another car crashed

off the road here.'

Mr Garnham says the section of road is particularly slippery owing to the oily surface of the road and needs a resurface.

'At speed, you could comfortably take a similar radius turn in the wet. But this corner offers much less grip.'

Other areas addressed

'[Council] have merrily resurfaced sections between Federal and Eureka for example, that pose nothing more threatening than the irritation of it being slightly bumpy.'

'Currently it's only a matter of when, not if, someone is injured or killed.'

The Echo asked Council staff for comment twice but there was no response.

Byron Bay road works ahead

Byron Shire Council says it is undertaking over \$1 million in road works during the next two months as part of Council's Fit for the Future plan.

A 380-metre length of Massinger Street, Byron Bay, will be reconstructed at the southern end between Carlyle and Short Streets.

The road works commenced Monday February 8 and the Massinger Street section of road will be closed between Carlyle and Kipling.

This includes the Massinger Street intersections with Marvell and Short Streets.

Road diversions will be in place for motorists and works are expected to take about seven weeks, ending in time for the Easter holidays.

A pocketful of mindfulness



The Pocket Public School launched their Mindfulness program this week. Run by Mindfulness in Education, principal Will Glasson says it gives students a life skill for tuning into their inner experiences, self-calming and focusing attention towards their learning within and outside the classroom. Pictured are students Jaegar and Sita with Mindfulness In Education director Bobbi Allan. Photo Jeff 'Out Of Mind' Dawson

Man dies after Uki crash

A 67-year-old Nimbin man died after the car he was driving lost control on a bend near Uki on Saturday and crashed upside down into a creek, trapping him underwater.

Witnesses to the crash on Kyogle Road around 5.30pm freed the trapped passenger, a 72-year-old woman.

The man was pulled out unconscious and could not be revived despite attempts at CPR by police and those who saw the crash. Police were told the driver lost control of the VW Golf on a bend and

mounted the kerb before travelling down an embankment and landing upside down in the creek. The two were returning home to Nimbin from Murwillumbah when the accident happened.

Bangalow Road accident

Bangalow Road was closed on Friday morning in both directions around 10 kilometres west of Clunes near Lismore owing to a serious truck and car accident.



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Hospitals beef up security

Security at NSW hospital emergency wards will be audited as part of an action plan to improve security, the state government says, following a round-table conference in Sydney on Monday.

As part of the plan, security audits will be conducted at a number of hospitals across the state, including the Tweed and Byron District Hospitals.

Medical staff will be trained to deal with aggressive patients and TAFE security courses will cover training for the health environment, health minister Jillian Skinner has announced.



About 300 people harmonised with Deva Premal and Miten during last weekend's Sacred Song workshop, held at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall. Photo Jeff 'Harmonised' Dawson

Residents pressure Council over performance

► continued from page 1

Good Planning. Since then, multiple decisions made by council have flown in the face of the principles outlined in the charter.

The group cited examples including:

- Council agreeing to allow a change of usage for rural land at Ewingsdale for 260 'retirement' homes and a commercial development,
- The exclusion of the community from the decision to build a rock wall at Belongil,
- The censuring of a committed volunteer via a code of conduct complaint,
- The ignoring of serious breaches of the code by councillors; and,

• Complex development applications being put on public exhibition for only 14 days.

Ms Hudson said, 'Many of us in Byron Shire feel we are being ignored by Council. In some cases residents are being treated like nuisances and even opponents of some councillors and Council staff.

'We are ratepayers and it is our Shire.'

Deserve respect

'We deserve respect and outcomes that benefit the environment and the majority of the community – not just a handful of people who are in the long run will only take from Byron Shire, not give.

'We must see the Commu-

nity Charter actually implemented. That means proper planning being done, underpinned by a growth management strategy that considers the environmental values and future needs of the Shire and which involves genuine community participation in planning processes.'

Donald Maughan, president of the Suffolk Park Progress Association, said his group had joined CABS largely as a show of support.

'While I can't say that there is a particular Suffolk issue at the moment, the proposed West Byron and Ewingsdale developments are issues that will impact on the greater Byron residents,'

he told *The Echo*.

'The "pro-development five" [councillors] just seem to be riding roughshod and we are concerned they could do so again, particularly in relation to the Broken Head Quarry, which has just submitted a new development application.

'The Byron community has been divided and conquered by this council in the past and we are determined that's not going to happen in the future.

'We support the whole Byron Shire community. We need to think globally in terms of the Shire,' Mr Maughan said.

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Surfing beaches still under threat

► continued from page 1

that planned retreat is the most cost-effective outcome.

The Echo understands that OEH will ultimately decide whether to accept Council's CZMP plans, which will then be gazetted by the minister.

A recent meeting held on the Gold Coast with OEH, WRL and Council staff thrashed out the problems raised by OEH, with WRL accepting the issues raised.

The latest cost to ratepayers in redrafting these issues is \$13,500, and comes on top

of similar cost blowouts from last year.

The OEH had previously offered to prepare Council's cost benefit analysis for free.

The report from the meeting notes OEH uncertainty surrounding major cost components and called on WRL to explore within its cost benefit analysis the 'engineering options, retreat and an adaptive strategy'.

It was acknowledged that sand nourishment, which is replenishing the expected loss of beach sand owing to rock

wall type structures, is a 'critically sensitive component.'

Serious doubts expressed by OEH

Within the meeting's minutes it reads, 'OEH expresses serious doubts about feasibility of the... options proposed.'

It's a position supported by

legislation – OEH noted that within the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*, 'CZMPs are to make provision to protecting and preserving beach amenity and managing associated impacts for proposed construction of protection works.'

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■ Editorial page 10

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Former Mullum child reunited with father

A six-year-old former Mullumbimby preschooler has been reunited with her father after a Sydney court threw out an attempt by Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) to put her into a foster home.

The father's mother, Eltara Mahatma, confirmed the ABC reports with *The Echo* and said she attended both days in the Children's Court in Sydney last week.

Police took the child from her father late last month after they were found asleep in a car at Sydney's Bronte Beach.

They had been visiting the

child's grandmother in Mullumbimby over the holidays and were returning to Melbourne when the child was taken. A rally to support the father and daughter was held in Mullumbimby last Monday.

Eltara Mahatma said the magistrate told the DOCS lawyers, 'You can't judge a person based on their working-class status.'

'There was no attempt to contact the family or reinstate the child with family, which I believe is their duty,' she said.

A crowd-sourcing campaign via Gofundme was reinstated on Monday, she said,

and a lawyer represented Woody on the Tuesday.

'That lawyer told us it was very unusual for the magistrate to side with the parent. The magistrate acted out of character, the lawyer said.'

'The magistrate said he saw the reports on ABC TV and told DOCS lawyers, "This should have never come to my desk."

FACS respond to online story

The original online report of the story by *Echonetdaily* - before the court case was dismissed - was removed at the request of FACS for identifying the child. Their media unit said the article was in breach of 's105 [of the] *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (Care Act)* in that it clearly identifies a child by name and location as well as identifying that the child has been the subject of a child protection report to FACS and is the subject of current care proceedings before the Children's Court.'



Drifting through James's surf art

Former creative director of the Byron Bay Surf Festival, James McMillan, has launched his latest exhibition, *God/Surf*, at Driftlab in Newrybar. Photo Jeff 'Drifted' Dawson

Lismore rallies for refugees

Rallies were held across the nation last week to protest at plans to send asylum seekers back to off-shore detention centres. Locally, a rally was held in Lismore outside Page MP Kevin Hogan's office on Molesworth Street.

Australia's High Court have determined that the government is legally allowed to return 267 asylum seekers to

Nauru. Among those are 91 children, including 37 babies recently born in Australia.

Ballina Region for Refugees spokesperson Sue Kelly said, 'Human Rights Commissioner, Gillian Triggs, reported systematic abuse of children on Nauru last year.'

Ms Kelly said the government's own Moss Review reported the same thing.

Labor's Chris Bowen to attend Tweed GST forum February 19

Local Labor MP Justine Elliot is inviting locals to attend a community forum with shadow treasurer Chris Bowen to discuss local concerns about the government's plan to raise the GST.

Labor claims increasing the GST to 15 per cent will see household costs rise on average by almost \$4,000 per year.

Mrs Elliot says, 'The Na-

tional Party have already made the choice to unfairly cut the age pension, family payments, local jobs and health services... and now they want to increase the GST to 15 per cent.'

'Labor opposes increasing the GST and working together we can stop Malcolm Turnbull and The Nationals' unfair increases to the GST,'

Mrs Elliot says.

The forum will be held from 10.30am (NSW time) on Friday February 19 at the Salvation Army Centre.

The centre is located on the corner of Leisure and Woodlands Drive, Banora Point. To register, phone Justine's office on 07 55 234 371 or email justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au.

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FedTalks tackles social justice

Social justice is the focus of the upcoming FedTalks, to be held at Federal Hall February 22 from 7pm.

Guest speakers are professor Baden Offord and Cathy Burke, who will be in conversation with author and journalist Susanna Freymark.

Themes included are 'seeking social justice in a world of growing inequality,' and 'how do our lived experience shape us towards social action?'



Professor Baden Offord. image from iafor.org

Cathy Burke is CEO of the Hunger Project and author of *Unlikely Leaders* while professor Baden Offord is director and chair of the Centre for Human Rights Education at the faculty of Humanities at Curtin University in Perth.

The Echo asked Professor Offord about the relevance of the UN and the concept of human rights.

Question: In terms of the UN's Human Rights Council, many current member countries have appalling human rights records.

Saudi Arabia is just one example, as is China, Nigeria, United Arab Emirates and Russia. Should this council be taken seriously?

'I would venture that your take on the current membership is simply illustrative of how complex the international community is. The stark reality is that we live in a world of difference.'

'On a number of issues the Council has made important statements since its formation in 2006, such as a controversial resolution it made

in 2014 about discrimination against people on the basis of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

'Its "Working Group on Arbitrary Detention" just made the statement that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been arbitrarily detained by Sweden and the UK since his arrest in London 2010.'

'On the other hand, the chair of the Council is currently the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the UN, and he has the ability to select the experts now for their investigations. Cynic or not, this is a hard pill to swallow given Saudi Arabia's human rights record. I'm sceptical about the role and value of human rights governance instruments and institutions, which are highly political and hugely problematic.'

'But if I saw it as a means of leverage towards brokering something such as helping to alleviate the enormous suffering of refugees around the world, I would use it.'

Question: Does the concept of Human Rights actually mean anything and does it really exist?

'Ask someone who is fighting oppression (who might have a disability or discriminated on the basis of their sexuality, or who are seeking asylum) whether human rights mean anything and you will get your answer immediately. Yes.'

'From my point of view, the concept of human rights is merely our current form in history of attempting to have a shared/common moral framework or language for how we get along together respectfully. Human rights is the language of mutual recognition.'

'Are we seeing the end of human rights? That its language is being eroded through forums such as the UN HR Council? Perhaps.'

'But there will always be attempts to work out how we live together as human beings without killing each other, indeed, valuing what it might mean to be human. And this of course also implies relating to the earth. Does a river have rights? Does the earth? Does nature? I would say so.'

For more info visit www.fedtalks.com.au.

Byron champs top NSW



Congratulations to Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club, who won their sixth straight NSW Country title by the narrowest of margins over perennial rivals Cudgen Headland last weekend. Photo SLS NSW

Politics in the pub series kicks off at Court House

The first politics in the pub event is planned for Wednesday February 24 at the Court House Hotel, Mullumbimby.

Presented by the Ngara Institute – the Activists' Think Tank, guest speakers will be democracy theorist/activist professor Lyn Carson from Sydney University, and leading environmental activist Aidan Ricketts from Southern Cross University (SCU).

They will discuss 'The future of corporate capitalism, democracy and activism in Australia.'

Co-organiser Richard Hil says the initiative is organised by local people for a national and international audience.

'Our intention is to invite speakers to critique neoliberalism but, more importantly, to offer a coherent vision of what a different sort of future might look like.'

Lyn Carson is a professor in applied politics at the University of Sydney, Business



Professor Lyn Carson



Aidan Ricketts

Education Unit. Formerly, she was professorial fellow with the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy at the University of Western Sydney; academic program director for the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney; and taught in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney.

Professor Carson is also currently director of the New Democracy Foundation (www.newdemocracy.com.au). She has helped establish Australia's first Con-

sensus Conference, Australia's first two Deliberative Polls and Australia's first Citizens' Parliament.

Aidan Ricketts is an activist, educator, academic and author of *The Activists' Handbook: a step by step guide to participatory democracy*.

In addition to running activist training courses around the country (including an accredited course at SCU), Aidan is currently involved in the campaign against CSG mining in northern NSW.

The event starts from 6.30pm.

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The burnt bus mystery



A bus that had been seen in the Byron area for some time was gutted by fire late Monday night or Tuesday morning near Belongil Beach. Duty officer Inspector Dempsey told *The Echo* anyone with information should contact Tweed Byron LAC on 07 5536 0999. Photo Patrick Gray

Byron Markets slightly more secure

As expected, a previous motion by Cr Woods that sought to put Byron's market management out to tender was rescinded at last week's Council meeting.

An amendment, passed by Cr Ibrahim (Cr Richardson against), has given the existing licence holders seven months' tenure and notes that 'preparations have commenced to establish long-term Market Licence Agreements via a competitive process.'

Co-located

The motion also says the Byron Bay Community Markets and Farmers Markets be 'co-located, with the Butler

Street paid parking facilities, and the Butler Street location be offered as the permanent location for Community Markets and the preferred location for the Farmers Markets in Byron Bay as part of the competitive process to establish long-term market licences.'

Cr Paul Spooner, manager of the Byron Bay Community Centre, told *The Echo*, 'It's a good thing that the confused motion passed by Council in December was overturned.'

'After 25 years of the Byron Community Centre operating the community market on Butler Street it's appropriate to have some certainty on

where the markets are to be conducted. Council has finally recognised Butler Street as the community market's permanent home.

'The Community Centre has supported the co-location of the markets with pay parking on the reserve.'

'It's good that the council has finally recognised this proposition. The proposal to establish new five-year licences for the markets by later this year is achievable.'

Tane Allan from the Rainbow Stallholders Association told *The Echo* it was a 'better outcome but not secure until the lease is secure.'

Cavanbah Centre saves with solar

A 25kW rooftop solar system and lighting upgrade of Byron's regional sport and cultural complex is saving Byron Shire Council energy and more than \$15,000 a year.

The Cavanbah Centre's photo-voltaic (PV) system alone will provide up to 70

per cent of the centre's current energy use, say Council.

Other projects

Along with a lighting upgrade and solar hot-water system retrofit, council is now saving 54,300kW hours of energy and 48 tonnes of green-

house gas annually.

Other Council solar PV systems include a 50kW system on the West Byron Sewerage Treatment Plant, a 5kW system at Brunswick Valley Community Centre, four solar hot-water systems and 10kW at Myocum Landfill.

Byron Council moves against mandatory detention centres

Hans Lovejoy

No Business In Abuse, a movement which aims to pressure corporations that 'are making billions from the abuse of people seeking asylum', was supported by councillors at last week's meeting.

Put forward by Cr Duncan Dey (Greens), the motion confirms 'our respect for the fundamental human rights of asylum seekers' and 'deplore[s] the impact that the activities that such companies have had and are having on asylum seekers and refugees.'

The motion also notes that 'Council has no current contracts, investments or other business relationships with the following companies, that hold contracts in Australia's system of mandatory detention: Broadspectrum (formerly Transfield Services) and Wilson Security (part of the Wilson Group).'

Crs Chris Cubis and Alan Hunter, both elected on Cr Di Woods's ticket, voted against.

During morning public access, former Christian Democratic Party candidate Vyvyan Stott, spoke in support of the government's current policy.

He began by trying to cast doubt and demonise those seeking refuge from war-torn hell holes.

'They come from violent countries,' he told the room.

'Most have never known freedom. Some are extremists, and involved in crime.'

'These [indefinite detention centre] companies do a difficult job. There has been arson. I suggest you read *Beyond The Razor Wire* [by Sandy Thorne].'

'These people are receiving free hospitality... they are economic migrants. Many of these people are



wealthy. How do we know who is who? Compared with where they come from, we are providing havens. Many are getting [free] dental, international phone calls, given TV, air con, much more than what we get. They are breaking our immigration laws...'

He then said the issue was 'emotional.'

'If you are concerned with humanitarian issues, there are many homeless here.'

It was at that point Stott went rogue and said we 'need to get out of the UN.'

When finished, Stott was booed by the room, however the mayor reminded the crowd that we are country of tolerance and should aspire to accept and embrace opposing views.

Problem too big

Later during debate, Cr Alan Hunter told the chamber it's just not Australia's problem, 'it's a problem of modern times.'

'And we've got so much on our plate that needs fixing in this community that we would be better concentrating our efforts on that than trying to help other governments solve much bigger problems than we've got resources to handle.'

'We've seen what's happened in Germany. And to

say there's other ways to stop the boats... well sure, but I can't think of too many ways other than sinking them.

'We haven't done that; we've turned them around.'

'We've got so much to protect here in terms of our personal and family security... from our health and ethics.'

'Who are we bringing in and who will we let in? And the alternative here is that if we don't do something, [then] we just let 'em go? Just let anybody in? That's not an option either. I don't know why we are concentrating on this. I understand the sentiment and the problem but I don't think this is the way to fix it.'

'This is a cheap shot at the expense of our own residents because even in these few minutes that we've concentrating on this as an item, we could have fixed a few more potholes.'

Subjective

Similarly, Cr Chris Cubis spoke against.

'It's political grandstanding and I can put that aside.'

'But what I can't stand is we have another tick-a-box, for some people [and] councillors to put pressure on staff and say "I don't agree with your decision - here's another policy that you should have agreed with..."'



NOTICE OF PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Cultural Events Site, Tweed Valley Way and Jones Road, Yelgun

The Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) has completed its assessment of the above proposal. The application has been referred to the Planning Assessment Commission (the Commission) for determination, under the terms of the Minister's delegation.

The Commission to determine the application comprises Ms Lynelle Briggs AO (chair), Ms Ilona Millar and Professor Zada Marie Lipman.

Due to the level of public interest in the proposal, the Commission will be meeting to hear public views on the Assessment Report and recommendation, prior to determining the proposal. This is a final opportunity for interested parties to comment on the DP&E's assessment and recommended conditions of approval, before a decision is made.

The Commission meeting is scheduled to commence at 9:00am on Wednesday, 24 February 2016 at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall, 55 Dalley Street Mullumbimby NSW 2482. The meeting is open to the public to observe the proceedings.

If you wish to comment on the DP&E's recommendation at the meeting, you must register to speak, by contacting Philippa Vale on (02) 9383 2105 by 1:00pm, Monday, 22 February 2016.

The Assessment Report (including recommendation) is available on the Commission's website www.pac.nsw.gov.au (reference: D399/16). Other documents associated with the application are available on the DP&E's website via majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au (reference: 09_0028 MOD 3).

Enquiries: Jorge Van Den Brande (02) 9383 2104
NSW Planning Assessment Commission
GPO Box 3415 Sydney NSW 2001
Email: pac@pac.nsw.gov.au

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NORTHERN RIVERS & THE GOLD COAST

Remaining obstacles for the species moving forward

Hans Lovejoy

Tony Abbott was the unpopular school dunce who got a job everyone thought was uncool and unimportant at the time.

But then we found out it was a super important job, because he and his other idiot mates went about setting fire to everything.

Our social fabric got scorched and we all paid the price. As captain of *Team Titanic*, Abbott's legacy is an embarrassing part of our history, much like when Trevor Chappell bowled underarm to that Kiwi batsman in 1981.

And while it's refreshing that Turnbull stepped in with lengthier slogans and words placed in the right order, he still carries a similar hard-right agenda that aims to further widen the gap of inequality and ruin the atmosphere.

His recent cuts to the science budget at CSIRO complement Abbott's legacy of education and health cuts while ignoring the much-needed clamp down on tax havens.

Yet interestingly, Turnbull is self-made and enjoys those tax havens. Let's just let that sink in. Few politicians generate wealth; they mostly just manage our debt.

Minister for Goldman Sachs

While entrepreneurs are rare in politics, let's not get carried away. Turnbull is no Elon Musk or Richard Branson - his wealth came from developing supermarkets and then setting up his own merchant bank.



Can man/dog hybrid ScoMo become our next guard dog PM?

He also headed Australia's division of Goldman Sachs, the ungoverned US vulture capitalist corporation that later helped to create the 2008 global financial crash and then was given a US taxpayer bailout.

Even as the member for Goldman Sachs, he gave great hope to anyone who wasn't a right-wing extremist; his achievements in his early years include the famous court case win against the Thatcher government in 1986 defending former MI5 spy Peter Wright.

As a former Liberal opposition leader, he supported a carbon price and a republic and thus was instantly loathed by half the party.

Since Turnbull declared the Liberal Party mutiny, he has had to dumb himself down and hold on to a few troglodytes for political reasons. We still seem to be going nowhere.

Abbott of course stacked the place with his own kind - homophobic, xenophobic, misogynistic and highly religious bigots who deny climate science.

They eagerly suckle on the teat of evilcorp and enjoy sell-

ing the nation's sovereignty (land) to overseas interests.

So which Abbott dregs will be banished after Turnbull wins this year's election?

Those to go may include the Bronwyn Bishop wax museum exhibit, Christopher Pyne (who is rapidly losing popularity in his SA seat) and hopefully the sinister James Bond villain, George Brandis (Brisbane-based, upper house).

Let's have a look at one who will stay and one who most likely go in this club of fools.

The treasurer of terror and misery

Who can resist the charms of a man responsible for human death and suffering?

It's like Scott Morrison enjoys it. Empathy is clearly for losers, and refusing to answer basic questions on transparency and human rights got ScoMo straight into the second biggest job: treasury.

Though to be fair, Joe Hockey proved that any gorilla stuffed in a suit can do the job, even if it was for a short time.

ScoMo's achievements as

minister for Immigration, Hell, Fire and Brimstone (Border Security) included allegations he used taxpayer money to pay for boats, which were given to the very demons we are supposed to vilify: people smugglers.

In a post-ethical world, anything is on the table.

And if you constrict the information flow and create legislation to jail whistleblowers, you can achieve much.

Where and how many persecuted souls were turned back to face almost certain death is unknown, except that we know from *Crikey* some of our closest neighbours were caught in that net - a number of West Papuans allegedly fleeing Indonesian genocide are also stuck in limbo.

Even John Howard gave West Papuans passage to escape their horrors, but not this pitbull and his black shirts.

So far, his new gig as treasurer has been underwhelming as he umm and arrs over how to convince us that the super wealthy shouldn't pay their fair share while the poor should suffer more.



Peter Dutton fails at literally everything he attempts except his potato impersonation. Deep fried Dutton, please.

The minister for incompetence

Why or how Peter Dutton is still in politics is anyone's guess. It's unlikely he will last post election, so it's worth profiling his non achievements.

As health minister, he tried to introduce an added fee of \$7 for visits to the GP.

It failed, and probably contributed to his being voted - by a poll - as the worst health minister in 35 years in the *Australian Doctor* magazine.

His gaffes alone should exclude this ex-Brisbane drug cop from ever taking to a microphone again; he managed to offend Australia's Pacific neighbours in one fell swoop by joking about the effect of climate change on Pacific islands.

He didn't know a boom mic was overhead and said, 'Time doesn't mean anything when you're about to have water lapping at your door.'

And then he displayed a lack of basic text messaging skills by firing off 'she's a mad fucking witch' to the journo he was describing.



The best service Pyne could provide the public would be offering himself up as a science experiment.

Most importantly, he lied to the public over whether a woman raped in our concentration camps wanted an abortion. He said she didn't, yet a freedom of information document said yes.

The stench from the front bench

Getting rid of such a stench from the front bench will require much bleaching, and possibly a follow up psychic smudging could assist in releasing the Liberal party demons.

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Volume 30 #35 February 10, 2016

Planning priorities

One of the reasons why the community is dissatisfied with this rightwing Council (Cr's Wanchap, Ibrahim, Woods, Hunter and Cubis) is that they have been approving developments without all available planning documents they should have at their disposal.

There are three planning documents that Council uses, and they are called 'instruments'.

The one that carries the most weight is the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and next is the Development Control Plan (DCP), which generally applies to specific developments.

The third planning document, or instrument, that helps the community have a say on how it will map its future is called a Growth Management Strategy, but we don't have one.

It is on its way, we are told by staff, and should be completed by July.

Okay. So do surrounding councils have growth management strategies? Yes – Lismore City Council has one in place until 2035, Tweed Council gazetted theirs in 2009, and it's encompassed within its Tweed Shire Urban Land Release Strategy.

Ballina Shire Council's strategy was completed in 2012.

Council's director of sustainable environment and economy Shannon Burt told *The Echo* our Growth Management Strategy 'was put on hold in order to prioritise finalisation of the state government's LEP template.'

'Since then, we have moved on and are taking a holistic approach and are completing the Rural Land and Urban Land strategies. The new strategies are broader in context and include key values relating to land and its future uses. When finalised, both will be placed on public exhibition for feedback. We are aiming to have them completed end of July 2016,' she said.

So since ten community groups converged to give council an 'epic fail' on their Community Charter for Good Planning last Thursday, perhaps all councillors and staff could now focus on finalising it?

Unfortunately that's unlikely, because the focus of the controlling faction is to instead push for coastal protection works that will benefit a few Belongil landowners at the expense of everyone else.

The key here of course is Cr Rose Wanchap, who gave the balance of power to the current faction.

After being elected on the Greens platform, she promptly began voting against virtually everything that party stood for.

During debate at last week's Council meeting, Cr Sol Ibrahim made the point that the document he is feverishly working on, the Coastal Hazard Management Study Byron Bay Embayment, needs to get done ASAP because it has been years in the making and it has cost Council millions of dollars.

It's clear where Council's planning priorities are and who they benefit.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

News tips are welcome: editor@echo.net.au

The Byron Shire Echo

Established 1986



Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor

General Manager **Simon Haslam**
Editor **Hans Lovejoy**
Photographer **Jeff Dawson**
Advertising Manager **Angela Cornell**
Production Manager **Ziggi Browning**

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

© 2016 Echo Publications Pty Ltd – ABN 86 004 000 239
Mullumbimby: Village Way, Stuart St. Ph 02 6684 1777 Fax 02 6684 1719
Printer: Fairfax Media Brisbane Reg. by Aust. Post Pub. No. NBF9237

Tax reform back in the too-hard basket

There is an old primary school prank in which the perpetrator asks the victim: 'How do you keep an idiot in suspense?' When the victim gives up, the perpetrator replies triumphantly; 'I'll tell you tomorrow!'

Well, it used to be a prank, but in the last week or so there are signs that Malcolm Turnbull is taking it seriously.

This is not to say that our cerebrotonic prime minister is treating his party room, the parliament, the media or the voters as mugs – heaven forbid.

But it is clear that his continued delays – procrastinations, even – over tax are starting to try everybody's patience.

Turnbull reassures the public that the budget will, as always, set out the government's economic blueprint for the next year. But even if that is taken to mean that the detailed agenda for his tax changes will be revealed – and there is no guarantee that his plans will be finalised, or even necessarily initiated, by that stage – the budget is still a full three months away, three months in which the speculation, the kite-flying and the overwhelming uncertainty can only get more intense.

And as it mounts, the resistance to a serious attack on the country's fiscal malaise is also growing. In particular, the possibility of increases in either the scope or the rate of the GST is fading before our eyes.

Last week Turnbull laid out his three unalterable conditions for tax reform. Rule One: there can be no overall rise in the tax take. That is a pretty unambitious goal in itself. We are no longer talking about the need to drive taxes down to free up the economy, to provide incentive to employment, and to contribute to reducing the debt

and deficit emergency. And in fact we are actually encouraging the states to fill their own revenue holes, presumably by pushing up their own taxes.

The best the commonwealth is prepared to do is to keep its own figures in balance.

So if the GST is ramped up to 15 per cent, to provide a bonus of some \$30 billion the same amount is to be given away in tax decreases. No problem, says treasurer Scott Morrison; that will provide a shitload of reductions to personal income tax and company tax.

Three: there must be a real dividend in growth and jobs. And this is the difficult bit – the bit that has to be measured credibly, and then sold effectively. Treasury has modelled the GST increase at adding a one-off boost to growth to about one third of one per cent – worth having, but hardly a cause for widespread celebration, even among the economists.

It might be better than that; the income and business tax cuts should also have an effect, but that would take time. As Malcolm Turnbull has mused,

If you give the government a bucket of money, the bastards will only spend it.

by Mungo MacCallum



But alas, it is not as simple as that. Rule Two is that the process has to be rigorously fair, which means that there would be compensation for those hit by the regressive measure of indirect tax – pensioners, low-income earners, those on fixed incomes and probably many who have not yet been thought of but certainly will be when the bills come in. This will cost about a third of the \$30 billion, and maybe more.

But remember Rule One stipulates that that the whole \$30 billion has to go on tax cuts of one kind or another, and all the compensation will not come in tax cuts – some of the victims pay little or no income tax to begin with. There will have to be top-ups, an expensive business which will involve more bureaucracy and frustration, and which, inevitably, will leave loopholes and losers.

And then finally, and most importantly, there is Rule

it is a lot of effort for not all that much; he is clearly unconvinced.

And if he is unconvinced, look at the rest of us. There is a clear popular majority against raising the GST: Newspoll says just 37 per cent favour it, which is better than expected, but still a long way behind the 54 who don't. The premiers are split, two in favour, two against and two keeping pretty quiet; but even those who would wear a higher GST would do so only if it gave them more funds, particularly for their health budgets. This would of course break Rule One; and it is the reason both Paul Keating and Peter Costello, treasurers who have some experience of the subject, have rejected a GST increase: if you give the government a bucket of money, the bastards will only spend it. Federal Labor, under Bill Shorten, and the Greens are, predictably, implacably negative.

But the real opposition is

coming from the coalition party room. There are those who simply oppose taxes as a matter of faith: neo-liberal Tea Party types who think health, education and welfare should be funded, if at all, on the user-pays principle (although just how they would deal with defence is somewhat more problematical). But the main push is from the so-called bedwetters, who are simply afraid of losing their seats – and with some justification: they saw what happened in 1993 when John Hewson lost the unlosable election and in 1998 when John Howard scraped through after losing the popular vote. This is what they and their leader really mean when they talk of the trouble and effort; it is not about the policy, although that is tricky enough; it is the politics that it is the killer.

There will still have to be something to show for all the angst: Morrison and others regard the need to bring down at least some of the income tax rates as crucial. But Plan B, with modest cuts to superannuation concessions and some other perks, might provide enough breathing space to secure a small package that can be marketed as serious reform. It's not much; the GST remains, as Morrison has said, the only really worthwhile solution.

But for the moment it's all too hard – or perhaps it isn't quite hard enough. The prolonged political pricketease is not yet over, but the climax is in sight. The foreplay will come to its climax – or not. Our prime minister will achieve a triumphant erection, or he will succumb to tax-reform droop.

On the evidence of last week, a nimble withdrawal – an agile detumescence – is the most likely outcome.

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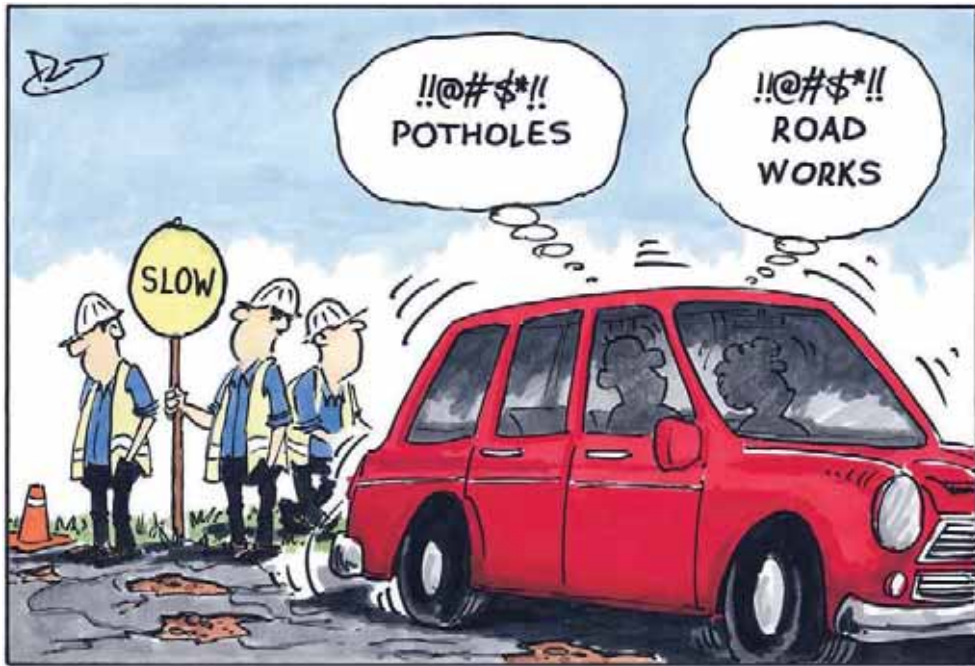
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MEMBERS FIRST



Ewingsdale siege

There are moves afoot, well underway, to have the LEP amended to suit developers of the site known as Lot 101, being the property next to the new hospital. In order for this mega development (under the pretentious name of 'senior housing') to proceed, the LEP needs to be adjusted.

Why do we have an LEP in the first place if anybody can come along and get it changed?

Ewingsdale has been and still is a rural residential subdivision. When we bought there, over 20 years ago, we bought for that reason. We wanted space around us. We didn't want to chop up our garden to make a profit. We enjoyed having certain amounts of privacy and freedom. We also expected this to last.

Is it 'selfish' to want what we were promised to remain

that way? Is it unreasonable to expect the councillors that represent the people of Byron Shire to do the job they are paid to do and look after the interest of the people and *not* kowtow to outside developers with their over-the-top plans to denude and destroy our way of life with the stroke of a pen?

If this development goes ahead, including a shopping centre the size of the IGA complex, it will forever change the gateway to Byron Bay. No matter what the architects tell us they intend to do with their fancy words and modern ideas, it will be a sprawling blight in the Byron Shire.

This is all about money and profit, not caring for the elderly, and I assure you that if this goes ahead we will all look back and wonder 'How did we let this happen?'

Jenny Gordon
Ewingsdale

Business in abuse

It's a pity that more of the large gallery present for public access at the beginning of last week's first Council meeting of the year didn't stay for at least the first item of business, which was Cr Dey's motion to reject doing business with companies that abuse human rights; he clearly had those responsible for the appalling treatment of our asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus in mind.

Cr Dey's motion was passed with some very worthy speeches in support, notably an impassioned and far-reaching but wholly relevant one from our mayor, but the responses from those who opposed the motion I found so offensive that I struggle for words to describe them, - narrow-minded, ignorant, uncaring, even xenophobic come to mind, certainly largely irrelevant; Cr Woods

did at least try to address the motion. This was a motion which gave councillors an opportunity to go well beyond 'roads, rates and rubbish' but apparently we have at least two councillors who believe these are the beginning and end of their role and are happy to say so.

Jenny Coman
Bangalow

Following this week's High Court decision on offshore detention on Nauru, the Greens have called on the prime minister to rule out sending children and their families back there. Sending children to Nauru would be child abuse and Malcolm Turnbull needs to decide whether he is willing to authorise that. The evidence is clear and it's undeniable that Nauru is unsafe for women and children. This is a major test for the prime minister. Will he keep these children safe, where they can thrive and prosper, or will he dump them back on the prison island of Nauru?

I was so disappointed this week when the Labor and Liberal-National parties voted down a Greens motion calling on the Turnbull government to grant amnesty to these 267 vulnerable people, including 37 babies, so they don't have to be sent to Nauru and Manus Island. The snap-rallies held around the country this week demonstrate Australians do not think this is fair or reasonable.

Dawn Walker
Greens candidate for Richmond

cluding my concerns about the level of infiltration occurring during high rainfall into the gravity sewer mains in Mullumbimby. The previous director of water and recycling and his engineering staff submitted to Council in 2011 that the infiltration of the Mullumbimby gravity mains had been resolved. The evidence used to support this was a reduction in sewer-

pump run hours. What the director failed to add was that this had been done by replacing the existing pumps with substantially larger pumps. This meant that pump-run hours would be reduced.

There was a consultant's report supplied to the then Brunswick Waste Water Steering Committee in 2006. That report in part stated

continued on next page >

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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.

Sewage overload

I have written several letters over the past years concerning Byron Shire Council, in-

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Clint Cassell



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CHESS by Ian Rogers

Play at Byron Services Club, Mon 7pm

While Hikaru Nakamura will be taking home \$40,000 from his playoff victory at the Gibraltar Open on Thursday, Australia's Moulthun Ly will leave Gibraltar even more satisfied after a stunning performance which earned him his second Grandmaster 'norm'. (Three such world class results are needed to be awarded the Grandmaster title.)

Ly's stellar result in Gibraltar included wins against two top class Grandmasters, Surya Ganguly and Arkadij Naiditsch; the first a former second of Viswathan Anand, the latter the last player to beat World Champion Magnus Carlsen in two consecutive games.

Ganguly was flabbergasted by his loss, saying 'Who is this Moulthun Ly? He played almost flawlessly throughout! It feels like I got run over by a 2750+ [top 20] player... I got outplayed in every phase of the game.'

Ly's win against Naiditsch was perhaps even more impressive, since he needed only a draw for the GM norm but won anyway.

The key moment came in the diagram position below where Naiditsch (Black) seems to be taking the initiative, with pressure on the e5 pawn and along the h file. However, Ly found the inspired sacrifice

20.Be3!! fxe5 21.Nf3! e4 Too late, Naiditsch realises that 21...Bc7 22.fxe5 Bxe5 23.g4! wins for White. 22.Ne5+ Rxe5 Desperation, but 22...Ke7 23.Bxb6 axb6 24.Nxg6+ leaves White with equal material and a dominating knight. 23.fxe5 Bxe3+ 24.Rxe3 Bb5 25.g4! Ke7 26.Kf2 and Ly converted his material advantage 15 moves later by invading along the h file.

The final round was a let-down for Ly, who dropped out of the prize list after being, in his words, 'totally outplayed' by French GM Edouard Romain. Nevertheless, the GM norm remains in the bag.



Moulthun Ly (White) to play

Pay forever for coastal 'protection'

Byron Shire Council's meeting of February 4 included Report 13.10 on the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) for future coastal management of the Byron Bay Embayment – the Belongil saga.

Attachment 1 to the report is an early draft of minutes of a meeting that Council staff had on December 8 with our consultants and state government (OEH) officers, about the OEH's dissatisfaction with the CBA.

An addendum at pages 5 to 8 of the minutes is OEH's list of errors and assumptions in the 2015 version of the CBA. That CBA is now being reworked by Council's consultants, at an additional cost of \$13,500 (plus more

\$000s added by Council on February 4). We already spent \$26k on redrafting the CBA in 2015, when Council rejected the OEH offer to do it free of charge.

Expenditure aside, and forgetting the nature of the 2015 errors and assumptions, it's sad to see that coastal decision making is based on very short timeframes for the costs and benefits of the various options for our coast at Belongil. After the CBA is re-jigged in 2016, this community will choose whether to approve rocks on the kilometre of Belongil coast (where the rocks are already) or to let that stretch go back to its natural dune and beach format.

The shorter the term, the better it looks to march in and protect the real estate with rocks. If you look long term, however, the act of protection costs communities forever.

The walls get damaged and need rebuilding after each big 1950s-type storm. If we abandon dreams of impregnable real estate, the costs fade to zero in the longest term. Leaving the coast alone to be enjoyed by all comers forever costs next to nothing, when thought of as a project over hundreds of years.

The current 35-year timeframe of the Cost Benefit Analysis for our coast is crazy. Good planning looks at outcomes over seven genera-

tions, not just one!

As we see from other places where hard works have been installed, the public pay. The 'protection' arrangement at the Gold Coast has been there a century so far. It's annual planned maintenance bill is \$10 million. If there's a catastrophic failure, more dollars would be found.

What politician is ever going to pull the pin on that protection once people have invested behind the walls? Choose 'protection' once and you have it forever, and keep paying forever. That's in addition to getting a crappy Gold Coast-style beach, or no beach at all.

Cr Duncan Dey
Main Arm

► continued from page 11

that unless the Mullumbimby infiltration was stopped Vallances Road STP would be hydraulically overloaded within four years.

The Vallances Road Sewage Treatment Plant was commissioned in 2011 and the Clause 45 'Sewerage Moratorium' was lifted.

There have been reports of biosolids being dumped on the river bank from the Vallances Road STP during high rainfall that are extremely offensive in odour. This is a sign that a plant of this design is showing signs of being hydraulically overloaded.

The only way to substantiate that the infiltration had been stopped would be to examine the daily inflow and daily rainfall figures recorded by the operator in charge on the operational sheet at the Vallances Road plant to see if there are larger inflows during rain periods in Mullumbimby. This data recording is required by government authorities.

If the data confirm that infiltration problems exist

Putting trees in peril



To the genius who is building rock ramps out into the Brunswick River: you are taking the rocks from directly under the shade trees which are already perched precariously on the very edge of this site. The next big storm surge

may well finish this set of lovely little trees. Use a little more common sense as you may well ruin one of only a handful of nice sites along the river.

Brian Emmett
Myocum

then the information given to the elected Council by BSC's sewer management should be re-examined.

Alan Dickens
Brunswick Heads

Israel's presence

Gareth Smith asks what I think of Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu's racist comments

about Palestinians (Letters, January 3). The comments were despicable and are unequivocally condemned. But he is not the chief rabbi of Israel, as Mr Smith erroneously asserts, but of a small town in the north of the country. He has previously been brought before Israel's courts for his racist remarks – anyone aware of the rule of law elsewhere in the region? – and he speaks for no-one other than himself.

In the same edition, Dr Vacy Vlazna and Duncan Shipley-Smith get bogged down with cheap point-scoring, all skirting around the real issue. Because the tragedy is that we should have had a state of Palestine which is 67 years old, just as Israel is; but the Arab world said no when a state of Palestine was offered by the United Nations back in 1947. Why did they say no? Because saying yes to Palestine means saying yes to Israel, and that is a Rubicon

the Palestinian leadership is not prepared to cross. Just google the Hamas charter if you have any doubt.

Borders, Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, can all be negotiated over. The sticking point is the refusal to accept Israel's presence – a policy that is enshrined by Hamas in Gaza and increasingly by Fatah in the West Bank. The rest is just conversation.

Vic Alhadeff

Chief Executive Officer
NSW Jewish Board of
Deputies

Innovation Party

Last week *The Echo* highlighted the Online Comment of the Week, 'Why would an innovation and engagement platform want to form a political party? Why not dedicate 100 per cent of your time ... into inviting, developing and improving the innovation and engagement platform?' – Jason.

I have dedicated 100 per cent of my time to improving the innovation and engagement platform during my 30-year career working as an inventor and innovator. I felt compelled to design a political party that is committed to bringing about improvement of function in all areas of governance. We aim to find greater efficiency, eliminate unnecessary waste and better serve the community by deeper engagement at a grassroots level.

The InnovationParty.com.au charter highlights this fact. Innovation is what is needed if we are to adequately meet the coming challenges of economic disruption and climate change. The principle of innovation can be practically

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EXPOSED!

Farmer fury at Nats' 'betrayal'

ANDREW CARSWELL THE DAILY TELEGRAPH JULY 23, 2015 12:00AM

THE Nationals Party's tattered reputation as protectors of the land has taken a further hit with the revelation former MP Larry Anthony, the son of party legend and farmer Doug Anthony, is a lobbyist for controversial coal mine Shenhua Watermark.

Mr Anthony has been actively lobbying for the Chinese government-owned company for more than two years, seemingly at odds with his former party's promise to the electorate to protect key agricultural lands from development.

Shenhua Watermark is in the final stages of gaining approval to build a \$1.7 billion open cut mine on the Liverpool Plains, south of Gunnedah – one of the world's most fertile agricultural zones.

Mr Anthony is one of a swag of former Nationals MPs now employed or engaged by mining companies, including former deputy prime minister Mark Vaile, as chairman of Whitehaven Coal, and former NSW deputy premier Ian Armstrong, who is the chair of the Shenhua community consultative committee.

Former deputy prime minister John Anderson was chairman of coal seam gas frontrunner Eastern Star Gas, which was bought out by Santos in 2011, and former Nationals MP and energy minister Garry West is chair of the BHP Coroono Coal project, adjacent to Shenhua Watermark's land.

Director and part-owner

As director and part-owner of SAS Consulting Group, Mr Anthony is also listed as a lobbyist for coal and gas mining technology company Welldog.

Liverpool Plains farmer Tim Duddy, whose property is squeezed between Shenhua Watermark and BHP's Coroono Coal land, said the bush was quickly waking up to the Nationals seemingly empty promise to protect the land.

"It becomes very clear when dealing with these people that they are only concerned about their future jobs, not the future of the nation," Mr Duddy said.

"A lot of people still believe in them the way that people follow a football team or a religion.

"But the penny will drop one day and they will be completely buggered."



Former Member of the Australian House of Representatives, Larry Anthony, at Adelaide restaurant in Brisbane City called Alimentari. Photo by Tara Croser.

NSW farmers 'gutted' as open-cut mine gets approval

Farmers say they have been betrayed by the New South Wales and Federal Governments after a controversial Chinese-owned mine on the Liverpool Plains in north-western NSW gets approval.

ABC NEWS - Posted 9 Jul 2015

The Nationals just can't be trusted.

Fear of diving: back into the family gene pool

Story & image S Sorrensen

Many of the people here I haven't seen for 40 years or more. I'm nervous. The sweat running under my shirt isn't just from the intense Brisbane heat.

I struggle with names at the best of times. My sister, who has kept in touch with the clan, prepped me on names and family connections in the car on our way here. Still, I'm overwhelmed. (I would like name tags.)

This is a gathering of first cousins – and I have 20 of them. We are bound by blood and a shared European heritage: Viking adventure, German industry, Irish laughter.

My father had four sisters

and, apart from him, the five siblings were prolific kid producers. Yes, you guessed it; it's a Catholic clan, curbed on contraception, committed to expanding the congregation. First there were five; then 22; now... Lord knows how many children and grandchildren there are. (They're not here. This is a house, not an arena.)

How quickly population expands. When I was born, there were 2.7 billion people inhabiting this planet. Now, there are 7.2 billion. (It's not all due to the fecundity of my family clan, okay?)

As kids, my sister and I would often visit the aunties' places. All of us kids would run wild – in a bare-footed, stay-out-of-the-house, don't-

climb-the-TV-antenna sort of way. It was a lot of fun. We were well fed, well looked after and were growing up in an age of increasing prosperity. The future looked rosy.

Then my dad died. My wanderings, geographical and philosophical, took me away to remote places, and I had a think about things.

Since 1500 (population: half a billion), we Euro-western humans have been on a global rampage of loot and pollute. Constant expansion, with the aid of new technologies, and incredible riches from the exploitation of natural resources accessed by the extermination of indigenous cultures, has made capitalism (and our consequent luxurious lifestyle) almost seem normal. But it ain't. Crunch time is coming.

I recognise the faces, even if I can't name them. The familial traits are so strong they survive the distortions of ageing. The cousins look like their parents. Sometimes the similarity is so strong I'm

► continued from page 12

applied in all areas; from a person learning a new vital skill to a system being created that enables greater community engagement. Our antiquated electoral process requires a mix of new technology and good old-fashioned education with values of transparency and integrity to guide its way.

I was surprised to see such a comment highlighted by a media organisation that prides itself on supporting community proactivity. The opportunity to clarify our intentions here is appreciated. I also acknowledge the back page mention of our efforts to provide an alternative political party and I can confirm that the party was launched on Australia Day – precisely.

Malcolm Robertson
Innovation Party
Public Officer

Ticks and red meat

Thank you for your recent article *Ticks, Red Meat and You*, identifying the red meat allergy acquired from a tick bite, aka MMA – Mammalian Meat Allergy. It is important that our community is made more aware of this condition.

I work as a doctor in Byron Shire and have this condition myself, and have diagnosed many people with this over the years. It is a unique allergy in the world of allergy conditions.



looking at her mother or his father. I look like my father, I'm told, and am enveloped in hugs and smiles. Barriers built from long separation quickly crumble, and the smiling Vikings whelm my wary ways.

The cousins are much richer than their parents were. Their houses are bigger, their holidays are global, their televisions huger. We

are richer than ever before. But a dark cloud hangs over us. A storm is brewing while we watch the cricket and our cars park themselves.

Contemplating longer-term, more abstract peril is not one of the survival skills developed in humans through evolutionary adaption. Immediate danger is more easily met. If I were to see an angry mammoth charging through

(Class 3 and 4) to severe (Class 5 and 6).

Dr Oscar Serrallach
Mullumbimby

Science and belief

In Michael McDonald's leader 'Science and Stupidity' (*Echo*, January 27) he quotes John Cleese, 'Science is a method of investigation and not a belief system.' Would that it were so.

Because of the limitations of its charter, science relies on proof and repeatability in its determination of reality. Students of the philosophy of science and mathematics will be aware that there is contention about whether anything is ultimately provable. Thus, the most important philosophical questions are unable to be addressed.

Central to conventional science is the assumption that all we perceive and think is the product of randomness and blind chance (the neo-Darwinian paradigm).

They believe it. It is the new religion. It is a belief system – an accepted meme which precludes much science from even considering consciousness which is what is used in the very process of investigation and communication.

The belief that evolution is not consciousness driven, but a product of blind chance, an infinite progression of coincidence offends my sense

the eskies piled on the lawn, say, or (more likely) a bloke in a P-plated Corolla careening through the louvres, then 200,000 years of natural selection for the *Homo sapiens* brand would provide me with an effective response: Run!

But give me a planet where a cocktail of capitalism and copulation will trigger global ecosystem collapse and... I don't know how to respond.

What's a poor boy to do?

I tried saving the planet, but then I had to go to work.

I tried to lose myself in carousing denial, but my liver put its foot down.

I tried to discover if all you need is love. Nope. Nope. Nope. Nope.

But here and now, I am returned to the family. I'm reconnecting to a human caring-ness which may be a key...

I feel like climbing a TV antenna.

► Read more of S's work at Echonetdaily.net.au
echo.net.au/here-and-now.

of probability and is equally as fanciful as the Old Testament. True science demands an open mind.

As for the first scientist – I think it was Eve. She ignored the bullshit and took an empirical approach – suck it and see. And stupidity – emotion trumps intellect nearly every time.

Jim Nutter
Main Arm

► We already know many of the causes of stupidity; the myriad doctrines of religion and politics for example. But there is no chance of our ever achieving a cure by head-on conflict; there is too much wealth and power involved.

On the other hand a degree of immunity might well be possible. An important strategy of any doctrine is to lock out conflicting evidence.

After centuries of practice religions have become very skilful at disabling science. Childhood indoctrination of religion is the important first step followed by fragmentation of whatever aspects of science manage to evade the lockout.

The result is that science today is composed of masses of isolated specialities, leaving scientists themselves just as stupid as anybody else.

General knowledge of the phenomenon of emergence could deal with this problem.

continued on page 18 ►

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A life in super spandex

Daniel Sage

Superheroes are walking planet Earth, and not just little people. Dressing up expands identity, say fans, and it's a budding movement, all ages welcome. But can a new elastic me match the hype? To the bat-cave!

I know plenty of kids, as I'm sure you do, too, who like nothing more of a morning than to kit up in their superhero costumes and head off to save the world. A mask, some latex, a plastic weapon perhaps tucked away just in case, and the world is turned into a wonderland. Call it dressing up and pretending, but that doesn't do it justice. It's much more. Unlike life in civvies, it's the chance to feel what it's like to make a difference.

What began in US comic stories in the 1930s is now in nearly every child's bedroom, video stream, lunchbox, dressing gown, and imagination. The same characters, the same stories. The reach of American fiction has come full circle. Comics on one side, Hollywood on the other, merchandising all around.

Ready-mades

We used to need our imagination to visualise characters and scenes. Now these are a given and, instead, kids roleplay scenes they've seen in films, and watch and enact the same song routines over and over. Luckily, as a species, we love repetition. It's comforting. Wearing a costume takes you straight into the action. What you do then, how you feel and think, is as exciting as it ever was.

When you dress up as an adult, though, you had better be doing it to be funny or to earn a buck or because you're in showbiz, otherwise you are going to be labelled a nutter and treated as a five-year-old.

If, though, and it's a big if, your timing is top-notch and your fighting skills slick as, then you might make it as a hero. A real-life superhero. More people are at it than you may think.

In South-East London, we have the Bromley Batman, who has appeared at a string of crimes in progress. He was like a 'battering ram', reported the *Evening Standard*, when he beat off two racist thugs in Rochester.

In the last three years, the Bromley Batman has saved at least a dozen people from personal attack. He gives interviews. 'I'd prefer to be



Real superheroes take the train. Source: Humber Cine

called 'The Shadow', he admits, 'but I'm okay with the Bromley Batman.' He's careful to hide his identity but he does have 'a big, beautiful beard', he told reporters.

So far, police have kept their distance, leaving 'The Shadow' to roam without explicitly trying to shut him down, which is rare. In most countries, where similar vigilantes operate, the police aren't shy of condemning them publicly. Brisbane's own Captain Australia was pointedly asked by police not to intervene in any more incidents. Good citizen he is, he's been a lot quieter since, although his website describes him as 'global, not local', so he could be anywhere, preparing.

Jean-Paul

I lived for a few months as a student in Lille, northern France. My host, Jean-Paul, owned the brasserie downstairs. One day, after we had got to know each other pretty well, he told me about his own vigilante acts. He didn't dress up, he said, or go out looking for them, but on three occasions he had found himself at the scene of a crime and decided to get involved.

The first one was at the garages behind the brasserie. Coming home one night and about to park, he saw a man attempting to rape a woman. He sped his car up and pinned the attacker to the wall, shouting at the woman to run away. He then stashed his car a few streets away.

By his account, he killed the man. It was in the papers the next day. The other two incidents were similarly serious, but not fatal. I remember feeling scared, impressed, shocked and believing him utterly. Within a week I'd packed my bags and moved

out, for other reasons, too. But I'll never know if that was his intention all along.

I forgot to ask him if he wished he wore a mask. (France has few real-life superheroes. Even self-styled Citizen French actually lives in London, and with his black hat and yellow wraparound shades looks like Ali G.)

Usually in comic-book life, superheroes hide their identities to strike fear, protect loved ones, be a symbol, and provide irony for the storyline. In real life, it shows how anyone can be behind the mask, anyone could have magical powers and fight on the side of goodness, and all without being held to account.

Becoming Jack

As a generation of kids grows up accustomed to wearing full-kit costumes to play, it will surely become more acceptable and commonplace in adulthood. If life feels dull or you want to start over, and becoming Jack Sparrow, for example, just seems so much more exciting, then do it.

Actually, that's a real example. Mother of four Amanda Sparrow Large (plain Amanda Large for years) was watching TV one night when she realised how alike she and Johnny Depp's pirate were. A dare or two later from her kids, she went the whole hog and spent ten thousand dollars on tattoos, beard, outfit, dreadlocks, parrot. Now she dresses as Jack Sparrow full time and loves it. 'The way he gets on with life, his freedom, his walk. It's me, we're the same,' she says, and swaggers off down the high street to do her shopping.

■ See more of Daniel's work at www.danielsage.co.uk.

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It's nestled in a bamboo grove down a back lane in Mullumbimby, and people flock to KIVA SPA from near and far. They give gift vouchers to their loved ones because everyone feels better after a visit; more relaxed, more connected, more available, softer and more accepting.

The combination of hot spas, steam room, wood-heated sauna and plunge pool does wonders for body and soul. All is contained within a lush, secluded garden, delicious in the rain and delightful in the sun. We have 45 of the best therapists in the area at your service.

1 McGoughans Lane, Mullumbimby, 6684 4811

ATTENTION ALL OVER-30S SINGLES

Looking for love in all the wrong places? Why not come to the Ocean Shores Country Club on Valentines Day, Sunday 14 February, for an over-30's singles dinner in Coast Restaurant with the hilarious Ellen Briggs as MC to get everyone laughing while enjoying a set 3-course meal all for \$35 per person. Ellen regularly performs as a comedian and MC at venues all over Australia, and can often be heard on ABC North Coast Radio and Byron Bay's Community Radio Station, Bay FM.

Call the Ocean Shores Country Club on 6680 1008 to book your ticket but don't delay... limited tickets available.

IT COULD ALL BEGIN HERE

We've put a special 3 course menu together for this Sunday evening. Come and enjoy good food & wine by candlelight in our comfortable and intimate setting, indoors or al fresco.

Targa Café Restaurant Bar, a little slice of Europe in Byron, food made with LOVE using local produce, Australian and European sourced wines and stylish cocktails to suit our menu.

Open 7 days. Breakfast/lunch from 7am, dinner from 5.30pm.

11 Marvell St, Byron Bay, 6680 9960
www.targabyronabay.com

Targa "Romance Menu"

Sun 14 Feb \$69 per lover

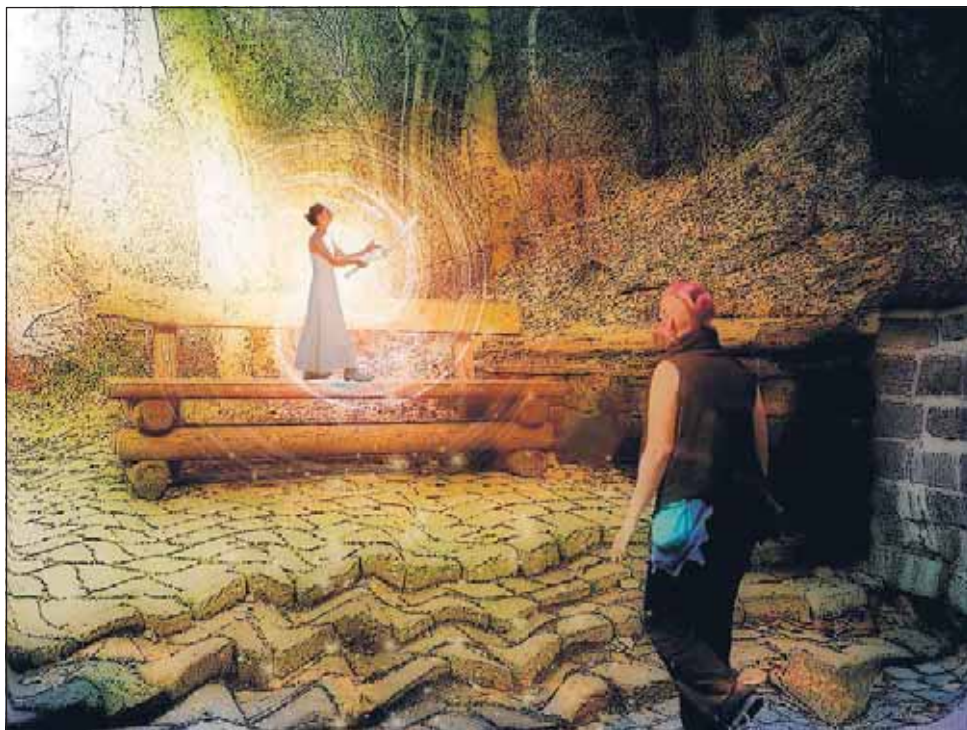
View menu on our blog www.targabyronbay.com

Dreams: unravelling the mystery of consciousness

In TheConversation.com, Dan Denis and Giulia Poerio look at the value of lucid dreaming to neuroscience research

We spend around six years of our lives dreaming – that's 2,190 days or 52,560 hours. Although we can be aware of the perceptions and emotions we experience in our dreams, we are not conscious in the same way as when we're awake. This explains why we can't recognise that we're in a dream and often mistake these bizarre narratives for reality.

But some people – lucid dreamers – have the ability to experience awareness during their dreams by 're-awakening' some aspects of their waking consciousness. They can even take control and act with intention in the dream world (think Leonardo DiCaprio in the film *Inception*).



Take Me To That Special Place, by Eddi van W – flickr.com/spiritual_marketplace

Hybrid state

Lucid dreaming is still an understudied subject, but recent advances suggest it's a hybrid state of waking consciousness and sleep.

Lucid dreaming is one of many 'anomalous' experiences that can occur during sleep. Sleep paralysis, where you wake up terrified and paralysed while remaining in a state of sleep, is another.

There are also false awakenings, where you believe you have woken up only to discover that you are in fact dreaming.

Along with lucid dreams, all these experiences reflect an increase in subjective awareness while remaining in a state of sleep.

To find out more about the transitions between these states – and hopefully consciousness itself – we have launched a large-scale online

survey on sleep experiences to look at the relationships between these different states of hybrid consciousness – <http://bit.ly/LDsleestudy>.

About half of us will experience at least one lucid dream in our lives. And it could be something to look forward to because it allows people to simulate desired scenarios from meeting the love of their life to winning a medieval battle.

There is some evidence that lucid dreaming can be induced, and a number of large online communities now exist where users share tips and tricks for achieving greater lucidity during their dreams (such as having dream totems, a familiar object from the waking world that can help determine if you are in a dream, or spinning around in dreams to stop lucidity from slipping away).

► continued from page 14

Quantum mechanics is science at the scale of the atom. Thermodynamics emerges as the physics of the familiar world, with gravity applying to the solar system and probably something entirely novel to the galaxy as a whole.

Thermodynamics was invented as the physics of steam engines but it turns out to be the physics of life itself as well as everything else in our familiar world, up to and including the living planet Earth, so it is vital that every scientist has a working knowledge.

But physics is only the important gateway to 'what is'. Intelligence, the antithesis of stupidity, also requires the exclusion of 'what is not', so

vigorous investigation of this fuzzy nascent science is vital, along with sociology, economics and all the rest.

Ken Steele
Lennox Head

Bill of rights

In reference to your question, Robert Podhajsky (Letters, February 3) 'Do we need laws to protect us from the lawmakers?' Yes we do, it's called a bill of rights and, as far as my knowledge goes, we are the only country in the western world that does not have one!

I'm not suggesting that this will be a panacea for all our ills, but in Geoffrey Robertson's latest book *Dreaming Too Loud* he makes the point quite clearly. It's a great read

A recent study that asked participants to report in detail on their most recent dream found that lucid (compared to non-lucid) dreams were indeed characterised by far greater insight into the fact that the sleeper was in a dream.

Participants who experienced lucid dreams also said they had greater control over thoughts and actions within the dream, had the ability to think logically, and were even better at accessing real memories of their waking life.

Overlap

Another study looking at people's ability to make conscious decisions in waking life as well as during lucid and non-lucid dreams found a large degree of overlap between volitional abilities when we are awake and when

we are having lucid dreams. However, the ability to plan was considerably worse in lucid dreams compared to wakefulness.

Lucid and non-lucid dreams certainly feel subjectively different and this might suggest that they are associated with different patterns of brain activity. But confirming this is not as easy as it might seem. Participants have to be in a brain scanner overnight and researchers have to decipher when a lucid dream is happening so that they can compare brain activity during the lucid dream with that of non-lucid dreaming.

Ingenious studies examining this have devised a communication code between lucid dreamer participants and researchers during Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, when dreaming typically takes place. Before going to

sleep, the participant and the researcher agree on a specific eye movement (for example two movements left then two movements right) that participants make to signal that they are lucid.

By using this approach, studies have found that the shift from non-lucid to lucid REM sleep is associated with an increased activity of the frontal areas of the brain. Significantly, these areas are associated with 'higher order' cognitive functioning such as logical reasoning and voluntary behaviour which are typically only observed during waking states.

Brain activity

The type of brain activity observed, gamma wave activity, is also known to allow different aspects of our experience; perceptions, emotions, thoughts, and memories to 'bind' together into an integrated consciousness. A follow-up study found that electrically stimulating these areas caused an increase in the degree of lucidity experienced during a dream.

Another study more accurately specified the brain regions involved in lucid dreams, and found increased activity in regions such as the pre-frontal cortex and the precuneus.

These brain areas are associated with higher cognitive abilities such as self-referential processing and a sense of agency – again supporting the view that lucid dreaming is a hybrid state of consciousness.

How consciousness arises in the brain is one of the most perplexing questions in

neuroscience. But it has been suggested that studying lucid dreams could pave the way for new insights into the neuroscience of consciousness.

This is because lucid and non-lucid REM sleep are two states where our conscious experience is markedly different, yet the overall brain state remains the same (we are in REM sleep all the time, often dreaming). By comparing specific differences in brain activity from a lucid dream with a non-lucid one, then, we can look at features that may be facilitating the enhanced awareness experienced in the lucid dream.

Furthermore, by using eye signalling as a marker of when a sleeper is in a lucid dream, it is possible to study the neurobiological activity at this point to further understand not only what characterises and maintains this heightened consciousness, but how it emerges in the first place.

■ A PhD student in Psychology at the University of Sheffield Dan Denis receives funding from an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Advanced Quantitative Methods PhD studentship. He is also the researcher for The Sleep Paralysis Project. Post-doctoral Researcher and Hubhub Collaborator at the University of York, Giulia Poerio receives funding from European Research Council (ERC) project 'Not all minds that wander are lost: A neurocognitive test of mind-wandering state's contribution to human cognition'. Hubhub is funded by The Wellcome Trust.

for anyone interested in human, civil and environmental rights.

Love is the answer!

Mick Stacey
Ocean Shores

Local Gazas

Australia's politicians and captains of industry claim they flock to Israel because of its 'innovation' but is the innovation they come away with related to Jeff Halper's claim that Israel plays a pivotal role in the global suppression of human rights (*War Against the People: Israel, the Palestinians and Global Pacification*). Are Manus and Nauru local examples of Gaza?

Gareth W R Smith
Palestine Liberation Centre
Byron Bay

Camphor and weeds

When I came up here to Mullumbimby as a science teacher in the 1950s, margarine was not able to be used, so butter and dairy farmers were all about this area, between Mullumbimby and Byron Bay.

When margarine became available and replaced butter, this area, which is one of the most fertile in the world, became covered by camphor and weeds which can carry a fire on a windy day to Byron Bay. Is the council aware of this? If so, are they doing anything about it?

R N Summers
Federal

New voices

Phillip Frazer's recent *Echo* articles on the upcoming

US presidential election are instructive of how politics worldwide is undergoing some interesting times in re-defining itself.

What is extremely interesting is the new phenomenon of 'progressive politics' – Bernie Sanders (US Democrat and previously independent) and committed democratic socialist fighting for genuine democracy and justice for the disenfranchised and dispossessed.

The other prominent political figure is the leader of the British Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, another tireless campaigner for democratic reform of the political system that is inclusive and reverses the power imbalances in the political decision making

towards working people and the oppressed.

Both these politicians represent a new era of progressive politics in an attempt to push back the rise of populist rightwing, conservative demagoguery. Both these persons are trying to re-engage and re-energise the political culture.

The new progressive politics has many exciting ideas and values that deserve closer analysis and debate.

With a federal election later this year, and the rapid change here in Byron, it should be incumbent upon all concerned people to sit up and take more notice of these exciting political developments.

Boyd Kellner
Newrybar

The Good Life *Food Wine Travel*

www.echo.net.au/good-life

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au Editorial: goodlife@echo.net.au Phone: 6684 1777

Café Novella: Mediterranean BYO by the sea in Byron

When our family visits Byron, we are often in the area outside the Beach Hotel, and last weekend it was great to find that new Café Novella has lifted the standard for dining in the group of eateries opposite the surf club.

New owners Rachel Sutherland, Dave and Paul have capitalised on the breezy, maritime feel and the beautiful wooden deck to create a stylish cafe serving excellent food with a Mediterranean, tapas feel, but with substantial servings (think battered whiting with patatas bravas, smokey aioli and lemon \$15, or gluten-free calamari, paprika dusted and fried, with old bay sauce \$12).

My avocado and ricotta on rye, with lemon and market greens and soft-boiled egg, teamed with the interesting flavour of my long black (from Mecca coffee, a very popular Sydney roastery), highlighted to me the huge gap between my meal, that was obviously prepared with care and passion, and similarly priced meals prepared elsewhere in Byron from similar ingredients that are half as enjoyable. My wife's gluten-free meal, my son's buckwheat granola all had a similar zing to them.

There's a nice vibe happening here, with attentive, friendly staff, locals from the surf club popping in for a coffee, and the



fun of running into another Byron Bay family instead of just staring at backpackers seeking a cheap eat.

Café Novella has started opening at nights, with the day menu 'taken up a notch' for night-time dining. Expect fresh, Mediterranean-style favourites such as octopus salad, prawns and calamari, steamed black mussels, share plates, and new dishes on the menu all the time depending on what locally sourced food is available.

■ Café Novella 1/14 Bay St, Byron Bay. BYO. Ph 6685 7348.
Facebook: Novella Byron Bay @novellabyronbay

Apology

Last week we published an incorrect contact phone number for chef Joe Griffin in our Good Life article in error.

Please be advised that the correct contact number for Joe is 0429 647 588

Apologies for any inconvenience.



Coasting at the Club

Story and photos by Caz Parker

A welcome wind of change is breezing through Ocean Shores Country Club. Major renovations are underway and the re-branded restaurant Coast has a new chef, Carl Barnes, plating up a family-friendly menu.

Carl's had 26 years in the industry. He's worked around Asia and UK, including Lon-

don's infamous The Ivy, and been a personal chef to numerous Hollywood heavyweights.

Carl has waved his wand over the new menu that sparkles beyond the billowing burgers, punchy pizzas, big salads, fillets off the chargrill, share platters, Asian tasting baskets and memorable desserts.

The Laksa has a superb blend of goopy mixed noodles with a dizzying abundance of Asian flavours topped by a plump leg of duck that melts off the bone.

The candle-lit wooden tables, soft lighting, dramatic coastal photography on the walls and warm hospitality all combine to deliver an intimate mood. With acoustics that are gentle on the ears it's a somewhat more refined atmosphere than normally found in club restaurants.

On a balmy night the outdoor back deck, with hinterland views to the Koonyum Ranges, beckons for cocktails and sunset dining.

Meanwhile to celebrate Valentines Day comedian Ellen Briggs will be hosting a fun dinner at Coast for singles (over-30s). A singles mingle with a giggle, tucker with a tingle, courtesy bus (no bingle) and a chance to meet your Valentine... sounds too good to resist.

■ Bookings Ph 6680 1008
Valentines Day 14 February.
3-course set menu \$35
Weekly Specials are Monday nights: \$15 Beer'n'Burger night, Tuesday nights: All pizzas \$15, Wednesday nights: \$10 Schnitzels

SABROSO VINO PRESENTS A FOOD & WINE EXPERIENCE

inspirado por Rioja!



GUEST CHEF BRENDON HARIS-ANISE
Presented at The Byronian
111 Jonson St Byron Bay
BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:
ANDREW RICHARDS
(SABROSO VINO)
0435 721 141
sabrosovino@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 6.30pm
\$120 pp includes 4 sharing courses & matching wines (bookings close Fri 19th Feb)
www.facebook.com/SabrosoVinoBoutiqueWine

Good Taste *Eating Out Guide*

<p>▼ BALLINA</p> <p>▼ BANGALOW</p> <p>▼ BYRON BAY</p>	<p><i>Valentines Day</i></p> <p>Ballina RSL Club River St, Ballina Phone 6686 2544 www.ballinarsl.com.au Open 7 Days from 8am Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Snacks</p>	<p>Valentines Day Lunch Sunday 14 February Spinnakers 3 Course Menu \$55 12pm, 12.30pm, 1pm & 1.30pm Entertainment by Brian Pampilon Complimentary drink on arrival Bookings Essential</p>
	<p>Bangalow dining rooms</p> <p>Bangalow Dining Rooms Bangalow Hotel Open 7 days Lunch: 12 - 3pm Dinner 5.30 - 9pm All day bistro menu 6687 1144</p>	<p>Enjoy our balcony restaurant, intimate dining room and generous bistro food in the pub. With reasonable prices our menu reflects the wonderful local and fresh produce of the region. Large groups welcome. We also offer off-site catering. www.bangalowdining.com</p> <p>SMH GOOD PUB FOOD GUIDE 2013 AND 2014</p>
	<p>Cafe Novella OPEN 7-4 Sun-Tues OPEN 7-LATE Wed-Sat BYO & TAKEAWAY Bay St opp Main Beach & Surf Club For bookings: 6685 7348</p>	<p>\$2 MECCA coffee all week when ordered via the Heyyou App Locals specials Fresh Mediterranean inspired dishes Breakfast / lunch / dinner on the deck or TAKEAWAY</p>

<p>THE BOLT HOLE A PLACE OF REFUGE, GROG AND BARBEQUE</p> <p>The Bolt Hole Refuge, Grog & Barbeque 5pm-Midnight (Mon-Sat) 5pm-11pm (Sun) 9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay hello@thebolthole.com.au 6685 8410</p>	<p>We love smoking up an American Barbeque storm on our wood-fired smoker all the way from Kansas, USA. Check out our website for our food menu www.thebolthole.com.au. Fancy just a drink? Our bar features 69 whiskeys, 40 gins, craft cocktails, organic & biodynamic wines and craft beers in cans. Catch you soon! PEACE : LOVE : GROG : BBQ</p>
<p>TARGA Cafe • Restaurant • Bar 11 Marvell Street Byron Bay 6680 9960 targabyronbay.com targabyronbay@gmail.com</p>	<p>Modern European Breakfast/Lunch: 7 days from 7am Dinner: 7 nights from 5.30pm Bar: From 10am, with or without food Coffee: Genovese, all day Venue: available for events up to 60 guests * View our Valentines menu on website *</p>
<p>Fishheads Open seven days 7:30am till late Coffee, breakfast, lunch, dinner, functions and weddings. Fully licensed. 1 Jonson St, Byron Bay 6680 7632</p>	<p>A range of menu packages for your SPECIAL EVENT Phone 6680 7632 functions@fishheadsbyron.com.au www.facebook.com/Fishheadsbyron.com www.fishheadsbyron.com.au</p>

Property insider

Looking to buy?

How much should you pay?

It's one of the biggest, if not the biggest, financial decisions in your life. You don't want to make a mistake! But how do you know how much is too much? Agents will point you in the direction of recent sales. In consultation with the vendor, it is recent, comparable sales that determine a price at which a property will come onto the market. Under the new underquoting laws* that came into effect in January this year the price, or price guide, should be a reasonable indication of what a property is worth in that market.

However what about in a rapidly upward-moving market? Signs of a 'hot market' include: increased number of registered bidders at auctions, high auction clearance rates, strongly attended open homes, a fall in the average number of days that properties remain on the market before they sell, properties

selling for more than the asking price or well above the reserve if the property is sold at auction. This is when it gets tricky to know how much to pay.

Firstly, the longer you plan to own a property you purchase the less subject you are to short-term market corrections. Therefore the more confident you can be that if you have paid more than the reserve or paid a 'record price' it may mean very little over time. Agents are also an incredibly valuable source of information. Many have been working in the area for years and have seen markets wax and wane. They may also be very familiar with the properties that have been used as the comparisons to determine value. If they are not, then speak with the agent who handled the sale of that property. Most agents are only too willing to pass

on their knowledge to help you make a determination as to how much you are willing pay for a property.

*Property Insider covered the new underquoting laws in an article published in *The Echo* on January 27.

GNF Bangalow were certainly not on holiday during the 'silly season', say Chris Hayward and Ali Page, and they say it doesn't look like it is going to let up any time soon either. 'Business was brisk in the later half of 2015 and continues into 2016. GNF had some rural lifestyle properties selling within a couple of weeks, and people are going nuts over macadamia income-producing farms. Residential Bangalow properties continue to be hard to find and easy to sell.'

Alli Page has seen listings



that have remained on the books for a while sell in this competitive market, especially in the house and small acreage field. 'It's pleasing to see that more stock is at last coming to the market. Perhaps a combination of low interest rates, RBA still on hold, the metropolitan markets slowing with local vendors motivated to list before winter.'

Out in 'them thar hills', Chris Hayward has experienced a huge amount of interest in the Corndale and Eltham valleys and the Federal/Rosebank areas. 'A number of properties were listed and sold in the same week. The demand for original Queenslanders or character farmhouses with renovation potential is enormous.'

It would seem the market is not only strong in sales but in rentals as well. GNF are experiencing strong enquiry on both residential and commercial properties.

'We are receiving so many requests for rental properties in and around Bangalow

and a record number of commercial space enquiries. We have an extensive database of prospective tenants who are searching and keen to move in as we speak,' says property manager Stephanie Soo.

You know you're doing things well as a property manager when one tenant says, 'Even when we have built our own place, I think I'll have to buy some investment properties here so I can keep hanging out with the crew.' That's exactly what David H, a tenant in one of the properties managed by Byron Bay Property Sales, has said.

The 'crew' are Jodi and Lisa (pictured), the friendly permanent rental specialists at Byron Bay Property Sales. They specialise in the management of luxury properties, located in some of Byron Bay's most idyllic locations.

Each has worked in the real estate industry for many years and joined the team at Byron Bay Property Sales two years ago. They are known for their friendly approach-

able style and their extensive knowledge of the area and the market. Being a property manager you need exceptional problem-solving skills and a 'can do' attitude. Lisa and Jodi say their focus on placing quality tenants into the properties they manage results in high rental returns for their owners.

'We enjoy what we do, and



love the feeling of excitement from both owner and tenant when a good match is made. We aim to build an excellent relationship with everyone we deal with.' - Lisa.

HAVE ANYTHING TO LET US KNOW ABOUT?

Any new faces? Career milestones? Exceptional results? Market observations? Have you had anything quirky or unusual happen to you out in the field? Email propertyinsider@echo.net.au.



3/67 ARMSTRONG STREET, SUFFOLK PARK

1 | 1 | 1

- Beachside entry level property!
- Only minutes walk to beach and Suffolk Park shops
- Open plan living/dining, neat kitchen
- Large bedroom and renovated bathroom
- Front and rear courtyards, single lock up garage
- This charming property is an opportunity not to be missed

Enquiries: Luke Elwin 0421 375 635 | Su Reynolds 0428 888 660

Auction: Sold Prior to Auction



46 BROKEN HEAD ROAD, NEWRYBAR

5 | 3 | 3

- Excellent Value in Newrybar
- Fantastic entry level home on 2685m2 in exclusive Newrybar
- Feeling of elevation with beautiful, vast rural outlook
- Open plan living with high raked timber ceilings
- Separate 1 bedroom granny flat + 2 room work studio
- Walk to Harvest Café, few mins drive to Broken Head beach

Open: Saturday, 13 February 10.00 – 10.30am

Auction: \$700,000 to \$750,000

Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660 | Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698



66 PLANTATION DRIVE, EWINGSDALE

- Charming family home with open plan indoor/outdoor living & resort style ionised pool
- Substantial and private secondary dwelling
- Approved as a Bed & Breakfast offering home & income potential
- Occupying a stunning 3097m2 with tropical landscaped gardens
- Sought after Ewingsdale
- Minutes to town's restaurants, famous beaches and boutiques
- Endless options, an inspection will impress

6 🏠 | 6 🍳 | 2 🏠

Resort style family home with B&B approval and substantial secondary dwelling

Open: Saturday, 13 February 2.00 – 2.30pm
Price: \$1,295,000 to \$1,395,000
Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660 | Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698



8 HAKEA CRESCENT, SUFFOLK PARK

3 🏠 | 2 🍳 | 2 🏠

- Quality family home in excellent location
- Easy living and entertaining options for all
- Immaculate throughout with formal & informal living spaces
- Private east facing deck overlooking established gardens
- Situated at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac
- Close to the golf course, tavern, beaches, shops and school

Open: Saturday, 13 February 11.00 – 11.30am
Price: \$740,000 to \$810,000
Enquiries: Sharon McInnes 0408 659 649



10 ARMSTRONG STREET, SUFFOLK PARK

4 🏠 | 2 🍳 | 2 🏠

- Immaculate 4 bed family home in beachside Suffolk Park
- Open plan kitchen/dining/living plus adjoining family lounge
- Fantastic private outdoor entertaining, manicured gardens
- Meticulously maintained with great natural light throughout
- Only a few minutes' walk to Tallow Beach, shops and tavern
- An ideal beachside home, rental investment or holiday home

Open: Saturday, 13 February 12.00 – 12.30pm
Price: \$880,000 to \$930,000
Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660 | Paul Banister 0438 856 552

35 Fletcher Street Byron Bay 2481 | call 6685 8466
 sales@byronbayfn.com | byronbayfn.com.au





19 TAYLORS LANE, EWINGSDALE

6 🛏 | 4 🍳 | 2 🏠

- Bali in Byron! A lush and tranquil property
- 1.5 acres in private location with established tropical gardens
- Pavilion style home designed for easy entertaining
- Separate 2 bedroom second dwelling
- Relax by the pool and spa and listen to the natural creek
- A unique and peaceful home that is a must to inspect!

Open: By Appointment
Price: \$1,850,000 to \$2,035,000
Enquiries: Paul Banister 0438 856 552 | Helene Adams 0412 139 807



14 GOONENGERRY MILL ROAD, GOONENGERRY

3 🛏 | 2 🍳 | 2 🏠

- Coastal views back to Julian Rocks
- Easy care lifestyle block
- Good tidy home or rebuild your dream home
- Central location
- 5 mins to Federal, 10 mins to Mullum, 20 mins to Byron Bay
- Possible dual occupancy STCA

Open: Saturday, 13 February 2.00 – 2.30pm
Auction: Auction Pending
Enquiries: Helen Huntly-Barratt 0412 332 232



33 PLANTATION DRIVE, EWINGSDALE

4 🛏 | 2 🍳 | 3 🏠

- Best value in Ewingsdale
- 4 bedroom family home on almost 2 tranquil acres
- Large open plan living area, modern kitchen
- Resort style pool with tropical outlook
- Separate studio with private access
- Close to Steiner school, minutes to town and beaches

Open: Saturday, 13 February 1.00 - 1.30pm
Price: \$950,000 to \$1,050,000
Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660, | Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698



4 BARBY CRESCENT, BANGALOW

4 🛏 | 2 🍳 | 4 🏠

- Stylish & well-appointed Bangalow home with panoramic views
- Large & flowing indoor/outdoor living spaces overlooking Bangalow
- Beautiful established garden and level yard
- DA approved plans for substantial architecturally designed secondary dwelling with large north facing deck
- Comfortable walking distance to cafes, restaurants & town centre
- Master bedroom with WIR, ensuite and private access to balcony

Open: Saturday, 13 February 11.00 – 11.30am
Price: \$800,000 to \$850,000
Enquiries: Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698 | Luke Elwin 0421 375 635

Property

Sensational home

33 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park

🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 2

\$1,650,000



The most breathtaking outlook across the golf course to the lighthouse and miles of wide ocean views with a north east aspect. This quality built home sits on a large 1273m2 very elevated level block at the top of an exclusive and private no through road.

A large open plan living room with high raked ceilings, Tasmanian Oak timber floors and ocean views from every window. The open plan kitchen has stone benches and quality appliances. A covered outdoor dining area adjoins the living rooms.

The upper level is a luxurious main bedroom with private balcony, WIR and ensuite. The lower level has 2 bedrooms, each room with direct access to the pool and main bathroom.

The ground floor has a DLUG, under house storage plus the laundry with a storeroom. Beautiful gardens, 2nd alfresco dining area and large yard.

The pool gazebo is the perfect spot to take in the view over the pool and ocean views beyond.

Open: By appointment

Contact: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660,
Sharon McInnes 0408 659 649
First National Byron Bay

Escape to the country

34 Bayview Road, Goonengerry

🏠 4 🛏 2 🚗 2

\$749,000



Situated at the end of a quiet country lane, this modern, timber home offers generous living over two levels and has wraparound verandahs that enjoy fabulous views to the southwest across distant valleys and hills.

Featuring raked ceilings in the living area and timber floors, the all-white colour theme throughout the home allows a light and bright feel all day long.

The floor plan is flexible with three bedrooms and a bathroom on the top level and a large living/bedroom loft and bathroom downstairs.

The gardens are established and provide complete privacy from neighbouring properties. It would make a lovely family home or even a great weekend escape.

Conveniently located very close to Mullumbimby and the Federal village, it is also only 25 minutes to the coast.

Open: By appointment

Contact: Janice Maple 0401 026 359 or 6687 1500
Elders Bangalow

Picture perfect 6 acres

Lot 2 Figtree Lane, Myocum

Auction Pending



Located in the picturesque Byron Bay Hinterland, this beautiful 6 acre property presents a great opportunity.

With glorious rural views over rolling green pastures, this vacant parcel of land is north facing and comes with building entitlement. You can build your dream home and enjoy total privacy and an idyllic country lifestyle.

Whilst the location offers peace and tranquillity, it is also very accessible as Byron Bay, Bangalow, Brunswick Heads and our pristine beaches are all only a 10 minute drive.

Acres of this quality and in this position do not stay on the market for long, so please call or email us today for further information and to meet the agent on site.

Open: By Appointment

Contact: Paul Banister 0438 856 552,
James Young 6685 8466
First National Byron Bay

Elders Bangalow



🏠 4 🛏 2 🚗 2

EXTREMELY PRIVATE LOCATION!

STYLE AND CHARACTER

- Only 11 years old!
- Four double bedrooms & two bathrooms
- Located in popular Federal Village
- Appealing country style design with character
- Excellent floor plan
- Easy living
- Generous verandahs
- Double lock up garage
- 3 min walk to village centre
- Surplus to owners needs, genuine sale!

31 Roses Road, FEDERAL
Open House Saturday 12pm - 12.30pm
Duncan Lorimer 0400 844 412

AUCTION 25th February
In Our Rooms

RE/MAX NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX®

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY EXPO

Matt & Lainie Towner will be showcasing Byron and Ballina Shires at the International Property Expo in Las Vegas the first week of March.

Over 100,000 real estate agents from nearly 100 countries are in the RE/MAX network and many will be attending this week long event.

Matt & Lainie are currently looking for exclusive listings to take to Vegas to add to the following iconic properties they have for sale ...



Absolute Beachfront
Suffolk Park – \$2.35M



Lennox Head House
\$1.195M



Eco Village Goonellabah
from \$250k each

RE/MAX Coastal

remax-coastal.com.au • 02 6685 3297
Matt 0414 185 976 • Lainie 0430 588 106

eldersbangalow.com.au



6687 1500

Coastal

AUCTIONS THIS SATURDAY!

Don't miss your opportunity... Beach Life Awaits...



Auction

Stunning Beachside Home

View Wednesday 2.00 – 2.30pm
Saturday 2.30 – 3.30pm

Auction Saturday 13th February 3.30pm on-site

Agent Julie-Ann Manahan LREA
Licensee/Principal 0411 081 118

3 2 2

14 Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach

Light, breezy & elevated, this home captures coastal breezes, and a pleasant nature-filled outlook, all while being in one of the most sought-after locations: South Golden Beach!

- Easy level stroll to beach and local shop
- 9ft ceilings, increased feeling of space
- Split-level contemporary layout
- Side access to backyard
- Just 25 minutes to Coolangatta and 15 minutes to Byron Bay



Auction

Mamma Mia!

View Wednesday 2.00 – 3.00pm
Saturday 12.00 – 1.00pm

Auction Saturday 13th February 1pm on-site.

Agent Franco Braico Area Sales Manager
0438 565 525

4 3 2

11 Mia Court Ocean Shores

Set in a quiet cul-de-sac, this architecturally designed masterpiece is ideal for a family to enjoy the benefits of a community-minded neighbourhood while maintaining the privacy of spectacular surrounds! Just beautiful!

- Across the road from beach
- Indoor outdoor living
- Landscaped entrance
- Large home office, with built-in work station & storage

Raine & Horne Ocean Shores 6680 5000

rh.com.au/oceanshores
@rhoceanshores

Best value 3 bedder in town!

2/6 Electra Close, Byron Bay

🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 1

\$599,000 - \$640,000



This desirable townhouse is in a great location within easy walking distance of Byron Bay's town centre, beaches, schools, sporting fields and metres to the popular Mac's Cafe and Green Garage.

Set over 2 levels, the home is light and airy. The ground floor features an open plan kitchen, dining and lounge with access onto a covered north facing entertaining area and private fenced courtyard.

There is a single lock up garage with storage space and direct access, separate laundry and a 3rd toilet also on the ground floor.

The upper level offers 3 bedrooms; the master has a walk in robe and ensuite. The 2nd and 3rd bedroom have built in robes and are central to the main bathroom and separate W/C.

Located at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, the complex is secure and friendly with a lovely in ground swimming pool.

Open: By Appointment

Contact: Helen Huntly-Barratt 0412 332 232
First National Byron Bay

This is a hole in one!

54 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores

🏠 4 🛏 3 🚗 2

Price \$580,000



A rare opportunity in a prime position overlooking a renowned championship golf course!

Only a few minutes to Ocean Village Shopping Centre, where the newly opened Target, Coles and FDB's has lifted this shopping precinct into a dynamic cluster of retail outlets providing fresh produce, clothing, banks, healthcare and many more.

3km to Brunswick Heads, 5km to schools, 20km to Byron Bay, 30 mins to Gold Coast domestic & international airport, access to waterways at Ocean Shores is via Marshalls Creek.

Features include: • 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, plus an open air bath + shower • eat in kitchen • formal lounge/dining • massive outdoor entertaining area overlooking the golf course • split system air conditioning • parking for 2/3 cars.

Don't be left on the back 9 ... Call David Holden now to arrange an inspection - 0435 789 677.

Open: Saturday 12.00 - 12.30pm

Contact: David Holden on 0435 789 677
LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

This really does have it all...

6 Hilltop Place, Lennox Head

\$1,200,000



Ever dreamt of breathtaking expansive views coupled with a unique family home? If the answer is yes then 6 Hilltop Place Lennox Head is the property for you.

It's a rarity to find a property that incorporates jaw dropping views, plenty of space to entertain yet only minutes to the beach all for under \$1.2M.

This unique home offers 6 bedrooms, one of which can be locked off from the main house and function as a separate dwelling, open plan living and dining with a modern kitchen opening up onto an inviting deck. The property also includes a stunning inground saltwater pool lap pool plus spa.

And then there is the view. You will simply love dining al fresco under the stars enjoying the sunsets and on those warmer days or nights relaxing under the balinese gazebo.

Open: By appointment

Contact: Matt Towner 0414 185 976
REMAX Coastal



Immaculate home – ocean views to Flat Rock 3 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚗

17 Palisade Way Lennox Head.
✓ Good sized 865.7m2 corner block – elevated & expansive views
✓ 3 generous sized bedrooms – all with built-in robes & ceiling fans
✓ Modern, renovated kitchen, stone bench tops PLUS views
✓ Salt water inground pool – solar heated for swimming all year round
✓ Ducted reverse cycle A/C, external shutters on bedroom windows
✓ Separate studio/workshop with power, established & low care gardens
✓ Located in popular area of Lennox – close to village & beaches
Web ID: 1P1027.
Auction 5.30pm March 16 In Our Rooms
Contact Lois Buckett 0428 877 399, Mark Kinneally 0429 868 001
loisbuckett.com.au



First time offered to the public since 1972 2 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚗

6/23 Namitjira Place, Ballina.
✓ Panoramic views from bridge to bridge over North Creek – Waterfront
✓ The current owners will greatly miss their annual family holidays
✓ The property is otherwise holiday let with solid repeat bookings
✓ Spacious open plan kitchen/living with large bedrooms & built-ins
✓ Sold as is fully furnished – perfect for investor or owner occupier
✓ Step out to bike/walk pathway to Ballina, Shaws Bay & beaches
✓ No need for a car – flat walk into Ballina
Auction 5.30pm April 6 In Our Rooms
Web ID: 1P1024.
Contact Lois Buckett 0428 877 399, Mark Kinneally 0429 868 001
loisbuckett.com.au



Outlook and privacy in Suffolk Park 4 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚗

4 Orchid Place, Suffolk Park.
✓ Elevated, split level family home in quiet cul de sac, on 685m2 block
✓ Upper level-master bedroom-ensuite, BIR, ceiling fan with private balcony
✓ 3 other bedrooms over 2 levels, all with BIR & ceiling fans
✓ Open plan kitchen & living area opens onto elevated, covered balcony
✓ Separate lounge area, floorplan great for families or guests
✓ Easy care and established gardens, room for pool (STCA)
✓ Flat walk to Suffolk village & beaches, 5 mins drive to Byron Bay
Price \$750,000.
Web ID: 1P0975.
Contact Lois Buckett 0428 877 399, Mark Kinneally 0429 868 001
loisbuckett.com.au



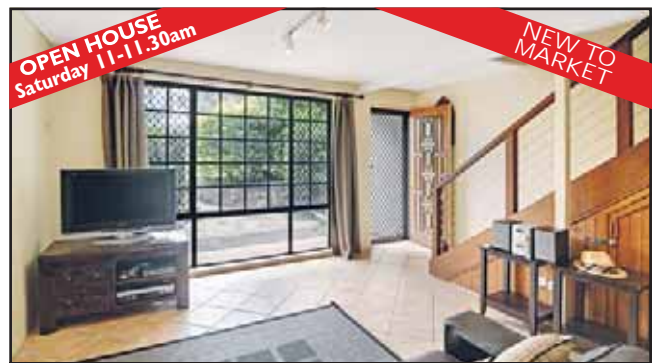
Big ocean views to Evans Head 3 🛏 2 🚗 2 🚗

1/9 Seaview Street, East Ballina.
✓ Immaculate split level townhouse
✓ Fabulous elevated views to Shaws Bay & East Ballina
✓ Modern bathroom with double corner spa bath
✓ Bi-fold doors open to expansive & partially covered patio
✓ Generous sized bedrooms, main enjoys same views
✓ Easy beachside living
✓ Timber/tiled floors, feature windows
✓ Walk to Shelly Beach, Belle General Café & surf club
Price \$630,000 NEGOTIABLE.
Web ID: 1P0226.
Contact Lois Buckett 0428 877 399, Mark Kinneally 0429 868 001
loisbuckett.com.au



Unique & private farmlet in Broken Head 3 🛏 1 🚗 2 🚗

33 Bundaleer Road, Broken Head.
✓ Private & peaceful 6.575ha, minutes from Broken Head beach
✓ Separated into 5 fenced paddocks, ideal for horse enthusiasts
✓ Mix of natural timbered areas – bush trails for walking and riding
✓ 3 dams (1 spring fed), 3 open stables (5m x 5m) + a round yard
✓ Elevated 3 bed home-stunning use of various timbers throughout
✓ Large machinery shed (17.5m x 9m) has commercial kitchen approved
✓ Located in the Ballina Shire but with the Broken Head address
Web ID: 1P1022.
Auction 5.30pm March 16 In Our Rooms
Contact Lois Buckett 0428 877 399, Mark Kinneally 0429 868 001
loisbuckett.com.au



Best in the block! 2 🛏 1 🚗 1 🚗

4/33 Ballina Street, Lennox Head.
✓ Central village location-moments to beach, pub & shops
✓ Abundance of natural light-open and light living throughout
✓ 2 bedrooms-both have balconies, 1 bunk room
✓ Renovated bathroom- large shower + sink, ample storage
✓ Lounge/kitchen/dining space is fresh, open and spacious
✓ Neat & tidy garden/sitting area at rear, SLUG
✓ Fully furnished-suit owner occupier or investor – move straight in!
Price \$429,000.
Web ID: 1P10973.
Contact Lois Buckett 0428 877 399, Mark Kinneally 0429 868 001
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Achieving record breaking rental prices!

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LEASED



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FROM \$1,100 - \$2,500 PER WEEK**

We specialise in matching great long-term tenants with high-end properties in the Byron Bay area.

Quality tenants are lining up and homes are leasing before they are advertised.

If you have considered leasing, it is the perfect time! Call us for a chat.



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12 LAWSON STREET, BYRON BAY



Brunswick Heads
16 Pandanus Court

3 2 4

AUCTION – BRUNSWICK HIDEAWAY

Secluded and private – the only cul-de-sac location in town!

- 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite, walk-in robe and sunroom
- Double garage with drive through access to carport and rear yard
- Formal lounge, dining & entry
- Open plan kitchen, living and study

- Large covered patio, ideal entertainer
- Gracious grounds, land 957m2.

View Thurs & Sat 11.00 – 11.30am
Auction 11.30am 27 February at RSL Brunswick Heads Auxiliary Hall
Contact Peter Browning 0411 801 795

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177



Ocean Shores
10 Orana Road

4 3 2

AUCTION – POTENTIAL PLUS

- Big spacious, possible dual occupancy
- 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms
- Golf course views, elevated flood free
- Open plan living, formal lounge/media

Owner would like it SOLD at or before Auction!

View Saturday 1.00 – 1.30pm
Auction 11.30am 27 February at RSL Brunswick Heads Auxiliary Hall
Contact Peter Browning 0411 801 795

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177



Brunswick Heads
6 Newberry Parade

4 2 1

AUCTION – DECEASED ESTATE

- 4 bedrooms, 2 new bathrooms
- New upmarket kitchen
- Peaceful outlook to nature reserve
- Stroll to river, boat harbour, shops, beach
- Well maintained home, gardens

FAMILY SAYS SELL ON THE DAY

View Thursday & Saturday
12.00 – 12.30pm

Auction 11.30am 27 February at RSL Brunswick Heads Auxiliary Hall

Contact Peter Browning 0411 801 795

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177

AGENTS

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CONVEYANCING

If you are buying or selling property - large or small - call **Lauren Donnellon** at BVK Solicitors Attorneys for sound legal advice with thorough local planning knowledge.

bvk
SOLICITORS ATTORNEYS
 8 Byron St Byron Bay 6680 8522

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Open For Inspection

ELDERS BANGALOW

- 212 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 14 Jarvis Street, Clunes. Sat 11-11.30am
- 31 Roses Road, Federal. Sat 12-12.30pm

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON BAY

- 155-159 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Wed 12-12.30pm & Sat 2-2.30pm
- 5/18-20 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay. Thu & Sat 10-10.30am
- Lots 1 and 18 Wilfred Street, Billinudgel. Thu 12-12.30pm
- 14 Monet Drive, Montecollum. Fri 2-2.30pm & Sat 10-10.30am
- 46 Broken Head Road, Newrybar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 256 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 5 Bay Vista Lane, Ewingsdale. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4 Barby Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 9 Sansom Street, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 8 Hakea Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 10 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm
- Lot 19 Campbell Lane, Bangalow. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 33 Plantation Drive, Ewingsdale. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 14 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Sat 2-2.30pm
- 66 Plantation Drive, Ewingsdale. Sat 2-2.30pm
- 23/58 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 2-2.30pm

LJ HOOKER BRUNSWICK HEADS

- 10 Natan Court, North Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 9 Kanandah Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 16 Pandanus Court, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Napelle Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1632 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 6 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Thu & Sat 12-12.30pm
- 54 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 10 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 9 Elizabeth Avenue, South Golden Beach. Sat 2-2.30pm

LOIS BUCKETT REAL ESTATE

- 6/23 Namatjira Place, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3 Greenview Place, Skennars Head. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4/33-44 Ballina Street, Lennox Head. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1/9 Seaview Street, East Ballina. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 17 Palisade Way, Lennox Head. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 4 Orchid Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 33 Bundaleer Road, Broken Head. Sat 2-2.30pm

RAINE & HORNE OCEAN SHORES

- 175 Overall Drive, Pottsville. Thu 5-6pm, Sat 11.15-11.45am, Sun 2-3pm
- 39/40-48 Kamala Drive, Casuarina. Thu 6.30-7.30pm & Sat 10-10.45am

- 13/42 Tweed Coast Road, Pottsville. Sun 1-1.30pm
- 12 Aloota Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3/14 Redgate Road, South Golden Beach. Sat 10.45-11.30am

SCOTT HARVEY REAL ESTATE

- 10 Raftons Road, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 576 Pearces Creek Road, Alstonvale. Wed 5-6pm & Sat 9.30-10.30am

AUCTIONS

ELDERS BANGALOW

Auction February 20

- 212 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow

Auction February 25

- 31 Roses Road, Federal

Auctions TBA

- 680 Binna Burra Road, Federal
- Lot 7 Keys Road, Coorabell

LOIS BUCKETT REAL ESTATE

Auction 5.50pm Wednesday March 16 in our rooms

- 17 Palisade Way, Lennox Head

Auction 5.50pm Wednesday April 6 in our rooms

- 33 Bundaleer Road, Broken Head
- 6/23 Namatjira Place, Ballina

RAINE & HORNE OCEAN SHORES

Auction 1pm on site this Saturday

- 11 Mia Court, Ocean Shores

Auction 3.30pm onsite this Saturday. Inspect from 2.30pm

- 14 Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach

NEW LISTINGS

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON BAY

- Lot 19 Campbell Lane, Bangalow. Contact Tara or Luke.
- 4 Barby Crescent, Bangalow. \$800,000 to \$850,000
- 870 Eltham Road, Eltham. \$780,000
- 19 Taylors Lane, Ewingsdale. \$1,850,000 to \$2,035,000

LOIS BUCKETT REAL ESTATE

- 17 Palisade Way, Lennox Head
- 4/33-44 Ballina Street, Lennox Head
- 33 Bundaleer Road, Broken Head
- 6/23 Namatjira Place, Ballina
- 47 Hutley Drive, Lennox Head
- 1 Sanctuary Village, Lennox Head



Frangipani Cottage – Burringbar \$480,000

- ✓ Cute and comfortable + hard to find
 - ✓ Two blocks total 2023m²
 - ✓ 2 bedroom cottage with built-ins
 - ✓ One neat bathroom
 - ✓ Open plan living/kitchen
 - ✓ Double glass doors open onto large undercover timber deck; carport under
 - ✓ Subtropical plantings, ornamentals amid assorted natives, palm forest
 - ✓ Gas cooking, town water, sewerage
 - ✓ Short distance to Main St shops, bus stop
- Price \$480,000.**
 Contact Stuart Cahill 02 6677 1699 or 0478 651 490.

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On Tweed Valley Way – Burringbar \$465,000

- ✓ Renovated golden oldie
 - ✓ 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
 - ✓ Separate guests room
 - ✓ Expansive undercover rear deck with
 - ✓ Gardens with paved walkways
 - ✓ Large lock up shed area, undercover parking in front
 - ✓ Well maintained & presented home
 - ✓ 1km to Burringbar village
- Price \$465,000.**
 Contact Stuart Cahill 02 6677 1699 or 0478 651 490.

BURRINGBAR
 REAL ESTATE CENTRE PTY LTD

TERRIFIC TALKING TWATS!



THIS SUNDAY IS VALENTINES DAY. AND BEFORE YOU THINK IT'S ALL WINE AND ROSES AND CORNY CARDS ABOUT TRUE LOVE, REMEMBER THAT IT'S ALSO V DAY – PART OF A GLOBAL REVOLUTION TO PROTEST AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.

Starting at 7.30am on Main Beach with a flashmob (wear red!) and culminating in a powerful contemporary show created by local women: *Vagina Conversations* at the Byron Theatre in the evening. Organiser and event MC Zenith Virago spoke with *The Echo*.

Tell me about the concept of *Vagina Conversations*.

Having been involved as MC in the *Vagina Monologues* productions for the past two years here, and for another production which you were also part of some years ago, it is always abundantly clear that women want to talk about, listen about, laugh and cry and shout about their vaginas.

I have been thinking for a while that we need to tell new, more contemporary, evolved stories. Our stories.

Eve Ensler led the way and shone a light on a very under-exposed part of our community and national conversations, but I feel she would be the fist to say 'well done, women, take it away, and tell your own stories'.

How have you managed to pull it together?

With sheer willpower, a strong desire and a great team. When we realised that there wouldn't be a VM this year, I spoke to several outspoken, gutsy, local performers, some people also contacted us, and within no time we had a crew and a waiting list for people who wanted to be a part of the show.

Why did you think it was time to move on from *The Vagina Monologues*?

Many women have been to several productions of the *Monologues* over the past 20 years; younger women are

just discovering that thrill. The VM are powerful and must be reproduced word for word. I wanted to be more diverse, open the subject matter up more, peer inside and reveal more juicy parts. Your recent yoni piece was a great example of a widening conversation.

How do you balance the stories of celebration alongside the stories of trauma?

The number of women who experience sexual abuse, assault or rape is one in three. As with all my work, I want to be real and honest, but want the show to be powerful and uplifting, and really celebrate women and our diversity and strengths.

What are some of the stories or themes developed in the show?

Our culture is highly serviced by pornography. In the last few years sexual

therapy and sex workshops have come out into the light of day, and there is more of a mature attitude that its not something naughty or bent. Sex is a healthy, sacred and adult activity, mixed with mutual consent, lust or love; it is the something many of us are participating in and enjoying. The more women are empowered and courageous and outspoken the better our chances for equal, satisfying experiences. Better for everyone involved. Men could learn a lot about women from coming to the show.

Will the audience get a chance to share any of their stories?

Yes. The second half is a conversation between the audience and the team.

Why are we talking vaginas anyway?

We are talking about vaginas, yonis, cunts, pussies... whatever familiar, comfortable or confronting name we

want to call our most amazing and essential body part. The clitoris is the only part of the human body designed for pleasure and has some extraordinary number (something like 80,000! not sure exactly) nerve endings. That's something to know, to master, and to celebrate and enjoy.

Where does the money go?

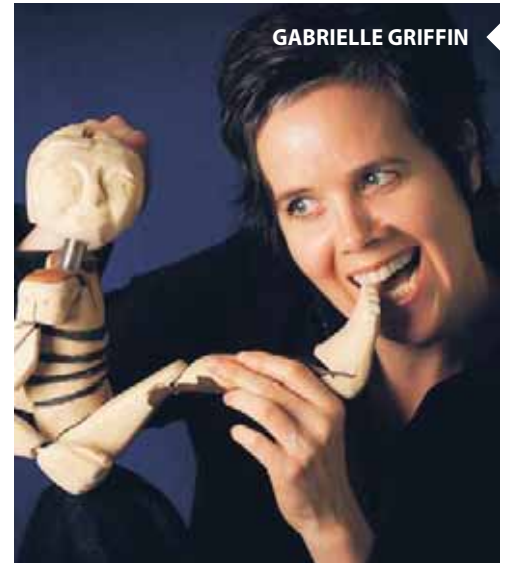
The BBCC are donating the hall. We have some small tech costs, but it all goes to the Byron Shire Women and Children Escape fund.

So come along, support a very worthy cause, learn something and have a great night out with a group of wild women.

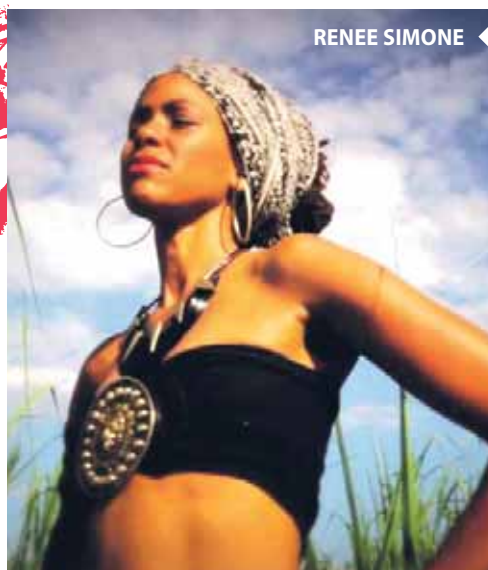
***Vagina Conversations* at the Byron Community Centre on Sunday at 6pm. \$15 at the door or through the BBCC website byroncentre.com.au.**



ZENITH VIRAGO



GABRIELLE GRIFFIN



RENEE SIMONE



MANDY NOLAN

the northern

WED 10 JESSE PUMPHREY

THURS 11 THE SWAMPS

SAT 13 THE DELICATES

SUN 14 DAN HANNAFORD

MON 15 SCOTT DAY-VEE

TUES 16 MARSHALL OKELL



**FRIDAY 12
DROP LEGS**

coming soon

19 FEB EDEN MULHOLLAND

20 FEB BANOFFEE (LIVE)

26 FEB THE BADLANDS

27 FEB OSAKA PUNCH

4 MAR SONS OF THE EAST

5 MAR THE SEA GYPSIES

11 MAR GOONS OF DOOM

12 MAR TROPICAL ZOMBIE

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Mandy Nolan's SOAPBOX

SEE MORE OF MANDY ON ECHONETDAILY
WWW.ECHO.NET.AU/SOAP-BOX



YOU HAD ME AT COLONOSCOPY

Well, 2016 has started off as a cracker of a year. By 4 February I'd achieved some of my bucket list items: (1) Taken family on overseas holiday and forced children off social media and to enjoy relationships with parents and siblings. Tick. (2) Elope on beach in Hawaii with partner of eight years and aforementioned children thus avoiding the giant bullshit fiasco involved with a public wedding. Tick. (3) Have a colonoscopy. Tick. There's nothing like having a camera up your arse to take the shine off a good holiday. Although I do have a few extra snaps to add to my iPhotos, and possibly share on Facebook when something someone says shits me.

In case you are wondering. I didn't need to have a colonoscopy. I elected to have it. I figured as 50 was on the horizon and as bowel cancer is one of those genetic fruits hanging from our family tree, that as a mother of five I should ensure I'm here for the long haul and not taken out by arse cancer. It was quite an experience. My first day of fasting was on the 9-hour plane trip home. After eating overcooked, fatty, super-sized American food I figured that the colonoscopy preparation could be something of a 'cleanses'. Day one is 'white food'. That means white bread, rice, pasta, chicken etc. Anything white. Kind of creepy.

When the 150kg Hawaiian air steward came to serve my meal he was a little taken aback by the 6-foot white woman who asks, 'Do you have any white food? I can only eat white food.' By his sneer it was clear he had me marked as some sort of crazy KKK lady. I tried to tell him it was for my arse test. But who wants to hear that when they're eating? And really, it's just a little too much information even for me. I had to give up and let him think I was a crazy racist. Day two is when the real fun begins. The clear liquids and the pico prep. Or as I like to call it 'India in the comfort of your own home'. That's a 24-hour period

when you literally lose your shit. I wasn't game to sneeze. Or leave the house. I was on the phone to my friend and had to end the call suddenly with 'Oh my god, I have to go - NOW! Too late. Poor John. Not the post-wedding bliss he was expecting. It was like a colonic without a tap. After two days I was strangely hollow. I arrive at hospital to check in. It's one of those times when you want to be anonymous. My name for medicare purposes is Amanda Nolan. I should get away with it. The beaming woman in admissions smiles, 'I know who you are!' Fucking awesome. And it kept happening. Right up to the moment when I was lying on a

bed with my naked arse hanging out the back of my flap. It was undignifying. Although it didn't stop me from flirting with the handsome young anaesthetist. Well he kept asking me questions like my name, where I lived, my date of birth. It was clear he was cracking on. A cougar getting her colon checked. As I'm whisked off on my surgery trolley I say, 'It's all me me me. What about you? Where do you live?' A look of terror came over his face which was strangely satisfying considering what I was about to endure. 'Can you move your bottom as far to the edge of the bed?' Ooh. I want to say No. But I don't think it

was a request I could refuse. Now was not a time to clench my butt cheeks. Someone could lose a finger. I count seven people in the audience as I push my white lady arse to the edge of the bed. Then someone lifts up my gown. So I'm covered and my arse is out. I think, shouldn't I be knocked out before the naked-arse-on-show humiliation routine? It was worse than getting a Brazilian. In fact, I thought, this would be the time to get one. While I was unconscious. I think the young anaesthetist slipped me a mickey because I'm chatting away and then next thing I know I'm in recovery. 'It went well,' chirps the nurse. Really? I don't think so. A girl's first anal experience and not even a bunch of flowers. Just a video I'll never see and a card telling me I don't need to come back.



AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

THE COUNTDOWN IS NOW ON TO THE 27TH BYRON BAY BLUESFEST. ON 26 JANUARY FESTIVAL DIRECTOR PETER NOBLE, WHO IRONICALLY DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS 'AN OLD ANGRY MOTHERFUCKER!' WAS AWARDED THE VERY PRESTIGIOUS OAM - ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE MUSIC INDUSTRY.

With fifty years plus in the industry the man and his event have garnered a lot of awards. You'd need a trailer to move them. Just last year there was the Best Major Event for North Coast Tourism

and Festival of the Year at the Pan Australasian Award. There have been not one, or even two, but four Helpmann Awards for Best Contemporary Music Festival, a Rolling Stone award (pictured)

back in 2007 for Contribution to Australian music and even a Grammy Award in 2008 for Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album for Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience. Something like 28 awards in fact, and numerous nominations, the most impressive being on the global stage alongside festivals such as Glastonbury for International Festival of the Year Pollstar Awards. So how does an 'angry old motherfucker' celebrate his OAM? 'Annika [his partner] went to the opening of Elements the night before so my family celebration in the morning didn't happen because they couldn't get out of bed! Must have been a good opening! So I went down to the Arakwal celebration on the beach, and then on to the RSL where I found the local mob and Delta getting her Citizen of the Year. By the time I got home the family were still asleep! With the event just six weeks away, everything is in full swing, including something like 30 tours that ride on the back of Bluesfest. 'There wouldn't be a festival in Australia that didn't have one of our acts,' says Peter. Noble is a master of managing complex artistic personalities. His secret?

'They are working with a complex personality! I was watching a Tarantino film the other day and it occurred to me that I am a bit like Tarantino in one way. He is the director of a movie and I am the director of a festival - we put together a group of musicians/actors and he goes back to the same actors regularly. I do the same, because I know what really works. Acts such as Playing for Change are building schools in Third World countries; they have 12 schools going already; people are really getting it now.' Noble believes Australian radio, particularly the youth arm of our public broadcaster, could play a bigger role in the music development. 'If Australian radio played a bit more of what appeared at Bluesfest, which you would hear on radio in the UK or the US, it would be great, but Triple J has a tight programming policy that may or not be good for Australian music. We are the event for 2016, but we can't get presented on Triple J because we put on a festival that attracts older people. They say, 'it's against our charter'; as taxpayers we have a right examine those sort of ideas. I am not saying what they are doing is awful but it could be more inclusive, especially at a

time when our industry is having difficulty. I have Kendrick Lamar as my headliner; he is up for 11 grammy nominations - there are no festival in Australia that has ever gone near that.' So what does Noble bring to Bluesfest every year? 'I get paid for my ears,' he says simply. 'I am not afraid to change with the industry, to go out there and introduce new elements. I think Australia is able to have a festival like that, not just the blues and roots, but alt country and reggae and I also book the artists who are happening right now. 'Every year I challenge myself with Bluesfest. It's a creative music festival. If you come at 12 noon there will be no filler; it's a family

event; we are proud of that. We make it easy for families to attend with their children. We put on real music that will get you... musical appreciation is learnt through events such as Bluesfest.' The 2016 lineup is impressive, with a few surprises in store. 'We have reached about 75 per cent of sellout. I will be watching TV closely next week to see how many Grammys Kendrick gets. When we baby boomers feel we have a privilege above every succeeding generation, that our influence should never wane, we changed the world and we won't let anyone else do that. We still sold more tickets to the 50-plus group than any other group this year.'

CONTINUED P 36

And Da Music Washed Over Me...

Come and lie down and be immersed in an hour of classical music by intuitive Nuwanda Coleridge... on piano/keyboard

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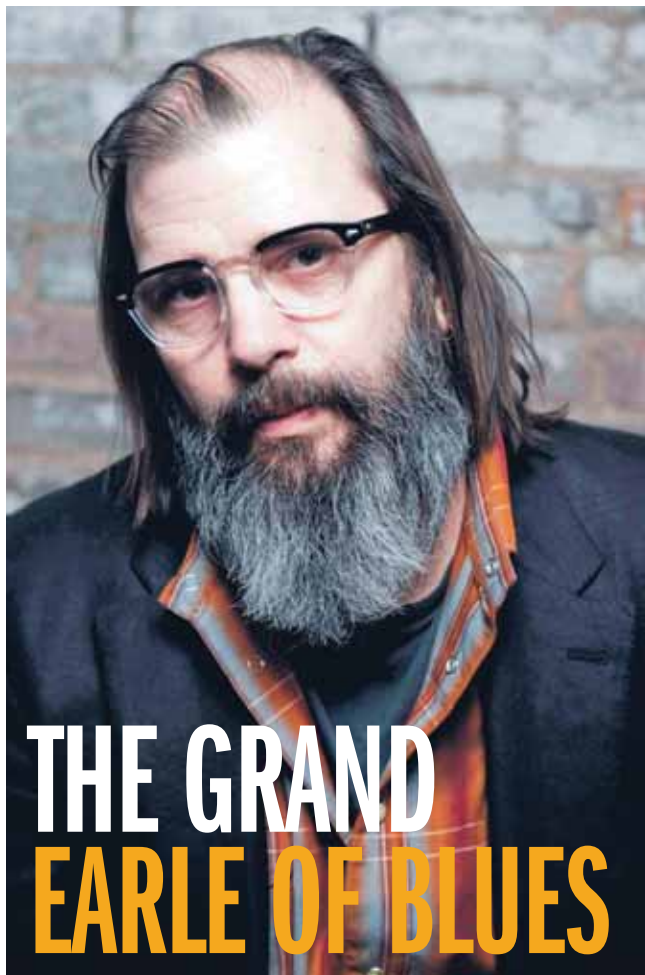
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THE GRAND EARLE OF BLUES

STEVE EARLE HAS HAD A BIG LIFE AND HAS OFTEN FOUND HIS WAY ONTO THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS OF CONTROVERSY, SOMETIMES ON HIS OWN PATH AND SOMETIMES WHERE HE CROSSED THE PATH OF OTHERS... INTREPID REPORTER EVE JEFFERY SPOKE WITH EARLE IN THE LEADUP TO HIS PERFORMANCE AT BLUESFEST THIS EASTER.

Where are you and what time is it?

It's 11.15pm in New York City. I was scheduled late because I had to get my little boy [John Henry] to bed first; he'll be up again at six. I've got interviews until 1am then I'll try to catch a few hours until he wakes up. He has autism; he's been at school since two years of age - that's how you treat it. He will be six in April; I'll just barely make it back for his birthday because Byron's late this year and the tour ends in Byron.

You have written a lot about different places in your songs. Where are you living now and is it affecting what you're writing?

Living in New York affects writing in a lot of ways. I made a whole record when I first moved here 11 years ago that was very much about NY, called *Washington Square Serenade*, and I still live in that neighbourhood, Greenwich Village. I love living here. As you get older you need the juice, so I need the input. I don't ride around on the subway with headphones on, 'cause you're missing the songs if you do that. Living in the city like this - there's a reason artists gravitate towards places like this.

Are you still a revolutionary? Do you see any hope for the political process in the US or elsewhere?

I'm a socialist. I'm supporting Bernie Sanders in this election cycle. My politics have been pretty consistent most of my life. I'm kind of a hippy; that's how I came up. I've always said Australians are more like Americans than anyone else I've met when it comes to a lot of things, but you have to go to some pretty scary places to find anything to the right of where our extreme right is in this country! It's kind of crazy.

Any thoughts about Donald Trump?

He's dangerous and people assumed he would stop, and couldn't get elected, but he wouldn't be the first idiot we ever elected president of the United States. I don't think he's as smart as people make him out to be, and he's certainly not as smart as he makes himself out to be. My understanding from people around NY is that he's taken a family fortune he inherited, and that original fortune is half of what it was. He's a good plate-spinner. None of these hotels with his name on belong to him any more. He

gets into them, puts his name on them and he gets out of them. His reality television salary is where most of his money comes from; he's making a lot doing that, and he's going to be making even more after this cycle's over, however the election turns out.

You've written about Woody Guthrie and worked with Joan Baez - your songs were sung at the Bentley Blockade, you've campaigned against the death penalty - how do you see the role of music in activism these days?

The Revolution Starts Now is played at nearly every Bernie Sanders rally. I'm very proud of that. I've had people come up to me and tell me. I've written three songs about the death penalty and that was my major area of activism for a long time; I'm still active to some degree in that movement. I've concentrated more on the wars that we've been involved in, and I have a personal dog in a fight, in that I've got a son with autism, so I do a lot of work around that issue, around funding for kids, 'cause it's one in 90 kids that are being born today.

'Treating them is expensive. It takes really intensive therapy that needs to begin immediately. Some of them are brilliant kids. What we're in danger of is the cure for cancer or the answer to climate change or the answer to peace in the Middle East in Jerusalem is being locked up inside one of these kids. It doesn't have anything to do with intelligence, it's about us missing the future, so it's a pretty important issue and I work on that.

But I think songs are a big part of that. You can use them to raise money, you can use them to raise awareness, and I've done both. I've had three or four people come up to me over the years and say, 'Hey, I heard one of your songs and it changed my mind about the death penalty,' and that's a big deal when somebody tells you something like that, because it's a very divisive issue that people feel very strongly about. So that makes my job seem worth it.

What is it you like about Bluesfest that brings you back for more?

It's in Byron, which is my favourite beach in the world. Every dog has a bandanna round its neck and a frisbee in its mouth. It's my kind of place! It's all music that I love, and the way

Byron's set up... When it was at the football club it was great and out at the plantation it's even better, less mud and a little more controlled. You can get from one stage to another. I've had some of my best experiences at Byron. At the Byron before last, I rode back into town with John Paul Jones and Donovan in the same van, and got them talking about those records, because JP was on all of those records, so that was a trip! I wouldn't let that opportunity get away. It was incredible.

Who are you looking forward to seeing play at Easter?

Jackson Browne is coming! The last time Jackson was there I was there too. We had a pretty cool set; I sat in with him on his show.

Jackson came and did my benefit, which was the first annual benefit for John Henry's school, called John Henry's Friends, that we do here in New York City. He came in, along with Justin my son, and the Mastersons. So we're looking forward to that.

We see your son Justin touring out here regularly and he was at Bluesfest last year. Do you have any thoughts about his career or his recent work such as *Absent Fathers*?

It's a really really good record. It's a title people read a lot into. I was there a lot more than a lot of dads are, and his mother has never been a single mother. She's always been with somebody, as far as I know.

Do you still feel like Townes Van Zandt is influencing your life and work?

Yeah, he's still the centre of the group. I belong to a cult with Townes Van Zandt at its centre (laughs). I and a lot of other people. Guy (Clark), Lucinda Williams, and I - we're all members of a cult.

You've taught songwriting - have you got any tips to share?

Yeah, keep your ears open and don't wear headphones when you're on the subway!

Byron Blues Festival - Thursday 24 March - Monday 28 March. For ticket and program info go to bluesfest.com.au.

READ THE FULL INTERVIEW AT echo.net.au/the-grand-earle-of-blues



LIVE MUSIC

THE MUSIC OF THE MACHINE

2015 Americana Music Association Lifetime Achievement for Songwriting award winners

Gillian Welch and David Rawlings have made their long-awaited return to Australia with two very special shows at the Bangalow A&I Hall this weekend. 'We are very excited, once again, to be bringing our songs and ourselves,

and a few of our good friends, all the way from Tennessee to the land of Australia way down under. We will be driving the wild back roads from Perth to Melbourne, Sydney to Brisbane... come out and say howdy when we roll in

to town!' - Gillian Welch & David Rawlings. The dynamic duo were last here a long 11 years ago in 2004. No-one had quite expected the sublime beauty and simple complexity of their voices and instruments in their live shows. From the grandiose Forum Theatre in Melbourne to the tiny Meeniyann Town Hall, they slayed 'em all in shows. Dave Rawlings Machine play in support of the

recently released and critically acclaimed album *Nashville Obsolete*, which features seven original compositions written by Gillian Welch and Dave Rawlings. The Machine live band will feature Dave and Gillian, as well as Willie Watson, Punch Brother Paul Kowert and incredible fiddler Brittany Haas.

Nashville Obsolete marks the seventh studio album on which Welch and Rawlings have collaborated together over a two-decade-long creative partnership. In 2015 *The Music* referred to them as the 'Americana dream team' and you'd be hard pressed to find anyone who would disagree. They constantly moved the musical goalposts with the same brilliant results. As *Fasterlouder* recently said about *Nashville Obsolete*: 'It's possibly the recording career high point for Rawlings and company'.

The night Gillian and David were awarded the 2015 Americana Music Association Lifetime Achievement Awards for Songwriting, Robyn Hitchcock gave a speech that succinctly and brilliantly summed up this writing tour de force: 'Like a jewel they have many facets. They may appear as an old-time Appalachian pair stood by a wooden wagon. Or as 90s indie rockers, finding the essence of a Radiohead song. Or they may strike you as a jam band.'

Bangalow A&I Hall
Saturday (SOLD OUT) and Sunday at 6.30pm. Tickets at redsquaremusic.com.au.



DAVE RAWLINGS & GILLIAN WELCH ARE THE DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE AT THE BANGALOW A&I HALL ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

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AMERICANA AT THE RAILS

Released in June 2015 to a wave of critical acclaim, James Thomson's second album *Cold Moon* wowed multiple national publications and has been heralded as one of the finest Americana albums of recent years. **James Thomson** is joined by The Strange Pilgrims, with Craig Rattray on bass and Tim Burns (ex-Perry Keyes) on drums.

The Highway Nights tour will take the band to new cities and towns along the east coast from Brisbane to Melbourne, kicking off on Friday and Sunday at the Rails.



Stars with Lilith

This week welcomes in the eastern New Year of the quick-witted, progressive Fire Monkey: traditionally believed to be a bumper year for inventions, communications and problem solving...

- ♈
- ♉
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ARIES: This year's speed and spontaneous innovations will definitely delight the original, individual spirit of Tribe Aries. But you wear your heart on your sleeve and Monkey's tricky and cunning. *Best strategies: Be a little cagey, not quite so trusting. Take off the rose-coloured glasses. Assess people and situations realistically.*

TAURUS: In a Monkey year everybody wants novelty, will be less interested in tried-and-true, safe-and-sure, time-tested, Tauran-approved methods. So imitate the agile, versatile Monkey who doesn't give up easily, experiments with every angle, won't just take no for an answer. *Best strategy: Try anything, at least once.*

GEMINI: Geminian skills and expertise work well in the clever, proficient, crafty and charming year of the chimp. During which you'll be tempted to cut corners, maybe turn a blind eye... *Best strategies: Don't mix monkey business with money business. It's not the game but the way you play it, remember?*

CANCER: The coming twelve months could be a wild rollercoaster ride in business and the heart department for the Crab clan, because who can trust artful dodger Monkey? *Best strategy: Using your lunar humour will give you a competitive edge, because others love being amused and entertained in a Monkey year.*

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- ♏

LEO: An effervescent year of stimulating showbiz activity, with many invitations to excess. Like fellow fire signs Aries and Sagittarius, your majesties have large, open hearts, but the year of the simian can be sly, mischievous and slippery. *Best strategies: Infiltrate rather than dominate. Don't be fooled by flattery – the easiest way to be manipulated.*

VIRGO: The cast of the Monkey year features unscrupulous opportunists, ruthless self-interest, alluring rogues and altogether too much monkey business for Virgo purists. On the upside, entertaining Monkey does love fun and frolics. *Best strategy: When dealing with tricksters, remember any situation can be turned to your advantage. Enjoy the gameplay.*

LIBRA: The numero uno party animal, Monkey's year is ferociously social. And will probably frequently offend your sense of what's fair. Don't expect loyalty where hidden agendas are operating. *Best strategy: Just be your Libran self, as in keeping things light and delightful, agreeing to everything then doing exactly as you please.*

SCORPIO: The year of double-dealing master-manipulator Monkey is one of bluff – and being a Scorpio, you're a cool player. But you'll need to be totally honest, at least with yourself. *Best strategy: Make sure your left hand knows what your right one's up to, or you could end up outsmarting yourself.*

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SAGITTARIUS: Breezy, humorous, mercurial, optimistic Monkey is also shrewd and unscrupulous, which doesn't favour your straightforward Sagittarian approach. A year to look before you leap and think before you speak, but it's still a ton of fun. *Best strategies: Forget letting everybody know your business. Be diplomatic, discreet, street smart.*

CAPRICORN: Don't expect to be taken seriously this year, because jokester Monkey just loves to pull the Goat's tail. While you're far too smart to fall for its wiles, you could do worse than surrender to its smiles. *Best strategies: If it's not fun, don't do it. If you must do it, make it fun.*

AQUARIUS: Got a problem? Watch resourceful Monkey invent a solution. This year offers no shortage of unconventional enterprises and ingenious innovations, with original money-making ideas likely to take off, and how Aquarian is that? *Best strategy: With the brain in overdrive, don't neglect letting your heart have its say.*

PISCES: The year of the multi-faceted Monkey brings shifting sands and alternating affections: a rich mix of brilliant ideas, irresistible temptations, irrepressible rascals, risky business deals and steep learning curves. *Best strategy: Make friends with your own shadow, because you're about to meet many aspects and reflections of it.*



JAMES THOMSON AT THE RAILS ON FRIDAY AND SUNDAY

BIG BYRON BOWLO OF JAZZ AND DUCK

Based in Sydney, the Galapagos Duck was an integral part of the foundation and success of jazz club The Basement. The band performed in the club continuously for 16 years, during which The Basement became known as one of the greatest jazz clubs in Australia and the world.

The 'Duck' also toured extensively all throughout Australia visiting the Capital cities on many occasions and performing frequently in country areas including the remote areas of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.



GALAPAGOS DUCK AT THE BYRON BOWLING CLUB ON WEDNESDAY

International performances at Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, Jazz Yatra Festival in Bombay (Mumbai), Musexpo in USA and more. Aside from festivals there have been extremely successful performances in England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Belgium, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.

Galapagos Duck make one very special appearance at the **Byron Bowling Club** on **Wednesday 17 February** at 7pm. Tix \$15 – 6685 6202.

MEN BEHAVING BRADLEY ON VALENTINES DAY

Popular Byron Bay musical entertainer **Jon J Bradley** delivers live, energetic music from retro-rock classics to more recent radio hits. Jon's earthy acoustic renditions exhibit strong, versatile vocals with warm harmonica and rhythmic guitar. This multitalented 'one-man-band' also DJs between his sets and often likes to encourage audience participation in his shows. Catch him at **Club Lennox** this **Sunday** for Valentines Day at 4pm.

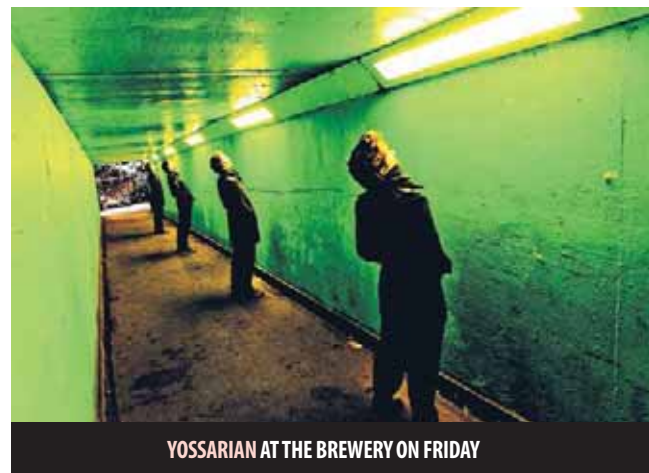
JEZ GOES THE GOLDEN MILE AT THE BOLT HOLE

After many years touring as a solo artist, **Jez Mead** has formed an evocative instrumental

3-piece. The Golden Mile creates a cinematic and psychedelic soundtrack of the wide open road and this country's landscape using haunting trumpet, guitar and a driving rhythm section. The Golden Mile are in residence at The Bolt Hole, Byron Bay, four Sundays in a row, starting this Sunday at 6pm. The Bolt Hole is a dimly lit refuge from Byron Bay's sun-dazed, crowded streets. Entering via a vintage church door, visitors will find themselves in a cosy vintage haven, with references to hunting, steam trains and nautical escapades. The Bolt Hole boasts American smokehouse barbecue and a killer selection of 69 whiskies, 40 gins, craft cocktails, organic wines and canned beers from all over the world. As part of The Golden Mile's residency, **The Bolt Hole** will be launching **Smokehouse Sundays** with \$5 Young Henrys Tinnies, \$10 Craft Cocktails, \$5 Barbecue Sliders and Smokehouse Barbecue Platters. Get there early. (9 Fletcher St Byron)

MEET THE ELLIOTTS

The **Elliotts** are a Melbourne-based indie rock three-piece founded by songwriter, lead singer, and guitarist Robbie Elliott. The lineup includes bassist James Howlett and drummer Josh Thompson. Robbie Elliott met James Howlett at a gig in 2011. Uniting under a love of harmonies, they honed their



YOSSARIAN AT THE BREWERY ON FRIDAY

craft; collaborating with music producer Pete Dacy (Taxiride, The Androids, Superjesus) and artists such as Brian Canham (Pseudo Echo). Early 2013 saw the lineup completed with the addition of Josh Thompson. The Elliotts are currently recording their debut EP. Find out what all the fuss is about this **Thursday** at the **Rails**.

YES FOR YOSSARIAN

London-based post-art alt-rock outfit **Yossarian** have announced details of their second studio album *Light Up My Head*, released in Australia in January.

The album was crowdfunded by fans in 38 countries from Mexico to Japan and recorded in London and at producer Tom Peter's studio in Bury St Edmunds.

Post-art-rock band Yossarian are a difficult bunch to pin down.

Their lyrics are dark, melancholic and ambiguous, drifting between themes of meaningless mortality and universal human dreams and nightmares. The vocals are dealt out starkly over an ever-changing landscape that shifts between ethereal soundscapes, building accelerating guitars and orchestral layers that resemble the musical love-child of Elbow and The National. **Friday** at the **Byron Brewery** from 8pm. Free entry.



THE MILD-MANNERED TEX PERKINS PUTTING THE LOON BACK INTO CROON AT THE BANGALOW HOTEL ON THURSDAY.

FEELING PERKY?

A few months ago one of our most impressive singer/songwriters, **Mr Tex Perkins**, quietly made his way to the stage for a modest gig at the Bangalow Hotel. It was one of those gigs that music lovers hanker for – when a big-name artist plays their local pub. Don't miss the opportunity to catch Mr Perkins once more when he plays the **Bangalow Hotel** this **Thursday**.

CULTURE



LANDSCAPES BY STEFAN SMITH, PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT LONE GOAT GALLERY OPENS FRIDAY AND ON SHOW UNTIL 2 MARCH

LOVING THE LANDSCAPE

Stefan Smith's photographic vistas are informed by more than 20 years of experience as a practising visual artist, and showcase the natural beauty of the Byron Shire and beyond. In this exhibition Stefan creatively explores and interprets the Australian landscape. You can see his sometimes bold use of colour – as shown in his sunsets – to the subtle hues of the more gentle skies and sand dunes, all creating

an effect for the viewer to want to be in there among it. This artistic photographic approach occupies territory that could be associated with contemporary painting.

Landscapes by Stefan Smith opens at the **Lone Goat Gallery** in **Byron** on **Friday** at 6pm and is on show until 2 March.

FEDERAL LOVES WOMEN LIKE US

Comedians **Mandy Nolan** and **Ellen Briggs** bring their two-hour blast of comedic revelry with their show *Women Like Us* to **Federal Hall** on **Saturday 5 March**. This will be just a few days after their return from the Adelaide Fringe Festival. The girls have been attracting full houses, causing one promoter to query? What is it about this show that is bringing in the audiences. After

pondering it for a while it occurred to Mandy Nolan that *Women Like Us* is a show about middle-aged women. 'We're nothing like our mothers. When women hit 30 they don't disappear any more. We're becoming louder and crankier than ever. We've got attitude. We have a lot to say. And you know what? The market is generally youth and male dominated – so in a way the voice of ordinary middle-aged mums who've let themselves go is bizarrely unique!' The event will also feature home-cooked food and bar by Federal Loves Refugees. Tickets: \$25 presale or \$30 at the door if any left.

To find out more or to purchase tickets go to **www.womenlikeus.com.au**. Delicious home-cooked meal by Federal Loves Refugees. Licensed bar. (General admission seating). Doors open from 7pm with show at 8pm. Enquiries to 6619 0529.



Love is in the airwaves

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ARTS



A Blessed Moment Hannah Massey
Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG), Ballina



Intro #3 (Soundscape Triptych) Steve Waller
Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG), Ballina

Antoinette as a metaphor for feminine history and identity.

Imbi Davidson showcases a new collection of paintings in her solo exhibition *The Palisades: Stories of the Mountain* exploring a mythopoetic landscape of geometric landscape contours juxtaposed with wild, emotional skies.

Steve Waller in his ambitious solo exhibition *Symphonize* shows a series of drawings that synthesise an historical and contemporary visual language between abstraction and representation.

Enquiries ph: 6681 6167 www.nrcgballina.com.au

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY AND MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

Wednesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm

The Archibald Prize 2015 – until Sunday 28 February. An Art Gallery of NSW touring exhibition will be open to the public for the month of February at the Gallery. Don't miss your chance to vote for the People's Choice award.

Luscious by Gatyia Kelly until Sunday 28 February is a collection of new chiaroscuro still-life paintings that explore our sensual responses to succulent visual imagery. The scale of objects is exaggerated to reflect Kelly's personal, minutely observed viewpoint. Petals and seeds are magnified to reveal their jewel-like qualities.

The Olley Gallery only will be closed to the public on February 10, 11 and 12 for rehangings.

artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

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POETRY AND MUSIC IN BALLINA

On show for one more week at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG), Ballina, are a group of exhibitions not to be missed.

Belles - Lettres by Hannah Massey and Nathalie Verdejo is collaborative exhibition of mixed-media works exploring the dialogue between image, form and word using poetics as an artistic medium.

Bluestocking by Amanda Bromfield presents decorative sculptural pieces referencing the Rococo style of the French court of King Louis and Marie



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CURRENT EXHIBITIONS - LAST WEEK

20 January - 14 February 2016

THE PALISADES
Imbi Davidson



Image: I. Davidson, *Of Old Souls*

BELLES - LETTRES
H. Massey & N. Verdejo



Image: Steve Waller, *Erwin Olaf (detail)*

BLUESTOCKING
Amanda Bromfield



Image: A. Bromfield, *Social Respectability*

SYMPHONIZE
Steve Waller



Image: H. Massey, *A Hero's Journey*

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

17 February - 13 March 2016

launch event Thu 18 February 5.30pm - 7.30pm

SIXTH ANNUAL GRACE CRUICE MEMORIAL EXHIBITION
Ballina Arts and Craft Club Inc. - BACCI



Image: Deb McFarlane, *Julian Rocks (waving)*



Image: J. Hoffmann, *Flanders Poppies*



Image: M. Davis, *The Smoking Room*

Wherefore Art Thou? ART GALLERIES

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7/1 Wilfred St, Billinudgel
p 6680 3444
www.billinudgelpictureframing.com.au

BSA PROJECT SPACE

Studal Lane, Mullumbimby
m 0431 034 892
www.byronschoolofart.com/project-space

GEORGIE MADDOX STUDIO

5 Wollongbar St,
Byron Bay A&I Estate
By appointment m 0417 866 983
www.georgiemaddoxart.com

HAMMER & HAND JEWELLERY & METAL COLLECTIVE

4 Ti-Tree Place, A&I Est. 7 days
10am till 4pm m 0409 960 614
hammerandhand.com.au

JULES HUNT STUDIO GALLERY

2/10 Brigantine St,
Byron Bay A&I Est.
m 0408 766 546
www.juleshunt.com

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28 Lawson St, Byron Bay
m 0409 004 542
www.lonegoatgallery.com

NOEL HART STUDIO GALLERY

1/8 Smith St, Mullumbimby
Industrial Estate, Mullumbimby
Ph: 0417 042 951
www.noelhart.com

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

Cnr Cherry & Crane St, Ballina.
Open Wed-Fri 10am-4pm
Sat/Sun 9.30am-2.30pm
www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/nrcg

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224 Stokers Rd, Stokers Siding
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m 0407 417 169
www.stokerssidingartgallery.com.au

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300 Mafeking Rd, Goonengerry
p 6684 9194
www.suviramcdonald.com

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY AND MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

2 Mistral Rd, South Murwillumbah
Open Wed-Sun 10am-5pm
02 6670 2790
artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

ARTS



Magnolia Vanitas 2015 Gaty Kelly
Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre

DEBORAH KELLY: NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL (IN ALL OUR GLORY)

6 February – 2 April 2016

An epic life-sized portrait project, initially commissioned for the 19th Biennale of Sydney (2014). The 20 photographic portraits have evolved into intriguing collage works through the collaborative creativity of teams of public participants over the course of many months.

A MAMA exhibition toured by Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project was created for the 19th Biennale of Sydney (2014) with the assistance of the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. The Artist or Curator Residency program is supported by the Copyright Agency Limited's Cultural Fund.

Also showing – Hilary Herrmann: *The Voyage*
Lismore Regional Gallery 6622 2209

LUME GALLERY OF FUNCTION ART OPENS ON FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Where form meets function

Lume Gallery is a functional art space that incorporates gallery and artist studios. Our focus is on unique and individual pieces that inspire awe and serve a practical life purpose.

Join us at the opening for food from the Figtree Restaurant and music from acclaimed violinist Cye Wood's project Cave in the Sky.

The landmark site has served as a working artist studio/gallery since 1982 when Colin Heaney operated his renowned glassblowing studio.

This new incarnation sees the gallery renovated to house a dynamic collective of artists producing aesthetic objects that serve utilitarian purposes. Our works range from lighting to leather accessories and jewellery, ceramics, glass art, furniture and homewares.

6 Acacia Street, Arts & Industry Estate, Byron Bay
www.lumegallery.com.au
info@lumegallery.com.au
6685 7044

artist IN FOCUS Noel Hart

The last few months for Mullumbimby artist Noel Hart have been rather busy with participation in exhibitions in Chicago and Los Angeles, and with up-coming showings in Melbourne and New York. On the local front, Noel has recently completed a suite of paintings and a glass installation at the new Elements of Byron Resort, in Byron Bay, which illustrate the breadth and diversity of his artistic focus.

You are welcome to visit his studio/gallery in the Mullumbimby Industrial Estate which can be a rewarding experience. We recommend you call **first just to make sure he is there; as most of the time he is.**

Ph: 0417 042 951.

1/8 Smith St, Mullumbimby Industrial Estate
Mullumbimby. www.noelhart.com.



The Wetlands Noel Hart

LUME Gallery

AESTHETIC OBJECTS SERVING UTILITARIAN PURPOSES

GRAND OPENING
26TH FEB 5-8PM

HOLLOWAY JESSE BYRNE AARON JAMES
MATTHEW FARRELL MELISSA LELLOUCHE
RAFFAEL LOHMANN TRISTAN SHELLEY
THE SQUEAKING TRIBE BRUCE PRINGLE
PJM ARTISAN DEHORA HELEN LUNA

6 ACACIA STREET, BYRON BAY 02 6685 7044

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

Deborah Kelly
No Human Being Is Illegal (in all our glory)
6 February – 2 April 2016

MAMA Museums & Galleries of NSW
CULTURAL FUND
biennaleofsydney

Image: Deborah Kelly & collaborators, Ramesh Mario Nilayendran from *No Human Being Is Illegal (in all our glory)* (detail), 2014, pigment ink print on Hahnemühle papers bonded to aluminium, with collage from books and found materials, glue and UV protective varnishes, 200 x 100 cm. Courtesy the artist. Portrait Photographer: Sebastian Krüger. Created for the 19th Biennale of Sydney (2014).

lismoregallery.org :: www.facebook.com/LismoreRegionalGallery
02 6622 2209 :: art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au

ARCHIBALD PRIZE

15 JANUARY - 28 FEBRUARY 2016

DAILY ENTRY TICKETS:

\$10 adult	\$8 concession or child 5-17 years
\$7 Gallery Friend or Foundation member	\$26 family (2 adults + up to 3 children) Free - children under 5 years

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE | MURWILLUMBAH

ART GALLERY NSW
Principal Sponsor ANZ
An Art Gallery of New South Wales touring exhibition

10am – 5pm (DST) Wed – Sun
2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah
P: 02 6670 2790
W: artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

←... CONTINUED FROM p31

Blues zealots have questioned some of the lineup, in particular the inclusion of Tom Jones.

'He is a great singer,' says Noble. 'People say - Sir Tom Jones, why

did you book that guy? He's a Las Vegas guy! But his last albums have been rock and soul and blues!'

This year also sees Boomerang programming included within the greater event of Bluesfest.

'Boomerang would like to be a standalone event. Rhoda Roberts

wrote 92 submissions to corporate sponsors and arts grants last year. It's like a maze; you go into the maze, but pretty soon you realise there is no cheese. I believe a number of those reconciliation action programs are all about

trying to look good, but they have little or no intention of awarding any money - each one of those applications takes many hours of doing. It is a lot of work. Some investigative journalist should find out just who actually awards any

grant money! As he has just returned from putting some final touches on his Bali villa, I ask Peter if he has any intention of retiring.

'As soon as I get tired of it I will

retire. But right now I am enjoying it more than ever!'

The **27th Byron Bluesfest** runs **Thursday 24 till Monday 28 March**. Tickets and program information at bluesfest.com.au.

CINEMA REVIEWS

BY JOHN CAMPBELL

federal films
FAR FROM MEN
Federal Hall Sat 13th Feb
Dinner from 6.30pm Movie starts at 8pm
www.federalfilmsociety.com or ph.66849313



CRITICS' CHOICE

Bringing quality films to the Lismore area!



CAROL (M)
11 FEBRUARY

An aspiring photographer develops an intimate relationship with an older woman.



BROOKLYN (M)
18 FEBRUARY

An Irish immigrant lands in 1950s Brooklyn, where she quickly falls into a romance with a local. When her past catches up with her, however, she must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within.



THE BIG SHORT (M)
25 FEBRUARY

Four denizens of the world of high-finance predict the credit and housing bubble collapse of the mid-2000s, and decide to take on the big banks for their greed and lack of foresight.



HAIL CAESAR! (M)
3 MARCH

A Hollywood fixer in the 1950s works to keep the studio's stars in line.



LADY IN THE VAN (M)
10 MARCH

A man forms an unexpected bond with a transient woman living in her car that's parked in his driveway.

bcc CINEMAS

birch.com.au



DIRTY GRANDPA

At 72, Robert De Niro can be seen as a man unwilling to meekly allow his date of birth to determine his pursuits. A lot of people have a sense of identity that is inextricably linked with their life's work and, in the case of actors, there is also the possibility that they are seduced into believing they are the character they're playing. I can think of no other reason that De Niro, who surely can't need the money, would be involved in a movie as abysmal as this. For a man of such stature it is undignified - the best thing about it was the air-con in the cinema.

Recently widowed, Dick Kelly (De Niro) embarks on a road trip to Florida with his soon-to-be-wedded grandson, Jason (Zac Efron - who might never be taken seriously). After forty years of being faithful to his wife, Dick (the name gives you some idea of the witless nature of the script) is as horny as anything - he'd root a rattlesnake if he could hold it still long enough.

They meet a couple of girls on the way, one of whom takes a shine to Dick while the other hits it off with Jason during a series of misadventures with a screwball dope dealer, a pair of bent yokel cops and a crew of bad-ass n----- ('You can say *nigger* when we let you').

If you're unable to figure that Jason will renege on the stifling marriage that awaits him in favour of the sweetie who has won his heart... well, I guess you don't get out to the flicks much. The dialogue is heavily sprayed with the f-word (barely a sentence is uttered without it) along with countless references to vaginas and penises.

Above all, it raises the question: Why are we so outraged by a two-minute video of a footballer acting like an imbecile but happy to have ninety minutes of similar behaviour screened three times daily in theatres everywhere? It's juvenile, brain-dead and ugly.



SISTERS

Amy Poehler and Tina Fey first came together in *Baby Mama* (2008), a funny, intelligent movie about the difficult life choices that women are corralled into making when motherhood and career are in conflict. Their comic skills complemented each other beautifully, to the extent that in this their roles are seamlessly interchanged; Angie (Poehler) is the staid, daggy one, whereas her sister Kate (Fey) is an out-there gal with a long history of lascivious deeds.

For Angie, who has never had things go her way, and Kate, bringing up a teenage, resentful daughter on her own, there has always been the fall-back of home and hearth in Orlando (Fla). When their parents (James Brolin and Dianne Wiest) decide to sell the property, Angie and Kate are outraged - to them it symbolises the loss of their youth. Suddenly - and uncomfortably - aware of entering their forties, the girls decide to throw one last party in the house before the deal is sealed with a pair of trendoids from New York.

It is the party that is the centrepiece of the film and, as you'd expect, as many gags fly as hit the ground with a thud. One of the things that you can't help respecting about it, however, is the straightforward acknowledgement that grown-ups from all walks of life take drugs.

Director Jason Moore (whose ebullient style was evident in 2012's *Pitch Perfect*) does not encourage substance abuse, but neither does he pretend that, contrary to the two-faced deniers in the domain of media commentary, it is not an everyday thing. Inevitably, the humour gets broader as the party goes off the rails - Angie's squeeze, James, falls off a bed and has a ballerina music box inserted up his bum.

If the idea of Angie pulling it out as Beethoven tinkles away appeals - I laughed like a billygoat - then this is for you. It's hardly subtle, but it's not a total gross-out either, and the ending is as twee as you always knew it would be.

Every Wednesday All Seats All Sessions \$9.50 Only
Admission Prices:
Adults - \$14.00
Stud / Concs - \$12.00
Senior - \$11.00
Children - \$10.00
A \$2 surcharge applies to all 3D screenings. Additional \$1 fee for 3D glasses.

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS
Corner Kerr & Fox Streets
THURSDAY 11TH TO WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

MovieLine: (02) 66869091
Administration: (02) 66869600
Fax: (02) 66814558
Website: www.ballina.info/cinema
www.yourmovies.com.au

DEADPOOL THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 1.35PM 5.35PM 7.20PM 9.20PM	ZOO LANDER 2 THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 11.40AM 3.35PM 7.35PM 9.30PM	CAROL THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 9.55AM 5.10PM	SPOTLIGHT THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 11.55AM 7.05PM	THE BIG SHORT THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 2.50PM
DIRTY GRANDPA THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 2.15PM 9.25PM	SUFFRAGETTE THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 9.45AM	THE REVENANT THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 12.05PM	THE DANISH GIRL THUR 11TH TO WED 17TH 9.45AM	GOOSEBUMPS SATURDAY SUNDAY 9.45AM

NEXT THURSDAY: HOW TO BE SINGLE

pig House flicks
cool & fun @ 1 skimmers shoot rd, byron bay in the brewery complex
www.pighthouseflicks.com.au - Movie Hotline > 6685 5828

BYRON BAY LOUNGE CINEMA

Wednesday Feb 10 - Final	Sunday Feb 14
Rebellious Flower 1:00pm	Youth 12:30pm
Youth 3:15pm	The Revenant 2:45pm
The Revenant 5:30pm	Carol 5:45pm
Point Break 8:30pm	Suffragette 8:00pm
Thursday Feb 11 - NEW	Monday Feb 15
Suffragette 1:15pm	Rebellious Flower 1:30pm
Rebellious Flower 3:30pm	Carol 3:45pm
Carol 5:40pm	Tanna 6:00pm
The Revenant 8:00pm	The Revenant 8:00pm
Friday Feb 12	Tuesday Feb 16
Rebellious Flower 1:00pm	Carol 1:00pm
Carol 3:10pm	Rebellious Flower 3:15pm
The Revenant 5:30pm	The Revenant 5:30pm
Youth 8:30pm	Point Break 8:30pm
Saturday Feb 13	Wednesday Feb 17 - Encore
Suffragette 11:45am	The Revenant 1:00pm
Carol 2:00pm	Suffragette - FINAL 4:00pm
Life Off Grid 4:20pm	Carol 6:15pm
Tanna 6:00pm	Rock The Kasbah 8:30pm
The Revenant 8:00pm	

gig guide

p: 6684 1777 f: 6684 1719 e: gigs@echo.net.au
w: echo.net.au/gig-guide

THURSDAY 11

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **THE SWAMPS**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **THE ELLIOTT'S**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8.30PM **NCEIA DOLPHIN MUSIC AWARDS SHOWCASE**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **KATE MILLER-HEIDKE**
- BYRON FRESH 7PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- STICKY WICKET, BYRON 9PM **JOCK BARNES**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJ NERY**
- MASONIC CENTRE, BYRON 1PM **BYRON SOPHIA: EVOLUTION WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 7.30PM **JESSE MORRIS BAND**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7.30PM **TEX PERKINS & MURRAY PATTERSON**
- BANGALOW BOWLING CLUB 7PM **ROCK'N'ROLL DANCING**
- ITALO CLUB, LISMORE 8PM **VAGINA MONOLOGUES**
- KINGSCLIFF BOWLING CLUB 7.30PM **KINGY COMEDY WITH FRED LANG, ANDY THOMPSON & MANDY NOLAN**

EXHIBITION OPENING

- GINGER PIG, BYRON 8PM **GROOVE DJ**
- STICKY WICKET, BYRON 9PM **OOZ**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 9PM **THE HIGH ROLLERS**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 7.30PM **COLLINGWOOD CASANOVAS**
- SUN BISTRO, SUNRISE **ROD MURRAY DUO**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7.30PM **STEVEN BRANDON**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 7PM **WANDERING EYES DUO**
- MULLUMBIMBY FARMERS MARKET 8AM **MARK HEAZLETT**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8.30PM **GUEST DJ**
- TINTENBAR HALL 7.30PM **TINTENBAR UP FRONT**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BALLINA RSL 9PM **BONDI CIGARS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **BILL JACOBI**
- ITALO CLUB, LISMORE 8PM **VAGINA MONOLOGUES**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH 7.30PM **CAVO & PIGEON BOY**
- NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE 7.30PM **THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- CABARITA BEACH BOWLS CLUB **SWEET MIXJAH**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 8PM **MAXI PRIEST**
- CAFE DBAH, COOLANGATTA 5.30PM **JAX HAZE**
- COOLANGATTA SANDS HOTEL 8.30PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- CURRUMBIN CREEK TAVERN 8PM **CROWN THE HUMBLE, THE ELLIOTT'S, DOGTAGS, INDIGO PARADE**

FRIDAY 12

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **DROP LEGS**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **JAMES THOMSON & THE STRANGE PILGRIMS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 5PM **GARRETT KATO 9PM THE FUNK HUNTERS**
- BYRON BREWERY 7PM **YOSSARIAN**
- BYRON FRESH 7PM **MARK RIDOUT**
- LONE GOAT GALLERY, BYRON 6PM **STEFAN SMITH'S**

SATURDAY 13

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **THE DELICATES**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **THE STAINED DAISIES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 9PM **DJ DISCROW**
- BYRON ARTISAN MARKET 4PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BYRON BREWERY 8PM **FERGO & THE BURDEN**
- BYRON FRESH 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **LATIN LIVE**
- YACROCKCAFE, BYRON 9PM **LIVE MUSIC**
- MISS MARGUARITA, BYRON 10.30PM **DJ CHRIS BRADLEY**
- STICKY WICKET, BYRON 9PM **THE WEATHERMEN DUO**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJ ADRIAN BRANDELLO**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 7.30PM **STEELE MCMAHON BAND**
- PIZZA PARADISO, SUFFOLK PARK 7PM **JAEDON OGSTON**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7.30PM **BILL JACOBI**
- BANGALOW A&I HALL 8PM **DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 7PM **SUPERCHEESE DUO**
- LULU'S, MULLUMBIMBY 11AM **DALI**
- MULLUMBIMBY LEAGUES CLUB 3PM **FAT ALBERT**
- BALLINA RSL BOWLING CLUB 5.30PM **BEN WILSON**
- BALLINA RSL 7PM **ANDY SUGARCANE COLLINS**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA 7PM **JOCK BARNES**
- GOONELLABAH TAVERN 9PM **TONY FALLON PROJECT**
- ITALO CLUB, LISMORE 8PM

VAGINA MONOLOGUES

- STAR COURT THEATRE, LISMORE **CAT POWER**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE **ROCHELLE LEES BAND**
- CRABBS CREEK HALL 7PM **ABOUT TIME**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD 2PM **TOM AVERY 7PM BLACKBOI**
- CABARITA BEACH BOWLS CLUB **THE DIRTY CHANNEL**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 6PM **KATIE WHO**
- PHOENIX RISING, NIMBIN 1PM **FREOWIN HARPER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 8PM **ADAM BRAND & THE OUTLAWS**
- CAFE DBAR, COOLANGATTA 5.30PM **BELLA MAREE**
- COOLANGATTA SANDS HOTEL 8.30PM **MATT ROGERS**

SUNDAY 14

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **DAN HANNAFORD**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **JAMES THOMSON & THE STRANGE PILGRIMS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 4.30PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK 8PM DJ LONGTIME**
- BYRON MAIN BEACH 7AM **RISE FOR REVOLUTION**
- BYRON BREWERY 3PM **DJS LEOCH, MAGU & MORE**
- BYRON FRESH 7PM **LAZ'S GOOD OL' BLUE**
- BYRON GOLF CLUB 2PM **GREG LYON & THE HIP OPERATION**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **VAGINA CONVERSATIONS FUNDRAISER FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN'S RESCUE SERVICE**
- GINGER PIG, BYRON 3PM **JOSH ARGENT**

- BOLT HOLE, BYRON 5PM **THE GOLDEN MILE**
- CASA BUENA, BYRON 4.30PM **HEART & LOVE SONGS, SACRED SOUNDS**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 2.30PM **DJ EVA J & FRIENDS**
- SUN BISTRO, SUNRISE **HUNTER & SMOKE**
- PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK 5PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- PIZZA PARADISO, SUFFOLK PARK 7PM **SOUL SISTERS**
- BANGALOW A&I HALL 8PM **DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 3PM **SUNDAZE SESSION**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 4PM **THE WEATHERMEN**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 3PM **OPEN MIC JAM WITH JOHN FOG**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- BALLINA RSL 12PM **BRIAN PAMPILON**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA 3PM **SIMON DOE**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 1PM **GUY KACHEL**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH 3PM **JASON KAFOA**
- CHILLINGHAM HOTEL 10AM **ENDLESS FLIGHT**
- PHOENIX RISING, NIMBIN 10AM **SONIC BLISS 1PM CRUISE BROTHERS**
- SPHINX ROCK, MT BURRELL 1PM **THE ROMANIACS**
- RAPPVILLE PUB 12PM **WATLING & BATES**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 2PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- COOLANGATTA SANDS HOTEL 4PM **BANDERAS BAND**
- CURRUMBIN CREEK TAVERN 1PM **BRAD KENNEDY & LUCY TAYLOR**

- 8.30PM **THE HIGH ROLLERS**
- BYRON BREWERY 8PM **4'20' SOUND**
- BYRON FRESH 7PM **JOCK BARNES**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJ OVAL**
- B-SPACE, BALLINA 5PM **JAM NIGHT**

TUESDAY 16

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **MARSHALL O'KELL**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **ANDREW MORRIS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 7.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- BLUE LOTUS, BYRON 7.30PM **DJ DAKINI & MADHU HONEY**
- BYRON BREWERY 7.30PM **MUSICAL BINGO**
- BYRON FRESH 7PM **GARRETT KATO**
- BYRON PUBLIC SCHOOL 7.15PM **NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJ NERY**
- CREATIVE INTUITIVE, BYRON A&I 7PM **HEARTCHANT WITH TARSHITO, NYCK JEANES & FRIENDS**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7.30PM **BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- NEW BRIGHTON FARMERS MARKET 8AM **METTAPHOR**

WEDNESDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **MANOA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8.30PM **KHAN HARRISON**
- BYRON BREWERY 7PM **OPEN MIC**
- BYRON BOWLING CLUB 7PM **GALAPAGOS DUCK**
- BYRON FRESH 7PM **SLIM PICKENS**
- GINGER PIG, BYRON 7PM **OPEN MIC WITH MISS SALI B**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJ ADRIAN BRANDELLO**
- BALLINA HOTEL 6PM **OPEN MIC**

MONDAY 15

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **SCOTT DAY-VEE**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **GREG KEW**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON

CORRECTION

We apologise to the Ballina RSL and to our lovely readers for any inconvenience caused by the incorrect dates for the gigs at the Ballina RSL being printed in last week's *Echo*.

Here is the correct information for the the Absolutely 80s gig:

Absolutely 80s featuring Brian Mannix, Scott Carne & Dale Ryder (18+) is on Friday 4 March 2016. Doors open 7.45pm, show starts 8.30pm

Rest assured, the offending *Echo* drudges have been spanked.

WHAT'S ON @ THE YAC...

<p>BARISTA COURSE Tuesday 16 February – 4–7pm Ages 15–24 – \$50 To book: Stephanie@bys.org.au or 6685 7777</p>	<p>BYRON FLEA MARKET @ THE YAC Saturday 13 February – 8am–1pm Please call Lotte to book a stall. P: 6685 7777 M: 0490 026 840 E: byronflea@gmail.com</p>
<p>SAFE DRIVERS COURSE FOR LEARNERS Weds 9 & 16 March, 4.30–7.30 – \$140 Bookings: www.bys.org.au</p>	<p>HOSPITALITY/EVENTS COURSE Info Session Wednesday 2 March 11am. Course runs from Monday 7 March till 24 May, Mon, Tues & Wed Ages 16–24.</p>

Book the YAC for your next event, conference, program or workshop!
Call Steffie 6685 7777 or email stephanie@bys.org.au

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

WHAT'S ON ★

Kate Miller-Heidke presented by One Louder & The Harbour Agency
Thursday 11 February 7.30pm
Tickets: Full \$53



Latin Live: Valentines Edition
presented by Picante Productions
Saturday 13 February, 7.30pm
Tickets: www.latinlive.com.au



Vagina Conversations A Fundraiser for Women & Children's Rescue Service
presented by Byron Community Centre
Sunday 14 February, 6.30pm - Tickets: \$15



Taste of Love Festival
Exploring Sex, Love & Consciousness
Friday 19 February to Sunday 21 February
Tickets: www.tasteoflove.com.au



Summer Bundjalung Country Aboriginal Arts Exhibition
Opening night: Wednesday 24 February, 6pm
Gallery days: Wed 24 – Fri 26 Feb, 10am–4pm.
Free Event. Cavanbah Room, upstairs



Meeting rooms for hire ★

Workshops, Training,
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Look out AFL, here come the Byron girls!

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

The Byron Magpies Junior AFL Club will field its first all-girls teams this year.

The Club is calling on girls in Byron Bay to join their club and become a part of Australia's fastest-growing female sport.

AFL Northern Rivers began their girls competition in 2015 with four clubs entering the league.

After seeing so many sisters having a kick on the sidelines while their brothers played, the Byron club has decided to field two girls teams this year, in the under-9s and under-13 age groups.

The club welcomes all girls to join and get involved. They believe playing AFL is a great way to get fit, make friends and have fun in a friendly and supported environment. No experience is needed; the majority of girls who played in 2015 had never played before.

U9s will be modified with no tackle (touch only) with up to nine players on a modified field. These rules are the same as those used at Auskick level.

The U13s will be a 15-a-



Junior AFL girls Imogyn, Charlie, Taleeya are very excited about playing AFL for the Byron Magpies this season.

side competition played on a shortened field.

'The modified rules allow for the different elements of the game to be progressively introduced to the girls,' said Molly Kenwood, the AFL Northern Rivers Juniors administrator.

'This will happen at a level

appropriate to their needs and development'

The Club has also expanded its teams for the general competition and are accepting players from under-7s through to under-17s this year.

The Byron Bay Magpies Junior AFL sign-on for all

ages, including under-9 and under-13 girls, is on this Sunday 14 February from 10am at the Cavanbah Centre on Ewingsdale Road.

To register online: www.byronbayjafcregistrationpage.sportingpulse.net and to see the club website, visit: www.byronbayjuniorafl.com.

Who will you vote for?

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) is calling on the nation's sports fans to vote for their favourite athlete and team as part of its annual awards ceremony, the AIS Sport Performance Awards.

A public vote will determine the ABC Sports Personality of the Year and the Destination NSW Team of the Year for 2015, with the winners to be announced at a gala ceremony at Star City in Sydney on 24 February.

The AIS Sport Performance Awards – or ASPAs – are a celebration of the nation's sporting achievements and will see winners crowned in a number of categories including: male athlete; female athlete; para-performance; and emerging athlete of the year.

AIS director Matt Favier said the people's choice awards were a great way to get the nation's fervent sports fans involved in the action.

'It was an extraordinary year for Australian sport in 2015 with so many triumphs in the international arena at world championships and some stunning feats in our

domestic competitions,' he said. 'This year promises to be even more exciting, with many of our athletes focused on the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games.'

Voting has opened and closes 17 February. Last year's public vote sparked a lot of interest, the NRL's South Sydney Rabbitohs and Paralympic champion Kurt Fearnley taking out the Team and Personality categories respectively.

Fearnley was stunned to take out last year's award. 'It was a great honour,' Fearnley said. 'This ASPA award is also an opportunity for the public to vote for an athlete that gives to the community and not just their sport.'

The public will get a chance to vote for one of 10 teams and 15 sporting personalities. This year's ASPAs will also include an award voted on by Australian media – The Best Sporting Moment of 2015.

Sports fans will also get to be part of the action and vote online for their favourite athlete and team at www.aisawards.abc.net.au.

Byron Bay SLSC wins sixth straight Country title

Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club have won their sixth straight NSW Country Title by the narrowest of margins over perennial rivals Cudgen Headland after a pulsating Day Two of competition at the 2016 Stramit NSW Country Surf Life Saving Championships.

The club traded the lead with Cudgen Headland on several occasions throughout the day, but it was their sheer number of entrants in the water events that was enough to get them home.

Coffs Harbour SLSC, Port Macquarie and Sawtell rounded out the top five.

Cudgen Headland club coach Scott McCartney said that that while it was frustrating to get so close to Byron

Bay and not finish with the title he couldn't have been prouder of the efforts of his team.

'It was a great carnival for Team Cudgen as we knew it would be a very close finish. Our 17s and 19s in particular had a huge schedule of racing where they backed up across three age groups to ensure we were picking up the points and placing in almost every race,' McCartney said.

'There was a real display of club spirit with everyone willing to get in and have a go and this was on show through the juniors right through to masters. Hopefully we can all continue to improve and come back next year and go one better.'

Hosts South West Rocks



were extremely happy with their performance, finishing a highly creditable 13th spot.

There was plenty of colour

and history when competition in the traditional march past got underway. In the end it was the Open team from

Wauchope-Bonny Hills who impressed the judges most, claiming gold in their first year in competition.

One of the star performers of the carnival was Sawtell's Tahlia Kollen, who won an outstanding 25 medals over two days across the Under-17, 19 and Open age groups.

NSW Sports manager Rob Pidgeon was delighted with success of the Country Championships.

'Congratulations to Byron Bay for taking out the overall club point score for 2016, and I would like to thank South West Rocks for being fantastic hosts,' Mr Pidgeon said.

'The club coped with everything thrown at them including a number of challenges with the wind and rain but it was clear that everyone enjoyed their time here.'

'We look forward to returning to South West Rocks in 2017 for another fantastic championships.'

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Byron Shire councillors certainly got the thumbs-down at public access last week from the new Community Alliance for Byron Shire (CABS). CABS scorecard on the Council's own Community Charter for Good Planning from 2014 saw the local government body given only a 16 per cent success rate on the issues it had promised to engage the community in. See the scorecard in full at www.echo.net.au/byron-council-scores-epic-fail-on-good-planning-charter. Must do better.

NSW Greens MP Jan Barham has applauded Getaboutable, a website developed in Australia to provide information about accessible tourism for people with a disability: <http://getaboutable.com>. We ran 'Byron Bay' through its search engine and got nothing, so a bit more work needs to be done on promotion.



More work by heavy equipment has been detected on the Lego wall in Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads, above right. Will we soon have our own Brunzaroo to rival Sydney's proposed Barangaroo, above left? Are we ready? Image Jeff 'Sky Scraping' Dawson

An appropriate anthem for the coming climate change? *Sinkin' Soon*, performed by Norah Jones, accompanied by the sensational trombonist J Walter Hawkes and a host of other talented musicians: <http://bit.ly/sinkinsoon>.

The phone scams keep coming: 'These are very clever hacker/scammers who pretend to be Telstra support technicians,' says our source. 'They claim that they have detected hackers using your

ISP address and to prove it they ask you to go online and google validator software, which comes up as a website called www.validator.w3.org. Obviously don't bother; call Fair Trading 13 32 20 instead.

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Examples of the wonders of digital technology: Person puts her groceries through the checkout at a local supermarket. Goes to use her card, can't remember her PIN, starts searching through her phone for it. Fortunately cashier moves on to other customers with actual banknotes. Person steps onto pedestrian crossing while talking on phone in Burringbar Street. Strolls across chatting without regard for personal safety or anyone else. 'These are the days of miracle and wonder. And don't cry, baby, don't cry.' Detail of image by Antoine Geiger antoinegeiger.com/SUR-FAKE

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15:00-16:30 How to build up physical potential

LEVEL 1 Teacher Training course

Temple Byron (46 Melaleuca Dr, Byron Bay) \$1,800 (2 days)
Day 1 Saturday, 20 February 10:00-17:00
Day 2 Sunday, 21 February 10:00-17:00

INFORMATION & BOOKINGS

Eiko Koizumi 0413 649 631 (txt only) Toshie 0479 064 271
e: abierene0125@gmail.com e: honubyron@gmail.com
Cash or direct transfer - no eftpos

<http://on.fb.me/1NBZdua> <http://bit.ly/10ZaXZl>
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