

Echo

ACT NOW WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 35 #19 • Wednesday, October 21, 2020 • www.echo.net.au

5G protests in Byron, while councillors sit on fence

Paul Bibby

'When one leg's on one side of the fence and the other leg is on the other side, you end up sitting on it.'

This comment from Byron Councillor Michael Lyon aptly summarised the Council's response to Telstra's plans for a 5G upgrade close to two daycare centres in the Arts and Industry Estate.

The proposed upgrade to the tower at 8 Acacia Street has drawn strong objections from many locals living and working nearby, as well as 5G opponents across the Shire.

But Byron Council's feedback to Telstra on the issue was more about fence-sitting than fighting for a cause.

There were stark divisions among councillors during a lengthy debate at last week's Council planning meeting, and in the end they unanimously avoided taking a position on whether or not the upgrade should go ahead.

A motion, put by Cr Michael Lyon, and seconded by Greens Cr Sarah

Ndiaye, reads, 'Council... recognises that the low impact facility complies with the current Australian government regulations in relation to emission of electromagnetic energy'.

Council also requested a 'commitment by a state or federal government body to do a comprehensive review of the cumulative impacts of the 5G technology' and asked who held responsibility for monitoring any such impacts.

Finally, the Council indicated its 'preference' for fibre optic cable as a 'more equitable' and less intrusive technology for internet provision.

Though the eight councillors present at the meeting voted for the motion, it did not appear to align with the stated positions of any of them.

Mayor supports 5G

Earlier, Labor councillor Paul Spooner unsuccessfully moved a motion offering unqualified support for the 5G upgrade.

► Continued on page 3

Best market recognised



Congrats to the Mullum Farmers Market, who have won the *Delicious Magazine* national award for Australia's Best Farmers Market. Pictured is North Byron Farmers Market manager, Allie Godfrey, with Mullum Farmers Market president, and owner of Summit Organics, Rod Bruin (left), and Jumping Red Ant stall holder, John Atkins. The Mullum Farmers Market are held every Friday morning at the Showgrounds on Main Arm Road. Photo Jeff 'On And Off The Market Since 1986' Dawson

Unauthorised dwelling policy extended

Public exhibition of a contentious policy that seeks to formalise the Shire's unauthorised dwellings has been extended by one week, says Council's media spokesperson.

Available at Council's website, the policy has attracted concern from Main Arm residents, after they were sent roboletters, demanding they reply by October 5 to unsubstantiated claims of unapproved development.

The policy, at just five pages, outlines three brief pathways to compliance. It does not address historical developments built prior to Council's records and planning instruments, such as the LEP 1988. Instead, the policy threatens 'Orders to demolish/restore to previously approved use as appropriate. Orders may be subject to appeal in the Land and Environment Court'. *The Echo* asked Council staff why a longer extension was refused, given the public concern about the lack of details and planning clarity, but there was no reply by deadline. ► See related stories on page 8

Rail trails for parts of Northern Rivers become law

Railway tracks between Casino and Bentley, and Crabbes Creek and Condong, will soon be removed for rail trails after the *Transport Administration Amendment (Closures of Railway Lines in Northern Rivers) Bill 2020* was passed in the NSW upper house last week.

The controversial decision, tabled by locally based Nationals MLC Ben Franklin, was supported by NSW Labor, who took the trains off the tracks in 2004.

While touted by rail trail

advocates as a boost to local jobs and tourism, elected local MP Member for Ballina Tamara Smith told *The Echo*, 'As it stands, there is nothing in this law to prevent Tweed or Richmond Valley Council offering 99 year leases to commercial tourism operators to lease sections of the rail corridor for anything recreational or tourist focused'.

'What that means in reality is that if either community wants to return rail to the corridor they face paying legal compensation to break

commercial leases - if indeed they can even break those leases, and there is nothing in law that says they have a right to rip up the Rail Trail infrastructure to make way for a train.

'I am a huge fan of cycle tourism, and I'm passionate about delivering meaningful public transport in the Northern Rivers - but it's never been an either or scenario'.

'It's extremely disappointing that the Greens amendments that would have prevented long leases and

► Continued on page 3

Byron High Year 12 students speak of learning in COVID-19 times ► p4-5

A secret meeting and that \$78m funding application ► p10



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Art of 70s and 80s culture captured on film

In the 1970s and 80s, the area around Mullumbimby and the Byron Shire hosted the birth of a multitude of alternative practices and ideals.

Many of these practices are mainstream today, but arrived with a phenomenal convergence of alternative-seeking new settlers who had descended on the Rainbow Region.

Award-winning filmmaker Sharon Shostak's mother was one of them. The Brunswick Valley Historical Society had the vision to commission

Sharon to interview these early settlers, now turned eccentric elders, and the result was the wildly successful *Mullumbimby's Madness - the Legacy of the Hippies*.

Ground-breaking creatives

Enthused by the community's interest, the *Mullumbimby's Magic - the Culture of the 70s-80s* series was embarked upon, and the final film focusses on those ground-breaking creatives.

It will be launched in early November.

Part three - The Arts, looks at the evolution of the first music venues: the Arts Factory, the Music Farm, Fowlers Lane and the famous Moondances; the first outdoor concert in Byron; the popularity and pitfalls of the small country halls; and the first World Music promoter.

The film also includes *The Bush Telegraph* newspaper that predates *The Echo*, and the incredible story of how the community hand-built their 'hippy hall'. Mullum's Chinogon Fiesta is also featured, along with how the first arts gallery evolved; with the first



Sharon Shostak's final film on the local hippy movement will launch early next month. Photo supplied

artists, the first filmmakers and photographers, and the first music club/craft centre.

It was a time when theatre groups proliferated, such as the Non-Specific Players and the Federal Theatre Co.

Amazing stories are told by those who were the talented technicians, actors and gender blenders, all with a backdrop of rare archival images and footage.

There are five ways to see this final film:

1. Friday October 30 at an outdoor screening at the back of the Mullum Museum. Bring a rug/chairs and picnic tea. Film starts at 7.45pm. (or Saturday November 7, if rained out). Tickets only via www.ticketebo.com.au/

[mullummagic3-outdoor](http://mullummagic3-outdoor.com).

2. Thursday November 5 at the Byron Community Centre from 7pm. Tickets via www.byroncentre.com.au

3. Friday November 6 at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall from 7pm. Tickets via www.ticketebo.com.au/mullummagic3_civichall

4. From Saturday November 7 - streaming online at www.byroncentre.com.au.

5. Wednesday November 18 at the Brunswick Picture House: tickets www.brunswickpicturehouse.com.

Tickets are limited owing to COVID-19 restrictions, are only available online, and are for ages 13 and over.

Masks for indoor events are recommended.

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5G free protesters take on Byron proposal

► Continued from page 1

'I want to speak as a student of science who's interested in what's really best for our community', Cr Spooner said.

'Mobile technology is a non-ionising form of technology. Mobile technologies are trying to do good in our community by doing things like delivering E-health services.

'I really think we should be supporting these efforts in our community, rather than just listening to the fears in our community that are reflecting some pretty nefarious sources.'

Greens Mayor Simon Richardson, and Alan Hunter supported this motion, but the others opposed it.

Receiving somewhat more support, but also ultimately being defeated, was a motion from fellow Green Sarah Ndiaye opposing the plan.

'We're here to represent our community, and I think it's clear that there is considerable opposition to this plan out



Around 200 peaceful protesters (with a large police presence) gathered on Tuesday morning to reject a 5G tower upgrade proposal in the Arts & Industry Estate. They marched past the mechanical business of landowner Warren Simmons, to where the tower is proposed at his 8 Acacia Street property. Photo Jeff 'Absorbed by Rays Since 1986' Dawson

there', Cr Ndiaye said.

She also pointed out that the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency's (ARPANSA) statements that 5G technology was safe, were accompanied by a significant qualification.

ARPANSA advice

'If you go onto ARPANSA's website, they say we are not a health body, and that they don't take responsibility for the advice they provide', Cr Ndiaye said.

Earlier, the meeting heard from local mother and investor Claire Alexander-Johnston who said current internet speeds were 'absolutely adequate' for tech-based companies in the Arts & Industrial estate.

Rail trails for parts of Northern Rivers become law

► Continued from page 1 strengthened community control over what happens in the corridor, were not supported by Labor or the LNP.

Nationals MLC, Ben Franklin, in reply said that the proposed amendments were 'restrictive and prescriptive and constrain how the government can deal with the land to give effect to the rail trail'.

He did not answer the question, 'Why did your government support opening up historic public assets for private financial gain and not

invest in public transport for the Northern Rivers?'

Mr Franklin did say his government, 'has not yet decided on the most effective and supportive ownership model for the rail trail'.

But Pat Grier, from the Northern Rivers Rail Trail lobby group, who were instrumental in securing the railway's official closure, said, 'That won't be a problem'.

'We have 18 months to two years to sort that out.

'The government will want to be involved in the process.

I see a board being created, with sub committees and this will include Council and rail trail reps. This has to make its own money in the end'.

Mr Grier says a rail trail will 'provide facilities along the corridor for local people, with bike paths and walking trails. There's already one in Ballina, which is very popular'.

Beth Shelley from the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group said, 'Why is this area, with a rapidly growing population, and huge tourist industry, being

singled out for closure while other areas are left alone?'

'This is not a decision that helps the people of this community, and it is not one they want... a 10,000 signature petition was simply ignored'.

Cost-benefit analysis

One Nation MLC Mark Latham told NSW Parliament during debate, 'I asked the government for its cost-benefit analysis, its economic justification for the bill. I was told it did not exist and that it was an election promise'.

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Byron High Year 12 students speak of studying

One group for whom 2020 has presented extraordinary challenges is the current crop of Year 12 students, who are about to sit their HSC examinations.

They have experienced not only social isolation and learning disruptions, but are

now facing the prospect of continued travel restrictions for their 'gap' years, limited employment opportunities and university price hikes that may impact career choices.

Leaving high school is a significant rite of passage,

usually celebrated with hallowed graduation ceremonies and lavish formals.

Those traditions have necessarily been cut back this year and students would be excused for feeling hollow rather than hallowed.

We asked four students from Byron Bay High School how they felt about the year that was, and also ask for any advice they may have for each other and the world at large.

Rowan Fairbairn

'Going into Year 12, I couldn't predict that this year would be any different to any other year that a Year 12 student would face, so I thought any feelings I am feeling now are normal and have been felt before.'

'During lockdown, I felt like, this is a challenge, sure, but at the same time, it's not impossible or anything. Our teachers are going out of their way to provide all this structured work for us to do out of class, so I knew that they were looking out for us. Work was challenging but there was enjoyment in adapting to the new situation.'



From left: Rowan Fairbairn, Chiara Wenban, Drayko Medlyn and Mia Thom. Photo supplied

'Me and my friends supported each other by basically not going radio silent. We remained online so people could contact you easily. An example of that was being on voice calls for a long period of the day while you work. Once I was on a five hour long call. It felt like we were never truly alone. My family also supported me by keeping everything the same at home, so subconsciously it felt like everything was normal. This meant I

was able to relax and keep on with my work.'

'My advice for the government would be to please improve the internet for Australia. If it's the only thing holding us together communication wise it's got to be pitch perfect.'

Chiara Wenban

'Pre-COVID-19 I felt very confident about what I had to do and felt safe in the knowledge of the structures that were in place to help me

achieve my best.

'I think I felt confident because there was only ten months left before I could go out into the world and I had plans, places to go, things to do. Having that to look forward to really motivated me.'

'When COVID-19 hit, I saw everyone around me become so limited in the scope of what they could do, and it made me question, on a much broader scale, what gave me purpose in my life, and what I really cared about.'

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for exams in COVID-19 times

► ‘Now I feel uncertain about my plans for the future. I don’t feel ready to commit to anything yet, because everything is so up in the air.’

‘Nevertheless, I feel among students there has been a lot of support. Mental health has been crazy. I have a lot of friends who have been really struggling, and so it’s dependent on everyone to make sure they are checking in on people. It’s important that we’re there for each other and realise that everyone has been struggling.’

‘What I’ve learnt this year is that everything shifts, and to take opportunities when they come. Be open to new things and try and support each other.’

Drayko Medlyn

‘Me and my family never watch the news, but there came this certain tipping point when COVID-19 became a “real” thing.’

‘For example, when the US brought in travel bans, when it became a part of the legislature. Then we followed the news closely for about two weeks and it was like “Is this dystopian? Is this the

end of the world?”

‘And for some reason my mum said, “Ok that’s done”, and she deleted Facebook and turned off the news and then COVID-19 disappeared, for a bit.’

‘At first I enjoyed the freedom of lockdown, but I remember at some point after about two or three weeks, the loneliness set in.’

‘As an extroverted person I was used to going out and talking to strangers because that’s a hobby of mine, and I couldn’t do that. It was just me and my mum. Sure I could connect with my friends online and through Zoom, but I could feel I was missing authentic connections.’

‘I hadn’t made someone laugh in real life in two weeks and that really hurt me.’

‘Having no public libraries open was very hard, because I like to catch a bus to Mullum library and when I realised I couldn’t, it was a bit of a shock.’

‘At least my teachers were all making wonderful well structured lessons, checking in with Zoom meetings and keeping the content train running.’

‘Advice for others is hard

to give, since I know very little. But one thing that has been very easing for me is knowing that things like this have happened before. For example, the Black Plague. If it has happened before, and the world has recovered, I feel that we are smarter now and better at dealing with things like this and life will go on.’

Mia Thom

‘Before COVID-19 unfolded, I felt pretty optimistic about Year 12. I had a clear idea of where I wanted to head post school and I was familiar with what lay ahead.’

‘When COVID-19 came, I neglected school for a while because it consumed my psyche, but as I realised the longevity of it all, and the unlikelihood of us ever returning to ‘normal’, I pulled back a little. I think COVID-19 has highlighted a lot of the inequalities, corruption and faults in our system, which can be a good thing in terms of reconfiguring.’

‘During lockdown, I was really impressed with how supportive the school community was, and how they rallied behind the Year 12s.’

‘It was such a hard transition, but everyone adapted so well. I think school mentors played a huge role in maintaining a connection with school.’

‘I remember our English Zoom sessions, and how beautiful they were, seeing everyone in their gardens. It felt like we all grew closer because we were all going through this collective trauma, and we had no choice but to unite and mobilise together.’

‘I would encourage people to listen to the younger generation and to legitimise their voice in terms of the environment, for example, and education.’

‘There’s this fear, because there are so many different issues like crippling climate anxiety combined with the pandemic and police brutality, but you have to let it keep fuelling you to keep challenging the system. I have so much hope in our generation.’

■ Article prepared by Matcham Caine and Sarah McGregor from Byron Bay High School.

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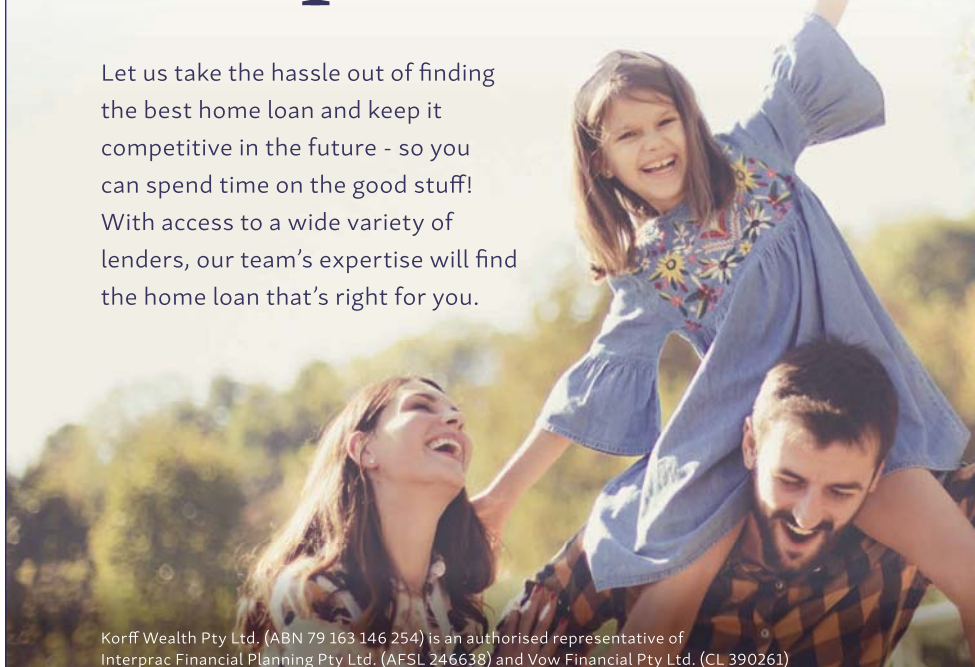
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Echo

The Byron Shire Echo

Volume 35 #19 • October 21, 2020

Established 1986 • 24,000 copies every week

www.echo.net.au

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Nicholas Shand
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Bruns River cleanup sees 760kg of trash removed

Dane Marx

The Brunswick River is renowned for its crystal clear water and diversity of marine life, yet recent efforts reflect that all may not be as it seems.

A community survey by kayak recently took place between local non-profit organisation Positive Change for Marine Life (PCFML), Byron Bay Eco Cruises and Kayaks, and more than 50 passionate volunteers. They cleared over 760kg of rubbish from the waterways, and are now urging the local community members, business and other stakeholders to take action.

The Brunswick River weaves its way from its headwaters in Mount Jerusalem National Park, through Main Arm and Mullumbimby, entering the sea in Brunswick Heads.

As one of the major waterways of the Northern Rivers, it plays a critical role in land and ocean ecosystems, forming part of the Cape Byron Marine Park.

Back in 2017, following a call from local partners that litter and debris were building up throughout the river, PCFML arranged public-driven surveys to assess the lower reaches of the river.

Their River Warriors project was born, and in 2019/20 the first iteration of the project took place on the Bruns River.

Over 11 months, PCFML hosted four kayak-based cleanup-surveys with more than 50 local volunteers helping to remove over 5,600 pieces of debris from the river, which covered the stretch from Mullum to Brunswick Heads.



Vollies recently collected rubbish from the Brunswick River. Photo supplied

The surveys included removing, sorting and recording every individual piece collected, in order to understand trends and sources of the pollution.

Plastic and polystyrene, which are especially troublesome, were the most common items found (71 per cent), followed by glass (22 per cent).

Often unseen, plastic and polystyrene are eaten or absorbed by aquatic life and accumulate, making their way into the food we eat, even in plants! Over 90 per cent of seabird species have been found to consume plastic, which just shows how serious a global issue this is.

As an ocean-focused organisation, we are increasingly seeing waterways and estuaries suffering from a range of negative impacts, including pollution from a variety of sources. There is a very real, urgent need for local communities to band together and work towards

protecting our rivers, which serve as the lifeblood of our ocean.

Fortunately, there are a range of incredible champions in the Byron Shire who have stepped up to help us improve the health of the Brunswick River.

Southern Cross Credit Union is a business partner with PCFML on this project. The group is now focused on phase II of the project, which will survey a greater length of the river to build a more holistic, ecological understanding of the health of the river. This phase of the project was made possible with funding from partners, including Patagonia, Byron Shire Council, The Byron Bay Brewery and the Australian Government.

To view PCFML's State of Marine Debris report, visit www.pcfml.org.au.

■ Dane Marx is from PCFML.

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LINNAEUS – Council betrays community ‘Right to Know’

Should the community know if a major land zoning change is made, especially when it impacts highly significant and rare coastal biodiversity?

After extensive research and a Formal Complaint, it's now apparent Byron Shire Council staff made a planning decision for a zone change without ensuring that councillors and the community were informed. Without information, the community can't comment, oppose and advocate.

After being respectfully patient via the confidential complaints process, it's time the community were informed. As a former mayor and NSW MLC, this is the one of the most disturbing planning outcomes I've encountered.

Council's disregard for the community's right to know is a betrayal of trust and fair process.

Brief history of Linnaeus

Since the 1980s, the 111 ha Broken Head land parcel known as the Linnaeus Estate has been the subject of controversial development proposals, including Broken Head Coastal Foundation and The Academy. This amazing site is located near the Broken Head Nature Reserve and adjoins a wild beach. It's biodiversity values include Vulnerable and Endangered species with wetlands and Littoral Rainforest. Since the eighties it's been zoned specifically for education.

Community activism since the 1980s to protect the precious site has been successful, thanks to the Broken Head Protection Committee, BEACON, and Fast Bucks opposing the various inappropriate proposals, and winning in court. The development of this significant site is in the Public Interest, a point the court has also identified.

In 1998 a court approval for a Private Education Facility was granted. This included a main building, 21 small accommodation cabins and an eight person camping site all with a site limit of 72 people. Many applications to modify eventually led to an increase to 112 people and the cabins enlarged. All approvals have been for education, and the court has determined that the accommodation is ancillary to the primary education use.

In February 2015, the applicants requested a zoning change to Community Title (CT) and parts as Environmental Living. They also claimed that the zone label, 'Education Facility' didn't represent the approved use of 'Private Education Facility'. Council didn't support the rezoning requests but agreed to a zone label change.

In September 2015, a Council report detailed a 'LEP housekeeping' amendment that included a Draft Linnaeus Planning Proposal, with a zone label change from 'Education Facility' to 'Private Education Facility'. Housekeeping amendments are supposed to be minor to correct errors and inconsistencies, not deliver enhanced development rights.

Staff change zoning

Yet when it went on public exhibition, only for 14 days, **in June 2016**, the Linnaeus zoning was inexplicably changed to 'Mixed Use Development' in the exhibited document, without a report to Council and no public notification. No submissions were received because no-one knew. The post exhibition report to Council in August failed to mention the changes that had occurred and it was adopted but was also changed again without any notification to allow tourism before gazettal.

In June 2020, I lodged a formal complaint with BSC for maladministration about this issue and other compliance inconsistencies for the site. I received responses last month.

Council's response, via lawyers, has imposed confidentiality under legal professional privilege, so I've been advised not to make the documents public. It's unclear why council is unwilling to be open and transparent.

In reply, Council's lawyers proposed that staff had changed the zoning under State Planning Department instructions.

This doesn't stack up, and the department advice should've been reported to Council and the community. The Planning Department Gateway Direction (the formal document) didn't specify the label change to 'Mixed Use Development', it just stated that it wouldn't accept the other zoning label, 'Private Education Facility'. The department did make a suggestion for 'Mixed Use', but that doesn't discount the responsibility of staff to advise councillors and the community. If it had been reported, I'm confident the community would've given it the scrutiny it deserved and perhaps rejected the change. The label is obviously too broad.

In response to my complaint, Council ironically say they had to comply with the department's 'advice'. This is erroneous, as recently Council defied the planning department's advice in relation to the Business, Industrial Lands Strategy (BILS). This was at least advised to Council, and the community, via a report.

'Fundamental error'

In July 2019, a proposal to allow Community Title (residential use) for 33 lots was exhibited; it had previously been supported in the Byron Rural Land Use Strategy in 2016. I did submissions opposing both proposals, including the risk of putting lots in the coastal zone. Council has now recognised that the new coastal zone lots are not a responsible planning decision.

Earlier this year, a proposal for a tourism development was made public, it presented a transfer of rights over 11 accommodation cabins to allow 33 tourist cabins.

In April 2020, a Council report admitted that there was a 'fundamental error' with the relabelling of the site to 'Mixed Use Development'. They didn't realise that it would allow Community Title and also allow tourism without any further public input.

Good governance?

The planning process is stacked against the environment and community. While it favours developers, that doesn't deter the Byron Shire community. We have a right to engage, and sometimes we win, but we need to know. Byron Shire is an outstanding example of community participation and activism to protect and preserve what's precious.

Council is now proceeding with the 'fundamental error' and my questioning of the process has been 'explained' away as 'staff complying with a state planning requirement'.

Betrayal of trust

My complaint was advised to the General Manager and all councillors. Not one councillor has contacted me about it and I'm not sure they understand the betrayal that has occurred. I don't know if an explanation has been provided or they just dismiss my concerns.

I do wonder how many other circumstances there could be where decisions have been made that don't meet the 'open and transparent' and 'public participation' model that Council purports to represent. As this is historical there are no legal rights to challenge.

It appears Council no longer respects the values that are 'Byron'; for 'open and transparent' processes and the community's right to know, so we can activate and comment.

***Disclaimer:** Broken Head is my home and I've spent decades trying to protect it, I've been doing submissions on this development for 22 years. It's a significant place and deserves protection, not commercial exploitation. It's in the Public Interest to protect and preserve.*

 Jan Barham

Smart water options needed, not new dams, say new group

A new alliance, WATER Northern Rivers, has launched its inaugural campaign for smart water options, as opposed to the construction of the proposed Dunoon Dam.

The launch at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre coincides with the start of National Water Week, with its message 'Let's re-imagine our water future'.

The alliance says that the dam proposal is out of touch with advice from water experts.

A recent report called *All Options On The Table* from Water Services Association

of Australia (WSAA) describes dams as high-risk investments, because they rely on rainfall in a changing climate.

The WSAA says a mix of strategies are needed for water security, including water efficiency.

They say that for resilience in drought, it's better if new supply is independent of rainfall, such as water recycling or desalination.

WATER Northern Rivers say it's not just the WSAA report that points to the need to get past last century's outdated 'big dam' thinking.

In August, the NSW

Productivity Commission released a green paper which recommended 'all options on the table,' including new (non-dam) water sources, and that we improve water system efficiency.

Members of WATER Northern Rivers say that with water experts stressing that we need all options on the table, they are launching their campaign to promote smart water options for our region.

They say the Dunoon Dam is last century's thinking and will destroy precious and rare Big Scrub rainforest and Aboriginal heritage.

Resident groups split over unauthorised dwelling policy

Aslan Shand

With Council extending public submissions by one week for landowners to respond to the draft Unauthorised Dwelling Policy, resident groups appear to be divided on the issue.

'The policy will be applicable to every dwelling in the Shire, rural and urban', councillor Michael Lyon told *The Echo*.

Resident and progress associations across Byron Shire's urban areas say that there has not been much, if any, interest or concern expressed by residents regarding the policy.

Yet Matthew O'Reilly, President of Community Action Byron Shire (CABS),

says there is a big split in the community over it. 'We've had hours of debate on this issue at CABS meetings in the last two months. There is no consensus on it within CABS as some groups think it is a good policy, and some don't,' Mr O'Reilly told *The Echo*.

'On the one hand, there is the inability of the current rate base to meet the infrastructure maintenance and development costs. There is a feeling among some groups that if a lot of unauthorised developments had paid their development fees, then maybe a lot of the infrastructure backlogs, like bad roads etc, would not be as bad.'

'There is a sense that some unauthorised dwellings, not all of them, are taking advantage of the community by not paying their development contributions.'

'On the other hand, there is a legitimate argument that where there are dwellings that have been in place since the 70s and mid-1980s that

these should be given an amnesty. Essentially, that any dwelling prior to 1988, when the first Byron LEP (1988) was gazetted, should be given an amnesty. The focus should be on all buildings built since 1988'.

Make a submission

Councillor Michael Lyon meanwhile said, 'I would urge residents from all areas in the Shire who wish to have input into the policy to submit their comments, feedback and suggestions in time for Council to consider them as part of the formulation of the policy'.

While the focus has been on the potential impact of the policy in Main Arm as a result of Council staff sending out 34 roboletters to landowners in that area, president of Main Arm Rural Resident Association (MARRA) Duncan Dey said, 'I urge dwellers in all areas to look at www.marra2482.org for advice on submissions'.

Unauthorised dwelling advice provided by Council staff

Paul Bibby

Byron Council has provided a degree of clarity on the question of how its unauthorised dwellings policy will apply to the many buildings built in the Shire before formal planning laws were introduced.

The policy generated considerable controversy last month, when 34 Main Arm landowners received a curt 'show cause' letter informing them that their homes or secondary dwellings were 'unauthorised developments'.

One source of the consternation was the fact that some of the dwellings in question were built prior to the introduction of formal planning schemes, meaning that there was no opportunity for approval at the time of construction.

As the issue continues to boil away in the hinterland, Main Arm Rural Residents Association (MARRA) member Matthew Lambourne sought clarity on this question at last week's planning and development meeting.

'What legislation, if any, required Council approval for rural dwellings built prior to 1968, what form did such approval take, and what records does Council have of any such approvals?' Mr Lambourne asked during the public access section of the meeting.

Council's Director of Sustainable Environment and Economy, Shannon Burt, said Byron Council had developed its own planning scheme in the 1960s.

'In order to determine whether a use was lawfully commenced, a landowner, or Council, needs to look at precisely what were the first planning controls that were in place for a particular area; when and where they were in place', Ms Burt said.

'Where a use predates the earliest planning scheme for an area, it's likely there was no form of approval required to commence or establish that use.'

Evidence required of continuity of use

'A landowner in these circumstances - and this is the case we find in the Shire - needs to provide evidence of continuity of use or intention to continue the use by way of a statutory declaration from someone with direct knowledge of the facts of the particular building.'

'That could be a neighbouring landowner, an existing landowner, or someone who previously owned the property. Again, it depends on the time that the development commenced. That will vary. And it will vary with what level of information we'll require'.

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Affected preschool all but ignored in large Mullum DA decision

Paul Bibby

Significant amendments to an affordable housing development in Mullumbimby have been approved by Byron Council, despite vehement opposition from a neighbouring preschool.

The changes, passed unanimously at last Thursday's planning meeting, will nearly double the number of parking spaces at the 25-unit housing development, which is located next to the Byron Council offices on Station Street.

The amendments also involve the repositioning of the main roadway into the development.

It is the location of the roadway that has most angered the Mullumbimby Community Preschool, which says it will create health and safety issues for children and staff.

In a statement read out during the public access section of the meeting, the preschool's director, Diane Davison, said the close proximity of the driveway to the preschool's playground would subject the children to carcinogenic diesel fumes.

'Diesel fumes, which have been identified as a Group 1 carcinogen, will be emitted just centimetres from children's heads as they sit

in the sand play area on the other side of the fence,' Ms Davison said.

She also said there was a risk of a car accidentally coming through the fence and hitting a child or a staff member. 'All of these issues can be mitigated by moving the access road over to the Council car park.'

Risks to children

'If Council and council officers proceed with the

application as planned, you do so with full personal knowledge of the risks to the children,' Ms Davison said.

However, when the matter came up for debate by councillors, the meeting heard that moving the driveway would require major changes to the entire proposal.

'If they were to move the access closer to Council's car park, it would require a complete rewrite', the planner with carriage of the matter,

Ivan Holland, said.

The meeting also heard that, in order for a car to accidentally drive into the preschool, it would have to drive over a wheel stop, through newly planted trees and a fence.

Greens councillor Sarah Ndiaye said, 'It seems from looking at the plans that [moving the roadway closer to the Council car park] would require significant changes to be made.'

Sooner approved, the better, says Greens Councillor

'We've been in an affordability crisis for a long time, but it seems to be getting worse, so the sooner we have this [development] the better.'

'With those added walls and safety measures, it does seem that it will ameliorate a lot of the safety issues that were raised.'

Clarkes Beach to be sandbagged

'Temporary coastal protection works' will be undertaken at Clarkes Beach at Byron Bay, say the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

A press release says, 'Dependent on conditions including the tide, the works will commence the week of October 19 and take up to three weeks to complete.'

Temporary: Dept

The Department continued, 'The sandbagging will provide temporary protection

for the Byron Bay Beach Cafe, until its operation on Crown land at the site can be reconfigured to provide a longer-term solution, including a phased retreat from the current advancing coastal erosion if required.

'The Department is working closely with Byron Shire Council, the cafe leaseholder, and other authorities, to ensure public safety is maintained and that the environmental and heritage values of this important site are protected.'

Sport event organisers fined \$5,000 for COVID-19 breaches

Police say they issued 20 Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) following a number of alleged breaches of Ministerial Directions under the Public Health Act across the state last weekend.

Locally, officers from Richmond Police District say they were 'conducting duties' at a sports ground at Ballina on Saturday, when they 'became

concerned about the increasing crowd numbers.'

'Police observed that people were not being counted as they entered the ground and after it was estimated that more than 1,000 were in attendance, event organisers were directed to reduce the crowd size.'

Police added a \$5,000 PIN was then issued.

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A secret meeting and that \$78m funding application

Hans Lovejoy

Answers to questions raised by Cr Basil Cameron regarding a secret meeting and a \$78m funding application by staff to a federal agency to upgrade the M1 highway interchange at Byron Bay have been answered by Council's Director Infrastructure Services, Phil Holloway.

Yet, as to be expected, his answer raises more questions than were answered.

Mr Holloway's lengthy reply is included in the minutes of Council's October 15 planning meeting, which are available online.

As recently reported, Cr Basil Cameron told *The Echo* that an application to Infrastructure Australia (IA) was made by executive staff without the knowledge of Council's Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Committee. The implications – and its cost to taxpayers – are enormous, as it seeks to lock funding into a traffic solution without seeking all transport outcomes.

Cr Cameron says it comes at a cost that is similar to Council's annual budget.

'\$78 million is a lot to spend on a proposal so poorly supported by data... We need to transition to sustainable transport systems that meet the needs of our community.'

Transport Strategy yet to be adopted

Mr Holloway's reply admits, 'There is no single specific resolution' relating to staff secretly pursuing the road upgrade funding; however, he justifies not informing the public of the application owing to 'multiple reports, resolutions, strategic planning workshops, and email responses to



Council's General Manager (GM), Mark Arnold

questions from Councillors that address this issue.'

There also appears to be a planning inconsistency surrounding the decision, with it being made without adopted policies in place.

For example, the *Draft Byron Shire Transport Strategy* is currently with Transport for NSW, and is 'not inconsistent with the expression of interest to Infrastructure Australia'.

Yet Mr Holloway also admits in the same sentence: 'there is no presently adopted Transport Strategy'.

August meeting

According to Mr Holloway's reply, general manager Mark Arnold met with Ben Franklin MLC (Nationals) in August with to discuss traffic congestion at the M1 and MR545 interchange.

Mr Franklin, who is not the elected local MP, confirmed with *The Echo*, 'Council raised the traffic congestion issue with me and advised that they were making the submission'.

It is still unclear why Council staff did not invite the elected local member, Greens MP Tamara Smith, to the meeting. Ms Smith is on the Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

Subsequently, Mr Franklin told *The Echo* he, 'offered to write a letter of support,



Council's Director of Infrastructure Services, Phil Holloway

which I am always happy to do for any Council in the region to support projects that they believe are important for the local community'.

Mr Franklin did not answer the questions: 'Are you concerned that Council staff are ignoring elected community representatives, have engaged in background political lobbying, and ignored transparent processes with regards to major infrastructure funding?'

And, 'Were you aware this meeting was to the exclusion of elected community representatives?'

Meanwhile, Cr Cameron asked, in one of his questions to Mr Holloway, 'Why has Byron Shire Council endorsed a proposal largely driven by a TfNSW study, with a limited study area and no analysis of what this will mean for Byron Bay and the Ewingsdale corridor beyond the study area? Why was no independent assessment undertaken?'

Mr Holloway replied, 'As part of the stage one submission to Infrastructure Australia, Council was required to quantify the problem to demonstrate that it is nationally significant (the current definition of a problem of national significance is a threshold value of \$30 million per annum). The study provided by TfNSW



Ben Franklin MLC (Nationals) lost the Ballina seat in 2019 to incumbent Tamara Smith MP

contained the latest data available to Council, and as a result, its data was used for the Business Cost Analysis'.

GM delegation

Asked by Cr Cameron what resolution of Council authorises the preparation and submission of the application to IA, Mr Holloway replied, 'The General Manager of Byron Shire Council possesses the delegation to authorise a stage one submission'.

Echo question of apology rejected

The Echo put it to the general manager that the reply from Director Infrastructure Services, Phil Holloway, 'indicates that the general manager has a free rein, through delegation, to engage in secret political lobbying

and ignore transparent processes, the community that employs him and the elected body that is tasked with making decisions regarding the future direction of the community'.

The Echo asked, 'Given the general manager Mark Arnold and Mr Holloway have clearly breached the trust of the community that employs them, what will the GM do to ensure that this doesn't happen again?'

'Will the GM apologise to the community for this? This follows on from other bungling of major infrastructure projects, including the Byron Bay Bypass'.

A reply from Council's media spokesperson reads, 'All staff, including the General Manager, are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct. Your assertions concerning the conduct of the General Manager and the Director Infrastructure Services are rejected in their entirety'.

According to the *Code of Conduct Staff Policy 2019* (General Conduct Obligations), 'You must not conduct yourself in a manner that: a) is likely to bring the council or other council officials into disrepute, b) is contrary to statutory requirements or the council's administrative requirements or policies, c) is

improper or unethical.

Staff are also required to 'act lawfully and honestly, and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out your functions under the LGA or any other Act. (section 439)'.

Cr Cameron: staff reply lacks clarity

Independent councillor Basil Cameron told *The Echo* of Mr Holloway's reply, 'Lengthy answers were provided on discussions within Council about Ewingsdale Road, going back to 2012; however, answers regarding the recent application focussed on the Pacific Highway interchange lacked clarity.'

'It is a concern that Mr Franklin's letter was addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister for an application to Infrastructure Australia, a body that is supposed to be independent.'

'Given the price tag on the application, one thing is clear: park and ride and multi-use of the rail corridor must be part of a financially and environmentally sustainable solution. It is time for all local and state representatives to acknowledge community aspirations, and get involved in making this vision a reality.'

Byron rail trail vote this Thursday

A push for the Bayshore Drive to Tyagarah section of Byron Shire's disused railway to become a wildlife corridor and rail trail will be voted upon at this Thursday's Council meeting.

Nationals-aligned councillor, Alan Hunter, says of his Notice of Motion, 'This section could be made a valuable link for wildlife from west to east and provide an appealing 10km walking circuit for visitors and residents using the

existing public access along Quarry Lane to the rail corridor, to Bayshore Drive and back to Ewingsdale'.

While Tweed and Richmond Valley Councils are forging ahead with removing rail for rail trails, Byron councillors are exploring multi-use (light rail and rail trail) options.

Cr Hunter says, 'While we continue to include the train component in the corridor, we will find difficulty with

funding. It may be achievable, but no-one is likely to fund or invest in something they don't believe will deliver a worthwhile benefit. We didn't have enough passengers or freight using the train to justify it 16 years ago, and that is not likely to have changed'.

The comments come despite the Northern Rivers Railway Action Group pointing to a 10,000-strong petition calling for the return of rail. ► See page one story

Luxury Talofa cabins approved by councillors

Paul Bibby

A holiday cabin development in Talofa will go ahead with half the number of parking spaces the developer requested, after Byron Council granted conditional approval last week.

Talofa Palms – on 533 Bangalow Road – will now involve six cabins (not eight), each with two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a plunge pool.

Greens Mayor, Simon Richardson, said, 'I think minimising car parking is a good thing – I'm a bit sick of putting parking spaces at the front and centre of every development that comes before us'.

'If I go to any Reflections holiday caravan park, I get one car spot, and if there's an extra person with me who has a car, then they park in a visitor space.'

'It means you can landscape more effectively, and

just generally soften things.' As part of the project, the developer has agreed to implement a vegetation management plan involving restoration of the Byron Creek riparian corridor through the centre of the property.

To ensure the restoration work is actually carried out, a condition from last week's meeting states that the primary elements of it must be completed prior to the issue of an occupation certificate.



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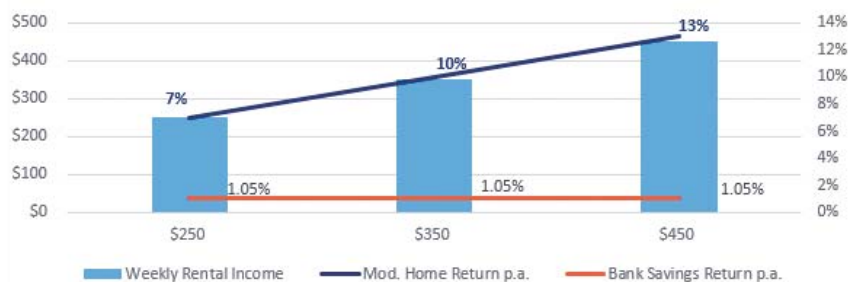
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Why we should spare that tree

Measures to protect koala habitat have been diluted by the NSW government following a National Party campaign backed mainly by developers fearing the impact of tree preservation on their profits.

Erysichthon, son of King Triopas of Thessaly, was no respecter of the gods. The only thing he respected was money, and for money he had not just respect, but what seemed to his fellows to be an insatiable hunger.

One day, while out hunting, he came across a magnificent oak tree. It stood twice as tall and wide as the other trees in the forest and it was sacred to the goddess Demeter. Her dryads would dance, so it was said, in the clearing beside the oak, and her human devotees had hung garlands on its branches in honour of the wishes Demeter had fulfilled for them.

What Erysichthon saw, however, was a splendid place to build a banqueting hall. The clearing could be enlarged by cutting down the oak, and its timber could be used for the building. In his experience trees were often in the way of his plans, but they could be resources for them too, so Demeter's oak would save him money twice over. The extra space would also give him room to house his horses and chariots.

When he brought a crew of axemen to the oak, people were so upset they formed a protective circle around the tree with their bodies. The axemen hesitated to start their work but Erysichthon grabbed an axe and swung it at Demeter's supporters. When they gave way he took the blade to the trunk of the oak and ordered his workers to do the same.

When the tree fell with a great rending roar the forest became lighter for a moment as the canopy was broken. Then it became darker as the figure of Demeter collected in the air and towered over Erysichthon.

'For this deed I condemn you to perpetual hunger,' said the goddess, summoning the scrawny hag who sits in men's bellies when the harvest fails, and who sucks the flesh from women and children in time of famine. Obeying her antithesis, the bounteous Demeter, Hunger crept down Erysichthon's throat like a locust.

Immediately he felt ravenous and returned to his palace for a feast. But no matter how much Erysichthon ate he could not assuage his hunger. He went from three, to five, to nine meals a day but it didn't help. Soon he was consuming food continuously from morning till night, and then throughout the night without sleep. He squandered all his wealth and used up all his credit, but still his need for food increased.

When there was no money left in the royal exchequer, Erysichthon took to the streets like a beggar and haunted the town's middens and refuse tips, cramming all kinds of filth into his insatiable stomach. The last time the people of Thessaly saw him, he had gnawed off one of his arms and was squatting on a dung heap chewing at his feet.

David Lovejoy, *Echo* co-founder

Gladys: a portrait in failing the pub test

The most remarkable thing about the revelation of Gladys Berejiklian's love life was that it was remarkable at all.

It is quite incredible that every person in the Macquarie Street bubble – government, opposition, staff, journalists, lobbyists, innocent bystanders – was completely oblivious to the fact that once the day's work was over, the premier and her paramour would regularly go off for a bit of bonking in the background.

The New South Wales parliament is a seething cesspit of rumour and gossip, constantly skimmed in the hope of finding even a breath of scandal that can provide material for political advantage or just to make a good story in the dining room or the bar.

Secrecy is a non-starter, discretion unheard of. And yet apparently there was not even a hint that this sexiest of yarns was all but being hand-delivered to the hundreds who walked past it every day.

And while the press gallery was uninterested, others at least had a suspicion that something was going on.

In Daryl Maguire's electorate of Wagga Wagga some of his constituents speculated that their local member might be getting a bit on the side during his trips to Sydney, although they never dreamt he was going all the way to the top, and how intense it had become.

This was not a one night stand, a quick grab at a bit of rough trade after a hard day at the office, it was, as Berejiklian and the Independent Commission Against Corruption agreed to call it, a close personal relationship – but not an intimate one, not a partnership; because that would have embroiled the premier in her own code of conduct. Even there she was being watchful and cautious.

But obviously not cautious enough once the two of them got together in what they hoped was privacy. While the media missed the long-standing affair for more than five years, the ICAC uncovered it with speed and efficiency; Berejiklian was not only raunchy but rash, not only embracing Daryl Maguire's body, but tolerating, if not encouraging, his highly questionable morals.

And seeing as no one knew – or at least wanted to know – there was no one to warn her that she was walking the finest of lines between her personal and

public life. She was aware – she must have been aware – that her lover was a chancer and a 'wide boy', long before he was sprung by the Commission. But she chose to ignore the reality, even after it became devastatingly public.

She is not Saint Gladys, some kind of immaculate conception, as her over-the-top supporters are now trying to portray her



Mungo MacCallum

Such was her self-assurance – her ego, her arrogance – that she believed that she could remain aloof from his shenanigans, although he constantly paraded them in front of her. Whatever she precisely meant by the disclaimer 'I don't need to know about that bit' it could hardly be taken as a declaration of Maguire's probity and innocence.

And this is where she fails the pub test. No one is accusing her of anything more than insouciance – there is no suggestion that she got herself further involved than listening to his delusional boasting. But she could have, and should have, stopped him. Even if she was unwilling to report him to the ICAC, encouraging him – continuing the close personal relationship – was simply unacceptable.

And it is clear that Maguire thought there was still potential profit in keeping her on the hook – introducing her to shysters and spivs, handing out her private contacts to his clients, trying to pique her interest in his dodgy enterprises. And the besotted premier never told him to just shut up and piss off.

Berejiklian is a successful politician, a competent premier; Scott Morrison called her his gold standard, which is probably fair enough given the bin full of cardboard cutouts he has to work with in his own ministry. But she is not Saint Gladys, some kind of immaculate conception, as her over-the-top supporters are now trying to portray her.

She has stuffed up, and not just in her choice of lovers. Her political judgement has frankly been appalling. And worse, she is utterly unrepentant. A cursory apology, a brief expression of

regret – but no admission that she has actually done anything wrong, or that there is a need for restraint and reform.

So presumably there won't be any. She has no intention of resigning, and her Liberal colleagues are too cowed to do anything more than mumble in backrooms. Maguire will bluster his way through the ICAC and Berejiklian will bluster her way through the parliament.

And the long-suffering public will wonder anew why there always seem to be different rules, different standards, between the elite and the rest of us.

The smarties don't take the law seriously – it is a game to be played with lawyers and loopholes, the aim of which is to win at all costs, none of the namby pamby nonsense of waiting for the captain to smite contestants on the shoulder and remind them to 'Play up! Play up! and play the game!'

Maguire was blatantly corrupt and he knew it – the excruciating details being teased out at the ICAC make that horribly clear. But he had no compunction in pushing past the limits. Who needs ethics & co when you have protection at the highest level of government? Maguire was quite literally in bed with the premier. From his perspective, that made him invulnerable.

And while Berejiklian was determined to keep herself at arm's length, to turn a blind eye, she could not avoid being drawn into what is delicately called a climate conducive to corruption. Whether she admits it or not, she was irrevocably entangled in the net. Maguire and his cronies obviously believed that if they pushed hard enough, favours would fall their way.

As far as we know they didn't. And thanks to the ICAC, there is no risk of them doing so. The ICAC does not, and should not, make and enforce laws; that is for the elected politicians. Its role is to expose corruption, and in this case it has been spectacularly successful.

Tough on Gladys Berejiklian, whose reputation – if not her career – has suffered collateral damage.

But undeniably in the public interest. Which is why Scott Morrison and his coterie are so unwilling to allow any such body within arm's length of the federal government.

The national interest seldom coincides with their own.

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Dredging for beaches

Changes in inshore currents, more water, high tides and rough seas have had a damaging effect on some of our beaches. Beaches have been scoured out, up and down the east coast. The northern sides of points, especially in the corners like at Clarkes Beach or Broken Head have really copped it. The foredunes and trees on them have been washed into the sea. It's a complicated thing involving many variables.

When they decided to dredge sand from the Tweed Bar and drop it below Pt Danger, it drifted around to Snapper and onwards creating the Super Bank as a by-product! Those beaches are quite stable now after years of adjusting the amounts of sand being pumped according to the conditions. I'm not going to suggest we do anything on that scale!

Our beaches are beautiful and valuable assets and there's a lot of valuable infrastructure and businesses affected by the beach erosion as well. Surely it's ridiculous for us just let it all go! Rock walls, sandbag walls, and erosion control structures spoil beaches and often have a deleterious effect on other beaches further along.

I'm suggesting a small-scale experimental dredging operation. It's possible to drill a pipeline from the cliff base of the Cape below the lighthouse and run it to Watagos. Sand dredged a little way out from the Cape could be pumped to the outlet at Watagos. If this was done sensitively and turned off when not needed, we could stabilise our beaches and we may even see the turtles who used to nest here return again.

Some folk may object because the little inner reefs would be covered with sand, but if the sand pumping wasn't overdone it should be possible to get these beaches back to normal - as they were when I was a kid. Food for thought anyway.

Warwick Anderson
Suffolk Park

Silence stokes fears

More than one month ago Victims of Holiday Letting (VOHL) made a written query to NSW Planning Minister, Mr Rob Stokes.

An extract: 'It has been more than one year since



Cartoon Gary Cavanagh - Instagram: @gary_cavanagh

submissions for the Discussion Paper "Short Term Rental Accommodation A New Regulatory Framework" closed on 11 September, 2019. These submissions have not been publicly released.

'On page 4 of this Discussion Paper it states "All submissions will be made publicly available. Government is required by law to release that information".

'Further, it states "It is also a statutory requirement that all submissions are provided to the Legislative Review Committee of Parliament". Has this legislative requirement been undertaken?

'Submissions to the first public exhibition "Explanation of Intended Effect STRA Planning Framework" closed on 16 November, 2018. Submissions were made public within two months of this date.

'I am seeking an explanation as to why there has been an inordinate delay in publication of these submissions and the future date that this oversight will be corrected.'

At the time of writing this letter, submissions have still not been published. Neither Mr Stokes, nor his ministerial staff have responded to the query. Department of Planning staff confirmed that the submissions had been sent to Mr Stokes some time previously.

VOHL is perplexed about why the submissions have not been published, as required by law. Publication should not have been delayed by the pandemic.

Could it be that the NSW government is concealing something? Perhaps it is the

reported submission from Fire and Rescue NSW that was critical of the proposed Fire Safety standard in the policy.

Is this another example of a lack of transparency from the NSW government?

Doug Luke
VOHL

Astronomy & zodiac

Geographically, the naming of clusters of stars helped humans to navigate at night, and also locate an individual star in a certain part of the sky.

The twelve star clusters on the ecliptic, which is the path our sun appears to follow, are known as the zodiac. Zodiac is a Greek word, however, one of the earliest zodiacs is at Dendera, Egypt, recorded over 4,000 years ago. In Hebrew the zodiac is called Maz-zaroth, which is mentioned in Job, the earliest book in the Bible.

Incredibly, in almost all cultures, the zodiac is the same (how on Earth did that happen?). Most of us know the signs; Sagittarius is the archer, Cancer the crab, Gemini the twins, etc. However, if you look at the night sky, it's impossible to see these pictures by looking at each constellation (try and see).

So where did these pictures come from (note: this is not astrology but astronomy)? Did they come from a story? Each star has a name and a meaning (according to their brightness), forming a story. The pictures may have been mnemonics to help us remember.

Ancient cultures have

created their own mythology, but the story of origin is the one underlying the zodiac (search and see). Someone suggested this story begins at Virgo (virgin), because the Sphinx has the head of a woman and points due east, and, that it ends with Leo, as the Sphinx has the body of a lion. Sphinx means 'bind together' or 'squeeze'.

Maybe the stars aren't about us, but someone awesome, kind, and infinite?

Peter Duke
Suffolk Park

Stolen money

If banking legislation gets the 'Yes' vote this November in Australia, the banks will be able to steal your money, legally, out of your account and use your money to prop themselves up, and support their risky financial practices.

Your money will no longer be safe in any bank in Australia, if this legislation gets approved.

In addition, banks will be

able to limit cash withdrawals to \$10,000, meaning that you won't be able to rescue your own money by taking it out of your account.

Hate to frighten you all, but this scares the pants off me!

Since the Global Financial Crisis this legislation has already gone through in other countries, such as Greece, where people have had half their life savings stolen out of their accounts - legally - by the banks.

You can help this legislation to be voted out in Australia by signing the petition at www.citizenparty.org.au. The petition also calls for a safeguarded savings bank, just like in the good ole days of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

This dreadful legislation is being presented to Parliament in November, so your signature on this petition now is vital.

You can also write to your local Member of Parliament Tamara Smith, MP at: ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Ann Carter
Mullumbimby

Secret roads

I was interested to read in *The Echo* (7 October) about the Council staff approach to Infrastructure Australia for funding to upgrade Ewingsdale Road. I was particularly interested in Cr Basil Cameron's and State Member Tamara Smith's comments and opinions on preference for Park and Ride schemes, and on their being left out of the planning discussions.

Firstly, I feel, on Park and Ride that Council lost credibility on such a scheme when they failed to interact positively with Elements

Resort when the train service from Sunrise to Byron was established. This was a perfect opportunity to trial Park and Ride without too much expense to ratepayers, but Council could not even manifest an appropriate parking area for those wishing to use the service, or provide signs indicating where and how to use Park and Ride, or manage a workable arrangement with Elements Resort.

Secondly, though I understand that it is reasonable to expect that they would be informed about the plan, Tamara Smith's and, particularly, Basil Cameron's comments clearly bagging the road upgrade seems to answer the question of why they weren't asked.

Gyan Moyes
Tyagarah

Sewage treatment

I can understand Alan Dickens frustration with the failings of the operations of the multi-million dollar Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). I suspect that he knows more about how to operate these new STPs effectively than the management experts responsible for these plants.

Council could do a lot worse than seek his proven expertise based on his effective operation of the old overloaded 'battleship' STPs for over 26 years working for Council, especially the old South Byron STP. He was transferred there by the then executive works and services engineer, Keith Disher to solve the ammonia exceedances which were, at that stage, breaching EPA licence requirements. Alan solved that problem for Council,

► Continued on next page

Letters to the Editor

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

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5G – a ‘giant leap’ or just the way of the future?

■ For Helena Norberg-Hodge, rejecting 5G is a ‘no brainer’ (14 October). Apparently, 5G is a technological ‘giant leap’ aimed at speeding things up, taking our jobs, and enhancing the dominance of the one per cent.

But what, I wonder, is an appropriate level of technology? And how might we unscramble the egg? These are complex dilemmas, not ‘no brainers’.

Is the 4G network, through which I just accessed her Local Futures website (via, heaven forbid, the internet), okay? What about 3G? 2G?

Perhaps another Luddite rebellion will unite us. We’ll tear digital society down, revert to analogue, and Helena can disseminate her views via fax. That’s fine, I have a bicycle, a few cassette tapes and a bit of vinyl.

Dave Lisle
Goonengerry

■ Doesn’t the word ‘consultation’ imply a two-way street – or is it just a one-way trip to the rubbish bin? No one answers the phone or email when invited to consult re 5G in the Shire.

This leaves unanswered questions: If 5G can’t penetrate human skin, how does it penetrate the walls of a house? Can you really have it both ways? How many native trees must be cut to enable 5G transmissions?

What would it take to leave Mullumbimby 5G free? If people suffer proven damages from this installation, who is then legally accountable? Surely it’s irresponsible

► Continued from page 13 which was inadequate aeration, that no Council sewer engineer had been able to identify.

Time for Council to bite the bullet, fix the inflow infiltration problem, stop forcing these STPs to treat stormwater, and stop polluting our aquifer.

Jim Mangleson
Ocean Shores

Albo’s outstanding

In reply to a great letter from Helen Cust (7 October), she must have had an insight into Albo’s budget reply speech, when he highlighted the appalling misrepresentation, (and outright lies) the coalition has been perpetrating about Kevin Rudd’s Labor government’s successful fiscal handling of the Global

Financial Crisis.

Albo delivered an outstanding budget reply speech, pointing out all the usual marketing spin by the PM: the usual heavily weighted tax cuts towards the wealthy that almost completely ignored older workers and, most of all, women in the workforce. Analysis from the National Centre for Social and Economic modelling in Canberra, on Morrison’s budget, show that high-income households will receive up to 10 times more in tax cuts than low-income households.

Not just prepared to criticise Morrison’s recession and economic mishandling, resulting in record debt and deficit, Albo went to great lengths to outline a real plan for Australia. He outlined

to proceed without answering that question? If no one is accountable, that’d be grounds for halting any project. Assuming folks are worried for no reason and you reveal the entity accountable, which insurance company covers them for damages to their health? If it’s as safe as their marketing claims, insurance companies would be lining up to take their money.

If 5G allows downloads of HD films in two seconds, does that mean cyber attackers can download the contents of your PC in 15? How will this consultation affect outcomes? Just asking...

Sometimes a small town just wants to be a little town. **Michael Stav**
Mullumbimby

■ The Luddites are back. I read, with a distinct lack of enthusiasm, comments attributed to Richard, Trip A Deal CEO, who points out that ‘our internet already works fine here...’ (14 October). Hardly surprising since, as I understand it, his organisation has a dedicated fibre optic connection via which they remain in contact with the rest of the universe!

Less fortunate is my business activity and those of many others in the Shire who live with a motley mix of Telstra 4G, NBN wireless, and string-and-can connections, etc and, in my case, a long copper wire connecting me from a hill above Possum Creek to the world outside.

Without reprising remarks made in my previous letter to you, this pandemic (yes it’s not just a few extra people

catching flu this year), this prompted a sudden and mass shifting of business activity to home office operation and, at the same time, cloud-based IT activity, and has resulted in a huge extra volume of traffic which the present systems were clearly not prepared for.

It’s also worth reminding the passionate opponents of the 5G rollout that the area we are currently discussing is an INDUSTRIAL Estate – not a residential/commercial precinct. Our developing liveliness as a growing, vibrant, centre of IT and commercial activity (much of which has been priced out of the Byron CBD by exorbitant rents) is potentially threatened by a lack of the sort of connectivity the Telstra expansion offers.

Graham Mathews
Possum Creek

■ I was mildly amused by *The Echo’s* front page headline on October 14, ‘Byron’s turn to fight Telstra’s 5G plans.’ What? Everybody in Byron Shire is fighting? I looked for the ‘balanced reporting’ to read comments from the Byron person who likes the idea of 5G but didn’t see it.

This week the headline reads, ‘5G-free activists step up pressure on Telstra.’ The first sentence is ‘Strong resistance is growing from the business community’ near a 5G upgrade, yet the last paragraph indicates this came from a poll conducted by an organisation saying the businesses ‘did not support 5G.’

There is no comment

regarding what the 5G problems may be or indeed any benefits of 5G. Or any quote from the World Health Organisation or the 50 countries using 5G.

Or better still, from anybody around the presently operating 5G tower in Byron’s Arts and Industry Estate who live and work there, about and 5G-caused health issues.

The quote from Telstra that 5G is similar to 3 and 4G, and that Telstra takes community health seriously seems to disappear in the opinions of the complainants.

Clare, ‘mother of four’, has a husband who says that, ‘We didn’t ask for it and we don’t need it,’ a rationale that could be applied to the invention of the car, aeroplane, or the internet. Clare says the ‘towers can have potentially catastrophic health outcomes for us, and the entire ecosystem,’ providing an emotive, generalised opinion with no facts; perhaps even encompassing the known universe.

I say the towers look ugly but perform a necessary function for these times – like roads, sewers, and cities.

I am concerned at the number of diesel vehicles emitting particulate, and petrol cars emitting carbon monoxide and other poisonous gasses near schools where young children spend their days.

I suggest the ‘activists’ do something about the poisoning of our air, and stop banging on about 5G.

Raphael Lee Cass
Byron Bay

that, under Labor, Australia would become more self-sufficient in manufacturing, ensure lower income families are not continually left behind – by promising to fix expensive childcare for good, and address the appalling understaffing of aged care due to coalition underfunding and mismanagement. A long overdue plan for Australia’s transition to renewable energy by updating the national electricity grid was also laid out.

Alan Veacock
Cumbalum

Rum Corp runs NSW

It’s planned to spend \$78m of taxpayers’ money to move the traffic congestion, dangerously banking up at the Byron Bay exit of the M1 further up Ewingsdale Road

(7 October). Add the \$24m cost of the Byron bypass, which bypasses the train station in town, and the \$5.7m roundabout, and the cost so far to try and keep the traffic flowing into Byron – not reduce it – is a massive \$107.5m spent on just six kilometres of road.

Repairing three kilometres of train line running alongside this road cost less than \$2m for a train service. Which means the remaining 9 kilometres of line into Mullumbimby could be repaired, and trains running, for less than \$6m.

The state government and their dodgy spin doctors, with their equally dodgy ‘studies’, keep telling people that getting trains running on 132km of the Casino to

► Continued on page 20

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Effluent for Belongil Creek or a sustainable blueprint for Belongil recovery?

David Pont

The Belongil Estuary discussion, to date, has raised questions about what happens next as we move towards a decision in the next year or two on replacing or upgrading the sewage treatment plant (STP), and how to manage the treated effluent after 2025. The major issue with the effluent is the increasing quantity, the daily load of water via Byron Bay's population, and its impact on a relatively small waterway classed as an 'intermittently closed and open lagoon/lake' (ICOLL).

Ocean outfall – what locals want?

Council is currently implementing a project that will further ignore the reuse option and drain effluent down a shorter flowpath to the Belongil, in spite of the legally binding *Effluent Management Strategy*, current until 2025, that has a primary principle of 'sewage or effluent disposal to natural waterways or to the ocean shall be considered only as a last resort'.

How often the Belongil entrance was open before modern times, is a very uncertain thing to define but it is critical in deciding at what point the quantity of effluent becomes problematic. My sense of it is that it depended on long-term weather patterns, with the ocean wave climate and sand movement. One certainty for me is that the estuary should not be artificially opened just to let effluent out, especially in the dry season, but Council's present drain plan makes that virtually certain. It's already been reported the effluent is keeping the entrance open longer because of increasing volumes over the last few years with no increase in reuse.

Exploration of the issue has listed the main options for the next twenty-five year strategy as: increased reuse, dumping in the estuary or the ocean, or 'potable reuse', i.e. reuse back into houses. This is the normal assessment approach. They're all difficult propositions. Much depends as well on whether the community agrees with the proposed increase in development. The 2025 effluent load will be about seven megalitres per day, but with the proposed increase of housing, that would rise to

ten megalitres. How much is a megalitre? Imagine a tank of water ten metres wide by ten metres high.

The discussion can be derailed by speculation and misinterpretation where there's a lack of clarity. My aim here is to provide an evidence-based explanation to help in achieving a sustainable solution with the least amount of conflict. The main source of information comes from the development of the current strategy twenty years ago, with the addition of recent studies. Not much of this is new, except that the current Council and the EPA appear to have abandoned the Belongil to its fate by their current pursuit of sending the effluent load via open drains in the Byron Arts and Industry Estate to the Belongil Creek and the ocean.

In that earlier phase the dumping options were rejected quickly. Farm reuse was supported, but turned out not to be practical at that time. Potable reuse didn't make it into serious consideration, but recent developments suggest it might be looked at again.

Wetland regen

This article examines the wetlands regeneration option. The idea began with the increasing realisation that the fish kills were overwhelmingly the result of acid sulfate soil runoff (ASS), not effluent, stormwater or farm chemicals or other popular explanations.

In 1998 I was recommended by Southern Cross University to do the field work for the Byron Bay Fate of Effluent Study, sampling 27 groundwater bores, plus surface water sites. Consultants did the reporting.

After a couple of months it became clear the effluent wasn't polluting the groundwater, so I was tasked with finding out just where it was going. I worked upstream from the lower catchment, wearing waders and carrying snake bandages. I actually needed a suit of armour against the mosquitoes that love these drains. I found an environmental nightmare: drains full of soupy red water with nothing alive except mozzies, indicating ASS. Then I came upon two small flowpaths with clear water, small native fish, mullet and eels. That was the effluent. I followed it to the STP wetlands. It was, and probably still is, the best quality water in the catchment.



An environmental nightmare: drains full of soupy red water with nothing alive except mozzies, indicating acid sulfate soil. Photo supplied

The need for rehabilitation

The wetlands regeneration proposal is primarily a catchment rehabilitation project focused on bringing the severe ASS pollution under control by re-using treated effluent. ASS runoff works this way; smaller rainfalls cause the acid-generated pollutants to collect in black ooze sediments in the drains and the closed estuary. At a lower temporary opening depth of 1.0 metre under the Estuary Plan, the water flowed out at much lower velocity without picking up all the black ooze, and it deoxygenated the water (this idea was opposed later by consultant scientists who considered there wasn't enough evidence).

We can only look at the results over many years, not just fish kills, but this opposing view would have caused some confusion in Council. As I've previously written, we now have a chance to see what happens; as the opening height has risen again under a new strategy.

More than a fish kill

In some years the Belongil is affected by major floods as rain depressions dump heavy falls, usually following the hot dry spring-summer. Over several days the floods spread out across the low-lying floodplain. Salty estuarine water lapped in these zones 6,000 years ago, and have left their sulfur signature. More recent pasture grasses, and metals like iron and aluminium washed down from the catchment's volcanic soils, combine in a cocktail that drags oxygen out of the water.

A series of chemical phenomena ensue as the still waters warm up and interact with the underlying soils. Acid and dissolved metals rise into the floodwaters, and bacteria quickly break down the pasture grasses. It also

stinks with the off-gassing of sulfides as the bacterial reactions gain momentum.

As the water level falls, the extensive drains start to discharge, and the poison completely fills the estuary. Everything begins to die, right down to the entrance. Fish are gasping, dead prawns float to the surface, yabbies die in their burrows and mud crabs climb up the banks seeking air. These events aren't just 'fish kills'. The entire estuary is wiped out, usually until the dry spring, then the whole process starts again. Research has also found perhaps 25 per cent of surviving fish are affected by Red-Spot Disease, as the acid and metals eat away protective skin slimes. Some have no mouths, no tails or backbones.

This is why reducing the opening height was effective in preventing these events for many years. With the opening depth recently returning towards a higher 1.2 metres there's ten times as much water which runs out at higher velocity, mobilising the sediment, while larger floods are also held in longer and turn septic.

Decoupling the catchment

In concert with the interim opening at a lower depth, the Estuary Management Plan and every document since has defined the need to 'decouple' the catchment from the estuary. Decoupling means a fundamental change in the drainage network on the 1,000 hectares of drained Belongil-Cumbebin wetlands, such that the soils are kept moist or wet, and floods are retained in the mid-upper catchment, as in the natural situation. It can be done with drain blocks, or preferably by filling the drains, and keeping shallow floodways near developed areas to allow big floods safely out.

Reducing CBD floods

This restoration project would not only rehabilitate what is essentially a large contaminated site, using highly treated effluent in an intermittent application cycle to regenerate the wetlands and absorb most of the effluent, but also reduce Byron Bay's flood risk considerably. Many times I've seen the runoff from the western catchment drains pushing floodwaters back up towards town. Regenerating the wetlands, using a site like the proposed West Byron site, would return them to their function as a giant natural sponge, holding the floodwaters in, treating them, then letting them seep out gradually, supplying life-giving natural nutrients to the estuary.

Rejected by landholders

The science around how all this works is well established, but has been rejected by landholders. It should be understood that there's a fundamental conflict between the landholders' desire for dry soil in the grazing season, and the need to wet the soil to control acid generation.

I carried out much of the consultation with landholders for several years. I followed an empathetic and common sense approach, always stating 'nobody should be disadvantaged' in the adjustments in land use that were clearly necessary. Many times we were able to bring independent specialist scientists in to do research. We would dig up the dark soil, with landholders watching, and often it would turn red right in front of our eyes. 'Oh, that's why the drains are red!' 'Oh! That's why the Belongil turns red and all the fish die'.

The *Belongil-Cumbebin Wetlands Restoration Strategy (2005)*, a Catchment Management Authority document (I was co-author), laid out a plan for rehabilitating the catchment, with practical suggestions about where the money would come from. That Strategy, with its \$45k seed funding, was rejected by the Barham Council, with no explanation, but remains today the most valid blueprint for the job.

About 600 hectares of the lowlands are under SEPP 14 or other legal protection, but almost every SEPP 14 wetland has a drain either through it or around it, and is

affected by acid sulfate soils. The remaining 400 hectares are agricultural, used for grazing cattle for about 3–4 months of the year. At that earlier time the average value of poor agricultural land was about \$10,000 per hectare, meaning an up-front purchase cost of about \$4m to buy the proposed 400 hectares outright. I think most of the landholders would have accepted it, considering this large contaminated site is virtually worthless for agriculture, and it's unlikely these low-lying contaminated areas will ever be developed.

We know a lot about the pre-history of the Belongil from several excellent studies of ancient pollen. The lowlands once featured a mix of wetland species following the infilling of the old estuary as soil washed down onto the floodplain. Melaleuca forest, rushes and sedges and bilabongs shifted around over the centuries in response to drier or wetter periods.

Stabilise the ASS

I argue for a re-creation of this ecosystem using known principles of sustainable vegetation, soil and water management, in accord with what we know about the Belongil's history. The encouragement of native aquatic plants and wetland conditions will stabilise the acid soils. These ecosystems can be regenerated through informed water management rather than high cost plantings.

The questions around how much will it cost, and who'll pay, need to be framed in the context of comparing it with the costs of the other effluent options. Also, with the profound question: what's the value of an estuary full of fish?

A new STP, after Council had bought the land, could be approximately \$80m. Farm reuse should be examined, but is likely to be a challenge as well. Council is spending one-and-a-half million dollars on the 'dump it in the Belongil' option. The costs of setting up the wetland regeneration system I suggest are roughly \$2,500 per hectare for the 400 hectares; meaning about a million dollars, including project design, drainage changes, approvals, and revegetation.

The land values constitute the biggest uncertainty in the proposed regeneration project. I recommend outright acquisition and dedication as public land. The money

► continued opposite

NSW Liberals betray koalas and back down to National Party

Aslan Shand

The changes that the National Party have demanded to the Koala SEPP will ensure that koalas are extinct in the wild by 2050, say experts in the field.

The Inquiry into Koala Populations and their Habitat in New South Wales recognised that the 1994 SEPP had failed to adequately protect koalas and their habitat and ‘that the regulatory framework for private native forestry does not protect koala habitat on private land’.

Before the Black Summer fires in 2019/20 northern NSW koala numbers had declined by 50 per cent over the previous 20 years. The Black Summer fires burnt approximately 30 per cent of ‘likely koala habitat’ according to North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).

Yet the NSW Liberal Party have put forward the *Local Land Services Amendment (Miscellaneous) bill 2020* that is not only a massive step backwards for koala protection in NSW, but also removes many other critical environmental protections

on private land, according to Greens MP and Chair of the Inquiry into Koala Populations and their Habitat, Cate Faehrmann.

‘This bill isn’t a ‘compromise’ on the new koala policy. It takes koala protections back 25 years, at a time when we need to be strengthening laws to protect koala habitat. We lost maybe 10,000 koalas in NSW in the Black Summer fires. If this bill passes, the government may as well sign their death warrant,’ said Ms Faehrmann.

‘The updated Koala SEPP has been years in the making, but now all that hard work has been scrapped to appease the National Party and the powerful timber and farming lobbies.’

NEFA spokesperson, Dailan Pugh, says that the ‘NSW government has introduced a bill which, if enacted, will condemn the koala, and many other species, to extinction.’

‘These proposed changes are clearly intended to make the Koala SEPP ineffective and remove most of the few hard won gains made over the past 25 years.’



This koala didn't survive the Black Summer fire in Ellangowan State Forest.

Nature Conservation Council Chief Executive, Chris Gambian, points out that, ‘Nothing in this bill helps ensure koalas survive beyond 2050. But it does mean property developers could bulldoze koala trees without needing an approval.’

Analysis of the bill by the Environmental Defenders Office has found that the bill allows for: unregulated land clearing of koala habitat not already identified in rural areas; the prevention of expanded koala habitat protection on private farmland into the future; and the exemption of Private Native Forestry operations from important development

consents, with their durations doubled from 15 to 30 years.

‘After making a great song and dance about standing up to the Nationals, it seems the NSW Liberals have backed down completely,’ said Evan Quartermain, head of programs at Humane Society International (HSI).

Accountable MPs?

All members of parliament are being called on to use their conscience and vote the bill down.

‘We need to try to convince our local parliamentarians to vote against it (or at least abstain),’ said Mr Pugh.

‘At a time when koala

populations are crashing, with climate change induced droughts and fires decimating survivors, and predictions of extinction in the wild by 2050, it is reprehensible that the Berejiklian government is changing the rules to remove protection for core koala habitat so as to allow it to be logged and cleared indiscriminately,’ says Mr Pugh.

‘The National Party stopped north coast councils from rezoning land for environmental protection in 2012, they stopped the Byron and Tweed Coastal Koala Plans of Management being approved in 2015, and now National Party MP Ben Franklin has promised the Shooters [and Fishers] that “e-zones will not be created in relation to any koala plans of management”.

‘Thanks to the Nationals, councils are not allowed to protect koalas or protect anywhere from logging.’

‘It is the height of

hypocrisy for Byron Bay-based National Party representative on the koala inquiry, Ben Franklin, to find [as part of the Inquiry] that “the regulatory framework for private native forestry does not protect koala habitat on private land” and that it is “unacceptable that land identified as core koala habitat can be cleared because of departmental delays” in approving koala plans, to now to claim in parliament that there is no need to protect core koala habitat from logging and clearing. Ben Franklin needs to be held to account.

‘Conversely his colleague in the koala inquiry, Ballina-based Liberal, Catherine Cusack, needs to be supported in her stance against National Party bullying and encouraged to vote down these draconian measures intended to reverse protections for koalas and hasten their extinction.’

Where to with the Belongil?

► from previous page could be sourced in a number of ways: developer charges, local contributions from sewer rates, and state government grants that would also attract federal funding – as did the first Rehabilitation Project twenty years ago.

In the Restoration Strategy we also suggested ‘development offsets’ used in similar projects elsewhere, such as a landholder might be granted for a small-scale development right for land above the floodplain, in exchange for surrendering title or use over

lowland areas. This option is being implemented in Tweed Shire right now in relation to flood-prone land in an urban area. Carbon sequestration will also become more relevant as the penny drops about how much carbon wetlands can store.

My view today is that the next Council should consider moving directly to invoking the NSW *Just Terms Compensation Act*, an excellent piece of legislation designed for just this kind of situation where a demonstrated overwhelming public interest indicates

transfer to community ownership under a fair and just process. The Act includes provision for both voluntary and non-voluntary transfer. Land values are calculated by the Valuer General.

Last, I quote for spiritual authority, the Byron land custodians – the Arakwal people, from the National Park Plan: ‘Let the creek run out into the ocean and make it clean, running, teatree water...’ During the years I was writing estuary and other management plans and consulting ‘stakeholders’ I was struck by the number of First Nations people I met who understood and talked

about the tea-tree water. It inspired me to research what is actually in this complex water, and to understand that it’s full of life-giving natural nutrients.

We don’t have to be stuck in this antiquated failed system with primitive mosquito-ridden drains, saddled with acid and metals and dead estuaries; but it will take an energised community doing some thinking, coming to a conclusion, talking with councillors, followed by a concerted effort – with good scientific advice that is understandable and makes sense to everyone. ‘...Clean, running, teatree water’.

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OVERWHELMED BY YOUR TREES?

Seek professional wisdom from one of the expert tree spirits in our Service Directory – pages 50–53

Health & Healing

Meet Ryan, Chinese Medicine Doctor

With a Bachelor of Health Science, double major, in both Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine, Ryan works with you to clear, rebalance and harmonise your meridians and organ systems. His main methods of achieving this are through the use of: acupuncture, cupping, moxibustion, gua-sha, body and bone adjustments, and massage. Ryan also specialises in dietary and lifestyle advice, based on a fusion of the Chinese Medicine system and nutritional

science. The list of things that Ryan can assist you with is too long to list here! So please feel free to email or phone him to see how he can assist you. Ryan is registered with AHPRA and a member of AACMA. Private health rebates are available.

73 Stuart St, Mullumbimby
earthheavensoul.com.au
0488 720 172



Changes within Dr Jon Dental

As of November this year, Dr Jon will be retiring from clinical dentistry and passing his patients to the very capable Dr Nigel Cluer of Bangalow Holistic Dental; all records will be available there.

Meanwhile, he will continue to offer the Whole Health sessions, integrating left and right brain consciousness with physical and metaphysical healing; addressing the current energy dynamic implementing an opportunity for wellness and balance in:

- Inflammation and dis-ease (gums and oral health)
- Nutritional and Supplement profiles for regeneration and support

- Fear and past trauma (particularly of the dental experience)
- Second opinion with an OPG

It does not necessarily replace the need for traditional medical care but rather complements any allopathic protocols treating ongoing disease and imbalance

drjondental.com
or text 0411 031 301



Health and Wellbeing at Byron Community College

Byron Community College offers an exciting and diverse range of health and healing courses to support and enhance your health and wellbeing in the workplace and at home. In its Term Four program, the college is offering a combination of online and in-person classes. Look out for Lomi Lomi Massage, Pilates, Lawn Bowls for Beginners, Psychic Development and Healing, and Healthy Mind, Happy Life to name a few.

All face-to-face classes are held within the NSW Health and social distancing guidelines.

Come together with your local community to learn, have fun and make new friends.

Enrolments are now open. For more information and enrolments visit **byroncollege.org.au**, call 02 6684 3374 and join the Byron College newsletter.



Mercato Medical Centre

Mercato Medical Centre is a newly opened, fully operational medical centre with a state-of-the-art procedure room conveniently located in the Mercato building, located above Woolworths and Live Life Pharmacy.

The clinic is open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, with male and female doctors, and with local resident, Dr Michael Ward, available for consultations.

With 4-Cyte Pathology now on-site and Plastic Surgeon, Dr Chandra Patel consulting weekly for skin cancer excisions and minor hand surgery, at Mercato Medical Centre our aim is to provide the highest standard of patient care possible.



Mercato Medical Centre – where your health matters.

Level 1, 108-114 Jonson St, Byron Bay (above Woolworths) | 02 5629 7888
mercatomedicalcentre.com.au

First Light Healthcare

Cape Byron Medical Centre, which recently acquired Holdsworth House Medical Centre, has taken the next step towards creating a vertically integrated, multi-modality healthcare system for the local region, rebranding both centres under the new First Light Healthcare brand.

Managing director Mathew Simpson



says, 'We have been a trusted part of this community for over 40 years, so we don't take a name change lightly, however, as we grow and expand to other parts of the region, we have chosen a name more reflective of our whole offering'.

'The name pays homage to our location as Australia's most easterly point, and reflects our philosophy of preventative, proactive and integrated healthcare.'

First Light Healthcare incorporates general medical, allied and specialists – with day surgery facilities coming soon.

Level 1, 6 Marvell Street,
Byron Bay
6685 6326
flhealthcare.com.au

Fundies Organic Wholefood Market

Founded in 1979, Fundies Market strives to keep the community well with nutritious food and naturopath recommended supplements – no matter where you are on your wellness journey. Inside you'll find fresh, seasonal, certified organic fruit and vegetables, gluten free pasta and bread alternatives, plus organic skincare and a huge vegan food range.

Free naturopathic support is available in-store, offering a mainly plant-based vitamin and supplement range. The team can help guide you in this area, based on your individual needs or what has been prescribed by your own practitioner.

From alternative products, dietary and intolerance advice – or how to look after your skin – they've got you covered. Sourcing food as locally as possible, grown in the earth and touched by the sun.

Fundies.com.au
(02) 6622 2199
140 Keen Street, Lismore



Health & Healing



How to check for skin cancer

Skin cancer can develop quickly. It's important not to rely on an annual skin check or other screening program as your primary detection method. Instead, regularly check your skin, including those areas you rarely expose to the sun. Make sure you have good lighting, and ask someone (or use mirrors) to check the areas you can't see. By getting to know what looks normal for you, you'll

quickly notice if something changes. And if you find anything unusual, get it looked at as soon as possible. The earlier skin cancer is found, the more successful the treatment is likely to be.

Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre has a dedicated skin clinic with experienced doctors. Call 6684 1511 for an appointment.

Byron Bay Detox Retreats goes organic, green and super

The founder of Byron Bay Detox Retreats, Natalie Purcell, has diversified her life's work in purifying others' bodies and minds and facilitating journeys to wellbeing, from health retreats to dietary supplements.

Natalie leads a local team of dedicated health professionals and alternative healing specialists in her signature one-week retreat program, which includes vegetable juice fasting, colonic hydrotherapy, yoga, meditation and much more.

With a bachelor of naturopathy and two decades of experience she's become a leading expert in detoxification and spiritual healing, and understands that a healthy soul begins with a healthy gut.

It's why Byron Bay Detox Retreats has launched Detox Greens, an alkaline blend of antioxidant-rich vegetables, algae and superfoods, specifically formulated to facilitate detoxification.

Find out more at byronbaydetoxretreats.com.au and byronbaydetoxgreens.com.au.



Bangalow Headache Clinic

At Bangalow Headache Clinic they treat headaches and migraines, jaw pain, clicking, grinding and locking, as well as vestibular and dizziness.

Michael has done extensive studies and exams in both Australia and Europe involving the head, neck and jaw. He has completed advanced vestibular competency training with the Northern American leaders in this area.

At Bangalow Headache Clinic they quite often find an overlap between headache and dizziness and/or headache and jaw problems. They possess the expertise to resolve these difficult problems.

If you experience jaw pain, locking or clicking, headaches, migraines or vertigo call them on 0475 757 510.

**72 Byron Street, Bangalow
bangalowheadacheclinic.com.au**



Coastal Hypno

Ever wondered about what the actual state of your brain looks like? Using Australian engineered, medical grade technology, Michelle can quickly assess and retrain your brain's response to life's stressors. Neurofeedback is a quick and non-invasive technique which assists in providing a starting reference for hypnosis sessions.

Michelle is university trained, salt water activated and spiritually oriented; providing a non-judgemental and happy environment to create lasting change. Her unique offering of Blue Mind Hypnosis Therapy brings together the extensive work of Dr Wallace J Nichols (Blue Mind) and Dr Norman Doidge (The Brain That Changes Itself).

As a freediver, Michelle loves assisting with



breathing and sleep health, in conjunction with hypnosis.

Byron, Gold Coast by appointment, and all areas via Zoom.

**coastalhypno@gmail.com
CoastalHypno.com
Instagram and FB @coastalhypno
0407 871 341**

North Coast Medical Centre



North Coast Medical Centre (NCMC) is a growing practice offering a multitude of services. They have a highly skilled professional team of practitioners including five doctors, a chronic health care nurse, psychologists, a naturopath, osteopaths, a speech pathologist, and an audiologist. Their surgery is unique, being set in a house, boasting a warm and homely environment. Ideally located on Shirley Street, the main thoroughfare into Byron.

It is easily recognisable by its red fence. With a team approach, NCMC can accommodate everyone's needs, by offering personalised care for a wide range of conditions. Each doctor has their own unique skillset – focusing on a variety of areas such as nutritional health, gynaecology, paediatrics, women's health, addictions medicine, sports medicine and mental health and wellbeing.

**24 Shirley Street, Byron Bay
6685 8666**

Crystals & Dreaming

Shift stuck energy, let old stuff go, and free up space within yourself to attract and create positive new experiences! Crystal Resonance Therapist™ and Dream Coach Kate Messenger offers sessions in Mullumbimby and workshops around Byron Shire. Crystal Resonance Therapy™ is a powerful modality that helps you access higher levels of consciousness and deep cellular memory to facilitate transformational shifts in your life and experiences.

Sessions are facilitated through a 'laying on of stones' while you are in a relaxed and receptive state. The crystals work together synergistically to balance your energy and create powerful and lasting changes.

Some of the many benefits include: increased and more balanced energy, improved sleep, greater creativity and confidence, increased sense of personal power, and enhanced feelings of wellbeing and intuition.

**0413 003 301
crystalsanddreaming.com.au**



Electric vehicles – where can you get your questions answered?

Christobel Munson

Are you intrigued by electric vehicles – whether cars, bikes, buses, scooters or even PTVs (personal transport vehicles) and lawnmowers? Perhaps you are contemplating buying an EV, but are worried

about its driving range or charging methods, not to mention the cost? Where can you find reliable, trustworthy advice?

Not-for-profit group Zero Emissions Byron is running a series of monthly one-hour webinars on the Zoom platform 'designed to cover

all aspects of EV adoption, from charging, driving range, converting combustion vehicles, and other types of electric transport,' says co-coordinator of The EV Revolution webinar series, Bridie Schmidt.

Bridie's day job is lead writer for thedriven.io; putting her in the driving seat to invite relevant industry leaders to discuss the emerging industry in this informative webinar series.

'Electric vehicles are a relatively new technology that, like Smart TVs, will be bought by early adopters and then be taken up more and more by the broader population,' Ms Schmidt says.

Considering herself 'fortunate' to work in a role that gives her the opportunity to speak with people on the cutting edge of transforming our transport industry to clean energy, she says that Australia may be considered a 'laggard' in EV adoption.



Alex Bosin, owner of EV Classic in Byron's A & I Estate.

EV Conversions is the topic for the next webinar in The EV Revolution series, being held from 6-7pm on Tuesday, 3 November. The popular series is chaired

by Mick O'Regan, and the speakers that night will be Alex Bosin, owner of EV Classic in Byron's Arts & Industry Estate, and Russ Shepherd, cofounder of the Electric

Cafe from EVolution, based in Melbourne.

'EVolution is Australia's only dedicated electric vehicle workshop specialising in conversions, repairs and servicing,' Russ said.

'The Electric Car Cafe team are focused on advancing conversion technology, knowledge and processes to enable at-scale repurposing of older cars to electric drive.'

His team works closely with Alex, whose business converts classic cars, VW Kombi vans, and Beetles to all-electric, with a range of up to 320km on a single charge.

To sign up for this free webinar, please visit zero-byron.org/webinars/ where links to the YouTube recordings of each webinar in the series can also be found.

■ Zero Emissions Byron seeks to educate, promote and encourage people to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2025.

CHESS by Ian Rogers

The reappearance of banned ex-Grandmaster Igors Rausis at a tournament in Latvia earlier this month, playing under a new name, has been explained by the 59-year-old in the words, 'I cannot live without chess.'

He had been caught with a mobile phone on multiple occasions, yet his excuses had always been accepted by tournament arbiters. In July 2019, frustrated by official inaction, Rausis was photographed by some young players in Strasbourg sitting in a toilet booth analysing his current game on a mobile phone.

Rausis had been cheating in this way for more than five years, keeping mostly to low profile tournaments. He raced up the ranking list from nowhere to just outside the world's top 50.

Despite him being called out by amateurs and professionals alike, the world body FIDE avoided taking action until their hand was forced by the toilet photo and Rausis's subsequent confession. Last December he was banned from FIDE events for six years and stripped of his Grandmaster

title. A fortnight ago Rausis entered a rapid tournament in Valka under the name Isa Kasimi but just before the third round was confronted by one of Latvia's top players Arthurs Neikšans.

Rausis withdrew from the tournament immediately and since then has tried to explain his side of the story. He claims he's suffered from prostate cancer since 2003 and therefore needs to visit the toilet frequently during games (implying that he was not using those many visits to consult his phone).

Most of all, Rausis says, he cannot live without chess. 'Chess is a very addictive sport. This is a game that makes people both happy and unhappy. Yet I perfectly understand my colleagues, to whom I am disgusting.'

However, Rausis also frequently used the Lance Armstrong defence that lots of other players were cheating as well as himself.

In a brief statement, FIDE said that their ban did not extend to local tournaments and Rausis could compete if he wished. Whether his peers will be willing to play alongside or against Rausis is another matter.

Short-form basketball lands in Lismore before Olympics

A hundred players across 28 teams took part in Lismore's first 3x3 basketball tournament organised by not-for-profit The U League, in collaboration with Lismore Storm over the weekend of October 9-10.

Lismore, Ballina and Byron Bay teams competed across five categories (U/13 girls, U/13 boys, U/15 boys, U/18 girls and senior men) at the Lismore Basketball Stadium.

'Few people are aware that 3x3 basketball is now an Olympic sport,' said Ben Ireland, founder of The U League.

'The event presented an exciting opportunity to introduce this fast-growing global sport to the community here in Lismore, and we are looking to run more 3x3 tournaments in the area in the future?'

Winners

Lismore teams dominated the competition with the Storm winning the senior men's category (on a last second buzzer beater), the Flames winning the U/18 girls category, the Awesome4some winning the U/13 boys and the Basketeers winning the U/13 girls category.

Ballina teams finished second, both in the senior

men's and U/15 boys categories.

Byron Bay's Bricklayers won the U/15 boys category.

About 3x3

3x3 is an offshoot of traditional basketball and shares a lot of similarities with the original. 3x3 is a shorter, sharper version of traditional basketball and is played in a half-court environment.

► Continued from page 14 Murwillumbah line would be too expensive, and we may as well dig it up for a bike track, which will cost well over \$100m and not take one car off the roads.

Talk about allowing lunatics to run the asylum!

Louise Doran
Ocean Shores

Citizen rights

You may have caught sight recently of John Anderson's, (aka Fast Buck\$), continuing deterioration in the form of lodging code of conduct complaints against several councillors, myself included.

I would ask him to refrain from wasting Council's resources in future with these spurious complaints, which are really about hurt ego (the main content of several complaints was that we weren't listening to him).

The latest round, which

Council were obliged to pay a few thousand dollars to independent consultants to investigate, revealed no surprises when it was found there were no code of conduct breaches at all. Participation in public debate is better exercised and gets better results when constructively working with people on the issues rather than as a platform for self-aggrandisement.

Perhaps Mr Anderson could reflect on this and consider reimbursing Council for the costs incurred? Wasting our time in public access is one thing, but wasting Council's money – well we just don't have enough of it.

Cr Michael Lyon
The Pocket

All together now!

Last April a Council event took place that was unapproved at the time. The

right-wing, led by the Council staff, tried to take advantage of COVID-19 fears by having Simon Richardson installed as generalissimo.

They asked elected councillors to give Simon the delegated authority to take over their role for six months so that Simon would make all the development and other decisions, meaning that councillors wouldn't even have to attend. This move was enthusiastically backed by Council's National Party rep Cr Alan Hunter. However, they miscalculated. Cr Coorey moved an amendment to give the Mayor only the power to look after specific, COVID-related measures, for three months, and Cr Ndiaye seconded that move.

At one stage last year I believed Cr Lyon had potential, if he could only be weaned away from Simon's influence. Simon was on

compassionate leave and Lyon was in the chair; being far more flexible and open than Simon had been.

What's changed? Everything, of course. The Greens failed recently to endorse either Ndiaye or Lyon as their Mayoral candidate, with Lyon doing far worse than his self-belief could countenance. He blamed the voting system rather than his own shortcomings, and quit the party.

Things are getting nasty, I note that Simon hasn't been involved with the last three Greens meetings, so maybe he's trying to avoid the grilling he deserves. Meanwhile the Greens had better decide whether they too seek oblivion, they need to formally distance themselves from Simon's shenanigans, which will probably get a lot worse as the election approaches.

Fast Buck\$
Coorabell

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc. presents

Murwillumbah Magic

A SHARON SHOSTAK FILM

Intimate interviews and more

Part 3

The Culture of 70s-80s
THE ARTS

Friday 30th October
 • Outdoors Museum Lawn 7.45 pm
 Machinery Shed open 5.00 pm
 Tickets \$11 ticketebo.com.au/murwillumbahmagic3-outdoor

Thursday 5th November
 • Byron Community Centre 7pm
 Tickets \$20 www.byroncentre.com.au

Streaming from Saturday 7th Nov
 Tickets \$7 www.byroncentre.com.au

Friday 6th November
 • Mullumbimby Civic Centre 7pm
 Tickets \$16 ticketebo.com.au/murwillumbahmagic3_civichall

Wednesday 18th November
 • Brunswick Picture House 7pm
 Tickets \$18 brunswickpicturehouse.com

Masks recommended for indoor events
 Suitable for ages 13 and over
 Limited seating. Tickets sold online to be COVIDSafe

150 OH SURE, EVERYTHING'S FUN AND GAMES UNTIL SOMEBODY PISSES OFF THE PANCAKES.



BUILDING DREAMS

A GUIDE FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS
IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS



Federal and state governments have been making lots of announcements about support for the building industry and first home buyers recently, as they attempt to stave off a COVID-19 related economic collapse. So what does it all mean for first home buyers in the Northern Rivers?

FIRST HOME LOAN DEPOSIT SCHEME

The most recent government announcement added an additional 10,000 places to the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme (FHLDS), which allows people to purchase property with a deposit of only 5%.

When the scheme was first announced earlier this year, half of the 10,000 places were filled almost immediately.

The FHLDS guarantees the loans of people who buy their first homes on small deposits, eliminating the need for expensive lender's mortgage insurance.

There are different price caps in different areas, with houses worth up to \$950,000 in Sydney covered by the scheme. In the Northern Rivers though, there is a limit of \$450,000.

HOW USEFUL IS IT?

Byron Bay senior mortgage broker Sharon Clarkson said, 'Due to the limited places the government has provided for FHLDS, the borrowers have a time limit to buy, so it's a panic just to grab a home, suitable or not, in order to utilise this guarantee and not incur mortgage insurance.'

'Some lenders have actually come up with a better option in my view. They are rewarding first home buyers who

have 15% deposit by only charging them \$1 mortgage insurance fee. You would normally need 20% to waive this fee.'

Miss Clarkson said that with FHLDS, buyers need to sit on a waiting list, then get a placement, then immediately look for a property, at the risk of not finding anything suitable, or in the right price range.

Lennox Head mortgage broker Zain Peart suggests that the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme doesn't really suit the Northern Rivers, apart from certain areas, like Lismore; 'It's only for construction, and it's hard to get a property built for the price that they're saying.'

TOO MANY ACRONYMS ARE BARELY ENOUGH

In NSW, there's also the First Home Owner's Grant (FHOG, originally introduced in 2000 to offset the GST) for people buying or building a first home. The FHOG offers \$10,000 and assistance with transfer duty for eligible first home buyers.

HomeBuilder is a new scheme, complementing the FHOG and stamp duty concessions. This grant is for \$25,000 to assist with new homes or substantially renovate existing homes. Details are available at the Revenue NSW website [www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/news-media-releases/covid-19-tax-relief-measures/homebuilder-program].

Zain Peart believes this extra building grant is 'very difficult' to navigate. 'A lot of lenders, until recently, haven't even used it to help support the loan. So basically you got a 25 grand bonus but it didn't help you get the loan or get finance or anything else,' he said.

To be eligible for this tax-free scheme, applicants need to enter a building contract before the end of 2020. Numbers of grants are not capped.

WHAT ABOUT STAMP DUTY?

Mr Peart would like to see a greater focus on stamp duty concessions, noting that for most properties in the Northern Rivers this amounts to 'Thirty or forty grand, just to get back in the market. Stamp duty's the biggest hurdle to home ownership for sure.'

While NSW has taken action to curb stamp duty (in certain cases) recently, such as with the First Home Buyers Assistance Scheme, the problem with many of these initiatives is that they drive property prices higher in an already stretched market, potentially wiping out gains for first home buyers.

The current offerings may be a mixed bag for newcomers to the property market, but one clear winner is the local construction industry, which is booming again as it emerges from the restrictions of COVID-19.

USEFUL ONLINE REFERENCES

NSW Government

nsw.gov.au/living-nsw/housing-and-property/first-home-buyer-grant-and-assistance
revenue.nsw.gov.au/grants-schemes/first-home-buyer-service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-first-home-buyers-assistance-scheme
revenue.nsw.gov.au/grants-schemes/homebuilder
nsw.gov.au/news/financial-boost-for-first-home-buyers

Federal Government

<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/homebuilder>



BUILDING DREAMS

DOES SIZE MATTER?

When it comes to building, most Australians seem to agree that it does, but beyond that it gets complicated. McMansions and Tiny Houses each have their enthusiasts and detractors, and there's a wide spectrum between these extremes.

Statistically, Australian houses have more than doubled in size, on average, since 1950. The homes which today's children are growing up in are markedly different to the homes their parents and grandparents knew. Once upon a time, it was commonplace for many kids to share rooms, and sometimes with their parents and extended family too.

While houses have grown, back yards have shrunk. Are massive internal spaces worth the sacrifice?

Strangely, while Australian houses have got bigger, the average number of people living in households has been declining. It could be argued that this has contributed to the weakening of familial bonds, though plenty of teenagers would disagree with that!

HOW MUCH ROOM DO YOU NEED?

While home-owners sometimes choose big houses so that friends and relatives can visit, having a lot of empty space 'just in case' can be a problem as people get older, stuff accumulates and stairs need to be negotiated.

Beyond the social aspects, big houses use more energy, both in the embodied form (energy used for source materials and in construction), and in terms of ongoing energy costs.

According to University of Melbourne research, as houses grow, the energy used in building and maintaining the house grows faster than the energy used by the occupants in operating the house.

Water, carbon emissions, materials and energy usage all multiply quickly as extra rooms are added, with the



associated costs and environmental impacts accumulating over time.

Because energy efficiency regulations don't account for embodied energy (or house size in many cases), standards can be misleading. Expressing ongoing energy efficiency per square metre favours larger houses, even though these require more energy overall.

PEAK McMANSION?

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the most common house configuration in Australia is three bedrooms, but it appears we may have hit peak-McMansion in 2009, when the average house size was 247 square metres. That figure is now below 230 square metres.

By global standards, this is still very large. Australia has the biggest houses in the world after the USA. (Following us in the big house stakes are New Zealand, Turkey and Norway.)

If apartments are considered as well, the average dwelling size in Australia is 189 square metres, but this figure is distorted by the fact that many more apartments are being built and occupied these days, suggesting that many of the houses that are still being constructed are unnecessarily large.

Good design means that smaller houses can actually be more liveable, while also using less energy and being easier to maintain. Marie Antoinette preferred living in a smaller building in the garden than the Palace of Versailles, and many owners of large houses find themselves similarly living mainly in one or two rooms, particularly after children leave home, with other spaces gradually filling up with junk.

“ Wherever you're building, environmental concerns need to be at the forefront of thinking as we all seek to continue sustainably sharing our common planetary home. ”



DESIGN IS YOUR FRIEND

You don't have to go all the way to the Tiny House end of the spectrum to find the advantages associated with living in a beautifully designed smaller space.

One popular approach with smaller house designs is to open up the floor plan, connecting common areas and using light to make spaces feel larger. High ceilings are another design feature that make buildings with small floor plans feel expansive. Clever shelving and fold-away storage spaces maximise space and minimise clutter.

With working from home increasingly common, it's important to have enough space to separate the different parts of your life, but good design always beats throwing money and floor area at the problem.

The fact is that 'keeping up With the Joneses' probably fuelled the McMansion boom as much as anything. Now that sustainability is the new black, smaller and smarter is the best way to impress the neighbours, especially in the Northern Rivers of NSW.

Wherever you're building, environmental concerns need to be at the forefront of thinking as we all seek to continue sustainably sharing our common planetary home.

Beyond solar panels and solar hot water, insulation, composting toilets, recycled building materials and water tanks, one of the most environmentally sound things each of us can do is to not build bigger than we need.

USEFUL ONLINE REFERENCES

Related articles - First Home Buyers

theconversation.com/government-extends-assistance-for-first-home-buyers-to-stimulate-building-industry-147372

businessinsider.com.au/first-homebuyer-stamp-duty-price-exemptions-nsw-2020-7

Real Estate websites

domain.com.au/sponsor/20-things-every-first-home-buyer-needs-know/

realestate.com.au/home-loans/how-much-is-the-first-home-owner-grant-in-nsw





BUILDING DREAMS

CONFESSIONS OF A NEW HOME OWNER

The cost of a new home hurts! We were stressed with a new baby, one income and a first time build on our hands. What a long drawn out process it was, and oh how we discovered all the pit falls on our way through.

Hair pulling rage as they stuffed up the plans over and over again. Last minute Council ransoms for the construction certificate, and the variations on variations becoming convoluted and confusing – all while our rent and holding costs steadily increased.

We spent weekends snooping through our soon-to-be neighbourhood, enviously spying on the completed homes with their new driveways, letter boxes and sleek solar panels had us eagerly anticipating our move-in date. But none of that prepared us for the real cost to polish our house into a home.

If I could do it over again, I would change a lot of things.

Getting a new solar system included in the home loan, along with a driveway, fencing, retaining and landscaping would be right up there on the 'must include' list, but to honest, the one thing that has made the biggest difference is the impact of the new solar system and the peace of mind it has

provided us, day in and day out.

With council rates, water and electricity bills seeming like they are always due and exceeding \$3,500p.a. we decided to get 888 Solar Tek to design and install a larger grid connect solar system to offset these costs – and oh, how good it's been!

We forked out for a 10kW solar system, split across the north and western sides of the roof to maintain a constant 5kW export to the grid, which generates \$4,000 in savings per year. The design has allowed us to run our large expensive air-conditioner, new dryer and all the other appliances guilt free, while still receiving a \$500 credit on our electricity bill each quarter. Once a year we will cash out our \$2,000 accumulated credit to cover the rates and water bills.

Watching the energy roll in on the monitoring app and having the freedom to run whatever we want without the burden or stress of knowing it's blowing the budget has made life in our new home such an enjoyable experience.

Some things we should have done would have been to have the solar cabling installed during the build for a neater finish



and, again having added these costs to our home loan would have allowed us to add a solar battery as well.

Our payback period on the solar system is only 3 years, and with 10kW of power on the roof we are well set up to add a new Electric vehicle to our home in the coming years.

If you are starting out on your new build journey, trust me – make the smart move and get a large solar system designed and included in your build early in the process. It's the one thing you can add that will really make the difference.

www.888solartek.com.au
02 6688 4480

The EV Revolution is Here! Can you charge your car for free on your home?

Quiet, Clean and Inexpensive

It is now possible to have zero nett emissions from electricity and vehicle use, with tremendous savings for your household. Your Solar and EV partner, 888 Solar Tek, offers complete vehicle and solar solutions, with low km, near new Nissan Leafs at half the new price. Take a test drive and you will be amazed by the quiet, zippy feel and well-appointed features of these remarkable cars.

Join the Leaf Revolution

Introduced in 2010 as the world's first mass-market electric vehicle, the Nissan LEAF has led the way in making the excitement and convenience of electric driving accessible to non-luxury buyers. Ten years later, the increased range and improvements to the cars has led a landslide movement throughout the world for the replacement of petrol and diesel-powered cars in the next decade.

In Norway in 2017, 52% of all new car sales were electric vehicles. Australia is hampered by lack of political support for EV's with fossil fuel companies donating \$1,897,379 to the ALP, Liberal and National parties in 2017-18. Since then we have seen massive new subsidies going into the fossil fuel industries and away from cleaner solar and wind technology, despite a global imperative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The IMF says fossil fuel subsidies in Australia amount to nearly \$1,200 per person, or a total of \$29 billion last year.

Range and Charging Options

Most people have an opinion that Electric cars do not have enough battery range and they will run out of power and get stranded. While this may have been true years ago, today's EV's have larger batteries and more and more fast charging stations are popping up at destinations throughout the country. **Not many people who drive petrol fuelled cars have oil wells in their back yards, but any EV owner can have a free solar power station on their roof.**

The NRMA has installed 42 EV fast chargers across regional NSW along most major highways including the Hume, Newell, Sturt and Oxley Highways, as well as the Mitchell, Pacific, Olympic and Great Western Highways. EV motorists will now be able to confidently tour the entirety of NSW and ACT.

Recently, the NRMA has partnered with Transport for New South Wales to help deliver at least 20 additional electric vehicle fast chargers in regional locations.



Smart Solar Home Charging Options

If you have an existing solar system the Zappi charger has special eco charging modes which will benefit homeowners with grid-tied solar generation. Charging current is automatically and continually adjusted in



response to on-site generation and household power consumption to use only excess generation that would otherwise be sold cheaply to the grid. In FAST charge mode, Zappi also operates like an ordinary EV charging station.

If you do not have solar now, SolarEdge provide a premium quality solar EV charger and inverter system.

It comes with a smart homeowners app so you can schedule charging from the grid during off-peak hours or from purely solar energy. You can control household energy usage including PV, EV, and grid consumption from their smartphone and easily manage their EV charging via the mobile app.



Vincent charging at The Farm Ewingsdale



Your Solar is Worth More in Your Car Than Your House

Electricity companies are making a fortune at our expense, and yet they pay us a pittance for the solar power we send back to the grid. By replacing petrol with solar power in an all electric Nissan Leaf, every kWh of your solar power will earn you 67 cents.

This means that you can pay for your as new Nissan Leaf and solar in as little as five years from the savings you will make from not buying grid-power or petrol.

What are You Waiting For?

We have reached a tipping point in the global EV revolution. It makes perfect sense economically and environmentally to switch to EV's now.

888 Solar Tek has a continuous supply of near new, Japanese built Nissan Leafs at our Solar Powered office in Federal, so book a test drive today. We

also supply off grid or on grid solar charging solutions so you never have to use fossil fuels again.

The electric engine of the Leaf has a great supply of late model Nissan Leaf's in great condition aesthetically and mechanically from \$21,888.

We also Supply and Fit the latest EV charging Technology from SolarEdge and Myenergi.

Free Consultations for all your solar and EV needs. **Call Vincent now on 02 6688 4480 to book a test drive today.**

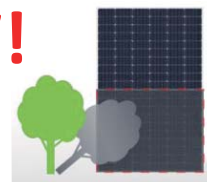
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EASTWOOD, GOONELLABAH'S NEW COMMUNITY!

Searching for your piece of real estate in Goonellabah? The award-winning property group, McCloy Group are forging ahead with the development of Eastwood, their first residential community in the Northern Rivers Region.

Set on 21 hectares off Invercauld Road, Eastwood was first launched to market in November of 2019, with the McCloy Group building Stage 1 inclusive of 23 homesites, an impressive entry feature, statement public art and infrastructure leading into the site, ahead of the initial release.

'With Eastwood being the first McCloy Community in the Northern Rivers Region we wanted to showcase the quality we bring to our communities, by completing construction ahead of the first release we were able to bring locals to the site to see the unique and diverse offering for themselves and get a sense

of the product to be rolled out over the 6 stages at Eastwood' advised Sam Rowe, Project Director.

The initial launch saw 12 homesites under deposit on day 1, some keen purchasers even camping the night before to ensure they secured their block! The popularity of the development proved strong – with groups again camping out to secure land in stage 2 and 3 releases! The McCloy Group were pleased to share that the homesites had predominantly been purchased by local families seeking to build their dream homes.

Future residents, Lauren and Daniel Damon had nothing but praise for the estate and service they received during their purchase 'Clint was always checking in to see how we were going and seeing if there was anything he could do to help. We can't thank him enough,

and the developers, (McCloy Group) have built a stunning area in Goonellabah, that I know my family and everyone else who are now block owners can't wait to build and move in! We have already started planning the street parties!

The McCloy Group are now moving ahead with the construction of future stages and are nearing completion of the state-of-the-art playground, including public art, climbers, swings and more!

The new homesites, known as the Elm Release, are currently on the market, but with over 60% already under deposit, this is one to act quickly on! Homesites can be secured via LJ Hooker with a \$1000 holding deposit and 5% to exchange.

'Those in the housing market can expect the same level of quality in future stages that we've produced with stages 1 & 2. The playground will feature various children's play equipment, swings, sky climber and

seating... it will be a great addition for families.

'Eastwood's location offers plenty of opportunity for the community, it is close by schools and shops plus it is just 35 minutes to the beaches of Ballina, and 8 minutes to work opportunities in the Lismore CBD. We've aimed to deliver something unique to the market with Eastwood, whilst maintaining housing affordability, Goonellabah has proved a great mix for this' said Mr Rowe.

For more information on Eastwood, as well as land availability, the purchase process and the new community, contact Clint McCarthy on **0423 727 648** or visit eastwoodliving.com.au



Goonellabah's Premier New Community

LAND FROM \$168,000



THE ELM RELEASE

Homesites from 635m² to 1,206m²

Priced between \$168,000 – \$278,000

Brand new onsite park & Playground



NSW
GOVERNMENT
GRANTS
AVAILABLE



CONTACT US

Clint McCarthy 0423 727 648

land@eastwoodliving.com.au

VISIT: Florence St, Goonellabah

LJ Hooker



BUILDING DREAMS

Q&A WITH JUNO ENERGY

How did you start in the solar business?

I started in the solar industry back in late 2009 with one of the early bulk buys for Rezeko. We helped a lot of customers get some great systems, I was working at Bond University, in their School of Sustainable Built Environment, and I thought solar might be a big thing one day. Once the business model switched to lower quality systems, I decided the time was right to start out on my own,

Why Juno?

Juno was a Roman goddess. Juno Lucina in particular refers to her role as the Roman Goddess of Light. Luckily I had some good advice re a business name early on, we quite like it, and the colours. Pretty simple, blue sky, orange for energy.

So on solar how do you go about selecting equipment?

We do have a philosophy of using minimal materials wherever possible to get the job done. Mostly this is focused on high output modules which use less materials in their construction and have longer, stronger warranties. An example is the Sunpower

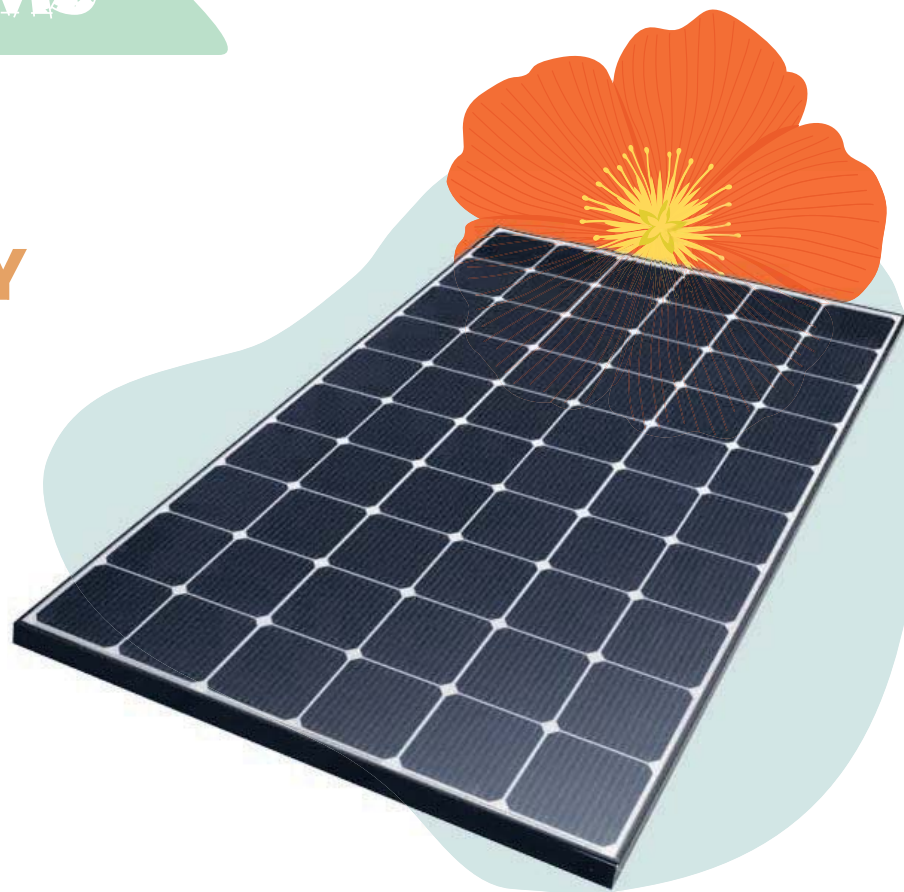
modules we are currently using which produce 400 watts in a standard format. We have worked with LG for many years and have been impressed with their commitment to high performance and manufacturing quality.

And inverters?

We work closely with our installers and have recently started specifying Enphase micro-inverters in the majority of our installations. We see inverters as a weak point in a solar system. Micro-inverters remove the need for a central inverter and allow for greater safety, reliability, and higher performance.

Anything else?

Solar is on track to be the world's most available energy source. We look forward to continuing to be part of this transition that gives energy back to the people.



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www.junoenergy.com.au
Electrical Licence 255292C

Not all solar systems are created equal.

We build solar and battery systems that will go the distance using the highest quality equipment from leading brands including LG, Sunpower, Enphase, and Tesla.

- Juno Energy is Byron Shire's own solar company and we have been completing high quality solar installations in Byron Shire since 2010.
- Juno Energy officially represents LG Solar locally giving you a little extra confidence in your choice.
- Juno Energy offers a small selected range of batteries including Tesla and LG.
- Finance available for residential, commercial, and community installations.

JUNO

energy

Office 26, 20-1 Porter St, Byron Bay
Patrick, 0425 256 802
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www.junoenergy.com.au

A SENSIBLE APPROACH TO LENDING FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS

First Home Buyers represent a savvy group of purchasers, but there is still a lot of misinformation handed down from older friends, or parents, who borrowed years ago. The lending landscape has changed so much in recent times – especially since The Banking Royal Commission, COVID-19 plus ever-changing government grants.

If you are thinking about buying your first home, it's in your best interest to engage your Mortgage Broker or Lender a little earlier than when you think you are ready. Using an online mortgage calculator that shows a minimum monthly repayment that is equivalent to your current rent, and a minimum 5% deposit doesn't mean you are ready to borrow or will be guaranteed a loan approval.

Each borrower has their individual set of circumstances and in most loan applications these small differences determine who will lend to you, how much you can borrow and at what interest rate.

By speaking with an expert beforehand, any issues such as

irregular spending habits, having higher credit card limits than necessary, and regular savings patterns can all be addressed. If the borrower is educated on what is acceptable to the lender then a loan approval will be more likely.

As a Senior Mortgage Broker, my process is to sit with the First Home Buyer and have them complete a personal fact find, and provide detailed financial information. The objective is to review their current circumstances to give them a maximum loan amount and purchase price, and find them a suitable home loan that fits their circumstances, and advise them regarding what grants and exemptions they can apply for.

A simple First Home Buyer lending checklist should look like the following:

- Minimum of three months full time employment.
- Minimum of 12 months casual employment.
- Minimum of two years self employed or ABN registration.
- Minimum of 5% deposit, plus associated costs.



- Three months personal bank account statements, showing salary credits and acceptable spending habits.
- One month of your most recent statement for all other liabilities, also proving excellent account conduct.

If you fall outside of the above, sitting with your specialist is even more beneficial as a constructive plan can be implemented to get you on track for a more positive outcome.

Example: a client wanting to purchase a property for \$370,000 had been on an online repayment calculator and a monthly loan repayment of \$1,300 came out. They initially thought they could afford this, so they wanted to make an offer on the property.

During our meeting, they learnt the following:

- Each lender has their own loan assessment rate, normally 3-5% higher than actual market rates.
- JobKeeper payments were creating a lending issue and reduced the annual salary that could be used to show affordability.
- They would have to go on a waiting list for the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme, of which they are not guaranteed a place, so more savings would be needed to purchase the property.

A guide was given to the client; that they needed to compromise with a lower purchase price if they wanted to buy immediately, or work on a few things to achieve the higher amount they initially thought was achievable.

Lending is in fact even more complicated, and there are too many things to list here.

My advice is always; be prepared, be educated around your current circumstances, and if the initial outcome doesn't align with your goals, hopes or dreams, at the very least have a proper plan in place to achieve the end result (laid out for you by someone who specialises in lending). Please call me for expert lending advice.

Sharon Clarkson
53 Julian Rocks Drive Byron Bay
0400 609 916
sharon@sharonclarkson.com

Are you a First Home Buyer or simply need a Home Loan Health Check? Speak to an Expert

Mention *The Echo* and receive a complimentary preliminary assessment and borrowing plan. The normal preapproval fee of \$330.00 will be waived when you are ready to submit your loan application.

Proud to offer Byron Bay and surrounds 21 years of lending experience



Sharon Clarkson – Senior Mortgage Broker
M: 0400 609 916 | sharon@sharonclarkson.com
53 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay
[#byronbaybroker](https://www.instagram.com/byronbaybroker)



BUILDING DREAMS

FIRSTSUNSOLAR

Having worked in the solar industry since the early days of 2010, Jeremy started his own company in 2018 in the Northern Rivers. Two and half years later this homegrown company has expanded its operations to South East Queensland, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Before the year is out FirstSunSolar will have installed its three millionth watt of solar power... equivalent to 500 household solar systems or 10,000 panels. Enough to power Mullumbimby.

Despite the phenomenal growth of the business it is sticking to its hometown and ecological roots. According to managing director Jeremy Ball 'I started the business because I am passionate about the environment and want to do my bit to create a brighter and greener future. Unexpectedly what I have enjoyed just as much is the financial liberation it brings to families and small businesses. A good quality system will pay for itself in just two years and provide free power for two to three decades to come.'

The business has installed more than 200 solar systems in the Northern Rivers, from Tenterfield down to Coffs and up to Tweed. Some notable recent installations have been St John's School, Mullumbimby; Broken Head Holiday Park; Paseyo and Empire Cafe in Mullumbimby.

Office manager Janet Johnson said 'We pride ourselves on our customer service and going the extra mile for customers, it's not a case of



"now we've installed, goodbye". We are here to support your renewable future.'

Jeremy, who gained a BSc in Environmental Chemistry from the University of Bristol in England, said 'After all the effort my parents went to, to put me through uni, I'm glad to be finally putting it to good use. I moved to the Northern Rivers inspired by the conscious community being created here and have been inspired by rubbing shoulders with the many great minds who make the Shire home.'

It is FirstSunSolar's mission to continue to provide high quality, affordable renewable energy solutions with the highest service imaginable.

FirstSunSolar Sponsors:

Mullumbimby Music Festival, Northern Rivers Football Academy (Formerly Liverpool Football Academy) and other local community projects.

"FirstSunSolar's support has been invaluable for Corem's community installations." Dave Rawlins, COREM

"Jeremy from FirstSunSolar has been supporting the Mullum Music Festival for a number of years now, and has been a participant and sponsor at our yearly Mothers' Day tree planting. What impressed me is he actively searched out opportunities to support his local community and then did so." Glenn Wright, Director Mullum Music Festival

FirstSunSolar Customers:

"We are so happy with our experience with your company and would like to thank you and your installation team. From start to finish everything went smoothly with a minimum of fuss." Geoff & Sandy

"We have had a wonderful experience working with FirstSunSolar to install the solar system at our farm. Jeremy and the team were there every step of the way." Tina

"I'm a very happy customer." Paul

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2 x 5kW 1P or 1 x 10kW 3P SUNGROW inverter
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Top quality Tier 1 panels.

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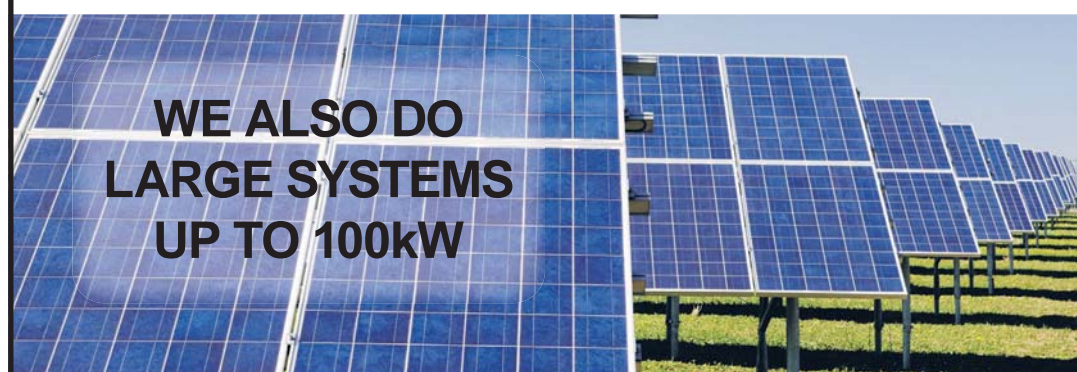
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with first 10 purchases valued apx \$1500

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At budget prices.

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WE ALSO DO LARGE SYSTEMS UP TO 100kW

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\$0 down finance... and cash flow positive from day 1. TURN YOUR ROOF INTO A MONEY MAKER

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IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN A LOAN AT ZEP FINANCE

For the major milestone of buying your first home, it's important to find a loan that suits your individual circumstances.

ZEP Finance in Lennox Head have the expertise and experience to help you find the right loan, assist with the paperwork, and explain the various forms of government assistance that are available to first home buyers.

They have a number of useful videos for first home buyers available to view online at: zepfinance.com.au/first-home-loans-ballina-and-byron-zep-finance/

ZEP Finance mortgage broker and Lennox local, Zain Peart said, 'Your future is what's important to me. I love seeing my clients in their dream homes and building their wealth through investment properties.'

'Here at the ZEP office our focus is our clients and their future.'

After new clients make contact via the website or phone, ZEP Finance will assess each individual situation, look at all the options from their panel of lenders, and find the most suitable deal.

ZEP are familiar with the stresses of home loan applications and the many potential pitfalls faced by first time home-buyers,

BUILDING DREAMS



such as choosing the wrong type of loan, or paying too much interest.

By establishing borrowing power and ensuring affordable monthly repayments, they will help find the right finance fit for each client, factoring in current lifestyle needs as well as future financial goals.

As a reputable finance broking company located in the heart of the Northern Rivers, ZEP Finance provides a reliable, trustworthy home loans service in Byron Bay, Ballina, Lismore and indeed Australia-wide. They are also able to assist with stress-free home finance applications.

Among the testimonials of happy ZEP customers is that from Jimmy, who said, 'The team at ZEP Finance has been nothing but outstanding. Zain was able to ease the pressure by spending time explaining and advising me on my application. This made the process a lot more comfortable and fluid. Overall I have nothing but positives to say. This is the third time I have used their services.'

Rob and Moira said, 'We have used Zain's company many times now and every time is a demonstration of perfect customer service. Highly recommend them to anyone. Even the solicitor settling our property



purchase made a comment on how fast and professional the service was. Thanks Zain, Emma, Lisa, Linsy.'

The ratings site Ratemyagent.com.au also has a large and growing number of five star reviews from ZEP Finance clients, which can be viewed here: [www.ratemyagent.com.au/mortgage-broker/zain-peart-gq676/finance/reviews]

Zain said that the way he sees the relationship with his clients, 'It's not just a loan. It's a way of life, how to pay back your loan, how to structure your finances, how to prepare. It's an education piece. A lot of what we do is not just telling you how to get the loan or what to do but it's the preparation, the budgeting and everything else,' he said.

'Explaining what credit files are to everybody is very important, because a lot of people don't understand what a credit file is. The amount of information you get with a credit file now is ridiculous. People don't even know.'

As well as assisting first home buyers to achieve their dreams, ZEP Finance can also help with business loans, investment properties and car purchases.

You can contact Zain and Emma Peart at ZEP finance via zepfinance.com.au or give them a ring on **1300 557 027**.



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BUILDING DREAMS

OCEAN VIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD LAND RELEASE

Unprecedented demand has led to the early release of some of Banyan Hill's most prestigious land. Located at Cumbalum just north of Ballina, Banyan Hill has been captivating purchasers from all corners of our country with its sweeping ocean and hinterland views.

A sizeable portion of the community is already under construction, so the quality and magnificent location can be readily appreciated. And at just twenty minutes from BP Ozigo on Ewingsdale Road, or 28 minutes from the Byron Bay Post Office, Banyan Hill is an easy commute.

'This is one of those places where you really have to put your feet on the ground and take in the 360 degree views' said Banyan Hill's Robert

Kimberley. 'We have a fabulous mix of residents from the Byron Shire. Some of our earliest purchasers were from Byron'.

With panoramic views toward the ocean and the Nightcap Range to the north, the 1.4 hectare Hilltop Park will become a centrepiece, with community gardens, a community centre, barbecues, lawns and a large playground. 'The large mature fig trees have been celebrated through the neighbourhood design, including one taking pride of place in the Hilltop Park' outlined Landscape Architect, Darren Taitoko.

Other community facilities include the 4.4 hectare Banyan Hill Sports and Recreation Precinct which will bring playing fields, courts and a sports pavilion and three

further parks with playgrounds, barbecues, seating and shelters.

Thirty-three hectares of lowland rainforest and twelve hectares of swamp sclerophyll forest within the Banyan Hill site are the subject of extensive rehabilitation works being undertaken on behalf of the developer Intrapac Property. Cumbalum Farm, established next door to Banyan Hill, ensures a steady and high-quality supply of native and endemic trees and plants.

The Banyan Hill Display Village, the largest in the region, showcases seven diverse homes from Metricon, Stroud Homes, Perry Homes, Coral

Homes and G.J. Gardner, sharing the latest in innovative coastal living.

Twelve benched home sites have just been released, located adjacent to some of Banyan Hill's established homes. Lot sizes range from 476m² to 668m².

Visit Robert at the Banyan Hill Sales Centre on Ballina Heights Drive, Cumbalum. Open 10.00am-5.00pm Monday to Wednesday and 10.00am-1.00pm weekends. Or contact him on 1300 326197 or info@banyanhill.com.au

www.banyanhill.com.au



Stroud - Aspect



Perry Homes - Cosmo



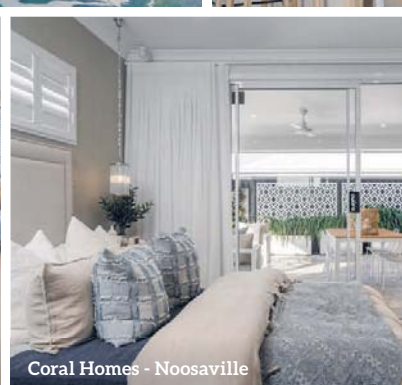
Metricon -Vantage Wembley



Coral Homes - Milan



Perry Homes - Allure



Coral Homes - Noosaville



GJ Gardner - Parkview

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Stamp Duty
Exemptions**
On homes up to
\$800k*



Display Village Now Open

7 homes by 5 of Australia's best builders

The Banyan Hill Display Village is the ideal place to start your journey towards owning your first home. Be inspired by 7 new home designs built by some of Australia's best builders. Set against our beautiful estate with ocean views and rolling hills, these homes showcase the latest in innovative, modern coastal living.

Display Village
Lawrence Rise, Cumbalum.

Display homes opening times vary, please visit our website for individual builder opening hours.

*Terms and conditions apply, stamp duty exemptions are available to eligible first home buyers only. For more details see: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/living-nsw/housing-and-property/first-home-buyer-grant-and-assistance>

banyanhill.com.au/display-village

1300 326 197

Developed by

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PROPERTY



BUILDING DREAMS

KEEPING IT LOCAL WITH BYRONBUILT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION



Josh Perry from BYRONBUILT design + construction is a local who completely understands the lure of the Northern Rivers.

He and his team were formerly with construction company Backspace Living. Their exciting new venture BYRONBUILT is about to make a big splash in Byron Bay and beyond.

'We're all local,' said Josh. 'We've lived here for a long time now, and everything stays in the area. We're a 100% locally owned and operated company.'

Their focus so far has been on secondary dwellings, but BYRONBUILT has bigger plans going forward, particularly for people thinking about off the grid living. 'That's going to be a really big focus of ours,' said Josh.

'We've got a three bedroom, completely off the grid house that we're building in Burringbar,' he said. 'We've also just started a project for three cabins that we're going to take fully off the grid.'

In a perfect fit for the Northern Rivers, sustainability is at the heart of everything BYRONBUILT will be doing. Josh explained that building clients will be offered a choice of environmentally sound offerings.

'In the design process, there's going to be a whole lot of products, as a package, that you can choose from, to go the healthy alternative,' he said.

'They'll be sustainable, petro-chemical free and Australian-made. That's a big push for us.'

Offering a lot more than granny flats and studio suites, Josh Perry doesn't see BYRONBUILT as only part of the Tiny House movement. 'We specialise in secondary dwellings, but we are also looking at doing larger dwellings with a focus on off-grid and healthy lifestyles.'

Josh is full of praise for the government initiatives that have helped keep the building sector alive in 2020.

'I'm a big supporter of the new government initiatives to help first home buyers, and of the other lifelines that have been thrown out,' he said.

'If we didn't have JobKeeper this year, we definitely would have struggled a lot more than we did. What the government are doing is definitely working from a building perspective at the moment, for sure.'

He's witnessed the sharp residential growth of the region, and the resulting business opportunities.

'There seems to be a never-ending trend of people wanting to move to this area,' he said. 'As a resident, I'd like it to slow down a bit, but for business it's definitely a good thing.'

Because BYRONBUILT specialises in environmentally friendly work, Josh and his team are confident that environmental and residential needs can both be looked after.

'Yes exactly,' said Josh. 'We're not looking to put up four storey buildings or build a mass amount of things in one spot. We're trying to do it ethically, so it suits the environment.'

If you want to keep your construction local, and sustainable, you can find out more about BYRONBUILT design + construction at @byronbuilt on facebook and instagram or ring Josh Perry and his team on **(02) 5624 5020** or email **hello@byronbuilt.com**



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BUILDING DREAMS

MAKING DREAMS A REALITY

When it comes to buying a property, it is fair to say it is going to be one of the biggest decisions you will ever make.

For this reason, you should gain as much knowledge as you can before you sign on the dotted line. The best way to do this is to engage a local, knowledgeable and experienced solicitor.

Neil Hendriks, Principal Solicitor at CMJ Legal, says, 'Our dedicated team at CMJ Legal can help guide buyers through the complex, and often stressful, journey towards owning their own home. We have assisted many people achieve their dreams over the years and pride ourselves on providing a comprehensive, cost effective and personalised service for our clients.'

Neil has noticed an increasingly competitive market, particularly here in the Northern Rivers, with a large number of buyers from

Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne who are taking advantage of working remotely.

'The property market is moving very quickly, even in such unprecedented times, and buyers should be prepared to make well-informed, logical decisions in a short period of time' says Neil.

CMJ Legal is using technology and innovation to speed up the process for their clients, enabling their clients to have an advantage over their competitors and be the first ones to cross the finish line.

It is also an attractive time to buy a property, with a number of grants and assistance programs currently on offer, including the First Home Buyers Assistance scheme, First Home Owner's Grant scheme, First Home Loan Deposit scheme and the Home Builder Grant.



'It can be extremely difficult navigating these different schemes on your own; the lengthy application forms and the varying eligibility criteria...' says Neil, 'but with the right advice, and a smiling face along the way, you can guarantee yourself a great outcome, which could literally save you thousands of dollars.'

Even if you are not a first home buyer, or you are selling your home, it makes sense to surround yourself with experts who can simplify the process

and help you to avoid making costly mistakes.

CMJ Legal will handle every detail of your property transaction and will be there to keep you updated at all times. Talk to their friendly team to discuss how they can meet your needs and arrange an obligation free consultation today.

'Good luck and speak to you soon...' says Neil.

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FIRST HOME BUYERS AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY THE BIG WINNERS

Julie-Ann Manahan, Principal/Licensee of Raine and Horne Ocean Shores/Brunswick Heads/Murwillumbah shared this information for first home buyers regarding the new stamp duty exemptions:

First home buyers and the construction industry will be the big winners under a targeted boost, which will eliminate stamp duty on newly built homes below \$800,000 and slash thousands of dollars in fees for properties up to \$1million. To be eligible for

an exemption or reduction in the amount of duty payable you will need to be a first home buyer who purchases a new home, or a vacant block of land, on which you intend to build a new home.

For the full exemption to apply, the value of the new home must be no more than \$800,000 and the value of a vacant block of residential land must be no more than \$400,000. A concessional rate of duty will apply to homes valued at more than \$800,000 but less than \$1million and for a vacant block of land valued at more than \$400,000 and less than \$500,000.

Under the changes, the threshold above which stamp duty is charged on new homes for first home buyers will increase from \$650,000 to \$800,000, with the concession reducing on higher values before phasing out at \$1million.

The government forecasts more than 6,000 first home buyers will benefit from the changes, saving eligible first home buyers thousands of dollars.

Under the changes, the stamp duty threshold on vacant land will rise from \$350,000 to \$400,000 and will phase out at \$500,000.

The change to the thresholds will only apply to newly built homes and vacant land, not to existing homes, and will last for a 12-month period, commencing on 1 August, 2020.

Other purchasers will continue to benefit from existing schemes.

The government calculates the changes could save first home buyers stamp duty of up to \$31,335 on a new \$800,000 home.

The NSW Government will also continue to offer a \$10,000 First Home Owner Grant, which is available to people buying a new first home, worth no more than \$600,000, or buying land and building a new first home worth no more than \$750,000 in total.

The changes are part of the NSW Government's COVID-19 Recovery Plan and will support the property and construction industry, which employs one in four people in NSW and is essential to keeping jobs and investment in the state.

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WHAT DOES A FIRST HOME BUYER LOOK LIKE IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS?

ACCORDING TO LOCAL MORTGAGE BROKERS, THE ANSWER IS COMPLEX, AND SURPRISING. THE CLICHÉ OF THE YOUNG COUPLE IS NOT TYPICAL THESE DAYS.

Sharon Clarkson is a senior mortgage broker in Byron Bay. She said the first home buyers she's seen recently are a total mix, ranging from couples in their late 40s with high disposable incomes on permanent resident visas, to older single people, to couples in their 30s who were born overseas, to young singles struggling to buy something with the assistance of their parents and government grants.

Miss Clarkson said, 'Our area is becoming a hotspot for visa holders who decide to stay, become permanent residents, and then comply with the FHOG [First Home Owner Grant] requirements. The local kids who work in lower income employment struggle simply on the price of real estate here.'

Lennox Head mortgage broker Zain Peart said he's also seeing many older first home buyers. 'We have a lot of people who haven't bought in this area for a long time because of prices, and now they're trying to get in because rent is so expensive.'

GROWTH PAINS

Although it's not without challenges, Mr Peart sees the growth of the region as a positive overall.

'A lot of people are now able to stay here and work, rather than the traditionally large fly-in fly-out contingent of people in the area. The place is more of a destination.'

Personally, Mr Peart says, things have been 'crazy'.

'We've been really really busy. I've probably never been busier,' he said.

Sharon Clarkson explained that because postcode 2481 and surrounds is classified as regional NSW, the FHLDS (First Home Loan Deposit Scheme) is limited to property sales of \$450,000 or less locally, which is making it difficult for young people to enter the market.

'Honestly what can you get [around here] for that?' Miss Clarkson wonders. 'It has created an issue that properties that would sell for \$350-\$390,000 normally are now selling for \$420,000 plus.'

'The FHLDS has created an influx of buyers and there is limited stock, so you can understand the end result; these poor kids are now paying \$50-\$70K more for something they otherwise wouldn't,' she said.



...seeing many more young first home-buyers looking at building on unoccupied land, particularly off the plan, rather than buying established properties."

Zain Peart said there are a lot of people who've lost hope of ever entering the local housing market, and other older people who find it possible to buy because of an inheritance, or because they've saved for many years.

Bangalow solicitor Neil Hendriks, from CMJ Legal, says he's been seeing many more young first home-buyers looking at building on unoccupied land, particularly off the plan, rather than buying established properties.

CHANGES WITH COVID

For buyers coming from the city, especially since COVID, the dream of being able to buy rural land is still possible here.

Mortgage broker Mr Peart said, 'I can think of five clients right now that have moved up here because of COVID and decided, let's just stay!'

'It's such a nice area, and there's the support with the two airports here, people are moving out of Sydney, and coming out with change, and buying a \$1.5 million house up here. That's certainly pushing prices up a bit.'

He said he's seeing 'people from all walks of life moving up here, not just those getting ready to wind down and slow down.'

RENT OR BUY?

Byron Bay broker Sharon Clarkson said the biggest local issue is that the local rental market is so expensive that for many younger people, deposits are simply not able to be saved.

'The younger generation of locals either remain living at home, or bunk with five friends to accommodate the rental market here,' she said.

'So I do get a lot of calls asking about loan guarantors, parents prepared to put up properties to cover not having a deposit.'

'If you are not a couple here earning good dollars, you will find it hard to buy,' said Miss Clarkson.

'It's unfortunate but it's the truth. I moved here from Sydney, and the prices are equivalent. So I don't envy the 20-somethings looking to follow in their parent's footsteps in owning a home.'





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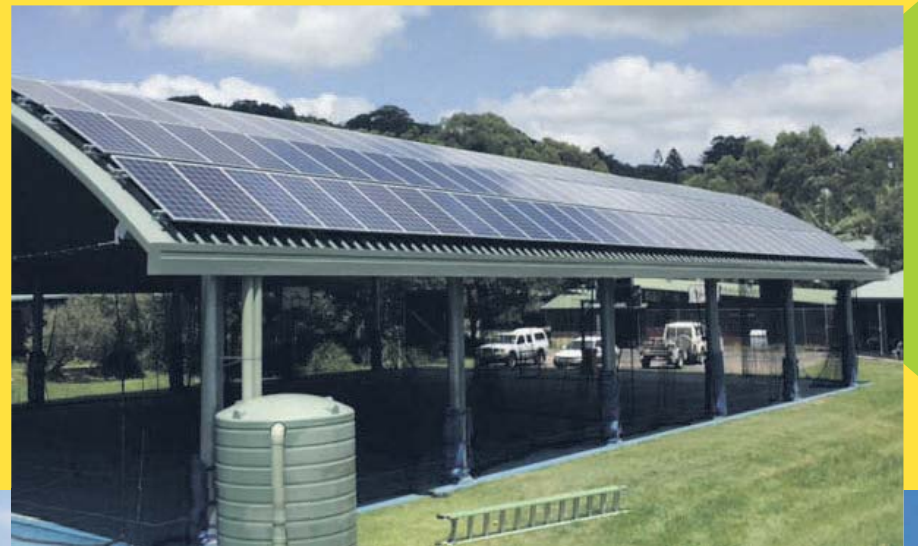
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7 steps to buying your first home

Summerland Credit Union's Bangalow Branch Manager, Brenda Reyes, breaks down the journey to buying your first home

1

What are your choices

Work out what you're looking for in a home. Talking to friends, family and a Lending Specialist can help you plan for the future.

4

Get inspections done

Depending on your property, get building, pest, electricity and strata inspections done. It's also worth getting a land/property survey as well.

7

Celebrate your new home

Now you've got the keys, start thinking about removalists, plus home and contents insurance. Don't forget to pop the bubbly first, though!

2

Learn how much you can borrow

Book an appointment with a Lending Specialist to get the most from your home loan. We offer fast pre-approval, with decisions often within 48 hours.

5

Time to settle

Talk to a solicitor/conveyancer to organise the legal settlement of your new home and the exchanging of contracts.

What sets us apart from the big banks is most of the verifications on your application are done prior to purchase, right here in the Northern Rivers.

3

Find a home and make an offer

Once you have pre-approval, research and view a range of homes. When you're ready to make an offer talk to the real estate agent.

6

Sign your home loan contract

Your Lending Specialist will send your home loan contract electronically or ask you to come in to your branch to finalise this.



Kaylene Butler
0428 268 619



Brenda Reyes
0447 267 154

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Cnr Station & Byron Streets, Bangalow

Jingi Walla – welcome to my country

Eve Jeffery

Local Arakwal woman, Delta Kay, is excited to be sharing her culture and her country as she leads Aboriginal tours exploring Cape Byron and Broken Head.

Delta Kay, well known and respected in the Byron Shire, is passionate about sharing Aboriginal culture – her ancestors have lived in the area surrounding Byron Bay for thousands of years and Arakwal customs, knowledge, ceremonies and stories have been passed down to her for safe keeping.

Delta says that when she is doing tours, she is practising her culture. 'Every day I observe country and feel in awe of her. I want people to leave my tours with a deeper understanding of how my family have always cared for the land and are still caring for it. I believe this understanding leads to a stronger feeling of belonging for our locals and a deeper respect from visitors who want to connect with Indigenous people and learn about this incredible place we call Byron.'

Delta says the Aboriginal tours, that are for locals and visitors alike, are a must-do so that cultural protocols are understood and are followed. 'Byron Shire has many sacred sites that we want protected for future generations – we need people who are not Indigenous to this country to support us and avoid certain areas to protect them. Or, if you're visiting a sensitive area then to behave appropriately, refrain from splashing it up on Instagram – just enjoy the moment!'

During the tours, guests can expect to hear about Aboriginal existence before colonisation, including how Arakwal Bundjalung people cared for and preserved the land. Delta also explains the devastating impact of settlement and displacement on Aboriginal people. She teaches some Bundjalung language and provides information about bushfood, natural medicine, tools, weapons and artefacts.

The Cape Byron tour is a moderate 1.5km, two hour return

walk while learning about significant places and hearing local history and traditional stories. During the tour, guests often see an abundance of wildlife, such as dolphins, wallabies and Fairy Wrens to name a few. From coastal rainforest to crashing waves and rocky cliffs, the views on this tour are truly special. Bring binoculars, especially in winter and spring as there are great opportunities to spot migrating whales.

The Broken Head tour is a moderate 1.6 km two hour tour where guests often see pods of dolphins and white-bellied sea eagles.

There is a maximum group size of ten people and organisers offer a free pick-up and drop-off service for guests within 6km of the Byron Bay CBD.

Delta says it's about respect for country. 'We walk softly on country. Locals and visitors alike can empower Indigenous communities to speak for country, work on country and live culture – [it's important for visitors to] follow cultural protocols and ensure that they use genuine Indigenous tours, not non-Indigenous people telling our stories and culture.'

'Our art has been appropriated internationally, our flag has been stolen, our stories, at the very least, must remain with us – not with non-Indigenous tourism operators.'

'I respectfully ask tour operators to ensure they have an Indigenous person from their traditional country doing cultural interpretations. Indigenous tourism must be led by Aboriginal people.'



Arakwal woman, Delta Kay, wants to share with you the beauty and culture of her country. Photo Tree Faerie.

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Variety is the spice of life!

If you are looking for a little inspiration for a unique culinary experience then a visit to Picone Exotics – it's an experience not to be missed!

John has over 400 different varieties of fruit tree on his farm – so to say it's a passion is an understatement.

Not only will you be thrilled by the weird and wonderful, he has endless tips on how to grow, eat, or drink these fruits too.

For starters, the Torch Ginger flowers not only look stunning in a vase but you can eat them – just finely shred the petals and add them to tom yum soup.

The Brazilian cherries are delicious whizzed up with some ice and mixed with soda and gin for a thirst-quenching

cocktail. Just one of those cherries will give you your daily vitamin C dose, says John.

The shahtoots, a 5-6cm long mulberry, have a flavour similar to port, and the nopalitos are the soft pads to the prickly pear that, when barbequed, give a citrus tang.

And you can't pass up an awesome dessert of black sapote, known as the chocolate pudding fruit, it's very tasty just on its own – but if you whizz up the flesh with coconut cream, vanilla bean and cacao, then refrigerate for a few hours and you'll have nature's chocolate mousse.

With the stonefruit coming through you'll find many varieties on John's stall



Chris Wallace and father-in-law John Picone, and some of the vast variety of fruits at the Picone Exotics stall.

that you've probably never tasted before. So make sure you pay him a visit, and have a chat – as he will no doubt have a list of exciting ways to consume them.

John is at the Mullum Farmers Market every Friday from 7-11am.

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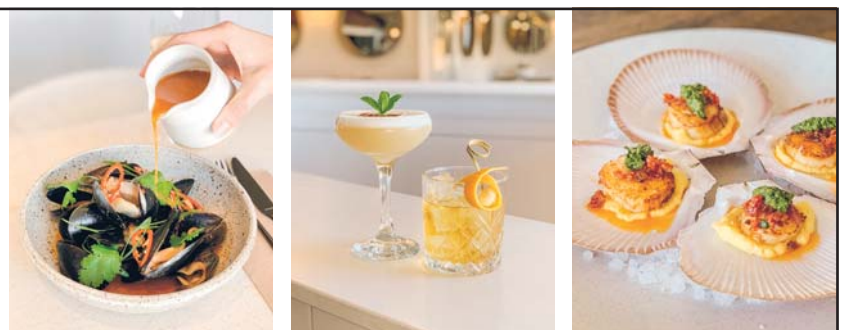
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The Good Life

Sneaky Bucha of Byron – a win in a tin

In a world first, Bucha of Byron are blending their kombucha with a range of beer styles.

Bucha of Byron have launched in the local area and have also been picked up nationally by BWS and Dan Murphy's – quite a big deal for a small local company.

The Sneaky Bucha of Byron is not only a new drink but a whole new category that combines the goodness of kombucha with the greatness of beer.

Produced by the Kombucha Brewing Co. and in partnership with Stone & Wood, The Sneaky Bucha blends a range of beer styles with the Original Bucha of Byron kombucha to create a full-strength, lower carb beer (at least 25% lower carb than regular full-strength beers).

According to the producers it's easy drinking, and very sessionable, with everything you like about kombucha mixed with everything you love about beer – reminiscent of a beer or shandy taste, but with a kombucha kick. At 4% ABV there's one standard drink per can.

The Sneaky Bucha satisfies the growing consumer



The new Bucha range, delicious kombucha with a dash of sneaky.

demand for low-calorie, high-quality products that can be enjoyed without the guilt. The Sneaky Bucha of Byron will complement The Bucha of Byron's existing portfolio of brands, including the Dirty Bucha of Byron that blends premium spirits with kombucha.

Co-founders Paul Tansley and Cam MacFarlane couldn't be happier with the product. 'There's a lot of hype around alcoholic seltzers coming into this summer,' says Paul. 'The Sneaky Bucha appeals to the same unisex, health-conscious crowd being lower carb, but doing it with something we know Aussie drinkers love – beer.'

Cam says people are looking for products that they can enjoy and also feel a little better about themselves. 'We're really excited to bring the Sneaky Bucha of Byron to Aussie drinkers. With lower carbs we think of it as a little win in a tin.'

The Sneaky Bucha comes in 330ml cans in three beer styles: XPA, Lager and Summer. The XPA for the craftier in-the-know beer drinkers, a more mainstream easy-drinking Lager, and a refreshing summer wheat beer.

■ For more info, visit www.buchaofbyron.com.au/sneaky-bucha.

Good Taste

BALLINA



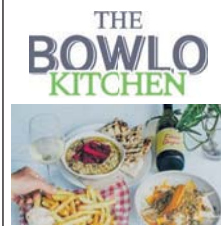
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Mr Gorillah's mad skills on the cheese grills

What was once a food truck operation is now a great gourmet toastie and coffee bar in the middle of Byron Bay.

Opening just over a month ago, Mr Gorillah is a hole-in-the-wall space providing an amazing array of toasted sandwiches, specialty coffee, epic shakes, and grab-and-go snacks.

Mr Gorillah is not just about the toasties – they are also a coffee bar using an amazing blend from specialty coffee roasters Social Espresso and they offer a range of alternative milks. 'It's the perfect combination for a quick takeaway breakfast or lunch option, for an after-surf snack, or when you're wanting to satisfy your nostalgic hunger feels; a toasted sandwich with a gourmet touch.'

The idea of finding a permanent space was always the initial plan for owner Darren Sharman, who was living on the Gold Coast.

'I spent the last seven months searching all over southeast Qld and northern NSW for the right location. The Byron Bay space was perfect and Mr Gorillah was launched.'

Darren wants to make Mr Gorillah the new local 'go to' as it offers a quick takeaway style menu at a great price point. 'Now they get the chance to experience a new food and beverage offering in the town. I'm not being biased – many have said we make the best toasties in town – we have to agree!'

Darren says the philosophy of the business is simple. 'We wanted to offer a well known, nostalgic food item, done extremely well. Add in a place filled with epic vibes and cheesy grins, and that's the concept that lovers of all things toasties and coffee can expect.'

Darren says he loves it when people try one of his toasties and coffee. 'They don't even have to say



Darren Sharman and Mr Gorillah, and that ever present cheesy grin that comes from an awesome toastie. Photo Tree Faerie

anything, the smile says it all, that makes me happy. We source and use quality products throughout our menu. We use a range of local Australian cheeses as well premium international cheeses and our sourdough

bread is sourced using only organic and/or sustainable ingredients.' I also love the social aspect of getting to meet new people every day and interact and have a good chat, even if it is for only a brief moment.'


Darren says this is his first concept store. 'My original dreams and goals are to see it thrive allowing me to expand into other communities and towns.'

■ Find Mr Gorillah at 3a/1 Byron Street, Byron Bay.

Good Taste


Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY continued



Main Street
Open 7 days
11.30am until late
Call to make a reservation
or for takeaway orders
18 Jonson Street
6680 8832

Gourmet burgers created by chefs
Cocktails, wine and beers served all damn day.
Group bookings available, please email
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Targa Modern European
Cafe • Restaurant • Bar
11 Marvell Street
Byron Bay
6680 9960
targabyronbay.com
targabyronbay@gmail.com

Open 7 Days
Breakfast & Lunch
Thursday – Sunday
Tapas 2.30pm, Dinner 5.30pm
Aperitivo happy hour 3–5.30pm & Cheese/wine special
Single cheese plate & 2 glass wine \$30
Double cheese plate & 2 glass wine \$35
Indoor & outdoor seating (puppies welcome)



La Cuisine Deli Shop
by Byron Bay Olive Co
2/29 Brigantine Street
0431 842 340
BYRONBAYOLIVECO
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support@byronbayoliveco.com

French deli shop that offers all products
by Byron Bay Olive Co and amazing options
for breakfast and lunch. Sandwiches, salads, soups
and Mediterranean style products such as
olives, dips, cured meats and French cheeses.
Mon – Fri 9am–3.30pm



The Rocks
@Aquarius
Brunch
7am–12 noon Mon–Fri
7am–1pm Sat & Sun
16 Lawson St, Byron Bay
6685 7663 – Menus at
therocksbyronbay.com.au

Our Rocking New Brunch Menu
Come and join us at the Rocks for some light brunch options
or hearty breakfasts. We offer a range of home-made, locally
sourced produce at affordable prices, including our delicious
new loaded halloumi or chorizo tacos, vegan nasi goreng
and our signature Rocks Big Brekky which will keep you
going for hours! Fresh juices, Byron Bay coffees and healthy
smoothies available too. The Rocks is registered as
COVID Safe, and is practicing all NSW health guidelines.



BYRON BAY continued



Loft Byron Bay
4 Jonson Street,
Byron Bay
6680 9183
Book online:
www.loftbyronbay.com.au

Incredible cocktails, locals beers & all-day snacks and
food to share with ocean views.
Happy Hour | Every day 4-6pm
\$6 Loft Lager or Wine, \$10 Aperol Spritz, \$14 Margarita
Espresso Martini Nights | Every day 9-11pm
2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini
Open every day from 4pm till late.



St Elmo Dining Room & Bar
Open Thursday – Sunday
5 – 10pm
Cnr Fletcher St and Lawson Lane, Byron Bay
6680 7426
www.stelmodining.com

St Elmo is a place where you can enjoy great
company, first-class food, sophisticated cocktails
and an extensive wine list. St Elmo is plating up
modern Spanish cuisine to be enjoyed amongst
friends and family. Our menus change regularly
and feature daily specials.

LENNOX HEAD



Krill Bar
Lennox Head
47 Ballina St,
Lennox Head
www.krillbar.com.au
6685 5538
@KRILLBARANDRESTAURANT

Open Thursday 5pm–10pm, Friday 12pm–3pm & 5pm–10pm
Saturday 5pm–10pm, Sunday 11:30am–4:30pm
**Amazing cocktails, fabulous local food, a la carte and bar
menus all with super friendly service.**
Head Chef Minh Le was a finalist for Australian Chef of the Year in
2016 and has owned multiple hatted restaurants.
Come in and experience his fine food in the stylish decor.
Happy Hour Thursday – Saturday 5–6pm
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20 Burringbar St,
Mullum
6684 2306
Tues–Fri 8.30am–2.30pm
Sat, Sun 9am–2pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
empiremullum.com.au

The Empire is where it's at!
Something for all tastes from epic burgers to vegan
delights. Enjoy delectable treats and good vibes at
this Mullum icon.
Takeaways and lots of grab-and-go goodies
available. Phone orders welcome
– call ahead and avoid the queue.



Yaman Mullumbimby
62 Stuart St, Mullumbimby
6684 3778
www.yamanmullumbimby.com.au

Coffee, Malawach Rolls, Pita Pockets, Falafel,
Traditional Yemenite spices and all your
favourites always freshly made.
**Drop in for an authentic atmosphere,
Dine-In or Takeaway .**



Fishheads
Byron Bay
1 Jonson Street,
Byron Bay
6680 7632
@FISHHEADSBYRON

We are thrilled to announce that Fishheads restaurant
is now open to the public!
It is important to us that we support the community
as best we can, and do our best to uplift spirits with
delicious seafood and welcoming customer service.
As part of our reopening, we have also launched a
new restaurant and take away menu!
Book now while tables are still available.



Success Thai
Mon-Fri lunch & dinner
closed Sundays
Lunch 12 noon–3pm
Dinner from 5–8.30pm
3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay
www.facebook.com/
pages/Success-Thai-
Food/237359826303469

All your favourites every lunch and dinner
Experienced Thai chefs cooking fresh delicious
Thai food for you.
BYO only
Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.
Menus available on Facebook



Barrio
7am–3pm Mon–Thu
7am–7pm Fri
1 Porter St, North Byron
Booking via our website
barriobyronbay.com.au
Walk in tables available

Barrio's canteen takes its inspiration from locally
sourced produce with Moorish cuisine.
Offering daily bakes, breakfast cakes, classic
sandwiches, vibrant salads, smoked fish, grilled meats.
Aperitif Hours Friday 5–7pm: \$10 plates + drinks
Private Dining: Now taking private party enquiries for
lunch and dinner with your closest friends:
gather@barriobyronbay.com.au



Lord Byron Distillery
Open Tuesday–Saturday
12 noon – 5pm
7, 4 Banksia Drive,
Byron Bay
8646 4901

CELLAR DOOR – TASTINGS & TOURS
Handcrafted spirits using locally sourced ingredients.
Naturally Better!
Free from added artificial flavours and colours.
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18-22 Old Pacific Highway
Newrybar NSW 2479
02 6687 2644
www.harvestnewrybar.com.au
@harvestnewrybar

HARVEST RESTAURANT, DELI + BAKERY
Lunch: Wed – Sun 12–3pm
Dinner: Thurs – Sat from 5.30pm
3 courses from the wood-fired oven in the historic bakery
Sat + Sun 8–12pm: Baked goods at Sourdough Weekends
Sunday 3–5pm: Chook Night
Deli hours are 8am–4pm


ALCOHOL SUPPLIERS



Sun Bistro Bottleshop and Home Delivery
61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
02 6685 6500
www.thesunbistro.com/
deliveries
deliver@thesunbistro.com

**At the Sun Bistro Bottle Shop you will find
a hand curated range of quality wines,
spirits and beers.**
RARE AND NATURAL WINE • CRAFT BEER
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Open 7 Days 10am – 8pm Monday to Sunday

CATERING



Celebrations Catering By Liz Jackson
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P: 0414 895 441



www.echo.net.au/soap-box

MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



WHEN GLADYS MET DARYL

Gladys sure can pick 'em! It's not her politics that are going to bring her down, it's not her choice in policies – it's her choice in men. Namely, her bad boyfriend, Daryl. How could she have known? I mean, what happens in Wagga stays in Wagga! Unless of course you're using your pillow talk to get the inside goss to convince federal oil and gas lobby groups to help sell your Chinese mining technology. 'Frack Me Daryl!'

Poor Gladys – the man she loved turned out to be a Dirty John. How could she have known? Daryl is one of the most innocuous names around. Daryl is the perfect name for a good straight boring man. I don't think there's a single Daryl in the history of Daryls who have ever done anything remarkable. Daryl Braithwaite – he's as good as a Daryl gets. Daryls don't rock the boat. Daryls aren't ever serial killers or terrorists. Daryls are reliable. You should be able to trust a Daryl. Daryl will come over and help you move furniture. Daryl loves a beer and a pokie at the RSL. Daryl reads the Telegraph. Daryl doesn't help heirs to a racing fortune sell land near the proposed Western Sydney airport.

Apologies to the Daryls out there – but it's just not a sexy name. I'll show you why. Start moaning in a building orgasmic crescendo and scream out 'Daryl! Daryl! Oh Daryl!' It's quite the cold spoon on the climax. I once dated a guy called Daryl. He changed his name to Richard. When I found out his actual name was Daryl, I left him. Poor Gladys hit the bottom of the barrel with Daryl. (Barrel was the only word I could find to rhyme with Daryl... oh, and apparel).

But Gladys is not alone.

We girls love a bloke with problems, or a dark secret, or a conman. Does it for us every time. Bad blokes have a powerful charisma that nice blokes don't have. Your friends can see it – they have a special name for the charisma of your bad boyfriend, they call it: 'arsehole'. You don't have to be into anal to love an arsehole. The more narcissistic, manipulative and duplicitous the better. It's an aphrodisiac. Especially for smart high achieving women. Nice guys just can't compete. I mean who would want to be in a supportive and nurturing relationship with a healthy man? If you weren't trying to change him, or save him, then what would you do on weekends?

I can imagine that Gladys' friends probably pulled her aside and whispered 'you're the Premier of NSW Gladys – you can do better than Daryl. Jamie Packer's single. And he's got a casino. Doesn't matter what you say in the bedroom, apparently he doesn't remember anything.'

I think Gladys knew. Not what Daryl was up to, just that Daryl was probably not the best choice for a boyfriend. We women have an intuition for that sort of thing. Sadly we rarely listen to it. That's why she kept him secret. Her secret Daryl.

I feel sorry for Gladys. I look at the photos of her in the paper and she looks really ashamed. She looks heartbroken. You can see the pain on her face. And although she's a bit dodgy on the details of when they started their relationship, she's openly admitted she's made a mistake. Something politicians rarely do.

You can't help who you love. Love is illogical. It's sometimes dangerous. It's compelling, especially, when it's wrong. And Daryl was wrong. Daryl was Gladys' heroin. Gladys clearly loved Daryl. And now it has ruined her. She'd been doing a good job in her public office. But now, that doesn't matter. She got held over a Daryl.

Everyone thought that Gladys had no personal life. That she lived an ascetic life. That she went home to her empty house, with her empty fruit bowl, and cried quietly – on the inside. We liked her like that. It made her seem tough and invulnerable.

But she had her secret Daryl. It actually makes me like her and I've never voted Liberal in my life. She's vulnerable. She's human, she's made a mistake in her personal life that's going to totally smash her career. I've been embarrassed by some of my bad choices in men, imagine how Gladys must feel! For a very private person it must be excruciating to have ICAC trawl through your undie drawer. It seems cruel to be held accountable for the behaviour of your bad boyfriend. But such is the requirement of public office.

Gladys got pork Daryled.

Issue# 35.19
October 21,-27, 2020
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ENTERTAINMENT

Seven

BIG SURPRISE AT BIG GIG!

This month there's a surprise guest performing at **The Big Gig**. This is a high profile comic who everyone is going to love. We just can't tell you who it is. What we can tell you is that you won't be disappointed – and the next day *everyone* who didn't go, is going to say, 'Damn! I was going to go!' Hosted by Mandy Nolan, the show is FREE – limited tickets available (because of COVID-19 you must register for a ticket! You can't just rock up and get in!). **Thursday 29 October. Ballina RSL at 8pm.**

SINGING STRAIGHT

Mark Trevorrow, the creator of Bob Downe, continues the musical journey he began when he performed as himself on Good News Week and continued with his 2004 ABC album *It's About Time* – singing pop, jazz and show standards, from Bacharach and Lennon-McCartney to Sondheim and Coward, in the smoothly melodious style you'll never hear from Bob! A relaxed and funny evening of great music and stories, with music director, **Bev Kennedy**, on piano.

Mark Trevorrow is singing straight at the Brunswick Picture House on Friday and Saturday at 7pm.
Tix from brunswickpicturehouse.com

THE COVID COWBOY

The Space Cowboy returns to the Picture House for his first performance in seven months and his last show of this kind for 2020. His record-breaking stunts have astonished audiences from Helsinki to Hobart, and made headlines around the globe. One of the most innovative sideshow artists alive today, The Space Cowboy currently holds over 50 Guinness World Records – ranging from sword swallowing, unicycling and juggling through to blindfolded arrow catching, blowtorch flame swallowing and many more!

Be amazed at the Brunswick Picture House on Saturday.
Tix from brunswickpicturehouse.com



WOMEN LIKE US HIT KYOGLE!

Ellen Briggs and **Mandy Nolan** perform their all new *Women Like Us* show at the **Kyogle Bowlo** this **Saturday**. The girls have used the covid downtime to record a podcast and reimagine their successful touring show, which is now on its 150th plus show.

Bringing the house down wherever they go – tickets from womenlikeus.com.au or at the venue. Show starts at 8pm.

ARTISTS INVITING YOU IN

Have you ever walked into an art gallery and wondered 'How do they do that? How does the artist get that effect, that colour, that sculptural curve?' Well, now you can find out! For the third year running, **Open Studios Ballina, Byron & Beyond** is your opportunity to meet the artists in their studios and discover their secrets! A rare treat offered over two weekends, with 34 local artists in a wide variety of artistic genres opening their working studios to the public.

So mark the diary: 28-29 Nov and 5-6 Dec.
Visit www.os-bbb.com for details of participating studios.

THE POETRY AFTERGLOW!

Dangerously Poetic celebrates *Afterglow*, **Laura Jan Shore's** long-awaited third collection, published by Interactive Press, Brisbane. This free event will be held in the iconic **Burringbar School of Arts Hall**, Burringbar. The talented singer/songwriter, **Emma Lees** will perform musical interludes. **Kathryn Boorman** will be the MC. President of Dangerously Poetic Press, Laura has facilitated readings, co-edited twelve poetry collections, and offered poetry workshops in the area since 1996.

See laurajanshore.com for more information.
Book launch, Sunday at 3pm. Signed books \$25.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

GIRLS LIGHT UP FOR BAYFM BENEFIT

LIVE MUSIC



LUCIE THORNE

"Some of the most simple and beautiful songs you will hear"
The Age



SARA TINDLEY

"A Lucinda Williams-esque sound that's about as sweet as anything"
Time Off

Join us to celebrate Australian female song writing with two of our favourite performers and help raise vital funds for the Shire's own, and only, community radio station.

ONE SHOW ONLY!

SUN 1 NOV / Doors 7pm / On stage 7:30pm
Indoor Seats / Garden Seats

TIX brunswickpicturehouse.com



WHAT'S ON

A NIGHT IN WITH MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY ONLINE EVENT

Wednesday 21 October, 7pm
Book + Show \$55 | Show only \$25

LOVEYS ACTUALLY LIVE THEATRE EVENT

Wednesday 21 October, 7pm
\$43.80

BBFF 2020 - SPOTLIGHT ON BYRON LIVE CINEMA EVENT

Saturday 24 October, 7.30pm
\$21.90

BBFF 2020 - IN CONVERSATION WITH JACK THOMPSON & WAYNE BLAIR

Sunday 25 October, 5pm
\$26.90

BBFF 2020 - SURF FILM SESSION LIVE CINEMA EVENT

Friday 30 October, 7.30pm
\$21.90

Arrive early and enjoy a drink at the Theatre Bar

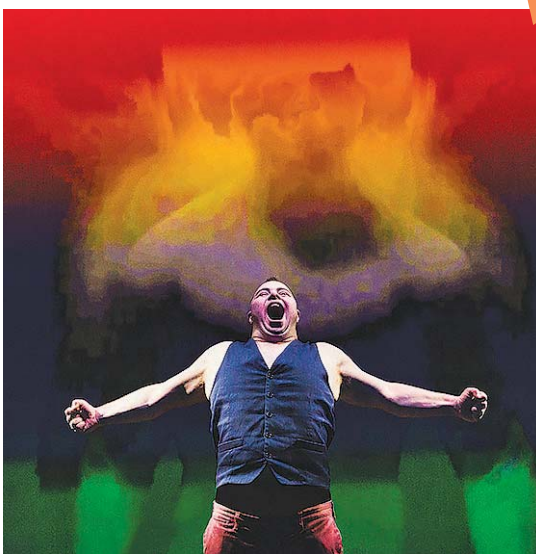
Byron Theatre & Community Centre
69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
byroncentre.com.au @byrontheatre



Seven

DANCING OUT DREAMS

In a world that's not built for you, can you dare to dream of life, love and a rightful place within it all? Choreographer Michael Hennessy spoke with *The Echo* about the upcoming show *Oh How I Dreamt of Things Impossible* at NORPA this week.



It looks like Sprung!! has really evolved into a very exciting dance troupe – how have you navigated the process – how much do the dancers inform the journey?

I have treated the company as I would in working with any dance company; through training and creating works with the company. The training has been very important as it is with all dancers. A dancer has to have the physical stamina, technique and agility to be able to perform the choreography. We train two days a week as a group, and I work with some of the dancers one-on-one.

The dancers are integral to the process. We share our stories, and our ideas, through dance – they are the inspiration. When I first started thinking about this project it was called 'Wonderland' and I thought of it as a highly stylised piece, where I described it as Tim Burton meets Ballet. I even started choreographing it; it wasn't bad, but I've been working with the company for seven years now and I am still moved and astounded by their work. So this new work came from a simple question 'Where does all this stuff come from?'. Our dancers have such a rich movement vocabulary, and they are such unique individuals, and I said to myself 'People have to see this!'

How did you work this into the choreography and the music?

Fred Cole is the composer and Fred has composed an original full-length score for this work. It is stunning! Fred has worked with the company before and he wanted to create all the music for this piece. Fred and I had also worked together in the early years of NORPA. In a section called 'Windows', Fred has created a score for each individual dancer based on them and their musical interests. 'Windows' was created online when we were all Zooming. They were in their living rooms and bedrooms creating dance while we were watching them through their little Zoom windows; it's an insight to [the dedication of] our dancers.

Dance is a medium for expressing dreams – dance is primarily visceral and visual, so dreams are often a source for inspiration. I asked the dancers what some of their common dreams were, and then asked how they would present them in movement... not an easy task. Again we were on Zoom and they dropped into it like they were in their dreams, it was amazing! And it is included in the work as 'Dreamscape'.

How do each of the dancers make their contribution? Do they get to choreograph or come up with the concept or feeling for their piece?

The work is very much about the dancers and their stories. Tara's solo is about growing from a young person to an adult, using the growth of a plant as an analogy, and the importance of her family and friends. Zac's piece is called 'Metal Man', he identifies with his strength and power. Alice's is 'Things Seemingly Unattainable' where she dances with a balloon as metaphor for things just out of reach. Max's work is 'Man in the Moon' where he asks 'Will I be in a relationship, will I find love?'. Kane, as a young boy was hospitalised a lot and had many surgeries. He talks about lying in bed and not being able to move, so he had to make himself move and think about getting better. Tallula was born deaf, but now has cochlear implants. I asked her how she related/responded to music and she placed her hand on the speaker and began following the pitch of the music and then performed the most beautiful dance; it's about embracing her deafness. Sinead's piece is about identity and who you are. She says 'it doesn't matter if you have a disability or not – I dance it out'.

Why should people go to watch this performance?

We are a local dance company with seven extraordinary dancers who will share aspects of their lives with you. The work is uplifting and moving with high level production; this is a professional show expressing the difference between the body we see, and what lies inside.

Thursday– Saturday at Lismore City Hall. Tix are \$20–\$49 from norpa.org.au

BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

WELCOME BACK

CIRCUS SPACE COWBOY: THRILL RIDE! | 24 OCT

LIVE MUSIC DAN SULTAN: ONLY NTHRN RIVERS SHOWS | 27-28 OCT

LIVE MUSIC CHRISTINA GIORGIO: HEART ON MY SLEEVE | 29 OCT

LIVE MUSIC MARK TREVORROW IS SINGING STRAIGHT | 30-31 OCT

LIVE MUSIC BAYFM BENEFIT: LUCIE THORNE + SARA TINDLEY | 1 NOV

CABARET CHEEKY: BACK AFTER OCT SELL OUT SHOWS! | 5-7 NOV

COMEDY TOM GLEESON: LIGHTEN UP RETURN SEASON | 9-13 NOV **SELLING FAST**

LIVE MUSIC HARRY JAMES ANGUS | 14 NOV

SPECIAL EVENT BAYFM BENEFIT: SEASIDE + LOOSE CONTENT | 15 NOV

FILM EVENT MULLUMBIMBY'S MAGIC 3: FILM SCREENING | 18 NOV

LIVE MUSIC MATT CORBY | 20 NOV

LIVE MUSIC BEN WALSH: THE ARRIVAL | 22 NOV

THEATRE BYRON YOUTH THEATRE | 23-26 NOV

LIVE MUSIC THELMA PLUM | 27-28 NOV

LIVE MUSIC MICHAEL SIMIC AKA MIKELANGELO | 29 NOV

LIVE MUSIC ROOFTOP REVIVAL: SONGS OF THE BEATLES | 5-6 DEC

CABARET CHEEKY: CHRISTMAS EDITION | 10-12 DEC

LIVE MUSIC BAYFM BENEFIT:
TRACY McNEIL + DAN PARSONS + NAOMI CONNELL | 13 DEC
HUSSY HICKS + SPECIAL GUEST | 20 DEC



BRUNSWICKPICTUREHOUSE.COM
30 FINGAL STREET | 6685 0280



Sewen

CONTINUED



HEART ON HER SLEEVE

Local folk-roots singer-songwriter, **Christina Giorgio**, will be bringing her show *Heart on My Sleeve* to **The Brunswick Picture House** on **Thursday 29 October**. Often funny, sometimes heartbreaking, and always unflinchingly honest, it's an evening of stories and songs about love, loss and getting wiser – the hard way. Christina will be joined by **Steve Dixon** on drums (Cold Chisel, Mental as Anything, Marcia Hines, Jonny O'Keefe, Brian Cadd) and **Bobbe Thornton** on bass (Stevie Wright, Phil Emmanuel). **Tix from brunswickpicturehouse.com**

CHAMPAGNE IN LENNOX

Live music is hitting the stage at **Park Lane Theatre** for the first time in almost a year – when **Daniel Champagne** performs this **Saturday**. Described as 'the finest guitar player of his generation', young virtuoso Daniel Champagne fuses the strong traditions of blues, folk and other roots music with his pop showmanship, poignant lyrics and beautifully crafted melodies. **Numbers are limited to comply with COVID-19 safety requirements. To book your tickets, visit www.communityspaces.com.au/tickets and follow the links.**



CINEMA

PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times: Thu 22 Oct - Wed 28 Oct NFT = No Free Tickets

<p>FOR BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAM PLEASE VISIT: WWW.BBFF.COM.AU</p> <p>RETRO SCREENINGS ALIENS (M) Fri: 6:45PM STRANGE DAYS (R18+) Mon: 6:45PM</p> <p>STUDIO GHIBLI: SPIRITED AWAY (PG) Thu: 6:30PM Sat: 2:00PM</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENTS RAMS (PG) Adv Screenings Fri: 11:00AM, 4:30, 6:15PM STEVIE NICKS: 24 KARAT GOLD THE CONCERT (CTC) Sun: 3:00PM THREE TENORS: VOICES FOR ETERNITY (CTC) Sat, Sun: 1:00PM</p> <p>FAMILY FILMS TROLLS WORLD TOUR (G) Daily except Fri: 12:00, 4:50PM Fri: 11:30AM, 4:50PM</p>	<p>THE SECRET GARDEN (PG) Thu, Tue, Wed: 12:30, 2:00, 6:40 Fri, Mon: 12:30, 2:00PM Sat: 12:30, 2:50, 6:40PM Sun: 12:30, 2:30, 6:40PM</p> <p>BABY DONE (CTC) Thu: 12:00, 2:00, 7:15PM Fri: 12:00, 2:00, 6:00PM Sat, Mon, Tue: 12:00, 2:40, 7:15PM Sun: 12:00, 4:40, 7:15PM Wed: 11:30AM, 2:40, 7:15PM CITY OF LIES (MA15+) NFT Daily except Fri: 4:45, 7:15PM Fri: 4:45PM CORPUS CHRISTI (MA15+) NFT Daily except Fri: 11:50AM, 2:30, 4:30, 7:00PM Fri: 11:50AM, 2:30, 4:30, 8:00PM DIRT MUSIC (M) Thu, Mon, Tue, Wed: 2:00, 4:10, 7:10PM Fri: 1:30PM Sat, Sun: 2:00, 7:10PM HOPE GAP (M) NFT Daily except Thu, Fri: 12:00PM Thu, Fri: 2:40, 3:45PM</p>	<p>HONEST THIEF (M) Daily except Fri, Sun: 11:50AM, 5:00, 7:15PM Fri: 11:50AM, 5:00, 8:40PM Sun: 11:50AM, 2:00, 7:15PM IRRESISTIBLE (M) NFT Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:40AM, 2:30PM Sat, Sun: 2:30PM LUCKY GRANDMA (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:45PM Sat: 1:50PM NEVER TOO LATE (M) NFT Thu, Mon, Tue, Wed: 12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 6:30PM Fri: 12:15, 2:15, 3:50, 6:00PM Sat, Sun: 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:30PM ON THE ROCKS (M) Thu, Mon, Tue, Wed: 12:15, 2:30, 4:40, 6:45PM Fri: 12:15, 2:00, 4:10, 8:00PM Sat: 11:50AM, 5:00, 7:10PM Sun: 11:30AM, 4:30, 6:00PM Sat, Sun: 4:30PM TENET (M) Thu, Fri: 4:00PM Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed: 3:45PM Sun: 1:30PM</p>
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108 Jonson St, Byron Bay Book online now at PalaceCinemas.com.au

“Every time I go to a movie, it's magic, no matter what the movie's about.”

- Steven Spielberg

Admission Prices: Adults: \$14 Stud/Conc: \$12 Senior: \$11 Child: \$10 **Wednesday All tickets \$10**

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

Thursday October 22 to Wednesday October 28 Tel: (02) 6686 9600 ballinafaircinemas.com.au

OCTOBER	THU 22nd	FRI 23rd	SAT 24th	SUN 25th	MON 26th	TUE 27th	WED 28th
ANDRÉ RIEU'S MAGICAL MAASTRICHT: TOGETHER IN MUSIC E 140 MIN All Tickets \$20					10:40 AM		10:40 AM
DIRT MUSIC M 105 MIN	10:40 AM 2:45 PM	10:40 AM 2:45 PM	2:45 PM	2:45 PM	2:45 PM	10:40 AM 2:45 PM	2:45 PM
HONEST THIEF M 98 MIN	12:10 PM 2:00 PM 4:10 PM	12:10 PM 4:10 PM 7:45 PM	12:10 PM 4:10 PM 7:45 PM	12:10 PM 4:10 PM	12:10 PM 2:00 PM 4:10 PM	12:10 PM 2:00 PM 4:10 PM	12:10 PM 2:00 PM 4:10 PM
HOPE GAP M 100 MIN	10:30 AM 2:20 PM 4:40 PM	10:30 AM 2:20 PM 5:40 PM	10:30 AM 2:20 PM 5:40 PM	10:30 AM 2:20 PM 5:40 PM	10:30 AM 2:20 PM 4:40 PM	10:30 AM 2:20 PM 4:40 PM	10:30 AM 2:20 PM 4:40 PM
I AM WOMAN (ROTARY FUNDRAISER) M 116 MIN All Tickets \$20					6:45 PM		
IRRESISTIBLE M 102 MIN	12:25 PM 3:55 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:45 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:45 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM	12:25 PM 3:55 PM	12:25 PM 3:55 PM	12:25 PM 3:55 PM
RAMS ADVANCED SCREENINGS PG 119 MIN		12:35 PM 7:30 PM	12:35 PM 3:35 PM 7:30 PM	12:35 PM 3:35 PM			
THE HIGH NOTE M 113 MIN	12:40 PM					12:40 PM	
THE SECRET GARDEN PG 100 MIN	10:20 AM	10:20 AM	10:20 AM	10:20 AM	10:20 AM	10:20 AM	10:20 AM
TROLLS WORLD TOUR G 91 MIN		6:00 PM	10:40 AM 1:55 PM 6:00 PM	10:40 AM 1:55 PM 6:00 PM			

ALL ABOUT YOU



Club Trading Hours
 Sunday to Wednesday
 9am to 10pm
 Thursday to Saturday
 9am to 12am
 Ballina RSL is proudly
 Covid-19 Safe Certified



Join us for lunch or dinner overlooking the beautiful Richmond River
 7 days
 Lunch 12pm to 2pm
 Dinner 6pm to 8pm

GREAT SOUTHERN NIGHTS PRESENTS
PHIL JAMIESON & PAT DAVERN
 Plus Guest **SOPHIE OZARD**
THU 5 NOV BALLINA RSL

GREAT SOUTHERN NIGHTS ARIA NSW GOVERNMENT Destination NSW

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Covid-19 restrictions strict entry and exit conditions to this show apply. Please see our website for full terms and conditions.

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THE SOUND OF EGYPT

After the international success of the first *Power Of Sound Africa*, local producers **Mark Robertson** and **Chris Liddell** bring their epic journey into the mysteries and peoples of ancient Egypt to the screen at **The Byron Theatre** this month.

Deep-diving past the veneers of translation and interpretation, *The Power Of Sound Egypt* offers insight and revelation direct from the wisdom-keepers and indigenous peoples of the Giza Plateau, Nile Valley and Nubian lands, along with Khemetian researchers, Sufi mystic musicians, Egyptologists and sound healing practitioners. Watch this new episode of the home-grown, award-winning documentary series at **Byron Theatre, Saturday, 31 October. Tickets \$22 from The Byron Theatre box office or www.byroncentre.com.au.**

THE SULTAN IN TOWN

Brunswick Picture House is thrilled to be hosting the incredible **Dan Sultan** for two intimate shows in October. Ever since Sultan delivered his debut album, *Homemade Biscuits*, in 2006 at the age of 22, music lovers from all walks of life have found a home in his ability to bare his longings and his wounds; his rich and soulful voice spilling all sorts of guts and glory over memorable rock, roots and blues hooks.

These will be the only Northern Rivers gigs for the multi-award winner – Tuesday and Wednesday 27–28 October at 7pm. Tix from brunswickpicturehouse.com



WEDNESDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAVE DEBRECEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **COMEDY AT THE BEACHY – RASH RYDER & ELLEN BRIGGS – MC MANDY NOLAN**, 9PM **ADAM BROWN**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **THE LOVEYS**

THURSDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ADAM HARPAZ**, 8PM **PHIL & TILLEY**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 6.30PM **TRIVIA**
- SLIPWAY TAVERN, BALLINA, 7PM **JOSH HAMILTON**
- **BALLINA RSL**, 8PM, THE BIG GIG WITH MANDY NOLAN AND VERY SPECIAL GUEST
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 9PM **KARAOKE**
- **LISMORE CITY HALL** 7.30PM OH HOW I DREAMT OF THINGS IMPOSSIBLE
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 7PM **THE RADIATORS**

FRIDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SOUTHWALL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **MYKAELA JAY**, 5.30PM **LEIGH JAMES**, 8PM **SCOTT DAY VEE TRIO**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, 6.50PM **BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL 2020 – RED CARPET OPENING NIGHT**
- **LISMORE CITY HALL** 7.30PM OH HOW I DREAMT OF THINGS IMPOSSIBLE
- SLIPWAY TAVERN, BALLINA, 7PM **PAINTED CROW**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM **JOCK BARNES**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **MARK BONO**, 9.30PM **SHAWN MARKHAM**

SATURDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1PM **FERNANDO AREGONES**, 4.30PM **THIS IS LIVING**, 8PM **HARRY & SPIKE**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL 2020 – SPOTLIGHT ON BYRON**
- WEMOVE STUDIO, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM, **VOICE ALCHEMY CONCERT AND WORKSHOP WITH SOPHIA TUV**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4.30PM, 6PM, 7.30PM, 9PM **SPACE COWBOY**
- WANDANA BREWING CO, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ TAZ**, 6.15PM **DJ LORD SUT**
- PARK ANE THEATRE, LENNOX HEAD, 7PM, **DANIEL CHAMPAGNE**
- DUNOON SPORTS CLUB, 5PM, **ACOUSTIC JAM**
- **LISMORE CITY HALL** 7.30PM SLIPWAY TAVERN, BALLINA, 7PM **NEIL MCCANN**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 7.30PM **SCOTT DAY VEE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 3PM **MICK EVANS**, 9.30PM **LOCKY**

SUNDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1PM **ALISHA TOD**, 4.30PM **JOCK BARNES DUO**, 8PM **THE 4'20 SOUND**
- BYRON THEATRE 5PM **BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL 2020 – IN CONVERSATION WITH JACK THOMPSON & WAYNE BLAIR**
- CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL 2020**
- WANDANA BREWING CO, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **SARAH GRANT**
- BURRENBAR SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL, 3PM, DANGEROUSLY POETIC, 3PM BALLINA RSL PIANO BAR 2PM **NARELLE HARRIS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 3PM **THE JACKS**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 3PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK**

TUESDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SLIM PICKENS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **HAYLEY GRACE**, 8PM **JORDAN MAC**
- CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL 2020**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JAY FRANCIS**, 8PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **DAN SULTAN**
- CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL 2020**



THE BANGARRA STORY

The Byron Bay Film Festival is one of the first major events to make its way back onto the social calendar, opening on **Friday** at **The Palace** with a sold out session of *Firestarter*. There will be other screenings over the festival, as it is a film that everyone should see. Director **Wayne Blair** shared some of his story with *The Echo*.

What was it about Bangarra that inspired you to make a documentary?

Nel Minchin, the film's co-director, and Ivan O'Mahoney, our producer, asked me to co-direct and I said 'Yes'. I thought *Firestarter* was a story that needed to be told, and also I had worked for the company back in 2000 with a show called *Skin* and I have worked with Stephen Page in many forms; film, dance and theatre.

Were you worried that you'd be able to encapsulate the story in a way that did it justice?

Yes – it's very hard to tell a story of over thirty years. I wish we had another hour up our sleeves!

I am interested, as a filmmaker that you manage to navigate the painful and sensitive areas of the story – especially the deaths of David and Stephen?

Nel, Karen and I, and Nick – one of our editors – were very respectful of the balance of these moments in the film. Always careful communicating about how to best translate the time and experience. Collaboration was key with people of experience and heart. We shared the film with family members and company members as well for feedback and changes.

How did you approach telling this story?

As we began filming the story three years ago, on and off mind you, because of the schedule, the story started to tell us how to tell it. The heart became apparent, and the story of how the company began and where the company is today.

What archival footage did you manage to find to tell the story of the beginnings?

We had access to personal Page family archives, archival material from news sources from Australia and the world and from the Bangarra Dance Theatre.

What do you think, in the telling of this story, underpins the power of Bangarra? What can dance do sometimes that talking can't?

Dance is an art form that educates and inspires like no other.

It can cross cultures and be performed by anyone. Dance is as old as time itself. Dance is my culture so it's very important when you are born to it, when you travel to the other side.

How do you want people to leave this film? What do you want them to take back into their worlds?

It is a story about dance, family, culture and human connection and how that is important to us all.

For the program and screening details of all films over the festival (starting Friday 1 Nov) go to bbff.com.au



STARS BY LILITH

With the Sun and retro Mercury in Scorpio, this week talk turns from trivial to deep – though truffling for the truth inevitably ruffles some feathers...

♈ **ARIES:** If people seem to be withholding information, they have their reasons, but rather than getting steamed up, think laterally and look for what you want elsewhere. Ditto when coming up against control issues: step sideways, offer constructive alternatives, and if they're not accepted, don't get in a snit. Stay positive, move on.

♉ **TAURUS:** With plenty of passionate planetary energy intensifying Taurean partnerships, plus Venus in your house of fun, this could be a week of alchemical connections wilder than your usual norm. A Saturnian reality check brings unblinking clarity to outdated hopes and wishes that you can now ditch in favour of what's actually, currently workable.

♊ **GEMINI:** Someone getting on your nerves, which are likely to be pricklier than usual? With Mercury retrograde, rather than critiquing, focusing on the positives will get you through this week's rough patches. Don't over-think things, and try to avoid making any course-altering decisions for another couple of weeks.

♋ **CANCER:** Forget small talk and casual convos, this week dives in the deep end. You might be emotionally volatile and easily unsettled, but with Mercury in the sign of the stinging tongue, don't be tempted into the verbal crab nip. Just keep a low profile – your best work will be done behind the scenes anyway.

♌ **LEO:** Yes, it's hard to make clear arrangements, but no need to get your knickers in a twist if you don't get what you want this week. And you probably won't. Accept that some things are admirable, but not presently feasible, steer clear of drama queens, and don't be a diva yourself.

♍ **VIRGO:** With your planet ruler Mercury in reverse, cracks could start appearing in collaborations with people who seem overbearing and under-delivering, except for their Pandemie-worthy performances. But taking your turn to lose it won't be pretty, and definitely not in your best interests. If you're feeling furious, do a debrief with someone you trust.

♎ **LIBRA:** This week could be a pretty intense one for you Venusians. If you're feeling fired-up, but not in a good way, make a list of all the things you're grateful for and the people you appreciate – about fifty of each should take your mind off venting, which isn't usually a good look.

♏ **SCORPIO:** Happy birthday Scorpio tribe! This week sees you taking the lead, and you enjoy that. While Mercury in your sign is fine, being retrograde is more of a mixed blessing. There's plenty of research to show that people don't usually give their best by being criticised, so try looking for points to praise.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS:** If it's hard to get a clear commitment or straightforward answer this week, don't let that lure you into over sharing, because TMI could attract unsettling feedback. On the upside, it's a good news week for solo research and sussing out info on your own, and don't overlook nonverbal clues and cues.

♑ **CAPRICORN:** Romantic date alert! Single or coupled, late week moon in Capricorn's definitely a peak get-together opportunity for a bit of sexy sizzle. For the rest of the week, resist letting retrograde Mars and Mercury's hair-trigger tempers tempt you into lashing out – no need to sew more seeds of suffering in our already frazzled world.

♒ **AQUARIUS:** Aquarius is a fixed sign, which this determined week makes even more stubborn, so while the flow mightn't be all that easy to go with, do your best to flex and stay fluid. Another phrase to delete from your vocabulary is 'ought to'... Try it for at least a week and watch what changes.

♓ **PISCES:** Sorry to say, but this could be a week of crankypants, niggles and general edginess. If it's difficult to get consensus, focus on common ground and mutual goals; if that fails, then agree to disagree for the time being. A friend or colleague could provide the perspective or advice you're looking for – just ask.



Luxurious Townhouse in Byron Bay

3 2 2

- "Vue" is one of the most luxurious townhouse developments in the area
- Spectacular ocean and bushland views
- Beautiful, spacious, premium finished 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home
- Large second living/media room or an ideal home office space
- Access to the neighbouring resort facilities - heated pool, spa, sauna & tennis court
- Short walk through National Park to Tallow Beach
- Easy 20-minute stroll to Byron town centre

Address: **4/22 Mahogoany Drive, Byron Bay**
 Price: Contact Agent
 Open: Saturday, 24th October 11.00am - 11.30am
 Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660, Luke Elwin 0421 375 635



Stunning Character Home in Mullumbimby

4 3 1

- Charming 1940's cottage with original design features
- 3 separate dwellings - Main house, studio and second dwelling
- Second dwelling is fully approved and self-contained with private street access
- Property uses the entire block, with both front and rear lane access
- 3 x 6m salt water, glass-framed, fibreglass pool with internal sundeck and lounge
- Fabulous income opportunity
- 10-minute drive to Brunswick Heads and 20 minutes to Byron Bay

Address: **56 New City Road, Mullumbimby**
 Auction: Forthcoming Auction Guide \$1.050 - \$1.15m
 Open: Contact Agent
 Enquiries: Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698, Vanessa Coles 0433 836 755



Stylish Coastal Living in This Near New Bespoke Residence

3 2 2 855M²

- Near new bespoke home set on a 855m block with northerly aspect
- Walking distance to town, cafes, beach and schools
- Large open plan relaxed living space featuring stylish kitchen
- Huge undercover deck, low maintenance fenced level yard, room for pool
- Master suite with walk in robe, ensuite and bespoke artisan finishes
- Upstairs are 2 double rooms with built ins plus a home office
- Beautiful home finished to superior standards in quiet, elevated location

Address: **2/24 Mahogany Drive, Byron Bay**
 Price: Contact Agent
 Open: Saturday, 24th October 10.00am - 10.30am
 Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660, Luke Elwin 0421 375 635

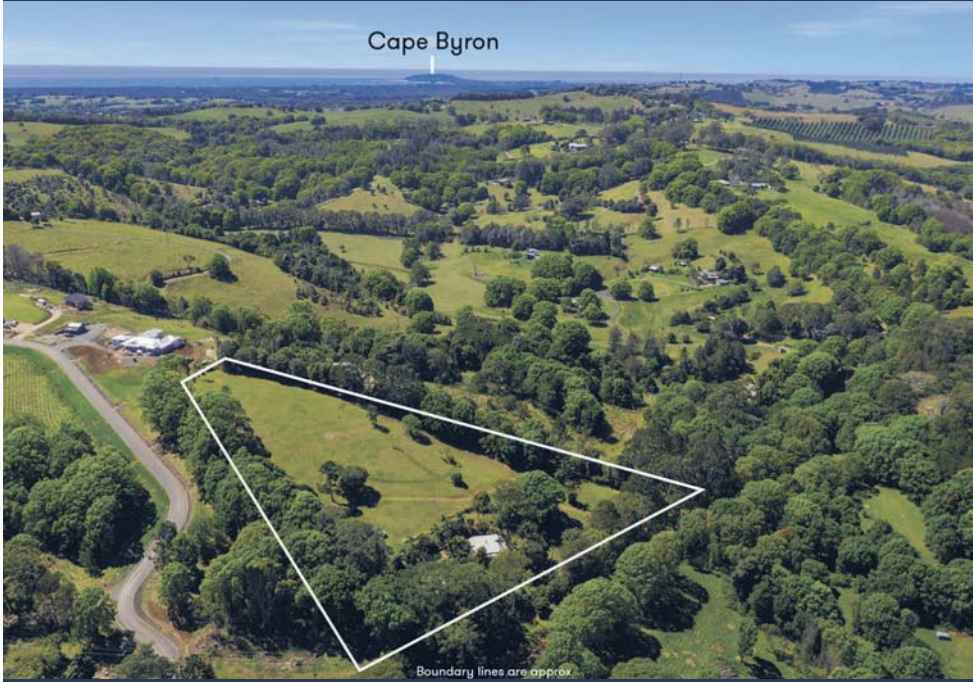


Rare Vacant Land on the Outskirts of Mullumbimby

4.6 HA (11.5 ACRES)

- Approx. 4.6ha (11.5 acres) of vacant land zoned RU1 - Primary Production
- Ample space to construct your dream home
- This amazing property has been held by the one family for several generations
- 2.5km to Mullumbimby town centre and 18 minutes to Byron Bay
- Creek, beautiful ancient fig trees and space to accommodate horses
- An amazing network of walking and riding trails for your enjoyment in the area

Address: **1247 Myocum Road, Mullumbimby**
 Auction: Forthcoming
 Open: Saturday, 24th October 2.00pm - 2.30pm
 Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660, Luke Elwin 0421 375 635



Idyllic Small Acreage Farmlet with Rustic Cottage

2 1 2 2.43 HA

- Stunning, private, 6 acre hobby farm with endless possibilities
- Panoramic Possum Creek views in dress circle location
- Wide open decks that flow seamlessly from open plan living spaces
- Inground pool with plenty of privacy and shade
- Just a few minutes easy drive to Byron's beaches and Bangalow Village
- Location location in Sleepy Creek Valley

Address: **212 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow**
 Auction: Saturday, 24th October 10.30am
 Open: Wednesday, 21th October 1.00pm – 1.30pm
 Saturday, 24th October 10.00am – 10.30am
 Enquiries: Greg Price 0412 871 500



European Masterpiece in Byron Bay

4 5 2 885M²

- Two self-contained buildings, private plunge pool / spa and lounge deck
- Sliding glass doors open to fantastic and atmospheric internal courtyard
- Outdoor kitchen with full inbuilt barbeque and sink
- Large open plan kitchen, living & dining with butler's pantry
- Large separate laundry/mud room
- Solid masonry construction with hand crafted finishes throughout

Address: **69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay**
 Auction: Saturday, 31st October 3.30pm
 Open: Wednesday, 21th October 12.00pm – 12.30pm
 Saturday, 24th October 12.00pm – 12.30pm
 Enquiries: Greg Price 0412 871 500

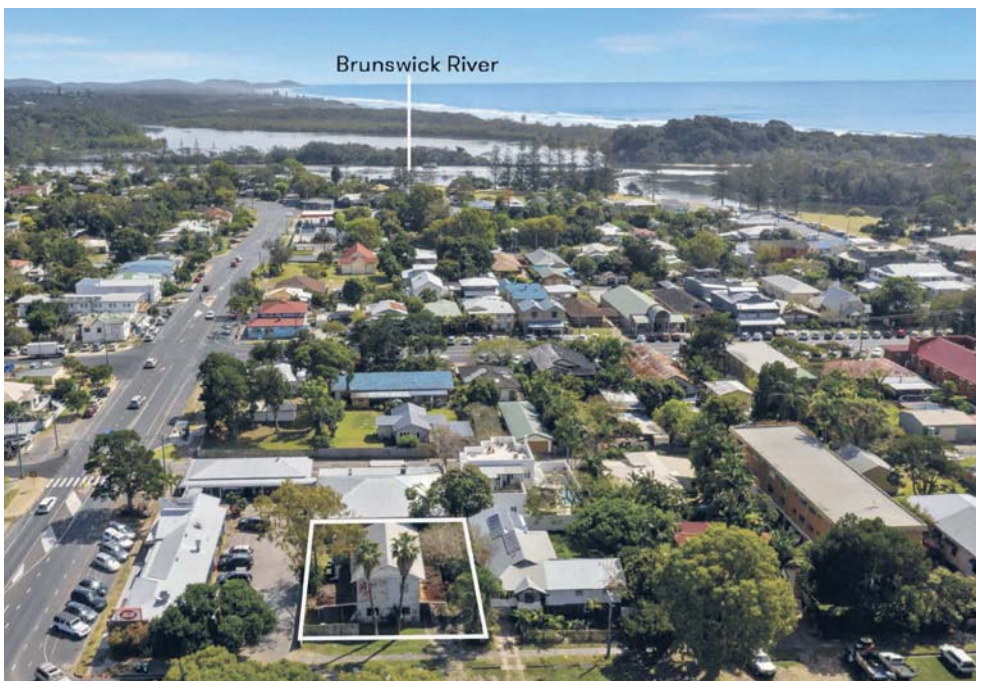


Central Byron Luxury at its Finest

4 2 2

- 'The Cedrics' at 4 Kingsley Lane, Byron Bay, is a newly built and superbly crafted home, offering relaxed and sophisticated luxury
- 800m from Main Beach and the centre of town with cafes, restaurants and shops
- French Oak floorboards, Travertine tiles, Cedar frames and large scale glazing
- Dual access from Kingsley Lane and Street with outdoor hot and cold showers at both
- Ducted and zoned air conditioning throughout
- Covered northern patio with built-in Artusi barbeque

Address: **4B Kingsley Lane, Byron Bay**
 Price: Contact Agent
 Open: Saturday, 24th October 12.00pm – 12.30pm
 Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660, Luke Elwin 0421 375 635



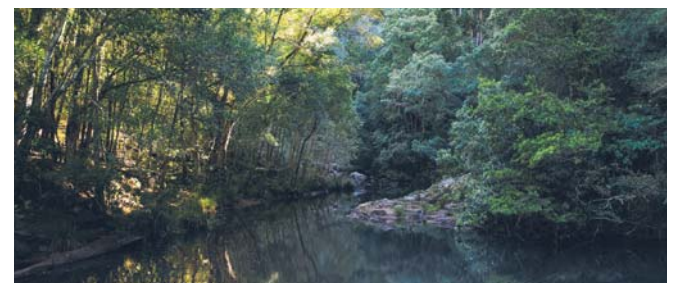
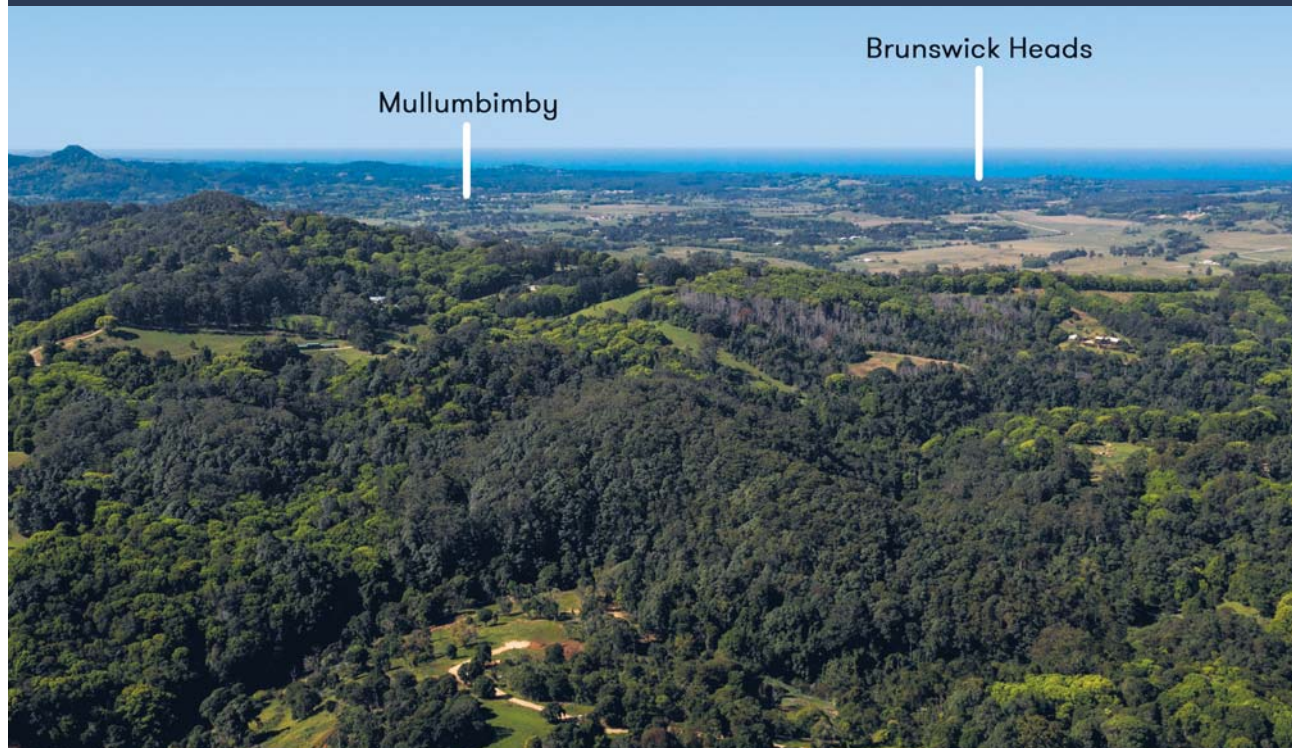
Development Dream in Brunswick Heads

5 4 2

- Ideally positioned within an easy stroll to beach river, schools and shopping
- Over 520m² of stable usable land
- 20m² street frontage for profitable development
- Enjoying a B4 Mixed Use Zoning for a variety of opportunities
- Divided into 4 leased flats on a stable level site
- Currently achieving a combined rental return of \$3,000 plus per month

Address: **17 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads**
 Auction: Saturday, 21st November 10.00am
 Open: Wednesday, 21th October 3.30pm – 4.00pm
 Saturday, 24th October 2.30pm – 3.00pm
 Enquiries: Greg Price 0412 871 500

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Spectacular Hinterland Parcel

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- Long frontage to stunning Wilsons River with deep swimming holes
- Character expanded dwellings with several autonomous living spaces
- Huge machine shed with power, water and septic
- Numerous out buildings/studios for added recreational pursuits
- Amazing wilderness country so close to Byron/Brunswick beaches

APPROX. 120 ACRES

Address: **Lot 21, 510 Goonengerry Road, Montecollum**
 Price: Contact Agent
 Open: Wednesday, 21th October 2.00pm – 2.30pm
 Saturday, 24th October 1.30pm – 2.00pm
 Enquiries: Greg Price 0412 871 500

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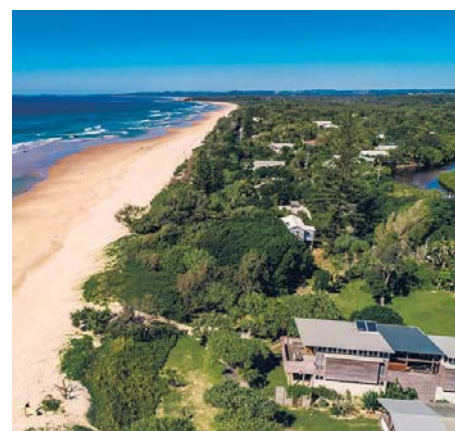
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\$4.95M

2 2 21 3110m²

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- + Large industrial block plus sheds, shops & a unit
- + Caretaker unit plus plans for additional warehouse
- + 1463sqm of existing buildings including 3 shops
- + Ewingsdale Road exposure. Easy motorway access
- + Prime location. Move your business straight in



NEW BRIGHTON
 22 River Street
\$2.95M

3 2 2

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- + Architecturally designed beachfront home, level block
- + Blackbutt floors, spotted gum, high ceilings, air-con
- + Quality fittings, gas stove, dishwasher, natural light
- + North & east facing decks, outdoor showers
- + Private beach access. Walk to the river & shops



Katrina Beohm Director, Christopher Plim Sales Agent, Rachael Jenkins Sales Manager, Gail Beohm Sales Support, Lily Hewitt Sales Admin

“Katrina and her team were highly knowledgeable and professional through all stages of the sales process. It’s no wonder we not only sold the property within 2 weeks of listing but even got more than our original asking price.”
 - Andrew Neale

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Harcourts Northern Rivers



Pimlico 319 Hermans Lane

4.9 Acre  4  2  8 

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When a fantastic opportunity presents itself you have to be ready to take full advantage. This 4.9 acre property offers a fantastic opportunity to astute purchasers offering a relaxed rural and riverside lifestyle in beautiful Pimlico.

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Price contact agent



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Cumbalum 33 Highfield Terrace

931m²  4  1  2  2 

Grand designer home with sweeping views to the coast

Situated on a large 931m² block sits this magnificently finished family entertainer with sweeping 180 degree views out to the pristine Ballina coastline is sure to impress the most discerning buyer.

Inspect by appointment 7 days
Price Guide \$1,050,000-\$1,100,000



Aiden

Aiden Wilcox
M 0423 596 683 P 6686 1100
aiden.wilcox@harcourts.com.au

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Property Business Directory

AGENTS



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Contact Tara to discuss your property or career at First National Byron

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Byron & Beyond Real Estate

- 15 O'Rourke Street, Cumbalum. Sat 10-10.30am

Byron Bay First National Real Estate

- 124-128 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Wed 10-10.30am
- 18 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Wed 11-11.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 212 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow. Wed 1-1.30pm
- Lot 21, 510 Goonengerry Road, Montecollum. Wed 2-2.30pm
- 17 Booyun St, Brunswick Heads. Wed 3.30-4pm
- 41 Massinger, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 124-128 Station St, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 212 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/24 Mahogany Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 18 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4/22 Mahogany Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 48 Myocum Ridge Rd, Myocum. Sat 11-11.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 4B Kingsley Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 54 Duncan Road, Numulgi. Sat 12-12.30pm
- Lot 21, 510 Goonengerry Road, Montecollum. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 1247 Myocum Rd, Mullumbimby. Sat 2-2.30pm
- 17 Booyun St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 2.30-3pm

Elders Brunswick Valley

- 22 Tweed St, Brunswick Heads. Thu 4-4.30pm
- 22 Garden Ave, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/48 Rajah Rd, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 22 Tweed St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 17 Rainbow Ave, West Ballina. Wed 9-9.30am; Sat 9-9.30am
- 8 George Pl, Ballina. Wed 9-9.30am; Sat 10-10.30am
- 33 Highfield Ter, Cumbalum. Sat 11-11.30am
- 6 Highfield Ter, Cumbalum. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 319 Hermans Lane, Pimlico. Wed 12-12.30pm; Sat 12-12.30pm
- 21 Waterford Parade, Skennars Head. Sat 1.30-2pm

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 2/3 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 38 Yamble Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 25 Peter St, South Golden Beach. Thu 11-11.30am; Sat 11-11.30am
- 25 Booyun St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 16 Tongarra Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 22 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 152 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 69 Brushbox Drive, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 10.30-11am
- 37 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 20 Roses Road, Federal. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 1/27 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 17 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30-1pm

Raine & Horne Ocean Shores/ Brunswick Heads

- 39 Yamble Drive, Ocean Shores. Wed 4-4.30pm; Sat 10.30-11am
- 69 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Wed 5.30-6pm; Sat 1-1.30pm
- 9 Banool Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- Pinnacle Estate, Ramsay Close, Goonellabah. Sat 9-10am
- 1 Uki Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 16/2 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30-10am
- 12 Borton Street, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1 Hunter Street, Burringbar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1/4 Roundhouse Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 17 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 120 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1 Elanora Ave, Pottsville. Sat 12.30-1pm

Real Estate of Distinction

- 9 Mcleans St, Skennars Heads. Wed 11am-12pm
- 1787 Kyogle Rd, Uki. Sat 1.30-2pm

New Listings

Byron Bay First National Real Estate

- 17 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads
- 54 Duncan Road, Numulgi

Raine & Horne Ocean Shores/ Brunswick Heads

- 39 Yamble Drive, Ocean Shores
- 17 Philip Street, South Golden Beach
- 1 Uki Street, Murwillumbah

Auction

Byron Bay First National Real Estate

- 212 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow. 24 October 10.30am
- 4 Pacific Vista Dr, Byron Bay. Forthcoming Auction
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Saturday 31 October 3.30pm
- 124-128 Station St, Mullumbimby. Forthcoming Auction
- 1247 Myocum Rd, Mullumbimby. Forthcoming Auction
- 56 New City Rd, Mullumbimby. Forthcoming Auction
- 17 Booyun St, Brunswick Heads. Saturday 21 November 10am



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View: Inspection by appointment
Contact: Chris Plim 0467 000 222
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INDEX

Accountants & Bookkeepers.....50	Hire.....51
Acupuncture.....50	Kitchens.....52
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration.....50	Landscape Design.....52
Antennas & Installation.....50	Landscape Supplies.....52
Antiques/Restoration.....50	Landscaping.....52
Appliance Repair.....50	Locksmith.....52
Architects.....50	Osteopathy.....52
Automotive.....50	Painting.....52
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters.....50	Pest Control.....52
Bricklaying.....50	Photography.....52
Building Trades.....50	Physiotherapy.....52
Bush Regen & Weed Control.....50	Picture Framing.....52
Carpet Cleaning.....50	Picture Hanging.....52
Chimney Sweeps.....50	Plastering.....52
Chiropractic.....50	Plumbers.....52
Cleaning.....50	Pools.....52
Computer Services.....51	Removalists.....52
Concreting & Paving.....51	Roofing.....52
Counselling.....51	Rubbish Removal.....52
Decks, Patios & Extensions.....51	Self Storage.....53
Dentists.....51	Septic Systems.....53
Design & Drafting.....51	Solar Installation.....53
Driveway Maintenance.....51	Television Services.....53
Earthmoving & Excavation.....51	Tiling.....53
Electricians.....51	Tree Services.....53
Fencing.....51	Tuition.....53
Floor Sanding & Polishing.....51	Upholstery.....53
Flooring.....51	Valuers.....53
Funeral Services.....51	Veterinary Surgeons.....53
Garden & Property Maintenance.....51	Water Filters.....53
Garden Design.....51	Water Supplies.....53
Gas Suppliers.....51	Wedding Services.....53
Graphic Design.....51	Welding.....53
Guttering.....51	Window Cleaning.....53
Handypersons.....51	Window Tinting.....53
Health.....51	

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N357

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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Spanner job for dentures (10)
- Mountain in Tasmania, a very big state (4)
- Those in the backblocks light in the cheap parts of sports grounds (10)
- Strong Australian Republican Movement found in rural property (4)
- Parents' edition pulped – a fate that cannot be avoided (14)
- Tunes a distraction – remove from office (6)
- No action words – loosely, no words at all! (8)
- I object – 99 in challenge! Health protection required (8)
- Two individuals and a worried gent arranged light (6)
- Friend to senate thrown out – out the window (14)
- Wrong ones for the ages (4)
- Not cold in Arctic you say? Dead? Speak clearly! (10)
- Bare, windswept dune (4)
- I object over Westpac and Middle Eastern territory levee (10)

DOWN

- Sack for footwear? (4)
- Popular birds – they work in hospitals (7)
- Nan holds broken cradle – but it's theft! (5,7)
- Extra road is the least narrow (6)
- Gets up over a long time – then gets up again! (8)
- Raging disease at the coast (7)
- Time drains carefully – the principal job of a member of the government! (10)
- Ragbag tucker? Rubbish – and a vehicle to take it away (7,5)
- Mungo cured! Surprise! But he's still grumpy (10)
- Shandy creates stir over public transport! (8)
- Made terms explicit – penalty revoked! (7)
- Setter so tardy – exclude from society! (7)
- A thousand in wild riot over a Russian carriage (6)
- Overcome the finest (4)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Fixing false teeth (10)
- Mountain in Greece, also Tasmania (4)
- Those living beyond the normal boundaries (10)
- Rural property (4)
- Fate, inevitability (14)
- Remove from office (6)
- Lacking action words (8)
- System of public health insurance (8)
- Set fire to (6)
- Throwing things out of windows (14)
- Very long periods of time (4)
- Put into words, speak clearly (10)
- Naked (4)
- Levee, protection from river (10)

DOWN

- Heavy footwear (4)
- Learners in positions, often in hospitals (7)
- Serious robbery or theft (5,7)
- Least narrow (6)
- Lifted again (8)
- Near the ocean (7)
- Manage, supervise (10)
- Vehicle collecting household rubbish (7,5)
- Surly person, grouch (10)
- Lawrence Sterne's hero Shandy (8)
- Made explicit (7)
- Exile, keep separate (7)
- Three horse Russian carriage (6)
- Finest, nonpareil (4)

Last week's solution N356

S	O	U	T	H	E	R	L	Y	B	U	S	T	E	R
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AGMs

BYRON SHIRE RESPITE SERVICE INC
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WILSONS CREEK HUONBROOK LANDCARE AGM at Wilsons Creek Hall, 6.00pm, Wed 11 November.

RED DEVILS RLFC AGM
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LOOKING TO LEASE private consulting & artist space. 2–4 days pw. Byron area. Email appsbyronbay@gmail.com

POSITIONS VACANT

JOIN THE ADVENTURE as an adult leader of Scouts and Cubs at Brunswick Heads. Receive great training and outdoor certification in kayaking, abseiling, orienteering etc.. Assist young people to reach their goals. Other volunteering positions also avail. A WWCC is a requirement. Ph Cherie about starting your adventure on 0407855273 or email cherie.bromley@nsw.scouts.com.au

WANTED Qualified remedial massage therapist or myotherapist for well established clinic with great conditions, in Byron Bay. Must have insurance & health fund rebates. info@tonicosteopathy.com or telephone 0414320575

ADMINISTRATION (P/T): 3–5 mornings pw. Byron CBD law migration office. Must be computer and systems savvy, with admin exp. and legal aptitude. Apply with CV to tyndallcolawyers@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED PAINTERS needed for immediate start. Must be reliable, no equipment needed, local to Northern Rivers area. Full time/casual. 0427088838

WARNING

The Department of Fair Trading has warned people to be very careful about responding to advertisements offering work at home. Readers should be wary if asked to pay money upfront for employment opportunities and never send money to a post office box

CAFE SUPERVISOR

Barista. Locals only.

4-5 shifts, 30+ hours. If you are an energetic, experienced, hospitality professional with excellent coffee skills, and love working in a busy, fast-paced cafe please see

www.pantry29.com.au

KENNARDS HIRE

CASUAL POSITION AVAILABLE IN BYRON WITH HIRE COMPANY.

3-4 days p/week.
Drivers license essential.
No travellers please.

Call Steve
0448 876 228.

Delivery Driver

Are you a mature driver, who enjoys giving great customer service?

If so, then Sol Breads has a casual position available:

• Mon and Tuesdays 5am – 10am approx

• Needs to be flexible to cover holidays on other days.

Duties include; picking up orders, loading and delivering.

Must be local, have a current LR truck licence, fit and enjoys manual work.

Please contact Suzanne on

0413 886 184

or info@solbreadsntnsw.com.au



Courses starting soon...

Tue 3rd Nov

- Psychic Development and Healing - Online Class

Wed 4th Nov

- Lomi Lomi - Level 2
- Paths To Self-Publishing
- Bring Your Speech To Life
- Stand Up Comedy

Thu 5th Nov

- Free Advertising And Organic Traffic Using Social Media
- Healthy Mind, Happy Life - Online Class

- Tourism Marketing

- Music, Meditation & Flow

Sat 7th Nov

- Building a Tiny House
- Social Media Marketing - Online Class
- Blogging Bootcamp
- Natural Dyeing and Shibori

Sun 8th Nov

- Intro To Natural Building

Limited places - don't miss out!

02 6684 3374

byroncollege.org.au

ADMIN PART TIME

Suggested hours: Tues, Wed, Thu 9am to 3pm. \$30 per hour.

Qualities:

- Intelligent and practical
- A natural problem solver
- An ability to see and sketch
- Basic computer skills

Initial Job Description:

- Data entry and admin
- Phone, email and counter enquiries
- Basic quoting and invoicing
- Checking job progress

You will undergo training and work in a well organised office next to a large workshop.

METAL FABRICATOR FULL TIME

Structural welding and general engineering experience preferred. Ability to fabricate in all types of metal and welding processes an advantage. Pay according to experience and ability. Must be able to work in a team environment.

ABOUT BYRON STEEL:

Join a happy team of seven in a well-established business in the Byron Industrial estate. Byron Steel is a general engineering and fabrication workshop in all metals.

Enquiries / send resume to: chris@byronbaysteel.com.au

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BIRTHDAYS

Happy 21st Birthday Ruby Jean XXX



DEATH NOTICES

AILSA JUDITH WEIR (nee LEE)
31/07/1940–19/09/2020
Passed away in Brisbane.

Mother to Anita Watts and Dean Weir and grandmother to four. Daughter of the late George and Doris Lee, stepdaughter of the late Pearl Lee. Sister to Vernon (Curly) Lee of Myocum, Shirley Porter of Byron Bay, Delma Black Mackay (dec), Ivan, Evelyn, Bernard, and Dianne and auntie to their children. Sadly Missed. Rest in Peace.

GREY, ALICE ROGERS
03/04/1925–14/10/2020

Passed away peacefully at Coolamon Aged Care Mullumbimby. Beloved wife of Norman (dec). Loving mother of Malcolm (dec), Alan, Margaret, Robyn. Beloved grandmother & great grandmother to many. Loved by all. Private service held at Summerland Farm, Alstonville, 10am Sunday 1 November. Contact Alan 0478571686

Vilma (Billie) Fay James

11/04/1930 – 13/10/2020

Beloved wife of Geoff (dec). Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Suzanne, John & Kay and Judy & Lon. Treasured "Nan" of nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

In accordance with Billie's wishes a private cremation has been held.



Ben & Emma Little 1300 678 443

TIMPERLEY, MAY GLADYS

10.05.1930 – 18.10.2020

Long-term resident of Byron Bay, passed away peacefully with her children by her side. Cherished wife of Graeme (dec). Much loved mother of Roslyn, Kim, Gary and Mark and their families. Loving sister of Betty (dec), Marj, Nan, Sue, John (dec) and Wendy.

A private family service will take place.

White Lady Funerals,
Northern Rivers, 02 6680 7090



a woman's understanding

IN MEMORIAM



ROSS ANTHONY PEPPER
1965–2013

Once someone special touches your heart, the fingerprints will last forever. Missed and loved by all your family.

Vivian Alderton
03/08/1935 – 22/10/2017



I thought of you today
But that is nothing new
I thought about you
yesterday

I think of you in silence
I often speak your name
All I have are memories
And your picture in a frame
Your memory is a keepsake
From which I'll never part
God has you in his arms
I have you in my heart
Always in our hearts,
with love
Your wife Margaret,
daughters Vicki and Linda
and family.



PETS

Selena is currently progressing steadily in foster care and is happily growing in confidence. She is a gorgeous brown, grey and black tabby who needs to transition straight into a forever home. Selena

needs a home which is patient, loving and willing to keep her moving confidently forward as she is now beginning to thrive. To arrange to meet Selena, please call AWL on 0436 845 542 To meet our other cats & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

OPEN: Tues 2.30–4.30pm
Thurs 3–5pm, Sat 10am–12 noon
Call AWL 0436 845 542.

Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R25100222



Selena

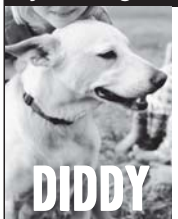
ZEUS

Zeus is a 3 year old desexed male American Staffy. He loves people as all staffies do, but not so much other dogs, so he's best as the only dog – and with older children ideally. Microchip No 991002000572239. ABN 83 126 970 338. If you can give Zeus a permanent, loving home please contact Pam on 0421 017 461.

Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338



Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



DIDDY

Diddy is an 8-year-10-month-old de-sexed male Kelpie x Dingo. After months in care, Diddy no longer covers in fear

of humans and is a gentleman AND a philosopher until he hits the beach where he turns into a hilarious hooligan.

He's gentle and tolerant with children, house-trained and gets on well with other dogs. He will require a fenced yard.

Diddy is one cool, chilled dude who deserves a loving home with people who will adore him. Please phone Shell on 0458 461 935. MC: 982000163669389

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to editor@echo.net.au.

Share the Dignity

CWA Bangalow is collecting donations of sanitary and personal care goods (e.g. dental and hair care, hand sanitiser, insect repellent) for Share the Dignity. This program supports girls and women in difficult or vulnerable situations. Donations can be left 12–27 October at the Byron Library, Bangalow Newsagent and CWA rooms in Bangalow, in boxes clearly marked 'Share the Dignity'. CWA makes up bags of these goods for distribution through local neighbourhood and community centres.

Tax Help

Tax Help is now running at the Byron Community Centre every Friday from 1pm. Please phone through to reception on 6685 6807 with your contact details to make an appointment.

Ex-service members

Byron Bay RSL Sub-Branch wish to collate the names of ex-service members who have served overseas in combat/peace keeping roles in conflicts including Korea and post Vietnam, including Somalia, Namibia, Timor Leste (East) Timor, Bougainville, Iraq & Afghanistan. Ex-service members and their families from the Byron Shire area who wish to be included in this list, and on a planned honour board, should send their details to Jim Rogers. Phone 0412679870 or email jimrog48@gmail.com.

Chemical Free Landcare

Byron Shire Chemical Free Landcare next working bee will be on Saturday, 17 October, 8am–12pm, at the Brunswick Crown Land site, just south of the Surf Club. Meet at the fire trail gate. Call 0478 272 300 if you can't find us.

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

MDNC services that are running include:

- Community support/emergency relief:** Food parcels, meals, assistance with electricity and Telstra bills.
- Listening Space:** free counselling.
- Staying Home, Leaving Violence program.**
- Integrated Domestic & Family Violence program.**
- Financial Counselling:** outreach

available Thursdays & Fridays

Financial Counselling: free service funded by the government, offering advocacy & assistance to find options to address debts.

Information, referral and advocacy. To enquire about accessing any of these services call 6684 1286 or fill out an online enquiry form.

Byron Community Centre

Homeless Breakfast: 7:30–9am
Homeless Showers: Monday and Wednesday 10am–12pm (book in at breakfasts).
Women's Support and Counselling: Friday 1–3pm, Community Cabin Carlyle St.
Free Phone Counselling: Call 0415 322 064 10am–2pm.
Seniors Computer Club: Friday 9am–11am, Community Cabin Carlyle St.
Seniors drumming, yoga, ukulele, art and drama: 66856807 for booking and time details.
Volunteer Hub referral service: Call 66856807.
Byron Community Pantry: free food box delivery to locals who are financially or physically unable to shop. Call/text your order to 0482 787 552. For more info call 66856807 or visit www.byroncentre.com.au

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Full Time Primary School Teacher

Commencing 2021

Are you a dynamic, creative and experienced Steiner Teacher? We are looking for a skilled teacher to take our beautiful 2021 Class 1 cohort all the way through to Class 6.

CBRSS is a K-12 school dedicated to the educational principles inspired by Rudolf Steiner. Applications are sought for a suitably qualified and experienced Primary School Teacher. The position commences January 2021.

The successful applicant will hold a current NSW Working with Children Check and be registered with the NSW Institute of Teachers.

Applications close 4pm Monday 2nd November 2020. Position Description and application process available capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au



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Do you find joy in giving a memorable and caring retail experience?

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Feel great knowing you are inspiring all to enjoy the wellness benefits of self-care rituals to "rest, relax, restore" with our organic and Australian-made home spa ranges.

Email resume, cover letter and dream hours ATT Marissa Cashman:
recruitment@ikou.com.au

Applications close Mon 26th Oct.

www.ikou.com.au

LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+ Casual or permanent work available in busy adult parlour. 66816038 for details.

EROTIC MESSAGE STAFF reliable and friendly for Gentlemen's Relaxation Centre 18+. Tweed. Grace 0418185791

CONTRACT SCREEN DOOR INSTALLER. Own vehicle, ABN, tools, etc. Good rates. Ph 0438436702

LOCAL AND INTERSTATE REMOVAL DRIVER Must have furniture removal experience. Seeking experienced removals driver for local and interstate runs between Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns. MUST HAVE minimum 1 year furniture removal experience, MR license, experience loading. CV and references to capebyronremovals@gmail.com

OFFSIDER FOR LOCAL FURNITURE REMOVAL BUSINESS Minimum 1 year furniture removal and professional packing experience. CV and references to capebyronremovals@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED BARISTA. Mullumbimby fast-paced cafe. Minimum 3 years barista experience. Mon, Wed, Thu. Locals only. Email mullum@otherjoint.com

AN OPPORTUNITY EXISTS to join a team manufacturing timber products. Situated at Byron. Applicant needs basic mechanical knowledge and can work unsupervised. Experience with timber not essential. Forklift licence an advantage. Suit any age or person. Ph 0429608224

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 call: 0418 441 437

With the annual performance review of Council's General Manager on the agenda for this week's Council meeting, now might be the time for councillors to finally find their spine and direct Mark Arnold to act in the interests of transparency and accountability (see pages 10, 7). However, the public will never see the GM's performance report, or know the outcome; staff suggest councillors discuss and vote on it in confidential session, claiming that if we all knew what the report said, it would be 'contrary to the public interest'. Why wouldn't this be in the public's interest?

Almost 350,000 people have signed a petition for a Royal Commission into News Corporation (founded by Fox News billionaire Rupert Murdoch). Its aim is to investigate threats to media diversity, and recommend policies to ensure optimal diversity across all platforms to help guarantee our nation's democratic future. To make your voice heard, visit www.aph.gov.au/petition_list?id=EN1938.

Congrats to Jacinda Ardern for not only winning the NZ election again, but increasing her margin. It's easy to be dispirited by people in government (PIGs), who are mostly egoic empty vessels owned by corporate lobbyists, but at least Ardern is one good egg in the global omelette.

Tweet by @AriaaJaeger on the 45th president and US election: 'I moved on him like a bitch. I just started voting. I didn't even wait. I just voted. And when you're registered, they let you do it!'



Ten of the region's best new films will be showcased at the Byron Theatre on Saturday October 24, as part of The Byron Bay Film Festival. Pictured are local filmmakers Rhys Jones, Ashley McLeod, Jahvis Loveday, Karenza Ebejer and Joy Ben Hur. For more info visit www.bbff.com.au. Photo Jeff 'Sand In The Lens Since 1986' Dawson

Remember when right wing think tank, the PIA, said Melbourne's lockdown should have ended on April 3? As Sweden finally moves to lockdown after its herd immunity gambit failed, ABC's Dr Norman Swan calls Victoria's reduction of COVID-19 infections a 'world record'.

German Ambassador to the US, Emily Harber, tweeted on October 14: 'Hannah Arendt, a German Jew, political theorist and philosopher, was born on this day in 1906. One of her many legacies: Totalitarianism can flourish where people systematically refuse to engage with reality, and are ready to replace reason with ideology and outright fiction'.

The former lover to the NSW premier can't even do criminality well. Disgraced MP, Daryl Maguire, bragged to Gladys via text about an appalling return on investment when he got paid \$5,000

for a \$5m development deal. Gladys replied at the time, according to ICAC, 'Congrats!!!

Great News!! Woo hoo.' Imagine what a federal ICAC could uncover. See pages 12 and 40.

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