

Keep me on track says re-elected MP

Luis Felio

Re-elected Tweed MP Geoff Provest has challenged residents to hold him to his election pledges, which include a major planning study for a rail link between Coolangatta and Casino.

The rail corridor for the study, which Mr Provest said he wanted done by the end of this year, potentially covers the seats of the three re-elected sitting National Party MPs for the Northern Rivers: Mr Provest, Thomas George in Lismore and Don Page in Ballina, who convincingly won their seats last Saturday in the landslide which toppled the Labor government.

Rail money 'committed'

In the leadup to the election, Mr Provest announced at a public rally that his party would undertake a \$1 million planning study for the rail line and after the coalition's victory said the government had 'committed' the money for the track extending south from Coolangatta airport.

Rail campaigners such as Trains on Our Tracks (TOOT) and other candidates had criticised the National Party MPs for reneging on a promise made at the previous state election to build a commuter rail service with six services a day at a cost of around \$100 million and replacing it with a promise to conduct another feasibility study.

Mr Provest told media, after winning the seat for the second time, that he wanted to start talks soon with the Queensland government over the rail plan and other cross-border issues such as business taxes.

He said he was also committed to finding a location for a new police station and an increase in police

numbers to match the area's population growth, claiming 'when I make a commitment I follow it through and stand behind it.'

The former Tweed Heads Bowls Club manager took the seat from Labor's Neville Newell in 2007 after the Labor government's axing of the Murwillumbah to Casino rail service in 2004 boosted his chances. This week, he firmed his grip on the seat with an increased margin of around 22 per cent.

The Greens also improved their vote from last state election, with first-time candidate Andrea Vickers doubling the Greens' primary vote with over 15 per cent of the total vote, while Labor's candidate Reece Byrnes suffered the average statewide swing against Labor of around 16 per cent. (For latest figures visit the NSW Electoral Commission website.)

Mr Byrnes said he would 'hold' Mr Provest to his promises.

Mr George had suggested before the poll that the election was a 'referendum' on the proposed controversial Byrrill Creek dam as part of the infrastructure needed to cater for Tweed shire's expected population growth.

But Susan Stock, the Greens' candidate in the Lismore electorate, which takes in most rural parts of the Tweed Valley including Murwillumbah, rejected the claim, saying the polling booths at Kunghur and Uki were the closest to the proposed dam site and both voted overwhelmingly for the Greens, who are opposed to the dam.

The issue has divided the two National Party MPs covering Tweed Shire. Mr George declared his support for a new dam, which would be in his seat, at a public rally just before the election, putting him at odds with

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Intruders wreak havoc on wildlife

Murray Simpson

One of Australia's rarest shore birds is feared to have fallen victim to rampaging four-wheel drive vehicles on Fingal Head's Letitia Spit.

The Tweed Bird Observers group says it has been monitoring a pair of beach stone-curlews at Kerosene Inlet at the tip of the spit - but neither has been spotted since September last year.

'We're putting that down to the activities of vehicles and dogs,' said Tweed Birders secretary Linda Brannian.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service says there are less than 14 known breeding pairs of beach stone-curlews in NSW and when a nest was discovered at Brunswick Heads this summer it attracted wide attention.

'A 24-hour watch was mounted on the nest site to keep intruders at bay,' said Ms Brannian, 'but we've had no such luck at Letitia Spit.'

'We carry out a monthly survey of all shore birds at Fingal and we're dismayed at the number of illegal cars on the beach and dogs creating a disturbance.'

Fingal Head locals Adam Clarke and Daniel Cusack hold the new sign, watched by Elder, Auntie Bonnie, in the background. Photo Jeff Dawson

'Stone-curlews are very secretive and well camouflaged but their nests are very vulnerable to predation.'

Rampaging vehicles have caused growing alarm among Fingal interest groups and last week they banded together and erected signs warning drivers they were on private land if they left the road.

Police were invited to the gathering but did not put in an appearance.

Turtles in danger

Fingal Head Coastcare president Kay Bolton said they were specially alarmed at the havoc wrought on the nests of leatherback and green turtles.

'The coastal vegetation is being destroyed by bush bashing and the creation of a network of illegal roads and large areas of vegetation including Banksia forest have been destroyed by fires,' she said.

'The fragile wetlands are being rapidly degraded and destroyed. Letitia Spit is home to many migratory birds like the little tern which are protected

by international agreements but all these illegal activities are destroying their habitat.'

Fingal Head Community Association president John Parker said the issue had been discussed at several meetings and members were extremely concerned at the vandalism of a fragile environment and the threat posed by four wheel drives speeding through the village and down Letitia Road.

Much of the land is owned by the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and their members say they've had enough.

'It's so dangerous living on Letitia Road these days,' said one resident.

'Cars barrel down there creating a dust cloud and we're frightened for the safety of children and old people. Someone is going to get hit soon.'

Other activities impacting on the spit include illegal boat launching, quad and motorbike riding, rubbish dumping, camping and dangerous and illegal fires.

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Tweed 'ideal' for biochar project

Murray Simpson

Ballina Shire is poised to embrace cutting-edge technology to turn its growing green waste problem into electricity and fertiliser while Tweed is wavering in the wings.

Ballina has captured national attention with its plans to build a pyrolysis plant to manufacture biochar from green waste and to fire a power generator with the syngas produced as a by-product.

'We'll be hitting the no or go button within six months,' said Ballina Council's director of waste management Rod Dawson.

Meanwhile Tweed Shire Council's head of waste management Adam Faulkner said biochar technology was only one of a number of options being examined and he could not second-guess which way they would go. And he said any move would be at least six or seven years away.

Ballina's plant, costing \$9 million, will handle two tonnes of green waste an hour operating 24 hours a day and will be four times the size of a pilot plant operating at Summersby on the NSW Central Coast.

The plant will heat waste matter to between 400 and 500 degrees C in the absence of oxygen breaking the matter



Dr Paul Taylor demonstrates how a biochar kiln works at a recent World Environment Day celebration in Murwillumbah. Photo Luis Felio

down into 50 per cent syngas and the balance biochar which has remarkable properties as a fertiliser.

Driving the Ballina project are legislative changes governing landfills.

'We will not be granted permission to open up new landfill sites unless we commit to a new kerbside green waste service,' said Mr Dawson.

'And this in turn will generate more green waste than we, or most other councils, can currently deal with. We could wind up with compost mountains.'

Ballina's green waste service, which handles both garden clippings and kitchen scraps, starts on July 4.

'Of course that's way too soon for our plant to be running but in the meantime Lismore will take our surplus waste and process it at their conventional windrow composting facility. It will give us a chance to get up and running.

'We haven't jumped into this in haste. Nine million dollars is a lot of money for a small shire like ours,' said Mr Dawson.

'We've been developing our business plan for over two years in close consultation with Pacific Pyrolysis, a private company.'

Ballina's venture has been closely watched by biochar expert Paul Taylor of Mount Warning, a retired astrophysicist living in Mount Warning who recently published an authoritative work, *The Biochar Revolution*.

Dr Taylor said biochar was based on a very ancient technique involving cooking green waste in the absence of air.

Biochar was used by pre-Columbian Indians in the Amazon to create oases of fertility in the notoriously poor and leached rainforest soils. The 'midden' soils known as terra preta, or black earth, were of human derivation using sophisticated fire management techniques, said Dr Taylor.

Biochar has been shown to raise soil fertility markedly while locking away vast quantities of carbon in a stable form that won't be released back into the atmosphere for thousands of years, he said.

It has also been very effective

DIY biochar

Fancy building your own pyrolysis plant in your own back yard?

You can find out how at a workshop hosted by biochar enthusiast Paul Taylor.

The five-day 'biochar boot camp' at Eagle Farm eco park at Tyagarah airfield near Byron Bay starting April 30 will feature experts from round the world.

And Dr Taylor said there will be hands-on instruction on building a back yard plant.

For more information contact Dr Taylor on 02 6679 5259 or ptaylor@bigpond.com.

when mixed with conventional fertilisers.

'They found you need much less commercial fertiliser to achieve the same result,' he said.

Dr Taylor said Tweed's cane industry was ideally placed to take advantage of pyrolysis technology.

'A limiting factor is transport costs hauling waste to the pyrolysis plant. The cane industry, however, already has a transport network in place hauling cane to the mill and returning the waste to the farms.

'A pyrolysis plant adjacent

to the Condong mill would be ideal, providing combustible oils to the steam generators and producing a valuable fertiliser at the same time.'

Biochar is currently selling at about \$400 a tonne.

The current system of feeding raw green waste into the furnaces sees the bulk of the matter being burnt leaving a small quantity of ash. It also leaves behind a good deal of potash which creates problems for the furnaces, said Dr Taylor.

A pyrolysis plant, on the other hand, leaves the potassium or potash in the biochar.

Dr Taylor said one inhibiting factor for the biochar industry was the lack of stability in the price on carbon.

'The government keeps changing its mind on fixing a price,' he said.

'It deters potential investors from coming into the industry.' Nevertheless biochar in the Tweed is already attracting commercial attention.

Black is Gold Pty Ltd based in Maleny, Queensland, has confirmed it has opened negotiations with a group at Kunghur for the supply of biochar.

Black is Gold director Dr Stan Joyce said if the Kunghur group can produce sufficient quantities at the right quality then his company is prepared to purchase in 20 tonne consignments with a view of establishing a long-term contract.

It is understood Black is Gold is also negotiating a similar deal in Kyogle and at other sites in NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

'Keep me on track': re-elected MP

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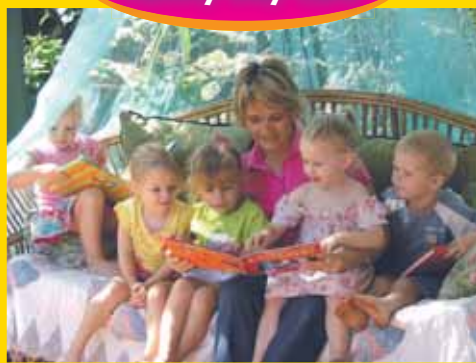
Mr Provest who says he prefers raising the wall of the existing Clarrie Hall Dam to cater for future water supply needs in his electorate downstream.

He warned last year that council would be wasting ratepayers' money by pursuing a new dam when few had been

approved in either NSW or Queensland for 40 years.

The contentious decision, which went against council planners' advice, was made by mayor Kevin Skinner using his casting vote with support from Crs Warren Polglase and Phil Youngblutt, who are senior local National Party supporters.

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Airfield expansion plans draw flak

Murray Simpson

A dogfight in Murwillumbah over an old fighter pilot's garden shows no sign of abating.

The battle has been raging at the gloriously located Bob Whittle airfield for nearly a year and despite the best efforts of Tweed Shire Council chief executive officer Mike Rayner to broker a ceasefire, it still shows no sign of resolution.

The combatants are the Murwillumbah Aero Club and Scenic Rim Aviation, both of whom hold leases at the airfield run by the council.

At issue are plans by Scenic Rim to expand by raising its office to the first floor and installing a hangar underneath.

The problem is Scenic Rim's building is not quite wide

enough to accommodate an aircraft with an 11.5 metre wingspan so it must shave off a piece of the aero club's garden next door.

The club feels strongly about the garden which, it says, has a certain heritage value since it was the wish of highly decorated World War II pilot Bob Whittle that it be preserved.

Desert campaign

'Flying ace Bob Whittle flew Tomahawks in the desert campaign in Libya, where he earned the Distinguished Flying Medal, and later in the Pacific.

Local historian Ron Johansen said he was known as 'the man they couldn't keep down.'

After the war he ran a chemist shop in Murwillumbah's main street for many years.

A feature of the garden is a Bangalow palm which a council arborist inspected and declared far too expensive to shift.

Moving the palm to the Bob Whittle Memorial Garden at the airfield entrance would involve a specialised water blasting truck to cut the roots, a crane and the lowering of the power lines by Country Energy.

The ongoing dispute means neither party can renegotiate a long-term lease with the council. Their existing leases have now lapsed and the council has agreed to let them stay on a month by month basis in the meantime.

The matter has been before the council twice in the past two months and at its last

meeting the council resolved to continue with the temporary lease arrangements for six months pending the outcome of a development investigation report for the eastern tie down area.

Warring parties

Mr Rayner said he had meetings with the warring parties in October last year to try and hammer out a deal 'and some elements of compromise were flagged by both parties at these meetings.'

'But in January 2011 Scenic Rim wrote to council advising that negotiations had once again reached an impasse.'

Mr Rayner said an aero club meeting on March 3 resolved once again to reject Scenic Rim's offer.

TPS sends SOS for palliative volunteers



Tweed Palliative Support volunteer Autumnne Camidge says that as more people in the community call on their services, more volunteers are needed. Photo Jeff Dawson

An SOS has been sent out to people to volunteer to help people facing serious life-shortening illness.

Tweed Palliative Service (TPS) is conducting a training program for volunteers next month but those interested are being urged to register as soon as possible.

Longtime TPS volunteer Autumnne Camidge said team members were 'giving these folk the option to spend their final months, weeks and days in the familiar comfort of their own homes or in the homely comfort of the Wedgetail respite-hospice facility at Dulguigan.

'Death or serious illness is a subject most people are happy to avoid until it forces itself upon them or their loved ones, yet it could happen to any of us at any time,' Ms Camidge said.

'Families and individuals are often struggling with the many challenges that are present during such times, and Tweed Palliative Support are ready to give them both emotional and practical support.'

Newly trained TPS volunteer carers are placed with a 'buddy' to ensure they will feel

confident and comfortable in the service and all volunteers receive ongoing education and support.

'There are many opportunities for volunteer involvement other than hands-on caring with TPS providing transport.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer should call the TPS office on 02 6672 8459. Training begins May 4 and is every Wednesday from 9.30am-3pm until July 6.

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Musos prepare for the Tweed Battle of the Bands

Kate McIntosh

Up and coming young bands from the Tweed and southern Gold Coast will battle it out on stage next Wednesday, April 6.

But often the real battle is just to have their music heard.

The Safer Communities Alliance has organised the inaugural Tweed Battle of the Bands as a way to help local acts showcase their sound to a wider audience.

Alliance secretary Kristie Hedley said Tweed in particular lacked youth-oriented venues.

'There's a real gap in this area,

which makes it hard to get a gig,' she said.

'These kids have got real talent, but they're sort of floundering around wondering what to do.'

The alliance has previously campaigned for cross-border policing and late night transport out of Coolangatta, but is currently focusing on developing more youth events for the area.

Ms Hedley said it's hoped the drug and alcohol-free event, which is being held this week in conjunction with National Youth Week celebrations, will

be held twice a year in future.

Eight bands from the southern Gold Coast and Byron region will perform at the event, which includes metal, pop rock, reggae and rock acts.

Ms Hedley said band members ranged in age from 11 to 30 years, with some acts seasoned performers, while others have never performed publicly.

However, she said the talent of the bands, who must perform original material as part of their set, had been a standout.

'It's quite amazing what these kids are doing in their garage,' she said.

'The quality of the music, I think, is really going to blow people away.'

Competition judges include well known local musos Dan Hannaford and Lucas Proudfoot formerly of Max Judo.

The competition winners receive three days' recording at Crystal Grid Studios in Byron Bay, a gig at Twin Towns paying \$500 and a photography and marketing package.

The battle gets underway tomorrow, Friday (April 1) at 6pm (DST) at Tweed Heads Civic Centre and continues on April 5. The final will be held in April.



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Print awards go on show

The 14th annual Community Printmakers (CPM) National Print Awards go on show at Tweed River Art Gallery tomorrow, Friday, and will be judged and presented this Saturday, April 2, after the exhibition's official opening at 5.30pm (DST).

Judging the 2011 awards is Professor Sasha Grishin, the Sir William Dobell Professor of Art and head of the department of art history at the Australian National University in Canberra.

The awards, organised each year by CPM members in partnership with the gallery, bring together some of the best Australian artist printmakers. This year the award drew 130 entries

from around Australia.

Professor Grishin, who will give a talk on contemporary digital printmaking from 3.30pm, said printmaking at the close of the first decade of the 21st century had emerged as 'one of the most exciting mediums in which much of the best and most innovative art in Australia is being made today.'

Visitors are also invited to attend a free public program on Sunday, April 17, at 10.30am until 12.30pm when printmaker Steve Sawkins will demonstrate the technique of woodblock printing.

The awards exhibition will be on show till the end of next month.



CPM member Claire Beck with her etching and drypoint print 'Bigrade Maid'. Photo Jeff Dawson



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Up, up and away

LEFT: River Barrie from Bilambil with his mate Nalu Harlow and his mum Sharon have fun on the beach during last Sunday's annual Kites and Bikes Festival at Brunswick Heads.

Despite the lowering skies the family fun day drew thousands of people from around the region.

The Terrace was closed to cars and given over to a wide variety of bikes, scooters and skateboards, while the parks and beaches saw kite flying competitions and displays.

As well as all the fun to be had, various community groups benefited from fundraising on the day. Photo Jeff 'Broken String' Dawson



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Mossies stung by heavy rain, high tides

Murray Simpson

Tweed's mossier menace has subsided significantly thanks to recent heavy fresh water flushing of the notorious Terranora mangroves.

Council entomologist Clive Easton said the poorly flushed Terranora wetland was the Tweed's most chronic and prolific mosquito breeding area.

But he said insect numbers were well down this year due to the frequent flooding and flushing of the area by high spring tides and heavy rain associated with the current La Niña event.

In a report tabled at the last council meeting Mr Easton said the 18-hectare site had been extensively monitored in recent months by Griffith University's School of Environmental Science and Australian Rivers Institute and the council's own entomology unit.

The research project was funded by the Australian mosquito and arbovirus research committee and the NSW Rec-

Barmah Forest virus warning current

Residents and visitors to the North Coast are being urged to protect themselves against mosquito bites after a sudden spike in cases of Barmah Forest virus in the Northern Rivers.

The North Coast Public Health Unit has warned of an expected seasonal increase in the risk of contracting mosquito-borne disease over the coming weeks and also over the Easter holiday break.

A spokesperson said both Ross River Virus and Barmah Forest Virus were common on the coast and the diseases caused by these viruses can result in painful or swollen joints, sore muscles, skin rashes, fever, fatigue, and headaches.

'We have had 93 Barmah Forest Virus notifications so far this year which is 75 per cent above the five-year average for the same time period. Ross River Virus notifications are currently at 29, which is 59 per cent lower than the number of cases we would have expected by this stage of the season,' the spokesperson said.

reational Fishing Trust.

Researchers found there had been a marked decline in mosquito numbers, reduced water acidity and an increase in fish numbers due to the 'phenomenal run of large large spring tides.'

Mr Easton said research was focusing on potential habitat modifications to the wetland to improve the site's water quality

and biodiversity as well as to reduce mosquito numbers.

But approval was still needed from the NSW Land and Property Management Authority to carry out works to improve tidal flushing.

The summer months saw a steady number of mosquito-borne diseases reported.

Mr Easton said there were 21 arbovirus notifications in

Locals have their say on Kingy park

An online community forum about concept plans for a central park at Kingscliff has drawn a strong response, according to Tweed Shire Council.

The month-long forum, at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/kingscliffpark, closes on April 12 and council is urging more residents to participate.

Council's senior design engineer, Warren Boyd, said the forum was 'really about fine-tuning the design of Kingscliff Central Park, to ensure it contains the features and facilities the community wants.'

'A previous round of public consultation in 2007, to create the Kingscliff Foreshore Master Plan, identified what the community wanted at each section of the town's foreshore,' Mr Boyd said.

'There was clear cut support for a reduction in the size of the Kingscliff Beach Holiday Park and the creation of a community park in the land it vacated.'

He said the online forum



Online plan of Kingscliff central park

would help to decide what will go in that park.

Mr Boyd said the foreshore master plan mapped out a staged upgrade of the whole Kingscliff foreshore from Cudgen Creek to the Kingscliff North Holiday Park.

'It specifically identifies the site between the Cudgen Headland Surf Life Saving Club and Kingscliff Beach Club for the Central Park, which will serve as a community hub and strategic link between the beach and Kingscliff's central business district,' he said.

A spokesman said council

did not currently have the funds to create the central park, however, the project gained added momentum last week when it was incorporated into a list of projects for a regional development plan.

It was one of five projects identified by the March council meeting for inclusion in a Northern Rivers Regional Plan. It will be considered by Regional Development Australia - Northern Rivers panel for inclusion in the finalised plan, along with major regional development initiatives throughout the Northern Rivers.



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Volume 3 #29

March 31, 2011

Disappearing black holes

We know it's traditional for new governments to shriek with horror that they have found a budgetary 'black hole' in the books of their predecessors, but new premier Barry O'Farrell really went over the top with an imaginary \$4.5 billion shortfall announced just two days after winning the election.

The 'black hole' figure was achieved by doubling an already outdated forecast deficit of \$2.1 billion for 2013-14, which itself represented just two per cent of revenue, no more than a 'rounding error' according to economists. The real story is that the government actually starts its term from a financially stronger position, with revenues projected to be \$228 million higher over the rest of this financial year and in the 2012 year.

The 'black hole' version was spin-doctoring cooked up by Liberal Party innumerates and swallowed whole by the mainstream media on Tuesday. At the time you could discover the truth of the matter by checking out specialist news sites such as crikey.com.au, and the next day there was some back-peddalling in the major papers, but the intended impression had no doubt been made by then in the minds of voters: the incoming government has less money than it thought, so expect cuts in services.

Journalists defend this uncritical acceptance of political propaganda by referring to the 'news cycle'. Everything happens so quickly these days that there is no time to check, no time to analyse if you are being fed genuine facts or bullshit. So the big Goebbels lie gets the front page treatment, and the follow-up correction, if it gets made at all, is relegated to a tiny space at the back.

In the Tweed the major parties are past masters of this technique, along with the willing participation of the local daily. This time, as we showed last week, the Greens were the target and the trigger was the thoroughly dishonest letter from Catholic bishops, published two weeks ago but 'discovered' by the National Party just before polling day, allowing no opportunity for reply.

It gives this paper no pleasure to tell people not to trust the press, but the 'black hole' affair shows a disturbing sign that the new state government will not be as closely scrutinised by the corporate media as the last one was.

Abbott embraces the howling mob

My mother used to have a homely saying for it: 'Tell me who your friends are, and I'll tell you who you are.'

If this adage is to be applied to the events of last week, it would appear that Tony Abbott is raving ratbag, a ranting bigot whose ignorance of science is matched only by his lack of manners.

The howling mob who surrounded him at the mini-rally outside Parliament House last Wednesday undoubtedly included some who were genuinely concerned about the impact a carbon tax might have on their household budgets and the wider economy, but the ones making the noise – including the majority of the speakers – came straight from la-la land.

If Abbott really believes that this manifestation of his people's revolution represents a snapshot of middle Australia, he has a truly bizarre picture of the nation he seeks to lead. Not many middle Australians seek to spend a working-day morning paying to be bussed to Canberra for a campaign supported by the shock-jock Chris Smith, a gibbering demagogue in the style of Alan Jones but without the couth.

And those who did would hardly have felt comfortable surrounded by the wild-eyed conspiracy-theorists of One Nation, The League of Rights, and the self-appointed Consumers and Taxpayers Association, to name but three of the right-wing rent-a-crowds who leapt gratefully on board Chris Smith's bandwagon.

As another homily has it, a man is known by the company he keeps.

Abbott must have seen that the gathering was pretty much out of control before making an appearance. To have done so at all was crazy-brave, but to have

done so without taking the elementary precaution of moving the more offensive placards out of camera range was madness. After all, there is a precedent.

In 1970 Gough Whitlam as opposition leader was called out of parliament to address what was advertised as a rally against the Vietnam war.

Unfortunately not all the protesters were pacifists; some were waving Viet Cong flags, and an enterprising photographer from the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* set

simply trade union officials.

And if Abbott could not see the difference, a lot of his colleagues were uncomfortably aware of it. Most, including his deputy Julie Bishop, his treasury spokesman Joe Hockey and of course Malcolm Turnbull, had declined the invitation to show themselves. In the end his praetorian guard consisted of Eric Abetz, Barnaby Joyce, Bronwyn Bishop, Sophie Mirabella and Cory Bernardi – fringe dwellers all. In any situation it would not

oppose the only effective measure, a price on carbon.

But if the people believe the science, very few of them will join the revolution; for his shock troops, he has to rely on sceptics and denialists, who inevitably include large numbers of nutters. And there will be more rallies, perhaps bigger and better and noisier. Will Abbott continue to address them? If he does he's asking for trouble but if he doesn't he risks being seen as a coward and a hypocrite.

There is an old political rule: never set up an inquiry unless you are certain of the result. Abbott should consider a corollary: never call for a revolution unless you can choose your own revolutionaries.

For his shock troops Abbott has to rely on sceptics and denialists, who inevitably include large numbers of nutters.

by Mungo MacCallum



up a shot which made it appear that Whitlam was speaking underneath them.

There were immediate and thunderous repercussions; the deputy Prime Minister of the day, John McEwen, declared in parliament that Whitlam should be charged with treason. Eventually other photographs were located which showed Whitlam had actually been nowhere near the offending flags, but a great deal of damage was done.

Abbott and his loyal supporters tried to get out of their predicament by saying that in objecting to being labelled 'Juliar: Bob Brown's Bitch' the Prime Minister was just being precious; after all, John Howard had been called some mean and hurtful things too, on placards at rallies which had been addressed by Labor ministers Greg Combet and Bill Shorten. True, but at those rallies neither Combet nor Shorten was presenting himself as the alternative prime minister. In fact neither was even in parliament; they were

have been a good look; at that rally with those placards it was a public relations disaster.

And the final irony is that Abbott didn't even endear himself to the ralliers. Of course they cheered when he inveighed against the carbon tax, but there were gasps of horror, mutterings of discontent and even a few audible boos when he told them that the scientific evidence was that climate change was real, and at least partly man-made.

This was not what they had heard from Alan Jones and Chris Smith; and it should not be forgotten that Abbott's personal religious adviser, Cardinal-Archbishop George Pell, was a fervent and vocal denier of climate change. But here was Abbott, mouthing heresy – even blasphemy. Was their hero turning, God forbid, rational?

This, of course, is Abbott's ongoing political contradiction. He says he believes the science, but rejects the scientific solution. Instead he proposes 'direct action', which is populist nonsense, and calls for a people's revolution to

So the long-awaited ritual slaughter has taken place in New South Wales, and the righteous bloodlust of the electorate has been assuaged, at least for the time being.

But there is more, much more, to be done if those who are really guilty are to be included in the purge.

The surviving true believers must don protective clothing and make their way into the cesspool of Sussex Street with flamethrowers and fire hoses. Only when the poisonous blindworms who have masterminded the catastrophe have been utterly expunged can the party begin its long overdue task of renewal.

The signs are not good; just about the only person to have emerged from the debacle with any honour or credibility, Kristina Kenneally, has effectively abandoned the front line. In these parlous times it will be hard to find anyone else with the courage or stamina to lead the attack. But unless the brutal work is done, New South Wales Labor's malaise will remain beyond human aid.

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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 Please include your full name, address and phone number.

Camphor issues

Thanks for the article about camphor clearing at Burringbar. It is good that *The Echo* publicises such a wide range of issues and discusses them in detail.

Camphor removal for 'green' energy is an important issue that has been overlooked by local conservation groups and needs to be addressed. Council (sigh) needs to take a stronger stand to ensure that such areas are better managed.

Camphor laurels for green energy is yet another example of how great sustainable initiatives are developed by community action and then grossly mismanaged by government and industry in order for them to keep pursuing an industrial work ethic.

The use of wood for electricity is a technological backward step. Humanity started burning coal in the 18th and 19th centuries as it was a more efficient energy source than timber. In Tweed it seems that the economic and social ideologies of the 19th century are alive and strong. More water means more dams; more jobs means more land clearing and development, more energy means burning plants.

Maybe, just maybe, the cleared vegetation from any proposed dam site would end up at the co-generation plant to power it into the future, or perhaps they could use all the threatened species that council has removed from the roadsides! (The flail mower cut a swathe out of the endangered small leaved Tamarind *Diploglottis campbellii* site at Kelly's road - off Tyalgum Road - the other day).

Sam Dawson
Eungella

Charity gone

I must commend OnTrack Community Options for their perseverance in trying to operate the Tip Shop at Stotts Creek waste facility. They have been faced with massive rent charges and hamstrung by Solo management, who continued to renege on the scrap metal which was part of the original contract negotiation with OnTrack.

This metal recycling would have paved the way for OnTrack to be profitable and put into place a lot more programs for the mentally disabled in our community. Remember that this money would not have gone into anyone's pocket, but be used to provide extra programs of help that

continued overleaf

Election post mortem

■ OK. The Coalition has certainly won in NSW.

A good victory speech Barry O'Farrell, with mention of transport, hospitals and re-writing the State Planning Act 'to curb overdevelopment by developers'. Did I hear right? Oh boy! The Tweed will have all of that, thank you.

Over to you, Geoff Provest! Your mob is in and we expect real action now. *Pronto!*

Alan Davis
Pottsville

■ I am a staunch rusted-on Labor person. I believe in the core Labor principles of socialism and a 'fair go'. Compassion to stand up for the poor and the weak and the dispossessed. Social justice and the rights of the working class against rampant capitalism.

That is why I voted Green. That is why I vote Green in local, state and federal elections and have done for over twenty years. I have remained true but Labor hasn't. We have had a succession of prime ministers, premiers and local leaders who have donned the Labor robes simply because they are too lazy to form a party of their own, or find the Coalition ranks too closed. Malcolm Turnbull had no trouble switching from Labor to Liberal - he knew in practice there was no existing ideological difference between the two parties. His aim was the cult of leadership, the same as Hawke, Keating and Keneally.

Ms Keneally has gained accolades on her courage to fight the election to the last sound bite. But she was merely working on her CV. In doing so she added the final nails to the Labor brand coffin in NSW. Never mind, Ms Keneally belongs with capital and big business - and she knows it.

That is why I voted Green - because I am a Labor person.

William K Collins
Murwillumbah

■ I am appalled by the vicious and misleading ad authorised by Murray Lees of Dulguigan.

The ad headlined 'Greens party policies are dangerous' appeared in a north coast newspaper on March 24 and misrepresented official Greens party policies. The ad warns voters that the Greens have radical anti-family policies like cutting road safety programs.

Hello? The Greens were the only party in NSW parliament (joined by some independents) to vote in favour of road safety by opposing the bad example of publicly-funded rally races.

The Murray Lees ad includes an appeal to paranoid xenophobia with the equally false claim the Greens will open the floodgates to illegal immigration. Really? Must be a well-kept secret rather than a Greens public policy.

So why have the National Party plotters let their attack dog off the leash? Do they think voters want to read such trash? Lees was forced to resign from the ruling group of the party in January 2010 following a string of drink-driving convictions but was allowed back in the fold as campaign manager in May the same year after a stint in rehab.

It seems to me that Mr Lees needs more time off. The National Party would do well to renounce his tactics. Tweed voters respect truth not smear.

Scott Sledge
Kingscliff

■ I would like to congratulate Thomas George on winning the seat of Lismore in last week's state election. Thomas was always courteous and polite even as we argued over issues in Meet The Candidates forums across the huge electorate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Greens supporters who helped our campaign.

However, I do not think Thomas George can claim a win in his so-called referendum on Byrrell Creek dam. The polling booths of Kunghur and Uki are the closest to the proposed dam and therefore include those most affected by it. Last Saturday, those two polling booths voted overwhelmingly for the Greens not the Nationals. In Uki for instance, Greens received 45 per cent of the vote and ALP, who also opposed the dam, received almost 13 per cent. Nats received 33.7 per cent. A similar result was received in Kunghur and again, a clear majority was given to the candidates who opposed the dam.

Thomas George cannot rightly claim it is a referendum on the dam when it includes voters from Goonellabah and as far away as Woodenbong and Bonalbo, who were not aware of the issues relating to the Byrrell Creek dam proposal.

Susan Stock
Greens Candidate for Lismore

■ The statements attributed to 'former Greens candidate Kevin McCready' on page 4 of the *Tweed Daily News* (March 26) have no connection with the Tweed Greens. Mr McCready is not associated with the Tweed Greens, and no longer lives in the Tweed area.

I find it regrettable that *TDN* took the unusual step of publishing these comments in a dedicated story on page 4 of the election edition. I find it more regrettable that the paper did so after Geoff Provest contacted *TDN* and drew their attention to those comments. I would like to assure readers that they do not represent the views of the Tweed Greens.

Greens policy in areas such as voluntary euthanasia and equitable access to a good education is rooted in values shared by Christians: compassion, equity and tolerance. I know many Christian members of the Greens.

If you have any queries about Greens policy and how it relates to your faith or your child's education, we welcome you to ask us. We publish all our policies on our website at www.nsw.greens.org.au, and the Tweed Greens can be reached on 0459 360 394.

Andrea Vickers
Greens candidate for Tweed

■ If the good bishops of NSW see it as their duty to speak up about 'serious concerns of... human dignity' at election time, perhaps they could also spotlight would-be PM Tony Abbott and his dubious moral credentials.

The recent gathering on the lawn at Canberra showed the opposition leader at his characteristic dirtiest. Championing the uneducated followers of junk science and shock radio (ugly banners and all) is one thing but claiming them as 'middle Australia' is another. If this is middle Australia, then dear bishops, we need both your spoken intervention and your prayers.

Let us pray for more faith in Australia than that, as well as more faith in the Greens who above all other parties stand for a healthy and human environment.

S Burke
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The folly of centralised sewerage

From the point of view of ecological sustainability, of the three legalised methods of toiletting in Australia, composting toilets are the preferred environmental response, with septic toilets second and centralised infrastructure water closets (WCs) regarded as backward.

Centralised WCs use potable water in this, one of the driest countries in the world, where there is concern for the damming of watercourses. The WCs' excessive demand for infrastructure such as pipes, pumping stations and treatment plants contributes to

greenhouse gas in their making, and thus unduly threaten the primary base of life – air. WCs are also engaged in the non-return of organic carbon to crop and grazing land. In short the WC threatens all three of the primary bases of life – air, water and soil. In a progressive society looking for environmental cure, rather than the denial and procrastination currently taking place, WCs would be phased out.

The *Tweed Shire Echo's* report of the attempt to bring sewerage to Mooball and Burringbar (March 17) is another example of Tweed Shire Council's inability to come to terms with the environment. The estimated cost of \$70,000 per tenement for centralised sewerage is a gross overestimation of the cost required to use sewage responsibly in the 21st century. The reported 'overflowing septic' just require pumping out, or upgrading with sand filters and/or reed beds as is state of the art sewage septic tank operation at this time. The cost of upgrading to this would be less than a third of the estimated \$70,000.

The cost of a stand-alone composting toilet built instead would be about one tenth of \$70,000. Then there would be water saving as well as direct carbon return to the soil with the added advantage that fruit

freed could be grown around houses with ready-provided fertiliser to reduce food-mile footprints. For those who choose septic upgrading or composting toilets, TSC could foot the bill as a far cheaper alternative than centralised sewerage.

It is not as though we do not know the environmental path as far as sewage is concerned. Ribbon development, of which centralised sewerage is a part, refuses to factor in the need for green belts that supply farm produce in between urban centres. Eventually the cost of supplying food from long distances creates major inefficiencies.

Graeme Taylor in *Evolution's Edge* summarises part of Joseph Tainter's thesis in *The Collapse of Complex Societies*: 'Complex societies are vulnerable to collapse because of the economic law of diminishing returns; while they must expand and develop more complex structures in order to acquire new resources, as they expand the costs of obtaining additional resources tends to rise. At the point where costs begin to outweigh benefits, the society becomes unsustainable.' This can be seen also in terms of supply lines during war. During WWII Hitler lost the war in north Africa basi-

cally because his supply lines were overextended. In our society, visionless in regards to balancing the economic and the ecological, it is too tempting to sell coastal land for urban development, than to give much of it over to food supply which comparably only earns modest income. Peak oil and phosphorous are also inevitably increasing food costs.

Some people say 'the greens' want to take us back to the caves. The collapse of complex societies leads to the cave! More exactly, after the collapse of the Roman Empire, what followed for Europe was centuries of the Dark Ages. What appears to be common among the descendants of collapsed civilisations is a general amnesia about the causes. One can understand it. After collapse, there is so much activity surrounding survival that this is the major concern, and causes have little relevance. But we live blessedly at the time when we experience and gain knowledge – not belief or speculation, but knowledge – of the causes of civilisation collapse.

You can see it clearly in the attempt to run centralised sewerage to Mooball and Burringbar at this late hour of environmental crisis.

Geoff Dawe
Uki



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continued from page 7

this charity provides.

I think it's disgusting that OnTrack had to beg so many times to Solo to honour their part of the agreement. This metal recycling was an ever-diminishing carrot dangled on an ever-increasing pole, only to get further and further away from reach.

Now the money from the tip shop will go into a private pocket, leaving OnTrack with cancelling much valued programs for the disadvantaged.

Pablo Rameriz
Kunghur

■ **Tweed Shire Council has advised that Solo will be reinstating the shop staff when the centre changes hands in April – Ed.**

New Byangum park

I am writing to address the concerns of some of the public regarding the establishment of a memorial park at Byangum.

After the unsafe order was placed on the original Hatton's Fig Tree at Byangum by Tweed Shire Council, the Uki and South Arm Historical Society set about to ensure that the history surrounding the tree would be saved.

Our Society received overwhelming support from members of the Hatton family, descendants of original settlers and current residents, to persevere with preserving not only the fig (by collect-

ing seeds and taking cuttings) but bringing the history of Byangum to the public's attention.

Mary Lee Connery and Penny Watsford from our Society approached Council staff last year with our ideas and now these plans are set to be realised.

The riverside park will commemorate what was one of the three major settlements on the Tweed River. These settlement/towns were Tumbulghum, Kunghur and Byangum, all of which were subdivided into lots. Byangum was vital to the growth of the area. Harry Hatton's launch took cream to the butter factory, children to school and offered passenger services. This was before roads were constructed and Byangum was the head of navigation. Logs were floated down from villages upstream to be loaded on sailing ships and taken to Sydney.

Our Society has an early map of Byangum, showing two parishes, which we would like to see reproduced on a sign at the park. This map, along with a list of the first, is part of the image we have for this memorial park. A more desirable area will evolve with the removal of rubbish weeds which have got a foothold on the southern side of the bridge. The park will link the old bridge with the new.

As the new sapling, grown

in the Tweed Shire Council nursery, flourishes people visiting the park will discover this important part of the Shire. Byangum – Gateway to the South Arm.

Detailed information can be readily and eagerly given by historical societies at Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah and Uki and South Arm.

Helena Duckworth

President, Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc

The ABC and disasters

In recent months the reporting of natural disasters has been an issue on everyone's mind.

On Saturday, April 9, the Northern Rivers branch of the Friends of the ABC will host a seminar on 'The Role of the ABC in periods of Natural Disaster'. The seminar will be held at the Bangalore Bowling and Sports Club starting at 2pm.

The seminar will be addressed by a panel of speakers including Peter McCutcheon (7.30 presenter, Brisbane) and Justine Frazier (regional content manager and breakfast presenter, ABC North Coast).

Representatives from local SES, police and the area health service have been invited to join the panel.

Members of the audience will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the value of ABC reporting during

continued opposite

Who's for and against koalas

Please remember the following councillors when in five or ten years north coast koalas in Cobaki and southeast Queensland are extinct: Cr Polglase, Cr Youngblutt, Cr Holdom, Cr Skinner and Cr van Lieshout.

At the March council meeting, they all voted against a koala management plan for Cobaki Lakes estates. Only Cr Milne and Cr Longland voted in favour.

On behalf of all Tweed koala lovers who were not present, I let four councillors know how ashamed they should be of themselves as they filed past me on their way to dinner.

Mayor Skinner (who vowed to protect this lovely environment) ignored me, as did Cr Polglase. Cr Youngblutt laughed. 'This isn't about koalas. It's about getting rid of Cobaki. Grow up!' Did he mean that only children care about koalas but not adults? Isn't it against council's Code of Conduct to address residents disrespectfully?

Why did Cr Holdom, who is on the Koala Advisory Board, vote against a koala management plan? She replied, 'One day, Menkit, you and I are going to have an intelligent chat.'

So we have one councillor who thinks it's infantile to protect koalas and another who thinks it's unintelligent



to protect koalas.

A pity Cr van Lieshout didn't appear. She insisted that councillors represent the people and don't need community consultation on Cobaki. Yet the majority of Tweed residents want koalas protected, so clearly councillors are not representing voters at all.

Are councillors so afraid of being sued by the developer (Leda Holdings) that they won't stand up to him? Or are they pro-development because it fills council's coffers? Either way, no matter who you voted for at the elections, the real

people pulling the strings of councils and governments are the developers and corporations.

What a pity Tweed council doesn't have the cojones to stand up to these bullies!

The world will go to the pits, koalas diving in first, followed by all our precious biodiversity, then us. Chief Seattle said, 'This we know. All things are connected. What befalls the animals befalls the sons of man.'

Bye bye, koalas. A sad day.

Menkit Prince
Uki

continued from page 8

periods of natural disaster.

The seminar will be open to the public. A donation of \$5 will be requested to cover venue hire and other costs.

Anyone wishing to have a meal at the club prior to the seminar should make a reservation by calling the club restaurant on 02 6687 1235. Lunch is from noon till 2pm. Afternoon tea will be provided at the conclusion of the seminar at an additional cost of \$2.50. To assist with catering and seating arrangements, please email: neville.jennings@scu.edu.au or mobile 0405 244903 (by Thursday, April 7) if you plan to attend the seminar and take advantage of afternoon tea.

Neville Jennings
Kingscliff

is less than one per cent of properties in the Tweed Shire. To say that this number of installs has distorted the local solar market conveniently ignores the impact of the NSW feed-in tariff being reduced from \$0.60 to \$0.20.

Tweed Shire Council will continue to encourage local companies to submit tenders for their services; however, council can only assess submissions based on the advertised assessment criteria.

Council is legally unable to provide preferential treatment to local suppliers.

Finally, can I add that Mr Welling needs to confine his criticisms to council policy and the legislation within which it operates and not target council employees.

David Oxenham

Director, Community and Natural Resources, TSC

■ Mr Welling did not name council employees in our letters page - Ed.

Solar tenders

In reply to the letter 'Why have local solar companies been snubbed by TSC?' last week, Tweed Shire Council selected a partner for the Tweed Solar Community Program after 14 tenders were assessed against the criteria of capability, product, price and community donation. The successful tender scored the highest and was awarded the tender.

The Tweed Solar Community contract was for 200 installs with an option to extend to 400 installs if demand was high enough. In total, this

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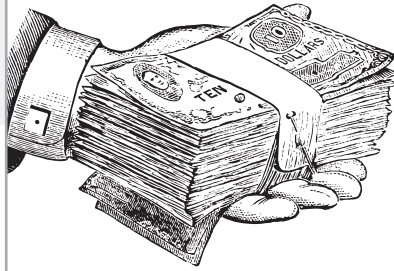
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SUPER HAPPY

I recently attended the screening of *The Economics of Happiness* at the **Byron Bay Film Festival** and was impressed with the film's effort to educate all of us on the benefits of sustainable living. At the end of the film, a Q & A session with the star of the documentary raised questions about what we can do to help our planet, fellow man/woman and our local businesses to avoid complete market domination by major global corporations. Most of us on the Northern Rivers appreciate the beauty of this region and are conscious about efforts to sustain it. But we can do much more!

A powerful tool overlooked!

There is one major area many overlook, however, when trying to do our best for the environment and communities. Its power can have fantastic effects and is yours to control—unfortunately many are not aware of how or where to start. Your money, your superannuation may be invested in companies that may not share your principals and ethics. For example, companies involved in manufacturing or sale of alcohol and tobacco, gambling facilities and equipment, uranium extraction, weapons, genetically modified foods or those with poor human/animal rights history. You may not want to invest in such companies...but there's a good chance you are...via your super!

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Total returns % (after fees) at 28 Feb 2011	1 yr	2 yrs	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs
Socially Responsible Fund	9.9	41.3	5.8	6.9	10.9
Aust Share Index Fund	8.4	25.3	-0.8	3.4	9.3

Past performance is no indication of future performance.

Time to get happy about your super?

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Ph 02 6687 6566 or send an email to simon@financialsense.com.au**

KEY TIPS ABOUT SUPER

Get interested in your super. It's your investment for your retirement.

Look before you leap when choosing a fund. Compare retirement and insurance benefits and other features. Keep fees and charges down.

Super's a long-term investment, so take investment ups and downs in your stride.

Consolidate your super accounts, where possible, to avoid paying fees for more than one account and to stop you losing track of your super. Keep your fund(s) up to date with your address and how you'd like your death benefits paid.

If you're changing or consolidating super funds, make sure you don't lose valuable insurance benefits.

Make sure your fund knows your Tax File Number. It helps you keep track of your super, makes sure your super is taxed at the special low rate and ensures you are not subject to extra restrictions on making contributions.

Steer clear of super scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it's probably a lie. Money Smart - Simple Guidance you can trust.

What do you get from Super?

Super is an excellent way to save money for your retirement because of the tax concessions and other government benefits. Super funds may also offer additional benefits, such as life insurance cover, and total and permanent disability insurance (insurance if you become disabled or sick for an extended period of time).

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inside

Soapbox
p12

Out of
p15

Cinema
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Out of
p13

Good
taste
p14



Coming Soon

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SONGLINE
UKI HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
APRIL 9

MARSHALL AND THE
FRO
SOUNDLOUNGE
APRIL 15

ANZAC DAY
SPECTACULAR
COOLANGATTA HOTEL
APRIL 25

KASEY CHAMBERS &
SHANE NICHOLSON
TWIN TOWNS
MAY 6

SOUNDLOUNGE
MAY 13
ERIC BIBB



DEYA DOVA
CURRUMBIN
SOUNDLOUNGE
FRIDAY

Shifting, lilting, erupting and exploding

When Deya Dova steps on stage the atmosphere shifts and tilts on end. Life erupts from within the crowd as this luminous and high-energy dance happening explodes. The sound of Deya Dova is undeniably tribal. Fusing an exotic mix of dance, world and electro. Think the Drummers of Burundi meet Trentemoller, mashed with a twist of Bjork and the radical vocal layering of someone refreshingly unique.

Hailing from the Nullarbor desert in South Oz, Deya's take on music is wide screen. Known in the past to hammer guitars with a chopstick in a rock/acoustic intensity, explore the edges of ambient, global sounds and unabashedly experiment with developing her own vocal language, Deya Dova is an artist of flair and no fear. Now, as she synthesises past and present, her love for a solid dance vibe has been bought to the forefront and she emerges as one of the most creative and exciting singer/producers smack bang in the middle of her own genre – with Tijuana Cartel, **Currumbin Soundlounge, Friday.**

The Cartel from Tijuana

If Carlos Santana had been hanging out in Iraq for the last 10 years then he would have to sound something like the Gold Coast's own **Tijuana Cartel**. Their performances are a concoction of multi-layered grooves, splashes of Middle Eastern vocals, lilting Moby-esque soundscapes, Flamenco and slide guitar, trumpet, electronic world beats and live Latin Cuban percussion. A fusion of world music and phat electronic beats. Their musical energy and unrestrained delivery is thrilling audiences wherever they perform. Their tunes meander their way across the bumpiest musical terrain, a rhythmic body moved with stately deliberation creating inspiring and infectious rhythms that you just cannot help but dance to. It is a live show not to miss. **Friday Currumbin Soundlounge.**

Here are your 15 minutes

This month's line-up features jazz with **Marcus Nassner** and **Rudi Gerhardt**. The Blackboard Acts for this session include **Jessica Armour** with sweet vocals, **Isabella Cecere** with her big show songs, **David White** with his great tenor love songs, **Sean O'Hara** with his wonderful folk sound, **Charlee McConnell**, a young, bright and stylish singer, along with well known local muso dad **Bill McConnell**. **Tjis** is a local talent live community variety show that has caught on and has a life of its own, with profes-

sional staging, great atmosphere and great food. **Fifteen Minutes of Fame** is on at the **Stokers Siding Hall, Friday.**

Rematch with Beccy and Adam

Beccy Cole and Adam Harvey are two of the most recognised names in Australian country music and together are as much a comedy act as a musical one. Now the hilarious duo are presenting a show aptly named **The Rematch**. After touring together in 2006 to rapturous applause and belly laughs coupled with both audience and critical acclaim, they're back once again sharing the stage to challenge each other night after night. **The Rematch** tour travelled far and wide around Australia in 2010, so Beccy and Adam are again packing their bags and are hitting the road this year. Beccy Cole had an amazing year in 2010 with the release of her album *Pre-Loved*, and also landed the coveted job of co-host alongside 2UE's Ray Hadley at this year's 39th Jayco Country Music Awards of Australia. Adam Harvey had an equally successful year with the release of his album *Best So Far*, a collection of his favourite tracks spanning his lengthy career. Adam was nominated for two Golden Guitar awards (APRA Song of the Year and Vocal Collaboration of the Year with The McClymonts), and also enjoyed a sold-out tour through NSW with good mate Troy Cassar-Daley. See **The Rematch** on **Saturday at Twin Towns.**

Fair Dinkum Bohos

Since late last century, **Vasudha Harte** has been forging a path as a talented, diverse singer-songwriter and poetess, playing the Byron Shire and beyond with her sultry vocals, pianistic prowess and natural, engaging stage presence. Around the same time, **Jem Edwards** spent six years playing free jazz piano in UK clubs and later became involved in the classic off-beat African Hi Life Sound. When Fela Kuti was arrested carrying US\$50,000 out of Nigeria and jailed for five years, members of his band remained in London and formed the band Blue with Jem on keyboards. While producing shows for the Royal Shakespeare Company, Jem created acoustic blues outfit Six O'Clock Shadow, 'cutting heads' with an array of formidable guitarists.

Vasudha and Jem now combine their extensive musicality and get their mojo working with multiple instruments and styles, embellishing finely crafted songs with free improvisation. They float, flirt and rumble their way through

songs and play exciting four-hander duets on the piano. Check them out in the lush and intimate setting of the **Red Piano Bar** at the **Uki Cafe** this **Saturday** night and look out for their evolving band **Dinkum Bohos**, set to tour the UK in the European summer. **The Red Piano Bar at Uki on Saturday.**

When you've got the Blues in your veins

Bluesvein is the persona of two men: Marcus Makin on the keyboards with vocals, Ian Rowe brings vocals and guitar.

Both of these musos have decades of performance behind them. Rowe is working with Preston Train, a rock/funk/blues outfit and Caboose a rock covers trio. Makin has taken his deep gravelly voice on the solo path. He likes to blend the blues through his influences of jazz and classical. Last year the two formed Bluesvein and since then their audience appreciation has been on the rise. See them on **Sunday** at the **Sphinx Rock Cafe.**

Seniors, let's get together for World Health Day

This event, held in the privacy of the Currumbin RSL event room, is linked to World Health Day and Debbie

Smith from Healthy Inspirations at the Pines will be a guest speaker. She will be discussing health benefits for seniors. How to get out of bed with a spring in your step, how to keep your mind stimulated and have more strength and confidence. She will also offer free blood pressure tests.

Enjoy performances by Currumbin Primary students, be entertained by talented



TIJUANA CARTEL AT
CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE
FRIDAY



MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE COMPANY'S
THE WRONG WINDOW MURWILLUMBAH
CIVIC CENTRE FRIDAY

SEVEN



TWEED THEATRE COMPANY'S CINDERELLA KIDS AND ARISTOCATS KIDS

Ron Kitchin and Co, and Currumbin Community Special School students have offered to assist with service. There will also be lucky door prizes and Easter hampers as raffle prizes. Bookings are essential and transport may be supplied depending on your area. \$8 per person and includes tea/coffee and cake. **Currumbin RSL, Thursday 7 April.**

Classical Performance

A pair of classics at Hanging Rock

Local flute soloist and teacher **Carmelia MacWilliam** is giving a classical recital with pianist **Nicholas Routley**. The emotive performance of their music will be introduced as usual by informative commentary about the composers and interesting anecdotes surrounding the composition of the pieces.

After international study, teaching and performance careers, and both Carmelia and Nicholas were individually drawn to live in this region, where they met and created a musical partnership about a year ago. Since returning to performing after a 20-year hiatus, Carmelia has been heard locally as soloist with the NRSO, at the Tyalgum Festival, in several Ukitopia events, with the Neptune Productions theatre orchestra, and on numerous other occasions. Nicholas occupies his 'retirement' with a busy composing and performing schedule, and was particularly delighted to discover the beautiful grand piano at Hanging Rock Hall. See Carmelia and Nicholas, **Hanging Rock Hall, Barker's Vale, (west of Nimbin) Saturday.**

Art Exhibitions

National Print Awards

The **Tweed River Art Gallery** is very pleased to host the 2011 **CPM National Print Awards** from April 1 to May 29. The Awards are organised each year by members of Community Printmakers Murwillumbah (CPM) in partnership with the Tweed River Art

Gallery. It is commendable that members of CPM have continued the growth of the CPM National Print Awards from its inception in 1992 to present the 14th awards in 2011. The judge for the 2011 CPM National Print Awards is Professor Sasha Grishin, the Sir William Dobell Professor of Art and Head of the Department of Art History at the Australian National University in Canberra. All are welcome to join Gallery staff, artists and special guests for the official exhibition openings and the announcement of the CPM Awards winners by Professor Grishin at the Gallery at 5.30pm (NSW) on Saturday 2 April 2011. With over 130 entries, this year's Award brings together some of the best Australian artist print-makers. Professor Grishin will have the difficult, but pleasurable,

task of selecting winners of the \$5000 Tweed Shire Council Acquisitive Award, the \$2000 Friends of the Gallery Acquisitive Award, the \$1000 acquisitive Tony Abernethy Memorial Award, the \$1000 Leslie J Pulman Award for Humour in Art, the \$400 Barbara Carroll Award for Socio-Political Comment, and the \$500 NORTEC Young Artist Award. Visitors are also invited to attend a free public program on **Sunday April 17** at 10.30am until 12.30pm when print-maker **Steve Sawkins** will demonstrate the technique of woodblock printing. Come along and discover the intricacies of this technique dating from around AD200. Steve will cut and print a relief woodblock design. Visitors are welcome to come any time during the demonstration to watch the artist at work and ask questions. CPM is a not-for-profit incorporated artist-run initiative, which has been operating for 21 years. CPM provides a full range of printmaking facilities, including etching, lithographic



ROCHELLE SUMMERFIELD AND OTHERS TWEED RIVER ART GALLERY FROM APRIL 1

and relief presses, a darkroom and screenprinting facilities and a small gallery space. CPM Workshop has an inclusive multimedia focus where artists of all status and disciplines are welcome to share insights through exhibitions, workshops and printmaking practices.

Film

Gas wells 80 kilometres from Surfers Paradise?

Gecko Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council is hosting the screening of **Gasland**, an important film which explores the issues around coal seam gas

CARMELIA MACWILLIAM AT HANGING ROCK HALL SATURDAY



Mandy Nolan

Soap Box



WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND PROVE IT?

When I was a kid the only thing I knew of passwords was when Ali Baba said 'open sesame', loaded his donkey with loot and then made a rather low-speed getaway on his ambling ass. These days everything has a password. I have so many passwords that life is fast becoming unmanageable.

For phone banking I have a password, then I have a password to start my computer, and then another one to operate the internet. I have a password for logging onto the family assistance website. I have a password to log on to my *Echo* email. I have an eBay password. I have a Facebook password. A MySpace password. I have a password to start my phone, a password at the video shop and even a password to operate my washing machine. (Imagine if a complete stranger touched my top-loader!)

Passwords are supposed to safeguard our privacy. Passwords are supposed to be the cyber keys to accessing our information. But none of my passwords are ever the same. They are all different. When I first had to give a password I was so taken with the novelty of it I chose something rude. Like 'spottybum'. I didn't think that these stupid passwords would grow to haunt me. How am I ever to remember them all?

I now have a book on passwords that I keep locked in a safe. Unfortunately the safe is secured by a password. I haven't a clue. Passwords are getting more and more difficult. Is it Mandy.Nolan or mandynolan or Mandy space Nolan or is it even Mandy Nolan at all? Every time I'm asked to give my password I experience a temporary spell of dementia. It's blackout.

Suddenly for privacy reasons I can no longer access my own private information. I am locked out of myself. It's the cyber version to returning home pissed from the pub and realising you've left your key in the house. At least a house is tangible and you can push the bin up to the side wall, climb up on top, then take your skirt off so you can use your naked thighs to grip the downpipe as you inch your way towards the bathroom window.

When it comes to accessing information or services, there's no bathroom window. Failure to remember passwords has created a whole industry of IT operators whose sole purpose it is to re-allocate passwords. What a great day that must be at the office. It feels like we're heading for an identity meltdown. In a few years from now we'll be so inundated by passwords we'll be begging for a computer chip to be inserted into our foreheads - irrefutable proof that we are who we say we are. Our computers will have a little red barcode blinger and every time we need to log on you just need to zap yourself.

You could combine the infra-red laser technology with IPL, have your barcode inserted in your pubic region so that every time you prove who you are you get a little electrolysis. Not only would you be properly identified, you would also have a tidy little Brazilian.

The other handy thing about computer chips is that they provide automatic GPS. We can be tracked anywhere, anytime, by anybody. Great for managing dementing parents with the wanders and radical thinkers with wandering thoughts. It would also be extremely helpful in identifying the whereabouts of unfaithful partners, wayward children and Julian Assange.

But maybe I don't want to be identified all the time. It's such an imposition on our right to privacy. I am tired of having to prove who I am on a daily basis to a bunch of nameless dickheads on the telephone who constantly ask me to enter passwords to prove that I am Mandy Nolan so that I can operate the funds in my own fricking account. In days gone by all you needed to prove who you were and verify your family name and date of birth was your name written in the front of the family Bible. Imagine taking that to the bank. I am all for a revival of this sort of ID. Although we don't have a Bible. Our names are written in the front of a Wilbur Smith book.

TWEED RIVER ART GALLERY MURWILLUMBAH

Free admission
Gallery open Wed-Sun
10am - 5pm (DST)

Anna Zahalka *The Bathers* (Detail) shown in The Australian Character exhibition

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OFFICIAL OPENING AT 5pm (FOR 5.30pm) ON SATURDAY 2 APRIL

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CPM National Print Awards 2011
Mother of All: Karla Dickens and Ishta Wilson
Vorsorgeprinzip? from Bali to Copenhagen: Roslyn Taplin
Sat 2 Apr 3.30pm Floor talk: Prof Sasha Grishin on digital printmaking
Sun 10 Apr 2pm Artist talk: *Responding to climate change* with R. Taplin
Sun 17 Apr 10.30am-12.30pm Demo: Woodblock printing with S. Sawkins

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Gig Guide

Cinema Guide

Art Galleries

THURSDAY 31

TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 6PM WAYNE VITALE
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6PM VEENIE'S - SWIZZLE

GOLD COAST

- BILAMBIL SPORTS CLUB OPEN MIC AND JAM NIGHT
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 9PM GLEN ASHLEY
- THE PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA 7.30PM KATE LEOPOLD
- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 8PM PHIL EIZENBERG'S OPEN MIKE NITE
- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA OH MERCY

FRIDAY 1

TWEED

- BILAMBIL SPORTS CLUB 8PM KING LOUIE BAND
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 8PM KENNEDY MANSION
- CLUB BANORA 7PM SUE REID
- CUDGEN LEAGUES 7PM UNDERPAID DUO
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM HAPPY DAZE KARAOKE
- MARTY'S AT CABA CABARITA 7PM ANDY BURKE

- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 7.30PM MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE COMPANY - THE WRONG WINDOW
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM THE LYRICS MASTER COMPETITION
- SALT BAR KINGSCLIFF PRESTON TRAIN
- STOKER'S SIDING HALL 7.30PM 15 MINUTES OF FAME FEATURING AIDON AAKELAS
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB NOON ROBBIE ROSENLUND 7.30PM SMOOTH AND GROOVE

GOLD COAST

- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7.30PM FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL NRL, 9.30PM DJ CHRIS TOFFA, 10PM ALTER EGOS
- CURRUMBIN RSL 7PM CHI CHI
- CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE 7.30PM TIJUANA CARTEL + DEJA DOVA
- THE PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA 7.30PM LIZZY STANTON BAND

SATURDAY 2

TWEED

- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 8PM JIM McALLISTER, 9.30 CABARITA COMEDY CENTRAL
- CLUB BANORA 7PM DANGEROUS CURVES
- HANGING ROCK HALL CAWONGLA 7PM

CARMELIA MACWILLIAM

- IVORY TAVERN, TWEED HEADS FAT ALBERT
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM SEGUE DUO
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 7.30PM MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE COMPANY - THE WRONG WINDOW
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM MARTIN WAY
- THE RED PIANO BAR UKI 8PM VASUDHA AND JEM
- SALT BAR, KINGSCLIFF 2PM BROADFOOT
- SHEOAK SHACK 7PM NORTH COAST TIME + RETRO SURF FOOTAGE
- SOUTH TWEED SPORTS CLUB 3PM SATURDAY JAZZ, 7.30PM AFTER HOURS

- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM DANNY McMASTER

- TWEED HEADS CIVIC CENTRE 2PM TWEED THEATRE COMPANY INC - DISNEY'S CINDERELLA KIDS & ARISTOCATS KIDS

GOLD COAST

- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 9PM AGENT 77, 10PM DJ MIKE LIFTIN
- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA PUNKS JUMP UP

- THE PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA 7.30PM DJ ALFIE ROMEO
- TWIN TOWNS 8PM ADAM HARVEY AND BECCY COLE THE REMATCH TOUR

SUNDAY 3

TWEED

- BABALOU, KINGSCLIFF HOTEL, 3PM DAVE FLOWER BAND
- CLUB BANORA 11.30AM DAVID BARRY 12.30 GLEN BRACE

- MARTY'S AT CABA CABARITA BEACH 1.30PM MOHINI COX
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 2PM MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE COMPANY - THE WRONG WINDOW

- RIVERVIEW HOTEL MURWILLUMBAH 2PM KING LOUIE BAND
- SPHINX ROCK CAFE 2PM BLUESVEIN

- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 5PM INDER
- TWEED HEADS CIVIC CENTRE 2PM TWEED THEATRE COMPANY INC - DISNEY'S CINDERELLA KIDS & ARISTOCATS KIDS

GOLD COAST

- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 3PM RUSHMORE, 8PM REMEDY
- COOLANGATTA TWEED HEADS GOLF CLUB 2PM TWEED LINKS MUSIC CLUB CONCERT WITH TWEED LINKS QUARTET AND THE ALLAN GRANT DANCERS AND SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST LIZA BEAMISH

- CURRUMBIN RSL 10AM PSYCHIC EXPO, 1.30PM BLIND LEMON

- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA EASY SUNDAYS

- THE PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA MARK & HELDER

- SURFERS BEER GARDEN SUNDAY SESSIONS

MONDAY 4

TWEED

- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 12 NOON DAVID BARRY

- SALT BAR KINGSCLIFF 7PM FRET FEST THE SINGER SONGWRITER SHOWCASE

- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM RUSSELL HINTON

TUESDAY 5

TWEED

- MARTY'S AT CABA CABARITA BEACH 7PM JAM NIGHT WITH ANNETTE

- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM PAUL RENO

GOLD COAST

- TWIN TOWNS SHOWROOM 11AM I GOT RHYTHM...OR IS IT JUST A TWITCH WITH KATE PETERS

WEDNESDAY 6

TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 6PM JEFF CAMILLERI

- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM CRAIG SHAW

- TWEED HEADS CIVIC CENTRE 11AM TWEED THEATRE COMPANY INC - DISNEY'S CINDERELLA KIDS & ARISTOCATS KIDS

GOLD COAST

- TWIN TOWNS SHOWROOM 10.30AM THE BEE GEES AND ME WITH VINCE MELOUNY, 8.30PM THE CHRIS COOK BAND

THURSDAY 7

TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 6PM SHANDELL
- CUDGEN LEAGUES 6PM GLENN BRACE

- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6PM VEENIE'S - SWIZZLE

GOLD COAST

- BILAMBIL SPORTS CLUB OPEN MIC AND JAM NIGHT

- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM SPARKADIA & OPERATOR PLEASE

- CURRUMBIN RSL 9.30AM CONNECTIONS BY THE CREEK

- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 8PM PHIL EIZENBERG'S OPEN MIKE NITE

- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA OH MERCY

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The Tweed Echo has the most comprehensive entertainment gig guide in the area. For your free listing, email gigs@tweedecho.com.au or phone us on (02) 6672 2280. Deadline is noon Tuesday prior to Thursday's publication.

Here you will find some of the best local dining on offer. Restaurant owners take note: Good Taste provides you with the chance to tell your customers more about your business with ample room for that extra information that may not fit in a small advertisement. Great introductory rates are on offer. Call 02 6672 2280 to find out more.



BYRON BAY	<p>Santos Trading Warehouse Mon-Thurs 9 to 5 Fridays 9 to 4 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 3/7 Brigantine Street, Byron Arts & Industry Park (02) 6685 5685</p>	<p>Small enough for personal care, large enough to offer competitive prices. Santos has been supplying high quality biodynamic, organic, natural foods, and healthy products since 1975. We continue our commitment to sourcing as locally as possible. Santos is the home of Rainfed Rice—zero irrigation, certified biodynamic, as local as you can get, and the most delicious rice you're likely to find. Visit rainfedrice.com.au for more info, or visit our online store at santotrading.com.au. Eat well.</p>	<p>Sheoak Shack 64 Fingal Rd, Fingal Head Ph 07 5523 1130 Wed & Thurs 11am-5pm, Fri & Sat 11am-10pm & Sun 9.30am-5pm www.sheoakshack.com</p>	<p>If you are looking for delicious food, coffee or romantic sunset cocktail on the riverbank, the Sheoak Shack is the beach shack for you with a funky laid back daytime vibe or a party atmosphere with live music on Saturday nights. This gallery/cafe showcases the work of high quality local artists and is available for private functions... more Byron than Byron, in sleepy Fingal Head.</p>	FINGAL HEAD
COOLANGATTA	<p>O-Sushi Coolangatta Showcase on the Beach 07 5536 5455 Byron Bay Woolies Plaza, Jonson St 02 6685 7103 Broadbeach The Oracle, 12 Charles Ave 07 5570 2166</p>	<p>Winner of the 'Favourite Japanese Restaurant all over Qld' in the I Love Food competition 2010 Eat in or takeaway. Licensed. Open 7 days 11am till late. O-Sushi is a modern Japanese restaurant guided by a philosophy that incorporates traditional values of providing the best possible service combined with fresh wholesome food. www.osushi.com.au</p>	<p>FINS Salt Village, Kingscliff 6674 4833 dining@fins.com.au Dinner 7 days Lunch Fri, Sat & Sun</p>	<p>Join celebrity chef Steven Snow in the first class of our upcoming series 'The Secrets of Spice'. Wednesday 6th April, 11-2pm \$109 per person (including a 3 course menu and wine matching) Bookings essential</p>	KINGSCLIFF
CURRUMBIN	<p>Cecada Modern Dining Shop 5, Reflection Tower 2 110 Marine Parade, Coolangatta Fully licensed 07 5599 2270</p>	<p>WEEKDAY SPECIALS Kids eat FREE between 5.30 & 6.30pm for limited time. Lunch Special FREE Lunch Meal Deal buy 3 get one FREE Breakfast Special BIG BREAKFAST with free drinks \$14.90 only Book for Valentines Day and receive free champagne for one on arrival. 'Experience the new taste of modern cuisine by the sea'</p>	<p>Saltbar Beach Bar & Bistro Bells Boulevard, Salt Village, South Kingscliff Open 7 days 1300 725 822 www.saltbar.com.au</p>	<p>Saltbar has something for everyone, a large deck, newly refurbished Sports Bar, family friendly Bistro and Kids Korner. As well as ocean views, there's always a great atmosphere, daily food specials, a well-equipped children's area, live music and more. Kids eat free* Mon-Thurs 5.30-7pm + free kids' movie 7pm, T-Bone Tues & free trivia, Half Price Wednesday + free Karaoke 7pm. Saltbar is on the absolute beachfront, Salt Village, 15 mins south of Coolangatta Airport. *conditions apply</p>	UKI
CURRUMBIN	<p>Alleys Currumbin RSL Club Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Open 7 days lunch and dinner 07 5534 7999 www.currumbin.com.au</p>	<p>Back by popular demand 3 course weekday lunches \$14.95 members or \$24.95 non-members Visit our website to view the menu Winner - Best Club Restaurant 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Clubs QLD Awards)</p>	<p>Mount Warning Hotel Open 7 days 10am till late Bistro open daily 1497 Kyogle Rd, Uki 02 6679 5111</p>	<p>One of the region's great old country pubs. Delicious food, bistro open for lunch everyday from 12-2pm, dinner Thursday to Sunday from 6-8pm. Children's playground, relaxing beer garden. Curry night on Thursday, raffles and member's draw on Friday, punter's draw on Saturday and on Sunday there is a delicious roast.</p>	UKI

ADAM HARVEY AND BECCY COLE
TWIN TOWNS SATURDAY

extraction. Normally considered an issue for rural groups but no longer, already 50 per cent of the Tweed is under gas exploration permits. Please come along for this award-winning film and guest speaker Libby Connors. Get informed. Join the debate. Lend your voice. **Saturday, Robina Community Centre.**

Theatre

Who killed Lila Larswald?

And...if she's not dead...then who is?
The Murwillumbah Theatre Company and Playwrights Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore pay tribute to Master of Horror Alfred Hitchcock in **Wrong Window**, which opens on **Friday April 1**. In this comedy whodunit, laughter and mysteries collide in homage to the great man's works such as Rear Window, Psycho, The Birds and The 39 Steps. Off-and-on New York couple Marnie and Jeff enter an even more complicated phase of their relationship when they think they spy their cross-courtyard neighbour do away with his wife. After they draw their curtain, the lady vanishes, and suspicion places murder beyond a shadow of a doubt. The bumbling witnesses sneak into their neighbour's apartment - 39 steps away - and the fun begins. It is believed to be the very first time this production is being performed here in Australia. The venue for the show is the **Murwillumbah Civic Centre** and the play continues on **Friday April 8 and 15, Saturday 2, 9 and 16** at 7.30 pm and **Sunday April 10** at 2 pm. Enquiries: Rosemary 02 6672 1520.

Cinders and the Aristocats

The Tweed Theatre Company Inc is ready to present their latest program **Cinderella Kids and Aristocats Kids**. Cinderella Kids is the timeless fairy tale meets the magic of Disney in this adaptation of the treasured animated film. Poor Cinderella is endlessly mistreated by her wicked stepmother and stepsisters, and denied a chance to go to the Royal Ball. With a little help from her mice friends, and a lot of help from her Fairy Godmother, Cinderella goes to the ball, meets the Prince, and falls in love.

BROADFOOT SALTBAR
KINGSCLIFF SATURDAY

NORTH COAST TIME
SHEOAK SHACK SATURDAY

Aristocats
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Presenters Wanted

Add your unique voice to Byron Shire's own and only radio station, BayFM 99.9



March is submission month for the Winter period! Our presenters will have fresh ideas, great music, quality presentation and something to share with the community. Past and aspiring presenters can pick up program submission forms at BayFM, upstairs in the Community Centre during office hours.



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ROUND 4

-  **Rabbitohs v Sea Eagles**
Friday 7:30pm Bluetongue
-  **Broncos v Panthers**
Friday 7:30pm Suncorp
-  **Raiders v Titans**
Saturday 5:30pm Canberra Stadium
-  **Eels v Cowboys**
Saturday 7:30pm Parramatta Stadium
-  **Sharks v Warriors**
Sunday 2:00pm Taupo
-  **Knights v Dragons**
Sunday 2:00pm Ausgrid Stadium
-  **Roosters v Wests Tigers**
Sunday 3:00pm SFS
-  **Storm v Bulldogs**
Monday 7:00pm AAMI Park

POINTS TALLY

Alison Harman	30
Eve Jeffery	28
Paul Taylor	28
Winston Lamont	28
Kel Torr	24
Chris Graham	24
Greg Swift	24
Jack Mantle	24
Peter Cradock	24
Phil Harris	24
Rory Curtis	24
Chris Holt	22
Mark Harriott	22
Video Pete	22
Mr Rental	20
Carole Goodway	20
Tristan Wetherelt	20
Barry Schadel	18
Phillip Kelly	16
Ziggi Browning	16



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The front entrance, including the front door, the porch, and the windows nearby, are the gateway from the outside to the inside. Since there will be a moment while prospective clients – or the real estate agent – knock on the door, or open it, there will be a moment where they pause right in the entry, and will likely get a very close-up, very detailed impression of your home. The entry is also an important focal point when it comes to street appeal, so be certain that it's in tip-top shape. This is where the future owners, as well as all of their guests will enter their new home. It will be important to the eye and

to the heart. The door itself must look sharp. If needed, a fresh coat of paint can make all the difference to a pleasant, inviting, and well-maintained home. Be certain that the

hardware – such as the door-knob, the latch, the hinges, etc – are all freshly painted or polished. It gives an extra level of overall attractiveness.

Other useful steps to improve the entryway include: a freshly painted/replaced mailbox, bright, functioning porch lights, a new (un-tattered) 'welcome' mat. If you have a doorbell, make sure that it is working, or remove it altogether. As with the front light, one of the things that can create the worst impression for your home is to have basic elements not functioning properly. This will make the prospective buyer wonder what else has not been your top priority for maintenance.

After the entrance improvements have been made, have a look at the overall cleanliness. Check the walls and eaves, the windows, the gutters. Is the path clean and tidy? How about the stairs? Remember, your goal for the best possible kerb appeal is a neat, clean, well maintained atmosphere. Take care of these different factors to clean up the atmosphere of your home. All of these items can be easily performed in a

few hours, and they'll make an enormous difference for selling your home.

Should you have any further tips on selling your home, please don't hesitate to contact Peter Cradock at perter.cradock@raywhite.com.

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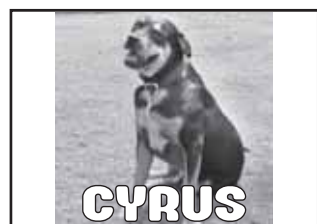


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The campaign against Gunns' proposed \$2.5 billion pulp mill in Tasmania has gone up another gear after the federal government ticked off the project's final permits this month. Hundreds of opponents protested last week including gardening personality Peter Cundall, who addressed the crowd on the banks of the Tamar River downstream from the planned mill site. Tasmanian Greens MP Kim Booth told the crowd the Greens 'and the people of Tasmania will never ever accept that mill being imposed on the Tamar Valley. We will stand up, we will march against it, there will be no mill'. Anti-pulp mill activists have promised a campaign bigger than that against the Franklin Dam in the 1980s.

Controversy has embroiled the state's Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) after buying a contentious block at Pittwater in Sydney back from a developer, to turn into a park. The LPMA is behind a few controversial development proposals on Crown land in the Tweed, including the 200-unit caravan park south of Norries Headland and the Lot 490 site at Kingscliff. Hastings Point residents however are miffed at how the state government can 'suddenly find' over \$12 million to buy the historic Currawong site at Pittwater when the locals here had been told the state couldn't find a fraction of that to buy back the contentious Lot 156 Creek Street development at Hastings Point which they say was 'stolen' from the Crown (the people) in the first place. The residents say it's crazy how the Tweed 'leads the way' in trying to develop Crown reserves 'when common sense is screaming no'. The LPMA's chief executive Warwick Watkins has been referred to the corruption watchdog ICAC over the \$12 million land deal which they say involved a developer with links to senior



Shu and Yuko Sato, owners of the popular Sushi Mur-bah restaurant in Wollumbin Street, Murwillumbah, said they were heartened by the response and concern of locals to the devastating earthquake and tsunami which hit their homeland Japan last month. Shu, whose parents live in Sendai, the largest city damaged in the disaster, told *The Echo* the tsunami waves came within three kilometres of his parents' house and all communication was cut for several days, so they could not confirm for some time whether they had survived. It was a very nerve-racking time for the young couple but eventually Yuko's parents sent a text message saying they'd received word that Shu's parents were safe. Photo Jeff Dawson

ministers. An investigation has been ordered by the premier's department over Watkins's role in the last-minute purchase by the government of the historic site from the developer.

Tweed Heads' Walk of Fame may soon be getting the attention its founder Alan Black has long craved – but not in the form he might have anticipated. According to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Mr Black is threatening legal action against a rival walk of fame recently established at Randwick in Sydney to honour Aussie film legends, claiming it breached copyright. The dispute has now come to the attention of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, whose head of contracts and trade licensing, Erica Te Slaa, has warned that the Tweed Walk of Fame might itself be in breach of trademark. Mr Black has been negotiating to shift the walk of fame which he established outside the Twin

Towns RSL in 2005 to Sydney because 'no-one takes it seriously' in Tweed shire. The colourful property developer is also well remembered for a jibe to tenants of a shopping centre on Kennedy Drive which he was trying to redevelop some years back. He emailed the nursery owners fighting to retain a shrubbery and flower display on land there, telling them he'd 'make a mockery of your rockery'. Seems like he not only talks the talk but walks the walk.

As *Backburner* reported last week, the big winner of Tweed Shire Council's festival funding largesse has been the Cooly Rocks On festival which will receive \$10,000. The money has been earmarked for an event at Jack Evans Boat Harbour that will be run in conjunction with Cooly Rocks On. The Cooly event replaces Wintersun which has upped stumps and moved to Port Macquarie.

Council chief executive officer Mike Rayner explained that the \$10,000 had previously gone to Wintersun and in fact the council had an agreement with Wintersun to guarantee the grant money for three to five years. He said the spin-off for Tweed business was significant, especially in the hospitality and accommodation sectors. Cr Joan van Lieshout said while she was not too impressed with the 'Cooly' tag she was confident it would bring a lot of business to the Tweed. She said Wintersun's move to Port Macquarie may not be a success as Coolangatta was the key to its popularity and it might just return to where it belongs. Cr Dot Holdom felt \$10,000 was a bit over the top for a new venture and said \$5,000 would be fairer. But Cr Phil Youngblutt said the council had to be supportive as business was doing it tough. The \$10,000 grant got up 5-2 with Crs Holdom and Katie Milne voting against.


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