



LOCAL & INDEPENDENT



## Developer pushes ahead with controversial project

Ken Sapwell

Construction work on a 264-unit development on a creek-front block at Hastings Point is set to go ahead despite a Supreme Court appeal seeking to overturn consent.

Residents, who last month won a long battle to bring in planning controls to protect their unique village character, say developer PDK is taking a big risk by continuing earth and construction works pending the outcome of the case.

Local progress association spokesman and lawyer John O'Reilly says the community-funded case has a good chance of success given a recent ruling involving a similar case by the chief justice of the Land and Environment Court.

He admits residents are powerless to stop the project, approved under the NSW government's controversial seniors living policy as an aged facility and advertised as a luxury resort for the over 55s, because PDK is legally entitled to proceed pending the outcome of the appeal.

### Consent will be voided

But if residents win their case PDK's consent will be voided and any works deemed illegal under the new height and density controls which the council adopted last month would face demolition.

He said PDK had just been ordered to remediate another property where it had begun work on a three-storey building before residents successfully challenged the development in court.

PDK spokesman Danny Gillies confirmed that he intends to push ahead with construction, saying al-

though there was a risk his company could lose the case, it was only a slight one.

He said he was confident of a win because an aged care facility was badly needed in the community.

'It's advertised as a resort because no one wants to move into an aged care home,' said Mr Gillies, whose assisted living facility will include a medical centre and chemist and 67 aged-care beds.

### Contractors, tradies at risk

Mr O'Reilly said residents had alerted the developer, his builder and financier to similar cases resulting in demolition and the ensuing potential pain that could be inflicted on subcontractors and tradies.

'We are very disappointed that they have chosen to ignore our advice but we are prepared to fight this all the way.'

He said it had put a dampener on celebrations over winning a 12-year fight to reduce densities and building heights from three storeys to two in line with other smaller villages, as well as stopping another but smaller three-storey multi-unit project of PDK's from going ahead.

'We're shocked that PDK seems to be ignoring the warning bells following the Council's refusal of its other development following the community's win in the Land and Environment Court and the introduction of new controls,' he said.

'If we also win this latest case it will end up back in the Council's lap and there is no way they could legally give it consent under the planning controls introduced last week.'

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## Mur'bah pool open for business



Murwillumbah mum Amelia Collins and her sons Jackson and Riley enjoyed a refreshing dip at the new aquatic centre last Friday. Photo by Jeff 'Dunking' Dawson

Murwillumbah locals took to the Tweed Regional Aquatic Centre last Friday likes ducks to water.

With the official opening over, the doors opened and the crowds poured in for a free sampling of the new swimming pool complex.

From late Friday afternoon and throughout the weekend they just

kept coming to enjoy the long awaited experience that is offering state-of-the-art facilities including a hydrotherapy pool that will be officially opened this week.

A crèche is planned to give busy mums and dads an opportunity to participate in some fitness and other programs including aqua aerobics,

group swimming lessons for older adults, tethered swimming and gentle walking.

There is also a new café – the Starting Block Café, which is accessible from inside and outside the facility.

For more information on the \$16m aquatic centre – go and check it out for yourself!

## Mayor wants learn-to-swim pool fees cut

Ken Sapwell

Tweed Mayor Joan van Lieshout will put her persuasive powers to the test when she tries to convince general manager Mike Rayner to lower the fees charged to schools to use the new aquatic centre at Murwillumbah.

Cr van Lieshout says that while she has no problems with the cost

of family passes, special consideration should be given to wiping or at least greatly reducing the entry fee for students attending learn-to-swim programs.

'I will be talking to Mr Rayner to see what can be done for the students to ensure they are not priced out of using the pool for essential programs,' she said.

The proposed review follows an appeal by Murwillumbah East Primary School principal Darren Scott for the Council to reconsider a 45 per cent increase in entry fees.

'Our concern is that Council now places this wonderful facility out of reach of the majority of the clientele of Murwillumbah and surrounding

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## Tweed hospitals want slice of funding cake

Ken Sapwell

Tweed MP Geoff Provest says he will be fighting to ensure that Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah Hospitals win a fair share of the more than \$1 billion which the federal government has promised to pump into NSW's ailing health system.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd agreed to give NSW the lion's share of a \$4.8 billion injection into the States' health services under new funding agreements between the States and Commonwealth at the weekend.

The decision coincided with a rally attended by about 100 people in Tweed Heads last Saturday to protest against funding shortfalls and plans to axe 29 hospital jobs.

The meeting resolved to remind Mr Rudd of his famous pre-election boast on the steps of their now over-stretched and cash-strapped hospital: 'The buck stops with me.'

It also called on the state government to end ongoing funding cutbacks which resulted in 1,268 patients being treated on trolleys in corridors of the Tweed Heads Hospital last year.

Mr Provest, who organised the rally, said the Tweed's plight could be summed up by the fact that it received only seven per cent of the State's \$700 million health budget even though it serviced 10 per cent of the population, representing a \$50 million shortfall.

The rally follows the release of a damning report by an independent consultant who for the first time broadened the blame for the health debacle to include medical specialists whose pursuit of indulgent lifestyles came at the expense of patients' well-being.

In a landmark inquiry, Special Commissioner Peter Garling put the boot into a top-heavy bureaucracy and some specialists who he believed were part of a new culture where patients' needs were not as central to concerns as 'the convenience of clinicians and administrators.'

Mr Garling said the Tweed's problems were comparatively worse because of pressure from the Gold Coast, with both the Gold Coast and Tweed Hospitals 'bursting at the seams.'

In his 1,100-page report, the commissioner raised serious concerns about the level of funding for the North Coast Area Health Service, noting a public perception that service was underfunded because it had voted in National Party MPs.

### Political neglect

'One explanation that was advanced to them was the North Coast Area Health Service received less than its share because it consisted of safe National Party electorates.'

'I have not attempted to investigate whether this is so or not. However there is a strong perception among many of the staff in the area that the lack of fair and equitable distribution of funding is a deliberate decision for reasons which are not associated with clinical care and performance.'

Mr Garling found that while Tweed Heads was under pressure, facilities at Murwillumbah were under-utilised.

Among the speakers at the rally were Tweed's Liberal Party Mayor Joan van Lieshout, the Nationals' Senator Fiona Nash, the Greens NSW branch membership secretary, Pam Ditton, and pensioners champion Don Morgan.

## Developer pushes on with controversial aged care facility at Hastings Point

continued from page 1

'Even though the builder tells us he has a contract to fulfil, there should be concern for losses which trades people and interested buyers might suffer if this project falls over.'

Residents lost their first

Land and Environment Court challenge after the judge ruled that provisions of the senior living policy overrode local planning laws, but they say the decision is flawed and are seeking to overturn it in the NSW Court of Appeal.



Hastings Point residents (l-r) Paul Young, John O'Reilly, Richard Gow, Jannarli Williams and Adam Gow give the thumbs down to continued construction of a controversial development.

## Mayor wants pool fees cut from page 1

districts,' he told councillors during a community access session.

'Our belief is that every child should have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of school life, irrespective of socio-economic status, and swimming is an essential skill for all children.'

'At your proposed current rates of \$2.50 per child, we will have to charge children \$25 for a 10-week program.'

'I can confidently state that this is too expensive for about 40 per cent of our families. This leaves a major proportion of our students not engaged in an essential Life Skills program and we are not financial enough to subsidise them.'

Mr Scott, who said he was speaking on behalf of more than a dozen local schools and several sports associations, said the council's proposed fees were more expensive than a two year pass to both Dream

World and White Water World on the Gold Coast.

'For \$250 per year, I gain access to our local public pool, however, I can get a two year access pass to the theme parks for \$254 per adult or \$168 per child. Even a Wet 'n' Wild season pass is only \$95 per child.'

'We do not seek a theme park in our town, we just want to be able to swim and encourage life skills to be safe and confident around water. If we seek amusement, then we can go to a theme park for the day. At the proposed rates, it is actually a cheaper option to go to the theme park.'

'The proposed fee structure for the use of this facility is far too high and out of reach of the families in this community.'

'Fees need to take into account the socio-economic status of the community that Tweed Shire Council is serving,' Mr Scott said.



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# Sweet new era for power supply

Luis Felii

Condong Sugar Mill's renewable energy plant which can generate enough electricity for around 30,000 average-sized homes was officially opened last Friday.

Around 80 invited guests including cane industry leaders attended a ceremony at the upgraded mill for the opening of 30-megawatt co-generation plants at both Condong and Broadwater sugar mills.

NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative and Delta Electricity formed the joint venture Sunshine Electricity around 10 years ago to build and run the two power plants fuelled mainly by sugar cane bagasse and other green waste.

The plants are expected to see the gradual phasing out of pre-harvest burning of sugar cane as well as powering the mills themselves.

The joint venture project is Australia's largest baseload renewable energy generation project and the two mills are set to have a major impact on Australia's greenhouse reduction target by saving around 400,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually.

NSW Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, Ian Macdonald, who was expected to unveil the two plaques for



Condong sugar mill's development manager Cam Palmer looks forward to a sweet future now that the mill and thousands of Tweed homes and businesses can be powered by electricity generated from sugar cane trash and other green waste products. Photo Jeff 'Sugar Man' Dawson

the mills, was unable to attend as he had to take responsibility for the safe return of a trade delegation caught up in last

week's Mumbai violence.

Delta Electricity chairman Peter Young said the opening of the plants marked a 'signifi-

cant next step in the development of baseload renewable power in this state.'

'Never before has sugar produced so much energy,' he declared.

Mr Young said traditional methods of generating electricity such as coal-fired plants had to change and electricity generators faced challenges with today's carbon and environmental 'restraints'.

NSW Canegrowers Association president Vince Castle told *The Echo* the value-adding project gave the association's 600 growers another income stream. He said growers could not rely on global crystal sugar prices alone to survive as the industry faced too many troughs and associated costs.

'We hope the costs of harvesting will, before too long, be completely paid for by the venture,' he said.

'In future, growers will get a payment in their cane price from the electricity generation but not till the 2010 season.'

Mr Castle said growers were also trying other crops in conjunction with sugar cane such as soya bean as 'a very good sideline' to keep growers with a cash flow, especially as the nitrogen-fixing legume meant fertiliser costs could be halved when replanting the land with sugar cane.

# Thieves' change of heart after meeting victims

Madeleine Doherty

Two teenage thieves who went on a stealing binge came face to face with 25 of their victims recently and had a change of heart.

It was a life changing experience for the two 18-year-olds who had committed 13 break and enters over a four-month period. Neither of them had any prior offences.

Once caught, the two offenders were faced with not just the courts but with their victims and their victims' families and friends plus the police through the Forum Sentencing program.

The program, an initiative of the NSW Attorney General's department, was a pilot program that started in September 2005 running only in Tweed and Liverpool courts.

It is coordinated on the Tweed by Julie Wilson who explained that the Sentencing Forum brought together support groups for victims and offenders.

'Primarily each forum aims to find ways for the offender to repair harm to the victim and then to find ways to reintegrate the offender into their support network and reduce the likelihood of re-offending,' Ms Wilson said.

'Working together as a community, I believe we can offer so much more to heal the hurt of victims, who are often forgotten and alienated by the traditional court process,' she said.

One of the 18-year old offenders, a uni student, told the group that he and his co-offender did the break and enters basically as a challenge to see if they could do it.

It was only when they started into the forum that they began to grasp the impact their behaviour had financially and psychologically on their victims at businesses and schools.

The youths apologised to

their victims and agreed to 200 hours of voluntary work including: four hours each Saturday for seven months at victims' schools doing maintenance work, voluntary work at local sports clubs and voluntary work on other community projects.

They had to each pay \$6,000 compensation, return to full time study/work, go to counselling, and write apologies.

In court the magistrate approved the plan from the Forum Sentencing and imposed a suspended 15-month jail sentence on one youth, while the other received a 12-month suspended jail sentence.

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## Submissions extension sought on Bay Street sale

Ken Sapwell

Tweed's deputy mayor Barry Longland will seek to extend the deadline for public comment on the controversial proposal to sell part of Bay Street to smooth the way for a high-rise development on the Centro shopping centre site.

Cr Longland said he would be putting up a notice of motion asking that last Sunday's deadline be extended to around mid-February because of growing community disquiet about moves to close two lanes of the four-lane road east of the Wharf Street intersection.

But he would not be asking for any further clarification of the likely impact on the existing park because it was his understanding that staff had not yet decided the exact dimensions of any new road realignment.

'I don't think council staff have gone that far - they haven't established how wide the road is going to be at this stage,' he said.

'We have been assured that any realignment would occur within the existing road reserve but because part of the park has been built over the reserve you don't have to be Einstein to realise some of it would have to provide for

two lanes of traffic,' he said.

Cr Longland said he had been swamped with emails and phone calls which had made clear that residents thought 'it's a pretty bad idea.'

Residents' groups have welcomed the extra breathing space which they say will enable them to examine new information they've unearthed, including details of a similar proposal to sell off part of Bay Street in 1994.

Tweed Heads Environmental Group secretary Richard Murray says documents show that the Council subsequently registered a subdivision plan for Bay Street which he believed was now being used to resurrect the current plan.

He said nowhere in the Tweed Heads Master Plan which was exhibited in 2004 and 2006 did it show any development in Bay Street.

Council sources say that the 1994 plan was derailed by the Lands Department which instead wanted to put two high rise towers in the Jack Evans Boat Harbour on the basis that it would generate more revenue than a sale of part of the road reserve.

But according to the sources, the proposal was shelved because of the expected public opposition.

## Stephanie wins back-to-back titles



Kingscliff's Stephanie Gilmore, pictured here competing recently in the Roxy Pro at Snapper Rocks, has retained her women's world surfing title after snatching victory in the final of the penultimate event in Hawaii on Tuesday. The 20-year-old pulled out an 8.50 scoring wave in the dying minutes of the four-woman final to overtake Brazil's Silvana Lima and win the Roxy Pro in 1.5m waves at Sunset Beach. Australia's Layne Beachley, who has won a record seven world titles, came third in the round.

## Home values will rise - estate owner

Owner of a residential manufactured home park in Kingscliff believes his proposed upgrade will increase the value of existing homes in the park by \$20,000.

Last week some residents of the park said they feared the proposed development would see the loss of their nature walk and part of the lake - assets that they say attracted them to buy into the park.

Keith Noble of Noble Lakeside Estate this week responded to their concerns, saying the lake would not be filled in. He is proposing 45 new houses that

would front on to the lake.

'We plan to build a retaining wall so that half the house will be on land and the other half, held up by piers, will be over the water,' Mr Noble told *The Echo*.

Included in the plans to develop the 45 houses are \$300,000 worth of upgrades including doubling the size of the clubhouse and installing an electronic gate system at the entrance to the park.

He said he would not go ahead with the \$300,000 upgrade unless 75 per cent of residents supported it.

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# The odd couple agree on village plan

Luis Felio

Veteran environmental activist Jim Warburton believes a proposed multimillion dollar eco-village for up to 1,000 people in the Tweed Valley is sustainable and he wants others to know.

Seventy-one-year-old Mr Warburton, from Uki, who has campaigned over the years against several major projects on the Tweed and Gold Coast which impacted on the environment, was converted to the developer's cause after seeing for himself what the controversial Nightcap Village development proposal at Kunghur south-west of Murwillumbah was all about.

Landowner Peter van Lieshout, husband of Tweed mayor Joan van Lieshout, has taken Tweed Shire Council to the NSW Land and Environment Court after Council failed to make a decision on his development application for the village concept plan on his 3,000-acre property.

The court will conduct a public hearing on the village site next Thursday, December 11, at 9.30am.

The successful businessman and first-time developer, who made his fortune from the Super A-Mart furniture retailing chain founded by his brother John van Lieshout, makes an odd bedfellow with the long-



Environmental activist Jim Warburton and landowner Peter van Lieshout, with family pet Lord Bacon, at Tallowood Dam on van Lieshout's Kunghur property.

haired Landcare volunteer.

'When this came up about two years ago the Caldera Environment Centre (CEC) asked me to check it out because I lived out here so I contacted Peter,' Mr Warburton said.

'I spoke to many people in order to understand the project and being from an environmental group my main concerns were vegetation protection and management of water and sewerage.'

'I was satisfied that he [Mr van Lieshout] was protecting existing vegetation and was controlling weeds on a massive scale and excluding livestock

from the Tweed River catchment area.

'The key to all this is that there is no extraction of water from the river. He's using tanks and dams with water treatment backup, so nothing's going out of the river and nothing's going into it. In a nutshell the proposal basically excluded cattle, weeds were being controlled, existing trees protected and plantings undertaken where required.'

'So it's like he is rescuing this land which was a blight on the area before and he's doing it in a very sensitive way.'

Mr Warburton, a former electrical engineer and man-

ager who moved to the Tweed from the Gold Coast more than 10 years ago, said Nightcap Village had the potential to become even better than the award-winning eco-village at Currumbin in the Gold Coast hinterland.

He said the eco-village concept was probably a better outcome for the large parcel of land as it could become a 'drastically inappropriate development' in someone else's hands.

'We need to get behind him if he's trying to do the right thing environmentally, rather than attack him.'

Mr van Lieshout said he

originally bought a home and property in the Kunghur area almost 20 years ago and with several partners in an investment venture bought and consolidated adjoining parcels of land totalling around 4,000 acres, including the Mebbin Springs property on the eastern side of Kyogle Road. He eventually bought out his partners several years ago and sold the Mebbin Springs parcel to a Brisbane developer who undertook a 66-lot rural-residential subdivision, which is yet to get off the ground in terms of sales or buildings.

'I could have cleared the property and put cattle on it but decided to plant trees instead,' he said. Around half of his property has been re-afforested with various species of eucalypts, as part of joint leasehold ventures, with around a quarter of a million trees planted, many of them over four metres tall.

Mr van Lieshout plans to develop the lot closest to Kyogle Road and the Tweed River for the village, which is around 140 acres or under 10 per cent of the whole property.

'We put dams in dry gullies because to me, water is everything, so now there is an abundance of water and you can hear the glorious noises of life everywhere at night - ducks, frogs, crickets and birds,' he said.

## 'Major problems'

Opponents of the planned Nightcap Village development say they have major problems with it. Caldera Residents Action Group (CRAG) president John Donvito, who owns 400 acres next to Mebbin Springs, told *The Echo* the court hearing next week was the last chance to object to the plan.

'For a start the concept plan is a misnomer because if the court approves it, he's got permission to build a township there and all he has to do is cross the t's and dot the i's and do some fine tuning - the community doesn't get to have another say,' Mr Donvito said.

'The sewage system will need a very high level of maintenance and expertise to run it because if there's a malfunction, raw sewage may flow into the Tweed River. Rather than greenfield developments, we believe existing townships such as Kunghur and Mt Burrell should be developed in a sustainable manner... 50 years ago Kunghur was a thriving village with a school, church and store which are now gone but it should be allowed to grow instead of planting a town in the middle of nowhere.'

Mr Donvito claimed the land had never been officially rezoned for an urban village. He said a plan for a multiple-occupancy on the land was given approval by the then environment minister Bob Carr in the late 1980s but in 2000 the plan was re-advertised as a rezoning for a village and was then 'rubber stamped'.

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## Movember tests manhood



(clockwise left-to-right) Graham Newman, Bill Muir, John Tippett, Stewart Ryan, Mick Rosolen, Aaron Zambelli and (centre) Tanya Rosolen are not extras for a spaghetti western but supporters of Movember which raises funds and awareness of men's health issues.

A fearless group of J H Williams men tested their manhood during the month of November to see who had the biggest... moustache.

It was all for a good cause and raised over \$400 for men's health issues including depression and prostate cancer.

At the start of the month the guys registered with a clean shaven face and became the Mo Bros, a united front growing moustaches and raising money via a sausage sizzle

and a pool competition.

While growing a Mo is left to the guys, the Mo sisters form an important part of Movember by recruiting Mo Bros, helping to raise funds and attending the highly anticipated events.

Mo Sister for the J H Williams guys, Tanya Rosolen, rounded up her troupe of Mo Bros and last week oversaw the shaving of the Mos.

Before the Mos were removed, it was unanimously

agreed that Aaron Zambelli had the biggest!

Movember came into being because generally men lack awareness of the very real health issues they face. There is an attitude that they have to be tough and are reluctant to see a doctor about an illness or go for regular medical checks.

Movember aims to change these attitudes. For more information on Movember and related men's health issues: [www.movember.com.au](http://www.movember.com.au)

## Councillors to choose projects

Tweed Shire councillors have been given until their next meeting to decide how to spend \$1.3 million available to the council under the federal government's economic stimulus package.

Senior staff has compiled a list of 11 potential projects totalling \$2.3 million from which they can choose. They have also been told that they can compete with 626 other councils for a share of a further \$50 million which the government has earmarked for big-ticket projects valued at more than \$2 million.

Projects on the \$1.3 million list are a visitors' information centre (\$300k) skateboard park stage two (\$250k) CCTV Kingscliff (\$100k) CCTV Murwillumbah car park (\$50k) revetment wall Chinderah (\$430k) Cudgen SLSC seawall (\$193k),

eight playground fences (\$100k) Ambrose Brown Park (\$200k), Kingscliff foreshore landscaping (\$400k), Jack Evans cycleway (\$200k) and The Cottage aged-care services (\$100k).

The big ticket items suggested are \$9 million for the redevelopment of the Jack Evans Boat Harbour and \$2.2 million for a Murwillumbah community centre. Councillors are expected to apply for funding for both of these projects but are likely to be fiercely split over the projects under the \$1.3 million list.

Mayor Joan van Lieshout has already suggested that a hospice be added to the list while Greens councillor Katie Milne would like to see certain assets replaced on Crown reserves, including toilets and picnic facilities.

## Businesses urge locals to shop locally

It started out as a few business mates getting together for an end of year drink and snowballed into a business bash in Murwillumbah.

About 50 Murwillumbah businesspeople kicked up their heels last Friday celebrating a year in business. Organiser of the bash, Tim Newell, of Murwillumbah's Retravision, said he usually gets together with a few mates but this time the word spread and businesses came out of the woodwork for drinks and nibbles at the Court House Hotel followed by dinner at The Balcony restaurant.

'We had a great time with new and existing businesses just getting out for a bit of socialising,' Tim said.

'It just took off and before I knew it the restaurant was booked out,' he said.

While there was a wide range of businesses represented they united in their message to locals: 'shop local and keep the money local.'

What happens next is anyone's guess as far as the business get-togethers go and Tim is happy to let it evolve if businesses want to continue social contact.

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## Study local says TAFE

Kingscliff and Murwillumbah TAFEs are urging locals to not only shop local, but to study locally as well.

TAFE spokesperson Peter Jarrett said many young people were not aware of the myriad of courses on tap in their local area and were heading out of the area to study.

'I think it's just ignorance that they don't realise what we have to offer and many of them are paying a lot of money doing courses on the Gold Coast when they can do them in their own backyard without the added cost of travel and private fees,' Mr Jarrett said.

He said many young school leavers were heading to Brisbane, the Gold Coast and even to Sydney to pursue courses at TAFEs and universities when they could do the courses here on the North Coast.

With the federal government's Vocational Education and Training (VET) scheme offering loans to help to students with fees, a whole new industry in privately run colleges had opened up competing with TAFEs and unis, he said.

'If people don't use their TAFEs and unis they are going to lose access to affordable public tertiary education,' he warned.

Last week the TAFE set up an information desk in Murwillumbah's Sunnyside shopping centre to give locals the opportunity to sample the many vocational courses available.

Next year Kingscliff TAFE will be offering courses in: Arts and Media, Business, Community Services, General Education, Information Technology, Primary Industries and Natural Resources, Retail and Personal Services, Tourism and Hospitality and Transport. There is also an information day for would-be hairdressers on Tuesday, February 3, from 1pm to 7pm at Kingscliff TAFE.

For further information on the TAFE courses available call Kingscliff campus on 6674 7200 and Murwillumbah campus on 6672 0800 or visit [www.nci.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.nci.tafensw.edu.au).



## Anyone for hockey?

Students from St Joseph's Primary, South Murwillumbah, scored part of a 250 hockey stick windfall this week after well-known local resident and former grocer Janda Singh donated the sticks to Murwillumbah's Sportworld. Feeling it was the season for giving, Jason and Alison Dittmar, owners of Sportworld, donated the 250 sticks to 20 local schools, which was quite a hit with the kids! Photo by Jeff 'Hockeyroo' Dawson

## Tweed the country's ageing capital

Ken Sapwell

If the rest of Australia clambered into a time machine and pushed the lever to the Year 2058, they would find themselves emerging among a population very similar to that of Tweed Shire today.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has confirmed Tweed's status as the country's ageing capital with possibly the highest population per capita of people aged over 65.

They represented 22.5 per cent of the shire's population, compared with the national average of 13 per cent. Tweed Shire was currently where the rest of Australia would be in approximately 50 years time, according to the bureau.

Tweed Shire Council's community and cultural services manager, Gary Corbett, says the Council is developing a Healthy Ageing Strategy to address the needs of the shire's ageing population.

In a report to the Council, Mr Corbett said the federal

government had identified the need for government agencies to plan for an imminent ageing population.

'However, in the Tweed the aged population is already here, and has been for some time,' he says.

'In short, Tweed Shire is a little further advanced than much of Australia in identifying and addressing issues.'

'It is apparent that at this stage the Council needs to work to a framework that will address both current and future needs of our existing aged and encompass a "whole of Council" approach.'

He said the Council had the benefit of being able to consult the aged residents and their providers about their needs, including a community consultation last August which would form the basis of the ageing strategy.

Mr Corbett said for more than 20 years the Tweed had become a magnet for retirees because of its natural beauty, lower home prices and a large

number of registered clubs which provide reasonably priced entertainment, meals and recreational activities.

But the high number of aged residents created considerable budgetary pressure on the Council, particularly the pensioner rebate scheme.

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# Phone box vandalism risking lives

Madeleine Doherty

Kingscliff resident Neville Jennings has had enough of the repeated vandalism of a public phone in Kingscliff and is calling the community to action.

The phone, which sits on the northern end of Marine Parade, Kingscliff, has been repeatedly targeted by 'a sick individual'.

'Just this year alone it's been vandalised probably 10 times. It's been targeted for the last two years,' Mr Jennings said.

The damage is usually done in the early hours of the morning, mostly on weekends.

'Telstra maintenance officers have patiently repaired the damage each time but this is



This phone box on Marine Parade near the intersection with Terrace Street in Kingscliff is being continually vandalised and residents are calling for action to catch the culprit.

not good enough. Sometimes the phone itself is put out of action creating a public safety is-

sue for a phone that may be used in times of emergency. There has also been graffiti damage on one of the shelter sheds in this area,' he said.

Mr Jennings is concerned that a life might be put at risk by the phone being out of action. The phone is the only access to help for swimmers on a part of Kingscliff beach that is not patrolled.

Tired of the damage and not prepared to do nothing, Mr Jennings is calling on the community to help.

'Could anyone driving past Bayliss Park near the intersec-

tion of Marine Parade and Terrace Street please report any suspicious activity near this phone in the evening hours after about 10pm,' he said.

His plea follows his insight into other cultures who do not suffer the same reckless behaviour.

'I've just returned from Japan where we saw very little public vandalism in a country which has a huge population. It is very embarrassing to return to one's own community and to find a public facility continually damaged by one anti-social individual. We have Community Watch in Kingscliff but so far have not been able to find the individual causing this damage,' Mr Jennings said.

# World rally route stays under wraps for now

Organisers of the Repco World Rally are hoping the event does not spark copycat behaviour on Tweed roads.

The rally is set to take place in Tweed and Kyogle shires in September 2009 and it is expected to attract a world-wide audience as well as an influx of car rally enthusiasts to the region.

Rally general manager Gary Upson, who was the general manager for the rally in New Zealand, said he and his team were working hard consulting

with locals and community groups to iron out any concerns. He was tightlipped about the proposed rally route until negotiations were finalised.

Mr Upson was mindful of community concerns and was looking at options to ensure the rally was 'a good corporate citizen.'

'We have been discussing getting the rally drivers to talk at high school students about responsible driving behaviour on the road,' he said.

With the Tweed having one

of the worst drink driving records in the state, Tweed magistrate Jeff Linden is also hoping that drivers do not copy the rally drivers on public roads.

'The rally is regulated and what people see in a rally is not what should be copied on our roads,' Mr Linden said.

'We see severe speed on our expressway and as a result people are losing their driving licences,' he said.

'I would encourage drivers not to practise what they see in the rally because often people

see it and think that would be fun. Public roads are not race-tracks,' Mr Linden warned.

Mr Upson said as general manager for the rally in New Zealand he had never experienced copy-cat behaviour and community liaisons worked to ensure the safety of the community and the environment.

'We will also be working heavily with the police to crack down on any hooning behaviour. The rally tries to be a good role model,' Mr Upson said.

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Volume 1 #15 December 4, 2008

## The smoking gun

New anti-smoking laws passed by the NSW Parliament two weeks ago failed to attract headlines or much fanfare but put the state among the world leaders in tobacco reform.

The Public Health (Tobacco) Bill specifically protects children from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke by making it an offence to smoke in a motor vehicle if a child under 16 is in the car.

It also bans the display of cigarettes in retail outlets, prohibits tobacco companies from sponsoring sporting and racing events and permits only one cigarette vending machine on any premises.

Smoking as we all know is one of the country's biggest killers and the government should be applauded for taking another step to help the next generation avoid a lifetime habit causing illness and premature death.

The government's more recent phasing out of smoking in pubs and clubs seems to have been widely accepted but these new laws should also be accompanied by a public awareness campaign with some hard-hitting shock advertising in the same vein as campaigns targeting binge drinking, drink driving, speeding and unsafe sex to drive the message home so as to protect children taking up the habit.

One only has to travel out of Australia to see how other countries are years behind in tackling this huge problem, with restaurants, hotels, public transport and buildings often full of tobacco smoke. The ugly habit seems more acceptable in those places because governments have failed in their duty to put their people's health above tax dollars and over the years surrendered to heavy lobbying from the tobacco industry.

As the minister responsible for the new laws said, children's exposure to other people's smoke is involuntary and children are particularly susceptible to health damage caused by inhaling secondhand smoke (think asthma and respiratory complaints).

We all know most smokers start their smoking in their teens, so the new laws can only help. Policing them, especially the offence of smoking in cars with children under 16 inside, may however be a little tricky at times, but the fact that it's now illegal will make offending adults think twice.

## Shopping fever

As we enter the Christmas/festive season we should be mindful of where we spend our dollars. The catch-cry has been buy local think global. Now more than ever it's time to think about your local businesses which meet our wants and needs.

These are businesses that are our neighbours, that volunteer and donate to support the schools, pre-schools, the hospitals, the rural fire brigade, the helicopter rescue, SES and many many more services that rely on their generosity and support to help us in our time of need. How many of us have hit local businesses to donate a raffle prize for our local sporting or school community? Where would we be without their support?

It's now time to repay their kindness by making sure we spend our dollars in their shops. By helping them we are helping ourselves. Sure, sometimes you may be tempted to shop on the Gold Coast at a big store, but is it that store that has contributed to our community? Sometimes a few extra dollars spent locally goes a long way to ensuring we all remain viable, keep our jobs and continue to support each other. The Tweed business community deserves our support, so before you rush off to shop this festive season, stop and think about the convenience and the wonderful support our local businesses have given us over the years.

### Tweed Shire Echo

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

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# Moving beyond the deficit taboo

Spending more than you earn, living beyond your means - going into deficit can be a terrible thing.

Just ask Malcolm Turnbull, who thunders that it will be irresponsible, unforgivable, almost criminal if Kevin Rudd puts the Australian economy even marginally into the red. This from a man who made his fortune as a merchant banker by borrowing other people's money. Is there just a touch of opportunism, even humbug, in his fulminations?

Certainly he is not getting much support from the professionals. Every respectable economist (that is, all those who aren't out moonlighting as climate change deniers) agrees that in times of recession, deficit budgeting can be not only acceptable, but even wise and necessary. Rudd, in opening up the possibility, is simply showing his usual orthodoxy.

To be fair to Turnbull (a favour he seldom returns) his most stringent attacks are not on deficits per se; he will neither confirm nor deny that there could be hypothetical situations where they could be tolerated, if not actually applauded. But not Rudd's deficits; not now, not next year, not ever. Rudd said he was an economic conservative, and that means surpluses forever. When he talks about deficit, what he really means is a licence to flush all your money down the toilet.

Again, this rather ignores the reality, which is that by far the most extravagant and reckless spending spree in recent history took place in the last two years of John Howard's government, when Turnbull himself was a cabinet minister. This dwarfed Paul Keating's bender in the

wake of the 1990 recession, or even the profligacy of Gough Whitlam in the early 70s. But Howard still left a surplus. Well, yes, even he couldn't squander the entire proceeds of a twelve year boom. It has taken a global financial meltdown to achieve that.

The political problem, of course, is that the boom lasted for so long that huge surpluses became taken for

edly make life tougher still. This may be marginally true, but it makes life considerably more bearable for the workers, and on balance must be accounted worthwhile reform - as it generally has been. Even the employer groups concede that their concerns have been listened to, if not always accepted.

There are exceptions: the Associated Chambers of

government could claim an electoral mandate for a policy, surely this is the case with the dismantling of WorkChoices. So the next best thing is an endless filibuster, interminable procrastination. The legislation has been a full year in preparation, but that's not enough. And of course these are the same people who last week were lambasting Rudd for not getting enough done in his first twelve months.

They are also the ones complaining most loudly about the rush of legislation at the end of the parliamentary session, and here perhaps they have a point. It is a poor excuse to remind them that it was ever thus; every government since federation has been faced with the same backlog of bills as the silly season approaches and every opposition has made the same protests - 'legislation by exhaustion' used to be the favourite cliché. The argument would have more force if the opposition didn't waste so much parliamentary time during the earlier part of the session, but it is up to the government's strategists to ensure that its program flows reasonably smoothly. Why this should be beyond the wit of long term parliamentarians who have seen the problem recur year after year it is impossible to say.

They are obviously capable of planning: they always manage to find plenty of time for Christmas parties, even when business is most hectic. Admittedly, Turnbull had to move his drinks for the press gallery affair back a day when it was found to clash with a last minute invitation to the hacks from Rudd. Still the festivities went ahead as usual, deficit or no deficit. Some things really are sacrosanct.

By far the most extravagant and reckless spending spree took place in the last two years of John Howard's government, when Turnbull was a cabinet minister.

by Mungo MacCallum



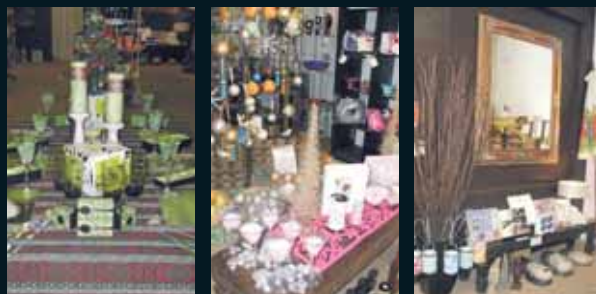
granted; deficit was simply not a word mentioned in polite company, or indeed anywhere else. Now it is again looming on the economic horizon, it has acquired the significance of a taboo. Turnbull has therefore been able to invoke it as some sort of populist test: if Rudd is forced to embrace it, it will be a sign that he has gone over to the dark side. And economic reality, like history, like Howard's abandonment of petrol excise indexation, a decision that is already costing revenue \$3.1 billion - that's billion - a year is, as always, bunk.

Turnbull and his colleagues are, however, prepared to acknowledge one aspect of the great downturn, which is that it is making life tougher for small business and this means it is not a good time for Julia Gillard's industrial relations legislation, which will alleg-

Commerce and Industry are, as usual, predicting the collapse of society, but since ACCI's preferred position has always been the reintroduction of slavery, it can be discounted. More pompously, Paul Kelly in *The Australian* accuses Rudd of assuming 'interterrestrial immunity' from the world financial crisis. Coming from one who covered much of the last election from what appeared to be an extraterrestrial perspective, such criticism cannot be dismissed lightly.

It can, however, be dismissed heavily. For opponents of the government's position the time for its reforms never will and never can be right. There will always be a reason to postpone or delay, to amend and obfuscate. They find it hard to argue that the legislation should be dumped altogether; after all, if ever a

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# How Labor has politicised the NSW public service

Following the implosion of the Iemma Government three months ago, there has been an historic changing of the guard in the superstructure of the state bureaucracy.

In a truly unique development, the NSW branch of the Labor Party not only occupies a majority of seats in Parliament, it is also providing the general staff of the public service as well.

Step forward John Lee, the newly-appointed director-general of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the State's most powerful public servant.

Just 13½ years ago Lee worked as a lowly public relations assistant at CityRail.

But the brother of former federal Communications Minister Michael Lee has enjoyed a miraculous rise through the ranks. His current job, which carries a salary of almost

\$400,000 a year, was given to him by Premier Nathan Rees: there was no outside selection panel and no merit selection.

Now call Michael Coutts-Trotter. Eight years ago he worked as a mere policy adviser to former Treasurer Michael Egan. Today he is the director-general of the Department of Education and Training, which has a budget of \$11 billion and which educated some 738,000 children last year.

The job was never advertised, and there was no independent selection panel or merit selection. He is, however, the husband of Sydney federal MP Tanya Plibersek, Housing Minister in the Rudd Government.

Together they are struggling to make ends meet on half a million dollars a year.

Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell isn't a Coutts-Trotter fan, saying recently, 'NSW is

the only state in Australia that has a director-general of Education and Training who does not have a single qualification related to education.'

Come on down, Mark Duffy. He's the director-general of

authoring a scathing report on Bob Carr's Opposition. For his troubles, Duffy was expelled from the ALP but his fellow author, Michael Costa, managed to survive and went on to become Labor Council secre-

## State of Affairs

'Labor has put in place a de facto system of patronage...'

with Alex Mitchell



the Department of Water and Energy. He's another Michael Egan protégé, having served the former treasurer as joint chief of staff between 1995 and 1998.

In 1991 Duffy was a researcher at the NSW Labor Council in Sussex Street when he co-

tary, police minister, transport minister and then treasurer before quitting parliament when Rees took power.

When Costa remarried in 2004, Duffy was best man at the wedding.

Let's hear it for Ben Kene-

ally. He is the deputy director of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, a position he was given without any outside advertising. He is the husband of Planning Minister Kristina Kennally, the American-born MP for Heffron in south Sydney.

Next on to the centre stage comes the director-general of the Department of Community Services (DOCS), Jennifer Mason. She is the former chief of staff to NSW Attorney-General Bob Debus, now Home Affairs Minister in the Rudd Government.

Her partner is Kieran Pehn, whom she met in the 1990s at the NSW Ombudsman's office, the agency to which citizens lodge complaints against government departments and state officialdom.

Pehn, who has been a member of the ALP, later went to the Independent Commission

Against Corruption where he became deputy director. He did such a superb job that former premier Morris Iemma hand-picked him to become the first commissioner of the Health Care Complaints Commission.

They are collecting a half a million dollars between them - one in charge of DOCS and the other looking after complaints against the health system.

O'Farrell told parliament last week, 'In terms of the politicisation of the public service, Labor has put in place a de facto system of patronage and populated its ranks with dozens of individuals from the broader Labor network, including former ministers, political staffers, party members, party associates and union officials.'

Isn't it time to reinstate an independent Public Service Board to appoint all senior bureaucrats?

## Letters to the Editor

Fax: 6672 4933  
Email: editor@tweedecho.com.au  
Deadline: Noon, Tuesday  
Letters longer than 200 words may be cut; letters already published in other papers will not be considered; pseudonyms not acceptable. Please include your full name, address and phone number.

### Nightcap nightmare

To enable the rationalisation of infrastructure services and workplaces, it has been a long held fundamental planning policy in Tweed Shire to concentrate development in the northeast of the Shire. To provide a township of 1,200 people in the far southwest corner of the Caldera runs counter to common sense and basic planning principles.

Peter van Lieshout claims (Letters, November 20) the proposed 'eco village' will use green principles of onsite water collection and recycling, but can a town of 400 houses remote from employment and services be ecologically sustainable? Can it be carbon neutral?

Uki has a village population of about 300. The organic eco-community of Tunttable Falls has 100 people, while Nimbin has 350 people.

It would make more sense to locate a major new town between Casino and Kyogle on the Sydney-Brisbane railway line.

About 25 years ago when first proposed, Mebbin Springs was expected to have less than 100 dwellings. The new proposal is simply four times larger than it should be for the poorly serviced remote corner of the Shire.

Hop. E Hopkins  
Tyalgum

### Spending the bonus

Thanks Kevin. As a pensioner, I will put the bonus you are going to give us to good use.

# Bring on the DA checklist

■ Ken Sapwell's article 'Tweed Tops DA List' quotes Tweed Council Chief Planner Vince Connell's identification of procedural weaknesses in the current development application lodgement process.

Connell's clear explanation of the 'problem and solution' is so profoundly logical that it begs the question, why has such a flawed administrative procedure been tolerated to this point in time? Longer than average processing time of Tweed Shire Council to the NSW average suggests that other councils may already have in practice the changes proposed here by Chief Planner Connell.

If strengthening development application guideline criteria and the rejection of nonconforming or incomplete

However, I would have been more impressed if you had put the ten billion dollars into infrastructure. Preferably a solar electricity generating plant similar to that built in California recently, which, ironically, used Australian technology.

Alan Davis  
Pottsville Beach

### Bay Street revisited...

The Tweed Coast and Murwillumbah form one of the most attractive environments in NSW. We, the people of the Tweed, need to consider carefully how development in the shire should proceed.

We want development that will help build a strong sense of community and preserve the natural beauty that we enjoy. Let us not pass on a degraded Tweed area to our children and grandchildren either on the coastal land or Murwillumbah and the surrounding lands.

At present there is a pos-

sibility Tweed Shire Council will resume Bay Street, Tweed Heads, and remove the centre grass area of the present road; this will narrow the road considerably. It is then planned to build highrise apartments on the larger area gained by the narrowing of the road.

The building will take a narrow strip of land from the park area, and it is not a large park. There are many trees growing on the southern boundary of the park and if this development is approved these trees will go.

The people who enjoy the park will have the residents of the units very close to the parkland. The park will actually become the front territory of the units, and the freedom associated with a visit to the park will be degraded.

It will not be a pleasant environment for either visitors to the park or the people living in the units. As highrise units in Tweed area near this park

development laws. This would eliminate the 'deemed refusal' pressures on Council staff and also remove the temptation for developers to pressure or influence staff, or even councillors, to pass questionable or illegal DAs. If the DA doesn't pass the checklist it is not in the system.

Almost all DAs do comply, or are speedily amended to comply. These are then quickly and efficiently processed. However, there is a small band of repeat offenders whose DAs are always illegal and repeatedly refused; they will oppose this innovation. We know that they (and their lawyers) have no regard for this community and its rules so we do not need them and we don't want them.

Terry O'Toole  
Pottsville Beach

■ Vince Connell deserves the total support of the entire Tweed community so that he can implement a stricter checklist for Development Applications (DAs).

DAs which do not fully pass the checklist should be stopped at the front counter and not entered into the Council processes. No clock would be started until the DA is amended to comply with Tweed Shire

development laws. This would eliminate the 'deemed refusal' pressures on Council staff and also remove the temptation for developers to pressure or influence staff, or even councillors, to pass questionable or illegal DAs. If the DA doesn't pass the checklist it is not in the system.

Almost all DAs do comply, or are speedily amended to comply. These are then quickly and efficiently processed. However, there is a small band of repeat offenders whose DAs are always illegal and repeatedly refused; they will oppose this innovation. We know that they (and their lawyers) have no regard for this community and its rules so we do not need them and we don't want them.

Peter McLaughlin  
Burringbar

### ...And Sexton Hill

Re the article about Sexton Hill (November 27). I would like to comment that running the highway through the centre of the fourth highest densely populated area in NSW needs a major rethink.

continued overleaf

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continued from page 11

The solution is simple – a western bypass with the freeway turning off at Melaleuca Station, Chinderah, and moving all through traffic, which includes semis and B-doubles, west of our often gridlocked Sexton Hill to Queensland. This would leave Sexton Hill to locals.

An overpass from Terranora Road for southbound traffic would eliminate the need for traffic lights, allowing uninterrupted flow of traffic. Another lane from Terranora Road north to the Banora Point Road at the bottom of the hill would allow uninterrupted flow of traffic from Terranora Road.

The western bypass land needs to be set aside now as our crazy 'populate or perish'-minded council will leave no room for the bypass in its housing sprawl. Look at the problems Sydney has – overpopulated with lack of infrastructure. We are heading down the same road.

The rail line could be incorporated with the bypass connecting Robina, Murwillumbah and Casino.

Now is the time to set politics aside and the land aside for the bypass. It's overdue.

**Glenn Penniford**  
Bogangar

**Cudgen bridge**

Does the Tweed Council have any future plans for the rebuild-

ing of the traffic bridge over Cudgen Creek, Kingscliff?

As the population increases in the areas of Casuarina, Cabarita Beach, Pottsville, etc this old bridge is used as an alternate route through Kingscliff to the freeway and Sexton Hill.

Currently the main route is Tweed Coast Road. But this may change in the future with the proposed building of a large shopping centre at Chinderah. This centre will increase traffic and congestion on Tweed Coast Road, which means more people will use the alternate route over Cudgen Creek bridge to avoid the traffic problems this shopping complex can cause.

So how long can this old wooden bridge take the extra workload before it's declared unsafe? A new bridge is needed sooner not later.

Also the new pedestrian bridge is great, well worth the million or more dollars spent. The local kids love it as a diving board into the creek.

**Terry Seabrook**  
Kingscliff

Letters also received from Gerry Worsell, Tweed Heads South, and Clive Richard, Banora Point.

To comment on these letters write to [editor@tweedecho.com.au](mailto:editor@tweedecho.com.au) or go to our website [www.tweedecho.com.au](http://www.tweedecho.com.au)

# Teaching religion to school children

I write with reference to the inflammatory beliefs of Kevin McCready published in *The Echo* (November 27).

Thank goodness we know this man's stance before he ever runs for council again.

I will never vote Green on the basis of what this man is supporting. He has done the party a great disservice as there is no possible way all Greens believe this.

Freedom of religion does not involve telling people they cannot believe in God, or teach that God exists.

Point 1. I assume he means the Christian religion. There is probably more evidence for the existence of Jesus Christ than there is for his existence.

Point 2. I'm sure he has faith in something so that should make him lacking too.

Point 3. Is correct but cannot be likened to teaching that God exists and in that case there are other things the education department teaches children for which we have no substantiation.

Point 4. If there is no protection of human rights who knows where society will end up.

As for his point no. 5. Who says taxpayers' money goes towards religion?

I hope he will not be celebrating Christmas in any way,

shape or form.

It was divine intervention then that he didn't get elected. God said *no!*

The Christians in our society should make this man's beliefs known. Pray for him. The day he discovers there is a heaven and hell it will probably be too late for him to move to the other side of the fence. If only he realised what a tight and unrelenting hold the devil has on his mind and soul.

**Celia Biggins**  
Murwillumbah

Thanks for kicking off discussion on mollycoddling of religionists. Pity that journalist Chris Mitchell didn't talk to me first and I'd love to have his crystal ball and know the outcome of a meeting before it happens. Good one, Chris, you could get rich one day with a skill like that.

9/11, the Bali bombing and reaching back to the Crusades shows that religionists are not harmless. Religious indoctrinating is no more normal human behaviour than any other crime.

As Richard Dawkins says, 'Many of us saw religion as harmless nonsense... if people needed a crutch for consolation, where's the harm? September 11 changed all that. Revealed faith is not harmless

nonsense, it can be lethally dangerous nonsense. Dangerous because it gives people unshakeable confidence in their own righteousness. Dangerous because it gives them false courage to kill themselves... because it teaches enmity to others labelled only by a difference of inherited tradition. And dangerous because we have all bought into a weird respect, which uniquely protects religion from normal criticism. Let's now stop being so damned respectful!

Faith is the misinterpretation as divine of experience easily explained by simple psychological, emotional and physiological processes. Indoctrinators know which of these buttons to push to con people yearning for answers. Harmless?

Religionists and other anti-scientists are responsible for a society where 25% of people attending IVF don't know that obesity and smoking reduce chances of conception. Harmless?

People who criticise science don't know what it is. It's not just the scientific method or a series of facts. It's a system of probability statements. It's 99.999% sure that alcohol causes cancer and there is no safe level of consumption (Cancer Institute of NSW, May 8, 2008).

It's 99.999% sure that the Earth is round and wasn't created in seven days. Harmless to think otherwise?

Science is not just another belief system equal to religion. Only a loony would see a faith healer instead of a dentist for toothache, only a loony condemns a kid to die rather than have a blood transfusion. Harmless?

And only a loony tells a child god exists when there's no evidence for it. C'mon, do we really want to protect these crimes? And no, religionists need sympathy rather than burning at the stake.

**Kevin McCready**  
Condong

The report referred to was of course written by *Alex Mitchell*, not *Chris Mitchell* – Ed.

Kevin McCready, the failed Greens candidate, re Christianity/religion: maybe his ungracious and bitter views might have had a contributing effect on his failure. It is hoped there might have been divine intervention – Mr McCready will probably never know.

**David Hobbs**  
Terranora

Letters also received from D Miller, Terranora, and G Neave, Bilambil Heights, objecting to Mr McCready.

## The Chief Product Tester's Christmas Selection

1. His wife Cathy (Santa's helper is not for sale)
2. Moon chair - super comfy, just arrived
3. Lightweight waterproof jacket
4. Hiking Pole (hiking Germans unavailable)
5. Gold Pan – for optimists & those with a mortgage
6. Camp table (as in camping)
7. Dolphin Torch – helps them see the fish at night
8. Ladies fold up visor – very trendy
9. Socks (ask our Lyn why she calls them sex for your feet)
10. Stanley Flask (keeps your hot drinks hot or your cold drinks cold, but not at the same time)
11. Picnic set (food not included)
12. Directors Jumbo (it's the chair we're talking about)
13. Santa's other helper



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14. Fold up picnic table for picnics & picnicking
15. Hema GPS navigator for on and off road – not just for the suburbs!
16. Espresso Coffee Maker & a Plunger Coffee Jug for sophisticated campers.
17. Spotting scope (check out the neighbours & tell us what you spot).
18. Binoculars (same rules apply as above)
19. Sunnies (we sell 'em)
20. Leatherman multi-tool (no comment)
21. Fish Smoker (how do they keep 'em alight?)
22. Multi purpose folding basket (excellent for basket cases)
23. Folding picnic blanket – everyone needs one
24. Camps 4 – the Aussie camping & travellers' bible
25. A Hat - for a head
26. Tinsel – it's now in the shop (make an offer)



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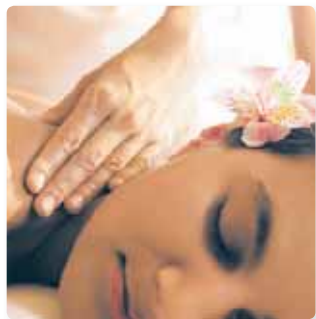
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## LOCAL ORGANIC PRODUCE IN TWEED

Josie from Fresh Organics now has organic produce available at East Coast Bulk Foods, Machinery Drive. Tweed on Thursdays and Down To Earth Organics, 98 Marine Parade, Kingscliff on Tuesdays and Saturdays. 9-4pm (Also East Coast Bulk Foods Burleigh in 09).

There certainly is a growing demand for good organic produce in this area. Josie's

produce is particularly popular because she gets a large percentage of it from local organic farmers.

I meet many ex cancer patients that have been recommended organic produce. I would like to know why doctors don't recommend organic produce before they get sick....

The regular customers have learned that if they don't come early they may miss out, so we have a new service where you can ring ahead with your produce order and Josie will put it aside for you.

If you would like to know more contact Josie or pop into the shops.

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Dylan and Liz, owners of Orange Squash, share a great passion for food and felt that Kingscliff needed a healthy living boost. 'Sometimes the easiest option is not always the best option for you and we would like to show people that eating healthy doesn't have to be a chore or expensive.'

So come on down and GET HEALTHY at Orange Squash Fruit & Veg. Monday - Friday



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Volume 1#15

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# seven

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ALL YOUR LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

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Chris Lane is one of the trio that combines to make the magic that those of us who love music, and who love to dance, have come to know as Oka. One of the hits of the Mullum Music Festival a few weeks back, Noosa based Chris was impressed with the vibe, the crowd and the whole damn thing!

'It was awesome - it was a really great festival, you don't think of it like that, being in a festival always makes you think of being on one site, so it's hard to imagine how it would work in different venues but it was really cool.'

As the big wave of the Aussie summer hits, Oka are getting ready to play the circuit.

'We are basically doing the summer festival thing - we have the first four days at

## Dancing with Oka

Oka at Uki Town Hall on Saturday December 13

Woodford, and then we're off to a whole heap more.'

Earlier this year the boys found themselves in Canada, a highlight in the playing schedule.

'We did a three month stint playing festivals and halls and venues all around the place from Montreal to Vancouver. The audiences were fantastic - they loved it. We were at the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal, they just block off the streets, and set up a PA and a frame with lights and we were situated

there for the whole festival. We got interviewed by Paul McDermott - it was hilarious, he had a bit of sideshow going while he was filming with all these wacky locals, we had like a homeless guy who was like our roadie and he'd do this funky dance and we had this old guy around 70 something and he'd strip down to his dacks with a white hat and start doing a Michael Jackson style dance - he was there when Paul McDermott came along and he ended up dancing with him - I don't know if they ended up using that but it

was pretty random. In fact when we were in Montreal, every night there would be some random character dancing up the front.'

Oka is not one of those bands that people sit and watch. As soon as their sound hits the ear, it travels straight to the feet and there's a mini-stampede as the crowd rush to the dancefloor.

'I don't know why it happens, as soon as we start playing people just jump up - it's good like that, it hasn't been an issue for us. The thing is we don't see the focus of our thing is getting up and playing a regular set, we work with the crowd and we let them lose themselves and do whatever they want to do.'

'In Mullum, the guy from Rhombus got up and started doing his hip hop thing and some melodic singing which was really tasty, and the one we did on Saturday at

Earthfest, and it started raining in our set, but the thing that was just magic was everyone stayed and there was lightning and rain pouring down and it added to the whole thing - going dancing in the rain, people were digging it, and people say it made the gig. It was pretty epic - the whole night picked up after that point.'

Oka may be busy on the road right now but that doesn't mean they don't have plans to take their music back to the studio.

'We have a whole bunch of new tracks that we have started track testing in the live shows, it helps because the songs evolve in the live show and when you go to the studio to put them down they have matured.'

'You get in the studio and get into that creative mode and all this other stuff comes out and sometimes other songs come out of it. The great thing for us about having a lot of gigs is that whenever you write a new track you can drop it into a set and you get a great idea of how people like it. Right now we have been going in a different direction, our own drum n bass feel...'

**Oka headline at Uki Town Hall on Saturday December 13. Doors open at 7.30pm.** So expect over 3 hours of blissing out to the most amazing dance sounds around.



### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live it | Love it

#### THE McCLYMONTS

Sat 6 Dec, 8.30pm DST



The Golden Guitar winning McClymont sisters - Brooke, Samantha and Mollie - will captivate you with their magical voices, heartfelt lyrics and unforgettable melodies.

**\$15 Members**  
**\$20 Non-Members**

Reserved Seating/All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times

#### VEGAS SALUTE TO LIBERACE

Sat 20 Dec, 8.30pm DST



A glitzy, glamorous and funny tribute to Mr Showmanship, starring Jon Darsk as Liberace and The Showgirls performing Vegas-style routines.

**\$5 Members**  
**\$10 Non-Members**

General Admission/All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times

#### VIVA LAS VEGAS - NYE

Wed 31 Dec, 9.00pm DST



Party into 2009 with an evening of world-class, Vegas-style entertainment featuring musicians, dancers, magicians and illusionists, the world's best celebrity impersonators and the Superstars Show Band!

**Tickets: \$44.90**

Reserved Seating /All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times

#### COMING SOON...

- 2 Jan Shane St James
- 7 Jan Louise Morrissey
- 9 Jan Puppetry of the Penis

every Fri & Sat night

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# Live music

with Mandy Nolan

## The Art of Woodford

I've rarely missed a **Woodford**. I've been going since they were first at Maleny, and have performed at more festivals than I have missed. It's a coming together, the perfect way to end a year and welcome in a new one, in community, creativity and celebration. December 27th to January 1st offers 580 acts and 1600 performances from across the world.

A highlight of this year's festival is the expansion of the visual arts program. Artwork can be discovered throughout the festival in the form of installation, illumination, gallery exhibition, performance and art. Interactive opportunities include the Paving Project, an annual event open to anyone to carve and decorate their own paver to be laid on the festival streets. Step onto the human powered pedestrian streetlamp designed and constructed by Russell Anderson or stroll through an enchanting world of trees illuminated with luxuriant coloured light created by Chad Butler and the Tree Luminati team.

Book your visual art workshops soon as they do sell out quickly: [www.woodfordfolkfestival.com](http://www.woodfordfolkfestival.com) and go to visual arts workshops or call the Queensland Folk Federation on 07 5496 1066.

## High Noonan

**Katie Noonan** has the kind of voice grown men weep for, the kind of voice that seems to come directly from her heart rather than her lungs. She has topped both the pop and jazz charts, blown away opera fanatics, performed alongside countless luminaries of a myriad of fields, and backs it all up by being an incredible songwriter, producer and keyboardist in her own right.

We know and love Noonan as singer with the hugely successful Brisbane-born outfit George, a band she formed with her brother Tyrone back in 1996. Noonan's mesmerising stage presence and classically trained voice won her cult status in Australia. Now George is on an extended break, allowing both the Noonan siblings to record solo records. Katie Noonan – the eternal diva – returns to Byron Shire again, just in time for Christmas, to celebrate the release of her newest album *Blackbird – the music of Lennon and McCartney*. **Sunday December 21 at the Bangalow A&I Hall.**

[www.tweedecho.com.au](http://www.tweedecho.com.au)

## Sharing the pipe

For Mike Silverman, better known by his alter ego **That 1 Guy**, when it comes to making music, necessity is the mother of invention. A classically trained upright bassist, Mike became one of the most original and in-demand upright bass players in the 90's progressive jazz scene. At the peak of his powers, Mike was developing techniques that were previously thought impossible on the upright bass. He would function as a bassist, drummer, and entire mini orchestra simultaneously.

Silverman's self-taught percussive technique – banging the strings and the instrument's body – led him to develop the Magic Pipe. Eventually frustrated by the inability to get all the sounds in his head from the upright bass, he built a system of electronically wired, steel plumbing shaped somewhat like a harp, with a thick bass string wired from top to bottom and a hole that billows smoke during the climax of his live shows. Adding an electric

Damien Leith and opened for Ozzie icon Tex Perkins. Mick's music has been described by media as positive and uplifting. So why not treat yourself to some positivity and great food at The Uki Cafe this Saturday. Dinner bookings phone 6679 5351.

## Faye Blais and Mr Bardley

They sound like something out of a Jane Austen book, and perhaps they are. **Faye Blais and Mr Bardley**. I don't know much about the illusive Mr Bardley but Faye Blais has come a long way, half way across the world to bring Australians her unique and captivating sound. When this Canadian artist takes the stage, guitar in hand she pours a river of percussion based, lyric driven songs onto all who watch. She plays the **Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday.**

## Sisters are doing it

The Golden Guitar-winning McClymont sisters – Brooke, Samantha and Mollie McCly-

## Taking the Mick

In early 1998, comedian **Mick Meredith** began performing his strange and unique no-frills brand of comedy anywhere that would have him. With a truckload of one-liners, bizarre observations and a guitar, he will turn any willing grown-up crowd into a bunch of giggling school kids. Armed with tragic tales of married life, scary experiences in parenthood and the ultimate survival in the western suburbs Mick Meredith twists and bends subjects on stage like a hurricane on a hot tin roof. Add in an unmeasured cup of song parody, music mayhem and you have the Mick Meredith comedy buffet. **Friday 8pm at the Gold Coast Arts Centre: Comedy in the Basement.** Support act James Hunter with MC Mike Van Acker.

## Sassy Cassie

**The Harry Lynn Quartet** started the jazz phenomenon that is Jazz in The Basement. Featuring Harry Lynn (Piano/Keyboards), Peter McLaughlin (Bass) and Warren Whittaker (Drums), accompanied by Mal Wood on Trumpet, these fabulous four make up the Harry Lynn Quartet. Harry Lynn is considered to be one of the most versatile jazz pianists in Australia, with a wealth of experience gained through almost 15 years of non-stop touring. Over the last two years the Harry Lynn Quartet has been accompanied by some of the best jazz performers available today – not only local talent – but also those who are celebrated world wide including the legendary Lynn Rogers, Max Miller and Australia's Queen of Jazz Ingrid James. This week the featured player is Cassie Godbold. **Saturday, at the Gold Coast Arts Centre.** With tickets from just \$15.

## Mick Thomas for Tea

**Mick Thomas** returns 'Back to the Future' in December and back to reality as some may say after a whirlwind start to the year with his sell out 10 Year Reunion tour with Weddings, Parties, Anything. After revisiting the late 80s and 90s, Mick dashes forward back into the 21st century, with a tour bringing his exceptional back catalogue of songs plus a range of new tunes into focus once again. Mick Thomas has been regarded as one of Australia's finest song writers and performers and along with The Sure Thing, this tour is sure to bring out all aspects of Mick's onstage personality and sweep up fans young and old along for the ride. He is supported by Texas Tea, an alt-country two piece from Brisbane. A typical Texas Tea show will include a curious blend of live instrumentation with a combination of guitars and percussion played by foot. Kate and Ben are dual songwriters for the



Katie Noonan at the Bangalow A&I Hall Sunday December 21

cowboy boot plugged in and played like an African talking drum and an electrified musical handsaw, Silverman evolved into That 1 Guy, playing everything he could with his hands and feet. He vows to never play a conventional bass in concert again. That 1 Guy is appearing at the **Coolangatta Hotel on Sunday** for a sensational FREE show!

## Mick McHugh Returns to Uki

Irishman **Mick McHugh** returns with his *Folky Fun* to the **Uki Cafe this Saturday at 6pm.**

2008 was a busy year for young Mick who released 2 EPs, went on to be shortlisted for songwriting, performed at The Fatherhood Festival and Green Fest at Southbank in Brisbane and supported and sang with Oz Idol winner

mont – will captivate you with their magical voices, heartfelt lyrics and unforgettable melodies. Awarded two Golden Guitars at the 2007 Country Music Awards of Australia, they took out the Group of the Year and New Talent of the Year with their hit single *Something That My Heart Does*. The last year has seen them tour extensively around Australia promoting the new album and also taking part in large profile performances including World Youth Day, which saw them perform to thousands.

For the second year in a row The McClymonts have also taken on a role as ambassadors for the childrens charity Jeans For Genes. These girls have big voices and big hearts. Catch them at **The Stardust Room at Twin Towns on Saturday.** All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. 8.30pm dst.



## Kids Can Get Stuffed

Every Christmas I fret about what new useless and expensive item I should buy the kids as their special gift. No material item ever seems to bring the joy it promises. The mystery of a brown paper package tied up with string is always more titillating than the actual contents. (It's the rationale of why you shouldn't have sex before marriage). My house is strewn with uncharged ipods, redundant mobiles and Singstar games that never made the grade. Electric guitars sit untouched in the corner of the room. We've lost the lead for the amp anyway and there's nothing more unsatisfying than twanging away in muffled silence. I should know – I've spent enough time under the doona. The game of Twister sits untwisted, soccer balls drift in hallways unkicked, Bionicles sit unassembled, an army of Bratz dolls gather mould on their giant heads and pantless action men lay in wait for the skirmish that never comes. I wonder what unloved and unneeded item I can get for the kids this Christmas? I have considered donating money

to third world children and giving the kids a picture of a well so they have the deep satisfaction that their profound disappointment has given other children fresh water, but I'm just not that ideologically sound. I thought I could get them something they'd use, like toilet paper. Truth is, they actually don't need anything, and what they want I can't afford. A Pony, a Playstation 3, a motorised Barbie Car, hair extensions and a crack lab. Still I search K-Mart for the gift of love, to inspire and occupy my difficult brood. Really, a bottle of Ritalin and some bubble wrap to pop would probably give more satisfaction than the \$1000 dent on my credit card. In making room for the next wave of Christmas consumerism, I've had a clean out. Thrown out everything they own. It's an excellent idea. That way they're deliriously happy about getting a toothbrush. (Injoy Magazine has a Gift of Giving Children's Appeal, unwanted toys will be wrapped and gifted to needy kids – call Bhadrana Rose for drop off details 0403 135 372.)



Faye Blais and Mr Bardley at Sphinx Rock Cafe on Sunday

## A gift for yer NANNA

I have a building collection of Helmut Lotti DVD's. I can't sleep at night knowing there are opera loving Nannas who don't have their Lotti. I don't know why they keep coming. But they do. Now I have three. Email me and you will win. Please! Email [mandypow@echo.net.au](mailto:mandypow@echo.net.au) with subject header 'I love you a lotti.'

giveaway



Greenhills on Tweed hosts Jo's Wizards of Jazz December 12

band. Their sound is lyrically driven and has been described as 'uniquely Brisbane'. Texas Tea have been compared to such artists as Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, Lucinda Williams, Neko Case, Mazzy Starr, Carter and Cash, Townes Van Zandt and Leonard Cohen and they have shared the stage with Iron and Wine (USA), The Handsome Family (USA), The Mountain Goats (USA), Jeff Lang, The Darling Downs (Kim Salmon and Ron Penno), Art of Fighting, The Devastations and many other fine acts. **Friday night at the Currumbin Soundlounge, at the Currumbin RSL.** Doors open 7:30 pm.

### Groovy music with your Sushi

The Sushi Yam is launching a great new way to enjoy your Saturday nights – with delicious healthy sushi and the funky jazzy and laid back grooves of visiting artists. Next Saturday **December 13** come to the Sushi Yam in Murwillumbah for **James Higgins Funky Acoustic Soul** hosted by Mohini Cox.

### Jazzards of Wizz

Thought I was being very clever there with what I think is called a spoonerism. It's actually meant to say, **Wizards of Jazz**, Jo's Wizards of Jazz to be precise. For a sensational gig that will take you straight to jazz heaven on **Friday December 12 at Greenhills on Tweed, in South Murwillumbah** why not roll up to enjoy the repertoire of this top

traditional band, drawn from the first half of the 20th century and played with passion and respect. They were a smash hit at the recent Bellingen Jazz Festival carrying on the already strong musical ties between Bellingen and Southern Queensland. Jo Bloomfield excels as a soloist in the rhythm section and her boogie woogie renditions are really something. She is backed up with the hot trumpet of John Braben, Geoff Speed on reeds, Mike Hawthorne on trombone, Wally Furst on banjo, Ian Cocking on bass and Mauri Thomas on Drums. Bookings to 02 6672 1697.

### Getting Fats

The Gold Coast Jazz & Blues Club presents the music of Fats Waller and Fats Domino featuring **Dr. Don's Double Dose** (Sydney) and Christmas songs by the **Harmony in Paradise Chorus** on **Saturday December 13** at 7.30pm.

Fats Waller is considered one of the very best to have played in the stride style but it was his singing, songwriting and lovable, roguish stage personality that sold his hundreds of records. Fats Domino came out of New Orleans in the 1950s to become one of the biggest sensations of that era. With 65 million record sales to his credit Fats Domino out-sold everyone except Elvis.

Sydney based duo Dr. Don's Double Dose pay tribute to the talent and legacy of Fats Waller and Fats Domino as they tear through *Ain't Misbehavin'*,



Mick McHugh at the Uki Cafe on Saturday

*Honeysuckle Rose, Somebody Stole My Gal, Blueberry Hill, Blue Monday, Walking to New Orleans* and others. **The Paradise Showroom at the Gold Coast Arts Centre.** A Fats tribute is sure to be something to sink your teeth into!!!

## Comedy

### Christmas Comedy

It's Christmas comedy at its best – when 12 of Byron Shire's ACE students take to the stage for their stand up comedy graduation. There's nothing more exhilarating or terrifying than the first time you stand up. People go through the usual terror: what if I'm not funny? What if no one laughs? What if I forget everything? What if I am so nervous I go on stage nude and everyone laughs at me? Stand up comedy is like a magnifying glass for fears – it shows up every miniscule lump and bump, and turns it into a riveting on stage performance.

Over the last 6 weeks Mandy Nolan (yes that's me) has been teaching this very interesting bunch the rough and tumble of stand up. The stand up comedy course focuses on people's childhood experiences, their values, their hopes and fears, the things in life that perplex them, their neurosis and their struggles. It's the perfect anti-dote to therapy. Students for this ACE class have a background so varied it was like a casting call for a reality TV show. There's an ex-cop, an ex-



Mick Thomas at The Sound-Lounge Friday

crim, a marriage counsellor, an anti-circumcision campaigner and a psychic – it's an extraordinary feast of difference! Come for a laugh. It's become a cult comedy experience! And now, enjoy it in Mullumbimby! **Wednesday at 8pm, at the Mullum Ex-Services.** Tix are \$10/15 and are available at the club or by booking 6684 3443.

## Film

### Byron All Shorts

In association with Flickerfest International Short Film Festival, iQ Arts & Eco Centre is currently calling for entries for the inaugural **Byron All Shorts** competition 2009. The competition will celebrate the film making talent in the Northern Rivers region and encourage audiences to experience the many local stories that are produced in the region each year. This competitive local program will screen over the Australia Day long weekend, **January 23 – 25** as part of the Byron Flickerfest three day screening's of the best of the worlds short films. Two prizes will be awarded as part of the competition. The BAS Directors Award selected by Flickerfest International Short Film Festival Director, Bronwyn Kidd (who will be present to introduce the screenings) and the BAS Audience Award voted by those in attendance. Films may originate from any format, but must be entered on DVD, and be no more than 30

minutes in length. All genres are acceptable. Entry forms can be found at [www.iQ.org.au](http://www.iQ.org.au). Enquiries: Shane Rennie [byronallshorts@iQ.org.au](mailto:byronallshorts@iQ.org.au) or 6685 9999 – entries close 5pm December 31.

## Art

### Xmasea!

Sample the work of 40 national and international artists showing miniature pieces at **Sea Cell Art Gallery** on the **Byron Arts and Industry Estate**. Works are sized at 15cm X 15cm and are \$100 each – so they're cute and affordable. A perfect way to kick start that personal art collection. Each artist will contribute up to four pieces making this event a smorgasbord of visual treats delivered from the crevices of the underground art world, all with healthy lashings of humour and saltwater. Opening **Friday** evening at **6pm**.

### A Big Small Show

**Retrospect Galleries**, Byron Bay's youngest and most cutting edge art gallery, is celebrating 12 months at their Jonson Street premises with

the opening of **12 x 12**, an exhibition of miniature works from a mix of established and emerging artists, presented in 12 x 12 inch and 12 x 12 cm format. The show will feature works by local and interstate artists, including Torquay based Doug Bartlett, whose retro, playful and colourful street/surf/ subculture collages have been selling out as fast as the guys can create them. Opening **Friday 6pm**.

### Piccone's Pictures

Local artist **Sheri Piccone** is exhibiting her latest works at the **Fig Tree Restaurant, Byron Bay** with an exhibition opening on **Thursday at 5.30 to 7.30pm**. This series of work comes from her explorations of the Whitsundays while living in Mackay. Sheri's intention with *Scope* is to reflect the incredible textures, vibrant colours, diverse forms and sculptural elements of this breathtaking landscape. Having recently returned 'home' to the shire to live, Sheri wants to share her latest works with her community, bringing these images to the viewer in such a way that they will have you questioning their origins and create an altered experience of these amazing forms of nature.



Xmasea Art show Byron Arts & Industry Estate starts Friday



That 1 Guy at the Coolangatta Hotel on Sunday for FREE show

**TWEED VALLEY JAZZ CLUB**  
PRESENTS  
**JO'S WIZARDS OF JAZZ**

**Date:** FRIDAY 12th December, 2008  
**Time:** 8.00 pm DST  
**Venue:** Greenhills On Tweed, River St, South Murwillumbah (Blackboard menu and Bar Service available. No BYO).  
**Cost:** Members \$15, Visitors \$20, U/18's \$5  
**Early Band:** Jeff Smith walk around accordion from 6.30 pm DST  
RAFFLES & MEMBERS DRAW  
ALL WELCOME  
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL  
**PHONE 02 6672 1697**



McClymonts at Twin Towns on Saturday

# The A to Z of Collective Nouns

This isn't the season for a **FALL** of lambs around a **FLOCK** of sheep. Some say you can have a **FLUSH** of ducks, a **FLIGHT** of swallows and a **FLING** of sandpipers. Of course, there's a **FLOTILLA** of ships, a **FIELD** of racehorses and perhaps a **FARROW** of piglets, but we seriously doubt that a **FLUSH** of plumbers is a collective noun.

Locally we have a **FIGHT** of peace activists, a **FRENZY** of letter writers and a **FEAST** of opinions, often leading to a **FIT** of piques.



## Fantastic time to go solar

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Call for a friendly chat about your concern and start looking smooth, hairfree and glowing for Christmas. All treatments are available in Kingscliff, Murwillumbah and Chillingham.



### The Laser Skin & Beauty Specialists

Phone Kathy at The Laser, Skin & Beauty Specialists on 02 6679 1054 or 0427 047 138 and please leave a message if Kathy is with a client and she will return it ASAP.

## Fig Tree

is more than a restaurant – it's a whole experience! Situated in the hills of Ewingsdale in a glorious old house complete with swimming pool and views which reach all the way to the ocean, it is country dining at its most gracious. The global menu sources as many ingredients locally as possible so you are always assured dishes utterly fresh and in season. On Thursday nights there is a special menu based on that day's Farmers' Market : extraordinary value of four courses for \$35. Consider Fig Tree restaurant this festive season and let yourself be indulged in the nicest possible way. Fig Tree is open for lunch and dinner Christmas Day and on New Year's Eve.



Fig Tree - Sunrise Lane, Ewingsdale  
Phone: 6684 7273

## Fantasia Fabricland

Come one, come all and organise a shopping safari.



You will find fabric by roll and by weight. Fringing, beads, ribbon and lace.

Brocade, chiffon hula skirts and leis! Stencils, sequins, feather and fans. They have almost everything you can imagine at Fantasia Fabricland. A basket of goodies (valued at \$50) will be raffled for groups of 20 or more!

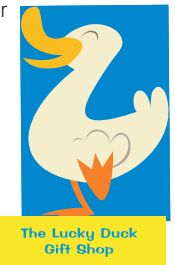
Fantasia Fabricland Machinery Drive South Tweed Heads.  
Monday – Saturday 9-5 Phone 07 5523 2220

## Fun, Fun, Fun!

The Lucky Duck Gift Shop is the quirkiest shop in the Brunswick Heads funky shopping scene. Guaranteed to make you smile, the Lucky Duck specialises in the unusual, the irreverent and the cheekiest gifts for everyone aged 5 to 95! Strictly for the young at heart with a keen sense of humour.

Think of Holy Toast and Dashboard Jesus! Games that train your brain in lateral and logical thinking, 3D jigsaw puzzles, retro tin toys, wacky wind ups, amazing optical illusions and, of course, ducks galore!

All this alongside some funky homewares, Paol's art and art magnets, beautiful mosaic mirrors and the funniest cards on the planet! Open every day at 10.30am except Tuesday.



Phone: 6685 0280 • Email: [theluckyduck@bigpond.com.au](mailto:theluckyduck@bigpond.com.au)

## Flamingoes

Welcome to Flamingoes, a cafe with a difference.

As the name suggests we are all pretty in pink but it doesn't end there. Try our range of gourmet pizzas, all natural ice-creams, extensive lunch menu and all day breakfasts. We lean to the vegetarian side, but cater for the meat lover as well. GLUTEN FREE - NO PROBLEMS. Great coffee, fresh juices, real teas and Zentvelds coffee. Ever tried the Birdwing Cafe in Tumbulgum? Well Flamingoes is its baby sister. Our daily homemade scones with jam and cream for \$3 are to die for. Give us a try, you will be pleasantly surprised and might even be inspired by our art works. Open 7 days and nights 9.30 - till late Mon - Fri, 2pm - late Sat and Sundays. Take aways always available. Breakfast, lunch and dinner.



9 Main St, Murwillumbah  
Phone: 02 6672 5492

## Furry Friends

Our furry friends are more than just friends; they're part your furry family! At the Tweed Coast Vet we take great pleasure in doing just about anything for our Furry Family. We take tails off rats, clean cats' teeth, perform bone surgery on dogs that argue with cars, deliver pups, take xrays, even do blood tests - and we do this every day of the week, (including Sundays!) Because our furry friends don't choose which day of the week to get sick, we are now open from 9-2pm, Saturdays and Sundays with no surcharge. Come in and visit today!



## Tweed Coast Vet

14 Tweed Coast Road, Cabarita Beach  
(02) 6676 3199

## Feel Fabulous

See Susan, pictured or Kelly, Sunnyside Pharmacy's highly skilled Naturopaths.



Sunnyside is offering a vitality and longevity test for almost half price when you book a Hemaview test. Hemaview is a form of live blood analysis that helps your practitioner identify and treat your health problems faster and better than ever before.

The Vitality and Longevity tests, quick, accurate, painless & safe using the latest technology in Bioimpedance analysis. The test measures fat and muscle mass, biological age, cellular vitality, toxicity and fluid levels. The test will assist with assessing vitality levels, reversing ageing markers, targeting areas that require attention and restoring your vitality.

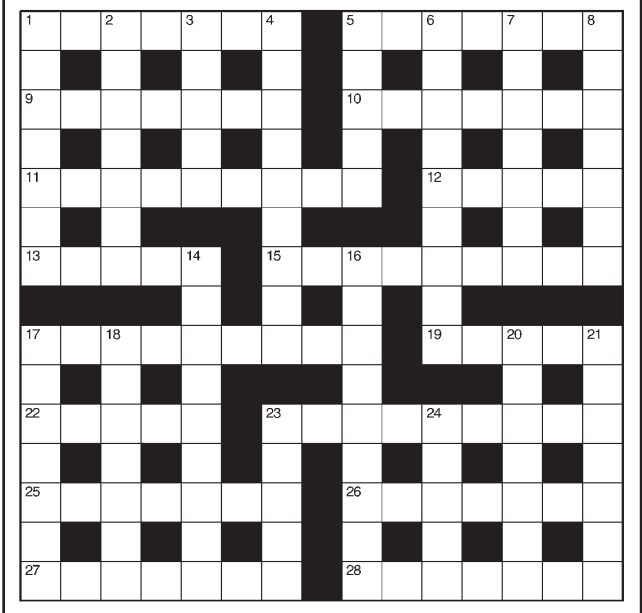


Health fund rebates are available.

For any nutritional or supplement advice, or free zinc testing, drop in to Soul Pattinsons, Sunnyside Mall or call 02 6672 3323 Mon - Fri.



## Cryptic Crossword 015



- ACROSS**
- Extend time in jail (7)
  - Slowly cooked female supporter dies terribly (7)
  - One under cover is member of clique (7)
  - Anguish to antagonise no social worker (7)
  - Undertaker has no right to commit to the task (9)
  - Trips over cataracts (5)
  - Keats upset over cut of beef (5)
  - Teaser puts old boys between two high hills (9)
  - Colin initially able to get lightweight though old means of communication (9)
  - Saint with writing fluid creates bad smell (5)
  - Sometime after? Dead right (5)
  - Announcement to say men have little time (9)
  - First, English merged, then came forth (7)
  - Accuse because I'm pinky-yellow (7)
  - So Satan returns with musical compositions (7)
  - American girl joins the French on old Spanish ship (7)
- DOWN**
- Blunders inevitable when pupil turns up aboard ship (4-3)
  - Sabres I duel with supply remains (7)
  - Thus do ours oddly make Henry's seventh and eighth house (5)
  - From now on, in this place, Rafter loses his head (9)
  - Used to stop runaway baker (5)
  - A fool goes back to Scottish loch with some reserve (9)
  - Set about to kill with frying pan (7)
  - Queen supports frock for window display designer (7)
  - What to remember when driving in America is to stay correct (4,5)
  - Tramp with no tea is growing old and rushing around violently (9)
  - Sell car (damaged) to visitors (7)
  - Wading bird bit sea bird (7)
  - Say again what white rat enclosed (7)
  - Ken has something to scratch in cookhouse (7)
  - Goes along with teams (5)
  - Drive out with sound of former spell (5)

**Last week's solution**

D	E	P	O	S	I	T	F	O	R	E	S	T	S	
R	R	O	E	E	O	C	T							
O	N	E	A	F	T	E	R	A	N	O	T	H	E	R
P	S	A	M	T	K	O	A							
S	O	S	O	T	I	E	U	P	C	O	I	N		
I	E	L	N	R	B	L	G							
N	O	D	D	I	N	G	E	Y	E	S	O	R	E	
F	L			A	F									
C	O	O	L	A	N	T	W	A	S	H	D	A	Y	
A	R	C	H	A	T	A	E							
L	A	S	S	M	E	A	L	S	I	N	C	A		
L	P	R	R	K	F	C	R							
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S	W	E	E	T	L	Y	G	A	R	A	G	E	D	

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Send your letters and feedback to [editor@tweedecho.com.au](mailto:editor@tweedecho.com.au) or fax 6672 4933

And check out our website - [www.tweedecho.com.au](http://www.tweedecho.com.au)

## STARS



**WITH SUN, MARS AND MERCURY IN CHATTY SAGITTARIUS, THERE GOES PEACE AND QUIET AND HERE COMES A WEEK OF UNSOLICITED OPINIONS - ALONG WITH SOME MARVELLOUS OPEN HEARTED ASPECTS FOR MAKING PEACE WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE MADE...**

**ARIES:** It's easy to be impatient, snappy and combative, but smarter to keep this week's supercharged energy relentlessly directed towards positive aims and outcomes. Stay cool and practice cruise control, because right now you need all the assistance and goodwill you can drum up.

**TAURUS:** Highly congenial Venus

vibes make this a successful week for Taurans, so give it your best - except on Friday when conditions are dicey. With shared finances highlighted all month, investments may need rejigging - get professional advice and second opinions before making any significant changes.

**GEMINI:** With this month highlighting your house of Other People, public relations may need extra effort and finesse to achieve rapport and understanding - especially on Friday, which could deliver challenging or unsettling news. That said, go ahead and enjoy one of the year's major fun baby weeks...

**CANCER:** With health and workplace issues on this week's Cancerian storyboard, you'll have to hold your own against pushy, assertive types. What others say and do is more about them than you, and grumpy isn't becoming - be sweet, and this week will be sweet to you.

**LEO:** This lively, gregarious week of telephonic marathons is brimming with interesting options: creative, entertaining - and expensive.

Do you care? Maybe not in your

present generous, exuberant mood, but do try to resist being pressured into unnecessary spending.

**VIRGO:** This slapdash transit has distinct advantages for Virgos, because it makes your attention to detail and procedure so much easier to appreciate. With this week's populace going off like rockets, forget trying to convince anyone of anything - nobody's listening, they're all too busy talking.

**LIBRA:** Everything you ever wanted to know - and didn't - will be freely discussed during this week's verbal onslaught. Ask someone how it's going and an hour later they'll still be telling you, so yes - it's definitely time to swing the Libran graceful disengagement skills into play.

**SCORPIO:** People would rather be heard than helped this week - no small ask when you're longing to press the pause button, but do your best to demonstrate environmental generosity. But use the Scorpio deep freeze treatment to ice those who won't take no for an answer.

**SAGITTARIUS:** This week brings

influential people into your orbit - don't miss them by being too busy talking. Vision's important, but so is seeing things as they are - realistic appraisal, unbiased judgment, careful planning and relentless self awareness are your best friends right now.

**CAPRICORN:** This week's got legs - it's moving fast, talking hard, and even though it natters, chatters and exhibits an irritating inability to keep quiet when you want to talk, Venus and Jupiter in Capricorn corner suggest plenty of quite gratifying achievements...

**AQUARIUS:** This week requires you to think quickly, make snap decisions and trust your instincts. If you can manage to keep up with current affairs while avoiding gossip and rumour, you're likely to find doing the right thing a lot more fun than you actually expected.

**PISCES:** Pisces prefer spontaneously going with the flow, but right now it's worthwhile trying to get a bit ahead of the game. It's a wild world out there this week, but also one brimming with new business contacts and career opportunities you'd be wise to pick up on.



Friday 5th December... follow the Arts and Industry Park's Artists Trail and discover *A // creatures great and small* a collective theme exhibition opening from 6pm at *Still @ the centre* - Waywood Gallery 3 Centennial Circuit - phone: 66 85 58 08 [www.the-centre.com.au](http://www.the-centre.com.au)

When Armenia won team gold at the 2006 Turin Chess Olympiad, the result was hailed as a stunning upset, since Russia/USSR had won almost every Olympiad in the past half century. Armenia's win of the 2008 Dresden Olympiad this week was less of a shock, although the unexpected death in June of key 2006 team member, Karen Asrian, at the age of 28 had been predicted to cruel Armenia's chances. In fact Asrian's death served to inspire his former teammates to even greater heights and, with the President of their tiny Caucasus country looking on, Armenia defeated the higher ranked

## CHESS by Ian Rogers

Play at Seagulls Club, Thursdays 6-10pm

Chinese team in the final round to take gold again. 'Of course we wanted to win for Karen,' said Armenia's number one Levon Aronian (third from right in the picture). 'He was a great friend. I am very proud of my team.' Aronian pinpointed Armenia's seventh round win against top seeds Russia as his team's key victory. 'Actually, our last round win over China was one of our easiest matches,' he said. Australia's open team scored some good wins over Switzerland, Turkmenistan (4-0!) and Brazil and a win in the final round would have left the team among the top 20. However a loss to Cuba

pushed the team down the field dramatically and the final placing of =49th in the field of 146 was roughly according to seeding.

In the Women's Olympiad, Georgia, led by veteran Maya Chiburdanidze, completed an incredible comeback to take gold from the Ukraine on tiebreak. After a slow start, Georgia's last five matches included three 4-0 whitewashes, a 2.5-1.5 win over longtime leaders China and a 3-1 victory over Serbia in the final round to secure the Olympic title for the first time since 1996.

Losses in the final two rounds to Sweden and Brazil dropped the Australian women's team from top 30 contenders to also-rans, with the final placing of =63rd/111 being scant reward for a solid team effort.

■ This week's game sees Australia's top scorer, Darryl Johansen, in fine form against a young Singapore opponent.

Dresden Olympiad 2008  
**White:** Chan Yi Ren  
**Black:** D Johansen  
 Opening: Sicilian Defence  
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 a6 7.Bb3 Nf6 8.Be3 Bd7! ? Johansen's patent against 6.Bc4. 9.Qe2 b5 10.0-0 Na5 11.f3 11.f4 is more threatening, hoping for 11...Nxb3+ 12.axb3 b4 13.Na4 Nxe4? 14.Nxe6!! 11...Nxb3+ 12.axb3 b4 13.Nb1? A terrible square for the knight. 13.Na4 is necessary. 13...Be7 14.g4 0-0 15.g5 Nh5! 16.f4 g6 17.Qf3 Rc8 18.Rd2 a5 19.Ne2 a4 20.bxa4 Bxa4 21.Ng3 Qc7! The point behind Black's play. He does not care if his kingside pawns are wrecked as White's attention will soon be concentrated on the opposite flank. 22.Qe2 Qc4 23.Nxb5 gxh5 24.Qg2 The exchange of queens was depressing but necessary. 24...Rc7 25.Rf1 Rf8 26.Rff2 Qa2 27.Bd4 Rc4 28.Bf6 Bf8 29.Qf3 Bc6 30.Rde2 Qa8! Now the e pawn falls and Black crashes through. 31.Qxh5 Bxe4 32.b3 Bg6 33.Qh3 R4c5 34.Bd4 Bf5 35.Qe3 Qh1+ 36.Kb2 Qd1! 37.Bxc5 Bg7+ 38.Ka2 Rxc5 39.Qxc5 dxc5 40.Rd2 Qc1 41.Rd8+ Bf8 42.h4 Bxc2 43.Nd2 Qa3# 0-1  
 Dresden Olympiad leading final scores: Open (146 teams, 11 rounds) 1.Armenia 19/22; 2.Israel 18; =3.USA, Ukraine 17. Women's (111 teams, 11 rounds) =1.Georgia, Ukraine 18/22 3.USA, Russia, Poland 17.



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**tweed  
arts**

with Judith White  
judith@tweedecho.com.au

## Border Art

The next big event at the **Tweed River Art Gallery** will be on the evening of **Friday December 12** when this year's **Border Art Prize** will be announced. New exhibitions by Bill Robinson, Rachel Stone and Natalie Kunst will be opened – and it's also the Friends' Christmas party.

The Border Art Prize is a celebration of regional art and is a joint initiative of the Tweed River and Gold Coast City Art Galleries, with entries invited from all artists in the area. This year's judge is Bruce Heiser, director of Heiser Gallery in Brisbane. The prize is open to all media and there's a rare opportunity to purchase works.

The gallery reports a huge number of entries this year, with the works due to arrive this weekend. The total prize money on offer is \$6,000. The Friends of the Gallery and Tweed Shire Council sponsor three prizes of \$3,000, \$1,500 and \$500 and two encouragement awards of \$500 are sponsored by local artist and art tutor, Shirley Kennedy.

Attendances at the gallery continue to astound, with the recent *Creative Communities* opening attracting more than 1,100 in one day. The December 12 party will be huge, so it's suggested you car pool. And please note, since it's a party it starts at 7pm, not 6pm.

## Printmaking heaven

This is the last weekend to see **Freshly Pressed**, the exhibition of mentored artists' work at the workshop studio of **Community Printmakers Murwillumbah (CPM)**. There are beautiful prints by Tamsin Ainslie, Heather Matthew, Doug McNeill and Edith Streiner.

The innovative printmaking group is already preparing for next year. Entries are now invited for the 13th CPM National Print Awards, which will coincide with the 20th anniversary celebrations of the group.

Beginning in a disused garage next to a pigsty on the outskirts of Murwillumbah, CPM is now a nationally-recognised centre of excellence. The group recently put out a new mission statement defining themselves as 'an artists' coop-  
www.tweedecho.com.au

erative creating and sharing the free flow of imagination'. The slogan over the workshop read 'Challenging art for questioning minds'.

CPM now attracts outstanding printmaking artists such as Queenslander Judy Watson, who visited recently, to assist with workshops and mentoring.

Master printer Basil Hall, based in Darwin and working with remote Aboriginal communities, will be the judge of the 2009 CPM awards and will speak at the gala opening, to be held at the Tweed River Art Gallery next May.

While this is now a national award, local artists are encouraged to participate. Entry forms, which must be returned by the end of February, can be obtained from the workshop, from the website at [www.cpmprintstudio.com](http://www.cpmprintstudio.com), or by contacting secretary Anne Stadler on 6672 5523.

CPM Gallery opening times: **11 am - 3 pm Friday to Sunday at 33-35 Kyogle Road, Bray Park.** Telephone (02) 6672 8276

## Library sale

Looking for bargain reading? The **Murwillumbah Library** is having a book sale consisting of discarded library materials and donated items on **Friday December 5** from 9.30am to 6pm and on **Saturday** from 9am to 3.30pm.

## In the other shire...

We have lots of ways in the Tweed Shire for artists to reach the public, but in Byron Shire there's an initiative that's also worth a look. This Friday a new *Artists' Trail* around the Byron Arts and Industry Estate is to be launched with the participation of 13 artists in the complex.

Echo readers are welcome to attend. The venue is the **Heaven and Earth Fine Art Gallery** on Brigantine Street in the Arts and Industry Estate. Lois Randall, director of Arts Northern Rivers, will do the honours at 2pm and there'll be drinks and nibbles at all participating outlets and galleries from 5pm to 9pm.

For more information contact Samaya on 0414 596 326.

## In the big city...

If you're planning to be in Sydney at some point this summer, the one exhibition not to be missed is *Monet and the Impressionists* at the **Art Gallery of New South Wales**.

On show until Australia Day, it consists mainly of works from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, one of the world's great collections of Impressionist masterpieces, and in this show they are beautifully hung by NSW curator Terence Maloon.

Monet and his fellow Impressionists broke new ground

in painting, capturing the moment with an immediacy that continues to astonish and delight viewers. The exhibition has been attracting more than 2,000 people a day, so it's a good idea to get there when doors open at 10am. Open every day except December 25.

## ... and across the world

This week's column comes to you from London since I've had to make a sudden brief trip here, my first in three years. While Britain slides further into recession, it's striking that the cultural life of the capital is more vibrant than ever. Some of the current highlights:

*Byzantium* at the Royal Academy, a sumptuous exhibition of artefacts from the glorious epoch, between the fifth and mid-13th centuries, when Constantinople was the cultural centre of Europe.

*Taking Liberties*, a free exhibition at the British Library about the struggle for the people's rights in Britain from Magna Carta onwards.

*Rothko: the Late Series* at Tate Modern, the powerhouse turned people's palace at Southwark. A revelation. The American artist, who died in 1970, is famous for his red on black, grey on black, black on black works, but it's no good trying to see them in reproduction. Confronted by the real thing, you're drawn in by the intense layering of paint that gives them extraordinary depth and mobility. They're almost made for meditation – interactive art without the electronics.

By now you'll be thinking that I'm getting a long way from the arts of the Tweed. Well, not really. Of course there's a huge difference in scale, and the great masterpieces will always tend to be concentrated in the world's major cities.

But the buzz of excitement you feel entering Tate Modern on the bank of the Thames is not so different from the feeling you get entering our lovely regional gallery with its view up the mighty Tweed.

Art defines our humanity, and great public institutions affirm that art is for all the people, not just for a few. The rich diversity and increased accessibility of the arts constitute one of the great social gains of recent decades. Wherever we live in the world, art lovers are determined to maintain those gains, whatever's going on with the economy.

## More book choices

Following the recommendations for summer reading in last week's column, I note with interest that the prestigious London newspaper *The Independent* lead its Christmas books selection last week with a huge guernsey for

writing from Oz. 'The passion and prowess of novels from Australia published in Britain in 2008 routed every mouldy cliché,' wrote critic Boyd Tonkin in a rare tribute. His favourites included:

*The Lost Dog* by Michelle de Kretser, the story of an Asian immigrant in chic Melbourne

*A Fraction of the Whole* – by Steve Toltz, shortlisted for the Man Booker.

*Breath* by Tim Winton – his evocative rites-of-passage surfing novel.

*Carpentaria* by Alexis Wright, the Miles Franklin winning story of Aboriginal life.

*The Spare Room* by Helen Garner, her account of the effects on friendship of mortal illness.



From top: Katherine Castle's *Report All Sightings*, winner of the People's Choice in the recent Tweed Naturally Art Awards at the Tweed River Art Gallery

Artists involved in the new Artists Trail at Byron Arts and Industry Estate

Master printers Basil Hall and Judy Watson with CPM's new press

Claude Monet *Camille Monet and a child in the artist's garden in Argenteuil 1875*, oil on canvas 55.3 x 64.7 cm. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, anonymous gift in memory of Mr and Mrs Edwin S Webster, copyright Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



# movie reviews

with John Campbell

## Australia

This is Baz Luhrmann's grand attempt at becoming the Bradman of Australian cinema. The hype surrounding his epic has been phenomenal, to the point that to say anything at all negative about it would be to run the risk of being charged with high treason. Not surprisingly, it lives up to expectations because, thanks

it's a romance, with posh Lady Sarah (Nicole Kidman) falling in love with rugged Drover (Hugh Jackman) when she comes out from England to manage her cattle property in the Northern Territory. With it she has inherited the household staff, which includes a little half-caste boy, Nullah (Brandon Walters), whom she determines to save from the authorities who would take him away for assimilation. Carney (Bryan Brown), a rival cattle baron, and his soon to be son-in-law, Fletcher (David Wenham), are rotten cads who want to take over her holdings and the action is set against a backdrop of impending war with Japan. As affairs of the heart go, it never really catches fire, due mainly to Kidman's play-acting, which is a pity, because Jackman is excellent, mixing rawhide muscularity with undemonstrative sensitivity. But, as always in a big Aussie outdoor drama, the

and the bombing of Darwin are fabulous. Many of the constructed tableaux call to mind the photography of aboriginal artist Tracy Moffatt, except they don't have her sense of mystery, of something weird and untoward going on at a deeper level. With Baz it's all there on the surface - subtlety and nuance are not his go - and, as a broad-brushstroke storyteller, it's hard not to dispel the frustrating notion that he assumes his entire audience has the emotional and intellectual capacity of your average twelve year-old. The heroes are far better than good and the villains far worse than bad. The kid, whose cloying voiceover puts us all in the sand-pit with rattles and bibs, is as cute as a Disney button and his grandfather, King George (David Gulpilil, who else?), the symbol of an ancient otherness, is a latter day Marbuck minus the menace.

The humungous finale, towards which Luhrmann has worked with single-minded determination, ticking all the boxes demanded of convention, in an effort to have your heart burst with blubbery joy, is a classic of formulaic melodrama. It's nice, but the hanky remained in my pocket, though audible



to the unrelenting blitzkrieg of modern PR, nowadays you can both lead a horse to water and make it drink. But let's not carp, for this is a visual treat with the theme of reconciliation between black and white forcefully and most genuinely expressed. Basically

landscape is a star of equal billing and cinematographer Mandy Walker triumphs in capturing its mythic splendour, 'its beauty and its terror'. Among a cavalcade of striking images, the stampede that ends on a cliff top (the horses don't always gallop in slo-mo!)

sobbing from other quarters suggested that this was a minority response. It's not the best Australian film of the year, but it's not the worst either - not by a long shot, and spontaneous applause at the finish (which seems pretty naf in a cinema) indicated that it went down a treat with the punters. However, at 165 minutes, and with the drove to Darwin done and dusted by the halfway mark, it cries out for an old fashioned intermission so that we can all get stuck into some damper and billy tea. I am, you are, we are Strayan.

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	5.50 Garbage Warrior (M)	7.20 Burn after Reading (MA)
Sun 7	2.30 Young@Heart (PG)	4.15 Burn after Reading (MA)
	5.50 Man on Wire (PG)	7.25 How to Lose Friends (M)
Tues 9	6.00 How to Lose Friends (M)	7.50 Garbage Warrior (M)

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# gig guide local events and entertainment

## FRIDAY 5

- SEAGULLS: LIVE BAND - DUELIN PIANOS CONNECTIONS 7PM-11PM
- CURRUMBIN SOUND LOUNGE 7.30PM MICK THOMAS DUO AND TEXAS TEA
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM TUFF
- TWIN TOWNS, CHAMPIONS BAR 9PM JOHN O'SHEA BREEZES 1.30PM DAVID BARRY 5.30PM ME AND MRS JONES
- GOLD COAST ARTS CENTRE COMEDY IN THE BASEMENT 8PM MICK MEREDITH, JAMES HUNTER, MC MIKE VAN ACKER
- THE BEACH HOTEL BYRON BAY, 9.30PM SAMBA
- THE RAILS, BYRON 7PM THREE QUARTERS HAZEL
- UKI CAFE, 6-9PM PEACE BROTHER
- IVORY TAVERN, TWEED 6PM SUMMER PARTY: DJ & BAND
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 7PM PHIL GUEST
- SEA SHELL GALLERY, BYRON A&I EST 6PM XMASEA GROUP ART SHOW
- RETROSPECT GALLERY, BYRON 6PM 12 X 12 EXHIBITION OPENING
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM HILLBILLY BLUES BANDITS
- PIPPIS, NEW BRIGHTON 6.30PM ANDY HOLM
- COCOMANGAS, BYRON DJ QUALITY CONTROL LOUNGE BAR DJ KRISTIN

## SATURDAY 6

- SEAGULLS, PIANO BAR BEN GILGEN CONNECTIONS 4-7PM LIVE BAND SUPALICIOUS 7-11PM THE MCCLYMONTS 8.30PM STARDUST ROOM DST
- CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE 7PM JUNGLE VIBE
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM INNOCENT BYSTANDERS
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL, 8PM THE SCREAMING JETS
- TWIN TOWNS, CHAMPIONS BAR 9PM BEN AMOR BREEZES 2PM RUSSELL SPROUT 5.30PM JAYNE HENRY DUO

- COOLANGATTA TWEED HEADS GOLF CLUB 7PM FIRE & RAIN
- GOLD COAST ARTS CENTRE: JAZZ IN THE BASEMENT 7PM CASSIE GODBOLD
- THE BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 9.30PM PTY LTD
- THE RAILS, BYRON 6.30PM DA KARPO
- HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN, BYRON. SAUL WILLIAMS
- SALT VILLAGE, KINGSCLIFF, ROUGHIES BAR & RESTAURANT 12.30PM LEIGH CARRIAGE TRIO
- BEACH BAR, CABARITA 7PM SOUL MAN O'GAIA
- UKI CAFE: 6-9PM MICK MCHUGH
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 8PM ELVIS EVOLUTION
- IVORY TAVERN, TWEED, 4-7PM CORY HARGREAVES 7-12PM DJ TALLY
- GREENMOUNT BEACH CLUB, COOLANGATTA 7-11PM THE GENES
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB, 7.30PM TERRY FIELDING
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM RAIN DANCE
- MULLUMBIMBY RSL 8.15PM THE REMNANTS
- BALLINA HOTEL 6PM KAREN & THE CAPTAINS OF CLASS
- WINSOME HOTEL, LISMORE 8.30PM MICK HART & MICK DALEY

## SUNDAY 7

- SEAGULLS, CONNECTIONS 4-8PM LINE DANCING
- SPHINX ROCK CAFE, MT BURRELL 1-5PM FAYE BLAIS AND MR BARDLEY
- CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE 1.30PM MARK WINDLE
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 1PM CHILLED PRESTON
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 9PM THAT 1 GUY
- TWIN TOWNS, BREEZES 12.30PM ROBERT KEITH 4PM RICK HAY
- KINGSCLIFF HOTEL 1.30PM SOULMAN O'GAIA
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON. 4.30PM MAHANA 8PM DJ CAPTAIN KAINE
- THE RAILS, BYRON 6PM SUPER MARIO
- HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN, BYRON MICK HART
- UKI CAFE 11.30-2.30PM

- BILL JACOBI
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH 2-5PM PAPA FUNK
- IVORY TAVERN, TWEED 2-6PM CRUST
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 5PM THE BAGMAN
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 3PM WEAR THE FOX HAT 7PM GREEN MACHINE - GUY KACHEL & BEN WORDSWORTH
- BALLINA UNITING CHURCH 2PM CHORAL MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

## MONDAY 8

- TWIN TOWNS, BREEZES 4PM JAYNE HENRY 7.30PM SPIN
- THE RAILS, BYRON 6.30PM NEIL ANDERSON

## TUESDAY 9

- SEAGULLS: CRAIG SHAW LAKEVIEW LOUNGE 5.30PM - 9PM
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF. 7PM TRIVIA TUESDAY
- TWIN TOWNS, BREEZES 1PM ROCKIN TUESDAY WITH ROUTE 66 (DUO) 8PM ACOUSTICITY
- THE RAILS 6.30PM BRIAN FRASER DUO
- BANGALOW HOTEL BRACKETS JAM NIGHT

## WEDNESDAY 10

- SEAGULLS, LAKEVIEW LOUNGE 1.15-3.15PM WEDNESDAY WINNERS - DON WHITAKER
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 7.30PM SIT DOWN COMEDY CLUB: DAVID EASTGATE, FIONA MCGARY AND MC MIKE VAN ACKER
- TWIN TOWNS, BREEZES 10.30AM SUE REID 2PM STEVEN MICHAEL 8.30PM BUSTER'S DUELLING PIANOS
- MULLUMBIMBY EX SERVICES CLUB 8PM STAND UP COMEDY: MANDY NOLAN PRESENTS ACE VIRGIN SACRIFICE

## THURSDAY 11

- SEAGULLS, LAKEVIEW LOUNGE 5.30-9PM PETER JOHNSON
- TWIN TOWNS, BREEZES 8.30PM BUSTER'S DUELLING PIANOS 1.20PM DENNIS WARREN 5PM PAUL WYNNE
- GOLD COAST ARTS CENTRE 8PM COMEDY IN THE BASEMENT: MIKE BENNETT

## GIG GUIDE DEADLINE

12pm tuesday mandy@tweedecho.com.au  
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# eating out guide to all the best restaurants and cafés in the northern rivers

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Book Review with Victoria Cosford

## RISTORANTE FELLINI Tony Percuoco

I have dined at this restaurant and been wooed as much by its stunning location – it overlooks the shimmering marina at the Gold Coast's Main Beach – and its utterly romantic atmosphere, as by the food. Dishes are simple traditional Italian relying, as all great Italian food does, on ingredients in season, at their best, and ideally locally sourced. The restaurant itself is gorgeously fitted out and the impeccable service by

experience. In a tone self-deprecating and personal he takes the reader through the various courses of the menu interspersing them with factual sections on quintessential Italian products like olive oil, balsamic vinegar and pasta as well as amusing accounts of and reminiscences from his childhood.

Family is of prime importance to Italians and this aspect positively resounds throughout

throughout. The story of a very young Tony devouring an entire batch of funghi trifolati – mushrooms sliced and sauted in garlicky olive oil, requiring vast quantities of bread – is as endearing as is his conversational voice throughout, which the editors have seen fit to mostly leave in the whimsically punctuated way he presumably speaks.

Most of the recipes are straightforward as Italian cuisine largely is – with the exception of Wild Boar with Prosciutto-Wrapped Pear (an award-winning dish for Fellini's head chef Richard Burt) and Pheasant with Pears and Risotto. It is familiar, big-flavoured food on the whole, drawing on Tony's Neapolitano heritage and culinary traditions, dishes handed down over the generations. There are Involtini di Asparagi al Limo – asparagus wrapped in prosciutto, dipped in egg and breadcrumbs and fried then served with lime-scented mascarpone cream; Spaghetti al Pesto Rosso with the pasta in a tomatoey sauce studded with chopped macadamia nuts and basil;

Funghi Al Forno whereby large field mushrooms are stuffed with a mix of pinenuts, fresh herbs, roast tomatoes and breadcrumbs then baked and finished off with a creamy gorgonzola sauce; Tartine di Frutta which is a puff pastry-based flan filled with almond cream then layered with sliced plums. One of the standouts is for Pollo All'Insalata, or Chicken Salad – exquisite in its simplicity, which Tony recommends you consume 'with a chilled rosé wine and some crusty bread'; this could be the best chicken salad recipe you try this summer! Tony suggests suitable wines to match most of the recipes as well as providing a useful guide to the essential ingredients in Italian cooking. For those whose privilege it may not be to dine at Ristorante Fellini, here is a book whose recipes are easy enough to reproduce and thereby convey a taste of the experience.

Ristorante Fellini - Italian Cooking At Its Best Tony Percuoco. New Holland. RRP \$40.

## SNIPPETS

Victoria Cosford



## TRUE FOOD GUIDE

In 2008, the first genetically engineered crops were introduced into Australia, with GE canola now grown in NSW and Victoria. Canola is found in a range of foods from margarines and vegetable oils to ice creams, breads and sauces. The majority of Australians do not want to eat GE food, with food companies increasingly responding to consumer demand by removing GE ingredients from their products. Six years ago Greenpeace Australia produced the first edition of the *True Food Guide*, which gives food brands a green or red light rating based on their policy on using GM ingredients. This is the only Australian guide that lets you know which food products contain genetically engineered ingredients. Since its launch, 25 of Australia's top food companies have developed and implemented GE-free policies. Notable companies in the red include Woolworths, Kraft, Nestle, BirdsEye, John West and Leggo's. You can order a copy of the *True Food Guide* by going to [www.truefood.org.au/truefoodguide](http://www.truefood.org.au/truefoodguide) or calling Greenpeace on 1800 815 151.

## PINOT NOIR TOUR

Lovers of Pinot Noir rejoice! Commencing in 2009, Pinot Tours on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria will be starting up. Running over 2 days and 2 nights, they will enable guests to visit 10 leading Pinot Noir vineyards, enjoy sumptuous gourmet meals to match wine tastings by a private chef and sommelier, and stay at the chic architect-designed boutique George's B&B overlooking Port Phillip Bay. For bookings before 31 December 2008, guests will receive 3 complimentary bottles of Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir plus a DVD of the movie *Sideways*. Contact Lori Wilson on 0414 898 927.



an older breed of waiter, just like in Italy.

Owner Tony Percuoco has, in the eponymous book he has written, managed to conjure up both the elegance and the authenticity of the Fellini

the entire book. The photography, a mix of black and white and full colour, depicts him as a chubby baby and cute toddler, shots of the restaurant's stylish interior and the various dishes featured

**SPORT RESULTS**

**BOWLS**

**Burringbar Bush Ticks**  
Don't forget we have our combined Christmas party this Saturday December 6. Bowls commence at 1pm, Christmas Dinner at 6.30pm – the sheet is on the notice board. All welcome.

**Burringbar Men's Bowls Club**  
Saturday November 29

We enjoyed an afternoon with the bush Ticks and completed most games before the storm arrived results M Shackell and T Allard def E graham and L Proudlock T Gibbons and R Chapman def K Sharpley and R Donnelly D Clarke and W Deering def M and T Giacomini N Philip and E Roberts def L and B Andrews B Bathie and L Philip def D Dixon and T Standfield winning rink M Shackell and T Allard losing rink D Dixon and T Standfield Kevin D Sharpley won the members draw for the KG Philip Shield is on the board we need to complete as many matches as possible prior to the Xmas break sheets for the singles and pairs championships will be on the board next week please note entry close by dates for each event.

Don't forget our Christmas Function Saturday December 6, (mufti dress) sheet is on the board we have a visit arranged from Nimbin the following Saturday, December 13, (mufti dress)

this is a mixed bowls afternoon in conjunction with the Bush ticks sheet is on the board.

**Cudgen Leagues Ladies**

Thursday December 4

Weather permitting our Club Selected Championship Triples Final will be played in the afternoon at 1pm. Ann Revie, Isabel Nipperess, Joy Ashford V's Sharon Lee Hinks, Judy Martin, Liz Fleming. Good bowling. Thurs Ladies Social 12.30 for 1pm start. All welcome. Friday 5th Nov, 3pm Skirts V's Shirts ( for bowling club Members only) 2 bowl triples (2 x 13 ends) Cost \$6 pp, includes Grn fees, half time nibbles / sausage sizzle, club shirts please. Get your names down girls we need to get the trophy back on display. Sheet at front reception. Mon 1st Dec, Social Mixed triples, all welcome. Mon 8th Dec, District Delegates Meeting and Presentations Day Cabarita Beach. M'tea 10am, Delegates Meeting 10.30am, Xmas Lunch 12.30pm, Bowls 1pm – 3pm, A'tea and Presentations 3pm. Dress Club Uniform. Our Christmas Break up Day Thurs 11th dec, M'tea 9.30am, Bowls 10am – Midday, Refreshments 1pm, lunch. Grn fees \$4 pay on day, Dress Xmas Mufti, Donations of Xmas Goodies for our Christmas Hampers would be appreciated. Payment to be in to Mary by today please. Nominations close today for Club Championship Fours

– 2009. Nomination sheet on board for 2009 District Championship Pairs, Singles, Triples, Fours, entries close for all events Thurs 19th Feb-09.

Congratulations to the following Members who have been selected to play in the 2009 Pennant Season. Div 2, Sharon Lee Hinks, Colleen Wein, Margaret Trapnell, Liz Fleming ; Ann Revie, Pat Pieterse, Joy Ashford, June Wotherspoon. Captain Pat Pieterse. Div 4, Marion Hull, Judy Martin, Isabel Nipperess, Lorraine Sandall. Lola Taylor, Betty Sydneham, Vickii Needs, Helen Wylie. Captain Isabel Nipperess. Members on the sick list, well wishes from all Members. Happy Birthday to all celebrating this week.

Look forward to seeing Members and Visitors at our Club. Bookings 0266741816 / 2734. Good Bowling Everyone.

**Pottsville Women**

Thursday November 27

Lucky Bowler: P Wilson. Winning Rink: A Swift and M Jackson. Raffle: N Tait and N Bonnor. Moneyboard: J Baxter and W Fielding.

Updates: Dec 8: Delegate presentation and break-up, Cabarita. Dec 11: Presentation Day. Dec 18 Break Up Day – bowls and Christmas lunch – wear a Christmas T-Shirt.

Tuesday morning bowls – mufti. Come along for a morning of enjoyment. Visitor Info: Fri 1.30 pm mixed pairs.

Thurs Women's Social Bowls 9 am. Order lunch and enjoy our warm and friendly club. For new bowlers, should coaching be required, please contact the club on 6676 1077 and follow the prompts.

**Tweed Heads**

The winners of the Von Bibra Corporate Lawn Bowls Trophy - Series 5 at the Tweed Heads Bowls Club were Alden Automotive 'Achievers' Runners up - for the third time were Von Bibra Auto Village 'Vonnies'

The Series ran for 4 weeks from November 5 to November 26 - each of the 14 Corporate teams played 7 rounds over the 4 nights with the top 4 teams competing in a deadly 1 end - Shoot Out - Semi Final and Grand Final.

Semi Final - Von Bibra Auto Village 'Vonnies' defeated Tweed Endeavour Cruises 'Getaway'

Final - Alden Automotive defeated Border Automotive 'RACO' Grand Final - Alden Automotive 'Achievers' defeated Von Bibra Auto Village 'Vonnies'

**GOLF**

**Chinderah Veterans Social Golf**

Thursday 27/11/08 - Washed out Monday 1/12/08 - Stableford Winner 'A' grade - Gary Carey - 44 points - new handicap 4 Runner up- Bob O'Callaghan - 41 points - new handicap 13

Winner 'B' grade - Don Nash - 46 points - new handicap 14

Runner up - Reg Sewell - 42 points (c/ back) - new handicap 15

Winner 'C' grade - David Mclwain - 46 points - new handicap 19

Runner up - Arthur Whitley - 38 points - new handicap 21

Ball rundown to 37 points

Geoff Curry - hole-in-one 12th hole - congratulations

Ray Tolley - eagled the 6th (par 4)

Next events:

8/12/08 - Stroke

11/12/08 - Xmas party

15/12/08 - Ambrose

**Murwillumbah Golf Club**

Sunday 23rd Nov Women's Winner

J.Rockliff 33 pts Member M.Calvert 37 pts N/Pin 2nd J.Rockliff and M.Calvert

B.R.Down to 32 pts c.b Monday 24th

Veterans Mixed and Mmembers 4.B.B.B.

Stableford Mixed Winners G.Somerville

and W.Bruce 42 pts Runner up C.Waugh

and T.Brown 40 pts Members Winners

T.Soan and H.Krenkel 46 pts Runner up N.Shepherd and B.Wedlock

44 pts c.b N/Pin 2nd B.O'Reilly and W.Bruce

5th J.De Closey and C.Hulme

10th L.Anderson and R.Kulmer 17th

C.Blissett and H.Krenkel B.R.Down to Mixed

39 pts c.b Mmembers 44 pts c.b Tuesday 25th

Women's Ind Stableford A.Grade J.East 38 pts c.b and K.Toovey

38 pts B.Grade S.Cockwell 39 pts and S.Proud 37 pts c.b C.Grade D.Wright

38 pts and J.Davis 36 pts c.b 1st Nine

M.Parkes 21 pts 2nd Nine B.Collins

20pts N/Pin 2nd M.Reynolds 5th

J.Moore and J.Baker 10th J.East 17th

D.Rabe and R.HAW b.r.Down to 33

pts c.b Friday 28th Women's Winner

C.Quantrill 36 pts Members Winner

S.Austin 43 pts N/Pin 2nd R.Thompson

and L.McCormack B.R.Down to 36 pts Saturday 29th Nov Individual. Stableford in 4 Grades A.Grade Winner W.Colefax 42 pts and M.Knight 38 pts B.Grade Winner M.Ballarin 40 pts and T.Grugan 38 pts C.Grade Winner J.Hunt 42 pts and A.Fraser 39 pts D.Grade Winner P.Merrotsy 38 pts and T.Sayer 37 pts N/Pins 2nd M.Barnes 5th T.Grugan 10th E.Sherwood 17th R.Dick B/R/Down to 34 pts c.b

**SHOOTING**

**Murwillumbah Pistol Club**

Week ended 29th November, 2008: Air Pistol – Men – J Curtis 568 R Rees 563 A Bobowski 519 M Cutis 518. Air Pistol – Ladies – E Wenban 388/ Rapid Fire: H Walters 597 M Walters 588 T Walters 583 R Walters 579. Standard Pistol: R Rees 613 A Berry 596 G Callaghan 567 A Gazzard 561 G McMahon 561 P Gospel 551 A Quirk 550 J Gove 548 R Gospel 547 P Walsh 545 J Clough 544 R Fleming 544 B Wenban 544 J Sullivan 544 J Hoctor 539 D Stebbing 533 J Lumsden 524 N Davis 519 M Fleming 508 C Everett 508 S Stebbing 506 D Gazzard 479.



**SLSC PATROLS Cudgen**

**SATURDAY**

**A.M.** Hammerheads –David Field (Capt.)

**P.M.** Mermaids –Carol Nelson (Capt.)

**SUNDAY**

**A.M.** Prawns – Luke Hawkey (Capt.)

**P.M.** Ducks Gary Raso (Capt.)

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07 3207 0066

**beach buzz** what's happening in the surf

**Congrats Stephanie!**

Everyone here at *The Echo* is stoked about your second ASP World Title. You ROCK! see more on page 4.

**Cudgen Surf notes**

The club conducted a successful carnival last Sunday which attracted entries from ten clubs.

The club was short most of its competitors with other commitments, but the team recorded 18 first placings with 19 second and 22 third enabling it to win the point score with 331 points from Byron Bay 259, Lennox Head 208 and Tweed Heads-Coolangatta 162.

On Saturday the masters surfboat crew competed at the Coffs Harbour craft carnival. Their division had 18 crews entered and they took out the final from Coffs Harbour and Mooloolaba.

At the Wanda carnival against top Sydney opposition, Nathan Sharp won the 15 year sprint and flags double, while Jarrod Cain contested the Nutri-Grain selection carnival at Cronulla.

The coming weekend will also be a busy one for members with the club staging rounds of the North Coast Boat series

on Saturday and Sunday with Queensland clubs invited on the Sunday. Also on the weekend the swim and craft competitors will compete in Round 3 and 4 of the Ocean Assault at Tugun. The juniors will hold their second day of their championships also on Sunday.

All members available are asked to log in early at the club for the annual Kingscliff door-knock appeal.

**Casuarina's Beau Cram in WA**

On Tuesday when Queensland's Stephanie Gilmore was again doing Australia proud by winning the ASP World Title in Hawaii a Casuarina junior surfer was letting us know that the future of Australia's prominence in the sport is also in good shape as he took on seriously large perfect waves at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles at Margaret River in Western Australia.

Fifteen year old Beau Cram, pictured below, was in excellent form in the under 16 Boys scoring big and easily winning his round one heat in the perfect waves at Margaret River at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles.

Photo Steve Robertson



## The DSA goes surfing at Flat Rock

The DSA is a totally voluntary and independent surfing organisation helping people with all types of disabilities enjoy a safe surfing experience.

The DSA believes in beach access for all. Full accessibility must include all people having the opportunity to get down to the sand in the first place, be able to cross the sand to the water's edge with dignity (not having to be dragged across on a towel or some similar primitive method) and being able to enter the water, if one desires, in safety.

The local Gold Coast chapter of the DSA will be a Christmas event 'Let's go Surfing Day' at Flat Rock, Currumbin this Sunday.

The DSA would like to invite all participants, their families, carers and especially surfers and volunteers to come along for a fun filled day in the surf and to celebrate the International Day of People with Disabilities.



The DSA event sign-on is at Kropp Park, Currumbin, look out for the new banners and tents.

Volunteers can sign on from 9 to 9.30am and participants from 9.30 to 10am for a 10am start. Parking is available on Teemangum St or Pacific Parade.

Participants are encouraged to bring drinks, hats, sunsafe

shirts and plenty of sun protection.

The cost is \$10.00 for non-members and members, volunteers and carers are free.

For more information phone local DSA reps Craig 0412 191 880 or Steve 0400 027 991 or visit: [www.surfershelpingsurfers.com](http://www.surfershelpingsurfers.com) and follows the links to the Gold Coast.

## Move over netball, soccer and footy...

Australians are enjoying a more diverse range of sports than ever before according to a survey taken from a random sample of 30,000 entries as part of the Baker's Delight Top Sports Grants Program.

A random selection of entries were reviewed to uncover the range of sports Aussies are getting involved in with a review of 1,000 entries revealing participation in over 60 different sports.\*

Nationally, Aussies favour soccer and netball which enjoy the highest participation rates of all sports, however, it's clear that Aussies are now enjoying a huge range of sports with speed skating, ballroom dancing, dragon boat racing, kendo, BMX biking, weightlifting, lacrosse and vigoro - a cross between baseball and cricket.

Australian basketball legend, Andrew Gaze, is an ambassador for the Top Sports program. On viewing the results, Gaze said it demonstrated that

there really is a sport out there to enable everyone to work towards a healthy lifestyle.

'It's exciting to see the vast range of sports that Australians are becoming involved in at grass-roots level, he said. 'Kids no longer have to fit into the mould of an AFL player, fast-bowler, or track and field star to get involved in sports and stay active. This survey shows that there are a multitude of sports out there - it's just about finding the sport that's right for you,' said Gaze.

The Top Sports Program has seen Baker's Delight invest over \$250,000 in 60 amateur sporting clubs and 20 schools across Australia, in a bid to help maintain sports in the community.

Baker's Delight launched its Top Sports program in January 2008. The first phase of the program presented 20 schools across Australia win Top Sports Grants worth \$5,000 each.

The second phase focused on

grassroots sporting clubs and will present Top Sports Grants worth \$2,500 each to 60 clubs across Australia.

\* Soccer and Netball each have a participation rate of 3% and are tied for the organised sport with the highest participation rate in Australia according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics report Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation, February 2007.

TIDE TIMES			
PHASES OF THE MOON			
First Quarter	4th Jan	9.56 pm	
Capricorn Full Moon	11th Jan	1.27 pm	
Last Quarter	18th Jan	12.46 pm	
New Moon	26th Jan	5.56 pm	
<b>FRI</b>	<b>High</b>	2.02 am 1.1	<b>Sunrise</b> 5.40 am
<b>5th</b>		1.51 pm 1.4	<b>Sunset</b> 7.32 pm
	<b>Low</b>	7.31 am 0.7	<b>Moonrise</b> 11.49 am
		8.44 pm 0.5	<b>Moonset</b> 12.11 am
<b>SAT</b>	<b>High</b>	2.59 am 1.2	<b>Sunrise</b> 5.40 am
<b>6th</b>		2.49 pm 1.3	<b>Sunset</b> 7.33 pm
	<b>Low</b>	8.38 am 0.7	<b>Moonrise</b> 12.45 pm
		9.33 pm 0.5	<b>Moonset</b> 12.41 am
<b>SUN</b>	<b>High</b>	3.57 am 1.3	<b>Sunrise</b> 5.40 am
<b>7th</b>		3.53 pm 1.3	<b>Sunset</b> 7.34 pm
	<b>Low</b>	9.51 am 0.6	<b>Moonrise</b> 1.43 pm
		10.22 pm 0.4	<b>Moonset</b> 1.10 am
<b>MON</b>	<b>High</b>	4.52 am 1.4	<b>Sunrise</b> 5.40 am
<b>8th</b>		5.00 pm 1.2	<b>Sunset</b> 7.34 pm
	<b>Low</b>	11.04 am 0.6	<b>Moonrise</b> 2.43 pm
		11.11 pm 0.4	<b>Moonset</b> 1.41 am
<b>TUE</b>	<b>High</b>	5.44 am 1.5	<b>Sunrise</b> 5.40 am
<b>9th</b>		6.05 pm 1.2	<b>Sunset</b> 7.35 pm
	<b>Low</b>	12.13 pm 0.4	<b>Moonrise</b> 3.48 pm
			<b>Moonset</b> 2.15 am
<b>WED</b>	<b>High</b>	6.35 am 1.6	<b>Sunrise</b> 5.41 am
<b>10th</b>		7.07 pm 1.2	<b>Sunset</b> 7.36 pm
	<b>Low</b>	12.01 am 0.4	<b>Moonrise</b> 4.57 pm
		1.15 pm 0.3	<b>Moonset</b> 2.54 am
<b>THU</b>	<b>High</b>	7.26 am 1.7	<b>Sunrise</b> 5.41 am
<b>11th</b>		8.07 pm 1.2	<b>Sunset</b> 7.37 pm
	<b>Low</b>	12.52 am 0.3	<b>Moonrise</b> 6.09 pm
		2.12 pm 0.2	<b>Moonset</b> 3.40 am
Eastern Standard Time. Heights in metres.			
Courtesy of NSW Tide Charts, Manly Hydraulics Laboratory, NSW Dept of Commerce			

## Tweed coast pumped for Malfunction

The Hyundai Malfunction Surf Festival will return to the Tweed Coast in March 2009 and is set for the biggest event in its 25 year history after securing a record sponsorship and adding an array of new attractions.

The 2009 festival, with events to be held at Kingscliff and Casuarina Beach, has been extended from six to nine days and will encompass a wide range of surfing lifestyle events built around the five days of competition, which are a feature in the ASP world longboard qualifying series.

The expanded 2009 schedule follows on from the success of this year's festival, which was held on the Tweed Coast for the first time after relocating from the Gold Coast.

Event organiser, Sean McKeown, says the highly successful 2008 event demonstrates the Tweed Coast's support and the continued growth of this iconic longboard event.

'We had a tremendous response from not only the national and worldwide surfing communities, but also from local Tweed residents and businesses, said Mr McKeown. 'An economic impact study conducted by the Gold Coast Malibu Club indicated that an estimated 1,374 festival participants and attend-

ees spent an average of \$103 per day over the duration of the 2008 Malfunction.

The 2009 event will introduce a series of new fun events to get even more people involved in celebrating the lifestyle and culture long associated with the surfing fraternity.

'We have been in discussions with organisers of the Noosa Festival of Surfing and as a result both events will now take place one after the other in a joint bid to attract more international and interstate surfers.'

Mr McKeown says that a number of key sponsorship agreements have already been garnered, including major 2008 sponsors, Hyundai and Domain Casuarina Beach Resort, the resort pledging a sponsorship package worth more than \$30,000.

Don O'Rorke, chairman of developer Kings Beach and board member of Surfing Australia, says the 2009 Malfunction is an ideal vehicle to promote the Tweed's uncrowded beaches, legendary surfing pointbreaks and top class accommodation to a wide range of markets.

'Over nine days, the surf festival is expected to attract more than 300 competitors, a large contingent of spectators and inject in excess of \$2 million

into the local economy,' said Mr O'Rorke. 'Casuarina Beach has a large surfing community, and many of the residents are keen to see the surf festival back on the Tweed Coast.'

Taking place from March 21 to 29, with surfing commencing on the 25th, the 2009 Malfunction will encompass a number of

open amateur and aged divisions for traditional surfers, a leg of the ASP World Longboard Qualifying Series for Men and Women, a Retro division for boards constructed prior to 1981 and the fast growing craze of Stand Up Paddle Surfing.

In addition, there will also be several events staged out of the

water including an art exhibition at the Domain Casuarina Beach Resort, a Luau Dinner to be held at Casuarina Beach, a Surf Vehicle Rally, live music and beach movies.

For registration in the Malfunction 2009 comp or for further event details please visit: [www.malfunction.com.au](http://www.malfunction.com.au)



Surfers Ray Gleave, Matt Aldridge and Don O'Rorke get pumped for the Malfunction 2009 surf festival at yesterday's launch at Casuarina's Sandbar + Grill.

MONTHLY MARKETS	
1st Sat	<b>Brunswick Heads</b> (02) 6684 4437
1st Sat	<b>Murwillumbah Cottage Markets</b> 0417 759 777
1st Sun	<b>Banora Point Farmers' Market</b> 0417 759 777
1st Sun	<b>Byron Bay</b> (02) 6680 9703
1st Sun	<b>Pottsville</b> (02) 6676 4555
1st Sun	<b>Tweed Heads</b> (07) 5599 1714
2nd Sat	<b>Kingscliff</b> (02) 6674 0827
2nd Sun	<b>The Channon</b> (02) 6688 6433
2nd Sun	<b>Lennox Head</b> (02) 6672 2874
2nd Sun	<b>Coolangatta</b> (07) 5533 8202
2nd Sun	<b>Tweed Heads</b> (07) 5599 1714
3rd Sat	<b>Mullumbimby</b> (02) 6684 3370
3rd Sat	<b>Murwillumbah Cottage Markets</b> 0417 759 777
3rd Sun	<b>Ballina</b> 6687 4328
3rd Sun	<b>Banora Point Farmers' Market</b> 0417 759 777
3rd Sun	<b>Nimbin</b> (02) 6689 0000
3rd Sun	<b>Pottsville</b> (02) 6676 4555
3rd Sun	<b>Tweed Heads</b> (07) 5599 1714
3rd Sun	<b>Uki</b> (02) 6679 9026
4th Sat	<b>Kingscliff</b> (02) 6674 0827
4th Sun	<b>Bangalow</b> (02) 6687 1911
4th Sun (in 5 Sun month)	<b>Coolangatta</b> (07) 5533 8202
4th Sun	<b>Murwillumbah</b> 0422 565 168
4th Sun	<b>Tweed Heads</b> (07) 5599 1714
5th Sun	<b>Nimbin</b> (02) 6689 0000
5th Sun	<b>Tweed Heads</b> (07) 5599 1714
FARMERS MARKETS	
Each Sat	8-11am <b>Bangalow</b> (02) 6687 1137
Each Thu	8-11am <b>Byron Bay</b> (02) 6687 1137
Each Tue	<b>New Brighton</b> (02) 6684 5390
Each Sat	8am-1pm <b>Uki</b> (02) 6679 5530

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- Seagulls Club
- Simon Joseph
- Soul Pattinson Chemist
- South Tweed Orthodontics

- Southern Cross Butchery
- Sports World
- Spotless Gutters
- Sue Kira (Pollock) Life Force Retreats
- Summerland Energy Efficient Products
- Sushi Yam
- Tallow Tree Service
- Tasman Lindsay
- The Laser Skin & Beauty Specialists
- The Lucky Duck Gift Shop
- Thomas Kokot Antennas
- Tiny EarthWorx
- Tony Bartling
- Trine Solutions
- TURSA
- Tweed Byron Window Tinting
- Tweed City Exhaust and Towbars
- Tweed Coast Vet Cabarita Beach
- Tweed Valley Jazz Club
- Uki Cafe
- Uki Real Estate
- Vast Interior - Tweed Heads
- Video Ezy Murwillumbah
- Why Not Restaurant
- Winston Lamont Real Estate
- Zaher Designz
- Zugai Strudwick Architects

(If you like what you read in *The Echo* please support these advertisers and tell them how good you think we are.)

**Carols on the coast**

Kingscliff Lions Club - Carols by the Coast, will be held on Thursday, December 18, from 7pm-8.45pm at Lions Club Park, Marine Parade, Kingscliff (adjacent to Cudgen Surf Club). An exciting line up of local performers including Andrea Szabo, Paul Ensby, Tahlia Mazzaroli, who is only 13 years old, The Sing Sisters, Alex Flockhart, Peter Tanner, Gillian Hayllar and the children from Cudgen and Kingscliff Public Schools, and of course Santa. Infor to Gillian Hayllar on 66 745 874 or 409 381 987.

**Family Centre**

The Family Centre Term 1 2009 course program is now available go to [www.thefamilycentre.org.au](http://www.thefamilycentre.org.au). We are taking bookings now for Christmas Story and Craft Fun, Tuesday 16 December 10.00 - 11.30am. Come and share some Christmas stories and songs with your 2-5 year olds. Make cards gifts and decorations to take the stress out of this time and have a whole lot of fun while you are at it. Location: Kingscliff Playground Marine Parade. Bookings essential contact Michelle at The Family Centre 07 5524 8711. Cost \$5 per family.

**Home visits**

Volunteer Home Visiting Service is recruiting now for volunteers to start in 2009. Would you enjoy sharing your parenting experience with new parents and families? Do you have a couple hours to spare? Do you know someone who may be interested? The role involves: supporting and encouraging families in their parenting role; providing emotional and practical support; assisting families to access health and communities services. Our valued

team of volunteers receive ongoing training and professional support. If you want to find out more about how you can make a difference in a young family's life, contact Yvonne on 07 5524 8711.

**Probus Club**

Murwillumbah Probus Club will meet at the bowls club on December 15 at the changed time of 10.30am. Christmas luncheon will follow immediately and those attending who have not put their names down must advise Jack Peacock by Friday, December 12. Phone 6672 1353. Cost is \$12 for members and partners and \$15 for guests.

**Cancer support**

Tweed-Murwillumbah Cancer Support Group will meet this Saturday, December 6, at 10am at Lillipilli Cottage, Baromi Road, Murwillumbah. Members welcome others who have experienced a cancer diagnosis to join them at their informal meetings where mutual, practical and emotional support is the intent. Partners and careers welcome.

**Spiritual gathering**

A free spiritual gathering will be held this Saturday, Dec 6, at 2pm at the Red Cross Hall, Knox Park M/bah. Discussion on Heavenly Realms, Essence Vs Phenomena. Meditation, healing. Free. Bring plate to share. Phone Ken for info on 66 742 943.

**Family history**

Tweed Gold Coast Family History and Heritage's research room will close Saturday, December 13 at noon for the Christmas break and reopen 10am Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

**Need a justice?**

The Tweed Valley Justices Association, the voice of JPs in the local area, provides a voluntary service at Tweed Centro shopping centre on Tuesdays between 10am and 2 pm. If you are a registered JP you are invited to join our association and an application form can be obtained by calling Margaret on 07 5590 4541 or Diana on 07 5524 2227. You can also obtain a form from the office of Geoff Provest or from one of our volunteer JPs on duty at Tweed City on Thursdays or Tweed Centro on Tuesdays.

**Craft fun**

We are taking bookings now for Christmas Story and Craft Fun, Tuesday, December 16 from 10am-11.30am. Come and share some Christmas stories and songs with your 2-5 year olds. Make cards gifts and decorations to take the stress out of this time and have a whole lot of fun while you are at it. Location: Kingscliff Playground Marine Parade. Bookings essential contact Michelle at The Family Centre 07 5524 8711. Cost \$5 per family.

**Music concert**

Sunday, December 7 at 2pm (NSW time) Coolangatta Tweed Heads Golf Club, Soorley Street, Tweed Heads South. Enjoy an afternoon of entertainment in the main auditorium with the Tweed Links Quartet in a special Olde Time Music Hall presentation. Dress or wear a hat for the occasion, get in the mood and singalong, learn the Lambeth Walk with a variety of popular Link artists. Admission is \$5 for Coolangatta Tweed Heads Golf Club members: \$10 for visitors. Call Elaine on (07) 5590 7870 for further information.



**UKI REAL ESTATE**  
...a life away from the everyday...

 <p><b>HOME BEAUTIFUL</b> A stunningly beautiful historic home set on a rare acre of elevated land with town water. Rural and Mount Warning views. French doors lead out to wide open verandahs on 4 sides, luscious low maintenance landscaped gardens with a variety of established fruit trees relay a feeling of peace and serenity. Rich Timber floors, high ceilings, palm fringed in-ground pool and entertainment area.... enough? What about the 2 room studio, fantastic guest accommodation or B&amp;B setting. Think style, elegance, opulence, character, history, charm - words cannot describe it....come and see! 6 minutes to Murwillumbah. <b>Price: \$798,000</b> Ref.#1191</p>	 <p><b>READY-SET-GROW</b> This amazing 105 frost free terraced acres sits proudly at the foot of Mt Nardi in the Nimbin Valley. Just 6km of sealed roads leads to Nimbin Village's café lifestyle, schools, hospital &amp; sports clubs. This property has several springs and streams for year round irrigation &amp; drinking supply. Included is an architecturally engineered shed with panoramic views of Nimbin Valley. Grow industrial hemp, breed cattle or start an eco tourism facility (Lismore City Council will allow up 36 S.C Units as part of an approved Rural Retreat Facility STCA). Included in the sale is 240 volt solar system, instant hot water gas unit, slow combustion fireplace and gravity fed water tank. <b>Price: \$810,000</b> Ref# 1187</p>
 <p><b>EASY LIVING</b> Beautiful, warm &amp; cosy cottage set on nearly an acre of manicured easy care gardens with super views of both the Doughboy and Mount Warning. Quiet private location. Kick-back on the spacious deck 3 aspects to make the most of the breezes and sunshine. The owners have spent a lot of time and money so you don't have to do anything. Good water storage, double garage and ample downstairs storage space complete this idyllic lifestyle picture. Set in one of the most picturesque parts of the valley, 30 minutes to Murwillumbah and under an hour to the Gold Coast. Fishing, sailing and canoeing just minutes away at Clarrie Hall dam. <b>Price: \$520,000</b> Ref# 1189</p>	 <p><b>UKI SPECIAL</b> Situating in one of the quieter streets in Uki on a large 2060square meter block is this nearly completed new home. There are 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom on the top floor and 1 bedroom a study and a bathroom on the lower floor, an ideal design to give privacy for mum and dad for the kids. A double garage for the cars and a great shed for dad. Added to all this is the possibility for a dual occupancy STCA. Why not come and live in this great town and if you wish change this property into an extended family scenario. Why not check and see whether this new home entitles you to the \$21,000 first home owners grant. <b>Price: \$398,000</b> Ref# 1188</p>

**Shop 4, The Old Butter Factory, 1454 Kyogle Road, Uki Village 2484**  
[www.ukirealestate.com.au](http://www.ukirealestate.com.au) 02 6679 4115 email: [ukirealestate@ihug.com.au](mailto:ukirealestate@ihug.com.au)

**OPEN HOUSE SAT DEC 6 12-12.45pm**



**Secret Garden** **\$ 519,000**

**1/122 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay**

Close to town on Bangalow Road you would not expect this beautiful garden behind the big fence. This three bedroom duplex has been renovated in a Balinese style with lots of fine features from the outdoor spa and living area to the open plan kitchen and beautiful bathroom. The built in BBQ even doubles as a fireplace in the winter so the secret garden is yours all year round. **Web id: 354831**

**Agent Matt Towner 0414 185 976 [www.eldersbyronbay.com.au](http://www.eldersbyronbay.com.au)**



**Byron Bay**



**Investment Opportunity at Maryborough, Queensland**

Maryborough is an historic town with many interesting features in a fast growing area, and is only 20 minutes from Hervey Bay. This lovingly restored home has nothing further to do. Built on a gently sloping 1017sqm block, this neat home has been internally repainted throughout. Features include 2 bedrooms, modern kitchen with dishwasher, modern bathroom, combined dining /lounge and a covered rear deck. All this and its close to the town centre. If you are looking for an addition to your portfolio or a first home then it would be well worth your while to view this home.

- ✓ 2 bedrooms, fully repainted internally
- ✓ Modern kitchen and bathroom
- ✓ Reverse cycle air conditioner (lounge)
- ✓ New under covered rear deck
- ✓ 1017sqm allotment, 2 car accomm
- ✓ Currently rented at \$220/wk

For more info call owner on **0409 974 877.**

**\$219,000**

**BUYERS \$595K TO \$985K**



**twin towns**

**Cnr Griffith & Stuart Sts**

The owners here love the fact that they can walk from their door straight into the world renowned Twin Towns Services Club by the enclosed skyway ... not to mention the 'walk to everything' else convenience!

I specialise in these exceptional buildings and have never had a better selection of superb apartments on offer here. Two and three bedrooms, all ensuite, all with absolutely stunning views. Come see!

See [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au)

**SELLING \$1.05-1.15M**

**42 Tongarra Drive**

This property, more like a private estate really, sits high in the best street in Ocean Shores and enjoys breathtaking views. With much use of natural timbers, this quality home just oozes character.

Here, you are protected from all bad weather and simply soak up the sunshine from the north.

The bonus is the self contained in-law accommodation with its own entry. A very special home.

See [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au)

**OPEN SAT 11AM -12 NOON**



**ocean shores**

**TWEED HEADS \$1.35-1.5M**



**anchorage islands**

**21 Quayside Court**

There is a very limited number of freehold titled freestanding homes on the waterfront in this blue ribbon development. The location is peaceful, whisper quiet, yet so very close to all the buzz and convenience of the Tweed and Coolangatta.

There are 3 bedrooms plus study/4th, ensuite of course and double auto garaging. And the grounds are compact, so you will be out on your boat instead of mowing lawns! Boaties will love the berthing options too!

See [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au)

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[www.tweedecho.com.au](http://www.tweedecho.com.au)

The Tweed Shire Echo December 4, 2008 31

# Imperial Hotel Bottleshop

Check out our weekly specials on beer, wine and spirits. Huge range in stock!



**Your local**

Join our Pub Club

Membership is FREE. We are fully air conditioned with a party function room.

## Outdoor Area

Outdoor smoking area with 2 pool tables fully under cover with music.

## Entertainment

Fri 5th Dec

**JAMES HIGGINS & ROB MCMULLAN**



115 Main Street, Murwillumbah, NSW 2484  
Ph: 6672 1036

# Ocean Shores Country Club

Friday 12th December  
from 6pm



**HUGE HAM RAFFLE**  
100 hams to be won

FREE courtesy bus & kids club  
bookings on 66801 008

This is a tale about three men and a mobile phone. A couple of weeks ago three Tweed Shire councillors headed off in one car to Lismore. The drive gave the trio an opportunity to chew the fat over council's decision the day before which saw the three-storey height proposal for Hastings Point knocked on the head. These three travelling mates were not happy about the outcome and in the privacy of the car they had a few words to say on the matter including about mayor Joan van Lieshout, whose vote became the deciding factor in the Hastings Point issue.

Now you have the picture, consider this delicious twist: one of the boys hadn't turned off his newly issued mobile phone (courtesy of council) and the whole conversation went to the message bank of another councillor. And if that wasn't enough, the conversation on the return journey from Lismore was also recorded, with the chatter again recorded on the message bank of the same councillor.

But wait, there's more... the three councillors were unaware (until they read this) that the phone was on. Moral of the story: always make sure your mobile phone is turned off before having a bitch, and secondly - the Lord surely does work in mysterious ways!

Backburner friend who's into natural and healthy eating was gobsmacked to learn that the chicken broth he ate during his stay at Tweed Hospital recently for an operation contained the much-maligned MSG (monosodium glutamate). However, a sign at the hospital canteen makes it clear that all the food there contains MSG. Reminds us of the old saying 'look before you eat' or even 'buyer beware'.



Sanjeet brought a touch of the East to Murwillumbah last week playing his Indian sitar from the pavement. A self-taught musician, Sanjeet, originally from Germany, has performed on the streets of Afghanistan and India. With his stack of CDs Sanjeet is hoping to lure an income from his melodious music as he moves around Australia living in his car. If you missed him last week keep an eye out because Sanjeet will be back.

The case of the missing mannequin. Fred the mannequin is missing from outside Aussie Disposals, Greenaway Drive, Tweed Heads South. Fred, a popular local identity, particularly with the elderly ladies, is about six-foot tall, good looking and was last seen wearing bright yellow wet weather gear. Owner Terri said he was standing outside the shop on a heavy stand and then just vanished. She is not aware of any problem he was experiencing but perhaps with Christmas coming it was all getting too much. Usually Fred dresses up as Santa and waves to passing traffic but this year it's feared he will miss the festive season

with his family. Fred, if you read this please come home. A reward of \$50 is offered for information leading to the recovery of Fred. Please phone Terri on 07 5523 1788.

Calling all bookworms, book fanciers and bibliophiles (all the same thing really). Take note that tomorrow (Friday, December 5) from 9.30am-6pm and this Saturday from 9.30am-3.30pm, Murwillumbah Library will be selling what they describe as 'discarded library materials' and donated items. Bound to be a gem or two among the lot.

Jupiter, Venus and the Moon

converged on Monday night, forming a smiley face with the crescent moon giving a perfect smile and the planets forming the two eyes. A check on the internet revealed that the stellar phenomenon was caused by the three-day-old crescent moon aligning at the right spots to form the Smiley. If you missed it, you may have to wait another five years before Smiley appears in the night sky again.

Bon appetit, Paul! TV personality Paul Mercurio cooked up a storm in the Tweed this week with local chef Steven Snow from Fins at Salt. Of course he came with a camera crew which will be filming at Banana Cabana, Chillingham, Madura Tea, Tropical Fruit World, Catch-a-Crab, Boyd's Bay Oyster Farm, fly fishing at Cram's Farm, and Mavis's Kitchen at Mt Warning. It's a win-win situation with the Tweed getting showcases on Channel Seven's cooking and travel show *Mercurio's Menu* and Mercurio getting to taste a slice of paradise.

Tweed homebuyers are the biggest losers in the state's stamp duty stakes, according to latest research. Tweed shire leads the state with the biggest increase in median stamp duty bills as a percentage of household income over the past five years. In 2003, the figure was 21 per cent but it jumped to 33 per cent this year, giving us the gong. What it really means is that not only have property prices here risen sharply in that time, but home owners on the Tweed are working a lot longer to pay off the stamp duty bill on their home purchase.

Belay those rumours! *The Echo* has not been sold to APN. The *Tweed Shire Echo* and the *Byron Shire Echo* are owned and operated locally and will remain so. More next week...

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# Grail Quest

Introduction to Grail Quest (a 9-week Course) which is the opening term of the two year part-time foundation course.

GRAIL QUEST offers a modern form of adult education based on the work of Rudolf Steiner. Through a deepened understanding of the inner workings of the world and ourselves, inner development and soul transformation are brought about. This in turn leads to an enhanced capacity to transform the outer world.

The course consists of lectures, discussions and meditation which are expanded through artistic experiences in music, painting, sculpture, story telling, speech, writing, drama, craft and the new art of eurythmy. No previous artistic experience is necessary. The emphasis of the course is away from competition and is focused on individual growth. The course aims to teach through the heart, hand and mind and to bring our efforts to fruition through love of the deed. GRAIL QUEST is also the prerequisite for the Steiner Teacher Training Program.

...a journey into the Spiritual Science of Rudolf Steiner...

Some of the themes explored in the course are:

The Quest for Meaning. The Elements. The Temperaments. Sacred Geometry. The Origins of the Earth & Humanity. The Evolution of Consciousness. Christology. Mystery Schools & Mystery Centres. The Birth of Modern Consciousness in the Renaissance. The Search for the Holy Grail. Life Phases: an Exploration of Biography.

9 week Introductory Course: \$600  
Friday 4.30 - 7.30pm  
Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Commencing 6th February

Venue: Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School, McGettigans Lane, Ewingsdale

Enquiries: Kristy Brake 0431 833 959  
or Gerry Josephson 6684 8280 or (mob) 0406 788 050

