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Kingscliff three-storey height limit set to stay
www.echo.net.au/kingscliff-three-storey-height-limit-set-stay

Beach doof-party organiser fined \$8,000

Luis Felio

A Byron Bay residents group has welcomed the conviction of the organiser of a doof party late last year at Tallow Beach which was shut down by police and park rangers.

The organiser pleaded guilty to two charges over the illegal event and was fined \$8,000 in Byron Bay Local Court last Thursday.

Byron Shire Council's legal services coordinator, Ralph James, said around 200 'doofers' had trampled and rubbished the ecologically sensitive area which contained threatened fauna and flora.

The young man was not named in the Council press release, which also noted that another young man had been convicted and fined \$750 after having pleaded guilty to being in attendance at the same doof party.

The Friends of Tallow Creek said they hoped the conviction and fine would deter others from similar acts of environmental vandalism.

The party was held last November in the national park adjacent to Tallow Beach.

Friends spokesman Dailan Pugh said the fine was 'small' for the environmental harm caused, including 'trampling the nests of bee-eaters and pardalotes in the dunes, scaring away the migratory shorebirds, polluting the estuary with excrement, and leaving broken glass and cigarette butts buried in the sand.'

Mr Pugh, who caused a stir when he singled out for blame just one nationality of attendees at the doof, **continued on page 4** ➤

Turtle adventure with a cause



Eleven-year-old Arlian is set to star in a film about a rescued sea turtle which suffers injury from plastic and is cared for by Seabird Rescue in Ballina. *Plastic, Alarm! Let's Save The Turtles* is a collaboration with Arlian's filmmaker mum, Karin Ecker, who says the adventure with his friends leads to interviews with the Plastic Free Byron initiative and Aboriginal women 'to discover their perspective on being a responsible guardian for the environment.' The aim of the film, she says, 'is to get kids and schools involved to participate in, or initiate creative projects towards protecting the environment.' The film's fundraiser is online at bit.ly/2nuiAUX. Photo Jeff 'Turtle Speed' Dawson

Connor won't appeal Bali jail sentence

AAP

Local woman Sara Connor has told her lawyers she will not appeal against her four-year sentence for her role in the death of a Bali police officer.

Her lawyer Robert Khuana told reporters he believed she had a good chance of being released upon appeal.

However, Khuana said Connor had been traumatised by the system and was worried about her sentence being increased if she appealed.

On Friday prosecutors said they were appealing Connor's four-year sentence over the fatal assault of a police officer Wayan Sudarsa last August, which they believed was too short. They notified Connor of the appeal on Monday.

Her British boyfriend David Taylor was handed a six-year term. Taylor became embroiled in a fight with Mr Sudarsa after confronting him over Connor's lost purse.

Indigenous ceremony site confirmed near Mullum

Hans Lovejoy

An Indigenous ceremonial stone site close to Uncle Tom's at the Mullumbimby turnoff has been confirmed by the NSW Office of Heritage and Environment (OEH).

Heritage conservation officer Ashley Moran, based in Alstonville, told *The Echo* that the area is significant to the Indigenous people of the Brunswick and Tweed valleys and that there are potentially thousands

of undiscovered Aboriginal sites across the northern rivers region.

Unrecorded sites

'A lot of these sites are not recorded,' he said, and encouraged anyone who finds what appears to be an authentic Aboriginal site to contact him via his office on 02 8289 6313.

OEH closely engages with Indigenous community members and groups across the region on a regular basis, he says, 'as they are the

only ones who should be engaged to interpret the heritage.'

As a proud Bundjalung man he says, 'I was born in Widjabul Wiyabul Country, Lismore, and grew up on Cabbage Tree Island, an Aboriginal community situated on the lower Richmond River located between Wardell and Broadwater.'

'I've been with the OEH for nearly 17 years now, assisting with the identification, recording and interpreting of Aboriginal sites and places of

special significance to local Aboriginal communities, and am very passionate about educating the broader public on Aboriginal heritage values.'

Mr Moran has a large area to cover. 'As the heritage conservation officer, my boundaries cover the Tweed River to the north and as far south to Macleay Valley, Kempsey, and extends west along the tablelands to Tenterfield, Glen Innes then back down towards Dorrigo and Bellbrook.'

continued on page 2 ➤

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Vale Elizabeth Watts

Aslan Shand

Mullumbimby and the Byron Shire recently lost a great community stalwart with the passing of Elizabeth Ann Watts in the early hours of Friday March 10.

Known far and wide for her unwavering commitment to both her family and her community, Liz Watts gave to those around her throughout her life. Last year she received the award for the Volunteer of the Year 2016 at the Byron Shire Australia Day awards recognising her involvement in community groups and fundraising efforts.

Liz was a life member of the Mullumbimby Swimming Club, been involved with the Chincogan Fiesta and had been involved in Meals on Wheels for 30 years.

Liz and her husband Trevor were also involved in extensive fundraising for the Brunswick - Mullumbimby Lions Club as well as volunteering for the driver reviver program based in Yelgun for ten years.

Working to help children with disabilities in the local



Liz Watts. Photo supplied

area Liz and Trevor, through the charity Variety, were instrumental in fundraising for both Mullumbimby Primary School and towards the purchase of the Variety Club bus by the life-skills unit at Mullumbimby High School.

She also enjoyed going on several wild rides with Trevor and the van for two charity bashes in 2012 and 2013.

Born in Murwillumbah, Liz grew up on a dairy farm

in north Tumbulgum.

In 1967 her friend persuaded her to come down to Ewingsdale Hall to attend a Junior Farmers dance and it was here that she and Trevor met.

The wedding bells rang on October 4, 1969 and they enjoyed a wonderful 48 years together.

Her youngest daughter Dianah said, 'I don't think Mum realised how loved and appreciated she was.'

As for the wonderful funeral held at the Mullumbimby Anglican Church on 15 March, she said, 'The church was full with around 300 people.'

Sewing was Liz's passion and 21 years ago she started the Brunswick Valley needlework group that is still going strong.

'Her friend from the group said it is all the little things that mum would do that they missed, that reminded them of her.'

Touching funeral

'It was a really touching funeral and reflected Mum.'

Liz had been volunteering and running the Anglican op shop in Mullumbimby for the last ten years and worked up until a month before she died of cancer.

'She wasn't one to complain; there was no fuss, she just got on with things,' continued Dianah.

Elizabeth is greatly loved and will be greatly missed by her husband Trevor and daughters Melissa, Alison and Dianah and her four grandchildren Will, Georgina, Andrew and James.

Indigenous ceremony site confirmed around Mullum

► continued from page 1

Meanwhile local authors Steve Strong and his son Evan have been trying to confirm what they believe is a Stone Henge-like site at the same Mullumbimby site; Steve told *The Echo* they believe large 'standing stones' made from columnar basalt were brought there, but were later removed in the 1940s.

He said, 'We have the map of each rock, their sacred name, its meaning, the song and dance for the rocks, and now the rocks.'

Strong told *The Echo* that as a representative of a 'Council of Elders and concerned citizens' which contains 25 members, their aim is to 'recover the standing stones and put them back on the mound. We have written about this in some detail over the last three years.'

Outcast academic

Strong relies on evidence from an academic from the 1930s, Frederic Slater, and correspondence with local Brunswick Heads school headmaster from around the same time, Fred Fordham.

According to Strong, Slater became an academic out-

cast but was a 'visionary well ahead of his time.'

'His work on the standing-stones site was known around the world and led directly to his academic death.'

'So great was the censorship of Slater, we are yet to find one public photograph or acknowledgement in any academic record.'

'What we need to do is establish the scientific validity of the claim by a geologist.'

Natural occurrence

But OEH Heritage Conservation Officer Ashley Moran told *The Echo* that columnar basalt rocks are naturally occurring stones.

'Nine times out of ten, you could find these large stone pillars buried around here associated with Mt Wollumbin (Warning) being an ancient volcano.'

'You see many basalt stone columnar assembled at the front entrance of provide properties locally, especially in the Mullumbimby area it's a natural stone unearthed commonly everywhere.'

'Strong's view is contrary to other Indigenous people's in the region,' he added.

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Waste-reducing Sasha receives IWD award

Aslan Shand

Sasha Mainsbridge was named NSW Local Woman of the Year for the Ballina electorate on International Women's Day (IWD) for her work in spearheading local waste-reduction campaigns in and around Mullumbimby.

MP Tamara Smith, member for Ballina, says, 'Sasha has been a driving force behind many local campaigns including Zero Emissions Byron, Plastic Free Byron and Plastic Free July in Mullumbimby, where she helped the Mullum IGA phase out its plastic disposable shopping bags.'

'Sasha is also involved with the Mullumbimby Masterplan Guidance Group and Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce. Sasha is a great networker and communicator and really encouraging of people and businesses to take small steps that bring about major changes to benefit the whole community.'

Sasha says she first visited the area in 1998 when she came to the Blues Festival and has always loved the area.

'It was the year Al Gore released *The Inconvenient Truth* that I realised that humans



Sasha with her tree-dwelling son, Max. Photo Jeff Dawson

were having a horrendous ongoing impact and it doesn't have to be this way,' said Sasha.

'On *Gardening Australia* in 2014, Mullum won the Australian community garden of the year and I started seeing all these things about the area, like Enova Community Energy, and Byron has a reputation for being green.'

So she decided to move here with her two children and use her skills from the corporate world to create change.

Starting Mullum Cares as a business-coaching and community-organising service, Sasha approached Mullumbimby's IGA and other local businesses with the idea of creating a Mullumbimby

plastic-free July in 2016.

'Mullum IGA was supplying around 150,000 free plastic bags a year to customers.'

IGA bins bags

The IGA came on board and have never looked back.

'The customer feedback and support was so tremendous, everyone really got behind us,' said IGA manager Daniel Tiffin.

'We save around \$7,000 a year just on plastic bags and there are other savings such as reduced cardboard waste owing to customers using the boxes. I would like to thank Sasha Mainsbridge and the Mullum Cares group for their overwhelming support and

guidance. It feels great to make a change.'

Sasha has about eight projects on the go and Mullum Cares has now become a not-for-profit organisation under the auspices of Mullum Seed.

'I have a passion to re-localise and implement circular economies,' continued Sasha.

The story of stuff

'It's all about the story of stuff - we can't just keep pulling it out of the earth, using it for five minutes, and burying it.'

Sasha is now working to bring together local festival holders and council to look at how they can reduce waste.

'My belief is that a coordinated approach will accelerate the effectiveness.'

'I have been to the local festivals and have identified a number of opportunities for waste reduction. I am working with the Byron Spirit Festival to run a small pilot project for R&D.'

'Having festival organisers at the table rather than working in competitive silos will help reduce the waste-management costs.'

'These are not simple solutions.'

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- Isaac Asimov

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Breaking free from fossil foolish banks

As part of a fortnight of global actions against dirty energy, concerned Byron Shire residents will meet at Railway Park's rotunda at noon on Thursday, March 23, before walking down to the Commonwealth Bank to ask them to stop funding new or expanding coal mines.

Co-organiser Emma Briggs says, 'Since the Paris Climate Change agreement was signed in December 2015, Commbank has loaned more money to fossil-fuel projects than any other Australian bank.'

'They still have a relationship with [foreign miner] Adani, through their QLD

Abbot Point refinancing deal.'

She says research by Market Forces claims, 'in the past year, they invested \$3.886 billion in this old technology, which could have been used to finance clean energy instead.'

■ For more information visit the Break Free Byron Bay Facebook page.

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- Rupert Murdoch's News Corp now owns *The Byron News, Northern Star, Ballina Advocate* and *Tweed Daily News*
- Fake news is proliferating on social media, which is becoming a main source of news for some people
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Or fill out and return to us the printed survey on page 9





SUNDAY MAY 28
Paddle fun and challenges down the Bruns River
A fundraiser for Brunswick Marine Rescue, Surf Life Saving Club & Visitor Centre

MULLUM2BRUNS PADDLE
Earlybird entries are open



First entries for the Mullum2Brunspaddle came soon after registrations opened. Typical of the broad attraction of the event, the first entry was a family group from Ocean Shores while the next was a Stand Up Paddle Challenger from the Central Coast.



Earlybird registration is the way to go if you would like to save some money. Adults save \$5 off the normal online fee by registering before 15 April. We've made online entries for families easier than before, too.

All money raised by the Paddle goes to the Brunswick Surf Life Saving Club, Marine Rescue and Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre, all great local volunteer groups working to make Brunswick Heads a better, safer place. Consider a donation to one (or all) of these organisations at the special page while registering.

Participate in the fun of the Paddle by joining us at the finish at Terrace Park in Brunswick Heads. There will be a music program from 9:30 am, activities for the kids, food stalls, the famous Duck Race plus the spectacle of dragon boats and outriggers.

This year's raffle prize is a Mongoboard Noosa Natural Stand Up Paddle board with carbon fibre paddle and bag valued at over \$1500. Get tickets from April 1 at Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre.

mullum2brunspaddle.com.au

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.
- Isaac Asimov

Wife of Byron developer takes out APVO

Rodney Stevens

Police anticipate laying charges against the developer behind the controversial \$23.5 million 'Bangalow food precinct' proposal following an incident involving his wife.

Bart Elias appeared in Ballina Local Court last Thursday for the first mention of an Apprehended Personal Violence Order (APVO), taken out by police, on behalf of his wife.

The court heard a provisional APVO was put in place following the incident, which occurred on an unspecified date, to protect Mrs Elias and another person who was not named.

Police prosecutor Ser-

geant Alison Kennedy told the court that officers were pursuing the matter.

'There are likely to be charges laid, so I am seeking an adjournment until April 20,' Sgt Kennedy said. 'How about April 27?' Magistrate R Denes asked. Sgt Kennedy then applied to vary the provisional order preventing Mr Elias from attending the residence where his wife is living.

'On an interim basis I am seeking orders one, six and eight,' she said.

The court heard the original provisional conditions were orders one, six and nine, which didn't require Mr Elias to surrender any firearms, but prevented him from at-

tending the school where Mrs Elias or the other protected person attended.

Adjournment until April 27

Ms Denes amended the provisional Apprehended Personal Violence Order to cover orders one, six and eight, and adjourned proceedings until April 27.

This means if Mr Elias breaches any of the following orders it could lead to a criminal offence and he can be charged:

Order 1: Assault, molest, harass, threaten or otherwise interfere with Mrs Elias or a person with whom she has a

domestic relationship.

Order 6: Mr Elias must not approach or contact Mrs Elias by any means whatsoever, except through his legal representative, or as authorised by a parenting order under the Family Law Act.

Order 8: Mr Elias must surrender all firearms and related licences to police.

As the proposed Lismore Road location of the 'Bangalow Food Precinct' is valued at more than \$20 million, development approval rests with the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRRP), not Byron Shire Council.

The JRRP is yet to decide on development consent for the 26.6-hectare site.

Rock-throwing youths sought

About 12.45am on Saturday March 18, three young males were seen throwing rocks at a shop window on The Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach.

The rocks damaged two large windows of the premises.

The males are described as being aged about 15 to 16 years old with one of them having blond hair. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The news has been described as disturbing by South Golden Beach Community Association secretary

Angela Dunlop.

She told *The Echo*, 'Construction of the new skatepark and playground at SGB is due to commence in April.'

'Hopefully this recreational infrastructure will provide a healthy alternative distraction for our youth, which will ultimately decrease these incidents of wanton vandalism... One can only hope.'

Ms Dunlop also called on the recent dog-attack victim on the beach to report it to Council as, 'residents are concerned and fearful that the aggressive dog is still at large.'

Consciousness v Catastrophe book launch March 24

Local author Gillian Ross will launch her new book *Consciousness v Catastrophe* at the Byron Bay Library on Friday March 24 from 10.30am.

She says, 'The current crises besetting humanity call for a revolution in consciousness and a mystical renaissance that will bring about a whole new story of what it means to be human.'

The book introduces the reader to the new philosophy of evolutionary spirituality, says Ross, which engages

'visionary scientists, philosophers and spiritual thinkers across the planet.'

New philosophy

'They are forging a new understanding of evolution that honours science, re-frames culture and radically updates spirituality.'

The book is made up of two parts: the big picture of evolution and the new story of evolutionary spirituality. The book also includes quotations and website references.

Doof-party partaker calls for solutions

► continued from page 1
said he also hoped the doofer fined \$750 'alerts everyone who attends these doofs that they share in the culpability.'

'Also the organiser of the doof at Cosy Corner last Saturday night was given an on-the-spot \$3,000 fine by police, which hopefully will become a regular punishment,' he said.

'The problem is that with such a regular turnover of tourists and students we are constantly faced with new arrivals. Friends of Tallow Creek call upon tourist and student accommodation providers to provide an induction for their customers to stop this continuing.'

'Tourists and overseas students trashing our national parks for their fun cannot be tolerated any longer.'

'Our wildlife are under increasing threats owing to a plethora of other activities. We can not allow them to be driven out of their remaining refuges in our national parks.'

Mr James said Council and national park rangers were called to the beach doof party to help police following many complaints by residents.

'Erected at the site were a marquee, DJ equipment and lights. There were at least 200 people in attendance. Most were consuming alcohol. Plus, there were up to six bonfires lit with wood obtained from the national

park,' he said.

'Police seized the equipment and shut the party down.'

'The party-goers trampled the sensitive dunes and left rubbish, including broken glass. Plus there was a high fire risk and a total fire ban in place. National parks are environmentally sensitive areas. They are not locations to hold parties. This young man has learnt the hard way that it is far better to hold an event in an approved venue.'

National Parks and Wildlife Service manager Sue Walker urged locals to report illegal activity in the parks.

Venue needed

Meanwhile a longtime local who was involved in beach dance parties over ten years ago told *The Echo* that back then the only issues were too many cars and occasional noise complaints.

'Rubbish was always taken away,' they said, 'and as locals we were mindful to leave the environment as we found it.'

He supported the view of

other residents that backpackers were responsible for the recent parties and they have 'no respect or awareness for the area they are trashing.'

'The hostels and backpacker's accommodation also need to step up,' he said, 'and make sure everyone who stays in the Bay knows the damage the beach parties cause, and the risks.'

'One backpacker being fined is not going to stop the next party. These people are not aware of the history.'

A solution, he said, would be a designated dance party area, either on an open beach or around town, which could be properly managed.

'Not everyone wants to go to bed early... what's needed is an all-night venue - somewhere remote enough and soundproofed. That way police know where it is and it would be contained.'

'It's sad there is so much negative press with this - there is a section of community who just want to dance and do the right thing.'

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Artwork by Nickolla Clark

IQ management defends record

Spill called over community-managed land as Coroner delays 2014 death enquiry

Hans Lovejoy

A public tussle has erupted over a parcel of community-managed land located opposite the Cavanbah Sports Centre on Ewingsdale Road, known as Island Quarry (IQ).

Founding member Darren Hiller Smith – along with some other residents – have challenged the IQ management board with claims of ‘20 years of inaction.’

And while the claims are rejected by IQ Reserve Trust president Shane Rennie, mayor Simon Richardson also supports a shakeup, telling *The Echo*, ‘20 years of inaction demands that the time has come for new energy and community members to assist.’

In 2014, the quarry claimed the life of Brendan Vickery after his cliff-top jump into water below. The coroner’s court confirmed with *The Echo* that an inquiry was planned this month but has been delayed.

Around 15 people met on Friday March 3 onsite, sparking accusations and denials between Hiller Smith and Rennie over trespass threats.

A smaller group met again onsite last week and call themselves Friends of IQ.

In 1997 – apparently a much more congenial and happier time – a group of residents brokered a plan to transform the former quarry into a community hub. A Reserve Trust was appointed by the minister at the time to manage the land in perpetuity.

The vision at the time, according to www.iq.org.au, was ‘to create a social and artistic enterprise in a wider cultural and tourist initiative.’

Remarkably Rennie told *The Echo* that that quote from the website is ‘incorrect’ and instead said, ‘Our vision is to create a model for sustainable living through environmental, economic and social activity. We aim to demonstrate environmentally sustainable practices while protecting and enhancing the natural and scenic values. Island Quarry is fostering local arts, environment, new industries and sustainable technologies, while recognising and promoting valuable cultural heritage that relates to our region.’

At the March 3 meeting of Friends of IQ, chairperson Susie Handran-Smith, secretary Laura Cornelius and treasurer Gabby Rossati were appointed.

Mr Hiller Smith commenced with a brief history



IQ on Ewingsdale Road remains closed. Photo Hans Lovejoy

IQ Inc breakdown

Rennie declined to provide the IQ constitution, but said it is the ‘standard constitution with a couple of special resolutions.’

The minister appointed IQ Association Inc as the ‘corporate manager of the Island Quarry Reserve Trust,’ Rennie says. The IQ Association Inc committee members are (president) Shane Rennie, Bronwyn Kidd, Tim Rabbidge, Helen Stickley-Thompson and Alex Polo.

As for who comprises the IQ Trustee, Rennie says it is the same members as the IQ Assoc Inc, but includes an Arakwal Corporation representative.

There are 35 members of IQ, according to Rennie. IQ Inc leases the Mullumbimby Railway Station for office space and also ‘provides affordable space there for other community groups and artists.’

Rennie says IQ presents the Byron All Shorts short-film competition alongside its [Mullum] Flickerfest tour screenings.

Flickerfest Sydney is a ten-day film festival held annually in Bondi which also presents a national tour.

IQ is a not-for-profit, but ASIC records show Flickerfest, of which IQ Association Inc committee member Bronwyn Kidd is a director, is a for-profit company. Until recently, the home page for www.iq.org.au included a promotion for Mullum Flickerfest screenings and Byron All Shorts short-film comp.

of the quarry and the founding of the original IQ committee and acknowledged IQ president Shane Rennie’s contribution to the project.

Friends of IQ

The aim, say the minutes of the meeting, is to encourage public involvement and access, and to, ‘express our concerns regarding current management and pre-empt any negative community outcomes regarding the Reserve.’

The minutes also say that ‘it was agreed that those present would again attempt to join the IQ Crown Reserve Trust and to document their efforts.’

Brendan Vickery’s death was raised at the meeting, and the ‘number of people who had suffered serious injury at the site, apparently through inadequate safety management of the site.’

The minutes say, ‘Several people noted that this appeared to be a closed shop and despite efforts made by several people to join the small group which comprise the Reserve Trust, it appeared that efforts to join were rebuffed. It was noted that requests for infor-

mation from the trust had not been responded to.’

John Anderson, aka Fast Bucks, was at the meeting, and told *The Echo* that Mr Hiller Smith was instrumental in starting IQ. ‘It was his charisma that got it going,’ he said.

But Rennie told *The Echo* he disputes all allegations from the meeting, including safety management and instead said that, in 22 years, no-one has been refused membership except Hiller Smith, and that everyone is encouraged to be a part of IQ.

Regarding the early days of the formation of the group, he says, ‘Darren was only one of many people with charisma who were all prepared to assist with all the initial hard work. This work continued after Darren left Byron Shire, especially to address and rectify all the problems he left behind.’

What’s the plan?

So what has happened since 2000 – except a death and a number of serious spinal injuries as a result of jumping from the cliffs into the waterhole below?

IQ has had a ‘closed’ sign

up for many years.

Rennie told *The Echo* that in recent years ‘much has been accomplished, notwithstanding the Reserve being subject to limited public-access provisions that have applied to the Island Quarry since this very sad incident in 2014.’

During this time to the present, Rennie says, ‘Private activities and functions such as weddings, ceremonies, receptions, small workshops and film shoots are still being held.’

As for supporting community events, Rennie says his is the ‘only organisation in the Shire that offers affordable public liability insurance cover’ and IQ supports Fukushima fundraisers, life drawing classes, music gigs, kids’ face painting, community rallies and the like. ‘The list goes on and on,’ he said.

As for the future plans for the site, a 2010 DA was approved with conditions, which include roadwork access on Ewingsdale Road and stormwater plans/works.

Those particulars are being finalised with Council, Rennie says, with other conditions stipulating detailed engineering plans for driveways, parking areas and an access road.

The approval allows four annual community fundraising events, four annual theatre events and three special events. A maximum of 87 people is approved for these events.

Additionally, approval allows using the land as a ‘primitive camping ground.’

Yet with the coronial recommendations still to be determined, IQ’s future is still unknown.

Mayor Simon Richardson told *The Echo*, ‘I support getting this wonderful community asset open and used by the community and for IQ to realise the vision that Darren, Shane and so many others had for it – to become a community gathering-space treasure.’

‘Unfortunately it hasn’t been in the 20 years since the community gained management control of it and this has to change.’

The mayor says he looks forward to ‘more members, new management members and a renewed vigour to bring this space to life.’

He also said he ‘sincerely hopes the current management committee accepts Darren and others into the fold for the good of IQ.’

■ Full story on *Echonetdaily* www.echo.net.au



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Healthcare in crisis: report

Aslan Shand

The NSW health system continues to be in a state of crisis, according to the recent quarterly report from the independent Bureau of Health Information (BHI).

It's prompted calls by the Australian Medical Association NSW (AMA NSW) for the immediate lifting of the budget indexation freeze, imposed by the previous Abbott government.

AMA NSW president Professor Brad Frankum says the ongoing record-breaking numbers of patients presenting at NSW hospitals shows a complete failure to address healthcare needs.

He said, 'In 2016, all-time records were broken at the beginning of the year and then again at the end of the year for emergency department presentations.'

'The proportion of patients in the more urgent triage categories is increasing and 2016 also saw all-time records broken for the number of sicker patients who need to be admitted to hospital from the emergency department.'

'More urgent cases re-

quire more time and resources to treat and that's left performance measures against things like the four-hour rule paralysed.'

North coast emergency department data show patients had lengthy waits.

In Lismore, 31.3 per cent of patients waited longer than four hours; in Ballina, 20.1 per cent; in Grafton, 19.2 per cent and in Tweed, 18.2 per cent. The statewide average is 25.7 per cent.

Prof Frankum says that like everywhere else in NSW, hospitals on the north coast are extremely busy.

Lismore ED busier than Sydney

He said, 'In fact, Lismore Hospital was admitting more than 40 per cent of its emergency department presentations to hospital.'

'To put it in perspective, it was admitting a greater proportion of patients to hospital from the ED than Royal North Shore, one of Sydney's busiest hospitals.'

'While at Ballina, there was an explosion in the number of triage-one and triage-two pa-

tients - people who need the most urgent treatment.'

'It would certainly appear that the underfunding of general practice is starting to result in people presenting to hospitals with more severe illnesses that may have been prevented if they had better access to a GP.'

Elective surgery

BHI data also show that north coast hospitals continue to be under enormous pressure as official elective surgery waiting lists grew to 4,658 patients - an increase of 276 patients over the same period a year ago.

Elective surgery includes: cataract removal; hip replacements; knee replacements; gall bladder; ear, nose and throat; and tonsillectomies.

But Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSW LHD) welcomed the report regarding elective surgery performance.

NNSW LHD chief executive Wayne Jones told *The Echo*, 'The report indicates that many hospitals within the NNSW LHD have seen an increase in numbers of elective surgeries being performed.'

'At Murwillumbah District Hospital and Grafton Base Hospital, which have seen some of the biggest increases in elective surgery numbers, the percentage of patients being treated within recommended timeframes has increased compared with the same quarter last year.'

Nonetheless around ten per cent of elective surgery patients waited more than 300 days for surgery at north coast hospitals, excluding Ballina and Maclean.

Fed responsibility

'Doctors and other staff members at hospitals are under incredible stress, as unprecedented patient loads just keep increasing in number,' continued Prof Frankum.

'The Commonwealth needs to move immediately to appropriately fund healthcare and this includes lifting the indexation freeze and addressing the years of underfunding this has contributed to.'

'It needs to commit to long-term certainty of hospital funding and to develop a comprehensive vision for our health system based on making Australians healthier.'

Bulk buy offer for solar, batteries



The Enova Energy team, who are on board with a community bulk buy of renewable products. Photo Jeff Dawson

A community bulk buy for solar and batteries is being organised for the northern rivers, with the first free event planned for Mullumbimby on Tuesday April 4.

It's a partnership between COREM and Enova Community, who have joined with social-enterprise organisation Suncrowd.

The aim, say organisers is 'to take solar and batteries to as many households in the region as possible by making the process easy and accessible, at lower prices.'

Suncrowd claims a ten to 25 per cent reduction on NSW average prices will be on offer.

Additionally, some of the funds from the bulk buy will go towards local renewable projects.

COREM's Rob Passey says it fits their drive for 100 per cent renewables.

'We're excited about this opportunity to bring the community together and help people install hundreds more solar PV systems.'

Alison Crook from Enova Community added, 'This is a great chance for people to move to solar to help protect themselves from rising energy prices.'

■ For more info visit www.suncrowd.com.au.

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Festival site seeks trial extension

With North Byron Parklands (Parklands) now in its final year of operation under the current trial approval from the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E), it is seeking an extension.

The Yelgun festival site is home to Splendour In The Grass and Falls festivals.

General manager Mat Morris says that under the current trial approval, Falls Festival Byron 17/18 cannot operate.

'The modification seeks to extend the trial period dates by an additional 20 months to August 31, 2019.

'There are no other changes to the concept plan and project approval being sought.'

Morris says that Parklands'

submission for permanency has resulted in it having to address Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which was issued January 18, 2017.

'The SEARs is a comprehensive list of environmental assessment requirements for the proposal,' he says.

As Parklands is 'committed to wholly responding to the requirements,' Morris says detailed expert analysis, assessments and consultation will need to be undertaken.

'Owing to the extensive nature of the SSD, it is envisaged that the assessment and approval timelines for the permanent application will extend well beyond the expiration of the Parklands trial approval period,' he said.

Shark net impacts highlighted at Quiksilver surfing comp



Surfer Steph Gilmore from last weekend. Photo Jeff Dawson

Members of north coast marine conservation groups converged on the Roxy Pro and the Quiksilver Pro Surfing competitions at Coolangatta last Saturday calling for the removal of shark nets.

Dean Jefferys from the *Migaloo 2* marine conservation foundation said, 'Many surfers are concerned both about being safe while surfing and also

wanting to live in harmony with other marine creatures.'

'Snapper Rocks is flanked by a string of shark nets that have killed hundreds of marine creatures since their placement. We want to raise the issue about the effectiveness and the impact of the current shark-net program on other sea users and offer more effective and non-lethal alternatives.'

Smart meter challenge results in removal

An *Echo* reader, who wishes to remain anonymous, has told of their difficult - yet finally successful - experience of getting a smart meter uninstalled at their home.

Smart meters collect and transmit wireless data and sends it back to the utility company. They do so by using microwaves or radio-frequency radiation, just like your mobile phone or wireless router at home.

A smart meter produces microwave non-ionising radiation that penetrates the walls of your home 24/7, 365 days a year.

The *Echo* says they are unsafe, although utility companies argue that the radiation being emitted is non-ionising and is therefore safe.

The reader said, 'Late last year, AGL and Origin Energy installed smart meters on homes across Byron Shire without direct permission

from the homeowners.'

'These two companies chose an "opt out" system, whereby they left a note stating their intention to install a smart meter and if no-one responded, this would be considered consent.

Caught by surprise

'This has caught quite a few Byron Shire residents by surprise.

'I was away overseas and had not returned in time to "opt out". Another resident had tenants in her house who had disregarded the note from Origin Energy (not even knowing what a 'smart' meter was) and did not notify the owner.

'It was a hard-fought long battle to have the smart meter replaced with a non-remotely read (not-EMF) digital meter.

'This process took five months of hard work involving writing numerous letters,

months of phone calls and a case with the NSW Energy Ombudsman.

'At every step, I was told by Origin Energy that it was not possible to reverse a meter once it has been installed.

'This is not true.

'Last week, I had the case resolved and have finally been granted permission to have my smart meter removed (at a cost of \$250 for the new meter).'

The reader said the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the office of Fair Trading NSW advised the Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW that:

• There is currently no AEMO policy or regulation

in NSW that prevents a smart meter reversion or installing another meter

• There is a prevention [order] with reversing smart meters in Victoria, but this not the case for NSW for the time being.

• Part A, section 2.6 of the AEMO Metrology Procedure is a procedure applied preventing a reversion of an interval meter back to a basic meter.

This procedure does not apply to smart meters being reversed to a digital meter

■ Those wanting to remove smart meters will need to contact a level-two electrician (Accredited Service Provider) to do the meter reversion.

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Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School, established in 1993, is now a double-streamed **K-12 school with more than 120 teachers and staff and 620 students**. The school includes an Early Learning Centre, a Trade Skills Centre, working farm and gardens managed according to biodynamic principles; and hosts a range of highly regarded community festivals, workshops and events throughout the year.

We are currently seeking to recruit a Head of School to consolidate and guide the School's future direction and vision. The successful applicant, with the **support of an inspiring and dedicated executive team and highly skilled teachers**, is responsible for overall school management, educational excellence, community engagement and student wellbeing.

The ideal applicant will have:

- Demonstrated understanding and experience of Steiner's educational philosophy;
- Approximately 10 years' **Independent Schools management experience** across strategic, financial, organisational and resource functions;
- Proven ability to build and sustain collaborative relationships with the Board, the Executive team, the College of Teachers and the wider School community;
- Ability to plan, prioritise and **deliver high-level strategic objectives** through practical implementation strategies;
- Ability to impartially manage workplace relationships, performance and change management processes with sensitivity and professionalism; and
- Outstanding written and verbal communication skills.

The successful applicant will have personal and professional integrity, be inspiring and innovative, compassionate, and demonstrate good judgment, common sense, resilience and strength of character.

For further information, including how to apply, please visit our website www.shearwater.nsw.edu.au or email your application to vickil@shearwater.nsw.edu.au. Applications close Tuesday 4 April 2017

Brewery's latest drop



Jean, Nikki, Grace and Will celebrated the launch of the Byron Bay Brewery's new old beer the Dark One, and St Paddys day last Friday. Photo Jeff 'Never Said No To Beer' Dawson

Auxiliary raises funds for cardiac machine

Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary (BBHA) say their recent fundraising efforts will buy a state-of-the-art Lucas 2 cardiac compression device for Byron Central Hospital (BCH). Additionally eight new observation machines have been purchased, and a new interactive kids' play centre has been installed in the waiting room. BBHA president Mollie

Strong said this year will see the total funds contributed by the BBHA over the past ten years reach \$500,000.

65-year history

She said, 'Throughout its 65-year history, the Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary has had a dedicated band of women and men who have volunteered to raise funds for specialist

equipment to support patients and staff.'

'These particular equipment purchases are the result of raffles, charity golf days, collections and garage sales all undertaken by a small band of wonderful people.'

'Volunteering is a selfless task, and relies on a very strong commitment which is the service to others.'

Driver charged for entering floodwaters

A man who drove his car 30 metres into floodwater near Corndale (between Clunes and Bexhill) last week not only lost his car but also copped an infringement notice from police.

Police allege the man ignored council signs which said, 'Stop. Water Over Road', and instead drove through the water despite another vehicle already being stuck.

He got about 30 metres before his back tyre went off the road and the engine was flooded with water.

An SES member saw the man's predicament and contacted emergency services.

A short time later, police,



Pictured is a Main Arm driver taking a risk. Photo Jeff Dawson

SES and ambulance attended, and the SES crew was able to remove the man from his vehicle and take him to the north-end of the floodwater.

Police said the man's vehicle was left in the floodwaters

because it could not be removed safely at the time.

Police said the driver would be issued an infringement notice for the offence of 'wilfully disregard barrier regulating traffic'.

Environmentalist threatened by govcorp

Local environmentalist and North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) member Dailan Pugh says he has been threatened by the NSW Forestry Corporation with a \$2,200 fine if he returns to meet with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) at the Gibberagee State Forest.

Pugh says he was invited by the EPA to the forest, located just north of Maclean, on March 10, 'to show them

breaches I had identified a month earlier.'

He says he was ordered to leave by the Forestry Corporation before he could show the EPA the breaches.

'They must have a lot to hide,' Pugh said. 'I find it outrageous that the Forestry Corporation can threaten to fine me \$2,200 for exposing their illegal logging, while the EPA usually only give them warning letters or token \$300

finer for offences such as logging rainforest, cutting down ancient trees many hundreds of years old, bulldozing illegal roads through creeks, or logging koala high-use areas.'

Pugh said the letter was ironically written to him on the 'International Day of Forests,' and calls on lands and forestry minister Paul Toole to allow him to complete his audit of Gibberagee, 'and to show the EPA the breaches we find.'



World Water Day 2017

Why wastewater Saturday 25 March

Let's get more sensitive about water

Do you want to know more about water sensitive design for your homes and gardens and identify ways to change your behaviour to help create healthy, sustainable and living catchments?

As part of the World Water Day celebrations Council is inviting the community to a FREE presentation to learn more about water sensitive home and garden design: **Saturday 25 March** at the Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay (9am to 2pm). Jerry Coleby-Williams (ABC Gardening Australia) will be there to inspire you with practical ways to create productive and water sensitive homes and gardens.

Water sensitive designs seek to minimise the impacts of the human environment by the management and conservation of water. Densely planted native species in buffer strips and raingardens can help filter and reduce stormwater, improving the quality of water flowing into our catchments. If you have a creek or river on your property, planting it with native species will prevent erosion, create wildlife corridors and filter the water before it enters our catchments.

The multi-award winning Byron Bay Integrated Water Management Reserve (Byron Bay Wetlands) was constructed on the principles

of water sensitive design. The wetland cells are shallow, densely-planted and the man-made ponds provide a natural way to treat and remove pollutants from the water cycle.

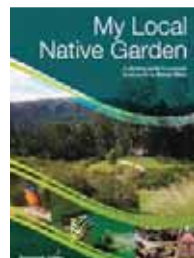
Prior to release into our local waterways, the physical and biological processes act to refine the treated effluent from the Byron Bay Sewage Treatment Plant. Native species were specifically planted for their unique water treatment and transpiration properties.

The wetland cells are engineered to slow the movement of water and allow natural processes to remove, convert or disinfect pollutants; all while utilising the transpiration properties of the plants as a flow path for assimilating the water back into the environment.



What can you do in your backyard?

There are a number of simple and creative ways things you can do at your home. Installing a rain water tank is one of the simplest things to do to make your home and garden more water sensitive. Get inspired and build a raingarden, use porous paving, create a green wall or green roof, choose the right plants for your soil, plant local native varieties and water wise plants.



The new My Local Native Garden will be launched in celebration of World Water Day to highlight the importance of creating a home and garden that is water sensitive. Published by Brunswick Valley Landcare, the 'My Local Native Garden' 44-page booklet is packed with information to help you design, plant and maintain your own native garden. This hugely popular book has been updated to include new sections on 'Landscaping for Water Quality' and 'How to Attract Wildlife to your Garden'.

FREE copies of the booklet will be available.

Learning to live sensitively with water Program - Saturday 25 March

- 9.00am Welcome to Country
- 9.30am Solar Sunflower: Dr Barry Hill
- 10.00am Water Sensitive Garden Design: Jerry Coleby-Williams (ABC Gardening Show)
- 11.00am Launch of "My Local Native Garden" Booklet
- 11.30am Use of Wastewater for the Rehabilitation of Flood Plains: Dr Mark Bayley and Damian McCann
- 12.00pm Water Sensitive Coastal Living - what we're doing for deep resilience: Dr Mary Gardner
- 12.30pm Birds of Wetlands: Jan Olley
- 1.00pm School Colouring Competition - announcement of winners
- 2.00pm Close

In recognition of World Water Day the Byron Bay Wetlands will be open to the public.

The day will feature excursions into the wetlands and electric buggies will transport the flock into the Byron Bay Wetlands. The Jacana Walking Trail will show you the way and the Byron Bird Buddies will be onsite to talk all things birds. [Meet at the Cavanbah Centre - no bookings needed. All weather event.](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)

Bring your binoculars and check out the wetlands on World Water Day - Saturday, 25 March 2017.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

2017 Echo Readers' Survey

Complete this survey quickly and easily online! Go to: www.echo.net.au/readers-survey-2017

1. How often do you view or access the following?

	Every day	Every week	Occasionally	Rarely or never
The Byron Shire Echo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Echonetdaily	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ballina Advocate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Star	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Rivers Echo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Byron Shire News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tweed Border Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bay FM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Body and Soul Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Byron Bazaar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tweed Sun	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial Radio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Thinking of the PRINTED Byron Echo, how would you rate the following areas?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Coverage of local stories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity and trustworthiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balance of ads and content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design and appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support of local community groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:				

3. Thinking of the ONLINE Echonetdaily, how would you rate the following areas?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Coverage of local stories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity and trustworthiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balance of ads and content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design and appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support of local community groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:				

4. Rate your interest in reading the following in the PRINTED Byron Echo

	Very interested	Interested	Occasionally interested	Not interested
Local news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State, world and national news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events, protests and fundraisers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Celebrities and gossip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthy living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fashion and beauty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education and parenting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food, wine, restaurant and food production	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters to the editor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Real estate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment and gig guide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cinema guide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mandy Nolan's Soapbox column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The editor's Editorial column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mungo MacCallum's political column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Television guide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Latest innovations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Rate your interest in reading the following in the ONLINE Echonetdaily

	Very interested	Interested	Occasionally interested	Not interested
Local news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State, world and national news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events, protests and fundraisers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Celebrities and gossip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthy living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fashion and beauty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education and parenting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food, wine, restaurant and food production	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters to the editor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Real estate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Latest innovations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Which (if any) of the following do you intend to purchase in the next 12 months?

- (You may select more than one)
- New home
 - New car
 - Flowers
 - Solar panels
 - Electric car
 - Cosmetics/nutrition supplies
 - Tours/hotel reservations
 - Electronic equipment
 - Airline ticket/reservations
 - Clothing/accessories/shoes
 - Books
 - Insurance
 - Car hire
 - Event tickets

7. What is your gender?

Female Male

8. Age range

- Under 18
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- Over 65

9. Where do you live?

(Suburb)

10. Are you the owner or decision-maker of a business?

Yes No

11. How much total combined money did all members of your HOUSEHOLD earn last year?

- \$0 to \$9,999
- \$10,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$124,999
- \$125,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 to \$174,999
- \$175,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 and up
- Prefer not to answer

12. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Green, Labor, Coalition voter or other?

- Green
- Labor
- Lib/Nats Coalition
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify)

13. Which of the following best describes your current occupation?

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Food services, restaurants and catering
- Construction
- Wholesale trade
- Retail trade
- Accommodation
- Transport, postal and warehousing
- Manufacturing
- Information media and telecommunications
- Healthcare, health support and social assistance
- Arts and recreation services
- Financial and insurance services
- Real estate, rental and hiring services
- Professional, scientific and technical services
- Administrative and support services
- Public administration and safety
- Education and training
- Other services
- Retired
- Not currently employed
- Home duties
- Other (please specify)

14. How likely is it that you would recommend The Echo to a friend or colleague?

0 = not at all likely
10 = extremely likely
Please circle one number on the scale below:
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
<- Not at all likely Extremely likely ->

15. Thanks for helping us by completing our survey! Please enter your preferred contact details for your chance to win 2 x 5-day passes to the 2017 Bluesfest in April.

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return your completed survey to *The Echo* by 5pm Thursday March 30.

Drop it off or post it to:
The Echo
6 Village Way (off Stuart Street)
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Complete our readers' survey and go in the draw to win a double 5-day pass to Bluesfest 2017!

Complete this survey quickly and easily online! Go to: www.echo.net.au/readers-survey-2017

Online survey submissions close Friday March 31.





Volume 31 #41

March 22, 2017

Nature's little memo

Byron Shire dodged a few bullets in the recent wet.

While Goonengerry at one stage copped a dump of more than 200mm, at least the flooding generally was light. A little further south, however, the highway was cut at New Italy and photos from Dorrigo National Park showed a monstrous waterfall crashing beside the road.

The wet is Nature's little memo: Dear human, don't take too much for granted. I can sweep you and your car away in water. I can cut you off from food and power. Your life is in my hands.

It's a good introduction to the real subtropics for newcomers and a good reminder for longer-term residents. In a nation fortunately not riven by war, it's an instruction manual in survival techniques. Stock up on food and water. Buy candles and matches, have a spare flashlight. Learn to live with less.

And especially, do not drive your car through the fringing floodwaters. Even a few centimetres of water can sweep you away. The history of local tragedy, of residents being swept off causeways in a night of torrential rain, is too easily forgotten.

The rain also points out faults in infrastructure, both new and old. Newly developed hard surfaces redirect water in unexpected ways. Jonson Street in Byron Bay floods as usual and everyone wonders why the stormwater 'system' doesn't work – as usual. Mullumbimby's ancient pipes are overwhelmed. All the toxic shit that lay in paddocks and backyards is swept into waterways and often out into the ocean, sometimes to join the rubbish newly arrived from ships at sea.

Overall we've got off pretty lightly this time. We've forgotten what big cyclones are really like, for instance, way back in 1974. You can read the history of their impact at bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/nsw.shtml. All that expensively preserved beachfront can be destroyed in no time at all.

Climate science tells us to expect more extreme weather events. Battening down against heavy rain followed by searing heat may become the norm as weather patterns become unpredictable.

According to a 2015 study published in *Nature Climate Change*, one in five extreme rain events experienced globally are a result of the 0.85°C global rise in temperature since the Industrial Revolution, as power plants, factories and cars continue to pump out greenhouse gas emissions: <http://go.nature.com/2ng9f2a>.

In the same year as that study, Nature sent us an even sterner memo. The temperature at an Argentine research base near the northern tip of the Antarctic reached 17.5°C, the equivalent of a mild autumn evening in Mullum. The Antarctic usually averages from -10°C on the continent's coast to -60°C in the interior.

If the push towards renewable energy continues to be dragged down by fossil-fuel follies, expect more opportunities to expand your survival skills.

– Michael McDonald

Surprise! We have a nation-building PM

Having been rabbiting on for weeks about energy, Malcolm Turnbull has finally managed to summon up a little for himself.

True, his big announcements about gas and hydro last week were more sound and fury than action: just what and when the benefits may be are, to put it mildly, optimistic. But at least he can say that he is being seen to be doing something. That's a start.

Gas was the easy bit. Having gathered the moguls to Canberra, he told them, effectively, to pull the fluff out of their burners or he would do – well, it wasn't quite clear what he would do, but he had enormous powers; you just bet I do, as Tony Abbott might put it in a similar fit of bravado.

So Turnbull gave his orders: ensure that there will be enough gas held locally if there are crises. And the bloated gasbags were only too happy to concur; at least a couple of them were, which was enough to secure Turnbull bragging rights.

But what was missing was just how this process would be implemented and, more particularly, what it would cost.

Presumably whatever the market will bear: that has been the invariable approach of the industry and what has produced the world glut which has actually seen Australian gas shipped to Japan and then shipped back to Australia to be sold at an exorbitant price. Australian consumers already pay for Australian gas through the nose, and the Turnbull plan will not, as they gleefully predict, make things any cheaper.

But hey, that's private enterprise isn't it? Well, it has been, but our free-marketeer prime minister has just stuck a major spanner in the works:

demands for local protection and threats of government (socialist!) intervention.

It has been an article of faith among the Liberal Party that the market rules – any attempt by the central government to impose limits to its free-wheeling greed have to be resisted.

And for most of the Australian economy, this has been the case: a huge range of Australian

and Melbourne, the Snowy Mountains Hydro Authority is under 100 per cent public control so if – and it is a pretty big if – the three governments can get their acts together it should be relatively straightforward.

But the fact that neither of the states was given any warning, let alone consultation, before Turnbull revealed his wizard wheeze does not bode well.

Australian consumers already pay for Australian gas through the nose, and the Turnbull plan will not, as they gleefully predict, make things any cheaper.

by Mungo MacCallum



resources have been exported to the highest bidder, and what has been left for the locals has become prohibitively expensive as a result. Our choicest food items (think particularly seafood, but there are other examples), our artworks, our businesses, our land and our homes have all been thrown into the unruly auction.

Occasionally there has been enough public outrage to secure a brief reprieve, but it is always regarded as the exception.

The default position is that free trade is always good, protectionism is always bad. Other countries are not so pure: travellers to the United States and the Middle East are constantly astonished at how low the price of petrol is there – there is none of this ideology about observing world parity prices.

So in a sense Turnbull is only belatedly catching up. But it is a mighty backflip nonetheless.

The hydro bit – the new Snowy scheme – is easier to manage. Through the governments in Canberra, Sydney

The projected two billion dollar rejig of the venerable scheme is indeed a game changer – nation building, even visionary. But it is also not much more than a thought bubble at present – not even a blueprint for a feasibility study. If it ever comes to fruition, it will take a long time – certainly longer than the climate-change-induced weather events that have made it the ultimate solution.

And, once again, it will not be cheap. Quite apart from the capital cost, we are told that there will, effectively, be no extra demands for water, either for power, irrigation or conservation once the new tunnels and generators have been installed. Apparently the idea is that once the water has flowed downhill to the turbines when they are needed, it can be pumped back uphill when they are not.

The catch is that pumping it uphill will require more power than that delivered when it runs downhill – unless Malcolm Turnbull has invented perpet-

ual motion, it will involve a nett loss of energy, which, presumably, will have to be made up by finding other sources for the pumps. Presumably we are still talking about coal or gas, and of course this will be a not-so-hidden cost if the bean counters have their way.

And Turnbull's grand project will be a long time coming; apart from the usual problems with the states and the administrative hurdles. Most particularly the environmental ones which were not envisaged in the first Snowy scheme, it is a safe bet that there will be delays and cost overruns. – and that is assuming that climate change has not already dried up the rain and snow that are needed to fill the dams in the first place.

But it is hard not to be at least mildly enthused by Turnbull's concept. The first Snowy Scheme was derided as folly – wasteful and uneconomic. Turning the rivers west and unleashing hydro power would never yield a profit. And indeed, it was a long time before it did.

But the great windfall gain was the huge influx of post-war migrants who banded together to forge the great idea, and with it a new kind of nation. It is not overstating it to say that the Snowy was the birthplace of the multicultural society, the bold-est and most successful achievement in the history of modern Australia, if not the world – as Turnbull himself has said.

It is too much to expect that Snowy Mark Two would produce a similar dividend – but we can hope. And perhaps the most important message from the prime minister's belated call to arms last week was just that it is worth a try. And at last Malcolm Turnbull is trying, and so for him too, there may still be hope.

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

© 2017 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

“I never want to have to cross the street to avoid you.”
David Runciman



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Park boundaries

When Byron Shire Council meets next week one decision facing them is to restate the boundaries they have previously set for the three Brunswick Heads camping grounds (as Council is by legislation the consent authority). Crucially, Council must also require that North Coast Holiday Parks Inc (NCHP) actually sign and return Council's lease agreement, or cease and desist trading and occupation of the three sites.

The ball is in Council's court, as NCHP have for some years now refused to sign the lease agreement offered by Council, the consent authority. Council has authority to set the date by which NCHP must sign the lease – or leave – to end this stalemate of two decades.

Most of Brunswick's residents and many from Ocean Shores are very angry with NCHP's behaviour over the years. The recent outrage over the disrespectful treatment planned by NCHP for the 101 coastal pines, planted a century ago by the grieving people of Brunswick Heads to honour the local men who died in WWI, is typical.

People are in agreement,

and this Council can do it – require NCHP to sign the lease agreement or go.

David Hall
Ocean Shores

Jay cycles free

I would like to thank everyone who has been such great friends and customers of True Wheel Cycles through the last 27 years. I have loved being able to assist you with your cycling journey and your feedback has always been really rewarding, from the 3-year-old getting their first bike or the more experienced cyclist exploring the different types of bicycles.

This journey began in 1990 with a loan from a community member who believed in my ability to provide a bicycle shop that was focused on you the person rather than your wallet. As I am now ready to take a new direction with my life I bid you all a fond farewell. David Martin, my business partner for many years, will continue to be there for any of your cycling needs.

Even though I leave the shop I will still be around the Mullumbimby area so we can get together for some more riding adventures.

Quite a few of you who

have known of this change have expressed interest in a farewell party. I am happy to get something going but I am not sure what you think. Please let me know if a little gathering or a bigger hall party would be best. Please contact me on 0421 726 797 if you have suggestions. Lots of love to you and your families.

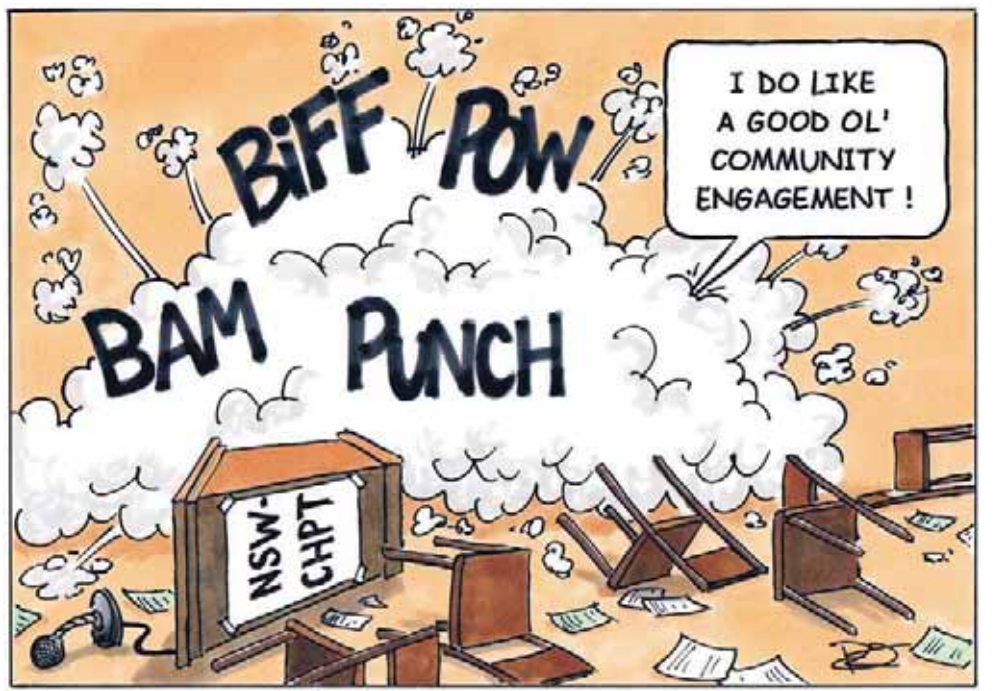
Jay Carney
Mullumbimby

Troubled bridge

I was deeply concerned to read of Byron Council's inability to elicit from the NSW government the necessary money to maintain infrastructure. In particular, maintenance money required to upgrade the Belongil bridge, which has more than two million visitors pass over it each year, and community users.

I recall the collapse of the Granville Bridge in Sydney several decades ago. It was a great tragedy that still resonates with many these days. I used to teach at Granville and always found myself in a state of prayer when approaching – such is the effect of civil/social trauma.

We read that Gladys won't release the necessary



paperwork explaining the blow-out of \$540m on the trains, plus we learn of the \$6 billion blowout of the WestConnex budget.

It really is time for the community and Council to form a united team in addressing the possible perils that could befall the Belongil bridge. The ratepayers cannot be blamed if any tragedy were ever to occur. Who investigates state government when such issues arise?

Jo Faith
Newtown

Mullum? You're taking up a lot of space. People just want to do their shopping in peace. We know there are big issues that need to be addressed globally; we don't trust your big-business solutions.

Sophia Marles
Main Arm

Festival tax

Imagine that every music festival ticket sold had a small tourist tax in the final amount that would help Council raise the funds it needs. Surely Peter Noble and North Byron Parklands would agree that this would be doing the right thing by the communities that live here, pay the rates and have to endure the trashing and trampling of our amenities. Let the tourists pay their way. With those funds Council can keep the Shire in reasonable shape.

Sadly when this idea was recently put forward to Council, this was their response: '2.7 Council could only ever contemplate this if the festival organisers agreed

to such a request. Council cannot force such a contribution as there is no legislated authority to do so.'

Again Council should be doing a bit more than contemplating and actually investigate all possible means for funds. Come on, Council, be our voice to state government for this type of legislation and at least ask the festival owners what they think of this idea.

Lorraine Sntclair
Byron Bay

Train support

If the people who want to rip up the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line are so convinced there's no community support for a regular commuter train service from Casino to Coolangatta Airport, to service eight out of ten of the north coast population centres and two million tourists, then they wouldn't need to spend so much time writing desperate letters full of misinformation.

continued on next page ►

UNHRC blues

Dear UNHRC Australia, can you please back off your membership drive in

Letters to the Editor

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

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Friday 24 March
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Saturday 25 March
JAMIE ASHFORTH BAND

Sunday 26 March
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Monday 27 March
GUY KACHEL

Tuesday 28 March
JAMIE ASHFORTH

Wednesday 29 March
LOU BRADLEY & PHIL

WE DON'T NEED A BYRON BAY TOURISM CAMPAIGN...



Exhibition of Modification Request Cultural Events Site, North Byron Parklands

Application No MP 09_0028 MOD 4
Location Tweed Valley Way and Jones Road, Yelgun.
Proponent Billinudgel Property Pty Ltd
Council Area Byron
Approval Authority Minister for Planning

Description of proposed modification
The Modification Request seeks to modify the Concept Plan and Project Approval for the Cultural Events Site at North Byron Parklands. The request seeks to extend the trial period for outdoor events of up to 35,000 patrons by a further 20 months to August 2019.

Exhibition
The Modification Request and accompanying documents may be viewed on the Department's website (www.planning.nsw.gov.au) and inspected from **Wednesday 22 March 2017** until **Wednesday 26 April 2017** during the relevant authority's ordinary office hours at:
• **Department of Planning and Environment:** Information Centre, Level 22, 320 Pitt Street, Sydney;
• **Byron Shire Council:** 70-90 Station Street, Mullumbimby; and
• **Tweed Shire Council:** Murwillumbah Civic Centre, 10-14 Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah.

At the time of publishing this advertisement, the Minister for Planning has not directed that a public hearing should be held.

Submissions
Any person may make a written submission concerning the Modification Request during the exhibition period. If a submission is made by way of objection, the grounds of objection must be specified in the submission.

Persons wishing to make a submission should use the online form if possible. To find the online form go to the webpage for this proposal via www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/on-exhibition

Your submission must reach the Department by **Wednesday 26 April 2017**. Before making your submission, please read our Privacy Statement at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy or telephone the number below for a copy.

The Department will publish your submission on its website in accordance with our Privacy Statement.

If you cannot lodge online you can write to the address below. If you want the Department to delete your personal information before publication, please make this clear at the top of your letter. You need to include:

- Your name and address, at the top of the letter only;
- The name of the application and the application number;
- A statement on whether you support or object to the proposal;
- The reasons why you support or object to the proposal; and
- A declaration of any reportable political donations made in the previous two years.

To find out what is reportable, and for a disclosure form, go to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/DonationsandGiftDisclosure or phone the number below for a copy.

For more information: Information Centre - 1300 305 695
Planning Services, Department of Planning and Environment, GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001.
(Your submission should be marked, Attention: Director - Industry Assessments)

► continued from page 11

As they're unable to do the most rudimentary research the following may help them out: As reported in *The Echo* on June 10, 2015, a petition with another 3,500 signatures was handed to Ballina MP Tamar Smith. Northern Rivers Railway Action Group had also collected another 2,000 signatures, bringing the total number of signatures in support of a regular, modern, clean, safe, sustainable rail service sent to state parliament to more than 15,000.

These signatures were collected by locals from locals around the northern rivers. Online petitions don't count as they can be signed by people anywhere in the world. It's okay for people from Nimbin to want to rip up the line; they don't experience the preposterous traffic congestion, carbon emissions, the stress and disruption to their daily lives as people on the coast and in Byron do.

Like Thomas George in Lismore, who almost lost his seat at the last election, Ms Smith understands the overwhelming community support for train services and the Greens have committed to not ripping up a valuable piece of public infrastructure, the rail lines, but support a

bike path alongside the rail line, such as the one on the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria. Regular train services on the line provide the only hope of reducing the traffic congesting in Byron Bay and other coastal towns.

It's really hard to fathom why a couple of cyclists are so bloody-minded about unnecessarily wasting over \$75 million of taxpayers' money destroying the line when we can have both: a cycle path and train services.

What train supporters are focused on is the three kilometres of line in Byron which has been repaired for just over \$1m; not the \$6 million per kilometre the state government claimed it would cost in their disgraceful \$2 million 'study'! Best of all, it's not costing taxpayers or ratepayers a single, solitary cent. When the Byron train is running next month it will be very obvious what the community wants.

Louise Doran
Ocean Shores

Care for refugees

I want to express my deep appreciation to this north coast community after the astounding success of Dangerously Poetic's Hope and Belonging benefit for Ballina Region for

Refugees on March 4. A small army of volunteers decorated and set up St Martin's Hall, while volunteers from BR4R cooked and served dinners and desserts.

More than 100 people attended the event and we raised a combined total of \$2,641! Nourished by original music, poetry and good food, this was a celebration of community cooperation and care for the welfare of the refugees. We are a lucky country. Surely, we can extend some compassion for those who are desperate for a safe home.

For further information about Ballina Region for Refugees contact ballinarr@gmail.com.

Laura Jan Shore
New Brighton

Lithgow reunion

A reunion committee is looking for former students and teachers of Lithgow High School for a Year 10 1977 40-year reunion this coming November. We are looking for those who were in Year 7 1974, Year 8 1975, Year 9 1976 and Year 10 1977 as there were some students/teachers who did all those years and some that partially attended through those years.

We have also included Year 11 1978 and Year 12 1979

as these students/teachers do not have reunions.

There will be pre-drinks at a local hotel at 7pm on Friday November 17. There has been a tour of Lithgow High School arranged for Saturday 18. The official function will be held Saturday November 18 at Black Gold Motel Wallerawang at \$50 a head.

There is a Facebook page dedicated to the reunion: LHS Year 7 1974 to Year 10 1977 Reunion. It has a lot of photos, memories and information.

For more information email giagsutton@optusnet.com.au or phone 6352 3778 or 0412 320 231.

Greg Sutton
Lithgow

Dutton for PM?

Thank you, Mungo, for your perspicacious comments on Peter Dutton's character: divisive, gaffe-prone, unwilling to compromise and thick as two short planks. Having followed his career as immigration minister, I would add: unhampered by any feelings of compassion or qualms of conscience.

I still find it hard to believe that Dutton could actually be considered a serious contender for the position of PM but on the current

trajectory of Abbott and turncoat Turnbull, it actually seems possible.

This is a truly horrifying prospect and we must hope sanity prevails.

Jenny Coman
Bangalow

Milk in crisis

We all know the dairy industry is in deep crisis as prices plummet, but now we are witnessing signs of terminal panic, with the demand from the industry to ban the word 'milk' from soy milk, almond milk, rice milk, oat milk and any other milk which does not fill their shrinking coffers. The panic is justified: the demand for non-dairy milk in Australia has increased rapidly, and these products now cover ten per cent of milk sales.

What is 'milk'? The industry has asked to have an unjustified monopoly over the word by redefining it as 'a mammary secretion of animals'. Enticing as this would look on a carton, the fact of the matter is that most dictionary definitions put that as just one possible meaning, and add that it is secreted 'for the nourishment of their young'.

This is inconvenient, in that the industry wants to

steal that milk from those young, and therefore has to either kill them (all the male calves and many of the females) or add them to the herd, as replacements for the cows who are shipped to the slaughterhouse less than halfway through their natural lives, done in by a lifetime of almost constant pregnancies and lactation.

Another dictionary definition of milk is 'to exploit or defraud by taking small amounts of money over a period of time' and this is evident in the industry's argument that non-dairy milks are nutritionally inferior to their mammary secretions. In fact, quite the opposite is true. For a start, at least two-thirds of adults have trouble digesting lactose, the sugar found in dairy products. The allergic reactions include bloating, gas, cramps, vomiting, headaches, rashes, and asthma.

But even for the minority who can assimilate these secretions, dairy products are known to increase the chances of developing heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and many other ailments. Large-scale studies have shown that, rather than preventing osteoporosis, milk may actually increase women's risk of

continued on page 14 ►

This was really not the way I wanted to get plastered

Story & image S Sorrensen

So, there I was: happy to be home after a weekend in Surfers Paradise, lugging my overnight bag and shopping supplies up the steps from the Superoo, anticipating a cold beer in the pleasant surrounds of my shack under the cliffs. Great to be home.

Don't get me wrong; there are things I like about Surfers Paradise. I like the many languages you hear as you stroll the mall. I like the Persian restaurant with its Brazilian waitresses. I particularly like sitting in the Skypoint bar, 77 floors above the Gold Coast glitz. But, really, I wouldn't go to Surfers if I didn't have a job there.

So, there I was: happy to be home, rushing up the steps, and thinking about the chilled can of Japanese beer in my fridge.

Then it happened.

I failed to negotiate a step and fell in a heap onto the ground. Immediately, I tried to get up, but I couldn't. My right leg just wasn't doing what a right leg should do. Oh dear.

I'm not someone who takes risks with his body.



Sure, I ride motorbikes, walk barefoot in the bush, and sometimes drink more than my daily requirement of alcohol. But I do wear a helmet (except in Cambodia), I keep my eyes out for snakes (except when admiring the birdlife) and I don't drink every night (but I will have that Japanese beer tonight).

I'm very careful physically, and have only broken a bone once. I was 10 years old. I was the barrow in a wheelbarrow race at a school sports day. The kid holding my legs as

I 'ran' with my arms was a high achiever. When his leg speed and desire for victory overcame my arms' running ability, he speared me into the ground, snapping a collarbone.

From that experience I learned two things: Sport is bad for you, and don't let people push you around.

Back to last Sunday: Still on the ground, I realised I couldn't move my foot without pain. Very slowly, I dragged myself up the remaining step, gingerly got up

on my left leg, and hopped into the shack.

I do take risks – just not with my body. Every time I walk on stage it's a risk. Every word I write, every relationship, every opinion is a risk. But as long as I have the option to walk (or run) away, it's an acceptable risk. Mobility is everything.

So, there I was: Stretched out on my daybed at night, wondering how I would get to the fridge.

So, here I am: Sitting at my desk in the shack under the cliffs, writing this column. Under the desk is a huge white thing attached to my knee. A cast. It throbs with each heartbeat. Leaning against the desk is a pair of crutches.

Apparently, I have torn my achilles tendon. Apparently that's serious.

But I'll tell you what is really serious: the change to my life. I'm immobilised. Today, I have cancelled gigs, work and appointments. The shack is rearranged to be cripple friendly. (My office chair gets me around.)

The hardest change to handle is that, now, I can't drive a car.

Driving is part of who I am. I live in the bush. Despite the carbon footprint (which I desperately offset with my solar powered, low-consumption lifestyle) I need to drive. I drive to make money. I drive to get food. I drive to see friends. Without a car, I'm helpless: no money, no supplies.

By the time my friends

wonder where I am and come to my shack, all they'll find is a throbbing cast with a starving office chair attached.

So, here I am.

Food drops appreciated.

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

Australians 'relatively happy'

The latest *Australia's Social Pulse* report from the Centre for Social Impact reveals that people living in remote Australia 'had higher levels of satisfaction than people living in major cities...

'People living in regional areas were significantly more satisfied with the home in which they lived compared to those in major cities.

'Satisfaction with the amount of free time was strongly associated with remoteness, when compared to people living in major cities.

'Similarly, the likelihood of being satisfied with feeling part of the community and the neighbourhood in which they lived increased the further people lived from major cities.

'Predicted scores for level of satisfaction with how safe a person feels were more varied, although people living in regional and remote areas were significantly more satisfied than people in major cities.'

The conclusion of the report was: 'Overall, Australians are relatively happy and satisfied with their lives, with some groups experiencing slightly different levels of satisfaction. On average, higher levels of satisfaction are reported by older people, and people living outside of major cities.'

The report also covered other areas such as Indigenous status. See more at <http://amplify.csi.edu.au/pulse/download>.

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Survey reveals 14 per cent of Australians with epilepsy use cannabis to manage seizures

The first Australian nationwide survey on the experiences and opinions of medicinal cannabis use in people with epilepsy has revealed that 14 per cent of people with epilepsy have used cannabis products as a way to manage seizures.

The study showed that of those with a history of cannabis product use, 90 per cent of adults and 71 per cent of parents of children with epilepsy reported success in managing seizures after commencing using cannabis products.

Published in *Epilepsy & Behaviour*, the Epilepsy Action Australia study, in partnership with The Lambert Initiative at the University of Sydney, surveyed 976 respondents to examine cannabis use in people with epilepsy, reasons for use, and any perceived benefits self-reported by consumers (or their carers).

The survey revealed:

- 15 per cent of adults with epilepsy and 13 per cent of parents/guardians of children with epilepsy were currently using, or had previously used,



Discount medical marijuana shop in Denver, Colorado. Photo O'Dea at WikiCommons

cannabis products to treat epilepsy.

- Across all respondents, the main reasons for trying cannabis products were to manage treatment-resistant epilepsy and to obtain a more favourable side-effect profile compared to standard antiepileptic drugs.

- The number of past antiepileptic drugs used was a significant predictor of medicinal cannabis use in both adults and children with epilepsy.

'This survey provides

insight into the use of cannabis products for epilepsy, in particular some of the likely factors influencing use, as well as novel insights into the experiences of and attitudes towards medicinal cannabis in people with epilepsy in the Australian community,' said lead author Anastasia Surav from The Lambert Initiative.

'Despite the limitations of a retrospective online survey, we cannot ignore that a significant proportion of adults and children with

epilepsy are using cannabis-based products in Australia, and many are self-reporting considerable benefits to their condition. More systematic clinical studies are urgently needed to help us better understand the role of cannabinoids in epilepsy,' she said.

Co-author of the paper Carol Ireland, CEO of Epilepsy Action Australia, who was recently appointed to the Australian Government's new Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis, said: 'Cannabis products are often what people turn to when they have been unable to control their epilepsy with conventional medication.

'This highlights a growing need to educate consumers and health professionals on the use of cannabis by people with epilepsy, and to provide safe and timely access to cannabinoid medicine in order to lessen people's reliance on illicit black-market products,' she said.

See more about cannabinoid therapeutics at The Lambert Initiative <http://sydney.edu.au/science/lambert>.

CHES by Ian Rogers

Any 'new' book by American legend Bobby Fischer will always be treated with scepticism, especially since the much-hyped *My 61 Memorable Games* – released in the US as Fischer lay dying in Iceland in late 2007 – turned out to be a complete hoax.

However, the recent release *Checkmate*, published by Russell Enterprises, is the real thing. It is a collection of the columns Fischer wrote for the US Boy Scouts magazines between 1966 and 1970.

Fischer starts with the absolute basics but then moves on to general advice, with ideas provoked by questions and games from readers. *Checkmate* also includes many annotated games, including one brilliancy, Nikolic-Fischer from Vinkovci 1968, which I had never seen before.

Bobby Fischer was in his mid-twenties when he wrote these columns and his colloquial and friendly writing style is well suited to a young audience. Rules are explained clearly and concisely; indeed, it is remarkable how well Fischer's advice has held up over

the last half century.

Curiously, the composed puzzle which accompanies each column is often extremely challenging – although apparently not too difficult for the multiple correct solvers announced in the next column.

The following classic game has comments much abbreviated from those in *Checkmate*.

Sousse Interzonal 1967

White: R Fischer

Black: L Miagmarsuren

Opening: King's Indian Attack

1.e4 e6 2.d3 In order to throw my opponent off his stride I decided upon this slow, quiet build-up. 2...d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.g3 c5 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Ngf3 Be7 7.0-0-0.e5! The key strategic thrust. 8...Nd7 9.Re1 b5 10.Nf1 b4 11.h4 a5 12.Bf4 a4 13.a3 I did not want to allow 13...a3. Chess is a matter of delicate judgement, knowing when to punch and how to duck. 13...bxa3 14.bxa3 Na5 15.Ne3 Ba6 16.Bh3 d4 17.Nf1 Nb6 18.Ng5 Nd5? He should have driven off White's pieces with 18...h6! 19.Ne4 c4 with reasonable counterplay. 19.Bd2! Bxg5 The point is that 19...h6? Fails to 20.Nxe6! 20.Bxg5 Qd7 21.Qh5 Rfc8 22.Nd2 Nc3 22...c4 was imperative. A sound chess maxim is 'The best defence is attack'. 23.Bf6! Qe8 If 23...gxf6 24.exf6 Kh8 25.Nf3! and the attack crashes through. 24.Ne4 g6 25.Qg5 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 c4 27.h5 cxd3 28.Rh4! Ra7 29.Bg2! dxc2 30.Qh6 Qf8 31.Qxh7+!! 1-0 Miagmarsuren got the message; after 31...Kxh7 32.hxg6++ Kxg6 33.Be4 checkmate!

► continued from page 12 getting the disease through the consumption of too much saturated fat and Vitamin A, which can weaken bones.

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Desmond Bellamy
Special Projects Coordinator,
PETA Australia
Byron Bay

Immature males

Jaqueline Maley (*SMH*, March 4) discussed the fragile emotional state of failed male leaders like Abbott and Rudd.

Generally men are less emotionally mature than females. Women are equipped by nature with greater emotional intelligence and compassion, the better to raise children. Hence they have had more practice at dealing with their negative side, while men push it under the carpet. Anger and ego blinds many men to the damage they

cause. Perhaps they become vindictive.

Study has shown an important correlation between children raised with insufficient love of a mother, such as those who attended elite boarding schools, and emotional damage, aggression and dysfunction. Perhaps such politicians will be rejected in future!

The strong reaction against women presenters for International Women's Day from a right-wing Sydney paper strikes me as stemming from a similar cause: men who cannot deal with emotion because of traumatic childhood experiences.

Hayo van der Woude
Mullumbimby

World gone mad

Pauline Hanson expresses admiration for Vladimir Putin as a 'strong' leader. Hitler was quite strong. So were Stalin and Mao. Perhaps Pauline could explain her favourite examples of Vlad's strength; was it the murder of journalists and dissidents? Or was it the invasion of Crimea, or perhaps the mayhem in the Ukraine? Or, going back 20 years or so, was it mass-murder in Chechnya, the brutal suppression of which was the cause of Vlad's initial

popularity in Russia?

You'd think that Pauline's memory of being jailed for minor electoral offences that all politicians at that time were committing would have made her wary of dictators who victimise their critics. Cognitive connections are not Pauline's strong point though, are they? I however differentiate her from Donald Trump in one important way: she truly believes what she says (however ridiculous) while the Donald just says what he thinks will work for him – and doesn't believe any of it. His critics will make no headway against him until they acknowledge that basic fact and adapt accordingly – for example, by inventing 'alternative facts' against him.

Pauline has also come out sceptical about vaccination. Now that rednecks are to be increasingly seen going into so-called healthfood shops to over-pay for their magic pills and potions, I suppose Pauline will recommend homeopathy or aromatherapy as a substitute for vaccination. She might even organise fleets of ambulances to attend car accidents, armed only with rescue remedy.

Talking of which, there was a minor car accident in Mullumbimby recently near IGA, and

one of the drivers was understandably shaken. Suddenly out of the woodwork comes this hippy dippy girl and pops a couple of drops in the (girl) driver's mouth. I watch in fascination as a dog is then let out of one of the accident vehicles, attracting the hesitating attention of Ms Hippy Dippy. I smilingly say to her 'For a minute I thought you were going to give the dog rescue remedy.' Her earnest reply: 'I was thinking about it.'

The world has gone mad. Consistent with my letter of the other week, I point out that China, despite well over half a century of materialist doctrine, is still the world headquarters of abracadabra medicine. My evolving conspiracy theory is that China has learned from its own population that magic potions keep the locals preoccupied and quiet, and that it's China which is behind not only Donald Trump and extreme Islamism, but also the worldwide growth of alternative medicine as a form of creeping irrationality.

Furthermore I have a prediction: Donald Trump will soon promote 'alternative facts' to the status of 'complementary facts'.

Fast Bucks
Coorabell

FLAWED LAWS

Racial Discrimination Act 1975 is not flawed

Murdoch's flagship \$30m p/a loss maker, *The Australian*, can't stop squawking that section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* must be repealed for the sake of free speech.

Yet this is really about the freedom to spray hate speech. Murdoch minion Andrew Bolt should know; he is Australia's first convicted racist.

Section 18D of the Act follows 18C, and defines exemptions to 18C.

Section 18C describes 'Offensive behaviour because of race, colour or national or ethnic origin' that is likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate... because of [their] race, colour or national or ethnic origin...'

Section D states 'Section 18C does not render unlawful anything said or done reasonably and in good faith with regards to 'fair and accurate report', or an 'expression of a genuine belief' etc.

Andrew Bolt was found guilty in 2011 because Justice Bromberg found his NewsCorp articles regarding Aboriginals with fair skin was 'not done reasonably and in good faith.' The judge found he had not fact checked his stories and the material was 'substantially proven to be untrue.'

So provided that what you write is factual or it's a genuinely held belief, you can't be sued under the RDA.

If Greg Sheridan and his ilk were really concerned about freedom of speech they would rally for a Bill of Rights, call for abolishing defamation laws, the secrecy provisions of the *Border Force Act* and banning SLAPP suits (strategic lawsuits against public participation).

There is nothing inherently wrong with this law. The problem appears to be that bigoted, sociopathic individuals are mostly in power and they are always looking for ways to inflict more unpleasantness on others. It's just bullying and weak. For more on the case read *Eatock v Bolt [2011] FCA*.

Find out more about flawed laws at:
flawedlaws.org and [facebook.com/flawedlaws](https://www.facebook.com/flawedlaws)

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What matters to young people?

Byron Youth Service is presenting a new *Echo* column, which aims to give a voice to local young people. Interview with Lui.L*, 18:

What has been the best experience in your life?

I had an experience at week-long ConFest, which was eye opening to me – I saw a community of freedom – no electronics, organic food, raw instruments, very tribal way of living – representing freedom. Coming back and seeing buildings and cars – it was a polarity. That became informative in my life and how I see everything now. It was powerful and amazing.

What inspires you?

Sound and music and how that can make people feel – that it has an effect on your whole being.

Who would you like to meet and what would you ask them?

Beings of no specific age who are on same journey as me, towards changing consciousness – sharing what's happening in the world and how to make a change – so the whole planet elevates together.

What would you like to see happen in Byron Bay?

I would like to see more youth-empowered things – music nights of all genres. Open mic night. Proper skatepark for Byron youth. Youth expressing artistry and creativity, whatever it is.

When do you think a person becomes an adult, and how?

A person becomes adult when they reach a level to be able to show respect to everyone, show manners, genuine



Photo by Yani Clarke, Byron Youth Service's resident young photographer.

morals towards themselves and others. But these days, kids are so aware and so many adults aren't. An adult in an office or kid in a forest can be learning at same capacity, so... Also the ability to sustain yourself with money, having organisation, priorities, be able to support family and people around you.

What do you believe in?

I used to believe in a lot of things. Then I went to Germany, which was cold, then to Rwanda. It was very intense. When I came back, everything started – being more grateful, more spiritual. But I don't think you need to believe, just be open to everything. Am I a religious person? No, but you can take aspects of Buddhism, Judaism, or whatever resonates with you. Just be, connect and feel all of it.

What has been the worst experience in your life?

The time when I was young, in years three, four and five. Being young and not understanding why my dad was gone; he's dead. Fear, just fear. A lot of nightmares and inse-

curities, bullied at school, racial slurs. Fear really had me in a grip. Time and experience have shown me to acknowledge fear – it's a part of life in polarity with love. Need to find the balance in between.

What would you like to change in the world?

I love this interview – so sick! In this moment right now, I just want to change myself and be the best I could possibly be. Once you go inside and cleanse yourself, everything around will come into balance. Remember that spirit is infinite. I see each of us as lights, some bright, some dim. And when we are all shining bright, we'll all be where we need to be. It's changing. Earth is changing.

*Names have been changed.

BYS pings are a collection of thoughts from young people about life, school, society and people. This week BYB asked some local kids about the environment.

'We need to focus on making a healthier future. I don't want my kids growing up in a sexist, litter-filled, no-wildlife,

dead world.' – Anonymous, 15.

'I often think of not having kids because I don't want them growing up controlled and judged with everything they do.' – Heather, 15.

'There is a culture around littering and no-one is doing anything about it.' – Anonymous, 15.

'Why? The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Why do we have to pay to get a good education or suffer with no education because it's unaffordable?' – Anonymous.

'The world scares me. Having an uncertain future makes me nervous and I don't like the pressure that is inflicted upon us so young about knowing what/who we should be and not necessarily being ourselves and doing what makes us happy.' – Anonymous.

'It concerns me that our planet is being destroyed by pollution, CSG, logging, dredging, etc and nothing's being done to stop it.' – Eden, 15.

'I'm nervous for my future and I have the pressure of having to know what I want to do with my life at 15.' – Anonymous.

'I feel like all these people talk about how they want to help the environment but they never actually make that change, they still litter or just walk past the rubbish in the street and not pick it up.' – Anonymous, 15.

■ To get involved with BYB, visit www.bys.org.au or call 6685 7777.

Stress hormones and Indigenous health

James Cook University scientists have made a disturbing finding about some young Indigenous people's biological reaction to stress, but one that could help close the health gap for Indigenous people. The researchers have found young adult Indigenous people they tested show impaired secretion of the stress hormone cortisol and that their biological stress response is linked to the racial discrimination they experience.

Professor Zoltan Sarnyai led the team of scientists from the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine at JCU.

In their study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, the team showed for the first time that the biologically important 'morning rise' of cortisol that prepares us to effectively deal with the daily hassles and stresses of life is missing in otherwise healthy Indigenous young adults.

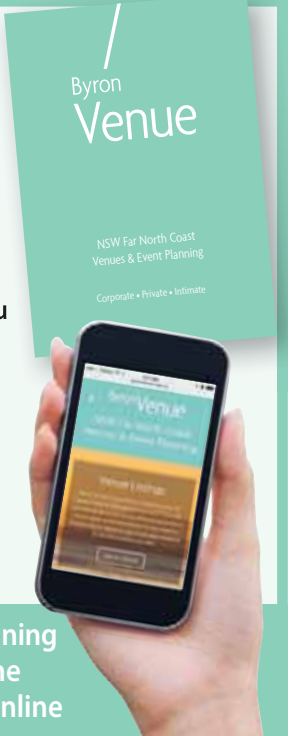
Dr Sarnyai said Professor Sarnyai said it is highly unlikely that the observed abnormalities are due to genetic factors since the non-Indigenous group comprised an ethnically diverse group of individuals. However, this study cannot rule out that epigenetic changes caused by early experiences and even by transgenerational traumas might play a role.

See more at <http://bit.ly/stressh>.

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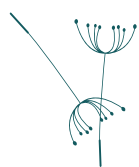
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Property investment jargon explained

Russel Shaw from Acceptance Finance has produced a handy glossary in their latest newsletter.

Bank valuation

A bank valuation is the bank's estimate of the value of a property. When you apply for a home loan, your lender will send an independent valuer to appraise the property. The bank valuation is usually more conservative than the market value, because it's designed to limit the lender's risk and indicates the amount they can expect to recoup if the property is repossessed. It's important to note that a bank will not accept your valuation of the property, even if you obtain your valuation from an independent valuer.

Capital gain

Capital gain is the term used to describe the profit on the sale of the property, once all expenses have been deducted. Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is applicable to capital gains on investment properties purchased on or after 20

September 1985, but does not apply to your principal place of residence in most instances.

The tax you pay is based on the sale price minus the cost involved in acquiring and holding the property (your cost base), and any gain is included in your assessable income in the financial year you sell the property.

Capital growth

Capital growth is the increase in value of the property over time. The supply and demand in an area impact the capital growth. If there is high demand from buyers and limited supply, the prices are likely to rise.

Current market value

Not to be confused with the listing price, neither the most recent offer on a property, the current market value, as defined by The International Valuation Standards Council, is: 'The estimated amount

for which an asset or liability should exchange on the valuation date between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's-length transaction, after proper marketing and where the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion.'

Depreciation

Depreciation is the decline in the value of an asset over time. As an investor, you may be able to claim depreciation on the property buildings and the items within it against your taxable income, but again you should check with your accountant to see what tax deductions are applicable to you.

Equity

Equity is the current market value of a property minus any outstanding mortgage repayments. Investors can use the equity from the increasing value of an investment property to purchase a new property.

Lenders mortgage insurance (LMI)

This is a fee charged by lenders to protect themselves against borrowers who default, in case the net proceeds of a foreclosure do not cover the loan. LMI may be applicable to borrowers who do not have a deposit of 20 per cent or more.

Loan-to-value ratio (LVR)

The LVR is the proportion of money borrowed versus the value of a property. Lenders take into account the LVR when assessing mortgage applications, as the lower the LVR, the lower their risk. Usually lenders will require you to pay LMI if they're lending more than 80 per cent of the value of the property.

Negative gearing

Negative gearing applies when the property's expenses surpass the rent earned. These

expenses can be used to reduce your taxable income. Positive gearing is when the rent exceeds the costs and the property pays for itself.

Rental yield

The rental yield is the annual rental income, expressed as a percentage of the property's value. It's often quoted when examining a property's rental potential, and may be calculated as a gross percentage (before expenses are subtracted), or as a net percentage (accounting for purchasing or transaction costs).

Suburb growth

Suburb growth refers to the capital growth of properties within a particular suburb. As an investor, it's a good idea to thoroughly research a suburb's profile, including its capital growth potential, before purchasing a property.

Vacancy rate

The vacancy rate is the



number of properties vacant in an area. It is a useful way for investors to assess the rental demand of a suburb before purchasing.

Zoning

Zoning refers to government laws specifying how property can be used. Properties may be zoned for residential, industrial, business, or other purposes. It's important to be aware of zoning, as it affects the home loan you take out, capital growth potential, plus future renovation plans.



**51 Kings Road
Federal**

2 Beds 1 Bath 2 Cars

This ridgeline property with 180 degree hinterland to Nightcap Ranges views offers a superb opportunity to build a dream home. It's set on 48 premium acres near Federal Village and within a scenic drive of Byron Bay.

Auction Saturday 22 April 11am

View Saturday 11am-11.30am

Agent Greg Price 0412 871 500

McGrath

mcgrath.com.au

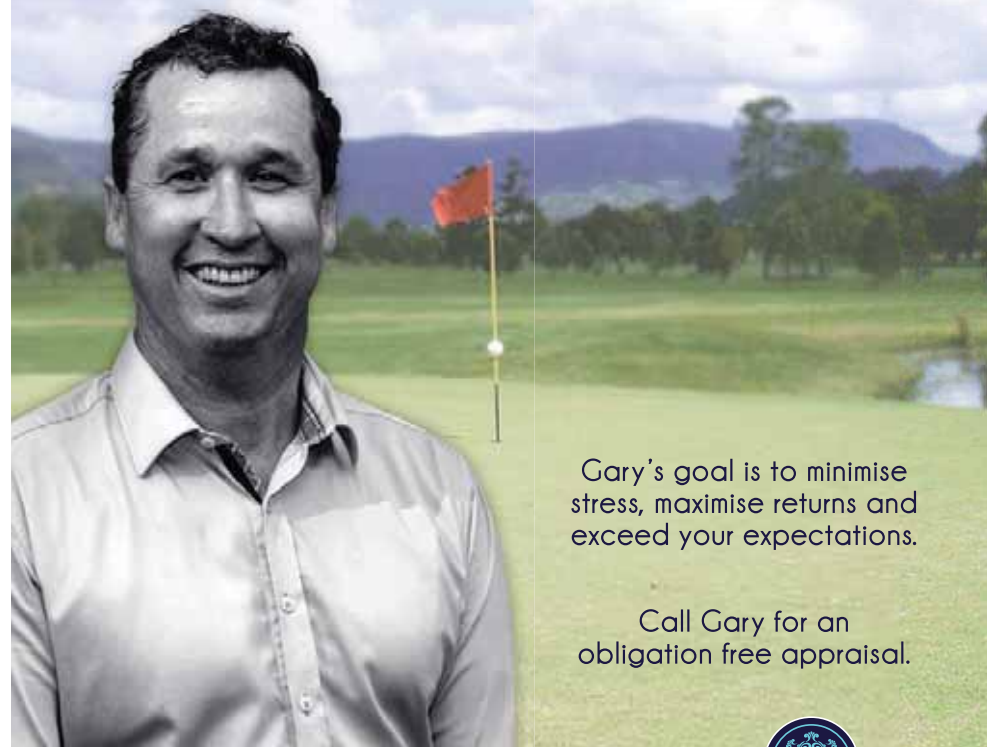
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great
REAL ESTATE

Byron Hills

744 Bangalow Road, Talofa

🏠 4 🛏 2+ 🚗 2

Expressions of interest



Overlooking green rolling hills, Byron Hills provides the perfect mix of functionality and visual appeal. Originally built in 1991, this rendered brick home has recently undergone a substantial renovation.



The star of the show is an alfresco courtyard featuring an outdoor dining room with a wood fired pizza oven framed by an expansive and beautifully lit 100 year old fig tree.

The home features an open plan kitchen, dining and lounge area, large bathroom for 3 good sized bedrooms and an expansive master suite and kitchenette, enviable walk-in robe, ensuite and outdoor bath. There are approved plans for an additional western wing with 2 extra bedrooms and an additional living space and plenty of room for a pool.

Ideally located just 3 minutes from the popular village of Bangalow and only 10 minutes drive from the heart of Byron Bay.

Open: By appointment
Contact: Nicolette van Wijngaarden 0411 144 877
Unique Estates

The Beach House

13/42 MacGregor Street, Suffolk Park

🏠 4 🛏 2 🚗 2

\$3.6M



Set in a private gated estate on 1516m2 with nature reserve on 3 sides 'The Beach House' is one of Byron Bay's largest beach front properties.



Enter through the large entrance/doorway of the property and the ocean/beach view is simply stunning. A vast open outdoor living/entertaining area has 3 bedrooms and a bathroom leading from this area of the home. The main house features open plan living/dining/kitchen with the master bedroom retreat with ensuite accessed via a private staircase.

From the large lawned area there is direct beach access to Tallow Beach with views from Byron Bay Lighthouse to Broken Head. Offering great privacy and tranquility this is wonderful family home/retreat.

Open: By appointment
Contact: Vicky Innes 0414 339 229
Byron Bay Property Sales

Hidden sanctuary, prime position

4/55 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park

🏠 2 🛏 2 🚗 1

Auction



Basking in the tranquillity of its tropical setting, this state of the art remodelled luxuriously appointed townhouse is a captivating sanctuary. The property features an ultra-modern kitchen with gas cooktop and plenty of storage, seamless open plan layout featuring polished concrete floors, plantation shutters and vertical blinds throughout, good sized bedrooms, the main opening onto a breezy private deck, plus two immaculate bathrooms, ensuite featuring a spa bath, new reverse cycle air-con and ceiling fans in all of the rooms, outdoor shower, remote control garage and a second allocated car space. It provides an idyllic lifestyle opportunity on a north to rear facing block in a desirable position within an easy walk to the local bakery, shops and tavern and footsteps from the popular Tallow Beach.



Open: Thursday 23rd March 5.00pm – 5.30pm and Saturday 25th March 11.30am – 12.00pm
Auction: Saturday 25th March 12.00pm
Contact: Sharon McInnes 0408 659 649
McGrath Byron Bay

 Titjaru - Broken Head asking price \$4.2 million	 Coolamon - Coorabell asking price \$1.495 million	 Hillcrest - Eureka asking price \$2.95 million	 Fig Tree Lane - Myocum asking price \$1.95 million	 R & R Ranch - Bangalow asking price \$4.5 million
 Coorabell Breeze - Coorabell asking price \$1.35 - \$1.45 million	 Booyong - Clunes asking price \$950,000 (sold in conj)	 River Cottage - Wilsons Creek asking price \$925,000	 Coorabell House - Coorabell asking price \$1.5 million	 Mont Rouge - Rosebank asking price \$1.175 million
 Willanna - Federal asking price \$1.95 - \$2.15 million	 Hamam Eden - Fernleigh asking price \$1.375 million	 Sky Nest - Wilsons Creek asking price \$1.65 - \$1.85 million	 Heartbreak Hill - Coorabell asking price \$1.5 million	 Sunnybrook Farm - Binna Burra asking price \$1.5 million

Gary Brazenor
www.uniqueestates.com.au
📞 0423 777 237
✉ gary@uniqueestates.com.au

We currently have high numbers of interstate and international buyers looking to secure their 'Unique Estates'. Call Gary to discuss your property sale.

Specialising in selling 'Unique Estates' in the Byron Shire hinterland and with over 15 years of industry experience, Gary will maximise your results through strong negotiation, unique branding & targeted marketing.



unique
ESTATES

Auction



3 1 1

Brunswick Heads 2/5-7 Newberry Parade

BRUNSWICK HEADS 3 BR UNIT

Freshly renovated 3 bedroom unit. All the hard work is already done for you. Move in, relax and start embracing the beautiful village lifestyle Brunswick Heads has to offer. Alternatively purchase as an investment. This property provides the option of both private rental and holiday let.

- Rare 3 bedroom unit, all with built in robes
- Brand new kitchen
- New flooring throughout
- Single lockup garage with storage
- Quiet, private location in the complex
- Easy stroll to the boat harbour, river, beach,

cafes and the popular Bruns Hotel!
• Ground floor unit, in a private and quiet location at the rear of this well maintained complex.
With the scarcity of 3 bedroom units in town for sale, don't let this one get away.

Inspect Saturday 11.00 – 11.30am
Auction 22/04/2017 at 11.30am onsite
Contact Peter Browning 0411 801 795

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177

Auction



3 2 2

North Ocean Shores 167 Shara Boulevard

LOCATION LIFESTYLE & OPPORTUNITY

Move straight in, not a cent to spend.
• 3 bedrooms with built-ins, master with walk-in robe and large ensuite
• Bright, light, airy, open plan kitchen, dining, formal lounge
• Huge private east-facing covered patio
• Easy care, gated, subtropical garden & lawn
• Great for small children and pets
• 895m2 corner block ideal for a second dwelling
• Flat, level, flood-free site
Move fast on this one, it won't last.

Inspect Saturday 11.00 – 11.30am
Auction TBA
Contact Peter Browning 0411 801 795 or
David Holden 0435 789 677

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177



4 1 2 1

Mullumbimby 26 Argyle Street

GLASS IS HALF FULL

Yep it's half full and easy to fill! With this one most of work is done and most buyers are looking for a house to build a granny flat on to get some \$\$\$\$\$. Check it out.

- 3 bedrooms plus study/office
- 2 car accom, huge covered entertaining
- Corner location with rear land – 1 neighbour
- Walk to Mullum CBD
- Separate studio/ potential flat

Looking for that half-full glass and opportunity? Call me.

Inspect Saturday 1.00 – 1.30pm
Contact Peter Browning 0411 801 795

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177



2 2 1

Ocean Shores 5 Aloota Crescent

GREAT STARTER – STOP PAYING RENT TODAY

Start paying off your new home. Getting into the real estate market is tough now! With prices going up and properties getting harder and harder to find in your budget. Well check this out:

- Freestanding duplex
- 2 bedrooms, open plan living
- High ceilings, plenty of natural light
- Quiet location, private flat level yard
- Rainwater tank and single LUG

Inspect Saturday 12.00 – 12.30pm
Contact Peter Browning 0411 801 795

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177



3 1 2

North Ocean Shores 4 Natan Court

LOCATION, LIFESTYLE & RARE

The heading says it all! Located in a quiet cul-de-sac, strolling distance to the beach, canal, farmers market, river and school. An ideal family home or great property for the astute investor.

- 3 bedrooms, double garage
- Quiet, children, safe cul-de-sac
- 669.5m2, flat-flood free block.
- Fabulous neighbourhood

Price Owner is looking for offers mid \$600s
Contact Peter Browning 0411 801 795

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
02 6685 0177

LJ Hooker

ljhooker.com.au

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

Residential | Commercial | Rural | Finance

Renovated Home in Town

7 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay

🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 1

\$1.69M



Recently undergoing a high quality renovation, this charming home features immaculate craftsmanship and stunning finishes including internal garden feature walls in the bedrooms.



In the heart of town and within easy walking distance to the beach, the air-conditioned property includes 3 bedrooms, lounge area, a modern, open plan kitchen/dining and a lovely private deck overlooking the tropical garden.

The fantastic location and quality of the property offer many options, from family home to executive private rental to short term holiday let.

Open: By appointment
Contact: Vicky Innes 0414 339 229
 Byron Bay Property Sales

Beyond Byron

587 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet

🏠 4 🛏 3 🚗 2

\$2.8 million



This four-bedroom, three-bathroom pavilion-style home makes the most of stunning vistas. Spread atop a sprawling 40-acre block and surrounded by manicured lawns, the property's 225sqm master residence has been designed with rural sophistication, relaxation and versatility in mind. The living area features striking grey ironbark flooring while the open plan chef's kitchen has a multi-purpose stone island bench and an impressive array of modern appliances. A spacious dining area and a large wood-burning fireplace round out the living zone. The master bedroom in the main pavilion boasts a walk-in robe, a second fireplace, an impressively large ensuite and, akin to every other room in the home, a breathtaking view too difficult to ignore. The second pavilion houses two guest bedrooms and includes a shared, cavernous ensuite with full size bath and separate laundry while the third and final pavilion hosts a high calibre self-contained studio and stylish ensuite bathroom.



Open: By appointment
Contact: Nicolette van Wijngaarden 0411 144 877
 Unique Estates

Radiantly revitalised haven

2 Silky Oak Court, Suffolk Park

🏠 5 🛏 2 🚗 2

\$990,000 – \$1,080,000



A picture of perfection, this meticulously transformed home amidst serene gardens radiates warmth and sophistication across a spacious single level.



The property features a stunning lounge with wide windows bathing interiors in light, revitalised décor, LED lights and bamboo flooring, sleek kitchen boasts stone benchtops and upgraded appliances, stylish modern bathroom appointed with a bath, separate w/c, gorgeous bedrooms, private master adjoins an airy ensuite, secluded merbau hardwood decks perfect for entertaining, manicured grounds with trimmed lawns and raised garden beds, ample storage, air conditioning and internal access to garage.

It's set on a north east facing 655sqm corner block in a quiet pocket, close to Tallow Beach and Byron Bay.

Open: Saturday 25th March 10.00am – 10.30am
Contact: Nick Dunn 0448 301 111
 McGrath Byron Bay

HABITAT

NORTH BEACH · BYRON BAY

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The Legal Light

Kym Luke



Buying or selling a property – do you need a lawyer?

We say yes, of course! But we need to explain why you need a lawyer.

Many prospective clients buying or selling a property ask about costs and how fast things can be done. But the clever clients also ask “how experienced are you”? Finding a lawyer who has years of experience will mean that you get someone on your side that has already carried out 100s of transactions just like yours. A top lawyer will also have broad experience not just in conveyancing, but also complex property matters, Estates, commercial deals, mortgages and finance and even Court litigation. All this experience gives you someone on your team that has the skills and experience to see the big picture, provide you with advice and act to ensure you get the best deal and that risks and problems are identified, avoided or dealt with promptly.

Once you have used an experienced lawyer for a property transaction, they are your lawyer. They know you. You will have the benefit of that relationship for other legal needs such as Wills and Estates, employment law, business law, family law and your lawyer will also work closely with your other advisors including accountants and financial advisors.

Do you want a top highly experienced lawyer as your Partner in Life? Give us a call, your initial consultation is at no cost.



6681 6699

Partners in life

kluke@stacklaw.com.au

stacklaw.com.au

Auction this weekend!

122 Broken Head Road, Newrybar

3 1 3



This is a great opportunity to purchase a fabulous property in an exclusive area known as the golden mile! Only two minutes to Harvest Café and an easy 10 minutes to Broken Head Beach, this property offers a rural situation with a stunning outlook.

With the rear of the block facing towards the coastline this gently sloping 5 acres (2.03ha) boasts stunning views towards the Lennox Headland with ocean glimpses and rolling valley hills.

A generous distance from Broken Head Road sits the modest 3-bedroom brick home, with 3-way bathroom, large living/dining areas and beautiful views to the southeast. Adjacent to the house is a large double lockup garage. The home has plenty of potential for renovation or you may just want to demolish and build your own to perfection.

The property has both town water and three concrete water tanks. The current owner lives interstate and wants this property SOLD! You must inspect before you miss out!

Open: Wed 3.00 – 3.30pm and Sat 10.00 – 10.30am

Auction: Saturday 10.30am

Contact: Janice Maple 0401 026 359

Elders Bangalow 02 6687 1500

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19a Byron Street, Bangalow
www.eldersbangalow.com.au
6687 1500

AUCTION
THIS SATURDAY



AMAZING 5 ACRES WITH BONUS HOUSE!

3 1 3

- Fabulous, elevated position in popular Newrybar
- Gently sloping 5 acres - valley views towards Lennox Headland
- Great location only 10 minute drive to Broken Head beach
- Heaps of potential to value add
- Separate double lock up garage
- Modest 3 bedroom home requiring renovation or replacement!

122 Broken Head Road, NEWRYBAR

Open Saturday 10am

Open Wednesday 3pm - 3.30pm

Janice Maple 0401 026 359

AUCTION 25th March
On-site - 10.30AM

AUCTION



PRIVATE PARADISE IN BANGALOW

4 3 2

- Stunning home with lovely outlook on 1438sqm
- Tropical landscaped gardens, pool and entertaining area
- Two street frontages - Rifle Range Road and Wright Place
- Flexible floor plan allows for home office or potential rental
- Only 800m easy stroll into Bangalow's main street
- Popular location in quiet, established area

15a Rifle Range Road, BANGALOW

Open Saturday 12pm - 12.30pm

Open Wednesday 1pm - 1.30pm

Janice Maple 0401 026 359

AUCTION 6th April
If not sold prior



Open for Inspection



BYRON BEACH REALTY

- 3/53 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Wed 5–5.30pm
- 3/53 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 1–1.30pm

ELDERS BANGALOW

- 15a Rifle Range Road, Bangalow. Wed 12–12.30pm
- 122 Broken Head Road, Newrybar. Wed 3–3.30pm
- 15a Rifle Range Road, Bangalow. Sat 1–1.30pm

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON BAY

- 5/15–17 Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads. Wed 12–12.30pm
- 111 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. Thu 10–10.30am
- 23 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Thu 10.30–11am
- 5 Palm Avenue, Mullumbimby. Thu 11–11.30am
- 8-10 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Thu 11–11.30am
- 1/25 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Thu 11.30am–12pm
- 892 Main Arm Road, Main Arm. Thu 12–12.30pm
- 209 Binna Burra Road, Binna Burra. Thu 12.30–1pm
- 15 Evans Street, Byron Bay. Thu 5–5.30pm
- 6A-D/155 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Fri 10–10.30am
- 14 Orchid Place, Mullumbimby. Fri 11–11.30am
- 111 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 8.30–9am
- 23 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9–9.30am
- 14 Orchid Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 9–9.30am
- 8 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 9–9.30am
- 5 Palm Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.45–10.15am
- 5/2 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 6–8 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 8–10 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 49 Mullumbimby Road, Myocum. Sat 10.30–11am
- 256 Dingo Lane, Myocum. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 11 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 179 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30am
- 39 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/25 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11.45am–12.15pm
- 892 Main Arm Road, Main Arm. Sat 12–12.30pm

- 15 Evans Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 64 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 4 Staghorn Court, Bangalow. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 54 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 311 Booyong Road, Nashua. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 209 Binna Burra Road, Binna Burra. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 1533 Nimbin Road, Koonorigan. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 478 Tuntable Creek Road, Tuntable Creek. Sat 3–3.30pm

LJ HOOKER BRUNSWICK HEADS

- 2/5–7 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11–11.30am
- 167 Shara Boulevard, North Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/4 Halyard Court, North Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 5A Aloota Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 26 Argyll Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 2 Nargoan Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm

LOIS BUCKETT REAL ESTATE

- 14 Lindsay Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1 Sapphire Place, Lennox Head. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 200 North Creek Road, Lennox Head. Sat 1–1.30pm

MCGRATH BYRON BAY

- 7 Tinderbox Road, Talofa. Thurs 12.30–1pm
- 4/55 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Thurs 5–5.30pm
- 6 Hilltop Place, Lennox Head. Thurs 6–6.30pm
- 11 McLeans Street, Skennars Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2 Silky Oak Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 26A Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 18 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.30–11am
- 10 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 138 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4/55 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 11/3 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 7 Tinderbox Road, Talofa. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 6 Hilltop Place, Lennox Head. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 15 Red Bean Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 4 Sansom Street, Bangalow. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 10B Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 52 Killarney Crescent, Skennars Head. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 1533 Nimbin Road, Koonorigan. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 478 Tuntable Creek Road, Tuntable Creek. Sat 3–3.30pm

PROFESSIONALS & MARK COCHRANE

- 2 Palm Ave, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.45am

RAINE & HORNE OCEAN SHORES

- 4 Hart Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11am–12pm

Auctions

BYRON BEACH REALTY

- 3/53 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 1st April 1.30pm onsite

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON BAY

- 5 Palm Avenue, Mullumbimby. Auction Saturday 8th April
- 209 Binna Burra Road, Binna Burra. Auction Saturday 8th April
- 39 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Auction Saturday 8th April
- 15 Evans Street, Byron Bay. Auction 22nd April if not sold prior

LOIS BUCKETT REAL ESTATE

- 2 Satinwood Drive, McLeans Ridges. Sat 29th April 11am onsite

MCGRATH BYRON BAY

- 4/55 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 25th March 12pm
- 138 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 1st April 11am
- 10 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 1st April 12pm
- 10B Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Fri 7th April 1pm
- 7 Tinderbox Road, Talofa. Sat 8th April 10.30am
- 15 Red Bean Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 8th April 2.30pm
- 4 Sansom Street, Bangalow. Sat 8th April 4pm
- 11/3 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 8th April 5pm
- 26A Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 22nd April 11am

RAINE & HORNE OCEAN SHORES

- 77 Orana Road, Ocean Shores Sat 15th April

New Listings

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON BAY

- 478 Tuntable Creek Road, Tuntable Creek. Contact Agent
- 15 Evans Street, Byron Bay. Auction 22nd April if not sold prior

MCGRATH BYRON BAY

- 52 Killarney Crescent, Skennars Head
- 18 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park
- 1 & 2/13 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park

PROFESSIONALS & MARK COCHRANE

- 11 Grand Valley Crt, Mullumbimby \$1,289,000

RAINE & HORNE OCEAN SHORES

- Casons Lane, New Brighton



AUCTION Land

R&H Ocean Shores / Brunswick Heads 6680 5000

Auction
8 April 10am onsite

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

Caitlin Hellyar
Area Sales Specialist
0428 883 815

Have you been looking for that special place? This is where your coastal lifestyle begins. Discover the simple, unhurried pace of life where local and community facilities all come together, offering a life of opportunity.

- 1043 square metres
- Cleared & fully serviced
- Ready to build your dream home
- Close to community facilities
- House plans available

R&H Ocean Shores / Brunswick Heads 6680 5000

View
Saturday
11.00am – 12.00pm

Agent
Caitlin Hellyar
Area Sales Specialist
0428 883 815

Julie-Ann Manahan LREA Licensee/Principal
0411 081 118

4 🏠 2 🚗 2 🚗 🌊

4 Hart Court, Ocean Shores Stylish Master Built Lifestyle

A stylish and relaxed beachside lifestyle could be yours in this bright and airy, Master-built contemporary home and just 4 minutes' drive or a 15 minute stroll from the pristine sands of South Golden Beach.

- Open plan, high ceilings with a multitude of high-set windows
- Sparkling in-ground salt water pool and spa
- Large covered Alfresco entertaining
- Side access perfect for trailer or boat storage

R&H Ocean Shores / Brunswick Heads 6680 5000

View
By Appointment

Agent
Jason Dittmar
Area Sales Specialist
0477 222 452

Julie-Ann Manahan LREA Licensee/Principal
0411 081 118

3 🏠 2 🚗 2 🚗 🌊

Lot 2 Crabbes Ck Rd, Crabbes Ck Rural Lifestyle, Central Location

Presenting a relaxed country lifestyle, this charming acreage property is set in a convenient central location, right on the edge of Crabbes Creek village.

- 13.5 acres with 3 paddocks
- Pebble-crete in-ground swimming pool.
- Large 4-bay farm & livestock shed
- 14 Panel, 3.5kw solar system
- 5km to M1 entrance, 8km to Ocean Shores
- Just 12 mins to South Golden Beach

Business Directory

AGENTS



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Waste not, want not

By: Vivienne Pearson

Many Byron Shire food businesses are getting their hands dirty to reduce their impact on the environment.

Waste. Rubbish. Refuse. Litter. Maybe not the ideal topic to read about over lunch, but an important one.

At home many of us are now used to the three-bin system – recycling, green waste and landfill. We all (one hopes) do what we can to minimise our contribution to the third category. And we all (one hopes) are adapting our recycling practices to meet the well-marketed Dirty Dozen guidelines.

But what about businesses; are they as mindful of waste minimisation as we are at home? The good news is that many food businesses in Byron Shire are getting their hands dirty to ensure that this is the case.

I spoke with several – The Beach Hotel, Byron Bay Brewery, Beach Byron Bay and Brookfarm* – to find out what they are doing to keep waste out of landfill.

Food waste is obviously a prime issue for food businesses. Food waste is created during food preparation and at the very end, when we don't eat everything that is put on our plate.

The Beach Byron Bay (formerly the Beach Café) tackles both time points. Green waste (food that is spoiled during preparation or parts of vegetables that aren't used) is given to local farmers for pig and chicken feed. Some of these farmers are also suppliers to The Beach, meaning that removing the waste doesn't even involve an extra vehicle trip. Co-owner and managing director Ben Kirkwood personally helps ensure that no green waste goes to landfill. 'I have six chickens, so I take as much home as I can,' Ben says.

Leftover food comes in two categories. The first, that which is edible but simply not sold by the end of a day, is donated to the Liberation Larder, based at the Byron Community Centre.

The other category – what is left on a customer's plate – is the focus of a recent change of practice at Beach Byron Bay. Ben explains: 'Years ago "doggy bags" were common, but then the practice was clamped down on owing to food-hygiene issues.' He is referring to cases where customers would take home leftover food, leave it out on their kitchen bench overnight and then sue the restaurant when they, unsurprisingly, got sick from eating it the next day.

Ben explains that a simple change allowed this practice to recommence: 'Now we have a sticker that advises the consumer that they are responsible for the handling of the food.' This is a win-win solution; food businesses have less waste to deal with, and customers are able to enjoy every morsel of the food they have paid for.

Prior to mid-last year, all the food waste generated by The Beach Hotel went straight to landfill. Enter Luke McConell, owner and founder of Revolve Your World, who started with the hotel to change that. 'Food waste was up to 50 per cent by weight of the Beach Hotel's waste,' says Luke. 'We created a system for separation of food waste.'

It sounds easy but food waste is a complex problem for food businesses. The high rate of decomposition means that it needs to be dealt with in a very timely manner and it can contaminate waste that could otherwise be recycled.

Recycling was another major focus for the Beach Hotel's complete re-do of their waste-management system. The change has been dramatic, with figures basically flipped. 'We've increased our recycling rate from less than 10 per cent to more than 90 per cent,' says general manager Elke van Haandel, who is understandably proud of this major turnaround.

Elke gives full credit for the change to Recycle Your World, a Byron-based startup company, that has been hands-on in the fullest sense of the word. 'They literally go through our bins to refine the sorting,' she says of the nuts and bolts involved in

their change of practice.

She also gives credit to her staff. 'It was a big culture shift,' she explains. 'We're all environmentally conscious, living in this area but, even so, we've needed to do a lot of work with staff, helping them understand the environmental impact even though the new system may make it harder for them in their day-to-day job.'

One of the challenges for The Beach Hotel was implementing the changes within the normal running of the business. The Byron Bay Brewery had the advantage of being able to implement the best waste-management systems possible right from the start of their operation under new owner Lion.

Venue manager Adam Keane was impressed at the level of recycling available to businesses as well as homes in this region, as compared to his experience in Queensland. 'We were amazed at the amount of things we could recycle,' he says.

Education and training are key for all businesses. 'Polystyrene boxes are bulky items that often end up in landfill bins, but polystyrene is actually one of the easiest materials to recycle,' says Luke of Revolve Your World.

Minimising the creation of waste requiring landfill is another part of the equation. Beach Byron Bay do this by having biodegradable (starch-based) takeaway cutlery and by returning styrofoam and waxed-cardboard boxes to suppliers so they can be reused.

It is not just direct-service hospitality businesses that are focusing on waste reduction. Brookfarm, manufacturer of macadamia-based breakfasts, oils and snacks, have an ambitious goal: to be a zero-waste business. 'It's perceived as aspirational but it is a practical and achievable goal,' says Will Brook, Brookfarm's general manager, stressing that 'zero waste' means no waste going to landfill (rather than the more hardcore definition of no waste created at all). Brookfarm are considering other environmental effects, such as road trips taken to carry waste. 'We purchased a bailer, which allows us to bale up cardboard and plastic recyclables. This means it takes less space and therefore fewer pickup trips.'

Though they strive to eliminate processes that involve waste, food waste is an inevitable part of a business who pride themselves on high quality and top food safety standards. Brookfarm have developed a product, called Lucky Dip, a blend of the starts and ends of batch runs, that is donated to the Liberation Larder.

One of the 'hardest nuts to crack' in Brookfarm's mission to reach zero waste are personal-use items such as hairnets and gloves. 'These will be more challenging but we are 100 per cent more confident that we will find a solution,' says Will.

Brookfarm's philosophy is that implementing sustainability well should result in a financial and efficiency advantage. But is this always the case? What is the economic impact for a business of improving their waste management?

Working with service provider Richmond Waste, Byron Bay Brewery undertook an economic analysis of their systems, which showed that, to their surprise, the more complex waste system resulted economic savings.

The Beach Hotel's dramatic changes though have come at a financial cost. 'It is more expensive at the moment, as well as more labour intensive,' says Elke, though she adds that this will not be the case forever. 'Now that we've nailed it, the costs



Luke McConnell from Revolve Your World and Wayne Van Haandel from the Beach Hotel – supplied by North East Waste



are set to reduce,' says Luke of Revolve Your World.

The main driver of change, however, is not economic but environmental. Ben, of Beach Byron Bay, sums up the predominant motivation of all the businesses I spoke to: 'Simply put, we do it to be a good corporate citizen.'

*** All the Bs are coincidental – I promise that I didn't just open the food business phone book at B! There are also many other food businesses in the area doing great work at not wasting waste.**



As well as waste businesses such as Revolve Your World and Richmond Waste (who instigated a commercial organics recycling service in October 2016 in response to customer requests), other organisations work in the background to provide help to businesses wanting to follow the examples shown in this story.

North East Waste, which services all seven northern rivers councils, run their own programs as well as rolling out state government programs, such as Bintrim. Adam Keane from Byron Bay Brewery, which are part of Bintrim, can't recommend consulting Kim Potter from NE Waste highly enough: 'Using Kim doesn't cost you a cent. I'd recommend it to any business large or small.'

Northern Rivers Food, whose membership is made up of 'gate to plate' food businesses, has a focus this year on sustainability, including workshops that are open to anyone to attend. 'Our members look to work together to share resources,' says executive officer Anne Briggs. 'It's all about looking for collaboration to find solutions.'

NE Waste: www.newaste.com.au

Dirty Dozen Recycling Guide: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/the-dirty-dozen-12-rules-for-your-yellow-recycling-bin – Byron Shire Council



Lismore Snippets

A few months ago we discussed just a couple of spots on the Lismore food scene (Mecca and Goanna) and found out that our readers wanted to know more about what was available outside the bubble enclosing the printed *Byron Echo's* home distribution area. Again, intrepid reporter Vivienne Pearson ventures to the town where Rupert Murdoch's *Lismore Echo** is the 'local paper', and provides a further taste of what's on offer...

By: Vivienne Pearson

Secret Garden

What do you do if you're a chef who can't find a job that doesn't involve cooking meat? You open your own cafe! It is no secret that The Garden Plate offers vegetarian and vegan food. The secret bit is the hidden-away courtyard, which is painted with a huge rainforest mural. **86 Magellan Street. M-F 7.30am-4pm, 6622 5160. Facebook: @thegardenplate**



A Little Nook

Little is the operative word when describing Nook Laneway 2480. The space really is a nook, snuggled into an arcade. It is a credit to the team that they make everything onsite, despite not even really having a kitchen. How do you find it? 'Just look for the bicycle,' says one Trip Advisor reviewer, referring to the bike that is parked on Keen Street by a black-painted telephone pole at the entrance to the arcade. **Embassy Arcade. M-F 7am-3pm. Facebook: @nook-laneway-2480**



Flock to flock

Like an elongated version of Nook, Flock Espresso and Eats started life three years ago in just a tiny laneway shop and gradually expanded lengthways as neighbouring shops became available. It is now a long, thin and colourful cafe. 'We make nourishing food that we like and everyone else seems to agree,' says one of the owners, Sarah Jones. It seems she's right - people really do flock here - the queue was out into the laneway at lunchtime. **4/39 Woodlark Street (also known as Mathers Laneway). M-F 7am-4pm, Sat 8am-2pm. Instagram: @flockesspressolismore**



Dragonfly

If you prefer your cafe a little bigger and less hidden, try Dragonfly. You can't miss it - the dragonfly motif is beautifully enacted in all sorts of ways - from metal sculptures inside to Banksy-style street art outside (created by a customer). The team of year years prides themselves on their friendliness, experienced baristas and full-time bakers creating yummy cakes. **36 Carrington Street. M-F 7.30am-5pm, Sat 7.30am-3pm. Instagram: @dragonflylismore**



Transactional eating

There are not many cafes who can claim that their dishes are washed in a strong room. Well, an ex-strong room, anyway. The Bank Café premises were built in the 1930s, though I suspect it wasn't blue and purple then. This is a good one to keep in mind for Sundays

and public holidays, or if you find yourself in need of some Wi-Fi time or a craft beer (there are 21 to choose from). Friday nights are dubbed Buns & Hops with live music. Owner Brad Rickard will happily share his local knowledge on all things Lismore. **67 Molesworth Street. 7 days 7.30am-3.30pm and Fri night dinners. Facebook: @thebankcafe**

Alfresco option

Possibly the best-known eatery in Lismore is The Lismore Pie Cart, offering single-serve sweet and savoury pies (including curried lentil and duck & mushroom) under the shade of trees opposite the Transit Centre.

Lismore Pie Cart, 11 Magellan Street, M-F 6.30am-4.30pm, Sat 7am-2pm. Facebook: @lismorepiecart



This little piggy

A 5-10-minute drive out of town is The Spotted Pig, a delightful cafe-in-an-old-church. One section is sombrely beautiful with stained-glass windows, and the other section is light with a green-ensconced verandah. Breakfast and lunch are the go, with occasional pop-up dinners and functions (including weddings). Named after the



spotted breed of pig that chef lohne Simpson grew up naming then eating, there is usually some pork on the menu among heaps of other options, including vegetarian. Regular readers might remember lohne as the chef who partnered with then-Lismore mayor Jenny Dowell to (ahem) beat Simon Richardson and Sean Connolly in the My Mayor Rules cook-off at Sample last year. But we won't hold that against them... **3 Alphadale Road, Lindendale (5-10 min drive from Lismore). Wed-Sun 7am-2.30pm, occasional dinners. Facebook: @thespottedpigcafe**

Tiny space, yummy cake

Allison the Cake Maker bakes at home in the quiet of the early morning so she only needs a tiny space to serve her creations hidden away in the Star Court Arcade. 'I cook what I feel like,' Allison says. 'So there's a surprise every day.' She always has one savoury option - brie tarts and duck crepes on the day I visited - and your cake can be accompanied by a pot of tea or plunger coffee. **Star Court Arcade. Tues-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm. Instagram: @allisonthecakemaker**



Outro: These are only some of the great places to eat and drink next time you're in Lismore. Head to *Echonetdaily* to add your comments about those you have discovered.

*Q: Does *The Byron Echo* own *The Lismore Echo*? A: No. *The Byron Echo* is independent, and *The Lismore Echo* is owned by Rupert Murdoch. The owners of *The Byron Echo* sold *The Lismore Echo* to its staff ages ago for a song, along with the name. Sadly, in 2008 those staff sold out to APN, who in turn sold out to an even bigger corporation in NewsCorp, a process over which *The Byron Echo* had no control.

'Terroirist' or terrorist? Spanish wine at Fins

There's something quite special for wine lovers, and food lovers, at Fins next week. Spain's most revered and dynamic winemaker Telmo Rodriguez is coming to Fins. This will be the only dinner event in Australia for Telmo on his international tour.

According to the organisers of the event, Telmo is often referred to as the 'terrorist of Rioja' for his anti-establishment attitude to the old-school traditions in the Spanish wine world.

However, he could also be called a 'terroirist', because he actively seeks out vines that are not only indigenous to Spain, but also reflect the unique character, or terroir, of their site.

Telmo has an unbridled commitment to reinvigorating traditional viticultural methods and produces wines solely from native Spanish grapes. His vineyards are all biodynamically

farmed with long-established ethical practices.

Fins chef and sommelier duo Steven and Morgan Snow have had a longstanding love of Telmo's wines. After cooking at Telmo's family vineyard in Rioja a few years back (and working their way through his entire range) they've been hoping to see him in Australia. Teaming up with Melbourne-based wine merchants The Spanish Aquisition, this intimate dinner experience is a rare opportunity with one of the worlds most inspiring wine figures.

Fins opened a new Spanish Tapas Bar a couple of weeks ago called Bar Español so Telmo's imminent arrival is very fitting! Fins' chef 'Snowy' had a second Fins in the Iberian region for many years, so this theme is deep in his heart. Bar Español is the 7th 'pop-up' in



the Fins series and perhaps one that will stay for a while.

More info: Fins. Tuesday 28th March 6.30-9pm (NSW daylight saving time). 6 dishes paired to 7 of Telmo's wines. Seats are extremely limited. \$89 p.p

Book live at www.fins.com.au

History strikes 10 at Harvest Newrybar

By Simon Haslam

There might be those around the area who remember the site of Harvest in Newrybar as a post office, a general store or a residence – over 100 years a site has the chance to develop a bit of history.

The old bakery, restored by present owners (with old friend Brooke Hudson) Kassia and Tristan Grier, is proving the case for cherishing and re-imagining our history instead of building over the top of it.

Many community-style events are now held around the old ovens, bringing people back together as they have always done in the country. But of course there are some uniquely modern elements now: a hatted restaurant, an adjacent gourmet deli and modern versions of old-style sustainable gardens all around.

It's ten years since Gary and Emma Sharman sold what was then called the Harvest Café to the Griers, and there have been a lot of popular dishes served in that time.

Our favourite development has been the Wild Harvest sessions with Bret Cameron (executive chef), Noah Kaufman (head chef), and Peter Hardwick (forager) combining to present what is truly a unique experience of eating foraged food that changes weekly. (See echo.net.au/2016/06/civilised-wild-food/ for more.)

On Sunday 2 and Monday 3 April more recent history will be celebrated as Harvest serves what they call 'our best and most popular dish from each year' in 'a unique and exciting' ten-course menu.

The wild harvest makes the list as the best 'dish' of 2015, followed by 'dessert', which has fortuitously been named either the best or the most popular dish of 2016.

The Sunday session is already sold out. Cost is \$110 per person including bubbles and beer on arrival at 6pm.

Info: email sam@harvestnewrybar.com.au or call 6687 2644.



Executive chef Bret Cameron and forager Peter Hardwick of Harvest



Good Taste Eating Out Guide

echo.net.au/good-taste

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BYRON BAY



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Reservations 6685 7663
therocksbyronbay.com.au

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Eating Out Guide

BYRON BAY continued



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Good Taste

BYRON BAY continued




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11.30am-2.30pm
Dinner from 5.30pm
9/4 Jonson St, Byron Bay
6685 5320
www.hogsbreath.com.au

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



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25 YEARS OF THE WAIFS

2017 MARKS 25 YEARS OF THE WAIFS!



In celebration the band has hit the road for a mammoth national tour, releasing their fourteen-track studio album *Ironbark*, along with 11 bonus tracks making a rousing collection of 25 songs, to celebrate 25 years. Recorded in true Waifs style in a makeshift studio in the unfinished kitchen of Josh Cunningham's rural retreat on the NSW South Coast across two weeks.

According to Vikki Thorn, the band has gone full circle.

'We have de-evolved I think with this last album,' she laughs. 'We went bucket sitting around a kitchen table with acoustic guitars.'

Although the song content has definitely evolved.

'Our song lyrics have a lot more maturity than they did in our 20s... it's a part of our need as artists to connect with people; we have a real desire and need to connect with our audience. When we play we want to reach out and talk to people and get to know who they are a bit. We talk more between the songs these days.'

In their latest album, it was the simplicity of the Waifs' sound, the uncomplicated nature of Cunningham, Thorn and Simpson in a room together. Confident now that less sometimes really is more.

'In the past, we did as all bands do: we did some exploring, got into the studio and you would have some crazy instruments lying around and you want to pick them up and sometimes

that came at the cost to our sound or essence, but this time with *Ironbark* we particularly asked the question – what do our fans want to hear? Let's put artistic stuff aside and give our fans what they want.'

For the band, the whole process felt very natural.

'We have been playing together for so long that some of the songs on the album were the third or fourth time we had ever played them, so it creates that little bit of tension,' says Vikki.

'The three of us don't write together; the songs come in an almost-finished form and the collaboration happens when we come together.

Donna wrote one of the songs in the studio. 'Recording was loose and more like a creative jam. We didn't go in with a song list; we went in and said, okay, what have you got?'

'Rather than this approach of trying to craft an album, we just *did*; it's a very organic process. I hesitate to use that word, but it's a true representation of our band at this time. Everything was played live. On a good day we'd get a song after two or three times; some might take 10 times... We have been together so long that we have a sound and the idea was to capture it in...'

Vikki can hear the freshness of the songs in the recording. It was something they wanted to keep.

'There is a song by Donna, called *Syria* – you can hear the whole band sitting a little bit behind her because no-one

knew where she was going to go and it created the best tension for the take, a couple of songs are like that, and a couple are as scrappy as hell, but they work really well. I think the music lost something when we did heavy production.' Getting away from the studio meant 'eliminating that idea that time is money – it made a huge difference, we were just hanging out.'

So who comes to a Waifs show?

'Most of our audience is women and their husbands on a date; the men don't really want to be there!'

Josh is this quiet sensitive persona onstage; he writes ballads and love songs about his mum. For male fans it's a chance to indulge their sensitive sides.

In places such as Darwin, you'll see big tatted-up guys singing along with *Gilian*, the song about Josh's mum.'

The essence of the Waifs has always been their storytelling. They are keen miners of narrative, something they seek out wherever they go.

'My gig isn't just onstage,' says Vikki, 'it's going out front. I want to go out there and talk to people. People have a story to tell. I love that. I like knowing who's there, and hearing people's stories.'

The Waifs play at the **Bangalow A&I Hall on Tuesday 4 April** (sold out) and **Wednesday 5 April**. For tickets go to thewaifs.com and follow the links.

the northern

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- THUR 23 FRIEND ZONE
- FRI 24 LOS LAWS, ILL EAGLES, TOISOC
- SUN 26 SALT BRAINS
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THE POWER TO CHANGE THE POWER – STOP ADANI

Remember that scene in James Bond movies? 007 is in a small room filling up with water. His time is running out. The water keeps rising. The tension is unbearable. Bond is running out of options. That's what I think of when I think of climate change and the increasing load of carbon going into our environment.

We're up to our necks in carbon emissions but we're still pumping in the fossil fuels. What does the future hold as far as 2050? 2100? Are you game to look? Leading climate scientists say that regardless of future emission trends, the CO₂ footprint from our very brief passage on Earth will remain in the climate system, affecting all terrestrial life forms for 'eternity'. I think that's what the Christian

god referred to as 'Hell on Earth'. Coal is to the planet what smoking is to the human body. We've got climate cancer. And like smoking, when it comes to coal, there aren't any safe levels. Sorry, Mr Morrison, you might be able to bleach coral but you can't clean coal. The majority of CO₂ emitted from burning a single tonne of coal will be absorbed over centuries by oceans and vegetation but the remaining 25 per cent will still be affecting the climate in 1,000 years. So why are we still mining coal? The Australian government has given the go-ahead for Indian-owned Adani Carmichael Coal mega-mine located in the Galilee Basin, west of Rockhampton. This is set to be the biggest single coal province in the world.

At a time when we are supposed to be meeting the targets set by the Paris agreement, moving ahead with renewables, we're opening the doors for foreign-owned companies to take our coal. Oh, and if they don't use their coal they're threatening to use a much dirtier source back home. It's environmental extortion.

So all the Aussie coal goes to India. While bleating on about energy security it's good to remember that none of that so-called energy stays here. It all leaves our shores via a railway line (Mr Turnbull looked under his mattress and found a cheeky \$1 billion concessional loan to throw in as a sweetener) and straight out through Abbot Point. Which happens to be on the Great Barrier Reef, the coal port where already 200 million tonnes of coal are already transported every year.

The same reef, listed as one of the world's natural wonders, that reported a climate-change-

related coral bleaching last year that saw 22 per cent of the reef destroyed in just one event. For some reason, although national environment laws exist to protect air, water and wildlife those laws don't recognise the impacts of greenhouse gases. The reef and tourism provide 534,000 jobs versus 57,800 jobs in mining throughout the entire region.

Mining has a finite lifespan. Reef-based tourism is perpetual. So who is there to protect our environment at a federal level? Why, Mr Josh Frydenberg. Hang on, isn't he the minister for energy AND the environment? How can two such conflicting portfolios be fairly executed? That's like being minister for smoking and health. Or gambling and finances. That's like being the same lawyer who represents the rapist and the victim. The paedophile and the child. That's called government. It's supposed to represent the

people but we all know it mainly represents people IN corporations. More precisely, people in power.

The world has a heroin-like dependence on fossil fuels. We can't imagine life without our energy dealers. We're hooked into 'the grid'. We're not just co-dependent, we're coal-dependent. To move towards renewables isn't just about changing power supply, it's about changing mindset. We need to be responsible for the generation and consumption of our own power. We don't need to be hooked up to 'the man'. Moving away from fossil fuels is the ultimate test for capitalism and democracy, proving really that the two can no longer co-exist. Energy efficiency and self-reliance on renewable systems such as solar and wind move away from big corporate models of dependence and localise energy in the same way activists have talked about localising food and production.

It's the only way forward.

The Adani mine is a line in the sand when it comes to climate change. It needs to stop. Headed up by 350.org Australia, and in collaboration with Australian Conservation Foundation, and The Seed Indigenous Network, the Stop the Adani Mine Roadshow will be raising awareness and pressuring government to revoke their approval. Starting in Townsville at James Cook University on 27 March, Brisbane City Hall on 28 March, Seymour Theatre in Sydney on Wednesday 29, National Convention Centre in Canberra on 30 March and Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre on 31 March. Please attend an event closest to you.

For more information go to stopadani.com because at the end of the day, when it comes to climate change, we have the power.

LIVE MUSIC

PATEY & DOOLIE

Sunshine Coast's **Christian Patey** has been making waves across the country as one of the best up-and-coming electronic artists. The one-man band combines electric guitar, synths and drums, all together, illuminating the room and taking the listeners on an uplifting journey. 2016 was a huge year for Christian with festival spots, TV appearances and support shows with Tash Sultana and Boo Seeka. The alluring vocals and upbeat feelgood vibes of Christian's newest track *Is This Real* marks the anticipated return of the Sunshine Coast artist. Featuring alongside Christian will be female electronic artist **Doolie**, who recently took out Best Song in the Schools category of last year's Queensland Music Awards. Doolie's rich vocals, creative lyrics and big pop hooks have the young vocalist showing the early signs of a great frontwoman with a show that will get the house primed to pump. The **Byron Bay Brewery** from 7pm. **Saturday**. Free Entry

COCO ON SUNDAY

COCO is set to deliver a new monthly event that brings creative and cool crowds to the tropical alfresco location of **Byron Bay Brewery**. The music will be funky and the vibes will be high with stacks of DJs including Al Royale, Mr Ha! Yes!, Lippo, Hot Rob and Sammond.

The monthly event is supported by the Party Shirt People, who provide the opportunity to purchase a killer happy shirt with proceeds going to local charity. Byron's best **Sunday** session kicks off at 2pm. \$5 after 4pm.

FALLING FOR FLAMENCO

Bandaluzia flamenco return to Byron Bay on Saturday 1 April with one of Spain's rising stars of contemporary flamenco singing, Naïke Ponce. She recently released her debut album with Grammy-award-winning guitarist Jose Suarez Paquete; this will be a unique opportunity to see this incredibly soulful and revered flamenco artist in collaboration with the ever-popular Bandaluzia. Bandaluzia is an acclaimed modern flamenco ensemble led by ARIA-nominated guitarist Damian Wright. Bandaluzia was recently invited to perform at The Adelaide International Guitar Festival and was awarded The Pick of the Sydney Fringe at The Sydney Fringe Festival. An experience that ignites the senses with the grace of Flamenco. **Byron Theatre** on **Saturday 1 April**. Tickets on www.byroncentre.com.au or at the venue subject to availability.

PUSH IT

Push is one of the premier cover bands with a reputation



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with venues and music fans as one of the most energetic and entertaining bands available. Push are hip, now, relevant and entertaining, keeping up to date with the latest trends and songs while throwing a few surprises in along the way. Push's youthful exuberance will guarantee your venue to rock out in a big way! **Ocean Shores Country Club** on **Friday** at 8.30pm.

DIAMONDS ON SHOW

Neil Diamond – The Man, The Music features approximately 30 of Neil's most loved hits – from *Cracklin' Rosie*, *I Am I Said* and *Sweet Caroline* through to a special *Hot August Night* tribute – audience members are left in no doubt as to why Craig Stewart is regarded as a 'master craftsman'. With more than 2,000 shows to his credit, he was described in a national music magazine as 'one of the most listenable singers to emerge this century'. **Neil Diamond – The Man, The Music** at the **Bangalow Bowlo** on **Saturday** from 7.30pm.

WANDERING TREEHOUSE

Adelaide's roots soul trio **The Wanderers** have just

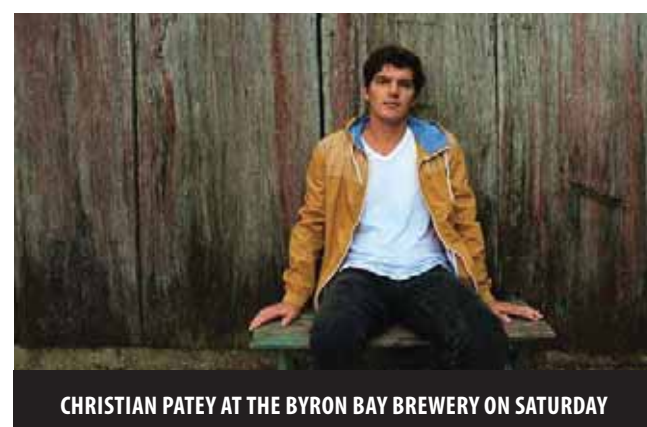
released their sophomore EP *Something of a Distraction* where they deliver more of their earnest, infectious, blues-flecked jams enticing the listener from the outset, from lilting opener *Loco* to the downtempo strut of pseudo-gospel closer *Mary Jane* and everywhere in between. With the band having spent much of 2016 playing festivals and touring the country, they have built a reputation around their catchy harmonies, and groove-driven tunes as well as always putting on a damn good show. They play the **Treehouse** in Belongil on **Saturday**.

DATSON ON THE HIGHWAY

Following the recent release of their debut EP *Whispering Highway*, psychedelic alt/folk singer/songwriter duo **Datson Hughes** are taking their music on the road. Having spent the past five years in the studio, **Datson Hughes** are now on tour forever. They have 'packed up their books and clothes' and are currently undertaking a year-long tour of their recent EP in the leadup to the release of their forthcoming album in early 2018. **Datson** is an old hand at touring, having enjoyed youthful success with



SUROJATO ROY APPEARING WITH BART STENHOUSE AT THE BANGALOW BOWLS CLUB ON FRIDAY 31 MARCH



CHRISTIAN PATEY AT THE BYRON BAY BREWERY ON SATURDAY



DATSON HUGHES AT THE POINCIANA CAFE IN MULLUMBIMBY ON SUNDAY

his band **Samurai Trash** in the 80s, but **Hughes** is a novice, better known as a writer who penned a memoir *Art Life Chooks* in 2008

The pair share everything from creative output to the driving. On a range of strings from guitars to the tintinnabulous handmade Appalachian mountain

dulcimers, they play beautiful, lyrical songs of love, loss and redemption. *The Whispering Highway* is all about place, and time, and the way a song can compress a whole journey. With a hint of roots, think Gram Parsons and Emmilou Harris, Bob Dylan and Gillian Welsh. **Sunday** at the **Poinciana Cafe** at 10am. Free.

FREEST OF FREE...



Quirky husband-and-wife combo Victoria GAYE – Vicki GAYE Philipp and Jeff RAGLUS (Bachelors from Prague / Mambo Artist) – have packed a lot into the seven years since they formed. Recording four albums – the latest *The Freest Of The Free* is being launched at Club Mullum this week. Come and celebrate with this dynamic Melbourne duo as they launch the new album, which was recorded in Goonengerry with Christian Pyle and features Mullum's own Dave Sanders on drums with Thierry Fossmale on bass, who will be performing in the band on the night.

What is the essence of good songwriting for you? How do you craft a song?

Good songwriting to us is coming up with something new that is not particularly driven by a genre or a dance beat. Just a melody you haven't heard before and grabs your emotions straightaway.

We often craft songs together, our most usual way (but not always) is that Vicki starts a song and then I finish it. She often writes the verses and I write the chorus or middle eight.

What is the song that you have heard lately that has impressed or moved you?

Cass McComb's new album *Mangy Love*. Great songwriting and interesting arrangements.

Tell me what you wanted to achieve with the new album.

To do something spontaneous and unusual. To record with new people in a new spot. All our previous albums were recorded in Melbourne; this one was recorded up here with local players.

What were the challenges, and how did you feel about the finished product? Is it possible to just go 'it's done'... I always wonder when you know when it's time to walk away.

The challenges definitely are that you have to stop at a certain stage. Because we were a long way from home and couldn't just stay indefinitely. This put a distinct timeframe on the whole thing. We usually spend a month on an album; this one was done really in a week! Like clockwork. The results are very honest and real. We both think it came out well.

What should we expect for your gig in Mullumbimby?

Quirky but real and inventive music.

Everywhere we go, people often tell us we don't sound like anybody else. It's a unique sound.

Victoriana GAYE album launch at Club Mullum at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services on Thursday from 7pm.

MYTHEN-OLGY AT BLUES

IRISH MYTHEN IS AN IRISH-BORN CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY FOLK SINGER/ SONGWRITER.



Her last two shows in the northern rivers were embraced by crowds who were quickly converted by the Mythen magic. She's a powerfully engaged and passionate player who puts the fierce and fabulous back into folk.

It wasn't easy for an Irish girl to play folk. When Mythen started out there was pressure from all around to do some different. To follow the pulse of popular culture. But Mythen is a woman who walks to her own beat. That's a big part of her charm.

'I stuck to my guns,' she says. 'I had a lot of people saying Irish music is really sexy at the moment. Just drop what you are doing, and go the trad vibe. At the time River Dance had just come out, and the Corrs and the Cranberries. But I didn't want to stray from what I was doing. No-one grows up saying 'I want to be a folk musician and super rich... and a folk singer!'

In the beginning Mythen was fired up on teenage angst.

'I was singing some nonsense up there. My lyrics changed quickly; I told more stories. It was amazing though, because I realised it was possible to hold an audience captive. Once you do that you want to do a few things. Number 1 – you hope you're entertaining them musically; number 2 – some of my songs are quite heavy, they deal with heavy things (I don't write about sexy things either) – I have songs about the elderly and Alzheimer's.'

Mythen likes to talk.

'Between the songs I have a chance to talk about things and it was important, but not a part of my music, but privately – my sexuality... I was going up against a lot of people in the business. It was not only tougher for me because I was a woman and, being a lesbian, there is a really fine line. I don't want people thinking, Jesus there's a full-on lesbian up there! I think I did a good job of that;

people go I see what you do there – that's my chance to try to make them laugh and cry...'

As a lesbian, Mythen is outspoken about the issues facing the LGBTIQ community, and she's very active, speaking onstage, on the page and in schools. Her birth country Ireland has stepped forward with marriage equality; Australia's failure to step up is not lost on Mythen.

'When you have a country such as Ireland, when they voted YES and, two decades before that, homosexuality was decriminalised; two decades later they were the first country for the referendum; it pushed people out into the open.

'I do a lot of work in schools and I go around and I give a lot of panels about pride and the thing is generally when you have a child that's great – they get the love at home, and you see that they struggle outside the home so what you do is you think you are doing the right thing to get them help, but inevitably because it's a 'new thing' he/she will be looking across the table at someone 45-plus in age – generally a straight white person. And yeah it's great to talk but they don't have a clue. You need to create a safe space where peers can get together. Show their vulnerability and their strength. That helps turn people's lives around.'

As a genre, folk music seems like an unusual choice for Mythen.

'My genre is extremely white and extremely male oriented,' she says.

'It has been since day one when it became a genre. Not actual folk music. Folk music has always been the music of the people; I am talking about folk music as a genre that came out of 60s. The thing that gets me is that you are singing about people's sexuality but you don't have a gay or lesbian in the narrative, you're singing about a black person but you are not in there.'

CONTINUED p33

VICTORIANA GAYE

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MUSIC FROM THE UNIVERSE

VOCALIST, COMPOSER AND MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST ELIJAH RAY BRINGS A TOUCH OF HAWAII TO SPIRIT FESTIVAL WITH HIS UNIQUE CHARMS, DEEP MESSAGE AND ECLECTIC REPERTOIRE.



His riveting performances are both musical and raw, engaging his audience in an experience that is spiritual, sexy, sweaty, gritty and ecstatic.

How closely is music related to spirituality for you?

Music and spirituality have always been one and the same thing for me. My earliest memories of music were in the gospel church as a baby... I can still remember the big choir, the soul, everybody feeling the spirit and lifting up their voices together! I think some of that must have rubbed off on me, because that's the feeling I love to create when I play music. I love feeling people come together and connect to spirit in whatever way suits them.

I also noticed, as a young child, that when I would sit and play the piano I could connect to something greater than myself, and this would change the way I felt... it would also change the particles in the room. This is a very subtle aspect of music, the spirit of it – the intent behind it. If you look into study of cymatics, you can see how clearly sound and vibration create shape and geometry. Music... is quite literally how the Universe expresses and creates itself. Just look at the word *Universe*: *Uni* = One. *Verse* = Song. If that's not spiritual... I don't know what is!

How do you write your music? Where do you draw your inspiration?

I let the music write me. And I mean that; often the lyrics of the songs that come through are exactly what I need to hear... and step into. I love the feeling of being so completely taken over by a song that I literally become it. The music guides me as much as I guide it. It's a two-way conversation.

As for where I draw my inspiration from? From everywhere! Everything I experience is a potential inspiration for a song, and such is the way when you are living and breathing it... I write about relationships, nature, the human condition...

How does the place where you live affect the music you make? Do you think there is something intrinsically 'Hawaiian' in the ethos of what you do?

Definitely. I've been honoured to call Hawaii home for the last 12 years, and yet for the last few years my life is

primarily lived on tour. Hawaii is one of my roots, and even though I'm rarely home these days, the spirit of Aloha is with me, and in the music. That being said, over the last years of touring, I've developed roots in other places too, all of which I draw from musically. California, Australia, New Zealand, Ibiza, Bali, and Peru are just a few of the other communities I call home. This diversity is what inspires me. This is life in the Band of Light.

What has been your most surprising composition?

The *SoundLight* volumes. They always surprise me, because they are improvised in the moment... each volume, of which I have released five so far, is recorded completely live and channelled, if you will. Yet there are some pieces in those sessions that sound like symphonies that were composed before hand... perhaps they were, on some distant star...

How do you want your music to affect people?

My intention is to make music that connects people to themselves. Music that makes people feel so GOOD that they forget to look at their phones all night, because they suddenly fall in love with the other people around them! I want this music to INSPIRE people to live a love-centred life. That's what I want.

As a solo troubadour how do you make such a big and full sound? Do you miss having a band? What are the benefits of self-reliance as a musician?

Well one of the blessings of this day and age is that there are tools available that allow artists such as myself the ability to create infinite layers of sound, through live looping. One of the ways I create the big sound is through loop pedals, which enable me to express all the parts that a band would express, by stacking layers of myself. That being said, I equally love playing with the full Band of Light! I'm actually putting together a new superhero band later this year to support my upcoming new album...

What should we expect from your performance at Spirit Festival?

Expect a few surprises... and rainbows!

Elijah Ray plays **Byron Spirit Festival** in Mullumbimby **31 March–1 April**.

CULTURE



MY WILDEST DREAMS AT CIRCUS ARTS, BYRON BAY ON FRIDAY 7 APRIL

WILD DREAMS

Delve into the mysterious world of dreams and nightmares at Circus Arts Byron Bay's upcoming circus Showcase *My Wildest Dreams*. Circus Arts' talented students bring their deepest fears and subconscious longings to life in this sleepy tale of spider invasions, eternal chase scenes and free-spirit flying. Bar and sausage sizzle open from 6pm. Raffle prizes to be won. \$10 flying trapeze swings after the show! *My Wildest Dreams* is a fundraiser for Friends of the Circus, helping to provide training and performance opportunities for youth circus in the Byron Shire.

Friday 7 April, 6.30pm, at Circus Arts on the Byron A&I Estate. Tix on the door.

Adults \$12, Kids \$6, Under 3 FREE, Family (2A, 2K) \$30

MIGALOO 2

Marine conservation yacht *Migaloo 2* is getting prepared to join the humpback whale migration in July and is having its annual launch and fundraiser night at the new vegan restaurant *Elixiba* in Feros Arcade off Jonson St, Byron. Captain of *Migaloo 2* Dean Jefferys will make some presentations and show some short films about the various marine conservation campaigns that he and *Migaloo 2* have been involved in over the last seven years as well as some new exciting ones coming up. \$35 entry includes a delicious two-course vegan meal and a specially prepared Blue Lagoon Elixir. **Monday** from 7pm.

YOGA 4 KIDS

Yoga teaching training for kids comes to Byron next weekend. Yoga and mindfulness have been shown to improve both physical and mental health in school-age children (ages 6–12). Yoga improves balance, strength, endurance, and aerobic capacity in children. Yoga and mindfulness offer psychological benefits for children as well. A growing body of research has already shown that yoga can improve focus, memory, self-esteem, academic performance, and classroom behaviour, and you can reduce anxiety and stress. Yoga is also helpful for kids with ADHD and for increasing attentiveness. This course is also completely appropriate for parents and teachers with little yoga experience.

Rainbow Yoga 3-Day Kids Yoga Teacher Training, 24–26 March, Byron Yoga Centre 50 Skinners Shoot Road. To enrol, go to www.rainbowyogatraining.com/byron.

TALKING 17TH CENTURY

AC Grayling presents his tales of the turbulent seventeenth century, when science moved from the alchemy and astrology of John Dee to the painstaking observation and astronomy of Galileo, from the classicism of Aristotle, still favoured by the church, to the evidence-based, collegiate investigation of Francis Bacon. And if the old ways still lingered and affected the new mindset – Descartes's dualism an attempt to square the new philosophy with religious belief; Newton, the man who understood gravity and the laws of motion, still fascinated to the end of his life by alchemy – by the end of that tumultuous century 'the greatest-ever change in the mental outlook of humanity' had irrevocably taken place.

Professor Grayling is appearing at **Byron Theatre** on **Thursday 30 March**. 6pm. Tickets \$30/\$35 www.byronwritersfestival.com or 6685 5115.

ME AND JASPER JONES

The bestselling novel *Jasper Jones* by Craig Silvey has been made into a compelling new film which is already being tipped as 'iconic'.

According to reviews from *The Guardian*, *Jasper Jones* is 'as compelling as a whodunnit, touching as a coming-of-age story,

Byron Shire Echo archives: www.echo.net.au/byron-echo

Bandaluzia Flamenco & Flamenqueando Productions presents

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Saturday 25 March
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MONSIEUR MAYONNAISE

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Stars with Lilith

As the Sun, our solar furnace, joins Mercury, Venus and Uranus in Aries, this week's astrological new year issues a potent and motivating call to action...

♈ ARIES: With the fiery quartet of sun, Mercury, Venus and Uranus in Aries, your time in the spotlight begins... now! Watch the pieces of your personal jigsaw fall into place as your annual new moon (most powerful of the year for intention setting) integrates the changes you've been working towards. Happy birthday, hotties!

♉ TAURUS: With this week appreciating your practical expertise and down-to-earth straightforwardness, that dogged determination and patient Tauran persistence could move mountains and achieve some awesome results. Just so long as you remember the pause that refreshes, and keep things fun as well as productive.

♊ GEMINI: This buoyant week encourages shopping, socialising and what you Twins love better than anything: having The Big Chat. Its astral emphasis in genial, upbeat Aries turns the page on a chapter of new friends, groups and community doings – with the reminder to pace yourself, take it easy, smell the roses.

♋ CANCER: This week's upsurge of social activity could find you at the proverbial fork in the road, wondering which way to go. Right now, doing something creative for the sheer fun of it can actually pay off, just so long as you're not taken in by fake or exaggerated claims. Because free lunches aren't likely...

♌ LEO: Your boss planet the Sun in impetuous, impulsive, enterprising Aries is lively – and can be wild. If this week's exuberant enthusiasm generates fiery emotions and you have to turn down the temperature, don't be stubborn, do listen to advice from friends you know are reliable and trustworthy sounding boards.

♍ VIRGO: Your ruler Mercury in exciting, delightful but also contentious and contrary Aries, kicks off a cycle of intense networking, so share information and stay in the loop. If others are headstrong and argumentative, make it this week's mission to tell the truth tactfully, from Virgo's natural reservoir of elegant eloquence.

♎ LIBRA: This week's planetary accent in confident and powerfully propulsive Aries hits the cosmic accelerator, bringing to mind Aesop's famous fable of the hare, raring to race ahead regardless. Your balance point? Tuning into the slower, steadier, more measured tread of Mars in Taurus, representing the thoughtful pace of the tortoise.

♏ SCORPIO: As this week's Martian influences rekindle ambition, you're on fire and a powerful force – though as always there'll be the usual objections from a furious few. But this isn't about them, it's about you. About keeping your heart open despite opposition, and specifically about refraining from hasty, harsh or hurtful words.

♐ SAGITTARIUS: This week rockets the Life Of Sagittarius on a roller coaster ride. Animated, lively and inspired you're eager to get your show on the road. But don't jump to conclusions regarding rumour or gossip, because a lie can fly around the world before the truth gets a chance to put its pants on.

♑ CAPRICORN: If this week has you jostling and jockeying to be top dog, be advised that right now citizens and situations aren't even remotely amenable to Capricorn control. Does Mars in stubborn fellow earth sign Taurus have you pushing too hard? Then step away, ease off, leave space to negotiate.

♒ AQUARIUS: With Venus resetting partnership parameters, the present planetary lineup fuels a restart – which, like most growth spurts and new directions, has its inevitable share of challenges, obstacles and interference. The good news is this week's playful, creative, inventive, ready-for-adventure late-week Aquarius moon...

♓ PISCES: This week's just-do-it, get-to-the-point flavour may not be the most patient with dilatory, vague or circuitous Piscean meanderings. If you'd rather not have irritable responses and snappy reactions, then avoid rambling generalities and windy waffle, especially during the weekend Pisces moon. Cut to the chase.



BLITHE SPIRIT, PRESENTED BY THE BALLINA PLAYERS AT THE BALLINA PLAYERS THEATRE FROM FRIDAY TILL SUNDAY UNTIL 1 APRIL

insightful as a picture of race relations, and crafty as a drama about secrets, concealing a few of its own for a final, satisfying reveal!

Byron Theatre presents a screening of the film with a Q&A with producer Vincent Sheehan. 7pm at the **Byron Theatre on Thursday**; tickets at screenworks.com.au.

PRODUCING FOR SCREEN

Logie award-winning producer Imogen Banks (*Offspring, Puberty Blues, Paper Giants, A Beautiful Lie*) is coming to the northern rivers in March as one of the guest speakers at Screenworks' upcoming **Screen Producing Best Practice**, a two-day seminar being held at **SAE Creative Media Institute** in Byron Bay. Joining Imogen will be some of Australia's most innovative producers who will also be in the region to share their ideas and experiences on best practice for screen producing documentary and drama.

Screenworks' Screen Producing Best Practice is being presented in partnership with Media Super, Screen NSW, Screen Australia and SAE Institute Byron Bay this **Saturday** and **Sunday**.

The program and more details are available on Screenworks website screenworks.com.au/event/screen-producing-best-practice/.

TALKING THE WALK

Last year, Stephen Jenkinson – **The Griefwalker** – in his first-ever visit to Australia from his home in Canada, spoke to sellout local audiences on some of the most difficult of topics.

This year on **Friday**, 7pm at **Bangalow A&I Hall**, he presents *A Night of Grief & Mystery*. There are stories: delivered slowly, elegantly, with grace and humour, depth and honesty. There are songs: the melodies are memorable, haunting and beautiful. Stephen is accompanied by his 'band' in the person of singer/songwriter, troubadour and fellow conspirator Gregory Hoskins, also from Canada and touring Australia for the very first time. Together they weave magic around the twin subjects of death and grief, deepening the learning, and extending the conversation Stephen began last year.

He will also be offering Elderhood Teaching at **Coorabell Hall** on **Saturday** and **Sunday**. Tickets are available via the Orphan Wisdom website: orphanwisdom.com/event/oceania-2017 – or for more information contact Lelli Brown at llellib@gmail.com or 0410 327 401.

North Coast news daily: www.echonetdaily.net.au



MASTER OF AUDIENCE INTERACTION DUSTY RICH BRINGS HIS DYNAMIC SELF-STYLED STANDUP TO THE BALLINA RSL ON THURSDAY 30 MARCH



MANDY NOLAN FLEXING THE FUNNIES WITH A NEW CROP OF COMEDY STUDENTS DOING THEIR FIRST STANDUP ROUTINE AT BYRON SERVICES CLUB ON THURSDAY

FEELING DUSTY

A comedy star in his homeland of South Africa, **Dusty Rich** moved here last year to pursue his comedy career.

A self-confessed comedic space warrior riding a living volcano with one hand whipping the reins and the other gingerly fingering the lava-hot truth that flows freely down all sides – smothering the world in comedy magma. His meteoric rise in the comedy industry is owing to the fact he had learnt to ride meteors at a very early age – a mind meteor, smashing through the atmosphere of mediocre and mundane. Each show is unpredictable and hilarious, leaving audiences gasping for air.

A true original, his style is manic but impactful. The mystical art of comedy bursts through his veins (and mouth) coupled with his razor-sharp wit, taking no prisoners. Dusty Rich is, without question, an unnaturally naturally talented comedic anomaly.

Whether he's in a suit and tie, earning that corporate cashola; in a vest and beard rousing everyone at a comedy club; or loud as rock'n'roll in front of five thousand, he has to be seen to be believed.

Catch Dusty Rich at the **Big Gig** at the **Ballina RSL** when he's joined by Aaron Pratt as support and Mandy Nolan as MC.

Thursday 30 March at 8pm.

VIRGIN SACRIFICE... IT STARTED WITH A STRAP-ON

Comedy started back in ancient Greece with bawdy and ribald songs and phallic processions. Not much has changed since these Dionysian rituals; we've replaced the strap-on phallus with the dick joke, and kept the tradition of satirising tragedy with improvisation. It's hard to believe that comedy had to be invented. It feels so innate. As they say, laughter is the best medicine, and jokes aren't sanctioned and sent into the marketplace by Big Pharma.

Catch Mandy Nolan's latest **Virgin Sacrifice** on **Thursday** at the **Byron Services Club**.

Tickets are \$10/15 and can be bought online at mandynolan.com.au, at the door, or booked on 6619 0529.

CONTINUED FROM p31

'I like to sing a song and I let the audience settle down into it, and then right after it's finished I tell them what it's about: it's a song about love. Folk songs are usually songs about a white man and white woman, struggle is a farmer in the outback, not a Syrian refugee leaving everything behind looking for freedom. For me my music gives me a chance to slap the audience in the face, make them comfortable, and then give them the squirm in the seat; you put people in that place. You have a responsibility as a songwriter when you are on the stage. There are some artists who go song thank you song thank you, but I don't do that – I try to give a balanced show of song and story. It's the folk musician in the oldest form of the troubadour.'

Mythen is spontaneous. No two shows are the same. 'I never do a set list – for me it changes... I am a solo performer. I love the edge that you don't know what is going to happen.'

Sitting in Canada, Mythen is acutely aware of what happens in the US, in particular the diminishing rights of women. 'What kind of a person decides what rights another person can have?' she asks. 'You are holding a lot of power there. There has been more debate about abortion, but it is nobody's business. How do they yield the power of what a woman does to her body? Why aren't they charging men every time they have wank?'

Irish Mythen performs at Byron **Bluesfest** this **Easter**. For tickets and program information go to bluesfest.com.au.



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cinema Reviews

BY JOHN CAMPBELL



KONG: SKULL ISLAND

I can't remember the last time I stood for the national anthem before a movie, but it happened at Pondicherry today. A deluxe ticket with 3D glasses cost the princely sum of 120 rupees (little more than two dollars) and with the heat and humidity, the noise and clamour of Tamil Nadu outside, the Ratna Theatre seemed a good bet. The audience was 99 per cent blokes and the air-con sub-zero, but the samosas at interval were delish (can't remember the last interval, either) and the movie was a cracker, notwithstanding the fact that it was dubbed in Tamil. Film being primarily a visual medium, it should never be too difficult, especially in an adventure flick such as this, to follow what's going on. A GI is fighting a Jap on Skull Island in 1943 – then cut to 1973. John Goodman is planning an expedition to the island (I concede – I didn't grasp his motive) and he enlists the aid of Samuel L Jackson and a bunch of hardened Vietnam soldiers. With a professor type and a pretty Girl in a singlet, they sail to their destiny. The first BIG scene with Kong has the great ape attacking Goodman's fleet of helicopters – it is *Apocalypse Now* all over again, only this time with the Valkyries having the tripe beaten out of them. It really is a fantastically well executed sequence, especially in 3D. Jackson's character takes an immediately vengeful attitude to Kong, but you can tell that the Girl, photographing everything she sees, including the natives, will be touched by Kong's innocence. Without comprehensible dialogue, the story looks like nothing more than a bunch of guys with guns destroying a pristine environment. Pretty quickly it turns into a case of the viewer guessing who will be devoured next by the other giant creatures that live on the island (we all know the Girl will make it) while hoping that Kong doesn't suffer the same fate as his namesake who fell from the Empire State Building. A mighty movie – if you like that sort of thing.



LOGAN

If you attend the cinema on a regular, professional basis, you can easily fool yourself into believing that you have become immune to the medium's more gross and ugly indulgences. Some filmmakers appear only to want to confront and shock, but you learn to take them in your stride – in the end, it's only smoke and mirrors and tomato sauce after all. But this latest derivative of the Marvel comic genre is particularly horrible. The very opening sequence has the Wolverine, Logan (Hugh Jackman), being pushed just a little too far by a gang of hoods who are nicking his car, resulting in his doing his block and shredding them with the hideous steel knives that protrude from between his knuckles. Of course, the violence and bloodshed is perfectly acceptable because superheroes only unleash their powers on baddies who really deserve it – Marvel morality is such mindless crap, isn't it? There is an old scientist (Patrick Stewart – a fine actor with a well-earned payday for participating in dross) who has been in hiding whom Logan must protect, and there is a nasty piece of work, Doctor Rice (Richard E Grant), out to get them. Enter a little girl who also happens to be a mutant, Laura (Dafne Keen). She is not just any old mutant kid, however; she is Logan's daughter, and she has inherited the slashing fists. There was a savagery about Laura's attacks that I found genuinely nightmarish. She would leap on her victim with shrieks from Bosch's Hell and plunge her bladed fists repeatedly into the poor bugger. Her efforts, combined with Logan's thrusting his through skulls and necks – there are not one, but two decapitations – were enough to turn my stomach. It is alarming and unspeakably depressing that this crock of vileness, with its bogus profundity and hateful self-importance, is currently rating 8.6 on the IMDb popularity scale. If you want a quick summary of what is wrong with the world, just check it out and look around you – there are people who find this entertaining.

MARCEL MARCEAU, MAYONNAISE & ME



IN MONSIEUR MAYONNAISE AUSTRALIAN ARTIST AND FILMMAKER PHILIPPE MORA INVESTIGATES HIS FATHER'S CLANDESTINE ROLE IN THE FRENCH RÉSISTANCE IN WWII AND HIS MOTHER'S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE EN ROUTE TO AUSCHWITZ.

What inspired you to find out about the stories of your parents?

Kids always are curious about what their parents don't want them to know.

Although this changed later, in my early days my parents, like many Holocaust survivors, simply did not want to talk about it. It was still too raw.

So I started collecting information; Marcel Marceau, who visited us regularly as a wartime and postwar friend of both my parents, was very forthcoming with information. He had been my dad's colleague in the Résistance and my mum's teacher in Paris.

What were the challenges along the way?

The challenge is to understand why the Holocaust occurred. There are many unanswered questions. Some I will address in a new film *Day and Sunlight*. This is an ongoing investigation and we keep finding incredible things. For example, my great-aunt Charlotte in Breslau published a thesis in 1915 on Nietzsche. Very unusual for a woman then, let alone a Jewish woman. She was murdered in Auschwitz.

Why is mayonnaise significant in this story?

It's the MacGuffin with some punch. A variation on it became my father's codename and nickname in the Résistance per Marceau. More than that will be a spoiler for the film. Aside from anything else it's delicious!

How much did you find out about your family story from your family? Why did you need to look elsewhere to fill in the gaps?

Later in life both my parents were forthcoming about what had happened in WWII. Originally as mentioned, the wounds were still wide open. Any Jewish families that survived have to have incredible stories because the odds were stacked against them. The whole thing is demonic in conception; however, the slaughter of two million children still commands my attention. On a broader canvas I studied history to to get some context, but this is a subject where the more you delve the more you are hit by the enigma and question of 'Why?'

How does this wild story show itself in you and in your art?

I have made many films that touch on and/or explore what happened in the Third Reich. Since we still do not know what happened in detail and since the effects continue, I believe there are many more films to be made about this subject, not to mention all other forms of history and creative endeavours. As a footnote, Germany just made me a German citizen, restoring the rights the Nazis illegally took away from my family in the Thirties.

Monsieur Mayonnaise screens at the **Bangalow A&I Hall** on **Saturday** at 6.30pm.

Byron Shire Echo archives: www.echo.net.au/byron-echo

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS
 Corner Kerr & Fox Streets
THURSDAY 23RD TO WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH

<p>THUR 23RD TO WED 29TH 11.40AM 4.10PM 6.35PM 8.55PM BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PG</p>	<p>THUR 23RD TO WED 29TH 12.20PM 3.20PM 6.55PM POWER RANGERS M</p>	<p>THUR 23RD TO WED 29TH 1.25PM 7.25PM 9.20PM LIFE MA15+</p>	<p>THUR 23RD TO WED 29TH 9.55AM 2.35PM 5.35PM THE BOSS BABY G</p>
<p>THUR 23RD TO WED 29TH 11.15AM 2.00PM 9.10PM KONG SKULL ISLAND M</p>	<p>THUR 23RD TO WED 29TH 4.25PM LOGAN MA15+</p>	<p>THUR 23RD TO WED 29TH 9.50AM PEPPA PIG My First Cinema Experience</p>	<p>THUR 23RD TO WED 29TH 10.05AM HIDDEN FIGURES PG</p>

Starts Next Thurs: **THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE, GHOST IN A SHELL**

BYRON BAY LOUNGE CINEMA
www.pighthouseflicks.com.au - Movie Hotline > 6685 5828
 cool & fun @ 1 skimmers shoot rd, byron bay

<p>Wednesday March 22 - Final The Great Wall 1:45pm Fences 3:45pm Moonlight 6:15pm A Few Less Men 8:30pm</p>	<p>Thursday March 23 - NEW Manchester by the Sea 10:40am Lion 1:20pm Moonlight 3:35pm Manchester by the Sea 5:50pm Moonlight 8:30pm</p>	<p>Friday March 24 Moonlight 10:45am Manchester by the Sea 1:00pm Hidden Figures 3:45pm Lion 6:15pm Manchester by the Sea 8:30pm</p>	<p>Saturday March 25 Hidden Figures 10:50am Lion 1:20pm Manchester by the Sea 3:35pm Moonlight 6:15pm The Great Wall 8:30pm</p>	<p>Sunday March 26 Manchester by the Sea 10:20am Hidden Figures 1:00pm Lion 3:35pm Manchester by the Sea 5:50pm Moonlight 8:30pm</p>	<p>Monday March 27 - Tix \$11 Hidden Figures 11:30am Lion 2:00pm The Great Wall 4:15pm Moonlight 6:15pm Manchester by the Sea 8:30pm</p>	<p>Tuesday March 28 Manchester by the Sea 10:20am Hidden Figures 1:00pm Moonlight 3:35pm Manchester by the Sea 5:50pm Lion 8:30pm</p>	<p>Wednesday March 29 - Final Moonlight 10:45am Manchester by the Sea 1:00pm Hidden Figures 3:45pm Lion 6:15pm The Great Wall 8:30pm</p>
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gig guide

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

THURSDAY 23

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **FRIEND ZONE**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **JASON DELPHIN DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8.30PM **THE DIRTY CHANNEL**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **JASPER JONES**
- BYRON SERVICES CLUB 8PM **VIRGIN SACRIFICE WITH MANDY NOLAN**
- STICKY WICKET, BYRON 9PM **FIASCO DJS**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **CHEF DE PARTY & FRIENDS**
- UNITING CHURCH, BYRON 1PM **STILL POINT - TURNING WORLD W VICTOR MARSH**
- BANGALOW BOWLING CLUB 7PM **ROCK'N'ROLL DANCING**
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 5.30PM **BE BOLD FOR CHANGE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION OPENING**
- POINCIANA, MULLUMBIMBY 6PM **GABBY BOGART**
- CLUB MULLUM 7PM **VICTORIANA GAYE**
- TATTS HOTEL, LISMORE **AZO BELL**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 6.30PM **NICKY CONVINE**
- BALLINA RSL 8PM **BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 9PM **ADAM HARPAZ**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 7.30PM **ALOHA BABY**
- SUN BISTRO, SUNRISE 5PM **ZAHLU**
- PIZZA PARADISO, SUFFOLK PARK 7PM **JOCK BARNES**
- BANGALOW A&I HALL 7PM **A NIGHT OF GRIEF & MYSTERY**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7.30PM **SOREN CARLBERGG TRIO**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 7PM **OOZ**
- ST MARTIN'S, MULLUMBIMBY 12.30PM **ECSTATIC TEMPLE DANCE**
- POINCIANA, MULLUMBIMBY 6PM **ENTROPIX**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM **LATIN FIESTA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 8PM **KRAPPYKEE**
- OCEAN SHORES COMMUNITY CENTRE 3.45PM **NORTHERN LIGHTS YOUTH EVENT**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 8.30PM **PUSH**
- THE CLUB, BURRINGBAR **DAD.JOKE.2017 WITH MARK SWIVEL**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9.30PM **PINK ZINC**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA 8PM **MERCY MERCY**
- BALLINA PLAYERS THEATRE 8PM **BLITHE SPIRIT**
- BALLINA RSL 8.30PM **ARJ BARKER**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 8.30PM **MILO GREEN BAND**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **PHIL LEVY**
- TATTS HOTEL, LISMORE 5PM **CASS 8PM PAUL D**
- POTTSVILLE SPORTS CLUB 7PM **ADAM BROWN**
- KINGSCLIFF HOTEL 7PM **LISA HUNT**
- KINGSCLIFF SURF CLUB 7PM **STUART FAIRHURST**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM **FAT ALBERT**

FRIDAY 24

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **LOS LAWS, ILL EAGLES, TOISOC**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **THE MUMBLERS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 5PM **AKOVA 9PM FAT PICNIC SUPPORTED BY WANDERING EYES**
- BYRON BREWERY 7PM **COTTON CLUB ELECTRO SWING**
- STICKY WICKET, BYRON 9PM **DJ KYLE WALKER 9.30PM FELIX**
- CABARITA SPORTS CLUB **RADIOSTAR**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 6PM **GREGG PETERSON**
- REGENT THEATRE, MURWILLUMBAH 6.30PM **TROMBONE KELLIE GANG**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH 7.30PM **BRETT HEALY**
- TWIN TOWNS JUNIORS, TWEED HEADS 5PM **DAVE CAVANAGH**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 8PM **BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS**
- COOLANGATTA SANDS HOTEL 8.30PM **ARCHIE RYE DUO**
- CURRUMBIN PUB 8PM **MY ECHO + LOUD GOES BANG + COLLINS CLASS + FUTURESPEAK**
- BANGALOW BOWLING CLUB 7.30PM **NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE SHOW**
- FEDERAL HALL **DAD.JOKE. 2017 WITH MARK SWIVEL**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 7PM **ARCHIE RYE**
- SOUNDSHELL, BRUNSWICK HEADS 10PM **18C MURDOCH HATE SPEECH CHOIR PRESENT 'IT'S A BIGOT'S RIGHT' REQUIEM**
- LULU'S, MULLUMBIMBY 11AM **ELENA B WILLIAMS**
- POINCIANA, MULLUMBIMBY 6PM **ESSIE THOMAS DUO**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9.30PM **RAGGA JUMP**
- BALLINA RSL BOWLING CLUB 6PM **BOB WALTON**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 7PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- BALLINA PLAYERS THEATRE 8PM **BLITHE SPIRIT**
- ILLAWONG HOTEL, EVANS HEAD 8.30PM **DIRTY CHANNEL DUO**
- LISMORE CITY HALL 7.30PM **TUBULAR BELLS FOR TWO**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE **PINK ZINC**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD 2PM **CHRIS FLASKAS 7PM VICTORIANA GAYE**
- CUDGEN SURF CLUB, KINGSCLIFF 7PM **ROUND MOUNTAIN GIRLS**
- KINGSCLIFF HOTEL 8PM **MATTY ROGERS**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM **DJ JAKE**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **TROMBONE KELLIE GANG**
- CABARITA SPORTS CLUB **HIGH TIDE**
- COOLANGATTA SANDS HOTEL 8.30PM **MUDSLIDE DUO**

SATURDAY 25

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **THE RUMINATERS, MYLLE & THE MILKSHAKES, GALAXY GIRLS**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **JAMIE ASHFORTH BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 9PM **NINJA HOUSE**
- BYRON BREWERY 7PM **CHRISTIAN PATEY & DOOLIE**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **SAINT JOAN**
- STICKY WICKET, BYRON 9PM **LOCAL DJS 9.30PM OOZ**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 9PM **DJ NERY**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 7.30PM **WANDERERS**
- PIZZA PARADISO, SUFFOLK PARK 7PM **GARY EDGAR**
- COORABELL HALL 10AM **OLD TIME: LEARNING ELDERHOOD TEACHING**
- BANGALOW A&I HALL **MONSIEUR MAYONNAISE WITH PHILIPPE MORA**
- GOLD COAST ARTS CENTRE 7.30PM **RUMOUR HAS IT ADELE SHOW**

SUNDAY 26

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **SALT BRAINS**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **BLIND WILLIE WAGTAIL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 4.30PM **EPIC 8PM SAMMY 2 TOWELS**
- BYRON BREWERY 2PM **COCO SESSIONS**
- BYRON GOLF CLUB 4PM **GREG LYON & THE HIP OPERATION**
- TREEHOUSE, BELONGIL 12.30PM **DJ EVA J & DJ BULLS WOOD**
- SUN BISTRO, SUNRISE 5PM **RICHIE WILLIAMS**
- COORABELL HALL 10AM **OLD TIME: LEARNING ELDERHOOD TEACHING**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 12.30PM **SLIM PICKENS**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 4PM **MASON RACK BAND**
- POINCIANA, MULLUMBIMBY 10AM **DATSON HUGHES DUO**
- LENNOX HOTEL 2PM **BIGGY P**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **DIRTY CHANNEL DUO**
- BALLINA PLAYERS THEATRE 2PM **BLITHE SPIRIT**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA 2PM **WILSON COOPER BAND**
- BALLINA RSL 2PM **DEAN DOYLE'S LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION!**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 1PM **CONSPIRACY OF ONE**
- KINGSCLIFF HOTEL 3PM **ACTIVE RADIO BAND**
- SPHINX ROCK CAFE, MT BURRELL 2PM **GUY KACHEL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 12.30PM **RAKU O'GAIA 4PM JASON DELPHIN TRIO 7.30PM EUREKA FUNK**
- ELIXABA, BYRON 7PM **MIGALOO 2 2017 LAUNCH & FILMS**
- EWINGSDALE HALL 7PM **MOVING SOUL CONSCIOUS DANCE**
- BANGALOW BOWLING CLUB **MUSICAL TRIVIA**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 6.30PM **AWA WAX LYRICAL SONGWRITER NIGHT WITH HANNAH PARRINGTON**

TUESDAY 28

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **MARSHALL O'KELL**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **JAMIE ASHFORTH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8PM **OPEN MIC**
- BYRON PUBLIC SCHOOL 7.15PM **NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **DJS JAMIE, SLHTTE, 4 EYES**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 8PM **OPEN MIC**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 7PM **TRIVIA**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 7.30PM **UNI SHOWCASE WITH CASEY UNDERHILL BAND**

WEDNESDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **LOU BRADLEY & PHIL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8.30PM **BEN WALSH**
- BYRON BREWERY 7.30PM **OPEN MIC WITH ALAIN DE CARNE**
- STICKY WICKET, BYRON 9PM **SARAH GRANT**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 9PM **DJ JAMIE**
- BYRON BOWLO **MUSICAL TRIVIA**
- BANGALOW BOWLING CLUB 7PM **TRIVIA**
- NR COMMUNITY GALLERY, BALLINA 5.30PM **THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX, PIXEL THE PAST, LOUD IN THE GALLERY - YOUTH EXHIBITION OPENINGS**
- BALLINA RSL 6PM **SOCIAL BALLROOM DANCE W DOT SIMPSON & DEAN DOYLE**
- BALLINA HOTEL 6PM **OPEN MIC**
- MURWILLUMBAH FARMERS MARKET 8AM **JESSE MORRIS BAND**

MONDAY 27

- GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, BYRON **LEELI**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 8.30PM **4'20' REGGAE WITH JESSE MORRIS BAND**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 9PM **REGGAE AFTERPARTY**

WHAT'S ON

JASPER JONES - FILM SCREENING WITH Q&A WITH THE PRODUCER
presented by Screenworks
Thursday 23 March, 7pm Tickets: Full \$23.30 | Conc & S/works Members \$18.30



SAINT JOAN BY BERNARD SHAW - National Theatre Live Screening by Byron Theatre
Saturday 25 March, 1pm
Tickets: Full \$25 | Conc \$23 | Student U18 \$10 | Group 10+ \$15



THE COMING WAR ON CHINA with video intro by Director, John Pilger
Wednesday 29 March, 6.30pm
Tickets: Full \$18.30 | Age: 15+



AN EVENING WITH A.C GRAYLING presented by Byron Writers Festival
Thursday 30 March, 6pm
Tickets: Full \$35 | BWF Member \$30



TIM ROGERS
Friday 31 March, 7pm
Tickets: Full \$38.30



Enjoy a drink at the Theatre Bar
Meeting rooms for hire

Byron Community Centre
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Passed away peacefully at Ballina District Hospital with her loving family by her side. Late of Alstonville and formerly of Ewingsdale and Tyagarah. Dearly loved Wife of Noel (dec). Loving Mother and Mother in law of Stephen and Jen, Sue and Colin, David and Ruth, Anne and Geoff, and Jenny. Devoted Granma to her 11 Grandchildren and 10 Great Grandchildren.

A Memorial Service for June was held in Mullumbimby on Tuesday (March 21, 2017).

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For information, please contact the North Coast Branch on 6684 4070.

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MONTHLY MARKETS

Table with market prices for various locations like Bruns Heads, Murwillumbah, Byron Bay, Lismore Car Boot, Flea, Woodburn, The Channon, Lennox Head, Alstonville, Coolangatta, Mullumbimby, Uki, Evans Head, Bangalow, Nimbin, Lennox Head, Nimbin, Byron Artisan Market, etc.

FARMERS MARKETS

Table with market prices for locations like New Brighton, Organic Lismore, M'bah, Nimbin, Byron, Mullum, Bangalow, Uki, Lismore.

MARCH 2017 Astronomical data and tides

Astronomical data table for March 2017, including moon phases (First quarter, Full moon, Third quarter, New moon) and a detailed tidal table with columns for day of month, sun/moon rise/set, and high/low tide heights.

Times are Eastern Daylight Saving.

Time lags: Ballina Boat Dock: 15 min; Byron Bay: nil; Brunswick River Hwy Bridge: high 30 min, low 1 hr; Mullumbimby: 1 hr 10 min; Billinudgel: 3 hr 55 min; Chinderah: high 1 hr 15 min, low 2 hr; Terranora Inlet: high 2 hr 10 min, low 2 hr 25 min; Murwillumbah: high 2 hr 30 min, low 2 hr 50 min. Tides in bold indicate high tide of 1.7m or more and low tide of 0.3m or less.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Please stick this by your phone

Table listing emergency numbers for services like Ambulance, Fire, Police, Brunswick Valley Rescue, Brunswick Marine Radio Tower, Byron Central Hospital, Police, State Emergency Service, etc.

Echo Classifieds online: www.echo.net.au/classifieds



Fish oil for mums may cut asthma in kids

Belinda Tasker

SYDNEY [AAP]

Taking fish-oil supplements during pregnancy can help mums reduce their child's chances of developing asthma during the first five years of life, medical researchers have discovered.

A study of 695 newborns in Denmark found that the risk of developing asthma or a persistent wheeze dropped by a third among children whose mums took daily fish-oil supplements during their third trimester of pregnancy.

The children also had a reduced risk of developing lower respiratory tract infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia, the researchers from the Copenhagen Prospective Studies on Asthma in Childhood said.

One in ten Australians is estimated to have asthma and most children with the long-term lung condition have symptoms before their fifth birthday.

The Danish researchers said their findings, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, could have wide implications for people with asthma around the world.

However, they noted that the intake of omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids like those found in cold-water fish was high among the Danish women who took part in the study compared with those in many other countries.

'Our data therefore suggest that a sizeable effect may be expected from supplementation in other populations worldwide; however, this suggestion is speculative, since other factors may be at play in such populations,' they wrote.

For the study the researchers gave about 700 mums either daily capsules containing 2.4g of two types of omega-3 fatty acids found in fish oil - 10 times the normal daily intake in Denmark and 20 times that in most other countries - or placebo capsules of olive oil.

The women began taking

the capsules when they were 24 weeks pregnant and until their babies were a week old.

The children were regularly monitored for any signs of wheezing, asthma, lower respiratory tract infections and skin conditions until they were five.

Among the children whose mothers took the fish-oil supplements, 17 per cent developed a persistent wheeze or asthma by the time they turned five compared with 24 per cent whose mums had the alternative capsules.

The researchers said the results equated to a 30 per cent relative reduction in the risk of developing asthma for children whose mums took the fish oil.

The effects were strongest among children whose mums had had low levels of omega-3 fatty acids before they started taking the fish-oil supplements.

The researchers noted that the incidence of asthma and wheezing disorders has more than doubled in western countries in recent decades.

At the same time, our intake of omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids has increased, thanks to a higher use of vegetable oils in cooking, while the intake of omega-3 has dropped.

Both types of fatty acids have been dubbed 'essential' fatty acids because they are mostly obtained from food and cannot be produced by the human body.

* One in 10 Australians has asthma

* It is more common in boys aged up to 14 and females over 15

* Rates among Indigenous Australians are almost twice that for non-Indigenous Australians

* Asthma caused the deaths of 421 Australians in 2015 (278 were women)

* Adults can develop asthma at any age, even if they did not have it as a child

* Some people have asthma during childhood, but as adults have few or no symptoms.

Locals take full control of WSL Quiksilver Pro at Gold Coast

Crystal Cylinders

Owen Wright completed a fairytale win at the Quiksilver Pro when he defeated Byron Bay's Matt Wilkinson in the final of the first WSL event for 2017.

Just over one year ago Wright had a violent rag-doll wipeout at Pipeline and it was believed that his brain had rattled violently against his skull, resulting in everything from amnesia to such a severe loss of co-ordination that he couldn't walk and had difficulty communicating.

Just a few weeks ago he was cleared by his medical team to return to competition, and what a comeback it was.

Wilkinson expressed his respect for his close friend and Rip Curl stablemate during his presentation speech. 'To be in another final here is a dream,' said Wilkinson. 'I



Owen Wright took out the first event of the WSL 2017 tour at the Gold Coast last weekend. Photo Tao Jones

obviously wanted to win but Owen has made me cry about five times this week. To see him last year was one of the toughest things I've ever seen and for Owen to be in the this event is one of the most amazing things, but to go and win is incredible. I couldn't have asked for a better person to beat me. He's inspired me so much and to come back and do this is unreal.'

Defending event winner Wilkinson dispatched world champions Joel Parkinson and John John Florence en route to his second consecutive Gold Coast Final.

'Coming into the event this year I did have a sneaky bit of confidence but you do think about all the work that the others have put in on the off season,' Wilkinson said. 'Now I guess I feel a lot more

confident and I feel like my surfing is the best it's ever been so I'm really excited to go for the World Title.'

Lennox Head's Stuart Kennedy had a dream run last year at Snapper with his semifinal finish and looked in good form in earlier rounds especially when he defeated Ethan Ewing in round two with an excellent 9.1 from the judges but was unable to fire in his round 3 match-up against former world champion Adriano De Souza.

Kennedy finished in equal 13th place to start off his second year on the Championship Tour.

To complete a great day for the Aussies, six-time WSL Champion Stephanie Gilmore claimed her sixth Roxy Pro title defeating USA's Lakey Peterson in the final. The win marks Gilmore's 25th elite tour victory.

'I can't believe it, I've been



Steph Gilmore looked sharp as she took a step towards another world title. Photo WSL/Sloane

visualising holding that trophy so much,' Gilmore said. 'It was so hard against Lakey. I'm so happy to have all the support from everyone here and there's nothing better than winning at home. It's so far from here but I'd love to win another world title.'

'It's the greatest feeling in the world to win here, in the greatest place on Earth in my eyes,' Gilmore said.

DSA calls for volunteers

The Disabled Surfers Association is holding its last gathering for the season at Clarkes Beach in Byron Bay this Saturday, March 25 from 9am.

They require a lot of volunteers, surfers and water people. Sign on 8.30am.

Big interest in golf Open Day at Mullum



Gary Brazenor with some of the prizes on offer at this weekend's Mullumbimby Golf Open Day. Photo supplied

Close to 200 players are ready to tee off and compete for \$3,000 worth of prizes in the Mullumbimby Golf Club's Open Day this Saturday.

The Brunswick Valley Open ran from 1980 till 1991 and on Saturday the event is being reinstated as The Mullumbimby Open, sponsor Gary Brazenor from Great Real Estate said.

'From the level of interest and enthusiasm it is generating I anticipate that it will become an annual fixture,' he said.

The Open Day is a stroke play event and is open to all men, women, members and non-members with a handicap.

Prizes are on offer for A, B and C grade, ladies plus an overall gross score winner.

Nearest-the-pin prizes are on offer on all par three holes.

Peter Schweitzer from Kyogle (ex-Mullumbimby member), winner of The

North Coast news daily: www.echonetdaily.net.au

Brunswick Valley Open in 1989, 1990 and 1991, is returning to the club to defend the title.

Sid Jamison from Ballina Golf Club, who took out the title twice, is also returning.

There will be food on sale prepared by the club and the bar will be open.

There is a field of 196 players teeing off from 6.45am. There are very few tee times still available.

'With an anticipated hot field it will be a great day for golf enthusiasts to spectate. There is a group coming Murwillumbah with a total handicap of +9: two on +1, one on +2 and the other on +5. There are a total of six players in the field with a plus handicap,' Gary said.

Captain Jayson Matthews is hopeful the weather will improve and the competition will be played this Saturday. A final decision will be made on Friday.

Brown snakes and Rams charge into ANZAC Cup finals

Dog Whistle

Byron Bay have continued their pre-season charge with a 7-2 win over the Lismore Thistles in the semifinal of ANZAC Cup last Sunday.

The strong performance caps off a great run by the Rams that will see the team vying for a win in the final against the Richmond Rovers in Lismore on April 22.

The Rovers won their semifinal over the weekend against Gonnellabah 2-1.

In round two of the ANZAC Cup the Byron Rams drew with Goonellabah Hornets six all, after being down 4-1 at half time.

New striker Gianluca Bongiovanni resurrected the Rams' reputation with a personal tally of five.

The goal feast continued in Sunday's third round of the pre-season competition when the Rams absolutely demolished coastal neighbours, Lennox Head Sharks, in a 13-

goal rout.

Bongiovanni took another four goals, Will Ennis bagged two, as did Aaron Walker. Young mid-fielder Ronan Karup, Sam Owens, Kare Isaac, James Tomlinson and Joel Woods also found the net.

Shores United

Shores United progressed through to the ANZAC Cup B final with a thoroughly entertaining 5-3 away victory against the Lismore Rovers, according to club president Marc Patten.

'Right from the first whistle the boys took control. After 17 minutes in, from a cross and goal-mouth scramble, Kaine Guylar finished and Shores were up 1-0.

'Shores pressed, and man of the match Lewis McIntosh put in a well-directed free kick that was met with a stonking Ozzie header, 2-0. By half-time it was 3-0,' he said.



A swarming Rams (black and white) defence has contributed to their pre-season success. Photo Dog Whistle

Rovers came back strongly after the break, scoring off a penalty and soon after a cruel deflection saw them narrow the lead to 3-2, in 10 minutes.

Yet another through ball to Jarvis was put away and Shores were up 4-2.

But Rovers wouldn't give up and as Shores' defence began to tire Rovers began to

take control.

Just before full-time Rovers scored another and at 4-3, the stage was set for a nail-biting finish.

Rovers threw everything at Shores and went very close. But another through ball to Jarvis saw him finish with a hat trick and gave Shores the game on the final whistle.

Whales have a gala football day

The Byron Community Primary School boys' team had a great trip to Armidale for a football gala day and pulled off a memorable win.

Last week the BCPS Whales, 12 players from years five and six, competed in the North Coast Independent Schools football tournament.

'We played three games. The first game we played EAC and lost 4-0. We then played the team who went on to win

the championship, Bishop Druitt, and lost 7-0,' Annie Roberts of the BCPS said.

The Whales won their last game against Blue Hills College 6-1.

'The boys showed excellent sportsmanship and gelled together. We are already talking about returning next year.

'Our BCPS girls will also have an opportunity to play in a football gala day early next term,' she said.



Inexperienced but keen, the Whales had a great trip to Armidale for a football tournament. Photo supplied

Skater Joey Cormack wins Australian skateboard title

Suffolk Park skater Joey Cormack won the national final of the Australian Skateboarding League held in Melbourne earlier this month.

The 18-year-old former Byron High student has dedicated his life to skating after the Suffolk Park skatepark was built around 10 years ago, according to mum Bree Franklyn.

'It was a turning point. Since then he has been fully committed. It's his main sport,' she said.

He competes whenever he can and this was his first national win after starting to compete in the open-age division. He was also the youngest competitor in this year's event.

Joey not only took on Australia's best street skaters



Joey Cormack in mid-air last year. To see more of Joey in action try Instagram: joeycormack_98. Photo Supplied

but also collected points that contribute to a new global ranking system.

The event and others like it provide a pathway into a professional skateboarder career largely based in the United States.

Joey has been directly involved with the design and

planning of the Suffolk Park skatepark expansion and is also campaigning for the development and funding for a Byron Bay skatepark.

The ASL national finals took place at the Riverside skatepark and were part of Melbourne's Moomba Festival.

Matilda collects a swag of medals at state championships

Ross Kendall

The athletics journey of Mullum local Matilda Vial is well on track after great results at the Queensland Athletics Championships held at QSAC over three days last weekend.

Matilda got onto the podium with a second place in the long jump on Friday night and backed it up with second place in the 70-metre sprint, a third in the 100m sprint on Saturday, and then a fourth in the 200m on Sunday, mother Fernanda Vial said.

'Matilda is very competitive and disappointed with her fourth, but I told her she was competing against the best in the state,' she said.

Matilda also achieved personal-best performances in all events, including a time of



Matilda on the podium with her bronze medal (left) and fellow competitors at QSAC last Saturday. Photo supplied

14.6 seconds in the 100m.

Matilda is under ten years old and also has the task of competing against older girls in her age group.

She got a start in Little Athletics when her PE teacher pointed out she had natural talent. She joined the local LA in Sydney, where she was

living at the time, and ended up being coached by former Australian track star Melinda Gainsford-Taylor.

The Shearwater student, who trains with the Tweed Seagulls Little Athletics Club, admires all the Jamaican runners because she sees them as the best in the world.

Local sides join forces for a day of rugby trials in Mullumbimby

Andrew Teuma

The Mullumbimby Giants Rugby Club managed to host a series of preseason games on Saturday, including a combined Byron Shire squad, as many other clubs across the Far North Coast Zone were cancelled because of the wet weather.

The Gold Coast Eagles, Sunshine Coast and Uni rugby clubs made the journey down through the rain to play Byron Bay Rugby and Mullumbimby, with each team playing against each other, in five shortened games.

Owing to other games being cancelled, including Bangalow's journey to Lismore, the local teams made a 'Byron Shire' squad with players from Byron Bay Rugby, Mullumbimby and Bangalow Rugby combining during the last game against Sunshine Coast.

'With the combined team from three clubs in the Shire, it really showed the standard of the Rugby spirit,' said Byron Bay club captain Eddy Brown.

'We would normally battle it out amongst our clubs as there is a bitter rivalry between Byron Bay, Bangalow and Mullumbimby, but on this occasion it was special to have players from all three clubs playing together for the final game,' he said.



The 'three clubs' team ahead of their trial game last Saturday against the Sunshine Coast. Photo: supplied.

'Rugby was the winner today,' said Byron Bay Rugby president Tim Ahern.

'Two local teams came up against Premiers from Queensland zones and still managed to come out on top,' he said.

Season opener

In the first game of the competitive season Byron Bay Rugby will host Ballina Seahorses at the Recreation Ground in Byron Bay this Saturday March 25.

'We love our home crowd,' said Brown. 'It's a chance for everyone to come together as a community and watch some fantastic local sport. All home games are free to watch this season, with the canteen putting food on and a family-friendly atmosphere with a play area for the kids too.'

Ballina will be ready to put Byron to the test in the

first game of the season after losing twice to Byron Bay in 2016.

Both teams have looked good in preseason so this should be an epic encounter for the first round of the 2017 season.

This game is particularly special for the Blue and White as the club includes another team: Byron Bay - Suffolk Sand Crabs who will be playing in the Reserve Grade for the first time.

Led by Captain Matt Larsson, the Sand Crabs will be looking to get a win on the board in their first-ever encounter.

Other Byron Shire games to start the 2017 rugby season on Saturday March 25:

Wollongbar v Bangalow, Lyle Park, Wollongbar 3.15pm

Mullumbimby v Lennox Head, Alby Lofts Oval, Brunswick Heads 2pm.

Hundreds compete in Ballina Touch football championship

Almost 500 students from north coast Christian schools competed in Ballina for the North Coast Zone Christian Schools Sports Association (CSSA) Touch Football Championships on Thursday, March 6.

Schools from Coffs Harbour to Tweed Heads were in attendance, competing for the title of north coast champions.

'The students are also vying for selection in the north coast team that will compete in the Christian schools' state championships, which are being held in Port Macquarie at the end of the month,' said zone touch convenor Michael Capilli of Summerland Christian College.

'With 50 teams competing from years five and six primary school students to both Open and U/15 Boys



The winning Open Boys team from Summerland College with teacher Tim Ravenscroft. Photo supplied.

and Girls divisions, this is one of the biggest events on the Christian schools sports calendar in terms of numbers of participating students,' Michael said.

'Seven years ago we had 23 teams participating. The growth has been phenomenal!'

'We take 44 students away to represent the zone at the

state championships, and our Open Boys teams are again the defending champions, and have won three times in the last five years.

'A number of Summerland Christian College students are often then selected in the State Touch Football teams and are again hoping to make it to that level,' Michael said.

Liverpool and SCU football head to Cavanbah

Southern Cross Uni and Liverpool International Academy will use the Cavanbah Centre as a base for their junior teams as they compete in the Gold Coast football competition.

The move will allow some of the most talented players from across northern NSW to test themselves against the top Gold Coast clubs including Palm Beach, Gold Coast Magic and Runaway Bay.

'These young players

[under 12s, 13s and 14s] come from all over the region including a strong representation from the Byron area,' LIA general manager Scott Collis said.

'Cavanbah is an excellent regional facility. Many Gold Coast families will visit Byron over the year for our matches showcasing our best young players in one of the north coast's best locations,' he said.

Earlier this month Football Far North Coast

announced a ground-breaking partnership with SCU, which has seen regional high performance football now delivered through the university's Southern Cross Football Centre facility utilising coaching from the Australia first Liverpool International Academy program.

The LIA program involved ages 10 to 15 and kicked off with more than 250 players trialling for positions during October last year.

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The big dump of water in the northern rivers was welcomed by most people whose gardens and crops were parched. Some folks still seem to lack the common sense necessary to stop them driving into floodwaters, but fines might help. Police have said a driver who got stuck in flooded waters near Corndale last week would be issued an infringement notice for 'wilfully disregard barrier regulating traffic', in this case a 'water over road' sign. If you want to check the state of a road during heavy rain, it's easy enough to go to myroadinfo.com.au and the service is also available as an app. If your car does start sinking in water you've only got about 30 seconds to get the window open and scramble out before it goes under. See the dramatic footage at <http://bit.ly/sinkcar>. You can also buy emergency car-window breakers and seatbelt cutters in one gadget, and some come with an LED light.



While sharks are usually a concern for surfers, this seagull zeroes in on Kelly Slater at the Quiksilver Pro, obviously mistaking him for a chip. Photo Jeff 'Winging It' Dawson

Richard Branson has weighed into the shark-net controversy, suggesting we 'need to learn how to live safely with sharks, rather than killing them. We need to adopt non-lethal control methods including public education campaigns so that people understand when interactions with sharks may be at a peak.' Of its north coast shark-net trial, the Department of Primary Industries has reported that the meshing netted 34 individual animals across seven species in the past month. Of that number, 53 per cent were released alive and 47 per cent were found dead. Most interestingly, no target shark species were caught.

When we export about two-thirds of our gas overseas, it's a bit rich for the PM to manufacture a 'crisis' around the fact that fracking is not going full throttle across the states. It's about time we hung onto our non-renewable resources rather than selling them cheaply to foreign buyers. And better still, invest more in solar and wind industries rather

Finally, some progress on the illegal doof issue. The organiser of a party at Tallow Beach last November was fined \$8,000 in Byron Bay court last week, and an individual was fined \$750 for being at the event. Friends of Tallow Creek said they hoped the conviction and fines would deter others from similar acts of environmental vandalism. Having a good time at the expense of the fragile natural environment is not on, and thanks to Byron Council and the NPWS for pressing a prosecution. Silent discos – that is, with headphones – in non-controversial locations seem a better way to go.

Billionaire businessman Sir

than spruiking a far-off Snowy 2.0 hydro scheme to divert attention from Elon Musk's offer to light up South Australia – see a good ABC News roundup at <http://bit.ly/musk->

power. See Greens MP Tamar Smith's plan to ban fracking in NSW at tamarasmith.com.au/ban_nsw_fracking and keep up on the latest news at lockthegate.org.au.

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