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Online in *Echo*netdaily
Vinnies shops to end plastic-bag use
www.echo.net.au/vinnies-shops-end-plastic-bag-use



All-ages alcohol-free NYE celebration, Soul Street, is again planned for Jonson Street, Byron Bay from 4pm till midnight. Pictured are musician Renee Simone, creative director Jo Jo and silent disco DJ Kezaiah. For more NYE information see pages 27 onwards or visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/new-years-eve. Photo Jeff Dawson

Mayor faces conduct complaints

Hans Lovejoy

Mayor Simon Richardson has defended two code of conduct (CoC) complaints against him over an alleged close association with an affordable-housing proposal, and pursuing – through compliance staff – a vocal critic of Council and that affordable housing project.

Saddle Ridge Community Action Group president Matthew O'Reilly lodged the complaints and supporting documents last week.

Mr O'Reilly claims the mayor has a non-pecuniary interest in the Saddle Road Bruns Eco Village (BEV) proposal, which is located on the northern end of Saddle Road, near the Brunswick Heads interchange.

A planning proposal for BEV and the entire surrounds was recently submitted to Council. As reported last week, it was an invitation to the landowners, asked for by the mayor and supporting councillors at the June 22 meeting. While it falls outside conventional planning strategies, 475 homes are proposed by five landowners across 52–112 hectares, with 20 per cent pegged as affordable housing.

First complaint

Mr O'Reilly says in his first complaint, 'The mayor has appeared in public with members of the Bruns Eco Village leadership group on a number of occasions over the last twelve months and has publicly expressed support for their development.'

Additionally, Mr O'Reilly calls for the mayor to be referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) 'for not declaring gifts of professional services relating to his website.'

He writes, 'Mairead Cleary, who is on the committee of Bruns Eco Village and is their media spokesperson, was acknowledged by the mayor as updating the style of his e-newsletter.'

While the mayor's reply did not address Ms Cleary's assistance with his newsletter, Ms Cleary told *The Echo* she had given sporadic and minimal help on the mayor's newsletter since 2013. She said, 'In April 2016, Kelvin Daly contacted me to discuss the
➤ continued on page 3

Designed to fail?

New restrictive cannabis laws see black-market boom

Paul Bibby

Pete hadn't had a good night's sleep in two years.

The pain would roll in every night between midnight and 3am, forcing him out of bed to stretch and walk for an hour and sometimes keeping him up for the rest of the night.

Finally, the normally law-abiding local decided to try some cannabis oil he'd been given by a friend.

'I actually slept through,' he says. 'I'd always been a bit sceptical about that stuff but it definitely worked.'

As the victim of a car accident caused by an outrageously careless P-plater, Pete hoped he would be able to take advantage Australia's new medicinal cannabis laws and ease his chronic pain without risking prosecution.

But the doctors shook their heads. They couldn't prescribe medicinal cannabis, they said, and even if they could, not a single local chemist stocked what he needed.

'It was extremely frustrating knowing that there was something out there that could help me but not being able to get it,' he says.

'It just didn't make any sense.' Welcome to the weird and not-so-wonderful world of Australia's medicinal cannabis laws.

Despite the state and federal governments purportedly making medicinal cannabis legal, they have in fact created a web of rules and regulations so restrictive that accessing it

is virtually impossible.

The many locals like Pete whose lives are dramatically improved with a few drops of cannabis oil each night have been left with no option other than to go to the black market. And they are doing exactly that.

The unofficial medicinal cannabis market is flourishing across the Shire and beyond.

Numerous unregistered suppliers have stepped in to meet the needs of thousands of sick and suffering locals who have been frozen out by the government's regulations.

All are potentially at risk of prosecution but have been left with little choice.

'I live with constant anxiety that I'll be pulled over for a roadside drug test,' Pete says.

'I could potentially end up losing my licence and getting a criminal conviction... which I really can't afford to do.'

Red tape

Medicinal cannabis campaigners such as Lucy Haslam believe the government's regulations have been deliberately set up to prevent access.

'They want to make it as hard as they can,' she says.

'There's no other explanation for the hurdles they've put in the way of sick and injured people getting help.'

'All they've succeeded in doing is forcing people to use the black market.'

Australia's medicinal cannabis
continued on page 2 ➤



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Restrictive medicinal cannabis laws results in a black-market boom

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regulations impose hurdles at every stage of the process, from cultivating and manufacturing the product to prescribing and dispensing it to patients.

The result is that across the country only a handful of chronically ill patients in the last months of their lives have been given access.

In the 14 months since the new laws came into effect, around 150 people across the entire country have legally obtained medicinal cannabis.

'That's a disgraceful statistic given there are literally tens of thousands of people who could benefit from using these products,' Ms Haslam says.

Obtaining a prescription

Only one medicinal cannabis product has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the medical watchdog that allows medications to be legally distributed in Australia.

To legally obtain any other product, patients must apply to the government on an individual basis.

If the product contains THC – the element that gives cannabis its dissociative effect – approval is needed from both the state and federal governments.

However, even if it doesn't,

such as the mild but highly effective medication known as cannabidiol, a patient must still get through the arduous federal application process.

These applications must be completed by a specialist with specific expertise regarding the condition involved – local GPs are completely locked out of the process.

Patients must also establish why medicinal cannabis should be used rather than another drug that is already on the TGA register such as an addictive opiate-based painkiller.

The assessment process at both state and federal level is notoriously tough and often inconsistent.

Of the 64 applications for access to medicinal cannabis made to NSW Health between August 2016 and October 2017, more than 40 were sent back for further information. Eighteen were rejected entirely.

Ms Haslam says she recently learned of a patient with an aggressive form of dementia who was denied access to cannabis oil despite showing significant improvement during a brief trial.

'The family fought for six months to get access but were just blocked at every turn,' Ms Haslam says.

'They were rejected for not having a specialist write the application, then when they got one they were told he was

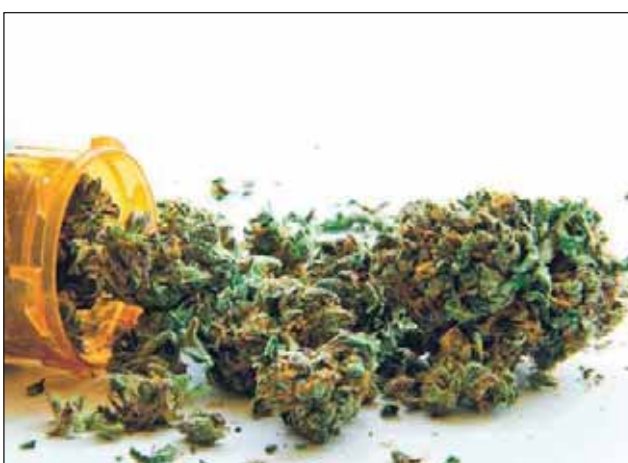


Photo from www.cannascribe.com

based too far away.

'The head of the NSW Health board eventually wrote to them and recommended that the patient be given benzodiazepines – a highly addictive tranquiliser used to treat anxiety and sleep problems.

'It just seems like they're hell bent on saying "no", no matter how needy the patient is.'

Huge cost

Even if a patient is granted permission, the huge cost of obtaining the pharmaceutical-grade medicinal cannabis that the government allows into the country is so high that only the rich can afford to maintain treatment.

Someone suffering severe epilepsy pays around \$100 a day to access the cannabis medication legally, while the cannabis treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) costs \$50 a day.

None of the products is covered by Medicare.

Big pharma

Part of the reason for this extreme cost is that, despite having excellent cannabis growing conditions, Australia is yet to produce a single drop of legal medicinal cannabis.

To grow or manufacture medicinal cannabis in NSW requires separate licences under both state and federal legislation.

The expensive, time-consuming and stringent nature of the licensing process means that small, local producers are effectively locked out of the process.

Most of the 22 companies who have been granted a licence since cultivation for medicinal purposes was 'legalised' in October last year are large pharmaceutical companies, many of them foreign owned.

One example is the application for a huge medicinal cannabis cultivation operation in Casino by Canadian pharmaceutical giant PUF Ventures.

The head of the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Michael Balderstone, says the licensing process has been 'set up for big corporations'.

'The big winners will be big pharma,' Mr Balderstone says.

'All of our local growers who have been producing cannabis for decades and have a huge amount of knowledge and awareness of what the community needs have been basically locked out of the process.'

Little wonder, then, that Byron's underground medicinal cannabis market is flourishing.

Underground

The phone is running hot, but it's just an ordinary working day for north coast medicinal cannabis provider

Jason (not his real name).

'I've stepped back from the frontline now but I used to get literally hundreds of calls a day,' he says.

'I'd be getting calls in the middle of the night and pretty much just be doing triage for most of the day – figuring out who's most in need.

'The demand from the community is constant and overwhelming.'

As we talk, a young man sidles up and quietly asks Jason for 'some medicine'.

The patients making use of Jason's services do not fit the 'drug user' stereotype, ranging from millionaire CEOs flying in on private jets, to local single mothers bringing in their sick kids.

They present with everything from tick bites to end-stage cancer and dozens of other conditions in between.

Many carry referral letters from licensed doctors, oncologists or naturopaths, and have been quietly pointed in Jason's direction.

'The state they're in could be anything from a mild state of anxiety to the full-blown awareness of imminent death, so a big part of the job is counselling,' Jason says.

Good results

The north coast's underground medicinal cannabis market would be a potential gold mine for medical research if established laboratories and universities weren't so busy pretending it wasn't there.

Jason has seen the results of medicinal cannabis treatment for dozens of diseases and conditions and is convinced that it works, if used in the right way.

'What's clear to me is that it works if it's used as part of an holistic treatment plan that involves diet, lifestyle and frame of mind,' he says.

'There are a bunch of health outcomes that are directly attributable to these products.'

'We've saved people and we've lost people. I believe that in certain circumstances it can cure cancer, but we never tell people that's definitely going to happen.'

Jason freely admits that quality control can be a challenge.

Without the assistance of large laboratories, he is unable to rigorously test his products to the level he'd like to.

However, by sourcing it from countries where medicinal cannabis is more widely available, Jason believes the quality is consistently high.

As much as Jason and others would like to have access to professional laboratories for testing purposes, he does not support the moves by big pharmaceutical companies to strip medicinal cannabis back to a single cannabinoid element designed to treat specific conditions.

'In any given cannabis plant, there are dozens of different cannabinoids and terpenes and other elements,' he says.

'They all react with each other and with the body in different ways. By isolating one cannabinoid we're potentially losing the complementary benefits of the whole plant.'

He believes the influence of big pharma is an opportunity missed for the north coast and particularly the Byron Shire.

'We've got the soil, the climate and the knowledge, but we're going to end up with giant hydroponic greenhouses run by foreign pharmaceutical companies pumping out sterile medications.'

Prosecution

He believes many people will simply ignore the mainstream medications and continue to frequent businesses like his.

And he will continue to serve them, regardless of the risk to himself and his staff.

'It would be wonderful for people to have a better person than me to help them,' he says. 'But until there's some good sense and maturity, it will continue to fall to people like me who choose to run the real risk of prosecution and doing something that could put me away.'

'I look at my kid every morning and think about folding the whole thing up.'

'The only thing that stops me is the kids I've seen, bleeding from their ears, who are on meds that aren't working and may well end up killing them.'

'Everyone knows someone who has something distressing that could be improved by taking medicinal cannabis.'

'Why are we still prevaricating on this issue and making it so hard for people?'

It's a question being asked by many across the Shire. But for the time being, business will continue as usual.

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A truck fell off the causeway west of Kohinur Hall last Friday and looks like being a tricky job to get out, according to former *Echo* journalist and resident Eve Sinton. She says, 'Fortunately there is no oil/fuel spillage into the Brunswick River as yet. No large vehicles can pass, but cars are okay.'

Correction

Last week's story, Young art activated, incorrectly named Shearwater as the winner of the environmental art comp.

The winners were year nine and ten students from Cape Byron Steiner School.

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

Shark drones deployed

A fleet of drones fitted with shark-spotting technology will be patrolling north coast beaches this summer.

At a cost of \$430,000, the drones will be deployed at beaches in Byron Bay, Ballina and Evans Head, delivering live vision back to life savers on the beach.

It's all part of the NSW government's shark management strategy, and other measures include up to 35 SMART drumlines, helicopter surveillance, and the controversial second net trial.

More information can be found on the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website, and you can download the SharkSmart app.

Shrooming is booming



After setting up farms in Fremantle, Melbourne, Noosa and Castlemaine, mushroom company Life Cykel now call Byron their HQ. Julian, left, says their model is to localise distribution to local restaurants and shops. Paul, right, is the shroom farm manager at the Byron Bay Herb Nursery. For more info visit lifecykel.com. Photo Jeff 'Shroomed' Dawson

Police investigate death

A homicide investigation is underway into the death of a man at a home in Byron Bay on Christmas night.

Emergency services were called to the home on Carlyle Street, Byron Bay, shortly before 11.30pm, responding to reports a man had collapsed.

The 28-year-old man, from Ewingsdale, was unable to be revived and he died at the scene.

The circumstances surrounding the man's death are now being investigated and police from Tweed/Byron Local Area Command are appealing for anyone with information to contact Byron Bay Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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Mayor defends two code of conduct complaints

► continued from page 1

possibility of my doing some writing work for the Bruns Eco Village (BEV) project.

'That was my first knowledge of Kelvin or the BEV project. I have subsequently been involved as a consultant.

'In May 2017, Simon put out a public call on his newsletter asking for help to get his newsletter design up to date. Considering I had helped on the newsletter in the past, I responded saying that if no-one else came forward I would be willing to do it. Nobody else responded to the call-out. When the first newsletter came out in the new format Simon openly acknowledged my help.

'As a consultant, I believe I can exercise my right to offer services to anyone in the community without permission. I am not affiliated with any one organisation and in fact consult to many organisations simultaneously.

'I am not the official spokesperson for Bruns Eco Village. I did, however, send a

media release to *The Echo* in June 2017 and was named as the spokesperson in that editorial. I believe this complaint to be disingenuous.

Nonsense: mayor

Mayor Richardson told *The Echo*, 'This is complete nonsense and beneath Matthew.'

'I was asked to be a panel member focused on finding solutions to the current affordable-housing crisis, with a byline of putting humanity into housing.

'It was hosted and facilitated by COREM/Renewfest as part of their Mullum Music Festival stream of panels and workshops. I attended, as I support COREM and Renewfest, and would do anything I could to help them.'

The mayor added that earlier in the year, Council also hosted an affordable-housing forum which was 'attended by many councillors and myself. Kelvin Daly also spoke on his vision, as did others who are working on trying to unlock some of the hous-

ing challenges both here and around the country.'

'Obviously when a proposal is actually before councillors for consideration, we observe clear and transparent protocols when in the vicinity of proponents and do our best to make informed, considered and timely decisions - as is our role and is expected of us.'

Second complaint

Meanwhile the second complaint centres around alleged vexatious behaviour against Mr O'Reilly by the mayor and staff, and includes emails between staff and the mayor that were obtained via a freedom of information request.

Mr O'Reilly provided *The Echo* with DPI authorisation for timber plantation works from May 2, 2017. Overall, Mr O'Reilly claims 12 development activities were approved on the Saddle Road property he manages, which includes earthworks, roadworks, drainage and fencing.

Despite claims by Mr

O'Reilly that he provided Council at the time with his DPI approvals, Byron Shire Council made a complaint over earthworks and roadworks to the DPI, who then undertook an audit on December 14, 2017.

The DPI audit, as supplied to *The Echo*, found compliance in all areas where works had been completed, except for where batters needed cover to stabilise the road and drainage.

Yet according to the emails supplied to *The Echo*, there was no mention of any DPI approvals between staff and the mayor. Remarkably the mayor did not answer the question as to whether staff advised him that Mr O'Reilly's land clearing was lawful.

For full story, including the mayor's comments, visit www.echo.net.au.

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AJ's seaside shanties



AJ's impromptu piano performance was just one of the attractions for the recent Brunswick Heads Christmas market. The street where the pub is located was closed for stallholders and there were fun rides for the kids. Photo Jeff 'In And Out Of Key Since 1986' Dawson

Vale, Brendan Mookx Hanley

Darmin Cameron

I was asked by a friend to write about Mookx Brendan Hanley, a north coast identity who recently died.

This is not an official obituary. I hope to give a feel for the man. These are my reflections on my time spent with Mook, looking at the impact he had on me, the north coast and the planet. Hard to talk about Mook without mentioning Shanto, who also recently died. They were a powerful team.

Vale, Mook and Shanto.
I first met Mook in 1982.

I had just got back to Australia from India and was looking for a new home and came to check out Nimbin. It was late in the afternoon and the eastern side of Cullen Street was bathed in golden light. My partner at the time, Prem Devi and I were standing adjacent to the Freemasons Pub, soaking up the innocence of 1982 Nimbin. Two people emerged from the shadows down Sibley Street. They were dressed in the Osho sanyassin-fashion of the time, bright orange and red. As was I.

The two were resplendent in their Osho garments, loose robes, sarongs and scarfs all flowing and glowing in the setting sun. These two were exuding something special.

They were arm in arm, and obviously in love. They spotted us, and huge grins spread across their faces. We were pulled together like orbiting planets. We did not know each other from a bar of organic soap, but we rushed to hug each other, laughing and giggling, sharing in the excitement of meeting kindred souls. Mook and Shanto were the best welcoming committee on the planet. I knew I



Mookx and Darmin Cameron outside of Bahloo Recording Studios, Coopers Shoot, Byron Bay in the late eighties. Photo by John McCormick

had found my new home and a couple of new buddies.

The pull of the ocean was too great and we all ended up in Byron Bay in the mid-eighties playing music in different bands around the town.

Byron Bay was so damned sweet then, mostly populated by surfies, hippies and wannabes and hardly any tourists. The New Age had not arrived and the meatworks/ex-Humpback whaling station had just closed down and the town no longer smelt of blood and death.

Mook and Shanto were kicking goals with their music: spiritually, environmentally and almost commercially. Mookx had written and with Shanto recorded *Leave it in the Ground* about the dangers of uranium; they made a great video clip in the eighties and received some airplay.

These two from Bahloo had very green hearts. Their whole lives were dedicated to making Planet Earth a safer and better place to be, using the magic of music, songs and singing. Mook was an early outspoken advocate for legalisation of marijuana and wrote the song *Marijuana Australiana*, which was eventually recorded by the Bushwackers and became quite a hit for

them. It all started in the creative mind of Mookie,

In the late eighties I teamed up with Mook and Shanto and we created Bahloo Recording Studio up on Coopers Shoot overlooking Byron Bay. Mookx was one of the most creative people I have ever met, a creative genius, and creativity was my game, so hanging with Mookx was where it was at.

Dolphin Awards

One lunchtime, while we were sitting around the lunch table, the North Coast Music Industry Association and the Dolphin Awards were born.

Again, Mookie's enthusiasm and infectious positivity helped forge an organisation that is now 26 years old.

Mook was also instrumental in the creation of NimFM, Nimbin's community radio station. And wherever Mook and Shanto went, they created a choir. They could turn amateurs into polished choir members with their clever arrangements and choice of material.

Thanks, Mook and Shanto, for absolutely everything; you are gone but will never be forgotten.

■ Full article online: echo.net.au/vale-mookx

Rail corridor block in process of being sold off for units

Transport for NSW has confirmed that it is 'in discussions' to sell a 611sqm parcel of rail corridor behind the Wollongbar Motel on Shirley Street, Byron Bay, to developer Wollongbar Properties.

According to the development application (DA), the developer has been granted preliminary approval from Byron Council for a 17-unit luxury apartment complex on the site.

Within the DA, correspondence shows that Transport for NSW and the devel-

oper have settled on a price of \$465,000 for the public land, and that the government authority is ready to go ahead with the sale.

Wollongbar Properties was not available for comment when contacted by *The Echo*.

However, it is understood the purchase of the rail corridor land is needed to ensure that the apartment development remains under the maximum 60 per cent floor space ratio for the site.

The pending sale of the rail corridor land was revealed

in a second DA, lodged with Council on November 29. This DA also sets out an expansion of the proposed development to include an extra storey containing two more units.

The Echo understands such a sale will result in it being very difficult for future governments to reverse this decision, owing to the cost and legal ramifications of reacquiring the land. It will also limit the potential use of the corridor for public use such as an extended park, cycle path or walking track.

Byron Rec Grounds draft plan of management withdrawn

Councillors voted to withdraw a contentious draft Plan of Management for the Byron Rec Grounds at their December 14 meeting.

Instead, Council will 'consider the 2015 draft Plan of Management, completed as part of the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan process, the preferred document to be exhibited in the new year for possible adoption'.

Sports groups that use

the field have told *The Echo* that a previous plan of management was supported by the user groups, but those plans were inexplicably withdrawn by staff. Sportground user John McKay previously told *The Echo* that there was no consultation with the sporting groups with the now-withdrawn draft PoM. A workshop with stakeholders prior to the exhibition of the new draft PoM will be held.

Canadian assaults police car, police

A 23-year-old Canadian national has been charged with malicious damage, resist police and two counts of assault police after launching 'himself head first onto the bonnet and into the windscreen' of a police vehicle.

Police say they attended a call on Monday night after a male threatened self-harm at the Byron Bay Lighthouse, and despite his being tasered, a 'violent confrontation commenced'.

Vanpackers defecating in Byron Bay carpark

Chris Dobney

Byron Bay residents and businesspeople have taken umbrage to an 'invasion' of vanpackers who they say have set up an unofficial campsite on railway land in the centre of the town.

They say the travellers are taking advantage of a Catch 22 that prevents Byron Council rangers taking action against them in the carpark adjacent to the Rails Hotel.

Local business owner Joy Barber Hua told *The Echo* that 'not only are the parking spaces for shoppers taken up by around 20 vans parked day and night but the campers are dumping rubbish and using the carpark and surrounding business premises as a toilet.'

Poo next to van

'Just this morning, I was confronted by human excrement by our back door together with used toilet paper. Last week there was excrement in the carpark where a

camper had clearly just decided to toilet by the side of their van.'

This is despite the fact that an Exceloo automatic toilet operates 24 hours a day just metres away in Railway Park. 'We called Council and they said that as it's railway land it's not "council jurisdiction"', Ms Barber Hua said.

But she added that when she called the company responsible for managing railway land, 'they said there's nothing they can do and to write to the minister for transport'.

'I'm guessing that will be a waste of time,' she said.

'The police come out when there are disturbances and loud music but they should be focusing on better things, I'm sure.

'It seems that Council and the railway company cannot agree on who should manage the carpark (down to money?) and as a result it's just been abandoned by both.

'Word spreads quickly on forums that there's free camp-

ing to be had and I'm despairing at how bad things will get as the summer gets busier,' she said.

Ms Barber Hua thinks Byron Council should be working together with Transport for NSW 'to make sure our town - where we pay rates - is safe for everyone'.

'This carpark is becoming a health hazard for everyone. I'm all for the hippy spirit but it's antisocial behaviour that Council should be paying notice to and actually doing something about!' she said.

A Transport for NSW spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'The Rails carpark is not a designated camping site.'

'Transport for NSW has entered into an agreement with Byron Council that will allow Council to take enforcement action during the holiday period against people who are using the carpark as a camping site.'

Byron Shire Council was contacted for comment but did not respond by deadline.

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Local acts at Falls



Damien Cooper performs at the Top Shop Friday. Photo Jeff Dawson

Local northern rivers musicians, DJs, circus acts and comedians have been confirmed to perform at this year's Falls Music and Arts Festival over NYE.

Organisers say more than 20 local acts will bring the music and fun to the Grove area, a mini-festival within the festival.

Two of the local acts announced for Falls Festival Byron, Damien Cooper and Leeli, treated patrons at Byron's Top Shop cafe to a special 'unplugged' morning per-

formance on Friday morning.

Falls Byron director Brandon Saul said, 'The northern rivers region produces some of the most exciting, young, talented musicians and performers around.'

Talent wealth

'As is evident here today with Damien Cooper and Leeli coming to the Top Shop with just a busking amp and a mic and having us all spell-bound.

'We're thrilled Falls Byron can showcase the wealth of our

local talent to a large audience.'

Other local acts for Falls include Aka Lui, Alisha Todd, Art Pleasley, Banksia, Ben Wilson, Chilluminati, Drop Legs, Ladyslug, Maisy Taylor, Monkey Monkey Shake Shake, Naga Buah, Reilly Fitzgerald, The Break Of Dawn, The Button Collective, DJs Jonathan Gaboury, Able El'toro, Lady DJ and the 10 Minute Disco, comedians Alf Arber, Ben Isaac, Mandy Nolan and Tynan Bone.

For more info visit www.fallsfestival.com.

No compensation for NORTEC's 'indecent decision'

Aslan Shand

NORTEC's decision to abandon its small-business incubators just prior to Christmas with only six weeks' notification will leave several of the businesses struggling to continue operating.

Businesses at the Byron Creative incubator site in the Byron Bay industrial estate have asked the small-business training organisation for an extension of time to leave the site and arrange alternative business premises.

But NORTEC have told them that January 19 is a hard deadline.

Michael Brechbuhler from Eco Minerals had been on the site for five years and has resources behind him to successfully move to a new site; however, it is the smaller, newer businesses that he is concerned for.

He said, 'I have listened to the stories of Jarrah and Jake and how they were promised long-term rental spaces for the next three years, just a couple of months ago and

they poured their savings into building up their dreams,' said Michael.

'Jarrah, at Jarrah Hustler Hair and Jake at Jake May Design have both invested a great deal of money, work and love into the infrastructure of their offices and are now at the risk of losing all of it.'

Some of the businesses have asked NORTEC for a degree of compensation for the business losses they will be making as a result of both broken promises by NORTEC and the short notice for moving.

'NORTEC is about to make a great deal of money from an indecent decision that will cost many little businesses their existence,' continued Michael.

'And now they are bickering with those same financially destroyed small-business owners and refusing to pay them any kind of real compensation that would be a minute slice of the enormous profits they are likely to make from this sale.'

Local Greens state MP Ta-

mara Smith said that, 'It was evident from my conversation with the CEO of NORTEC that they always knew this day would come.'

MP appalled

'So why didn't they plan for it, so that businesses affected could prepare for that day? Letting a business know they have a month to move on is appalling.

'Why did they allow a business to start up in the last six months, when clearly the timetable for disposing of the asset was in place?

'I contacted Mark Holden from the Sourdough group and they are very happy to look at supporting affected businesses through their mentor program.'

According to NORTEC, they have grown and moved on ten new businesses at the Goonellabah site, 20 at Mulumlimby and 31 at the Byron Bay site, while they currently have 29 businesses that they have ejected on short notice from these sites.

■ Editorial page 8

RMS reject broken promises over highway upgrade

Aslan Shand

The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) are disputing claims made by local business owner Tony Gilding about the completion of the Pacific Highway upgrade between Tintenbar and Ewingsdale.

Mr Gilding told *The Echo*, 'In early 2016 Ben Franklin and I met with RMS and they made a list of promises including completing the St Helena lookout and clear signage for direction to the castle among other things and it is clear that they have not kept all their promises.'

This position was supported by National Party MLC Ben Franklin as reported by *The Echo* several days ago when Mr Franklin confirmed, 'I have been working closely with Tony Gilding in trying to address the Macadamia Castle's road issues for the last year-and-a-half.'

'While the upgraded Pa-

cific Highway provides a wonderful benefit for locals and tourists alike, some businesses have taken a hit owing to insufficient signage and other challenges.

Unresolved issues

'Some issues have been resolved, but others have not. That is very frustrating for me as someone who always tries to stand up for our local community before any other consideration.'

Responding to questions from *The Echo* a Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) spokesperson said, 'Roads and Maritime Services has worked with the owner of Macadamia Castle for a number of years to minimise the impact of the Tintenbar to Ewingsdale Pacific Highway upgrade.'

'Roads and Maritime has met its commitments and obligations to the owner of Macadamia Castle while taking into consideration com-

munity benefit, guidelines, public value for money and environmental factors.'

RMS have not completed works

However, Mr Gilding has pointed out that there are several matters outstanding that the RMS have not completed.

'They need to meet and discuss the situation,' said Mr Gilding.

'They need to discuss why they don't move the signs.

'Why don't they complete the St Helena information bay? Why don't they measure the noise at the rear of the castle effectively?

'It is clear that they have not kept all their promises'

Ben Franklin supports Mr Gilding and believes that the 'RMS should meet with local landholders and businesses to ensure that they have completed their work to everyone's satisfaction.'

Dancing her way to the top

Aslan Shand

Thirteen-year-old Kiahn Ladkin couldn't believe how lucky she was when she received the news that she had been awarded a GO Foundation scholarship to help her follow her dream.

'I really couldn't believe it. I was so happy, excited and thankful for the opportunity,' said Kiahn.

Kiahn, from Byron Bay High School, hopes to one day study at NAISDA dance college just outside of Sydney, a creative learning space set up to train and inspire young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

'This scholarship will help me in achieving my goals to study at NAISDA and one day dance with the Bangarra Dance Company and to connect through my culture with other people whom I will meet through the program,' continued Kiahn.

The GO Foundation scholarships are designed to support Indigenous students at public schools in NSW, providing them with a combination of financial assistance, cultural mentoring, leadership training and career support to successfully complete high school and move into further education.

Michael O'Loughlin, co-



Kiahn Ladkin. Photo supplied

founder of the GO Foundation, said, 'The GO Foundation is very proud to be awarding its first public school scholarships through the Public Education Foundation (PEF).'

'The first recipients of the GO Scholarships through PEF are aspiring and hard working and we are looking forward to seeing them fly with this support.'

Byron Dance Dynamics' Kate Histon has been 'a huge support and mentor for her,'

said Kiahn's mother Melissa Ladkin.

The scholarship will help pay for a range of tutoring, excursions and travel expenses to help her follow her dream.

'Our year has an amazing year adviser who supports all of us Aboriginal students,' said Kiahn.

'She suggested that I apply for the Go Foundation Scholarship as I had many expenses with my commitments for extra-curricular activities and school.'

Stallholder group support Butler Street relocation

A market stallholders' association has told *The Echo* that they are happy to move from the Butler Street Reserve and support Council's push for a carpark and possible transit hub on the location.

As reported previously, the Rainbow Stallholders Association have been against the move and strongly critical of the process and negotiations by Council.

Suzie Mylecharane represents the North Coast Market Stall Holders Association and says her group has been representing stallholders since 2005 and has 189 members.

In a recent letter to local state MP Tamara Smith, she says the changes have been talked about over the last few years.

Remove cars

'One of the main aims of the masterplan is to remove cars from the town centre,' she wrote.

'In order to do that, they suggested that the Butler Street Reserve become a carpark.'

'With the farmers market using it weekly as a carpark, the front end of market has become a dust bowl and because of that has made half the market area very shabby.'

'We are sure you realise by now that our Council are not trying to get rid of the community markets or the farmers market. They are in fact trying to find a wonder-

ful new venue to support the masterplan concepts.

'We have been aware that Butler Street would become a bypass and realised during this time, so to maintain the markets there would be almost impossible.

Embrace progress

'Most have embraced the ideas for progress and hopefully positive change.

'I personally feel that if this is done properly, it could be a great boost to both the markets and the town.

'I have been a stallholder, among other career initiatives, for more than 30 years. I love it.

'Some people find it hard to embrace change; however, we feel that the majority of the stallholders are welcoming this new and exciting direction for the markets.

'Many markets around the world are in town centres and this is where we ultimately hope to end up.

'The existing Butler Street Reserve is hot, flat, dull and dusty.

'It is really the market itself that is iconic and definitely not the Butler Street Reserve.

'We want the buses off the streets of Byron, so we also feel that this site as a carpark and bus station could be a good thing.

'We hope that you see and support our position to move Byron Bay forward

into a new era.'

Ms Mylecharane added that the Rainbow Stallholders Association are securing signatures on a petition by telling people the markets are at risk.

'Most people signing have no idea about what is really going on and they are signing because they are being told their livelihood is about to be threatened.'

'There are people signing who don't even have a stall or are just workers at a stall. It is unfortunate because Byron is full of people who react without knowing the full story.'

Numbers

But another stallholder, Ian Brown, challenged the numbers of the North Coast Market Stall Holders Association.

'We approached approximately 280 stallholders and received 256 signatures from the owners of the stalls. The North Coast Stallholders Association is roughly ten people at most.'

'They are threatened with the fact that we are the majority of the stallholders.

'We asked stallholders if they wanted to stay on Butler Street Reserve. Simple.

'Most said Yes.

'Suzie doesn't realise what mayor Simon Richardson is up to and is being bluffed.

'The move to the beachfront is a temporary move?

'Where to from there for 350 small business owners?'

Dangerous Coolamon Scenic Drive finally sees action

Aslan Shand

The 11.3km stretch of Coolamon Scenic Drive between Goonengerry Road and the Pacific Highway has finally seen some improvements.

Resident Anthony Stante, who was a project manager on the Ballina Bypass upgrade over 2007-11, says he was relieved to discover that on Tuesday, December 12 the recommended line marking was finally carried out.

He says there have been twenty-three crashes in five years, an average of 1,362 vehicles per day while an independent road safety audit found various 'intolerable' risks on the road.

Mr Stante had put his concerns on the safety of

Coolamon Scenic Drive to Council three-and-a-half years ago in late 2014 and 'the local traffic committee had agreed to do things to make it safer,' he said.

Increased traffic with no fix

'In the meantime, Council agreed to signpost an extension of Tourist Route 28 from the old highway right the way along bringing even more tourists to our substandard local road making it even more dangerous.'

However, the traffic committee stated that Council may need to seek out further funding options, or advise of further funding options, for the review and changes to sig-

nage and line marking.

Mr Stante said, 'Both mayor Simon Richardson and local MP Tamara Smith have been very supportive but Council officers have been tardy acting on residents' repeated advice on safety concerns.'

Key locations from Mulumbimby to St Helena Hinterland Way now have new double centreline marking. Also existing badly faded line-marking had been redone.

'Dangerous overtaking manoeuvres will be less frequent and driving at night or during heavy rain or both will be significantly safer,' said Mr Stante.

However he pointed out that 'It should not take three-and-a-half years for Council to act on serious safety concerns.'

Saddle Road rezone area disputed

One of the planners who prepared the Saddle Road rezoning planning proposal has disputed the area, as assessed by Council staff.

In a letter to Council's general manager on December 18, Stephen Connelly from Planners North wrote of his concerns 'about a large amount of misinformation circulating in the community.'

Utilising 'the conventional net density approach', Mr Connelly said that their 'approximate area calculations' are 290ha, while Council staff worked on an assumption of 315ha for their report.

One aspect of the overall rezone request is the Zone RU5 Village rezoning for the proposed Brunswick Eco Village (BEV). Council believes the area is 39ha while Planners Northers say it is 35.2ha.

Net v gross

Mr Connelly writes, '... net density refers to the number of dwellings per hectare on land solely devoted to residential development. While it includes private driveways and private open space, it does not include public roads and areas of public open space etc.'

'At Saddle Road, the gross area of zoned land will be significantly diminished by the need to provide for roading; significant Rural Fire Service Asset Protection Zones; the retention of important paddock trees; and the integration of existing dwellings into the overall development layout.

'Those opposing the planning proposal have sought to apply to the net density standards we have notionally proposed to a gross area of proposed zoning.

'Thus, the opponents mischievously seek to apply the density standards not to the 52 hectares of net residential area specified in the Planning Proposal, but to the gross area, which includes public infrastructure, open space and the like.

'To add to the mischievousness, they have even been bold enough to republish our potential yield scenarios based on 52 hectares to produce an estimated yield of 586. In doing this calculation, they deliberately omit the 15 per cent of the site we have set aside for ancillary uses, such as childcare, neighbourhood shops and the like.

Yet local architect and urban designer David Brown challenges the expected yield from the requested rezone.

Density

He told *The Echo*, 'The 475 dwellings on the 52 hectares of R2 Low Density and R3 Medium Density land represents a gross density of about nine dwellings per hectare.'

'This assumes grossly inefficient use of the available land, which would not be tolerated by a developer.

'Furthermore, it would fail to provide enough revenue to fund the necessary services connections or road network.

'Council would not pay for them and the state has a "no cost to government" policy. End selling prices would therefore have to be well beyond levels affordable to medium let alone moderate income households.

'There are no concept design drawings that might confirm the areas set aside for ancillary uses. The lack of any concept designs (apart from a internal road network diagram) is the mark of landowners flying kites rather than putting forward plausible, well-considered proposals.'

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Volume 32 #29 December 27, 2017

Inquiry please

As a small-business training 'community-owned organisation', NORTEC abruptly abandoned its small-business incubators and operators just prior to Christmas (see page 6).

Those affected have explained how they have been unfairly treated and left out of pocket, yet the response from NORTEC has been to instead duck and hide.

To be clear, NORTEC is a government-funded entity, so the question is whether selling its property for profit and expansion at the expense of its client base is part of their core business.

In NSW, NORTEC receive funding in part from the Liberal-National Party's dubious Smart and Skilled vocational education and training (VET) program. There are many Smart and Skilled online news articles pointing to the disaster that occurs when you allow private enterprise to control the educational sector.

Since it was introduced in 2015, the minister for skills, small business and NSW Nationals leader John Barilaro has ignored the criticisms and instead counterattacked and quibbled over technicalities. Will he intervene here and call an inquiry into this latest debacle?

And since a 2007 merger, NORTEC claims to have 'successfully grown to more than 40 office locations through the mid- and upper-NSW region (Forster to Tweed Heads), and through south-east QLD (from Palm Beach to Brisbane).'

Yet the price for such success appears to include the collateral of local small enterprises like Eco Minerals and Jake May Design.

In total, *The Echo* has reported more than a dozen local small businesses have been affected in Byron Bay, Mullumbimby and Goonellabah.

Shaming as a mechanism for change should never be the first option of a newspaper or the media.

But in this case, *The Echo* feels there is no choice, and here-with we publish the names and pictures of the board of directors who are responsible for putting corporate profit over the people they are supposed to assist.



Geoffrey Colwill,
NORTEC chair



Fiona Evans,
NORTEC director



David Fayyad,
NORTEC director



Michael Kinnane,
NORTEC director



Linda Spurr,
NORTEC director



Sarah Lance,
NORTEC director



Dawson Petie,
NORTEC director

Hans Lovejoy, editor

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

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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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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

PM scrapes barnacles from the ship of state

The renaissance of Malcolm Turnbull's leadership proclaimed with such jubilation by John Alexander after regaining the seat of Bennelong lasted just 24 hours.

Then Newspoll arrived with its all too familiar message: the government was still stuck in the doldrums six points behind Labor in the two party preferred vote.

Twenty-five gone, and counting. Back to the dark ages.

However our perennially cheerful prime minister had ducked and weaved his way through Christmas with the merry message that things were now on the up and up: he had scraped off three persistent barnacles from the ship of state and once again he could get on with the real issues. But a closer examination reveals that the barnacles have not been scraped off at all, merely temporarily sedated until parliament resumes.

They are, in order, same-sex marriage, energy policy and the dual-citizen saga, and none of the three can be considered settled, let alone scrapped. Same-sex marriage, of course, is now law, to almost everyone's great relief. But there is an aftermath – the review from Phillip Ruddock and co into what is euphemistically called religious protection. This may be kept under cover for a while, but has the potential to be just as divisive and dirty as the lengthy debate it spawned.

If there was any doubt, the Christian Lobby and the other churches, along with their willing evangelists in the parliament, have made it clear that this is where the real battle begins. And they have no shortage of firepower: the Catholics' response to the findings of the Royal Commission into Child Abuse, which was essentially that they would obey the law only when and where it suited

them, was unequivocal. Rome will be a bloody big barnacle.

And as for energy – well, the bills (which is what the voters really care about) will keep going up – until, ironically, more wind and solar power come on line in several months – certainly not in time for the long, hot summer.

A reduction in the wholesale price of gas will be unnoticeable, and Turnbull's beloved Snowy Hydro 2.0 is not yet even a hole in the ground.

Turnbull says sustainability of supply is now secure, and he had better be right: a serious black-out in any of the major

limpets have been more firmly despatched. George Brandis is to retire his pomposity to the Court of St James, and while he will not be greatly missed – after all, his exit has been signalled for more than a year – he has been a staunch Turnbull ally in a party room where there are all too few of them.

The same applies to Arthur Sinodinos, who has had his travails over corporate donations (linked, dare we say it, to Eddie Obeid among others) but was seen as one of Turnbull's main men until sickness has sidelined him.

If there was any doubt, the Christian Lobby and the other churches, along with their willing evangelists in the parliament, have made it clear that this is where the real battle begins.

by Mungo MacCallum



cities would destroy whatever credibility over the issue he has left. Just keep scraping.

And as for dual citizenship – Turnbull apparently intends to unilaterally refer his suspected opponents to the High Court, while maintaining, in a curious echo from Bill Shorten's ill-advised bravado, that all his own are squeaky clean. It is a sure bet that the media will not be assuaged, and a likely bet that more problems, including some on his own side, will be turned up.

And by throwing the cross-bencher Rebeka Sharkie into the mix, he has ensured that her support for no-confidence motions is no longer guaranteed. He obviously believes that with the return of Alexander and Barnaby Joyce this is no longer vital, but he has left another barnacle nonetheless.

But undeterred, Turnbull has embarked on another round of barnacle scraping in the form of a drastic reshuffle, in which four

Darren Chester can be considered unlucky; he has hardly revolutionised the infrastructure portfolio, but he has done little wrong – except, of course, for voting for same-sex marriage, an unforgivable sin in the eyes of some of his National Party colleagues. And he was particularly offside with his leader, Barnaby Joyce.

But what struck him down, we are told, was not his stand on human rights, but his place of residence: Chester is a Victorian, and the party wanted more Queenslanders in cabinet. Or so they say: the other who has been turfed, Keith Pitt, is a dead-set Queensland, but apparently he doesn't count. The Nats will not countenance affirmative action for women, that would be discrimination: politicians must succeed on their merits. Except, of course, those north of the Tweed: they don't have enough of them to qualify.

And there was still just

enough time to crow about the national accounts figures, which shaved an insignificant amount and probably temporarily from the deficit. Jobs and growth, trumpeted Turnbull, is not just a slogan but an outcome.

Well, perhaps some of it. A lot of jobs have indeed been created, although many of them are low paid and given the current stagnation over wages, they are not likely to become much more attractive. But economic growth has actually been forecast to decline from 2.75 per cent – no bonanza in its own right – to 2.5 per cent.

Naturally, this manifestly inadequate result was yet another win for the government, said Treasurer Scott Morrison. In fact, most of it came from a fortuitous rise in commodity prices and cuts on welfare.

Despite the demands of an ageing population, the numbers of welfare recipients are the lowest in more than 40 years, which Treasurer Scott Morrison obviously thinks is a good thing.

This is not a view that is necessarily shared by the victims – age, disabled and single-parent pensioners, to name but a few. And now that the senate has jacked up against further cuts, Morrison will resort to the mean and tricky device of using regulations to defy the clear will of the parliament of Australia.

Turnbull now admits that he regrets including Newspoll as a reason for ousting Tony Abbott – but then, he never dreamt that he would be in a similar, or even worse, position. However, at least he has survived the killing season – Christmas comes but once a year/ To fill our leader's heart with fear.

Now there's just 2018 to contend with. For auld acquaintance be forgot. And especially if that auld acquaintance happens to include Tony Abbott.

CHESS by Ian Rogers

Peter Svidler is the best commentator in world chess, causing some to forget that at 41 he remains a world class Grandmaster.

This week Svidler returned to the world's top 10 with a record eighth win of the Russian Championship, finally moving ahead of Mikhail Botvinnik's seven Soviet Union titles.

While historians argue about the relative merits of Svidler's record, it is already clear that the only person likely to break it in the future is Svidler.

Though he has had an impressive career, including missing becoming Anand's world title challenger in 2013 by just half a point, there is no obvious explanation for Svidler's extraordinary Russian Championship feats.

After winning the 2017 title – plus a million roubles and a car – in front of his home crowd in Saint Petersburg, Svidler tried to explain the phenomenon: 'I've got a theory that it's psychologically easier to win where you've already achieved success. You don't have an internal voice telling you: "This tournament will be extremely tough." I first won

the Russian title in 1994 as a fledgling youth when the demon of doubt hadn't taken root. For a person like me, inclined to doubt my own abilities, it's useful to play in tournaments that I know are not impossible to win.'

■ This summer, three of Australia's leading female players will head to Europe to try to impress the 2018 Olympic selectors. In December Canberra's Emma Guo has followed up a solid result at the London Classic with a fine performance in Spain, including the following finish against German International Master Peter Meister.

Sitges Open

White: E Guo

Black: P Meister

Opening: Hippopotamus

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 a6 5.a4 e6 6.Nf3 Ne7 7.Be3 Nd7 8.Be2 b6 9.Qd2 Bb7 The Hippo set-up, a favourite of Australia's Alex Wohl; Black's pieces stay below the radar until White ventures too far. 10.Rd1 0-0 11.0-0! Nf6 12.Bd3 Ng4 Black should now be completely comfortable but Guo pushes onwards. 13.f5 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 exf5 15.exf5 Qd7 16.Nh4 Rfe8 17.Qf4 Nd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.c4 Bb7 20.f6 Bf8 21.d5 c6? Allowing a lightning strike from a clear sky. After 21...Bc8! White cannot break through. 22.Bxg6! hxg6 23.Nxg6! Bg7 23...fxg6 24.f7+ Kg7 25.Qf6+ is hopeless. 24.Ne7+! Rxe7 25.Qg5!! 1-0

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Dear Tourist

To quote from a recent Mandy Nolan column, *Dear Tourist*. You're killing us. While it is not entirely your fault, Byron is a lovely place to be a tourist; I fear it is way past the time for tourists to pay their fair share of use of resources.

As a permanent resident I'm tired of trying to use what's left of the internet when Byron continues to accept more and more tourists beyond the town's capacity to cope.

Stories abound as to the economic benefit that tourism brings yet all we get is a one-sided calculation.

What is forgotten (conveniently) is the negative impact on the local residents trying to conduct their business and lives. The productivity (which is calculable) of the locals is severely diminished and is never taken off the benefits column to give a real net value of tourism.

So, 'Dear Council. You're killing us' by not culling nor billing the tourists adequately enough to contribute to providing decent infrastructure or compensation for the locals to have reasonably productive lives.

Neil Matterson
Byron Bay

Careless dog owners

I am a 74-year-old resident of Brunswick Heads and have enjoyed the simple pleasure of my daily walk along our beautiful beach since moving here four years ago from nearby Myocum. Last Monday I was knocked off my feet by two largish dogs in the leash free area. They came from behind so I had no chance to avoid them. I was stunned and in pain but was helped up by a surfer and a friend who helped me

back to the life savers' lookout while she went home for her husband and their vehicle. Another kind couple assisted me to get closer to the road and waited with me until I was picked up and driven home. One dog owner did come forward to ask if I was okay and then left the beach, I was unaware if there was an owner of the other dog. I enjoy the dogs and their antics and freedoms on the beach, but would ask that dog owners be in control of the bigger dogs when off lead, especially when the many walkers pass through the designated dog zone.

I have a cut to one leg (possibly from a stick), sprained wrist and a broken bone in my foot so I will not be able to enjoy this simple pleasure for many weeks, and will need to rely on family members to help through the festive season and all it entails, while I get used to walking with crutches.

Not so happy, Jan!
Caroline Sutherland
Brunswick Heads

Seven Mile Beach Rd

It's easy to understand why surfers and other long-term lovers of Broken Head Nature reserve are enraged about the No Standing signs and the rocks. And easy to see the Seven Mile Beach Road wrangle as a story of privileged landowners wanting to keep other people off their turf. Maybe this is one thread of the story, but this is not a simple black-and-white issue about access.

It is, most importantly, about a precious and fragile littoral rainforest, containing several rare and endangered species.

There is genuine cause for

concern for its survival under the pressure of greatly increased traffic. Because unfortunately along with respectful nature lovers who have been coming here for years, there are also some disrespectful and irresponsible folk – campers whose fires could bring irreversible catastrophe on this precious area, drivers whose speeding vehicles are downright dangerous along the winding dirt road.

Three decades ago, I used to camp in my van at the end of the road. A cherished memory of an experience I would wish to be available to other low-impact visitors. And nowadays I am blessed to be one of the privileged landowners on Seven Mile Beach Road.

Many of the neighbours here are passionate environmentalists, bush regenerators, tree-planters and carers for the land. They are deeply worried about the impact of traffic and illegal camping on this beloved place.

Personally I hate those ugly, unfriendly red signs along the road. And I totally understand the indignation they've aroused. I do not know what the solution is to this situation – but I'm pretty sure that simplistic finger-pointing and blaming is not it! For the sake of that magical forest and coastline and all of us who love it – I hope we can find a way to sort this out.

Jane Abercrombie
Mullumbimby

Australian rights

I was shocked to hear that the Queensland Government was ready to extinguish Native Title rights of the Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owners of the land on which the

Adani Carmichael coal mine is set to be built, even though on four occasions since 2012 the W&J traditional owners had voted unanimously at an authorisation meeting to reject an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with Adani, underlining their sustained opposition to the mine.

However, the government had refused to wait until their Federal Court case to challenge extinguishment of their Native Title rights is heard next March.

Subsequent to thousands of emails and phone calls of objection being sent to the Queensland premier, deputy premier and minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, this week the W&J traditional owners have been granted an interim injunction against the Queensland Government and Adani.

This gives them respite so that their case against the extinguishment of their Native Title rights can be heard in the Federal Court. However, there is no guarantee that they will win the court case.

As if our Indigenous people have not suffered enough! We have invaded their land, murdered their people, stolen their children and wages, and destroyed their culture.

They fought long and hard for Native Title rights over their land. Why is another blow being inflicted on our First Australians? It seems that Native Title rights are simply a symbolic gesture that can be retracted at any time that development and dollars get in the way.

The W&J traditional owners strenuously object to the Adani Carmichael coal mine and deplore the degradation that the Adani mining

project will wreak on their culture, environment and ancestral lands. Why isn't the government listening to them? I encourage your readers to register their objection to this injustice on our First Australians by sending an email to Queensland premier Anastacia Palaszczuk: thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au, Queensland deputy premier Jackie Trad: deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au, and Queensland minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy the Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP: sdnrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Lynette Dickinson
Pottsville

Vaccination confusion

Yes, at last I have it in writing: we can enrol unvaccinated children for the future years beyond 2018, as long as we complete the full enrolment guidelines as per our enrolment policy.

The cut-off will be just after 2022 as we must have a copy of birth certificates,

which means babies born now can be accepted but any born after this year cannot.

It has been incredibly stressful and confusing and there should have been clearer guidelines; it really needed to be spelt out. The wording was they must be enrolled for commencement in 2018, but it wasn't clear that we could also enrol children now for commencement in 2019, 2020, 2021 and even 2022.

If all the Shire's preschool directors have been utterly confused and frustrated by this change, then obviously it has been too murky and grey; one preschool director even had to have lawyers look into it.

The fear of fines as well as a black mark have been hanging over us and we all just want to comply with the law and regulations. I personally was initially given misleading information from the Health Department but was one of the lucky ones who received a call back to say she had given out wrong information and continued on next page ➤



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Letters to the Editor

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

Small businesses question NORTEC's fulfilment of its obligations

■ NORTEC's recent announcement that it is closing its three business incubators (and selling off the two it owns by proxy) is just the final act in what has been, in my experience, terrible mismanagement, and chronic moral failure on their part.

I run a small charity that supports some of the most vulnerable young people in our community through intensive Bush Adventure Therapy programs.

In 2016, having registered as a business and not-for-profit company, we were fortunate, we thought, to be granted a place in the Mullumbimby CLIC Business Village managed by NORTEC. However, not only did we never receive any business mentoring or support, even

the smallest tasks of property management were bungled or simply ignored by NORTEC.

One example of many was that it took over a year and dozens of phone calls and emails (and eventually begging and pleading up the chain-of-command) to get a key to our mailbox! Even broken air-conditioners have taken months to get repaired in the height of summer.

When the entire complex was flooded following Cyclone Debbie, NORTEC not only did nothing to help small businesses clean up and re-build, but continued to charge us rent for our flood-damaged premises! Months after the floods, having moved out and rebuilt once, Council (who owns the building) finally took con-

trol and had all of the units repaired, requiring us all to completely gut our units again, move out for a month, and then move back in and rebuild again.

Many of the struggling businesses have spent thousands of dollars, and weeks of precious time, dealing with the repercussions of the flood, and rather than getting any meaningful support from the organisation that is supposed to be helping them grow and thrive, we have had to fight for scraps every step of the way.

And now, the final blow: NORTEC has terminated all of our agreements, and is booting us all out on the street, immediately after Christmas, with nowhere to go, and no support – despite post-flood assurances that they were going to make changes, lift their game, and provide stability for us in

these premises for at least two years.

While we certainly won't be sad to see NORTEC go, they sure have kicked us while we are down, by doing nothing to arrange a smooth transition to new arrangements here. The only option for us now is to vacate and leave the units empty.

Given the Mullumbimby site is Council owned, they can't sell it off as they are doing elsewhere. The least they could have done is worked with all stakeholders to ensure existing business are minimally affected and to support the emergence of a better functioning incubator under new management.

For our part we are now left with nowhere to work from and limited prospects, given we currently operate purely on donations and do not have the budget to pay high market

commercial rents.

If anyone in the community can help us with either temporary or permanent office space at affordable rates, or with donations to help us extend our budget to commercial rental rates, please contact us at atbm@humannature.net.au. **Andy Hamilton**

Mullumbimby

■ As a former tenant of Mullum CLIC, I would like to support the widespread criticism of NORTEC's decision to wind up its small-business incubator program.

Your article (December 13) noted that 'Legally, NORTEC are within their rights to give only one week's notice' (of termination). That is arguable and does not settle whether NORTEC has acted lawfully. If the conduct of NORTEC over some time is seen by many in the com-

munity as 'unconscionable' or even 'misleading and deceptive', the day may come when a court is asked whether it agrees, formally, with this commonly held view.

If organisations like NORTEC abuse the power they hold as landlord or fail to deliver on promises made over many years to businesses and people across the Shire, it would be wrong for these organisations to assume people will not have the time or money to take them on.

Given NORTEC's own stated commitments to community, perhaps the board of NORTEC should be held to account in a public forum for the actions of the entity they govern, whether in court or Council or through further investigation by your newspaper.

Mark Swivel
Mullumbimby

➤ continued from page 9

after her own investigations and phone calls to others in her own department, she finally found out yes, we can.

I have turned away many upset, angry parents believing I was doing the right thing and complying with the rules and regulations. I now have to put the call out to all parents of Brunswick Heads with unvaccinated children to please email me at kids@lillypillypreschool.nsw.edu.au.

You must enrol with us before the end of December. Please have all enrolment forms filled out with a copy of birth certificates and the conscientious objection form. Please note, this is just for the children who live in Brunswick Heads, so proof of address is also needed.

Frances Dyett

Lilly Pilly Community Preschool, Brunswick Heads

A load of shit

As a regular walker along Tyagarah and Belongil beaches, I certainly enjoy this beautiful, unspoilt and uncrowded stretch of coastline.

I am, however, increasingly concerned about the ever-increasing volume of horse crap encountered during those walks.

This horse manure, however great for the veggie garden, is not so good for the fish or wildlife as it is rich in nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, and pathogens, including bacteria, viruses and parasites.

The interests of a Byron horse-riding business charging tourists \$120 for this pleasure should not outweigh

consideration for the local habitat and residents who enjoy shit-free beach walking.

I'm certainly not against horse riding or commercial business in the Shire, but surely there must be a more environmentally suitable location for these activities? At the very least, the horse riders could be considerate enough of our local environment to pick up after their horses before leaving the beach.

D James
Myocum

The light debate

Well done, Councillors! At last Byron Shire might have a sensible debate about traffic lights.

After waiting more than 20 years for something to happen at the increasingly dangerous Clifford Street intersection – being told the cost of a roundabout was prohibitive and no-one would tolerate traffic lights – I welcome some sensible discussion. I can't think of a more reasonable resolution than the one passed, that calls for objective, informed investigation and contextualised merit-based decisions.

I have never heard the moral, aesthetic, environmental or any other imperative for the avoidance at all costs of traffic lights in Byron Shire, just an hysterical knee-jerk reaction that has no place in discussion of matters of public safety and amenity. However, if there is a cogent argument against, now's the time to bring it out.

Personally, I'm over having to navigate a horrendous intersection as my only exit

from the place where I live, subject to what seems little more than the whim of some in the Shire, who, if they ever visit beachside Suffolk, can do so when they choose and don't have to face the daily peak-hour roulette to get to work, or kids to school.

Byron Bay is also well and truly in need of better traffic solutions than the chaos of the roundabouts in Lawson Street. Imagine when there is a pedestrian crossing interrupting the flow of traffic. One is badly needed but the safest and most efficient solution with this amount of traffic would appear to be traffic lights. They are safer for bikes as well. The traffic issue is now year-round and traffic lights just may do more to ease the journey through town than a bypass ever will.

No-one more than Imourns the passing of the sleepy beachside village that was Byron Bay but no amount of petulant foot-stamping will bring it back.

Liz Levy
Suffolk Park

Council revenue

A big thanks to the mayor at the recent council meeting for reminding the gallery and the chamber of commerce representatives present that the council have few measures to raise revenue and paid parking is a legitimate and important one and if there are any other big ideas to let them know.

A bed tax seems a long way off for some dodgy reason and paid parking is a reasonable way to raise funds from the countless tourists

and mega-festival participants who will keep coming into the Shire.

It isn't ethical or honest to keep slugging the rate-payers so that infrastructure and maintenance keeps pace with business development and tourist facilities without exploring all options including paid parking and a bed tax.

Ratepayers should not have to subsidise the chamber of commerce or tourist facilities without some reasonable contribution from tourists. Anyone with a contrary argument to that which makes any sense?

Bring on paid parking in Brunswick Heads and Bangalow.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

Drug testing

Hear we go again, 'mobile drug testing there is no escaping it'.

For me there is a very, very large defect in this statement that is given by the NSW police force. When someone wants to buy a product that involves chemicals it is required by law that the product for sale lists what the chemicals are and the safety measures to be taken.

If someone happens to be stopped for a roadside drug test, there is a very sound reason to ask the police officer what are the chemicals that are present on the stick they want you to lick.

When this happened to me I was told it was nothing and to proceed with the testing. This is the defect that exists with the drug testing.

continued on page 12 ➤

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SOUND HEALING & MEDITATION
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12.30 - 1.30pm
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► continued from page 10

Being chemical sensitive the only option I have is to refuse the test and put my case before the court.

I have this information from the ombudsman as I enquired about the chemicals involved in the drug test and as it stands by law I am breaking the law if I refuse the drug test.

From my own research the chemicals impregnated on the drug test stick are not suitable for human consumption and there are no indications from the police or the testing device what the chemicals are that they want me to ingest.

If I am stopped again for the drug test I will be facing court to put my case. It is very reasonable to expect a full disclosure from the police of the chemicals involved in

the test, that they want me to ingest. They are classifying me as a law breaker if I say no to the test.

Something is wrong with the drug-testing laws. Say no to the test and ask the court for a full disclosure of the chemicals involved in the drug test. Then time is needed to research the implications of the effect of the chemicals on a human being.

Robert Podhajsky
Ocean Shores

Council giving our land away

Private developers must be salivating and wanting to know how does NSW Crown Holiday Parks (NSWCHPT) have so much good faith with councillors?

On 14 December they gave NSWCHPT a three-year Approval to Operate (ATO)

for both Massey Greene and Ferry Reserve caravan parks before their concept Plans of Management (POM), otherwise known as development plans, have gone on public exhibition or approved by the minister.

This is akin to giving developers the go ahead with their development wish list before it is approved.

Led by councillor Sarah Ndiaye and backed by mayor Simon Richardson, the audio on item 13.10 is telling of their disengagement from the community.

Councillor Sarah Ndiaye said there 'Wasn't a whole lot of issues over these two parks'; however, at stake in these parks, are the following:

- a) the setback from the top of the riverbank along the length of the northern boundary of Massey Greene to any built structure permanent or otherwise;
- b) approximately 50 per cent of the developer's 3,171m² 'Public Foreshore - riverfront public open space' goes under water;
- c) the developer's intention to acquire 1,300m² of Council's road reserve along

Tweed Street and add this to its operational area.

Nothing in the concept POM references any compensation to Council for adding an area equivalent to 20 short-term sites to its commercial operation. Nor is there any acknowledgement that it gives advantage to the developer by relocating the starting point for measuring the 10m setback from the top of the rock wall over a road reserve on the east of Massey Greene;

d) acknowledge what is known by senior Crown Lands officers involved in the Brunswick Heads Boat Harbour Master plan, that NSWCHPT doesn't have the physical space for the proposed Harbour Edge Rehabilitation on the western side of Massey Greene unless it is prepared to give back to the public part of Lot 7005, and at Ferry Reserve;

- e) the intended loss of the foreshore parkland;
- f) 'privatising' by default the public boat ramp; and
- g) rehabilitation of the koala wildlife corridor along the foreshore.

Would private develop-

ers be given equivalent to an 'Occupancy Certificate' if substantive issues were unresolved?

And here we were dealing with Council giving over invaluable public assets to NSWCHPT's commercial operation!

Instead, Cr Ndiaye's position was 'it would be great if we could save our energy for debate on other things.'

The aforementioned issues were dismissed by mayor Simon Richardson in his utterance, '... there are those who will simply oppose every aspect of this until it is finally done, every aspect of any negotiation on any development that North Coast Holiday Parks will do will be resisted and that can be deserved or undeserved. I don't want to comment on that...'

Having dismissed community concerns, I last saw Councillors Ndiaye and Richardson practising their 'walking on water skills' in preparation of using the developer's 'riverfront public open space' at Massey Greene.

Patricia Warren
Brunswick Heads

Chinese interference

It smacks of hypocrisy that our prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, can be so critical of Sam Dastyari while accepting major campaign donations and other significant aid from a turncoat Australian, now American, media mogul.

The aforesaid American has made a habit of meddling in Australian political affairs and has been instrumental in attacking legitimately elected Australian officials and attempting to influence electoral outcomes, putting our democracy at risk.

The worst that can be said about young Sam is that he accepted a small financial contribution and made some sympathetic but ineffectual, private, comments about Chinese Foreign Policy. This is apparently a near-hanging offence, yet exposing the whole country to the subversive attacks of an influential ex-citizen garners no criticism.

Marvellous what you can get away with when you are a philosophical descendant of the squatters and thus born to rule.

Vince Kean
Murwillumbah



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Spike in drownings prompt beach safety plea

Three drownings in the space of a week along with serious concerns over the welfare of a fourth person has prompted Surf Life Saving NSW to issue a safety plea ahead of what is expected to be a busy Christmas and New Year period.

Recent coastal drownings

With the three recent coastal drowning deaths, the NSW drowning toll now stands at 16, compared to 12 recorded in the corresponding period last year.

Surf Life Saving CEO Steven Pearce said it has been a difficult few days for the volunteers.

'I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all our members who have been involved in responding to these emergencies or involved in the extensive search operations.

Above and beyond the call

'They have gone above and beyond the call of duty putting in the hours to help in any way possible,' Mr Pearce said.

'What these tragic incidents highlight is just how unpredictable the ocean can be, and our thoughts go out to everyone involved.'



Suffolk Park drowning

In the first incident, which happened last Wednesday, a man in his early 20s was pulled unconscious from the surf at Suffolk Park by a member of the public shortly before 12.30pm. It appeared that the young man, who was swimming at the time, had got into difficulty in a rip current. Despite the best efforts of the first responders he was unable to be revived.

On Saturday three teenage swimmers got into difficulty at Flynns Beach in Port Macquarie. Two were rescued but unfortunately a 14-year-old boy was swept away, sparking an intensive search effort

involving multiple agencies.

The third death occurred on Sunday afternoon at the unpatrolled Diggers Beach in Coffs Harbour after a woman went to the aid of family members who were caught in a powerful rip.

Swim at a patrolled beach

Additionally on the state's far south coast life savers have been involved in a significant search operation for a woman believed to be missing near Tuross Heads.

With thousands of families expected to flock to beaches all around NSW, life savers are encouraging people to make the extra effort and

swim at a patrolled location.

'With Christmas just around the corner and a busy time expected on our beaches it's important that the public take heed of any safety messages,' said Steven Pearce.

'The holidays are a great time to relax but it is also the time when families are away from home at unfamiliar beaches they may rarely or have never visited.

'Please talk to life savers and lifeguards who are there to help. If you are in any doubt about your own abilities or your ability to keep others safe, please don't take the risk.

'Our Christmas wish is for everyone to return home safely to their families these holidays,' said Steven Pearce.

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



Club Med and the Gang of Six

Thirty-one years have passed since Nicholas Shand dreamed up this newspaper and gathered a band of fellow dreamers to help him make it real.

In those 31 years The Echo has grown, like a magic beanstalk, far taller than we ever imagined, and it is now a feature of Shire life.

Our ongoing series on the history of our beloved rainbow rag continues this week, written by the newspaper's longest-serving drudge, David Lovejoy.

By the beginning of 1993 The Echo had outgrown its A4 page size, and our first large-format edition appeared in March that year. The change was commercially successful, and our pagination leapt to an average of 36, equivalent to 72 pages of the smaller format.

Send for the wine

The increased work combined with the ritual of putting the paper to bed on Monday nights became quite stressful. At five o'clock, whatever the state of play, Nicholas would send out for red wine, and in those days it would have been unthinkable to turn down the libation. So we would struggle on preparing the pages while somewhat prematurely celebrating the birth of another Echo.

When the indefatigable Tuppy Lang had finished typesetting all the classified ads and the last corrections had been made, the package was couriered to the web press in Brisbane.

There were occasions, blessedly few, when after a jovial dinner with Nicholas and the crew I would find a message on my answering machine saying the hard disk we'd sent was unreadable. In whatever state, I would then have to drive to Brisbane in the middle of the night with the precious replacement.

Haunted by 'Murdoch'

In those days our tiny space in Village Way was haunted by the presence, and effluvium, of an old black and white tomcat we named 'Murdoch'. This creature was self-centred, opinionated and ruthless in getting his own way, but just when he had provoked felid exasperation he could turn on a rugged charm to disarm his foes. Murdoch had simply turned up one day and decided to stay. A little while later he introduced a grey-and-white female of even fiercer disposition, whom we named 'Ita'.

The Echo represented a retirement home for Murdoch after a strenuous life on the streets, and when he died a local mason carved a memo-



Locals fought long and hard against Club Med in Byron Bay and eventually won through the courts. Photo Jeff Dawson



Echo stalwart Tuppy Lang.

rial tablet to mark his grave in the small garden outside the office. After a long widowhood, Ita lies buried under the same stone.

Club Med

However, The Echo's new format, stressful deadlines and bogan feline staff were nothing compared to the political machinations of the early nineties in the Byron Shire. The 1991-95 Council was a shameless mixture of prejudice and profligacy presided over by two men: Max Eastcott, the general manager, of whom more in a later episode, and Cr Ross Tucker, a retired army colonel. The mayor, Ian Kingston, had little influence; his rare victories came when the council was deadlocked and he was able to use his casting vote. Most votes went six to four in Tucker's favour, and hence his faction came to be known as the 'Gang of Six'.

The biggest issue facing that term of Council was an application from Club Med

to build one of their resorts in Byron Bay. It would have sat upon seaside wetlands, destroyed the nesting grounds of the endangered Little Tern and probably driven the even rarer Wallum Froglet to extinction.

Fortunately, however, opposition to the plan did not have to rely on ecological arguments. Club Med would have dominated the commerce of the town, the resort's floor space alone being twice that of all the commercial buildings in the Bay. Nor would the influx of thousands of Club Medders have brought prosperity to local businesses: the resorts are designed to be self-sufficient, with guests encouraged to buy coupons to spend onsite to avoid being fleeced by tricky natives. As for jobs for the locals (their number exaggerated in the tradition of all true shonky developments) – they were jobs of the cap-doffing, forelock-tugging, minimum-waging variety.

The Gang of Six, following Tucker's policy of open slather development, rejoiced at the opportunity of approving a project universally loathed by the community (a petition of more than seven thousand signatures was ignored by the council), so it was left to civic-minded groups to defend Byron Bay.

Club Med had two responses to opposition: subtle manipulation and brutal manipulation. An example of the latter was a legal attack against the Byron Environmental Centre alleging libel

in one of their leaflets. The Echo duly noted that this was a classic case of the SLAPP – strategic lawsuit against public participation.

All expenses paid

The velvet glove approach came when they invited Nicholas to an all-expenses-paid trip to one of their South Pacific resorts, an invitation also extended to the editors of the Byron News and Northern Star. Nicholas pointedly declined the bribe and sent a deputy, Carol Page, whose official role at the paper was unknown to Club Med. It was amusing to see the contrasting media coverage that followed this junket – glowing reports from APN's editors and a more nuanced and realistic one from The Echo's typesetter.

The fight against Club Med was taken up by a group called Byron Shire Businesses for the Future, headed by another retired army colonel, Tom Wilson. The Council had predictably given development consent to the resort, but Wilson's group fought the approval in the courts. It looked like a hopeless rearguard action, and it cost the participating businesses dearly in legal fees, but in the end the court agreed that Byron Shire Council had not paid sufficient attention to environmental concerns. This win launched Wilson's somewhat chequered career in local politics, which culminated in his being elected mayor in 1999.



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Mullumbimby a ‘heart-opening experience’

Aslan Shand

For a man who had already turned his life around coming to Mullumbimby was a ‘heart-opening experience’ for Frank Ferrante, who was the subject of the documentary *May I Be Frank*.

The documentary follows Frank as he transforms himself from a miserably obese drug addict to a man who not only learns to love himself but also gets new body and a fresh start on life.



Frank before and after his transformation during the documentary *May I Be Frank*. Photo supplied

Here for Wanderlust

He came to Australia as part of the Wanderlust Festival on the Sunshine Coast in November and was invited down to Mullumbimby by his friend Victoria Castles.

‘I came to Australia to attend a screening of the documentary *May I Be Frank* and I was interviewed by James Colquhoun of FMTV and also participated in panel discussions with Lee Holmes and Joe Cross,’ said Frank in his Brooklyn drawl.

Once here in Mullumbimby and its hinterland Frank’s

plans to visit Melbourne evaporated as he realised ‘There’s something special about this place.’

‘The movie was a rather underground grassroots kind of thing but as I was walking through the Mullum Farmers Market and a young lady recognised me from the movie, she started crying. It was shot ten years ago and it is still touching people.’

Off the drugs but still fighting demons

‘The movie has turned my life into something I never thought it could be.’

Frank got the heroin out of his life in 1977 and stopped drinking in 1989 but it wasn’t until he walked into the vegan *Cafe Gratitude* in San Francisco that he really began to turn his life around. Yet even following the film he felt he still needed to deal with his demons.

‘It is one thing to stop using something – it is another to confront the demons that led you to that place,’ mused Frank as we sat in the garden



Frank relaxing at the Crystal Castle in the hinterland of Mullumbimby. Photo supplied

of the Other Joint cafe.

Two years ago Frank had a ‘shattering’ break up, ‘I was thinking about suicide and planning it,’ he said reflectively.

Then in a meditation and sound healing at the Crystal

Castle he had a realisation.

‘I realised I wanted a mystical death – not an actual suicide.

Embrace fear

‘I had to face them and embrace the demons and in-

tegrate them into who I was. I had to embrace the thing I feared most. I also realised my addiction was a misguided attempt to know God.’

Since the film ten years ago Frank has been coaching and working in treatment for drug rehab and reflecting on possibilities.

Helping others

‘We are walking examples of what is possible. These insights were liberating but also an invitation to a deeper conversation and led me to spiritual practices to be more effective in helping other people.

‘Primarily I’ve been an entertainer and storyteller. It is now about having something tangible they can take home. The next step is to heal certain aspects of myself and that will produce self-worth. It is that part of myself that I have to reclaim and heal. It is there for all of us. Every positive thought helps.’

Frank has just completed a screenplay based on the book and film documentary.

‘It is a film about drugs, relation and redemptions,’ he said with a big smile.

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Saddle Road – a defining moment for Byron Council?

David Brown

Assessment of the September 2017 Planning Proposal for 315 hectares of property straddling the Saddle Road ridge will define the competence and integrity of Byron Shire Council.

There is no doubt, if approved by Council or the Northern Joint Regional Planning Panel (NJRPP), the environmental, social and economic impacts will be equal to, or worse, than West Byron.

Sadly, the Brunswick Eco Village (BEV) is an integral part of the proposal. It cannot now be considered in isolation.

As a result, this potentially beneficial test of an alternative, and possibly more affordable, lifestyle pattern might be rejected rather than evaluated on its particular merits.

The Saddle Road Proposal and its promise to '...accommodate a broad range of income levels...' is possibly the most hypocritical and disingenuous I have ever seen.

To claim a rough diagram from a planning workshop held 34 years ago as the precedent for development along Saddle Road is deceitful to say the least.

Let's look at a few key issues.

Firstly, the proponents claim part of the land was identified for potential urban growth in 1983. This may well be the case, but the NSW EP&A Act then had just three key objects. After at least 150 amendments between 1985 and 2017, it will have ten. One is ecologically sustainable development and, implicitly, the precautionary principle. As an object of the Act, sustainable development must be a mandatory consideration in every assessment. Another object is to '... promote good design and amenity of the built environment'. Replicating current unsustainable urban development and building practices does not meet either object.

Secondly, the Department of Planning & Environment (DoPE) North Coast Regional Plan 2036 published in March 2017 is the precedent strategic document. A map for Byron LGA clearly shows the area bounded by Gulgan Road, Kings Creek, the Brunswick River and Mullumbimby Road is outside any urban growth area or being investigated as urban land. The same document also notes that the Shire '...Is known for its

natural beauty and character'. Housing development either side of Saddle Road will wreck the character of a very prominent ridge line and create a precedent for other, equally destructive, proposals in the Shire. Interestingly, the same document states that the Shire requires a relatively modest 3,150 additional dwellings over the next twenty years.

No need for new greenfields

The average of 157 a year that could easily be accommodated in the existing urban areas with some modest changes to the LEP and DCP.

There is no need for new greenfield development.

Thirdly, the Saddle Road area was mapped as a future urban/village development area in the March 2016 draft Rural Land Use Strategy but was considered to have just ten hectares of unconstrained land. It was then noted in the August 2016 draft Residential Strategy as an area of interest with the potential for '... approximately 400 dwellings'.

Why Council had this change of heart remains a mystery.

There were strenuous resident objections and the DoPE demanded that attention be paid to '...State Environmental Planning Policies, Section 117 Directions, the (then) draft *North Coast Regional Plan*, the *Far North Coast Regional Strategy* and its associated settlement planning guidelines'.

Despite these early warnings of discontent, a door was opened for the current planning proposal.

Finally, the proposal, in my professional opinion, fails to adequately address any of the documents noted by the DoPE as demanding attention.

Instead, there is the vague notion of a self-contained, integrated 'village' (whatever that means), a dwelling yield on its 315 hectares of 475 dwellings, no estimates of the cost to upgrade local roads and make the necessary services connections and promises to deliver affordable housing through a voluntary planning agreement.

It lacks a definition of affordable housing and no quantity is promised.

A number of maps illustrate the potential development areas and road net-

works but seem to be based more on property boundaries than contemporary urban design and amenity principles.

And, while minimum lot sizes are proposed, a Medium Density Design Guide being prepared by the DoPE may significantly increase the final number of dwellings. Under the new guide, multiple dual occupancy houses, townhouses and manor houses could be built on lots more than three or four hundred square metres in area.

The total 475 dwelling number is interesting. Discounting the stated R2 and R3 Zone areas to establish net development areas results in about 30 hectares of R2 Low Density, 16 hectares of R3 Medium Density and ten hectares of RU5 Village land. Developer target yields of 15 to 20 dwellings, 20 to 30 dwellings and five to ten dwellings per hectare might then be applied to each.

A total of between 790 and 1,150 dwellings, if not more, might therefore be possible.

And all would be on the area's most valuable land ... the ridge line where spectacular hinterland and coastal views are available and lots

will be priced accordingly. Affordable? I think not.

This scenario is likely to be realised as the current landowners will, inevitably, sell out to the highest developer bidder. Agreements aiming to provide equitable (affordable) housing for low and moderate-income households will be challenged or implementation promised at a later, undefined stage. In addition, environmental initiatives that cannot be translated into profits, or affect profits, will be discarded.

Furthermore, arguing for an expansion of supply to improve access to affordable housing is a nonsense.

Industry lobby organisations like the Urban Taskforce, HIA and UDIA advance arguments for high rise and greenfield development that ignore robust, evidence-based and less costly strategies.

Encouraging developers to address housing affordability is like asking the coal industry to lead the fossil fuel emission reduction challenge.

■ David has a 45-year career as an architect and urban designer and lives in Mullumbimby.

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Rupert Murdoch

Overseas Interests





'Tis still the Festive Season



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Spawning the award-winning SWITCHFOOT surfing books, Hodaddy is a neat little sole trader based in Mullumbimby.

They specialise in photo archives from more than a dozen photographers who took the iconic 35mm film photos in the 1960s and 70s.

'Lately our customers have been frothing on making wallpaper out of our imagery. We have fitted out a bunch of retro-looking milkbars, hotels, shops and houses,' says the man behind the site, Andrew Crockett.

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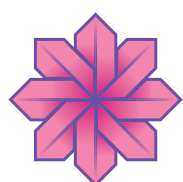
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Two must-see artists of outrageously funny proportions combining their talents into one incredible show for your pleasure!

Starring award-winning, five-star internationally renowned physical comedian Daniel Oldaker aka Dandyman (La Soirée, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Melb Int Comedy Fest) and the inimitable circus variety star Rani Huszar, Ruby Rubberlegs as seen on ABC's Live at the Memo, The Sideshow, La Cliqué.

Both stars of the international festival circuit have appeared in films, on television, in circus tents, in opera houses... and now they come to a theatre near you!

Varietyville takes variety to a whole new level. Bite-sized morsels of masterful magic, chaotic clowning, preposterous physical feats, musical mayhem, hilarious hi-jinks and much, much more!

'Acts of Absurdity And Uncontrolled Laughter – I laughed harder and longer at one act this evening than I have at anything else I have seen this fringe.'

★★★★ Clothesline (Charissa McCluskey-Garcia) Fringe World

www.varietyville.com

'Tis still the Festive Season



Steppers The Hot Chicken Social

The Steppers concept was born 20 years ago while chef Sacha Meier was living in Barbados. Steppers is a favourite fried chicken island dish. Fast forward, and add a southern spin to it, Steppers The Hot Chicken Social in Byron Bay has opened.

Southern fried chicken is by no means the only dish on the Steppers menu. Locally caught fish fried in a light corn crust and the portobello mushroom burger with locally made haloumi are a standout.

If you are in the mood for something sweet, Steppers shakes made with Byron Bay ice-cream and your choice of coconut milk are a must: salted caramel, coconut or double chocolate. For something even sweeter, Steppers housemade Spanish churros with a mouth-watering chocolate dipping sauce made inhouse is to die for and may be calling your name.

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11am – 1pm Everyday Wellness

Thursday 28 December

11am - 1pm Releasing Stress & Anxiety

Friday 29 December

11am - 1pm Aroma Hand & Foot Massage

4pm - 6pm Women's Health

Saturday 30 December

11am - 1pm Chakra Balancing

3pm - 6pm Aroma Massage

Thursday 4 January 2018

11am - 1pm Everyday Wellness

Friday 5 January

11am - 1pm Deepen your Meditation

4pm - 6pm Releasing Stress & Anxiety

Saturday 6 January

11am - 1pm Subtle Energy Bodies

Sunday 7 January

11am - 1pm Aroma Hand & Foot Massage

Monday 8 January

11am - 1pm Creating a NEW YOU (Tapping & EO)

4pm - 6pm Everyday Wellness

Tuesday 9 January

6.30pm - 8.30pm Peaceful Child & Mellow Mama

Wednesday 10 January

11am - 1pm Releasing Stress & Anxiety

7pm - 8.30pm Weight Loss

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Property Insider

Email us: propertyinsider@echo.net.au

The inside on land-lease communities

Kelvin Price is the owner of Mr Property Services, an agency that specialises in the sales of houses in land-lease communities. These communities are often referred to as lifestyle villages, residential parks, retirement villages or home parks.

In a land-lease community, you own the house but lease the land on which the house sits from the community operator. It may be a manufactured house or a moveable dwelling such as a caravan. You pay site fees for the right to occupy the site.

Kelvin came to Australia from the UK in 1991. He drove from the Daintree down to Sydney and, on the way, fell in love with the Tweed coast.

After working for a large American corporation in Sydney for many years, he was summarily given his golden handshake when he turned 50; this was a little sooner than he had planned to retire. Real estate was suggested to him as something that would fit his existing skill set and so Kelvin went back to study to attain his real estate licence. He decided he may as well head to the Tweed coast to begin his new career; that was 10 years and 400 house sales ago!

Kelvin says, 'I identified a niche in the market and have gradually built my business around that. I offered my services at a more competitive fee than the land-lease community operators, who



Kelvin Price

often act as the agents in sales of houses in the communities they manage.'

That strategy hasn't been without its consequences as some the operators haven't taken kindly to losing

business to Kelvin. 'I've had boom gates closed on me, been chased by an operator on a golf buggy and most recently have a park operator trying to undermine my business and professionalism by using scare tactics to make home-owners believe there are issues with using third-party agents.'

Kelvin is a font of knowledge when it comes to what to look out for when buying a house in land-lease community. There are basically three types of house: 1) manufactured; 2) moveable or relocatable; and 3) a caravan with a rigid annex. 'At the moment we have houses on our books ranging between \$69,000 and \$399,000.' There really is a house for every budget. Because you are purchasing the dwelling, not land, you don't pay stamp duty on the sale,

no legal fees and no exit fees when you sell. Plus, as you are leasing the land, if you are on a pension you may well be eligible for rental assistance from Centrelink. However, you usually cannot get finance for the purchase, so a buyer needs to have the funds to cover the purchase of the dwelling outright. The site fees range depending on the facilities in the community. They can range from \$140 to \$190 per week. 'Some of these communities have bowling greens, tennis courts and solar-heated swimming pools,' says Kelvin.

If you want to find out more about buying a dwelling and living in land-lease community, there is information available on the NSW Fair Trading website or you can contact Kelvin at Mr Property Services 07 5523 3431.



Katrina Beohm

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- 3 Bedrooms complete with ceiling fans
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Price Guide \$1,250,000-\$1,350,000

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37 Byron Street, New Brighton INCOMPARABLE BEACHFRONT ACREAGE

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13 Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Vacant Land

This vacant 1158 sqm block of land will catch the eye of those with a vision to create a masterpiece in tune with its environment. Enjoy the ocean breezes from the elevated eastern aspect whilst being surrounded by established trees with a leafy outlook for the nature lover. Ocean Shores Primary School and South Golden Beach are a short bike ride away, while easy access to the motorway puts you within half an hour's drive to Tweed Heads & 15 minutes to Byron Bay. Demand is high for vacant building blocks of land so don't miss this opportunity, call Jason today to arrange your inspection.

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153 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores BYRON COAST CONTEMPORARY WATERFRONT HOME

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This fabulous waterfront Anstey Home offers an enviable coastal lifestyle for one lucky family. Just four years young, this architecturally outstanding property boasts a beautiful location, desirable north-east aspect and sensational water views.

- 4 Bedrooms, all complete with large built in robes and ceiling fans
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Price Guide \$895,000-\$959,000

View By Appointment

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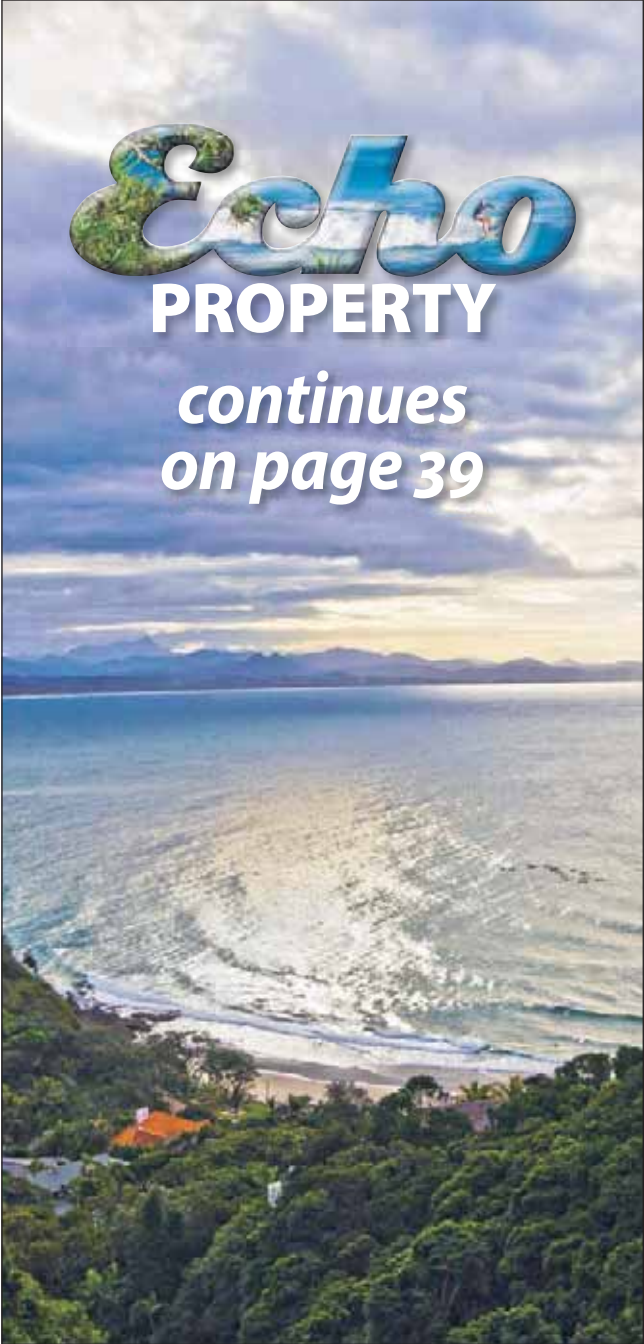
Freshly renovated throughout, the home hits the mark when it comes to style, delivering a modern up-to-the-minute presence and is perfectly suited for both professional couples and young families alike.



Showcasing a functional layout, the residence presents an inviting feel and a sense of openness, ideal for endless days of relaxed entertaining and family fun at home.

Situated on a generously sized block of 429m2, the property allows for the prospect of adding garage with a granny flat (STCA), for a family member or to be utilised as an extra income stream and is situated only a mere stroll from Waterlily Park and moments from schools, shops and beaches combining a fantastic lifestyle of location with both quality and dimension.

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EVE

THE RESOLUTION REVOLUTION

I WONDER WHO ACTUALLY ACHIEVES THEIR NEW YEARS EVE RESOLUTIONS? I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER ACHIEVED A SINGLE ONE. MOST YEARS I TELL MYSELF I'LL GET FIT. I'LL LOSE WEIGHT. I'LL GO SUPER HEALTHY. THAT LASTS ABOUT A WEEK WHEN I DECIDE I'M SO BORED I'D RATHER BE FAT.

So apart from joining the gym and buying new runners and some rather unflattering lycra I don't ever achieve that goal. I once decided that I would put on five kilos. I was hoping that owing to my fiercely oppositional nature that I would trick myself and that I would finally achieve a goal by not achieving it. Sadly it was the first time I actually managed to do what I said I was going to do. These days I don't make those kind of stupid resolutions about things that I am never going to do. I certainly don't make resolutions that are too hard. These days I try to think about what would make my life better. Like spending more time with family. Doing fun things with friends. Having fun. These are the kinds of goals I can actually work on. And for me this year, that's exactly what my resolution is, to have more fun with family and friends. And hey, there's a whole lot of great places to get the party started!

MANDY NOLAN

THE ITALIAN THE FOOD OF LOVE

If you are into a decadent night of degustation then you need to find your way to **The Italian** in Byron. For just \$155 per person, starting with a selection of canapés and a glass of champagne and then moving on to some insanely delicious treats such as duck leg, or gnocchi, or sliced figs with truffle dressing! OMG! There goes my NYE resolution to drop a few kilos! When food's this good, who cares!

www.theitalianbyronbay.com/ | 6680 7055

SHELTER MUSIC, GRAZING & COCKTAILS

Shelter Lennox has been operating now for six months. Just across the road from the beach this gorgeous venue is offering a swanky \$165/head night that includes canapés, grazing stations, cocktails and desserts. Of course there is beer and wine for the more traditional. And champagne! You can't do New Years Eve without champagne! Live music on the night is by Byron-based artist Dan Hannaford. Dan's musical career began when he played on a Channel V broadcast showcase and was spotted by record industry legend Seymour Stein, who requested a demo. He has graced hundreds of stages including showcases at Falls Festival and Byron Bay Blues Festival. To purchase tickets call 6687 7757.

RYCE SHARE YOUR BANQUET

Ryce in Byron Bay are offering a \$120 per person shared banquet for New Years Eve with a glass of champagne, yep the real French stuff, on arrival. There is no better way to celebrate New Years than eating and drinking with friends, in the sanctuary of a classy restaurant, above the hoi polloi of Byron's festivities.

To book a seat email seatme@ryce.com.au.

SHELTER

NEW YEARS EVE

COME JOIN US TO WELCOME A NEW YEAR WITH
A NIGHT OF GREAT FOOD AND GOOD COMPANY

CANAPES, COCKTAILS, BEER, WINE,
GRAZING STATION, DESSERT AND LIVE MUSIC

LIVE MUSIC
BY
DAN HANNAFORD

\$165 PP
ALL INCLUSIVE
6.30PM - LATE



SHELTER • 41 PACIFIC PARADE, LENNOX HEAD

THE ITALIAN

NEW YEARS EVE 2017

SPARKLING ON ARRIVAL & 6 COURSE DEGUSTATION

Sunday December 31st 2017 from 8pm

\$155pp - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

OPEN 7 DAYS FROM 6PM - Sunday Lunch from midday | 2 Bay St, Byron Bay (Next to the Beach Hotel)
(02) 6680 7055 | Facebook & Instagram - @theitalianbyronbay | www.theitalianbyronbay.com



SOUL ★ STREET



BYRON NEW YEAR'S EVE
JONSON ST. & RAILWAY PARK
4PM-MIDNIGHT * FREE ENTRY

2017

A FAMILY FRIENDLY ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

A SAFE AND FUN CELEBRATION OF OUR COMMUNITY
MUSIC * COMEDY * CABARET * CIRCUS * DJs * FOOD STALLS
EXPERIENCES FOR ALL AGES



FALLS FESTIVAL



soulstnye

byroncentre.com.au

Original painting and graphic design by Ant Dwyer

First Sun 2018

Cape Byron Lighthouse

Join us

in a dawn ceremony at
Cape Byron Lighthouse
to welcome the New Year
as the first rays of sunlight
touch Australia

*Blessings to you
for 2018*

First Sun Schedule of Events

- 4:00am Meet at Clarkes Beach carpark,
ready to walk to the lighthouse
- 4:15am Walking group departs
Free shuttle buses will also operate
- 5:15am Welcome to Country by Delta Kay
- 5:30am Crystal Bowl Sound Bath
- 5.50am Silent Intention as the Sun emerges
- 6.00am Sacred Sound Chanting
Dance & Movement Celebration
- 6.30am Soulful Yoga
Self Empowerment Experience
New Year Gong Intentions
- 7:15am Stay to enjoy a coffee and light breakfast
at the Cape Café before walking
or catching the shuttle bus
back to Clarkes Beach carpark
Last bus departs 8:30am

Bring torch, yoga mat, water, cup, sunnies and
something warm to wear before sun up.

sponsored by Falls Festival & Crystal Castle



In the event of severe weather the ceremony will be held
at **Byron Community Centre** 69 Jonson St, Byron Bay

NEW YEARS EVE ROUNDUP

►► CONTINUES PAGES 35-38



BALLINA RSL LAUGH YOUR WAY TO 2018

For ten years now the Ballina RSL have been offering comedy lovers a chance to bring in the New Year with a laugh. With a sit-down meal, and comedy right up till midnight, this is a totally civilised way to wave goodbye to 2017 and welcome in 2018. Hosted by Big Gig comedian and local legend of laughter Mandy Nolan with some of her favourite funny people.

Lindsay Webb is more than your average standup. He has an almost mind-reader-like ability to pick faces in the audience and create a show purely on where they come from and what they do. It's genius. Webb is the go-to man as the opening act for many of the big names including Wil Anderson around the country and Jim Jeffries' QLD shows. Lindsay was also a guest comic on *The Darren Sanders Show* on GO. Lindsay also hosted some pretty great shows including The Royal Architect Awards, Gold Coast Media Awards, QLD Advertising Awards and Laugh Your Pants Off Gala at the Gold Coast Casino, twice. Back in 2009 Webb took out the Guinness World Record for the Longest Show by an Individual – 38hrs 6min. It just shows what a relentless energy Webb has – able to improvise and create unique comedy experiences every time he hits the stage.

punchline littered throughout real-life true stories from his own experiences. Mark has been seen on all of the major commercial TV channels as well as being a featured comic on the Comedy Channels *Home Delivered Comedy*. Radio stations haven't escaped his attention either; he's been heard around the country under the *Home Grown Humour* banner, but to be fully appreciated, he has to be seen live.

AND THEN THERE'S THE COMEDY ASSASSIN, MR JONATHAN ATHERTON

There is nothing quite like the Jonathan Atherton experience. Wild, passionate, lateral thinking – like the bastard love child of Bill Hicks and Robin Williams. All darkness and light, Atherton is now a full-time resident in the northern rivers, after nearly a decade in Kuala Lumpur where he started The Crackhouse Comedy Club, the first-ever dedicated comedy club on the Malaysian comedy scene. He provided what he calls 'stress relief and legal highs!' Atherton is still in demand for gigs on the Asian circuit and travels back regularly. Atherton has always had a love affair with the northern rivers, with his legendary Corndale Hall shows – and his numerous warm friendships forged over decades of performing here. What is unique about his shows? A love of culture and adventure. He mostly has travelled through Asia and Africa where he worked as tour guide, salvage diver, teacher, set builder, photographer, restaurateur and actor. Catch these four brilliant comics on NYE at the Ballina RSL! And a 2-course sit-down meal.

KICKING OFF THE NIGHT IS THE KING OF CROWD WORK, LINDSAY WEBB



NEXT UP IS MARK MCCONVILLE

Bringing almost 20 years of performing experience coupled with a genuine passion for ensuring everyone in the audience has a bloody good time! 'Performing is what I do. I've always done it, and I'll continue to do it. Making people laugh is the best job in the world. I absolutely love it,' he says. Having headlined and emceed all of the major comedy clubs around the country as well as regular corporate engagements and cruise-ship bookings, Mark has comfortably become known as one of the most relatable comedians in the business. As a storyteller Mark can keep an audience enthralled as he peppers them with punchline after



The evening kicks off with doors open at 6.45pm. Dinner from 7.30pm, dinner music by Glenn Massey from 7.15pm and comedy from 9pm till 12am. Tix are just \$69.90 each or \$64.90 if you book a group of 10! Best value on the coast. Tix at the club or online at ballinarsl.com.au.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Free LIVE Entertainment

Wear the Fox Hat



See you there!

from 8.30pm

NYE Raffles Great prizes to be won!

NYE @ SeaSalt

SEAFOOD Platter for 2

Bookings essential Phone 6680 1809

\$99



New Years Eve Raffle

MYSTERY MONEY TREE

26 envelopes on the tree WIN Eftpos cards
\$500 x 1 | \$100 x 5 | \$50 x 20
On sale from 6pm; drawn at 7.30pm

CASH PROMOTION

With every bar purchase from Saturday 23rd December to Midnight 31st December 2017 receive a FREE ticket to WIN A CASH PRIZE on New Years Eve each hour.

7pm \$50	8pm \$50	9pm \$100
10pm \$100	11pm \$200	12:15am \$1000

NSW Permit Number LTPM17/02622

FOLLOW US

Orana Rd, Ocean Shores NSW
Phone 02 6680 1008
www.oceanshorescc.com.au



CLUB BYRON AND THE BYRON BAY EVENT CENTRE PRESENT



NYE 2017

Goodrich on the Green

Secured, ticketed event, outdoor bar, marquees, and the green beneath your feet as we bring in the New Year.



Live entertainment from 8pm
"At the new look **Club Byron**"
\$20 pre-sale tickets now available from the Club.

Tickets are limited



02 6685 6202 18 – 20 Marvell Street Byron Bay



FALLS FESTIVAL

Music & Arts Festival

31 DEC 2017 – 2 JAN 2018

FLUME (NO SIDESHOWS) • FLEET FOXES • RUN THE JEWELS • THE KOOKS • GLASS ANIMALS (NO SIDESHOWS) • PEKING DUK • ANGUS & JULIA STONE • FOSTER THE PEOPLE • LIAM GALLAGHER • GRINSPOON • VINCE STAPLES • JUNGLE • DUNE RATS • THE SMITH STREET BAND • SAN CISCO • DRAM • DARYL BRAITHWAITE • EVERYTHING EVERYTHING • ALLDAY • THE JUNGLE GIANTS • THUNDAMENTALS • METHYL ETHEL • SLUMBERJACK • D.D DUMBO • ANNA LUNOE • DZ DEATH RAYS • NINA LAS VEGAS • CONFIDENCE MAN • JULIA JACKLIN • BAD // DREAMS • COSMO'S MIDNIGHT • WINSTON SURF SHIRT • LUCA BRASI • ALEX LAHEY • CAMP COPE • WAFIA • POLISH CLUB • WAAX • FLINT EASTWOOD • ECCA VANDAL • WEST THE BARTON • MADDY JANE • THE TESKEY BROTHERS • MANU CROOKS • DAVE • TOTAL GIOVANNI • PRESS CLUB • ALICE IVY • PARTY DOZEN • & LOADS MORE

Welcome to Falls!

We're getting set to celebrate our brightest ever summer Silver Jubilee, across the 100% all-natural amphitheatres and centre stages of our spiritual homes. Amongst the party palms, port cities and champagne shores of Australia's heartland, we're ready to release another collection of almighty salutations across the New Year period! As we reach our quarter-century milestone (and 5th bday in Byron) we can't wait to celebrate with you, shimmy off 2017 and welcome in 2018!

Nothing beats an original. Falls started as a one-day event back in 93, since then we've loved, lost, collaborated, created and grown into an event that is all about good music, good friends and good times. We want to thank everyone who has worked on Falls, been to Falls, or partnered with us over the years – we feel the love. Let's make this anniversary our best year yet.

Head into The Grove and check out all of the weird and wonderful on display; downward dog with some morning yoga at the Forest Stage or go for a splash at the onsite waterpark.

Take your time, take it easy and most of all take care of each other.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

WED 27TH	OPEN MIC Night WITH HARRY NICHOLS
THURS 28TH	OKA + TAY OSKEE FREE ENTRY
FRI 29TH	DROP LEGS + BLACK RAT & THE BANDITS DOS LOONA FREE ENTRY
SAT 30TH	Wallflower Meadows FREE ENTRY
SUN 31ST	Sunday Safari NYE FESTIVAL WITH PATRICK TOPPING, TIGA, WORLD CHAMPION, JACK RIVER & MORE



Music Highlights!

WORD LATIN JAZZ LP'S 12 INCH SINGLES PIC DISCS. FUNK SOUL DISCO JAZZ BOOGIE BLUES PSYCHEDELIC ROCK PROG CLASSIC REGGAE DANCEHALL NEW WAVE HOUSE TECHNO SOUNDTRACKS SPOKEN

BRUNSWICK HEADS RECORD FAIR

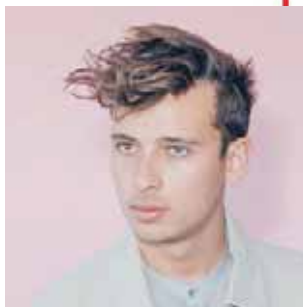
SAT DEC 30 ~ JAN 3RD

MEMORIAL HALL - FINGAL ST
40,000 RECORDS 10AM-6PM

THEVINYLJUNKIE.COM.AU

FLUME

It wouldn't be particularly difficult to mount a case that since he was first seen on the Victorian leg of Falls in 2012, the man known as Harley Streten has become one of most talked about Australian artists of his generation. Flume possesses a born-with-it knack for dance, adventure and collaboration which he rides like a fader inspiring our heads, heart and feet.



FLEET FOXES

Much loved for their delicate self-titled masterpiece and its Grammy nominated follow up *Helplessness Blues*, the harmonious folk vignettes created by this Seattle-based troupe and their erstwhile leader Robin Pecknold reside deep in the chest cavity of their legion of fans. Returning this year after a prolonged and keenly felt absence, their galloping, complicated and richly rewarding return *Crack Up* was worth the wait.



RUN THE JEWELS

Run The Jewels are an unstoppable dream team living and dying by the sword of two legends: El-P and Killer Mike. They are experts in flow, conscious lyricisms and just hip-hop in general. They've released three stellar records, the latest of which shot to number 1 on the US Billboard charts. Visceral, rough and raw. They are absolutely unmissable.



THE KOOKS

While tracks like *Naïve* and *She Moves In Her Own Way* helped establish a blueprint for British guitar pop, these Brighton natives have never stopped developing. More recent records have displayed a penchant towards bombastic beats and hooks that have continued to tickle crowds in just the right spot. Their recent *The Best Of... So Far* showcases all of this and ensures that The Kooks will be mining a deep well of hits at this year's festival.



PEKING DUK

They've reached dizzying heights already, clocking four entries into this year's Hottest 100, peaking at number 9 with monster single *Elliphant*. Apparently, not enough for Peking Duk. They must level up. Not content simply smashing our faces in with banger after banger on the decks they now wield guitars, drums, violins and countless guests into an unforgettable live experience.



GLASS ANIMALS

Emerging in 2014 with their infectious debut single *Goosey*, Oxford lads Glass Animals have gone from mysterious upstarts to main-stage mainstays in the blink of an eye. Jagged guitars and squelching synths combined with quixotic vocals to create perfect singles. Sophomore release *How To Be A Human Being* earned Glass Animals a Mercury Prize nomination and confirmed them worldwide as a must-see live act. Exclusive Australian shows.



ANGUS & JULIA STONE

There's been a hole in our hearts as deep as a well since they last serenaded us in 2014 with their brilliant self-titled effort, a record which hit the top 10 in 8 countries and became the Stone's 3rd Platinum release to date. Hearing our cries, they've readied a new release, the incoming *Snow* and it's shaping up to be another Aussie classic for us to swoon to at this year's festival.



FOSTER THE PEOPLE

Now onto their third record, the critically acclaimed *Sacred Hearts Club*, the boys have built a reputation for fist pumping choruses and melodies that worm relentlessly into your brain, refusing to leave until you hear them just one more time. A band built for the live stage, Foster The People are primed and ready.



LIAM GALLAGHER

As the frontman for Oasis, his clarion call sounds loud and clear throughout classics like *Live Forever*, *What's The Story Morning Glory*, *Wonderwall*... do we need to go on? His debut solo album confirms that Liam is as much of a giant now as he ever was back in the heyday of Britpop. His first ever headline show in Australia promises to be the best opportunity to lose your voice mid-singalong at this year's festival.



JUNGLE

London-based soul / funk outfit Jungle flew right onto the radar in 2014 with their instant classic *Busy Earning*. Formed in 2013 by likely lads (and childhood chums) J and T, Jungle as a collective puts an emphasis on a true connection with their audience, achieved with a powerhouse 7-piece live band. The onstage effect is spectacular and with new material planned next year, we're in for a treat.



Success Thai Food

OPEN FOR DINNER ON NEW YEARS DAY

Dinner from \$12

CLOSED NEW YEARS EVE

Please note we are not open for lunch on New Years Day

Ph 6680 7798

3/109 Jonson St, Byron Bay

Lunch & dinner – Eat in or takeaway

Lunch – Mon-Fri 12-3pm

Dinner 7 nights from 5pm

Fully Licensed & BYO

Check out our menus on Facebook

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20 - 22 APRIL BYRON BAY

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Escape the festival for a refreshing swim, delicious food, great coffee & basic bits at Mrs Birdy in South Golden Beach.



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Golden Beach bus stop)

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We make traditional dipped candles using our water driven dipper.

We are happy to show you through!

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Wheelchair friendly

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Email: nimcand@bigpond.net.au
www.nimbincandles.com.au



VINCE STAPLES

Taking rave-rap to the masses, Vince Staples is a different kind of cat. One of the hottest artists on the planet right now, this Californian pocket rocket has described his own creations as *Afrofuturism*, and indeed, there's something in the breakneck beats and wonky flows that points directly at a future that we can only just imagine. Outspoken, quick-witted and supremely talented – Vince Staples is truly something new.

DUNE RATS

Staking their reputation on a seriously fun blend of stoner punk and pop rock, Dune Rats are a couple of Brisbane bad boys with nothing better to do than to infiltrate our stages and festivals with crazy live shows at the same time as invading our brains with hook after syrupy hook. Their reward was an ARIA number one album; preposterous as it was deserved. Get loose again with Dune Rats.

DRAM

Coming in hot on the back of the release of his debut record *Big Baby DRAM*, its single *Broccoli* (which features fellow buzz king Lil Yachty) and a huge collab with Gorillaz on their single *Andromeda*, DRAM has been said to combine childlike giddiness with old-school-crooner charm, emerging with a mix of classic funk, soul and R&B. Call it trappy-go-lucky.



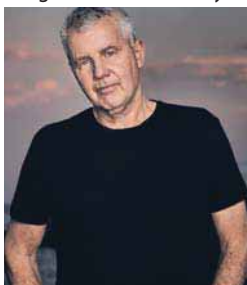
THE SMITH STREET BAND

Forever following the lyrical exorcisms of frontman Will Wagner and expertly moulding them into fist-in-the-air anthems of love, loss and life in contemporary Australian society, TSSB have built a discography and reputation based on pure spirit and belief. Onstage they are a force of nature, hurling themselves and their instruments around venues with reckless abandon and inspiring their rabid fanbase to do the same.



DARYL BRAITHWAITE

As the lead singer of Sherbet, one of Australia's most popular bands through the 70s and early 80s, Braithwaite gained a reputation for his silky smooth voice and stage presence to match. Hits like *Howzat* and *I Have The Skill* set him up for a huge solo career which features the unforgettable *Horses*. An Australian classic, a masterpiece that, like Daryl, ages like a very fine wine.



31ST DECEMBER - NYE FOREST STAGE

WELCOME TO COUNTRY
12:20-12:50PM
-
PARTY DOZEN
1:20-2:10PM
-
DZ DEATHRAYS
2:40-3:40PM
-
CONFIDENCE MAN
4:10-5:10PM

31ST DECEMBER - NYE VALLEY STAGE

DARYL BRAITHWAITE
5:45-6:30PM
-
JUNGLE GIANTS
7:00-8:00PM
-
THUNDAMENTALS
8:30-9:30PM
-
FOSTER THE PEOPLE
10:00-11:00PM
-
NYE COUNTDOWN
FLUME
11:45-1:00AM

31ST DECEMBER - NYE GALAXY STAGE

DJ SEZZO SNOT
8:30PM-2:00AM

2ND JANUARY GALAXY STAGE

COMEDY
LUKKE HEGGIE, JOSH
EARL, TOMMY DASSALO
11:40-12:30PM
-
WEST THEBARTON
1:00-1:40PM
-
DAVE
2:10-2:50
-
BAD//DREEMS
3:20-4:10PM
-
TOTAL GIOVANNI
4:40-5:40PM
-
DJ LEVINS
8:30PM-1:30AM

1ST JANUARY - NYD FOREST STAGE

BUGS
11:50-12:20PM
-
WAAX
12:40-1:20PM
-
ALEX LAHEY
1:50-2:35PM
-
LUCA BRASI
3:05-3:50PM
-
JULIA JACKLINE
4:20-5:05PM
-
EVERYTHING EVERYTHING
5:30-6:20PM
-
JUNGLE
7:00-7:50PM
-
D.D DUMBO
8:30-9:20PM
-
COSMO'S MIDNIGHT
9:50-10:40PM
-
BASENJI
11:00-12:00AM

2ND JANUARY FOREST STAGE

FOSTER BAND
ADAM HARPAZ
12:20-12:50PM
-
WAFIA
1:20-2:00PM
-
ECCA VANDAL
2:30PM-3:20PM
-
WINSTON SURFSHIRT
3:50-4:50PM
-
METHYL ETHEL
5:20-6:20PM
-
DRAM
6:50-7:50PM
-
VINCE STAPLES
8:20-9:20PM
-
ANNA LUNOE
9:40-10:40PM
-
SLUMBERJACK
11:10-12:00AM

1ST JANUARY - NYD GALAXY STAGE

COMEDY
URZILLA CARSON, SAM
TAUNTON, NATH VALVO
12:30-1:20PM
-
FLINT EASTWOOD
1:30-2:10PM
-
MANU CROOKS
2:40-3:20
-
CAMP COPE
3:55-4:35PM
-
ALICE IVY
5:00-6:00PM
-
DJ LEVINS
8:30PM-1:30AM

1ST JANUARY - NYD VALLEY STAGE

ALLDAY
5:10-6:00PM
-
DUNE RATS
6:30-7:30PM
-
GLASS ANIMALS
8:00-9:00PM
-
FLEET FOXES
9:30-10:30PM
-
RUN THE JEWELS
11:00PM-12:00AM

LORD FASCINATOR
DJING BETWEEN BANDS
ON VALLEY STAGE
EACH EVENING

2ND JANUARY VALLEY STAGE

THE SMITH STREET BAND
5:10-6:00PM
-
ANGUS & JULIA STONE
6:30-7:30PM
-
LIAM GALLAGHER
8:00-9:00PM
-
PEKING DUK
9:30-10:30PM
-
THE KOOKS
11:00PM-12:00AM

This time of year,
is about slowing down
and appreciating the
good things...



The way it should be

FIND OUR BEERS AT YOUR LOCAL OR DROP INTO OUR TASTING ROOM

TASTING ROOM OPENING HOURS AND TOUR TIMES –
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STONE & WOOD BREWERY
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4 BORONIA PLACE, BYRON BAY

@stoneandwood Stone and Wood Brewing





Punch and Daisy

Punch and Daisy cafe are now open 7 days a week, offering an all-day menu of fresh, local produce.

Monday to Friday 8 – 2pm
Saturday and Sunday 8 – 1pm

105 STUART ST, MULLUMBIMBY

6684 6564

THE GROVE

It's the festival within a festival, the party within a party. It's the weird and it's the wonderful. Take a trip to The Grove and find out for yourself all the wondrous things awaiting...

Local acts indicated with*



MUSICIANS:

AKA Lui* Alisha Todd* Art Pleasley* Banksia* Ben Wilson* Chilluminati* Damian Cooper* Drop Legs* Ladyslug* Leeli* Maisy Taylor* Monkey Monkey Shake Shake* Naga Buah* Reilly Fitzalan* The Break of Dawn* The Button Collective*

DJs: Jonathan Gaboury* Able El'toro*

CIRCUS & MAGIC: Dandy Man, Ivana Trinkhalot, Rueben De Wall, The Great Dave

COMEDY: Aaron Pratt, Alf Arber, Ashwn Swgar, Ben Isaac*, Cameron Duggan, Candy the love patrol officer, Kiki Bittovabitch, Mandy Nolan*, Mark Boulton, Matt Ford, Steph Tisdell, Tynan Bone*

POP-UPS: The Human Knott, 10min disco with Lady DJ*, Yoga

Pick up a handy pocket-sized event guide at the festival or check the blackboards at The Grove for daily playing times and activities.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Opening this year's Festival with a traditional Welcome to Country are our local Minjungbal Elders and Songmen at the Forest Stage on Sunday December 31 at 12.30pm. Welcome to Country is a ceremony that acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and shows our respect for Aboriginal people as Australia's First Peoples. Come and honour this very special property, which is part of Minjungbal Country, as we officially open Falls 2017!



CAR PASSES

As well as your festival ticket you will require a pre-purchased car pass if you plan to drive to the festival site. This has been introduced to create more space onsite by encouraging carpooling. It's also better for Mother Nature. If you arrive without a car pass, you will end up paying a lot more at the gate, so be prepared and pre-purchase at fallsfestival.com/byron-bay/tickets.

SHUTTLE BUSES

We have shuttle buses running to North Byron Parklands from Kingscliff in the north to Suffolk Park in the south. See the Falls Festival website for shuttle bus timetable and full list of locations.

DROP OFF ZONE

There is a drop off zone where parents/friends can drop off and pick up patrons. Please ask staff where to go when entering the festival site.

GREEN BELT

Take a gander at the beautiful grounds that are the beating heart of this great festival. The grass is low, the air is fresh, the animals are happy – which is how we'd like it to stay. Take care of the fields and please leave your campsites as you found them.

Bin to win! Get amongst our sustainability competition for your chance to come back to Falls 2018 in style! Before you head home on Jan 3, hand us any unwanted camping gear and bags of recycling to go in the draw to win 2 x VIP tickets to the Falls of your choice next year! The comp is open 7.00am–1.00pm on Jan 3.

Clean up your act and place all your recyclables in a clear bag and your rubbish in a black bag.

Donate or upcycle, that is the question... Want to leave your tent afterwards? No problem, you've got two options:

1. If it's in good nick, don't trash it, donate it to people in need!
2. If it's had a good life and can't be used as a tent again, give it a new life by placing it at the upcycling collection point.

Bottoms up: Our composting loos are green, clean and flush free. These custom made facilities are the best you'll find at any major event. All solid waste is composted and zero water is required!

Smells like community spirit: Every year \$1 from every ticket sold is donated by the festival to local community projects in Lorne, Byron and Marion Bay. Each year the funds help create better facilities for community areas. To date we have donated over \$473,500!



PALM SPRINGS WATER PARK

Head to our onsite water park brought to you by Frozen Oak this summer! Take a dip, catch some rays or play some beach volleyball – Californian style!



INFORMATION STATION

We have an Information Station located adjacent to the ATMs inside the event; it is staffed at all times by friendly, well informed Falls oracles. You can head here if you have any questions, need directions, are looking to contact security, need sunscreen, insect repellent or just want to chill out and chat to some nice folk. Lost and found is located here plus you can redeem your car pass redemption vouchers.



MORE QUESTIONS?

Download the Falls Festival app or head to our website (check out the Goings On and FAQ section) before you head to the festival to find everything you need to know about having a fun, safe time at Falls.

BYRON HAPPY HERBS

Get your Byron Happy Herbs before the Festival!

NO STALL AT FESTIVAL
* CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Shop 1/5 Byron St (clock tower st)
BYRON BAY Ph 02 6680 8856



CUSTOM TATTOO
BRUNSWICK HEADS
WWW.IRONMINDTATTOO.COM
6685 0270

SKIN DIVINITY



Get festival ready and start the year refreshed with one of our results-based rejuvenating treatments

Nail Bar • Brows and lashes • Skin brightening treatments • Make-up and skincare • Skin peels • LED • Laser hair removal • Dermapen • Clear and Brilliant (fractional laser) • Facials • IPL • Thermage CPT • and much more!

NO DOWN TIME

Phone 6685 7021

2/27 Byron Street, Byron Bay www.skindivinity.com.au





ryce
byron bay

Celebrate
with us

Ryce • NYE • 2017

Ryce Byron Bay - Open Now

Contemporary pan-Asian Restaurant and Bar

Located in the heart of Byron Bay on Jonson Street



DATE/ Sunday, December 31st • **TIME/** 7pm

ENJOY/ A glass of G.H. Mumm champagne on arrival • **FEAST/** Shared banquet

Music Selectors/ DJ Dashing (SYD) and Dan Mumbles (BRIS)

PRICE/ \$120 per person • **BOOK/** 6680 9183 / seatme@ryce.com.au

address/ 9/4 Jonson Street Byron Bay

NEW YEARS EVE ROUNDUP

►► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

BYRON BREWERY – NYE SAFARI!

Sunday Safari have their best lineup ever on offer this NYE with more than 14 hours and two stages at their cultural home, the Byron Bay Brewery. The drinks will be flowing and the sunshine glowing and, with our reputation for consistently epic parties, this event is guaranteed to sell out.

Get in quickly and tell all of your favourite people to snap up one of the hottest tickets in town as we present to you Sunday Safari's first-ever New Years Eve FESTIVAL!

Featuring: Patrick Topping – In a short time, Patrick Topping has become part of the top tier in dance music. Part the new wave of electronic music producers coming from the north of England, he is a pioneering force for a generation of upcoming artists, reflected in recently being voted 11th in Resident Advisor's Top100 DJs of 2016 and picked as 15th by *Mixmag*. Now 28, Patrick has gone on to make his name as a prolific producer, with a long list of stellar releases; since his debut release in 2013, he has secured seven different Beatport #1s, five of which in Beatport tech house chart #1 with the likes of *Get Beasty*, *Forget* and prominent collaborations with Green Velvet on *Voicemail* and *When is Now*. Patrick remains an Ibiza regular with further key gigs at Elrow, Cocoon at Amnesia and Sundays at Space.

Tiga-Tiga has played a huge part in defining the dance music landscape. Tiga's first proper job was packing clothes in a factory. Everyone else who worked there was Jamaican. 'It was so boring,' says Tiga, 'but the people and music were great.' It was at this time that he started DJing, playing rave music inspired by the UK scene.



In 1994, he bought a record shop called DNA. Two years later, in 1996, he opened his own club, Sona. Then in 1998 he launched his own record label, Turbo, which has since developed into one of techno's most trusted imprints. Acts signed by Tiga who've gone on to become major dance music players include Chromeo, Azari & Ill, Gessafelstein, and Duke Dumont.

Sunday Safari also features the music of **Jack River**, **World Champion** and **Ella Fence**. It's a big innings to put in, from midday NYE till 2am New Years Day.

Cost: Earlybird tickets \$65, local tickets \$75.

Tickets available: www.sundaysafari.com.au, **Byron Bay Brewery** and **Mr Simple**. *Local tickets available from Byron Bay Brewery. Display driver licence with postcodes 2481, 2482, 2483, 2479 and 2478.

HERE COMES THE FIRST SUN

First Sun is Byron Bay's premier New Years Day event that welcomes the first rays of light at the most easterly point of Australia's mainland, Cape Byron Lighthouse. Event coordinator Amy Colli says, 'this beautiful event offers both visitors and the local community the opportunity to embrace the beginning of 2018 in a spectacular location in a peaceful and invigorating way.'

You are encouraged to start off the event by meeting at the Clarkes Beach carpark at 4.15am and join the guided walking group to the lighthouse. Or, for those preferring not to walk, free shuttle buses will operate from 4.30am till 8.30am, taking attendee's from Clarkes Beach carpark to the Lighthouse, and return. Once there you will be greeted by staff from the Crystal Castle and MC Nyck Jeanes as you settle into a comfortable space by 5am to enjoy the activities that welcome the break of day. Opening the event we are blessed to be welcomed to Country by the awe-inspiring Delta Kay. Following Delta, the Crystal Castle will guide us through enchanting crystal bowl soundscapes, meditation, yoga and self-empowerment sessions. Or, you can take the opportunity to set your New Years intentions.

To ensure your comfort during the free activities at First Sun, please remember to bring a yoga mat or towel, warm clothing, sunglasses and water. You can also bring your BYO cup plus either cash or card, and drop by the Cape Cafe anytime after 4.30am as they will be offering tea, coffee, chais and, later, light breakfast options for all dietary requirements. After a fulfilling morning, take the stroll back to Clarkes Beach or catch the shuttle bus (last bus departs the Lighthouse at 8.30am).

Follow First Sun 2018 via Facebook: [firstsunNYD](https://www.facebook.com/firstsunNYD) Byron Bay or on Instagram [@firstsunbyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/firstsunbyronbay)

2017 NEW YEARS EVE

THE BIG GIG PRESENTS

COMEDY GALA DINNER

Sunday 31 December

Doors from 6.45pm Dinner 7.30pm 18+

Tickets \$69.90 or Group of 10 \$64.90ea

MC MANDY NOLAN
MARK McCONVILLE
JONATHAN ATHERTON
LINDSAY WEBB

GLENN MASSEY & THE THREAD

WITH SPECIAL GUEST HORACE BEVAN

HUGE NYE RETRO BASH

60s, 70s & 80s FREE ENTRY

Boardwalk Stage - 9pm - 12.30am

(Wear some cool 'THREADS')

CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF THE CARPENTERS

We've Only Just Begun

ANGELA LUMICISI

Friday, January 5, 2018 \$30

Doors 7.30pm Show 8.00pm 18+

DR BAZ, ILONA PARKER & THE TENNESSEE TWO 'I Hear That Train A Comin'

Saturday 6 January

Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm

Adults \$22 Child U/16yr \$10 Group 10 exactly \$15pp

JOHNNY CASH THE LEGEND

mental as anything

Sunday 7 January

Doors 7.30pm Show 8.00pm

Tickets \$30 18+ Years

JIMEOIN THE RIBICULOUS

FRIDAY 12 JANUARY

Doors: 7.30pm Show: 8.30pm

Tickets: \$44 18+

THE ULTIMATE EAGLES EXPERIENCE

THE EAGLES BAND

Saturday 13 January

Doors 8pm Show 8.30pm

Tickets \$25

MELINDA SCHNEIDER & MARK GABLE

Rock the 80s

Saturday 20th January

Tickets \$30 - 18+ Doors 7.30pm Show 8.00pm

www.ballinarsl.com.au
ballina rsl 1 Grant Street, Ballina 6681 9500

Sunday Safari

• NYE FESTIVAL •

PATRICK TOPPING TIGA JACK RIVER

CLASSIXX CASSIAN WORLD CHAMPION

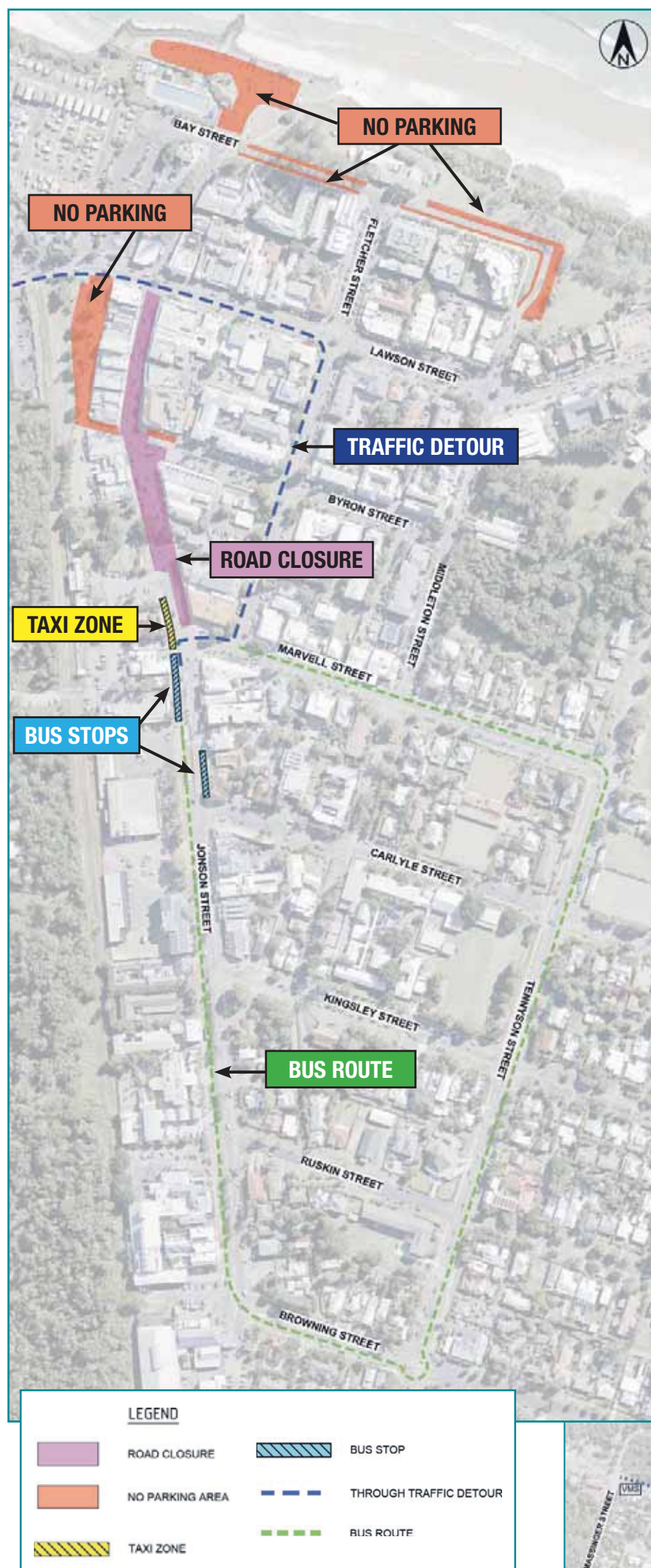
WHARVES ELLA FENCE Niterunner

WEBBER MELTING COLOURS SAFARI DJs

MR HAYES! SALAD FINGERS DJ's DAD BOD KURT KING AND JAMIE L

SUNDAY DEC 31. 12PM-2AM | BYRON BAY BREWERY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM SUNDAYSAFARI.COM.AU, BYRON BAY BREWERY & MR SIMPLE



Road closures and traffic information New Year's Eve, 31 December 2017

Road closures in Byron Bay on New Year's Eve include:

No parking from 6am on 31 December:

- Jonson Street between Marvell Street and Lawson Street
- Lawson Street south car park
- Main Beach car park
- Bay Street between Jonson and Middleton Streets.

- Jonson Street, between Marvell and Lawson Streets will be closed from 6am on 31 December 2017 to allow for the set-up of community safety measures and the Soul Street event.

All roads will be open by 8am on 1 January 2018. Signed detours will be in place and traffic delays should be expected. The taxi rank will be relocated to Jonson Street near the Marvell Street intersection.

Parking and public transport

FREE PARKING in Butler Street Reserve from 6am, 31 December – 1am, 1 January.

People can also catch the **Falls Festival bus** from Suffolk Park into the Byron Bay town centre on New Year's Eve. Look out for the Blanch's buses.

Catch the **Night Rider Bus** operating from Sunrise – Suffolk Park from 11pm – 4am for only \$5 per person.

Road closures and traffic information New Year's Day, 1 January 2018

Road closures in Byron Bay on New Year's Eve include:

- Traffic control personnel will be in place from midnight 31/12/2017 – 8am 1/1/2018
- No parking on the road shoulders between Clarkes Beach carpark and the Cape Byron Lighthouse. This area will be patrolled by Byron Shire Council Parking officers.
- The Lighthouse Rd (from the corner of Palm Valley Drive/entrance to Wategoes Beach) will be closed from midnight 31/12/2017 – 8am 1/1/2018.
- Shuttle buses will run between Clarkes Beach and the Cape Byron Lighthouse from 4:30am-8:30am on New Year's Day.



- No fireworks
- No beachfront events on New Year's Eve
- No drinking in the streets
- Additional Police
- No street camping

The Council contact number during the NYE event is 6622 7022. For further information: www.byron.nsw.gov.au



►► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

CATCH THE BYRON BAY NIGHTRIDER!

Don't spend hours waiting for a taxi, or hitching with your broken heels in one hand and a half-eaten kebab in the other. Catch the Byron Bay Nightrider. This bus goes from Sunrise to Byron central and to Suffolk Park. It runs 11pm till 4am Friday and Saturday nights and other busy nights over Xmas School holidays.

It's just \$5... and of course the Nightrider will be running NYE!

ON THE BUSES

Blanch's Bus Lines will provide New Years Eve services. For 24-hour timetable enquiries: **6686 2144** or www.blanchs.com.au.

ALCOHOL EDUCATION

We all know that everyone likes a drink or 300 on NYE. But it's kind of stupid. Getting smashed isn't really such a great way to welcome in the New Year, particularly when you can't remember what happened the night before. The Council have commissioned a short hip-hop video, developed to showcase the natural beauty and things to do in Byron Shire as an alternative to drinking and antisocial behaviour. Titled *What are you doing to yourself in Byron Bay*, the video targets locals and visitors. Council are also working with accommodation providers and other partners to reduce alcohol consumption on premises prior to going out (commonly referred to as pre-fuelling).

To find out more please contact the Community Development team on 6626 7000.

OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB FREE FOXY NEW YEARS



If you're in Ocean Shores you are spoilt for choice this New Years. **Wear the Fox Hat** plays the Ocean Shores Country Club and without a doubt is one of the most exciting cover bands to emerge from northern NSW in recent years. The band offers a wealth of experience and a vast knowledge of popular music genres. **Wear the Fox Hat** boasts some great vocal harmonies, accompanied by strong instrumental backing. The main emphasis has been on providing an appropriate repertoire selection while delivering an energetic and varied experience to suit any occasion. This, coupled with a state-of-the-art PA system, ensuring a high-quality polished sound. Mixed with exceptional vocals and quality reproductions of songs from some of the best acts in popular music history – you're in for a thoroughly enjoyable experience from the first song till last resounding note. The Club will have lots of great raffles too – such as a seafood platter for two, a Mystery Money Tree where you could win \$500, and cash giveaways up to \$1,000. There's a kids' club operating and two courtesy buses operating on the night so no problem getting home safe and sound! The best thing is that it's free! Bands from 8.30pm.

Contact the club for details – 6680 1008.



BALLINA RSL BOWLING CLUB DUSTY & THE DIVAS

This New Years Eve Ballina turns on the Tardis to take patrons back to the 1960s with **Dusty and the Divas** (and support by **Bob Walton**). A tribute to the glorious Dusty Springfield and the Divas of the era. You can be a diva too! Dust off your 60s gear and be part of the fun.

Doors at 6.30pm. Dinner at 7.30pm. Bob Walton at 6.30pm and Dusty and the Divas at 9.30pm. Just \$49. Tix at the Club or online at ballinarsl.com.au.



SOUL STREET GOTTA LOVE A VILLAGE WITH SOUL!

Soul Street is Byron Bay's New Years Eve family-friendly street party. With Jonson St closed off, it becomes the colourful hub of this interactive town gathering.

Creative director Renee Simone states, 'Byron Bay is setting a new precedent for NYE celebrations. It doesn't need to be about trashing ourselves and our beautiful town. People tend to get destructive as a form of entertainment. This event is jam-packed with interactive entertainment for people of all ages. Kicking off with a talk and welcome from the wonderful Delta Kay followed by eight hours of cabaret, live music, dance, kids play zones, comedy, drag, DJs, henna, tarot, body painting, circus, graffiti workshops, a giant kaleidoscope, martial arts workshops, silent disco, food stalls spanning from Railway Park all the way down the road to the Jonson St roundabout.

In line with our theme of sustainability and renewal stallholders will be bringing creative alternatives to the provision of single-use plastics, ie straws and lids. 'This is a community event and together our aim is to keep our town beautiful throughout the course of the celebrations.'

The event runs from 4pm - midnight. It is an alcohol free event and with all of these immersive Byron Bay Experiences you and your loved ones will be entertained, safe and included from start to finish. Remember to Slip Slop Slap. See you there!

OCEAN SHORES TAVERN KARAOKE BABY!

Kim Dowling, the owner of the Ocean Shores Tavern, is pretty excited about New Years Eve Karaoke. 'It's a lot of fun,' she says. 'Karaoke just takes care of itself. People just love it. It's fancy dress and it's a white party. We are going to have fluoro and white with black lights and it's glow in the dark! We love a bit of frivolity so there are a few games to keep it personal at the Tav.'

Kids can come too. It's up to the parents how much they plan to let their hair down! The Tavern courtesy bus will be running with the Tavern open until 1pm. Great food available, sexy drink specials, and the kitchen will stay open later than usual. It's also a chance to catch sight of that gorgeous Harley that's being given away in March next year and maybe buy one of the drinks that puts you in the running! Karaoke at the Ocean Shores Tavern is free, with the mic turned on ready for action from 8pm.

CLUB BYRON A NIGHT ON THE GREEN



One of the ways to bring in the new year is a night on the green, right in the heart of Byron. The Byron Bowlo aka Club Byron have **Jon J Bradley** getting things moving from 8pm and then at 10pm along comes Bruce Butler's **Goodrich**. Originally performing on the northern beaches of Sydney some twenty years ago, and now for the past 15 years they've been performing in Byron Bay. Goodrich are a 6-piece band loaded with some well-known faces from some of the Shire's better-known bands and are regulars at the Rails and Beach Hotels. Goodrich play great hard-hitting 80s rock hits and funk, sounds like Talking Heads, Iggy Pop, Clash, Stones. The past few months have seen Goodrich take to the high seas playing The Rock the Boat where they cruise for 16 days. They have just finished recording an EP of originals called *Love Your Way*, with a clip to be launched early in the new year. This New Years Eve Goodrich are teaming up with the Byron Bowlo to present Goodrich on the Green, playing under a huge marquee on Green number two. With food and a DJ and outdoor bars, it's going to be a great way to bring in the new year. The band features Jamie Ashforth on guitar, harmonica and vocals, Bruce Butler on vocals and guitar, pet Boland on guitar and vocals, Murray Burns on keyboards, Maurice Cernigoi on bass and Johnny McGann on drums. Tix are just \$20 presale or \$25 on the night.

Book on 6685 6202 or come into the club for your ticket! Licensed to go through until 1pm.

BEACH HOTEL PARADISE FOUND!



It's New Years ahoy at the Beach Hotel in Byron when the iconic pub presents Paradise Found NYE Party! This will be the biggest party in Byron Bay and is headlined by Yacht Club DJs – featuring Sapote, Fonzaus and Longtime with food stalls, cocktail bars, lots more DJs and other live acts.

Earlybird tickets available at our bottleshop – **call direct 6685 6402 or via Oztix**. \$90 + booking fee.

Local tickets are \$50+ booking fee at bottleshop only and must show ID (max two per persons). Over-18s only. Doors open from 7.30pm till 2am. This is an 18+ event.

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

You Don't Have to Wait Till Auction

43 King Parrot Parade, near Yamba
🏠 4 🏡 2 🚗 8 Auction February 2, 12.30pm



We'll sell TODAY to genuine buyers offering a fair price, it's that simple! Come along and have an inspection and see if what we have suits your needs. We hope you might just be the person that helps us move to our next address. What do we have that makes your inspection worthwhile? The suburb of Gulmarrad is arguably the best value real estate in the Clarence Valley, with quality homes on small acreage nestled between the riverside township of Maclean and the coastal havens of Brooms Head and Yamba. Our owners are keen to move closer to their friends and family so are committed to sell before Auction, at Auction or if need be post Auction. If you are in the market for a quality home with some elbow room around you, this is a must to inspect. See you at the Open Home or book an appointment today.



Open: Saturday 30th December 11am–11.30am
Contact: Grant Neilson 0429 664 312
LJ Hooker Maclean

Byron Coast Waterfront Home

153 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores
🏠 4 🏡 2 🚗 2 Just Listed



This fabulous waterfront residence offers an enviable coastal lifestyle. Just four years young, this outstanding Anstey Home boasts a beautiful location, desirable North-East aspect and sensational water views.

Your open plan living and dining areas flow out to the covered patios to provide effortless alfresco entertaining overlooking the water. The adjacent gourmet kitchen features Caesarstone benchtops, quality stainless steel appliances and walk-in pantry.

Designed with peaceful family living in mind, the home's floorplan offers the opportunity to segment the front area of the home, comprising a bedroom, media room and bathroom, as a separate guest wing.

This delightful showcase home has 4 bedrooms with large built-in robes & ceiling fans, gorgeous air-conditioned master with fully-fitted robe, water views, patio access, plus superb ensuite with quality stone vanity tops and a bath with a view! Set on an 869 square metre block with double gated side access ideal for the trailer/caravan or boat

View: By appointment.
Contact: Julie-Ann Manahan LREA
Licensee/Principal 0411 081 118
Jason Dittmar Area Sales Specialist 0477 222 452
Raine & Horne Ocean Shores / Brunswick Heads

Impressive Family Home

356 Keen Street, Girards Hill
🏠 4 🏡 2 🚗 2 \$770,000



This executive style brick and tile family home is elevated with views over the Wilsons River to the mountains and has 3.5 acres within walking distance to Lismore CBD, schools and parks. All bedrooms are fitted with built-ins and ceiling fans, plus the master bedroom features a walk in dressing room and ensuite. Stay warm in the lounge room with the wood fired heater. Plus, with a separate meals area, dining room and study there is plenty of room for the family to spread out. The living room has air conditioning and flows into the generous timber kitchen which is fitted with plenty of cupboards, bench space, a dishwasher and a servery to the outdoor entertainment area featuring a BBQ area and in-ground salt water pool. Town water is connected to the property also. Two cars can be accommodated undercover with access inside. There is a secure workshop which is also ideal as storage. If you require a shed or granny flat there is a level site ready.

Open: Inspect by appointment
Contact: Katrina Beohm 0467 001 122
Katrina Beohm Real Estate



TENDER

36-38 South Beach Road, Brunswick Heads



For Sale by PUBLIC TENDER
(Closing 19th Jan 2018)

Absolutely unique beach and river access property. Held in the one family for nearly 100 years! 1,012m2 (two titles), two street frontages, crown land adjoining and all services available. Invitations to tender include contract, planners report, survey and pest and building reports. A character 4 bed beach house with one bathroom plus ensuite is situated overlooking

Simpsons Creek. A brilliant redevelopment site or premier holiday address.
Call Mark Cochrane for confidential assistance.

PRICE PUBLIC TENDER
INSPECT After 8 January 2018
CONTACT Mark Cochrane 0416 142 663



professionalsmullumbimby.com.au

15 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay \$3,200,000



'Beachcomber at Tallows'
Fully Furnished & Styled

Nestled in one of Byron Bay's most sought-after areas, this quintessential abode directly adjacent to Beautiful Tallows 'Dolphins Beach' entry will take your breath away. Direct beach access through the nature reserve right out the front door.

The stylish coastal Santorini home is being offered fully furnished and styled as is, simply turn up and unwind.

- Fully stylishly furnished
- Extensive indoor & outdoor entertaining
- Large kitchen with endless storage space, gas cooktops, integrated dishwasher, large fridge/freezer, stunning stone benchtops and bifold windows that create a servery to the outdoor entertaining.
- Large main bedroom with ensuite & large walk-in-robe
- 4 more bedrooms with built-in robes
- Separate retreat downstairs with kitchenette, bathroom and deck.
- Glistening pool area with stylish surrounds
- Double lockup garage and enough space for 2 more cars in the driveway

For more info:
coastalabodeproperties.com.au
realestate.com.au
domain.com.au



Coastal Abode
PROPERTIES

Looking to Sell your abode?
REAL ESTATE AGENT
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An Honest, Energetic
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nicole@coastalabodeproperties.com.au
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Rarely do we get a property to tick all of the boxes but on this occasion let's see how close we can get

- ✓ Magnificent views
- ✓ Level and clean
- ✓ A pretty creek boundary
- ✓ Private
- ✓ Close to local villages and the magnificent coastline of Byron Bay

- ✓ A blank canvas to build the home of your dream
- ✓ Opportunity for Rural Tourism
- ✓ Or lifestyle
- ✓ Or Prime Ag

What more can we say? ... drive or fly now to inspect

To view video visit link www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYkR7pR9afc&feature=youtu.be

Price: P.O.A

Contact: Darren Perkins 0428 660 324



Iconic Bangalow Post Office Building

Located in the heart of Bangalow village (Byron Bay Hinterland) is the freestanding Bangalow Post Office commercial building. With the licensed Post Office business forming the anchor for a "collective" of small boutique retail businesses, the new owners long term interests are assured.

The opportunity to increase returns comes with the possibility of further developing the land which has dual street frontage (subject to council approval).

The current rental return has an indicative 5% annual return.

A pleasure to inspect. In sound condition with loads of character!

Price: \$2.185M

Contact: Darren Perkins 0428 660 324



Opportunity!

Being very close to the Macadamia industry for the past 20 years gives rise to the opportunity to recognise opportunity when it presents!

The current owners have been meticulous and have used advance research to give their farms every chance to produce at the highest level. Soil health, canopy management, orchard floor (including drainage) have all been points of focus to achieve over 100 tonne of his production over the past three years.

The property is on two titles. Has two houses providing solid rental income, has impressive shedding and plant and equipment list, has approx. 35ha of orchard and will be sold including 2018 crop (for contract negotiated prior to mid February 2018).

Price: \$4.3M

Contact: Darren Perkins 0428 660 324

Ph 6687 2833 | gnfrealestate.com.au

GNF *bangalow*

Property

Absolutely Captivating

170 Boogarem Road, Koonyum Range

4 2 2

\$2,495,000



This 29 acre property is located on the edge of Mt Jerusalem National Park overlooking Mullumbimby & Brunswick Heads coastline. Open plan living areas with high raked ceilings, beautiful timber floors & large

doors that open onto the patio. Kitchen, fitted with granite bench tops, European appliances & plenty of cupboard space including a walk in pantry. The house hosts a huge master bedroom with views of the sunrise over the ocean, a walk in dressing room, ensuite with twin vanities & separate shower & access to the outside, & third bedroom. Guest quarters, a second living room & the den/study. Outdoors, the in-ground saltwater pool is positioned in a beautiful setting. The house can operate entirely "off the grid" with a large stand alone solar power system, 135,000 litres of rain water storage. There is a studio with two rooms and facilities located separately from the home. Double lockup garage with remote entry.

Open: Inspect by appointment
Contact: Katrina Beohm 0467 001 122
Katrina Beohm Real Estate



Heart of Byron formerly Heart & Halo

4/14 Middleton Street, Byron Bay

A well set up kitchen and a cosy alfresco dining area located amongst Byron's busy and vibrant CBD commercial grid. Stable trading figures indicate a loyal customer base and profitable business. A 5 x 5-year lease in place with modest rent and outgoings.

Current owners operating for 12 years, change due to young family commitments.
For Sale: \$85,000 Walk In Walk Out
Inspect: By appointment
Contact: Paul Waters 0412 753 374

Raine&Horne.



Unique Beach Cottage with Potential

3 1 1

4/12 Shelly Beach Road, East Ballina

- ✓ Feel like you are on holidays all year round in this charming cottage
- ✓ Directly opposite Shelly Beach in the popular Belle General Complex
- ✓ High ceilings, hardwood floors, French doors, sun washed living area
- ✓ 3 bedrooms plus additional nursery/study nooks/dressing room
- ✓ Interchangeable floorplan with multiple living/family spaces

- ✓ Timber deck overlooks level grassed fully fenced backyard + SLUG
- ✓ Suit owner occupier or investor wanting great return or prime holiday let opportunity

Price: \$695,000
Inspect: By appointment
Contact: Angela Proudman 0455 552 093

Lois Buckett

"We can help you find your happy place"
~ Michael Murray, Buyers Agent

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PROPERTY
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Pls Txt: +61 428 555 501
www.byronpropertysearch.com.au



Stunning Panoramic Views

Vacant Land

14 Angus Kennedy Cl, Lennox Head

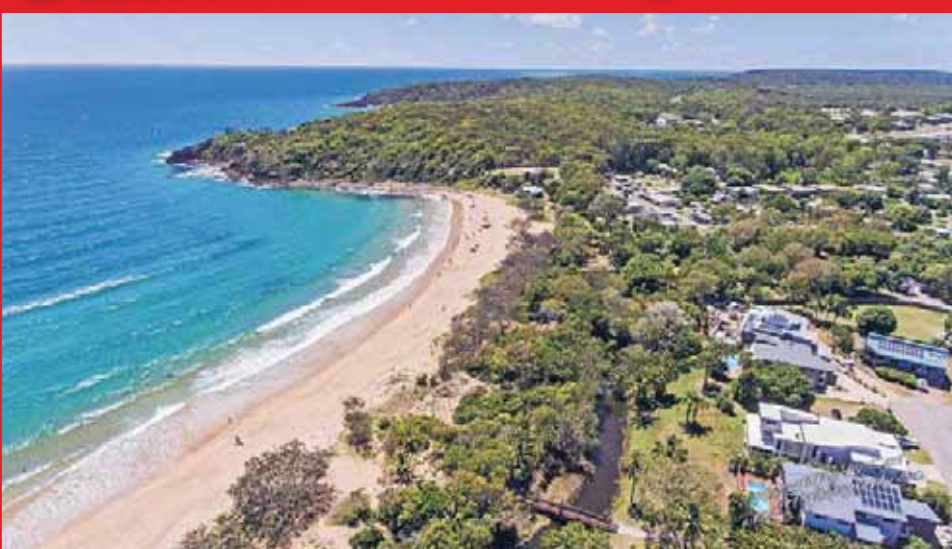
- ✓ ONLY REMAINING vacant residential block in Lennox Head, northerly panoramic view
- ✓ Elevated views over ocean, hinterland, Lennox village, along Seven Mile beach to Broken Head
- ✓ Serene 1458m² block on the high side of a private road, backs on to a nature reserve
- ✓ Coveted NE aspect, enjoys both summer breezes & winter sun – perfect location to build

- ✓ Positioned within an established & quiet part of Lennox Head amongst quality homes
- ✓ 1 min school bus, 7 min walk Lennox Village, 10 min drive Ballina, 20 min Byron Bay
- ✓ AUCTION 13 January on site 10am

Inspect: By Appt. Contact Agent
Contact: Lois Buckett 0428 877 399

Lois Buckett

Discover the next Byron Bay



Agnes Water/1770–Surf/Reef/Rainforest

5 hrs from Brisbane – Gateway to the Great Barrier Reef – East Coasts most Northern Surf Beach & Australia's Best Beach

1770 Headland Residential Land adjoining Nat Park – unique land holding from **\$399,000** & Balinese Style Ocean View Beachside 3 bedroom Villa from **\$315,000**

Call James on 0410 666 549 james@prd1770.com.au

Beachfront land in the heart of Agnes from \$235,000 & 1ac beachfront \$480,000 & lush 4 acres 5mins from the beach \$119k & houses on 4ac from \$280,000.

Call Tim on 0428 565 626 tim@prd1770.com.au



Renovated & Ready to Welcome You Home



6A Narrolog Court, Ocean Shores

Bed 3 Bath 1 Car 1

\$599,000

Freshly renovated throughout, the home hits the mark when it comes to style, delivering a modern up-to-the-minute presence and is perfectly suited for both professional couples and young families alike.

Showcasing a functional layout, the residence presents an inviting feel and a sense of openness, ideal for endless days of relaxed entertaining and family fun at home.

Situated on a generously sized block of 429m², the property allows for the prospect of adding garage with a granny flat (STCA), for a family member or to be utilised as an extra income

Open: Thursdays 4pm

Contact: Declan O'Sullivan
0402 338 828
Byron Ballina Property Specialists



stream and is situated only a mere stroll from Waterlily Park and moments from schools, shops and beaches combining a fantastic lifestyle of location with both quality and dimension.

Byron Ballina
PROPERTY
SPECIALISTS

PRD nationwide

View more opportunities at prd1770.com.au
Book your accommodation to view this beautiful area at accomm1770.com.au

AGENTS



Ever considered selling?

TARA TORKKOLA

I'd like to take this space to thank all of my clients for supporting my business, and I wish you and your families a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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- 7 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 11am–11.30am
- 41 Yalla Kool Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 12pm–12.30pm
- 41 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 1pm–1.30pm

LOIS BUCKETT REAL ESTATE

- 22 Figtree Hill, Lennox Head. Sat 11–11.30am
- 7 Aurora Place, Lennox Head. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 24 Casuarina Road, East Ballina. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 19 Unara Parkway, Cumbalum. Sat 2–2.30pm

New Listings

LOIS BUCKETT REAL ESTATE

- 7 Aurora Place, Lennox Head. Auction
- 24 Casuarina Road, East Ballina. \$680–\$740,000
- 19 Unara Parkway, Cumbalum. \$700–\$770,000

Auction

LOIS BUCKETT REAL ESTATE

- 14 Angus Kennedy Close, Lennox Head, 13 Jan 10am on site
- 7 Aurora Place, Lennox Head, 20 Jan 1pm on site



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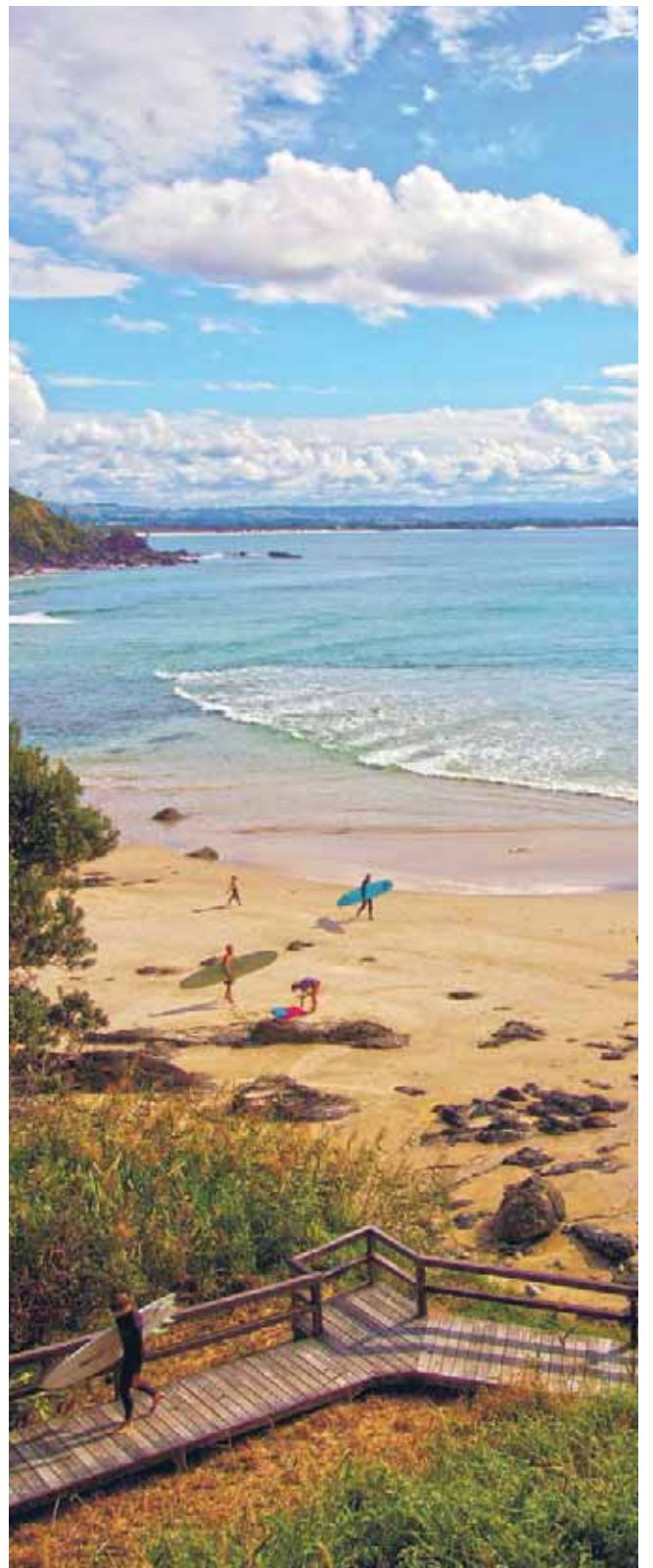
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Ryce: Asian, sea breeze, ocean views, balcony, cocktails!

Story and photos S & S Haslam

Refreshingly, the new Ryce restaurant near the beach in Jonson St, in the newly renovated Hog's Breath site between The Balcony and The Beach Hotel, has an attitude of inclusivity, while still managing to serve top-notch food and wine.

'We really want to appeal to everyone, and allow them to create their own experience', says front-of-house and general manager Michael Gavaghan. 'If you're coming straight from the beach for a wine or beer and some \$5 snacks, or if you want to have some sophisticated cocktails and then choose from our banquet menu accompanied by a top-shelf wine; you can choose.

'We think this flexibility is important for Byron, where some people are very price-conscious and some people really want a top-end experience'.

The key to creating your own experience is for the staff to go with it, and having checked the place out for dinner last week the staff are great. It's no surprise to hear that the right personality is the key factor for Michael when hiring staff. 'If people are willing to learn and work hard I'm happy to train them', he says, 'but you can't teach people to be pleasant and nice'.

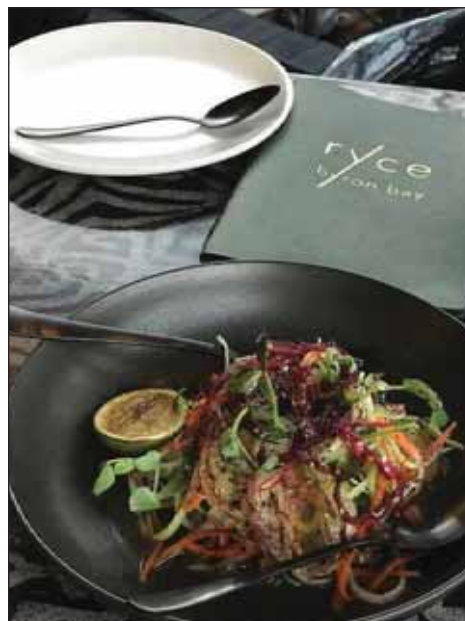
The Ryce verandah is a great people-watching spot, free from car noise and close enough to see the beach, and the cocktails are beautifully made and presented.

Elsewhere in Byron \$16 can buy you a pretty standard cocktail, served like slush in a glass, whereas for \$2 more at Ryce you can get a bespoke creation; I was amazed by number of ingredients and careful thought and presentation. Damian Allen, bar manager, has created a fun cocktail list that like the food menu showcases ingredients of the East.

The cocktails have beautiful and amusing Asian names. For example the Gansu Dew is a subtle fruity cocktail named after a famous waterfall (vodka, melon liqueur, honey dew, pineapple, coconut water, cinnamon syrup and Thai basil), but the Badang's Wish cocktail (Woodford Reserve, eucalyptus syrup, apricot brandy, Fermet Branca Menta and Laphroaig Spray), is somewhat stronger, and is named for an old fable about a boy who has a wish to be strong.



Ryce restaurant upstairs near the beach in Jonson St, in the newly renovated Hog's Breath site.



The food is again very carefully constructed and of a very high standard; even the \$5 and \$6 small flavours have a number of simple ingredients beautifully combined. On opening night we ordered betel leaf with pickled oyster and shiitake mushrooms with Vietnamese mint and crispy garlic; taco of tuna, kaffir lime, black sesame, ginger, chilli; and the housemade bao (Asian bun) was definitely cute served looking like an artful burger.

Other small dishes go for \$11 and \$18. You'll find well balanced, engaging flavours, a spectrum of texture and structure that does the right thing in these diminutive treats.

There is a 'raw' section of the menu: the kingfish green nahm jim, melon and coconut

lime was a flavourful attention grabber that had me nearly licking the plate. There are also 'large' menu options including a yellow curry with warm and generous flavours, a fresh and lively green tea noodle dish, and I intend to return just to find out what one ingredient, 'crying tiger', is!

Dessert delivers again on theme, flavour and texture – the strawberry sorbet had a creamy quality, served with lemongrass marshmallow and the white chocolate on the dish were small peaks of mousse, all served with crunchy crumbs and micro mint – all of these elements for \$12. There is also a 'banquet' option if you want to pull all of the menu together.

The kitchen is headlined by chef Adam Marino, whose knives have danced at Brisbane's Longtime and The Spirit House on the Sunshine Coast – Ryce aims to pay homage to traditional Asian cuisine but with a twist, indulging you with the complex and modern flavours expressed in modern pan-Asian cooking.

Passionate about creating a venue separate from the rest, owner Max Panettiere (founder of Brisbane's bespoke apartment complex Nero) has been a regular visitor to Byron and fell in love with the location, and the specific site for the restaurant, two years ago. Now he feels inspired by the opportunity to change up the local standard in pan-Asian cuisine.

'We didn't want to pigeonhole ourselves to just one cuisine. Our Contemporary Pan-Asian menu is inspired by the flavours across southeast Asia, and in turn has championed our eclectic décor', said Panettiere.

Already he has wrought a transformation of the old Hog's Breath Cafe into a fresh space of casual elegance where the aromas are welcoming and the vibe is sensitively upbeat. The restaurant has a bar at one end that extends onto the balcony where you can catch a sea breeze and a glance of the ocean.

One great thing about the restaurant is the wine list. Sure you can just have a beer, but on a night out in Byron I often want wine, and if I'm driving home just one glass of really good wine. There's a good range of wines by the glass here, but if you want a gin there are 21 to choose from; for those that want to there are seven different rosés. Perfect for summer. If you feel like a sparkling at their NYE banquet again your choices range from a \$49 bottle to a vintage French champagne for \$550.

Ryce is already a good place to choose your own experience, but expect it to keep evolving as the rest of the furniture arrives, and as the menu continues to expand. 'We wanted to make sure that every dish was right before we expanded the menu,' says Michael. This certainly is somewhere I'll be happy to keep visiting.

More info: Ryce, 9/4 Jonson St, Byron Bay Ph 6680 9183
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Thursday 4th January 2018, 6pm start.

The Beet Vegan Restaurant

Woolworths Plaza 90-96 Jonson St

For event details and tickets visit www.thebeet.com.au.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/thebeetbyronbay) [i](https://www.instagram.com/thebeetbyronbay) @thebeetbyronbay Ph: 6685 6520

Vegan degustation at the Beet – make 2018 your best year yet

Join the team at Beet, Byron's vegan restaurant on 4 January 2018 and learn how to optimise your health through a plant-based diet with nutrition expert Robyn Chuter. The Beet team are promising this will be a fun and informative event that could be the way to make 2018 your best year yet!

Robyn will give a presentation that will include the five surprising health benefits of a plant-based diet, plus a Q&A, followed by a 6-course degustation. Booking and prepayment are essential – \$70 per person including a welcome drink and canape on arrival.

Robyn is a university qualified naturopath in private practice since 1995, with a Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) and a Diploma of Naturopathy. She is an Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine-certified Lifestyle Medicine Practitioner and also holds a Graduate Diploma of Counselling from the Australian College of Applied Psychology.

Robyn was recognised as one of the Top 25 Most Popular Health and Fitness Services for 2016 by *Health4You*.



Degustation menu

Local organic stuffed zucchini flowers
Melon salad with organic local greens
Miso pumpkin & spinach crespelle
Fettuccini Boscaiola
Raw key lime and avocado pie
Vegan cheese tasting plate

*All items are gluten free

More info: The Beet Vegan Restaurant
Woolworths Plaza, Jonson St, Byron Bay
Thursday 4 January 2018, 6pm start. For bookings and information call 6685 6520 or email hello@thebeet.com.au.
More Robyn Chuter info: www.empowertotalhealth.com.au.

From the Mountain to the Market

By Ben Schmitz

Working on the land is a great way to bio-energetically co-create with this incredible country we are so blessed to be a part of; it is also a way for many to create a source of rich wealth.

Steve Shakeshaft, an uncertified organic turmeric and ginger farmer, and partner Anastasia Fetotovah, have been growing a crop up in the magical mountains of Wilsons Creek.

'I get a good feeling about growing the best produce I can,' says Steve. 'It's not about growing your plants, it's about looking after your soil.' Three years ago the land was overgrown with lantana;

Steve saw this as a great opportunity to nitrogen fix the soil. 'You have to think with a green mind,' says Anastasia.

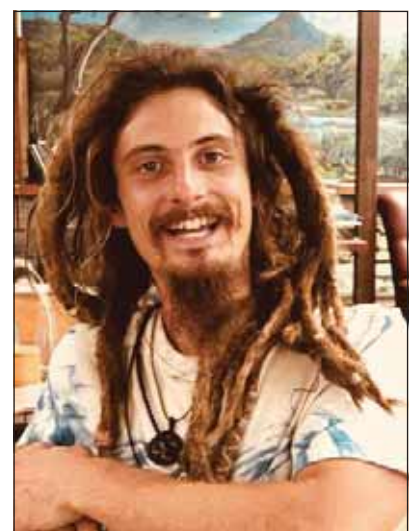
Our farmers here in Mullumbimby and the local surrounding Shire pride themselves on quality; all produce grown here holds a deep medicinal benefit for all. With low fruit and veg prices and high-quality produce at our local markets it creates a desirable, healthy, family-inclusive and interactive space that acts as a catalyst for growth and education across a wide spectrum of personal and community-centred ideals.

It is here at our local markets that people from different backgrounds and incomes come to share knowledge and wisdom, exchange goods and educate others through participation. This interrelation of soil and toil is beneficial not only in an economic sense for local families, but also for our bodies and minds, establishing friendships and a biodynamic relationship with nature.

This is a win-win, for farmers and customers are reflections of the

strength and the spirit of this great community. From the rich krasnozem soils of the mountains, ideal for farming, to the rich hearts of all those who co-create a communal seedbank of wealth.

Photo by Simon Haslam: Ben Schmitz: Working on the land is a great way to energetically co-create with this country.



Good Taste



Eating Out Guide
echo.net.au/good-taste

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BYRON BAY

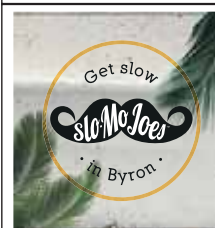


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Good Taste *Eating Out Guide*

BYRON BAY continued



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BYRON BAY continued



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seven

GIGS
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ALL YOUR NORTH COAST ENTERTAINMENT

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The Power of 3, Beautiful Girls + Willie Nelson

CLOSE ON 16 YEARS AGO THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS MADE THEIR DEBUT RELEASE WITH *MORNING SUN*, A MELTING POT OF SUNNY SURF SOUNDS AND REFRESHING REGGAE UNDERTONES. AUDIENCES WENT NUTS FOR THEM.

Particularly here in Byron, where their sound had people packing into venues from the get go. For Matt McHugh, Byron is still a bit special.

'Byron is one of the highlights; it's the first spot on the entire planet where we had a proper big sold-out show. It just went nuts and I remember thinking we are in Byron Bay, we might as well be on Mars! It was like the birthing ground for this band. Weirdly the sense of it all isn't lost on us.'

The Anniversary Tour looks back to the albums that kicked it off for TBG.

'The tour is to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the first two records,' says Matt. 'There will be a bunch of songs from them, but not in chronological order - it's not our style. The most important thing is we are getting back to the spirit of how they are made - it's guitar, bass and drums. The sound is raw.'

McHugh believes that in the search for bigger and better sounds, sometimes it's easy to lose sight of what you have. Particularly when it comes to recording.

'It takes some perspective to say that; it's not so much, it's a mix of proving yourself,' he says of making things more complicated and layered in the studio. 'I can make this more complex and more harmonically interesting, so you start layering and all of a sudden there are a million things on there that have to be reproduced in live performance, and when you face a creative fork in the road, a lot of creative people add another idea to it; they think, I'll just add something else. Instead of honing

down on three or four and making them special you make more noise. I only understand that practice doing this tour; there's something satisfying in stripping it back.'

McHugh is thoughtful about how he approaches his music these days.

'As a guitar player I find spaces and pockets to fill in and have atmosphere rather than turn on the distortion and go that way. You have to be more creative; you can't just sit back and let everyone do everything. There are moments getting this new set list together before we went to Europe when I wasn't confident. But now I realise it's energising, and there's something very special about it.'

What McHugh loves most, is the power of three, and how much just three musicians can achieve on a stage.

'My favourite bands are the Police or Jimmy Hendrix or Sublime - they are all three-piece, and so is Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath; so many just have guitar, bass and drums. I don't know why you would need to be more powerful than that!'

McHugh is a big advocate of keeping things simple. 'As I am growing older,' he says, 'I am all about exactly that. Simplifying my life. It's what makes me happy. And not having any desires for a bunch of bullshit that seems exciting when you are 20. I feel that there is a real alignment of that principle in everything I am doing at the moment.'



McHugh credits his quiet ability to just follow his own path to the fact that being a musician wasn't really what he set out to be.

'I had a blessing in that I grew up playing music but didn't grow up wanting to be a musician. I wanted to be an artist or designer when I left school; it just kind of happened we got stuff on the radio and because I didn't have stars in my eyes, it was a bit of a joke. It was a mix of terror actually. I thought people will find out this band sucks! I made a clear decision put the music first because I love music. I know how to say No to things that don't align, and because of that it hasn't been easy. Every record you push the parameters out and it's a battle with your fans and the perception of what you do and you have to be prepared to go out and stand up for yourself.'

'In the music industry people don't really put the music first. Money is what is important. But you can tell when people do what they love

doing. You can tell when someone is legit.

'I was just a baby when my dad used to listen to a lot of outlaw country such as Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson. My first love was Willie Nelson. He was probably only about 40 but to me he was like a wizard. Ever since I was a kid I thought that was who was cool. I never thought pop stars were cool. I have always thought that in my head. How you can manoeuvre into that position with a body of work, not based on how cool you are or what you look like but by your legitimate contribution.'

Although he became known for mellow acoustic music, McHugh says he grew up playing punk rock. 'I still think Fuck them,' he laughs when he reflects on the industry and his place in the sun.

Matt McHugh brings The Beautiful Girls to the Hotel Great Northern on Fri 5 Jan.

Live Music

EMPIRE FREEWAY

Ray Winter's new band **Freeway** are playing their first gig at the **Empire Café in Mullumbimby on Friday from 5pm.**

'I'm excited about playing there,' said Ray, 'It's got the old relaxed Mullum vibe. We want to keep the feel of the 60s and 70s alive. Music was so creative then and all about self-expression. We prefer to put our own flavour into the tunes we play and change the grooves around so there is something for everyone.'

The trio is Ray Winter on vocals, guitar and slide, Paul Brewer on bass and Pete Davidian on drums.

Free entry.

DROP LEGS DROP IN

Byron band **Drop Legs** have attracted a solid following with their energetic live performances and fusion of heavy reggae and surf hip-hop. The band's accelerating career has seen them recently complete their fifth east coast tour ending on another packed out show at The Great Northern, Byron Bay, as well as touring Indonesia for Sailor Jerry and supporting the likes of Opiou, Sticky Fingers, Bootleg Rascal, Bonjah, Band of Frequencies, Ocean Alley, The Bennies and more. Drop Legs have teamed up with BlackRat And The Bandits, and Dos Loona, for a big end-of-year celebration at the **Byron Bay Brewery**. Free entry. **Friday at 8pm.**

CONT P48 ►

the northern

WED 27 BLONDE RURGANDYS
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THU 28 SUNROSE, THE DOLLA LAMAS,
GALLIWANTER

FRI 29 THE CINEMA WRISTYS, STORK,
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CRUMPETS, RAAVE TAPES,
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MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

WWW.ECHO.NET.AU/SOAP-BOX

TRULY MADLY OBESELY

Your doctor can no longer call you fat. New guidelines from NSW Health are encouraging GPs to discuss weight in a 'positive and non-judgemental manner'. When their tubby patient comes in and they have to deliver the news they can no longer use words such as *obese*. They have to say that you are 'well above a healthy weight.' Personally I think it's a good idea. Fat people know they're fat. It's not a surprise. They are reminded every day when they can't get their pants on. They spend most of their days feeling ugly, despised and ridiculed. The world yells 'FAT' at them constantly. They go to the doctor for encouragement, not more of the same. Fat people don't actually want to be fat. If you know anything about addictive compulsive behaviour you know that words such as *obese*, and worse, *morbidly obese*, just make people eat more. It's

how the self-loathing loop works. If you're carrying some extra tum, having some smug prick in a medical centre call you 'morbidly obese' isn't going to do much for your self-esteem. Be much more effective if they said 'you have lovely eyes.' *Morbid* is not an adjective anyone wants to sit before their condition. Imagine being told you are 'morbidly bald' or 'morbidly boring'. Fat people used to enjoy stereotypes that engendered good cheer, so why wouldn't you say 'generously obese' or 'hysterically obese'? I like the word *cuddly*. I think that would be quite a nice way to describe an overweight person. You could be 'cuddly', 'very cuddly' and 'fricking awesomely cuddly'. Conversely thin people get to experience some of the negative press that they've always avoided. We could call thin people 'not cuddly' and see how long it took before they hated themselves as much as very very cuddly people do. Just because you're fat it doesn't mean you should have to experience such nasty adjectives. Fat people need self esteem too. To do something about your chub you need to have as much self-esteem as you can muster. I think it's about time doctors learnt how to deal with patients sensitively, to learn how to deliver health messages with empathy and kindness. The AMA aren't happy about it. They've enjoyed calling every second patient a fat bastard. Now doctors have to be nice to fat people. It's like being kind to smokers. How can we expect health professionals to deliver compassion and sensitive esteem-building language to people who seem to be causing their own health

problems? We love blaming the victim. We say, well it was your choice to eat. Nobody put that Big Mac in your hand. It was you behind the wheel in the drive thru. But is it really that simple? People who believe that 'choice' is the answer miss the more complex web of socio-economic drivers. Choice misses the effects of gender, or race, of education and of poverty. With escalating obesity rates perhaps it's time to stop blaming every person who scores well above a healthy weight on their F-ATAR for being lazy, indolent, indulgent, self-abusing. Perhaps it's time to look at systemic influences. It's not the fault of the fat person for being fat. It's an obesogenic environment. You have to look at the cause of the cause of the cause, and up till now all anyone ever looks at with obesity is the first cause: eating too much. But why do people eat too much? Misery? Poverty? Lack of education? Depression? A sense of alienation and loneliness? Then what causes that? Capitalism. It's simple. In a system that drives ove-consumption why are we surprised that people are 'well above a healthy weight'? If you want to get rid of obesity, and thus reduce the need to use 'positive' language, then perhaps it's time to get rid of capitalism. But somehow I don't get doctors getting onboard with that either. Perhaps we in turn should start using language to describe privilege with such negative connotations. I dream of a day when the Packers and Rhineharts of this world are referred to as 'morbidly affluent'. Until then, give us fatties a break.

HIP MUSIC

Kirk Lorange and **Michel Rose** are two of Australia's most iconic guitarists and they will be playing with **Greg Lyon** and the **Hip Operation** on **Sunday 7 January at the Byron Golf Club**.

Michael Rose is the king of pedal steel guitar, a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, and has worked with an amazing array of artists in the country, jazz and popular music fields. Canadian-born Kirk Lorange is a master of the slide guitar, singer and songwriter, and is known for his work with Chasin' the Train, Richard Clapton and many others. They'll be joined by Greg Lyon on bass and vocal and Scott Hills on drums. The music is country-soul, blues and boogie, with music by Little Feat, Ry Cooder, BB King, Ray Charles and others.

The monthly Sunday Groove Sessions at the Byron Golf Club have become a favourite hangout for music-loving locals and musos. . Entry is free, music 2-5pm.

FEELING BLUE?

Mal Eastick will be featuring a new special guest artist, **Andrew Hegedus**, at Mal's Blues Bar at the Ballina RSL this month.

Andrew hails from Grafton, and is best known in the northern rivers as the singer and rhythm guitarist of the Lismore-based band Jabiru. Andrew has been performing in pubs and clubs for many years. In the 1980s and early 90s he was a member of the Grafton band Little Eagle.

Andrew has a wide repertoire and a strong voice to back it up. This month he and Mal perform together with Mal's band for the first time.

They will be stepping out from the blues and rockin' the house, performing well-known tunes from the 60s, 70s 80s and 90s for the summer holiday season.

Songs featured will be from artists such as Ray Charles, Tony Joe White, Eric Clapton, Eagles, Creedence Clearwater Revival, John Fogerty, Neil Young, Vince Gill, Paul Simon, Otis Redding and more. A good selection of Mal's tasteful melodic instrumentals will be featured as well.

Come on board for the ride and have some fun at **Mal's Blues Bar at the Ballina RSL on Saturday**.

OKA & OSKEE



Embracing the future without losing sight of the past, **OKA** draw upon their Indigenous connection to place and country to create their signature feelgood Australian earth sound, an irresistible blend of influences spanning house, big beat, reggae-dub, roots, jazz and world music –a mashup of dance and downtempo electro beats marinated in the mystical spirit of the Dreamtime.

At the creative heart of the music is Stu Boga Fergie (aka DidgeriSTU), who connects you to earth with the deep subsonic pulse and resonance of his Yidaki (didgeridoo). He is the big man behind the electronic beats, keys and vocals inspired by his Aboriginal heritage.

The OKA collective includes captivating melody on guitar, sax, flute and woodwinds woven through organic juju beats of deep tribal fire. A sound and force that touch the heart and connects the soul.

OKA are heading to the **Byron Bay Brewery** for a free show in the garden, with support by 2017 Bluesfest Busking Competition Winner **Tay Oskee**. It kicks off at 8pm this **Thursday night**. Free.

TUNING INTO THE FREQUENCY

Music sits at the core of the **Earth Frequency** experience! From their early days of electronic dance music focus, they have evolved over the years to the current form as a diverse live and electronic music festival. The lineups include a wide range of music styles ranging from live bands to original electronic producers and DJs, with an overall focus on quality, independent, positive and creative musical expression. Over the four days you can expect to hear a solid dose of reggae, dubstep, techno, glitch-hop, world music, progressive, hip-hop, psytrance, drum and bass, folk, funk and down-tempo, all sitting along side each other harmoniously in a 4-day mix of music that will satisfy all tastes and push the boundaries. **16-19 February at Ivories Rock**. For tickets and program info go to earthfrequency.com.au.

YAKATY YAK AT THE RISOLE

With 'Danny Mayers', former lead vocalist with the Delltones, joining **Yakaty Yak** in 2017, their show is fantastic, and brings back so many of the **Delltones'** fabulous songs, and after many months rehearsing the new show they are now back on the road touring. Yakaty Yak in their own right have been a great harmony group, having always had past members of the Delltones in the group, and have been entertaining audiences over the last three decades, not only in Australia, but also overseas, and have entertained on many cruises.

Yakaty Yak is well known for its great harmonies and classic cover songs including rock, country, surf music and Aussie classics. They have a huge following and always have their audience asking for more at the end of their shows.

Ballina RSL Club on Friday at 8pm. Tix are \$30.

PORN CRUMPETS

Perth's **Psychedelic Porn Crumpets** are in good company on their new UK booking agency, as they join the home of global heavyweights including Radiohead, Arctic Monkeys and The Stone Roses on 13 Artists. The Brighton-based agency is also home to local heroes including Tame Impala, Alex Lahey, Big Scary, City Calm Down, The Jezabels, Montgomery and Pond.

Perth natives Psychedelic Porn Crumpets have had a head-spinningly busy 18 months. Not only have the psyche rockers dropped two core-rattling LPs, *High Visceral* Part One and Part Two, to rave reviews. They have sold out both national tours and supported the likes of King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, The Murlocs, Dune Rats, Black Mountain, and Skeggs. Renowned for their crowd-surfing inducing, moshpit-embracing live show, the four-piece have announced a national tour including Psychedelic Porn Crumpets' curated festival *Dr Noggin Floggin* and the *Cosmic Toothbrush*, which brings together 12 blisteringly awesome local bands. And just because sleep is for the weak the band has announced the impending release of *High Visceral* B-side vinyl. The first single to drop via the band's label What Reality Records is outta this world fuzz banger *Little Moon*. At the **Hotel Great Northern on NYE**.

SHRIKI MUSIC



Shai Shriki (Israel) vocalist, oud and guitar player, composer and writer of contemporary music with traditional sounds from the Middle East, Hebrew songs and Spanish guitar is one of the featured performers at the **Zorba Gypsy Party** at Durrumbul Hall in January.

World music to its wide variety is Shai's passion, mostly writing in Hebrew as his first language but Shai also sings Arabic, Spanish, and Eastern European songs.

Shai believes that the unique sounds of traditional instruments and songs invoke deep emotions, and the fusion of cultures with sound similarities can be a meeting and bridging place for all people to live in harmony. You can see Shai Shriki at the Zorba Gypsy Party along with **Shakshuka** from Byron and **the Imprints** from Melbourne at **Durrumbul Hall on Saturday 13 January**. 6pm-midnight. Tickets on zorbaproductions.com.

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

THE AMAZING DRUMMING MONKEYS

'The Next Wiggles'
The NT News

'Beating Hi-5
Hands Down'
The Adelaide Advertiser

SCHOOL HOLIDAY
SHOWS



BYRON SCOUT HALL
THURS 4TH JAN
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\$10PP, \$35 FAMILY OF 4.
TIX AT THE DOOR
www.amazingdrummingmonkeys.com



Amazing Drumming Monkeys!

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE LITTLE KIDS' SHOW IS RETURNING TO BYRON BAY! CONGO AND BONGO HAVE BEEN WOWING AUDIENCES AROUND AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS FOR THE PAST 14 YEARS. ONE OF THE MEN BEHIND THE MONKEYS IS XAVIER BEAUBOIS. HE SPOKE WITH *THE ECHO* ABOUT HIS MONKEY BUSINESS.

Xavier, what is your musical background?

I started playing a bit of guitar and bass in high school. I started drumming in my mid-twenties while traveling through east Africa and it quickly became all I wanted to do. Throughout the next few years I travelled around different countries with a drum, and had many wonderful experiences with it. Eventually I learned to carve and skin African drums and began making and selling them while I traveled through Central America. I was taught to make African drums by a Guatemalan shaman man, who was taught by a German.

Eventually I found my way back to Australia and tried to make drums as a job for a few years. I took some formal lessons and began performing in a local West African Ensemble led by a Senegalese teacher. I began busking and performing more and more until that became my main source of income. Then the Monkeys happened and that has now been a very fun 14-year journey.

What inspired you to create a show for kids?

We were struggling musicians, trying to make a living out of playing and making African drums. One day we (Troy Moore and I) were busking in the Adelaide Mall and we weren't making as much money as usual that particular day. We wondered why, as the quality of the drumming was good... and then we found our answer. A very cute 8-year-old girl was 200 metres up the mall, playing her little drum. She played quite well for an 8-year-old, had a crowd five deep, and more money than her mum could carry.

That evening I was playing with my then-2-year-old daughter Kira, when I picked up her little monkey, and played a drum with its hands. She laughed so hard, and I think she even said 'Djummin Monkey'. That was a lightbulb moment, and the concept was born.

What are the challenges of creating a show for a young audience?

Creating something that you as a parent would like to watch as well, without compromising the children's experience. For me, it also had some sort of point. It's very tempting to deliver silly songs that mean nothing but get the little ones wiggling and giggling – but I reckon that when you have a captive audience of little sponges in front of you, you may as well give them something positive in the content.

How do you evolve and grow the show each year?

Very slowly. It's a busy modern world, and with kids to grow and rent to pay the reality is that there are only so many hours in the week to be creative. Every year at the Adelaide Fringe Festival we try to develop a new theme, or a variation on an old theme. The structure of the show has stayed very similar, but we are consistently adding new elements.

Why do you think the Drumming Monkeys worked?

The show has something for everyone and stays lively, varied and interactive. Parents and kids laughing, dancing and drumming together with heartwarming messages running in the background – it's a well-rounded experience.



How do the kids relate to the monkeys?

Kids seem to be drawn to slightly older kids as their main inspiration (their immediate future). The size of the monkeys makes them seem like they are about eight years old, and most of our crowd are 3–5, so I think they see them as slightly older. I think this is one of the reasons that the monkeys have such an amazing effect on little kids.

How do you differentiate the monkeys' personalities? Tell me a little about the two of them?

Bongo and Congo are quite different. Bongo is the older, wiser monkey who delivers a lot of the messages, and kind of hosts the show. He speaks to the adults as much as the kids. Congo is the younger, more enthusiastic monkey who provides a lot of the comedic and cute factor, and is especially popular with the little ones.

What should we expect for your Byron shows in January?

Expect to have a lot of fun and see kids and parents laughing, dancing drumming together.

The amazing Drumming Monkeys at the Byron Scout Hall on Thurs 4 Jan. 10.30am. \$10 pp or \$35 for a family of four.

culture

COUNTRY CLUB COMEDY WELCOMES STEVE ALLISON!



After two months' hiatus **Country Club comedy** is back! Featuring **Steve Allison** as the January headline with **S Sorrensen** as support and **Mandy Nolan** as MC!

Steve Allison has that rare gift of walking into a room and making everyone his mate. Steve Allison was born into show business. With a natural sense of humour and quick wit, Steve's show is a well-

crafted mix of snappy one-liners, hilarious stories, funny home truths and current topics. It's Aussie humour at its best.

Now in demand on the growingly popular Comedy Cruises, this is a chance to catch Steve on land. Steve is joined by support act, the hilarious dry poster boy for pissed-off ageing, S Sorrensen, and the outrageous wit of Mandy Nolan.

Tuesday at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Free. 7pm.

STARLIGHT FESTIVAL SHINES

Discover four transformational days with more than 80 workshops, talks, sound healing, yoga classes and more at the **Starlight Festival** this year. Featured this year are:

Crystal Armonica – a transformative and transcendent experience. The crystal armonica is a rare celestial instrument of 30 pure quartz crystal bowls invented by Benjamin Franklin in 1761. Jo Kelly is an award-winning singer/songwriter and qualified ayurvedic practitioner. Jo was awakened to her spiritual path in 2005, by Sri Ravi Shankar, where she discovered pranayama, chanting and devotional music. Mark Wiseman brings a modern approach to meditative singing-bowl sessions. Mark thrives among nature and his music takes great inspiration from the energies of the world around him.

Dini Martinez is known globally for her authentic, free-spirited and inspiring workshops and retreats. Her practice emphasises breath, flow and philosophy.

Christina Covington is an ayurvedic lifestyle consultant, counsellor, healer and medicine woman. She is a successful businesswoman, mentor and mother of two. Passionate about encouraging the embrace of life as a sensual, abundant activated queen.

And there's **Chocolate Yoga!** Experience the medicinal properties of ceremonial-grade cacao moving through your body in a specially designed kundalini yoga practice, involving ceremony, pranayama, asanas, dance, relaxation, chanting and meditation.

4–8 January. Bangalow (A&I Hall & surrounding pavilions). \$20 admission. 4-day pass \$50. Locals 2-for-1 day 4 & 5 January. Tix at the door or online: www.starlightfestival.com.au

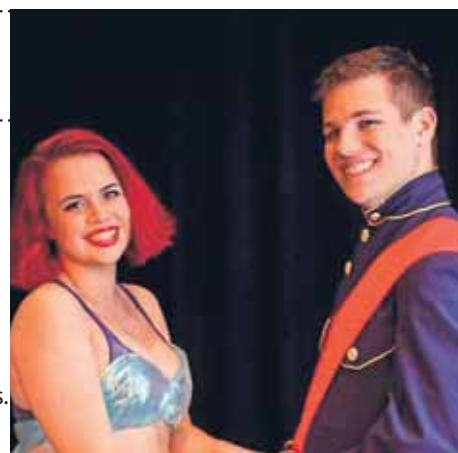
THE MERMAID EXPERIENCE

Ballina Players have done it again! Bringing **The Little Mermaid** to life onstage! There is more to this classic tale than froth and bubbles. There is wisdom, like loving

someone how they are instead of how we want them, or not blaming all humans for a few wicked ones.

The Little Mermaid runs at **Ballina Players** from 12 till 21 January. Details and booking information on the website www.ballinaplayers.com.au or via Facebook. Tickets can also be purchased from Just Funkin Music in River St, Ballina.

CONT P50 ►



Ballina PLAYERS *Regional theatre at its best since 1955*

12 - 21 January 2018

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

Directed by **Jacquie McCalman**

Adult \$25; 16 and under \$15;
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Wed to Sat evenings 7pm; Sunday matinees 2pm

BOOK NOW Just Funkin Music 124 River St Ballina Tel: 6686 2440 \$2.00 booking fee

Players Theatre is located at 24 Swift St Ballina Book on line (no fee) at www.ballinaplayers.com.au

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Saturday 30th December 2017
THE BYRON THEATRE
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"An audacious, hilarious & sharply political show"
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—Alt Media

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Breaking TRAD!

BREAKING TRAD IS MADE UP OF DÓNAL MURPHY (ACCORDION), NIALL MURPHY (FIDDLE) AND MIKE GALVIN (GUITAR/VOCALS,) ALL AWARD-WINNING PLAYERS WHO BETWEEN THEM HAVE TOURED EXTENSIVELY AROUND THE WORLD, PERFORMING AT MAJOR FESTIVALS AND MUSIC VENUES AND TOURING WITH SOME OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT MUSIC GENRES. THEY WILL BE JOINED BY THE RENOWNED SINGER AND BODHRAN PLAYER GINO LUPARI BEING THEIR SPECIAL GUEST, MAKING THIS BAND EVEN MORE FORMIDABLE.

Why has Breaking Trad had such global traction?

Breaking Trad is unique owing to the huge sound we are able to produce for just three people. No matter where we play, people seem to be astonished as to how we can create such a big, full, powerful sound for just three musicians. The accordion and fiddle is a popular combination in Irish music but owing to Donal's driving rhythm and tune selection and Niall's 5-string fiddle and mix of Irish and American styles, they are able to make this combination sound different from any other band. Then when you add Mike Galvin to the mix with his unorthodox guitar system, which he created himself, the power and drive of this band is brought to a new level. He is able to produce a huge guitar sound while carrying bass lines and a percussive tone as well – basically replicating a guitar, bass guitar and snare drum all at once. Mike also adds sublime vocals to the mix, singing original material and old favourites that everyone will recognise and sing along to. Gino



will provide the thumping bodhran rhythms that will make everyone's toes tap and may burst into some trad-infused rock'n'roll songs.

Brilliant name and image BTW – who came up with that? Bad boys of Irish trad!

Well, it was a group decision about the name. The fiddler Niall had just finished watching the series *Breaking Bad* and thought that the name *Breaking Trad* would suit what they achieve in music.

What is different in how you approach Irish music?

Again, it's all in both the material, sound and arrangements. Trying to remain true to trad, where all our roots lie, is key. Our tunes and songs tend to be from the Irish traditional sessions, tunes that everyone knows but don't necessarily think of them being played like this.

How did your experience of growing up inform your take on music?

Irish music was what we were brought up listening to and it's something that was passed down through the generations.

Donal's dad played and all his siblings play and likewise with Niall. Mike's family always had an interest in music, be it Irish, country, bluegrass, rock'n'roll and many more, so he had many influences.

Is it hard to break traditions when they're so strong?

We believe that staying true to tradition is very important. We don't want to forget about what brought us to where we are today so we try to keep as much tradition in our music as we can. However, we also believe that it's important to stand out and create something that is different and that people think is memorable, and we try to do this to a level that doesn't sacrifice the traditional side of things.

What was your gig highlight of 2017?

Our tour of America. We were there for three weeks in March and performed to some great audiences in places such as Dallas, Austin and New York. It was our first time there as a band, so it was great to showcase our music there to completely new audiences.

Tell me about the players in Breaking Trad?

Breaking Trad is made up of Dónal Murphy (accordion), from Abbeyfeale, West Limerick, a winner of numerous All-Ireland titles on both button accordion and melodeon, Niall Murphy (fiddle) from Camlough, South Armagh, a winner of multiple awards including All-Ireland Senior Fiddle competition, Fiddler Of Dooney and Fiddler of Oriel, and also Mike Galvin (guitar/vocals), who has vast experience working in a wide range of musical styles from rock'n'roll to Irish traditional.

What should we expect for your Mullum show?

You can expect some high-energy and driving music that WILL make you want to dance, some iconic Irish songs that we want to hear everyone singing along to, and bags and bags of fun. We guarantee you will have a great night of music and song. We are really looking forward to playing in Australia for the first time as a band.

Thursday 4 January 2018, 7pm at Club Mullum (Mullum Ex-Services). BOOK NOW at www.clubmullum.com and save \$5 per person on admission.

LAUGH IT UP WITH CHARLIE PICKERING

Edgy, polished and inventive, **Charlie Pickering** is one of the most exciting names in Australian comedy. Charlie is a political junkie, law graduate, and was the voice of his generation as a regular team captain for Generation X on Network Ten's quiz show *Talkin' 'bout Your Generation*. He was also on your TV screen every weeknight for five years as co-host of *The Project*, where the day's news is dissected, digested and re-constituted by some of Australia's funniest and smartest.

He's joined by **Damian Power** as support and **Ellen Briggs** as MC – this is one cracker of a show.

Byron Brewery. Thursday 18 January, Doors 7pm, Show 8pm. \$25. Tix on trybooking.com/SLDY

Happy New Year!

Bay FM 99.9

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THE BIG MAN OF COMEDY'S BYRON PILGRIMAGE

There are few comics with the tenacity and killer instinct of **Austen Tayshus**. The comedy superstar, who first came into being in 1981, has the ability to take a room hostage just with his tongue. He's the closest thing the Australian comedy scene has to its very own Bill Hicks.

In 1983 he released the highest-selling Australian single of all time *Australiana* – selling more than 200,000 units and going double platinum. In fact three decades later, it's still the highest-selling single in Australian recording history.

Austen Tayshus headlines at the **Byron Services Club on Monday 8 January 2018** with **Mandy Nolan** as MC and support. Doors 7pm. Show 8pm. Tickets \$20/25 at the club or online at mandynolan.com.au.

WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Kickstart the year with creativity and develop your performance skills at **NORPA** this January.

NORPA is offering three exciting theatre workshops for young people aged 8–18 with leading Australian theatre practitioners and educators Barry Lang, Kate Walder (ATYP) and Ajita Cannings (NORPA).

Stepping into images with Barry Lang

Bridge the space between imagination and physicality by exploring the intersection of image, movement, music and text. Explore collaborative strategies for theatre-making and creating images that emerge from young people's concerns and interests.

Not a Word with Kate Walder

For 12–15-year-olds

Explore how much you can say without actually saying anything. Discover how physical theatre can help us express a range of emotions and explore clowning and mask work.

Empowered playmaking with Ajita Cannings

For 8–12-year-olds

This workshop holds children's natural joy and inherent inquisitiveness as performers and creators at its heart. An exciting and safe environment explore performance.

Each workshop runs over 22–25 January.

10am–4pm, Lismore City Hall. Cost: \$260 per student / \$240 earlybird price if paid by 7 January.

A limited number of financial-hardship scholarships are available. For more information and to book visit www.norpa.org.au or contact Ajita Cannings on education@norpa.org.au.

WOMEN LIKE US HALLS OF SHAME & BYRON SHOW!



It's been two-and-a-half years on the road for **Women Like Us** comedians **Ellen Briggs** and **Mandy Nolan** who have chalked up an impressive 72 shows performing to almost 20,000 people from Moree to Melbourne, Townsville to Tamworth, Bundaberg to Brisbane and Surfers to Sydney.

They call themselves 'the bogan woman's thinking woman and the thinking woman's bogan'.

Women Like Us guarantees two hours of non-stop laughter with crowds declaring it the funniest show they've seen. The most common refrain is: 'I can't believe you girls aren't on TV!' TV wouldn't handle *Women Like Us*. It has to be seen to be believed!

Women Like Us is at the **Pottsville Community Hall on Friday 12 January, Uki Hall on Saturday 13 and Byron Services Club on Monday 22 January. All shows at 8pm and all shows \$30 with tickets available at womenlikeus.com.au.**

GLITTERY CLITTERY

The **All-Singing, All-Dancing, All-Slaying Fringe Wives Club** are bringing their hit debut show *Glittery Clittery* to Brunswick Picture House this January! Part explosive physical-comedy-cabaret, part interactive club night, this sequin-covered, champagne-fuelled, cosmic feminist extravaganza is guaranteed to blow your minds and your pants!

Friday 5 January – 7pm. Adult \$30 | Conc \$25. Tix at brunswickpicturehouse.com

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

Barrier Reefer Madness

REEFUP! IS A DANCE AND THEATRE EXTRAVAGANZA THAT LEADS THE WAY IN COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC ARTS RESEARCH. REEFUP! USE DANCE, THEATRE, SOME AMAZING COSTUMES AND THE LATEST SCIENCE TO SHARE THE STORY OF WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR CORAL REEFS AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP. ONE OF THE CREATORS, RACHEL ROWE SPOKE WITH *THE ECHO* ABOUT THIS INNOVATIVE PROJECT.

What was the inspiration for doing a show about the Reef?

I grew up living by the sea and keenly watch Attenborough documentaries. I also travel widely and see the effects of little water and or littering and beaches covered in rubbish. The growing awareness of the effects of climate change and the way in which we are loosing the GBR, as well as my growing interest in dance and science communication led to the ideas for *Reef UP!* If we educate children at primary school age while also engaging their adults, parents, teachers and carers we can assist the message getting through.

How difficult was it converting the research into a show?

No. I had great fun for a year dreaming up the characters and sourcing the costumes in a range of charity shops across regional Queensland in 2016. As a creative group of people – I and the two dancers the work was created with, Liesel Zink and Michael Smith – we had huge fun then creating those characters, developing movement and then refining the research for our spoken text.

What was the key vision you wanted to communicate?

A fun, accessible, lively show to bring the reef to life while also showing the dancers the reef is in and how we can help. This includes animals that can also be seen as the 'baddies' like sharks who we explain are part of the ecosystem. We then talk through the way the ocean looks after itself and how there are some creatures who are adding to the damage of the reef and what can be done to turn the tide.

How do you turn an underwater reef into a show? What is the story line?

Meet a sea-full of loveable characters (and villains): Manta and Ray, Slinky the shark, clown fish, Minke whales, and a devious



Crown of Thorns starfish called Priscilla!

Three performers incorporate dance, theatre, music and amazing costumes, highlighting the beauty and precarious nature of the reef ecosystems across the globe, and helping students explore what they can do to help preserve these breathtaking environments.

Australia is taking the lead in collaborative scientific and arts research, and this will be acclaimed choreographer Liz Lea's third children's show after the success of *Flying Facts* (a theatrical exploration of the history and science of flight)

You must have had fun creating the costumes etc... What is like like moving as a jellyfish for instance?

The movement language for each character is different and we inhabit those characters according to how they may move and also how they might react to the current pressure on the ocean.

How can theatre communicate powerful conservation messages?

By delivering messages through movement, colour, costume and music theatre can bring how the same message that other mediums also bring. We can assist in keeping those teachings through drama – if this was the only message out there about the reef it might not go in. But, as kids are taught in schools, what documentaries and observe changes themselves the show resonates in what is currently happening daily.

Reef UP! All-ages live show will be at the Brunswick Picture House on Wednesday & Thursday, 3 & 4 Jan, 2018, 11am & 2pm (4 shows). Adult \$20 | Concession \$18 | Child \$15 | Family of 4 (ages 3–15) \$70.

Diamonds from The Trevor Chest



LAVISH AND LOUD, BRAZEN AND BOLD, TREVOR ASHLEY PREMIERES HIS BRAND NEW SHOW TRASH & TREVOR AT NORPA THIS WEEK. FEATURING HIGHLIGHTS FROM HIS SELL-OUT CABARET SHOWS *I'M EVERY WOMAN* AND *STAR STRUCK* WITH RECOLLECTIONS FROM *PRISCILLA* AND *LES MISERABLES* TRASHLEY WILL SING YOUR FAVOURITE DIVAS LIKE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD THEM BEFORE.

What was the inspiration for Trash & Trevor?

Well I have now been a full time cabaret artist for 20 years. It's slightly horrifying but it's a hoot. Certainly there are many tales to tell and stupid stories to regale... it's been a wonderful 20 years.

What are the songs that you prefer to sing? Is it important to do the obvious recognisable ones...do you also like to go for the more obscure songs?

I love singing classic diva songs, but I also love parody and comedy, so it's a mix of everything I enjoy performing. There'll be a tonne of songs you know, but there'll be some you've never heard in quite this way before!

What makes a Diva a diva? Like is Taylor Swift a Diva? Could she be one? What would she need to do?

Tay Tay is a bit young to be a proper diva. You need some runs on the board I think. Mariah and Celine are now true

divas. It's a lifestyle, an attitude, and and air. You learn that through experience... and being really difficult!

When did you know that you were a Diva? It's clearly a calling!

Well you kind of have to make the decision to be one! I wanted desperately to emulate my favourite stars, so it seemed the right career path. Hopefully I'm nicer than most of them... but don't catch me in a bad mood! My love of sequins and big hair has certainly helped also.

How has the broader conversation around gender informed your audiences? Are you starting to see more people coming to your shows?

Do you know, I have been lucky enough to perform in such a variety of venues that my audiences have always been very mixed. Although I enjoy great support from the LGBTQI community, some of my greatest fans are straight couples in their 60s. Drag is loved in Australia.



Will you be making an appearance at Tropical Fruits for NYE?

Sadly No! I have a gig back home in Sydney but I'm coming in a day early and hanging a day after so I hope to see lots of friends.

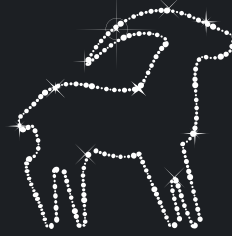
What should we expect for your Lismore show?

Great music, a hot band, and a lot of laughs. It truly is my greatest hits, so expect everything from numbers when I started my career at the Imperial Hotel, through big musicals, and of course my concerts like *Diamonds Are For Trevor*.

Trash & Trevor – The Best of Trevor Ashley at Lismore City Hall on Friday 29 December at 8pm. NORPA at Lismore City Hall | Tickets: \$40 – \$50 | Bookings: www.norpa.org.au or 1300 066 772 | Recommended for ages 18+

STARS

WITH LILITH



AT THIS ANNUAL TURNING POINT WE GATHER WITH FRIENDS TO RELEASE THE BURDENS AND CONCERNS OF THE YEAR, REMEMBER THOSE NO LONGER WITH US, COUNT OUR BLESSINGS, REASSESS GOALS... WISHING ALL READERS A FRESH AND ADVENTUROUS NEW YEAR.

♈ **ARIES:** This week's strong link between action and intuition might see you doing something that surprises everyone – even yourself – as planetary changes in your house of obligations and responsibilities shift from trivial concerns to more important priorities. And most of all, in the words of Aries Joseph Campbell, to following your joy.

♉ **TAURUS:** Your boss planet Venus sashays into the sign of attracting influential allies this week. Saturn's adding growth challenges, but nothing you determined earthsters can't handle. Though you will need some self-scrutiny or situations could get uncomfortable – your least favourite thing. Just keep on it, and rewards will follow as surely as your shadow.

♊ **GEMINI:** Mercury turning direct in Sagittarius is more fun for Geminis than any other sign. As celestial energies head to the top of your chart, you'll be kicking up your heels and revelling in material world pleasures. Just keep in mind (a) that great ideas need practical planning, and (b) this week less is better.

♋ **CANCER:** If things don't pan out the way you wanted this week, just relax and be grateful for the goodies that are on offer, because counting your blessings has a strange way of magnifying them. Trust your inner guidance, gut instincts and Jupiter in your house of love and fun to stimulate creative inspirations.

♌ **LEO:** Serious Saturn exits your pleasure zone just in time for the year's closing ceremonies: how excellent a present is that? Plus your stars for bargains at the post-season sales also look pretty auspicious. Best to keep grievances private this week though, lest griping light the fuse of fiery argument.

♍ **VIRGO:** As Virgo's planet ruler Mercury sprints forward in let's-party Sagittarius and Saturn takes over your house of fun, this week looks auspicious for delicious festivities – with traditional rituals, tried and trusted recipes shared with old friends likely to be the most enjoyable. Although you're already noting what could do with a refurb...

♎ **LIBRA:** With your shining planetary guide in classic Capricorn, sticking with what you know works and who you know best will be most meaningful this holiday season. As always, you'll be applying cool, soothing Venusian balm to the annual challenges between old and young, trad versus modern, going out or staying home... good luck with that.

♏ **SCORPIO:** With celestial benefactors Mars and Jupiter in Scorpio corner while Mercury heads direct in your money zone, this week offers plenty to tickle your fancy: indulgent entertaining, high spirits, a productive get-up-and-go groove and the usual breezy seasonal exchanges. Just one caution: let angry drivers have their way.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS:** Taskmaster Saturn leaving your sign definitely brings jolly tidings of good cheer to you free-spirited beings. Though with Mercury's leap forward in Sagittarius loosening tongues and purse strings, escalating shopping follies and faux pas, this week's communications need extra diplomacy and tact; too straightforward an approach could bruise delicate sensibilities..

♑ **CAPRICORN:** Your birthday present from the heavens? Venus in Capricorn for the holidays making you so magnetically attractive and pumped you may actually have to dial down the control settings just a touch. This week's relationships are likely to remain important for the whole of Saturn's long-term transit, so sensitivity to others' feelings is a must.

♒ **AQUARIUS:** This week's forward-thinking planetary push suits you Uranians, with Mercury offering renewed opportunities and increased goodwill to mend recent misunderstandings. Bottled-up emotions are still likely to effervesce, but treat them like a champagne cork popping: make a toast and honour them. Keep vibrations raised via positive attitude and generous gestures.

♓ **PISCES:** Pisces are notorious for their dreamy side, but this week needs practical idealism. What relationships are important? What responsibilities do you want to take on? If others push agendas, boundary-setting will be necessary. And even with Mercury direct, it's still worth rechecking your to-do list for those items that slip all our minds.

BY JOHN CAMPBELL

WONDER WHEEL



The circumstances of Woody Allen's 'courting' of his current wife, Soon-Yi Previn, combined with his adopted daughter Dylan Farrow's insistence that he sexually molested her as a child might reasonably lead us to the conclusion that the revered little filmmaker is a bit of a grub. And they should certainly throw some light on the portrayal of women in his movies. In this, *Wonder Wheel* (Kate Winslet – a fantastic performance) and her step-daughter Carolina (Juno Temple) come to grief through their love for a man – a playwright (Justin Timberlake) – with whom Allen clearly identifies. Ginny and her husband Humpty (Jim Belushi) are battlers who live and work on Coney Island in the 1950s. Humpty's daughter turns up on their doorstep after walking out of her marriage to a Florida gangster. Mickey the lifeguard (Timberlake) seduces Ginny before embarking on his conquest of Carolina, who is being hunted down by a couple of guys from the Mob. There is something pathetic about Ginny and Carolina's neediness, something irritating in Mickey's high opinion of himself, and Humpty's oafishness is cruelly overdone. But the plot is tight and compelling, notwithstanding the bad guys' ineffectual attempts to track down Carolina. It feels more like a play that has been adapted for the screen and, as such, its most successful scenes are those shot in Humpty and Ginny's home, with long takes and a slowly moving, intimate camera. References to Eugene O'Neill are clunky and self-congratulatory (Allen obviously has a high opinion of himself), but the sensual cinematography of veteran Vittorio Storaro (*Apocalypse Now*) is a joy throughout. Allen, whose output

in his later years has lurched from the awful (*Vicky Cristina Barcelona*) to the sublime (*Midnight In Paris*), has ventured once more into the dark territory that he explored in *Match Point*, with a not dissimilar outcome. The characters are types rather than real people (Ginny excepted), but the drama that unfolds and the morality that it exposes are unnerving for their honesty.

THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS



If you are familiar with Charles Dickens's two timeless novels, *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations* (which is irreplaceably in my all-time top ten – *A Tale of Two Cities* I had to read at school, which blinded me to its worth), you might have trouble aligning Dan Stevens's at times flippant portrayal of the 19th century's prolific writer/speaker/polemicist with the man who is presented in the archives. For a start he hasn't got that scraggly goatee. In director Bharat Nalluri's depiction of Dickens, there is also a jokiness that is similar to that of Joseph Fiennes's flighty Bard in *Shakespeare in Love* (1998) – not that there is anything wrong with breaking the mould owned by academia's dry sobriety. It is 1843 and, following a triumphant tour of America, Dickens has had little success with his most recent works. In October of that year, under pressure from his publishers, who are dangling before him a much-needed advance for a new manuscript, and supported by his friend and confidante John Forster (Justin Edwards), who encourages and prods him to properly understand his characters (especially Ebenezer Scrooge), Dickens puts pen to paper and embarks on *A Christmas Carol*. In a screenplay by Susan Coyne that is mirthful without ever losing sight of the serious intent of the message that Dickens was sending to his readers, humour is evenly balanced with the stress of his

being a husband supporting a large family. Even better, the story delves deep into the creative process, as we see the writer overpowered by the people whom he has brought to life through the words on his pages – especially in the case of Scrooge (Christopher Plummer, Methuselah of the silver screen). Drawn back to the bottom line, Dickens taps into his own deprived youth as a factory worker. The title of the movie might be overstating the impact that Dickens had on the festive season, but that Christmas has degenerated into a month of carnal, mindless consumerism is our problem, not his.

GONZALEZ COMES FOR BLUES



THIS YEAR BLUESFEST IS IN FOR A TREAT WHEN ARGENTINIAN INDIE FOLKSINGER/SONGWRITER AND GUITARIST JOSE GONZALEZ MAKES HIS WAY TO BYRON FOR THE ICONIC BLUES AND ROOTS FESTIVAL. MEMBER OF SWEDISH BAND JUIP, THIS INDIE FOLK GENIUS SOLD OUT THE OPERA HOUSE ON HIS ONE-OFF SOLO DEBUT. Gonzalez spends a lot of his time on the road.

'I have been touring with an orchestra from Berlin and Gothenburg, a 20-piece orchestra. We did some touring and we recorded all the live shows, so that's like the big release. But it's still old songs. The new stuff – I always gather ideas but I do it at a very slow pace. It's more like gathering riffs and chord progressions until I feel I have 10 of them that I really like, and then I write the lyrics. So I think that will happen maybe next year.'

His work as a solo artist, with Junip and with the orchestra means that Gonzalez does split his time, something that he says makes him slower than other songwriters.

'As a songwriter I'm very slow, but this is my full-time job. In that sense I keep myself busy; I do some tours, and then I write. But I have lots of time to be home and read books and play chess, so it's a very easy job.'

Gonzalez wasn't always on the path to being a musician. 'One of my dreams was to do research in biochemistry. I guess that was my most sober dream. But then as a teenager I was skating and whenever I was able to pull off some of the tricks that I'd been trying out for a while I felt, okay, this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life. And then I picked up the guitar, played classical guitar and I felt okay, this is going to be what I'm going to do. But yeah, I also had ambitions with my songwriting and with my music but I let them go in my teenage years when I went to university and kept on playing music, but more as a side project, as a hobby on weekends, to write some songs and do demos. So it sort of came as a surprise for me, when I released my first album in 2003, that anyone was going to pay attention to it. I felt I was like an indie artist that maybe would get some recognition but maybe 10 years later. So it really did change my way of looking at things back 14 years ago.'

For someone who never really intended to be a musician, Gonzalez has an impressive track record. A few years back he scored music for *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.

'It was a fun collaboration,' he said of his time working with Teddy Shapiro, who did most of the score for the movie. 'I got to dig deep into a side of music that I didn't know so well.'

Gonzalez also has a unique way of walking into other people's songs – like John Lennon's *No 9 Dream* or *The Ghost of Tom Joad* by Springsteen. 'I learnt to play guitar by playing other people's songs,' he said. 'When I didn't have enough material that I felt so that's when I started picking up *Heartbeats* by the Kinfe and *Inaudible Name* by Joy Division and *The Ghost of Tom Joad*. I picked that one out when we were playing as a sort of house band at Gothenburg Film Festival. I think it's always a good way to connect with an audience, to play songs that you enjoy or they recognise.'

So what should we expect from Gonzalez at Bluesfest?

'I'll be playing the songs from my three albums and songs that I know my fans want to hear. And then there are songs that I like playing so I do a mix of both. Lately I have been inspired by West African music so I have some songs that will be inspired by that, that sort of Desert Blues.'

Jose Gonzalez plays Bluesfest 2018. For program and ticketing info go to bluesfest.com.au.

Every Wednesday
All Seats All Sessions
\$10.00 Only

Admission Prices:
Adults - \$14.00
Stud / Concs - \$12.00
Senior - \$11.00
Children - \$10.00
A \$2 Surcharge Applies
To All 3D Screenings
Additional \$1 Fee
For 3D Glasses

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS
Corner Kerr & Fox Streets

TUESDAY 26TH DECEMBER TO WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY

<p>JUMANJI PG TUES 26TH TO SUN 31ST 2.10PM 5.25PM 9.10PM MON 1ST TO WED 3RD JAN 11.55AM 5.00PM 7.25PM</p>	<p>THE GREATEST SHOWMAN PG TUES 26TH TO SUN 31ST 12.00PM 4.25PM 6.45PM 9.30PM MON 1ST TO WED 3RD JAN 3.05PM 5.25PM 9.20PM</p>	<p>COCO PG TUES 26TH TO SUN 31ST 9.45AM 1.35PM 7.35PM MON 1ST TO WED 3RD JAN 9.40AM 11.35AM 3.30PM</p>	<p>PITCH PERFECT 3 M TUES 26TH TO SUN 31ST 11.20AM 4.50PM 7.10PM 9.30PM</p>
<p>STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI M TUES 26TH TO SUN 31ST 11.25AM 6.25PM 8.40PM MON 1ST TO WED 3RD JAN 2.05PM 6.35PM 8.55PM</p>	<p>PADDINGTON 2 G TUES 26TH TO SUN 31ST 9.35AM 11.40AM 3.30PM MON 1ST TO WED 3RD JAN 9.30AM 1.35PM</p>	<p>FERDINAND G TUES 26TH TO SUN 31ST 10.00AM 1.55PM 9.55AM 1.05PM</p>	

STARTS JANUARY 11: THE POST STARRING TOM HANKS & MERYL STREEP

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BYRON BAY LOUNGE CINEMA

<p>Wednesday Dec 27 - Final Downsizing 11:30am Paddington 2 2:00pm Murder Orient Express 3:40pm Wonder 6:15pm Downsizing 8:30pm</p> <p>Thursday Dec 28 - NEW Paddington 2 11:30am Downsizing 1:30pm Wonder 4:00pm Goodbye Chris Robin 6:15pm Downsizing 8:30pm</p> <p>Friday Dec 29 Wonder 11:00am Paddington 2 1:15pm Goodbye Chris Robin 3:15pm Downsizing 5:30pm Thor: Ragnarok 8:00pm</p> <p>Saturday Dec 30 Goodbye Chris Robin 11:30am Paddington 2 1:45pm Downsizing 3:45pm Wonder 6:15pm Downsizing 8:30pm</p>	<p>Sunday Dec 31 Closed: New Years Eve Monday Jan 1 - Tix \$11 Paddington 2 12:00pm Wonder 2:00pm Goodbye Chris Robin 4:15pm Loving Vincent 6:30pm Downsizing 8:30pm</p> <p>Tuesday Jan 2 Goodbye Chris Robin 11:40am Paddington 2 1:50pm Downsizing 3:50pm Goodbye Chris Robin 6:20pm Wonder 8:30pm</p> <p>Wednesday Jan 3 Paddington 2 12:00pm Loving Vincent 2:00pm Goodbye Chris Robin 4:00pm Wonder 6:15pm Downsizing 8:30pm</p>
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COMING VERY SOON

THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS
STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI
THE DISASTER ARTIST

THURSDAY 28

- HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN, BYRON **SUNROSE, THE DOLLA LAMAS, GALLIWANTER**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **BB FACTORY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 5PM SUNDAY SAFARI PRESENT **CHARLIE 2NA (JURASSIC 5) AND KRAFTY KUTS**, 8PM **DJ FONZAIUS**
- BYRON BREWERY 8PM **OKA**
- BYRON FARMER'S MARKET 8AM **JESSE MORRIS BAND**
- BYRON BAY BREWERY 8PM **OKA + TAY OSKEE**
- HALL UNDER BYRON GYM 6.45PM **NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **CHEF DE PARTY & FRIENDS** 9PM **DJS JAMIE, SLHTE, 4 EYES**
- BALCONY BAR, BYRON 7PM **ALLY PALMER**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON 7.30PM **JEZ MEAD FEAT. VINNIE LADUCE**
- CLUB MULLUM 6.30PM UKE NIGHT WITH **MISS AMBER & STUKULELE**
- POINCIANA, MULLUMBIMBY 7PM **LIVE GYPSY JAZZ**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 6PM SALSA 7PM **BLUES CLUB**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 7PM **BIG MUSIC**
- BALLINA RSL 7.30PM **BIG GIG COMEDY WITH MANDY NOLAN**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN LIVE **N LOUD**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS 11AM **LISA STEWART**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 12.30PM **KIMBERLEY DAVIS – SOCIAL NEW VOGUE DANCING** 3.30PM **CROWD DJ** 7.30PM **THE ABBY SKYE BAND**

FRIDAY 29

- HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN, BYRON 9PM **THE CINEMA WRISTIES**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **THE HOMBRES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 5PM **DAN CLARKE DUO**, 8PM **BYRON HOUSE MAFIA**
- BYRON BAY BREWERY 7.30 **DROP LEGS + BLACK RAT & THE BANDITS + DOS LOONA**
- HALL UNDER BYRON GYM 6.45PM **NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **REGGAE AFTERPARTY** 9PM **DJS JAMIE, SLHTE, 4 EYES**
- STICKY WICKET BAR, BYRON 9PM **LOCAL DJS** 9.30PM **LIVE MUSIC**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON 7.30PM **THE IMPRINTS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE**
- POINCIANA, MULLUMBIMBY 5PM **LOUNGE SESSIONS WITH RESIDENT DJ**
- ST MARTIN'S HALL, MULLUMBIMBY 7PM **HOUSE OF BLISS KIRTAN**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD DUO**
- PARADISE ONE, LIVIN' MUSIC FESTIVAL, COORABELL 7PM **JESSE MORRIS BAND**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 6PM **TALEENA PECK**
- CLUB LENNOX 7.30PM **CECILIA BRANDOLINI**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9.30PM **MESCALITO BLUES**
- B-SPACE, BALLINA 5PM **JAM NIGHT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7.30PM **YAKATY YAK THE HISTORY OF ROCK & ROLL**

- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 5PM **JHEFF BAILY**, 8.30PM **JED ZARB**
- LISMORE CITY HALL **THE BEST OF TREVOR ASHLEY**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE **PUSH DRAG SHOW WITH LYTX**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **EUREKA FUNK**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM **TANGLE**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH 8PM **KHANAGE JOHNSON**
- CONDONG BOWLING CLUB 7.30PM **TWEED VALLEY JAZZ CLUB**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 7.30PM **AGENT 77**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM **SIMON MEOLA**
- SALT BAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM **DJ BEN**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS 5.30PM **STEVEN MICHAEL, MIXJAR WITH JJ HORNE**
- TWIN TOWNS – THE STAGE, TWEED HEADS 11AM **DANIELLE GOULET PRESENTS SUSIE JAY**, 12.30PM **CROWD DJ**, 4.30PM **FUNKWAGNELLS** 9PM **THE ABBY SKYE BAND**
- TWIN TOWNS JUNIORS, TWEED HEADS 5PM **ROB VITALI**
- CURRUMBIN RSL 5PM **ACOUSTIC SESSIONS**

SATURDAY 30

- HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN, BYRON 8.30PM **GOOCH PALMS WITH THE VIOLENT MONKS & THE SQUIDLICKERS**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON 7PM **THE BAY COLLECTIVE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 5PM **SCOTT DAY VEE DUO**, 9PM **NINJA HOUSE**
- BYRON BAY BREWERY 7.30 **WALLFLOWER MEADOWS**
- BYRON THEATRE 8PM **BODYMAP – GLITTA SUPERNOVA**
- STICKY WICKET BAR, BYRON 9PM **LOCAL DJS** 9.30PM **LIVE MUSIC**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON 7.30PM **JAYO**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 9PM **DJ NERY**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 8PM SALOON SESSIONS WITH **DJ MILES JACKSON**
- POINCIANA, MULLUMBIMBY 5PM **LOUNGE SESSIONS WITH RESIDENT DJ**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 7PM **PINK ZINC**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9.30PM **BIGGY P**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **THOR PHILLIPS**, 9PM **MAL'S BLUES BAR**
- BALLINA BOWLO 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7PM **NICK CUNNINGHAM**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE **SABOTAGE**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **ROB MCGOWAN**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 7.30PM **DIRTY CHANNEL**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM **BILL JACOBI**
- SALT BAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM **NYE DJ PARTY**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 7PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD 2PM **ODIO CHIEF**, 7PM **DUBARRAY DUO**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS 7.30PM **BENNO & DAVE**

GIG GUIDE

- TWIN TOWNS – THE STAGE, TWEED HEADS 12.30PM **CROWD DJ**, 4.30PM **THE SUE REID BAND**, 9PM **THE ABBY SKYE BAND**
- TWIN TOWNS JUNIORS, TWEED HEADS 5PM **LONEWOLF**
- CURRUMBIN RSL 4PM **ACOUSTIC SESSIONS**

SUNDAY 31

- HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN, BYRON 8.30PM **PSYCHEDELIC PORN CRUMPLETS WITH RAAVE TAPES, PANDAMIC & VANILLA GORILLA**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON **NYE WHITE PARTY PINK ZINC & THE SWAMPS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON 7.30PM **PARADISE FOUND NYE PARTY – YACHT CLUB DJS**
- BYRON BAY BREWERY 12PM **SUNDAY SAFARI FESTIVAL**
- BYRON BOWLO **GOODRICH ON THE GREEN**
- BYRON THEATRE 4PM **SOUL STREET NEW YEARS EVE – JONSON STREET**
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON 12PM **DJ MONSIOUR DIOP'S DEEP HOUSE ORIENTAL BEATS**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON LUNCH – LATE SUNDAY SESSION **DJ DANGEROUS COBRA AND EVA J**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON **NYE PARTY**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7PM **NYE PARTY**
- BRUNSWICK HOTEL 7PM **HANLON BROTHERS AND DJ KIRBY**
- TINTENBAR HALL 7.30PM **THRILLBILLY STOMP**
- CLUB LENNOX 8PM **TROMBONE KELLY GANG**

- LENNOX HOTEL **NYE SHOWDOWN** 2.30PM **SARAH GRANT**, 6PM **SO-FI**, 9.30PM **OCCA ROCK**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6.45PM **THE BIG COMEDY GALA**, 8PM **STU BLACK**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 9PM **HUGE RETRO BASH GLENN MASSEY & THE THREAD**
- BALLINA BOWLO 6.30PM **DUSTY & THE DIVAS WITH SUPPORT BOB WALTON**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA **CATH SIMES BAND**
- NORTH BYRON PARKLANDS, YELGUN **FALLS FESTIVAL**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM **GEMINI**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH 3PM **TAYLAH LITTLE**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 7PM **DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES**
- KINGSCLIFF SURF CLUB 8.30PM **SUMMER DREAMS NYE PARTY**
- SALT BAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM **MUSIC & FIREWORKS**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD 3PM **JET CLUB EFFECT**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2.30PM **THE DAN CLARK BAND, THE SUPERLOVE BAND**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL **NYE GET TROPICAL**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS 12PM **PAUL LINDENBERG, BONDI CIGARS & LISA HUNT**
- TWIN TOWNS – SHOWROOM, TWEED HEADS 8PM **AKMAL**, 10AM TILL 1.30PM **TWO & A HALF MEN**, 2PM **THE HIPPOS**, 6PM **THE ABBY SKYE BAND**, 10.30PM **FAT ALBERT**

- TWIN TOWNS JUNIORS, TWEED HEADS **ROB KEITH**
- CURRUMBIN RSL 4PM **ACOUSTIC SESSIONS**

MONDAY 1

- HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN, BYRON **FERGO**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON **RAGGA JUMP**
- CAPE BYRON LIGHTHOUSE 5.15AM **FIRST SUN NEW YEARS DAY**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 8PM **REGGAE AFTERPARTY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 8PM **SHYBABY**
- B-SPACE, BALLINA 5PM **JAM NIGHT**
- NORTH BYRON PARKLANDS, YELGUN **FALLS FESTIVAL**
- TATTS HOTEL, LISMORE 7.30PM **OPEN MIC WITH CHRIS FISHER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 12.30PM **CROWD DJ**, 4PM **RUSSELL HINTON + SPECIAL GUEST – LINE DANCING**, 7.00PM **MARK WILSON'S DANCE NIGHT**

TUESDAY 2

- HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN, BYRON **MARSHALL OKELL**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON **BREAKING TRAD**
- BYRON BAY BREWERY 7.30 **MUSICAL BINGO**
- HALL UNDER BYRON GYM 6.45PM **NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA**
- WOODY'S SURF SHACK, BYRON 9PM **YEWSDAY LIVE DJS**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7PM **OPEN MIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **MICHAEL JAMES**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 7PM **TRIVIA**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 7PM COUNTRY CLUB **COMEDY WITH STEVE ALLISON, S SORRENSEN & MC MANDY NOLAN**
- NORTH BYRON PARKLANDS, YELGUN **FALLS FESTIVAL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS 11.30AM **RUSSELL HINTON – LINE DANCING**, 3.30PM **TONY & PATTI – SOCIAL NEW VOGUE DANCING**, 7.30PM **MERCY MERCY**

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WEDNESDAY 3

- BYRON BAY BREWERY 7.30PM **OPEN MIC WITH HARRY NICHOLS**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON **FRIENDLY ENEMIES TRIO**
- BYRON BEACHSIDE MARKET 8AM **ROMANIACS, JESSE MORRIS & DIGERA**
- BANGALOW BOWLING CLUB 6.30PM **SWING**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON**
- BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE 11AM & 2PM **REEF UP! ALL AGES CHILDREN'S SHOW**
- ELTHAM PUB 6.30PM **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **90S GRUNGE SHOW**
- TWIN TOWNS – THE SHOWROOM, TWEED HEADS 10.30AM **THE TONY BENNETT STORY – THE STAGE** 12.30PM **FLOORBURNERS**, 4PM **LITTLE STEVIE & THE TAILFINS**, 7.30PM **JIVE CATS**

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Saturday 30 December, 8pm
Full \$32.30 | Conc \$27.30 | BT Club Member \$27.30 | Age 18+



SOUL STREET NY EVE 2017 PRESENTED BY BYRON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sunday 31 December, 4pm – 12am
Family Friendly Alcohol Free Event



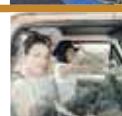
FIRST SUN NEW YEAR'S DAY CAPE BYRON LIGHTHOUSE

Monday 1 January 2018, 5.15am
Free event



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Friday 5 January, 7.15pm
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DISPLAY ADS: \$66 per week for colour display ad. Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
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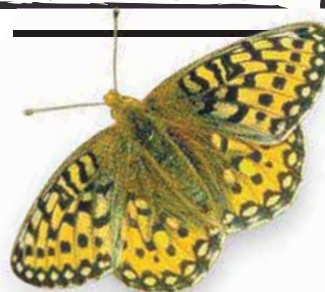
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DEATH NOTICES



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Passed away 18/12/2017 at RSL Lifecare, Suffolk Park. Thank you to those in the Byron Community who looked out for him & befriended him.
He was a lover of life & lived it to the fullest, he has now moved on to his next adventure

IN MEMORIAM



KEITH (BOMBER) BROWN
8/1/1935 – 29/12/2006

A special man who touched many lives & lived to the fullest in all walks of life. Missed, loved & remembered every day, Shirley, Mark, Karen, Matt, Leanne, Tony, Luke, Cody, Stephen, Sherrynne (dec.) & Ashlee

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Despite losing the cricket Bangalore passed the test

John Campbell

In 2004 I travelled to Bangalore to attend all five days of the test match between India and Australia (fellow tragics will understand).

At the M Chinnaswamy Stadium over a decade ago, I was grateful to be in the grandstand behind the bowler's arm as Michael Clarke clipped an Irfan Pathan delivery through mid-wicket to score his century on debut. In March this year I was back again for the cricket.

Steven Smith's unheralded tourists had shocked everyone – probably themselves included – by flogging Virat Kohli's XI in the First Test at Pune, so a keen if uncertain sense of anticipation prevailed among those of us who had made the journey from Oz to support the boys.

I was with my little mate Rapid Eye Movement, a newcomer to the sub-continent. Being forty years my junior and, more tellingly, hailing from Dapto, iMoo was prepared to do the trip on the seat of his pants, whereas I, having

covered countless hard yards in my own equally carefree and insensitive youth, have grown accustomed to a degree of comfort that includes air-con, room service and a mini-bar.

Nor am I put out if there is a pool in the grounds.

Notwithstanding my bourgeois addiction to comfort, the Bangalore Marriott was beyond the pale. I mean, for pity's sake, I write for the Echo, so I need to pretend that I understand and empathise with the poor and the needy.

My excuse is that my accommodation came with the tickets that I'd bought online, so I swanned into the hotel's marble atrium showing appropriate contempt for the ostentatious wealth surrounding me.

Down the road, iMoo had checked into in a no-star hovel where he cracked on to a couple of Swedish girls who weren't in the least bit interested in cricket but liked his sun-tan and long hair.

Breakfast at the Marriott, with Swervin' Mervyn Hughes seated nearby (lap



The gulab jamun with ice-cream was too good to resist for iMoo. Photo John Campbell

it up, tragics) was a gluttonous indulgence. The buffet included every fruit known to mankind (plus some mysterious ring-ins), mountains of pastries, eggs cooked in whatever way took your fancy and, of course, idlies, raitas and puris. The coffee was surprisingly bland – but

a man mustn't grumble.

Bold as brass, before play commenced at 9.30am, iMoo would wander down from his lodgings, where brekky was not included in the tariff, stride into the Marriott, join me at my table and proceed to hoe into the fruits, pastries and idlies etc. None of the

hotel staff said 'boo'.

From there it was a ten-minute walk to the stadium, through choking, steamy stale air, along broken footpaths and crossing crowded, chaotic roads.

All entrances to the ground were guarded by indolent, khaki-clad coppers armed with heavy wooden lathis with which they would happily crack open the skull of anybody who stepped out of line.

I was not allowed to take in my camera (an edict of the Indian Cricket Board), despite the fact that there was not one spectator who wasn't snapping pics with their phone.

Remembering 2004, I hoped that the price of our tickets (10,000 rupees/\$200 for the duration) would include lunch and afternoon tea.

ning, iMoo presented himself with two glasses.

Unable to decide between the 'dates pudding' or gulab jamun for dessert, we opted for both – and we weren't alone in doing that.

Afternoon tea was a less elaborate serving of samosas and pakoras, with the keg-wallah remaining unflappable under mounting pressure.

The cricket was pretty good, too, despite India winning.

Nathan 'Garry' Lyon surprised us by snaring 8-50 in India's first dig and – this had never happened before in cricket's long, eccentric history – a bowler took six wickets in each of the four innings (Lyon, Ravindra Jadeja, Josh Hazlewood and Ravichandran Ashwin).

The dismissal that will live longest in my memory was that of Karun Nair in his second appearance at the crease. Mitchell Starc smashed his stumps first ball.

There are few more thrilling sights in sport than a batsman being cleaned-up by a bowler of Starc's pace. It is life and death in half a second.

The Australians are scheduled to make their next test-match tour of India in 2021, and if the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium at Bangalore is one of the venues, I'll be there with bells on.

I reckon iMoo might be as well, now that he's got a taste for it.

Regional hockey gets a boost with new arena



Federal MP Kevin Hogan (R) will members of Far North Coast Hockey at the start of the new Goonellabah hockey centre.

The first sod has been turned on a new \$1.6 million Far North Coast Regional Hockey Centre expansion project in Goonellabah

'This is great news for our community and cements our reputation as the sporting capital of regional NSW, federal member for Page Kevin Hogan said.

'Upgrading and expanding the existing hockey complex will deliver a new state-of-the-art pitch with lighting, seating, player spaces, official and technical officers' spaces, toilets and covered playing preparation areas.

'With the upgrade of Oakes Oval, Lismore already underway, this additional \$1.6 million investment will attract sports players from many codes, and their sup-

porters, to the area, which will be great for our local motels, restaurants and cafes.

'The work is expected to be completed early next year, in plenty of time for Lismore to host the 2018 Men's Masters Australian Hockey Championships later in the year when 1,800 players and spectators are expected to converge on the northern rivers.

The project is jointly funded by the federal government (\$764,478), Far North Coast Hockey Incorporated (\$550,000), Lismore City Council (\$33,000) and private donors (\$181,478). In-kind contributions were also provided by Far North Coast Hockey Incorporated (\$66,340).

The project will create 76 construction jobs and 16 permanent jobs.

Tight fight determines bowls triples champs at Mullum



Mullum Bowling Club triples champs (L to R): Mark Holton, Richie Northcott and Ben Leeson.

Michael Burke

The final of the Mullumbimby Bowling Club 2017 Triples Championship was played on Saturday December 16 and a high-quality, tight game resulted.

Ashley Lumsden, Sean Doherty and Shane Knight got away to an early lead and held a four-shot buffer after four ends.

The game then settled down to a tight tussle with shots hard to come by.

By the 14th end Ben Leeson, Richie Northcott and Mark Holton had levelled the scores at 15-15.

The lead then changed

four times until Holton's team was able to score four shots over the closing stages to run out winners 21-19.

At Byron Bay

Dianna Ricketts and Brett Luker (2 + 16) won the Christmas Mixed Pairs at the Byron Bay Bowling club two weeks ago.

Linda Child and Bulla Burton on (2 + 9) were runners up while Jeff Fleming and Judy Wright took third and Denise and Paul Corcoran slipped in from Lismore to claim fourth place.

'Every team got a prize of Christmas Cheer,' the club spokesman Syl Reid said.

● Full moon		2 Jan		13:24		JANUARY 2018 Astronomical data and tides	
● Third quarter		9 Jan		09:25			
● New moon		17 Jan		13:17			
● First quarter		25 Jan		09:20			
Day of month	Sun rise	Sun set	Moon rise	Moon set	High tide, height (m)	Low tide, height (m)	
1	M	0551	1947	1847	0441	0838,1.87; 2047,1.32	0143,0.09; 1500,0.25
2	T	0552	1947	1951	0542	0929,1.95; 2141,1.31	0231,0.06; 1554,0.19
3	W	0552	1947	2051	0647	1018,1.98; 2231,1.30	0320,0.05; 1645,0.16
4	T	0553	1947	2144	0754	1107,1.96; 2323,1.28	0410,0.09,1734,0.17
5	F	0554	1947	2231	0901	1154,1.89	0500,0.16; 1824,0.21
6	S	0554	1948	2314	1005	0015,1.26; 1241,1.77	0552,0.26; 1912,0.27
7	S	0555	1948	2352	1107	0110,1.23; 1327,1.63	0647,0.38; 2000,0.33
8	M	0556	1948		1205	0211,1.22; 1415,1.48	0748,0.50; 2050,0.38
9	T	0557	1948	0029	1301	0318,1.23; 1506,1.34	0859,0.60; 2142,0.41
10	W	0558	1948	0104	1356	0429,1.27; 1604,1.23	1016,0.65; 2235,0.41
11	T	0558	1948	0140	1450	0533,1.35; 1707,1.17	1132,0.65; 2327,0.40
12	F	0559	1948	0216	1543	0627,1.43; 1809,1.14	1239,0.61
13	S	0600	1948	0255	1635	0713,1.51; 1902,1.15	0014,0.38; 1332,0.54
14	S	0601	1948	0336	1727	0753,1.58; 1948,1.16	0057,0.34; 1417,0.48
15	M	0602	1948	0420	1816	0831,1.63; 2029,1.19	0135,0.31; 1457,0.43
16	T	0603	1947	0506	1904	0907,1.68; 2106,1.21	0211,0.29; 1532,0.39
17	W	0603	1947	0556	1949	0943,1.70; 2143,1.22	0245,0.27; 1606,0.36
18	T	0604	1947	0647	2031	1017,1.71; 2218,1.23	0320,0.26; 1640,0.35
19	F	0605	1947	0740	2111	1052,1.70; 2256,1.24	0355,0.27; 1713,0.34
20	S	0606	1947	0834	2149	1126,1.67; 2334,1.24	0432,0.30; 1747,0.35
21	S	0607	1946	0928	2225	1200,1.63	0511,0.34; 1823,0.36
22	M	0608	1946	1022	2300	0016,1.24; 1236,1.57	0553,0.41; 1901,0.37
23	T	0608	1946	1118	2336	0104,1.24; 1315,1.49	0641,0.48; 1945,0.39
24	W	0609	1945	1215		0200,1.26; 1402,1.40	0739,0.55; 2034,0.39
25	T	0610	1945	1314	0013	0305,1.30; 1500,1.32	0851,0.61; 2130,0.38
26	F	0611	1945	1416	0053	0417,1.38; 1610,1.25	1015,0.62; 2232,0.35
27	S	0612	1944	1519	0137	0529,1.49; 1726,1.23	1140,0.57; 2334,0.30
28	S	0613	1944	1624	0226	0633,1.63; 1839,1.24	1255,0.47
29	M	0614	1943	1729	0321	0731,1.77; 1943,1.27	0033,0.23; 1358,0.36
30	T	0614	1943	1830	0423	0825,1.88; 2039,1.32	0129,0.16; 1451,0.26
31	W	0615	1942	1927	0528	0915,1.95; 2130,1.36	0220,0.11; 1540,0.20

Times are Eastern Standard Daylight Savings Time.

Time lags: Ballina Boat Dock: 15 min; Byron Bay: nil; Brunswick River Hwy Bridge: high 30 min, low 1 hr; Mullumbimby: 1 hr 10 min; Billinudgel: 3 hr 55 min; Chinderah: high 1 hr 15 min, low 2 hr; Terranora Inlet: high 2 hr 10 min, low 2 hr 25 min; Murwillumbah: high 2 hr 30 min, low 2 hr 50 min. **Tides in bold** indicate high tide of 1.7m or more and low tide of 0.3m or less.

Data courtesy of the Bureau of Meteorology.



Local juniors take solid steps on GromSearch pathway



Nyxie Ryan has GromSearch tile in her sights. Photo John Andrews/SQ

Crystal Cylinders

Our local junior surfers had solid finishes at the final event of the Rip Curl GromSearch series on the Sunshine Coast last week.

2016 National GromSearch Champion Nyxie Ryan from Lennox Head continued her GromSearch rampage to take out the U/14 Girls' division and cement her place in the national final where she will be looking to claim back-to-back victories.

Ryan has been on fire this year across the series, with multiple podium finishes and a gold medal at event two in Maroubra seeing her finish on top of the series ratings.

Duke Wrencher from Corabell finished runner-up in the U/12 Boys' division tearing apart the 1-metre walls on offer but owing to the fact he only competed in one event of the series and didn't gain enough points won't be part of the national final.

The Rip Curl GromSearch is a worldwide series of events designed for grommets and runs in 10 countries with more than 5,000 competitors worldwide.

The Australian series is made up of five events as well as a national final.

Participants for the national final are determined from the Rip Curl GromSearch ratings, counting a surfer's best two results across the series.

In addition, the winner from each division in each respective event of the series will be guaranteed entry into the national final.

Nyxie Ryan topped the 2017 U/14 Girls' ratings winning two out of the three she entered, and will be going into the nationals as red-hot favourite.

Her younger brother Dembe Ryan took out the 2017 Rip Curl GromSearch Overall ratings in the U/12 Boys' division and won the first event to qualify for

the national final.

Jia Glinderman from Lennox Head was second in the U/14 Boys' ratings and won the first event, so he will be going to the nationals.

Some incredible surfers have come through the series including current WSL World Tour athletes Gabriel Medina, Stephanie Gilmore, Jordy Smith, Matt Wilkinson, Owen Wright, Sally Fitzgibbons, Kolohe Andino, Nat Young and Felipe Toledo.

Lennox Head's Mikey McDonagh along with the world's best junior surfers will be heading to Kiama at the start of January for the World Surf League's World Junior Championships.

McDonagh secured his spot in the event by finishing runner-up in the 2017 WSL Pro Junior Australasia ratings. Mikey will be one of the youngest surfers at the event and still has two more years to vie for the prestigious World Junior Title.

Winning the annual Clifford Street race runs in the family

Mylee and Damian Farrell

For the first time in ten years a mother-and-daughter combination has won the female trophies at the Fastest Runner in Clifford Street race, held in South Golden Beach in early December.

Roughly 60 local residents from around the area gathered to compete or participate, with half deciding to watch or officiate, while the other half was made up of the more competitive.

The 'athletes' ranged in age from two years to 52 years.

Given the broad range of ages that compete together in the race there is an impromptu handicap start; the younger and smaller you are the closer to the finish line you do start. The fit and nimble teenagers along with the delusional and fat middle-agers all start at the back on the corner of Elizabeth Avenue.

The 200 metres to the finish line can appear like a blur to some of the less fit.

The one and only rule of the Fastest Runner in Clifford Street race is that you are not to run over, stampede or maim any of the smaller runners in front of you in your desperate surge for local infamy.

But eventual fastest male winner Justin Farrell self-inflicted a maiming two metres before the finish line via a kook lunge head first across the chalked line.

With skin off his hands, elbows and knees, the 41-year-old Justin admitted to succumbing to the strange peptides floating in his system after several decades of not running at all.

Sonya Tennant and daughter Ruby Spies (5) were the proud and ecstatic winners of



2017 Clifford Street champions Sonya Tennant and daughter Ruby Spies. Photo supplied

the female silverware.

Eight-year-old Billie from Elizabeth Street looked very likely to take out the fastest girl trophy this year with a slight lead five metres short of the finish line but was distracted by the pretty flowers growing in the garden of the house just short of the line.

This gave a very determined Ruby the opportunity to hit the lead and cross the line first.

There was a great flux of youth crossing the line in the next few seconds. Millimetres separated many of them; however, a clear-cut winner in the fastest boy division was nine-year-old Ben McCallum. Ben is a regular trainer with the Byron Bay

Runners Club, and proud dad Jeff acknowledged that Ben may have inherited his fast genes from his South African mother Peta.

The race is set and won within a few minutes but what lasts longer is the community spirit, fun and enjoyment that a diverse range of neighbours near and far can have on a quiet and quick Sunday arvo in the neighbourhood.

No animals or small children were hurt in the running of the race.

Maybe someone in your street wants to organise your own fastest runner or craziest skipper or jumpiest jelly bean. Who knows: you may just enjoy it.

DSA granted new beach-buggy wheelchair

The Disabled Surfers Association Far North Coast Branch have acquired a new Surf & Turf beach wheel chair after being one of 18 grant recipients from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF).

'Grants are essential to not-for-profit, volunteer organisations to fund specific programs,' Daffy Chisholm, Disabled Surfers Association honorary national secretary, said.

'All of the 2018 recipients were grassroots organisations

that rely on this kind of funding.

'The DSA FNC would like to thank NRCF, their sponsors and partners including Stone & Wood, Yulgilbar Foundation, Portland House Foundation and many more for their generosity and compassionate activities facilitating the northern rivers district,' he said.

The DSA event is scheduled for Saturday January, 20 2018 at the Coast Guard Tower Beach, Kingscliff (Cocky Classic), 9am.



Michael Murray NRCF director with DSA participants Leilani and Lachlan Perry in the new chair. Photo supplied

Byron boxer wins



Professional fighter Joe Muir (black) on his way to beating Tim Rogers (Foster) in Yamba earlier this month. Photo Jackson O'Brien Boxing

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday–Thursday 9am–4pm and offers a range of services and activities. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy art, music, games, great food and more. Call reception on 6684 1286 and discover what is on offer.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. If you have any sort of Centrelink card you may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **Free Food Relief Bags** for anyone doing it tough, every Thursday 9–11am at The Hub Ocean Shores, cnr Rajah Rd and Bindaree Way. No ID or Concession Card required. NILS referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. C3 Care **Byron Bay Food Care** – log on to www.c3byronbay.com to see if you are eligible, or call 6680 8872.

Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service Inc delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au, website: www.byronrespite.com.au.

Alateen Meeting

Alateen Meeting every Thursday at 5–6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8–16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au

Social sporting groups

Senior social table tennis at Bangalow Bowling Club Sundays 2–4pm. All levels welcomed. Call Margot 0412 394 932. **Tuesday Ladies Group of Riverside Tennis Club** welcomes new players 9.30am every Tuesday next to Heritage Park, Mullumbimby, for social tennis, fun and friendship. Info: Barbara 6684 8058.

Breast Cancer Support

Byron Breast Cancer Support Group meets every 3rd Wednesday 12–2pm at NSW Cancer Council rooms 8/130 Jonson St, Byron Bay. Anyone experiencing/ed breast and gynaecological cancers is most welcome to attend. Enquiries Linda 0413 668 828.

Grief loss bereavement

Free support service. Carl Moore, registered psychologist. By appointment grief.loss.bereavement.byron@gmail.com 0401 081 713.

Volunteer hub

Choose from 40 organisations at the volunteer hub at Byron Community Centre. Make a difference in your community, have fun, learn new skills and meet people. Ph 6685 6807 email volunteers@byroncentre.com.au.

Cty Shopping Bus

Seats available on fortnightly Community Transport Shopping Bus from Suffolk Park/Byron Bay to Byron town centre. The door-to-door bus costs \$6 and is available to people who can't access mainstream transport due to age, disability or other reason. Call Amanda 1300 875 895.

Language exchange

Byron Language Exchange Club is a free conversation meet up held twice a month in Byron Bay. Contact Paola info@clacademy.com.au, and don't forget to mention the language you want to practise. Volunteers welcome.

Museums

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

Inc Museum corner of Myocum and Stuart Sts Mullumbimby, open Tuesdays and Fridays 10–12 and market Saturdays 9–1. Discover your local history, join our team – 6684 4367. **Bangalow Heritage House Museum & Cafe** Open Monday 12–4.30pm, and Tuesday–Friday 7.30am–4.30pm. Cnr Ashton & Deacon Sts Bangalow. Available for event hire and welcome all groups and visitors. Phone 6687 2183.

Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 – 30 meetings a week in the Shire – www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 6680 7280. Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays 2pm. Uniting Church Bangalow – 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.alateen.org/australia. **Crystal Meth Anonymous** is a fellowship of people for whom all drugs (but especially crystal meth) had become a problem. Meeting held Thursday 6pm, Presbyterian Church Hall, 13 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Call 0478 061 479 or visit: www.crystalmeth.org.au.

Library fun

Baby Bounce session Mullumbimby – Tuesday 11.30am, Brunswick Heads – Friday 10.30am, Byron Bay – Friday 10am. Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children Mullumbimby – Friday 10.30am, Brunswick Heads – Monday 10.30am, Byron Bay – Tuesday 10.30am.

No-interest loans

Byron Community No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) is a not-for-profit community program providing people on low incomes with safe, fair interest-free loans of up to \$1,000 for purchasing essential goods and services. Contact the Byron Community Centre to find out more.

Budgeting Support

Money Matters is a free service helping people identify where their money is going, how best to save and, most importantly, how to get on top of bills! Contact the Byron Community Centre to make an appointment; private sessions run every Monday afternoon.

End-of-life choices

Voluntary euthanasia options are discussed at meetings held quarterly on the Gold Coast. For more information phone Elaine 07 5580 8215.

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6.40pm at Byron Services Club, Byron Bay; www.byronbaytoastmasters.org. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters** meet every 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday Presbyterian Church Hall, 101 Stuart Street Mullumbimby 7–9 pm. Contact Megan 0424 002 636 or Bruce 0418 515 991.

Meditation

Buddhist meditation teaching and practice now at the living Yoga Sanga, first floor, 63 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby, 6–7.30pm, Mondays. Contact Mishaela, 0438 858 842 or mishaele@si.org.au. **Dzogchen Meditation** and Study Group 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month at Mullumbimby Civic Hall. Contact Didi 0408 008 769 for more info. **Byron Mindfulness-Insight Meditation** Sangha & Pairoj Brahma 7pm–9pm Tuesdays at The Yurt, Temple Byron www.templebyron.com. No fees. Andrew 0426 119 171, Pairoj 0423 241 916. **Buddhist meditation** and conversation with John Allan, Mondays 6.30–8.30 pm, The Yurt, Temple Byron. No fees. John 0428 991 189. **Byron yoga philosophy club** Free meditation classes Monday, 7.45pm, Ananta Yoga Studio (above Byron Music) 2B/144 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. Go to www.wisdom.yoga or phone Kris 0435 300 743.

Social Table Tennis

South Golden Shores Community Centre every Monday at 10.30. Phone 0435 780 017. **Bangalow Bowlo** Sundays

at 3pm. All welcome. Enquiries Margot 0412 394 932.

Bruns tennis

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 5–7pm. \$6.00, all welcome. Enquiries Linda 0449 825 108. Coaching available.

U3A discussion group

Brunswick Valley U3A audiovisual discussion group, Thursdays 10am Mullum Ex-Services Club. Info 0432 165 006.

Quota Club

Quota Club of Brunswick Valley meets every 1st Thursday of the month at the Ocean Shores Country Club at 6pm. Ph 0439 733 763 for more info.

Men’s Groups

Complete Men has regular fortnightly men's groups on different nights in both Byron and Mullum. Call Tim Fisk 0422 508 533.

Lions Club

Interested in making new friends and helping our community? Lions Club of Brunswick Mullumbimby meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm Ocean Shores Country Club. Info: Joan Towers 0400 484 419.

Choirs

Bay Singers meet Wednesdays at Byron Community Centre, 10.30–11.30am. Enquiries 0425 363 589, kim@kimbanffy.com.au. **Singchronicity Choir** meets Thursdays at Ocean Shores 6.45pm–8.45pm. Eclectic and catchy repertoire. Ph 0425 363 589. **Mullum’s Biggest Little Town Choir** meets weekly at the Uniting Church Hall, Dalley Street, Thursdays at 6.30pm. Newcomers welcome. **Raise the Roof Choir:** Gospel, bluegrass & more. 1–3pm Tuesdays, Suffolk Park Hall. 6–8pm Tuesdays, Bruns Uniting Hall. Weekly Uki & Channon sessions. Info@raisetheroofsinging.com 0417 277 211.

Craft group

The Uniting Craft & Social Group meets every Monday 9.30am–2.30pm at the Uniting Church in Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Bring lunch and whatever else you need. All welcome. Do you prefer patchwork and quilting? Come along on Monday evening same place at 6pm. Enquiries Tilly 6685 5985.

Op shops

Uniting Church Op Shop, Dalley St, Mullumbimby – open each Saturday 8am–12 noon. **Byron Bay Anglican Op Shop** opens Monday to Friday 9am–1pm. Volunteers needed. Enq Jeni: 6685 7816 or 0439 344 281. **Mullumbimby Anglican**

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to editor@echo.net.au.

Leukaemia Foundation

Volunteer drivers needed in the Lismore region for patient transport program. A day, a week or a month – all help welcome. Contact Hannah 1800 620 420.

Byron Beachside Market

Beachside Market, Wednesday 3 January at Denning Park 8am till 4pm. If you're looking for something different, something handmade, something special, you'll find it.

Food Box closing

Food Box will close after Thursday 21 december until 25 January 2018.

Mullum High Reunion

Mullum High Reunion for those who attended Year 7 from 1976 to year 12 in 1981 are invited to a barbecue/ picnic at Banner Park near the Housie Shed, Brunswick Heads, on Saturday 30 December at 12 noon. BYO food, etc. Partners and family, teachers and staff welcome. Call Dianne (Vallance) 0421 738 527 or join our FB group: Mullumbimby High School Reunion 1976–1981.

Housie returns

The family favourite Brunswick Housie Tent will open for five weeks this summer, kicking off on Monday 11 December

Op Shop opens Monday to Friday 9am–4.15pm, Saturday 9am–12.15pm. Volunteers needed, enq to shop 6684 4718. **Mullumbimby Seventh-Day Adventist Op Shop** opens Monday – Thursday 10am–3.30pm, Friday 9am – 2pm and third Sunday of the month 10am–2pm. **Companion Animals Welfare Inc (CAWI) op shop** Brunswick Heads (next to supermarket) open Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat 9am–2pm.

Carers’ support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers’ Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Leanne 0409 818 643.

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head, on Sundays 7.30 for 8am start. Info Marian 6688 4058, mazzerrat2010@gmail.com.

Potters & Sculptors

Mullumbimby Potters & Sculptors at the Community Art Gallery at the Drill Hall is open every Tues & Thurs 10am–2pm and on the 3rd Saturday of the month (Mullum Market Day) 10am–4pm. Pottery and sculpture crafted by local artisans for sale, 2 Jubilee Ave, Mullumbimby. Enquiries: mullum.potters@yahoo.com.au.

CWA Bangalow

Interested women are welcome Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am–1pm and the second Monday evening of each month 5–7pm in the Bangalow CWA rooms for craft and friendship. Rooms are open daily Monday–Saturday 9am–noon.

Baby massage

At the Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre. Friday mornings, weekly, baby massage classes for expectant and new parents and carers. Gold coin contribution. Bookings essential. Linda 0411 985 557

Sex & Love Addicts Anon

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is peer-support group of men and women for whom sex and/or romance have become a problem. For details of weekly meetings, phone 0452 074 974 or visit www.slaa.org.au.

Timebanking

Timebanking can help you build a network of support within your

and calling the numbers until January 14, 7–10pm. Closing some Mondays and Tuesdays – see the calendar in the tent or the Brunswick Housie Facebook page. Extra volunteers needed.

Free kids’ activities

Byron Bay Library is hosting free activities for kids these holidays. Wednesday 3 January, 10.30am: Fairy Poppilina, the magical book-reading fairy for story time. For children of all ages. Bookings required: 6685 8540. Wednesday 10 January, 10.30am: Fabulous Felt. Make your own wallet. Five and up. Bookings required: 6685 8540. Wednesday 17 January, 10.30am: Make a birdhouse. Aged five and up. Bookings required: 6685 8540. Week of 22–27 January: BIG games with GIANT chess, TOWERING Connect-4, GARGANTUAN dominos and ENORMOUS checkers. All ages. **One Vision Productions (12–24):** Concrete Indigenous art, Monday, January 8, 15, 22, 10–3pm; Mural, graphic art and jewellery making 10–13pm Tuesday, January 9, 16, 23; DJ and electronic music production, Thursday, 11, 18, 25, 5–7pm; Friday night live jam on January 12, 19, 26 5–8pm.

Coolangatta Seniors

Looking to try something new in 2018? Register for our Electronics for Beginners, Jazz Ballet & Tap Dance for Seniors or French Language for Beginners. With more than 25 different activities every week, there's something for everybody. Primarily for over-60s but not exclusively. Coolangatta Seniors 2 Gerrard St, Coolangatta P: 07 5536 4050.

Please note: This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups, not for invitations to free events to be followed up by paid workshops.



community through sharing skills. For more: Northern Rivers Community Gateway 6621 7397.

Volunteers sought

Volunteers sought for Northern Rivers Volunteering, representing 100 community organisations. Info: 6621 7397

Bridge club

Brunswick Valley Bridge Club meets every Saturday and Monday at the Ocean Shores Country Club, seated at 12.15 to commence play at 12.30. Visitors welcome. See bridgewebs.com/brunswickvalley/home.html or for partner ring Phyllis Keyte 6684 1103. Facebook Brunswick Valley Bridge Club. Play resumes Saturday, January 6.

Repair Cafe

Mullumbimby's Repair Cafe at the Mullumbimby campus of Byron Community College in Burringbar Street on Saturdays 9am till 12 noon. Volunteers will be there to help you fix things that might otherwise end up in the tip, or to advise how it might be done.

Mungo’s Crossword

N211

1		2		3			4	5		6		7		8
							9							
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														13
14		15					16		17					
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	21						22					23		
24														
25							26							
27										28				

Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 1. Recreated, the case of angry Englishman ... (6)
- 4. ... dismissed. Unpopular, then wild rides, and excluded (8)
- 10. Anus made a mess – going on to the point of vomiting (2,7)
- 11. Tried to help, setter included (5)
- 12. Normal weak vote, unfortunately, for pacifist alternative (4,4,3,3)
- 14. Plague insect – detail in particular situation (5)
- 16. Industrial centre in the Reich? Lit a blaze – it was necessary (9)
- 18. Box Oliver Cromwell, perhaps (9)
- 20. Small change for swan church (5)
- 21. Practised money fraud? Remember this slogan! (5,5'1,3)
- 25. Steals back the chair! (5)
- 26. Encountered Englishman, zero ceremony – merely a falling star! (9)
- 27. Feeling about American pressure creates apprehension (8)
- 28. Was Mulray zonked? (6)

DOWN

- 1. Pray, smiled (misleadingly) George H Bush (4,2,4)
- 2. Expensive fur around the capital of Belarus (5)
- 3. Tennis match party to unhappy blues (7)
- 5. Emasculate peacekeeper on an island (5)
- 6. Box with brown Greek (7)
- 7. Block the state – it's hell! (9)
- 8. Uncouth, was sorry for it, we're told (4)
- 9. The most important woman competes in the throes of lust! (8)
- 13. S, the tired baby (10)
- 15. Singers terrible – oh, I sob, cry (9)
- 17. Surprising presents – pythons, taipans, eastern browns ... (8)
- 19. All together, measure the effect of Higgs boson on the East (2,5)
- 20. Bear embraces alternative woman famous for her box! (7)
- 22. In America, change expires around Monday (5)
- 23. Stop and indicate (5)
- 24. Take the top off the tablets for ailments (4)

Seniors Activities

Seniors Activities Tuesdays at the Byron Community Centre, Jonson St, Byron Bay. Elder Beats seniors drumming 10.30–11.30 am with Gareth Jones in the theatre, 11.30 Morning tea in the courtyard, 12.00–1.00 Chair Yoga with Pippy Wardell

Bosom Buddies

Ballina Bosom Buddies Support Group meets the third Thursday each month 10am–12pm at the Ballina Kentwell Community Centre. Contact Julie 0499 550 757 or Karen 0439 438 576 for info.

Ballina Camera Club

The Ballina Camera Club meet every second and fourth Thursday of each month commencing 6.30pm at the Kentwell Community Centre on the corner of Moon Street and Bangalow Road – new members welcome. Enquiries: Jean 6686 0462.

Please note: This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- 1. Fabricated again, restored (6)
- 4. Someone excluded, not in the club (8)
- 10. To the point of sickness (Latin) (2,7)
- 11. Intended, targeted (5)
- 12. Slogan of the pacifist movement during the Vietnam conflict (4,4,3,3)
- 14. Place, path (5)
- 16. Vital, necessary (9)
- 18. Guard, chaperone (9)
- 20. Small coins, pre-decimal (5)
- 21. Slogan suggesting that wrongdoing leads to adverse consequences (5,5'1,3)
- 25. Steals, plunders (5)
- 26. So-called falling star which reaches earth (9)
- 27. Anticipation, apprehension (8)
- 28. Not effective, vain (effort, etc) (6)

DOWN

- 1. Phrase used by George H W Bush promising no new taxes (4,2,4)
- 2. Capital city of Belarus (5)
- 3. Tennis match involving four players (7)
- 5. Emasculate, take away courage (5)
- 6. Inhabitant of ancient Greek city ruled by King Menelaus (7)
- 7. State of being condemned to hell (9)
- 8. Impolite, uncouth (4)
- 9. Most important or weighty (8)
- 13. Tired or lazy person, usually a child (10)
- 15. Juvenile singers in a church (9)
- 17. Snakes (8)
- 19. All together, in unison (2,5)
- 20. Woman in Greek mythology who released all the troubles of the world (7)
- 22. Ten cent coins (5)
- 23. Indicate, usually with the index finger (5)
- 24. Misfortunes, ailments (4)

Last week’s solution N210

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

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Behind the hotel

FARMERS MARKET
LOCAL AND AUTHENTIC

Ten years ago on January 1, 2008, *The Echo's* lead story was Mallam's supermarket selling to Woolies, marking an historic moment for Mullumbimby. Other news from last decade's edition include concerns of a raw sewage outfall in the Brunswick River and rural groups wanting Council to halt the urbanisation of Byron hinterlands.

Holiday letting was also a hot topic in 2008, and a new hotline was launched by the holiday letting organisation (HLO). The number is still active – those concerned about the behaviour of holidaymakers in your street can call 6626 6888.

Christmas time can be a trying time for families. And political party families are not immune to discord either. Backlash hears that the recent Greens Christmas Party went a bit pear shaped after mayor Simon Richardson admonished members for having the temerity to turn up at Council meetings and lobby for their causes. But without defined or available policies on local issues, who can blame them?

State MP Tamara Smith was also at the Greens Christmas Party, and was heard to say that the mayor had become institutionalised by working so closely with Council staff. That appears so – is he an elected representative of the community or a tool of management?

Congrats to Byron lad Sabri Suby, whose company King Kong was named fastest growing digital marketing agency in Australia. After just three years in business, the company was named 35th on the

Australian Financial Review's (AFR) Fast Starters List.

Main Arm Upper Primary School have won third place for a recycling competition, landing the school \$1,000. First prize went to a Gold Coast school, which receives a playground made from recycled beauty products. Organisers from TerraCycle say the Main Arm students diverted 3,100 units of beauty product waste from landfill.

The battle to save an old native Morton Bay Fig tree appears lost in Lennox Head, despite efforts from neighbours and one lone Ballina councillor, Jeff Johnson. It appears insurers spooked Council with unspecified legal threats. Yet with losses come wins; Mullumbimby residents this year saved a similar magnificent specimen on Station Street after Council wanted it removed in an effort to maximise land yield when selling the block.

Should we believe the fear rhetoric of those who will benefit from massive corporate tax cuts, or those who are qualified with how economies respond to such measures? The latter say cutting tax rates, like in the US, will be a disaster.

Here's a wish for 2018 – that all major developments lodged over Christmas have a mandatory extension for an extra month so that there is a reasonable timeframe for the public to digest what monstrosity is about to hit them. Given West Byron's unknown traffic congestion predictions and management on Ewingsdale Road from their own report, it would seem appropriate.

BYRON COMMUNITY MARKETS

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bYron bEaCHSide Markets

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6 JAN @ 7PM **LIVE MUSIC**

TOM COONEY & ANGHARAD DRAKE
7 JAN @ 7PM **LIVE MUSIC**

WIL ANDERSON: WORK IN PROGRESS:
New material exclusive to Bruns
10,11,12,13 JAN @ 7PM **COMEDY**

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO FARTS:
A SIDE SPLITTING TOUR OF THE HUMAN BODY
17,18,19,20 JAN @ 2PM **ALL AGES**

BUNNY RACKET:
Live rock music for cool kids
13, 20, 27 JAN @ 12PM **LIVE MUSIC**

CHEEKY CABARET
Never the same show twice! 19, 20 JAN 7PM **CABARET**

CAPTAIN FRODO'S MAGIC CIRCUS:
Bucketfuls of fun for the whole family
21 JAN @ 7PM **CIRCUS**

COMEDY: THE BIRDMANN FINALE:
Weird and wonderful 25th anniversary show
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Check online for more details **TIX**

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