

Echo

HOW NOT TO SELF-ISOLATE EASTER EDITION



The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 34 #44 • Wednesday, April 8, 2020 • www.echo.net.au

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I know many locals are having a lot of trouble getting through on the phone and online. We're calling on the Government to fix this urgently.

For information and support for local businesses, go to www.business.gov.au, and businesses impacted by coronavirus can also phone the business hotline on **13 28 46**.

Information, guidance and advice are changing rapidly. You can find the details of current announcements and advice, which are updated regularly, on my webpage at www.justineelliott.com.au/hot-topics/ and on my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/JustineElliotMP.

If you need help, please call my office on **(07) 5523 4371** or by email at justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au.

Please stay safe - we're all in this together.



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Justine Elliot MP

NORTH COAST

INFORMATION UPDATES

on Facebook | online



Authorised J Elliot, ALP, 107 Minjungbal Drive Tweed Heads South

COVID-19 Byron Hospital clinic opens

Last Thursday morning, Northern NSW Local Health District chief executive Wayne Jones announced the opening of a free COVID-19 fever clinic at Byron Central Hospital.

You do not need to phone ahead to attend the clinic.

People without symptoms do not need to be tested, said Mr Jones.

COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough, headache, runny nose, or shortness of breath. Anyone with symptoms should isolate themselves from others.

The clinic, located near the hospital's emergency ward, will be open daily, 10am till 4pm.



Byron Hospital COVID-19 clinic. Photo Jeff 'Contains Around 30 Trillion Cells And 39 Trillion Bacteria' Dawson

Jones said, 'The free clinic will welcome backpackers in the Byron Shire who have any COVID-19 symptoms, even if those symptoms are mild.'

Mr Jones added, 'We're asking backpackers to come to the fever clinic, where we will give them a COVID-19 test and manage them accordingly. There are still many

backpackers in this area, although the hostels report much lower numbers.

'There are still many in campervans, such as Wicked, Juicy and others. This clinic will be in addition to three other COVID-19 clinics that are located at Tweed, Lismore and Grafton hospitals. They are open from 10am till 6pm.'

Additionally, there are new restrictions and screening for hospital visitors. There is now a limit of one visitor per patient. Visiting hours have been restricted to one hour, once per day, and now only take place between 1pm and 6pm daily. Visits can only take place in the patient's room.

APPOINTMENTS **BOOK ONLINE**

MyVet Byron Bay
6685 6899 myvetbyronbay.com.au

'Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew... it is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next' – author Arundhati Roy

Local virus cases remain low, but consistent

COVID-19 statistics from www.data.nsw.gov.au shows that while the Northern Rivers is recording virus cases throughout the shires of Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore and Clarence Valley, the numbers are nowhere near that of Sydney and other regional areas.

The website says, 'The data is for confirmed COVID-19 cases only, based on location of usual residence, not

necessarily where the virus was contracted.'

The first case in the Northern Rivers region was a Byron Shire resident on March 16, according to the NSW government website.

That person was from the postcode 2481.

Tweed Shire recorded its first two cases March 18, with postcodes 2484 and 2487.

Ballina Shire's first case

was on March 22, with postcode 2477. Lismore City Council recorded its first two cases on March 22, with the postcode 2480.

Small cluster cases

Tweed Shire then recorded five small cluster cases on March 23, with postcodes 2486 and 2487.

Clarence Valley recorded its first two cases on March 24.

Throughout late March, the website's data shows all LGAs – on average – recording one or two cases daily.

On March 25, Byron (postcode 2479) recorded one more, and Tweed two more cases. As of April 5, Northern NSW Local Health District said there were 47 confirmed cases for the region (13 for Byron), which also includes Grafton, Casino, Kyogle and Urbanville.

Art of Medicine

DOCTORS
Dr Anthony Solomon
Dr Rob Trigger
Dr Bettie Honey
Dr Sally Ryan
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Echo

The Byron Shire Echo

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Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor

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

The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

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Man charged over hospital bomb threat

A 27-year-old man has been charged with bomb threats and intimidation at Tweed Hospital after an incident last Friday, April 3.

Police allege that at around 6.50pm the man went to the hospital and threatened to assault a security officer with a rock. Police were called and the man was arrested nearby, taken to Tweed Heads police station and charged with stalk/intimidate, according to police. He was bailed to appear before Tweed Heads Local Court on April 20 this year. Police say they were investigating the same man for also allegedly making phone threats to government departments.

Happy 30th Bay FM!



It's Bay FM's thirtieth anniversary! Bay FM broadcaster Nicky Fisher, pictured, says while it's not a time to outwardly celebrate, 'there's still plenty of joy to be had within and via the airwaves!' Photo Jeff 'Radio Ga Ga Goo Goo' Dawson

NEW REGULAR ONLINE COLUMN FROM THE INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

STORYLINES

BUDGERAM

– ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE
echo.net.au/storylines

*Budgeram means story in Bundjalung language. Thank you to Ninbella Gallery for supporting this new monthly column.

Echonetdaily

PLANET WATCH

Seeking solutions to a heating planet

Thank you to Byron Eco Park Holdings and Southern Cross Uni for supporting this new monthly column:

www.echo.net.au/articles/planet-watch

Echonetdaily

Bruns adapts to doing business differently

The Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre and the chamber say they have pooled their resources to help the town's businesses survive the COVID-19 crisis wave and prepare for the comeback.

Small retail business and Chamber President, Juliana Harmsen says while the Visitor Centre is closed to customers, an 'engine room' has been established for the Chamber's COVID-19 response.

'The Visitor Centre and Chamber have retained their four part-time staff members to help the executive committee implement a range of strategies,' she says.

'Top of the list is a practical initiative. Bruns is still doing business... but differently. Almost two weeks ago, the Bruns doing business list was created, and is being updated every day by the team. It's posted on the Chamber and Brunswick Heads community Facebook

pages and Instagram by noon, and is also on the Chamber's website.

'Our small businesses have adapted quickly and creatively to the ever-changing rules designed to protect our community. On Monday, 66 businesses, including 14 essential businesses were operating in some way.'

Harmsen says a few businesses are offering takeaway, with strict one-at-a-time service and social distancing rules in place, several are offering home deliveries, or are operating by appointment only and most retailers have transferred their business across to online trading.

'Rick Newman had a creative idea for his Gym on the Run Bootcamp. He has put together fitness packs for each of his clients and hand delivered them to their homes. These contain instructions and all the equipment they need to

complete the bootcamp program for the week.

'Bruns businesses are being kept informed of all the government assistance programs as they are announced, via the Chamber's communication platforms. The biggest issue for most businesses is rent.

Speaking with landlords

Realtor Russell Siwicki, who is also a executive committee member, said, 'Our team is speaking to every business to see if they need our help. We have already had conversations with several landlords, with some excellent outcomes.'

Visitor Centre co-ordinator Kim Rosen says that her team is ready to help implement any projects that are rolled out.

'The Chamber is looking at several other initiatives,

including one to help businesses start up or enhance online trading on their social media platforms. Another will provide free one-on-one consultations with an expert to help businesses start an online store, if that's what they need,' she said.

The Chamber say they will continue to liaise with Council, state and federal bodies to waive various business fees and charges to help Brunswick Heads businesses survive the crisis. The Chamber has met with Council's general manager to advise on the impact of COVID-19 on Bruns businesses, and to outline what the Chamber was doing and request fee relief.

'We were pleased that outdoor dining fees were waived. But we are also requesting that Council waive other fees as well,' Ms Harmsen added. 'Support for businesses is only a message away,' she said.



Dedicated support for fire-affected business owners.

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FACEBOOK

Community Centre gets \$30k boost

Paul Bibby

Vital local services supporting those most affected by COVID-19 have received a major boost, thanks to a \$30,000 donation to the Byron Community Centre (BCC).

In a move that will also generate desperately needed local jobs, national professional services firm Allygroup has pledged to provide the funds in three instalments over the next three months.

General manager of the BCC, Louise O'Connell, said the money would be used to home deliver scores of food boxes to vulnerable locals who are unable to shop, to hire a part-time social worker, and to expand the centre's phone counselling service.

'What we're seeing is that the most vulnerable in the community are really coping it at the moment,' Ms O'Connell said.

'The people who regularly come to us are really stressed, and so supporting their mental health is definitely a priority.'

'Fortunately we're able to ramp up our services pretty quickly, and that's exactly



Homeless breakfast volunteers from top left, clockwise: Anthony Williams, Elyssa Purdie, homeless project officer Colleen Arno, Lynda, homeless breakfast client Isaac and Byron Community Centre general manager Louise O'Connell. Photo Jeff Dawson

what we're doing - getting the help to people who need it quickly and effectively.'

With the first injection of funds already received, the BCC says the services are now up and running. Locals who are physically or financially unable to shop can call the Byron Emergency Pantry to request a food box delivery. Phone 6685 6807 between

10am and 2pm Monday to Thursday.

Residents can also arrange a free phone counselling appointment by calling 0414 322 064 between 10am and 2pm each weekday.

There is also free women's counselling for women needing extra support, which can be accessed by leaving a message for the BCC's

community support worker on 6685 6807.

The driving force behind the donation from Allygroup is the firm's chairman, Bruce Clarke, a Byron local and member of the BCC's board.

'I've seen people, including members of my own family, who've been hit hard by this virus and are doing it tough,' Mr Clarke said.

Legal assistance offered during financial hardship

Local law firm Barefoot Law have produced a range of letter templates to assist those severely financially impacted by COVID-19.

They include templates for those who have lost their jobs or small businesses needing to apply to the ATO for the government's JobKeeper assistance.

A template for a sole trader/self employed making a JobKeeper application to the ATO is also included.

In all cases, all employees, sole traders and

self-employed people must first register for JobKeeper at www.ato.gov.au/JobKeeper-payment.

A template to send to lenders and creditors, such as banks and telcos, is also available, along with a letter to landlords and real estate agents for those facing dire financial hardships.

Barefoot Law's Mark Swivel says, 'All creditors face challenges enforcing their debts in this time of flux with the courts not functioning in the ordinary way.'

'However, you can still face risks to your credit rating and could even lose the service or goods you owe money for.'

Communicate and negotiate

'Our general advice is to communicate and negotiate. This moment will pass (eventually) and your debts will remain legally enforceable in the future.'

'You need to remember that the law and rules are

new and may change, especially as grey areas are clarified.

'If you have an accountant, Barefoot Law strongly recommends you consult them before writing to the ATO. If you have any questions or improvement suggestions for our templates, let us know.'

Swivel has also created an online COVID-19 Help Hub on his website. Barefoot Law moved online on March 16.

To see the templates visit www.barefootlaw.net.au.

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Close NSW border too, says MP

With QLD recently closing its borders, Local MP Justine Elliot (Labor) is calling on the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian (Liberal) to urgently close the NSW border too.

Mrs Elliot says, 'I've written to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian on behalf of our community demanding that, as a matter of urgency, she closes the NSW border.

'I've been inundated

with concerns by locals that northern NSW is still receiving tourists and day-trippers coming south from QLD.'

Border pass

Those wishing to travel to QLD are now required to apply for a pass at www.qld.gov.au/border-pass.

Personal information collected by the government for this purpose includes name,

address and email contact.

The QLD government website states it may disclose this information, 'to other state and federal government agencies.'

The website states that the penalty for providing false information for the border pass is \$13,345, or 100 penalty units, and the penalty unit value in QLD is \$133.45 (current from 1 July 2019).

Medics ask for patience over flu shots

Mia Armitage

Wanting to get your flu shot this season? Doctors are asking people to exercise patience.

Dr Dan Ewald practices as a GP at Lennox Head, and says his clinic has been inundated with phone calls from people wanting the flu vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Ewald says that while widespread uptake of the flu vaccine this year will help reduce pressure on hospitals already struggling to cope with the impacts of the pandemic, the injection won't provide immunity against COVID-19, and vaccine stock

isn't yet fully distributed.

The GP is also concerned that non-urgent telephone requests for flu vaccinations are clogging lines needed to carry out newly available and recommended tele and video conference calls between doctors and patients.

Avoid panic buying

'Let's avoid the problem of [panic buying] that we had in supermarkets when it comes to flu vaccines,' Dr Ewald told Bay FM's Community Newsroom on Monday.

'People don't need to actually all race in and get too anxious about it and cause problems that don't

need to be there, if we just accept that we might get the vaccine in a couple of weeks, instead of this week,' he said.

Meanwhile, North Coast Primary Health Network CEO Julie Sturgess said in a recent media release that physical distancing currently being practised is already helping to protect people from the spread of flu.

Dr Ewald said flu vaccinations would also be available from chemists without a GP referral, if customers were between the ages of 10 and 65, and didn't require medical advice.

■ Mia Armitage is a Bay FM member

Kids' creativity shines

Paul Bibby

Like a lot of local kids, 11-year-old Sara had been getting creative during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The walls of her family home in Main Arm were adorned with colourful paintings and other arty creations.

So when Sara's mum suggested they set up an online art gallery, so that kids from all over the world could share their artworks, she jumped at the chance.

Enter the Kids COVID-19 Isolation Art Gallery – a new Facebook page tailor-made for these interesting times.

Two weeks later, and the gallery is already festooned with numerous images of kids paintings and drawings from across the Shire and beyond.

Kids from around the world are starting to share their images via the gallery.

Happy place

'I like seeing everyone's creativity and their ideas,' Sara says.

'Art is my happy place.' Sara's mum, Karin Lucia Gisler, says Sara has been getting up early each morning to check out the new artworks that have been submitted.

'I think it's a great way for kids to process what's



Photo supplied

happening,' Ms Gisler says. 'And sharing their art is like having a conversation about it.'

Kids wanting to submit their artworks just need to go to the Facebook page 'Kids Art Gallery – COVID-19' and post an image of their artwork there. They can also send a direct message to the page with their artwork attached.

Ms Gisler asked people not to send a direct message to her personal account.

They are hoping to have the gallery up on Instagram soon, and to one day have a designated webpage – although this would require a generous local to set it up for them.

'We would love to have kids from all over the world sharing their artworks,' Ms Gisler says.

'There are so many amazing, creative things happening right now. Let's share them with each other!'

UNICEF fundraiser supports kids through COVID-19

A webcast fundraiser for UNICEF, to benefit children affected by COVID-19 in East Asia and the Pacific will be held Wednesday, April 15, from 9am.

Hosted by Mullumbimby-based organisation Luminous Youth, the webcast will showcase international author and speaker, Robin Grille, who will talk about 'Holding Family

Space in a Time of Crisis', followed by a Q&A.

Organisers say, 'Drawing from 30 years of clinical experience and from leading-edge neuropsychological research, Robin's talk will focus on providing healthy emotional support for children during the current COVID-19 pandemic.'

'Robin is an international

speaker, psychologist and parenting educator. He has represented UNICEF in the UK and his articles on parenting and child development have been published and translated in Australia and around the world.

For more info, and to make your donation that gives you entry to the webcast, visit luminouslyouth.com.

HEALTH ALERT COVID-19
(NOVEL CORONAVIRUS)

Stay on top of your health... from a distance.

Physical distancing is crucial in our fight against COVID-19. So is staying active and looking after our health.



Keep up with your regular appointments

Many health care services are now offering phone or video consultations.

Call your GP, Aboriginal Medical Service, mental health professional and other health providers to find out what remote appointments they have available.

Find out what you can do at home to care for yourself and others.

Ask your GP about your regular medication scripts, plus when to get your flu shot.

Don't let COVID-19 stop you from staying active and well at home.



For more about COVID-19 visit www.ncphn.org.au



Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

Have your say

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is a 10 year plan of action to protect and enhance our natural environment.

Help protect Byron Shire's unique biodiversity

To view the strategy, give us your feedback and learn some simple ways you can care for our natural environment, visit:

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Submissions close
15 May 2020

April 2020

BEYOND SCIENCE:

Infinite equality, infinite trust and unconditional love

Are you aware that Einstein said "we can't solve the problems we have created by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created the problem." Therefore logical problems don't have logical solutions and yet that is all science has got to throw at any problem. Science is just narrow minded logic masquerading as stupidity.

Consider wars, terrorism, a cure for cancer, climate change, viruses etc. By any measure the divide or distance between problem and solution is growing wider with every passing day and yet you remain blind to even seeing it.

You've only two choices, either planet health or planet wealth? You choose.

A corrupt and fatally flawed foundation can never reveal truth no matter how long and hard you try.

If distrust causes lethargy and trust gives you energy what do you think your contribution to the planet might be at this moment in time? Fear, distrust and lethargy are in the very atmosphere you are all breathing and you are creating more with every breath you take. The best thing you can all do is shut the fuck up, listen to the silence and observe.

The only way out is the Transition Journey, a seven year journey from where we are right now back to the second day of our lives (a one day old child) then, after a decade or so, on to our individual ground zero arrival day using UnConditional Love (UCL). This becomes our new foundation. Taught in Mother Nature's womb, formerly known as the creative side of the brain it is also where God has moved all his classrooms and surgical rooms together for added convenience.

This is a compulsory journey with an optional component. Take the optional and you do it before death and with much help from those around you. You let go of your 'ego protection' and replace it with self esteem. You let go of an 'intelligent brain' for an ethical brain. Your worst enemy becomes your best friend and from there equality reigns supreme. The compulsory journey is much much longer, done after death and involving much pain, many dramas, pitfalls and surprise unhappy endings, all of which you seem to enjoy in life. Rest In Peace, I don't think so!!

I was given three weeks to make my decision on my brain tumour operation in 1995 and I can't see why you shouldn't be given the same amount of time.

In early 1963 Bob Dylan wrote the song The Times They Are A' Changin' with the lines "the loser now will be later to win" and later on in the song " the first one now will later be last." He is 100% correct. And the best line summary for the mess we have all created is from Bob Dylan again in the song Things Have Changed when he says "all the truth in the world adds up to one big lie."

There will be no need for advertising in the New World and Universe (NW&U) so stop that madness now! Your need for fame, fortune and winning is all 'ego' driven.

What you may not know is of the timing of the whole event and its significance. My brain tumour operation occurred on the 27th February 1995. The next day was the 28th February 1995 and the next day after that was the 1st March 1995 although the following year, 1996 it was a leap year with an extra day inserted, the 29th February. This is significant because it is the one and only crack in the whole space time continuum thingy that will exist no longer.

Time in the New World and Universe is an individual choice lasting only one day so around 3.00am it resets with only a minimum of housekeeping to be done automatically with a brand new foundation forever.

The final words are from John Lennon's song Imagine.

*"Imagine there's no countries, it isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for, no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace
Imagine there's no heaven It's easy if you try
No hell below us Above us only sky
Imagine all the people Sharing all the world
You may say I'm a dreamer But I'm not the only one
I hope one day you'll join us And the world will be as one.
Imagine no possessions I wonder if you can?
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood or sisterhood of man."*

THE BIG BANG THEORY AS TOLD TO ME

When God and Mother Nature made unconditional love the resulting orgasm, the Big Bang, filled the night sky with trillions and trillions of stars and yet you have trashed the one planet this experiment took place on.

THE SEE-SAW FOR BALANCE

Picture a see-saw with a 0 above the fulcrum and the numbers 1 - 10 radiating outwards on both sides of the see-saw, to the left and the right. These represent the intensity of belief with 1,2 and 3 being the most meek and mild on both sides and the 8,9 and 10 on both sides being the most extremist beliefs one could have. Guess which group will be the first to get deleted from the planet.

THE GOD OF 2020

The God of 2020 is a God of all religions since the dawn of time. He is also the God of all spiritual paths since the dawn of time. He is also the God of all sciences since the dawn of time including of course economic science. The challenge for you is you are going to need to have unbelievably flexible beliefs to change in the three weeks allocated.

THE MUSICAL BIBLICAL UPDATES OF THE 1960S

One thing you could do is make up a play list of what I have been given to call the Bible Updates of the 60s. It was told to me that the Bible was too long, complicated and outdated so the singer songwriter performers were created to make the recordings they did to inspire and entertain us. This was an unqualified success! So too was the fact that it started in the UK by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Animals, Dusty Springfield and so many more but it spread almost immediately to the US with Bob Dylan, The Beach Boys, Chuck Berry and so many black artists who were inspirational to the UK artists. This was a great time of much sharing and friendly competition and it is remembered affectionally by many people today and one other thing that should be noted is that its roots come from the slaves in Africa. A great legacy for all of time.

IN THE MOMENT

I don't think ambition or aspiration have ever been 'in the moment' words. You build your hopes and dreams on these foundations you are eventually going to regret it. Now is that time!

All professional sport discouraged. We will do it for fun and pleasure or we don't do it at all.

You may had herd immunity but it now just becomes herd extinction'

This could be a clue? I have never owned, used or even wanted a mobile phone.

In the Garden Of Eden might I suggest it wasn't clothes and nudity that was the problem but the 'ego mask' that was the real problem and the false bravado it caused.

With the three weeks allowed I suggest you get some planes back into service and reconnect with family and friends. Forget social distancing as you have to die of something and a lifetime of only three weeks is about right for either deletion / extinction or the current pandemic to get you. Don't go crazy partying as your death can either be either painless or painful.

The closing date is the 30th April 2020.

Bon Voyage.

Authorised by Paul Moore

Relief for small business

Small businesses across NSW struggling with COVID-19 shutdowns will receive grants of up to \$10,000 under a new assistance scheme announced by the NSW government last week.

Many local cafes, restaurants, corner shops, gyms and small accommodation providers will be eligible to apply.

The \$750 million Small Business Support Fund is the third wave of support measures to keep small businesses afloat, says the government.

Applications for the grants will be available through Service NSW, 'within a fortnight and remain open until June 1, 2020'.

It comes as the federal announced on Tuesday new tenancy codes for commercial renters and landlords aimed at preserving leases.

To be eligible for the Small Business Support Fund, businesses will need to have between one and 19 employees, and a turnover of more than \$75,000; a payroll below the NSW government 2019-20 payroll tax threshold of \$900,000; have an Australian Business Number (ABN) as of March 1,

2020, be based in NSW and employ staff as at 1 March 2020; be highly impacted by the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020* issued on 30 March 2020 (eg those businesses required to close); use the funding for unavoidable business costs such as utilities, overheads, legal costs and financial advice; and provide appropriate documentation upon application.

In addition to federal assistance, other NSW State business assistance packages already announced include, 'more than \$5 billion in payroll tax waivers, deferrals and other tax deferrals; a \$1 billion Working for NSW fund to create jobs; \$700 million in additional funding for the health system; \$250 million to bring forward capital works and maintenance on public assets; \$500 million to bring forward capital works, maintenance and shovel ready infrastructure projects; \$80 million to waive a range of fees and charges; and \$80 million to help the vulnerable through a range of measures'.

Council defends bypass process, again

Hans Lovejoy

With Council's controversial Byron bypass project along Butler Street continuing into stage two, it's emerged pre-clearing surveys and a species relocation report are to be published after the clearing has been completed.

A freedom of info request by former councillor John Lazarus asked Council for the reports, to which staff replied Council, 'are awaiting the report from the consultant for the clearing.'

They added that 'Once received, this will be uploaded to our website...'

Post report of destruction

The Echo asked staff, 'It appears this project is occurring without anyway to ensure proper process is being adhered to - all that will be presented to the public is a post-clearing report. Is that correct?' Council replied that proper process is being followed. Council's client representative for the project, Joshua Winter, told *The Echo*, 'The project is approved.'

'There is no requirement for a pre-clearing report to allow clearing to proceed - that is what approvals are for.'

'The ecologists and the Contractor have the procedures in place that were approved by the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment (formerly OEH) and considered by the Australian government's Department of Environment and Energy in our referral.'

'There is an 'unexpected finds procedure' where if something was found



Award winning filmmaker David Bradbury filmed a short video on April 2 of the works, and was approached by two Hazell Bros contractors, who calmly accused him of trespassing and threatened to call the police. They denied the area being cleared was a rainforest - despite contrary evidence - and said that if anyone had complaints, they should take it up with Council.

that was not previously known in these approvals then works would stop and any further approvals required would be obtained. This was not required.

'The requirement is for a post-clearing report, that describes the work that was undertaken and the fauna that were found and relocated.'

Winters says after the recent removal of trees, 'There was then a substantial amount of mulching... which is now completed.'

'The ecologists were required to be present for those works and the procedures include up until those works are completed, which is why we don't yet have the report. We do have the report

for the small section that was cleared opposite Burns Street in stage one however Mr. Lazarus asked for stages two and three (although there is no clearing in stage three).

'Nevertheless, we will be publishing both stage one and two reports, and I anticipate they will be published by Friday. These reports are also sent to the NSW and Australian government environmental departments for their records.'

Council's website says, 'The clearing work was carried out over two weeks, with independent ecologists overseeing all activities on site'. The website claims all vulnerable snails found prior to clearing 'were removed from the site...'

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8 The Byron Shire Echo April 8, 2020

North Coast news daily in *Echonetdaily* www.echo.net.au

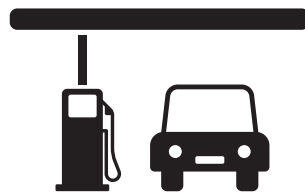
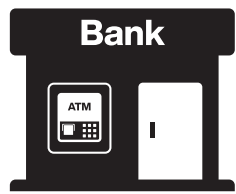


Australian Government

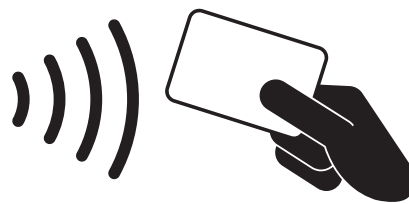
OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

Coronavirus: You must take action to save lives in your community.

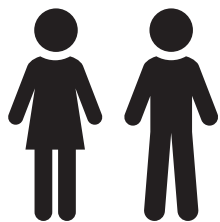
Stay at home unless absolutely necessary. Banks, supermarkets/groceries, petrol stations, medical services and suppliers will remain open. You must avoid non-essential travel.



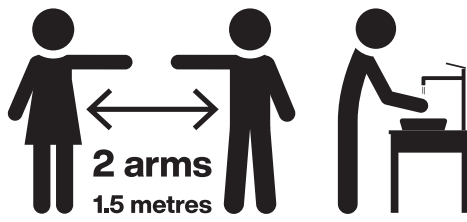
If you can, work from home. Use phones for meetings and stop handshaking. Tap to pay where possible instead of using cash.



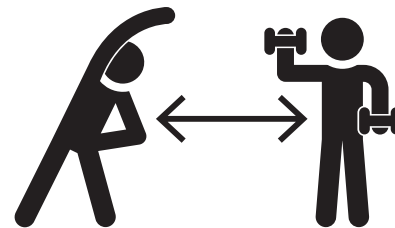
Gatherings of 2 people max are being enforced, with the exception of households, work and education.



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CUT OUT AND KEEP



Byron Shire Council Notices

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Council Administration Centre 70 Station Street, Mullumbimby
 Opening hours 8.30am to 4.00pm
 Phone 02 6626 7000
 Email council@byron.nsw.gov.au
 Website www.byron.nsw.gov.au
 Emergency after hours 02 6622 7022
 Works Depot 02 6685 9300
 SES Controller 02 6684 3444
 Rural Fire Service 02 6671 5500
 Byron Resource Recovery Centre 1300 652 625
 Cavanbah Centre 02 6685 5911

In Byron? Customer service for general enquiries now at Byron Visitor Centre, 80 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. Tuesday and Wednesday, 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm to 4.00pm or phone 02 6626 7000. Card only payments accepted at this location.

Documents on exhibition are available for viewing at the customer service centre in Mullumbimby and on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice.

MAKE A SUBMISSION

Submissions may be made to Council in the following ways:

Online: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Make-a-submission

Written: Address to: General Manager, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Email: submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au

Please be aware that all submissions will be made public in accordance with Schedule 1 Part 3 Clause 1(a)(vi) of the GIPA 2009 Regulations as applicable including both the substance of the submission and the identity of the author. For further assistance please contact our Records team on 02 6626 7113.

CURRENT VACANCIES

Apply for a job at Council. For current vacancies refer to www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Working-at-Byron-Shire-Council/Current-vacancies.

SIGN UP TO OUR COMMUNITY E NEWSLETTER

Visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/enews or use your phone camera to access the sign up page using this QR code.



ON DISPLAY – DRAFT BYRON LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

We invite your feedback on our draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is a new legislative requirement designed to provide a link between the State Government's strategic plans and Council's local land use plans and guidelines. All NSW councils are required to prepare their own LSPS by the 1 July 2020.

The draft LSPS presents a 2036 vision and framework for land use within our Shire. By bringing together key information from existing land use strategies and plans into one document, the draft LSPS aims to make it easier for the community to understand the future direction of land use in their local area.

The draft Statement will be on display from 2 April – 8 May 2020.

Get involved by visiting 'Your Say Byron Shire' to:

- find out more about the LSPS
- view the draft Statement
- complete an online survey or make a submission

Details at www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/LSPS

Make your submission before 8 May 2020

- visit: Your Say Byron Shire www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/
- email: submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au
- post: The General Manager, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Enquiries: Environmental & Economic Planning Division 02 6626 7126

APRIL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The following Council meetings are scheduled for April 2020:

16 April 2020 – 11.00am – Planning Meeting

23 April 2020 – 9.00am – Ordinary Meeting

In response to COVID-19 Public Health Orders, members of the public will not be permitted to physically attend the April Council Meetings.

Council meetings will be live streamed via www.byron.nsw.gov.au/livestream. Members of the public wishing to participate during the public access session will have an opportunity to connect to Council's webinar platform.

Alternatively, Council encourages public access speeches to be provided in advance in either in written or video format.

To make arrangements, please contact Council on 02 6626 7171 or email councilorsupport@byron.nsw.gov.au by 12 noon the day before the meeting.

Agendas are available one week prior to the meeting on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-Minutes.

Enquiries: Heather Sills 6626 7171

DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS

In accordance with Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended)*, notification is hereby given of the following development consents granted by Council. The consents listed are available to view Online at Council's website www.byron.nsw.gov.au/find-a-DA.

Information relating to these applications as required by Schedule 1, Division 4, Clause 20(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended)* is also available online.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED

- 10.2020.27.1 – Eureka, 126 Goremans Road** New Dwelling and Spa to create Dual Occupancy (Detached)
- 10.2020.15.1 – Federal, 65 Bougainvillea Drive** Dwelling House
- 10.2020.141.1 – Byron Bay, 84 Jonson Street** Pergola
- 10.2020.140.1 – Mullumbimby, 2 Golden Penda Place** Alterations and Additions to existing Dwelling House
- 10.2020.84.1 – Mullumbimby, 31 Argyle Street** Demolition of Existing Shed, Construct New Shed and Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling House
- 10.2019.430.1 – Ocean Shores, 4 Jarrah Crescent** Change of Use from Living Room to Expanded Dwelling Module
- 10.2019.501.1 – Byron Bay, 2 Skinners Shoot Road** Alterations and Additions to Existing Food and Drink Premises
- 10.2019.564.1 – Possum Creek, 196 Friday Hut Road** Boundary Adjustment Two (2) Lots
- 10.2020.35.1 – Bangalow, 7/226 Fowlers Lane** Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling House
- 10.2020.45.1 – Brunswick Heads, 32 The Terrace** Demolition of Existing Shed and New Secondary Dwelling
- 10.2019.577.1 – Mullumbimby, 91 Station Street** Secondary Dwelling
- 10.2020.92.1 – Suffolk Park, 16 Bottlebrush Crescent** Alterations and Additions to existing Dwelling House
- 10.2019.599.1 – Bangalow, 15 Granuaille Crescent** Use of Existing Rockwall
- 10.2020.41.1 – Binna Burra, 169 Binna Burra Road** Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling House
- 10.2019.410.1 – New Brighton, 25 Strand Avenue** Dwelling House and Swimming Pool
- 10.2017.679.2 – Mullumbimby, 14 Rush Court** S4.55 for Changes to Roof, Layout, Windows and Doors
- 10.2018.351.3 – Ocean Shores, 12 Matong Drive** S4.55 to Modify location of Secondary Dwelling and new Retaining Walls
- 10.2017.712.2 – New Brighton, 25 Strand Avenue** S4.56 to Modify internal design, minor adjustment to strata boundary and swimming pool
- 10.2019.556.2 – Ewingsdale, 47 Currawong Way** S4.55 to remove Developer Contributions
- 10.2014.491.5 – Mullumbimby, 20 Dalley Street** S4.55 to Delete Ensuite
- 10.2019.262.2 – Mullumbimby, 11 Fern Street** S4.55 to Modify Approved Ground Floor Plan
- 10.2017.511.4 – Byron Bay, 8 Centennial Circuit** S4.55 to Modify Location of Bathroom and Windows
- 10.2019.489.2 – Mullumbimby, 112 Main Arm Road** S4.55 to Modify Condition 6 and Schedule 4 Notes and Delete Conditions 1(e) and 10
- 10.2018.350.2 – Byron Bay, 17 Ruskin Street** S4.55 to Delete Condition 3

APPLICATIONS REFUSED

- 10.2019.301.1 – Brunswick Heads, 16 Short Street** Demolition of existing Dwelling House and Construction of Two (2) New Dwellings and Two (2) Swimming Pools to create Dual Occupancy (Detached)

PUBLIC AMENITIES SERVICES

REQUEST FOR TENDER NO: 2019-0063

Byron Shire Council (Council) invites tenders for a contract to undertake street and footpath litter collection, public toilet, BBQ and CCTV camera cleaning and Dog Bag replenishment services across Byron Shire. Details of the proposed contract and the assessment criteria requirements are set out in the Request for Tender documentation referred to below.

Request for Tender documents may be obtained by contacting Tenderlink at www.tenderlink.com/byron. If you experience difficulties accessing the website, please call the Tenderlink helpdesk on 1800 233 533.

A non-mandatory tender briefing will be held 10.00am on 8 April 2020 at 10 Bayshore Drive Byron Bay.

For further details please contact Malcolm Robertson mrobertson@byron.nsw.gov.au

Tenders close at 2.00pm on 28 April 2020.

Council invites any person willing to fulfil the requirements of the proposed contract to submit a tender to Council by the deadline specified in this advertisement and in accordance with the Tender Documents referred to above.

The canvassing of Councillors or Council staff in relation to this tender will disqualify tenders from the tender process.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979

The following Development Applications and the supporting documentation are available online at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/datracker. You can also view them online using the electronic Kiosks at Councils Customer Service Centre during normal office hours.

For further information on these applications, contact the relevant planning officer whose details you can find on the DA Tracker. To make a submission, select the 'Exhibition Details' tab when viewing the application on the DA Tracker and use the online form.

Note: Should you make a submission, there are requirements in relation to the disclosure of political gifts and donations. Refer to www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Political-donations-disclosure for further information.

EXHIBITION CLOSES 15 APRIL 2020

10.2020.109.1 – Mullumbimby, 77 Tuckeroo Avenue (Lot 162 DP 1251169) Bayview Land Development Pty Ltd, Stage 9 Tallwood Ridge Estate Subdivision to Create Forty-Seven (47) Residential Lots

EXHIBITION CLOSES 22 APRIL 2020

10.2020.138.1 – Ocean Shores, 8 Kumbellin Glen (Lot 1323 DP 243480) Ardill Payne & Partners, Demolition of Existing Dwelling House and Construction of Multi-Dwelling Housing Comprising Seven (7) Dwellings

10.2020.147.1 – Byron Bay, 90-96 Jonson Street (Lot 5 DP 619224) LK Byron Bay Pty Ltd, Change of Use to Amusement Centre

10.2020.137.1 – Mullumbimby, 29 Morrison Avenue (Lot 3 DP 35827) Byron Bay Planning & Property Consultants, Use of Secondary Dwelling

EXHIBITION CLOSES 29 APRIL 2020

10.2020.142.1 – New Brighton, 6 Strand Avenue (Lot 3 SEC 5 DP 6834) Planners North Pty Ltd, Demolition and Construction of New Commercial Premises

10.2020.124.1 – Byron Bay, 9 Mott Street (Lot C DP 416656) Town Planning Studio Pty Ltd, Stage 1: Two (2) New Dwellings to create Multi-Dwelling Housing Stage 2: Strata Subdivision Three (3) Lots

PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979

As part of the Land and Environment Court Appeal (Case No. 2018/00222143), the applicant has been granted leave to rely on amended plans. The amended plans may be viewed on Council's website via www.byron.nsw.gov.au/datracker, or at Council's Customer Service Centre using the electronic customer kiosk during normal office hours.

You can also access the application through the public notice page www.byron.nsw.gov.au/westbyronsubmission.

Development Application No: 10.2017.661.1

Northern Regional Planning Panel No: 2018NTH007

Property Address: 364, 394 and 412 Ewingsdale Road BYRON BAY, A and B Melaleuca Drive BYRON BAY

Property Legal Description: Lot 1 DP 201626, Lot 2 DP 542178, Lot 1 DP 780242, Lot 2 DP 818403, Lot 1 DP 520063, Lot 7020 DP 1113431, LOT 5 DP 1222674, LOT 6 DP 1222674

Applicant: Site R & D Pty Ltd

Description of development proposed by amended plans:

Subdivision of Six (6) Lots into One Hundred and Sixty Two (162) Lots consisting of One Hundred and Twenty Seven (127) Residential Lots, Twenty Five (25) Super / Master Lots (lots which can be subsequently subdivided, developed and purposely planned for residential development), Two (2) Business Lots, Two (2) Industrial Lots, One (1) Recreation Lot and Five (5) Residue Lots.

The proposed subdivision comprises the following key elements:

- The subdivision will be carried out in twelve (12) stages;
- Construction of a roundabout on Ewingsdale Road for vehicular access to the subdivision;
- Construction of an access road from the Ewingsdale Road / Bayshore Drive roundabout to the subdivision (Lot 2 DP 818403);
- Construction of internal roads;
- Provision of water, stormwater, sewer, power and telephone services;
- Upgrading and embellishment of the drainage channel within the site (Lot 7020 DP 1113431);
- Bulk earthworks across the subject site including the importation of approximately 470,000 cubic metres of fill;
- Construction of an acoustic fence adjacent to Ewingsdale Road; and
- Restoration works, habitat reconstruction and offset planting on E2 and E3 zoned land within the site.

The amended application will be on exhibition for a period of four (4) weeks from 11 March 2020 to 9 April 2020.

Council is interested to hear your view on the amended plans and submissions should be made to Byron Shire Council, but will be provided to the Land & Environment Court and Joint Regional Planning Panel (as the consent authority in this matter) and may be viewed by other persons with an interest in the application.

For further information on making a submission please refer to information on Council's website www.byron.nsw.gov.au/developmentsubmissions.

There are also requirements in relation to the disclosure of political gifts and donations. Refer to Council's website to satisfy yourself that you are complying with your disclosure obligations prior to lodging a submission at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/politicaldonations.

Council's preferred option to receive submissions on this application are via the online form www.byron.nsw.gov.au/westbyronsubmission.



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Financial assistance is now available to support individuals, households and businesses.

From keeping Australians in jobs and businesses in business with the **\$130 billion JobKeeper Payment**, to assisting individuals and households with a doubling of income support, we're helping Australians during the Coronavirus.



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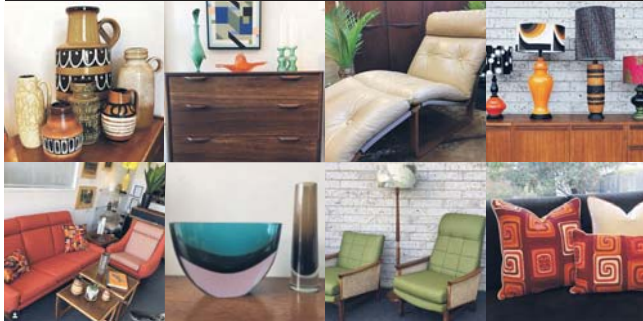
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The emerging home grown food movement

Paul Bibby

Locals are starting home veggie gardens, or expanding existing ones; amidst coronavirus-related fears of food supply disruption, and a desire to improve their physical health.

Shops selling seedlings and other garden supplies are struggling to keep up with demand, while a number of online seed sellers have had to suspend operations owing to the huge back-log of orders.

'People are buying seeds, seedlings, potting mix, soil, fertilizer, compost mixes – you name it,' a staff member at a local gardening and farm supplies business said.

The staff member said demand for laying hens was also through the roof.

'The chook guy is getting hammered... and we're selling a tonne of fencing wire and that sort of stuff.'

QLD based organic seed producer, Eden Seeds, recently announced that it was shutting down operations owing to an inability to meet demand. The business said on its website it won't be accepting new orders, 'so



Joanna's garden in Ocean Shores. Photo Jeff 'Veggies For Miles' Dawson

we can focus on dispatching existing seed orders.'

Local ecological gardener and educator Ian Thomas said he believed the upsurge in people growing their own food reflected fears about a disruption to food supply, as well as a desire to be healthier.

'With all the news and speculation about COVID-19 people haven't really known what to believe,' said Mr Thomas, who grows spray-free fruit and vegetables on the property he manages in Mullumbimby.

He said there was also growing awareness of the health benefits of home-grown food, including its immune boosting properties.

'Obviously the food from your backyard is going to be a lot fresher and therefore more nutrient rich than anything from a shop, even if you're eating it on the day of delivery,' Mr Thomas said.

'What people may not be so aware of is that healthy plants are home to microbiomes [communities of microorganisms and bacteria that

protect the plant from disease and pests] that are specifically related to their immediate environment.

'So when you not only consume, but also handle plants that are growing in your own backyard, you are absorbing microbiome that are tailored specifically for the environment in which you're living.'

Mr Thomas and his wife have started the Gourmand Gardener Facebook page to share tips and tricks for growing better quality food for less effort and cost.

MULLUM 2 BRUNS PADDLE

NEW DATE
SEPTEMBER 20
TO BE CONFIRMED

Paddle fun and challenges down the Bruns River
A fundraiser for Brunswick Marine Rescue, Surf Lifesaving Club & Visitor Centre

IT'S ON AGAIN!

CHOOSE YOUR PADDLE EVENT

Note the savings for earlybird and online registration

Start	Event	Earlybird	Online	On-the-day
8-9.30	Echo Fun Paddle	\$15	\$20	\$25
	Echo Fun Paddle Under 15	\$5	\$8	\$10
9.30	The Sails Motel Best Decorated Craft	\$15	\$20	\$25
9.30	Ocean Shores Village Dragon Boats	\$70	\$20	N/A
10.00	Mona Apartments SUP Challenge	\$35	\$40	\$45
10.30	Hotel Brunswick Paddle Challenges	\$35	\$40	\$45
10.30	Go Sea Kayak Double Paddle Challenge	\$35	\$40	\$40

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NSW Education Public Schools

BYS launches pantry project

Byron Youth Service (BYS) have partnered with the Northern Rivers Pantry Project to collect donated items and distribute them to families hit hard at the moment.

BYS manager Christian Tancred says, 'First impressions were just, *Wow!* How indicative of our community that this project would so quickly well up from the spring of community kindness. BYS is proud to contribute and to be a part of this amazing local solution.'

'Our mission is to spread kindness and compassion to ensure we look after the wellbeing of our neighbours during the COVID-19 pandemic.'

Items sought

Donation items sought are bags and boxes to make pantry packs, including; honey, toilet paper, hand sanitiser, pancake mix, tissues, gloves, syrup, washing powder, face masks, oils, dishwashing liquid, canned soup, rice, soap, canned vegetables, lentils, sanitary items, canned fruit, pasta, diapers, canned tuna, noodles, socks, canned tomatoes, coffee, beanies, dried



Project founder, Tahlia Pileggi, with Claire Condon packing hampers at the YAC centre. Photo Jeff Dawson

fruit, tea, scarves, muesli bars, long life milk, blankets, cereal, oats, books, nuts, juice, puzzles, crackers, baby food, colouring-in books, peanut butter, biscuits, activity packs, jams, pet food, paints and brushes, jellies and toothpaste.

Donations to Byron Youth Activities Centre (YAC) can be made in person to 1 Gilmore Crescent, Byron Bay, between 8am and 12pm.

To ensure everyone's health and safety, please maintain social distancing of two metres when making

your donation, and that all items donated are unopened and unused.

Delivery vollies needed

Delivery volunteers are also needed, say organisers.

'If you're in a position to help, please contact Tahlia on 0415 306 011'. Tahlia can also be contacted to order a pantry pack and arts and crafts mindfulness packs.

Email contact is northern-riverspantryproject@gmail.com.

Favourable new development laws

Despite strict social distancing rules and draconian police powers around public movement, there are now vague new laws to expand the construction industry.

On March 24, NSW parliament rushed through the *COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Act 2020 [NSW]* with virtually no oversight. It amended many NSW laws for the duration the epidemic.

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* amendment (Sections 10.17 and 10.18), the planning minister now has authorisation to approve development 'on land without the need for any approval under the Act or consent from any person'.

The law does not make specific mention of what type of development can occur; all that is mentioned is that the minister may make the order if they have consulted the minister for health and medical research and are 'reasonably satisfied that the making of the order is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of members of the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.'

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NORTHERN RIVERS LARGE GRANTS PROGRAM 2020

APPLICATIONS EXTENDED TO THURSDAY 21 MAY

By extending the application deadline by six weeks, we hope to provide prospective applicants the space to adapt to their current conditions and allow them more time to apply.

This year's theme: **REGENERATION & SOCIAL CONNECTION**

With a total funding pool of \$100,000, the Grants Program invites local social and environmental not-for-profits with DGR status to apply.

Please visit our website to read the guidelines before applying.
ingrainedfoundation.com.au | hello@ingrainedfoundation.com.au



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CHES by Ian Rogers

Ariane Caoili, who went from learning chess as a precocious six-year-old on the Gold Coast to becoming an international celebrity in 2006 and soon afterwards one half of the most glamorous partnership in world chess, has died in Yerevan aged 33.

From the age of 10 Caoili was already travelling around the world playing chess but five years on she decided that she wanted something more.

'My dad wanted me to be a doctor - many in my family were doctors - and originally I thought I might be a neurologist, but I hated anything to do with chemistry. So I did a few months of law at Bond University, hated it, and then went to the Australian National University in Canberra to study International Relations, my passion.'

In 2006, a few months after an incident caused by a jealous English grandmaster during the Torino Olympiad saw her featured on front pages around the world, Caoili and world number three Levon Aronian became an item.

She returned to Canberra for a Masters in IR at ANU, result-



ing in Aronian being a frequent visitor to Australia and he trained with a number of Australian players when his regular seconds were refused visas.

In 2013 Caoili moved permanently to Armenia, starting a newspaper, a nightclub and other businesses - as well as marrying Aronian in a lavish traditional ceremony in 2017.

Caoili enjoyed chess vicariously through Aronian's tournaments in recent years. 'I love chess. I am so glad I learned it. I don't have so much time to put into the game currently but when I'm older I would like to reach a decent level.'

Sadly, complications arising from a car accident, took that possibility away.

Domestic violence on the rise

Eve Jeffery

With many people staying at home, the downside of isolation is the rise in domestic violence (DV).

A local nurse told *The Echo* she is in a lovely, respectful and kind relationship without any history of conflict.

Recently they had their first ever argument, and she said they were 'both quite startled by it'.

'There was no violence, threats or safety issues, but it highlighted how tense things are, and how quickly they could escalate if one of us couldn't regulate our emotions.'

'For families with high levels of conflict as a base line, I could see how the heightened tensions would increase the likelihood of violence.'

'I was the one yelling. I felt misunderstood. I stopped yelling. We were both quiet for a bit, gave each other space. He apologised, I apologised.'

There are also additional challenges to help people with cognitive disabilities understand the risks that COVID-19 presents. How do



Health services have been bolstered owing to the stresses and impacts of COVID-19. Photo www.msomagazine.com

you explain to someone that they can't see their friends or support workers any more? How do you help someone understand why they are now trapped in their own home?

Planning for the vulnerable

Northern NSW Local Health District chief executive, Wayne Jones, says COVID-19 planning and response includes support for all members of the community, including vulnerable people like those affected by homelessness and domestic violence.

He said, 'Our existing understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, and anecdotal evidence to date, suggests that for many people experiencing domestic violence, social distancing and self-isolation measures may place them at greater risk of harm.'

Mr Jones adds that the mental health implications of living through natural and other disasters can be cumulative and can intensify existing experiences of trauma.

'People's complex coping responses to violence, abuse and childhood neglect, such as alcohol and other drug use, or the impacts on existing mental health issues, may also increase

during times of natural and other disasters, requiring enhanced health care.'

Mr Jones says the NSW government has committed to a series of changes to enhance the support available to victims of domestic violence during COVID-19.

'The NSW Health website and new Department of Communities and Justice COVID-19 (coronavirus) website contains information about how the community and frontline services are being supported during the COVID-19 pandemic.'

NSW Health currently provides a response to domestic and family violence through the Domestic Violence Routine Screening (DVRS) program, social work services, emergency departments, specialist mental health services, drug and alcohol services, and Aboriginal family health services.

Mr Jones says, 'Northern NSW Local Health District is working with key service partners to ensure that the needs of individuals and their families who are victims of domestic and family violence continue to be met.'

'Violence abuse and neglect service provision continues to be a priority of the LHD during this time, and domestic and family violence support services will continue to support people to stay safe.'

The nurse I spoke to said that kindness helps.

'When he apologised, it wasn't to get it done with, it was because he cared about how I felt.'

Where to get help

There are a range of services providing immediate support to individuals experiencing domestic or family violence. These include:

1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732 - confidential information, counselling and support service;

NSW Domestic Violence Line 1800 65 64 63 - telephone crisis counselling and referral service for women;

Child Protection Helpline 132 111;

NSW Elder Abuse Helpline 1800 628 221;

Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491 - provides telephone counselling, information and referrals for men;

Link2Home 1800 152 152 - referral for women experiencing domestic violence into crisis accommodation; and,

Lifeline 13 11 14 - National charity providing all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

If you are in danger or in an emergency, always contact triple zero (000).

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Know your 'reasonable excuses'

With fines now being issued for failing to comply with the state's tough new COVID-19 public health orders, what is a 'reasonable excuse' when it comes to leaving your home?

Within Schedule 1 of the newly adopted *NSW Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement Order 2020)*, it is now unlawful to leave your place of residence unless it is for an essential purpose, such as buying groceries, seeking medical assistance, exercising or going to work, if this cannot be done from home.

Under the new law, there

are 16 'excuses' for leaving home. They include attending weddings and funerals, which are limited to five and 10 people respectively.

Other 'excuses' include moving house, donating blood, undertaking legal obligations and accessing public services such as Centrelink and domestic violence services.

Also, contact between parents and children or siblings who do not live together will also be regarded as a reasonable excuse. Priests and other ministers will still be allowed to go to their place of worship or provide pastoral care.

According to independent publisher *Crikey*, the application of these new laws is not consistent across states and territories.

Under new law, individuals can be fined up to \$11,000 or sent to prison for six months, or both, for breaching the ministerial directives.

A NSW police spokesperson said Tweed/Byron police were 'generally pleased with the level of public cooperation. We want to work with the public and educate them - police will be using their discretion... but are also asking residents to use common sense.'

Local GPs divided over mask effectiveness

Mia Armitage

Two local GPs on the Northern Rivers are at odds over whether all Australians should be wearing face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mullumbimby-based Dr Ian Kingston told Bay FM's *Community Newsroom* earlier this week mask use is one of the most effective physical interventions for preventing the spread of respiratory viruses.

The GP supported his opinion with evidence published via two medical research articles, one in *Medscape Family Medicine* and the other in a *Cochrane Review*.

Dr Kingston said infected droplets weren't just spread when people sneeze or cough, but also through talking.

He said, 'One study of community transmission in Beijing found that "consistently wearing a mask in public was associated with a 70 per cent reduction in the risk of catching SARS. SARS, like COVID-19, is a respiratory illness caused by the same family of viruses called coronavirus".'

Dr Kingston added that images on TV have shown the countries with the lowest

COVID-19 infection rates are those in which wearing a mask is widespread, for example in Singapore and South Korea.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is reportedly in the process of reviewing new data related to mask-use in Hong Kong, but was yet to announce any changes to its advice on the public wearing of face-masks.

So far, the WHO has said hygiene and physical distancing is more important than mass use of face masks, and with a shortage of quality face masks in Australia, lead authorities here have been following the WHO advice.

Lennox Head based GP and Sydney University adjunct professor, Dr Dan Ewald, described the issue as 'the great mask debate'.

Dr Ewald is also clinical advisor to the North Coast Primary Health Network and told Bay FM's *Community Newsroom* that overseas face mask evidence wasn't conclusive and could show correlations.

'It's understandable that there are differences of opinion when there isn't a clear evidence-based answer to the question,' Dr Ewald said.

'There's plenty of logic to suggest that masks could be useful but there are also some lines of logic that masks could be a problem,' he said.

Dr Ewald said a lot of transmission was happening from asymptomatic people, which is where no symptoms are present. He said experts didn't yet know why that was occurring.

'It might not be from coughing or sneezing or talking,' he said, 'it might be because they've been rubbing their nose and then touching a table and then you come and touch the table'.

The professor and GP suggested some of the evidence to date could show correlation rather causation.

Possible correlation vs causation

'We've also got to remember that a lot of the circumstantial evidence that we're looking at is coming from situations where people are living in much more crowded conditions than exist in most of Australia, and that could be an important factor,' he said.

'People that choose to

wear a mask may also be much more conscientious about washing their hands and they may be much more conscientious about keeping distance from people.'

Homemade masks could be a 'hazard', says the professor. Dr Ewald said if high-quality masks were available to everyone in Australia and people were having to regularly enter crowded spaces such as packed public transport, he would be more supportive of everyone wearing face masks.

The doctor also said wearing home-made masks, bandanas and scarves was unlikely to be effective against the spread of COVID-19.

'If it stops you touching your face, that's a good thing because that's one of the traditional messages we've been promoting all along,' Dr Ewald said.

Given Australia's well-known shortage of high-quality face masks and personal protective equipment in general, Dr Ewald reiterated the importance of prioritising healthcare workers.

■ Mia Armitage is Bay FM's *Community Newsroom* producer

Radical disruption webinar April 9

The Byron Chamber of Commerce hosts a live webinar on radical disruption on Thursday, April 9 from 5.30 till 6.30pm.


Presenter Maria Collyer is a business adviser with the Department of Industry, and will take members through 'some key considerations for business continuity in the

face of radical disruption.'

Organisers say the event will provide, 'A methodology for managing uncertainty; hoping for the best but preparing for the worst'.


They say it is 'a rare opportunity' to hear 'key insights'.

To get involved visit www.byronbaychamber.com.




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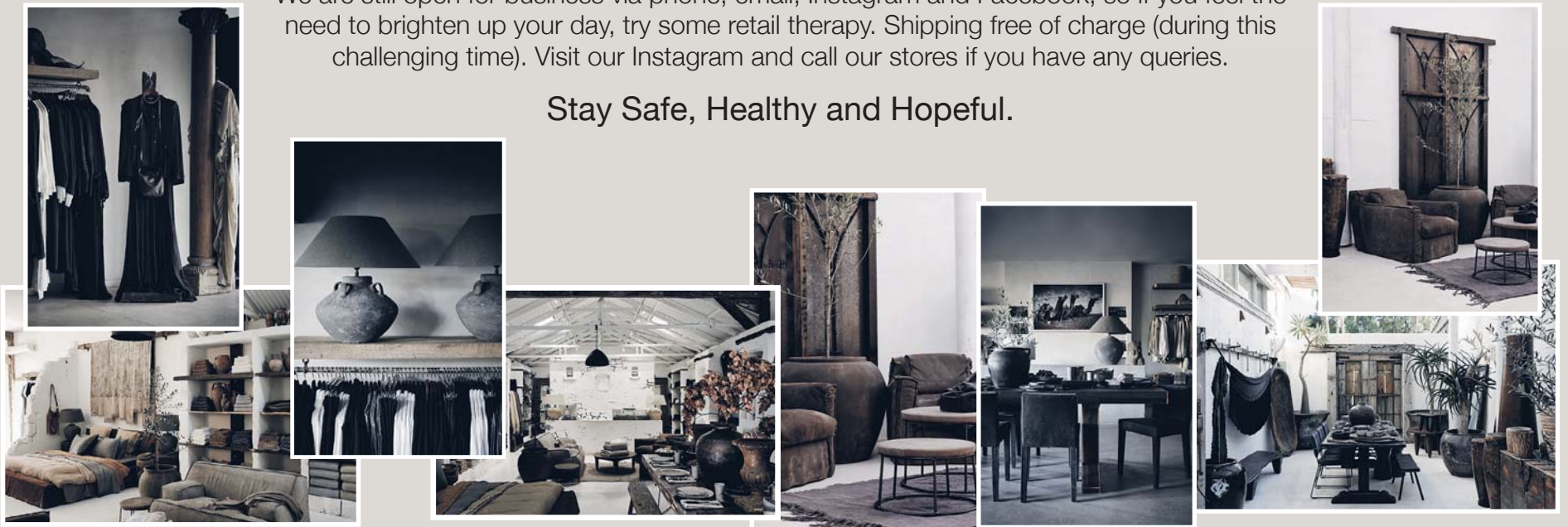
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Echo

The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 34 #44 • April 8, 2020

After the plague

Not being able to socialise, or go to work, or be abroad for any but officially approved purposes certainly gives a body room to think.

As I write there are signs that the growth of cases is slowing, but of course by the time these words are in print the situation might have changed. Notice that I don't have to say what I'm talking about. It is the lede in every news bulletin, the subject on everybody's lips.

Like most people I have been caught up in the twin emergencies of how to keep healthy and how to keep solvent.

The first issue is relatively simple: wash your hands, wear a mask outside if you must leave home, and keep your distance. After that it is a matter of fate.

But the second issue, as it affects these pages, keeps me awake at night. Ever since Nicholas Shand asked me to join him in launching a newspaper to reflect and strengthen our community, the *Byron Shire Echo* has been the focus of my life. Even now, eight years after retirement, its survival is as important to me as my own.

What the world will look like after the plague recedes is so vital that we should start thinking about it now. Though greatly reduced in size, *The Echo* will cling to life, you can be sure of that, but many other local businesses will be gone or hard to revive.

There will be a danger that the economic life of our shire will be taken over by large companies and rich individuals – to an even greater extent than at present.

There is also the question of how the government will behave after the emergency. It has been encouraging, and amusing, to see austerity and budget surplus so easily abandoned in the face of an existential threat, absolute proof that those mean policies were driven by the desire to preserve and increase wealth inequality.

However, it is neither encouraging nor amusing to see how quickly governance can slip into autocratic mode. Parliament is suspended, while regulation comes from an ad hoc cabinet of federal ministers and state premiers advised by a committee of coal lobbyists. For a time the rapid decision-making capacity of authoritarian government may be necessary, but we should be aware that, once lost, civic freedoms are hard to restore.

The crisis is also politically convenient for the government in that it overshadows other issues. There is still a widespread perception that Angus Taylor is a forger, Bridget McKenzie is a crook, and Stuart Robert is a liar, but they will not be brought to book.

Even when scandals are linked to the crisis, as in the murderous decision to release the infected Ruby Princess passengers, there seem to be no consequences for the government.

The political elite may escape censure, but for the rest of us, the army is being mobilised to enforce a lockdown in the cities, police can issue instant fines for being seen in public without good cause, and mobile phones will soon be monitored to keep track of citizens' movements.

When we get through this we not only have to rebuild the economy on a fairer basis, we must also take care to reset society's laws back towards freedom.

– David Lovejoy, *Echo* co-founder

A spectacular reversal of neo-con policy

Two hearty cheers for ScoMo and his \$130 billion JobKeeper package.

If it had been a couple of weeks earlier it would have been three, but let's be grateful for what we have got.

Not long ago Scott Morrison was deriding the idea of wage subsidies – they needed a whole new system to run, they would take too long, they were never delivered either well nor fast. His overriding mantra was caution, constantly mumbling weasel words like 'targeted, modest, proportionate, scaleable'.

Now, with the éclat of a performing seal, he has thrown the biggest backflip in living memory – and good on him – he has finally got serious about the coronavirus pandemic and what it means to Australia.

The sheer size of the package is eye-glazing – the kind of subsidy that Labor, for all its redistributive ambition, could only dream about. It is more than twice Kevin Rudd's GFC rescue operation, the one that has been denigrated ever since by the coalition as economy-wrecking recklessness.

And it is not over yet – there will almost certainly be more to come. Indeed, within 24 hours more largesse was being wheeled out to the private hospital system and the export market. Then came free child care, and there will be plenty still in the pipeline. Many economists believe JobKeepers will have to be topped up if the crisis continues.

And already we have the Reserve Bank's own stimulus measures, not to mention the various state government handouts. Add to that the huge hit on revenue from the economic slowdown, and we are looking at consolidated national debt of well over a trillion dollars, and budget deficits as far the eye can see and beyond. Hardly the stable and steady economy we were promised a few months ago.

It is not just Keynesian – the free enterprise wonks are branding it as socialism, the end of the capitalist world as we know it. They are wrong, of course – the aim is not to destroy capitalism but to preserve it, to allow it to rise from the ashes when the current emergency is finished,

And it may work, but it will take a lot longer than the six months Morrison was so blithely predicting just a few short days ago. And there

will be problems, just as he foresaw. The implementation of the deal, like the quantum it envisages, is unprecedented, and given the Australian genius for turning a good idea into a rort, not all the money will be well, or even honestly, spent.

The immediate response was that the price of shares leapt like a spring lamb bitten in the bum by a swarm of hornets.
Mungo MacCallum



The glitches that occurred during Kevin Rudd's pink batts and school halls schemes, that were part of the stimulus that saved Australia from recession during the GFC, will be revisited in spades – although we are unlikely to hear the kind of pile-on we have suffered for years from the conservatives this time around. And although the rhetoric is a touch overblown – the claim that all the six million jobs that will be eligible for relief will all be saved is, unfortunately, improbable – there is still a lot to like about the rushed design.

In particular the fact that the subsidy will be at a flat rate, rather than indexed to income levels, is very welcome. In normal circumstances flat rates are regressive – the across-the-board 10 per cent GST demonstrably hurts the poor more than the rich. But in this case, the reverse applies, which is why the privileged among the cossetted neoliberals are whingeing.

Well, tough; as the multi-billionaire investor Warren Buffet has pointed out, in the long running class wars, it was his class that was winning. It is time, more than time, they took a minor hit. JobKeepers will do a little to level the playing field. And more importantly, it will shield a great many workers – and some who have already lost work – from poverty or worse.

But perhaps its crucial aspect is the psychological. Morrison's government have now spectacularly rejected the denial, procrastination and dithering over COVID-19 which has been their defining characteristic. Now it is to be all

guns blazing, whatever it takes. This will alleviate much of the mistrust that has generated the woeful hoarding, deceit and misbehaviour of citizens who have decided that if their government is not really serious, there is no need for them to be either. It will give meaning to all the sloganeering about 'Team Australia', sticking together, seeing it through.

The immediate response was that the price of shares leapt like a spring lamb bitten in the bum by a swarm of hornets. We know the ASX is not the real economy, but it can be an indicator, and although it has since jumped around like St Vitus on the hot plate, the mood is positive – if fear has not yet been vanquished, greed is certainly recovering. So elephant stamps for the job market; the situation is dire, but there are whiffs of confidence from both business and consumers.

And incredibly, serendipitously, there were also rays of sunlight peeping through the pain and gloom that has caused all the angst. Confounding even the most optimistic predictions, the rate of growth of infections of COVID-19 shows tentative signs of slowing. Weeks earlier than we had dared to hope, the curve may be flattening...

The figures are jumpy, and cannot be considered entirely reliable. There will certainly be setbacks, unforeseen clusters – like the one that has emerged in the Adelaide airport. It is far too soon to rejoice yet, nor to relax the necessary restrictions that have been imposed, annoying as they may be for some people who still, apparently, refuse to acknowledge that this is not just mindless authoritarianism – it is, quite literally, a matter of life and death for many of our fellow citizens.

This is the time to consolidate and double down, pedal to the metal, nail the bastard down. As another war leader put it, this is not the end – it is not even the beginning of the end. But it just may be the end of the beginning.

And if this proves to be the case, if Australia can once again defy the world, and deliver salvation when the prospects looked close to hopeless, Morrison may well deserve his ironic title of the Messiah from the Shire – a saviour who can indeed conjure up miracles. An unlikely saviour, certainly, but in these unprecedented times, nothing is impossible.

Mother on a Mission

Like a lot of parents of young adults, I've asked my kids to come home. Not because I don't think they're capable of looking after themselves, but because I'm kind of unsure about what is ahead. My older daughter came home, but my other two daughters have been adamant they're fine and have chosen to stay in the city. Not the happiest news for an anxious mother who was having this unrealistic fantasy that they'd all come home and we'd play Scrabble and watch movies and bunker down together. I think the thought of that was why they decided *not* to come home.

My son wasn't sure. He's very good at Scrabble, so the prospect of triple word scores and lording his literacy skills over me was somewhat appealing. His flights home from Melbourne kept cancelling, and the other day when he told me he'd rebooked another flight I said, 'Don't come'. With eight baggage handlers in Adelaide testing positive to the Big C, it just seemed silly to risk bringing a big dose into our home, and thus our region. 'The airport isn't really the best place to be right now, if you can help it.' He texted back 'But I want to come home.' So I said 'I'll drive there and pick you up', like I

was driving into Byron to get him from a party. Or popping down to the shops.

I've never driven to Melbourne – I do long drives, but that would be the longest drive I've done. I'm also not a great driver. I don't crash, but I do back into stuff. I'm erratic, a bit unfocused, the kids call me Mrs Swervy, and they all reckon my tendency to accelerate and break continuously has given them lifelong motion sickness. I am however, gun, when it comes to performing an illegal U-turn.

I come from Queensland – home of the U turn. I can turn that baby around in an instant. So I became Thelma sans Louise. Mother-on-a-Mission. I felt like Liam Neeson, except the only thing that's been abducted is hope. It was good to leave the house. Drive away from my fricking computer before I blew Zoom up. If I had to look at one more positive post on Facebook about how creative people were I was going to puke.

I hate this. I hate not seeing people. Not being able to sit in a cafe and talk to my friends. Not feel my sweaty shoulder against someone's back at Bluesfest. Not take a bite from my friend's delicious pie, just to taste it. Not pick up a stranger



Mandy Nolan's Soapbox

hitching home from town. Not hug people I love who don't live under my roof. I miss not working. I miss having things to look forward to.

I hate this world behind doors, behind a screen. This strange diluted reality where our only freedom is walking a dog. My dog is exhausted. My dog is missing his alone time. I'm fucking tired of mine. My dog keeps looking at me with that 'Why are you still here? Aren't you going out?' expression.

I did have some trepidation that my 2009 Honda with 333,000km on the clock may not be ideal for an almost 1,700km trip. When I told my husband I was going he looked at me a bit like the dog, 'You're doing what?' But he's smart enough to know there's no point trying to stop me. So I took off, relieved to be out of the house, and on the open road. Driving has this sedative effect for me – if I'm feeling pissed off or frustrated or sad, driving through the

landscape has a literal way of cutting through. Although, technically I was still behind a screen. A windscreen.

There was no traffic. The lockdown, the signs about 'no non-essential travel' seemed to have done their job. I arrived in Sydney in record time, and made it from Hornsby to just across from the city – at peak hour – in 30 minutes. No traffic jams. Just empty roads. It was like being the last people on earth. I never thought I'd miss bumper-to-bumper gridlock, the sign of a city pumping with people going places. There's no one on the road when there's nowhere to go, and nothing to do. I hit Melbourne in a daze, the radio telling me that lockdown rules would be in place until 30 June. I hugged my daughter, I collected my son, and made a U turn, embarking on the long journey home. All the while wondering when we got cast in this dark dystopian reality show, and when could we go back to our happy-go-lucky sit-com. The car made it. My son is home. And he's just nailed another triple word score by adding to my pathetic three letter 'arm'; with 'Armageddon'. 'Arm a getting out of here' I laugh. There's an awkward silence. It's just not funny anymore. No one's getting out of anywhere for a while. We are all Assange.

► www.echo.net.au/soap-box

Petrol pricing

The current price of crude oil is a tad over \$20 per barrel. The lowest since 1998 and second lowest since 1947!

As I wrote this letter Suffolk Park Garage is still charging \$165.9 per litre for 98 octane (generally considered inferior quality by world standards) and nowhere in Byron Bay is the price less than \$158.9/litre.

If you are looking for the cheapest petrol available, I suggest you check this website: <https://petrolspy.com.au>.

Tony Parker
Suffolk Park

Human dignity

Congratulations to Byron Shire Council for its foresight and integrity in reinstating the Fletcher Street Cottage as a support centre for people living homeless. The Council is foregoing some commercial revenue but the re-purposing of the cottage is an evidence-based investment in humanity.

Congratulations to Byron Community Centre for championing this initiative and offering structured, practical and psychological support for vulnerable people. Its leadership is vital in these tougher times.

Byron's 'branding' should not be all about tourism and profit but also about human dignity and the cohesion of our community.

Janene Jelfs
President Bangalow CWA

One rule for politicians and another for the rest of us? With the world in the grip of this current animals-to-humans pandemic, businesses are closed indefinitely, unemployment



Cartoon by Howie Cooke. Instagram: @howiecooke.art

is predicted to rise beyond ten per cent, wages and salaries are collapsing, health workers are performing unprecedented hours, unpaid care workers are run off their feet and many are offering to work without pay.

At the same time we hear Senator Michaela Cash calling for workers to sacrifice leave (*The New Daily*, 19 March) or forego their wage.

Meanwhile Federal Parliament goes into recession for five months, having only worked for ten sitting days in 2020. When will we hear politicians to recall parliament – as other countries are doing – or return their salaries for the next five months or sacrifice their leave for the benefit of the country?

Christopher Wright
Byron Bay

Mining twists

The unanimous support of the Tweed Shire councillors for the planning proposal to remove the enabling clause for water bottling from our

Local Environment Plan (LEP) is to be commended.

However, the initial recommendation for approval, at the previous meeting, was stopped in its tracks by a letter from the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer (CS&E) just 25 minutes before the meeting.

On review of the letter and the Tweed Council staff report to councillors the Chief Scientist's letter is simply bizarre and makes no sense. The staff report to councillors provided a very fair and reasonable overview (pros/cons) on the findings of the CS&E review of the impacts of the bottle water industry on groundwater resources in the Tweed Shire. Also it had satisfied the conditions issued under the Gateway Determination.

The issuing of the CS&E letter at the last tick of the clock smacks of political interference.

Contrary to what some may claim there is no escaping the findings of the CS&E's

review of the impacts of the bottled water industry on groundwater resources. The Tweed's groundwater systems are complex and there is a lack of data and analysis of local hydro-geology, therefore the impacts of groundwater extraction are difficult to measure or understand at this point.

Thus, the importance of the precautionary principle being applied in this case when the science is not yet in. Longer version on *Echo-netdaily*: www.echo.net.au.

Lindy Smith
Tweed Heads

Viral overload

If the information on viruses from the experts is becoming too technical and too much, just find a Star Trek fanatic and ask them to explain the traits of the 'Borg'. I swear the scriptwriter was an expert in virus research.

Bernard Hinchcliffe
Mullumbimby

Alternative response

Cr Lyon's letter (1 April) might be an April Fool letter. If not, it is an example of Trump logic: 'alternative facts'.

Michael, please be careful with your public utterances. As a politician, you are branded. Many of us know when your facts are, in fact, opinion.

Cr Coorey's credibility is intact.

Roger Seccombe
Bangalow

Byron backbone

I loved the idea of a train from Mullum to Byron.

But let's consider adding Brunswick Heads to the north and Bangalow to the south. Connect the whole Shire. Amazing. Give the Shire a backbone – so to speak.

It would be something special.

Andrew Hall
Oceans Shores

Order rapidly fading

Been thinking about Bob Dylan and his lyrics a lot lately – how many of you remember *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall* from the *Free-wheelin' Bob Dylan* album (1963)? Or perhaps the even more prophetic song *The Times They Are A-Changing* from the album of the same

name from 1964?

My favourite pertinent lines from this song are 'the old road is rapidly ageing, get out of the way if you can't lend your hand... the order is rapidly fading'. Good on you Bob – always a cup of tea for you at my house bro.

Bronwyn Sindel
Mullumbimby

Tourists stay home!

Victims of Holiday Letting (VOHL) welcomes the latest Health Order from the NSW government that will help safeguard the Byron Shire community.

A section of this order states 'The Minister directs that a person must not, without reasonable excuse, leave the person's residence. Taking a holiday in a regional area is not a reasonable excuse.'

Basically, any tourist going into a holiday let in Byron Shire or other NSW regional area for a holiday is breaking the law. Each person could be issued with an on the spot fine by police.

The NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro and NSW Labor Opposition leader Jodi McKay each made a media release just before this order imploring people not to travel to regional areas

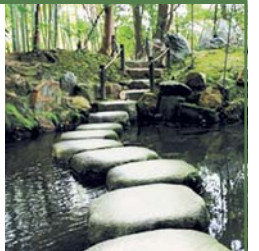
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Letters to the Editor

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.


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HAND**

When you're parked parallel to the kerb and you go to open the door onto a bike lane, please reach over with your far hand, the driver's left hand, instead.

This forces you to swivel your body and brings any cyclists approaching from behind into view, thus avoiding 'dooring' them and perhaps saving a life in the process. This is known as the Dutch Reach, and has protected many cyclists from a world of pain.

Brought to you by Echo Publications Cycle for Life Service

► Continued from page 17 to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Both politicians have holiday lets in regional NSW that are in my opinion illegal. It is extremely hypocritical of these politicians that they still have their holiday lets available on Airbnb for short term renting as of last Wednesday.

Australian Short Term Rental Association president Rob Jeffress, who lists 445 properties on Airbnb, wrote to the Treasurer and the Tourism Minister last week, calling for support. The letter, backed by both Stayz and Airbnb, called for several measures to help hosts - including mortgage deferrals, tax relief on rental income, rebates on tourism levies and land taxes, and for hosts to be eligible for the financial support package announced for small to medium businesses.

VOHL has no argument with this so long as it is directed only to approved accommodation providers, such as B&Bs who have obtained development consent. Mr Jeffress is asking for taxpayers' money for businesses that are still an illegal and prohibited activity in many local government areas including Byron Shire.

There isn't any need for a taxpayer funded bailout as Airbnb has launched its 'superhost' relief fund.

Both MPs Barilaro and McKay will be eligible for a US\$5,000 cash hand out from Airbnb.

Doug Luke
Coordinator, VOHL

Happy concepts

I just wanted to say, 'Well done' to Byron Bay. I'm a Byron girl without a doubt.

Byron is one big chilled, but forward, step ahead of where I am right now.

I have found myself locked down in the Melbourne mentality.

The collective consciousness here is heavy. People are so encased in fear down here, so not used to their own company, slowing down, going in, reflecting... the contrast has been unbelievable. So much self-importance bound up in the external and the doing and the drama.

Byron Kids seem to have that covered. Stay home? Do some gardening... Sweet.

I decided to stream my live yoga classes. Who shows up, for themselves and each other, every day? Byron Bay.

There is an opportunity for real growth, whether it's in showing support and compassion, or in confronting parts of ourselves we have been too busy to look at. Slowing down is always a good thing.

Respect the rules, yes. Stay healthy, yes. But remember, you own your thoughts, your frequency and your heart.

Alison Nankivell
Suffolk Park

The best of times

To misquote Charles Dickens, 'It is the best of times, it is the worst of times...'

A few among many of the worst of times: the health and financial well being of a lot of individuals, families and institutions are in upheaval. Businesses are struggling to survive and some will vanish in the longer term. Some children will grow with an education fault line and social dislocation will be ingrained in some

sections of the community.

The best of times, very selectively? The iconic ocean landscape of Byron Bay is clearly visible and peaceful without interruption from excessive tourists.

But let's hope we get to the stage quickly enough to be able to look back and quote Charles Dickens correctly - 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...'

Neil Matterson
Byron Bay

After the crisis

It is gratifying and uplifting to witness business organisations, unions and all levels of government working together this week to develop an economic strategy for getting our country through what has become an extreme health crisis - one which is now having extraordinary economic and social impacts.

By continuing to pull together we will recover and we will come out stronger. However, we must be prepared for a long haul.

Post COVID-19, things will likely be very different for all of us. And the key decision to be made by our leaders and society as a whole is whether we seize what will be a golden opportunity for rapid economic transformation. Or will we try to get back to where we were?

My hope as a grandparent is that we will choose transformation. It is only through a rapid transformation of our economy that there will be a real chance for us to create a world for our grandchildren and future generations in which unsustainable rises in global temperatures and ecological destruction will be avoided.

The recent bushfires and the knock on effects to local economies and ecosystems give us a warning of what may lie ahead.

I encourage all levels of

society, facilitated by the media, to take stock of how we humans over the last 200 years or so have so comprehensively changed the face of our planet and now begin the process of discussing and working out the best way forward.

Otherwise the crisis to come will make this one look like a walk in the park.

Craig Zerk
East Ballina

Get the message

Are we dumb, ignorant, stupid? Earlier in the week two different friends saw four teenagers all clustered around a bike at different times in Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park.

Another friend was queuing at a major hardware store. A man, two behind her, said he didn't like all this. He was supposed to be in an enforced two week quarantine, but thought this was too long, he had been there four days and had decided that was enough.

Do these people think they are safe because we live in Byron Bay?

Wendy Taylor
Suffolk Park

Risk and banks

The addiction of politicians to the banking lobbyists is being exposed. The unconscionable greed of the bankers is there for all to see. What is happening in the financial world was already largely in train. The virus has accelerated it and the intensification of its consequences. But both the government and the bankers now have the virus to blame and it is being leveraged as a 'Get Out of Jail' card.

The derivative market is out of control. Mainly off the banks' balance sheets, these high risk gambling instruments have grown exponentially since the GFC. Courtesy of the relationship

► Continued on page 21



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INSPIRING
STORIES OF
BUSINESSES
SUPPORTING
COMMUNITY



Harvest are participating in Ballina Business Connect to help people get access to the essentials. Photo Jeff Dawson

Ballina Business Connect – assistance for you to get essentials delivered

Ballina Shire Council have come together with their local community to help local residents and businesses during these difficult times. Ballina Council is coordinating Ballina Business Connect, a service to enable residents to obtain staple household items, without having to leave home. All retailers who can provide staple items, such as groceries and essential daily needs, are invited to register. Local businesses unable to make deliveries can also register; as Ballina Taxis are supporting this program and can work with businesses to provide a safe means of delivery at minimal cost. Head to www.ballina.nsw.gov.au (Ballina Business Connect page: <https://bit.ly/2JHPXNo>) or call Ballina Shire Council on 1300 864 444 to get involved.

inGrained Foundation supporting not-for-profits

In support of local not-for-profits with deductible gift recipient (DGR) status to adapt to current restrictions brought about by COVID-19, the inGrained Foundation has extended the application deadline for the Northern Rivers Large Grants Program 2020 (www.ingrainedfoundation.com.au/grants-program) to Thursday 21 May.

'We hope the additional six weeks (original deadline 9 April) will provide prospective applicants the space to adjust their projects and grant applications if necessary,' said a spokesperson for the inGrained Foundation.

The grants program has a total funding pool of \$100,000 and accepts applications for the grants from not-for-profits with DGR status to apply for a grant between \$10,000 and \$30,000 to boost their social and/or environmental projects. This year's theme is regeneration and social connection.

Help to get your business online

Byron Shire businesses are being supported by local web company Eco Tech Web Design who are assisting local businesses get their online presence happening, and quickly with no cost. Eco has built an online shopping cart called Byron Delivers (www.byrondelivers.com.au) that is ready to go; and there are already local businesses onboard and trading. The platform allows businesses to upload products, customise payments or just piggyback off the PayPal system that is built in.

Any local business can sign up now, at no cost and be online today on the Byron Delivers site. However, the seller needs to arrange their own delivery, including calculating the costs and conditions of delivery.

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

Pantry, art and mindfulness packs for those in need

Sulis Hair Salon in Byron has joined forces with the Byron Youth Activities Centre (YAC) to create the Northern Rivers Pantry Project, which aims to collect donated items and distribute them to families hit hard at the moment. The Northern Rivers Pantry Project (Facebook page: @northernriverspantryproject) is looking to the community to donate items to create Pantry Packs, and Arts and Crafts Mindfulness Packs, for those in need. See a full list online. Please deliver donated items to the YAC, 1 Gilmore Crescent, Byron Bay, 8am–12pm.

Volunteer drivers are needed to deliver the packs to recipients. Contact Tahlia on 0415 306 011 if you can be a delivery volunteer.

To order a pack call 0415 306 011 or email northernriverspantryproject@gmail.com.



Pantry Project volunteer Claire Condon with founder Tahlia Pileggi. Photo Jeff Dawson

Art online

The Lismore Regional Gallery may have closed its physical doors, but it has been busy developing ideas for sharing aspects of its program online. You can view the story of the Hannah Cabinet online, or join some of the online activities that have been set up, including: Peggy Popart's Online Art Adventure, on 8 April, 11–2pm, or the Quick Draw Club Online with René Bolten, on 16 April, 5–6pm. Find out more at www.lismoregallery.org.

Foxy gives back

Foxy Luu's in Byron Bay have been taking stock of their priorities and have decided that rather than wait out the COVID-19 storm, they are going to make sure they give back to the community.

They are asking themselves some fundamental questions and rethinking their purpose. Do they close doors until there is clarity? Or do they stay open and modify the way they operate? How hard or long do they fight to keep the doors open? Since profiting is not on the cards anymore, what is their purpose of operating? How can they create more employment opportunities? Now that the town is empty, what other purposes can they serve? Hats off to Foxy Luu's deeply furrowed brow

Recognising that there are many people in the community who are struggling at this time, from people losing their jobs, to those struggling to put food on the table, Foxy Luu's have decided to give away their nourishing bone broth soup for free every day from 2–5pm. 'Just drop in and ask. We would love to feed you,' they said. 'We see this as a rare chance to return our thanks to the very same community which has been supporting us since we opened three years ago.'

Their staff who have lost shifts have decided that they will operate a delivery service from Suffolk to Ewingsdale, every evening, 5–8pm for anyone wanting to order a meal.

Get sanitised

Two local distilleries, Lord Byron Distillery and Brookie's Gin, have both heeded the call for help when it comes to hand and surface sanitiser. They have started local production, and are now not only supplying it to medical facilities, but also retailing it through local stores to help keep up essential supplies to all of the community.



Free short TAFE courses

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, TAFE NSW, in conjunction with the NSW Government, is offering a number of fee-free* short courses that can be completed in just days or weeks, offering practical skills, and experiences across a range of industries.

If you're considering a new direction, why not explore some of the fee-free short courses as well as learn more about their Mature Age Scholarships, Destination Australia Scholarships and their Women in Business program, among many others.

Whether or not you've studied at TAFE NSW before, they encourage you to explore some of the courses available today. The course list is updated often, so be sure to check back regularly to find a fee-free short course that's right for you.

Visit: www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses

*To be eligible for a fully subsidised place you must: Live or work in NSW, be an Australian citizen or permanent resident or New Zealand citizen or humanitarian visa holder; Be over 17 years (people between 15 and 17 may be eligible and should contact us for more information); Have left school; You will also need a unique student identifier (USI).



Taking part in a Buttery program online

The Buttery has taken its community-based programs online. Any existing Buttery clients can get in touch with their counsellor to arrange to take part in one-on-one counselling or to take part in a group. People not already taking part in a Buttery program and who are concerned about their mental wellbeing or substance use can call The Buttery intake line during office hours Monday to Friday for a free assessment and to find out about joining a free program: 02 6687 1111 or email intake@buttery.org.au. More information about Buttery programs is here: www.buttery.org.au/the-buttery-programs.

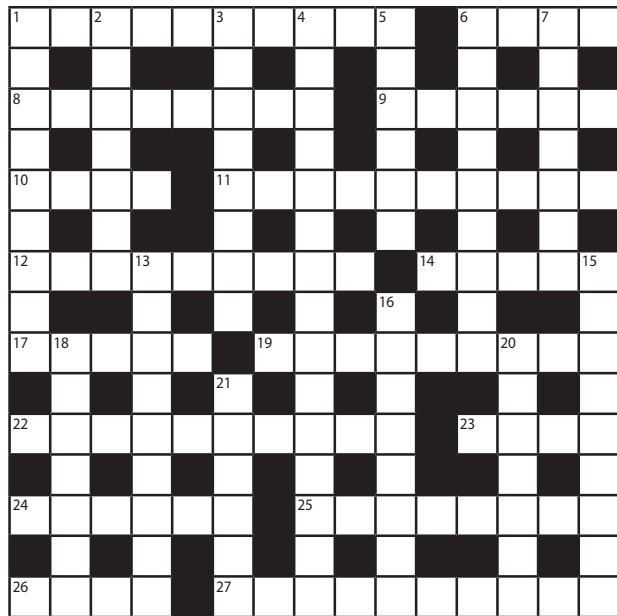
The Buttery has useful information on its website for everyone about maintain their mental wellbeing in the pandemic: www.buttery.org.au/mental-wellbeing-in-the-pandemic.

Free home delivery

Dino's IGA in Mullumbimby has started providing free deliveries with a focus on the elderly and people isolated in and around Mullumbimby. You can head over to their website at www.dinoshome.com.au where they have made getting the basics home delivered as simple as possible.

Mungo's Crossword

N329



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Arrest the young women, demanded Spooner asking for help with his Chinese meal (10)
- The Commandos – hot band (4)
- Ring in two gods; what a sight! (8)
- Ray Swallow (6)
- Polish English yokel (4)
- HG turbulence; he married Jeanette Macdonald! (6,4)
- Good Australian ship, popular Eastern ship – but there's flatulence! (9)
- Like a mouse but Petruchio thought she needed taming (5)
- X, or Pavarotti, perhaps (5)
- Swindle around untidy shop – it's considered unsporting (5,4)
- Son present, daughter splits; hazards of extreme cold weather (10)
- Time to repent – really (4)
- Ebbs, sailors rotted away inside (6)
- Blood indicator: one pimple is causing nasal inflammation (8)
- Network? I object – be quiet (4)
- Came to an agreement to take possession – take it easy (6,4)

DOWN

- Ape, just ensuring ownership of his property (9)
- Ring-in, one new doctor lifting vehicle (7)
- Exercising art in gin cocktail (8)
- Ray, a leader, but he lost his head (7,3,5)
- Neill's working – a strong man (6)
- Revolutionary's under the detritus of a mountain side – yell! (9)
- There's no trick in conscience – it's a rational procedure (7)
- Cease and observe: it's needed for the race (9)
- Moisten and apply spices in the summer tropics (3,6)
- Tom's prey in the mountains of New York (8)
- Two cardinals, with metals like gold and silver; make them peers! (7)
- Nelson in proportion, after a laugh (7)
- Rainbows in the eyes (6)

Quick Clues

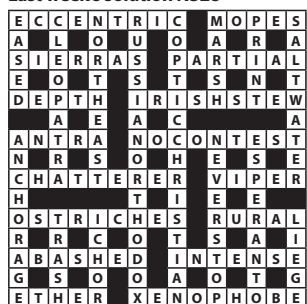
ACROSS

- Chinese eating utensils (10)
- Band, belt (4)
- Wide view (8)
- Swallow (bird) (6)
- Country yokel (slang) (4)
- Singer, husband of Jeanette MacDonal (6,4)
- Flatulence (9)
- Feral mouse (5)
- Male singer (5)
- Easy attack, considered illegitimate (9)
- Banks of frozen precipitation (10)
- Correct, honest (4)
- Becomes less, dwindles (6)
- Nasal irritation (8)
- Net, fine sieve (4)
- Become calm or relaxed (6,4)

DOWN

- Trade mark for written material (9)
- Large passenger vehicle (7)
- Exercising, learning (8)
- British monarch executed in 1649 (7,3,5)
- Biblical strongman (6)
- Howls, screams (9)
- Trick, con (7)
- Timing device, usually in racing (9)
- Yearly time of rain or monsoon (3,6)
- Mountain range in New York state (8)
- Give titles of rank (7)
- Hamlet's best friend (7)
- Flowers – flags (6)

Last week's solution N328



1,330% increase in land clearing in NSW since 2017

Aslan Shand

The bush, the forests, the animals, and the people of NSW – make that all of Australia – have been enduring the back-to-back impacts of flooding, drought, fire, and now the COVID-19 pandemic. What could make this any worse?

A significant increase in land clearing; because the more land that gets cleared, the more regional temperatures increase, rainfall decreases, fire risk increases, erosion increases.

And that is exactly what has been, and is continuing, to happen under the new (weakened) biodiversity and conservation laws that were implemented in late 2017 by the NSW Liberal-National government.

Since their implementation, land clearing has jumped by a staggering 1,300 per cent according to the shocking Natural Resources Commission (NRC) report, released last week.

It also found:

- Wildlife and bushland in nine out of eleven regions are now at higher risk because of a loophole in regulations that allows for thinning of native vegetation for pasture expansion;
- Regulatory maps that are an essential part of the new regime have not been released – two years after the promised delivery date.
- There is no effective monitoring and compliance regime to ensure the laws are being obeyed and enforced.

'This is a damning assessment by the NRC of the government's handling of what it proclaimed was a signature reform,' Nature Conservation Council chief executive, Chris Gambian said.

'This report is alarming, because land clearing is a key threat, pushing most of



Land clearing in NSW has increased by 1,300 per cent since late 2017. Photo file

the state's threatened species toward extinction.

'Koalas and other vulnerable species are being smashed, by bushfires, drought, logging and land clearing. We also know that trees are a proven way to remove carbon from the atmosphere – carbon that is slowly cooking the planet and putting our future prosperity in grave danger.'

Halt land clearing

North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) are calling for an immediate halt to land clearing, following the release of the NRC report. NEFA say the NSW government delayed the release of the report since July 2019.

'The NRC's damning review shows that land clearing has skyrocketed, the promised offsetting is not being implemented, Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value are not being protected, the regulatory map has not been released, and land clearing represents a biodiversity risk,' said NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh.

The NRC report highlights that when the new laws were approved by the Liberal-National government, the then Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, stated that 'for each hectare cleared under the framework, it is estimated that between two and four hectares will be set

aside and managed in perpetuity' – in order to conserve biodiversity values. Yet the government has failed to set aside the required protected lands.

Biodiversity risks

'The NRC reveals that from June 2018 until May 2019, 45,553ha was approved to be cleared under the government's new Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code, excluding "invasive native species", said Mr Pugh.

'This was a massive increase, from the average of 2,700 hectares per year between 2006/07 and 2016/17. The NRC are scathing in their assessment that the government is only setting aside, in protected areas, a fraction of the area approved to be cleared, when the government promised they would protect two to four times more than was cleared.

'On the north coast, the NRC reveal only one fifth of the area of the land cleared is being set aside, and this drops down to less than a tenth on the New England Tablelands.

'The difference is even starker if the clearing of "invasive native species" is accounted for, as the Auditor General's report last year identified that over 140,000 ha was also cleared under this dubious category.

'Because of the abject failure of the government to live up to their promise to parliament, the NRC found there was a high biodiversity risk, with nine of the eleven regions exceeding their biodiversity trigger thresholds.'

No mapping

A key part of the management of land clearing was the release of regulatory maps that would assist government in identifying protected areas and potential areas for clearing. The government has failed to deliver the maps as promised, leaving the system with 'inadequate protection, limited monitoring and poor enforcement,' said Mr Pugh.

'We are in a climate and extinction emergency, clearing more vegetation and releasing its carbon into the atmosphere is pouring more fuel onto the fire, it has to stop. Land clearing increases regional temperatures, reduces rainfalls, and releases large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. We cannot afford for it to continue, let alone escalate,' Mr Pugh said.

'Last year, over half of north-east NSW's remnant native vegetation was burnt, with the likely death of over 350 million native mammals, birds, lizards and frogs, including thousands of koalas.

'Many species of plants and animals have had their populations decimated, and are teetering on the brink of extinction. It is outrageous that the NSW Government is now allowing land-clearing and logging to push many populations over the brink.'

► Read more online in **Echonetdaily**: www.echo.net.au/1330-increase-in-land-clearing-under-liberal-national-leadership

STARS BY LILITH

ARIES THE RAM

Inventive Mercury joining this week's sun in enthusiastic Aries promises some tetchy tempers, along with a vivid festival of ideas about how to navigate the new abnormal...



♈ARIES: Full moon in your partnership house could trigger electric moments for paired Aries – for better or for worse. If a stressy Mars/Uranus clash fractures interpersonal dynamics, let differences of style and opinion pass. Don't dwell on them. Let others have their say, and just enjoy your birthday month as best you may...

♉TAURUS: While Venus likes teamwork, right now she's a bit flighty, so cruise on this week's exuberant energy, but don't rely too much on promises. As Mercury brings the more creative side of your brain into play, intel downloads for a new master plan about how to make life easier and more efficient.

♊GEMINI: This week's full moon could bring a tipping point, either to celebrate something successful or say goodbye to something that's not. Networker Mercury in your sector of friends and technology could attract some impressive new alliances, but it's still an edgy and unpredictable transit, so don't do anything rash.

♋CANCER: While midweek full moon has you feeling sentimental and nostalgic, Venus is tweaking your sea of dreams. You'll need to keep those crab feet on land – not easy when Mars has one foot on the gas and Saturn has the other on the brake. The trick is, of course, getting them to dance together.

♌LEO: This week's full moon shining its light on communications is auspicious for a launch, business pitch or Having That Talk. During which, think big picture, broad perspective, highest goals, widest horizons, deepest needs. With Jupiter/Pluto executing the first of three passes this year over your organising sector, now's the time to do it...

♍VIRGO: As Virgo Van Morrison sings: *It's a marvelous night for a moon dance*, and this week's full lunation could be a money moon for you, with work for a worthy cause being particularly rewarding. Convos could get hot and heavy, deep and meaningful, as cosmic communicator Mercury starts sharing those feelings you've been avoiding.

♎LIBRA: Midweek annual full moon in your sign is just the lunar lift you needed to carry you through the next fortnight. With Mercury in Libra's partnership department there'll be a lot of teamwork and interpersonal chat to exercise your negotiating muscles and diplomatic skills. But you'll be expected to walk your talk.

♏SCORPIO: Midweek full moon looks good for communications if you can tune in beyond what social media's spruiking, and stay calm through this week's Mars/Uranus irritable and unpredictable outbursts. If you start getting triggered, especially at home, don't log in. Channel excess antsy energy into something positive and useful.

♐SAGITTARIUS: With the weekend moon in your sign and razzle dazzle Mercury talking up a storm, this week could see you in your witty and entertaining Sagittarian stride. Online arguments could easily ignite, but do you need to throw gasoline on the fire? Is your point of view so important it's worth losing a friend?

♑CAPRICORN: If full moon brings a fork in your professional path or change of career scenario, try not to let this turbulent transit put you at odds with others. In this week's complex clash between irascible Mars and spontaneous Uranus, keep your cool, ride it out, let things blow over. Think velvet glove, rather than iron fist.

♒AQUARIUS: Head full of innovative, visionary ideas, while on planet Earth everything seems to be devolving? If reactive Mars and rebellious Uranus have you wanting to lash out, it's not in your best interests to vent. Instead, tune into the strength and determination of Saturn in your sign; think persistence, patience, discipline and renewable futures.

♓PISCES: With money on everyone's mind, others are discussing savvy cash management, talking about financial strategies, and it's worth listening up. It's even more important than usual this week to be working and consorting with simpatico people who are compassionate, generous, mindful and heartfelt enough to make inclusive choices.

► **Continued from page 18** between politicians and the bankers, they have first claim on the assets of a failing bank and banks do not know the value of the derivatives they hold.

And what has Wall Street learned from the GFC? A lot! They have carte blanche knowing the government will either BAIL OUT or BAIL IN the impact of their behaviour on taxpayers and depositors.

Immediate solutions:
(a) Amend the legislation that allows for deposits in banks to be used to BAIL IN failing financial institutions and explicitly exclude them;

(b) A moratorium on the payout of derivatives that are not directly linked to the underlying asset;

(c) Separate retail banking from investment banking;

(d) Derivatives should be on the balance sheet and be part of stress-testing; and

(e) Selling short in the equities market to be suspended indefinitely.

In the meantime, anyone who is being told that deposits are secure up to \$250k per account holder, because of the government guarantee scheme, must believe in the 'Tooth Fairy'. People are also advised to check the Terms and Conditions banks have on savings and investment

accounts and note how those can change without notice if the bank is facing a credit risk or are looking at a loss.

Patricia Warren
Away from Brunswick Heads

A hybrid war

There's no overstating the credulity and servility of the public mind. The panicked response to this year's viral pandemic is a testament to the efficacy of contemporary techniques in perception management and mind control.

We can only marvel at the eagerness with which politicians and the media have embraced the hysteria and the totalitarian measures. Those who question the official narrative are summarily dismissed as crazed conspiracy theorists.

To my mind we are witnessing the scourge of a new form of warfare, a hybrid of biological and psychological warfare that has been developed by the war profiteering plutocracy to wage war against the masses all around the world.

If we are to win this war we need to identify and understand the forces arrayed against us and the motives that drive them. It

seems clear we're opposed by a tiny clique of super rich and supranational plutocrats, multi-billionaires who live in existential fear of the effect that peace, truth and justice will have on their way of life.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Apocalypse Oz style

Lost your job or gig? Bored at home? Welcome to the apocalypse Aussie style.

Fifty heroic dead Italian doctors - this gives us a glimmer of what is approaching. Hundreds of millions of people in all the third world nations are unable to obtain essential masks and other protective equipment reserved for wealthy nations.

No chance of isolation for ill, underfed people crushed together in vast cities and refugee camps in Asian, Middle Eastern, African and South American nations.

Watch from your refuge as those societies collapse. Here we finally have the results of neoliberal capitalism.

Innocent humanity enjoying our wonderful creations and fabulous food while refusing to acknowledge habitat destruction and uncontrolled wildlife

harvesting. Sign a petition, give a dollar, oh what a wonderful holiday cruise. Don't look at the plastic-filled, dying, acidic oceans; ignore runaway global warming.

The sixth great extinction event is upon us. Nature always bats last.

Gary Opit
Brunswick Heads

Keep safe, stay home

A huge thank you to everyone adhering to the health recommendations. For a community of people who tend to be rebels and a bit anti-authoritarian, people are getting the message and staying home. To our health professionals and key workers, I extend my deepest gratitude.

To the many amongst us who have had the livelihoods they've worked so hard for ripped out from underneath them, may recovery be swift and government packages provide some relief. We really need to look out for each other.

I urge anyone using the beach to park a little further away, be vigilant with physical distancing, get in, get your exercise and get out.

Stay safe, stay kind, stay apart.

Cr Sarah Ndiaye
Deputy Mayor

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This service will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Delivery time to be arranged at time of order.

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Editor: Mandy Nolan
Full stories and photos can
be found online at
echo.net.au/entertainment

SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT



A WORLD GONE TO THE BIRDS

In a world where our narratives have been reduced to monotonous bleak news feeds, it's good to find a little solace in the escapism of art. Ninbella Gallery in Bangalow presents Hilary Herman's latest show *Sermon to the Birds*. Hilary has spent well over seven months preparing for this show, with some stunning pieces that are available to view and purchase online! Of her subject matter Hilary says, 'I am drawn to the imagery of Francis of Assisi's Sermon to the Birds; of a robed figure explaining faith to birds, to this vision of crazed fervour and devotion that has been projected across centuries to the idea of instituting reformation through the details, of changing the world by looking to our smallest features. I like the gilded pictures of medieval chickens. Stripped back, removed from its biblical context, the *Sermon to the Birds* is a tale of democracy, respect and love. It's the simple observation that birds need the Earth as much as we do. In a time of destructive change, after a season of fire, after the death of a billion of our creatures, and now a pandemic, I present an idealistic world, I share my innocent world. They're seemingly utopian narratives that dream of a peaceful world, but are marked by a nod to the apocalyptic summer we lived through, and the apocalyptic times ahead. They understand the world, but want a different one; they offer another one.'

***Sermon to the Birds*—the title piece from Hilary Herrmann's upcoming online exhibition, hosted by Ninbella Gallery – to view the collection go to ninbella.com/collections/hilary-herrmann**

ART ONLINE

The **Lismore Regional Gallery** are innovating their program to adapt to the change required and how they can implement new systems for remote work and share programs online. There are a plethora of activities and online exhibitions to connect with. **Steve Waller** presents *Occulture* – works that display the artist's drawing practise as a visual incantation, summoning the winds of cultural change. Steve compares occult practices to the act of drawing, and the practice of magic – the ritual, the secret societies, the hidden knowledge, and the darkness and light. Also on show is *RocoColonial*, *Blingman Slag* by Grayson Cooke and *Media studies*, by Bennett Miller. Online events include artist talks, podcasts and book readings.

Go to www.lismoregallery.org to find out more.

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30 Years
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WOMEN LIKE US ON MONDAYS!

There's no better time to have a laugh when there's nothing to laugh about! *Women Like Us* are **Mandy Nolan**, who is me, yep the secret is out, and **Ellen Briggs**, and we're in lockdown. We can't see each other. We can't gig. We can't get out of the house. We are angry menopausal women who may just totally lose it. It's not the pandemic our families should fear... it's us! Every Monday night we go live on **Facebook: womenlikeuscomedy** – for a good old bitchin COVID-19 tell-it-how-it-is, or how-you-think-it-should-be, showdown. Costs nuthin but a little of your time, and hell, you got heaps of that!

HOTA RAGE AGAINST VIRUS

HOTA has revealed the first recipients of its **Rage Against the V(irus) Artist Fund** who will receive up to **\$1000 cash** toward nominated projects.

The artist fund, established to keep local artists working and getting paid, has attracted more than 100 applications with 12 recipients just announced.

HOTA CEO, Criena Gehrke, said the venue's temporary closure was not going to stop HOTA supporting the local arts.

'These 12 artists represent some of the best creators living on the Gold Coast. For as long as this virus rages on, we will continue to support artists, for as long as we possibly can. Their art will speak for itself, the artists and for HOTA,' she said.

The line-up of local Gold Coast artists announced today included; **Tim Baker, Thomas E.S. Kelly** (Karul Projects), **Dion Parker, Jay Jermyn, Kylie Chan, Matthew Gray, Amy John Roberts, Mark Gray, John Kaye, Sapodia Lindley, Pru Wilson and Scott French** (Lovestreet Studios).

The creative works, yet to be revealed, will start rolling out across the HOTA website and social media channels during the coming weeks, with more eligible local artists set to be revealed every seven days for the next seven weeks.

Rage Against the V(irus) Artist Fund was launched in record time by HOTA in response to the coronavirus outbreak and its impact on the arts. The fund offers cash support to local creatives during a time when they need it most.

Applications received so far span a wide spectrum including: comedy, dance workshops, animations, experimental music, song writing hacks, fine art and conversation, as well as e-zines, photography and podcasts, to name a few.

Applications are still open until 15 May.

For more information on HOTA's Rage Against the V(irus) Artist Fund, visit: hota.com.au/hota-artist-fund-rage-against-the-virus/

STRENGTHENING SCREEN FROM HOME

To strengthen international connections while the screen industry is dealing with COVID-19, the **Australian International Screen Forum (AISF)**, and **Screenworks**, have announced a new online workshop that will connect regional screenwriters in Australia with New York-based industry mentors and opportunities, through script development exercises, networking and pitching.

The inaugural **WFH Screenwriting Workshop** is an eight-week program specifically designed to support people living in regional, rural and remote Australia, and is hosted by AISF & Screenworks Australia, in association with **Patricia Beaury**, former Managing Director of The Writers Lab (supported by Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman)..

This initiative, hosted on Zoom video conferencing, is a scheduled program for June and July 2020, and is specifically designed for creatives with Film and TV projects that would appeal to a global audience.

This program will be entirely online, with weekly interactive webinar sessions, development exercises, and networking opportunities as a way to bridge international barriers. Industry mentors include **Joey Tuccio** (founder and CEO of Roadmap Writers), **Nitza Wilon** and **Elizabeth Kaiden** (co-founders of The Writers Lab), **Anne Hubbell** (vice president of Motion Picture, Kodak, and founder of Tangerine Entertainment), **Amy Hobby** (executive director of Tribeca Film Institute and founder of Tangerine Entertainment), **Timothy Cooper** (founder and owner of Blueprint Screenwriting Group), and **Krysanne Katsoolis** (CEO of Viewpark).

Apply for the program here:
screenworks.com.au/event/write-from-home/

IT'S ROCK DOWN WITH BUNNY RACKET

At a time when everyone is bunkering down – staying indoors... everyone's favourite rock'n'roll rabbit, King Bunny – aka Andy Walker, has decided not to hold back, but to digitally release Bunny Racket's popular *Rock 'n' Roll Animals* along with two brand new music videos on YouTube, to give parents of mini rockers a little salvation during lockdown. Or as Bunny Racket call it... rockdown!

'We have been demoing a heap of music lately,' says Andy, or King Bunny 'we are sitting on three albums worth of stuff. We were waiting for all the stars to align with a good team, and after our last meeting we decided... everyone is at home, all this stuff is finished, so let's just give it away!'

Rock'n'Roll Animals was created a couple of years back in a burrow in the southern Californian desert, and features the work of some pedigree rock rabbits, such as Brant Bjork (Kyuss, Fumanchu), taking on drums and backing vocals, Robby Krieger of The Doors joining the studio line-up as lead guitarist, and Sam Cutler, legendary tour manager for The Rolling Stones, and the Grateful Dead, adding spoken word. It's the ultimate rock'n'roll starter record!

'We're releasing 18 tracks that have only been available via vinyl – just through a UK label – they sold out a while back, and we were trying to find the best way to get the songs out there. [Then we thought] there are so many kids at home, let's release our clips and our tracks out there – because who knows what the music industry is going to be like when we come out of this!'

Bunny Racket is the noisy junction between Black Sabbath and Sesame Street, with a live lineup featuring members of The Vines/Wolfmother and Goons of Doom. It's a wrack of rabbits that brings a fusion of punk rock's do-it-yourself ethic, with a tickle of youthful exuberance. They found a niche where no one had found a niche before... that's why they have been so busy – up until all the gigs got cancelled.

'Our shows have really taken off,' says Andy. 'It's been amazing. We have been playing everything from over 18 club shows, to schools, to music festivals, to birthday parties, to corporate stuff. We could play a pre-school, and then a metal festival, and it would be fine!'

Bunny Racket are keen to support their industry – aware that many music workers and artist crews will be facing an uncertain future.

All profits from the sale of Bunny Racket merch will be donated to Sound of Silence, a Support Act initiative to support the music industry through these times.

To access the album, or merch, follow the links in their YouTube clips, or go to bunnyracket.com

ROCK ISOLATION AND WIN!

Bummed about Blues? Sad about Splendour? Need to ROCK OUT? The **Byron Shire Stay at Home Festival** is here! It kicked off on Monday with the Facebook page Byron Rocks Isolation – Stay at Home Festival. It's an all ages festival for residents from postcodes 2481–2483.

So all you need to do is film your family doing some air guitar or lip sync – basically rocking out to your favourite tunes, and share it to your favourite social media platform: tic toc, Instagram or Facebook and tag #byronrocksisolation

Community engagement projects like this are part of what **Jane Saunders** has done in her professional career, all around the world, so we are super lucky to have her here running this. She's run programs in London, the Sustainability film challenge in Victoria, and previously worked for ABC Open.

With prizes for best air guitarist and best lip sync, it's clear you don't need actual talent for this – just a few wines and a loud song, and no inhibitions! Why not?

Check out details on the **Byron Rocks Isolation – Stay At Home Festival**, **Facebook page**. And of course, it is for all ages!

North Coast news daily in *Echonetdaily* www.echo.net.au

Planet Watch: Emergency on planet Earth

The destruction of biodiversity will be humanity's downfall

Dr Willow Hallgren

It has only been since the mid-to-late '80s that knowledge of both anthropogenic climate change and the term 'biodiversity' have filtered through to the general public's consciousness. This understanding has profoundly reshaped our behaviour, and how we see ourselves in relation to our environment.

Biodiversity is more than just the number of species. Biodiversity refers to the diversity, or number of species within an ecosystem, the genetic diversity within those species, and to the diversity of ecosystems themselves.

Humanity's ecocide

A 2019 UN Global Assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, stated that 'The diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems, as well as many fundamental contributions we derive from nature, are declining fast'.

With an estimated eight million species of animals and plants on planet Earth, scientists think that around one million species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades. That's one in eight or 12.5 per cent of all plant and animal species!

This current global extinction rate is higher than ever before in human history, and between 10 to 100 times higher than the average extinction rate over the last 10 million years.

Land use change due to human activity is a significant driver of this destruction of biodiversity. An estimated 137 species are being driven to extinction in the world's rainforests every single day.

The extinction rate will continue to accelerate as climate change continues. Even if we limit global heating to 1.5 to 2 degrees, most land-based species' distributions will shrink profoundly, and recent research indicates that as many as one in three species could face extinction in the next 50 years, unless global heating is reduced.

At high risk from climate change are ecosystems composed of species that are limited in their ability to migrate. These include mountain ecosystems, and places where climate change is occurring at rates many times faster than the global average rate of warming, such as Arctic ecosystems.

In the long run though,

Humans taking the numbers down

- The average abundance of native species in most major land-based habitats has fallen by at least 20 per cent, mostly since 1900.
- More than 40 per cent of amphibian species, almost 33 per cent of reef-forming corals and more than a third of all marine mammals are threatened.
- Around 10 per cent of all insect species are threatened.
- At least 680 vertebrate species have been driven to extinction since the 16th century.
- Five per cent of species are estimated to be at risk of extinction from two degrees Celsius of warming.
- 16 per cent of species are at risk of extinction from just over four degrees of warming.



ecosystems as we currently know and define them will likely look very different – future ecosystems will be composed of novel assemblages of species that will form in their place.

Changing world

Individual species will respond to climate change differently. As temperature and rainfall patterns change, some species such as birds, insects, some plants with wind dispersal of their seeds will be able to migrate to their preferred climate. Others won't – they will be unable to adapt, so will be at risk of extinction. This means that many ecosystems, such as the Gondwana subtropical rainforests of the beautiful Caldera, here on the east coast of Australia, that are examples of some of the oldest ecosystems on the planet, will look very different in centuries to come. This is because all the different species which make up these ecosystems will respond to climate change at their own pace, and in their own capacity, and in some cases will disappear.

Symbioses between species will be at risk of breaking down (eg, the pollinator species for a flowering plant might become extinct) creating added stress on species trying to adapt.

Extreme weather – to get worse

Climate change is also resulting in an increase in the frequency and/or severity of extreme climatic events, such as heatwaves, drought, cyclones, and storms.

With only one degree of anthropogenic global heating, extreme climatic events have already had profound impacts on Australia's biodiversity. This can be seen

in unusually frequent marine heatwaves that have devastated large parts of the Great Barrier Reef; and the unprecedented Black Summer bushfires of 2019–2020 that had a catastrophic impact on large swathes of forests up and down the east coast of Australia.

Millions of hectares of koala habitat were burnt in these fires. Early estimates suggest around 80 per cent of the Blue Mountains world heritage area, and more than 50 per cent of the Gondwana world heritage subtropical rainforests burnt, including the Lamington National Park in southeast QLD and the Mt Nardi National Park in northern NSW.

If the current CO₂ emissions trajectory continues, we are on track for global temperatures to increase by 3–4 degrees by the end of this century. This will have utterly calamitous consequences for biodiversity across the globe.

Take responsibility

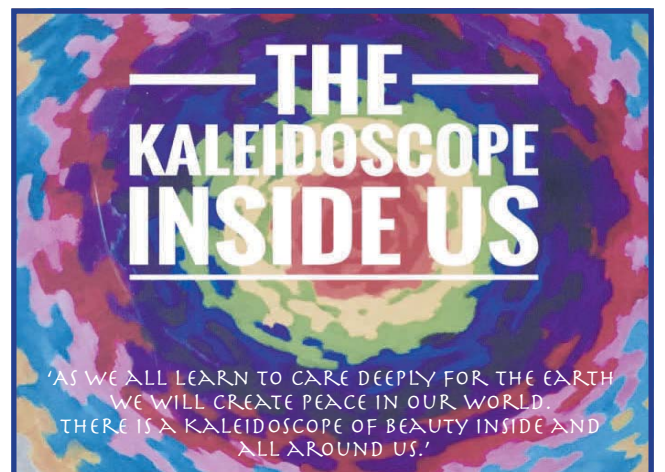
Over half a million of the world's estimated 5.9 million land-based species do not have sufficient habitat for their long-term survival, without a major restoration effort. One of these species is our beloved koala. It's estimated that if current land clearing practices continue, then the koala could become extinct by 2050 (see page 20).

As individuals and communities, we must step up. Anyone with a backyard, or some acreage, can plant trees and shrubs supporting native wildlife. Individuals, businesses and landholders can facilitate tree planting and forest regeneration.

At a state and national level, governments need to immediately ban logging in all old growth forests, and commit to more conservation measures, such as buffer zones around National Parks. They also need to increase connectivity between reserves, create more wildlife corridors, and legislate proposed new biodiversity reserves such as The Great Koala National Park.

Government assistance for landholders and farmers to conserve and enhance biodiversity on their properties must be provided. Regenerative agriculture should become the norm, not the exception; this will foster greater resilience to drought in the agricultural sector as climate change worsens.

► Read full article online in *Echonetdaily*: www.echo.net.au/planet-watch-emergency-on-planet-earth.



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COVID-19 Community Organisation Updates

Ballina/Byron U3A

Meetings of the group are suspended until further notice because of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Byron Community Centre programs

Homeless Breakfast: 7.30–9am Wednesday and Friday

Homeless Showers: Monday and Wednesday 10–12.30pm (book in at breakfast).

Women's Support Group: Fridays (women only) 1–3pm at Community Cabins.

Severe Wet Weather Shelter: signs at Byron Community Centre on days when WWS open, with instructions.

Free Phone Counselling for Byron Residents: Call 0414 322 064 10am–2pm weekdays to make an appointment.

Emergency Food Delivery: Byron emergency pantry food delivery in Byron Bay area, for those physically or financially unable to shop. Call 6685 6807 10am–2pm, Monday to Thursday to arrange delivery.

Women's Counselling: For women needing extra support, leave a message for community worker on 6685 6807.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

All AA meetings are now available online, via a Zoom or Skype platform. For more information call 0401 945 671, 1800 423 431, or 1300 222 222. Find out more from Lonnie at: www.aa.org.au

Men's Shed

To combat social isolation during the COVID-19 crisis, The Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) has launched online to help Sheddies stay connected.

'Men's Sheds are an effective initiative because they connect people who would otherwise be socially isolated on a daily basis,' said AMSA Executive Officer David Helmers.

The goal of The AMSA Shed Online is to facilitate an online space where people can connect in the same way they do at the shed – over a cuppa and a laugh.

Community transport

The Tweed Byron and Ballina Community Transport (TBBCT) is still operating through the COVID-19 pandemic. TBBCT clients can still call to book a trip, if their transport needs are essential eg, medical appointments that can't be undertaken by Telehealth. Trips into Queensland can take place for medical appointments. TBBCT is unable to provide transport for people with flu-like symptoms, or who suspect they may have contracted COVID-19. Call your GP for advice.

TBBCT is still taking on new clients and accepting referrals through My Aged Care. They can also assist callers with CHSP and community transport inquiries.

TBBCT offices are not accessible to visitors at

the moment, but calls are welcome, during office hours 8.30am–4.40pm, Monday to Friday on 1300 875 895.

Ocean Shores Art Expo

The Ocean Shores Art Expo scheduled for the last weekend in August, regrettably has been cancelled for this year. Full details of the reasoning for this decision can be found at www.osartexpo.com.

The Ocean Shores Art Expo (OSAE) committee has faced the reality that we cannot hold the Ocean Shores Art Expo in August this year. On a positive front the OSAE committee will honour a \$2,000 grant to

fund a workshop for senior High School Art students in Byron Shire. We thank the Mullumbimby High School Art teachers who have kindly agreed to coordinate this, when it is safe to do so. Support for artists is vital at this time, so please remember to reach out to artists with things as simple as liking an artist's page and telling them how their work has affected you. Other inexpensive ways the community can support local artists include signing up for an online class with a local artist, becoming a patron of artists on Patreon, buying their handmade clothing, cards, pots, gifts, CDs, merchandise, and repeat streaming of local artists while you sleep.

Fun croquet

To all our wonderful members of the Pottsville Fun Croquet Club Inc., we hope you are all well. There will be no fun croquet for the foreseeable future due to COVID-19. Enjoy your Easter. Enquiries, Jenny on 0413 335941 or see our Facebook page – Pottsville "Fun Croquet" Club Inc.

Breast Cancer Support

The Breast Cancer Support Group, Byron Bay, is for the time being meeting online and not face-to-face.

For meeting number or info, please write to byronbcs@gmail.com or call 0431 207 453.

Taking part in a Buttery program

The Buttery has taken its community-based programs online. Any existing Buttery clients can get in touch with their counsellor to arrange to take part in one-on-one counselling, or to take part in a group.

People not already taking part in a Buttery program, and who are concerned about their mental wellbeing or substance use can call The Buttery intake line during office hours, Monday–Friday, for a free assessment and to find out about joining a free program: 6687 1111 or email: intake@buttery.org.au.

Still Regular As Clockwork

Mullumbimby District and Neighbourhood Centre

MDNC are providing telephone information and support, Emergency Relief, and both the Integrated Domestic & Family Violence and Staying Home Leaving Violence support programs. They are also providing food parcels to those in need. To access the food parcels and other services call 6684 1286 or 0491 227 306.

Liberation Larder

Liberation Larder is running on a skeleton staff of volunteers as many of their volunteers are in the high risk or aged group. Skilled, healthy volunteers are welcome to apply to become involved in the Liberation Larder team. Any non-perishable food items are gratefully accepted. Call Liberation Larder on 0435 879 778.

The SHIFT Project

The SHIFT Project Byron is a non-profit charity that provides a residential education program for women who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. In response to COVID-19, we will be providing temporary/short-term supported accommodation for a small number of women in need. Please call Anne on 0411 844 134 or email anne@shiftproject.org.au. They are also offering local women over-the-phone psychological support with our qualified psychotherapist, please call 0411 844 134. For more information see www.shiftproject.org.au.

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 Wednesday 10–12noon 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.

Hub Baptist Church in Ocean Shores

The Hub Baptist Church in Ocean Shores has multiple layers of support available for the homeless and disadvantaged. If anyone finds themselves in need of support during this pandemic simply email us at help@thehubbaptist.org and one of their team will respond. If young people want to talk to someone they can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800, e-mail or seek web counseling via www.kidshelpline.com.au – Facebook: @kidshelpline, Insta @kidshelplineau, Twitter @KidsHelplineAU.

#ViralKindness Mullumbimby

A group has been set up via Getup called #ViralKindness Mullumbimby. They are looking for people to come on-board and drop the #ViralKindness postcard off around their own neighbourhood to signal their willingness to help the more

vulnerable in the community, and they have had quite a bit of interest from locals.

'We can offer help with shopping, urgent supplies like prescription medications, and also just a wellbeing check, a phone call, because people can become lonely when self-isolating and living alone already,' said Rachael Kealy who is coordinating the Mullumbimby group.

'We're trying to cover the whole of Mullumbimby, but with only eight of us at the moment it's proving a little difficult, so any extra help that we can get from other community members would be most appreciated.'

Go to www.viralkindness.org.au, select the 'find a group' tab, type Mullumbimby, and click on 'join our group'.

Byron Youth Activity Centre

Byron Youth Activity Centre is closed to the public. If you need support you can message on Facebook or Instagram, call your caseworker on their mobile, or ring the office on 6685 7777 and leave a message.

NSW State forests closed

Camping and picnic areas in NSW State forests are closed until further notice as part of the public health precautions. This applies to all State forests in NSW, including native

forests and pine plantations. Walking tracks in State forests can still be accessed for exercise, although it is important that people practise social distancing of 1.5m between individuals as per the public health advice. Further information is on the website at www.forestrycorporation.com.au.

Mullum CWA

Due to the coronavirus risk, Mullumbimby CWA branch will not meet in person until further notice. Support each other, and keep in touch by phone. For more information contact president Sue on 6684 1675 or secretary Jenny on 6684 7282.

Uniting Church Op Shop Mullumbimby

The Uniting Church Op Shop Mullumbimby is closed till further notice. We thank all our volunteers, customers and regular contributors for your support. We respectfully ask that no donations of any kind, big or small be left at, or near buildings adjoining the premises as we do not have the capacity to process or store these items. We look forward, with faith, to the day we can all be together again.

Ballina/Byron U3A

Meetings of the group are suspended until further notice because of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

DEADLINE: NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' or 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au. This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.



Fun facts about the Byron Theatre!

Fun Fact #2:

The Byron Theatre is not-for-profit!

The theatre is part of the Byron Community Centres' not-for-profit social enterprise model.

This means that funds raised from ticket sales will go towards a good cause; vital services, inclusive projects, cultural programs and vibrant events that benefit our local community here in Byron Bay.

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www.byroncentre.com.au

The clipped wings of Gen Z as COVID-19 impacts

Scout Wallen

In times of unparalleled change, young people are looking to each other for signs of hope and stability.

In Australia, Gen Z, for the first time in their lives, are feeling the direct implications of a worldwide health and economic crisis.

As universities close across Australia and move online, many young people are heading back to their family homes.

Moving home at 20?

Eva is a 20-year-old University of Melbourne student.

'When all of this started, I don't think we thought it would be as serious as it is,' Eva said.

'I had to decide whether or not to move back to the Northern Rivers to live with my parents, or wait it out in Melbourne with the new life and family I had made for myself.'

In the end, Eva decided to come home to be with her parents and brother, which means that she is completing the final year of her undergraduate degree online.

'This was the year that I was supposed to be meeting with honours supervisors, networking and connecting with people,' she said.

'Online university is costing me the same amount, even though it is being delivered to a significantly lower quality of learning and education. I am not happy about it.'

Real support needed

Eva works at an art centre in Melbourne that is government run, meaning she lost her job even before social distancing measures were put into place.

'It is all well and good for the government to say they



Eva (third from the left) is enjoying her time since returning to the Northern Rivers with her mum, Therese (left), brother Leif (second from left), dad Luke (right), and her dog Obi.

are going to help us out, but to actually not pull through and make sure that the help is accessible and legitimate is really tough,' she said, in relation to the issues Australians are having with accessing Centrelink and support payments.

Job loss is particularly significant for the younger generations as they hold the majority of casual positions in the workforce. Casual employees make up 76 per cent of workers aged 15-19 years old, and 41 per cent of workers 20-24 years old.

In saying this, all generations are feeling the uncertainty that continues to surround us. For some, it feels like it is swallowing us whole.

Greer Andersson, a 19-year-old Sunshine Coast resident, is struggling with the isolation.

Removing choice

'I never had a problem staying at home when I had the choice to, but now I am struggling with the fact that I won't be able to see my friends, or my grandfather, because me visiting him could potentially kill him,' said Greer.

'I'm really freaking out,

and I don't think I will cope well being cooped up.'

We are at an age where the adults in our lives are telling us to go out and explore. To take advantage of the world and the experiences we are yet to unpack.

Future questions

Yet this situation limits our access to the futures we want to create.

Kallum Robinson, a 20-year-old University of Queensland student, who grew up in Lismore, had his university exchange in Berlin cut short.

'Some of my friends started to go home to their respective European countries, and as it progressed into March, my opportunity to work evaporated as Berlin began to shut down.'

Kallum made the decision to come back to Australia once flights became more expensive, and airlines began to suspend operations.

'One week I was going to

parties in Berlin, and the very next week I found myself sitting in my family home doing absolutely nothing.'

Although it is easier to wallow in the negative consequences of COVID-19 isolation measures, there are some positives. A lot of us are taking these moments of physical distancing to unwind and re-attach ourselves to the things we enjoy doing at home and the people we love.

'Slowing down has been really important,' said Eva, who has been able to start playing music again, writing, exercising and spending time with her family.

'I am getting to be with my family at a time in my life where I never thought I would be back home.'

We also have to thank social media for keeping us all connected.

'I have been video-chatting a lot, and checking in with lots of people,' said Eva.

And of course, these experiences are not universal amongst everyone our age. Some people are thriving with introverted glee. Others are unsafe in their homes, as social distancing can mean something very different for those in unsafe households. And others continue to go out and live their lives like normal.

To anyone who is young and feeling the instability of this, give your mind some COVID-19 free time by all means, but I urge you to listen to the medical facts. And remember, the pub will be there when this all eases up again.

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1176 Myocum Road, Mullumbimby (just past the golf course)
e: admin@wardsls.com.au Mon-Fri: 7-5pm
w: wardslandscapesupplies.com.au Sat: 7-2pm

Ph (02) 6684 2323

Hardwood Mulch on sale for \$34 p/mtr

It's Easter

2DIE4 LIVE FOODS

April 420 Offer – 20% discount and free delivery.

Going nutty from isolation? Take advantage of the social distancing special and stock up on their great range of organic activated nuts, seeds, healthy snacks and new pantry items. Order online, spend over \$100 (including discount) and get it delivered for free! Valid until end of April.

Visit 2die4livefoods.com.au and use code BYRON420.

Sign up to the newsletter to receive other great offers and info!

0411 204 588

6 Boronia Place, Byron Arts & Industry Estate



CELEBRATING FAMILY AND THE HOLIDAYS IN THE TIMES OF CORONAVIRUS

Easter and the official public and school holidays have taken on a whole new meaning in the context of a worldwide pandemic and the shutdown of our community.

I seem to remark daily to my daughter (who is a science fiction expert) that if we were told two months ago that we were about to live in a world where we would not be allowed out of our homes, that we would be afraid to connect physically with our elderly family and friends, so as to protect them, that we would see millions of Australians lose their jobs overnight, and that we would start practising social distancing, we would have said "No way! That is the stuff of Science Fiction!"

What is normally a time for reflection or celebration with family and friends, or for a trip somewhere, or enjoying all that our region has to offer, has become a very different, a very stressful and a very sombre time.

There is a lot of information and misinformation out there and conversely, a lot of support available. My office can assist you to get the support you need through this terrible time. We are simply a phone call or email away and we can connect you with the support and information you need to access health and economic assistance.

As always I'm in awe of the courage, integrity and dignity of our community.

TAMARA SMITH

Phone: 867 522 or Email: ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au

tamarasmith.org.au



"We are here to help you in this challenging time."

Call my office for assistance on 6686 7522

Or email ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au

TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA

(02) 6686 7522

ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Shop 1, 7 Moon Street, Ballina NSW 2478

Authorised by Tamara Smith Member for Ballina.
Produced using parliamentary entitlements.

THE GREENS

420 APRIL OFFER

20% DISCOUNT

Discount code: **BYRON420**

Order online, spend over \$100 (incl. discount) and get it delivered for free!

Check out the website for our huge range of Activated nuts, seeds, healthy snacks and pantry goods. Subscribe to receive more great offers from Byron Bay's original Activated Nutters.

2die4livefoods.com.au

0411 204 588 | 6 Boronia Place, Byron Arts & Industry Estate

*Valid until end of April

2die4
LIVE FOODS
BYRON BAY SINCE 2004

Free delivery



UNCHARTED WATERS

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THESE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES



Paséyo – Fresh, Yummy Food

Our delicious meals, created using fresh ingredients, feed your taste buds and your immune system.

Our smoothies, coffees, bowls and freshly pressed juices are all available as takeaways.

For your next meal try our wholesome, balanced dishes that combine grain, protein and vegetables.

Full details and menu on our website.

0498 010 881
www.paseyo.com



The Holy Grain

Hot cross buns,
Yum, Yum, Yum,
Take Away, Delivery!
Hot cross buns.

Easter Day is coming,
We're still having fun,
Take Away, Delivery!
Hot cross buns.

The Holy Grain Bakery
Loves everyone
Take Away, Delivery!
Hot cross buns.

The Holy Grain, Byron's
Organic Ancient Grain Baker, is
now delivering to
the Byron Shire!

Bakery to Door.

Text 0472 921 993
or
call 6685 5491

We can't deliver
a chef. But we
can deliver
their fine
ingredients.



At local, family owned
Blue Bay Gourmet
we normally sell to fine
restaurants. But in these
unusual times, we can now
supply your home kitchen.

Staples from oats, noodles
and olive oil to gourmet white
anchovies, manchego and
truffle paste. Low prices.

Free delivery on orders
over \$100.

bluebaygourmet.com.au
Online store



Fel's kitchen Byron Bay

Healthy takeaway +
free local delivery!

Meals/soups
Smoothie bowls/nourish bowls
Cold pressed juice
Made by a nutritionist/chef

**For all our local doctors/
nurses/ paramedics/ police;
drop by and let us shout you
a coffee!**

Curb-side pick up Williams
Lane (behind post office)

Open 7.30am-3pm

Phone ahead with your
order: 0408 292 057
@felskitchenbyron



Foxy Luu's is open 7 days

from 11am-8:30pm for
T/A. Delivery available
daily 5-8pm.

Come try our famous bone
broth soup or the mouth
watering baos, salads and
dumplings.

Max 2 guests allowed in the
shop at a time to comply with
the distancing regulations.

Call us on 0492 834 148
or find us on **UberEats** and
Bopple app.



BYRON FARMERS MARKET

BYRON FARMERS
MARKET is classified as an
essential food service so
remains open,

but with new measures
in place to provide a safe
environment, including extra
hand-washing stations and
hand sanitiser on all stalls,
social distancing, and extra
space between stalls.

Only one shopper per
household please.

Thursdays 7-11am at the
Cavanbah Centre and
Saturdays 7-11am behind the
Bangalow Pub.

byronfarmersmarket.com.au



Dear friends of Punch and Daisy.

Our new opening hours are
7.30-11am daily.

We will be serving takeaway
coffee, pastries, baked goods
and staples from our window
for you to enjoy in the comfort
of your home.

We want you to be able to
enjoy the smaller things, like a
hot drink and
a welcoming smile.

105 Stuart Street,
Mullumbimby
6684 6564



Devine Quality Meats

Devine Quality Meats
Mullumbimby are offering Free
Local Delivery in Mullumbimby
and surrounds.

Serving the community with
antibiotic and hormone free
meat, Vince and his team have
plenty to choose from. You
can still get your grass fed local
beef, sausages, duck, roast
meats, locally sourced pork,
ham and bacon.

Call in with orders:
6684 2015 or
0429 842 015

A SMOOTH SEA
NEVER MADE
A SKILLFUL
SAILOR

Lord Byron Distillery HAND SANITISER available



We continue to make hand
sanitiser and sell at our cost
price to support the local
community.

Our cellar door is open
Tues-Sat, noon till 5pm at
7/4 Banksia Dr, Byron Bay.
Limit of two 50ml bottles per
person. \$2 per bottle.
Bring your own bottle and
refill 100ml for \$3.

lordbyrondistillery.com.au



Get outdoors and have fun in a responsible way!

Zephyr Horses is currently
offering private 1-on-1 rides
and lessons for only \$100
(1hr 'forest trail') and \$150
(1.5hr 'forest to beach').
Save \$\$\$.

Limited spots available.

Visit zephyrhorses.com
for more information or to
arrange a ride!



Open for takeaway and
home delivery.

We are happy to be able to
offer these services to our
community during these
challenging times.

Rest assured that we are
taking all precautions to look
after the welfare of our staff
and customers.

Open 7am-3pm daily.
Home delivery 10am-2pm.

6685 0186

yami.com.au

Follow us for regular
updates
@yami_brunswick_heads



Bun Coffee roastery door is still open

7am-2pm Mon-Fri
(takeaway only)

Please phone ahead for pick
up or for \$5 (Byron Shire only)
we will deliver fresh locally
roasted coffee to your door.

6680 9798

1A Banksia Drive, Byron
Industrial Estate

Thanks for supporting our
family business and
take care.

Jenny and David and the
team at Bun Coffee.



PIZZA PARADISO Suffolk Park is open for takeaways and deliveries.

We have introduced stringent
hygiene protocols for the
safety of customers and staff
and offer a minimum
contact service.

Check our website for details
of our menu and delivery deals.

6685 3101

pizzaparadisobyronbay.com

FROM
GREAT
ADVERSITY
COMES
GREAT
CREATIVITY



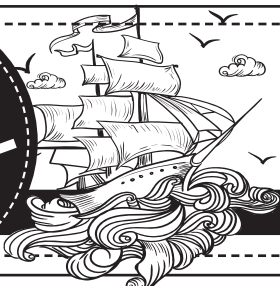
Beds R Us Byron Bay is OPEN.

We welcome any phone
enquiries or consultations
on 6685 5212 or email us on
byronbay@bedsrus.com.au.
Use discount code SAVE20 to
save 20% off your entire order
online or mention this ad to
receive 20% off phone orders,
and we can deliver from
Tweed to Ballina.

PUT ON
YOUR
positive
PANTS



SUPPORT LOCAL



UNCHARTED WATERS

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THESE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES



SCRATCH PATISSERIE

The only thing better than fresh croissant, is fresh croissant delivered to your door. The Scratch Patisserie store is closing, but their new local delivery and pick-up options are available on Wednesday and Saturdays.

Order at scratchpatisserie.com.au. Scratch will be trading at the Farmers Markets on Tues, Thurs and Fri, and breads are available at Mullumbimby IGA Tues-Sat.



Print Rescue

- Flyers, photos, plans,
 - takeaway menus,
 - business cards,
 - documents, posters,
 - brochures, manuals,
 - study guides, laminating,
 - binding, scanning.
- Email your files. EFTPOS preferred.

We're using our side door in the arcade.

Open Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm
9 Fingal Street
Brunswick Heads
info@printrescue.com.au
6685 0477

The Book Room

FREE same day home delivery in Byron Shire and Lennox Head

NEW AUTUMN READING GUIDE IN TODAY'S ECHO

Physically separate points of sale and parallel work teams

Staff wear gloves and use new operating procedures towards contact-free process

All stock is listed and available for purchase by phone on **6685 8183** or online at thebookroomatbyron.com 27 Fletcher St, Byron Bay & 2/60 Ballina St, Lennox Head



The Bucha of Byron

Get The Bucha of Byron delivered each week to your doorstep (no delivery charge)! Only \$35 for a 12-pack of Original, Ginger, Lemon Myrtle or Tropical.

Brewed in Byron Bay using locally sourced ingredients, The Bucha of Byron is a sparkling, raw, fermented kombucha, loaded with probiotics.

Text us your order to 0416 078 530 or email orders@thebuchaofbyron.com.au



Byron Bay Pork & Meats is now offering free delivery to Mullumbimby and surrounds.

Call the shop to place your order.

Locally sourced premium quality pork, beef, lamb and goat from their family farms. Specialty sausages including a gluten-free variety, smoked leg hams, free range chickens and ducks. All meats are antibiotic and hormone free.

Open Mon-Sat.
6684 2137
70 Dalley Street.



Your Body Knows

Yourbodyknows is offering beautiful nutritious home-made meals.

Deliveries to the whole Shire. Stay home and eat well whilst in isolation.

Cooked from scratch: vegan and non-vegan, hormone free, free-range chicken and meats, organic legumes, spices and coconut oil.

Text us your email or phone number to receive our weekly changing menu.

David & Yoko 0475 054 126
yourbodyknows.com.au
FB: yourbodyknows
Instagram: your.body.knows



TAKEAWAY AND HOME DELIVERY* IN MULLUMBIMBY

Coffee, handcrafted Malawach, Falafel, Pita Pocket, traditional Yemenite spices... and all your favourites delivered to your doorstep...

We are doing everything we can to support and protect the wellbeing of our community.

yamanmullumbimby.com.au

Call to order 6684 3778.

Open every day from 9AM-8PM.

*Delivery Sun-Fri, 4-8PM. Mullumbimby only. Free Delivery from \$39.

40% off Easter Chocolate



CHOCOLATE delivered to you

Essential for a Happier Easter

The best chocolate is at love-byronbay.com

Seize the moment as it's hopping popular!

Order on-line & enter Code "HappyEaster" for an unprecedented 40% discount.

Specialty delicious chocolate suited for any taste, vegan and dietary preference.

Pick up & home delivery options

Because 'Easter without chocolate is not 'Bunny'

love-byronbay.com



The Sun Bistro Bottle Shop home deliveries

People, don't despair! The Sun Bistro Bottle Shop is providing a home delivery service so you can enjoy your favourite drinks, without leaving your home.

Julz, who has hand-curated the Sun Bottle Shop, has put together some fantastic wine packages that he'll deliver to your door step.

You can also add on some of your favourite beers and spirits.

For more information
ph: 6685 6500
thesunbistro.com
E: deliver@thesunbistro.com



Wall and Company Lawyers

Wall and Company Lawyers can help you with strategic risk planning, like putting into effect planned succession of authority, by way of Powers of Attorney and/or Guardianship, to protect both your loved ones and your commercial enterprises from sudden disruption.

We can work with you remotely, and we are offering a flat-rate fee to draw up the legal documents so that you can ease the burden and ride out this wave with certainty.

43 Stuart St, Mullumbimby
Phone: 6684 1991
wallcolawyers.com.au



Spice it Up Thai Restaurant



Spice it Up Thai Restaurant is open from Wednesday to Sunday from 5pm (takeaways only).

Please enquire about our delivery service for the Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby town areas. Please telephone orders on **6680 1008**.

For pick-ups please make your way up the steps to the front deck.

Also we have a great range of takeaway alcoholic beverages at discounted prices.

Ocean Shores Country Club, Orana Rd, Ocean Shores

'Sometimes you just need to distance yourself to see things more clearly...'



UNCHARTED WATERS

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THESE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES



Boredom busters for all ages from TOY KINGDOM BYRON BAY

Board games, LEGO, Puzzles, Craft, Outdoor activities and heaps more!

Jellycat in store now for EASTER.

Free local delivery.

Website launching this week!

mytoykingdom.com.au

Follow us for regular updates

@mytoykingdom

Phone orders 6680 8811

Castrikum Adams Legal

If you're worried about the legal implications COVID-19 may have on your personal circumstances, we can help you to understand your rights and responsibilities.

Our virtual boardroom is open for business via a number of online platforms, and we still offer good old-fashioned telephone advice.

To make a virtual appointment, call 0411 180 907 or email: enquiry@castrikumlegal.com.au



IT'S STILL ON AT THE CON!

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium is pleased to be able to continue to deliver music tuition during this time using a range of online communication platforms.

We are very much keeping the music flowing and are taking new enrolments.

This could be the time to realise a long-held dream or learn together as a family.

www.nrcac.edu.au
6621 2266



SEVEN MILE BREWING IS NOW OFFERING FREE DELIVERY to postcodes 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483.

Visit the website and place a \$50 minimum order!

Our full seasonal and core range is available in crowlers, 4-packs, and cartons.

We will continue to offer home delivery and safely supply the public with their beers as long as they are able.

sevenmilebrewing.com.au



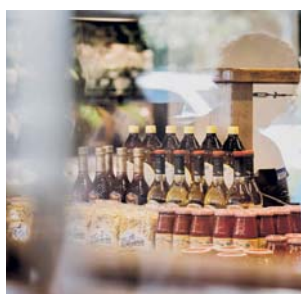
Trawlers Bar & Kitchen

Trawlers Bar & Kitchen is open Thurs-Sun, 12-8pm and doing home deliveries 4-8pm.

Order and pay online using Bopple.

We are also offering beautiful \$10 frozen meals to help people through this hard time, and delivering cocktails, wine, beer and more.

All menus and frozen meals will be on Trawlers Facebook and Instagram. [@trawlers_brunswickheads](https://www.facebook.com/trawlers_brunswickheads) trawlersbarandkitchen.com.au
2 The Terrace, Brunswick Heads



The Bay Grocer

Bay Grocer champions small and local and we embrace the best of international foods. We offer what people need and what they want. Visit baygrocer.com for all your shopping needs, including weekly fruit and vegetable boxes, take home meals, hot roast chickens. Pre-orders and contactless pick-ups of all your grocery requirements from our back roller door.

Tennyson Street, Byron Bay



Hunky Dory Fish & Chips

Locally owned and operated, Huncky Dory Fish & Chips is sharing the love with online ordering for a quick pick-up or delivery via UberEats. Or pop in to place your order and take-away your Huncky goods. Beer and wine are also available to take-away with your Huncky feed.

109 Jonson Street (opposite Woolies)
02 6680 7985
hunkydory.com.au or UberEats



Pocket Herbs

Are you struggling to buy seedlings or in need of an immunity boost?

Pocket Herbs is now delivering seedlings, micro greens and high-quality salad mixes to the key towns in Byron and Tweed Shires.

Our Micro Nutrient Mix, Piccolo Mix and Micro Greens, all have concentrated nutrients and are a source of antioxidants, vitamin C, folate and beta-carotene.

pocketherbs.com.au/delivery



Trevor Mead Quality Meats

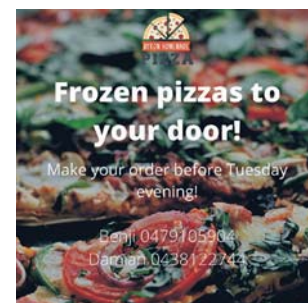
The team at Trevor Mead Quality Meats thanks you for your support.

We are working alongside our suppliers to ensure we are fully stocked with quality meats and deli foods.

Our high standards of food safety and sanitising continue, and we will close for 15 minutes at 12.15pm daily for sterilisation between shifts.

Customers can pre-order via phone or email for same day pick up 6685 6583
E: info@trevormead.com.au

Online shop and home delivery will begin in the next week.
trevormead.com.au



Frozen pizzas to your door!

Make your order before Tuesday evening!

Benji 0479 105 904
Damian 0438 122 744

Byron Homemade Pizzas

Byron Homemade Pizzas deliver mouthwatering frozen pizzas to your door so you can stock your freezer and stay safe.

Margherita pizza \$12
Peperoni pizza, Vegetarian pizza, Vegan pizza each \$15

- Free delivery Wednesdays 11-3.
- Cash and bank transfers accepted.
- Contactless delivery if you're self isolating.
- Minimum \$50 orders.

Order before Tuesday evening!

Benji 0479 105 904
Damian 0438 122 744
byronhomemadepizza.com



Fresh fruit & veg delivered to your door!

Supplying the finest fresh local produce to top restaurants and cafes for over a decade, Suncoast Fresh are now supporting locals in their time of need.

Based in Byron Bay, with refrigerated transport, our team is ensuring freshness and quality delivered with social distancing respected.

Click & Collect is also available.
6639 1600
suncoastfresh.com.au



Hemp Culture are still open! 10am-3pm

Superfood supplements to support your health and well being, hemp foods, skin care and of course all your growing needs, nutrients, fertilisers and growing mediums.

Grab a bargain on clothing which is currently 20% off!

If you can't get to the store we deliver, offering 10% off your first order.

hempculture.com.au
95/97 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
6684 1937



The Vinyl Junkie Records

OVER 40,000 RECORDS IN STOCK.

by appointment only.
0401 955 052



The Good Life

Legends really need your support now

Suffolk Park residents Scott and Gemma Levy moved to Byron four years ago to raise their young family in a healthy, happy and beautiful environment.

They were married on the beach at Broken Head when their son Skyler was just 18 months old, and not long after, they welcomed the arrival of their baby daughter, Tilly.

When the opportunity arose to purchase the Byron Bay icon, Legends Pizza on Jonson St, from good friends Jono and Megs, they jumped at the chance. On 1 July 2019 they officially took over.

27 days later, at just 3 years old, Skyler was diagnosed with Stage 4 brain cancer, Medulloblastoma, a type of cancer that represents around 20 per cent of childhood brain tumours. The disease was very aggressive, and had already spread through most of his spine – they were told at one stage that he had just 48 hours to live. At the moment, treatment is continuing in Brisbane and the family are hopeful of his recovery. Unbelievably,



they have been juggling the pizza shop remotely with the help of friends and staff.

However, as if this was not nearly enough for one family to endure, the hardship has now been compounded with COVID-19 threatening to close the pizza shop and take the family's livelihood.

The team at Legends have made all required changes to food preparation and service procedures, as per Government requirements, to ensure the safety of their staff and customers. For now they remain open and are trading under limited conditions.

Legends Pizza are offering free delivery until 30 June 2020. Contactless delivery and payments are requested.

For every ten giant pizzas sold, they will donate a pizza voucher to Byron Bay Hospital for their dedicated health workers. As Scott explains, 'We have been supported by our community, this is our chance to do what we can, to hopefully help. Legends has been using local suppliers for over 25 years, sponsoring local clubs, and being part of an amazing community, and we've been supported by the community for almost 30 years.'

To show your support for this struggling young family you can order a **LEGENDS PIZZA** with **FREE DELIVERY** by calling **6685 5700**. Remember, contactless payments and delivery are requested please.

Eat healthy, stay safe



The Hatherlys stocking up their organic stall on Broken Head Road near Newrybar: Julian, Angus, Rosie the dog, Hugh, Oscar, Nick and Simone. Photo Jeff Dawson

Now is the time to spend in our community, and an increasing number of locals have been getting out of the 'Panic Aisle' at Woolies and buying from the local stalls around the place. One of the benefits of getting your veggies along Broken Head Rd is that you can pop in to Zentveld's farm-based coffee roastery for some coffee on the way – they even have a system now where you order your coffee online, then you receive a text with your locker code. Your coffee, is waiting for you in a locker at the front gate, so you can pick it up before or after hours for maximum self-isolation!

The Northern Rivers is home to some top class and innovative producers who are doing it tough now that the restaurants are closed, so if you are looking for some natural, healthy produce check out the Northern Rivers Food member directory at northernriversfood.org.



Creperie, Cafe & Bistro
NOW OPEN FOR TAKEAWAY ONLY

Shop 5/103 Jonson St, Byron Bay | 6694 3394

Good Taste

Takeaway Eating Guide

BALLINA



Wharf Bar & Restaurant

Ballina

FB/Insta: wharfbarrballina
12-24 Fawcett St, Ballina
6686 5259

TAKEAWAY OPEN!

Our takeaway is still open,
from 7.30am to 8.30pm.

We will be taking extra precautions to ensure our staff and the community are safe during this time, while still serving Ballina their favourite dishes!

BYRON BAY



Legend Pizza

Open 7 days
9am till after midnight
Shop 1 Woolworths Plaza
90-96 Jonson Street
6685 5700
www.legendpizza.com.au

FRESH PIZZA BYRON STYLE

Check us out on
facebook.com/byron.legendpizza
Scan code for our menu!
BYO
Home delivery 7 days
Established 1992



Fishheads

Byron Bay

1 Jonson Street,
Byron Bay
6680 7632

FISHHEADSBYRON

TAKEAWAY OPEN!

Our takeaway is still open,
from 7am to 9pm.

We will be taking extra precautions to ensure our staff and the community are safe during this time, while still serving Byron their favourite dishes!



Success Thai

Open Mon-Sat,
3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay

www.facebook.com/pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469

Home Delivery to Byron Town,
Sunrise, Suffolk Park.
Takeaway orders between 4pm-7pm.
Home delivery orders before 5pm.
Home delivery call 0421 902 855 or 0402 258 990
See Facebook for further details.

NEWRYBAR

Harvest

18-22 Old Pacific Highway
Newrybar NSW 2479

02 6687 2644

www.harvestnewrybar.com.au
@harvestnewrybar

HARVEST MARKETPLACE

Providing fresh, nutrient dense produce boxes for our community. Help us to support local farmers and growers to keep our little economy going.

Food is medicine.

Locally sourced vegetable boxes \$50
(pre-order for Saturday pick-up and delivery)

+ pantry cooking essentials + frozen meals + wine & cocktails
Allpress coffee: 6.30am-12pm daily (take-away)

MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire

20 Burringbar St,
Mullumbimby
6684 2306

FB/Insta: EmpireMullumbimby
empiremullumbimby.com.au

The Empire is closed but not for long!

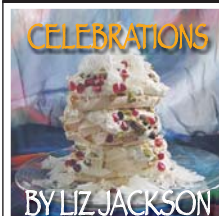
We'll be back in action ASAP for takeaways.

A massive thank you to our wonderful customers and staff.

Stay safe and be cool out there.

We look forward to seeing you again soon!

CATERING



Celebrations Catering By Liz Jackson

Celebration cakes
Personal catering services
Event co-ordination and management

E: lizzijackson@gmail.com

P: 0414 895 441

Will property prices free fall?

A recent article by Nerida Conisbee on realestate.com.au, explains that while the impacts of COVID-19 will see prices for real estate fall, the fall in prices will not be uniform across all regions and the market won't



nosedive as it does in a financial crisis. This is because while there are financial impacts, this is a health crisis. The banking sector is strong, and banks have been equipped to handle non-performing loans and offer mortgage payment deferrals.

These measures, says Conisbee will help to hold off distressed sales that would otherwise flood the market. House prices will fall, because of decreasing demand, but don't expect them to plummet, which is what would happen if banks were also distressed.

Conisbee points out that job losses are the biggest driver of how a community, at the local level, fares. Job

loss due to the impact of COVID-19 is not across the board; rather it has hit certain sectors hard. As we know, the tourism, entertainment and

"...while there are financial impacts, this is a health crisis. The banking sector is strong..."

hospitality sectors have shut down. Regions, like ours, that are highly dependent on tourism, entertainment or education for their economic growth will see an economic downturn, and this is likely to flow through to property prices.

Conisbee ends her article hedging her bets, saying that 'it is too early to definitively call the market, but we do know there will be winners and that there will be losers. As Australia, and the world, continues to adapt in these unprecedented and rapidly changing times, it is only a matter of time before we know the fallout'.

In the meantime, if you need to sell or buy property at this time, contact the agent you trust. As per the recent government announcements, open for inspections and in-person auctions are not permitted at this point in time. On digital platforms like realestate.com.au there are virtual inspections and tours, and you can always reach out to the agent to book a private inspection.



Nerida Conisbee, Chief Economist, REA Group.

1a TRAIN STREET, MULLUMBIMBY



Private appointments welcome by appointment.



JUST LISTED 4 BED | 3 BATH | 2 CAR

PREMIUM LOCATION + DA FOR GRANNY FLAT

- Heart of Mullumbimby, DA for secondary dwelling
- Practical floor plan, suits large families & guests
- Plenty of storage, sunny fenced yard for kids
- North aspect, shady timber decks, raked ceiling
- Solar power, gas cooking, 500L solar hot water
- Reverse cycle air conditioning, dishwasher
- Gas bayonets for heating, 6 x TV aerials outlets
- Media room, wet bar, parent's retreat, spacious loft
- Large insulated shed/workshop plus carport
- Central location, walk to shops, schools & cafes



FIONA JOHNSON

0400 418 886

fonajohnson@atrealty.com.au
www.atrealty.com.au



AGENTS



TARA TORKKOLA

SALES MANAGER & SALES SPECIALIST

DOWN TO EARTH!

"Tara is positive straight forward, down to earth and keeps it real with no false promises and is honest about where the market is. I would highly recommend her to any prospective purchaser or seller." Mullumbimby vendor

Contact Tara to discuss your property or career at First National Byron

M: 0423 519 698
E: TARA@BYRONBAYFN.COM
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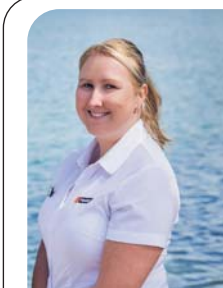
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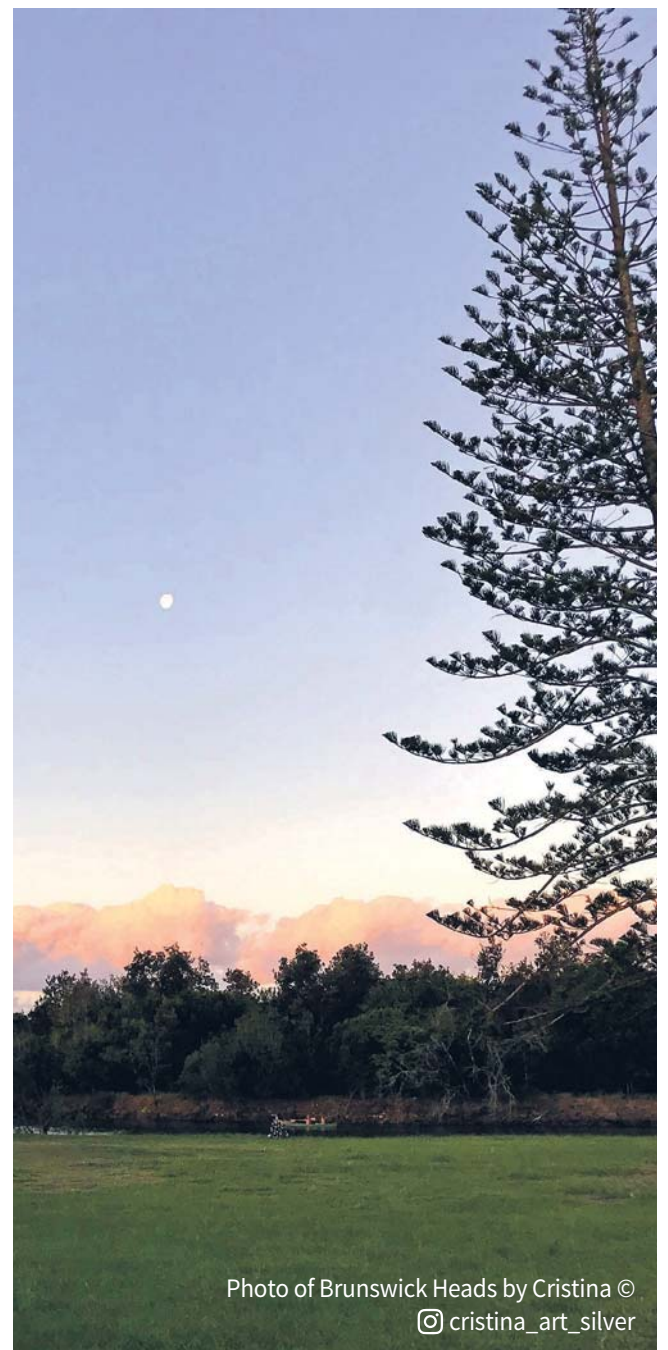


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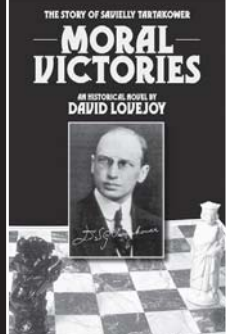
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4th SAT Evans Head	0439 489 631	Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow	6687 1137
4th SAT Wilsons Creek	6684 0299	Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki	6679 5530
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar	0457 471 583	Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore	0466 415 172
		Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob	

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Please stick this by your phone

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE	000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay	131 233
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue	6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER	6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL	6639 9400
POLICE Brunswick Heads	6685 1277
Mullumbimby	6684 2144
Byron Bay	6685 9499
Bangalow	6687 1404
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding	132 500
AIDS Confidential testing & information (ACON)	6622 1555
AL-ANON Help for family & friends of alcoholics	1300 ALANON
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours	1800 423 431
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)	6622 1881
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS	6622 7022
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line	1800 656 463
LIFELINE	131 114
MENSLINE 7pm-11pm nightly (phone counselling & referral for men)	6622 2240
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily	6680 7280
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE	6684 1286
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE	6687 2520
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS	6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE	6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service	6628 1898

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MUSICAL NOTES

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DEATH NOTICES

FLOWERS, ESTHER JANET
05.11.1935 – 05.04.2020

Passed away peacefully at RSL LifeCare Patrick Bugden VC Gardens, Suffolk Park and a long-term resident of Byron Bay. Beloved wife of Bill (dec). Much loved mother of John, Robert, Geoffrey, Janelle, Paul and David and loving grandmother and great-grandmother to their families. Fondly remembered by her brothers and sisters.

Due to current health regulations, a private cremation has taken place. A memorial service to celebrate Esther's life will be held at a future date.

White Lady Funerals,
Northern Rivers, 02 6680 7090

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MUCH LOVE THE ECHO CREW

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Much love, your Echo family.

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: On Tallow Beach. 9 pairs of glasses. Ph 66858897

FOUND: TOOLBOX on 25/03 at Balemo Drive, O/S. Call 0410019286

FOUND: ROSE GOLD BRACELET with setting in Bangalow. 0457417991

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APRIL 2020 Astronomical data and tides						
Day of month	Sun rise	Sun set	Moon rise	Moon set	High tide, height (m)	Low tide, height (m)
1	W 0656	1843	1336		0230 1.47; 1447 1.05	0916 0.68; 2029 0.62
2	T 0656	1842	1431	0007	0347 1.48; 1620 1.06	1042 0.64; 2157 0.61
3	F 0657	1841	1523	0107	0504 1.55; 1741 1.15	1152 0.55; 2315 0.54
4	S 0657	1839	1611	0210	0609 1.65; 1844 1.28	1246 0.44
DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS Sunday 5 April 3am - turn clocks back one hour						
5	S 0558	1738	1556	0216	0605 1.75; 1836 1.42	0022 0.43; 1232 0.33
6	M 0559	1737	1638	0324	0656 1.82; 1925 1.55	0018 0.32; 1314 0.23
7	T 0559	1736	1718	0433	0743 1.85; 2012 1.68	0111 0.23; 1354 0.17
8	W 0600	1735	1758	0541	0828 1.81; 2058 1.77	0202 0.19; 1432 0.14
9	T 0600	1734	1838	0650	0912 1.73; 2144 1.82	0253 0.20; 1511 0.16
10	F 0601	1733	1922	0758	0956 1.60; 2230 1.83	0346 0.25; 1550 0.21
11	S 0601	1732	2008	0907	1040 1.44; 2317 1.79	0443 0.34; 1630 0.30
12	S 0602	1731	2057	1013	1127 1.28	0544 0.44; 1710 0.40
13	M 0602	1730	2150	1115	0010 1.71; 1220 1.14	0652 0.53; 1757 0.52
14	T 0603	1729	2246	1212	0110 1.62; 1330 1.06	0805 0.59; 1856 0.62
15	W 0604	1728	2343	1304	0219 1.54; 1500 1.04	0919 0.60; 2017 0.69
16	T 0604	1727		1349	0330 1.51; 1619 1.10	1024 0.57; 2144 0.69
17	F 0605	1726	0039	1429	0434 1.50; 1717 1.19	1115 0.53; 2253 0.65
18	S 0605	1725	0134	1504	0526 1.52; 1802 1.29	1156 0.48; 2345 0.59
19	S 0606	1724	0228	1537	0610 1.53; 1841 1.39	1230 0.43
20	M 0606	1723	0320	1607	0647 1.55; 1915 1.47	0029 0.53; 1300 0.39
21	T 0607	1722	0412	1637	0722 1.54; 1948 1.55	0108 0.49; 1329 0.36
22	W 0608	1721	0503	1706	0755 1.52; 2021 1.61	0145 0.46; 1356 0.34
23	T 0608	1720	0555	1737	0827 1.49; 2054 1.66	0219 0.45; 1423 0.33
24	F 0609	1719	0649	1810	0859 1.43; 2128 1.69	0256 0.45; 1450 0.34
25	S 0609	1718	0743	1846	0931 1.37; 2203 1.70	0334 0.47; 1519 0.37
26	S 0610	1717	0839	1926	1005 1.29; 2240 1.68	0415 0.50; 1550 0.41
27	M 0610	1716	0935	2011	1043 1.22; 2321 1.65	0459 0.54; 1624 0.47
28	T 0611	1715	1032	2102	1127 1.15	0550 0.58; 1704 0.53
29	W 0612	1714	1126	2158	0009 1.61; 1225 1.10	0652 0.61; 1757 0.59
30	T 0612	1713	1218	2258	0107 1.58; 1341 1.08	0803 0.60; 1909 0.63

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 from Bureau of Meteorology.

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BYRON BAY
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Cavanbah Centre

BYRON FARMERS MARKET
EST. 2007
LOCAL AND AUTHENTIC

BANGALOW
Saturdays 7-11am
Behind the hotel

'Billionaires have definitively proven their exact worth to society the last few weeks, ay'. Tweet by journalist David Milner.

There were a few who took the bait on our April Fools joke last week. Did Airbnb suddenly become a champion for the communities it leeches off? Their Responsibility Conference on the Gold Coast was indeed a hoax. Back to whatever passes for reality now – after being criticised for encouraging 'quarantine holidays', Airbnb have now told their hosts that they have been 'actively discouraging hosts from inappropriately marketing listings using terms related to COVID-19, such as 'quarantine'.

The big banks continue to mooch off their customers, even in a financial meltdown. Is their offer of a six month loan deferral fair? They just got \$90b from the Reserve Bank in quantitative easing, which is effectively free money.

Tweeted by former ABC *Insiders* host Barrie Cassidy last week: 'There will be no going back now that the proletariat knows how it works. Free money, flat rates, double Newstart and government control of airlines and private hospitals. What's not to like?'

A lot of people are going to be 'sorely disappointed' by the media deciding not to air the Queen's April 5 message, say the Australian Monarchist League. Their Sunday press release reminds us that 'Australia is not a republic and that we are still a constitutional



Ballina Shire Council have launched Ballina Business Connect, which is a service to enable residents to obtain staple household items without having to leave home. While Ballina Council are only promoting businesses within their shire, Harvest Newrybar is offering Byron residents fruit and vegetable boxes as they are located close to the border. Orders can be made via the Bopple app. Ballina Council say there may be other businesses that will be willing to supply Byron Shire residents. Visit www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/news/ballina-business-connect--232 for more info. Pictured is Harvest Newrybar co-owner, Tristan Grier. Photo Jeff 'I keep being offered stuff when I take photos' Dawson.

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