Echo

YOU ARE WATCHING PEOPLE GO THROUGH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EMOTIONAL ADDICTION TO THE MYTH OF CERTAINTY – ASHLEY C. FORD

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 34 #47 • Wednesday, April 29, 2020 • www.echo.net.au

Food for the vulnerable running out

Paul Bibby

The Byron Community Centre is urgently seeking financial support from the community so that it can continue to deliver food to locals in need during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Centre says that such is the demand being placed on its Byron Community Pantry program, it fears the service will run out of food in the not-too-distant future.

'We are concerned that we will run out of goods, and won't be able to help the most vulnerable community members when they need our support most,' the Centre's general manager, Louise O'Connell said.

'We are grateful for the financial generosity we've experienced up until now for the Community Pantry, but these donations will only stretch so far to help meet the exponential demand we are experiencing.'

Demand for the service has drastically increased in the past few weeks owing to the health crisis and associated government regulations, which have forced many locals out of a job and deprived them of the income needed to support themselves and their families.

'Frontline workers at the Byron Community Centre expect the number of people in need of help to explode – they have already seen people who have never [before] accessed their services asking for help,' Ms O'Connell said.

■ Visit www.byroncentre.com.au/donations/bcc to make a donation.

Telstra's sham community consultation over 5G

Paul Bibby

The fight against Telstra's installation of 5G in Mullumbimby looks set to continue, with campaigners maintaining a 24-hour presence at the site and lodging a formal complaint with the communication industry's watchdog.

The campaigners made headlines across the country last week when they held a large, peaceful protest at the Dalley Street mobile tower, preventing Telstra technicians from undertaking the upgrading work.

The protest, which attracted around 100 people, defied statewide public health orders preventing large gatherings during the COVID-19 crisis, and resulted in at least one arrest.

While the protest has concluded, the 5G opponents are now maintaining a round-the-clock presence at the site in a bid to prevent Telstra from quietly returning to undertake the installation.

As with the tower in Main Arm which was strongly objected to by the local community, the upgrade was facilitated by legislation that ensures that any objections from local councils and communities do not have to be taken seriously.

While Telstra told *The Echo* that it had 'met our obligations to progress the build at this site', there was no information forthcoming as to how public consultation was considered. Additionally, there was no response to the further questions: 'Did Telstra consider the health implications of rolling out 5G in Mullumbimby when they could not have failed to understand that it would bring people onto the streets in protest? And: 'Will Telstra be stopping the roll out of 5G in Mullumbimby and surrounds until after the COVID-19 pandemic so that they are no longer putting residents, protesters and workers at risk?'

No other option left

An administrator of the Northern Rivers for Safe Technology Facebook Group, Rinat Strahlhofer, said, 'The community and businesses sent through many hundreds of objections to Telstra, and lobbied Council for a year against the 5G upgrade in Mullumbimby'.

'What other option were we left with, than to take to the streets to protect the environment for our children?'

But local federal member, Justine Elliot (Labor), criticised the protest, saying that 'disregarding social distancing directives endangers the health and safety of the wider community, Telstra staff and the police'.

In a statement on social media she said Telstra had advised her that, under federal telecommunications laws, it did not need permission from

► Continued on page 3

Unpacking the cost of petrol ► p8

Byron Shire Council Notices ► p10

How are the foodies doing in virus times? ► p11

Going green during COVID-19 lock down ► p12

Lots of love for our mums! ► p19

Lots of local tradies still hard at work ► p27

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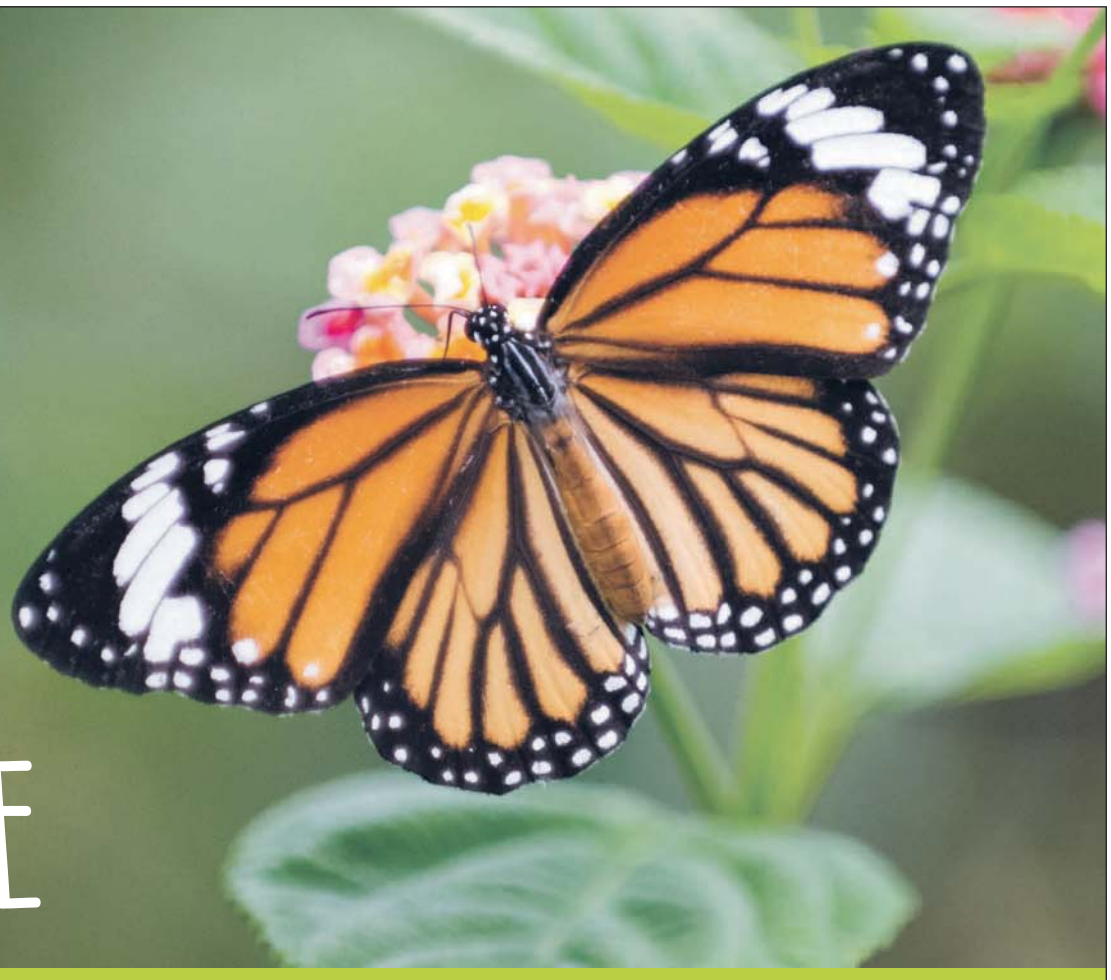

100% NOT-FOR-PROFIT SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

As an environmental not-for-profit we are not your ordinary health food store & cafe. Every purchase you make helps fund social & environmental projects.

Did you know that we are a not-for-profit social enterprise?

"A social enterprise is a cause-driven business whose primary reason for being is to improve social objectives and serve the common good.

A successful social enterprise is one that balances the tension between upholding the social mission of their organisation and maximizing the productivity of their business venture to ensure sustainability."

For many years, Santos Organics operated as a community owned ethical business supported by shareholders, with a strong focus on community and environmental projects through donations made by our team charity fund and our involvement in many valuable community and environmental initiatives.

When we formally registered as a Not-for-Profit in July 2016, there were many questions from our customers and team members about what this actually meant and how this structure differed from how we had been operating as an 'ethical business'. As a not-for-profit, how we give back is in line with and supported by a social enterprise model.

One of the significant differences between a 'social enterprise' and an 'ethical business' is that a social enterprise centres itself around a social or environmental mission and uses commerce as a tool to maximise sustainability and impact, whereas an ethical business centres itself around creating profit for its shareholders, but takes an ethics-based approach on issues like the environment, trade practices and community development.[2]

As a social enterprise, the foundation of our business is to 'give back' and our priority is the reinvestment of our profits into the organisation's environmental or social mission rather than payouts to shareholders. When Santos Organics converted its business structure to a not-for-profit, our shareholders effectively became members of our organisation, by converting the value of their shares to an equitable interest in the organisation. While profits are not the primary motivation behind a social enterprise, revenue still plays a significant and essential role in the sustainability of its venture. For this model to be successful, it is also important to ensure that our foundation as a business is healthy and viable and also supports our future growth and expansion.

Ultimately, 'sustainable revenue' is what differentiates a social enterprise from a traditional charity that relies on outside funding in the form of donations or grants to achieve its social or environmental mission. Our 'revenue' comes from purchases made in our stores and we are very grateful to our customers for their contribution to making our mission possible.

As a not-for-profit social enterprise, the focus of our profits continues to be our beautiful environment – the health of our planet and our community, that's why we exist. This means that a portion of our profits as a health food store are donated, as grants, to environmental and community projects. We have still continued with our team charity fund, but now this means that every dollar spent in our stores by our customers can also go much further.

In 2019, with the support of our team contributions, customers, and purchases made at our stores, we were able to make donations of $46,295 to a number of not-for-profit organisations. These funds went towards some amazing environmental projects such as Sea Shepherd's marine and plastic debris clean-up on Moreton Island, ReForest Now's nursery development at the Mullumbimby Community Gardens, and Hope for Health's purchase of health equipment and support for remote Indigenous communities.

These funds also supported workshops run by Future Dreamers for disadvantaged girls, a website upgrade for Surfers for Crustaceans to improve communication of ocean wildlife protection, as well as contributing to the Disabled Surf Association's surf events for disabled members of our community. Thank you to all of our customers for making this possible and for your ongoing support.

Our next announcement of grant winners will be published in *the Echo* on 6 May 2020.

[1] https://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/what-is-a-social-enterprise

[2] As above

Santos Byron Bay: 105 Jonson St, Byron Bay – (02) 6685 7071
Santos Mullumbimby: 51 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby – (02) 6684 3773
Santos Art & Industrial Estate: 3/7-17 Brigantine St, Byron A&I Estate – (02) 6685 5685

santosorganics.com.au

Echo

NSW govt eases restrictions

With fewer COVID-19 cases now being recorded, the NSW government announced on Tuesday the easing of some restrictions from Friday onward, including allowing the visitation of up to two adults and their children to other people's homes. Locally, some retail shops are slowly reopening. As of April 26, NSW Health reported a total of 16 Byron Shire cases, nine in Ballina and 15 in Tweed Heads. Lismore has recorded five. Pictured is last Sunday's crowd at New Brighton Beach. Photo Jeff Dawson

Mullum locals protest against 5G rollout

► **Continued from page 1**

local and state government to undertake the 5G installation.

'The upgrade is legal and will go ahead,' she said.

Byron Council has confirmed that Telstra does not need its permission to undertake the upgrading works.

Nevertheless, Mrs Elliot's comments have incensed the anti-5G movement who say that Telstra did not meet its requirements under the deployment code.

The campaigners have lodged a formal complaint with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), a fact they say Mrs Elliot is well aware of.

'I was personally outraged that Justine Elliot felt it was in any way appropriate to strip away our civil liberties,' another administrator of the Northern Rivers for Safe Technology Facebook page, Tashi Lhamo, said, referring to Mrs Elliot's Facebook post.

'ACMA is currently considering complaints about Telstra's compliance with the *Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code*, and that complaint has, in ACMA's own words, "Not been satisfactorily resolved".'

No councillor support

Meanwhile, at last Wednesday's Byron Council meeting, Greens councillor Sarah Ndiaye attempted to move an urgency motion, 'to call on Telstra to stop work on the Dalley Street tower until such time as the community complaint to ACMA has been addressed and the COVID-19 social distancing measures have been lifted.'

However, the move was kyboshed when a majority of councillors voted not to debate the issue because it was not 'urgent' enough.

Emergency mayoral powers approved

Paul Bibby

Byron councillors have given Mayor Simon Richardson the power to make unilateral Council decisions during COVID-19, if he deems it to be 'in the interests of the community'.

An amendment by Cr Cate Coorey to limit the powers to three months, rather than the six that Council staff had suggested, was unanimously supported.

The mayor has now been delegated the authority to make decisions in relation to all Council functions which are not already under the authority of the general manager, Mark Arnold.

He can only exercise these powers in the period between Council meetings where it's not practical to call an emergency meeting, where it is in the interests of the local community or the wider public, and after he has consulted with the general manager.

Councillors heard in the meeting that Cr Richardson had already exercised his pre-existing emergency powers, by introducing maximum two-hour parking restrictions at Brunswick Heads beach. This measure was taken because of the large number of van-packers who have congregated in and around the beach, despite COVID-19 restrictions on camping in public places.

Cr Coorey said, 'We've been doing a great deal of really good work, lead by our mayor and councillors during this crisis. It's a very fluid situation, and I feel it's necessary to have this particular delegation.'

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Promotion dates: 29 April–5 May 2020

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
Have your say

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

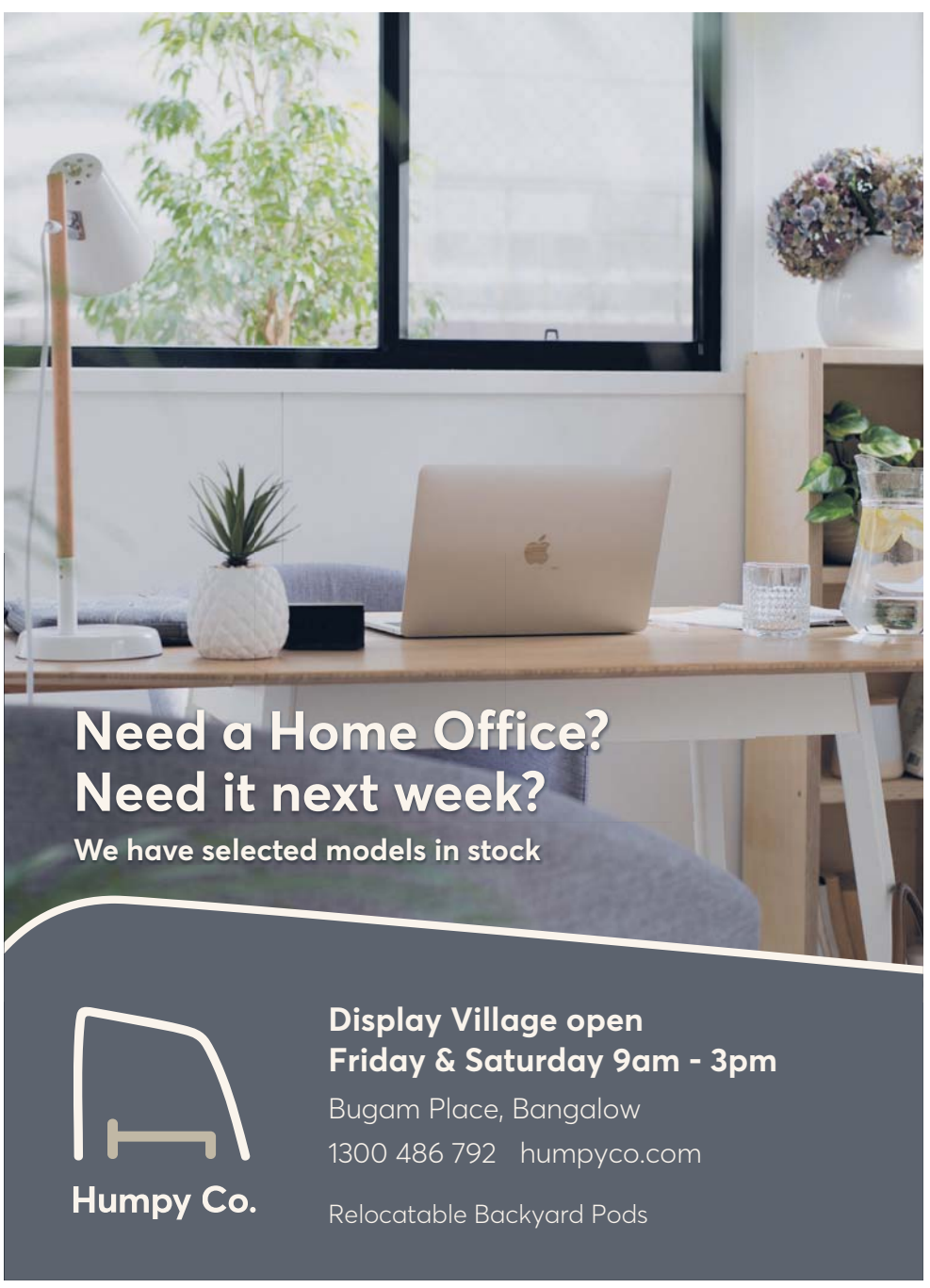
Help protect Byron Shire's unique biodiversity

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

www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/biodiversity-strategy

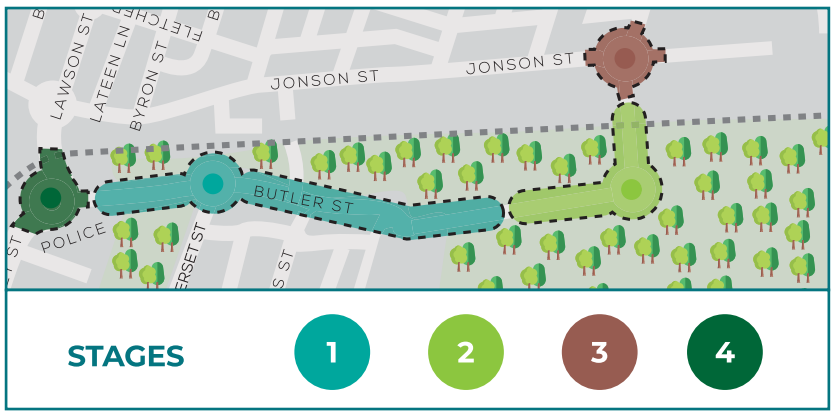
Byron Shire Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

Submissions close
15 May 2020



BYRON BAY BYPASS - PROJECT UPDATE

The Byron Bay bypass is a critical piece of infrastructure for the Byron Bay town centre that has been in the planning for more than 30 years. We're proud to announce that Stage 1 of the project is nearing completion, and Stages 2 and 3 are well underway. The project has been made possible thanks to a $20 million investment from the NSW Government, including $9.5 million from the Restart NSW Growing Local Economies Fund. Byron Shire Council has contributed $4 million towards this important project.



Stage 1: Landscaping is being finalised on Butler Street and works are nearing completion.

Stage 2: Vegetation has been cleared and a rock working platform has been established. Construction on the main stormwater culvert and the fauna underpass has started.

Stage 3: Electrical works have commenced and high voltage cables will be moved underground in mid-May. Road works will begin on the eastern side following these works.

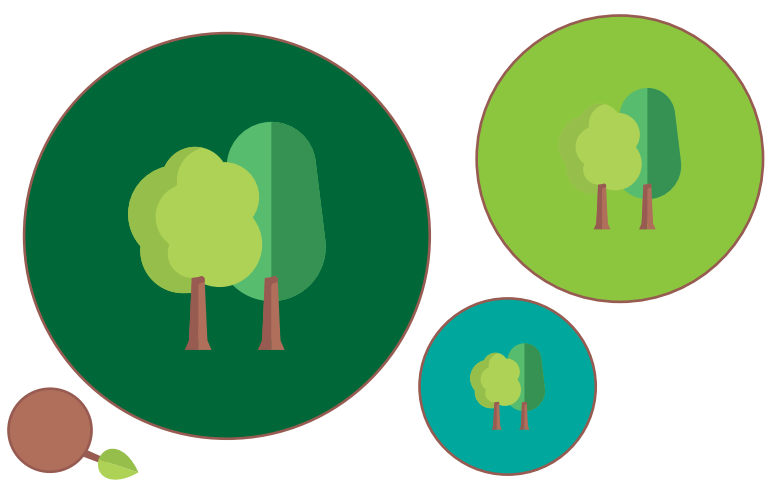
Stage 4: Detailed drawings of the new Shirley Street roundabout are now complete. Works are set to start next month.

AN EXTENSIVE SET OF ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS GOVERN THE PROJECT

Diligent environmental management is a core value of the Byron Bay bypass project. Stage 2 of the project required the removal of approximately 1.5ha of vegetation. Rigorous environmental approvals and determinations were given by both the State and Australian Governments.

Last year an investigation was undertaken to determine the available Mitchell's Rainforest Snail habitat adjacent to the bypass site. It found that there is around 216ha of potential snail habitat, meaning the project directly impacts 0.7% of the habitat in the local area. This doesn't include other known areas such as Broken Head, or further north in the Tweed Shire.

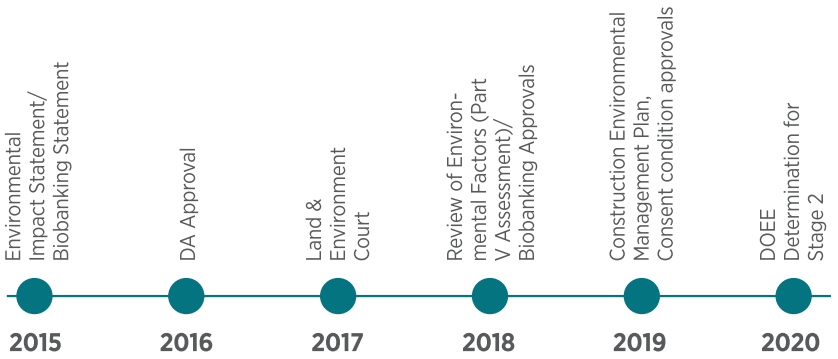
Bypass impact v Bypass benefit



Biobanking & Bush Regeneration area:
- Wallum Place Biobanking site: 35.8ha
- Lilli Pilli Biobanking site: 8.65ha
- Over and above sites: 17.85ha

Impacted area:
- 1.5ha

TIMELINE OF APPROVALS



For a full list of project approvals and documentation visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/byronbypass

BYRON BAY BYPASS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REFERRAL

While approval under the Federal Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) was not a requirement for this project, to alleviate all doubt, Council elected to refer the vegetation clearing activities in Stage 2 and part of Stage 1 to the Department of Environment and Energy (DOEE) in 2019.

Four years ago we decided not to refer the Byron Bay bypass project to the DoEE under the EPBC Act, following advice from independent ecologists who assessed the biodiversity impacts of the project, including the potential impact on the Mitchell's Rainforest Snail.

That assessment in 2016 found that the works would not have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

In January 2020 after a formal referral was undertaken, the DOEE confirmed it was satisfied that our assessment, including our existing offsets and mitigation measures that were already planned to be implemented as part of the construction process, were sufficient. The referral process did not result in any new environmental conditions or constraints on the project.

Our ecologist surveying vegetation and leaf litter in the impacted area.

1 of 163 Mitchell's Rainforest Snails that were found during the surveys.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

LOOKING OUT FOR THE MITCHELL'S RAINFOREST SNAIL

A METICULOUS PROCESS: THE SNAIL AT THE FRONT AND CENTRE OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Byron Shire Council has long been committed to ensuring that the Byron Bay bypass project is carried out in a way that reduces impacts to a range of species known to occur in the project area, including the Mitchell's Rainforest Snail (MRS).

The preferred bypass route includes a section of MRS habitat. While there have been claims that using the rail corridor as a bypass option would have had less impact on vegetation and habitat, the rail corridor would have impacted a similar portion of wetland.

Offsetting the impact to the MRS and making up for the loss of biodiversity is a priority for Council. Our Biobanking agreements for the project, set out in 2015, are allowing us to protect and regenerate 44.5ha of similar vegetation. This includes 35.8ha at Wallum Place and 8.65ha of preferred MRS habitat at Lilli Pilli. We have extensive records showing Lilli Pilli is prime habitat for the MRS.

We're also committing an additional $87,000 towards regeneration of 17.85ha of potential MRS habitat at Sunrise Bushland, Butler Street Reserve and Midgen Park Swamp in Suffolk Park. This is above the legislated offset requirement. This is a decision of the elected Council to ensure we go above and beyond what is required of us as part of the environmental management on the project.

When we prepared our Biobanking documentation in 2015, independent ecologists didn't find any MRS in their surveying. However they factored in the assumption that the species was indeed still present in the area. The rigorous environmental approvals that followed document this in detail, including our Biobanking Statements, Review of Environmental Factors and Construction Environment Management Plan. This included the requirement for Biobanking offsets for the species.

SNAIL SURVEYS

Prior to clearing the vegetation, a significant search and relocation effort was undertaken to ensure the protection of any MRS in the area.

A team of independent ecologists spent more than 600 hours surveying the area for snails. This surveying began two days prior to clearing works, and included day and night surveys when the MRS is most active. The ecologists remained on site for over three weeks during Stage 2. At least one ecologist was present during all stages of the clearing.

Prior to tree removal, all roots and hollow logs were thoroughly checked. Tree bark was stripped back and the ground was scoured. Leaf litter was checked by hand and examined. It didn't stop there – once the vegetation was removed it was then examined again. Fallen logs were checked over, leaf litter was sorted through again and mulch was investigated.

The intensive effort of the onsite ecologists was hugely successful. They found and safely relocated 163 MRS.

The majority of these MRS were found in the Stage 2 impact zone. However 23 were found near Burns Street in Stage 1.

Every time a MRS was found it was given a general health assessment. Details including its age and size were documented and a geotag was recorded at the location it was found. They were then carefully relocated at least 20 metres away from the impact area, in adjacent wetland habitat, home to the local population.

Clearing and surveying is now complete. A detailed post clearing report is available on our website. No snail mortalities were recorded.

The number of MRS found during this extensive ecological operation has been significant. It supports the advice Council has provided to the DOEE that there are more MRS in the area than was previously thought. Unveiling this information has been a valuable scientific contribution to the existing available knowledge of the MRS.

All MRS found were relocated to habitat at least 20m outside of the impact area.

As part of Stage 2, a fauna underpass will be built to provide connectivity between the wetlands. The underpass floor will be lined with leaf litter, logs and naturally occurring soil, to provide a suitable path for the Mitchell's Rainforest Snails.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

A quiet moment for April 25

While observing social distancing, dozens gathered in Brunswick Heads at the Gates of Remembrance on Saturday morning, to hear the broadcast from the Canberra War Memorial service. It was just one service held around the country. Pictured are Barry Hutton, centre, and Bob Freestone, right. Photo Jeff Dawson

Main Arm fire over weekend

Aslan Shand

A fire at the top end of Coopers Lane West, that started from a pile burn last Friday, took the Main Arm Rural Fire Service (RFS) three days to contain and extinguish.

Main Arm Fire Captain Lance Hopson said nine fire fighters attended.

The fire burnt out approximately a quarter of an acre, and headed towards two houses above. It came within 200m of one of them. There were two other properties in the vicinity below where the fire started.

'I drove past at about 9.30pm on Saturday night and it all looked fine,' said one neighbour, whose house was threatened by the fire.

'Then at about 11.30pm that night, I saw that the flames had started again. I rang the RFS again, and they returned to control the fire. They were great. But it was really frightening having the fire start up again, and having it moving towards us.'

Captain Hopson said, 'Like many places in this region this area of Coopers Lane West is considered challenging because of its topography, the regrowth over the last 30 to 40 years and the difficulty of getting access to some of the properties'.

Started by accelerant

The fire was started after an accelerant (petrol) was poured onto green waste to get the pile burn going. It is understood that a person was injured and received some burns during the process of lighting the fire.

'We would never advise using accelerant on a fire,' said Captain Hopson.

'There is an increased risk of burns as accelerants like petrol are highly flammable.

'I was talking to Group Officer Bob Graham about how fires are behaving so differently to normal for this time of year [owing to it] drying out, even though we had rain in the last month,' said Captain Hopson.

Burn off rules

He added, 'There are rules around pile burns due to the risks of the fires getting out of control. It is not just a matter of ringing it in, you cannot leave your property once the pile burn is lit.

'Also, you need to attend the pile for the duration of the time that it is burning.'

The fire comes just one week after a councillor majority approved a contentious DA in the area, with access that neighbours say contravened fire safety regulations.

NSW councils to receive $395m stimulus package from govt

NSW councils are set to receive a $395m economic stimulus package from the state government, in an effort 'to save local jobs and support communities to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19'.

The peak body representing NSW councils, Local Government NSW (LGNSW) welcomed the package, saying it would, 'drive economic recovery in every corner of NSW, and save essential services'.

LGNSW president Linda Scott says, 'As the only state government to have provided councils with economic support of this magnitude, the NSW government has ensured our state will lead the economic recovery from COVID-19'.

The package includes a three-month 'Council Job Retention Allowance of $1,500 per fortnight per qualifying staff, to limit job losses. The total allowance is capped at $112.5 million, and will be drawn from the NSW Government's Jobs for NSW fund'.

Additionally, $32.8 million will go to councils to meet increases in the 2020/21 Emergency Services Levy.

'This provision is over and above the $13.6 million provided to councils last year, to help them manage overnight levy increases of up to $220,000'.

There will also be, '$250 million increase in low-cost loans to eligible councils through the state's TCorp borrowing facility, to kick-start community infrastructure projects. TCorp will also be offering principal and interest payment deferrals on existing council loans'.

West Byron 'zombie' DA closes May 7

The Byron Residents' Group (BRG) are calling on the public to again submit their views on the latest DA for a large suburb proposed opposite the Arts and Industry Estate on Ewingsdale Road.

Referring to it as the West Byron 'zombie' DA, they say that after the rejection by the Planning Panel, the 'local' landowners of West Byron are challenging the outcome in the Land and Environment Court.

'The landowners have put forward an "amended" Development Application for the courts to decide on – not us, not Council. It's an insult to this community', say BRG.

'It's as bad as it looks – and much the same as the last DA that was refused by the Northern Regional Planning Panel'.

The DA proposes 127 residential lots; 25 super/master lots (lots which can be subsequently subdivided, developed and purposely planned for residential development); two business lots; two industrial lots, one recreation lot and five residue lots.

'We know you are probably suffering from submission fatigue but if they win in court, then it's over and out. 'The court will consider submissions from the community. We are here to help with some pointers for your submission'.

The DA is available at https://bit.ly/3eP60Hk.

BRG say 'So they don't just dismiss your submission as a pro-forma, we ask that you please personalise the submission. Choose the parts that matter most to you.

'Describe the impacts that you will experience and make your submission count'.

■ To make your voice heard, email submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au

Butler St Reserve retained for parking

Paul Bibby

Finding somewhere to park in Byron Bay may be like shooting fish in a barrel at the moment, but Council is clearly preparing for the return of traffic chaos once social distancing laws are lifted.

At last week's full Council meeting, councillors passed a motion emphasising the need for the Butler Street Reserve to be retained as a parking location outside the CBD when it reopens following construction of the Byron bypass. The future use of the Reserve has been the focus of considerable discussion and debate over the past two years.

A number of residents living in close proximity to the site have been vehemently opposed to it being used for all-day free parking, as it was for much of last year.

They say this use resulted in van-packers camping there overnight and leaving a trail of rubbish and excrement behind them.

But parking looks set to remain a key focus for use of the Reserve, after all but one councillor voted for a motion emphasising the 'strategic value of the Butler Street Reserve in relation to promoting masterplan objectives, specifically the need for periphery parking outside the Byron Bay CBD'.

This was part of a broader motion to proceed with the development of an Environmental Management Plan for the site.

Independent councillor Basil Cameron told the meeting, 'We do need to move on this site… [yet] I would like to see it made clear that the importance of the parking is understood.

'Until we have an alternative spot for peripheral parking, I don't want to see us close down that process.'

Earlier, during the public access section of the meeting, nearby resident Darryl Heniker said he and his neighbours wanted the Council to focus on greening the site.

'I want to urge that green areas are so important,' Mr Heniker said. 'Even if you go to the Gold Coast, it's the green areas you look at. I urge Council to keep in mind that we are desperate for this area not to be a total carpark'.

Mr Heniker said residents were also keen to see the return of the Byron Farmers Market and the Byron Community Market to the reserve.

The iconic markets have been temporarily relocated to the Cavanbah Centre and Denning Park respectively since last July, with Byron Council promising their return once construction of the Byron bypass is completed.

In 2017, the Butler Street Reserve was investigated by Transport for NSW as a potential site for the new Byron Bay Bus interchange.

However, a contamination assessment concluded that the former contaminated landfill site was not viable.

Australian Government

OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

Coronavirus:

Thanks to you, we are saving lives and stopping the spread.

But it's important we continue to keep all Australians safe.

Stay at home unless necessary and avoid non-essential travel.

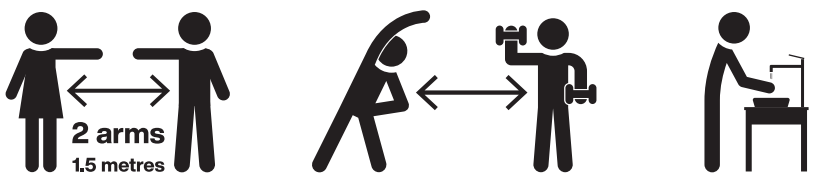
Banks, supermarkets, petrol stations, medical services and suppliers remain open.

If you can, you should work from home.

Use phones for meetings, stop handshaking, tap to pay where possible instead of using cash.

Maintain physical distancing and hygiene practices.

Keep 1.5 metres of physical distance, exercise away from others, and wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds.



Visit australia.gov.au to find restrictions specific to your State or Territory.

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Unpacking the cost of petrol

Aslan Shand

The price of fuel has been a hot topic across the Northern Rivers, as the demand for global oil dropped into negative territory for the first time recently.

The difference in fuel prices range from $1.49 to $0.92, depending on where you are. Ballina councillors debated the topic last week in their meeting, as they look to assist residents to get the best prices.

Accusations of price gouging have been voiced, yet local operators say there are reasons for the big differences in their prices that are legitimate.

'We adjust the fuel pricing twice a week when we get our fuel delivery, and it is based on the price on the docket,' Tony Nacleario from the Mullumbimby Rural Co-op told *The Echo*.

'I follow the fuel pricing dockets to set the price. Two weeks ago, we were ten cents below the price in the rest of Mullum, and were equivalent to the price in Brunswick Heads for about three weeks.'

The size of a fuel station's tanks, how much fuel they sell and how often the oil companies are prepared to deliver can all impact on the price they are able to sell their fuel at, and how often the price can be varied.

Owner/operator of The Village Green in Bruns, James Barnes. Photo Jeff Dawson

Woolworths and Coles have reductions on fuel prices linked to shopping at the chain stores that further complicate comparisons.

Woolworths told *The Echo*, 'We sold our petrol business to EG Group in April 2019. EG Group now determines fuel prices across its network of stores.' *The Echo* contacted EG and Caltex but did not receive a response prior to going to print.

As Mr Nacleario pointed out, large corporations like Coles and Woolworths have a lot more flexibility to adjust their prices than smaller, locally owned businesses like the Mullum Rural Co-op.

Delivery is key

Mullum Rural Co-op gets a delivery twice a week, Tony Carsburg in Mullumbimby gets deliveries once a fortnight, while The Village Green in Brunswick Heads has four deliveries a week.

Receiving a delivery once a fortnight means the Tony Carsburg service station has significantly less price variability than The Village Green. However, as owner/operator of The Village Green James Barnes points out, this can be both an advantage and a challenge.

'When the price starts to go down that works in our favour – but when the price is going up then our prices go up faster than others, for example the other fuel stations in Brunswick that have larger fuel tanks.'

The falling price of oil has finally begun to be passed on to the end line consumer – in some cases.

'The drops have been unprecedented. It is a political thing really. They have a massive glut of oil stock and really it comes down to political jousting between America and the Middle East suppliers.

'The whole deal of how they price a barrel of oil is just a fairy tale,' said Mr Carsburg.

'They have massive storage capacity. If there is a drop in the price of oil you might wait two weeks before they decide if they are even going to pass it on or not.

'It was $1.49 in Ballina not that long ago. Now it is down by $0.34 a litre.

'I do expect it to come down a bit more. There has been a reduction in aviation and the use of cars on a global level while people are not allowed out.

'The combination of this on a worldwide level adds up and creates a massive oil glut.'

The key message is that customers need to keep up to date on who is charging what for fuel around the region.

You can compare fuel prices online at Fuel Check NSW (www.fuelcheck.nsw.gov.au) before you set out for one of your big weekly spends.

'I've even had people coming from places including Ballina and Lismore and they have been saying thank you for remaining open,' said Mr Barnes.

Bruns DA is back, exceeding height rules

Paul Bibby

A property developer who unsuccessfully applied to build two large houses on a block in Brunswick Heads has now resubmitted a DA to build four houses on the same property.

Sasha Hopkins had his Development Application (DA) for two five-bedroom houses at 16 Short Street rejected by Byron Council at its February meeting.

The decision was largely based on the fact that the proposal would overshadow the neighbouring property at number 14, where approval for a dual occupancy had already been granted. It also exceeded the maximum building height plane for the site.

The DA comes with its own swimming pool on the site and would include eight parking spaces and a total of 12 bedrooms – three for each house.

While the new DA claims it is consistent with policy and is a permissible use of the site, it appears the proposal would again create overshadowing issues for neighbouring properties, and would exceed maximum building height plane rules. Neighbour, George Stinson said the DA is worse than the previous one.

■ Hopkins was contacted for comment.

Call to stop work on Byron Bus Interchange

Hans Lovejoy

With the largest known colony of the critically endangered Mitchell's Rainforest Snails discovered in the path of the Byron Butler Street bypass, the Byron Environment Centre (BEC) is calling for an urgent stop-work order on the Byron Bus Interchange development, located nearby.

Transport for NSW is undertaking the project, and related documents are available at https://bit.ly/35btF0l.

The Echo asked Council staff, 'Is Council engaged with the NSW government and planning to undertake the same level of ecology studies etc. as the bypass?'

In reply, staff said, 'The interchange was assessed under Division 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), which did not require development consent from Byron Shire Council, nor is Council the regulatory authority for the project'.

The Echo followed up with staff, asking: 'Is Council at all concerned about the potential for impacts on the known vulnerable species in the area?'

'And if so, has Council made a submission to the state government requesting that ecological studies be undertaken to ensure a transparent process?'

No reply was provided by deadline.

The Echo asked Transport for NSW if they will seek clarity as to what endangered species are in existence in the area and, before clearing the land, adhere to the relevant legislation that protects biodiversity and threatened species.

A Transport for NSW spokesperson replied, 'Transport for NSW has engaged independent, experienced and licensed ecologists to survey the area to identify the extent of the Mitchell's Rainforest Snail'.

Relocated if discovered

'If discovered in the area, the Mitchell's Rainforest Snail will be relocated from the habitat in-line with protocols developed for the Byron bypass.

'This means any work would be stopped immediately.

'Work would only recommence once it has been verified that all snails have been removed and approval given by the licensed ecologist'.

The Byron Environment Centre's John Lazarus says that they, along with numerous other community groups, 'demand that no clearing works commence in the Byron Bus Interchange project until the site's ecological importance is reviewed'.

He said, 'New evidence by Council's own consultants, that became available after the destruction of the neighbouring wetland corridor for the town bypass, revealed that this corridor had been home to the largest known colony of the federally listed, critically endangered Mitchell's Rainforest Snails (MRS).

'The adjacent site, on which the Interchange is currently intended to be built, almost certainly hosts remaining populations of the MRS.

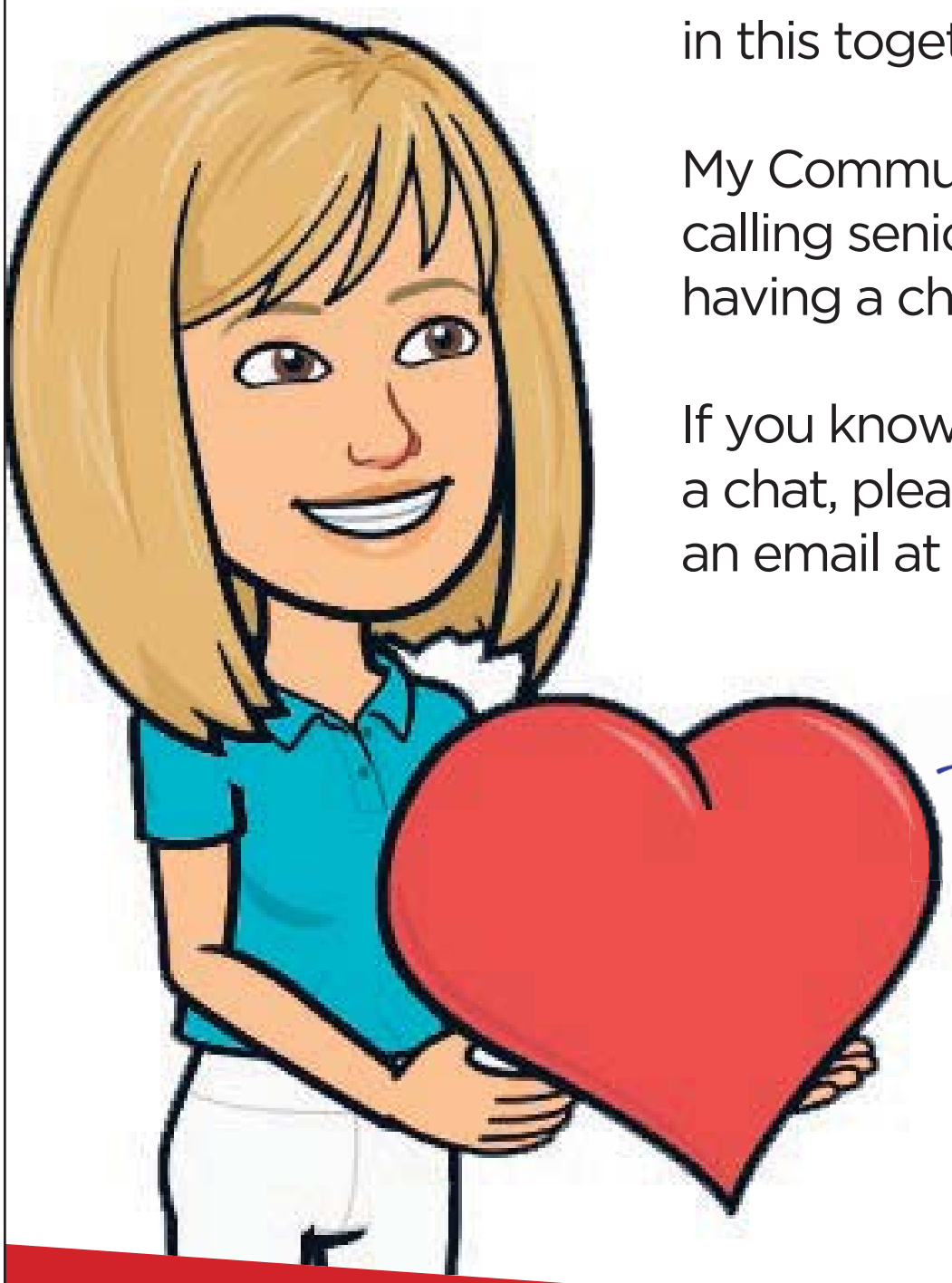
'Given its less disturbed and moister condition, the Interchange site is possibly even richer in MRS populations, and potentially other threatened species, than the bypass site.

'The published DA documents [by Council] advise "That there had been no MRS [snail] records", and that it was "unlikely that there were any MRS on the bypass site".'

He added, 'There have been numerous questionable aspects of the environmental assessment of the bypass'.

Justine Elliot MP's **Community Care Calls**

Labor



As your local MP, I'm always on your side and as a community, we're all in this together.

My Community Care Team and I will be calling seniors across the North Coast, having a chat and saying hello!

If you know someone who'd like a call or a chat, please let me know by sending me an email at **justine.elliot.mp@aph.gov.au**.

Justine Elliot

Justine Elliot MP
Your Federal Member for Richmond
Proud to be on your side

Justine Elliot MP
NORTH COAST
INFORMATION UPDATES
on Facebook | online

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

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.

HAVE YOUR SAY

BYRON ARTS AND INDUSTRY ESTATE PRECINCT PLAN

We invite your feedback on the draft Byron Arts and Industry Estate Precinct Plan which will be on exhibition from 29 April to 26 May 2020.

The purpose of the Precinct Plan is to present a shared vision that celebrates the rich history of the Estate as a lively hub for innovation, industry and creativity. It presents a pathway forward that addresses the significant functional issues that have arisen over time, towards a future that creates harmonious, sustainable relationships between the economic, natural and built environment of the estate.

Additionally, four preliminary concept options have been prepared for Lot 12 Bayshore Drive; Council land opposite the IGA supermarket complex. We are interested in your feedback and any ideas you would like to contribute.

During the exhibition period we will be holding an online forum on Tuesday May 12 at 2pm. Further details will be added to our website as they become available.

You can make a submission:

- Online: Your Say Byron Shire: www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/byron-arts-and-industry-estate
- Email: submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au
- Post: The General Manager, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Submissions close: Tuesday 26 May 2020 (close of business)

Enquiries: Andrew Fitzgibbon 02 6626 7139

SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2020

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Byron Shire Council would like to announce that nominations for the 2020 Sustainability Awards are now open.

Byron Shire is renowned for its passionate community of people doing amazing things for our environment, and we want to celebrate those of you who are taking action to protect and enhance our natural wonders.

Nominate your organisation or an inspiring individual or community group to share in the celebration and promote a project or initiative.

Nomination is simple and can be in any of the following four categories:

- Sustainability
- Biodiversity
- Waste
- Water

To nominate, visit: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/sustainability

Nominations close: 5 June 2020

Please note: the nomination period has been extended. Watch this space for further info and updates on the awards ceremony.

Contact: Julia Curry 02 6626 7295 sustainability@byron.nsw.gov.au

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 Council's 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 6 MAY 2020

10.2020.163.1 – Eureka, 149 Federal Drive (Lot 22 DP 1014053) Balanced Systems Planning Consultants, Community Title Subdivision of an Approved Rural Landsharing Community – 15 Lots and a Neighbourhood Lot

10.2020.164.1 – Mullumbimby, 209 Mullumbimby Road (Lot 1 DP 748308, Lot 1 DP 1169608) Town Planning Studio Pty Ltd, Use of Secondary Dwelling

10.2020.119.1 – Coopers Shoot, 231 Coopers Shoot Road (Lot 1 DP 868657) Newton Denny Chapelle, Use of Dual Occupancy (Attached)

10.2020.170.1 – Brunswick Heads, 16 Short Street (Lot 4 SEC 25 DP 758171) Ardill Payne & Partners, Multi Dwelling Housing Comprising Four (4) Dwellings and Four (4) Swimming Pools

10.2020.169.1 – Byron Bay, 30 Marvell Street (Lot 1 SEC 30 DP 758207) Ardill Payne & Partners, Demolition of Existing Dwelling House and Construction of Multi Dwelling Housing Comprising Three (3) Dwellings and Three (3) Swimming Pools

EXHIBITION CLOSES 13 MAY 2020

10.2020.185.1 – Byron Bay, 37 Beachcomber Drive (Lot 1 DP 747793) Mr M J Walker, Use of Alterations and Additions to existing Dwelling House and Increase to Fence Height

EXHIBITION CLOSES 20 MAY 2020

10.2020.189.1 – Byron Bay, 9/124 Lighthouse Road (Lot 9 SP 58355) Byron Bay Planning & Property Consultants, Use of Existing Verandah

10.2020.186.1 – Broken Head, 1/137 Broken Head Reserve Road (Lot 1 SP 81554) Planners North Pty Ltd, Change of Building Use of Managers Residence to Tourist Facility

OPEN FOR FEEDBACK – PUBLIC EXHIBITION

PROPOSAL TO REZONE PART OF 54 PARROT TREE PLACE, BANGALOW FROM RU1 PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO R2 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

A planning proposal that intends to rezone approximately 690m^2 of land at 54 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow from RU1 Primary Production to R2 Low Density Residential is now on public exhibition.

The draft planning proposal is on exhibition, for your comments, for a period of 4 weeks from 29 April to 29 May 2020 and is available for viewing on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice.

The existing R2 residential zone boundary was created in accordance with the requirement of a 400 metre buffer to the Bangalow sewage treatment plant located to the south west of the site. A recent survey has indicated that the original buffer line was incorrectly mapped and corrected would allow for an additional 690m^2 of land to be rezoned to residential.

It is anticipated that this extra residential zoning will enable two extra residential lots. The floor space ratio (FSR) and minimum lot size maps will also be amended to reflect a residential zoning ie FSR of 0.5:1 and minimum lot size from 40 hectares to 300m^2.

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has issued an authorisation for Council to exercise delegation to make this LEP amendment.

For information on making a submission, and where to address it, refer to the "Make a submission" section of Council's weekly advertising.

Submissions close: Friday 29 May 2020

Enquiries: Sam Tarrant 02 6626 7216 starrant@byron.nsw.gov.au

DRAFT COMMUNITY GARDENS POLICY

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The Draft Byron Shire Community Gardens Policy is on exhibition for a period of four weeks and is available on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

The Policy aims to facilitate the establishment of new community gardens and regulate the management of existing community gardens on Council owned land. It is designed to be read in conjunction with the Byron Shire Community Gardens Guidelines which explain how to develop, implement and maintain a successful community garden. The guidelines are available on Council's website.

Submissions close: 20 May 2020

Thinking about starting a community garden?

Council welcomes expressions of interest from those who may wish to start a new community garden. Read through the guidelines online and contact Council's Sustainability Officer to register your interest today.

Enquiries: sustainability@byron.nsw.gov.au or 02 6626 7295

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 which may be viewed on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/development-applications-on-exhibition, or at the Council administrative centre during ordinary office hours.

Development Application No: 10.2017.661.1

Northern Regional Planning Panel No: 2018NTH007

Property Address: 364, 394 and 412 Ewingsdale Road BYRON BAY, Ewingsdale Road BYRON BAY, A and B Melaleuca Drive BYRON BAY, 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 exhibition period for the amended application has been extended until 7 May 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 the factsheet 'Making a submission on a development application' available at council or online at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/submissions-on-development-applications.

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/political-donations.

Please quote the Land and Environment Court Appeal Case number and property description when making a submission.

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

10.2020.94.1 – Suffolk Park – 106 Beech Drive Stage 1 Tree Removal Four (4) Trees, Stage 2 Swimming Pool and 1.8m Fence

10.2020.86.1 – Mcleods Shoot, 68 St Helena Road Agricultural Produce Industry (Storage Sheds)

10.2018.627.2 – Mullumbimby, 181 Main Arm Road S4.55 to Modify Colour of the Walls

10.2019.480.1 – Bangalow, 33 Clover Hill Circuit Relocated Dwelling House, Secondary Dwelling and Swimming Pool

10.2020.165.1 – Bangalow, 7 Rankin Drive Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling House

10.2020.81.1 – Byron Bay, 3/19 Julian Rocks Drive Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling House

10.2019.598.1 – Mullumbimby, 91 Main Arm Road Community Facility

10.2020.63.1 – Bangalow, 52 Parrot Tree Place Relocated Dwelling and Swimming Pool

10.2019.260.2 – Byron Bay, 2/39 Childe Street S4.55 to Modify Alterations and Additions to Existing Town House

10.2020.122.1 – Ocean Shores, 130 Balemo Drive Alteration & Additions to existing Dwelling House

10.2020.144.1 – South Golden Beach, 4 Clifford Street Alterations and Additions to existing Dwelling House including plunge pool

Foodie tales of coronavirus adaptation

Eve Jeffrey

Chloe Hart – talented and hardworking chef by day, and Your Gourmet delivery driver twice a week, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo Kate Holmes

While a lot of industries have been able to carry on as usual online, industries that require people to gather have taken a hard hit.

Both Brookie's Gin and Lord Byron Distillery have made that transition, adding a new product to their current line, making hand sanitiser.

Meanwhile, other businesses have had to reinvent the way they interact with the world.

Cressida and Pete Campbell, food wholesalers at Blue Bay Gourmet, say that with restaurants and cafes closing, they have lost about 80 per cent of their business.

'It was dramatic,' said Cressida. 'Literally from one day to the next. Within a day we had to let go of most of our staff.'

Ms Campbell said their only choice was to rapidly put together a plan for an online delivery store appealing to retail customers.

'Our warehouse was well stocked, with about $500,000 worth of stock, a lot of it perishable. It took two weeks to get the online store ready.

Mr Campbell says the response has been slow, but it is building, which is encouraging.

'We are appealing to our customer base and our chefs, inviting them to email and phone-in orders. We will deliver, and they can still pick up if they prefer'.

'When this is all over, we can convert the online store to a wholesale site for our chefs and implement an app for ordering. If the retail actually takes off over the next month, then we will have the choice to keep it going alongside our main business – which will be quite exciting'.

Meanwhile, Leela Brett says it has been a whirlwind three weeks for her business, Your Gourmet. She said right at the beginning of lockdown it was obvious that weddings and events would be too risky for quite some time.

Big events first to go

'Big events, which is what I specialise in, were the first to stop,' she said.

'I suspect that they will be the last to come back. So all the chefs, waiters, dishwashers and bartenders who come together over the weekend suddenly had no work.'

Ms Brett called her crew to get an idea of who was working, or had been made redundant, or if they had a partner still working.

She said, 'All of my staff are casual, and have at least one other job, but many have been working for me for over 10 years and we have a strong bond.

'It became clear that about five of my crew would be fine and could weather this pandemic storm for five to six months.

'The other five were going to be in dire straights with no income for food or rent. So I decided to turn the business around, and offer something very different from gourmet luxury catering: home delivery meals.

'I am making home cooked meals like lasagne, malai kofta and fish pie, but with high quality ingredients.

'I only cook what is on order, so all meals are cooked fresh, chilled then delivered the next day. Right now, we are delivering twice a week, but as more people order I hope to expand to four, or five, days a week'.

Ms Brett says she currently has two chefs working two-to-four days per week, and has a waiting list of four staff, as soon as they get enough orders.

'We have also started delivering meals to families in need around the Shire, from a list of nominees sent in from the community.

'We are delivering bags of around ten meals to around four nominees per week so far, and this week hope to deliver more.

'Our new "baby" means we have had to spend a few thousand in investment in packaging, advertising and things like shopify – the last of our savings. It means long hours in the kitchen, and at our computers, while home schooling two kids.

'It's been hard. Hard physically and hard emotionally.

'But the fact that we are making something beautiful and healthy that the community wants, getting our crew back to work, and bringing help to the families that are hurting the most makes it worthwhile'.

ONE BOOK, TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS

Byron Healing 2020

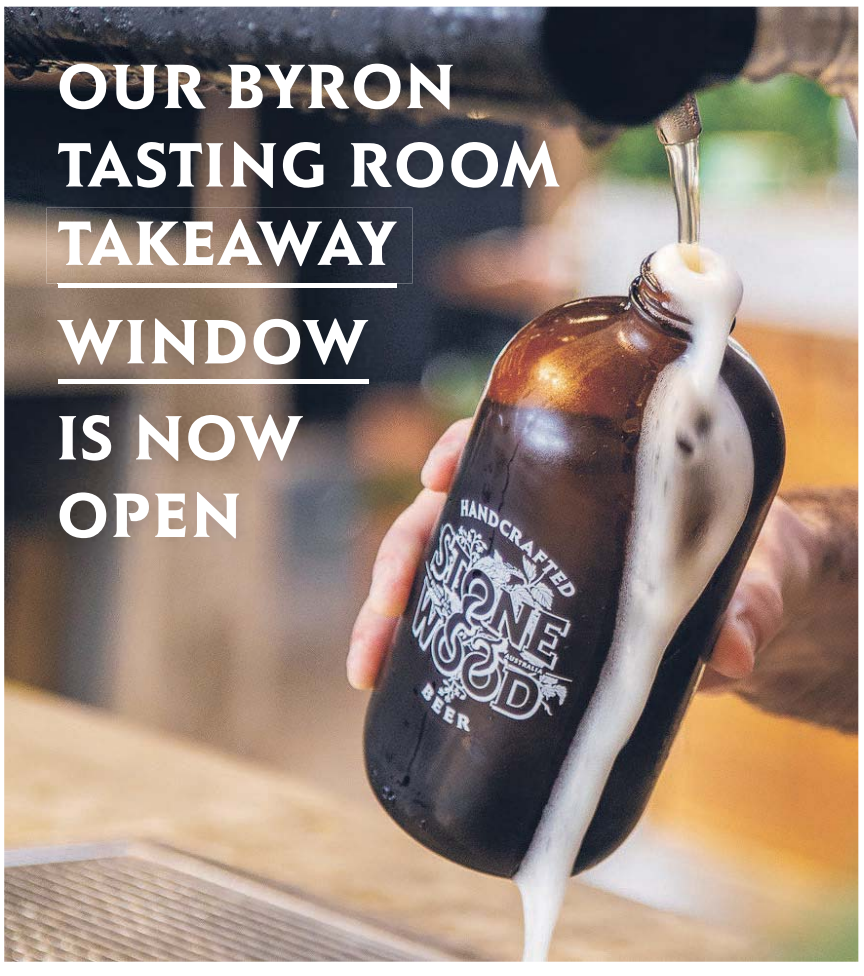
A guide to the region's alternative healing practitioners

Health Byron 2020

A guide to the region's medical and allied health professionals

BOOKINGS STILL OPEN – DISTRIBUTION POSTPONED

Contact Echo Publications: 02 6684 1777 byronhealing@echo.net.au healthbyron@echo.net.au



Fill a new 1L sharer bottle with fresh beer from our core range of Pilot Batch series or grab a carton takeaway.

Join our Sharer Loyalty Program and for every 9 sharers you'll receive 1 free!

By shopping at local bottle shops and favourite venues offering takeaway, you're helping to keep the future of independent beer alive. Cheers!

See **@stoneandwoodbyronbay** for hours and updates.

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Certified B Corporation · Certified Independent · Stone & Wood

Going green during lockdown

Mandy Nolan

Have you thought about making lifestyle changes for a greener lifestyle, but just haven't had the time or the energy?

The upside of the COVID-19 lockdown is that people are suddenly at home, and able to focus more directly on how they live and what choices they make.

Two mums, ABC Radio Coffs and mid-North Coast presenter Fiona Poole, and Byron-based producer Samantha Turnbull, have created *Little Green Pod*, a 28-episode podcast on how to make real sustainable changes in your everyday life.

Fiona was the manager at Byron's Youth Activities Centre (YAC) in the early 2000s and started her radio career at Bay FM, presenting the *All Girl Rock* show and producing the youth program *Pocket*.

She has since relocated to Bellingen, where she lives with her partner Pete and their two kids.

'I have been in my swimmers all day!' says Fi.

'It's 28 degrees today – it's not right – it's Anzac Day, and I'm usually rugged up! The impetus for this podcast is climate change.

'We all know it's real, but there is a political debate whether or not it is! I am completely fed up waiting for someone to do something.

'I made this podcast so we can stop waiting for governments to make change, so we can address the impact we are having individually.'

Along with Byron-based ABC producer Samantha Turnbull, former Byron resident Fiona Poole hosts Little Green Pod, which suggests how to make sustainable changes in your life. Photo supplied

The Little Green Pod was made before COVID-19, but Fiona believes the pandemic has shown us something significant with regards to climate action.

'COVID-19 has shown us when there is political will and a crisis at hand, you can totally have a dramatic impact very quickly.

'We have flattened the curve… do we need a complete environmental crisis to go into that [same] response?'

The little decisions

Fiona was curious how she and her family could make changes that would have positive effects on climate change.

'The whole premise is that every day we make hundreds of little decisions'.

'We can make better choices – like no longer buying shampoo – it's a marketing ploy.

'It strips your hair of natural oils, you have this thing called sebum – it takes six weeks for your hair to naturally regulate and you never need shampoo again!'

Draft proofing

'*Hot house* is another episode which is about properly insulating and draft-proofing your house so that when you are heating or cooling, you are retaining the heat or cool. It seems obvious, but it's a real waste of energy if you don't do it properly.'

Other episodes deal with financial choices like banking.

'You can switch to a green bank' says Fiona. 'There are lots of banking options if you want to get your bank to de-invest out of coal.'

Other episodes focus on everyday consumer choices, like shopping and changing how we shop, for example cutting down on plastics and packaging by bulk food shopping.

There's also an episode on how to have difficult conversations.

'We talk to Damon Gameau about having those conversations with your favourite sushi place, for example, asking them to use paper instead of plastic or how to have those difficult conversations over Christmas.'

So why not make your lockdown green? Come out of this enforced 'stop' to a Greener new world?

You can find Little Green Pod on your ABC Listen app or via www.abc.net.au and search the podcasts!

More asbestos discovered at former hospital site

Final remediation of the former Mullumbimby hospital site has been delayed owing to the discovery of further deposits of asbestos beyond the building footprint, say Council staff.

Director Infrastructure Services, Phillip Holloway, said a NSW EPA accredited site auditor has been engaged to undertake a thorough investigation and provide recommendations regarding future remediation and management.

Mr Holloway said, 'It is very disappointing because we were looking forward to getting on with redeveloping the site in keeping with the wishes of the community via the Mullumbimby Hospital Site Project Reference Group'.

Despite the asbestos discovery, Holloway says planning for the site is continuing with staff working with urban design consultants to develop the land for a diverse range of community housing and associated community services. He added the further cost is unknown for additional remediation, or the long-term management options.

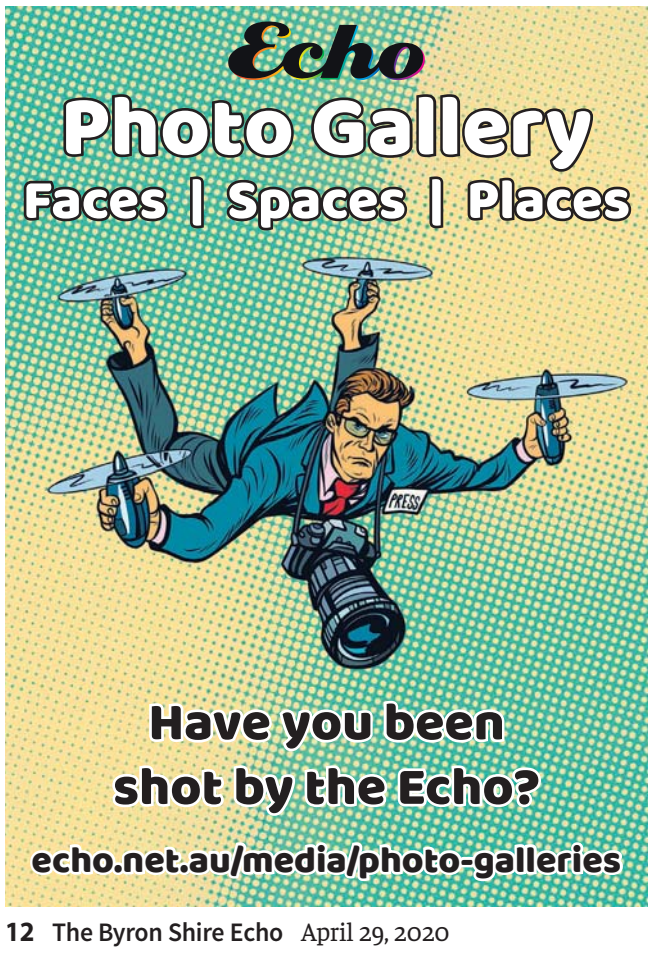
New biz in the hills

Photo & story David Bradbury

After extensive renos, Malcolm's Three Ways corner in Wilsons Creek has been transformed into Lilium, a health-conscience cafe run by two local young women who grew up in Lennox Head.

Sally, pictured left, and Rose, are both 28 and met at Xavier as high school students. After travelling the world together, including the US, Europe, Morocco and around Australia, they returned to make a go with their new cafe.

They opened just one week before the virus lockdown and, like other cafes, have had to adapt with take-away coffees, drinks and food.



Unemployment more than doubled, says Business NSW

Unemployment in the Northern Rivers has 'more than doubled' says Business NSW regional manager Jane Laverty, with some sectors such as hospitality taking a bigger hit than others.

She says, 'The data, along with in-depth Business NSW analysis, indicates that around a quarter of a million jobs have been lost across NSW since the start of the pandemic'.

She says the state's economic recovery 'needs a new rulebook'.

'The best way to jumpstart our economy is to take a chainsaw to regulation, red tape and taxes that hamper innovation, investment and job creation.

'It's also clear that we will need a complete re-think of our workplace relations system, because pre-COVID-19 rules simply won't support keeping people in work in the years ahead.

'If we want job growth to rebound, we will need to jettison the job-killing rules that were allowed to build up over the last three decades, when times were good and we became complacent when it came to driving important workplace relations reforms'.

The Echo asked Ms Laverty, 'What are the current 'job-killing rules' referred to? Is there a proposal from Business NSW regarding how the Workplace Relations system can be overhauled to be equitable and fair to employers and their employees?'

And, 'How can state and fed governments support local government? Does Business NSW have a particular suggestion in that regard?'

Workers comp

Ms Laverty replied, 'It's a pretty broad reference at the moment, because there really are a lot of factors that can impact on businesses creating jobs, however one that is raised consistently is workers compensation'.

'Our request would be to implement more substantial reforms to improved return-to-work outcomes for workers, lower premiums for employers and improve scheme efficiency overall.

'Operating a business becomes more complex when there is a need to expand and employ people.

'Employers do face multiple regulatory and tax compliance frameworks which make becoming an employer a complex and multifaceted task.

'We have also been advocating for the redesign of the payroll tax system, to make it simpler for businesses to report and [to] remove complex requirements for contractor provisions.

'As well as a move to a simpler payroll tax base that is capable of leveraging the PAYG withholding system'.

Ms Laverty says Business NSW have made submissions to the state government's Small Business Strategy, and recently a submission to the federal government's Federal Financial Relations Review (Theodey Review).

Mordor foists Tower of Sauron on Mullum

Society really doesn't do science well. Being outraged is an easier achievement.

And while it's easy to damn Telstra for how it has treated Mullum residents concerned with 5G so far, from Telstra's perspective, this was just a small risk management exercise. Large corporations and governments share similar values (including profit before people) and generally you can't tell the difference between the two because their staff steps through revolving doors.

Both entities will assess financial impacts against negative public sentiment, and it's fair to say that Telstra's decision was made some time ago in the case of 5G in Mullum.

After all, ignoring the community but claiming that feedback was considered is enshrined in legislation.

Local Labor MP Justine Elliot has presumably weighed up a similar risk assessment too. Backing loathsome corporate behaviour is a small risk here, as disenchanted and outraged hard left-leaning voters will vote Greens anyway. In elections, the Greens generally pass on their preferences to Labor. It's a win win!

Even local councillors couldn't get a majority vote to put the pressure on – an urgency motion by Cr Sarah Ndiaye was only supported by fellow Greens Mayor Simon Richardson and Cr Michael Lyon. Cr Jeanette Martin was absent. Because it was unsuccessful, the motion does not appear in Council's minutes, and public information of this relies entirely on those being in the chamber on the day.

Yay for this quasi-democracy!

Anyway, Dr Lindy Edwards is a senior lecturer in politics at the University of NSW. In her new book, *Corporate Power in Australia: Do the 1% Rule?* she undertakes case studies of how a few big companies shape laws.

It's much the same in every so-called democracy across the virus infected globe.

After taking a closer peek at Woolworths, Coles, News Corp, Telstra and the big four banks, she suggests that a few large companies exert excessive influence over parliament and increasingly scrape out the wealth from their supply chains.

She writes on www.michaelwest.com.au, 'Economic power has become much more concentrated over the last 30 years. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) reports that the ASX top 100 companies' share of GDP has increased from 27 per cent in 1993 to 47 per cent in 2015.

'At the same time, economic power has become more concentrated, it has also been mobilised politically like never before. Business lobbying was fragmented, haphazard and unprofessional in the 1980s, but now it is a recognised career with an estimated 5,000 professional lobbyists in Canberra. In each of these case studies, the corporations were battling with government over laws which shape where profits sit in the supply chain'.

So 5G activists – to gain public support for the 5G issue and pressure Telstra and politicians, perhaps read the *The Activists' Handbook*, available at www.aidanricketts.com. And study law! Decipher the language and the complex systems that rule us. And please, don't take at face value what social media says. It's mostly Russian bot misinfo anyway.

Hans Lovejoy, editor
News tips are welcome: editor@echo.net.au

Isolation hibernation still a work in progress

Finally it's safe to get back in the water – well some bits of it, some of the time, as long as you behave.

And make sure you stay in the water – keep swimming or surfing. Sitting on the sand is still decidedly unsafe.

This can hardly be called liberation; the relaxation of the bans for elective surgery and even the confusion over getting the schools back in operation are far more significant on the national level.

But there is something deeply symbolic in allowing Australians to dive back into the shore break. Finally, perhaps, the curve has been flattened, the surf is up, and we can say with some degree of certainty that the immediate crisis is over.

The hospital system, including the vital intensive care units with their lifesaving ventilators, are not only coping, but managing with considerable surplus capacity.
In most places, more people are recovering from the virus than there are new infections. Even the distant Indigenous outstations have been largely spared.

It is still far too early to declare victory and leave – there are, as always, no precedents. There is no model to follow; around the world different countries are reporting wildly different results, and not all are favourable.

Most ominously, several – Singapore is probably the most definitive example – are now facing a second wave, which may not be as severe as the first one, but is a clear warning against premature celebration. As some of the more pessimistic experts have predicted, we may never totally eradicate the bug.

But with a serious policy response, it can be, and apparently has been brought under control – for this time, at least. Home detention has worked – or at least is working; there is, as the man keeps telling us, no room for complacency, we need to remain relatively isolated for a few more weeks yet.

Obviously this will not be popular. After all, if we can go for a swim, why can't we go to the gym? Or the café? Or even to church? And the hardline entrepreneurs are becoming more militant. Let's get business moving again, secure the jobs and the profits and the dividends.

On a cost-benefit analysis, quite enough lives have been saved; time to get back to work. The enormous sums already expended can now be seen as overkill, a panic reaction even beyond Kevin Rudd's extravaganza over the Global Financial Crisis. We will be paying the bill for years, decades, so let's get on with it.

Not for the first time, the tyranny of distance has been a help as well as a hindrance

Mungo MacCallum

But has it been overkill? We don't know, and we will never know. But we can be sure of one thing; it worked once and it is working again. The Keynesian response – using public money to boost failing demand, in order to save jobs and avert a more serious downturn – has triumphed over the neo-liberal formula for austerity and restraint, for keeping the public sector depressed in the hope that private enterprise has the skill and nerve to bounce back with the resilience that Scott Morrison saw as his panacea only a few weeks earlier.

His latter, and better, choice has been to drive the economy into hibernation through the isolation program to save lives and then give it a giant kick along through targeted subsidies and handouts to give it a decent chance to recover once the emergency has passed.

In hindsight, it may be thought that the stimulus has been too large, just as Rudd and his government were castigated over the GFC; but rather too much than too little.

And it cannot be over-emphasised that the greatest benefit has been the intangible one of restoring some measure of public confidence in what has been increasingly seen as a timorous and dithering administration. 'Whatever it takes' may not be an attractive slogan, but it is a bloody effective one.

ScoMo has gone to the top of the polls, not just through marketing – although it must be said he has been very good at that in recent days – but through taking the tough decisions. Now, it seems, he is delivering on the promise. And more swiftly and efficiently than any of us dared hope, which is why we are ready to brave the sharks beyond the white water.

It is not clear just what is waiting out there; the future Australia is still very much a work in progress, which is why the usual suspects are already jostling at the front of the queue, determined not to miss out on their place at the trough. But the heavies – the Treasury and the Reserve Bank – are both making optimistic noises.

Both seem confident that, as early as the September quarter, there will be a genuine bounce back in the growth figures – probably not quite enough to offset the falls we are seeing at present, but enough to set a foundation for a recovery in the many months ahead.

And that's the good news. But how did we manage it? Well, one long-standing insight into our situation should not be overlooked. Not for the first time, the tyranny of distance has been a help as well as a hindrance.

Both migration and tourism have become common, but those arriving in Australia, both people and viruses, have to come by plane or by boat, which means that the pandemic could be both traced and controlled far more easily than it could in countries with porous land borders.

The cruise ships, of course, were a disastrous miscalculation, but by and large the process bought us time to devise a considered and, it now seems, a superior response. And, in due course, the politicians responded – perhaps not as promptly as they might have, but at least Australia has been able to avoid some of the worst mistakes made by those forced to act in undue haste.

So this time, un-ironically, the lucky country. The ocean welcomes us back for the last month of autumn, and it still serves to protect us from unwanted invasion. Australians all, let us rejoice – our land is girt by sea.

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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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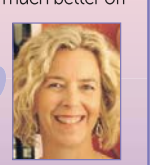
Richard Maloney, Quality Mind



Kate Messenger is available for private and group sessions, workshops and special events.
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Seize the future

The most sustainable transport options we have right now are walking and cycling, but people advocating railways for the Shire are actually working against their full deployment.

State governments have said they will fund a pedestrian/cycleway along the existing rail corridor, but not until there is majority support for the project.

Think of it: a cycle path all the way from Mullum to Byron operating by Christmas – that never went near a car, or a highway. It is a beautiful flat ride, and possible even for the less fit with the power of electronic bikes.

With a few side paths it would also open up stretches of the Bay that are now hard to get to.

To highlight the 'Mickey Mouse' solar train that operates in Byron, is red-rattler herring. It's no doubt subsidised by the luxury resort it services, and still has a $4 charge for three kilometres. To get to Mullum is five times as far, and at those prices simply unaffordable to anywhere else in the Shire.

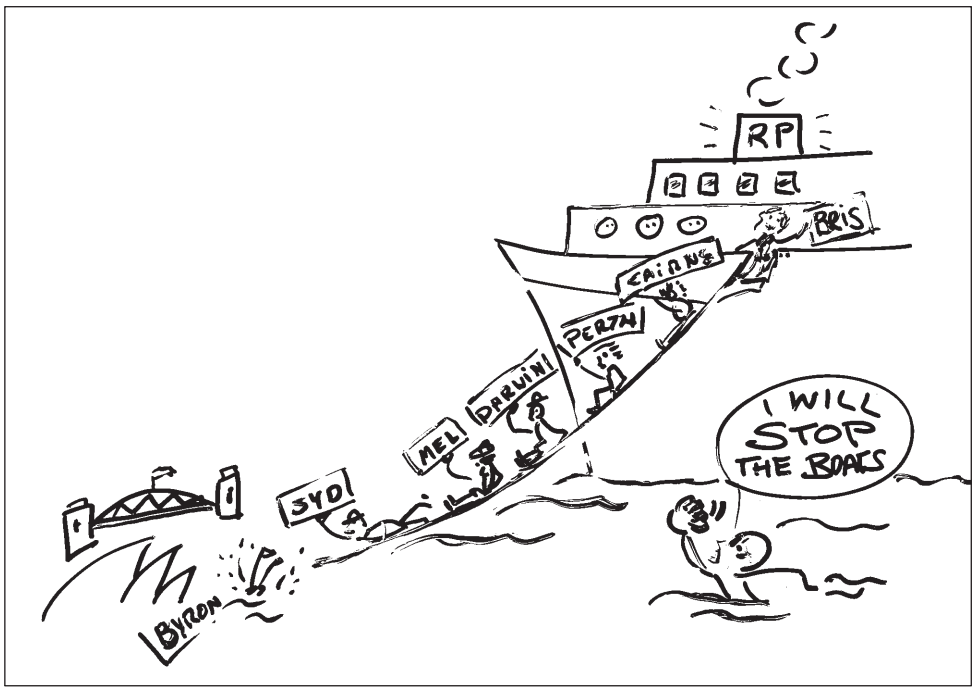
And seriously, a solar powered red-rattler getting up the hill to Bangalow? Please.

Whatever mass transport systems arrive in the future they will not run on super-resource intensive cast iron. Nor will they weigh tens of tonnes.

The sensible compromise is for railway proponents to support the construction of the cycleway/pedestrian path, but with an option agreed to by all involved, to make the corridor available for a mass-transport system of the future, when it emerges.

I like dreamers, but let the young and bold reimagine a new sustainable future right now, while the nostalgic can dream about the dusty past in museums.

Ross Kendall
Mullumbimby



Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbey

Police discretion

To the police officer in Mullumbimby who pulled me over for driving an unregistered car on Saturday – thank you!

I had paid the rego and CTP online on Friday, but when he pulled me over on Saturday, my car was still unregistered.

So I explained the story. He got out his electronic 'device' and, within 20 seconds, he had registered my car for me and saved me a $650 fine.

Ian Harris
Mullumbimby

Rip-off

As a local business owner and resident I am sick of paying up to 50 per cent more for petrol than residents only an hour or so to our north. With a number of vehicles on the road each day, the extra costs are adding up. I would much prefer to support local businesses, but it is hard when the price difference is so great.

There is no reason why Ballina's petrol stations should be charging up to $1.35 per litre when it is being sold for 82 cents just north of the border. We are not a remote area, we are a major regional centre, within two hours of Brisbane, and only an hour from the Gold Coast.

It is great to see some of our smaller outlets offering cheaper prices than the main players on River and Kerr Streets. Congratulations to the owner of the Newrybar General Store, Jeffrey Barnes, for leading the charge to reduce prices in our Ballina Shire. Clearly with prices to our north well below the $1 per litre mark there is plenty of room to move. Let's hope the excuses start to fade away and prices become comparable to the Gold Coast and the capital cities.

Jeff Johnson
Ballina Shire Councillor

Safety ignored

It is an amazing thing to see the process of Council in action. Like most people who attend a planning meeting I had an outcome that I was seeking. I was asking Council not to approve a development in a high fire danger area that is served with a long, dead-ended, steep, narrow, forested access route that fails to meet bushfire regulations on almost a dozen points.

These grounds have not been adequately accounted for in the planning process. In the words of Cr Cameron, 'I don't believe that the assessment has been good enough. I'm not satisfied in terms of the legislation. I cannot be satisfied while this approach is being taken by the RFS'.

What was amazing to me is that Cr Ndiaye and others choose not to see the danger to residents, and the local RFS volunteers, as problematic. Cr Ndiaye, who supported the development, took pains to identify that she felt that it was the personalities involved, rather than planning grounds, or public safety, that had allowed objectors to make headway. We fought hard to highlight process failures in the bushfire approval process but Crs Richardson, Ndiaye, Spooner and Hunter preferred to focus on the legal technicalities of

► Continued on page 16

Letters to the Editor

Send to Letters Editor Eve Jeffery, email: editor@echo.net.au, fax: 6684 1719. 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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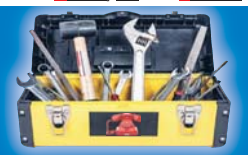

Google *Lifeline Toolkit 4 Helping Some1 at Risk of Suicide.*
Download this 6p 10-Piece-Tool-Kit straight into UR Mobile!

*Tool #1. *Do something now:

If UR concerned that someone U know is considering suicide, act immediately. Don't assume they will get better without help or will seek help on their own. Reaching out now could save a life.

*Tool #4. *Ask if they R thinking of Suicide:

Unless someone tells U, the only way 2know if a person is thinking of suicide is 2ask. Asking can sometimes be very hard but it shows that U've noticed things, been listening, U care and that they're not alone. Talking about suicide will not put the idea into their head but will encourage them to talk about their feelings. They will often feel a great sense of relief that someone is prepared to talk with them about their darkest thoughts.

If I *ran the world*, I would immediately Legislate 2 ensure that...

- Every Aussie house, residence, hotel/motel room and waiting room has a copy of this *Kit (or other similarly worded), visible AT ALL TIMES!
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CHESS by Ian Rogers

Was Paul Keres, the greatest player never to earn a world title match, forced to throw games to help Mikhail Botvinnik become World Champion in 1948?

After WWII ended in 1945, World Champion Alexander Alekhine was in Portugal, but was wanted for trial in his adopted homeland France for collaboration with the Nazis.

Recent research in Russia has shown that Botvinnik, who knew that Alekhine would be *persona non grata* in the Soviet Union, arranged $US10,000 sponsorship from the Moscow Chess Club for a title match in England in early 1946. Alekhine, desperate for credibility, agreed immediately.

A key document, revealed in 1993, laid out Botvinnik's extensive requests to the Soviet authorities in preparation for the match, including a larger apartment, clothes suitable for England and an increase in his butter, caviar and chocolate allowance.

The most extraordinary clause was that Botvinnik required Keres, and only Keres, to play a 20 game, two month(!), training match against him – and for the match to be held in secret.

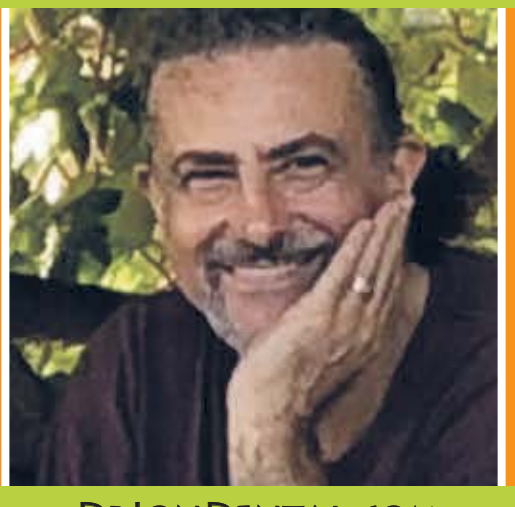
Keres, perhaps the most legitimate candidate to challenge Alekhine, had tried to flee by boat with his family from Estonia in 1944, as Soviet forces were about to take over the country. He had been caught and interrogated by the NKVD, the forerunner of the KGB. High-level support prevented Keres from being sent to a gulag; Viktor Korchnoi later stated that Botvinnik was politically powerful enough to have the Estonian executed, had he wished. However, Keres remained in disgrace.

Suddenly, after Botvinnik had secured his August 1946 title challenge with Alekhine, Keres – now a citizen of the Soviet Union – was given permission to compete in the USSR. He started to warm up for his match against Botvinnik, but then in March 1946 Alekhine died.

In 1948 a tournament-style World Championship was organised in The Hague and Moscow. Keres lost four games to Botvinnik, and won their fifth and final encounter only after Botvinnik had secured the title.

Keres may or may not have owed his life to Botvinnik, but there is no doubt that Botvinnik could, at least, ask favours of him.

DR JON VERANESE BDS



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BYRON Residents' GROUP

WEST BYRON 3-STEP SUBMISSION GUIDE

You may have heard that the 'local' landowners of West Byron (known as Site R&D) have not accepted the refusal by the Northern Regional Planning Panel and are challenging the outcome in the Land and Environment Court. They have put forward an 'amended' Development Application (DA) for the Courts to decide on – not us, not Council. The Court will consider submissions on this new DA so, AGAIN, we need to step up and do our bit for our town.

1. SUBMISSIONS GO TO BYRON COUNCIL.

Visit www.protectbyron.com for help with your submission.

Subject line: West Byron amended Development Application 10.2017.661.1

2. OPEN WITH A PERSONALISED INTRODUCTION

Who you are, how you fit into the community (or interact with Byron Bay as a visitor), and your thoughts/concerns on how the development will impact you and your community.

3. SUGGESTED LIST OF CONCERNS

Feel free to use the subjects below that matter to you. These are just some of the many issues of concern about this proposed development. Even sending in just a personalised entry (above) without any of the facts below will be counted. Every submission counts.

- **NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**
  The Northern Region Planning Panel (NRPP) gave 20 reasons for refusal of the Site R&D Development Application and concluded that *"the proposed development is not considered in the public interest."* The community rejection of the over-development of West Byron has been substantial with 5000+ objections from local residents and thousands marching in the street.
- **AMENDED DA IS MISLEADING - IT'S STILL MASSIVE**
  The Development Application does not adequately address the 20 reasons for the NRPP refusal. There is not much difference to the original submitted DA for 387 lots that was refused. It's a very slightly smaller development footprint to be subdivided into 162 lots but there are 25 'super-lots' intended for further subdivision. Two lots appear to be proposed for an unspecified number of apartments and 20 lots show an indicative subdivision into 208 smaller lots. This DA suggests there will potentially be more lots than before.
- **NO MASTERPLAN OR COORDINATION OF THE WHOLE WEST BYRON URBAN RELEASE AREA**
  The two landowner groups, Site R&D and Villaworld Byron Bay, are not working in co-ordination. This DA cannot be assessed in isolation from the other landowners (the DA before the court) as there is no connectivity across the site and cumulative impacts cannot be assessed, particularly with regard to serious impacts on Belongil Creek, traffic volumes, threatened frog species, koalas, endangered ecological communities, acid sulfate soils and placing one million M3 of fill on a flood plain.
- **TRAFFIC CHAOS**
  West Byron will generate over 14,000 vehicle trips per day on Ewingsdale Road. The current traffic load is around 21,000 movements per day so the development will generate a 66% increase in traffic, dramatically affecting the efficiency and operation of Byron's major inbound road (in contravention of clause 101 of State Environmental Planning Policy Infrastructure 2007).
- **FLOOD RISK & TOXIC RUNOFF**
  The development site is a drained wetland that is flood affected and directly adjacent to the Belongil Creek. Belongil Estuary is a Special Purpose Zone of Cape Byron Marine Park. Urban stormwater discharge and changes to the entrances to estuaries are the top priority threats to NSW's marine estate and this proposed development will impact on both. Additionally, acid sulfate run-off and an increased volume of effluent from the Sewage Treatment Plant will enter the Belongil, compounding its poor water quality.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS**
  The site's low elevation and coastal location on a floodplain makes it highly vulnerable to climate change. The flood study misrepresents the likely consequences of sea-level rises and does not consider the quantifiable risk that sea-level rises this century could be 1–2m, and thus storm surges and flooding could overwhelm the site's infrastructure and threaten dwellings.
- **ACOUSTIC WALL AND FILL**
  The proposal is to fill most of the site to 0.5m above flood level, which requires importing some 500,000M3 of fill. On top of this fill is a proposed 4 metre 'acoustic wall', framing the entry into Byron Bay.
- **KOALAS**
  The developers claim that there are no koalas living on the site and they plan to remove significant core koala habitat and feed trees. It is well documented that West Byron is a vital link between koalas to the north and south of the Shire. If this link is severed, the isolation of these populations will cause their demise. Compensatory planting will not grow fast enough to maintain connectivity of habitat.
- **DAMAGE TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY**
  Byron Bay is an internationally renowned tourist destination – increased traffic congestion, polluted waterways, a giant wall and a generic mega suburb at our entrance will damage our reputation as a unique holiday destination.
- **THIS IS YOUR TOWN AND OURS**
  The approval to zone land for a suburb at West Byron was taken away from our local council and community. Why should development come at the cost of our biodiversity, our waterways and our way of life? Something better could be done with this land. We don't oppose all development, but this is too big and its impacts are too many and irrevocable.

THIS AD WAS PAID FOR BY SUPPORTERS OF BYRON RESIDENTS' GROUP.
THANK YOU FOR LOVING NATURE AND OUR TOWN MORE THAN MONEY.

www.protectbyron.com | www.byronresidentsgroup.com | Facebook:ByronResidentsGroup

West Byron rises again – will you maintain the pressure?

■ In September 2014, Byron Residents' Group drafted an open letter in this paper to the landowners of West Byron, signed and paid for by many local people. Here is a portion of it:

'We have asked you for meetings and for genuine community consultation but you have declined. You can do something about this terrible plan. You can stop it. For your property you can submit a more reasonable proposal to Council that avoids the most sensitive areas, enables an amount of development that will not overwhelm Byron's ability to cope with it, and still makes you sizeable profits. Please consider the wellbeing of Byron Bay residents, the tourism industry, local koalas and the Belongil estuary and don't attempt to sacrifice them for your profit. We will not accept this development.'

The 'local' landowners didn't listen then, and now still continue to show contempt for our community, and nature, by pursuing their oversized development. They happily ran to the state government to override Council and community to get their site rezoned, but then ignored the state government's planning panel when it gave twenty reasons for refusing their plans for a massive suburb.

Now they are using the courts to try to get their way to approve a 'new' DA for their site. This DA makes no concessions to community concerns but rather tries to finesse a sow's ear into a silk purse by making a few minor amendments and adding some extra paperwork.

Maybe they think we will get exhausted by this process and succumb to submission fatigue? But Byron's community will stay the course, make their submissions, and let the Land and Environment Court know that we will not allow a handful of people to do an irreversible harm to our town. We didn't march in the streets three times for nothing, did we?

Go to byronresidentsgroup.org/home for suggestions on how to make your submission.

Submissions close 7 May. Send to: submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au.

Cate Coorey
Byron Bay

■ If you care about the plight of our koalas and other wildlife after a season of hell with the prolonged drought and bushfires – we need your help.

Our Byron coastal koalas are heading for extinction and if the 'new' West Byron development application (DA) is approved, it is fast tracking their plight.

Bangalow Koalas strongly opposes the 'amended' DA from the 'local' landowners of West Byron. They didn't accept the unanimous decision of the Northern Regional Planning Panel, and are now challenging the outcome in the Land and Environment Court.

Our current local state member, mayor, and local councillors have opposed this monstrosity of a development, as did the 5,000 submissions against the rejected DA.

Site R&D's (locals) proposed West Byron development. Image Dailan Pugh

Very little has changed with this amended version. The developers' report denies assessments by Biolink, DECCW and Byron Council that core koala habitat is on the West Byron site. This is a hugely important site for the Byron coastal koalas and a vital link for maintaining connectivity between koalas to the north and south of the Shire. If this development is allowed, it will most certainly lead to the demise of our beloved coastal koalas.

The developers' Koala Plan of Management endorses removal of a significant amount of core koala habitat and feed trees, without any assessment of the number of feed trees to be removed. It does not buffer retained habitat, and the proposal will impede koala dispersal. Fencing in the Ewingsdale area is already affecting the natural dispersal of koalas there.

We, as a community, must fight to protect our koalas and other wildlife in our Shire. This DA threatens the Belongil Creek, estuary, endangered ecological communities and wetlands.

We strongly urge as many people as possible to put in an objection by 7 May to submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au with West Byron DA10.2017.661.1 in the subject line.

Please help us save our koalas.

Linda Sparrow
President Bangalow Koalas

■ Opportunities to comment on the proposed West Byron mega development close on Thursday 7 May. That leaves little time to have your views on the development heard. Key issues include impacts on flooding, traffic, road damage from trucks, wetlands, flora and fauna etc.

With the issue of the Traffic Report, the development must not advance until there is more certainty and transparency in the collected traffic data, studies and strategic analysis to determine long-term, real solutions, to the serious traffic issues on Ewingsdale Road, being 'the one road into Byron'.

The 2019 West Byron Traffic Report modelling and analysis relies upon flawed data sources:

- Traffic counts that are outdated (2008, 2011, 2016 and 2017).
- Traffic counts that were taken outside high tourist periods (taken end Jan and May).
- Outdated traffic destination data (2010).
- Outdated actual tourist visitor numbers (2011).
- Outdated tourist visitor growth data from an old study (2011).
- Outdated 2006 Census figures when a Census has been taken more recently (2016).
- A previous West Byron Traffic Report with significantly outdated figures (2011).
- A Strategic Traffic Model for the area undertaken by Council – 12 long years ago (2008).

The 2019 West Byron Traffic Report is missing fundamental critical inputs:

- Updated traffic counts in high tourist periods.
- Updated traffic destination surveys to inform the traffic model.
- Updated tourist visitor forecasts from a reliable source considering recent growth explosion.
- Impacts of Airbnb shifting workers to accommodation outside Byron in recent times.
- Updated critical strategic traffic model covering the greater Byron region.
- 2016 Australian Census figures such as local residential data.
- Safety impacts of delays on Pacific Highway lanes due to traffic growth.
- Short, medium and long term timeframes for required road infrastructure to meet traffic demands.
- Impacts of a traffic Armageddon, which will occur when the Pacific Highway upgrade Woolgoolga to Ballina is completed (2021) and daytrippers have easy access to Byron from the south.

Unless the fundamental deficiencies within this key report are adequately addressed both by the West Byron developers, and more broadly by local government, and at the NSW Government (TfNSW and DPE) level, traffic outcomes will very likely remain substandard, and lead to ongoing and worsening chronic congestion issues and extended travel delay problems on Ewingsdale Road, and beyond, especially during normal morning peak, and peak holiday, periods.

Fundamental issues with the 'one road into Byron solution' must be clearly recognised, and appropriately addressed, by all key stakeholders before West Byron could possibly proceed any further.

Anthony Stante
Byron Bay

▶ Continued from page 14

Council's culpability, rather than the safety issues that were at the heart of our objections.

In the two weeks since the planning meeting there has already been a three day bushfire on the very same access route – thank God it's winter. As we head toward another fire season, the rain that we've had is leaving us, and the ground is already hard and crunchy.

Ewan Willis
Main Arm

1m²?

Forty square metres for thirty students plus one teacher. Allow ten square metres for access at the front of the room, and the teacher's desk. This leaves one square metre per student.

This is a classroom in which I used to teach in a local high school.

We often used to marvel about how fast 'Splendour Flu' would rage through the student population when a few returned from Splendour in the Grass in late July.

Students' coughing in small classrooms has obvious implications, but parents 'need' to send their children to school.

What now with COVID-19? Will the education system consider new distancing rules in classrooms?

G Graham
Byron Bay

Libraries essential

I am writing as coordinator of a longstanding Byron Bay book club who were meeting monthly at the Byron@Byron Resort, and currently via Zoom. The vast majority of the members rely on our wonderful library service to access their books. We want to thank the Byron Bay library staff for their innovative and safe approach that enables library patrons to access books they have ordered.

Once again, they have gone above and beyond to keep us avid readers supplied and happy. At the moment they are waiving the minimal administration fee usually payable when a book is collected. I would like to encourage library patrons to actually run up a tab, and pay when the library reopens, as libraries are invariably strapped for funds. Again, heartfelt thanks to you all.

Liz McCall
Byron Bay

Disgrace

The Mayor's response last week to the outrageous critical habitat destruction of possibly the largest recorded population of Mitchell's Rainforest Snail as a 'good thing' beggars belief.

This is now a crime against the environment in the wetlands off Butler Street. He and his Council have misled community, state and federal authorities by playing down the extent and risk to critical habitat of this listed endangered species to the point of claiming, despite targeted surveys, that the Mitchell's Rainforest Snail was not evident in the affected area. This is how they managed to wrangle state and federal approvals despite huge community opposition and despite a clear alternative and less damaging route.

The whole affair is a sorry disgrace, and all associated should hang their heads in

▶ Continued on page 18

MULLUMBIMBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mullumbimby is a great town, full of great people and unique, interesting businesses, almost all of which are locally owned. Like us, they are all coping with the COVID-19 restrictions differently, so please look through the list below and see if you can spend your money locally.

Cut this list out and put it on your fridge if you want!

We all need to support each other, rather than buy from big corporates over the internet.

AMORE
10am–4pm new hours
0409 570 229

BRIDGLANDS HOME AND FURNITURE
Mon to Fri 9–5pm, Sat 9–12.30. Zero contact delivery avail.
6684 2511 | www.betta.com.au

BRUNSWICK HISTORICAL SOC
Closed but their website is up and running.
www.mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

BUON APPETITE
5.30–8.30pm
6684 1101

BYRON BAY PORK AND MEATS
Mon–Fri 6am–5pm. Sat 6am–12pm
6684 2139

CACTUS HILL
Closed till further notice. Inquire through FB and Insta.
0411 215 402

CASAPANDAN
Online all.
0498 033 364 | www.casapandan.com.au

CHINCOGAN MECHANICAL
Open normal hours.
6684 3797

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Courses online.
www.byroncollege.org.au

COURTHOUSE MULLUM
Restaurant T/A lunch & dinner. Bottleshop normal hours.
6684 1550

CRAIG WATSON PHARMACY
Trading as normal. Closing lunch time to clean for 1 hour.
6684 4888

DEVINE MEATS
Trading as normal. Home delivery available.
6684 2015

DOLPHIN OFFICE CHOICE
Mon to Fri 9am–5pm, closed Saturdays.
6684 2026

EDENS LANDING
8am–6pm Weekdays, 9am–2pm Sat.
6684 1007

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Operating under strict rules. No gathering. Shop and Go!
6677 1345

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Open 7 days 11am–7pm take away only.
6684 2146

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0424 424 498 | www.katewaters.com.au

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0409 903 402

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6684 6452 | www.linenhouse.com

MAIN ARM MECHANICAL
Mon–Fri 8.30am–5pm
6684 2394

MIMI AND FLO
Closed temp. Will re-open when regulations change.
0427 036 292

MITRE 10
Normal trading hours. Regular updates on FB.
6684 2083 | www.mitre10.com.au

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6684 1062

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Re-opening 4/05/20. 10am–3pm Weekdays 10am–1pm Sat.
6684 1413 | 0400 305 917

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6684 2325 | www.mullumbimbyengineering.com.au

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Mon to Fri 10am–5pm T/A. Sat & Sun 3–6pm T/A & delivery.
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6684 1200

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Open 7 nights a week 4.30–8.30pm. Lunch Tues–Fri 12–2pm
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6684 6235 | www.mullummac.com

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9am–5pm Mon to Fri, 10am–2pm Sat
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SHANTI TOWN
10–2pm Mon to Sat
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Dangerous access leads to loss of life in Main Arm

Charlie Boyle

The tragic death of a young man in our community ten days ago (Saturday, 18 April) highlights the issues around rural roads and fire trails in the Byron Shire.

Ry Waterman died in an horrific car accident on the infamously treacherous western end of Skyline Road in Upper Main Arm. This is possibly the steepest and most dangerous section of road in the region, but it was Ry's only option to access his home at the 'Agarthi' property.

'Agarthi' was subdivided by Byron Shire Council in the 1950s but the legal access was an impossibly steep 'paper' road. South Chowan Road, a very traversable de facto but ungazetted road to 'Agarthi' and surrounding properties had been in use for decades, but in the 1980s the purchaser of an adjoining property closed this access.

Until then 'Agarthi' was a small thriving community of families with young children, but overnight it was abandoned and became a ghost town. It should be illegal for Council or residents to close de facto access routes when the alternative 'legal' road (ie Skyline Road in The Pocket) is not safely traversable, as this can cause great hardship to others, for generations.

While actively discouraging people from living remotely, for decades Council has been collecting rates from rural properties like 'Agarthi', while providing no services in return – no water, no sewerage and no access.

No alternative

While Byron Shire Council officially maintains many other roads to rural mountain properties in Main Arm, the Council refused to maintain Skyline Road, or offer an alternative, safe route to 'Agarthi'. As a consequence Ry, his family, and some neighbours spent many years, and thousands of dollars, trying to upgrade Skyline Road. But it was a losing battle, the road was just too steep and dangerous and should never have been constructed in the first place.

Ry and other landholders in the area could have used the Skyline Road/Main Arm Fire Trail as an alternative, de facto access, but Council stopped maintaining the Main Arm Fire Trail almost twenty years ago. Since then, local landholders have been maintaining sections of this fire trail at their own expense.

Maintain the roads

COVID-19 has shown us that it is safer and healthier to live in and raise children in the bush than in the cities – but most of us knew that anyway. People are always going to want to live in the forest, and that's part of the identity of Byron Shire.

Last year's extreme fires were eventually contained, but there will be more, and we desperately need to open and maintain the safety of our fire trails – they were built for a very good reason.

Council has recently received significant funding for Shire roads – don't spend it all on the suburbs, Mayor Richardson; and improve the existing roads before you approve more dwellings with dangerous access – or there will be more deaths.

Let this tragic and unnecessary death be a wake up call; It's time to end decades of indifference and neglect, and insist that the Council be there to support residents, not to oppress them.

Vale Ry Waterman, father, partner, brother, son, grandson, uncle, cousin and friend. Hundreds in the Main Arm community and beyond are grieving his passing.

▶ **Continued from page 16**

shame. A monument to environmental destruction and social injustice, this is now what the Byron Bay bypass will remain forever.

Members of our Butler Street Community Network have now joined the Greens Party to effect change, we have harnessed our disillusionment and driven a stake in the ground. We love where we live, we will stay and work to return the local party to its stated principles and ideals – Ecological Sustainability, Social Justice, Participatory Democracy, Peace and Nonviolence.

Paul Jones
Butler Street Community Network Inc

Dodgy developer

And the Dodgy Developer of the Year Award goes to… Byron Shire Council for their blundering, lack of assessment, keeping the community in the dark until the destruction is done, bypass development.

No private developer would get away with a development that failed to assess the bypass's massive environmental impacts. Mayor Richardson and Council pump up their two faced propaganda – that the number of critically endangered Mitchell's Rainforest Snails eventually found, somehow identifies as 'good news', because the remaining wetlands, that Council hasn't bulldozed yet, should therefore contain more snails than previously thought.

Really? Neither Richardson nor Council has ever done that study.

It may be that the largest colony of Mitchell's Rainforest Snails was right in the middle of the bypass's footprint.

And there is more proposed Greens Party destruction of another section of this same wetland forest – with the same complete lack of assessment – for a proposed major development of a Bus Transit Centre around the Butler St Water Tower.

Climate Emergency declaration? Reducing Council's Greenhouse Emissions declaration? The only information that the spin of Simon Richardson, and his Council, reveals is the associated understanding of the dodgy development impacts of the uninformed and unassessed Byron Masterplan that was adopted by them.

Under Mayor Richardson and his greenwash associates, Council has turned into the Shire's worst environmentally destructive developer. And yet the Byron Greens Party continue to endorse him and his Greens-values-deficient colleagues?

John Lazarus
Byron Bay

Please Explain

I'm confused about how my partner can't go to her grandfather's funeral, but the Byron and New Brighton Farmers Markets are still chock-a-block with definitely more than ten people every week.

Can someone please enlighten me?

Simon Kane
Ocean Shores

■ Ed: Farmers Markets, like supermarkets, are defined to be an 'essential service' under social distancing restrictions.

US wet market

Two early cases of COVID-19 in early December in Washington State detected through autopsy. Hunting season in that state for deer is around November to December.

Could the Chinese government be right in saying the virus originated in the US?

Bernard Hinchcliffe
Mullumbimby

Exposing plandemic

Robert Podhajsky (Letters, 22 April) identified a significant source of data that helps reveal the true nature of the response to this year's viral pandemic. That is, comparative rates of viral infection and mortality relative to previous years – a wealth of evidence that has been glaringly absent from mainstream discourse. This is just one of many evidence streams that clearly demonstrate the fraudulent nature of this manufactured crisis. Other sources include, for example, Event 201; a pandemic simulation sponsored by vested interests, including John Hopkins Center for Health Security, the CDC, the World Economic Forum, and the vaccine-promoting Bill Gates Foundation, staged in October last year, just prior to the pandemic becoming 'real'.

And we're meant to believe the multi-trillion dollar bailout of Wall Street and the lockdown of the global economy, entailing the devastation of untold livelihoods, is necessitated by a virus that turns out to be neither as deadly nor as infectious as the common flu.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

5G and belief

The federal government's $9m campaign to 're-educate' us about 5G safety seems to have devolved into rehashing the tired '5G dangers are just conspiracy theory' line, now with the added notion that if you oppose 5G, you believe it causes COVID-19.

No research conclusively proves that 5G and wireless radiation is safe. According to the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), 'the dosimetry (dose absorbed by a human) in the 6 GHz to 300 GHz range is still developing and further research is required to examine the effects of exposure to new and emerging technologies' (www.arpansa.gov.au).

Even though it was intended to be funny, we don't find Mandy Nolan's Soapbox statements at all amusing. 5G may, or may never, deliver all the extremely-hyped benefits. Industry marketing tells you we need 5G, but is not about better connection – it's about profits. Smart devices are engineered for addiction. Wireless services are vastly inferior for transferring large amounts of data. Hardwired connections are so much faster, more secure and energy efficient. Most importantly, they do not pollute with harmful radiation.

Wireless technology consumes huge amounts of energy. A wireless 'internet of things' will be extraordinarily energy consumptive and will vastly grow our dependence on conflict minerals that millions of Congolese people suffer and die while mining for. An astronomical increase in e-waste will be unavoidable.

If Mandy had accepted my personal invitation to join the discussion in our Facebook group, she would find a plethora of peer reviewed scientific articles. Those 'YouTube videos' are presentations by highly qualified doctors and scientists. She would also see there is NO information stating that COVID-19 is caused by 5G. The movement has distanced itself from such claims.

Stating that a movement does not know who the editor of *The Echo* is, is both incorrect and irrelevant.

The potential dangers of 5G are real, not conspiracy.

There is overwhelming evidence of adverse health effects occurring at levels thousands of times below existing standards (BioInitiative Report, 2017; Herbert and Sage, 2013).

Check out the 5G Appeal, prepared in 2017 by scientists and doctors urging the EU to halt the roll out of 5G, due to serious potential (negative) health effects. www.5gappeal.eu.

As H Jackson Brown said – The greatest ignorance is to reject something you know nothing about.

Corrina Beacham
Northern Rivers and Australians for Safe Technology

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LOVE YOUR MUM BODY

By Mandy Nolan

Women are at war with their bodies. From when we are very young we are encouraged to view our lovely bodies with suspicion and disgust. Whether it's a photoshopped supermodel on a billboard, or a boho supermum doing yoga on the beach, the self-harm is the same. We look at the radiant curated image of what society deems perfection, and we measure ourselves next to her. We fail. We are always going to fail – because billboards are never going to promote images of women that make us feel good about ourselves. The predominant narrative about the female body is that our bodies are wrong. The narrative exists to make us feel less than we are. We believe we are too fat. We obsess over the shape of our breasts. The curve of our tummy. That our butts aren't round enough. We rage at our bodies for not being billboard perfect. Our lips are too thin, our foreheads are wrinkled. We are condemned to feeling unwanted and unloveable in our prison of self-loathing; our bodies.

How can we, as women, have positive powerful relationships with those around us, how can we be powerful in the world if we don't have a powerful loving relationship with our own bodies?

This year I made a pledge to myself not to use any negative language or thoughts about my body. I decided to only speak to my body with kindness. I decided to love my body and honour the stories that she carries. The things she has achieved – what she has endured. This is my mum body. My soft, fierce, sensual, strong, and amazing mum body. I honour my breasts – the breasts that fed four of my children for 11 years. They are not the breasts of my 21-year-old self – they were working breasts, now retired – these are the soft heavy breasts of a woman in her 50s. I love my breasts. I still love to wear a low-cut top, to show the world my lovely middle-aged woman tits. My real tits. The world needs to see more real tits.

I love my strong feet; feet that scream when I wear heels and breathe a sigh of relief when I don runners or thongs. I love my legs. My legs that were once smooth and brown, that are now lightly circled with veins. Tiny explosions that spider the top of my thighs – and behind my knees. Proof of life. A varicose tattoo. These legs have carried my heavy body through four pregnancies. They have run on beaches, kicked me through waves, and have walked me home late at night.

I love the perpetual roundness of my tummy. The soft skin that has stretched as tight as a drum to carry my children, then shrunk back to a smaller enduring roundness. I love the roll of sumptuous flesh that sits above my jeans. The dimple of my bellybutton. My giant glorious butt. An arse that can't be caught by two hands alone. And my vagina! My amazing vagina that has birthed all my children in a matter of hours; like birthing was as simple as breathing. The vagina that has given me both exquisite pleasure, and exquisite pain.

I love my face. I think I love my face more now than I ever have. This is my mother's face. This is *my* face. I see the story lines across my forehead, the places where my eyes crinkle because I laugh hard and a lot. It reminds me of my happy life. But there is evidence of sadness too. I look at my hands, the strong hands that have unpacked a million dishwashers, hung washing, soothed fevered brows, applied lipstick, made cakes, served kids at canteen. My hard-working mother's hands.

This is my mother's body. My unremarkable remarkable body. I am perfect. And so are you. This Mothers' Day I challenge you to write your body a love letter, and then to carry that through the year. A year of self-love and kindness. I wonder, if you do this, if we all do this, just what we will see next Mothers' Day? What do we look like when we love ourselves? Let's rewrite the narrative about our bodies. Worship your Mum Bod!

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THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THESE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

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In these uncertain times we understand that convenience is key. So we are offering free same day delivery for all orders placed before 10am. To make things simple we are offering a range of set-price meat packs for delivery, or pick up, in addition to our everyday meat and meal range.

Orders can be placed in store, by phone, Instagram or Facebook
thebutcherswife.net.au

UNCHARTED WATERS

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THESE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

SUPPORT LOCAL

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.

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.

LOVINLIFECO
BYRON BAY

is offering 'open by appointment' personal shopping experience, or FACETIME in store browsing any time, with free giftwrapping 'sanitise and send' service or local delivery.

Ali stocks luxury homewares, gifts and furnishings, so if you are doing a bit of decorating or need a gift, LovinlifeCo has you covered.

Follow on instagram
@lovinlifeco_ali
for special offers.
0417 924 154.

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

THE BWH .COM
THE BOOK WAREHOUSE
LISMORE · COFFS HARBOUR · BALLINA · GRAFTON

Stay safe! Order online or by phone and have books delivered free to local areas from your favourite local, family owned book stores. We have great books for the entire family as well as home schooling resources, craft and art supplies.

Our wonderful staff are still available in our shops for pickup and quick purchases.

We appreciate your continued support.

thebwh.com

Fresh fruit & veges 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

BYRON FARMERS MARKET

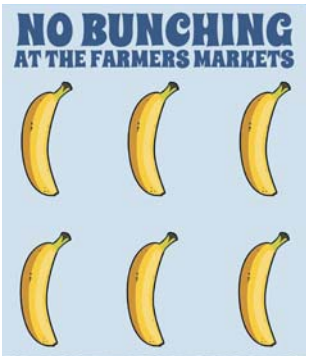
Byron Farmers Market is classified as an essential food service so remains open.

We have 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



Mullum and New Brighton Farmers Markets

The hugs are on hold, but there are still plenty of smiles on offer alongside fresh local produce at the Mullum and New Brighton Farmers Markets.

Comprehensive hygiene and social distancing measures create a safe shopping environment, and we ask that customers Shop'n'Go.

Big thanks for your continued support of our amazing local farmers.

Tuesdays 8am–11am
newbrightonfarmersmarket.org.au
Fridays 7am–11am
mullumfarmersmarket.org.au

mullumbimbypsychology

Mental health in uncertain times

In times of uncertainty, our mental health becomes even more important.

Mullumbimby Psychology, the region's largest provider of mental health support, remains open to all - children, adolescents and adults. Face-to-face, 'Telehealth' (secure video) or phone sessions.

Safe distancing practised for face-to-face visitors.

Call 6684 4748 for more information or visit
mullumbimbypsychology.com.au

Santos Organics

All three Santos Organics stores are open as usual and we now have a range of delicious, organic takeaway meals available.

Our cafes at Mullumbimby and Byron Industrial Estate are also open, with limited hours, serving takeaway drinks and meals.

We are also offering home delivery, so if you're local, you can email/phone in your shopping needs.

santosorganics.com.au

FLAVOUR
OCEANSHORES

Flavour Ocean Shores

Open 7 days from 7am–8pm.

Takeaway and deliveries only.

Award winning local coffee, pita pocket sandwiches, fresh pasta, authentic Italian pizza, beef goulash, vegan curry, hot chips, salads, chocolate brownies and much more.

Delivery of pizzas and home cooked meals available seven nights per week.

Call 5614 8603
Ocean Shores Shopping Centre

Bare Blends Smoothie Bar

We're still blending the most delicious and nutritious smoothies in town from 8am–3pm Mon to Fri and 8am–midday Sat.

We're so thrilled to be able to nourish our community through our new and improved takeaway setup!

Bayshore Drv, Industrial Estate

@bareblends.byronbay

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

ANANDA clinics
INTEGRATIVE PLANT MEDICINE

Byron Bay's first medicinal cannabis clinic.

ANANDA clinics. A philosophy of integrative plant medicine. Natural homeostasis in the nervous and immune systems. Medicinal cannabis in line with the current approved regulations in place by the TGA. Dr Jamie Rickcord FRACGP has set up the clinic for residents of Northern NSW to access medicinal cannabis.

Ph 5624 5024
anandaclinics.com.au

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

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

BunCoffee
Byron Bay
Speciality Coffee Roasters

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.

ALIVE and WILD

Plant based pantry boxes!

Gluten and dairy free

STAPLES:
Flax Crackers
Activated Seed Bark
Pizza Bases $35

TREAT:
Raw Chocolate Sour Cherry Slice or Salted Caramel Peanut Slice $40

CHEESE:
Fermented Cashew Brie
Macadamia Cheddar Shards
Creamy Nut Ricotta $45

DELUXE: all of the above $120 (choice of Slice)

Pick up Myocum
Local delivery $10
0412 400 085

Volunteers – essential for the essential services

Eve Jeffery

We all know that volunteers keep this country going. From the Rural Fire Service (RFS), the Volunteers Rescue Association (VRA), scout leaders, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens, to caring for wildlife, supporting hospitals, supporting people living with a disability, and just plain old lending a hand. Volunteers continue to do what needs doing to keep services up and running.

With the current health crisis we are daily being reminded of the real value of our volunteers as they put their own health on the line to continue to care for our community – we owe them a lot, and in some cases, we owe them our lives.

The Uniting Church Foodbox in Mullumbimby is one example of a service that many on a low income could not do without. Organiser, Gil Lomath, says the Foodbox volunteers are still providing groceries, bread and veggies every Thursday.

'We have limited volunteers, but so far [we] are managing,' she said. 'People are very appreciative.'

They are practicing social distancing 'but we feel it's quite important as people are doing it tough,' said Gil.

'WIRES are continuing to operate and implementing plans to ensure they can continue to assist sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

WIRES has approximately 3,000 volunteers across NSW.

'The majority of our volunteers are operating. Wildlife is still in need of help, and members of the public rely on our service when finding an injured or orphaned animal, or are in need of advice,' said WIRES Northern Rivers Secretary, Susanne Ulyatt.'

RFS spokesperson, Gary Allan, says the NSW RFS is monitoring the situation with COVID-19, and will continue to do so in the lead up to the bush fire season.

Byron Shire Volunteer driver for Tweed, Byron and Ballina Community Transport, Iain Harvey, sanitising the car.

'The Service has put a number of measures in place for the health and safety of its members, and the community.'

Mr Allan says that the RFS doesn't expect COVID-19 to have any impact on responding to emergencies, or on important hazard reduction.

'Responding to, and preparing for emergencies is an essential service, and we'll work to ensure these operations continue.'

The Liberation Larder in Byron have not stopped services at all during the COVID-19 pandemic.

President, Liz Jackson, said they have modified the way they serve their clients to ensure safe distancing and minimal numbers congregating around the service.

'In doing this, we have also had to reduce our volunteer numbers, as there can only be a maximum of four in the kitchen at any time,' she explained.

Ms Jackson says client numbers have increased noticeably owing to trapped overseas people on work visas, and locals being out of employment.

Liberation Larder is part of the linking of three services that are now able to offer home delivery of food boxes and cooked meals, Shire wide. All services are operating from the Byron Community Centre.

CEO of Tweed, Byron and Ballina Community Transport, Phil Barron, says the group is still running and has around 130 active volunteers across the three shires.

'We continue to provide essential transport to medical appointments for our clients, including long distance to Lismore and Queensland medical destinations. We are also assisting those clients travelling across the border to obtain and print a border permit.'

Of course, there will always be emergency services needed, and for this reason The Brunswick Valley Rescue Squad (VRA) is still active and on-call, responding in the local community.

The Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre's Julie Williams says volunteers have dropped from 20 to four at a time, as a distancing control – yet they are carrying on regardless.

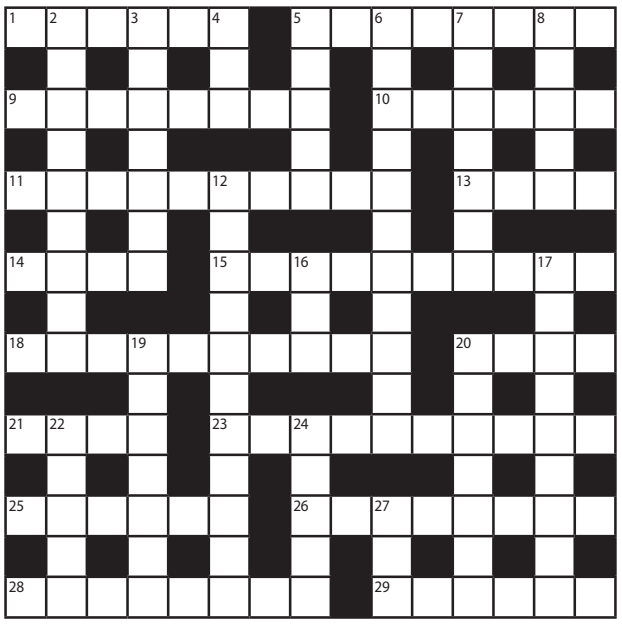
'We've done flood, fire, and now pandemic. Supporting community is what we do. Our specialist domestic violence services are still operating, as are many other services.'

Ms Williams says some community members are accessing the centre for the first time as they have lost their income.

'It can be very difficult for people. We're doing our best to help everyone feel as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. We are averaging 15 people per day, and with no accessible Aboriginal services in Byron Shire, we are also delivering food to Aboriginal communities fortnightly.'

All the services need support from us. If you are able to offer support, in particular financial support, to any volunteer organisation, that is a great way to do your part to help the community to get through this really tough time.

Mungo's Crossword N332



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. A soft pain, the American warrior (6)
5. A right good turn can be a matter of debate (8)
9. Hose down the toilet – it's a fierce battle! (8)
10. The Spanish level a cricket team (6)
11. Silly Mungo's covering up the monarch – it's evidence of a crime (7,3)
13. Ten envelop rider, usually appearing before Facto! (4)
14. A fish jelly (4)
15. Wild Bogart rage? No, another actor entirely (5,5)
18. Beneath a thief – he disposes of the bodies (10)
20. Legend – three in a yard (4)
21. Exist around, like, foundation (4)
23. 9 by 10, the clues is IC (6,4)
25. It takes shots about middle age (6)
26. Funny shape, worker bird (8)
28. The early problem can be quite tough (8)
29. Anxious peacekeeper, simple (6)

DOWN

2. Surprised, grin at map – finding a bird (9)
3. Counter tester (7)
4. Robert E turned fish (3)
5. A line, single and isolated (5)
6. Inexperienced, average, rubbish bird (5,6)
7. I 25 confused nation (7)
8. Patterson embraces the queen, and looks prurient (5)
12. Bird, fluttery thing in a strong wind (11)
16. A large deer for the Spanish thousand (3)
17. Robert and Elizabeth, ingredients for gravy (9)
19. English took loan over Middle East, gold or silver perhaps (7)
20. Lean courses – a delicacy! (7)
22. Australian produce alert (5)
24. Diaper for the sleepy? (5)
25. Assume: drop a donkey and raise a bird (3)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Indigenous American (6)
5. Contestable, controversial (8}
9. Napoleon's last battle (8)
11. XI (6)
13. Clear evidence of guilt (7,3)
14. Gelatine (4)
15. Old star who liked to be alone (5,5)
18. Mortuary director (10)
20. Imperial measure of distance (4)
21. Foundation (4)
23. IC (6,4)
25. Photographer's tool (6)
26. Game bird (7)
28. Coarse, like hide (8)
29. Restive (6)

DOWN

2. Game bird (9)
3. Assayer, one who assures correctness (7)
4. Long thin fish (3)
5. From one end to the other (5)
6. Parakeet, viridian colour (5,6)
7. Continent, could be north or south (7)
8. Ogles, looks lascivious (5)
12. Bird renowned for its singing (11)
16. Large deer (3)
17. English poets, Robert and Elizabeth (9)
19. Irreducible substance (7)
20. Subtlety, stratagem in bridge (7)
22. Alert, awake (5)
24. Child's diaper (5)
25. Large Australian bird (3)

Last week's solution N331

S	L	E	I	G	H	R	I	D	E	■	C	A	S	T
Y	■	N	E	■	O	■	E	■	H	■	C	■	E	
R	E	D	C	O	A	T	■	S	E	E	T	H	E	D
I	■	P	■	R	■	A	■	E	■	N	■	E	■	D
A	L	L	I	G	A	T	O	R	■	R	U	D	D	Y
■	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	V	■	Y	■	■	■	B
M	O	T	E	T	■	S	P	E	C	T	A	C	L	E
E	■	E	■	H	■	■	■	■	■	H	■	A	■	A
M	A	S	S	E	U	S	E	S	■	E	N	T	E	R
O	■	■	■	T	■	H	■	U	■	E	■	H	■	■
R	E	A	C	H	■	A	R	C	H	I	T	E	C	T
I	■	C	■	I	■	M	■	C	■	G	■	D	■	I
A	I	R	D	R	O	P	■	U	S	H	E	R	E	D
L	■	I	■	D	■	O	■	M	■	T	■	A	■	E
S	I	D	E	■	B	O	M	B	S	H	E	L	L	S

BYRON THEATRE

Fun facts about the Byron Theatre!

Fun Fact #5:

Volunteers are the Foundation of the Byron Theatre!

The theatre has some incredibly dedicated volunteers, some who have been with us for many years. Their time and energy are crucial to running the theatre and its events on a daily basis. We currently have over 250 volunteers including ushers, event assistants, raffle sellers, box office operators and bar volunteers. All these "Front of House" roles are crucial to the smooth running of all events.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support and we hope to see you back at the theatre very soon!

www.byroncentre.com.au

MANDY NOLAN'S
SOAPBOX

MY LAST POST

Saturday was Anzac Day. I was up early – not for remembrance but for a walk. Like a lot of Aussies I occasionally turn up at the 11am march, stand in the sun, get hot, wish I'd worn a hat, contemplate the unreality of going to war, pay my respects, then go home and enjoy a barbeque on the public holiday that our ancestors fought and died for. No one in my immediate family fought in any of the world wars; my grandfather had flat feet. That's all I was ever told, as a child, when I asked why my grandfather didn't have medals like my friend's grandfathers did. For some reason, flat feet forbade you from combat. Perhaps the feet were too unattractive for the rest of the unit to deal with in such close quarters?

As a child, I wondered about flat feet. I found myself checking my own feet, and to my relief I found nicely formed arches. I have hero feet. Not the loser feet of my ancestors. The cowardly flat foot. Apparently they thought flat feet were clumsy. Your unit would be on a stealth mission, running through the forest. The enemy was close. You were quietly approaching, ready for the surprise attack, except Norman, the bloke from the country town who has flat feet, he's fallen over again, dropped his backpack, his gun has fired, and now he's fumbling with his military issue cutlery, the metallic clanging resounding in the quiet damp morning. Flat feet were the tootsies of defeat. Flat feet was a disqualifying factor when it came to enlisting for service in World War II. There were a lot of beliefs about the flat foot that have since been shown to be the stuff of mythology. Flat footers, like flat Earthers, may be annoying, but they are now eligible for military service. It turns out that people with flat feet actually incur fewer injuries than those with significant arches. They should have taken the flat-footed fucker.

I say that with the utmost respect, acknowledging the war and the ruin my grandfather stayed home to effect on his own family. That kind of war has no public holiday. The women and children who survived the nightly bombings, on his return from the pub, got no medals. Like returned servicemen their trauma also stained the generations that followed.

It's dark, I'm drinking tea. I hear a lone bugle play *The Last Post*. Its mournful notes float in the darkness high above my small town, lingering in the silence. This year is the year no one can gather. The notes are all that connect us. This haunting mournful reverie – a reminder of the sacrifice of men and women long gone. Those men who, when boys, fought the battles of old men who used the poor and dispensable to fight their battles. The thought of no one being able to gather in remembrance made *The Last Post* even more melancholy. On this day, men who don't speak of their trauma gather quietly in the dark to cry. By the time the sun comes up they are having a beer.

I find myself in tears. I move to my verandah to cling to those wavering notes that hover in the air. From my perch I see a lone woman holding a candle-lit vigil in her driveway. Somehow this is more poignant than the communal gathering. I think about what ANZAC Day means. About the unfathomable experiences of young men my sweet and gentle son's age who were killed, or if they weren't killed, if they lived through the horror, returned so traumatised they became the 'enemy' in their own families.

Whole generations of broken and damaged men used as pawns in a government war machine. The bugle notes are rising; I think about the resilience of that generation. I think about how soft we are; complaining of our hardship in lockdown in our nice comfortable homes.

I think about the old people. ANZAC Day always makes me think about old people. Many of them now very alone, either in isolation at home, or in nursing homes, with no family to visit. It's their wartime again. They are on emotional rations. This time it's not the young, it's the old who are falling on the frontline.

It occurs to me how little we value them. There will be no march for them when they've gone. No public holiday. No one will gather at their funerals. In the time of COVID-19 these old people will die alone. *The Last Post* finishes. I wipe my face, finish my tea, and head to the beach. Lest we forget.

SEVEN
ENTERTAINMENT

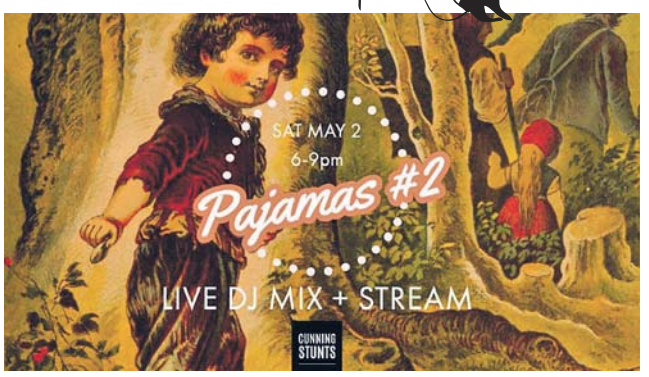
DJS & PJS! DANCING IN YOUR PAJAMAS!

The good people of Cunning Stunts know how to lift spirits – the team behind Curious and Nudge are presenting a **FREE live DJ mix-and-stream** full of fun, joy and dance shenanigans, on **Saturday 2 May**! Streaming live on Facebook, this event is in line with the ethos of all their events, and will include a Girl's Head Shave to raise funds for charity.

Maya Sutton, who just turned 14, will shave off her hair to raise funds for local youth charity Headspace, Tweed Heads. The head shave will be performed live on camera during the Cunning Stunts Pajamas #2 live stream. With four planned stages to the shave; join in to witness live - The Mullet, The Bowl Cut, The Mohawk, and the final Buzz Cut.

Young people's mental health has been particularly affected by lockdown and social distancing. Headspace centres and services operate across Australia, in metro, regional and rural areas, supporting young Australians and their families to be mentally healthy and engaged in their communities. Headspace is committed to embracing diversity and eliminating all forms of discrimination in the provision of health services.

Cunning Stunts resident DJs, **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen**, will be providing the live DJ mix from the Cunning Stunts studio.



There will be a prize for the best dressed Pajamas attendee. Entry is via submitting your photo to either the Cunning Stunts Facebook page or the Pajamas event page.

During the live stream you can also chat with the Cunning Stunts community, turn up the music for a dance at home with your loved ones, or just bask in all the joy emanating from your speakers – dressed in your best PJs of course.

Broadcasting Live 6–9pm on Saturday 2 May, at www.facebook.com/cunningstuntevents/live/

Donate for Headspace head shave via paypal by 4 May – paypal.me/cunningstunts or bank transfer to Darren Sutton, BSB 062197 A/C 10207942 using the description 'Pajamas'.

STARS
BY LILITH

TAURUS THE BULL

This week planet Saturn's do-the-right-thing energy retrogrades in the freedom-seeking sign of Aquarius. And as above, so below…

♈ **ARIES:** Full moon in your house of deep feeling stirs, shakes and awakens turbulent emotions you'll be riding for the next fortnight. As Saturn's move makes a joint venture worth investigating, be aware that this transit's about being willing to do things differently, and not being afraid to be your own authentic self.

♉ **TAURUS:** This week's full moon is a resolution strengthener for Taureans, and the current scenario offers plenty of options if you're willing to compromise – though *are* you, stubborn ones? Time lord Saturn's retrograde suits your preferred laid-back pace, so settle in for the long haul – there's plenty more surprises on the way..

♊ **GEMINI:** Intense full moon asks what outstanding accounts in your life need balancing? And if structuremeister Saturn throws a spanner in your plans, which necessitates scaling back, then think slow and steady rather than rush for results. If Sensible Twin's 'shoulding' you into something, it's time to let Intuitive Twin have a say.

♋ **CANCER** Full moon is always full-on for the Crab clan, and this week's in sexy Scorpio packs a sizzle. In the big picture perspective, long-term planner Saturn's annual backspin supports research, investigation and asking questions. Take your time committing to anything, even an opinion. Actually, especially an opinion.

♌ **LEO:** If the full moon has you thin-skinned and extra-sensitive, it's worthwhile monitoring knee jerk reactions. Jumping to conclusions, making assumptions or lashing out will only alienate people already on edge with spiking stress levels. This week brings astral support for relationship repair, so negotiate difficult exchanges by really hearing someone else's POV.

♍ **VIRGO:** Video-chat fatigue and zoom overload setting in? Hang in there, for just a week longer make the effort to keep reaching out, trading ideas and discussing options while they're available, before next week's retrograde sets in. Where there's a will and a Wi-Fi signal you'll find a way – plus support from some unexpected sources.

♎ **LIBRA:** If Saturn's reversal this week presses pause on one of your grand plans, make use of the opportunity to map out alternative strategies. Don't lock into tunnel thinking; keep widening your viewfinder to find the balance between what you think and what you feel, what you want and what's available.

♏ **SCORPIO:** Thursday's annual full moon in Scorpio dedicates the coming fortnight to your needs, Scorpions. Known in Indian astrological circles as the Buddha's Moon, it highlights themes of attaching and detachment; as in, establishing what core values are keepers, and which illusions you're better off giving the flick.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS:** This week's healing full moon highlights some outdated narratives it's way past time to delete. You have plenty to say, and with exacting Saturn bringing its energies of expertise and mastery to your communication zone, you'll be more able to say it in a way that others take in – especially when merry weekend moon's in Sagittarius.

♑ **CAPRICORN:** With your planetary manager Saturn making its annual retrograde, your brief for the coming months is getting comfortable in the two-way stretch between sensible and sensuous; luxury comforts and economic necessity. In receipt of uncomfortable or disappointing news? Then refine your gameplay – it's what Saturn does best.

♒ **AQUARIUS:** Seven-ringed Saturn retrograding in Aquarius sets you – no surprise – into energy-save mode till around midyear. This challenges you to find fresh magic in the mundane; To quieten the overactive mind, and make space for the information waiting to download; To question everything, especially your most entrenched beliefs.

♓ **PISCES:** Saturn's present retrograde is good news for Pisceans. This healing transit, though it mightn't initially seem so, is just the ticket for tidying up unfinished business. A bit of forgiveness here, some letting go there, a dash of gratitude and presto! This new energy attracts creative conversations, sparks inventive ideas, shines a light forward…

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The Good Life

Farmers Markets adapting to the pandemic

By Eve Jeffery

Patrons are happy to wait their turn keeping a healthy distance in Byron.

Lynne McDonald is no banana when it comes to bunching at Mullum Farmers Market.

Produce at last Tuesday's New Brighton Farmers Market.

My grandmother used to say that if you always want a job, work with food. Well, she was partly right. Though a lot of prepared food sellers have been shut down, those who sell fresh produce are still in the market place. Literally.

Manager of the Byron Farmers Market, Tom Carey, said they are travelling really well. 'We responded to coronavirus quickly and we have continued to monitor and adjust in line with government regulations', he says.

Mr Carey says that farmers, producers and customers alike have adjusted really well on the whole. 'Things like having wash stations and hand sanitiser at every stall and distributed throughout the marketplace, introducing 1.5m social distancing, no tables or seating, and asking people to shop alone, and shop and go, have helped.'

Mr Carey also said they introduced a one-person-per-household policy at Byron and Bangalow markets to better facilitate safe social distancing.

Manager of the Mullumbimby and New Brighton Farmers Markets, Allie Godfrey, said the shoppers have been happy and friendly. 'Everyone is grateful we're open and that they have an alternative place to source their weekly shopping that's out in the fresh air and sunshine. People are in general very cooperative and happy to adhere to the new rules.'

Ms Godfrey says they've put a lot of hard work into making the markets a safe space to shop, and feel farmers markets in general have been ahead of the game in terms of implementing health and safety measures in response to COVID-19.

'We are providing hand washing and sanitising stations and all stallholders are using sanitiser between each customer. There are new money handling systems to minimise contact, and stalls have been rearranged to enable easy social distancing, with lines showing appropriate distancing and takeaway food being taken home to be consumed.'

Ms Godfrey said that each week is getting easier as people become accustomed to the new way of doing things. 'It's quite a big adjustment, as the markets have always been about hugs, and hanging out, and catching up with friends and your community. Some people are probably beginning to relax a bit as we continue to hear how low infection rates are, but the message we try and get across is that the livelihoods of our local farmers are at stake here.

'Our number one priority is to keep the market open for our farmers, for our community and to ensure our local food security is maintained.'

Ms Godfrey says that the markets are also doing well. 'Our customers have helped make it easier for us by cooperating with our new rules and by continuing to support the market', she says.

Both Allie and Tom agree that the vibe of the markets has changed since the COVID-19 restrictions started. 'Traditionally, the farmers market has always been a bit of a social hub – a place for our community to not only buy fresh produce direct from our local farmers, but also to come together, sit, relax, eat and listen to live music,' said Tom. 'Since the pandemic began the market doesn't have that usual buzzy vibe, but it still feels positive. 'People are just happy to be able to get out of the house and come and shop outside. While there may not be the usual hugs happening, there are plenty of smiles going around.'

Good Taste

Eating Out Guide

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Property Insider

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A homeowner's guide to refinancing

A word from Russel Shaw and the Acceptance Finance crew on refinancing:

With a home loan it's easy to just 'set and forget'. But it's sensible to review your home loan every two to three years or so. We're living in a world of rapid change, where interest rates can go up and down, new lenders emerge and more competitive products become available, so keeping the same home loan for 30 years could cost you more money than you need to spend!

Russel Shaw

Why should you consider refinancing?

Generally speaking, there are four main reasons to consider refinancing:

1. Your loan may be less competitive and you could potentially get a lower interest rate.
2. Different home loan features and benefits could work better for you.
3. Your financial situation may have changed.
4. You want to access some of the equity you've built up.

continued over

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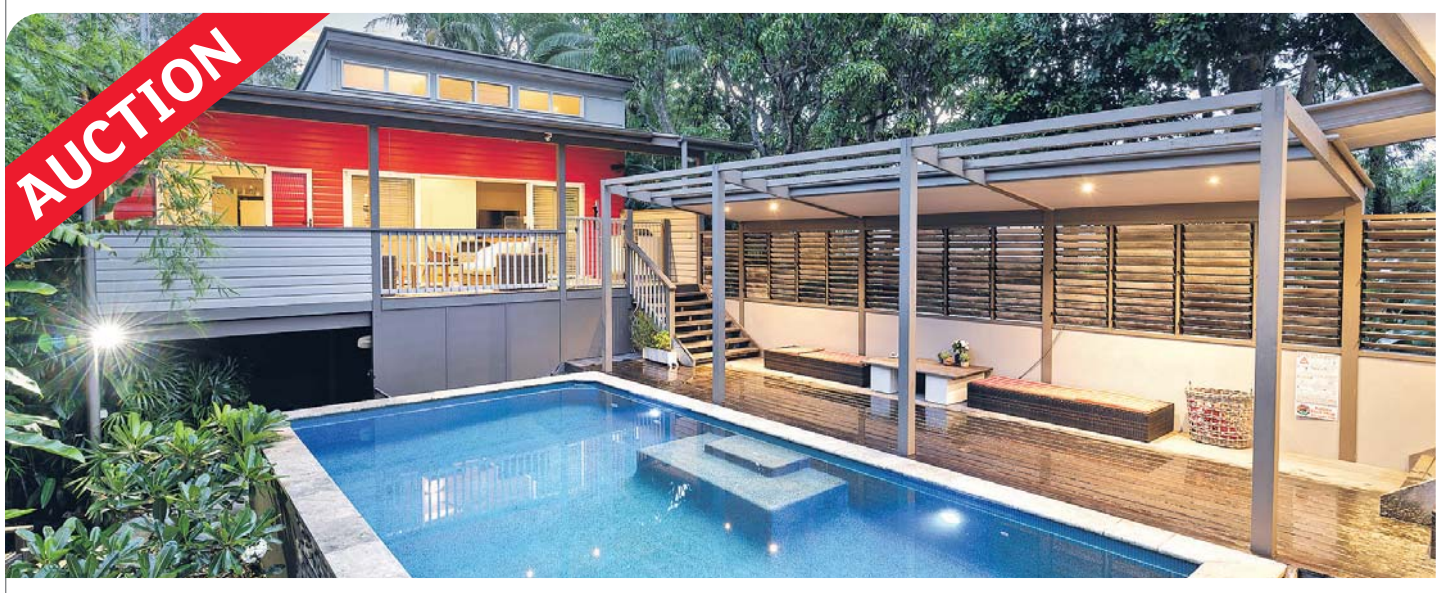

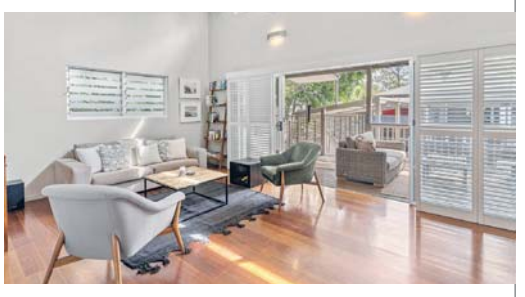

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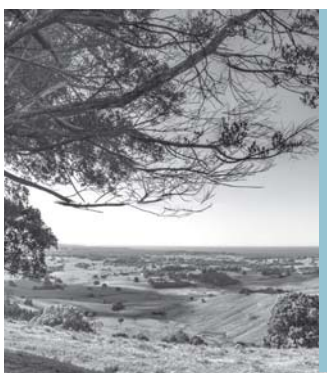

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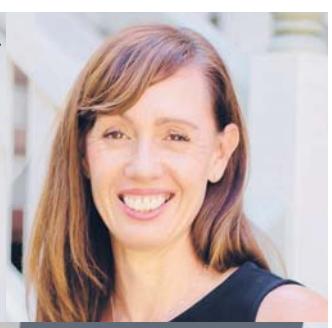

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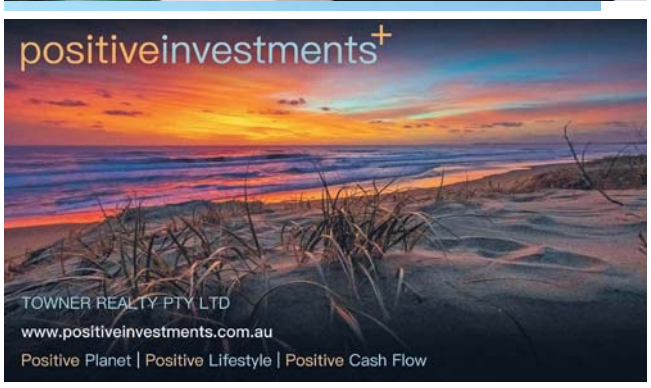

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Property Insider

continued from previous page

When should you consider refinancing?

We're currently experiencing a low interest rate period, so there are many competitive home loan products available.

Who should you use to refinance?

You should always talk to a mortgage broker because their opinion is not biased towards any particular lender or product. Unlike a bank, which will push whatever loans they have to sell at the time. And brokers won't suggest that you refinance if it isn't the right move for you.

What is the process to refinance?

Step 1: Speak to your mortgage broker. Before they begin exploring your loan options, it's important for them to have a sound understanding of where you're at financially, and what you'd like to achieve. They'll start by reviewing your current home loan and compare it with others in the market. They will help you decide if it's the right time to refinance your home loan and what features will work best for you.

Step 2: Choose your mortgage and apply. You may opt to stay with your current lender by negotiating for a better rate, or changing to an alternative product; or refinance by switching to another lender offering a better rate or loan features that suit your current circumstances. Your broker will help you find the right home loan and then submit your application.

Step 3: Get your valuation. Your new home loan provider will require a valuation on your property as part of the application process.

Step 4: Get approved. Within a few days of submitting your application, it's likely our inbox will light up with that delightful email confirming you've been approved for your new home loan. Yay!

Step 5: Your old mortgage will be closed. Your broker will arrange for you to complete a 'discharge authority' form. Your current lender will then provide a payout figure. Your new lender will fund your loan to pay out your current loan provider. If you're refinancing to consolidate other debts, for example, credit cards or personal loans, these will be finalised with the proceeds of your new loan at the same time.

Step 6: You start afresh! Once you have your new home loan in place, you will begin making repayments.

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INDEX

Accountants & Bookkeepers 27
Acupuncture 27
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration 27
Antennas & Installation 27
Antiques/Restoration 27
Appliance Repair 27
Architects 27
Automotive 27
Bathroom Renovations 27
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters 27
Bricklaying 27
Building Trades 27
Bush Regen & Weed Control 27
Carpet Cleaning 27
Chimney Sweeps 27
Chiropractic 27
Cleaning 28
Computer Services 28
Concreting & Paving 28
Decks, Patios & Extensions 28
Dentists 28
Design & Drafting 28
Driveway Maintenance 28
Earthmoving & Excavation 28
Electricians 28
Fencing 28
Floor Sanding & Polishing 28
Garden & Property Maintenance 28
Garden Design 28
Gas Suppliers 28
Graphic Design 28
Guttering 28
Handypersons 29
Health 29
Hire 29
Kitchens 29
Landscape Design 29
Landscape Supplies 29
Landscaping 29
Locksmith 29
Osteopathy 29
Painting 29
Pest Control 29
Photography 29
Physiotherapy 29
Picture Framing 29
Plastering 29
Plumbers 29
Pools 29
Removalists 29
Roofing 30
Rubbish Removal 30
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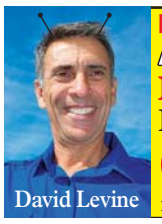

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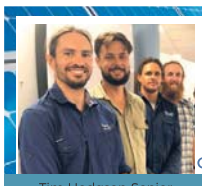

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First quarter	1 May	6.38am
Full moon	7 May	8.45pm
Third quarter	15 May	12.02am
New moon	23 May	3.38am
First quarter	30 May	1.29pm

Day of month		Sun rise	Sun set	Moon rise	Moon set	High tide, height (m)	Low tide, height (m)
1	F	0613	1713	1306		0216 1.58; 1506 1.13	0914 0.56; 2034 0.63
2	S	0613	1712	1351	0002	0329 1.61; 1620 1.24	1015 0.48; 2154 0.57
3	S	0614	1711	1432	0107	0433 1.66; 1721 1.39	1108 0.39; 2302 0.48
4	M	0615	1710	1511	0213	**0531 1.70**; 1815 1.54	**1154 0.30**
5	T	0615	1709	1549	0319	**0625 1.72**; 1904 1.69	0002 0.39; **1236 0.23**
6	W	0616	1709	1629	0426	**0714 1.70**; **1952 1.81**	0059 0.32; **1317 0.18**
7	T	0616	1708	1710	0534	0800 1.63; **2039 1.89**	**0153 0.28**; **1357 0.17**
8	F	0617	1707	1755	0643	0846 1.53; **2125 1.93**	**0246 0.28**; **1437 0.19**
9	S	0618	1707	1844	0752	0932 1.42; **2211 1.92**	0341 0.31; **1516 0.25**
10	S	0618	1706	1937	0858	1019 1.30; **2258 1.86**	0437 0.37; 1558 0.34
11	M	0619	1705	2033	1000	1108 1.19; **2346 1.77**	0536 0.44; 1640 0.44
12	T	0619	1705	2131	1055	1203 1.11	0636 0.50; 1728 0.55
13	W	0620	1704	2229	1144	0039 1.66; 1309 1.07	0736 0.55; 1826 0.65
14	T	0621	1703	2326	1227	0136 1.56; 1426 1.08	0836 0.57; 1939 0.72
15	F	0621	1703		1305	0238 1.49; 1539 1.14	0931 0.56; 2101 0.74
16	S	0622	1702	0021	1338	0339 1.46; 1638 1.23	1021 0.53; 2214 0.72
17	S	0622	1702	0114	1410	0433 1.44; 1726 1.34	1104 0.49; 2313 0.67
18	M	0623	1701	0206	1439	0521 1.44; 1807 1.44	1141 0.44
19	T	0623	1701	0258	1509	0603 1.44; 1844 1.54	0001 0.62; 1214 0.40
20	W	0624	1700	0350	1539	0642 1.43; 1919 1.62	0045 0.57; 1244 0.37
21	T	0625	1700	0442	1611	0718 1.40; 1954 1.69	0126 0.52; 1313 0.34
22	F	0625	1659	0537	1646	0755 1.37; 2030 **1.75**	0205 0.49; 1343 0.33
23	S	0626	1659	0633	1725	0831 1.33; 2106 **1.78**	0245 0.48; 1415 0.34
24	S	0626	1659	0730	1808	0908 1.28; **2145 1.79**	0325 0.47; 1447 0.36
25	M	0627	1658	0827	1858	0947 1.23; **2225 1.78**	0408 0.48; 1524 0.39
26	T	0627	1658	0923	1953	1030 1.19; **2308 1.75**	0454 0.49; 1604 0.44
27	W	0628	1658	1016	2052	1121 1.15; **2356 1.71**	0545 0.51; 1651 0.50
28	T	0628	1657	1105	2154	1220 1.14	0642 0.52; 1748 0.55
29	F	0629	1657	1150	2258	0050 1.67; 1331 1.16	0743 0.51; 1858 0.60
30	S	0629	1657	1231		0151 1.64; 1446 1.23	0842 0.47; 2016 0.61
31	S	0630	1657	1310	0002	0255 1.62; 1556 1.34	0938 0.42; 2134 0.58

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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Line classies: **classifieds@echo.net.au**

Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend. Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

Publication day is Wednesday, booking deadlines are the day before publication.

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:
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$5.00 for each extra line
$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border):
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Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa
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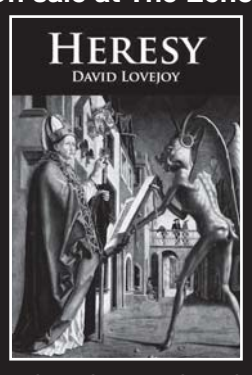
PUBLIC NOTICES

On sale at The Echo



FIND OUT HOW THE ROT BEGAN

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

HELP OUR COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER DRIVER REQUIRED

Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre are looking for a crew of volunteer food recovery van drivers.

Requirements for the job are that you must be fit and able to lift sometimes heavy boxes of food, you must have an unencumbered Drivers Licence.

If you like driving and you feel you could contribute to your community and environment **please enquire by giving the centre a call on 02 6684 1286 or drop in at 55 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.**

Help us to continue this valuable program, keeping good food out of landfill and in people's bellies.

So far we have recovered over 44 Tonnes of food

HEALTH

HYPNOSIS & NLP
www.wendypurdey.com.au
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SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.
www.kinesiologynorthcoast.com.au

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Anne Goslett (nee Mannix)

Dip.Som.Psych, Clinical PACFA Reg.
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9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

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FEEL GOOD
Free consultation. **SANDRO 66805002**

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COORABELL HALL
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66871307 www.coorabellhall.net

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BYRON BAY TREE SERVICES
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• PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
• FREE QUOTES
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0402 364 852

HART TREE SERVICES
20 years local experience
• 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
• Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat
Fully insured • Free quotes
0427 347 380

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES
• Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder
• Fully Insured
Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas
6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

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Septic Waste Removal
Summerland Environmental
The Liquid Waste Specialists!
• Septic tank cleaning
• Grease trap servicing
• Oily Liquids
• Portable toilet hire
• 24 hour service
6687 2880

FOR SALE

BAMBOO PLANTS: clumping, screening, hedging, flowering gingers, bromeliads. Close to Mullum. 0458535760

MIELE WASHERS
Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

DAVID LOVEJOY'S BOOKS
Available from The Echo reception: Between Dark and Dark, a memoir; Moral Victories, the biography of a chess player; Heresy, an historical novel. ALL JUST $10 each.

ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS
Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES.
Phone 66845517, 0418481617

COMPOST TOILETS
For tiny houses to commercial
Green Building Centre 0431721073

SHADECLOTH GREENHOUSE with watering system. Approx 8x4x2.5m. Make an offer to dismantle and take away. Bangalow. Terry 0409519946

BYRON BAY FIREWOOD
Pickup / Delivery
Seasoned Firewood
Kindling, bags, trailer, tonnage (up to 30 tonne).
Residential I Commercial I Wholesale
Prompt and reliable service.
Michael – 0401 739 656
byronbayfirewood.com.au

M & K HAMBLY TIMBER SUPPLIERS & CARRIERS
FIREWOOD
• Fence posts • Poles
• Sleepers • Sawn timber
Kings Creek, Mullumbimby
Mark **0427 490 038**
Mon-Wed, by appointment
Thurs/Fri 8am to 4pm I Sat, 8am to 3pm

GARAGE SALES

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal
0408 210 772

ITEMS UNDER $100

TABLE TENNIS TABLE $40 and new cupboard insert $30. 0410193647

WANTED

LP RECORDS: good condition, no op shop crap! Ph Matt 0401955052

MOTOR VEHICLES

TOYOTA COASTER 2004. Bus or mobile home, 21 seater, in Ballina. $14k neg. Good condition. Roadworthy. 0448738921

CASH PAID FOR UNWANTED CARS
Local reg'd business
66845296 or 66845403

1995 Suzuki Vitara Soft Top Manual Farm 4wd Sold as-is No rego SN1234 **$2250**
1997 Mazda 121 Metro 5dr Hatch Manual Rego till September SN6696 ..... **$1995**
Auto 2009 Subaru Forester Premium 114650km Sunroof Leather SN4333 ..... **$10990**
2011 Ford Transit Jumbo Highroof Lwb 6spd Manual Turbo Diesel 138252km SN4144 ..... **$21950**
Auto 2016 Vf Commodore Wagon 130696km 1 Owner Log Books SN4996..... **$13450**

BARGAINS
ballinacarcentre.com.au
16 ENDEAVOUR CLOSE, BALLINA
Ballina Car Centre DLN 19950
6686 5586 / 0418 676 274

SHARE ACCOM.

FANTASTIC location in Byron Bay. Room for rent in beautiful share-house. Share with two others. 3mins walk to Belongil beach and town. Lounge, kitchen and balcony (large enough for social distancing). Furnished or unfurnished. $195pw. Long or short term, 2 weeks bond, available now. 0431126818

TO LET

BRUNSWICK HEADS HOUSE 3bdrm + office space, 2bthrm, carport and fenced yard. Unfurn, pet considered, walk to beach and town $580pw. Ph 66849183

CHILDE STREET, BELONGIL BEACH. 2 bedroom, fully furnished, inc elec & water. $500pw. Ross 0412361786

BANGALOW garden flat with patio 2bdrm, 1bthrm, loungeroom, kitchen $420pw inc elec, water, gas, WiFi, and lawns. Suit mature couple 0439854854

LOCAL REMOVAL
& backloads to Brisbane. Friendly, with 10 years local exp. 0409917646

Summerland Storage Bangalow
From $105 to $290 mth
Call GNF Bangalow 66872833

CABARITA BEACH. Lovely 2 bedroom, light and airy unit located 3 mins walk to beach and shops. Tastefully furnished, or available unfurnished. $495pw plus electricity. Pool in complex. Caba is only 25 mins drive to the Byron Shire and a wonderful place to live. Long term lease available. Email cabarental@gmail.com

COORABELL, 1BDRM HOUSE, stunning views, $450p/w Paul 0427795428

SUFFOLK PARK studio for rent up to 6 months. Either king or 2 x long single beds. Details (but not booking) ByronBeechPad.com Apply SMS only 0457685864. $350pw ono.

LJ Hooker
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for information on all our rentals and properties for sale.
We look forward to hearing from you.
Stay safe!
L.J. Hooker Brunswick Heads
6685 0177
5/16 The Terrace, Brunswick Heads

POSITIONS VACANT

FEMALE REMEDIAL THERAPIST with Health Rebates at Seascape, Lennox. 0409112075

"I am afraid that the pleasantness of an employment does not always evince its propriety." – Jane Austen

byron community college

Connecting Our Community Through Online Learning

Byron Community College are excited to announce we will be offering online classes over the coming weeks/months.

For up to date information about available classes please subscribe to our newsletter or visit our website.

02 6684 3374 **www.byroncollege.org.au**

TO LEASE

EX RETROSPECT GALLERY
SHORT AND LONG TERM LEASES AVAILABLE
52 Johnson St, Byron Bay
Call owner for further details
0418 983 970

WANTED TO RENT

70 YEARS YOUNG fiddle player seeks 1bdrm flat/granny flat or house in Brunswick Heads. 38 years in the Byron Shire, refs available. David 0421339853

WANTED TO LEASE

ACCESS TO ACREAGE, dwelling or not. Prefer 2x2 or 3x3 or similar. Substantial security deposit OK. Pls call 0423218417

TUITION

FRENCH • ITALIAN • GERMAN
Eva 0403224842
www.languagetuitionbyron.com.au

MUSICAL NOTES

QUALITY PIANOS for sale, and expert piano tuning. Ph Fred Cole 0412216019

GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS
Brunswick Heads 66851005

IN MEMORIAM

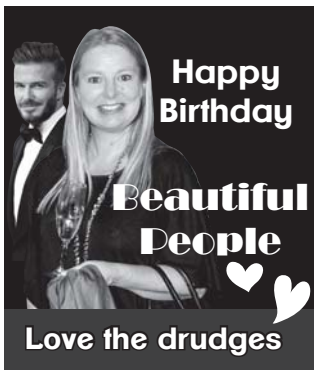
LIAM WRIGHT
20.03.1985–23.04.2005

Dear Liam, your light will never dim. Our love will never wane. Held in our hearts for ever. The Wright Family

RICK HENRY
1951 – 2016

Four years without you in my life, I so wish I was still your wife.
LOVE LANA
XOXO

BIRTHDAYS



DEATH NOTICES

PETER JOHN NIELSEN
02/08/1932–20/04/2020
Of Mullumbimby, passed away peacefully. Father to Mark, Karl and Brett. Grandfather to Pasha, Jack, PJ, Sam and Britta. He will be missed.

Joyce Gwenyth Brisbin

23-04-28 – 17-04-20

Beloved Wife of Larry (dec).

Loved Mother and Mother-in-law to Greg and Marian, Marilyn and Steve, Tanya and Neil.

Dearly loved Gran to ten and Great-Gran to twenty.

Privately cremated.

McGuiness Funerals
McGuiness Funerals Billinudgel
(02) 6680 3084

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bangalowclinicalpsychology.com.au | 76 Byron St, Bangalow NSW 2479
Medicare and Health fund rebates

Rates and water assistance is available for those in financial difficulty owing to COVID-19, say Byron Shire Council. Rates are expected to arrive in letterboxes soon. To seek assistance, visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/rates and submit the online form. Alternatively call 6626 7007.

■ ■ ■ ■

Turning the lockdown lemon into lemonade are MardiGrass organisers, who will be hosting their annual Nimbin festival at www.virtualmardigrass.com instead. Many of the same events and awards are planned, including the HEMP Olympix.

■ ■ ■ ■

Local men's Russian choir, Dustyesky, have appeared on Russian-government funded TV network, *RT*. With COVID-19 restrictions, choir members recorded their parts at home, separately to a guide track, which was mixed for around 15 hours by choir member and audio engineer Matt Gully. As of Tuesday, it had over 270,000 views. It can be seen at www.bit.ly/2KDXzAQ.

■ ■ ■ ■

A reminder that the NSW government is introducing an interim 60-day stop on landlords seeking to evict tenants owing to rental arrears as a result of COVID-19. This is further to longer six-month restrictions on rental arrears evictions for those financially disadvantaged by COVID-19. Visit www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au for more info.

■ ■ ■ ■

Some enterprising and unscrupulous folk have duplicated *The Echo*'s website at www.verolanlo.tk. This means that omnipotent tech behemoth Google thinks that *The Echo* isn't producing original content and some hack who registered a tk domain in a New Zealand territory in the South Pacific, is. Requests for its removal are ongoing.

■ ■ ■ ■

Local photographer and marine enthusiast Denis Riek has a collection of amazing local sea-life photos, including of pumice that has drifted to Australian shores from an underwater volcano. The Havre Seamount, north of New Zealand, exploded in 2012, and is reported to be the largest deep ocean volcanic eruption ever to be recorded. For more info, visit www.roboastra.com.

The guy who faked being hit by a truck at Mullum's 5G protests is a salient reminder of why fascists have always been in charge. See editorial page 13.

The infamous *Locals Only* graffiti at The Pass has made a return. It mysteriously appeared in the '80s and eventually morphed into *Love Only*. Photo Tim Cassidy

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