



LOCAL & INDEPENDENT



Tweed Heads CBD plan 'a bad joke'

Critics fear that it allows for towers to be built without scenic views and streets to be cloaked in shadow for much of the day.

Steve Spencer

A plan allowing high-rise buildings through much of Tweed Heads was ticked off at the last council meeting. However, a bid to protect potential light-rail corridors was rejected.

Councillors had little option but to approve the masterplan, as the state planning department hijacked responsibility for re-designing the Tweed Heads CBD from Tweed Council four years ago, using a town planning template it has imposed on other regional centres, including Port Macquarie, Newcastle and Wollongong. Critics fear that instead of revitalising the ailing CBD, the plan will stifle redevelopment as it allows for towers to be built without scenic views and streets to be cloaked in shadow for much of the day.

'It's like a bad joke. No-one is going to build towers in Tweed Heads if they don't have a guarantee their views won't be built out,' said Laurie Ganter, president of the Tweed Heads Ratepayers and Residents Association.

'You can't describe Tweed Heads as a regional centre. It is joined to the Gold Coast, a fact the NSW Planning Department doesn't seem to understand. The plan might be all right in Wollongong or the Sydney CBD, but it won't work here. Developers are still selling units in the Domain tower near Twin Towns and that was finished four years ago.'

Mr Ganter said attempts to talk sense to the department were like 'knocking your head against a wall, they are irrational. They had a good LEP finished in 2004 and have ignored it.'

'Nothing will happen to central Tweed Heads. This plan will scare most developers away.'

The new masterplan is almost a carbon copy of the controversial Tweed Heads LEP (local environment plan) 2000 which was adopted by a pro-development council in 1999. There was more public support for the 2004 masterplan, drafted after community consultation.

Debate about the masterplan at the December council meeting was limited to Cr Katie Milne's suggestion to protect rail corridors through Tweed Heads.

Rail corridors ignored

'It would be foolish to exclude a rapid transport corridor,' Cr Milne told the meeting.

'What is a town without a proper public transport system? It would be detrimental for future generations to sterilise public transport corridors.'

Cr Milne's suggestion the plan be deferred, at the request of both the Tweed Heads Residents Association and the Save Jack Evans Boat Harbour Committee, failed to get any support from fellow councillors. Nor did her plea to protect the rail corridors.

General manager Mike Rayner told the meeting a recent report into Tweed Shire public transport found 'no likelihood of light rail in the planning future.'

Any future heavy rail through the shire, linking NSW with the Queensland rail system, is likely to be built west of Coolangatta airport.

The masterplan allows buildings up



New art co-op shows off work

Albert Elzinga

Tweed's flourishing arts scene will take over Tyalgum's historic hall this Saturday, January 7, and offer visitors and locals an opportunity to see some of the fine works produced in Australia's 'Green Cauldron'.

Members of the recently formed Tweed Arts Cooperative will show their work, with around 20 new members displaying some of their locally produced arts and crafts.

Saturday's Art Café Day follows the recent opening of a permanent exhibition space, simply called 'The Gallery', at Tyalgum Hall's front room where co-op members show and

Tyalgum Teapartiers, 'Mad Beanieologist' Megan Jack, Margie Elliott and Liffy Jack ham it up in support of the new artists' cooperative.

Photo Jeff 'Bad Hatter' Dawson

sell their art, seven days a week from 10.30am till 4.30pm.

Tweed Arts Co-op treasurer Joan Eccleshare said members were given the opportunity to sell their work at significantly reduced commission rates if they volunteered to staff 'The Gallery' one day per fortnight.

Created by local artists

Ms Eccleshare said the co-op was created by local artists who wanted to offer the Tweed arts community the opportunity to show and sell its

work in a more affordable way.

Saturday's show will feature work by the co-op's four founding members, Elizabeth Jack, Wayne Kendrigan, Joan Eccleshare and 'Mad Beanieologist' Megan Jack with water colours, oil paintings, hand-made jewellery, folk art, furniture and beanies on display in the hall.

Ms Eccleshare said although the collective already boasted some 20 members it was looking for more local artists to join.

continued on page 2

to 49.5 metres, or about 15 storeys, in some areas, while other sites will be staggered down to as low as two and three storeys.

The big winners

Among the big winners are the Twin Towns Services Club and the shopping centre owned by retail giant Centro. The western end of Bay Street may be one day lined with high-rise buildings, which critics say will turn it into

a sunless canyon for much of the time.

Cr Warren Polglase, who was mayor when the 2000 LEP was adopted, says the revitalisation of Tweed Heads hinged on encouraging landowners to amalgamate smaller blocks into sites of at least 1000 square metres. He said unless development sites were large enough to have underground parking they would not be viable.

Cr Polglase said that market forces, rather than town planning, would de-

cide when a Tweed Heads development boom would begin. He pointed to a large vacant site on the corner of Bay and Wharf Streets which remains dormant, along with an existing approval for a high-rise project on the nearby Dolphins Hotel site.

The planning department is expected to approve the masterplan, officially called the Tweed City Centre Vision Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan, early this year.

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Terranora estate set to move ahead

Steve Spencer

The massive housing estate proposed at Terranora for nearly 1,800 homes, known as Area E, is just one step away from getting final approval.

Tweed councillors have voted to submit the controversial project's development control plan to the state government, which is expected to give it the green light later this year.

But council planning staff are still seeking higher than usual infrastructure fees from the numerous landowners, needed because of steep terrain over much of the 296-hectare site.

Bounded by Mahers Lane, Terranora Road, Fraser Drive and the Terranora Broadwater, the estate will eventually house 4,000-odd extra residents.

It was once prime agricultural land, famed for its tomatoes, but was earmarked for housing two decades ago and rezoned by the state government in 2007.

Critics claim the hillside estate will be overdeveloped and runoff from roads and gardens will further pollute the already stressed Terranora Broadwater, but Tweed councillors have been limited in their influence over housing density, which has been set by the NSW Planning Department.

According to council plan-

ners, there are strict guidelines for the project's 'significant bushland, wetlands and other land of high ecological value,' but Greens Cr Katie Milne recently criticised the design for its limited wildlife corridors.

'If you don't have wildlife corridors you don't have wildlife,' Cr Milne told the December council meeting.

She said a map of the hillside showed housing 'straight across the site.'

Nothing progressive

'There is nothing progressive about the design. There has been no attempt to create a development with low carbon emissions,' said Cr Milne.

'Environmentalists are also concerned about the health of the broadwater, which is already suffering from pollution.'

Mayor Barry Longland later defended the final design, saying it was an exaggeration to claim there were no wildlife corridors across Area E, as much open space remained.

Cr Longland said that busy Terranora Road, rather than a lack of wildlife corridors, posed

the greatest danger to Terranora's koalas.

'I don't think anything in the design of Area E makes it particularly perilous to wildlife. On our roads is where most koalas are killed,' he said.

Cr Dot Holdom told the December council meeting she didn't want Area E developed, but it was pointless to oppose it.

'This is a reality. It was decided a long time ago,' she said.

'It was a pleasure to read the DCP. When you see good work [by council planners] you should acknowledge it.'

Three-storey homes will be permitted over much of the estate, with a maximum of four storeys around the area earmarked for the village centre.

Tweed Shire Council recently asked the state government to further increase the cap on developer infrastructure contributions by an extra \$16,000 per lot because of the steep topography across much of Area E.

Council planning staff say that because of the steep slopes, the cost of providing infrastructure will surpass the normal level of developer contributions.

The contribution cap increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 about a year ago after several NSW councils complained it was not enough to provide infrastructure on many greenfield housing estates.

Council is now proposing to ask for more than \$56,000 per lot after calculating just how much the Area E infrastructure will cost - and that does not include providing water and sewerage.

Extra funds needed

The extra funds will also pay for three sports fields, several parks, stormwater drains and drainage channels.

Money will also be needed to build a new road and three bridges, one of them 40 metres long.

Without a boost to developer contributions to build the infrastructure, the financial burden for much of the housing development would be thrust on ratepayers.

The exact route of a road along the foreshore, to be called Broadwater Parkway, has also yet to be determined.

The town that paints its wild treasures

Story and photo Luis Felieu

Murwillumbah's eye-catching levee-wall mural depicting the Tweed's rare and endangered flora and fauna should be used to put the shire and its 'treasures' firmly on the world tourist map.

That's the vision former long-time Tweed mayor Max Boyd wants Tweed Shire Council to adopt for the 'Treasures of the Tweed' mural which has nearly reached its final length of 700 metres, making it possibly the longest mural in Australia.

The mural painting began three years ago and has been funded by the federal government and job agencies with council support.

Mr Boyd told council at its last community access meeting that the colourful mural on Commercial Road, painted by artist David Adams and numerous work-for-the-dole volunteers, had 'already drawn much favourable attention' to the town because of its use of the local flora and fauna as subjects.

The Tweed's elder statesman said the mural's flora and fauna should be retained as the Tweed's 'special hook' rather than copying what other towns had already used as their special theme.

He cited Sheffield in Tasmania and Chemainus on Vancouver Island, Canada, as examples of towns known around the world for their murals and which had 'prospered greatly for the thousands of tourists who visited them by the coachload for their historical-themed murals that cover so many walls'.



Artist David Adams in front of a section of the *Treasures of the Tweed* mural depicting the vulnerable Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) native to the Tweed area.

Mr Boyd and his wife Marguerite had visited the towns and seen for themselves the 'obvious benefits that flowed from these imaginative works to attract wealth without destroying their natural charm.'

He urged council to fund a movie of the completed wall with the further help of local unemployed workers and suggested the images be copyrighted so funds generated from a documentary and posters could be used in turn to fund murals on other walls in the town and elsewhere in the shire.

'We are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful and environmentally significant places on Earth and highlighting in murals much of the living flora and fauna of the Tweed is one way of sharing some of those treasures with others. Who knows, they may become a lasting reminder of what we had in the year 2011,' he said.

Mr Boyd said there were many places in Tweed Heads and the Tweed Coast which could be similarly painted and

noted that walls and surfaces such as public toilets painted with murals had 'significantly' no unsightly graffiti on them as a result.

Mr Boyd, who served on council for over 40 years, suggested the title 'Murwillumbah - the town that paints its treasures' for the mural vision-cum-movie and urged councillors to visit the website www.flickr.com/groups/treasuresofthetweedmuralproject/ for a closer look at the images of the subjects used in the project.

New art co-op

From page 1

Ms Jack said, 'Come and enjoy fine traditionally brewed chai with gourmet cakes as you wander the exhibits, be inspired and think about joining the vibrant co-op.'

The hall will be open from 9am till 4pm this Saturday.

Artists interested in joining can contact Ms Jack on 02 6679 3562 or Joan Eccleshare on 02 6679 3897.

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Appeal to save Pottsville koala tree

Luis Felio

An environmental campaigner has called for a stay of execution on a stand of mature native trees along a koala corridor at Pottsville which are planned to be chopped down early this year to make way for a community health centre at Pottsville.

Tweed Shire councillors, with the exception of the Greens Cr Katie Milne, recently voted to approve the \$2.5 million centre, to be built by the North Coast Area Health Service on council-owned land in Elizabeth Street next to the Pottsville Neighbourhood Centre.

The stand includes a large 90-year-old forest redgum and several other koala food trees. Veteran tree-protection and planting campaigner Jim Warburton pleaded with councillors at the last community access meeting to ensure the health centre was designed and built around the large redgum tree which was used by four to five koalas with their young as they travelled through the area.

Mr Warburton said the redgum was 'irreplaceable' and should be protected by council under state legislation.

He said council had been 'bullied' by the state health authorities 'saying they can't design the centre around the tree, but 43 car parking spaces will be built there instead.'

He said the tree had been assessed to be worth over



Koala advocate Jenny Hayes with the magnificent redgum. Photo Sharon Shostak

\$200,000 'even without koalas' and many local children and older people wanted it to stay.

'The health of people is the health of koalas, this tree is a significant remnant in an urban area... if you kill that tree, it's not in anyone's interest,' Mr Warburton concluded.

Jenny Hayes, the president of Tweed-based Team Koala

which has around 500 members, told *The Echo* that the redgum, grey gum, swamp mahogany and tallowood on the vacant block were vital to the survival of the Tweed Coast's endangered koalas which numbered around 140.

Ms Hayes said the health centre and the trees could co-exist. She said koala scratchings

on the bark of the big redgum proved koalas from the Pottsville-area colony still used it as a 'stepping stone' as they travelled between the area's wetlands and the hinterland.

But a spokesperson for the Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD) said council, by giving its approval for the centre, had 'indicated it considers the removal of the tree is reasonable'.

The spokesperson said the NSWLHD's capital works unit had advised that the architectural design of the centre did 'not allow for the tree to remain, as it would negatively impact on the structure' of the centre.

Cr Katie Milne told council 'I don't want to see a situation where the health of the community is in conflict with the health of koalas but that is what we are facing. The Pottsville area has been identified as being critical to koalas; taking out one tree is taking out the koala corridor.'

The appeal to save the tree comes as the state government announced an extra \$438,000 to speed up the construction of the centre. Health minister Jillian Skinner and Tweed MP Geoff Provest said in a recent joint statement they had agreed to provide the money to progress the 'one-stop shop' health centre project for which planning had started eight years ago.

■ See Editorial, page 6

Kings Forest impacts to be discussed

A public information night will be held next Wednesday, January 11, 7pm-9pm at Cabarita Beach Sports Club, Cabarita Road, Bogangar, to discuss the massive Kings Forest proposal and its impacts, including the effect on the largest remaining colony of the Tweed's koalas.

Public submissions on the first 400 lots of the development, bordering the biodiverse Cudgen Nature reserve, close on January 25.

Concerned locals are urged to attend the meeting to find out more. For info call 02 6679 5863.

Dog bans sought in new developments

Koala campaigners have called for a total ban on dogs in new housing developments on the Tweed in a bid to save the last three colonies of the marsupials on the Tweed Coast.

Experts say only about 140 koalas remain in the three colonies centred around Pottsville, Round Mountain and Kings Forest, the site for a proposed new township for 4,500 new homes to accommodate over 10,000 new residents.

Dogs are being blamed for the dwindling koala population, yet planners have not recommended a ban on dogs

at Kings Forest or Cobaki, where a further 5,500 homes have been approved.

It's feared the increased dog population as a result of these new developments will be the nail in the coffin for the Tweed's koalas unless urgent action is taken.

Proposed tree plantings by developers to compensate for lost habitat has been criticised as too little too late as it would take years for the trees to reach maturity.

Team Koala's Jenny Hayes said a blanket ban on all dogs should be imposed on the new

developments in koala-populated areas.

'Koala Beach near Pottsville has no cats or dogs allowed at all. It works and it's successful and I think it's outrageous to allow dogs in developments if there are koalas in the area,' Ms Hayes said.

Currumbin Wildlife Hospital has reported that 200 koalas were treated there in the past 12 months and 40 of those were dog attacks. The hospital says less than half of the dog-attack victims survived, some suffering horrendous injuries.

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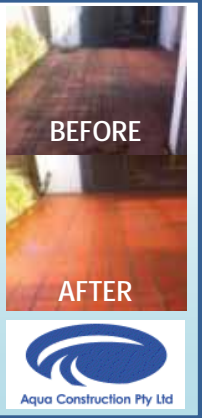
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Tweed City plans fast-tracked

Steve Spencer

Tweed City Shopping Centre's expansion plans may be accelerated following a council vote to allow private town planners to work on the project.

The owner of the giant mall, Dexus Property Group, will pay for the private rezoning work, which will be supervised by Tweed Shire Council planning staff.

Dexus recently purchased several homes along Kirkwood Road and want them rezoned quickly to allow for future expansion of the mall.

Council staff recommended the company be allowed to use a recently approved program that allows private consultants to do most of the work on rezoning applications.

Earlier this year Cr Warren Polglase twice tried to have the Tweed City project accelerated

up the council planning department work schedule, but failed to get enough support, with other councillors refusing to allow the project to 'jump the queue'.

Support wasn't unanimous for the project at the December council meeting either, with Liberal Cr Joan van Lieshout saying she didn't support the expansion of the mall and a further concentration of retail outlets at South Tweed Heads.

Going south

Cr van Lieshout suggested future retail rezoning approvals should be 'going further south' to Chinderah.

'I'm not prepared to see Tweed City grow any further. There is already too much congestion around that area,' she said.

'I'd like to warn this council

that we are in a global economic downturn. Everything may close down for years and we don't want a lemon.'

'We want to support the retailers we already have. The future is online shopping and buying food that is locally grown. It is not prudent to be going ahead with this.'

But Cr Dot Holdom, who voted against the two previous attempts to accelerate the rezoning, pushed the project through, saying she had only changed her mind because it was now 'user pays'.

'It is a fact of life that Tweed City is going to expand,' she said.

Mayor Barry Longland also switched his support for the project, saying council's new strategy of allowing privately funded consultants would work well with the Tweed City proposal.

Annual art show kicks off

Several Tweed-Gold Coast artists are featured in the annual Byron Arts Classic exhibition which begins tomorrow, Friday, at the Byron Community Centre.

It's the largest visual arts event in northern NSW and comprises 453 artworks from 292 artists, including painting, sculpture, photography and digital art and works on paper. All works are for sale.

Co-curator Tess Cullen says the whole centre is turned into an exhibition space, with all the rooms, including the theatre, being stripped of furniture to make way for the exhibits.

Pictured right is co-ordinating committee member Lelli Brown unpacking Peter Walton's entry called *The Diver*. The classic runs from Friday to next Wednesday, January 11, from 10am to 5pm daily.



Man arrested over hit-and-run death

Tweed-Byron police arrested a man yesterday morning in relation to a hit-and-run accident which killed a cyclist near Mullumbimby on Tuesday morning.

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of the cyclist, in his 60s, from Ocean Shores, following the collision on Coolamon Scenic Road near Synotts Road.

A passing surf life saver stopped at the scene to render first aid to the man who had sustained serious head injuries. Paramedics took him to Mullumbimby Hospital where he died.

A crime scene has been es-

tablished at the site and a report will be prepared for the Coroner.

Anyone who witnessed the collision is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The man's death brought the NSW road toll for the Christmas holiday period to 19, 11 more than for the same period last year.

Two people, a 49-year-old man and 50-year-old woman, were killed on the Pacific Highway at Tweed Heads South in the early hours of Christmas Day, a 21-year-old man was killed when his car rolled near Mullumbimby on December 31, a six-year-old girl died

near Uki just before Christmas, while a five-year-old girl died near Broadwater south of Ballina on December 26, all in single-vehicle accidents.

During Operation Safe Arrival, which continues until midnight tomorrow, Friday, January 6, NSW Police have conducted a total of 418,511 breath tests and charged 691 motorists with drink-driving offences compared to 369,497 tests and 885 charges for the same period in 2011.

They detected 9,716 motorists speeding (up from 9,588 for this time last year) and issued 14,705 infringements for other traffic offences (up from 14,458 last year).

Storms batter Kingy Beach again

Albert Elzinga

Heavy storms which battered the Tweed's coastline over Christmas may have helped change a decade-old council policy not to install 'terminal walls' at its beaches.

The Christmas erosion at Kingscliff removed another four metres of sand from the beach north of Cudgen Surf Lifesaving Club but may also have removed community opposition to the building of a terminal wall.

When Tweed Shire Council suggested a terminal/rock wall be built at Kingscliff some 10 years ago, the community's opinion halted plans; however, according to new Cudgen SLSC president Adam Mills the latest erosion events may have changed the community's attitude towards a permanent rock wall.

Mr Mills said although some sand returned to the beach south of the clubhouse, the areas in front and north of the clubhouse had lost sand and he feared a lot more time would pass before improvements became apparent.

All work done by council over the past 18 months was undertaken in response to emergencies and although this work was crucial and saved the clubhouse from disaster, it interfered with efforts to come up with more long-term solutions to the erosion and return sand to the affected areas, Mr Mills said.

Local retailers reported me-



Josh and Sam Lake subscribe to the 'every cloud has a silver lining' theory. Others at Kingscliff are considerably more concerned about the current beach erosion.

Photo Jeff 'Budgie-Jumping' Dawson

dia coverage of the erosion resulted in an increase in visitors keen to have a look at the damage near the surf club.

'Erosion tourists'

Mr Mills said the number of 'erosion tourists' was so large, he wished the club had an outlet to sell coffee and snacks to visitors, as the club would have made a tidy profit.

The Water Resource Laboratory and their coastal experts (a business arm of the University of NSW) are preparing a draft report on the erosion issue and the possible erection of a rock wall to safeguard the

natural assets currently under threat.

The draft report is due early this year and will provide council with options for a terminal wall, should it be deemed appropriate.

A spokesperson said council planned to consult the community before work on a rock wall would go ahead.

Meanwhile, Gold Coast City Council is investing heavily in the protection of its beaches which withstood the big tides over Christmas.

The council is investing \$6 million to manage the 52-kilometre stretch of coastline, a big

tourism earner, this financial year.

Some of the key projects being undertaken include beach nourishment offshore from Surfers Paradise, and contributing to the sand bypassing project at the Tweed River entrance. In November, the annual dredging campaigns in Currumbin and Tallebudgera creeks were completed, and a section of seawall at Marine Parade, Miami, was finished.

Club makeover bid to prevent closure

Steve Spencer

Club Banora is to be redesigned in a last-ditch \$107 million redevelopment bid to boost cash flow and prevent its closure.

As part of the plan, sections of the club grounds are to be sliced off to make way for shops and a retirement home.

Tweed Shire Council was recently told the club has been struggling financially for years, has never been hugely popular and usually appears relatively empty of patrons. Its golf course is also below par because of the poorly draining soil it was built on.

It is hoped the massive redevelopment will save the club, which employs 41 people and injects more than \$9 million a year into the Tweed economy.

Twin Towns Services Club, which built Club Banora in the early 1980s toward the end of the Tweed club industry's financial heyday when poker machines were banned in Queensland, says it 'no longer has the ability to subsidise' the club 'in its current format'.

Twin Towns has told council the redevelopment is necessary to avoid 'closing the

club indefinitely'.

A recent report to Tweed councillors says the viability of the club as a stand-alone entity in the Twin Towns group has come under considerable pressure 'because of significant changes in the club industry relating to poker machines, indoor smoking and increased taxation'.

The club's top storey was closed just over a year ago to help stem the financial losses.

Retail and aged-persons component

The report also says that 'a key element of the redevelopment is the inclusion of a retail and aged-persons component to generate the necessary cash flows to fund the redevelopment'.

The proposed redevelopment includes:

1. Creating a smaller building partly suspended over the existing lake.
2. Relocation of the tennis courts and bowling greens.
3. A 5,000-square metre retail development adjacent to Leisure Drive, with supermarket and specialty shops.
4. A retirement home cov-

ering 11,000 square metres of the club.

5. Reconfiguration of the car park, which currently can cope with 700 vehicles.

Shire councillors were urged to allow the club to fund private planning consultants to help speed up the redevelopment to avoid the 'loss of a broad range of public amenities' including a heated swimming pool.

Council planners will oversee the work of the private consultants in a process recently approved by the state government to allow faster rezonings.

Shire planning staff have been in discussions about the redevelopment since late 2009 and recommended the move allowing the private planners to speed up the approval process because, they said, of the club's 'prevailing difficult financial position'.

The club has already 'invested substantially in the preparation of application documentation and studies'.

Councillors were told the club's poor financial situation had been confirmed by accountancy firm KPMG.

Club Banora is built on 60 hectares of land, much of it flood prone.

(Real) Advice from Mrs Product Tester

Dear Mrs Product Tester,
Phew!! What a great Christmas, I've been busy, busy, busy... eating, eating, eating... and drinking, drinking, drinking. I think I've put on about 5kg. How was your Christmas?

Joy

Dear Joy,

Well I must admit, mine was a little quieter than yours, we've been keeping a pretty low profile. What with all the rain I'm starting to grow webbed feet. I always make a point of never letting the rain dampen my spirit. Over the holidays we've been walking (getting in training for the Great Ocean Walk!). I've been walking with my new Shelta umbrella, a real pretty girly one with butterflies on it. Sometimes I've even had to wear my lightweight rain jacket. Then last week we went canoeing (ask Tony about getting up close and personal with the fish ladder at slippery crossing). He reckoned he couldn't let Lucy have all the fun! Luckily the hardware shop sells fibreglass repair kits, and yes, it rained again but it didn't really matter 'cause we were all wet already!

So just because it's a bit wet, it doesn't mean you can't enjoy yourself. You just need the right gear. I know of this little shop in Murwillumbah called Outdoorism; it's got all your wet weather needs. So get out and enjoy!

Your friend Cathy



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Volume 4 #18

January 5, 2012

Killing our quality of life

It appears our councillors, with the exception of Cr Katie Milne, are not serious about the plight of the Tweed's last koalas.

That is the only conclusion to be drawn from their callous decision to give the state health authorities carte blanche to chop down a mature forest redgum, known to be a koala food tree, to make way for a new health centre at Pottsville.

Some of those councillors claimed the health of people was more important than koalas, but they missed the point that both can co-exist. It seems to them that bitumen car parking spaces are more important for the design of the centre than a beautiful old tree used as a food source by koalas and their joeys, which also provides shade and spirit-lifting birdlife.

But sensible planners could easily have designed the centre and parking around the tree and enhanced the new health centre's look and feel.

After all, such mature trees are treasured by those willing to pay more to live in the 'leafy' suburbs of capital cities around the world; they know their true value and how singing birds and shade improve the quality of life, ambience and general health of their environment, and accordingly, their own health.

In US and European cities, trees are major capital assets, and just as streets, sidewalks, public buildings and recreational facilities are a part of a community's infrastructure, so are these publicly owned trees.

So our out-of-touch older-generation councillors also ignored the future generations who will live, work and play in the shire and who truly value koalas and other wildlife. They too will use the new health centre and no doubt would appreciate such a grand old tree as part of it. Just recently, almost 3,000 local kids participated in Team Koala's colouring-in competition, an overwhelming response proving this very point.

A community of humans is not just a built concrete environment. That's why many escape the cities for a tree or sea change. The trees at the site could and should be incorporated into the building design to complement the overall amenity of the new centre.

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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Another hard year ahead for Labor

Julia Gillard's government is entering the new year with a kind of desperate optimism.

After all, what's the alternative? The Labor Party has to hope and believe that things can only get better. 2011 was indeed an annus horribilis, marked by ministers lurching from crisis to crisis, pausing only to occasionally shoot themselves (or sometimes each other) in the foot, and the chaos was reflected in the polls.

But 2012 can't possibly be as bad as 2011 was. Things have to improve, don't they? Well, don't they?

Sorry chaps, but here's the bad news: no they don't, and indeed they could actually get worse. The problem is that just as the government finally looks like pulling itself into some kind of shape, with the carbon tax and the mining tax through parliament and the beginnings of a genuine Gillard agenda emerging, the arse looks like falling out of the world economy. Europe is a basket case and the other industrial power houses – the United States and Japan – are in no position to rescue it, even if they had the desire to do. GFC Mark II looks all but inevitable; the only real questions are what form it will take, how severe it will be, and how long it will last.

Treasurer Wayne Swan comments bravely that the demand from China for our resources will insulate Australia from the worst of it, and it is true that our economy is better armoured than most to withstand a crash. But it would be sanguine to the point of nuttiness to imagine that with the world imploding around it, little Australia will remain untouched. At the very least the economy is certain to slow down considerably, and there is no longer the money available for the stimulus packages which protected both con-

sumer demand and investor confidence last time.

The Reserve Bank, unlike almost all its international counterparts, has a bit of room to play with interest rates, but that's about the only tool left in the shed and it is unlikely to be sufficient. Thus Gillard's reform program will once again grind to a halt, bereft of the funds needed to grease the wheels. In particular the big-ticket items foreshadowed in recent times,

the powerbrokers would eat their own young before having him back.

But within the Gillard camp the foreign minister still has the status of an obsession: sooner or later, perhaps in the next few months, almost certainly by the end of the year, the matter of Rudd must be resolved one way or another. Such is the paranoia that there is even talk of a Gillard supporter moving for a spill before Rudd's few followers

or logic back to the so-called debate over asylum seeker policy, but Abbott's hypocrisy on the issue has reached truly Stygian depths. He objects to sending asylum seekers to Malaysia, because it hasn't signed the refugees convention; well no, but nor had Nauru at the time of John Howard's Pacific Solution, which Abbott now lauds as the acme of policy, and he still wants to turn the boats back to Indonesia, which hasn't signed up either. The answer must be Nauru, which the professionals say would not work as a deterrent because when it was last used almost all the detainees ended up in Australia or New Zealand anyway.

Well, if it doesn't, says Abbott, bring back temporary protection visas – the device of psychological torture by which even those accepted as refugees were not given the rights of residents, in particular the right to bring out their families. This actually resulted in more risks as the wives and children of TPV holders had no alternative but to brave the boats themselves. But we'll think of something – perhaps we could threaten to pull their fingernails out with red-hot pincers to save them from the people smugglers.

All in the name of compassion, of course.

And we cannot start the New Year without congratulating John Howard for being made a member of the Royal Order of the Brown Nose by Her Majesty. He will no doubt keep it on his desk next to his boy scout woggle for Janette to dust every morning. And alarmingly, he claims it is a tribute not just to himself but to his country.

No, Johnnie, it was just for you. Most of us like our honours to be Australian.

■ See Mungo live at **EchoNetDaily**
www.echo.netdaily.net.au

Just as the government finally looks like pulling itself into some kind of shape, the arse looks like falling out of the world economy.



by Mungo MacCallum

like a disabilities scheme, a universal dental service, or any serious tax reform, will be pushed back into the cupboard whence they emerged. And the government will have to devote much of its time and energy in not only trying to cushion the voters against the threat of recession, but in soothing, cajoling and comforting them to try and avoid a collapse of confidence – a task in communications for which both Gillard and Swan have proved themselves to be manifestly unsuited in the past.

At the same time they will continue to be haunted by their twin obsessions: the tyranny of the weekly opinion polls, an absurd distraction regarded as holy writ by politicians and commentators alike, and the ever-present spectre of Kevin Rudd. The possibility of Rudd making a successful challenge for the leadership has always been minuscule and nothing that has happened in the last few months has made it more likely: he has mended few if any fences within the caucus and

have the opportunity to organise their numbers. The idea is lunacy: far from killing off the threat, it would give it credibility and split the caucus in the process. It would not be a show of strength but an admission of weakness.

Look at the history of such moves. In 1971 John Gorton took on Billy McMahon by asking for a vote of confidence, and lost the prime ministership as a result. In 1982 Bill Hayden called a special party meeting to bring Bob Hawke's challenge into the open; he won that round but the impetus it gave Hawke made him irresistible a few months later. And most notoriously of all in 1984 Andrew Peacock demanded that his party rid him of the menace of John Howard: the party room refused and Peacock was forced to resign the leadership – to Howard.

In politics, as in commerce, you never give a sucker an even break, let alone an opponent.

Just ask Tony Abbott. It is probably too late to bring sense

Easton Pearson



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The distribution* of the *Tweed Echo* has grown to 21,000 copies** since we started it in 2008; that's admittedly fewer than the corporate press titles in the Tweed shire, but unlike the other independent local weeklies it is a reliable number because it is audited.

And our sister paper the *Byron Echo* has steadily become more popular over the years – we now distribute* 33 per cent more papers each week than APN's *Byron News***.

Even our new online newspaper *EchoNetDaily* is different. Unlike other publications that just recycle their material on a website, we email out the *EchoNetDaily* so that it's like a newspaper in your inbox – fresh news each day that has different content from our other titles.

We do things differently at *The Echo*, and we hope that you are enjoying one or all of our independent news media.

*The distribution of our papers is carbon neutral. **Audited by the Circulations Audit Board.

Letters to the Editor

Email: editor@tweedecho.com.au
 Deadline: Noon, Tuesday
 Letters longer than 200 words may be cut and pseudonyms are not acceptable.
 Please include your full name, address and phone number.

Where should the police go?

I have been watching the debate over the location of the police station with interest, and I am wondering why we don't do as the Europeans do...

I am wondering if the option of building an essential services centre on a purpose-built bridge spanning the highway has been considered, and if so, why it has been dismissed. As a matter of fact, I think it would be a good idea to have these every 200km or so. Ambulance, fire and police can be located together, or on alternate sites, with quick access on ramps to and from the highway. Very little land of significance would be required, and the location seems sensible to me.

The cost I imagine would be quite high... but what cost to the Kingscliff community under the current plan? And surely the sites currently occupied in Kingscliff by the fire and police could be sold to help cover the cost? That land has to be worth a small fortune.

Helen Edwards-Davis
Kingscliff

DoP's blunder

The Coalition for Festival Sanity is dismayed at the NSW Department of Planning recommendation to approve a permanent festival site at Yelgun. Despite the O'Farrell government's promise to return planning powers to local government, the DoP has blatantly ignored the local community, expressing a she'll-be-right-mate attitude that is simply appalling.

This is a politically motivated recommendation rather than one based on neutral principles of planning. Although the DoP has painted its assessment process as 'rigorous', the only rigour has

And the questions for Leda keep mounting up

■ I was interested to read in a one-column article Leda's admission to mistakenly entering the Cudgen Nature Reserve and clearing vegetation (*Tweed Daily News*, December 23, 2011). The several lines of admission to their mistake contrasted greatly with their full-page paid advertisement in the same edition of the *TDN* touting the 'neighbourly' values of their soon-to-be-developed King's Forest and Cobaki Lakes.

In their paid ad, Leda make much of the proximity of their developments to 'protected nature reserves and open space' and 'environmentally sensitive open space'. The irony of those claims seems to have escaped Leda in light of their admissions to entering those same 'protected' lands without authority (by mistake, we are told) and undertaking works that are alleged to have increased the development potential of their land.

Those of us that have been involved in the development of community facilities know that the first rule is always to

be in the extent to which the department has bowed to developer demands. The motivation appears to be the desperate hope of keeping one music festival in NSW rather than see it move permanently to Queensland. But if we cannot hold these massive music festivals to a size, location, and frequency considerate to all, then let them go!

We've always wanted to see Splendour stay in NSW, too. Just not in Yelgun. But could the government help the promoters find another site? No. Easier to pretend that all the serious issues (flooding, increased traffic, loss of residential amenity, environmental damage, etc.) can be effectively 'managed'.

50,000 people at Yelgun when the population of the shire is only 30,000? No worries! Irreversible damage to the Billinudgel Nature Reserve, into which the NSW government has poured mil-

make sure you know where your property boundaries are, and to ensure that contractors working on your behalf are also well briefed. The most basic project management system requires that.

In light of this mistake, I'd be interested to learn what action Leda has taken against its project manager and contractors, and what strengthening of systems it has undertaken to guard against further mistakes. I'd also like some explanation of Reg Van Rij's claim that Leda reported the mistake to NPWS as soon as it became known to us'. Does that mean they became aware of it as soon as their contractor entered the reserve, or was it the same day, or the next week, or was it, as some have alleged, only reported once the unauthorised works were completed?

I expect we will see another Leda full-page paid ad in the next edition of the *TDN* providing us with the answers.

I won't hold my breath!

Nigel Greenup
Nunderi

lions of dollars to establish and protect? No worries! Destroyed residential amenity in the north of the shire? No worries! Compromised living standards for residents who have been living in the area for decades? No worries! But surely this is not what the residents must accept!

This development is not essential infrastructure, such as a highway or a bridge. Will the Planning Assessment Commission see the madness in the DoP's recommendation? Our hope now rests with the PAC to apply proper planning principles and perspectives to this application and make a determination that is devoid of political influence.

Mac Nicolson
North Ocean Shores

Council questions

Why did Cr Milne's motion to have the 132-year-old Chinderah fig tree protected under a heritage order not get seconded? Why was Thomas George in the audience and why did he leave right after Katie's fig tree amendment was not seconded?

Why did Cr Milne's requests for wildlife corridors also go

■ Isn't it heartening to see that Leda is wanting to become part of the local community spirit with their sponsoring of 'Carols by Candlelight'?

However, it's not so heartening that carols are considered more important than koalas. Leda thinks it's okay to have the last koala corridor going through the centre of the proposed Kings Forest golf course.

It makes me wonder if the letters LEDA stand for 'Lacking Ecological Development Application' or perhaps 'Leave Every Dead Animal'.

Of course Leda supporting local events, such as koalas - oops! I mean Carols by Candlelight - may have been more to do with obligation than initiative on their part.

Chris Degenhardt
Nobbys Creek

■ Koalas are so Australian. Can you imagine Australia without koalas?

Leda Developments does not care about koalas. The mini-city development at Kings Forest, as it is currently pro-

posed, will effectively destroy the Kings Forest koala colony. This, at a time when researchers have become aware that statewide recovery programs are necessary.

Are they promising to provide 15,000 jobs for the 15,000 new residents?

Is Leda Developments proposing to provide schools? Or will the community be left to lobby the government for more schools in the area?

More shops? Is this a promise to put the existing shops out of business with a Gold Coast-style retail centre?

Does Mr Ell think our Tweed councillors are so stupid that they will be hoodwinked by his empty promises?

Why are there so few people in the council's gallery any more?
 A million and one questions screaming out but whose answers are shrouded in silence. Such as: why did they back zone Kings Forest for development against ecologists' advice? Why are they recommending the felling of a Pottsville koala tree in critical and ever-shrinking habitat when they already know that koala populations are below sustainable levels?
 For years people have been telling me that they cannot bear to sit in council's gallery because it's too depressing seeing the pro-development faction time after time make poor choices for our environment and win. After the last council meeting I finally understand why they feel that way.
 Then again, it looks like council doesn't want people in the gallery anyway - they

posed, will effectively destroy the Kings Forest koala colony. This, at a time when researchers have become aware that statewide recovery programs are necessary.

In Leda's advertising to the community great benefits are promised, but each is an empty promise.

In the past Leda Developments has employed interstate and international companies and suppliers. It is local knowledge that very few local jobs resulted from the Salt development.

Are they promising to provide 15,000 jobs for the 15,000 new residents?

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Clearly this development, that was approved by the Tony Kelly who is under report by ICAC, is not in keeping with the community's 'Our Tweed Vision'.

Councillors should look closely at how much profit Mr Ell is anticipating. Around the world it is being proven that the economics of growth and development on borrowed money results in the already rich getting richer, while the world economy founders. Sustainability means maintaining existing businesses and creating local jobs for locals.

Now that the details of the Kings Forest estate are undergoing assessment it is the democratic duty of the council that it vote in accordance with the community's best interests to minimise the negative impacts of this proposed development.

This means no dogs, adequate koala fencing and substantial buffer zones. Koalas need our care.

Miranda Mills
Mount Burrell

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Megan Jack
Tyalgum

For the kangaroos

Kangaroos are being killed in areas where they are quasi-extinct.

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Good and bad news from Durban

Dr Mark Byrne

The wash-up from last month's climate summit in Durban is a mix of the good, the bad and the very ugly.

The good news was the largely unexpected decision 'to adopt a universal legal agreement on climate change as soon as possible, and no later than 2015'. So not only did that recalcitrant the United States reluctantly agree to be bound for the first time to a legally binding agreement, but so did China (now the world's largest emitter), India and other developing countries.

Just as Australia ratified the Kyoto Protocol but was allowed to increase its emissions, that's not to say, though, that developing nations would be forced to cut their emissions under the coming global agreement.

Other good news stories from Durban included progress on a \$100 billion Green Climate Fund, which is supposed to help developing nations limit their emissions and adapt to the impacts of a warming world. The problem is only South Korea, Denmark and Germany have so far agreed to put money into it.

The bad news was that, while 2015 might be when the agreement is finalised, the US and China managed to delay its likely starting date until 2020. This would be several years past when the International Energy Agency recently estimated global emissions would need to peak and begin to reduce if we are to have any chance of keeping warming to the arbitrary threshold of two degrees over the preindustrial level.

(For a sobering assessment of how hard the switch to a low- or zero-emissions economy is likely to be on a global scale, given the reasonable expectations of people in developing nations for access to the goodies we in the West have long taken for granted, read Andrew Charlton's recent Quarterly Essay, *Man-Made World*.)

Meanwhile, according to a paper last month in *Nature Climate Change*, after a brief lull during the GFC last year global emissions rose by nearly six



Researchers ignite a bubble of methane on Alaska's Steward Peninsula. Photo from www.worldculturepictorial.com.

per cent, the highest increase on record. Current government commitments agreed to at previous climate summits in Copenhagen and Cancun are setting the world on course for climate change of at least four, and possibly six, degrees this century.

As a group of climatologists wrote late last year on the RealClimate blog, 'Even a "moderate" warming of 2°C stands

December 2011 letter to world leaders from the geoscientists comprising the Arctic Methane Emergency Working Group, the Arctic is likely to be ice free in summer by 2020. To put this in perspective, in 2007 half of the computer models used by the IPCC for its 2007 report predicted ice-free Arctic summers by 2100 – eighty years later.

That's not only bad news for polar bears. The decrease in al-

According to research included in a December 2011 letter to world leaders from the geoscientists comprising the Arctic Methane Emergency Working Group, the Arctic is likely to be ice free in summer by 2020. To put this in perspective, in 2007 half of the computer models used by the IPCC for its 2007 report predicted ice-free Arctic summers by 2100 – eighty years later.

a strong chance of provoking drought and storm responses that could challenge civilised society, leading potentially to the conflict and suffering that go with failed states and mass migrations. Global warming of 2°C would leave the Earth warmer than it has been in millions of years.'

And we haven't even got to the very ugly yet. There is lots of bad climate news, but let's just focus on the Arctic, where warming is happening at twice the global average rate. According to research included in a

bedo (reflected sunlight) and increase in ocean heat absorption will escalate atmospheric and ocean warming in the Arctic, which is already warming faster than anywhere else on Earth. It will accelerate the release of huge stores of methane – a twenty times more potent, albeit shorter lived, greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide – from Arctic permafrost and seabeds.

This appears to be already happening. Russian scientists who have been studying emissions of methane from the Arctic seabed for nearly two de-

acades reported last month that instead of 'torches' of methane up to a few metres across bubbling up from the seabed they had previously recorded, last year they found about one hundred methane 'fountains' up to a kilometre wide in an survey area only one hundred kilometres square. This concentration was a hundred times higher than normal, and the team, which reported its findings to a meeting of the American Geophysical Union, estimated that there could be thousands of such fountains over a wider area.

This is distinct from the increasing release of methane from thawing Siberian permafrost, which is one of the tipping points for runaway or catastrophic climate change long feared by climate scientists. Worldwide, the amount of methane in peat bogs and permafrost has been estimated at up to two trillion tonnes, or about a century of fossil fuel burning. Escalating methane emissions caused by a warmer atmosphere and ocean would dwarf any attempts to limit greenhouse emissions from human sources.

This doesn't mean we should give up on reducing emissions. There are many uncertainties, and the less CO₂ is in the atmosphere, the less extreme future warming and its impacts are likely to be. But the longer we delay radical action, the more it is that we may need to resort to extremely risky technofixes like nuclear energy and geoengineering to reduce atmospheric warming and ocean acidification or to mitigate some of their impacts.

We have perhaps five years to turn this leviathan of a fossil-fuel economy around, but only a global war footing is likely to achieve that. In lieu of which, strap yourselves in while turning off the cabin lights, because the ride is likely to get bumpy sooner than expected.

■ Dr Mark Byrne is an environmental educator who will take up a position as energy market advocate with the Total Environment Centre later this month.

from Pottsville west to Kyogle and include land around Murwillumbah.

But Arrow claims the Tweed is not a 'priority project'.

Nearly half the shire is earmarked for coal-seam gas exploration with support from the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

More than 3,000 people attended a protest rally against CSG mining in Murwillumbah last May, one of the biggest rallies ever seen in the Northern Rivers.

And in October, protest rallies were organised by the Lock the Gate Alliance and the Northern Rivers Guardians, at Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Burringbar, Uki, Byrrill Creek and Tyalgum.

Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore and Kyogle councils, Rous Water and Northern Rivers Tourism have all pushed for a moratorium, along with environmental and farmer groups.

Federal MP for Page, Janelle Saffin, also backed the call but

Richmond MP Justine Elliot declined to support it, saying it was a state government responsibility.

Concerns have focused chiefly on 'fracking', which involves pumping, under high-pressure, large amounts of water mixed with various chemicals into drilling wells in order to extract gas trapped in coal seams.

Companies exploring northern NSW have not ruled out using the controversial process here.

Summer Holidays

Holiday travel advice

Check the latest travel advice for your destination and subscribe to receive free email notification each time the travel advice for your destination is updated.

Take out comprehensive travel insurance and ensure it covers you for the places you plan to visit and the things you plan to do.

Before travelling overseas register your travel plans and contact details online or at the local Australian embassy, high commission or consulate once you arrive so we can contact you in case of an emergency.

Obey the laws of the country you're visiting even if these seem harsh or unfair by Australian standards. Don't expect to be treated differently from the locals just because you're Australian.

Make sure that you have the right visas for the countries you are visiting or transiting and check any other entry or exit requirements.

Make copies of your passport details, insurance policy, travellers cheques, visas and credit card

numbers. Carry one copy in a separate place from the originals and leave a copy with someone at home.

Check with health professionals for information on recommended vaccinations and other health precautions. Remember that vaccinations can be an entry requirement for some countries. Also find out about taking medication overseas – certain medicines aren't allowed in some countries.

Make sure your passport has at least six months' validity from your planned date of return to Australia. Carry extra passport photos in case your passport is lost or stolen and you need to replace it while you're away.

Keep in contact with friends and family back home and give them a copy of your travel itinerary so they know where you are.

Check to see if you're regarded as a national of the country you plan to visit, and whether dual nationality will have any implications for your travel plans.



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TriCare

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As with all of TriCare's Retirement Communities, Hastings Point is equipped with a 24-hour emergency call system for your security and peace of mind. Of course there are many other activities and facilities to enjoy on site such as swimming pools, gymnasium, games room and billiards along with spacious areas to relax in and make the village your home.

Currently there are one-, two- and three-bedroom

apartments available with the two-bedroom apartments starting from just \$265,000. To help furnish your new home TriCare is offering a \$5000 furniture package for settlements made before 30 June 2012 (conditions apply).

TriCare also have retirement communities in south-east Queensland at Aspley, Stafford, Mt Gravatt and Mt Ommaney, on the Gold Coast at Runaway Bay and Clear Island Waters, along with Toowoomba and Box Hill in Victoria.

If you would like more information on Hastings Point or any of TriCare's Retirement Villages, please call 07 3360 9000 or visit tricare.com.au and start experiencing the difference today.



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Hastings Point Retirement Community

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for all settlements by 30 June 2012. Conditions apply.

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The Repsychlers Op-Shop

If you have recently downsized from a large home to smaller one and are surrounded by furniture that you don't know what to do with? Then we at the Repsychlers Op-Shop feel that we have the answer. Call us on 07 5536 2537 and we will come to your home to pick up any quality donations free of charge. We are a community-based not-for-profit organisation that assists people recovering from a mental illness to re-connect to employment and community inclusion.

We are open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am to 4pm and are located at 56 Recreation Street, Tweed Heads. Call 07 5536 2537.

Leading Aged Care Group is 10 years old!

McKenzie Aged Care Group has just celebrated 10 years as an aged-care provider.

McKenzie CEO Rob Hutchinson says that the aged-care provider has started from very small beginnings and is now one of Australia's largest independent operators.

'We are proud of this achievement but most importantly we are proud to provide excellent care and a great range of programs and activities in beautiful facilities for all of our residents.'

The McKenzie Aged Care Group started with the opening of Armitage Manor in September 2001 (now The Armitage).

From that one facility it has since acquired and invested in the development of new purpose-built facilities in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

'We now have a large and vibrant staff of more than 750 who, like us, are committed to ensuring

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Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9.30am-4pm

Healthy ageing: Tips for coping with change from www.helpguide.org

As you age, there will be periods of both joy and stress. It's important to build your resilience and find healthy ways to cope with challenges. This ability will help you make the most of the good times and keep your perspective when times are tough.

- Focus on the things you're grateful for. The longer you live, the more you lose. But as you lose people and things, life becomes even more precious. When you stop taking things for granted, you appreciate and enjoy what you have even more.
- Acknowledge and express your feelings. You may have a hard time showing strong emotions, perhaps feeling that such a display is inappropriate and weak. But burying your feelings can lead to anger, resentment, and depression. Don't deny what you're going through. Find healthy ways to process your feelings, perhaps by talking with a close friend or writing in a journal.
- Accept the things you can't change. Many things in life are beyond our control. Rather than stressing out over them, focus on the things you can control such as the way you choose to react to problems. Face your limitations with dignity and a healthy dose of humour.
- Look for the silver lining. As the saying goes, 'What doesn't kill us makes us stronger.' When facing major challenges, try to look at them as opportunities for personal growth. If your own poor choices contributed to a stressful situation, reflect on them and learn from your mistakes.
- Take daily action to deal with life's challenges. When challenges seem too big to handle, sweeping them under the carpet often appears easier. But ignoring the problem doesn't make it go away; it allows both the problem and your anxiety to build. Instead, take things one small step at a time. Even a small step can go a long way to boosting your confidence and reminding you that you are not powerless.

quality,' says Rob.

'This is achieved through the development of training programs, advanced processes, quality systems and infrastructure to support every aspect of our work in managing our facilities and caring for residents.

'We are looking forward to the journey ahead and would like to take this moment to say thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far,' says Rob.

All McKenzie facilities provide a safe, comfortable and friendly environment where the focus is on lifestyle, choice and independence.

This enables residents to make a smooth lifestyle transition into a stimulating social environment, recognising their immediate and long-term needs.

For more information about the McKenzie Aged Care facility Raffles located in Tweed Heads visit www.mckenzieacg.com.



Scooters & Mobility

Downsize your car but not your mobility at Scooters & Mobility in Tweed Heads South. For more than 10 years Scooters & Mobility have been assisting the residents of Tweed Shire and southern Gold Coast with their mobility needs. Conveniently located in Industry Drive, Tweed Heads South there is no need to go elsewhere when Scooters & Mobility can offer the whole package in sales, after-sales service, spare parts/batteries/tyres and repairs.

We offer a large variety of scooters -long-range outdoor/golf scooters down to the portable scooter ideal for indoor situations. With the ability to be taken apart to put in the car they are ideal for an outing to the shops, cinema or dining out. A good selection of secondhand scooters are always available. Call us to arrange a free home demonstration with no obligation to buy.

Other quality products on display in the showroom are walkers (new and second hand), lightweight wheelchairs, lift/recline lounge chairs, stand assist dining chairs, shower chairs and toilet aids are all readily available. Scooters & Mobility also have mobility scooters, wheelchairs and walkers for hire.

Mark and Marion of Scooters & Mobility focus on assisting their clients to keep their independence and look forward to being of service to attend to your individual requirements.

Phone 1800 726 000 / 07 5524 4398 or visit www.scootersandmobility.com.au.

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Health & Beauty



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Summer approaches – come on in to Organic Revolution and check out all the great chemical-free and organic options to make your summer a cruisy kickback time! No need for the bugs to bug you (or eat your clothes); we have natural moth, ant, cockroach and silverfish repellent options for your cupboard, body and home. Colourful flags to flutter in the trees or on the verandah to catch the breeze, while you kick back under your pure cotton mozzie net, sipping your filtered water and enjoying an aroma-oil experience with your new electric burner.

At night, light your beeswax candle and enjoy your function (no washing up this time) using palm plates, cornstarch cutlery and bio-cups!

Happy summer to all!

Re-opening after holidays – 16 January 2012.

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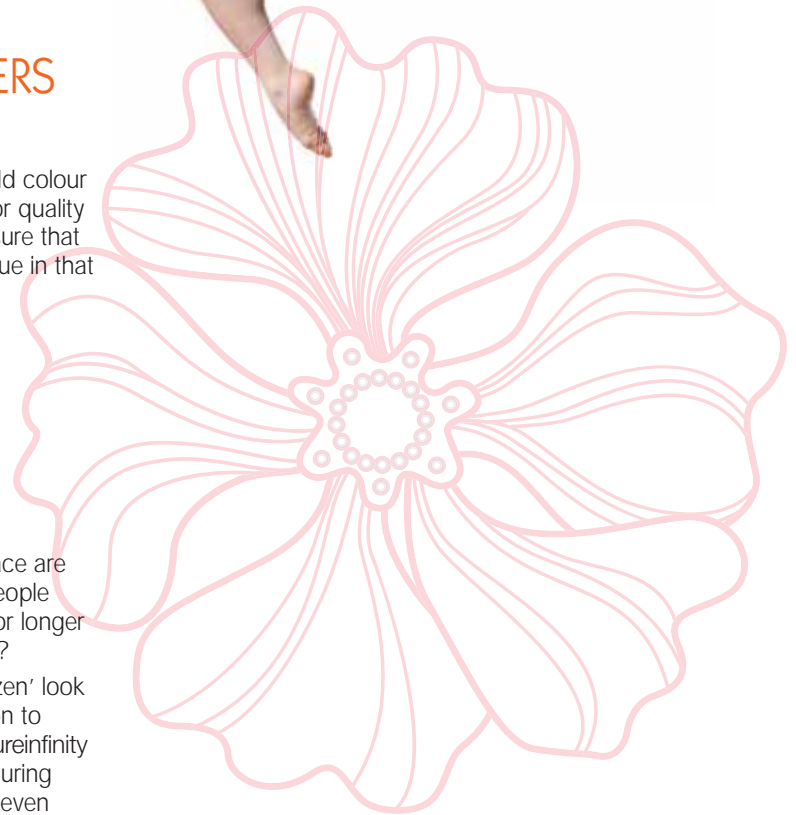
Are you concerned the wrinkles and lines on your face are making you look older than you feel? These days people stay younger for longer, and want to look younger for longer too. Wouldn't it be great if you could stop the clock?

Well now you can – without worrying about the 'frozen' look or the need to undergo surgery. The modern solution to treating wrinkles and fine lines is now available at Pureinfinity Tweed City and can be delivered in a clinic setting during a lunch hour. The results are so natural looking that even those closest to you won't be able to pinpoint why you look younger and more refreshed.

Our experienced female doctor, who understands your concerns, administers all injectables.

Pureinfinity are also proud to announce Beauté Pacifique, Denmark's leading cosmeceutical brand, is now available exclusively in store. Beauté Pacifique uses a unique, patented nanotechnology system to deliver vitamins and active ingredients to the deeper layers of the skin, to create real results – rebirth the skin in five days.

Shop 128A Tweed City Shopping Centre, 54 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads Sth. Ph 07 5523 3344.



REBALANCE YOUR CHAKRAS

'JOHN OF GOD' CRYSTAL LIGHT BED FROM BRAZIL

We are pleased to announce the opening of Empowerment Crystal Healing's new home in Murwillumbah.

Come and enjoy the relaxing, healing, pure energy of a combination of crystals, lights, colour therapy, and a direct link to the healing energy of the 'Casa De Dom Inacio' in the hills of Brazil.

Re-balance your chakras and feel the very essence of pure love emanating from the crystals, and penetrating deep into your conscious and unconscious being.

All you do is lie on a bed in light-coloured clothes, listen to beautiful calming music and melt into a deep relaxation, emerging calm and centred. After your healing, you will be offered a cup of tea and a delicious homemade biscuit to ground you before driving.

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TOP TEN TIPS FOUND AT ROUGEMAG.COM.AU

1. Feed your skin from the inside. Honey, especially the dark kind, is high in disease-fighting antioxidants. Add it to your morning yogurt or tea for a health – and taste – kick.
2. Ditch alcohol-based toner. It strips away bad oils like sebum along with essential fatty acids that form a barrier against germs and irritants. Look for alcohol-free toner and use blotting papers to absorb any midday shine.
3. Do the sunscreen test. Put your arm up over your head. Does the skin on the underside of your upper arm match your face? You may be tanner than you realise. Look for a sunscreen that absorbs UVA (wrinkle-causers) and UVB (those that burn) rays.
4. Exfoliate. Retinoids are wrinkle-reducing creams that thicken the skin and unclog pores, but they can also leave behind dry, patchy areas. Gently exfoliate those dead skin cells with a heavy washcloth.
5. Take a milk bath. The white stuff is rich in protein and fat, both of which calm irritated skin. Add two to four cups of whole milk to a warm bath and dip in.
6. At-home healing. Dry scalp? Massage with warm olive oil and cover with a shower cap for 10 minutes to soothe itching and dryness.
7. Shop at the children's aisle. Since sunscreen is needed all year round, adults with sensitive skin should pick up baby sunscreen. Formulated with titanium or zinc oxide, this gentle lotion or cream protects the skin without causing irritation.
8. Hair for your face. To make a round face look oval, avoid haircuts that are shorter than shoulder length. Side parts tend to widen the face, so opt for a middle-part. A few layers in front will elongate the face.
9. Add shine to hair. Try a post-shampoo rinse once a week with 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar diluted in a pint of water. The acid in the vinegar will remove buildup from styling products like mousse and hairspray.
10. Fine hair + highlights = fragile ends. To keep ends from fraying and breaking during a blow-dry, use a medium heat setting. Styling will take longer this way, but it will leave your hair shinier and healthier.

FUTURE REFLECTIONS

Future Reflections opened 3 October 2011 at 91 Griffith St, Coolangatta. They will soon be the most successful and well-respected fitness organisation in Coolangatta.

Future Reflections has been designed to welcome everybody from everywhere who never thought they could enter a gym. The floor layout is designed with dedication towards neatness, easy design to move around, manageable equipment and great cool floor staff.

Our equipment is fitted with the most up-market functions with all cardio machines featuring TV, internet and games built into LCD screens. The resistance equipment travels smoothly with the design of the slide-pin, so we will ensure you a fun but easy workout all at once!

Plus this month we have erased all our GYM JOINING FEES!

For more information or to join today phone 07 5599 3771.

INTOUCH YOGA TEACHER TRAINING

Flo Fenton's Intouch Yoga Teacher Training is now coming into its third year. It has produced a very high standard of graduate teachers in the previous two years, who are not only ready to teach, but are confident that they are teaching what is beneficial to their students. The part-time format runs just one day per week and begins in March. The Level One training will be held Wednesdays, and the Level Two on Fridays in Suffolk Park. There is a special focus on yoga for individual needs, leading into yoga therapy. Accredited by Yoga Alliance.

Details and bookings: www.intouchyogabyronbay.com.

PHYTONAIL

Put your best toes forward this summer with Phytanail.

Embarrassed by your ugly, discoloured toe nails? It's a surprisingly common complaint. Here's a simple and natural solution. Phytanail contains Australian blue cypress, tea tree



and lavender oils and the handy pen applicator makes it quick and easy to apply. The unique carrier system allows the natural essential oils to actually penetrate the nail. Used regularly, improvements are visible in just a few weeks. Your nails not only look more beautiful but they're healthier too.

To purchase Phytanail at the Summer Special Price or for further information visit www.phytanail.com or call 6685 5599.

Put your best toes forward this summer

Do your toenails let you down? Care and repair thickened, discoloured and brittle nails by using Phytanail – a natural solution containing essential oils which rapidly penetrate the nail. The natural way to beautiful healthy nails.

For more information and our Summer Special Price visit www.phytanail.com or call 6685 5599.

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FUTURE REFLECTIONS
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NEW GYM OPEN IN COOLANGATTA

Group Fitness Timetable

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- 6:00am On Ya Bike
- 5:30am Zumba
- 5:30am On Ya Bike
- 6:30am Fitball

Tuesday

- 6:00am Cardio Weights
- 9:30am Pilates
- 10:30am Cardio Mix
- 6:00am Fitball

Wednesday

- 6:00am Yoga
- 9:30am Pump
- 10:30am Pilates
- 5:00am Spin Class
- 6:00am Yoga

Thursday

- 6:00am Boxersize
- 9:30am Abs, Butts & Thighs
- 10:30am Zumba
- 5:30am On Ya Bike
- 6:00am Fitball

Friday

- 6:00am On Ya Bike
- 9:30am Step Weights
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Flo Fenton's Intouch Yoga Teacher Training Level One & Level Two

Part time, 1 day per week

Begins March 2012 in Suffolk Park

This format encourages an integration of deep spirituality into daily life whilst allowing one to continue with the responsibilities of work and parenting.

The training has a strong focus on yoga for individual needs, leading into Yoga Therapy.

Fully accredited with Yoga Alliance.

Details and bookings:

www.intouchyogabyronbay.com
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ALL YOUR LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

Live Music

Going for a roll in the Hay

Hailing from the Blue Mountains, blues/roots artist **Claude Hay** takes Do-It-Yourself to impressive limits. He builds his own instruments. He built his own house. He customised his tour van with a kitchen and a recording studio. And his musical approach is no different – you see only one performer, but the sound and music builds layer-by-layer until you have to wonder where the rest of the band is.

Hot on the heels of the Australian and US release of his second album *Deep Fried Satisfied*, Claude debuted on the Billboard blues charts at #9, following the likes of Buddy Guy and John Bonamassa. His interview on USA's syndicated National Public Radio exposed him to millions of listeners which pushed the USA market interest not long after hitting #21 on the US Weekly Blues Charts.

Claude Hay fuses slide guitar, sitar, bass and electronic percussion in a loop-driven performance that invokes the best of stomping traditional blues with a booty-shaking funk edge. His fresh take on roots and blues draws in a wide spectrum of listeners, but still has the chops for the blues enthusiasts. **Currumbin SoundLounge Friday.**

The Beautiful Girls

Summer has become synonymous with **The Beautiful Girls**, and the hotter months of 2011/2012 will be no different. It's their favourite season and best time to hit the road and reconnect with the home turf. Surf, skate, surf, by day. Music, show, party by night. Never straying far from waves, caravans, BBQ's, bikinis, sweltering heat, cold beers, long drives, festival crowds, beach cricket, and family and friends. Everything that reminds them they are at home in Australia. Living the dream. **Coolanagatta Hotel Friday.**

Asa Broomhall

Australia's favourite rock/roots larrikin, **Asa Broomhall**, has done it again with his latest self-produced album *Revelry Road*. Recorded live over five days in the farmhouse where Asa grew up on the Sunshine Coast. It builds on Asa's previous work by seamlessly



THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS PLAY AT THE COOLANGATTA HOTEL ON FRIDAY

combining full band tracks and solo acoustic songs showing the true depth of his songwriting and musicianship. You may say it is a rock and roll record with a hint of folk but it has elements of blues, country and even a bit of calypso.

This album also features some of SE Qld's finest musicians on instruments such as cello and piano and an appearance on guitar by one of Australia's most revered artists; **Mark Lizotte** (Diesel). **Currumbin SoundLounge Friday.**

The right Syndicate for the win

Transvaal Diamond Syndicate (TDS) are the manufacturers of some of Australia's finest foot-stompin' swamp and dirty blues/rock. Great guitar riffs with cool and clear lyrics. Bound to get the speakers rattling. July 2009 saw the beginning of a rapid upwards journey for Transvaal Diamond Syndicate, almost immediately garnering attention for their raw, energetic, exciting and often primeval live shows. Since then, the TDS have only gone from

strength to strength, gathering fans left and right from constant touring and performing and engaging with fans through their strong online presence (eg YouTube – Tuesday Tinnies with TDS).

Now it seems all the hard work is paying off – Transvaal Diamond Syndicate's 2011 was shaped by their inclusion on Australia's premier Festival, Byron Bay Bluesfest.

TDS are currently touring to promote *Sins of the Blessed*, a brand new seven-track mini-album showcasing the band's diversity as it moves and swells through straight blues progressions into half-time rock and rockabilly into stoner groove and dark roots balladry. See them at the **Currumbin SoundLounge Friday.**

The Life Of Akmal

Comedian **Akmal** will be featuring memoirs and extracts from his book *The Life Of Akmal*. Topics will cover his experiences growing up in



WASABI PLAY AT THE CURRUMBIN RSL ON SATURDAY

Egypt and migrating to Australia to being kicked out of the Coptic Orthodox Church and finding solace in his newfound religion of Comedy. There are outrageous stories of how Akmal entered the comedy world and insights into the characters he has met along the way that have influenced his career.

Fellow comedian **Joel Ozborn**, who has toured extensively with



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NO ROOM AT ANY INN

There is nothing like constant rejection to make your mind snap. Last week my husband and I and our 2-year-old daughter hit the Pacific Highway to return home after our Blue Mountains Christmas. (This was our Exmas – the other four were distributed to appropriate ex-partners and family members.) After luxuriating in the surrounds of Mosman lunching with an old girlfriend, marvelling at her view of Balmoral and how she managed to get 12 sofas into a sunroom, we strapped into the Commodore and bade our farewell.

After a very cruisey two-day journey to the mountains we were confident that Ivy, our littlest traveller, was quite capable of managing a five-to-six-hour stint. We'd taken the New England Highway on the way down, overnights at Tamworth at a glorious resort that had once been a power station. There was no traffic, we had a two-bedroom apartment with kingsize bed and jacuzzi for just \$165.

We stopped off at vineyards in the Hunter Valley, marvelled at the exclusive horses of Scone, took a dirt road, and drove through hundreds of miles of wildflowers. We reached a roundabout, the wheel of our misfortune. John asked the important question, should we go to Tamworth again? I said, No! Let's go the Coast Road and try something new.

John and I chatted about our various hotel options. After a week of dosing down with family on a series of bad mattresses, I was up for five-star. King-size bed, jacuzzi, plasma. Every cell in my body rejoiced for the sheer thrill of it. Ivy watched a movie, fell asleep, and as we approached Taree we realised that we'd make Port Macquarie without too much fuss.

'Let's stay at Rydges,' I gushed. 'Port Macquarie just fills up with all these inbred Wauchope regional types – they'll all be in the two-star hotels and caravan parks. We're sure to get a room somewhere really nice.'

My arrogance was rewarded with grief. There was nothing. It was 7pm, Ivy had just woken up and started to make sounds about being removed from the car. Even the shit hotels that we scoffed at bore 'No Vacancy' signs. We patrolled the beachfront accommodation. Full Occupancy. We drove around the city. Full Occupancy. We drove around the caravan parks. Full Occupancy. After an hour of flashing neon rejections, we drove out of Port Macquarie. I, as usual, was completely philosophical. 'It's a shit hole anyway, full of old people and yobbos.' I was starting to feel resentment prickling my skin. I felt that childish sensation welling in my throat, the burning lump of disappointment. I wanted to cry. We had to go to Kempsey. There is no five-star in Kempsey. We were 30 kays outside of a two-star town. John pointed out a remote roadside hotel attached to a pub on the way into town. He joked that he thought it was just like the Bates motel. He'd once stopped in for a beer, but left after one sip for fear of being raped and murdered. I noticed that there was a vacancy there. John refused to stop.

We hit Kempsey. 'Go to the other side of town,' I declared as we drove past numerous decrepit roadside hotel motels. I hate hotel motels. They're like stinky jail cells with chenille bedspreads and tiny soaps. But I had a plan. Some time ago I had stayed on the river in Kempsey at the Country Comfort, a passably modest but clean and well-located stopover for salesman and weary travellers. We ignored the vacancies at the other providers and went for the Comfort. I couldn't believe it. 'No Vacancy.' Shit. We tried the hotel next door. Just as we pulled into reception the woman who looked like she was made from the same laminex as the check-in desk scrawled a definite NO on A4 and stuck it to her glass door.

We tried the NRMA offering next to McDonald's. One room only. And it was smoking. I considered buying Ivy a pack. I wanted to cry. We sat in McDonald's charging our phones and our DVD. I rang ahead to Macksville. Everything was booked out. I rang every hotel

in South West Rocks. Nothing. I tried Coffs Harbour. Every resort or hotel was fully booked. Except for one four-bedroom Villa for \$600. I looked at John; he was pragmatic. 'We'll just drive home.' I wanted to throw a tantrum. My five-star dream had turned into desperate bedlessness in Kempsey McDonald's. I ate a Mighty Angus. I cried into my McFlurry.

I didn't want to keep driving. It was now 10pm. We had been looking for accommodation for three hours. We didn't have enough charge in the DVD for more than a half hour and Ivy was wired – there'd be no sleeping babies for some time yet. Great, fatigue, frustration and a screaming child. John drove out of Kempsey, we drove through Macksville hoping, but nothing. Valla Beach, nothing, so John pushed homewards. Then I snapped. 'I can't do it. We have to stop. I'd rather sleep in the car.' John relented and we broke into a caravan park with 'NO CABINS NO SITES' scrawled in chalk on the entrance board. We pulled up by the river, and John unpacked our bags into the front seat while I squatted on the grass for a piss. It was 11pm.

Then I saw her moving across the lawn. Like an old croc, Salty's eyes gleamed in the moonlight. Obese with skin like the heel of an unshoed foot, Salty stared accusingly at me while I begged. 'Please, I know you have nothing available, we need to sleep in the car... please... we've been everywhere... I can't go on.' She moved off with a 'pay me in the morning'.

So we slept on towels in the back of the station wagon. Ivy was delighted. 'This is 'citing!' We lay in the car, on makeshift pillows, with fleshy thighs bearing down into the cold hardness of the boot. All night I was awakened by the dull ache of discomfort. By morning, caravan park dwellers and fishermen eyed us suspiciously: who were these strange tentless folk who emerged from the wagon of their car fully clothed?

Fortunately one group took pity on us; it turned out they were Salvation Army Officers, and made us coffee. When I told them our sad story, they laughed in commiseration, with one of the chaps reaching out and rubbing my belly, 'Just like in the Christmas Story, love, no room at the inn.' I didn't have the heart to tell him I wasn't pregnant. I just jumped on my fat ass and rode away.



NICK AND LIESL PLAY AT THE SPHINX ROCK CAFE ON SUNDAY

The The V-Rays promise to deliver an intense rock experience and leave the audience with a memory that they have witnessed something different from mainstream pop. Two guitar, bass and drums gives the The V-Rays a groovy, melodic, raw stripped-down sound. Young and Charles are the songwriters and creative force within the band, are ably supported by the solid and creative bass playing of Bradbury and the swirling electric guitar from Everson. **Saturday** at the **Sheak Shack**.

Spicing things Up

Wasabi are a high-energy rock show that has been playing around south-east Queensland for the past two years, building a fan base and reputation as one of south-east Queensland's best live bands, with no exception at Currumbin. With a fully computer-operated light show, high-quality sound, and an engaging and entertaining performance every time, Wasabi are more than just a covers band, it's a rock show aimed to keep the dance

floor busy from start to finish.

The members of Wasabi are seasoned musicians playing all around Australia and internationally including such venues as Conrad Jupiters, Treasury Casino, The Shangri-la Hotel Bangkok and Narwana Beach resort Bin Tan Island, Indonesia and performances covered by Australian radio and television. They play a great mix of classic to modern rock covers that you sing, dance and drink to, giving a polished, and genuine performance always because they love what they do... entertain. **Saturday** at the **Currumbin RSL**.

Live Music continued on page 18



THE ASHTON SHUFFLE PLAY AT THE COOLANGATTA HOTEL ON SUNDAY

Akmal both nationally and internationally over the last two years, will join him. Together they have built a strong, dynamic chemistry on stage, which is evident in their improvised audience Q&A promising something different every night. **Saturday** at **Twin Towns**.

V-Rays

Formed by Michael Charles and Tony Young in 2010, the **The V Rays** raison d'être is to produce high energy garage rock. The sound of the The V-Rays appeals to anyone who wants to experience and listen to an electric, powerful and exciting music. They play original songs and covers from garage rock, glam and punk bands such as: The Ramones, The Stooges, Iggy Pop, Lou Reed, Velvet Underground and The Troggs.



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<p>Sat 7th Jan 7:30pm - 11:00pm</p> <p>Happy Daze Karaoke</p>		<p>Mon 9th Jan 12:00pm - 3:00pm</p> <p>Fabian</p>

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Gig Guide

THURSDAY 5

- CLUB BANORA 6PM NICKY CONDINE
- CUDGEN LEAGUES CLUB LONEWOLF
- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 8PM PHIL EIZENBERG'S OPEN MIKE NITE
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6PM ROY DANIELS

FRIDAY 6

- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB SURF REPORT
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 8PM MOONDOG GYPSY BAND
- CLUB BANORA 7PM TOUCAN TWANGO
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM THE

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS

- COOLANGATTA SANDS HOTEL LOUNGE BAR 7.30PM FAT ALBERT FRONT BAR 8PM RICK BARRON
- CUDGEN LEAGUES 7PM PAUL MULQUEEN
- CUDGEN SLSC KINGSCLIFF 6PM JIM MCALLISTER
- CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE 7.30PM CLAUDE HAY WITH ASA BROOMHALL + TRANSVAAL DIAMOND SYNDICATE
- CURRUMBIN RSL 7PM KAFFENE
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM SEGUE DUO
- MARTY'S @ CABA, CABARITA BEACH 7.30PM EILISH
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM PHIL GUEST
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB

- 7PM THE DIRTY GROOVE
- SALTBAR KINGSCLIFF THE DIRTY CHANNEL
- SEAGULLS LAKEVIEW LOUNGE 7PM STREET CAFE
- SPHINX ROCK CAFE, MT BURRELL 6PM JAY HOAD
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 11AM ROBBIE ROSENLUND 7.30PM ABLE MAGWITCH

SATURDAY 7

- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB PETA EVANS-TAYLOR
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 3PM GREG KEW
- CLUB BANORA 7PM CRISIS
- COOLANGATTA SANDS HOTEL FRONT BAR 8PM DAVE MURRAY
- COOLANGATTA TWEED HEADS GOLF CLUB PAUL MULQUEEN
- CURRUMBIN RSL 7PM WASABI
- THE IVORY TAVERN, TWEED HEADS 8PM THE DIRTY CHANNEL
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM HAPPY DAZE KARAOKE

- MARTY'S @ CABA, CABARITA BEACH 7.30PM MARK FERRIS
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM TREVOR RIX
- SEAGULLS LAKEVIEW LOUNGE 7PM SHINDIG
- SHEOAK SHACK THE V-RAYS
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM THE LIONS DEN
- TWIN TOWNS 8PM AKMAL WITH SPECIAL GUEST JOEL OZBORN

SUNDAY 8

- BABALOU KINGSCLIFF 2.30PM SOUTH PACIFIC SOUND SYSTEM
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM DARREN MARLOW
- CLUB BANORA 11.30AM DANIELLE GOULLET'S SUNDAY SHOWTIME 2PM TALENTED TEEN COMPETITION - HEAT 1
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM BLUEJUICE + THE ASTON SHUFFLE
- COOLANGATTA SANDS HOTEL LOUNGE BAR 5PM BRETT GANNON
- CURRUMBIN RSL 1.30PM

NIGHTSHIFT

- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 5PM JIM MCALLISTER
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 2PM MR TROY
- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 4PM HAVE-A-GO-KARAOKE
- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA EASY SUNDAYS
- SHEOAK SHACK 4PM JAY HOAD
- SPHINX ROCK CAFE MT BURRELL 2PM NICK & LIESL
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL MURWILLUMBAH 2PM BILL JACOBI
- SURFERS BEER GARDEN SUNDAY SESSIONS
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 5PM DAVID LEE
- UKI PUB 2.30PM LIL' FI AND THE DIRTY RASCALS

MONDAY 9

- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 12 FABIAN
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 11AM MARCO 6PM DICK BARNES

TUESDAY 10

- MARTY'S AT CABA CABARITA BEACH 7.30PM DAVE MURRAY'S OPEN MIC NIGHT
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6PM DAVO
- TWIN TOWNS 10.30AM FABBA

WEDNESDAY 11

- CLUB BANORA 6PM VANYA
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 11AM TRACEY VAUGHAN 6PM RUSSELL HINTON

THURSDAY 12

- CLUB BANORA 6PM WHITEY
- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 8PM PHIL EIZENBERG'S OPEN MIKE NITE
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6PM DABBY BURGER
- TWIN TOWNS 8PM REECE MASTIN WITH SPECIAL GUEST JOHNNY RUFFO

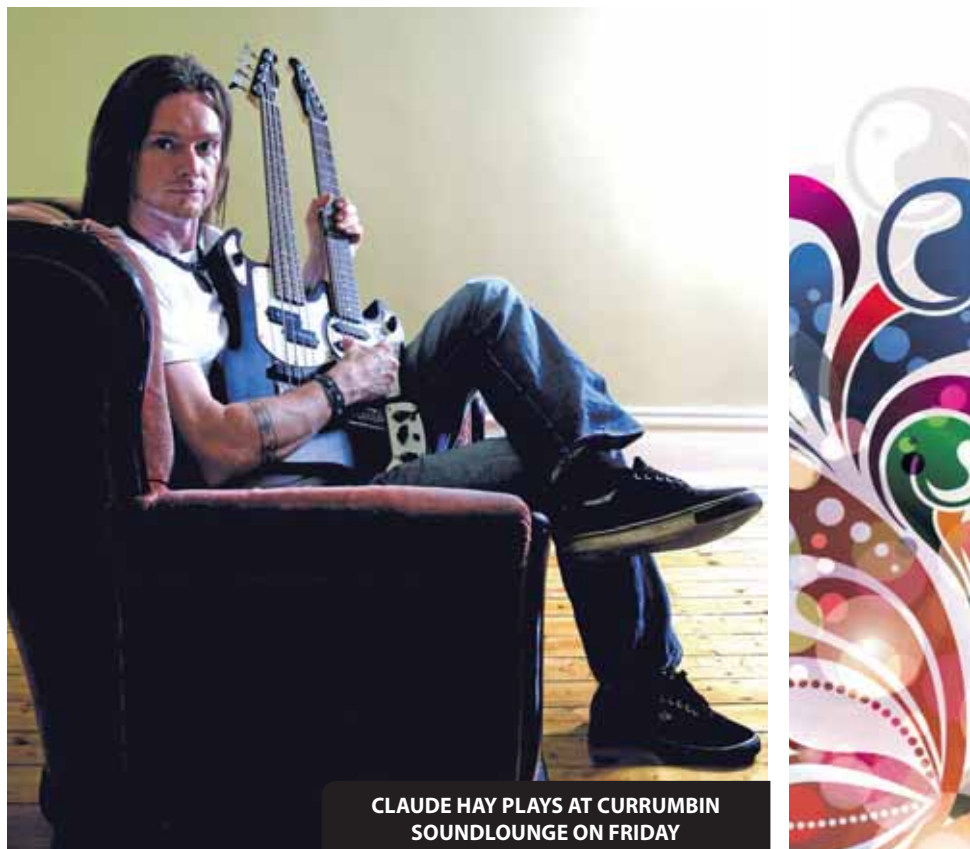
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BLUEJUICE PLAY AT COOLANGATTA HOTEL ON SUNDAY



THE V RAYS PLAY AT THE SHEOAK SHACK ON SATURDAY



CLAUDE HAY PLAYS AT CURRUMBIN SOUNDLOUNGE ON FRIDAY

Live Music CONTINUED

Nick and Liesl

It's been a crazy year for Aussie-Swedish duo **Nick and Liesl**. 2011 saw them tour Australia and Europe with their critically acclaimed debut album *Feather*, and what better way to wrap up an amazing year than with performing at Woodford Folk Festival. Nick and Liesl are now coming back to Queensland and NSW to follow up on their successful shows here in May and June after an extended stay in Sweden following their fifth European tour.

The tour, which took them through Germany, Belgium, France and Switzerland, included live performances on French TV and German radio as well as the Reeperbahn Festival in Hamburg. After the 7-week tour Nick and Liesl returned to Sweden for some family time and, inspired by the haunting winter darkness there, have been working on new material for when the time comes to record the next release. **Sunday** at the **Sphinx Rock Cafe**.

They've got the Juice and the Shuffle

For the third year in a row, **Bluejuice** are packing the tiniest shorts they can find, dusting off their surfmats, reacquainting their shoulder hair with natural sunlight, and rolling their *Sizzling 2012* tour into a coastal town near you (or at least your summer holiday town) Bluejuice are preparing the tour van with ripening nectarines and peaches and are ready to roll with their first tour in ages. *Sizzling 2012* will see Bluejuice and their house music pals The Aston Shuffle bring an unparalleled level of summer fruitiness and crotch sweating to the otherwise-respectable coastal towns of Australia. It's going to be sticky. For the urban, metropolitan, city dwelling fans of Bluejuice the band has just been announced as a national artist on the Big Day Out 2012. See them this week at the **Coolangatta Hotel Sunday**.

Instrument virtuoso Hoad on the road

Fijian born didgeridoo and stringed instrument virtuoso **Jay Hoad** will be bringing his unique show to the area this weekend. Jay has spent the last six years touring around the globe, following the sun and his inspiration for music throughout the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, Fiji,



Canada and North America, keeping up a relentless touring schedule whilst passionately learning about third world culture and every style of music he can sink his teeth into.

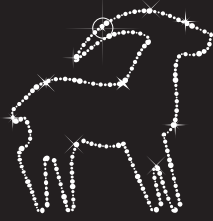
The result – a very funky and high-energy show that sees Jay sitting in a cockpit of instruments including didgeridoo, Weissenborn lap steel, dulcimer, guitar, harmonica, ocarina, djembe, percussion, loops, voice and then some. Mouth, hands and feet work in harmony as Jay fuses many genres of music creating a sound that's hard to believe comes from just one person.

In 2010 Jay was honoured to perform with Bob Marley's **Wailers** on the northeast leg of their USA tour and has also recently toured with USA super groups Carbon Leaf and the Temptations. For a visual and sound spectacular see Jay Hoad at the **Sphinx Rock Café** on **Friday** and the **Sheoak Shack** on **Sunday**.

Stars

WITH LILITH

As the baby year kicks off to a fresh start, you might like to consult these road maps from members of your own star tribe...

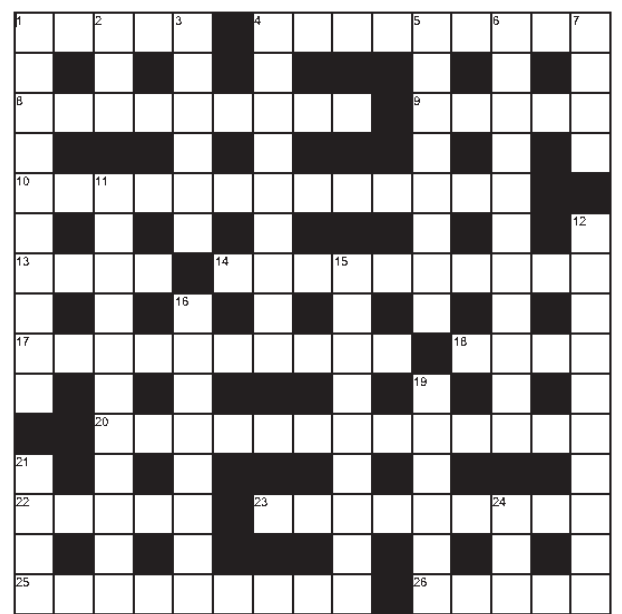


- ♈ ARIES:** Tennessee Williams, Aries playwright: I don't believe in original sin, guilt, villains or heroes, good or bad people. I don't understand why our propaganda machines are always trying to persuade us to hate and fear others. Why don't we meet these people and get to know them?
- ♉ TAURUS:** Terry Pratchett, Tauran novelist: Some say the glass is either half full or half empty. The world belongs, however, to those who say: What's up with this glass? Excuse me? This is my glass? I don't think so. My glass was full! And it was a bigger glass!
- ♊ GEMINI:** Ralph Waldo Emerson, Gemini philosopher: Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities crept in; forget them. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered by old nonsense.
- ♋ CANCER:** Tom Robbins, Cancerian author: Our lives are not as limited as we think; the world is a wonderfully weird place; no institution can be trusted, but love does work; we could be happy and fulfilled if we only had the wisdom to quit taking ourselves so damn seriously.
- ♌ LEO:** Dag Hammarskjöld, Leo diplomat: The longest journey is the journey

- inwards. Listen to the voice within you and you'll hear more clearly the sounds outside. In the point of rest at the centre of our being we encounter a cosmos whose riches we can only glimpse.
- ♍ VIRGO:** John Cage, Virgo composer: My intention is to affirm life. Not to bring order out of chaos or suggest improvements in creation, but simply wake up to this life we're living which is so excellent once one gets one's mind and desires out of its way and lets it act of its own accord.
- ♎ LIBRA:** Mahatma Ghandi, Libran pacifist: Your beliefs become your thoughts, your thoughts become your words, your words become your actions, your actions become your habits, your habits become your values and your values become your destiny. What you do may seem unimportant, but it's important that you do it.
- ♏ SCORPIO:** Robert Kennedy, Scorpio politician: This short life cannot be ennobled or enriched by hatred. Every act to improve the lot of others or strike out against injustice sends a tiny ripple to join a million other daring ripples in a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression.
- ♐ SAGITTARIUS:** James Agee, Sagittarian

- writer: Nobody who ever lived is specially privileged; the axe can fall at any moment, on any neck, without warning or regard for justice. We can only be ready by being in tune with the times and prepared to break with tradition.
- ♑ CAPRICORN:** JD Salinger, Capricorn author: You're not the first person confused and frightened, even sickened by human behaviour. Many have been just as troubled as you are. Happily, some of them kept records. Learn from them, and someday, someone will learn something from you. It's a beautiful reciprocal arrangement.
- ♒ AQUARIUS:** Eckhart Tolle, Aquarian metaphysician: You cannot receive what you don't give. Outflow determines inflow. Whatever you think the world is withholding from you, you already have, but unless you allow it to flow out, you won't even know that you have it. This includes abundance.
- ♓ PISCES:** WH Auden, Pisces poet: Those to whom evil is done do evil in return. Behind the lady who dances and the man who madly drinks, the attack of migraine and the sigh, there is more than meets the eye. We must love one another or die.

Mungo's Crossword



Quick Clues

- ACROSS**
- Scent, perfume (5)
 - Cancer stick (9)
 - Forbearance, lack of prejudice (9)
 - Famous fountain in Rome
 - Place for surgery to reverse the effects of dissection (9,4)
 - Bean curd (4)
 - Came back into sight (10)
 - Brother of Flopsy and Mopsy (10)
 - Style of jazz singing (4)
 - Large warship (6,7)
 - Derived from the sun (5)
 - Body of water between China and Korea (6,3)
 - A 4 down (9)
 - Odds pf pne to ne (5)

DOWN

- A 4 down
- Crude petroleum (3)
- A 4 down (6)
- Exercising restraint of desires or passions (9)
- Shared, allotted (8)
- One or perhaps two 4 downs (3,8)
- Sinful, wicked (4)
- Passenger restraints in vehicles (6,5)
- Opinion pieces in newspapers (10)
- Cinematic Queen of the Desert (9)
- Tormentor, sadist (8)
- A 4 down (6)
- A 4 down (4)
- View, look at (3)

Last week's solution



Cryptic Clues

- ACROSS**
- Scent of where all roads lead, according to Giuseppe (5)
 - Supermarket in Greek island had time for a lethal product (9)
 - Dream about a cheer for lack of prejudice (9)
 - Mix, invert but no new fountain (5)
 - About the cult charge, Othello – back to where they'll stitch you up! (9,4)
 - Antipasto future holds bland food (4)
 - Journalist followed harvest fruit and came back again (10)
 - N. Mopsy's brother (10)
 - Singing of Southern Persian, perhaps (4)
 - Warship destroys sea turtle crib (6,7)
 - Power to fly over the lake (5)
 - Scream, cry of pain, leading to South East Asia – or a maritime part thereof! (6,3)
 - University returns one of its faculties, among other things, to this 4 down (9)
 - Balances short odds (5)
- DOWN**
- Worker curve: note about a 4 down (10)
 - Fuel 049 (3)
 - Fair fight about 4 down (6)
 - Territory constrained by change – specialist in exercising restraint (9)
 - Shared proportion with Kelly (8)
 - Emirate cash enough for one or two 4 downs (3,8)
 - Be upstanding for sin! (4)
 - False test bypasses security devices (6,5)
 - Opinionated writing or idealist? Problem (10)
 - Advertising is back for the Queen of the Desert (9)
 - Traveller about right for a sadist (8)
 - Devalued rupee covers nothing for this 4 down (6)
 - Like individual, a 4 down (4)
 - Look at the bishop's [lace] (3)
- Mungo's Crossword first published in *The Week*.

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SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY JANUARY 5 TO
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11

Thursday January 5		Sunday January 8	
9.30am	Happy Feet 2 (G)	9.30am	Happy Feet 2 (G)
11.05am	Arthur Christmas (G)	11.05am	Arthur Christmas (G)
12.50pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)	12.50pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)
2.40pm	Judy Moody (G)	2.40pm	Judy Moody (G)
4.20pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)	4.20pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)
Friday January 6		Tuesday January 10	
9.30am	Happy Feet 2 (G)	9.30am	Happy Feet 2 (G)
11.05am	Arthur Christmas (G)	11.05am	Arthur Christmas (G)
12.50pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)	12.50pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)
2.40pm	Judy Moody (G)	2.40pm	Judy Moody (G)
4.20pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)	4.20pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)
6.20pm	The Ides of March (M)	6.20pm	The Ides of March (M)
8.00pm	Bill C. New York (PG)	8.00pm	Bill C. New York (PG)
Saturday January 7		Wednesday January 11	
9.30am	Happy Feet 2 (G)	9.30am	Happy Feet 2 (G)
11.05am	Arthur Christmas (G)	11.05am	Arthur Christmas (G)
12.50pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)	12.50pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)
2.40pm	Judy Moody (G)	2.40pm	Judy Moody (G)
4.20pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)	4.20pm	Happy Feet 2 (G)
6.20pm	The Ides of March (M)	6.20pm	The Ides of March (M)
8.00pm	Bill C. New York (PG)	8.00pm	Bill C. New York (PG)

CHESS by Ian Rogers
Play at Seagulls Club, Thurs 6pm

2011 was a year for surprises, though with one constant: the continued amazing consistency of Magnus Carlsen.

The Norwegian superstar (above), who can no longer be described as a teenager, started the year ranked just behind World Champion Viswanathan Anand but, after a series of elite tournament victories, ended it with a massive gap between himself and the second ranked player, currently Armenia's Levon Aronian.

Anand, meanwhile, dropped to fourth place and his recent form suggests that the Indian's world title defence next May against unfancied Israeli Boris Gelfand might not be the cake-walk many have expected.

Gelfand qualified for the world title match after a hard-fought and controversial series of Candidates matches in Kazan in May, a series boycotted by Carlsen.

Carlsen had become fed up with the constant rule, venue and date changes announced by the world body FIDE, whose President Kirsan Iljumzhinov put chess on the front pages by dropping into war-torn Libya in June to play chess against Muammar Gaddafi. Since Gaddafi apparently didn't know the rules of the game, Iljumzhinov played the moves for both sides but still could only manage a draw.

Domestically, no single player dominated but teenagers James Morris, Max Illingworth and Bobby Cheng all enhanced their reputations (and gave themselves a chance for Olympic selection in 2012). Cheng became Victorian Champion at 14 and topped Grandmaster Darryl Johansen again at the Trundle Memorial in Auckland.

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60 Seconds with The Echo



Welcome to **60 seconds with The Echo.**
Each week one of our service directory businesses will spend 60 seconds with *The Echo*. They will have to think on their feet as we fire the questions at them. Watch this space each week to see who our next 60 second business will be...

Hands on Accounts

Business Name: Hands on Accounts
Person being interviewed: Kay Williams
Favourite colour? Green
Favourite food? Thai
Any kids? Three
Your worst habit? Mmmmm... Working too hard.
Office located? Bilambil and the back of my car as I am mobile.
Service your business provides? Bookkeeping, account management, payroll.
Business motto? Get a hand on your accounts
Best result you have achieved for a client? Getting them a BIG fuel tax rebate they didn't realise they were entitled to.
When people think of you what would they think? Reliable, no hassle, personal service.
Main clientele? Small business through to self-employed tradies
Where you travel to offer the service? Tweed to lower Gold Coast
Thank you for spending 60 seconds with *The Echo*. Any last comments? Looking forward to a great 2012.

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Housing supply at tipping point

The Residential Development Council (RDC) said the Australian government's National Housing Supply Council – State of Supply Report 2011 confirms what the industry has long known – that there is an ever-widening gap between the demand for homes and the number being delivered.

Caryn Kakas, executive director, Residential Development Council, said the report found that there is a projected housing shortfall of 215,000 dwellings nationally and growing.

"The report identifies major gaps between the demand for homes and the available supply with the disparity being particularly pronounced in NSW and Queensland.

"This is the result of a significant number of barriers impeding the housing market.

"These include record lev-



els of development taxes and charges, inefficient planning systems and the failure of governments to deliver linking hard and soft infrastructure to new communities.

"The gap between supply and demand is projected to rise to 640,000 homes over the next twenty years. If we want to ensure this is not the future of housing in Australia, the tipping point for action is now.

"Solutions include invest-

ing more funds into successful programs, such as NRAS, that specifically target the supply of homes to low and moderate income earners. We also must undertake a long-overdue, radical reform of the planning system to give the industry and the broader community greater certainty.

"At the same time, we need to ensure that funding for infrastructure is shared equitably rather than burdening just once market segment.

"Crucial to successfully tackling Australia's housing supply problems is a holistic, integrated approach from all levels of government to support the delivery of new homes.

"The federal government's involvement must be matched by leadership from the states and territories to support a more affordable future.

"The release of this report could not have come at a better time for the newly appointed minister for housing, the Honourable Robert McClelland. It provides a clear picture of the issues facing the sector that are hampering its ability to supply housing.

"It is vital, if we are to build a strong economy and meet the housing demands of our growing population, that the obstacles to delivering new housing are removed."

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Wednesday of the month in the library at 10.30am. If you enjoy reading and sharing ideas with others please come along and join in. Books are provided and lent out by the library. For info call Beverly 07 5590 7435 or Rosalind 07 5524 3342.

Horse skills volunteers

Volunteers with horse skills or willing to learn to lead and exercise horses are needed at Riding for the Disabled, Tweed Valley Centre, Murwillumbah. Riding sessions are held on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings during school terms. Lots of jobs for willing workers. Make lots of friends and have fun in a caring atmosphere. For info call Sylvia 0419 437 217.

Men's a'cappella

Are you of the male variety, can sing and possess a sense of comedy, then come and join Men Wot Sing a'cappella singers. We perform at various functions, weddings, corporate gigs, festivals, and charities. Check us out on menwotsing.com.au or call Lou on 0419 735 633.

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Computers for seniors

Computer Association Tweed Seniors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.30am in the Seagulls Club. Get computer advice and learn computer skills at your own pace in a friendly social environment. All welcome. For info call Noelene on 07 5599 8939 bh.

Al-Anon

Are you concerned about someone else's drinking? Meet others who share your problems and learn how to improve the family atmosphere. Meetings held up and down the coast and at Murwillumbah at the Christian Outreach Centre, 19 Prince Street, on Mondays at 10am. For info call 07 5532 4320.

Lifeball

Lifeball is an exercise sport similar to netball but played at walking pace by senior men and women. At Chinderah: sessions held every Tuesday 9.30am-11.30am at Tweed

Supersports Centre, Chinderah, for info call Jill 02 6674 0636 or George 02 6624 4558.

At Pottsville: men and women players needed, sessions every Thursday 9.30am to 11.30am at Pottsville Community Hall, Coast Road, Pottsville. For info call Ruth 02 6676 0411.

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Low cost groceries. Finding it tough going? Come and see us at Elevation Care, 56 Caloola Drive, Tweed Heads, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 2pm, opening January 9. Huge variety and quality food. Bring your bags. For info call 07 5507 6999.

Justices of the Peace

Tweed Justices of the Peace returning on January 19 at Tweed City. For info call Donna on 0414 894 368. Also, JP witnessing at Red Monkey Cafe, Kingscliff, Tuesday and Thursday 9am-midday, call Norman on 0412 473 575.

End of life choices

For information about end of life choices workshops and

meetings to be held this year, call Elaine on 0421 796 713.

Nashos

The Gold Coast South-Twin Towns branch next general meeting Sunday, January 15, at 11am (DST) 10am (Qld) in the new Anzac Room, Twin Towns Services Club. For info call John on 07 5535 2484.

Tweed Valley Murwillumbah branch meets the third Tuesday of every month except January at our new location Murwillumbah Sporties (bowling club), cnr Brisbane and Condong Streets, Murwillumbah at 10am. We have guest speakers, activities and welcome new members. For info call Peter on 0458 060 765.

Breast cancer

The 2012 YWCA Encore Program, an innovative and inspiring approach to recovery from breast cancer surgery, starts in Murwillumbah in February and runs for eight weeks until March 28, each Wednesday 12.30pm-2.30pm. To register call 02 9285 6264 or 1800 305 150. Participation is free.

Dragons Abreast

Mt Warning Dragons Abreast aims to improve the quality of life of its members, who are breast cancer survivors and their supporters. Dragon Boat

paddling with the club provides a sense of purpose and support for breast cancer survivors. They paddle on the Tweed River, Condong. For info call Robyn on 0427 368 819.

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A letter writer has berated mayor Barry Longland claiming he has turned his back on colleague Cr Katie Milne since assuming the mayoralty recently. His patience with the Greens councillor may be running thin, the writer claims, as he no longer seconds her numerous environment-based motions. At the last community access meeting the mayor interrupted her a couple of times to press her to ask the question and at one time told her 'oh okay ask the question, but don't give the answer'. At least he was consistent, pulling up Cr Phil Youngblutt after he repeatedly and rudely kept mumbling with colleague Cr Warren Polglase while community speakers had the floor.

There was a bit of light relief at that meeting when an elderly speaker on hearing the alarm for the end of his five minutes worth of speech kept going and when reminded his time was up said he thought it was 'one of those mobile phones going off again'.

A little later, when one of the speakers against the McDonald's fast-food shop proposal tried to offer some packages to councillors, council's probity officer Neil Baldwin, looking a little aghast, stopped her in her tracks to ask her if she was trying to offer gifts, pointing out councillors could not accept gifts due to their code of conduct. But when the quietly spoken young woman said it was only an information package, he relaxed, saying 'okay that's different'. The package was a DVD of the documentary *The Economics of Happiness* which, according to its blurb 'illuminates the impact of government-subsidised products sold by transnational corporations on a once-subsistent community (Ladakh)'. The film will be screened at the Regent Cinema on Thursday, February 2, at 7.30pm followed by a



Southport artist Shayle Flesser at work. Her exhibition 'New Skin: Shayle Flesser' is on show at the Tweed River Art Gallery until the end of this month and has been described by gallery staff as 'nothing if not arresting'. Her series of work uses both human and animal figures to 'symbolise attributes that humans take on as they assemble their identity'.

Shayle will hold a workshop at the gallery for teenagers on Sunday, January 22, from 10am to 1pm called 'Gothic Still Life: Drawing for Teens' which is inspired by still life items, including skulls, taxidermy birds and other gothic imagery. The cost is \$42 including materials. For info call the gallery on 02 6670 2790.

discussion with the filmmaker Helena Norberg-Hodge. *Backburner* wonders how many of the councillors and senior staff will actually bother to view it.

A reminder that council meetings this month (next one on Tuesday, January 24) now start at 10.30am instead of 3.30pm, following a resolution of council last year. One community access speaker was perturbed by the change, telling councillors it cut down the opportunity for locals who had daytime commitments to observe council goings on, and were thus unable to make a considered vote for or against them for this year's local government election. Cr Youngblutt muddied the waters, telling the speaker the last access meeting was only half full with observers anyway, but the speaker stood his ground and clarified he was not talking about access meetings but full council meet-

ings, where all the big decisions are made. It was also noted by Cr Milne there had been no community consultation on the change. *Backburner* urges more people to attend the full council meetings and reckons it's the best free entertainment in town. Access meetings continue to be held on the Thursday before the Tuesday council meeting, at 4.30pm and the next one is January 19.

The club and pub industry's fight to stop restrictions on poker machine gambling has targeted Richmond MP Justine Elliot with large billboards at several venues throughout the Tweed saying 'it's un-Australian' (whatever that means) for her to try to stop them raking in the profits from gamblers. The billboards have an image of the MP with the message 'Justine, why are you voting to hurt our community?' which we think is a bit rich coming

from purveyors of alcohol that fuels real hurt in communities with violence, domestic bashings, etc. But Mrs Elliot is wearing it well, saying she understands the industry's issues and concerns but she has 'a pretty thick skin, I was in the police force'. Cop that.

Further to our story (page 3) on calls to save the mature forest redgum set to be chopped down on the site of a proposed health centre at Pottsville, *Backburner* couldn't help noticing the recent SBS TV advert by the Australian Koala Foundation saying it would take hundreds of thousands of saplings to replace one large mature tree, such as the above-mentioned redgum, in its capacity to store carbon. You have to wonder if the state health authorities are serious about not just human health but environmental health, which we think go hand in hand.

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