

Echo

DEAR FUTURE GENERATIONS: PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES. WE WERE ROLLING DRUNK ON PETROLEUM. KURT VONNEGUT
The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 34 #48 • Wednesday, May 6, 2020 • www.echo.net.au

Times of adversity and generosity

Paul Bibby

Locals have been digging deep to help the Byron Community Centre support the Shire's most vulnerable during the COVID-19 crisis.

The centre says that it has seen a significant increase in donations over the past two months, after it put out the call for help in early March.

This has helped the centre provide a significant increase in services, helping it meet the rapidly growing demand from locals experiencing difficulty and distress.

The Byron Community Pantry has been particularly busy, providing ready-made meals to hundreds of locals.

'We are grateful for this fantastic response by the Byron community and it is wonderful to receive such generous support,' Louise O'Connell, general manager Byron Community Centre said.

'However, we still need to raise more funds to be able to provide this essential service for the next six months and beyond.'

Increase in demand

'In the last three weeks, our community workers saw an increase in demand for this vital service and report that the lines for our food outreach services this week have never been longer.'

'For the coming months, they expect an explosion of people needing our support, as they are already seeing families and community members accessing our services that have never done so before,' she adds.

One generous donation to the Community Pantry came from the



Lorena and Luca Garcia – Lorena is a co-founder of the L&R Uechtriz Foundation. Photo Jeff Dawson

Uechtriz Foundation, which gave \$10,000 late last week.

The foundation has also said that if up to five other local business or individuals are willing to pitch in and raise \$10,000 between them, it will match that donation dollar for dollar.

'Although we're not directly affected financially, we know how tough it is for a lot of people – it's a very hard time,' the Uechtriz Foundation's co-founder Lorena Garcia said.

'As much as we may not like all the tourists coming into Byron

sometimes, the reality is that this is a tourist town, and so the COVID virus has had a huge impact on our economy and a lot of people are really feeling it.'

'I know our donation isn't really that much when you consider how many people have been affected, but it will hopefully make a difference,' she said.

Ms Garcia said she wanted to encourage those who had the means to help to do what they could.

'I know everyone is facing difficulties at the moment, but I think this is a time for all of us to pull

together and do what we can to help,' she said.

\$50,000 goal

The Byron Community Centre launched a new fundraiser last week and is already almost halfway into reaching its goal of raising \$50,000.

■ To donate to the Byron Community Pantry visit www.byroncentre.com.au/donations/bcc.

■ To contact the service for food delivery in the Byron Shire, call 0482 787 552 from Monday to Thursday, between 10am and 2pm.

Calls for welfare increase to be permanent

Paul Bibby

A new rental snapshot has found that increases to welfare payments under COVID-19 must be made permanent, so that all recipients can afford a decent place to live.

Anglicare North Coast's annual rental affordability snapshot found that, prior to the increase, just 19 properties available for rent across the entire North Coast were affordable for a household on NewStart or other government support.

However, once the doubling of welfare payments was factored in, the number of affordable properties jumped to 122.

Anglicare North Coast's interim chief executive officer Leon Ankersmit said the welfare increase had to be made permanent.

'The Coronavirus Supplement will mean that couples with children, in particular, are better able to compete in the rental market,' Dr Ankersmit said.

'An out-of-work couple with two children will see an eight per cent increase in affordability. This will help lift children out of poverty across the North Coast.'

'On the other hand, single parents on government payments will see very little benefit. They can afford just four rentals out of 955 listings.'

'We must raise the rate of these payments for good. If they are halved in six months renters across our region will be pushed even deeper into poverty and homelessness.'

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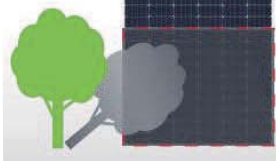
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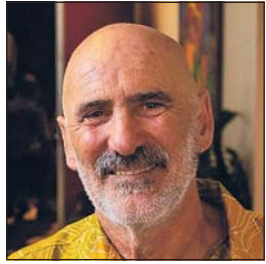


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Internal Greens battle comes to a head this week



Former NSW MLC
Ian Cohen



Former councillor and
engineer Duncan Dey



Sitting councillor
Michael Lyon



Sitting councillor Sarah
Ndiaye



Newcomer
Matthew O'Reilly



Newcomer Social
scientist Kate Coxall



Newcomer Youth
worker James Wright

Hans Lovejoy

While local government elections have been delayed a year until September 2021 owing to COVID-19, the Byron Greens held a preselection candidate webinar recently.

It was recently available via Youtube, including a Q&A, but it has been removed.

Introductions by the candidates have been posted instead on the Byron Greens Youtube channel.

Greens members have until this Friday to cast their ballot for the candidate they prefer to stand.

The influence that the party has on local, state and federal elections is substantial, so unless support for the party plummets at the next

election, those preselected for the ballot and then presumably elected, will wield considerable power.

Sitting Crs Michael Lyon and Sarah Ndiaye are hoping to secure another term on Council, yet they face stiff competition from the old guard as well as newcomers.

Pushing for a return to the environmental values of the party is former NSW MLC and well-known activist Ian Cohen, as well as former councillor and civil engineer Duncan Dey.

Long time Council watcher Matthew O'Reilly is also campaigning on a platform of constrained development and a closer scrutiny of staff. Other newcomers into the fray are social scientist Kate Coxall

and youth worker James Wright.

It's no secret that the party, led by Mayor Simon Richardson, is divided.

The current Council term has seen a softening of environmental credentials for developer expediency, support for questionable planning staff reports and poor process, all of which has been met with a strong resistance from those who started the party decades ago.

Additionally Greens NSW MP, Tamara Smith, has been vocal with her concern over the high level of development occurring in the shire.

One recent example was the recently adopted Business and Industrial Lands Strategy.

An aspect of that strategy allows staff discretion for 'spot rezonings' to facilitate development.

Another area of contention is the support by current Greens councillors for relocating vulnerable species threatened by Council's own development, a position that is unsupported by the state and federal party.

All Greens councillors in the 2016-20 term have largely followed Cr Richardson's position on planning and governance.

They consider themselves a 'new breed' of Greens, who are pragmatically making the tough decisions instead of saying 'No to everything.'

A Greens policy – called

Affirmative Action Provision – ensures that the second ticket on any ballot must be held by a woman.

This will likely result in Cr Ndiaye or Ms Coxall securing that position for the ballot.

While there is no stated local policy on www.byrongreens.org, there are state and federal policies published.

Duncan Day believes the preselection is a litmus test for the Byron Greens membership. Referring to the disco dong and bypass fiascos, he said 'This is a test of the future direction of the party.'

The Echo understands the local Greens membership has grown in the past 15 months from around 100 to 200 odd.

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Relocated bypass snails: new home not secure

How secure is the future of Mitchell's Rainforest Snails (MRS) that were relocated for Council's bypass project?

As part of the approval process to construct the Butler Street bypass through wetlands, vulnerable species have had to be relocated.

Yet it appears there are no guarantees that the snails' new home will not also be developed in the future.

When asked, Council staff replied that 163 of the endangered species were relocated into adjacent known habitat,

'which is rail corridor land'.

In regards to any future development in the area, staff told *The Echo*, 'Council does not have control of this land and at present is not aware of any in perpetual protection of that land by the state.'

'There are no monitoring and reporting requirements relating to the success of the relocation. All government environmental departments acknowledge that for this species, it is not practical.

'Information relating to the relocations, fauna

fencing and fauna underpass is and will continue to be provided to these departments for their records.

'Any future development that may impact upon the Mitchell's Rainforest Snail would have to undertake the appropriate environmental assessments.

'Council is not in position to speculate on the outcomes of these assessments as there is no design to assess.'

Former Greens mayor and MLC Jan Barham says,

'It would've made much more sense to relocate any specimens to the west of the footprint, into the existing wetland.'

Ms Barham added that if Council 'were genuinely committed to their scientific importance', they could place a 'monitoring camera on either end of the single fauna underpass to find out if there is any success'.

The post-clearing reports for stages one and two are available on Council's website.

Surf life saving wraps up early after challenging season

Eve Jeffery

It's been a tough year so far for many, and it's no different for surf life savers.

Brunswick SLSC captain Braeden McHugh said that while the 2019/20 season saw magnificent results,

achievements, and impeccable service to the public, it was 'sad to see the season end a little earlier than usual'.

'While there have still been people attending our beaches for exercise we've noticed that most have been

observing social distancing and have been responsible in their actions and following the rules'.

Secretary of the Byron Bay Surf Club Joanne Kay said the club's patrols ended prior to the regular Anzac Day Volunteer Season End.

'Until the early end date in late March, our members continued to patrol despite the safety concerns', she said.

Ms Kay added the crisis prevented the hall facility from being used for functions, drastically impacting their income.

Calls for welfare increase to be permanent

► Continued from page 1

Dr Ankersmit also pointed out that only some welfare recipients received the increase, with those on the old-age pension and the disability pension missing out.

'They are at the very bottom of the market, and can afford less than one per cent of rentals,' he said.

'Instead of looking after them in the midst of a health crisis, we are leaving them to the mercy of the market.'

The other group being left out were those in the lowest income bracket.

For a household earning the minimum wage, just 229 properties across the entire North Coast were considered

to be affordable.

Dr Ankersmit said this highlighted the fact that providing more affordable housing was ultimately the key to addressing the housing affordability crisis.

'Our shortfall is massive – we need 5,900 new affordable rentals just to meet the shortfall on the Mid North

Coast,' he said.

'Investing in housing would be the most powerful way to tackle the rental crisis – and boost our regional economy.'

'We're calling on the federal and state governments to work together and end this shortfall – and ensure everyone has a place to call home.'

Echo

The Byron Shire Echo

Volume 34 #48 • May 6, 2020

Established 1986 • 23,200 copies every week

www.echo.net.au

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

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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Reg. by Aust. Post Pub. No. NBF9237

Area virus free for 19 days

Coming into the winter season, many residents of the Northern Rivers who have been tested for coronavirus (COVID-19), have been relieved to find out they have a common cold.

NSW Health say they have conducted five and a half thousand tests since the last update (Monday), and there has been a drop in active cases from 685 to 661.

In the Northern Rivers, there have been no changes to the number of COVID-19 cases in NNSWLHD since their last update on Friday.

There have been no new

cases in the area for 19 days, since April 15.

As at 8pm Sunday May 3, there were 56 cases, with 45 people having recovered so far.

Sydney worst hit

It would appear that Byron Bay has been removed from the NSW list of 'cluster' areas, with the hot spots now all within an hour's drive of Sydney.

There have been 56 cases in the Northern Rivers, 6,542 tests, with 0.86 per cent testing positive, which is 18.04 cases per 100,000 residents.

This week's Echo story comp winner

The winner of this week's Echo story comp is Mike Smee, with his entry about 5G, entitled *My Lucky Day*.

Judge Mandy Nolan says there were some very powerful entries this week.

'In fact, it was hard to choose the winner', she said. Other stories of note included Margaret Davidson's moving tale about a woman waiting to be reunited with a lost love, and Andrea Darvill's piece about singing with her Nan.

Email your entries to echostorycomp@echo.net.au by 11.59pm every Tuesday for inclusion and a chance to win \$50. Please include your full name, address, and phone number. The main rule is the story has nothing to do with COVID-19. It can be no more than 800 words in length.

► **This week's winning story is published online at www.echo.net.au/winner-of-echo-story-comp-week-2**

How are musicians adapting to iso?

Story & photo Eve Jeffery

A sector of the north coast community who have really hit a financial wall is the entertainment industry, and in particular, musicians.

Two local Ashes are making the best of the talents they have by morphing their business.

Singer/songwriter Ash Bell, most recently working with Sara Tindley, had his work come to a complete stop.

While Sara has her small family business, Singing Farmer Organics, to see her through, Bell's 'day job' at a nursery stopped owing to a lack of business.

What to do? When a friend prompted him to teach his skills online Ash wasn't sure.

'It's something I'd only half-thought about but never really took the leap because I'm almost totally self-taught and I figured out most of the theory just from playing and listening - but it turns out to be a great model for teaching!'

Ash says he loves getting people into playing and songwriting.



Ash Grunwald at home in New Brighton

'I can get them going with all the stuff I wish I'd learned early on,' he said. 'Plus, I'm playing heaps of music, probably more than when I was doing gigs!'

Another local muso, Ash Grunwald, was just on the

first leg of a tour of Spain when he had to cut the trip short and come home.

Income lost

This meant a big chunk of his yearly income was lost and he couldn't recoup a

lot of the expenses he had already laid out for the tour. With his work, Ash usually doesn't have much time for anything more than touring and recording, but he has also turned to teaching and performing online.

Business morphed

'The way that I have morphed my business is that I have done everything I can to digitise it and do things remotely,' says Ash.

'I've been offering private online live gigs and online live mentoring for musicians and those wanting to get into a certain head space, and guitar lessons and vocal coaching.'

Ash says it's a new experience for him 'The learning curve has been really steep. It's kind of a really weird enforced relaxed vibe and it almost feels like "olden" times in some ways, but then I'm having to learn a whole new set of skills in the digital realm, so it's everything at once.'

'It's a lot to adjust to but that's the challenge at hand, so I am just doing what I can.'

Riparian areas to be audited by Council

Paul Bibby

Byron Council will undertake a study into works done to restore the Shire's riparian zones in the coming months.

A riparian zone/area is land alongside creeks, streams, gullies, rivers and wetlands.

Following a motion by Greens councillor Michael Lyon and passed unanimously at last week's Council meeting, staff will develop a baseline report into the zones,

which provide vital habitat for native flora and fauna.

Baseline report

The study will include any work undertaken with cattle-holding landowners to fence off riparian areas, and any rehabilitation done to reduce sediment run-off.

It will also explore opportunities to apply for grants to fund further restoration and regeneration work.

The meeting heard that protection, rehabilitation

and restoration work is already being undertaken by Council through many local projects, some in partnership with state agencies and Brunswick Valley Land Care.

Rehabilitation

This includes numerous rehabilitation projects on public and private land, and the 'Bringing back the Bruns' program, which funded the restoration works to open up 7km of upstream habitat.



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Nats leader cops criticism over fire response

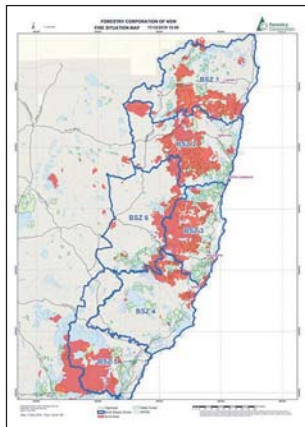
Deputy NSW premier John Barilaro (Nationals) has faced criticism for his response to the statewide bushfire disaster, with Labor's shadow Minister For Natural Resources, Paul Scully, claiming he 'failed to deliver on the government's promises of a co-ordinated clean up or economic recovery for bushfire affected communities'.

Nine pods

Additionally Barilaro copped flak over a tweet on May 3, where he boasted that nine temporary accommodation pods had arrived in Cobargo for residents hit hardest by the bushfires over three months ago.

The tweet feed replies were mostly negative in tone, referring to the co-occurrence of that assistance being made at a time when he was considering contesting

the federal Eden Monaro bi-election. Barilaro later decided against running, saying via tweet, 'As the state member I will continue to fight for you'.



The NSW state government's logging agency, the Forestry Corporation, have found that more than 60 per cent of harvestable areas were burnt from Coffs Harbour to the Northern Rivers around three months ago. Image from Forestry Corporation

Solar farm plan raises eyesore concerns

Paul Bibby

A group of Coorabell residents are fighting Byron Council's plans for a solar farm at Myocum on the grounds that it will ruin the iconic views from the escarpment out over the hinterland.

Council is planning to build the 6.3-hectare farm next to the Myocum Resource Recovery Centre as part of its strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It is hoping to commence construction of the five Megawatt, \$12m farm in 2021.

At Council's last full meeting, five companies were shortlisted to undertake the design, construction and maintenance of the facility, following an expression of interest process.

Impact assessment

But Coolamon Scenic Drive resident Anthony Stante said Council needed



Myocum Resource Recovery Centre. Photo Jeff Dawson

to assess the impact on views from the escarpment before proceeding any further with the planning process.

'I think the solar farm is a great idea, but the wrong location,' Mr Stante said.

'This is isn't about the views from any individual's property, it's about a vista which is an iconic part of the Byron Shire, and the economic and scenic impact

on that view.'

Mr Stante said that, prior to proceeding with the expression of interest process, Council needed to commission a report into the visual impact.

'It shouldn't have gotten to this point,' he said.

'They should have spent \$30,000 on a visual impact study before putting it out to tender.'

'You need to have the right checks and balances in this place. They've gone too far down the track without doing all the necessary checks.'

In a report to last week's sustainability and emissions reduction advisory committee, the senior project manager for the solar farm, Andrew Swan, said that detailed technical studies, including a glare and visual impact assessment, had commenced.

Mr Swan also listed seven different methods of community consultation which the Council had undertaken in relation to the project.

These included a site visit and a 'Your Say' page on Council's website.

'Staff are continuing local community consultation to inform and engage local stakeholders about the project in parallel with the technical studies,' Mr Swan said.

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Biodiversity plan on the table

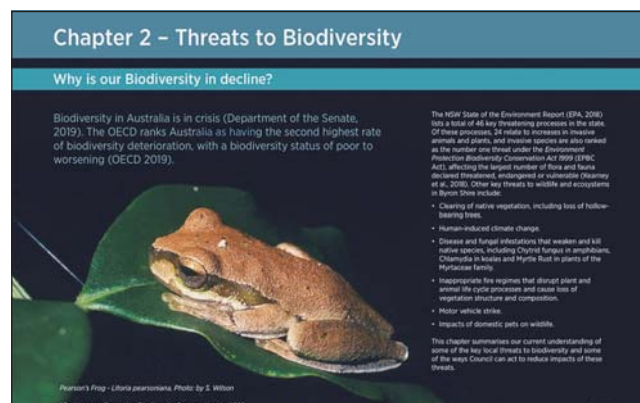
Hans Lovejoy

A colourful, info-packed, 94-page strategy from Council is before the public!

It's a draft 10-year biodiversity plan for Byron Shire, and those who know this area well would be aware of its very special and unique biodiversity.

And as most would know, biodiversity is under threat and is in decline.

The executive summary reads in part: 'In Byron Shire, we are also fortunate to have an active community, who care about our wildlife, as well as visitors who come here for the natural environment and want to see it protected'. But before delving into



Page 18 of the Draft Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

this plan, what were the outcomes of previous biodiversity strategies?

In appendix 1 of the document, there is reference to the first Biodiversity Conservation Strategy in 2004.

Council claims to date, it 'succeeded in addressing 80 per cent of actions, including 90 per cent of those designated as high to very high priority'.

'These actions were reviewed during development of the revised Strategy - many of them are still current and will continue to be implemented by Council as part of the 2020-2030 Biodiversity Conservation Strategy'.

The Echo asked staff for more information regarding these actions/outcomes, as well as the budget and staff allocated for this department. That information will be published when it is supplied. As with any government

strategy, it fits within the context of legislation (page 34). This document is required to adhere to federal and state legislation, and forms part of Council's suite of strategic plans. There are twelve of these plans listed, and they make up the Byron Shire Community Strategic Plan.

There are also 'datasets' and mapping tools available (page 35), for Council and the community to assist with its implementation.

Key sites currently being restored are highlighted, and future plans to enhance those areas and others are presented.

On page 22, it states that, 'Since 2004, 633 hectares of Council managed lands have been identified as needing ecological restoration or management. Council's bush regeneration team is progressively restoring these sites based on

conservation priority'.

So will this strategy have any teeth when it comes to protecting what currently exists? Back in November 21, 2019, when the strategy's vision and aims were debated by councillors, a motion to include 'Biodiversity is a priority for Council,' was inexplicably rejected by Greens Mayor Simon Richardson. He was supported by councillors Martin, Lyon, Spooner, Hackett and Hunter.

Not a priority

Cr Richardson's amendment also deleted the sentence: 'Biodiversity considerations are integrated through all activities of Council'.

Otherwise, the motion by independent Cr Cate Coorey's motion remained unchanged. Crs Coorey, Ndiaye and Cameron voted against the mayor's amendment.

The Echo asked Cr Richardson in December last year for his reason for removing the word 'priority'.

He replied at the time, 'Of course it puts biodiversity at the forefront - that's the point of the strategy'.

To read the full document, visit www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/biodiversity-strategy.

■ Submissions close Wednesday May 20.

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

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Submissions close
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Non-violent action, for the love of forests

Mandy Nolan

The violence we do to the natural world is preceded by the violence we do to each other, and the means of change must prefigure the ends.

Such ideas have informed Kelvin Davies for over thirty years in his concerted effort to protect and restore the natural world.

'Because social and ecological justice are connected, they must be resolved simultaneously,' says Kelvin.

'We won't solve problems like climate change and the loss of biodiversity if we fail to address the root cause of the problem, which can be found in human violence.'

The belief that it is wrong for humans to cause other species to become extinct has seen him focus on protecting and restoring rainforests in Australia and around the world.

As a supporter of non-violent direct action, Kelvin started with Melbourne Rainforest Action Group (RAG) in 1990, where he joined the campaign to stop rainforest timber imports



Forest campaigner Kelvin Davies.

into Melbourne.

Their nonviolent campaign to halt the importation of rainforest timbers from South East Asia involved deploying water-based blockades to timber ships, dock occupations, and widespread community boycotts and union bans.

Melbourne Rainforest Action Group was one of many such groups around Australia inspired by – and acting in – solidarity with the Penan

and other Dayak peoples in Sarawak, Malaysia, who were blockading against the logging of their ancestral homelands.

The work of the group achieved an 80 per cent reduction of tropical sawn timber imported into Melbourne from Malaysia between 1988 and 1992.

This experience exposed him to philosophical nonviolence and the strategy and tactics of M.K. Gandhi, which has informed his worldview

and life's work.

While these tactics are not commonly adopted, Kelvin believes people need to find their own way to contribute to causes that they care about.

'I know others feel the same way as me, yet find it difficult to know what action they can take' he says.

He believes governments have largely failed their constituents and that there are other ways to create change that involve taking personal responsibility.

For over twenty years, he has been a founder and CEO of various rainforest conservation organisations that provide opportunities to enable people to realise

the kinds of change that he is targeting.

In 1990, he visited the Daintree Rainforest for the first time, and was shocked to see two-thirds of the lowland rainforest had been carved up for a rural residential subdivision.

'I knew Australians recognised the Daintree as an iconic place, and that it was protected, yet there were real estate For Sale signs everywhere!' says Kelvin.

Later he created a project to buy back freehold land to prevent it from being developed.

'I began asking people if they'd like to see Daintree Rainforest land purchased for conservation and if they'd help with a donation. I've continued asking that question for over 20 years, and now 48 properties have been purchased for conservation,' Kelvin continued.

Rainforest 4 Foundation have purchased five properties for conservation in the last ten months.

'I'm working with the Kuku Yalanji people and together we are placing the purchased properties into the Daintree National Park. Through the land tenure agreement that is being negotiated with the Queensland government the Kuku Yalanji will become the managers of these properties that are their traditional

lands.'

Kelvin is currently raising funds to buy a 49th Daintree property, which is scheduled for settlement in May, and he says number fifty is coming soon.

No govt funding

'There has been no government funding. All of these properties have been purchased through the donations of thousands of individuals who believed in and supported conservation of the Daintree Rainforest' says Kelvin.

'Rainforest 4 Foundation are also working in Indonesia to support local people in caring for their rainforests. The project involves removing one hundred hectares of illegally established oil palms from the Gunung Leuser National Park in Sumatra.'

A book to be released later in 2020 will tell the story of Kelvin's rainforest conservation journey from the years of direct action to save forests, to his adventures in the rainforests of Asia and the Amazon, where he contracted flesh eating parasites, to the challenges of building organisations and a movement for social and ecological justice.

The Rainforest 4 Foundation is based in Mullumbimby. For more info, visit www.rainforest4.org.

We need your help

The Echo, like all locally owned businesses, is feeling the impacts of COVID-19. Our pages have diminished dramatically in recent weeks because our valued advertisers have either stopped trading, or are buckling down in preparation for an uncertain future.

This pandemic will pass, and a new normal will emerge. Yet right now, your help is needed to keep this independent voice alive and thriving in the Byron Shire community.

It's not a conspiracy to suggest that challenging times can, and will, be used by authoritarian governments and tyrants to grab more power – history is littered with such examples.

The media's role, of course, should be to hold the powerful to account. Unfortunately, corporate media does not provide that service.

Independent media, by its nature, is not aligned with big business nor the government which it owns. The close alignment between big business and government is an ever present danger to democracy and a healthy society.

By being uncompromised, *The Echo* has reported to its readers fearlessly for over three decades. In turn, our valued advertisers recognise the importance of such unique content.

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If you are not a business looking to reach the *Echo's* readership, the best way to contribute is via PressPatron (www.presspatron.com). PressPatron allows supporters to make contributions to their favourite journalism websites in a few simple steps. To support *The Echo* visit:

www.echo.net.au/support-us

If you can spare a few dollars a week – or maybe more – we would appreciate all the support you are able to give to keep the voice of independent, local journalism alive.

On behalf of all our 40-odd local workers, we thank not only our readers, but also our advertisers – it's you that keep us going.

The Echo still delivers 21,000 copies each week, and *Echonetdaily*, our daily news website (www.echo.net.au), is experiencing record numbers of visitors.

It is thanks to the businesses who support us through advertising that *The Echo* exists, so we encourage our readers to support them.

Echo

Sigley siblings eye swimming comp

Aslan Shand

Hannah and Myles Sigley were selected to compete at the NSW Combined High Schools Swimming Comp that was set to take place at the Homebush Aquatic Centre but was cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hannah was set to compete in the 100m freestyle, the 50m freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke and her brother Myles in the 50m freestyle, and breaststroke in early April.

However, the virus was not the only challenge this brother and sister had to face. Both siblings have Galactosaemia: a rare metabolic condition that is life threatening and requires them to follow a strict diet – as ingesting the wrong foods will cause further neurological damage.

'But these superheroes have the incredible power of "I can" and nothing it seems



Myles and Hannah, with their brother Julius, who trains with them and coach Ruth Smith. Photo supplied

stops them from trying and achieving,' said Ruth Smith, a specialised aquatic therapist at Swim For Your Life, who has been working with the duo for the last five years.

'The aquatic therapy sessions for Hannah and Myles continue to improve self-regulation and motor planning skills, increase their muscle and core strength, improve fine motor skills and

relieve anxiety and stress in their bodies which builds up throughout a day at school,' explained Ruth.

But Hannah and Miles don't intend to let this year's disappointment of the competition being cancelled deter them.

'Both students are keen to get to Homebush for the competition next year and are continuing to train hard for that,' said Ruth.

Student challenges – and rewards, in iso

Eve Jeffery

Parents of Australia are learning a new respect for teachers as they walk a mile in their shoes during the COVID-19 lockdown.

St John's Catholic Primary School in Mullumbimby is a small school community of about 100 students. Almost all are accessing online teaching.

And those who cannot, for varying reasons, are being supported with non-digital materials.

School principal Renay Condon says that staff have been incredibly innovative in how they have modified their approach to learning and teaching.

'They have done this in a short space of time to ensure our students are supported in learning within a remote environment while being equitable for all,' she said.

Mrs Condon says another challenge has been ensuring safety for staff and students by maintaining stringent hygiene practices.

Mrs Condon says she strongly believes, given the circumstances, the blended learning approach is working well.



Photo from www.mbyplism.catholic.edu.au

'We would become complacent if we didn't continue to pivot and adjust to the continually changing circumstances we are all experiencing.

Sudden change in schooling

'Generally, families are coping well during this sudden change in schooling, however, some of our families are having to cope with job losses too, which of course adds another complex layer of challenges for them. We have a range of support available to our families and encourage them to contact us should they need help'

The creativity of the students and how they have embraced this change has been inspirational for all the staff, she says.

'We've had the opportunity to get to know them even better, and meet another side of them which may not often be seen in a traditional classroom setting,' she said.

'Just yesterday our staff were watching a young man present *Kids News* via a video he had made at home.

'What a star in the making he is! We've found most kids love recording themselves either as a voicover for the work or in a video presentation.

Mrs Condon says that the school has regular Zoom meetings, even with their youngest students and their families. 'These meetings are supporting them to know that as in all things, we can have good days and we can have bad days, and it is okay to take a break and just "be" as a family. I love the idea that some of our families are keeping connected to friends with Facetime playdates for their child'

Many children had just started their school career when classes were stopped, but Mrs Condon says she doesn't believe parents would need to start students in kindy again next year.

'Our teachers have demonstrated how innovative and agile they are and we are all very excited by how these innovations will be able to enhance the traditional classroom experience for our students. We all greatly miss our students and we are very excited for a safe transition back to face to face learning.'

■ Schools are encouraged to email editor@echo.net.au to let readers know of how their schools are coping.


Border Art prize goes online

The biennial Border Art prize, usually held across two galleries in Murwillumbah, is set to go ahead as an online exhibition owing to COVID-19 restrictions.

Acting public programs curator Meredith Cusack says that remarkably, the exhibition will showcase almost 400 (392) works digitally.


The virtual opening and announcement of winners will be made on Saturday May 9, from 5pm by guest judge Niomi Sands, who is director of the Grafton Regional Gallery.

For more info, visit www.artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/PrizesAndAwards/BorderArtPrize.




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Byron Shire Council Notices

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

We are here to help.

Call us or check our website for current opening hours and temporary service changes.

Phone 8.30am–4.30pm 02 6626 7000
 Website www.byron.nsw.gov.au
 Email council@byron.nsw.gov.au
 Emergency After Hours 02 6622 7022
 Office Address 70 Station St, Mullumbimby
 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

Documents on exhibition are available for viewing 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.

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



POLICY EXHIBITION

DRAFT POLICY 15/007 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY MARKETS

Council resolved, at its 23 April 2020 meeting, to place the above Draft Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days for the making of public submissions.

The Draft Policy is available from Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition.

Submissions should be in writing and addressed to the General Manager, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby 2482 or sent by email to submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au. Emailed submissions to this address only will be acknowledged.

Submissions open: 6 May 2020

Submissions close: 2 June 2020

Enquiries: Paula Telford Leasing Coordinator on 02 6626 7300

Submissions will be made public in accordance with *GIPA 2009 Regulations* as applicable including both the substance of the submission and the identity of the author. For further assistance contact the Records Team on 02 6626 7113.

HAVE YOUR SAY

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Open for feedback 24 March to 15 May 2020.
Help protect Byron Shire's unique biodiversity

Byron Shire – it's home to some of the most incredibly diverse and valuable flora and fauna in the world.

The draft Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is a plan of action for Council and the community, to protect and enhance our natural environment. It describes some of our unique biodiversity values, why they are under threat, and how we can help to manage these threats. It also includes a detailed Action Plan – a comprehensive list of specific, prioritised actions that Council intends to undertake to achieve its biodiversity aims.

View Byron Shire's draft Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and have your say online at www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/biodiversity-strategy.

For more information call or make an appointment with our biodiversity expert Liz Caddick.

Submissions close: Friday 15 May 2020

Enquiries: Liz Caddick 02 6626 7126

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

SECTION 356 DONATIONS GRANTED

Under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* – "A council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions."

Council wishes to advise that at its Ordinary Meetings held on 23 April 2020, it resolved to grant the following Section 356 Donations from the Mayor's Discretionary Allowance 2019/2020:

Name	Donation Amount
Local Byron Shire Business Directory (online)	\$155
Resilient Byron	\$1,000

Enquiries: Toni Graham 6626 7210

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

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

10.2019.650.1 – Federal, 103 Kings Road

New Dwelling to create Dual Occupancy (Detached)

10.2019.653.1 – New Brighton, 18 Strand Avenue Demolition of Existing Dwelling House, Construction of New Dwelling House and Swimming Pool

10.2020.71.1 – Bangalow, 38 Blackwood Crescent Dwelling House

10.2019.566.1 – Mullumbimby, 26 Coolamon Scenic Drive Secondary Dwelling

10.2020.60.1 – Bangalow, 14 Rifle Range Road Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling House, Swimming Pool and Cabana

10.2020.31.1 – Bangalow, 4/111 Fowlers Lane Dwelling House and Swimming Pool

10.2020.112.1 – Bangalow, 27 Clover Hill Circuit Relocated Dwelling House including Alterations and Additions

10.2020.166.1 – New Brighton, 9 Gaggin Street Swimming Pool

10.2019.528.1 – Byron Bay, 19 Brownell Drive Demolition of Existing Dwelling House and Swimming Pool and Construct New Dwelling House and Swimming Pool

10.2020.28.1 – Coopers Shoot, 17 Byron Creek Road Stage 1 Use of part of a Dual Occupancy as Bed and Breakfast Accommodation and Alterations and Additions to the Dual Occupancy; and Stage 2 Tourist and Visitor Accommodation comprising Six (6) Cabins and Associated Works

10.2013.587.7 – Byron Bay, 108-110 Jonson Street S4.55 for Minor Changes to Approved Plans and Amendments to Easements

10.2018.435.2 – Goonengerry, 41 Goonengerry Road S4.55 to Modify Internal Floor Area of Secondary Dwelling

10.2017.628.4 – Byron Bay, 2 Gallagher Street S4.55 to Amend Conditions to Allow Landscape Planting within Asset Protection Zone

10.2018.272.2 – Goonengerry, 2/174 Mafeking Road S4.55 to Modify Condition 2 of Consent

10.2015.669.2 – Bangalow, 21 Rankin Drive S4.55 to Modify Design Layout

10.2017.250.2 – Byron Bay, 6 Blackbutt Place S4.55 to Remove Carport from Approved Development

10.2019.468.2 – The Pocket, 860 The Pocket Road S4.55 for Minor Modification to Floor Plan

10.2019.427.2 – Mullumbimby, 47 Queen Street S4.55 to Delete Conditions 5 and 6 relating to Trade Waste and Plumbing Approvals

DEFERRED APPROVAL APPLICATIONS

10.2020.22.1 – New Brighton, 56 New Brighton Road Use of Covered Deck

10.2018.384.1 – Main Arm, 183 Coopers West Lane Use of existing structure as a Dwelling House and Additions to create Dual Occupancy (detached), Alterations and Additions to existing Dwelling House including Expanded Dwelling Module, Tree Removal and Upgrade existing Wastewater System

10.2019.604.1 – Myocum, 51 Mullumbimby Road Stage 1: Dwelling House and Use of Studio and Carport, Stage 2: Dwelling House to create Dual Occupancy (detached)

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 on line 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.

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 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

EXHIBITION CLOSES 27 MAY 2020

10.2018.486.2 – Brunswick Heads, South Beach Road (Lot 427 DP 729272) Town Planning Studio Pty Ltd, S4.55 to Modify Internal Configuration, External Windows and Doors and Confirm Waiver of Water and Sewer Levies

10.2020.181.1 – Byron Bay, 18 Centennial Circuit (Lot 2 DP 812667) Bodhi, Change of use to include Food and Drink Premises (Cafe), Specialised Retail Premises and Office Premises and Use of Alterations and Additions to Existing Industrial

Battle of the traffic assessments over large Byron DA

Residents are keeping up the pressure over developer Graham Dunn's plans to use a narrow residential laneway as the entry/exit point for the traffic exiting from his massive multi-level mixed use proposal, located on the corner block opposite Mitre 10 and Byron Music.

The Browning Street Residents Group (BSRG) have paid for their own independent traffic assessment, which is at odds with the traffic assessment submitted within Dunn's DA.

Submissions closed for DA 10.2019.616.1 on February 7, and it is now expected to be before Council sometime in May. *The Echo* understands the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) is not the authority, as it's under the \$30m threshold cap, at around \$22m.

In 2018, Dunn's first DA was rejected by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP), while Council planning staff inexplicably supported its approval.

Unlike the previous DA, the new DA offers 'permanent residential accommodation with no short-term accommodation at all' and

Dunn claims to have made significant improvements to the DA, and engaged in extensive neighbour consultation.

But the DA exceeds height limits and breaches other policies.

The traffic report commissioned by affected residents says, 'The potential for vehicles to attempt access [to] the site via the Tennyson Street connection to Ruskin Lane has not been assessed.'

'These movements will cause unacceptable conflicts of two way traffic on a single carriageway.'

The original traffic report within the DA claims that, if approved, there would be just under 1,000 traffic movements in the laneway each day, based on the movements of residents and commercial customers.

But the residents' traffic report says that this daily flow is in breach of the federal government's AMCORD guidelines, as the environmental capacity of Ruskin Lane will be exceeded by 66 per cent in the morning peak hour (AM) and 20 per cent in the evening peak hour.

Yet Dunn says that is

'incorrect'. He told *The Echo*, 'The access to 139 Jonson Street is an augmentation of Browning Street, and the majority of vehicles will not be travelling along Ruskin Lane.'

The residents' report continues, 'These excess traffic flows will have a direct impact on all residents using Ruskin Lane, as they seek to enter or leave via the Browning Street section of Ruskin Lane.'

Their report claims the traffic assessment submitted within Dunn's DA does not address conflicts between pedestrian/cycle movements on the Browning Street footpath and Jonson Street traffic to and from the proposed development.

While the new report claims, 'The arguments used to dismiss the alternative access off Jonson Street are not adequately supported,' Dunn previously stated that, 'We are required by Byron Shire Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) to have rear lane access.'

'This is a safer pedestrian option as concluded in the PlanIt report. Page 18 of the Byron Shire DCP 2014 for Commercial and Retail Development states that car

parking access is preferably to come from rear lanes'.

Yet the BSRG says, 'The DCP uses the discretionary word 'preferred' so it is not a mandatory provision.'

'As such, Council is required to weigh up specific proposals in the public interest'. They say in the context of laneways close to the town centre with commercial activity on both sides, 'the provision cannot be taken to justify imposing heavy commercial traffic onto a residential access'.

Dunn told *The Echo*, 'Greg Alderson and Associates undertook a traffic survey over a week, using a classified vehicle counter. Traffic counters were placed along Jonson and Browning Streets and Ruskin Lane to capture daily traffic and peak hour traffic surrounding the site. An additional 30 minute traffic survey was undertaken to confirm this traffic data and turning movements'.

Dunn's proposal can be viewed at www.139jonson.com.au, while info from the Browning Street Residents Group can be found at their Hands Off Ruskin Lane Facebook page.

Art of Medicine

DOCTORS
Dr Anthony Solomon
Dr Rob Trigger
Dr Bettie Honey
Dr Sally Ryan
Dr Savanna Harrison

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To live is the rarest thing in the world.

Most people exist, that is all.

– Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde

Advertisement

Bypass Alternative Facts by Byron Council Former Mayor responds

Byron Shire Council has chosen to use 'alternative facts' to misrepresent the bypass issues again. Last weeks' double page bypass feature was misleading and misguided and represents a rewriting of history from Byron Council's Ministry of Truth!

With the discovery of 163 Mitchell's Rainforest Snails (MRS) in the bypass footprint an admission by Council that the bypass environmental assessment was flawed would've been responsible and respectful.

The MRS is Nationally Critically Endangered and, also listed on the International Red List, which recognises species at highest risk of extinction globally (www.iucnredlist.org). The discovery is significant but there's no mention of future recovery planning for the protection of the relocated snails. **It's highly likely they won't survive**, but how will we know if they don't monitor?

Comments, corrections and clarifications to BSC comments in blue italics.

The bypass has been in Planning for more than 30 years – YES, it's been discussed for that long but this council has failed to recognise that 20 years ago the current route was disqualified due to the unacceptable environmental impact.

Diligent environmental management is a core value of the Byron Bay bypass project – not evident. Council didn't ensure the highest scientific assessment of the bypass

footprint for the Development Application and to gain State approval for Biobanking. The community requests for independent additional surveys prior to issuing the contracts were ignored and clarification about the status of the rainforest is unresolved. The flaws are now evident and should be acknowledged and require a review of council's environmental standards.

Rigorous environmental approvals and determinations were given by both the State and Australian Governments – the approvals were based on the **inadequate environmental assessment** that found no snail population present and identified that the vegetation/habitat was only marginal and also failed to recognise the potential for an endangered rainforest.

approval under the Federal Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC Act) was not a requirement for this project - YES and NO, it was up to council to self-determine prior to application completion whether the project would have an impact on Matters of National Significance (MNS). The assessment determined that it was 'unlikely' that the MRS would be present and that the vegetation was marginal, **so they elected not to self-refer.**

...the DOEE confirmed it was satisfied that our assessment etc...were sufficient – again, Government was reliant on the information council presented. We now know that the **assessments were inadequate.**

...the rail corridor would have impacted a similar portion of wetland – YES the area of impact would've been similar but the ecological impacts vastly different. The bypass route has **dissected a wetland** and destroyed the habitat of a large population of MRS and more.

Offsetting the impact to the MRS and making up for the loss of biodiversity is a priority for Council – additional areas of already protected lands will receive additional regeneration, all good, but it's not 'over and above' the destruction of actual habitat and the displacement of the snails, which have not been found at the new offset sites.

...in 2015, independent ecologists didn't find any MRS in their surveying – because the surveys were inadequate, only limited areas investigated and no nocturnal surveys. A comprehensive survey of the whole footprint and buffer was necessary, considering the importance of the species and vegetation and it's value as a wetland!

Biobanking – is an offensive mechanism that allows developers to destroy valuable environment and propose to recreate it somewhere else. **Who believes that?** Byron council chose to do Biobanking instead of a more comprehensive ecological assessment.

carefully located at least 20 metres away from the impact area, in adjacent wetland habitat, home to the local population – the MRS were relocated to an area that adjoins the rail line. **Vegetation clearing of the**



The endangered Mitchell's Rainforest Snail

rail corridor was resolved as a 'priority' by council in November 2019 for the Multi Use Rail Corridor project. Also, no mention of ongoing monitoring and reporting on the health of the snails. The relocation is unlikely to ensure long term survival of the Nationally Critically Endangered Mitchells Rainforest Snail in Byron Bay. The single fauna underpass is also inadequate and no action proposed for a scientific watching brief to check success.

As Byron shire residents we live and enjoy this special biodiverse place but also have a responsibility to protect it. For decades this community has been at the forefront of environmental awareness and protection.

Nature relies on us for protection and our council is meant to reflect that commitment.

Jan

Authorised and paid for by Jan Barham in Byron Shire's Public Interest.



Dingo Lane Solar Farm Project, Myocum Community Engagement

Further information on this project is available on the Dingo Lane Solar Farm project page: www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au

As face-to-face community meetings are currently under COVID-19 restrictions, Council is extending the opportunity for community feedback prior to the next stage of the project via the following methods:

Online: Q&A or Make a Submission
www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/dingo-lane-solar-farm1

Post: Project Manager, Andrew Swan
PO Box 219, Mullumbimby, NSW 2482
Phone: 02 6626 7000

Submissions Close: 18 May 2020
Enquiries: Project Manager, Andrew Swan
aswan@byron.nsw.gov.au



The first duty of a #FreePress is to serve as the #FourthEstate: to inform & empower the public by exposing governmental misconduct. A press that does not do that is not free, is no press at all, it is just the PR department of the government!

– Nils Melzer, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture; Human Rights Chair, Professor of International Law



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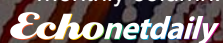
NEW REGULAR ONLINE COLUMN FROM THE INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

STORYLINES

BUDGERAM

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

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



PLANET WATCH

Seeking solutions to a heating planet

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

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

Mullumbimby Showgrounds gets a revamp

Eve Jeffery

If you have driven down Main Arm Road lately, you might have wondered “why is there earthworks at the Mullumbimby Showgrounds?”

‘There is quite a bit happening on site,’ said operations manager Kelly West.

‘These are all projects that were scheduled for this year.

‘Lockdown has just afforded us some time to get it all done while we are closed’.

There are three projects taking place during May and into early June – the amenities building down by the Farmers Market is getting a renovation, with a new roof, new stalls, sinks, doors, footpaths and internal paint.

‘Pretty much everything is being ripped out and replaced to bring it up to a modern facility – it is currently a bit cavernous and damp,’ said Ms West.

Govt funding

‘We received NSW state grant funding, but have allocated a significant co-contribution from our reserves. Our aim is that the Farmers Markets and agricultural shows have quality facilities – as well as the rest of the community having a nice space for birthdays, weddings and other events’.

Market manager Allie Godfrey said the market community is really excited to have a new toilet block for customers, stallholders and visitors.

‘The old block served its purpose, but it was rapidly



Showground caretakers Keith and Margaret White. Photo Jeff Dawson

becoming a wildlife sanctuary, which isn’t necessarily a bad thing,’ she said.

‘But it’s good to know that we can now have a little privacy in a clean new and hygienic environment’.

‘We shall miss our friendly possum, but we are grateful for the MSLT for applying for the grant, and we can’t wait to show it off to all of the farmers market community.’

Campground

Ms West says the campground is being reshaped to reduce the flooding experienced in that area.

‘The paddock is currently a bit of a depression, and water gathers and creates a swampy mess when we have rain of 20mm or greater’.

‘We are moving fill from another area on the grounds to create drainage flow, so

that campers and event users have a more comfortable stay – even in the wet season.

‘These funds have come from state grants with a co-contribution from our camping income.’

There will also be new bench seating around the main arena.

‘Our old bench seating is rotten through, and a bit of a H&S issue. We received a small community grant from the federal government to replace them with new aluminium ones.

‘Again, this is with a co-contribution from our own reserves.’

President of the Mullumbimby Show, Mark Ward, told *The Echo*, ‘The earthworks in the front paddock will greatly benefit the show by fixing the poor drainage that

we have experienced over the past 100 years’.

‘This work includes raising the level and creating a better fall into the drains. This will help sideshow alley, the truck show and parking for years to come.

‘This will also benefit the camping year round.

Starts May 11

‘The trust are upgrading the southern amenities blocks, which most people will know is adjacent to the farmers market area and these are used by horse and cattle people as well.

‘They will be greatly enhanced’.

The big tractors and earth working machines started arriving last week, and the building works on the amenities will start on May 11.

Community at Work

Byron Community Pantry

Call 6685 6807 to request a food delivery, from Monday to Thursday, 10am–2pm.

BCC Counselling Service

Arrange a free phone counselling appointment by calling 0414 322 064 between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Thursday.

BCC Women’s Counselling Service

Free women’s counselling service. Call 6685 6807 and leave a message for the community support worker.

Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre

Providing a range of services including food parcels, counselling and support for women experiencing family violence. Call 0491 227 306.

North Coast Community College

Accredited and subsidised CPR and First Aid courses running in Alstonville (May 9) and Yamba (May 20). Call 6628 5426 or visit <https://northcoastcc.edu.au/enrolment-form>.

The Shift Project, Byron

Providing short-term supported accommodation for women in need. Call Anne: 0411 844 123, or email anne@shiftproject.org.au. Counselling support also provided.

Ocean Shores Baptist Church

The church offers a range of support for the homeless and those in need. Contact them via email: help@thehubbaptist.org.

Myocum Road upgrade about to begin

Myocum Road, one of the Shire’s most important thoroughfares, will be upgraded to the tune of \$6.6 million, say Council staff.

3,000 vehicles a day

The funds come from two sources, say Council – \$3.8m over three years for safety improvements from the Safer Roads program and \$1.8 million over two years from the Restart NSW Fixing Country Roads program.

Council says it has also allocated \$1m for ‘substantial work on the road which currently carries more than 3,000 vehicles a day’.

Phil Holloway, Council’s Director Infrastructure Services, says the Resource Recovery Centre is accessed

via Myocum Road, ‘So there is a steady stream of traffic seven days a week, including trucks, cars and trailers that are often full of rubbish’.

‘The road is currently narrow in many places, windy and the surface has seen better days so to learn that we have been awarded \$5.6 million to upgrade this road is terrific news’.

Supporting jobs, growth: Nats MLC

Nationals Member of the Legislative Council, Ben Franklin, welcomed the planned improvements, ‘Which will help move freight more efficiently [and] support jobs and economic growth in the local area’.

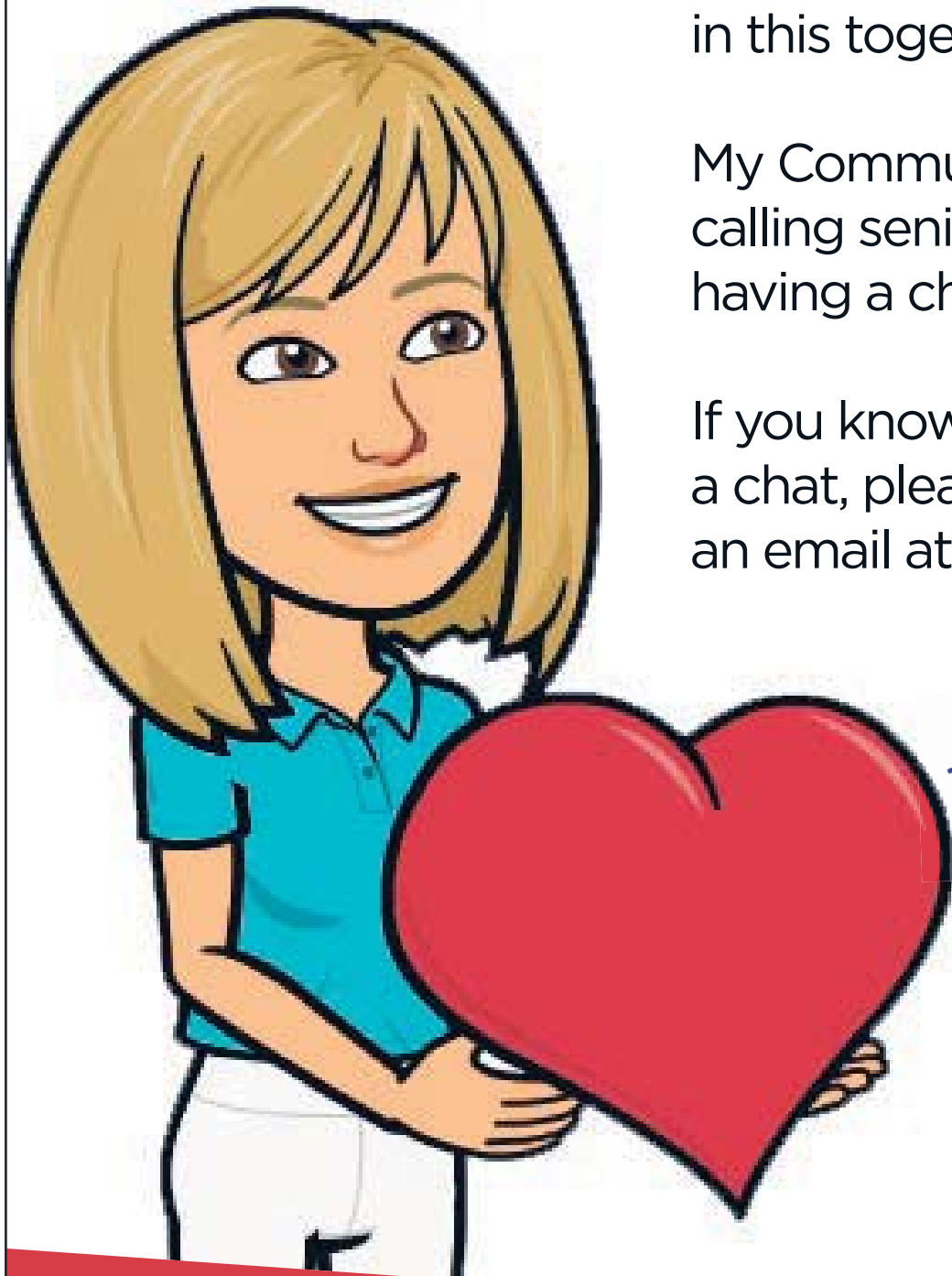
Justine Elliot MP's Community Care Calls



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 are 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.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au.



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

Echo

The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 34 #48 • May 6, 2020

Why power corrupts

What's your relationship with power and authority?

It's worth considering, as all levels of government marshal their forces against the population, owing to a bat virus that will likely ricochet around the planet for years.

There's an immense realignment now unfolding with how the governing class interact with and relate to the public.

The world appears awash with those who don't question authority. In the case of state captured media, that's no surprise.

Mindless conformists are everywhere! It probably was always this way. Far more interesting are the cracked who let the light in.

But they are the minority and are generally harmless.

It's those who are in power, or seek it – who should be treated with suspicion. And studied.

Author and professor of psychology at University of California, Berkeley, Dacher Keltner, wrote in 2016 an article called *Don't Let Power Corrupt You*. His 20 years of behavioural research identified a 'disturbing pattern'.

Keltner wrote in the *Harvard Business Review* (hbr.org), 'While people usually gain power through traits and actions that advance the interests of others, such as empathy, collaboration, openness, fairness, and sharing; when they start to feel powerful or enjoy a position of privilege, those qualities begin to fade. The powerful are more likely than other people to engage in rude, selfish, and unethical behaviour. The 19th-century historian and politician Lord Acton got it right: Power does tend to corrupt'.

He calls it the 'power paradox', where 'people rise on the basis of their good qualities, but their behaviour grows increasingly worse as they move up the ladder'.

Keltner's research shows that power puts the powerful in a manic like state, which makes them feel 'expansive, energised, omnipotent, hungry for rewards, and immune to risk'. In turn, that opens them up to 'rash, rude, and unethical actions'.

A way to avoid succumbing to the power paradox – if you are in a powerful and influential position – is through self-awareness and action, he writes.

'[N]ew studies in neuroscience find that by simply reflecting on those thoughts and emotions – "Hey, I'm feeling as if I should rule the world right now" – we can engage regions of our frontal lobes that help us keep our worst impulses in check'.

Everyday mindfulness practices and basic meditation is one key strategy to avoid becoming an unlikeable and destructive sociopath. Simply put, that can just be, 'Breathing deeply and concentrating on the feeling of inhaling and exhaling, physical sensations, or sounds or sights in your environment'.

Reflect on your demeanour and actions, he suggests.

Have gratitude, be attentive and compliment good work, that sort of thing. Too easy! How many people in powerful positions pursue such things? One such master was Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius (121 to 180 AD). It's always worth asking better from those who govern us. Surely Marcus would have.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Great pandemic leader's app ultimatum

I must admit to a moment of apprehension before downloading the COVID-19 app; anything that involves Amazon or Stuart Robert has to be either incompetent or dodgy or both.

But the case for using it is irresistible, not only because it is the carrot Scott Morrison is dangling to allow us out of lockdown, but because it is simply good sense.

Fears about privacy are almost certainly misplaced, but even if they were valid, the thunder of hoof beats when the horse has bolted is long gone. If either the multinationals or the government really want to spy on us we have willingly offered them far more dangerous tools for the task.

And although I doubt that the app will be anything like as effective as Morrison is promising, it will help, which in these troubled times is all that matters. And obviously a great many Australians agree; even with the usual technical problems over implementation, the take-up rate is highly promising – about four million of us last week.

But given that Morrison says he wants 40 percent of Australians to be using the app, before lifting the lockdown, a figure which Greg Hunt quantifies as 10 million, there is still a long way to go. At Friday's press conference Morrison was all but obsessive, delivering what sounded very much like an ultimatum: download the app, you slack bastards, or I'll lock you down forever and throw away the key.

Given the innate skepticism of the population over climate change, vaccination, fluoridation, 5G – science itself, in fact – the idea that listening to those who actually know the area may be a welcome novelty.

A pity that even if it kicks in this time, it is unlikely to continue.

And there are a few other caveats before we can get down to the serious exercise of picking the many locks of business-as-usual. Some states are still seeking increased testing, others want enhanced tracking and locating of potential victims.

But almost all are starting to ease the wards in one way or the other, from the promise of almost complete liberation of a (hopefully) corona-free South Australia, to a cautious permission for two visitors at a time between those in isolation in New South Wales.

And this uncoordinated unraveling will bring new problems for our great pandemic leader. It is fair to say that much of the leap in ScoMo's polled popularity has come from the perception that he is the one in charge – The Man. One reason that the same popularity has not dragged up his government with him is the view that he is something of a one-man band.

NewStart will revert to its cruel and derisory level of \$40 a day, in spite of pleas across the board for it to remain at the current poverty-line level

Mungo MacCallum



His constant media appearances, with their almost imperial edicts, to his cosy living room chats, have been convincing and reassuring.

But it will be hard to sustain that agenda if the various premiers go off on their own, as they are clearly determined to do.

About the only way to bring them back into line is to pre-empt them – for the commonwealth to start lifting restrictions on a national level, which is no doubt why Morrison is personally foreshadowing an early mark as a reward for obedience.

Apart from the obvious logistical difficulties of putting such a program in place, it would put Morrison's own political schedule awry. The current plan was to make the big statement on May 11, ready for the latest truncated session of parliament.

And we have been told by Morrison and his ministers, that it will not be entirely good news. The restrictions will become fewer; but so too, in the near future, will be the economic stimuli that have justified them.

In particular, NewStart will revert to its cruel and derisory level of \$40 a day, in spite of pleas across the board for it to remain at the current poverty-line level. And some other benefits will also fade away, perhaps before many have even been accessed.

This, Morrison insists, was always the

idea; a temporary emergency measure before the revitalised economy snaps back – in all its resilient glory.

But the economists, both local and international, are now making increasingly gloomy predictions that this is unlikely to happen.

And Morrison's promise of a big boost to growth will take a while to materialise – if indeed it happens at all, which, given the global uncertainties (not to mention the local variety) looks pretty dubious. There will be immense pressure for the government to leave the largesse that the punters expected, and in some case have become used to, especially as unemployment now appears to have risen by at least a million – horrendous figures, not just for the politics, but for the hit on both revenue and spending.

Morrison used to talk about the crisis running over six months; he (and we) will be lucky if we get out of it in a year, and probably longer. The push will be, not for removing the stimulus, but for reinforcing it, for continued spending and more spending.

And this does not mean following the tired old formula of company tax cuts and industrial relations reform (union bashing). What the vast majority of the nervous and insecure will demand will be, as always, immediate relief – money in the pocket.

The contradictory imperatives of politics and policy will become stark, there will be no painless solutions.

And as this realisation sinks in, Morrison is facing a by-election.

Given his personal approval rating, this might have been welcome news, a rare chance for the government to snatch an opposition seat.

But as noted, the other numbers do not look so good – the two party preferred vote is neck and neck in News-Poll, Labor is holding its ground, and while Morrison is way ahead of Anthony Albanese as preferred prime minister, the opposition leader has kept his own approval rating relatively stable.

This has been no mean feat given Morrison's unrelenting media blitz and the publicly funded campaign that has accompanied it, and an ominous sign for the government in what looks like a very difficult year ahead.

Like COVID-19 itself, it ain't over yet.



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**BYRON
Residents'
GROUP**

WEST BYRON: IT'S NOT TOO LATE #PROTECTBYRON

**DEADLINE THIS
THURSDAY 7 MAY!**

- 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.

3-STEP SUBMISSION GUIDE

1. SUBMISSIONS GO TO BYRON COUNCIL

Visit www.protectbyron.com for help with your submission. (Takes 5 minutes – you can find the key points there.)

Subject line: West Byron amended Development Application 10.2017.661.1.

Email to: submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au

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 Regional 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 originally 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 additional 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 runoff and an increased volume of effluent from the Sewage Treatment Plant will enter the Belongil Creek, 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.

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Our 2020 grants funds are helping our environment recover from the bushfires

The road to recovery from the devastating bushfires will be long, and we want to be a part of the solution. This means we will be doing things a little different this year with our grant funds. As an environmental not-for-profit social enterprise, we have chosen to allocate our 2020 grants funds to help our natural environment recover, by supporting the following environmental projects:



ReForest Now

\$10K

for planting 2,000 trees at the local Wanganui bush fire site



Friends of the Koala

\$10K

to support with core operational expenses



Rainforest Rescue

\$20K

to protect & preserve the unprotected Daintree Lowlands

Emergency response
(Nov 2019):

\$5K

To NSW RFS, helping those risking their lives on the frontline

\$5K

To Wires, helping our precious wildlife in need

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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

Parking aplenty

It's great to see the beach car park empty. Dig it up and add it to the park – what a wonderful vista we could have.

Wally Hueneke
Byron Bay

Turnbull Book

The release of Malcolm Turnbull's tell-all book about the extreme right star-chamber controlling the inner sanctums of the Liberal party, (albeit by the pirates within the Liberal Party), has come and gone without surprising anyone.

We will remember the chaotic, dysfunctional government, during Abbott's failed brief reign.

The most amazing outcome from the exercise has actually been that the drongos of the extreme right still don't get it.

If Abbott had been allowed to contest the 2016 election, the Coalition would have been wiped out.

Yes, Turnbull saved their sorry arses, (albeit only just).

But the likes of Peta Credlin refuse to accept this.

This poor, twisted, bitter woman has unleashed the mother of all vitriolic attacks on poor old Turnbull, in the Murdoch tabloids.



Cartoon by Nic Cobcroft

She is obviously still smarting about the downfall of her creation (Tony Abbott). And then there's the unholy alliance of Abbott, Credlin and the sleeper, her husband, Brian Loughnane, director of the Federal Liberal Party.

Obviously, her cohorts in peddling continuous unadulterated bullshit to Sky News after dark (otherwise known as the Institute for the Logically Impaired), have been in overdrive, backing up their deluded ex-prime minister (Peta Credlin). We deserve better than this pettiness.

Keith Duncan
Pimlico

of railways elsewhere in the world, and there is no reason why this should not happen in Australia, particularly in areas where the only other form of public transport has been shown not to be a practical service.

Feasibility studies have been carried out which show that reintroduction of the railway is viable, and a much needed service in the community.

Furthermore, a rail trail could be constructed beside the reopened railway so that we could have both.

Many potential users of a rail trail would like to be able to ride on part of the trail, but not necessarily the journey from, say, Mullumbimby to Byron.

They could ride part of the way, and use the railway for the remainder.

This would increase the usage of the rail trail.

The existing solar train might seem 'Mickey Mouse' to Ross.

However, this train is already a prototype for future solar trains in Australia and overseas.

This development will be

driven by the need to urgently reduce our carbon footprint so as to prevent disastrous or irreversible climate change.

I wish more people would keep an open mind, rather than rule against a development without the facts to back it up.

As with COVID-19, it is beneficial to listen to the experts, and a number of these are involved in the proposed reinstatement of the railway.

Chris Abraham
Mullum Creek

All hail Aunty!

A cantata of shout-outs to our wonderful Aunty ABC who has kept us informed, connected, reassured and entertained through recent times of bush-fire, drought and pestilence!

In particular, to Dr Norman Swan with his daily updates on coronavirus developments.

We honour you, our ABC, keeping Governments to account, and we will fight for your increased funding!

Long live our wonderful Aunty!

Jill Keogh
Ocean Shores

Railway lines

I refer to Ross Kendall's letter on 29 April and feel the need to dispute some of his contentions.

Railways provided the only form of connection except for shipping, Australia wide, until well into the 20th century.

Although the use gradually declined during the last century as road transport became dominant, it should not be written off.

There has been a revival

Letters to the Editor

Send to Letters Editor Aslan Shand, 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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Our farmers markets will remain open

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Green Innovation Awards competition

Our future leaders, the youth of our region, often feel powerless to do anything about counteracting the potential effects of climate change; they are detached from the decision-making process of our leaders and at present they are even further detached from the peer group during the pandemic lockdown

Local philanthropic organisation, Northern Rivers Community Foundation, are financially backing a local competition called the Green Innovation Awards, which is open to primary and secondary students. The competition challenges students to invent, develop and present ideas for greener living to a panel of environmental scientists and influential leaders. Expressions of interest are open until 3 July.

During the COVID-19 period, many students are learning from home during term two, and the awards team are encouraging students to take part in 'Worksheet Challenges' at home or in school, that help students spark, develop and pitch innovative ideas.

Founder of the awards, Dr Cullinane, says that her team, 'hope that students find this thought provoking, uplifting and a great way to focus their energy in a positive way'.

If you want your school involved, visit greeninnovationawards.com.au.

What sort of future?

One group is looking even further ahead. Whilst it is providing a noticeboard of current community information, beyond the current crisis, Resilient Byron aims to create, support and nurture a Byron Shire that is regenerative for people and the natural environment, and resilient to disasters and crises.

The group (see resilientbyron.org) was featured on the front page of the *Byron Echo* a couple of weeks ago, and is working to build the resilience and regenerative capacity of the Byron Shire (and beyond).

One of their suggestions is to build neighbourhood support groups. Another aim of the group is to increase the amount of food produced and sold locally, and to bring together mental health professionals, artists and entrepreneurs to devise and implement projects to improve the well-being of the community.

According to their website, their eventual aim is to build a Resilience and Regeneration Fund that will also provide the investments to transition to a region that ensures food and water security in anticipation of restrictions and supply chain disruptions, supports off-grid capable housing and systems, and builds redundancies into health provision and communication networks.



How to redistribute a food surplus

Suncoast Fresh, wholesale supplier of locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables is an inspiring example of how a food-based business has been both proactive and creative in order to sustain themselves through this difficult time, while also managing to lend a hand to those in need.

Sam Johnson, manager of Suncoast Fresh's Byron operations said they experienced an 80 per cent reduction in business in the first few weeks of lockdown and so had to quickly redefine themselves, as their whole clientele was the wholesale commercial hospitality sector. They have done this by developing a home delivery service, which Sam says has been successful thanks to the wonderful support they have had from the local community.

Surplus food from Suncoast has been donated to Byron's Liberation Larder and also to North East Waste's 'Love Food Hate Waste' Chef, Danie Davidson, who creates meals with the donated food for the Bangalow Lions Club. They are also participating in local restaurant, Bay Leaf's 'A little Bit of Goodness' program, which has other businesses, like Brookfarm, Spar and IGA donating produce for home packages for people experiencing hardship.

In response to the current and potentially ongoing impact of COVID-19, North East Waste is collecting information on how Northern Rivers food businesses are modifying their operations to adapt to the disruptions affecting food supply and distribution in the agricultural and commercial sector.

The aim is to support the prevention of wastage and redistribution of food surplus, and to develop case studies of local business innovations. Northern Rivers food businesses are invited to take part in the study by completing this short survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CR5FD8H or by emailing Karen Rudkin, NE Waste Project Officer at karen@newaste.org.au.

The Cove helping out during the pandemic

Most restaurants are doing it tough because of the pandemic, and the owners of The Cove restaurant in Ballina say they have experienced a downturn in business during COVID-19. Yet, that hasn't stopped them from providing free meals to people experiencing tough times during the pandemic.

The Cove owner, Danny Sing, said he was concerned about how people who were already struggling would cope during the pandemic, so he offered free meals as a way of supporting his local community.

'Firstly, we started this to help a few locals who had lost jobs overnight due to closure of businesses, and anyone else doing it tough,' said Danny. 'You don't realise how many people are going through tough times until you offer to help, and actually meet the people who need a hand.'

Ballina on Richmond Rotary Club donation

Col Lee from Rotary said, 'When Danny mentioned what was happening with COVID-19 we could see the need – a lot of people out there have some real life challenges through domestic violence or depression,' he said. 'These are people who have been in Ballina for a long time and it wasn't really sustainable, from a business perspective, for Danny to keep providing a free meal service. So we stepped in and offered \$2,500 to pay for the meals he was providing.'

The Momentum Collective

Local community service provider Momentum Collective has a number of clients who are experiencing domestic and family violence and homelessness. Many of them have taken up the offer of free meals from The Cove, and Momentum Collective has also contributed \$1,000. Sarah Dybing, Momentum Collective's service director of community programs says the free meals have generated a lot of goodwill in the community. 'We are really grateful to Danny for his generosity and community spirit,' she said.

Anyone wanting to help out can simply come in to The Cove restaurant or phone 6686 6594 or 0424 734 442.

Free meals for frontline workers

Cherry Street Sports in Ballina is one club that has been pitching in to show their appreciation – they are giving free meals to frontline and emergency service workers who have registered. 'This is our way of giving back to our entire frontline and emergency services staff that are keeping us all safe', they say. Ring the club to register on 02 6686 2811.



Online business directories

A couple of online resources have sprung up. STAY LOCAL is a free app designed to support local businesses and community members by showing you which restaurants and businesses are open:

www.nown.io/partners/stay-local-byron-bay

Another business directory doing a very similar thing is Byron Shire Online: www.byronshireonline.com.au

Thai by Night 'lucky to help out'

Chalee Kopsu from Thai by Night restaurant in Ballina is one of those business owners who's been going out of her way to help others, but she says that she just feels lucky. 'Our restaurant is closed, but we have been lucky that we're still able to do takeaway', she says. 'Many people don't have a job, and their businesses have closed down – I just wanted to be able to help people.'

Every now and again when people come in who are in a tough situation, she takes the opportunity to help them, sometimes by cooking a meal for them. 'At the moment I'm only able to cook for one person per night', she says. 'Someone came recently who was really down on their luck, and I did help them out with some money. I'm not in a position to do much, but I do what I can. I don't think people take advantage – I trust people', she says.

Dino's IGA offer free home delivery

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

The COVID-19 crisis by the numbers

■ John Scrivener (Letters, 29 April) asserts that the global COVID-19 pandemic is a 'fraudulent' and 'manufactured' crisis, which is not real. His argument seems to be that repressed data shows that the rates of viral infection and mortality for COVID-19 compare favourably with, or are no worse than, those for annual influenza seasons.

Let's have a look at that claim.

New York State had 4,749 deaths from flu and pneumonia in 2018, which is approximately 396 per month.

In the month of March 2020, New York State had 1,342 deaths from COVID-19.

These figures suggest that, on a monthly basis, for every single death from flu or pneumonia in New York State, 3.4 people die from COVID-19.

Further, if the death rate for March were to be extrapolated over a 12-month period, New York State could expect 18,000 deaths from COVID-19, almost four times the figure for flu and pneumonia.

That's probably the reason Andrew Cuomo has taken serious steps right now to slow its spread.

New York State provides a

set of actual data that contradicts John's main claim. But more importantly, we need to recognise that; as yet, there just is no conclusive data-set on the mortality rate or long-term health impacts of COVID-19.

That's because we are only at the beginning of this pandemic, and are yet to see how it really plays out across the world.

We don't know, for example, whether there will be a second wave, and if there is, what the impact of that will be, both in particular countries and the world as a whole.

The evidence so far, though, points decisively away from John's assessment.

Damian Byers
Byron Bay

■ Despite the plethora of COVID-19 paranoia presently pumped out by the mainstream media, the actual evidence suggests the effects are really no worse than the seasonal flu - 90 per cent of people are recovering without medical intervention, and those with compromised immune systems, such as the elderly are suffering

the most, as is usual with influenza.

One has to ask why the lockstep, society-destroying overreaction by governments everywhere to such a benign threat?

Rosemary Frei, former medical writer and now independent investigative journalist, has written 'The Seven Step Path from Pandemic to Totalitarianism' and suggests we are about to start step 5. It's an interesting read, make of it what you will.

Anton Vanderbyl
Mullumbimby

■ The top 5 causes of death in 2018 in Australia account for above 57,000 deaths.

Number 12 on the list, death from Influenza and pneumonia, is 3102 deaths. Then there is all the illness that people suffer with before death. COVID-19 deaths today number less than 100 deaths.

There seems to be promoted pride in the Australian Government modelling system done by the expert authority.

In 2018 there was not a pandemic arising from Influenza and pneumonia (3102 deaths), or from the 57000 deaths, plus illness from (so

called) normal conditions we live in (our environment).

WHAT!?! It was not a cause for concern, business as usual?

Okay, COVID-19 is a new virus with danger attached to its symptoms for sure, some people are getting ill and dying. I must learn how to take more care of my immune system.

Looking at the numbers, where does this data fit into the official COVID-19 modelling?

Not a mention from the Government offices and marketing department / media?

My opinion about this is not the issue, I woke up again this morning. I received a text to get my flu inoculation (what's it made from?).

And a text to download the COVID-19 tracking app (the Signals Directorate will track me anyway if they want to - a practice they admit using if necessary, without a warrant). Every day in the news I am being prompted to have concern and worry about getting Government-recommended medication for the rest of my life. I can get a hefty fine if I sit down to enjoy the vista (not essential).

Robert Podhajsky
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Joy Vogel

A colourful and much-loved character of Mullumbimby passed away last week.

Joy Vogel was born in Melbourne in 1943 and settled in Mullum and surrounds in the 1970s as part of the first wave of the hippie movement.

Originally settling in Ophir Glen Road in Upper Burringbar, where she was a keen horse rider. Joy often rode through the hills and across to the top of Main Arm to visit friends, and was part of the Cabarita Beach Pony Club when it first launched.

Another passion for Joy, in the early 1980s, was the old True Vine church movement in Brunswick Heads. She was a long time member who often helped in the office of the church and the associated school. The True Vine school was originally located at the old Globe Trotters in Byron Bay (now Elements of Byron), then moved to Main Arm Road at the end of the Bamboo Straight.

Although she traveled the world many times over, Joy always felt her home was in Mullum. She loved the town and all the people of Mullumbimby. In recent years, Joy could be seen riding her chariot around town, with all its colourful decorations. She loved riding it and was often seen at her favourite cafe, Lulu's.

Joy was a loyal mother to Peter and Moi.

She passed peacefully, in her beloved Mullumbimby, on Tuesday April 28, aged 76.

MEMORIAL DETAILS

Owing to current COVID-19 restrictions, a memorial will be held Saturday May 9 in the front yard of her house on Tyagarah Street, from 10am till 2pm.

Joy's family invites her friends to drop by in small groups, in their own time, to write a message that will be buried with her ashes beside her beloved dog Possum.



The Good Life

Suncoast Fresh

A woman arrives at Suncoast Fresh. 'I've got some more stuff from IGA!' Dan Readman, from Bayleaf in Byron, comes out. 'Great, I'll grab it.' 'I think you'll need a trolley,' says the woman. By the time Dan gets to the boot of her 4x4 and sees what is inside, he says, 'We'll need

two trolleys!'

This is indicative of the generosity of many businesses around the Shire as they regroup during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Towards the end of March, Bayleaf had to close their doors for eat-in dining. It wasn't long before Dan,

Nikki and Jesse created a take-away menu and online shop, but they also created something else. Something really special.

Operating in Byron they knew, only too well, that people were doing it hard because of the loss of work owing to pandemic closures.

So began 'A little goodness' community food box campaign - connecting people and families in need with food essentials.

Food boxes are given to those in need via a 'nominate a mate' program, running from the Bayleaf website.

A nomination means a home will have delivered a week's supply of food, including fruit and veges from Suncoast, a sourdough loaf from Bread Social, rice and pasta from IGA Byron Bay, delicious coffee from Blackboard Roastery, and choc hemp powergrains from Brookfarm, and that's just for starters. The trolley loads that have arrived had lots of other goodies as well.

Dan feels it is important to contribute. 'We have always been well supported by the wider community - it's important to be community-minded. This unique



Making up food boxes at Suncoast Fresh are manager Sam Johnson, Maya, and her dad, Bayleaf's Dan Readman.

experience has shown us that we all can be truly empathetic to each other's circumstances'.

Dan says it's an incredible feeling to know you are helping others out. 'Because we are in hospitality, it's also a great avenue to provide some sunshine into our own lives amongst the stress of getting through this. This program is designed to pass it forward, so we are constantly getting feedback through emails and social media from, not only those receiving the boxes, but those that are nominating friends or neighbours as well. The feedback loop is amazing for us and our sponsors.'

Dan says the program has revealed a lot of people locally who want to contribute to the community but

don't know where to give. 'We are always looking for support to continue this program, either via food sponsorships, or financial donations.'

Dan says the response has been everything from tears, to outpourings of emotion and relief. 'People are trying to work out who nominated them, and they are thinking about who they can nominate as well. This is the amazing thing about passing it forward. Even the delivery drivers have been shedding a tear at being involved at the front line of those in need, and also because they have such an important role in getting these [boxes] to people in need or stress.'

'Anyone can be nominated, and even self-nominate,' says

Dan. 'They don't have to be destitute. This food is to offer some relief during a very stressful, uncontrollable situation, to improve home life and financial pressures.'

Dan says they have delivered 200 boxes, and will continue to run the program as long as nominations and funding continue, or until this period of uncertainty ends. 'The most important thing is to get people to think of others and their situation, and then take action by nominating them for a food box. We will do the rest.'

Anyone in Byron, Ballina, or Lismore Shires can be nominated. Nominations are anonymous via a page on their website www.bayleafbyronbay.com/nominate-a-mate.

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Good Taste

Eating Out Guide

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

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Brick walls or rubber bands? The nature of ecological limits

Jason van Tol

The concept of a limit can invoke the image of a brick wall; when driving at high speeds, sudden death can occur with one small error in steering. The brick wall metaphor for the concept of 'limit' has characteristics of immediacy and finality. Herman Daly has suggested that a more appropriate model for ecological limits is a rubber band. A stretched rubber band resists and pulls back to a position of equilibrium, and the more it is stretched, the harder it pulls back.

As the expansion of human numbers and economic activity proceeds, we shape the environment to suit our needs. Every species has its own characteristic niche in an ecosystem, but in the age of the Anthropocene, the scale of our influence on the environment has come to dominate. While the current pandemic may appear to be a random misfortune, it has been expected by epidemiologists for at least 15 years, following the first SARS (a type of coronavirus) outbreak in 2003.

What causes an outbreak?

Dr Peter Daszak is a disease ecologist and president of EcoHealth Alliance, which conducts research on global health and ecological conservation. In a recent interview on Democracy Now, Dr Daszak was asked to comment on the environmental origins of COVID-19.

Having worked for 20 years on identifying the causes of disease outbreaks, he named two principal causes:

- 1) dense and growing human populations, and
- 2) land-use changes as people move into new areas, by building roads for mines or logging, and encroaching on wildlife habitat.

While he stated that the origin of the current coronavirus is not exactly certain, his past research in China has demonstrated that bats are common carriers for many types of coronaviruses, and that increased human contact with wildlife, like bats, is usually the cause of disease outbreaks.



Economic growth and population

It is important to recognise that economic growth is at the core of government policy worldwide. At the same time, the human population, currently at about 7.8 billion, is expected to continue growing, to between 9 and 10 billion by mid-century. With this in mind, Dr Daszak and other epidemiologists expect that continued growth will result in other, and even more severe, pandemics in future.

The counter model to the growth economy is the steady state economy, as promoted by Daly and other ecological economists. Two of its key characteristics are a steady or mildly fluctuating population of humans, and a steady or mildly fluctuating stock of human-made things. The steady state economy comes out of the field of ecological economics, which is organised around three hierarchical goals, the first of which is called 'sustainable scale', which attempts to answer the question 'how big' should the economy be? Notable is that this question is completely absent in standard economics, which advises unlimited growth instead.

What's fair?

Taking this into account, the steady state economy has an important role to play in avoiding planetary sickness, but so too does the second goal of ecological economics. The second goal, constrained by the first, is called 'fair distribution', which attempts

to answer the question, 'How much should each person get?'

Since the publication of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, in 1776, the free market economy has been fiercely defended, where governments have no role in wealth redistribution, and where each individual attempts to aggrandise their own personal gain. This, we are told, will lead to an optimal social outcome. If there was ever any doubt about this doctrine, the current pandemic is showing that it is clearly false. It is to everyone's advantage that everyone has health care coverage, regardless of their ability to pay. It is to everyone's advantage that everyone has unemployment insurance, and sick leave, so they are not forced to work while sick themselves. And it is to everyone's advantage that everyone makes a decent wage, so nobody is forced to work long hours, sometimes at multiple jobs, running themselves down, compromising their immune systems, and further facilitating the spread of disease. Yet global inequality is reaching dizzying heights, where, according to Oxfam, the eight richest people in the world have the same combined wealth as the bottom half of the global population.

Planet pushes back

COVID-19 is just one manifestation of an ecological limit that economic and population growth are pressing against. Climate change, biodiversity loss, colony collapse disorder, plastics in the ocean, are just a few others. Notice that none of these limits has resulted in immediately and finally ending growth - we are still fuelling climate change, producing plastics, and encroaching on wildlife areas. Rather, using the rubber band metaphor, we can say that these are ecological limits resisting the growth of the global economy and human population, and the more we continue to grow, the harder they will push back.

Byron Bypass a joke?

I so love it when you guys put funny things in the paper like April Fools articles and bogus classifieds.

This edition just out, you have really floored me with your humour.

That joke on page 3 about biodiversity protection was hysterical.

And placing it right before the two full-page ads about destroying and mangling the Shire's biodiversity was true comedic genius.

Janét Moyle
New Brighton

How truly extraordinary to see a full double page public relations campaign by the Byron Council across both local papers, complete with cutesy snail graphic and its little road tunnel.

This is significant public funds being utilised to gloss over the environmental crime that has occurred in our midst.

This is the power of our local government, attempting to rewrite and control the story.

The fact is, Byron Shire Council has rammed a motorway straight through a highly viable, highly populated, critically endangered natural habitat by claiming that no snails were evident in the patch.

They sent in ecologists to relocate 150 odd snails and their egg clusters off to the sides of the road, and then

proceeded to destroy their habitat and forever pollute and degrade the surroundings.

Those in power control the agenda and the narrative. Right from the outset Council has lied and manipulated the story to get their way.

Do you recall the claim that the first \$10 million of State funding for the road was dependent on a Butler Street route?

That was fake news to coerce councillors and the community. I could go on.

There is growing mistrust of The Greens locally. How could this happen in our place, where most of the community are consciously engaged with green issues and principles?

Are we that easily manipulated?

Right now, the Byron Greens party is engaged in a preselection ballot for a new round of candidates for both the mayoral and councillor tickets. Our Butler Street Community urge all local Greens Party members to consider carefully all candidates.

We need to ensure the Byron Greens return to their founding principles. Voting is your most powerful action, and as is only too evident, the history and philosophy of the movement and the democracy and fairness of the political system requires constant vigilance.

Paul Jones,
Byron Bay

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Let's stand together - post a photo with a candle and share this message on your social media.

#DVRemembranceDay #ENDDFV
#LeavingViolenceEssential

1300 355 305 | mymomentum.org.au

CHESS by Ian Rogers

David Smerdon's new book *The Complete Chess Swindler* should be a bestseller.

Smerdon has plenty of experience on both sides of a swindle, notably losing the 2003 Doerbel Cup thanks to a moment of hubris. (See Diagram 1)

Here Black, this writer, could end the struggle with 41...Kxe4 42.Bxa4 Nxa3 and a draw could be agreed. However, I realised that Smerdon was still hoping for a win and tried 41...Nxa3! which would just transpose after 42.Bxa4 Kxe4. Smerdon decided that the a4 pawn was doomed anyway, and ventured 42.Kf3?? but after 42...Nb5!! had to resign a few moves later.

Smerdon, an academic at UQ, is the first to treat the subject of swindling in a logical and systematic manner, but it is his choice of examples, well known

and obscure, that make the book shine.

The one type of swindle missing from the book is the 'unknowing swindle'. If you are blissfully unaware that you are in trouble, then finding a way to win is the most natural thing in the world. Diagram 2 is an example.

I was White against Jeroen Piket in Groningen 1989 and the game continued 40...Nfe6 41.exf5! gxf5 42.Nxf5!! Nd4 42...Rxf5 loses to 43.d4! followed by g4 if necessary. 43.Nxd4 exd4 44.Bxd4 Kg8 45.Bg1 Ne6 46.d4 and White won easily.

A pretty combination to cap off a well played game, I thought, only to learn later that I had been comprehensively outplayed for most of the game and had Black exchanged pawns on move 40, my 'attack' would have ended before it started.



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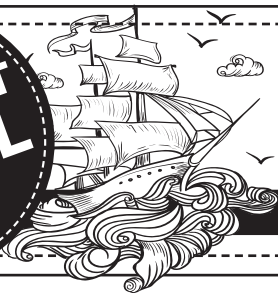
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byronfarmersmarket.com.au



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UNCHARTED WATERS

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Preserving our ecological jewels

Mary Gardner

Remember, back before the pandemic, the long dry months during our Black Summer of wildfires? The Northern Rivers region was facing more water rationing. Then, over a few intense weeks, Byron Bay and surrounds received a good year's worth of rain; approximately 900mm of welcome water fell. What impact have these extreme conditions had on the Belongil as well as the Tallow waterways? And why does it matter to you?

Stop for a moment and consider exactly what are these two water systems. They are both ICOLLS (Intermittently Closed and Open Lakes or Lagoons). They are also a pair of ecological jewels, because throughout the eastern seaboard they are some of the last ICOLLS considered to be 'untrained'. This means their connection to the sea is still wild and free. Their sandbars open and close according to their own rhythm.

Community-based volunteers monitor the Belongil and some of the drains entering that system. They

are members of the Belongil Drainage Board. They are all long term residents and live on the lands in West Byron.

According to the Board's records, on 19 January 2020, a high tide briefly swept open the sandbar at Belongil. Fresh seawater surged and overflowed onto lands on both sides of the Union Drain. Although they do not monitor the Butler St Drain, people in the town of Byron would have noticed higher water levels here too. After all, this is the central receiving drain for a great part of town, out as far back as Cemetery Road and Lillipilli. All are connected to the Belongil and Cape Byron Marine Park.

At this time, the sand at the mouth quickly closed and the Belongil did not drain away. The fullness of its lagoon phase, including fish and other aquatic life continued. The Tallow was also in its lagoon phase. While some people may have fretted, aquatic wildlife continued to thrive.

When rain was predicted to start falling, on 4 February, Council carefully scraped both sand berms. If either was scraped too far AND a



The Belongil lagoon is a rare refuge for wildlife.

truly heavy rain did not fall, the systems would both drain in a great rush. That would cause catastrophic fish kills.

By 6 February, the hearty rains had started. The Tallow was wide open. The Belongil was still blocked but council staff braved the conditions to dredge it completely open. The heavy rain PLUS the cautious work with heavy machinery meant that the fish and aquatic life moved safely out to sea, or upstream, as they wished. Fish kills were avoided although there was flooding in town and paddocks. Who could have guessed all this rain would fall in a few weeks?

Over the past few years, these beaches are becoming increasingly unstable for

council bulldozer work. The sea level rise already underway means the beaches tend to be higher than the water body resting on the other side. Consultants for Council advise that the current opening practices at the Belongil will soon become too difficult and dangerous. They suggest the community prepare for change.

Given drought, we can expect the Belongil to stay longer in its lagoon or lake phase. The reach of the water and the structure of its banks will change. Of course, species of vegetation and aquatic life may change in proportions or whole entireties.

Most likely, instead of saying the Belongil is an estuary that gets blocked

There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places.

– Wendell Berry

now and then, we'll say the Belongil is a lagoon that drains now and then. To avoid creating a massive pollution issue, we must improve the water quality of all the channels that lead into it. Our focus must be the Butler St and Industrial Estate Drains.

Right now, green engineering suggests transforming channels into a series of stable holding ponds, well vegetated, in a landscape of riparian wetlands and forests. Aboriginal management knows this system as a 'chain of ponds'. Jewels indeed.

All our town and rural stormwater is guided into the Belongil. We must reduce and slow this flow. Then we must hold it in ponds and allow for slow cleansing done by microbes and the rest of the wetland ecology. The same for the Tallow.

Impact of West Byron

But now, a group of landowners in West Byron are once again trying to create the worst possible situation for the Belongil. Although

last year they were shot down by the NSW Planning Panel on twenty counts and faced over 5,000 submissions in objection, they now present a modified DA which shows no effective change in their plans. They still want to fill in and concrete until they have something much like their earlier mega-development plan. They ignored NSW government offers to discuss a buy-back.

Of many faults, what is even more out-of-date, and shows less future thinking, is the stormwater and drainage design. The lots are small. Drainage is on site. One side of each narrow street simply leads to pipes straight into the Belongil. Physically impossible. The quagmire will mean heavy pollution and flood potential in situ, all laced with current pollution from the Industrial Drain and its sources.

■ Submissions about DA10.2017.661.1 close 7 May, 2020, and should be emailed to submissions@byron.nsw.gov.au.

5G thrust upon a sceptical community

■ 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'.

Even though it was intended to be funny, we don't find Mandy Nolan's statements in her recent soapbox at all amusing.

5G may or may never deliver all the extremely-hyped benefits.

Industry marketing tells you we 'need' 5G, but it's 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 the air 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', which millions of Congolese people suffer and die for in mining them.

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.

Corrina Beacham
Mullumbimby

■ I read, with a distinct lack of enthusiasm, the front page of last week's *Echo*. Once again we have witnessed Telstra's remarkable lack of sensitivity in its handling of these installation/upgrade issues, particularly in areas such as our own

where the local population is politically, socially and environmentally aware.

Having said that, and whilst acknowledging the legitimate health concerns of those moved to object to Telstra's upgrade plans, there is an even larger health concern looming which is not being canvassed in the current debate.

In recent weeks members of the local population, dealing with varying degrees of self-isolation, have had to fall back on their own resources to maintain day to day activities, continue to engage with the community in which we all live and stay connected to the outside world.

For many this has resulted in a dramatically increased dependence on the telecommunications network without any clear evidence of adverse health outcomes in the areas covered by its reach.

There is reliable evidence emerging from peer reviewed studies into the mental health issues associated with 'lock down,' that these prolonged periods of semi-isolation, especially for people who are sequestered at home alone, can have serious and prolonged effects on mental stability.

Either way, it is clear that without some measure of protection from this, members of the baby-boomer

demographic, or those of us who, if infected, have an increased risk of serious complications, are going to be carrying on more of our day to day activities online, possibly for some years to come.

Given the enormous current and emerging load on the system being created by this growingly sophisticated online population it's fairly obvious that emerging technologies such as Telstra's 5G Network are going to be necessary to deal with the demands being

placed on the system.

Having acknowledged above that those objecting to this upgrade have a perfect right to do so, quite frankly, I object to my future livelihood, business life, retirement, social and spiritual welfare being compromised, curtailed and restricted by the non-availability of telecommunications services which others in the wider community take for granted.

Graham Mathews
Possum Creek

Plans afoot for Minyon Falls

As a local resident of the Minyon Falls area I wish to draw the community's attention to the proposed changes that NPWS have planned for the Falls area. See: <https://bit.ly/minyonmp>.

Unfortunately, most of us have not seen these plans before.

Apparently they were on public exhibition for comment, around the time of drought and fires in the area. Maybe that is why no-one I know in this area knows anything about them.

I wonder how the tiny orchids that grow in the peaty soil along the existing track to the viewing platform, and the general flora and fauna of this area will survive this huge environmental incursion. Isn't the rare Nightcap Oak in this area?

I would also like to know how NPWS can direct more traffic to use the substandard and narrow Repentance Creek Road and Coopers Creek Road.

I know of seven cars that have gone off Repentance Creek Road within the last couple of years. One is still there in a local farmer's paddock.

Is the NPWS going to assist our Council with money to improve these narrow, winding, unguarded approaches to this totally inappropriate viewing platform?

Of course not. More fast traffic, more koalas hit, more wallabies run over, more rubbish on the local road approaches, all for what?

Lydia Tumbilis
Goonengerry

Time is still of the essence.

The climate crisis hasn't gone into hibernation!

The time to demand meaningful action to reduce global heating is now and always.

MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



MOUNTAIN VIEWS

When my daughter, Ivy, was small, we told her that Mt Chincogan was 'her' mountain. She formed this romantic kind of bond with the mountain that disappeared and popped up on the road into town, like some sort of geological peek a boo. She'd clap and laugh and say 'There's my mountain. Ivy's mountain!' We even stopped calling it by its name and just referred to it as 'Ivy's mountain.' It seemed kind of gorgeous for a baby to believe that a mountain belonged to her.

Later, when she was three, we moved into our new house, built on a ridge with spectacular views of Ivy's mountain. In fact, the mountain is so majestically framed by our dining room window, it was like Ivy's mountain had moved in. When you face a mountain, night and day, you become acutely aware of the moods of a place; The soft clouds, the shadows, the blazing sunshine, the mountain in mist; the mountain as this ancient pervasive presence. This place with stories I don't know. This place that has seen things I will never know.

It occurred to me one day that we were watching the mountain, but there were times when I felt like perhaps the mountain was watching us. It made me question that real estate one-liner 'mountain views'. Like we have commodified our landscape to the point that it becomes a 'view'. When you live in the reach of a powerful mountain, it feels much more than a view.

One day, I heard Ivy arguing with her three year old friend next door. It was one of those arguments between children that you wished you could have filmed for a 21st birthday curiosity. You see, my neighbours had also told their daughter that Mt Chincogan was *her* mountain. The two little girls were bickering 'It's *my* mountain' and the other would say 'No, it's *my* mountain!' I'd seen children fight over toys, over lollies, over who gets a go on the swing, but not over a mountain!

Finally a truce was drawn when both girls were told that the mountain didn't belong to either of them. 'No one owns the mountain'. They didn't believe it. They still secretly thought the mountain was theirs. I was thinking about this story early one morning, a few weeks ago, when I was walking. I was looking at the mountain and musing at our obsession with land ownership, and contemplating the Aboriginal approach to country. It's hard not to walk a street, or a beach, or a place regularly, notice the changes, from the morning, to the night, the way the seasons make their mark, and not get this sense of connection. To feel the sense of what country *is*.

I wonder what Indigenous Australians really mean when they talk of country. I don't think I've ever thought about it deeply enough. It's hard to understand a connection to country when you live in a culture with connection to real estate. To 'mountain views'. In this strange time of lockdown and social distancing I've never needed to walk more. It seems everyone has needed to walk their country. To find their connection to nature when they can't connect with each other. When I'm feeling overwhelmed, or sad or angry, an hour in nature has been like a tonic. There's this sense of calm, that all is well. A sense of the inconsequence of my existence.

Kind of paradoxical when you contemplate the apocalyptic consequence of our shared inconsequential existences.

But this place has seen so much, it has sustained and adapted, from ice ages, to volcanic eruptions, to floods and raging fires, to colonisation. The land has resilience – this ability to continue. It's the only mantra that seems to make any sense to me right now. When I walk this country, I notice things. I feel connected. I feel my sense of place. I am not Indigenous, this is not *my* country in the way it is theirs. But I certainly feel my place here.

Caring for country is integral to Indigenous culture. In a time of looking for solutions to climate change, connection to country should be a universal religion. We don't own country. You can't. What you own is real estate. Real estate is not country. This came to me when I was walking. It made me cry. I had this sudden understanding of why we care for country. I have never felt so soothed by nature. I'm 52 – and I finally get it. We care for country, because country cares for us.

DRIVE IN ART

The BSA (Byron School of Art) in Mullumbimby has come up with a unique way of showing art during this challenging time of social distancing. They are using their shopfront window as a 'mini' gallery. 'It's a temporary gallery while the gallery is closed down. We put partitions in the window to create a smaller space. The idea was, at the height of Covid concerns, you could park your car, and peer

CONTINUED ON P24 ▶▶▶

through. It's an opportunity to show previews of exhibitions that are currently on hold', said Travis Paterson, the BSA Project Space Co-ordinator. The current exhibition is *Four Painters*, and features the work of four emerging artists based in Northern NSW. They are: Dale Burke, Natalia Carr, Jane Coultie, and Bernie Gooley. Originally this exhibition was

WITH OUR GREATEST APOLOGIES. LAST WEEK WE PRINTED THIS WEEKS VERSION OF THE HOROSCOPE.

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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Four Painters at BSA Drive-in Gallery Mullumbimby. On show until 14 May.

Life is a lot like jazz, it's best when you improvise.

George Gershwin



scheduled to be shown in the BSA Project Space from 27 March, but had to be put on hold due to social distancing restrictions.

'We aren't sure what is happening – we would think the first step could be to have the gallery open without exhibitions. Classes are currently run online, with the hope of getting students into the studio as soon as possible.'

The BSA Project Space Drive-in Gallery is BSA's temporary exhibition space, featuring previews of exhibitions that are currently postponed.

You can view updates on their Instagram page @byrnschoolofart. The work will be on show until 14 May, when the next show will be previewed!

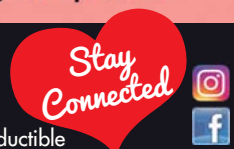


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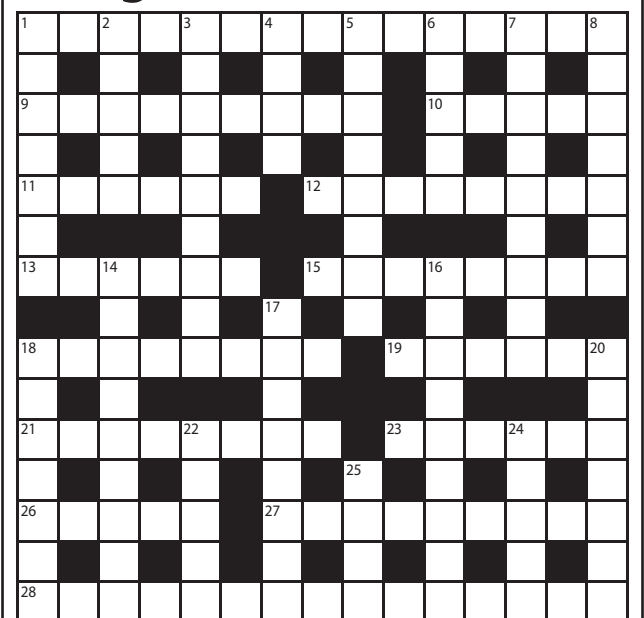
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Mungo's Crossword

N333



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Octuple number he devised for a big prize in November (3,9,3)
- Back service with water sport – but it is becoming more confined (9)
- Play with medico and his organisation (5)
- Can be dangerous at peak performance (3-3)
- Dodge teams around a dog, perhaps (8)
- Composite picture in the style of a Hebrew leader (6)
- Pick charge – oh, we had one in July (8)
- Setter is needy, holding a holy man – but a faker (8)
- Goes round permits (6)
- Eastern branch with old ships – they're set aside deliberately (8)
- Type of store, about the back (6)
- Snobs reject ease, they say, for sticky sweets (5)
- Negligently meet train – finish! (9)
- A whiff of the mother of all – relax, it's a great achievement! (6,2,7)

DOWN

- Fit of temper – so much French spirit! (7)
- Queen embarrassed – made a mistake (5)
- Comic nose – unfortunately they say the science is dismal (7)
- Seethe about suppurating sore (4)
- Wildebeest rises – lay in supplies, but it's awkward (8)
- Small push – often goes with a wink (5)
- Overlay dogs? People hang on to them to benefit from the success of the more fortunate (9)
- Drama writer, but it's for the very young (7)
- If Scorpio rises, it can put you to sleep (9)
- Cook English fricassee? Stop the fight! (9)
- Watchdog or parrot? (8)
- Single displaced retina causes sluggishness (7)
- Recklessly loves the top end – it can break things up (7)
- Pyromania, but they call it just messin' around (5)
- Alert for a funeral celebration (5)
- Right in charge – liberated (4)

Quick Clues

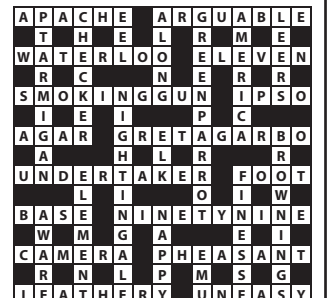
ACROSS

- First Tuesday in November (3,9,3)
- Tapering (9)
- Theatrical work (5)
- Very high temperature, dangerous (3,3)
- Dodge, evade (8)
- Pattern consisting of small tiles (6)
- Choice, especially of candidates (8)
- Pretender, counterfeit (8)
- Overtakes (6)
- Sets aside for future use (8)
- Selling direct to the customers (6)
- Upper class types (5)
- End, kill (9)
- Climb to the highest mountain on Earth (6,2,7)

DOWN

- Sudden rage (7)
- Made a mistake (5)
- The dismal science, they call it (9)
- Turn to steam (4)
- Clumsy, awkward (8)
- Prod gently (5)
- Followers hang on to them (9)
- Child's enclosure (7)
- Drowsy making (9)
- Truce, pause in warfare (9)
- Australian parrot (8)
- Tendency to remain fixed (7)
- Chemical that can dissolve matter (7)
- Crime of setting fires (5)
- Not sleeping (5)
- Liberated, gratis (4)

Last week's solution N332





Property Insider

Email us. propertyinsider@echo.net.au

Residential tenancies: Summary of emergency measures

The NSW Government has introduced an interim 60-day stop on landlords seeking to evict tenants financially disadvantaged by COVID-19 due to rental arrears, and new requirements for landlords and tenants to enter into negotiations over rental payments in good faith.

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Kevin Anderson, said an interim 60-day moratorium on finalising existing matters, or making new applications to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) for forced evictions over rent arrears related to COVID-19, sends a clear message that the process is not optional.

Where a household is struggling to make rental payments, and has suffered a loss of income equal to, or greater than 25 per cent, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a new obligation to enter into negotiations with their landlord or managing agent, prior to seeking a forced end to the tenancy.

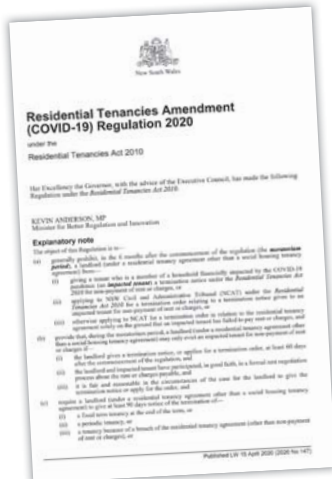
Tenants will be protected from

eviction until NCAT is satisfied that negotiations have concluded. Any unpaid rent will accrue, as arrears, during this period.

Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, said the Government was allocating around \$440 million towards rent relief in the form of land-tax waivers or rebates – with the expectation that this would be split approximately evenly between business and residential landlords.

Mr Perrottet said residential landlords would be eligible for a land tax waiver, or rebate of up to 25 per cent, if they passed the saving on to tenants who are in financial distress.

'This is effectively a \$220 million commitment in the residential sector, from the NSW Government, to help



encourage both landlords and tenants to reach agreement on rent reductions during this difficult time,' Mr Perrottet said.

'It's also important that tenants suffering financial distress as a result of COVID-19 will not be blacklisted for the accrual of rental arrears during this time.'

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson said it was important that both landlords and tenants continued to honour existing agreements to the extent possible.

'... we are supporting renters and landlords to negotiate new temporary terms, so tenants keep a roof over their head, and landlords aren't left without rental income for the next six months. ... to boost available support

we've announced a one-off \$2.5 million boost to tenancy advocacy and advice services across the state', he said.

Tenants and landlords will also have access to assistance from Fair Trading, and access to the NCAT, to resolve matters after the end of the 60-day period:

- NSW Fair Trading's dispute resolution service will be available to assist if the parties are unable to re-negotiate, and agree, on new rental arrangements, backed by Fair Trading's existing legal powers;
- NCAT will be available to make appropriate orders, in light of the current circumstances, where the parties are unwilling or unable to reach an agreement, and action is taken to seek an eviction;
- Action is also being taken to ensure that evictions for reasons not related to rent arrears are also stayed, to minimise avoidable housing disruption and movement. The usual periods of required notice under the Residential Tenancies Act will be increased, from the minimum of 30 days, up to 90 days,

for terminations owing to fixed or periodic leases ending, or other agreement breaches.

- Landlords will however continue to be able to seek to recover premises owing to their own genuine hardship. Tenants will also continue to be able to apply to the Tribunal to terminate a fixed-term tenancy on the basis of hardship.
- Tenants will be protected from being added to tenancy databases (or 'blacklists') for breaches of agreements resulting from COVID-19 impacts.

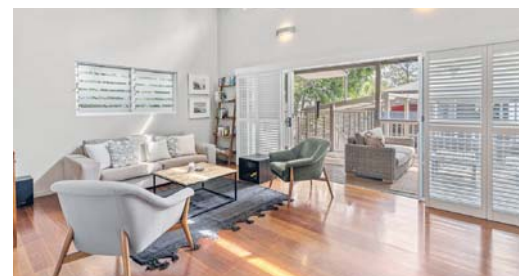
'I encourage landlords and tenants to approach this new process with an open mind and an empathetic ear. It is important to learn about each other's current position in order to better support each other during these extraordinary times,' Mr Anderson said.

Tenants, landlords and agents can find up-to-date information and resources at fairtrading.nsw.gov.au.

The full legislation can be found via this link: www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/regulations/2020-147.pdf.

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Photo of Brunswick Heads Boat Harbour
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Cobaki Broadwater Village

Site: 39

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This neatly presented home on a large corner block presents an excellent opportunity to acquire one of the most affordable two-bedroom homes in this prestigious village.

The tiled living area consists of an L-shaped open plan lounge and dining area with a Fujitsu split-system air conditioner.

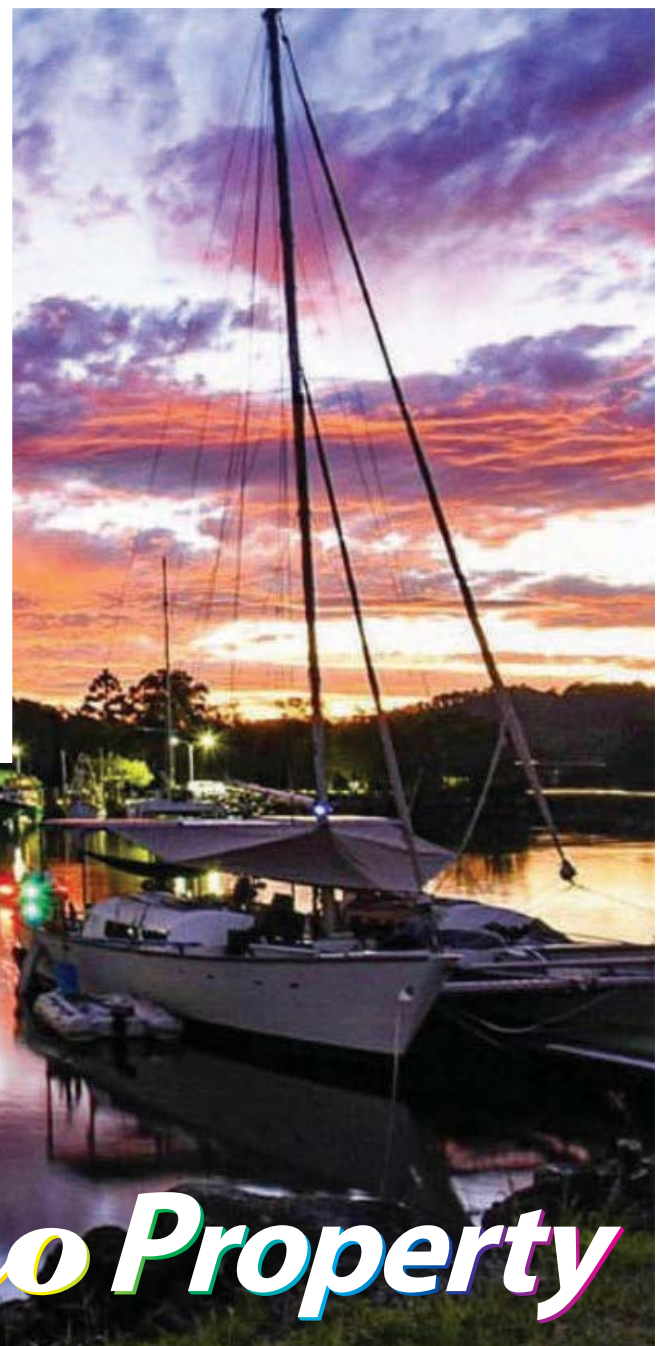
Two good-sized bedrooms with timber laminate floors and built-in robes with mirror doors.

Modern kitchen with new appliances.

Renovated bathroom with a good-sized corner shower cabinet and vanity unit. Plus, there is a separate toilet and external laundry.

The village bus provides residents with a free service six times a day to local shopping centres, clubs, and medical centres. Sorry, no pets permitted.

Inspect: By appointment
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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.

MAY 2020 Astronomical data and tides



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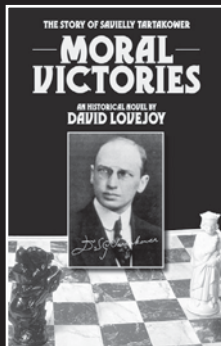


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2 x OFFICE SPACE IN BILLINUDGEL Kitchenette, W.C., A/C, NBN, all bills included. Richard 0417774517

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

LOST & FOUND
LOST: pair of prescription glasses lost in Byron middle of town around Lawson St on Friday night. Reward! Ph 0418883344

POSITIONS VACANT
EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER required with Xero, MYOB and Excel exp. Also skilled in social media, Instagram and Facebook, with sales and marketing skills. 20-25 hours pw. Ph 0437624020
EVIL GENIUS SEEKS MINIONS to sacrifice their lives in world domination attempt. Must be prepared to work 24-7 for fascist psychopath for no pay. Messy death inevitable but costumes and laser death rays provided. No weirdos. Call: 1-900-MWAH-HAHA

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DEATH NOTICES
Margaret Ann Barratt 'Maggie'
Of Suffolk Park, passed away peacefully at John Flynn Hospital on 27 April 2020.
Best friend to many.
A bright light on Earth is now a shining star.
Dearly loved and missed by daughters Rebecca and Justine, family and friends.
A private cremation was held on 1 May 2020.
The celebration of Maggie's life is planned for later this year.

Jane Shand
19.12.1945 - 29.4.2020
Jane passed away peacefully at home with her family. She died well in the place she wanted to be.
Jane was a loved mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Her wisdom, love and humour will be greatly missed.
A memorial celebration of her life will be organised for a future date.



Position Vacant HAIRSTYLIST
Must excel in creative colouring. Good cutting skills.
Minimum of 8yrs experience.
Apply within, with resume, or email to **manikthehairstudio @bigpond.com**

TONY SCOTT
19/12/1953-22/04/2020
Never one to be contained by convention, you were extravagant to the very end. It's sad and shocking to suddenly be saying goodbye, but it's a joy to know you left us in the midst of feeling loved, connected and inspired.
Shine on you crazy diamond!

IN MEMORIAM
MILAREPA 20/07/67-10/05/09
We love and miss your delightful shining self. Your family.

PETS
Oakey
Oakey is a 7 month old desexed male Beagle x. He is smart and headstrong and in training at the moment but will be ready soon. If you can give Oakey a permanent, loving home please contact Pam on 0421 017 461. M/c No 956000011226950 - FD1405.
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338

We are still re-homing & fostering out our gorgeous cats & kittens, like handsome Quincy. This is strictly by appointment only & in accordance with the current social distancing measures.
We are hoping that this could be the purrfect time for you to make a positive difference during these uncertain times. What is certain is that animals are a wonderful emotional support.
To talk to one of our volunteers, please call **AWL 0436 845 542.**
Like us on Facebook!
ANIMAL VOLUNTEERS LEAGUE NSW
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation Number: R25100022

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Please stick this by your phone

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE	000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay	131 233
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue	6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER	6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL	6639 9400
POLICE Brunswick Heads	6685 1277
Mullumbimby	6684 2144
Byron Bay	6685 9499
Bangalow	6687 1404
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding	132 500
AIDS Confidential testing & information (ACON)	6622 1555
AL-ANON Help for family & friends of alcoholics	1300 ALANON
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours	1800 423 431
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)	6622 1881
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS	6622 7022
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line	1800 656 463
LIFELINE	131 114
MENSLINE 7pm-11pm nightly (phone counselling & referral for men)	6622 2240
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily	6680 7280
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE	6684 1286
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE	6687 2520
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS	6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE	6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service	6628 1898

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Each WED 7-11am M'bah	6684 7834
Each WED 3-6pm Nimbin	0475 135 764
Each WED 4-7pm Newrybar Hall	
Each THU 8-11am Byron	6687 1137
Each THU 2.30-6.30pm Lismore	0450 688 900
Each FRI 7-11am Mullum	6677 1345
Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow	6687 1137
Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki	6679 5530
Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore	0466 415 172
Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob	

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A heartfelt thanks to all the kind folk who have donated to *The Echo*, it's keeping us going (that includes our valued advertisers). Donations were remarkably up for the month of April. One colourfully illustrated envelope was received through the mail, containing a seemingly empty potato chip packet. We opened it quite cautiously, only to discover a nicely-seasoned \$20 note inside. Hopefully the momentum can continue! Visit www.echo.net.au/support-us to support independent media.

Two well known and much-loved elders of Mullum passed away last week - Jane Shand and Joy Vogel. Those wanting to pay respects and remember Joy Vogel can do so on Saturday May 9, in the front yard of her house on Tyagarah Street between 10am and 2pm. See page 17 for more info. Jane, who was *Echo* founder Nick's wife, died peacefully at home with her family by her side. An obit and funeral date will be announced soon.

Thinking of voting Greens at the 2021 Council election? If you are a member (and there's not that many of you), then you have until Friday to cast your ballot for the candidate you prefer. Given the Greens attract many votes at elections in this region, the result of this preselection will have a significant impact upon the community. For an analysis of the internal battle for the party, see page 2.

For those stargazing at Lilith's column last week, we inadvertently published the wrong stars! Just keeping us, and you, dear readers, on our celestial toes. And in



The Mullumbimby Gateway gazebo is being relocated - Daryl Salisbury prepares the slab, which is part of the rejuvenation of the site, which is located opposite Uncle Tom's. Photo Jeff Dawson

the picture on page 3 of the April 22 edition, the man in the mask was Sagar Pathak, Farmer Jo's manufacturing manager, not owner Scott Tulloch.

If you think your manufacturing business can be adapted to produce medical supplies, the you can apply to be on the COVID-19 Emergency Supplies register at <https://bit.ly/3fqWMBN>. The supply constraints affecting personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectant are expected to continue for at least 12 months, says the NSW government.

Who runs Australia? It appears to be mining billionaires who are compromised by their uber wealthy Chinese business partners. While Andrew Forrest and Clive Palmer may believe they are upstanding citizens combating the virus crisis, when you dig a bit deeper, there's nothing else but tax avoidance, self-interest and climate change.

CNN reported last week that 18.6 per cent of the US workforce have filed unemployment claims since mid-March, which equates to 30.3 million people. That's around five

million more people than the entire population of Australia. Back home, 1.3m of us are now on JobSeeker, reports *The Guardian*.

IRINA DUNN, Director of the **Australian Writers' Network**, is a well-known manuscript assessor, editor and literary agent.



She is the author of *The Writer's Guide: Writing for Pleasure or Publication* (Allen & Unwin), and has guided hundreds of manuscripts from rough draft to final polished work and on to publication.

I must thank the incomparable IRINA DUNN for the crucial role she played in bringing this novel to the bright daylight of publication. Had it not been for her encouragement, her efforts, her generosity and, above all, the wisdom of her advice, this book would still be languishing as a stack of A4 sheets with scrawled marginal notes on a shelf I really ought to tidy up.

Ken Saunders, 2028... and Australia has gone to hell in a handbasket (Allen & Unwin)

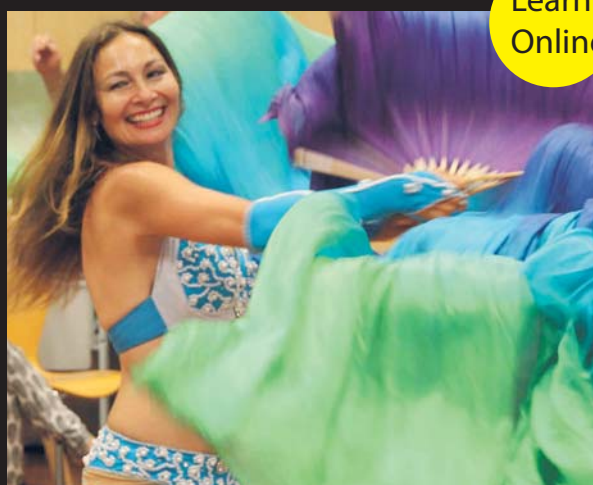
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