

## Food a-plenty, post canned Bluesfest



Visitor, Nate Mouncy, got a taste of the abruptly cancelled festival, when he answered the call of Holy Moly. A social media post drew hundreds to Elena Betto and Joaquin Varela's kitchen, in the Byron Food Hub, on Easter Saturday and helped to whittle down the 2,500 empanadas they had made over the last couple of weeks for the festival's hungry hordes. The day before, Good Friday, Holy Moly's neighbour, Jerry's Smokehouse, completely sold out of its Bluesfest supply. People lined up half way to the Leagues Club and waited patiently for up to two hours for a basket of brisket. Photo Jeff 'Hungry Hoarder Since 1986' Dawson

## The fallout from no Bluesfest

With COVID-19 restrictions for four local government areas now being lifted without spread of infection, the economic impacts of the cancellation of Bluesfest continue to ripple through the Byron Shire.

Minister for Health, Brad Hazard (Liberal), signed a health order cancelling Bluesfest the day before it was to return. It was also cancelled in 2020, owing to COVID-19 restrictions.

A Brisbane nurse infected with COVID-19 travelled to the Shire, after she was reportedly working in the highly infectious COVID-19 ward caring for returned international

travellers. *The Echo* understands she was not required to isolate, was not tested, nor vaccinated, before leaving the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Bluesfest director Peter Noble said, 'This is one of the most difficult statements I have ever had to make'.

'We really wanted to be at the forefront of the return of live music at pre-COVID-19 levels.

'We feel deeply for everybody affected; the fans, the artists, and the hard-working Bluesfest team. But in the end, the health of our community must come first'.

So what plans are there by the NSW government for a recovery?

*The Echo* asked local Nationals MLC, Ben Franklin, if there would be 'any government grants/assistance that will assist Bluesfest management, their staff, the stallholders and the artists through this time?'

He replied, 'Like all members of our community, I am devastated that Bluesfest did not go ahead this year. The impact this decision has had on the organisers, musicians and stallholders will be substantial and profound'.

'I have spoken with Deputy Premier John Barilaro and other senior members of the government,

► Continued on page 2

## Mullum's Lot 22 and old hospital considered as Community Land Trusts

Paul Bibby

Could the creation of a Community Land Trust in the Byron Shire provide desperately needed, genuinely affordable housing for locals on low incomes?

This is the question that Councillors will explore at this week's planning meeting as they continue their efforts to address what the Council is now calling the Shire's 'housing emergency'.

With the cancellation of Bluesfest set to put further strain on some household budgets, the need for housing solutions has become more pressing than ever.

Under the Community Land Trust model (CLT) being considered, the land component of a residential property is owned by a community based, not-for-profit entity, while the building is owned or leased long-term by an individual household.

Byron Council is considering setting up such an entity so that Council-owned land on two sites in Mullumbimby – the old Mullum hospital and Lot 22 – could be used for affordable housing.

By removing the land cost, the overall cost of the housing is significantly reduced.

The CLT would charge an ongoing ground lease to the household, but this could be heavily subsidised to ensure that the housing is genuinely affordable for those on low incomes.

'CLTs offer householders many of the benefits of home ownership, including householders' control over a dwelling, security of tenure

and transfer of occupancy rights, and the potential for some asset wealth building,' Council staff said in a report attached to the agenda of this week's meeting.

'The ground leases on which the homes are built are inheritable, and properties on leased land can be bought and sold at prices determined by a resale formula spelled out in each CLT's ground lease'.

'The intention is that, rather than the initial subsidy dissipating when the household sells; the community partner's ongoing financial interest ensures the home will remain affordable for future households'.

The plan being considered by councillors at this week's meeting would see Council set up an independent entity to manage the land trust – Byron Shire Land Limited – with the permission of the Minister for Local Government.

Once permission has been obtained to set up the entity, Council would then explore how the entity could be funded and resourced.

### Memorandum of Understanding

It would then draw up a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and the legal entity, to ensure the latter's independence, and then secure parts of the land at Lot 22, and the old hospital, as assets to be held by the new entity.

'The establishment of a Byron Shire Land Trust has been raised directly with the Minister for

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Vale Diana Mordaunt

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Canberra needs a distraction!

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Storylines: affordable housing

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## Hospital staff vaccinations underway

While local health authorities have praised the Northern NSW community's response to the recent COVID-19 risks, it's emerged that hospital staff vaccinations in Northern NSW Local Health District only commenced on March 17 'and are continuing at Lismore, Tweed and Grafton hospitals'.

Chief Executive, Northern NSW Local Health District, Wayne Jones, told *The Echo*, 'The federal government is responsible for the vaccination rollout to aged care and the general public through GPs and respiratory clinics'.

He says NSW Health has opened 79 local clinics, 'with a further 36 opening next week'.

## Disposal shop changeover



Mullumbimby Camping and Disposals was started 42 years ago by Rod Pepper's parents, Merv and Aileen. Next week, Rod hands over the reins of the business to longtime local, Johnny O'Brien. And so a new chapter begins! Photo Jeff 'Indisposed Since 1986' Dawson

## NEW REGULAR ONLINE COLUMN FROM THE INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

### STORYLINES BUDGERAM

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\*Budgeram means *story* in Bundjalung language.  
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**Echonetdaily**

## Where to now after Bluesfest cancelled?

► Continued from page 1  
and they have given the commitment to work with the organisers in relation to providing financial support, as this is such a disaster.

Mr Franklin continued, 'The government is considering the specifics of the package right now and I have had discussions with Peter Noble numerous times over the past few days to talk about what needs to be done. I'm looking forward to the details being announced in the near future'.

When asked if he supported the extension of

JobKeeper to assist those in financial hardship, Mr Franklin replied, 'This program is not something that can run forever owing to its massive economic impact on the budget. At this stage of the pandemic, I believe that targeted support for affected industries is more appropriate'.

### Arts industry needs protection too

Meanwhile, local Greens MP Tamara Smith says, 'The LNP gave banks a windfall of billions of dollars to extend

people's mortgages during the first six months of COVID-19, but hung artists, performers and the gig economy out to dry. After much pressure, the government has moved to protect the film industry from the impacts of sudden public health orders and business interruption.

'We need this to be applied to artists, the live music industry and all live performance industries as well.

'We simply won't have an arts industry left, if the government doesn't shift its priorities.

'How can festivals like

Bluesfest possibly return to normal when they have no buffer zone to protect them from the kind of sudden closure we saw over the long weekend?

'That's before we look at the lost income of all of the musicians, performers, technical staff and businesses booked to serve patrons'.

Ms Smith added, 'Until we get the vaccine rollout, we need JobKeeper to be extended, and we need artists of all persuasions and live performance industries to be supported through the transition period'.

## Lot 22 and old hospital considered as Community Land Trusts

► Continued from page 1  
Planning and Minister for Local Government,' the staff report states.

'The support of both will be necessary if Council is to take the next steps as per the report and recommendation.'

However, the use of Lot 22 and the old hospital site for housing is almost certain to draw strong opposition from sections of the community.

The proposed development of Lot 22, in particular, has previously been criticised as being an

inappropriate use of the site from an ecological, social and planning perspective.

The use of the old Mullum hospital site for affordable housing has also been criticised by those living nearby because of the potential impacts on

local amenity, and the lost opportunity for other projects, such as provision of supported accommodation for older people.

It remains to be seen whether the worsening housing crisis has shifted the views of these opponents.

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What’s the real cost of ‘affordable housing’?

Eve Jeffery

With ‘affordable housing’ being the new catchcry in parts of the Northern Rivers, *The Echo* did a ring-around to find the cheapest rental living space in Byron Bay’s caravan parks and camping grounds.

Unpowered sites

*The Echo* compared prices for unpowered sites on a small area of grass, which were available from March 23–30. This time was considered offseason, and this was compared to the prices over the Easter break. At most places, an unpowered site will give you

limited security – the height of the surrounding fences and gate security varies. You are able to access a hot shower and a toilet – the cleanliness of this ranges from pristine to frat house. Parks offer the use of a communal outdoor kitchen and laundry facilities, but the only access you have to power is, in most cases, the bathrooms. The Ingenia Holiday Park on Broken Head Road charges \$174 a week, and in school holidays \$273 for their unpowered sites. The Belongil Fields ‘low season’ camping prices are per person, per night: Sunday to Thursday is \$20 one person, \$15 for the second

person, and \$10 for the third – All people must be in the same car for discounted rates. The Friday and Saturday night fee is a blanket \$20 per person, per night. So, for a family of four, you’d be looking at \$435 per week. The Ewingsdale Road Discovery Parks weekly rate is \$311, and at Easter it is \$433 – this will accomodate four. First Sun’s off-season rate is \$364 per week, up to \$609 during Easter. At Clarkes Beach, you can rent enough space to put your tent, but you’ll have to park your car off-site. The rate of \$407 applies to two people, you would pay extra if you want to

bring the kids (off season). Glenn Villa discounted price for a site, (a discount applies to a seven-day stay) is \$35.71 (\$249.97) for a maximum of two people, but they said they had no sites (or prices) available for Easter. If you were a single person, you’d receive the base rate of \$613.66 a fortnight in Jobseeker payments, which means that even with the most basic food, clothing and toiletries, you couldn’t, in most places, afford a three-metre square plot in Byron Bay unless you were happy to hop-it at Easter. ■ These are the prices at the time of enquiry in early March, and does not account for limited stay conditions.

Koala plans approved for Tweed, Byron councils

The NSW Government’s approval of Koala Plans of Managements (KPoMs) for Tweed and Byron local government areas has been welcomed by The Nature Conservation Council. Chief Executive Chris Gambian said, ‘This is a step forward for koala conservation on the North Coast,

although they do have limitations, and the government took more than five years to approve them’. ‘These plans cover less than a quarter of the Tweed and Byron local government areas by focusing primarily on the coastal strip. That makes sense, because these areas face the most intense

development pressure, but it means significant koala habitat in the hinterland still lacks the protection it needs. **Extinction on track** ‘Koalas in NSW are on track for extinction by 2050, so further delays are literally a matter of life and death for this iconic species.


‘There are also several Koala Plans of Management that other councils have lodged, including Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour, that have sat on the government’s desk for many months, sometimes years. ‘These need to be approved as a matter of urgency’.



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## Rooftop pool DA mod for large Jonson St development again riles neighbours

Neighbours affected by a large mixed development at the end of Jonson Street, Byron Bay, are again strongly objecting to a modification proposal by the developer to add a rooftop pool, and claim that the developer has reneged on the promise for desperately needed long-term accommodation for the town.

It's a claim the developer, Jason Dunn, refutes.

The *Echo* was advised that Graham Dunn is no longer involved with the development.

The first proposal at 139 Jonson Street by Graham Dunn and his son Jason, was rejected by the Northern Regional Planning Panel on the grounds that it significantly exceeded floor space and height limits.

Controversially, Mr Dunn was originally a member of the Byron Bay Masterplan group, but quit after conflict of interest issues were raised.

Upon getting councillor support to approve the DA in May 2020, Mayor Simon Richardson said, 'I wish this was a little smaller, and I wish it was slightly better designed... But it's pretty good.'

The DA exceeded Council's existing height and floor space ratio policy and was unsupported by Crs Cate Coorey and Basil Cameron.

With the latest plans for

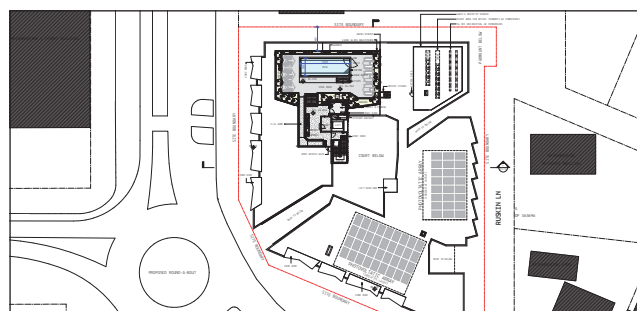


Image from DA 10.2019.616.3, located at 139 Jonson Street.

a rooftop pool, neighbours are claiming the developer changed his mind on providing long-term accommodation for the town given all units have sold, and are questioning the need to again push height limits to accommodate the pool.

Affected neighbour, Peter O'Connor, said, 'The objective tests on the justification of rooftop fourth storey structures will go to upholding the LEP, the dangers of setting of precedents, the further proliferation of STHL and the noise effects on adjacent and nearby residentially zoned properties'.

'Council gave this developer a huge number of concessions in the DA. If Council accepts this, then any adjacent resident to a future development can expect little, if any, consideration.'

Yet developer Jason Dunn told *The Echo*, 'Strata bylaws are binding on the owners of the apartments by the body

corporate. All purchasers understood this, and for many, no short-term holiday letting was a key attraction, as it will be for long-term rentals also.'

### Developer replies

'We are the only residential development to be built in town in a number of years, and the only one of the proposed new projects on Jonson Street that doesn't have serviced apartments or short-term holiday letting.'

'Our neighbours have commented that they want permanent accommodation and longterm rentals in town.'

'We are building this, making sure that it's permanent accommodation only with no short-term holiday letting, because the consistent feedback has been that this is what Byron Shire Council, businesses in town and locals want.'

'The proposed rooftop pool and garden area is approximately 180m<sup>2</sup> or seven per

cent of the 2,835m<sup>2</sup> site area.

'It's an open air pool and garden area that is only allowed to be used by the residents of Jonson Lane. There are no cooking facilities or entertaining areas.'

'A storey is defined as an enclosed space. This is definitely not a fourth storey'.

Mr Dunn added 'There is no visual impact to neighbours', and 'acoustic engineers conducted an environmental noise impact assessment of the proposed rooftop pool'.

'To ensure quality residents who are going to be better neighbours, the provision of a pool and garden area is very helpful'.

Meanwhile, Cr Cate Coorey told *The Echo*, 'It's very disappointing that a pool and rooftop recreation area are proposed to be added to a development that already tried to exceed the height rules - not to mention the impacts on neighbours.'

'The pool and associated area appears to be another way to put more onto an already well covered site'.

Modifications to DA 10.2019.616.3 are on exhibition until April 9.

Neighbours say they have requested an extension owing to it being a 'substantial modification in breach of the height limitations in the LEP'.

## DV report calls for co-ordinated national approach

A more co-ordinated and comprehensive national approach is needed to make a meaningful reduction in the unacceptable rates of family, domestic and sexual violence, according to a bipartisan report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on

Social Policy and Legal Affairs, released last week.

A press release from the Committee reads, 'In its report, the Committee makes 88 bipartisan recommendations, which seek to inform the development of the next National Plan to reduce violence against women and

their children, due to commence in mid-2022'.

### Uniform definitions

'The Committee's recommendations include the development of a uniform national definition of family, domestic and sexual violence, universal age-appropriate respectful relationships and sexual consent education, measures to address coercive control and technology-facilitated abuse, and the establishment of a National Commissioner to

have independent oversight of the next National Plan.

'The Committee's recommendations also include measures to ensure that the welfare of victim-survivors and their children is at the centre of responses to family, domestic and sexual violence, a continued focus on education and primary prevention, and a stronger focus on programs to change perpetrators' behaviour'.

The Committee's report is available at [www.apf.gov.au/familyviolence](http://www.apf.gov.au/familyviolence).

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# Essential businesses recognised

A sticker initiative, to say 'Thank you' and support local retailers' doing it tough is adorning Mullum shops, owing in part to efforts by resident Angela Bambach.

She told *The Echo*, 'I have always had a real appreciation of the unique combination of creativity, commitment and resilience required to be the owner of a small business.'

'People who answer the call to open a business are a special type of courageous in my mind, and even more so these last 12 months.'

'A few months ago, a few friends and I posed the question, "What can we do as a community to celebrate and support our local businesses after such a tough 12 months?"'

'And... the Essential Business Sticker idea was born'.

She says an informal group have been visiting local businesses, and saying, 'Thanks for being the human beings in the heart of our town, who keep your doors open and the wheels of our community and our social networking alive'.

'It all happens around



Angela Bambach has spearheaded an initiative to thank local retailers. Photo Jeff 'Essential For Taking Pics Since 1986' Dawson

our thriving town centre and our brilliant and unique mix of businesses, the vast majority of which are independent stores springing from an individual's creative concepts and dreams'.

Angela says, 'We see each business as an integral part of the fabric of our community and we wanted to acknowledge that publicly. 'They're essential to us,

we're essential to them, like we're in a symbiotic relationship with these people, and we want to let them know that it's the community that shows up for each other in these times... bringing it back to shopping local and bringing it back to the awareness that we need to constantly show up for our community'.

'You know the statistics... 80 per cent of small

businesses fail in the first 12 months... our local business owners are heroes to us!'

'They say it takes a village to raise a child - small businesses - and the people that run them, are at the centre of communities'.

A short video of the project is at <https://youtu.be/RjNzYoLFbPg>. To get involved, email [essentialbusinessbyron@pm.me](mailto:essentialbusinessbyron@pm.me).

We hope you're all having a ball out there!



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# Echo

News from across the  
North Coast online ►  
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## Burnt, logged and flogged? Unsustainable forestry continues

The North East Forest Alliance is calling for an immediate 10% reduction in wood supply commitments to north-coast sawmillers from public forests because of the widespread death of trees due to the Black Summer bushfires, as well as a freeze on any new commitments until sufficient plots are sampled to accurately quantify remaining timber volumes.

## Diverse views of flood mitigation works at Lismore

Last week Lismore's Deputy Mayor Neil Marks was joined by local state MP Janelle Saffin and MLC Ben Franklin to officially cut the ribbon on the \$8.2 million South Lismore Flood Mitigation Project, but there are divergent views on how best to deal with the flood threat in future.

## Local MPs announce funding for local sports clubs

Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina, yesterday announced \$50,000 in funding for a total of fifteen sports clubs in her electorate.

## Another greyhound death in Casino

Another racing greyhound, Slim Pickings, has died at Casino. This is the third racing greyhound death in the Northern Rivers so far this year, and the second in Casino, putting a renewed spotlight on greyhound welfare.

## Push to get more women into NSW local government

Women in Tweed Shire with an interest in running for council are invited to attend a free forum to be hosted later this month by the Australian Local Government Women's Association of NSW.

## NSW Youth Taskforce member addressing public transport and drug driving

18 young people from across regional NSW, including Francois who is a year 12 student at Emmanuel Anglican College in Ballina and lives in Tintenbar, were selected to join the second NSW regional Youth Taskforce for 2021.

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

# Vale Diana Barbara Mordaunt (nee Davis) 1945–2021

Diana grew up in Melbourne, she married Gregory Heath, and Saskia was born in 1971.

Diana studied at Monash University and went on to be a lecturer in Sociology at Melbourne University from 1972–1975, while being an active spokesperson for the women's movement.

She achieved a publishing contract in 1973 to write *Perspectives in Sociology* with two women colleagues.

A few years later, her enquiring mind led her to take a job drawing for the British archaeological team in Afghanistan.

This was followed by her studying drawing and painting at the Psychopolis in Holland.

This led her to England, where she met filmmaker Richard Mordaunt, and his two children Michele and Kim.



A few years later, Diana returned to Australia with Richard, Michele and Kim, and Diana went to the National Art School while Richard began making films in Sydney.

Their first collaboration was *Stepping Out*, with Chris Noonan which was highly acclaimed and shown in 22 countries.

In search of a different

life and the growth of a new community, they moved to Wilsons Creek in 1981, and built a beautiful home looking down the valley.

Together they created the Mullumbimby Arts Gallery, the first large arts space in the centre of Mullumbimby to showcase the artists of the region.

## Battle for Byron

After five years of running this very successful arts hub, they returned to making one hour films for the ABC.

Together, Diana and Richard worked as a formidable team. Firstly on *Battle for Byron*, then *Brushes with Fame*, the story of the Archibald Prize.

Diana's love of art shaped the direction of films about art and artists, including *In the Shadow*, the

artists commissioned for the Olympic Site, *The Life World; A Portrait Of Janet Laurence*, and finally, *Salvatore Zofrea Master of Light*.

In 1988, and again in 2018, she was a designer and a founding member of the Mullumbimby Gateway.

Diana was a powerful force her whole life, compelling, passionate, beautiful and strong: a painter, academic, writer, photographer and filmmaker.

Her wit and intelligence will be sorely missed.

She died peacefully at John Flynn Hospital, after a battle with cancer – she leaves behind Richard, Saskia, Michele and Kim.

There will be a celebration of Diana's life on Friday April 9 from 2pm at home and in her studio at 12 Wareham St, Suffolk Park.

## Young family needs a parking spot for home

Paul Bibby

A local couple whose much-loved baby boy was taken away by government officers and then returned, is asking the community for help in finding space on a property to park their mobile home.

The couple, whose baby was returned by the Department of Communities and Justice after four weeks, say they recently bought a coaster bus and are now looking for somewhere to park it, either on a short, medium or long-term basis.

The mother and baby are currently living with her parents, but she says it is only a temporary solution that does not allow the whole family to be together.

She and her partner are willing to work in exchange for using the space, or pay up to \$250pw rent, and would be joined by the baby's grandfather and two well-behaved dogs.

'I just want to be with my partner and my dogs,' the mother said. 'Our bus just needs a small amount of work so we can get it registered, and it would just be good to have somewhere where we can stay together.'

'Ultimately, we just want to have a base where we can live on the land and grow our own food and somewhere to call home, but we'll take any option at the moment.'

The family needs access to a shower and toilet on the

property, and say the dogs could be kept on leads if necessary.

'The government workers will also need to see the property and meet the caretakers before we move in, just so that the boxes can be ticked,' the mother said.

'It would just be so good to have somewhere to stay together, even if it's just for a little while.'

In late January, *The Echo* reported on 'significant community concern' after the forcible removal of the infant.

Footage of the removal by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and police was placed on YouTube.

Anyone interested in helping the family is asked to email them at [homefinda6@gmail.com](mailto:homefinda6@gmail.com).

## Councillors consider Shire-wide parklets

Paul Bibby

Allowing restaurants and shops in Byron's busy town centres to use car parking spaces as an extension of their operations was always going to present a few challenges.

So it's no surprise that the early development of a 'parklets' policy by Byron Council has hit a few speed bumps.

The policy will be debated at this week's Council planning meeting, with staff identifying that a series of issues have arisen from the Expression of Interest (Eoi) phase.

This includes the question of whether the parklets should be made permanent, thus eliminating precious parking spaces from busy shopping strips, or only used after hours to extend footpath dining.

If the latter course is pursued, who should be responsible for ensuring that the relevant spaces are available?

This temporary option also raises the prospect of businesses having to install and pack down their parklet at the end of the night – an arduous exercise to say the least.

## Mobile parklets

Some have suggested that fully set up 'mobile parklets' could be used, but this raises the question of where they would be stored when not in use.

Finally, concerns have also been raised about the need for solid safety bollards to ensure diners don't end up with a tyre sandwich.

Mullumbimby has become a guinea pig for the parklet experiment, with Council introducing two of the

installations at strategic locations on Stuart Street as part of its Talking Streets trail.

Council's business improvement officer Kylie Grainey has recommended that Council use the results and feedback from this trial to inform the development of a Shire-wide 'Parklets and Street Activation Policy'.

'Through the development of the policy [in this way], issues such as managing the reduction in car parking spaces, site suitability and safety could be addressed,' Ms Grainey said in her report on the issue, contained in the agenda to this week's meeting.

'It would also provide opportunity for consultation with the business chambers, and interested groups to enable identification of suitable and unsuitable areas within the town centres'.

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# Shearwater almost perfect with 99kW solar

Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School, has made the switch to solar, installing a 99 kW system to power the school into the future.

The new system is part of a multifaceted approach by the school to reduce emissions and improve environmental outcomes.

New Head of School, James Goodlet, has been in the job almost 12 months and said the school's existing 8kW solar array was failing and the time was right for a major upgrade.

'The school had planned to install the panels in 2020. But with the onset of COVID-19 came financial uncertainty, and a need to halt spending on infrastructure projects until we had a clearer picture of the impact of the pandemic.'

'With the increase in electricity prices and the reduction in solar panel prices, came the opportunity to install now and make a quick enough return on our investment without a huge financial risk.'

'We estimate the school will cover installation costs in four years. So it's a win for



Year 7 students, Head of School, James Goodlet (second from left), and Byron Shire Mayor Simon Richardson (centre back) celebrate Shearwater's clean energy future. Photo supplied

the environment and a win for the school's finances.

'Shearwater has a long history of integrating the natural environment into our educational experiences and philosophy. There is a big push from students to make Shearwater a more sustainable place and it's great that we've been able to support that vision with this project.'

The new solar array is made up of 242 solar panels, each producing 410 watts per module, creating the 99.22 kW system.

'Unlike a regular household, which is empty most of the day while family members are out studying or working, the majority of our

power usage happens during the school day, when our solar panels are hard at work.

'So, on school days we'll be using most of the energy we produce. Importantly, at this time of year, there are enough panels to take into account fluctuations caused by wet and cloudy weather.'

'There has been much work done in this area already, with many great achievements, such as regenerative farming practices, waste management and the decades-long bush regeneration project that has seen the planting of more than 20,000 trees, transforming degraded agricultural land into a thriving wildlife corridor.'

'Our class 7 students have recently finished planting over 700 native shrubs and trees, creating a small forest that they can watch grow over the years ahead.'

## Climate anxiety

'Every class across the school is given regular opportunities to help repair and restore the local environment.'

'Climate anxiety is impacting on the wellbeing of many of our young people today. We want our students to know they can be part of the solution.'

■ Story by Shearwater's Year 12 English Studies class.

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# Lilac house bound by red tape

Ross Kendall

Mullumbimby resident Nicole Haberecht is facing a \$3,000 fine and the prospect of repainting her house after Council made a demand that she change the colour after it was painted a shade of lilac.

But Nicole is adamant she won't be doing any of it.

'I'm not paying the fine, I can't afford to. This has been a very difficult time for me,' she said.

'I feel quite harassed because there are so many heavily coloured dwellings all around Mullumbimby.'

'What negative impact am I having?'

She says, 'I haven't met one person who doesn't like it. People stop me in the street and chat and remark how much they love it, and how it makes everyone feel happy.'

'People knock on my door and offer support as they've heard of the issues,' she said.

Nicole also has over 20 signatures from neighbours on a petition supporting her colour choice.

'Everyone I asked has signed it,' she said. 'And I have a local witness who



Nicole Haberecht's house colour is incompatible with NSW and Council heritage conservation policy. Photo supplied

says the house was a similar colour some years ago.'

It all seemed a lot easier when Nicole moved into the house in March last year.

She believed she had found somewhere nice and peaceful to help her with her recovery from a workplace injury. Nicole set about making the house into her home, which included a professional exterior paint job worth \$10,000.

She chose 'purplicious', a colour she felt expressed her personality and cheered up the whole neighbourhood.

But others had a different view. On the back of a

complaint, the Byron Shire Council served Nicole with a 'return to work' order demanding she repaint the house.

'They gave me the option of submitting a DA for the colour, but said there was no guarantee the order to repaint would be cancelled. So it was just another expense I couldn't afford,' she said.

The fine remains unpaid and has been passed onto Service NSW.

'I lodged a review with Service NSW but that was denied. I have followed up with another review requesting further information. I am

awaiting a response,' she said.

'I've had to put up with this since last July. It's been very stressful and affected my health and injuries,' she said.

Nicole's house is in a heritage conservation area and therefore subject to NSW Government and Byron Shire Council controls designed to ensure the heritage values are retained and not lost. These controls include colours, a Council spokesperson said.

'The Byron LEP 2014 provides that any change to the external appearance of a dwelling in a heritage conservation area requires development consent. Development consent was not obtained or sought before the painting occurred. Also, the existing lilac colour does not comply with the Non-Indigenous Heritage provisions of DCP 2014,' the spokesperson said.

They added, 'The owner was asked to repaint the building in a suitable heritage colour. Staff encouraged the owner to seek heritage funding to help with the cost of painting. There was no willingness to change the colour and therefore an infringement notice was issued.'

## Kyogle Writers Festival, May 14-16

The inaugural Kyogle Writers festival, with its theme of 'Country,' will be held between 14 and 16 May and organisers say over 40 writers are participating, including novelists, short-story writers, poets, non-fiction writers, local historians and song writers.

Authors booked to present include acclaimed Aboriginal writer of Goori and European heritage, Melissa Lucashenko, whose novel, *Too Much Lip*, earned her the Miles Franklin Award for literature in 2019; Stuart Rees, human rights activist and founder of the Sydney Peace Foundation, who will be discussing his latest book,

*Cruelty or Humanity: Challenges, Opportunities and Responsibilities*. Former ABC journalist (7.30; Foreign Correspondent), Scott Bevan, will also be reflecting on the set of three non-fiction books he has written.

Local writer and poet, Katinka Smit, will run a workshop on writing local history.

'The best historical writing,' Katinka says, 'imagines what it was like for those who lived then; it is the day to day lives of the past that fascinate most'.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased via [www.kyoglewritersfestival.com](http://www.kyoglewritersfestival.com).

## Lion donates Bluesfest beer to those flood affected

Paul Bibby

The cancellation of Bluesfest will have an amber-coloured lining for some Mid North Coast businesses, with Byron Bay Brewery donating all of the unused beer from the event to flood-affected clubs and pubs.

More than 1,000 bottles and cans of beer were already waiting in fridges at the festival site when the snap decision to cancel the event was made last Wednesday.

The corporation, which owns the brewery, Lion, will transport the alcohol to communities that have been hit hard by the recent floods.

Lion has also agreed not to charge Bluesfest organisers for the cost of the beer.

Lion Managing Director, James Brindley, said the cancellation of the event was a devastating blow for the region, organisers, performers and the thousands of

attendees who had planned to attend the festival.

'COVID-19 continues to impact the struggling hospitality and live music sectors and we wanted to do our bit to help them out and of course put the beer to good use,' Mr Brindley said.

'Our team will be working hard over the coming days on the ground to unpack the fridges and repack the beer for transportation to the communities on the Mid North Coast of NSW.'

### Small win

'Seeing the way venues transform into evacuation centres for flood victims and places to get supplies like food, clothes, mops and buckets just goes to show how these venues support communities in good times and bad.'

'This is a small win for all in a really challenging situation'.

## Art industries receive Create NSW funding

Arts Northern Rivers say they are distributing \$130,000 of funding directly into the arts and creative industries within the region.

Executive Director, Peter Wood, says the funding delivered via Create NSW through the State Government's COVID-19 Rescue and Restart program will boost arts activities and creative sector employment across regional NSW.

'The Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO), along with the other 13 RADOs across the state, have been recognised as the most effective organisation for identifying regional arts and creative industries projects that could best utilise financial support to stimulate local economies'.

One proposal that will receive funding is Your Big Idea, which is described

as an 'Arts Northern Rivers initiative that called for proposals for ambitious ideas ready to be developed into contemporary arts projects'.

'Six projects were funded to finalists, including Dashboard Animals, Charlotte Haywood with Valley Lipcer, Elevator ARI, Kit Webster, Laurent Labourmène, and Louise Lavarack with Cobie Orger who will each have the opportunity to

realise their ambitious ideas spanning interdisciplinary and contemporary arts practices'.

Galleries in the Northern Rivers are also beneficiaries and include Lismore Regional Gallery, Lone Goat Gallery, Grafton Regional Gallery, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Roxy Gallery and Tweed Regional Gallery.

For more info visit [www.artsnorthernrivers.com.au](http://www.artsnorthernrivers.com.au).

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Juli, Registered Nurse

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Women’s rights focus at Renew Fest

Two further headlin- ing guests have been announced for Renew Fest, which describes itself as a ‘festival of full system regen- erative change’

Festival director, Ella Rose Goninan, says, ‘A regenerative future needs to be for everyone, and needs to involve everyone, from the ground up. This requires a frank conversation, and transformative actions, around who decides what and who owns what, when it comes to all aspects of living well on our planet’.

Australia’s first female Muslim federal senator, Mehreen Faruqi, and Indig- enous cultural burning practitioner with Firesticks, Rachael Cavanagh, will join the conversation at Mullum- bimby’s Showgrounds from May 7–9.

Both are champions of environmental and women’s rights, says Ms Goninan.

‘The festival publicly states that its core values are deep listening,



Mehreen Faruqi and Rachael Cavanagh. Photo supplied

truth-speaking, and creative connection, and both Faruqi and Cavanagh are set to embolden this platform’.

The festival program features a strong contingent of Indigenous and ethnically diverse women including Miriam Rose Ungunmerr- Baumann (via Zoom), Judy Atkinson, Delta Kay, Dione Payn, Swarna Taylor, Vashti Eastern and Joss Lewis.

The Multicultural Present- ers Group from BayFM will have a tent at the festival to interview and feature the festival’s Indigenous and multicultural guests.

The festival is a registered COVID Safe event.

For more info and ticktes visit [www.renewfest.org.au](http://www.renewfest.org.au).

To vax or not to, that is the Turning Point Talks question, April 20

A new date of April 20 has been set at the Mullum- bimby Courthouse Hotel for a discussion around vaccination, being held by Turning Point Talks.

Their press release says they ‘intended to host a debate on this important and potentially divisive issue by having two speakers for, and two against, the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. We contacted some of our local medical experts hoping

to find someone willing to support the wisdom and benefits of these vaccines... Unfortunately no one accepted our offer, for a variety of reasons’.

The speakers will be Meryl Dorey from Australian Vaccination-risks Network (AVN), and US author and medical practitioner, Dr John W Travis.

Tickets are limited and available online at <https://bit.ly/3cLloEK>.



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# Take a ticket

Council's *Draft Complaint Handling Policy* is on exhibition!

It's a document that, if drafted carefully, could provide the public with confidence that Council take complaints seriously and accountability will apply when a complaint is found to be true.

This draft document about how public complaints are handled has been bundled with a heavily redrafted *Internal Reporting 2021 Policy* and the *Planning Agreements 2021 Policy*. All documents are on exhibition until April 14 and can be found at [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice/Public-exhibition-of-reviewed-policies](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice/Public-exhibition-of-reviewed-policies).

The *Echo* asked Council executive staff if a complaint by the public has ever led to any disciplinary action within Council.

While the reply was extensive – and is published in full below – no example was provided.

How wonderful is it that we have such a perfect Council?

Accountability, as defined in the *Draft Complaint Handling Policy*, is listed under 'Addressing complaints' (page 9).

It's very thin on detail.

And on page 10, 'Accountability and learning', it only says Council will monitor and are 'committed to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our complaint management system'.

Having looked at Council complaints and the responses by staff over the years, it appears that complaints around staff conduct invariably lead to a government department, who hand ball the complaint back to Council.

As such, the only option for a complainant is legal action.

The *Echo* asked staff of that observation: 'Would that be a fair assessment?'

Staff replied, 'Council takes all complaints seriously, and the policy provides a framework to guide staff in the process for addressing complaints with the aim being to resolve complaints at the earliest stage possible'.

'Owing to the broad nature of possible issues someone may lodge a complaint about, the policy does not stipulate prescriptive resolutions (or accountability). Complaints are investigated, and if established, action is taken. In regards to complaints against staff, the nature of any action is dependent upon the seriousness of the conduct alleged in the complaint and established by the investigation.'

'Complaint investigations are undertaken by or on behalf of the General Manager, although, in some instances investigations are referred externally to appropriately qualified people.'

'Notwithstanding the status of the investigator all complaints against staff are ultimately determined by the General Manager. If a complaint amounts to an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct the complaint is managed pursuant to the provisions of Council's Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct.'

'It is open to any complainant to lodge the complaint with external agencies such as the Ombudsman or the Office of Local Government. It is a matter for those agencies as to how they deal with the complaint. Council is at all times co-operative with external agencies in complaint investigation'.

From an outside-the-tent perspective, such evasive non-responses from staff are only possible because the councillor majority are ineffectual and/or unwilling to stand up for the community. Improving governance has all but been ignored by them.

Most councillors were subsumed into the lower intestine of an unaccountable, bloated bureaucracy long, long ago.

The local government election is pegged for September this year – does the community deserve better than this?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

News tips are welcome: [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au)



# Character test for PM without much

Over Easter I visited a friend who's spent decades doing her best to protect old growth forests, preserve human connection with nature in the raw and help save our planet from the climate emergency.

'Yes, of course I support the birth of a new wave of women's activism for justice', she mused, 'but what about the even bigger picture?'

Is it a coincidence that strong Liberal Party support for climate change action in the 1990s coincided with increasing success in recruiting quality female candidates to federal politics?

And that the domination of climate change denialism last decade coincided with significantly lower numbers of female Liberal MPs?

The common thread is the collapse of actual liberalism in the federal Liberal party, replaced by a hard right antagonistic to liberal values, including equal rights for women and collective action to protect and preserve the home of all of us.

So to my mind, the zeitgeist shift we've witnessed in the last few weeks has – if sustainable – transformatory implications for our politics way beyond achieving positive policy and practice outcomes.

Many derided as a con Morrison's humiliating no-other-choice outreach to women infuriated by his seemingly blatant attempt to personify patriarchal power.

He self-destructed his 'I empathise now, I really do' tears seeking forgiveness from swinging liberal female voters with a false slur of Samantha Maiden, the journalist leading the press gallery's coverage.

His admission the government had systematically excluded women's interests in policy formation by creating a taskforce of female ministers to add 'a gender lens' looked, to many, like he'd tossed his political problem to women to succeed or fail.

Advocate for survivors of sexual assault, Grace Tame, opined that the reshuffle looked like a classic Morrison 'distract, don't solve' ploy.

But he's made an explicit commitment to policy reform and cultural reform, starting in Parliament House, and if he doesn't deliver, he'll have to



**Former Attorney General, Christian Porter, bottom-shelved the *Respect@Work* report for a year, not even asking his department to work on a response.**

**Margo Kingston**

accept leadership responsibility for it.

But he never accepts responsibility, you may counter.

Sure, and that crippling aspect of his 'leadership' was exposed to all, over and over, after Brittany Higgins went public, and what's been seen cannot be unseen.

He must now 'perform' for women, and that means he's created his own wedge, because the hard right is apologetic about the sudden power shift.

Official Australian politics has been stuck and stale for a long time.

Suddenly it is ablaze with energy and passion and collaborative grassroots politics and there's a 1972 Labor *It's Time* zeitgeist buzzing in the air around us.

An early indicator of the potential: The Women's Safety Minister, Anne Rushton, gave an exclusive policy interview to female political journalist Rosie Lewis in last weekend's *Australian*.

The government could adopt the private proposal of independent member for Warringah, Zali Stegall, to plug the *Sex Discrimination Act* 1984 loophole, exempting judges and politicians from liability for sexual harassment.

Ms Stegall presented a private members bill to do so as part of her visibility lift in the media.

The MP representing the ultra-rich, former blue ribbon Sydney Harbour-side seat has chosen to step up as a political leader of the #march4justice movement.

Morrison had recently brushed aside her private members bill in Parliament, now Ms Rushton is touting it, and its proponent.

The government is clearly concerned that other safe seats might become even more risky than they are with climate change paralysis if it can't change women's hardening

perceptions of Morrison.

'What Zali Stegall has been referring to is something that was actually raised in the *Respect@Work* report Kate Jennings has compiled', Ms Rushton told the *The Australian*.

'As part of the consideration of that report that's currently underway by government, those types of opportunities for reform are being considered'.

Former Attorney-General, Christian Porter, bottom-shelved the *Respect@Work* report for a year, not even asking his department to work on a response.

A response is now expected next week, and Morrison needs a big bang policy response to improve his chance or softening increasingly negative perceptions of his character.

100,000 women of all ages and political persuasions miraculously came together at the #march4justice only two weeks after Janine Hendry tweeted a suggestion for women to hold hands round Parliament House.

They achieved this together and, at the moment, they are strong.

Can you imagine the fight not being very messy and very ugly from here?

This story has just begun. If the majority of women across the barriers that so often divide and weaken us can hold unity of purpose there is a chance we can achieve a transformed politics; trusted by the people it's meant to serve. Just a chance, sure, but, at last, *It's Time* to have a go.

■ Margo Kingston is an Australian journalist, author, and commentator. She is best known for her work at *The Sydney Morning Herald* and her weblog, *Webdiary*. Since 2012, Kingston has been a citizen journalist, reporting and commenting on Australian politics via Twitter and her own Web site.

**Echo**

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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au)

Advertising: [adcopy@echo.net.au](mailto:adcopy@echo.net.au)

Office: Village Way, Stuart Street, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager **Simon Haslam**

Editor **Hans Lovejoy**

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**Nicholas Shand**  
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Founding Editor

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– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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The ABC's onto 'em

That the ABC has just uncovered a Neo-Nazi terrorist group, rather than any of our well equipped and financed law enforcement agencies, reinforces what many have stated all along: that the purpose of all the anti-terrorist legislation that has been passed is to curtail civil liberties, rather than terrorism. All the more reason to keep defunding the ABC, right?

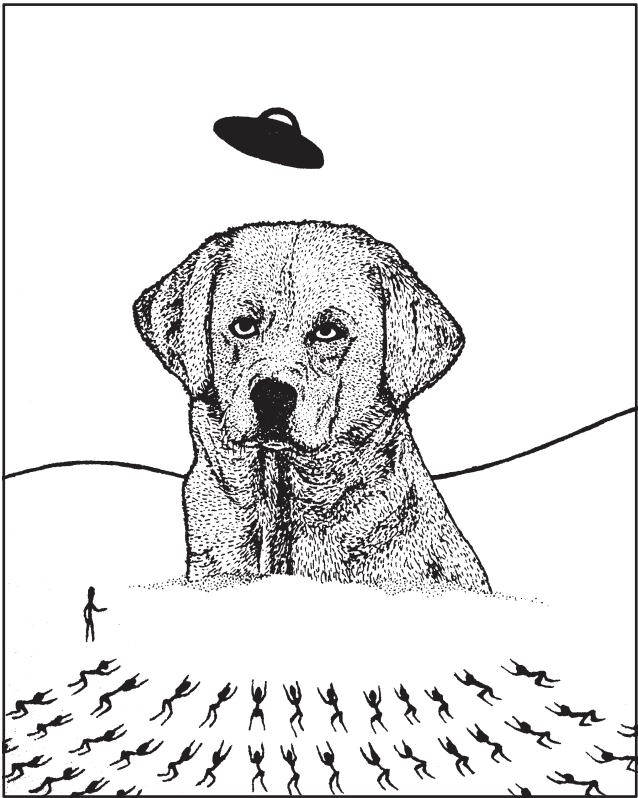
Jason van Tol  
Myocum

A place like home

Why do we always focus on adding new buildings when the conversation turns to affordable housing?

Byron Shire is full of three and four bedroom houses with only one or two bedrooms that are occupied. We are ignoring a large source of appropriate housing for people in these larger, under-occupied houses.

However, the answer is not to encourage more share housing. Few people, especially older people, would be comfortable with that. The answer is to assist home owners to separate their large house into a primary and secondary dwelling and thus make much better use of our existing housing stock. This can also be done at much lower cost and environmental impact than building a separate



Cartoon by Jon Summers

additional dwelling in the back yard. This would provide more convenient and affordable housing, improve the incomes of many real estate rich but income limited home owners, reduce the cannibalisation of garden space, and help to build relationships and reduce loneliness in the Shire. Byron Council could do a lot to make it easier for owners of larger houses to split their homes into two dwellings. This would include broad promotion of the option, providing a free

design service, minimising compliance rules, expediting planning approvals and reducing Council consent fees. At the moment we are just wasting our most valuable resource in the provision of affordable housing. Garth Luke Mullumbimby

Is it solar fair?

The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) draft rule change will result in solar households and businesses being charged for exporting cheap, clean energy to the grid. AEMC argues that charging solar owners to export solar electricity to the grid is about fairness. To the contrary, it's about keeping the generation of electricity in the hands of a few. Rooftop solar generation benefits all energy consumers. It provides cheap, local energy

to the grid thus bringing down wholesale power prices, which electricity retailers should be passing on to customers. Solar households and businesses should be rewarded for the economic, environmental and health benefits they provide, especially now that feed-in tariffs are dropping. Instead, the plan is to tax them for exporting power to the grid while big coal and gas generators will not be taxed. More, not less rooftop solar should be encouraged. People trying to reduce their energy bills and make a positive contribution to the environment should not be penalised. This rule change must be challenged.

Meg Pickup  
Ballina

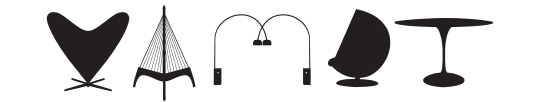
Poor Pauline

A lot of hypocrisy from Labor and The Greens about respect for women. Look at the treatment they dished out to Pauline Hanson. The Greens walked out in the middle of her second maiden speech – an example of bullying of female politicians. She was pelted with missiles, shoved, spat on, jostled by Labor and Greens supporters wherever she went, and not a sound of complaint from Labor and Greens politicians.

Bob Vinnicombe  
Sefton

Sick to my stomach

I cannot believe it! We have voted for a Green MP, a Green Council, we have a Shire drowning in biodynamic courses, full of people who care about the environment, yet WeedMaster Duo, containing glyphosate, ► Continued on next page



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Letters to the Editor

Send to Letters Editor Aslan Shand, fax: 6684 1719 email: [editor@echo.net.au](mailto: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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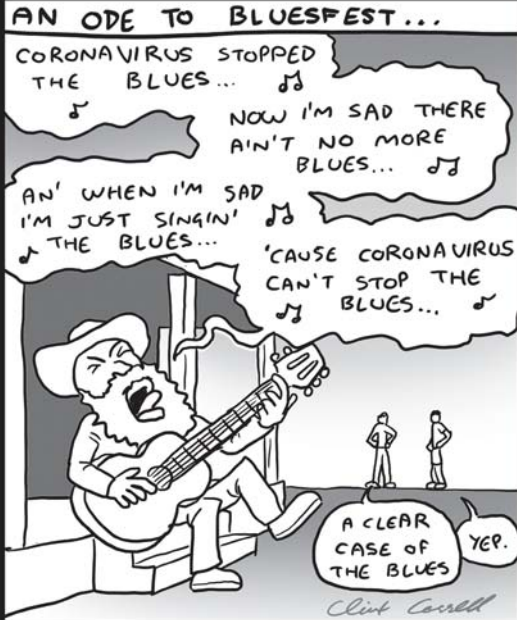
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► Continued from page 11 was being sprayed around Brunswick Heads beaches this week. I was sick to my stomach when I saw the sign and even more so when I saw a group of mums and babies playing right where it was being sprayed. Glyphosate is labelled a group 2A carcinogen, a teratogen, a neurotoxin. Get with the program guys. Who has given permission to use this stuff? You were voted in to support environmental initiatives, do your homework and stop this madness.

Gabi Giacomini  
Ocean Shores

**Policy not 'housekeeping'**  
According to a report in *The Echo* (24 March), the planning staff's proposed amendments to LEP 2014 include a blanket prohibition on secondary dwellings on all MOs and CTs.

This is NOT a minor 'housekeeping' amendment. Presenting it as part of a bundled 'housekeeping review' is misleading and unprofessional.

In the context of the severe housing crisis for local workers and some of the highest rates of housing stress and homelessness in NSW that characterise Byron Shire this proposal should have been highlighted to ensure it was based on reasonable grounds and that the claimed grounds were subject to extensive examination and discussion by both the community and the elected councillors.

In my view, there is no sensible basis for any blanket prohibition and the imposition of one would further exacerbate the existing critical shortage of affordable housing – an inhumane disaster.

Each property in this area (and especially each MO or CT property) is unique. The suitability of any site for the inclusion of a secondary dwelling ought to be open for rational consideration. In the context of the housing crisis we face, and the environmental pressures that suggest a move to smaller footprint dwellings is broadly desirable, I would instead support an amendment to LEP 2014 to impose a presumption that secondary dwellings ought to be permitted on all properties unless there is a particular sensitivity surrounding a given site.

I am a strong supporter of a requirement that all applications for secondary dwelling construction be

subject to a condition that the secondary dwelling NOT be holiday let (or a substantial contribution to a 'public housing fund' be made). Those undertakings should be enforceable and serious fines payable for breach – so that any 'enhanced profit' a landholder makes from illegal holiday letting of secondary dwellings can be channelled into a public housing fund.

Heather Martin  
Mullumbimby

**A successful train of bonuses**  
There is a hilarious episode of the old UK comedy series, *Yes Minister*, where the best hospital in the country was the one that was empty of patients, enabling staff to concentrate on their administrative work and thus receive bonuses for their successful management system. It was of course farcical, and yet, in Australia the Melbourne train and tram services staff have received bonuses for beating their performance levels. The performance indicator was based on how closely they stuck to their schedules, which was helped by the fact that owing to COVID lockdown restrictions there were few or no passengers to slow them down.

Only a politician could have developed a performance measurement system that allowed for top scores for no work, even though that does imply no mistakes. A bonus, if needed, should be based on excellence not the lack of failures. Or is this the adult equivalent of a participation ribbon for a sports carnival, even though you came last?

Real life is funnier than TV comedy, at least in Victoria.

Dennis Fitzgerald  
Box Hill

**Bayside, The Corso**  
A clear description of the proposed development as presented to the public was of 37 boarding rooms for professional couples who would be working nearby, thus eliminating the need for private transport. It included six two-room units and two single-room units above carparking space, and the micro supermarket/coffee shop development under the affordable boarding house SEPP.

Parking worked out to be 17 commercial car parks. Eight car parks for so called shop top units plus two visitor spaces. The boarding house had four disability parking spaces,

ten visitor spaces and just ten spaces for the rest of the boarding house rooms for two people per room. This resulted in approximately 100 cars parking on the neighbouring streets. Bayside is to be further developed with medium density and approximately 240 more homes provided in our isolated estate. The land for this development has been set aside for over two decades to provide a commercial site, a real community centre for Bayside.

Many will agree parking within our Shire has become very congested within our shopping centres. The idea to truly eliminate unnecessary commutes for our estate is obvious.

The need for bicycle paths and real public transport, not just school buses, is apparent. This would be true and productive town planning. I thank our Council and the councillors for their assistance in achieving a better outcome for our fast growing community of Bayside Brunswick Heads.

Annie Radermacher  
Brunswick Heads

**Big swinging dicks**  
After the tumultuous events of the past weeks regarding alleged sexual assaults within the Liberal Party and the sanctity of Parliament House, to say Australians are feeling completely 'over it' and angry would be an understatement. Our hearts go out to all those brave women who've had the courage to speak out, including Liberal MPs like our gutsy local State MLC, Catherine Cusack. These women say they have had enough of the 'big swinging dicks' mentality of many male Liberal MPs.

Over the years the ALP has not been entirely free of sexual harassment allegations, but to their credit in 1994 introduced an 'affirmative action policy' that has directly led to almost 50 per cent of their MPs being female – and a vast reduction in sexual harassment allegations. Whereas the Liberal right-wing 'old boys club' has blindly blundered along with business as usual.

But really, what will become of our great leader, 'Scotty from gimmickry'? His appalling handling of the whole affair probably reached even a lower point than the infamous Hawaiian escape when Australia was burning. His efforts to show empathy towards sexual assault survivors were more transparent than his glass jaw; immediately going

straight into management mode, digging a massive hole for himself and his Government that he does not deserve to climb from.

Keith Duncan  
Pimlico

**Disguised junk mail**  
Does anyone know who is responsible for the thinly disguised bundles of junk mail that are now arriving weekly somewhere in the vicinity of our mailboxes?

Like many I have a No Junk Mail sticker displayed, however it is being systematically ignored. These bundles are not wrapped in any way (perhaps a good thing?) and lie rotting in the muddy puddles around town.

On Argyle Street today I collected seven for my green bin, and could easily have gathered three times as many soggy lumps if I'd been able to carry them.

It seems clear to me that *The Northern Rivers Review* and its content are neither needed nor excitedly whisked indoors to be read.

Please stop this unsolicited dumping and wastage.

A Sinclair  
Mullumbimby

**Poetic plea from Gaza**  
This heart cry from Gaza, written by Gazan poet and writer Mohammed Rafik is remarkable for its beauty, honesty and embrace of life, it would make a wonderful addition to *The Echo* whose values it celebrates: [www.wearenotnumbers.org/home/Story/868](http://www.wearenotnumbers.org/home/Story/868).

Here is a brief extract:  
In Gaza, beneath the dark evening sky, somewhere between the smoky smell of gunshots and the crying children, my mother gave birth to me. It was underneath the light of the moon that I would exit her womb head first, toward the flames of war. If I had then the cognitive awareness of what war was, I might have slipped back into the refuge of a womb. Instead, the only option was, and continues to be, to live through it.

Gareth W R Smith  
Palestine Liberation Centre  
Byron Bay

**Overcharging and misrepresentation**  
Three weeks ago I looked online to buy a Bluesfest 2021 ticket. The Google ad directed me to a website I believed was official, selling tickets that they claimed were only roughly one per cent of remaining stock.

I paid for a five day pass

► Continued on page 14

## NZ festivals leading the way post-COVID

Kerry Sunderland

According to the *NZ Pocket Guide*, the number one thing you should never say to a Kiwi is 'Australia invented the pavlova'. When I moved here from Byron Bay at the end of 2012, I was amazed to discover a large number of actors, artists and musicians who I thought were Australian were actually born in New Zealand. More than eight years later, I've apparently acclimatised as a resident, since I found myself feeling a bit sensitive when it was reported in last week's *Echo* that Bluesfest – with a post-covid capacity of 16,500 per day – was to have 'been the first major festival to occur in Australia and possibly the world since the summer of 2019/20.'

Sorry, not sorry. Your trans-Tasman neighbour had already beaten you to the start gate.

'How lucky are we?' and 'Where in the world is lucky enough to do this?' are two questions that get asked a lot these days in Aotearoa. There's rarely a trace of smugness in these questions, but bucket loads of gratitude.

On April 1, CubaDupa organisers posed the second question on social media, when they posted their 2021 wrap video. The country's largest street carnival took place in Wellington on the final weekend of March, a whole week before Bluesfest would have happened – had it gone ahead.

But CubaDupa, which attracted 120,000 on the first day alone, wasn't the first major festival in New Zealand. Leading up to New Year, Rhythm & Vines attracted 30,000 punters in the North Island, while Rhythm & Alps attracted 24,000 in the South Island.

Rhythm & Alps founder and director Alex Turnbull defines a festival as a multi-day event. It's not, he says, 'an afternoon in a park with a fence around it'.

So, by this figuring, two Bay Dreams events (on the North Island in Mount Maunganui on 3 Jan and on the South Island in Nelson on 5 Jan) don't qualify. But with more than 30 acts attracting 20,000 punters at 'The Mount' and 13,000 in Nelson, the organisers probably beg to differ. Bay Dreams also earns the accolade of being the only music festival in NZ last summer to feature



Damara Sylvester and her partner, Che Vincent, at CubaDupa 2021.

overseas performers, with 11 international acts prepared to fly in early and spend two weeks in managed isolation.

Turnbull and his team announced the Rhythm & Alps programme – which for the first time exclusively featured homegrown talent – in August last year, not long after Auckland had gone back into its second lockdown and the rest of the country moved back to Alert Level 2, which prohibited gatherings of more than 100 people.

Turnbull says they chose a stress-free path 'knowing that we couldn't rely on borders being open and we fully embraced the idea that we might have to cancel.'

In contrast, WOMAD organisers decided at the end of last year to cancel the 2021 festival scheduled to take place in New Plymouth last month.

Turnbull attributes the ability to go ahead with Rhythm & Alps, which included 7,000 who camped on site – to both good luck and good management.

He says Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and the Ministry of Health need to be commended on their decision to 'go hard and go early', which has resulted in one of the lowest rates of community COVID-19 transmission in the world. But he also believes COVID-19 encouraged the Rhythm & Alps team to 'up their game'.

'Rhythm & Alps has been running for 10 years and, while we've been focused on continual improvement, the pandemic really encouraged us to step up our health and safety compliance. We had to pull our socks up. We thought, let's set an example. Fortunately, our demographic [18 to 30-years]

have been really receptive [to the new requirements].'

By the beginning of this year, CubaDupa organisers were already battle hardened. Last year, CubaDupa, which was due to be held on the first weekend NZ went into lockdown, was cancelled. In 2019, organisers made the call to move it indoors, away from its natural habitat, as a result of security concerns following the Christchurch mosque attacks. So, in many ways, this year's CubaDupa was two years in the making. The festival, which is famous for blurring the lines between performers and audience, was welcomed wholeheartedly by both Wellingtonians and visitors from around the country.

InsideOut Circus founder and artistic director, Damara Sylvester, and her partner Che Vincent, flew up from Nelson with two other friends to enjoy the festival. They booked extra baggage to fit in their elaborate outfits, enough for two costume changes per day.

'There was a really good vibe,' Damara says, 'with no drunks but lots of jolly people. There was a great atmosphere at the main stage, where hip hop artist Jess B knocked my socks off. Loads of people stopped and asked if they could take photos of us. It was the biggest crowd I've been in since pre-covid. It was standing room only, intimate and in your face; we were all dancing and sharing breath.'

While movement wasn't restricted, there were QR codes everywhere. It was, she says, kind of weird to have to wear a mask when they got back on the plane to fly home.

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## SERVICE DIRECTORY

See page 40

### CHESS by Ian Rogers

The growing Covid crisis in Europe has led to the cancellation of two major upcoming tournaments: the Sigeman tournament, scheduled for April in Malmo, and the elite Norway Chess tournament in May.

In addition, the world body FIDE has been eerily quiet about the resumption of the Candidates tournament, which is due to start in a fortnight in Ekaterinburg. The tournament to find a challenger for Magnus Carlsen's world title, was abandoned last March at the half-way point.

In contrast, Canberra's Doeberl Cup, which took place over Easter, boasted a wealth of talent, in part because three Europe-based GMs have been stuck in Australia since the start of the pandemic.

Yet even here, what Covid has given it has also taken away, with many Queensland entrants being forced to withdraw due to the Brisbane outbreak.

There was, however, one tournament which was completed successfully last week – the Oceania Zonal tournament, played online. Perth's Temur Kuybokarov booked his place in the World Cup after winning a dramatic playoff against favourite Anton Smirnov, the Australian number one.

Kuybokarov had his nervous moments in the preliminaries, reaching the diagrammed position with Black against New Zealand's Nic Croad. Kuybokarov had dominated the game from the start, but had carelessly allowed White's d pawn to advance and must now either keep checking or gamble by dropping back.

36...Qf6?! 37.Rd2! c5?! 38.Qd5! Qg6? Objectively bad, but 38...Qd8 offers only suffering so Kuybokarov rolls the dice... 39.Rf3 Rd8 40.Kc1? Here Kuybokarov drew a huge sigh of relief. After 40.Re2 he was ready to resign as his few checks lead to nothing, but now his gamble pays off and Black can escape. 40...h5! 41.Rxf7 Qxf7 42.Qxc5 Qc4+! The resulting rook ending is a slow but sure win for Black. 43.Qxc4+ bxc4 44.Kb2 Kf7 45.Kc3 Ke6 46.Rh2 Rxd7 47.Rxh5 Rc7 48.Rg5 Kf6 49.Rg1 g5 50.Rf1+ Ke5 51.Rg1 Kf4 52.Rf1+ Ke3 53.Rg1 Rg7 54.Kxc4 g4 55.Kb5 g3 56.Ka6 g2 57.a4 Kf2 58.Rxg2+ Kxg2 0-1



Black to play

## Is everything just one big planetary conspiracy?

■ Imagination is a powerful mechanism; I must admit I get unsettled with my own pandemic imaginations when I try to understand this situation.

There is so much information available about the subject, how to determine what are the facts about it all.

At school we learnt that facts can be determined by producing physical proof; it can be observed that if I close my eyes, I can't see what is in front of me, it is a verifiable fact of personal observation.

My dilemma with the pandemic information is the absence of the 'verifiable proven facts' of the matter.

All the information about this subject is not based on any physical proof that I can access and use to verify the situation, hence my dilemma. It is so easy to read and listen to discussions of assumptions from the data that is available.

Data is information that is factual when the proof has been established. All the data I have found in searching for understanding is said to be factual but I can't prove for myself that it's a fact. In fact, I have found no proof at all, of the facts on which authorities are basing the pandemic response. A lot of the information makes sense,

and I can understand the meanings imparted.

The scale of the pandemic requires physical verifiable proof to be provided, then people won't be subject to using their imagination to provide the proof. Information backed up by physical verifiable proof is available for some forms of pollution.

My health has been affected by pollution all my life; and must be related to any pandemic health effects. Pollution has been allowed to happen; this fact has only made it worse. The proven data can be used to confuse the implications of pollution. Personal verifiable fact or not?

Robert Podhajsky  
Ocean Shores

■ It is well known that *The Echo* does not publish fake news, so since the Australian media has clearly stated that the ship that blocked the Suez Canal was stuck owing to high winds and a sand storm, as the ship's owners Evergreen Marine Company reported, then anything to the contrary would be viewed as fake news.

Having worked on the bridge of a large container ship and steered it, and being familiar with auto pilots and bow thrusters, it was quite

and would send it.

The ticket came two weeks afterwards, when I had lost my confidence in the dealer Viagogo, and it was priced at \$660 and a \$200 booking fee. This total was not in line with the original payment amount. And neither were my ticket's details, which admitted me to

obvious to this writer that the ship was not blown off course by a sand storm as the media reported, and that it was either human or mechanical failure: yes ships have radar, compass and GPS and can see in the dark.

Osama Rabie, head of the Suez Canal Authority, said today, 'Strong winds and weather factors were not the main reasons for the ship's grounding – there may have been technical or human errors.'

The truth always, eventually, comes out no matter how much someone tries to hide it.

Logically the Panama Canal would be the next to be blocked, if the Reset is actually behind all this. The only way the *Ever Given* got in that position is because the rudder was turned to starboard. If there was any real danger, then ships would be required to be accompanied by tugs.

Peter Olson  
Goonengerry

■ Am I the only one who can smell a dead rat in this bubble called the Byron Shire?

I hear it happened that two people came and sprayed their virus from one end of the Shire to the other staring at The Farm,

which is now deserted. They went to the Beach Hotel and according to Facebook all over the Shire breathing their mythical virus hither and thither. Did they visit the Main Arm shop? [No] And the 'authorities' are freaking out and running a witchhunt probably on overpayments and perks. Guess what folks? This happened four days before the Bluefest starts.

A time when the little people would have had a chance to claw back a little from the past 12 months of lockdown with no gigs etc. .

This looks like another crock of shit being presented on the people of this country. Give us the science. How did these two people get caught and detected with COVID? Let's all look at the science. How many people smell a rat? Can the health authority be trusted?

Can the people who seem to be running an undisclosed agenda be trusted? Can Murdoch be trusted? Can the prime minister be trusted? Please wake up Australia.

Veet Confucius says: If you keep your head in the sand, your rear end is exposed and extremely vulnerable. And if Parliament House is to be used as an example – watch out!

Poppa Veet Mayo  
Main Arm

► Continued from page 12 at \$886, and did not receive a payment confirmation or ticket in my email from Viagogo. But since I had provided my phone number I had phone calls from them asking me to confirm my details and they said the seller personalised my ticket

three days rather than five as stated. I had no idea Viagogo had scammed other customers until I read an ABC article about 'Viagogo fined \$7 million for misleading consumers.' I tried to call to attempt to discuss these anomalies with them but was directed

to their website.

I was sure other people were left in doubt about their ticket purchases and lacking any proof they had bought a valid ticket. So I wish to complain and inform other consumers.

Josh Scrivener  
Palmwoods

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# Maybe Canberra needs a bit of distraction biff

John Longhurst

Mick breathed in but his Cronulla Sharks football jersey struggled to contain his well insulated six pack and he held up his hand as he approached Bazza in the front bar of the Top Pub.

‘I’m not talking about politics, Bazza. I’m not talking about what’s going on in Canberra. It’s just one scandal after another. I want to talk about the start of the footy season.’

Bazza raised an eyebrow.

‘No worries Mick, but the rugby league has some similar problems. One does wonder if the NRL is just a big feeder club for our parliamentary team.’

‘Now Bazza, as you know, I barrack for Cronulla Sharks. At the beginning of each season I like to rewatch their grand finals. There is the historic win in 2016 but the one that I like most is the 1973 grand final against Manly. I tear up when I watch it. The boys really went after

the Silvertails. Remember that pommie Cliff Watson for the Sharkies and the biff? A settling in period that went for eighty minutes. How good was that? Anyhow it got me thinking.’

They both took a generous drink of their beers and a decent pause.

‘But Mick you’ve got to admit the off field behaviour today is a bit like...’

‘Just hang on a bit, Baz. I’ll get to that. You see when I was shedding a tear during

that replay, I thought about the future of the game and how to reset its image in the public eye. I reckon they need to conduct some inquiries. One into questioning the ongoing need for the video referees. Another into going back to the four tackle rule. A third into getting rid of the sin bin and finally a major one into the need to “bring back the biff”. By gee I miss the biff. These reforms would get the Sharkies up in 2021.’

Bazza’s eyes widened and he leaned back on his stool.

‘That’s pretty dramatic with four inquiries, Mick. Not sure if it’s taking the game forward. It’s taking us back to the ’60s and ’70s. Bringing back the biff hardly promotes the game and the injuries are often permanent.’

Mick gave a long sigh and shook his head.

‘Bazza, none of these reforms will ever get up but the inquiries will be so controversial it will ensure that we are not focusing on the off field behaviour of the players. Sure a couple of them might need to be dropped, but it will be all about the footy. How good would that be?’

Bazza picked up his beer and gave it a swirl.

‘My bloody beer has gone flat, Mick.’

‘That’s odd. Mine seems to have plenty of froth.’

■ Have a beer with Baz at [john.longhurst59@gmail.com](mailto:john.longhurst59@gmail.com).



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# Waking up again with a sick feeling in my gut

Thank you to Mandy Nolan for publishing her courageous account of growing up as a young woman in Queensland ('We are coming for you', *Echo* 17/3/21). It deeply saddened me.

I woke up again today with a sick feeling in my gut – an all too familiar feeling since the recent impassioned speeches by Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins. We have a massive problem in our society. There are too many women in Australia walking home at night looking over their shoulder in fear, or deciding to catch the last bus home before it gets dark. Scott Morrison did us a favour with his bullets-in-Myanmar speech. In fact, Australia may still be a third world country – 50 women killed annually with a major policy change in sight. Really?

We have to ask ourselves if we, as a society, have come far since the book *Fatal Shore* by Robert Hughes, which described a misogynist and outright abusive male culture rife with daily assaults in the Parramatta Women's Factory of the 1800s.

Back then women were treated as a sexual commodity to be used and thrown away. Reading Mandy Nolan's account we have to ask ourselves how far have we really come as a society in the last 200 years?

This is not about men v women. My heart is breaking. Not only for the women caught in destructive cycles of violence, but also for the young men caught from an early age in pervasive conditioning to objectify women's bodies and to adopt unconsciously the overpowering trap of testicular entitlement. What gives men, in their mind, the right to sexually assault women?

Court cases against the convicted Weinsteins and Epsteins around the world may help us to better understand dysfunctional misogynist male cultures. Men born into privileged, elitist families, grown up in private schooling. Why would anyone with that background want to hurt a woman? Is there, again, this demonic element of destructive testicular entitlement? 'I can do as I like because

I'm feeling superior, physically stronger, and the legal system isn't protecting my fellow women?' What is it that makes men engage in such heinous crimes?

They are dirt bags and need to be punished yet we learn, that only 1 per cent of them get convicted. That stinks. If 50 people were killed annually by fundamentalist Islamists, we would by now have special courts, a specialist federal police task force and widespread immediate law reform introduced to tackle these problems. Sadly those standards don't apply when it comes to women's wellbeing. Here is this sickening feeling in my belly again: Let the screams of these 50 women and the numerous victims of sexual violence turn into a roar of outrage.

All men have to listen; no matter if they are living

in inner city Melbourne or in faraway Longreach. We owe it to all our girls and boys to prevent them falling victim of this violence that results from men's sickening testicular entitlement. Women have to be given safe opportunities to come out of shame and keep sharing stories of their daily suffering. With appropriate support this may not only help them in coming to terms with these unspeakable acts of violence, but in turn it can create for us men clearly visible landmarks to learn how to adjust our behaviour, and move out of the dark ages of testicular entitlement.

Men's violence against women and girls cannot be explained or excused. Men alone are 100 per cent responsible. It is utterly despicable and appalling. Women don't need to adjust

their dress code or be asked to stay home at night. It's on us as men to protect them and support their free movement. How do you spell gentleman?

Perpetrators' behaviour should not be analysed in order to excuse their actions. I'm convinced that the majority of men in Australia are sensitive and finely attuned, appalled by these injustices and any other form of violence perpetrated by our gender against women. It's high time for us men to realise that we are in the minority with 51 per cent women in our society. Why would we want to perpetuate a culture that minimises their status and subjects them to unspeakable acts of violence? What's in it for us?

Maybe there is a message here and we have to finally start listening? I'm asking for

women to keep stepping into the light beyond widespread culturally enforced shame. Keep on roaring until every single man in the country wakes up to the fact that we all have to pull together and move past our shared suffering; for women to feel safe and free to walk our streets at night and for young boys and men to grow up beyond the bondage of testicular entitlement, which is destroying the lives of millions of women and millions of families around the country.

My hope is that such dirty privileges enjoyed by established male structures of power, the so-called boys club, based on 'tradition', physical strength, testicular entitlement and impunity may soon be over. May the Weinsteins, Epsteins, and Strauss-Kahns rot in hell.

**Horst Tietze**  
Mullumbimby

## Hassle councillors, not Council staff

The *Echo's* article of 10 March implied that it was Council staff wanting to 'raise the roof' in Lawson Street. A planning proposal like this one (BSC ref 26.2017.6.1) only happens however by resolution of the elected Council – councillors vote to do it.

One of the changes currently proposed is to the Shire's LEP2014 map of Maximum Building Height. The change applies to just two urban blocks, in Byron town centre, from the north side of Lawson Street northwards to Bay

Lane. The east-west limits are Middleton and Jonson streets.

This is not the first time this change has been proposed. It was considered when I was on Council 2012-16 but rejected, because in Australia an extra floor on the north side of an east-west street means that less sunshine reaches the street. It's called the Canyon Effect.

Towns and cities all over the world have learnt to avoid Canyons. If a town feels pleasant to visitors, they keep visiting. Make it ugly, like the cities that

visitors come from, and our businesses will fail.

Raising the height limit by 2.5m (9m to 11.5m) enables an extra storey. When the despicable 10 per cent extra that planning seems to love also kicks in, it's a further 1.15m. The real height limit on future development is then 12.65m above ground level.

Planning changes like this are insidious – most of the public only find out when there's eventually a DA for a rebuild three or four years after the LEP change was approved.

Council's HaveYourSay webpage is now closed, but councillors still have ears. Let them know that such changes towards a Gold Coast style town are unacceptable.

And how about Council pauses its over-development style, and lets this eternal question get tested in the ballot box in September?

Council, put yourself into caretaker mode!

**Duncan Dey**  
**Byron Greens Council**  
**candidate 2021**  
Main Arm



### Byron Shire Council

#### Road Closures:

##### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSING UNDER SECTION 38B ROADS ACT 1993

In pursuance of the provisions of the *Roads Act 1993*, notice is hereby given that Byron Shire Council proposes to close the council public road listed in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1:

- **Part Road Reserve adjoining Lot 1 DP 781101 11 Butler Street Byron Bay**

Upon closure of the road, council intends to consolidate the land into the adjoining parcel in accordance with a land swap agreement with the land owner.

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to the General Manager Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482, within twenty eight days of the date of this advertisement. Please note that under the provisions of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, such submissions may be referred to third parties for consideration.

Once the submission period is completed, Byron Shire Council will consider all duly made submissions before deciding whether to continue with the road closure proposal.

Council Ref: #E2021/49209

Enquiries: Deanna Savage Telephone: 02 6626 7000

This document will be available on Council's website at [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice).

**Submissions Close: Friday 7 May 2021**

**Please note:** The canvassing of Councillors or Council staff in relation to this tender will automatically result in disqualification of offending tenderers.

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[healthbyron.com.au](http://healthbyron.com.au)

# Storylines – Call for Aboriginal housing and support

Belle Budden

Byron Shire has been experiencing increasing rents for over a decade. It has become a very expensive place to live. Like many coastal towns in our region, the COVID flow-on of sea/tree changers has hit hard.

Rising rent and housing competition are pushing out Bundjalung and off-country Aboriginal people who have lived in regional towns for decades. With limited social housing or affordable housing options, and a decentralised/ ad hoc approach to Aboriginal housing in our community, our community's wellbeing is heavily impacted by the lack of safe and secure housing options. This is further affecting our people's cultural obligation to care for country and our ability to support and care for family.

The Aboriginal community in the Byron Shire is threatened with a new wave of dispossession owing to economic pressures on housing. Our people are being forced to leave their families and support networks to find

more affordable housing options; but where do they go and how do they rebuild their lives without support?

The Bundjalung of Byron Bay, the Arakwal people, have wrapped this place up in National Parks through decades of work, three Indigenous Land Use Agreements and extensive and successful Native Title agreements. They have held back the flood of development and increased the desirability and liveability of the area.

Young Arakwal woman, Nickolla Clark, grew up on-country. She started contributing to community at 12 when she joined the Byron Shire Youth Council, was the vice captain at Byron High School in her senior year, is the Byron Shire artist of the year, is currently installing a major public art installation, and works full time at the Arakwal Depot. Nickolla has been looking for a house in the area for nine months, but has given up.

'Affordability and demand is out of my reach for all areas at the moment, I cannot compete in these times, and priority is going to

*'The housing shortage is appalling for the local community, but for the Aboriginal community it is devastating'*

certain groups of people from outside our area,' she says.

'Living on country is my priority but I also looked further in the region off-country. I looked in areas that could offer me access to my work and study areas, lifestyle and community involvement.

'For me, the biggest issue is not being able to access a house on-country. Staying connected to country, my family, work and community is very important to me. I have grown up living with, and listening to, my elders share culture and country, and I have to face the rising housing crisis in Byron and the prices that come with the influx of Airbnb and limited affordable options to stay on country.

'The greatest impact is the disconnection from country and culture. [Challenges of] affordability and access [are] setting unrealistic options

[that are] out of reach for us. We have very limited support services that are hard to access or are non-existent. This housing crisis is something that is directly affecting Arakwal and Bundjalung people, there are small numbers of Arakwal people living on-country, which is devastating, we are native title holders and most can't even live here.

'We need real solutions to this current crisis. Firstly a service to help our Indigenous community is essential. Builders and developers should be engaging with Traditional Owners and setting aside housing for inter-generational living and Aboriginal housing. I think supporting a small Aboriginal housing service that provides access for our community will help gain more housing options on-country.

'We need reforms around Airbnb and holiday letting, we need changes to the laws to secure properties for long-term housing and more homes on the market,' she stated.

Julie Williams, manager at the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre, has been spearheading a local project advocating for improved services for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

'The housing shortage is appalling for the local community, but for the Aboriginal community it is devastating. To not be able to live on-country is heartbreaking and then there are no place-based resources to provide support to Aboriginal community here. It is critical that there is an increase to all services, but housing is past crisis. Aboriginal people need to be supported to live in the Byron Shire to maintain family and cultural responsibilities,' said Julie.

'People are shocked when they hear about the lack of Aboriginal health and community services in Byron Shire. The assumption is that services in the adjoining

Local Government Areas are available in Byron Shire. They are not. Having accessible Aboriginal services based in this community is crucial to supporting Aboriginal community members with culturally safe wraparound supports. People might march for Black Lives Matter, celebrate NAIDOC, and generally make a public commitment to supporting the Aboriginal community, but this is not transferring to meaningful commitment to the "liveability" in our community. And the gap keeps widening.'

It is impossible to address health, education and employment gaps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when there is no secure housing. Housing is a need and should be a human right. When will our people stop getting moved on?

Bagwa Bugalma

■ Belle Budden is a local dubay of Wakka Wakka descent. 'Living off-country I pay my respect to the Arakwal people and the wider Bundjalung people of this land,' says Belle.



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<p><b>BUNNY RACKET</b></p>  <p>SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2:00PM SINGLE \$20   FAMILY OF 4 \$65</p>	<p><b>THE LITTLE MERMAID</b></p>  <p>FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> &amp; SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL ADULT \$40   CONC \$35 UNDER 16 \$28   FAMILY OF 4 \$120</p>

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## LISMORE YOUTH FESTIVAL

Lismore Youth Festival is back bigger and better than ever! Three days packed with music, performance, art and workshops to entertain and inspire young people across multiple venues on Wednesday 14, Thursday 15 and Friday 16 April.

The Quad and surrounding buildings will come alive on 15 and 16 April with a half-pipe, skating comps, DJs, comedy, light sabre dance offs, and a huge workshop program to knock you off your feet! The majority of Lismore Youth Festival events are free but booking is required for some workshops. Jump onto [www.lismorequad.org.au](http://www.lismorequad.org.au) for full program and details.

Lismore Youth Festival is presented by The Quad in partnership with Lismore Regional Gallery, NORPA and Dream Bigger.

[www.lismorequad.org.au](http://www.lismorequad.org.au)

## TEACH YOUR KIDS TO SURF THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

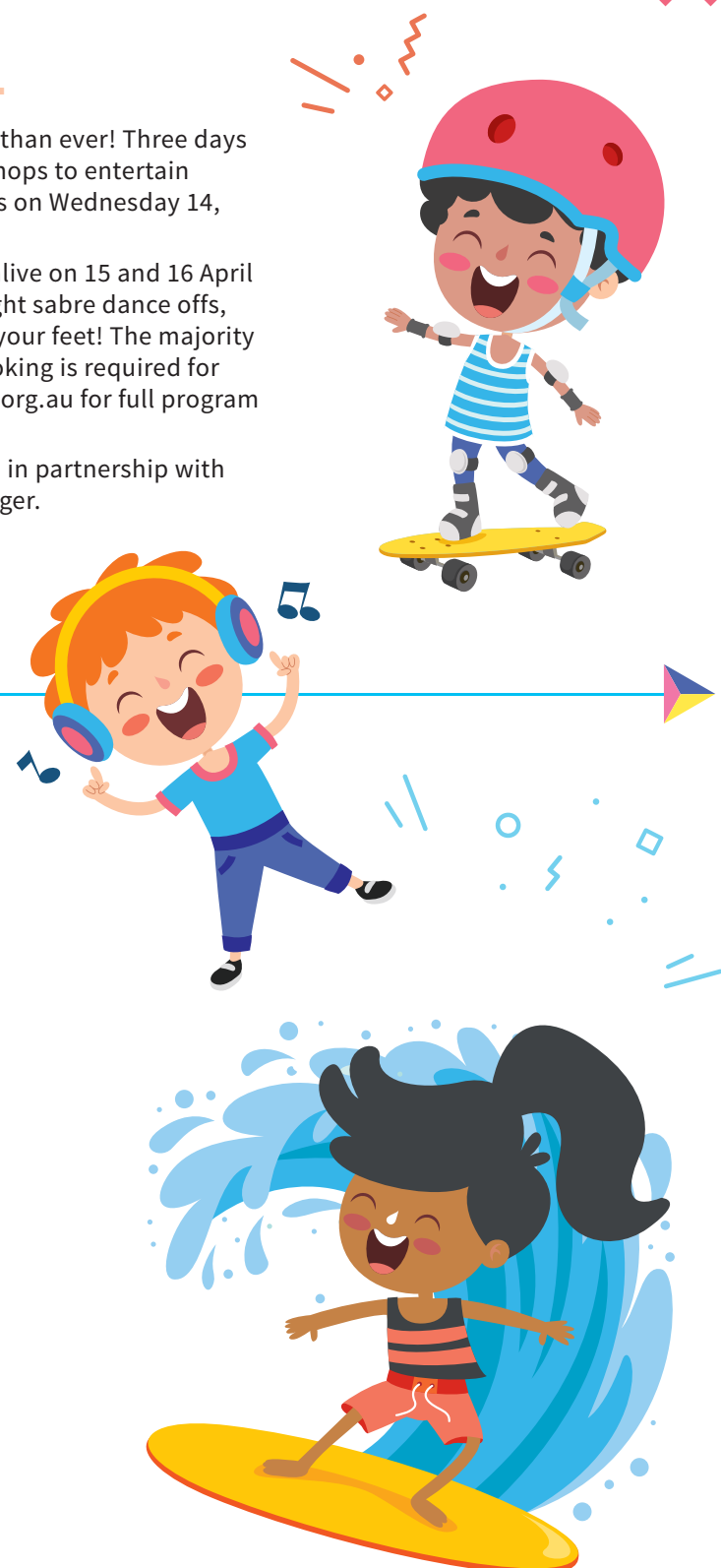
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**Book now for April.**

[www.surfgetaways.com.au/surf-clinics-kids](http://www.surfgetaways.com.au/surf-clinics-kids)  
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more info: [www.lismorequad.org.au](http://www.lismorequad.org.au)

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**THE REGENT**

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### WHAT'S ON THIS EASTER HOLIDAYS

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Soul Surfer  
Promising Young Woman  
Birth Time: The Documentary  
The Secret Marathon

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# SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT BYRON THEATRE

They've got you covered for Holiday Family Fun in April at Byron Theatre! Help solve a mystery story involving the extraordinary Australian Satin Bowerbird.

*A Little Bit of Blue* is an interactive environmental detective story told with puppetry in a fun frolicking mix of Detective Noir and slapstick, with some interesting facts thrown in.

Come and join Little Wings Puppets after the show for a fun Shadow Puppetry Workshop where kids make the puppets and create their own show.

But wait – there's more! Bunny Racket is back! With about as much rock'n'roll as you and your parents can handle! No nursery rhymes or soap pop jingles, just straight up rocking fun for everybody.

The Victorian State Ballet returns to perform three shows of *The Little Mermaid*; a superb family-friendly performance that is exhilarating and visually inspiring with magnificent costumes, sets, and props full of vibrant colour.

**Tickets & info at**  
**byrontheatre.com**

## THE REGENT

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! The Regent is fun central for kids and parents during the Easter break! Catch *Imaginitis* with Shorty Brown, our favourite clown! Every kids film is a chance to DRESS-UP for prizes! Disguise yourself as a dragon for *Dragon Rider* and *Raya and the Last Dragon* for an Easter Egg! Bounce along as a bunny to *Peter Rabbit 2* and win a Chocolate Bunny! Colouring competitions for different age groups with cool prizes. Be inspired by the Dragon Making Workshop and take home your creation.

The cafe is always open – come early for a yummy meal, vegan popcorn, sweet treats, handmade choc-top, or coffee on the covered alfresco balcony. Their licensed bar serves the adults – to unwind anytime.

**More details at the-regent.com.au**  
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**6672 8265**

## EXCITING CHANGES AT BALLINA FAIR!

Ballina Fair will soon be starting construction on a new slip lane from Tamarind Drive. The additional entry will provide further convenience for residents in River Oaks / Ferngrove and the Ballina Heights / Banyan Hill communities.

Works are estimated to be completed by end of May 2021.

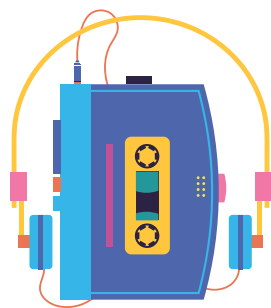
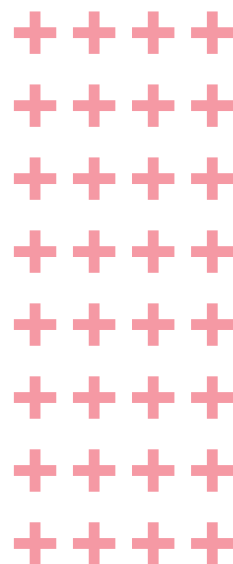
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# How to make koalas extinct

Dailan Pugh

**T**he Koala Wars erupted between the National and Liberal parties last September. While the Nationals are claiming victory over the Liberals, it is the loggers that have prevailed over koalas and local councils.

Ironically the Nationals' declaration of war came after the bipartisan inquiry into 'Koala populations and habitat in NSW' found in June 2020 that the regulatory framework for private native forestry does not protect koala habitat on private land, and that without urgent government intervention to protect habitat, the koala will become extinct in New South Wales before 2050.

This appeared to inflame the debate about *State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Koala Habitat Protection 2019*, which applied to private forests, home to more than 60 per cent of NSW's koalas. In early September the Nationals threatened to cross the floor unless the Liberals agreed to their demands to weaken protections for koalas. The Liberals surrendered.

The inquiry reaffirmed that fragmentation and loss of habitat poses the most serious threat to koalas in NSW. We've known for decades that if we want koalas to survive, we first need to protect where they live.

Back in 1995 a coalition government even adopted a policy to achieve this *State Environmental Planning Policy 44 (SEPP 44)*. It required councils to prepare Koala Plans of Management (KPoMs) to identify where koalas live, termed 'core koala habitat', and to protect that habitat in environmental zones.

SEPP 44 had a fundamental flaw because it only allowed forests comprising 15 per cent of 10 feed-tree species to be identified as 'core koala habitat', leaving dozens of key feed trees out, meaning vast areas of core koala habitat didn't qualify.

The Local Land Services Act (LLSA) relied upon this mapped core koala habitat to meet its obligations to protect koalas, by prohibiting logging of core koala habitat and generally requiring consent before it can be cleared.

A combination of lack of political will and an intent to make SEPP 44 ineffective, coupled with the difficulty and expense for councils to prepare plans, made SEPP 44 a policy failure.

By 2020 only six Koala Plans of management (KPoMs) had been approved, mostly covering just parts of council areas, with just 5–7,000 ha of core koala habitat identified for protection, after 25 years. And most of this had pre-existing logging approvals that were allowed to continue. Another five finished KPoMs were still waiting for approval – Tweed and Clarence local government areas (LGA) since 2015 and Byron LGA since 2016.

After years of procrastination, in December 2019 cabinet approved the new SEPP (*Koala Habitat Protection*) 2019 that, while still problematic, rectified many of the definitional problems with SEPP 44, including increasing the number of use trees from 10 to 123.

It came into effect in March 2020, when the guidelines were released. By then the loggers were beginning to freak out because they were concerned that the new rules made it easier for councils to identify core koala habitat, and they wouldn't be



allowed to log it.

NSW Farmers joined in as they wanted to remove constraints on land clearing. They were spooked by the map of likely koala habitat, the *Koala Development Application Map*, labelled the pink DA map. It was only intended to limit the area where development applications had to consider koalas, but some Nationals were falsely claiming it was core koala habitat that all required protection.

The key request was that the SEPP be decoupled from the Local Land Services Act, meaning that core koala habitat identified in a KPoM would no longer have logging excluded or require consent before it was cleared.

The Liberals had repeatedly agreed to the decoupling since the SEPP was adopted in 2019, but wanted the Nationals to first put forward alternative protection for koalas from logging and clearing, though they failed to do that.

By mid May 2020 the government had begun the

formal process of changing the SEPP and the guidelines, with a focus on removing the pink DA map.

The release of the koala inquiry report in late June was followed by the release of NSW's 2018 land-clearing statistics, showing that since 2016 clearing of woody vegetation had more than doubled, to 60,800 ha. Most worryingly over 50 per cent of this clearing was unexplained, meaning it was unapproved, unassessed, and unknown whether it included koala habitat.

While the Nationals hadn't managed to get the variety of feed trees contributing to core koala habitat reduced from 123 species down to an arbitrary 39, Planning Minister Rob Stokes appeared to have agreed to most of their asks.

Despite this, the Nationals declared the beginning of hostilities in early September 2020, when first Clarence MP Chris Gulaptis, and then Coffs Harbour MP Gurmeh Singh, claimed they would move to the cross-benches. On 10 September the whole of the National Party piled in and made the same threat, provided they kept all their perks. The Nationals likened it to 'greyhounds on steroids', considering koalas a threat to their political survival. This was dubbed the Koala Wars.

The Nationals' attack was based on misinformation and lies. For example, the pink DA map, with its inaccuracies, was a primary focus, even though the decision to remove it had been made four months previously. No wonder the Liberals were outraged.

Under the attack the

Liberals surrendered, Rob Stokes amended the SEPP to narrow the definition of core koala habitat, and the Nationals were given carte blanche to write their own *Local Land Services Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill*, which was introduced to the Lower House on 14 October 2020.

This was dubbed the Koala Killing Bill as it removed protection for core koala habitat on rural lands while offering no alternative protection, allowed logging to override all councils' Local Environment Plans (LEP) and NSW State Environmental Planning Policies, allowed some self-assessed clearing in environmental zones, and doubled logging approvals to 30 years.

It was not just about koalas. The Nationals' intent was to allow logging to occur in all councils' environmental zones, opening up 167,000 ha of private forests in northeast NSW where 'Greenie local councils' currently prohibit logging. Councils' existing consent requirements for logging over another 600,000 ha of private forests was to be removed.

Rob Stokes reputedly also gave the Nationals a promise that councils would not be allowed to protect identified core koala habitat in environmental zones.

While the Liberals supported the Koala Killing Bill, it came to a halt in November when Upper House Liberal Catherine Cusack took a principled stand by crossing the floor and referring the bill to the Upper House Planning and Environment Committee for review.

In retribution, on 26

***'The Koala Wars erupted between the National and Liberal parties last September. While the Nationals are claiming victory over the Liberals, it is the loggers that have prevailed.'***

November 2020, Premier Berejiklian did a deal with the Nationals' Deputy Premier John Barilaro to revert to SEPP 44, renamed as SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020.

To pre-empt the inquiry Planning Minister Rob Stokes and Environment Minister Matt Kean did a deal with Barilaro, which was announced on 8 March 2021, without any detail. The general thrust is to resurrect most provisions of the Koala Killing Bill, including that the 87 per cent of private lands zoned for primary production, or forestry, will not be subject to SEPP 2019, logging will be allowed to override local environmental plans, and the Minister for Planning will take over councils' rights to rezone rural land to an environmental zone.

This time they intend to avoid parliamentary scrutiny by implementing most of this through changes to the SEPP and ministerial directions.

On 17 March the new SEPP (*Koala Habitat Protection*) 2021 was made. As foreshadowed it does not apply to rural and forestry zones, which comprise 90 per cent (2.4 million ha) of private forests in northeast NSW. The 2020 revision of SEPP 44, with its 10 feed trees and manifest problems, continues to apply to these lands.

In a significant change, KPoMs now also need to be approved by the secretary of the Department of Regional NSW (Barilaro's department).

There is worse to come.

Far from being a step forward, Planning Minister Rob Stokes's 'new solution' has made the already dysfunctional SEPP process into a farce, reduced already inadequate koala protections, and opened up thousands of hectares of protected environmental zones for logging.

With core koala habitat even more difficult to identify, and most of its protection about to be removed, it's the height of hypocrisy for Environment Minister Matt Kean to claim this 'new solution' will ensure protections for core koala habitat and colonies across NSW.

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# Born-and-bred local Alyce Field launches her new boutique agency

Alyce began her career in real estate in 2010 working under a well-known and reputable agency in Mullumbimby, this is where her passion for real estate began and where her individual real estate style grew. Alyce has successfully sold and managed properties throughout the Byron Shire for the past 11 years and is well known for her friendly, honest and fresh approach to real estate.

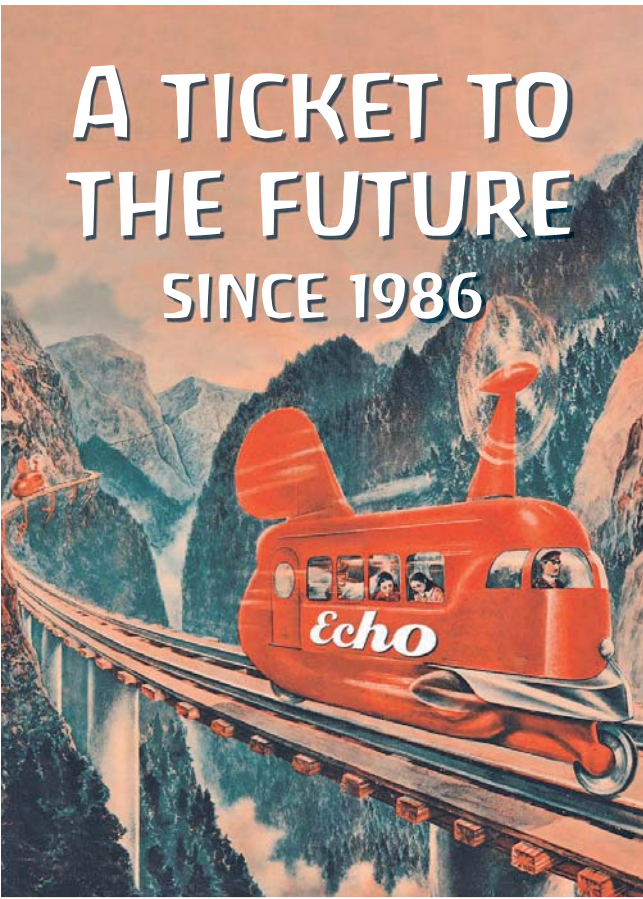
During her career, Alyce has received awards for her success in the industry, has maintained strong client relationships, has achieved outstanding results for clients and always remained true to her honest, approachable


and positive outlook. After many years gaining valuable experience in the industry, Alyce was ready to take the leap and create an independent agency where innovation, modern technology and personalised solutions

are embraced. Property Hub operates with the understanding that one size does not fit all, and where every owner has a customised campaign based on their individual needs and goals. Property Hub is based in Mullumbimby and offers professional sales and property management services, from Ballina to Kingscliff and everywhere in between. As a new business, Property Hub is offering some fantastic introductory offers to all clients for property and sales, so be sure to get in touch with Alyce.



Alyce Field  
Property Hub Byron Shire  
M: 0417 439 230  
E: alyce@byronpropertyhub.com.au





# Katrina Beohm

real estate

coastal & hinterland sales

## Why choose Katrina Beohm Real Estate as your agent?

### 1 Experienced

20 years experience in real estate on the Northern Rivers

### 2 Creative

Creative selling strategies - thinks outside the box

### 3 Positive

Passionate, enthusiastic and committed to real estate with a 'never give up' attitude

### 4 Professional

Works tirelessly and ethically to serve the needs of clients helping them achieve their dreams



Christopher Plim

Lily Hewitt

Rachael Jenkins

Katrina Beohm

Gail Beohm

“ After our first meeting with Katrina our whole family agreed that she should be our agent. Katrina is genuine and open about how she will manage the sale of your property. She leads an excellent team who are helpful and supportive in what can be a quite stressful time. We recommend her to anyone looking to sell their property. ”

Timothy & Sonya Laverty

0459 066 087

8 PORTER STREET BYRON BAY

kbrealestate.com.au

www.echo.net.au

April 7, 2021 The Byron Shire Echo 21



AUCTION  
1st MAY



### Golden Grid Opportunity on 1012sqm with Views and DA Approval

- This 1/4-acre block (1,012sqm) has to be one of the last remaining elevated blocks with DA approval ready for re-development in the centre of Byron Bay
- Construction certificate approx 85% complete, this project comes with architectural DA approved plans to build TWO luxury 5-bedroom, 3-bathroom, double garage homes with pools that take in the best of the views from this coveted position
- Dual access and address on both Ruskin Lane and Browning Street
- Encompassing views over the bay, across to the Nightcap ranges towards Mount Warning

2 1 2 1012M<sup>2</sup>

Address: **35 Browning Street, Byron Bay**

Auction: Auction – 1st May at 10am. Guide \$4.5m – \$4.95m

Open: Saturday, 10th April 1.00pm – 1.30pm

Enquiries: Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698, Denzil Lloyd 0481 864 049



### Gorgeous Home with Panoramic Views of Sharpes Beach

4 2 2 627M<sup>2</sup>

- Presenting a rare opportunity to become part of this exclusive waterfront enclave offering spectacular ocean views on one of Skennars Head most sought-after locations, only a 2-minute stroll to the beach
- Living space features high raked timber-clad ceilings with exposed timber trusses and brilliant natural light and enhance the cross-flow ventilation
- Kitchen will cater for any occasion and includes ample storage, vast counter space and large island which leads to the large elevated deck

Address: **6 Killarney Crescent, Skennars Head**

Price: \$1.95m – \$2.150m

Open: Saturday, 10th April 12.00pm – 12.30pm

Enquiries: Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698, Oliver Aldridge 0421 171 499



AUCTION  
April 30th

### Work Space Full of Opportunity in Arts & Industrial Estate

PATIO: 19M<sup>2</sup> FLOOR AREA: 77M<sup>2</sup> MEZZANINE: 48M<sup>2</sup>

- Building offers a great opportunity to invest in the Byron industrial area
- Lots of natural light, freshly painted, recently strata title, 1 car space allocated to Unit 2 (not on title)
- Potential to receive a fantastic return or occupy for your own business.
- Boutique complex made up of only 4 units.
- Use the unit as is or develop to suit your needs (STCA).
- Stone and Wood Brewery and The Hive as neighbours.

Address: **2/83 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay**

Auction: Auction Friday 30th of April @11am – Unless Sold Prior

Open: Wednesday, 7th April 3.00pm – 3.30pm

Saturday, 10th April 12.00pm – 12.30pm

Enquiries: Paul Banister 0438 856 552



### Modern Luxurious Home plus Large Shed

- Modern, character home features an open plan design with high ceilings and a covered wraparound verandah with direct access from living space and bedrooms
- The kitchen is designed for entertaining and includes quality appliances, stone benchtops with a unique Teppanyaki hot plate and extra-large integrated bar fridge
- The landscaped grounds are perfect for families and entertaining with timber deck, manicured lawns, built-in bench seating and plenty of space for a pool (STCA)
- This stunning near new family home is a short 10-minute stroll to the quaint cafes, gift stores, art galleries, antique shops and award-winning restaurants, that make Bangalow special

 5  2  4  872M<sup>2</sup>

Address: **6 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow**

Price: \$1.65m to \$1.75m

Open: By Appointment

Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660, Luke Elwin 0421 375 635



### Warehouse Conversion and a piece of Byron History

 3  2  2

- The Butter Factory was built in 1895 and in 2009 converted into 12 residences
- Open-plan kitchen, living and dining space featuring a well-appointed modern kitchen, island bench and stunning timber floors
- Main bedroom retreat with walk-through robe, luxury ensuite with spa bath, private balcony and spiral staircase to the loft
- Shared facilities including large courtyard area with covered outdoor dining and barbecue facilities plus stunning lap style swimming pool

Address: **8/140 Jonson Street, Byron Bay**

Price: \$1.695 – \$1.795m

Open: Saturday, 10th April 1.30pm – 2.00pm

Enquiries: Su Reynolds 0428 888 660, Luke Elwin 0421 375 635



### Luxurious and Private Byron Hinterland Paradise

 6  2  2  3.13 HA

- Commanding a premier position along a prestige Byron hinterland ridge-top sits this exclusive 3.13 ha private property
- Stunning 360° views of Cape Byron lighthouse and mountain ranges
- Versatile spaces, spread over two levels with dual living rooms, kitchen facilities, bathrooms and three bedrooms on each floor
- Set amongst green terraced lawns with sunsets over the amazing salt water infinity pool, all just 10 minutes from Byron's beautiful beaches

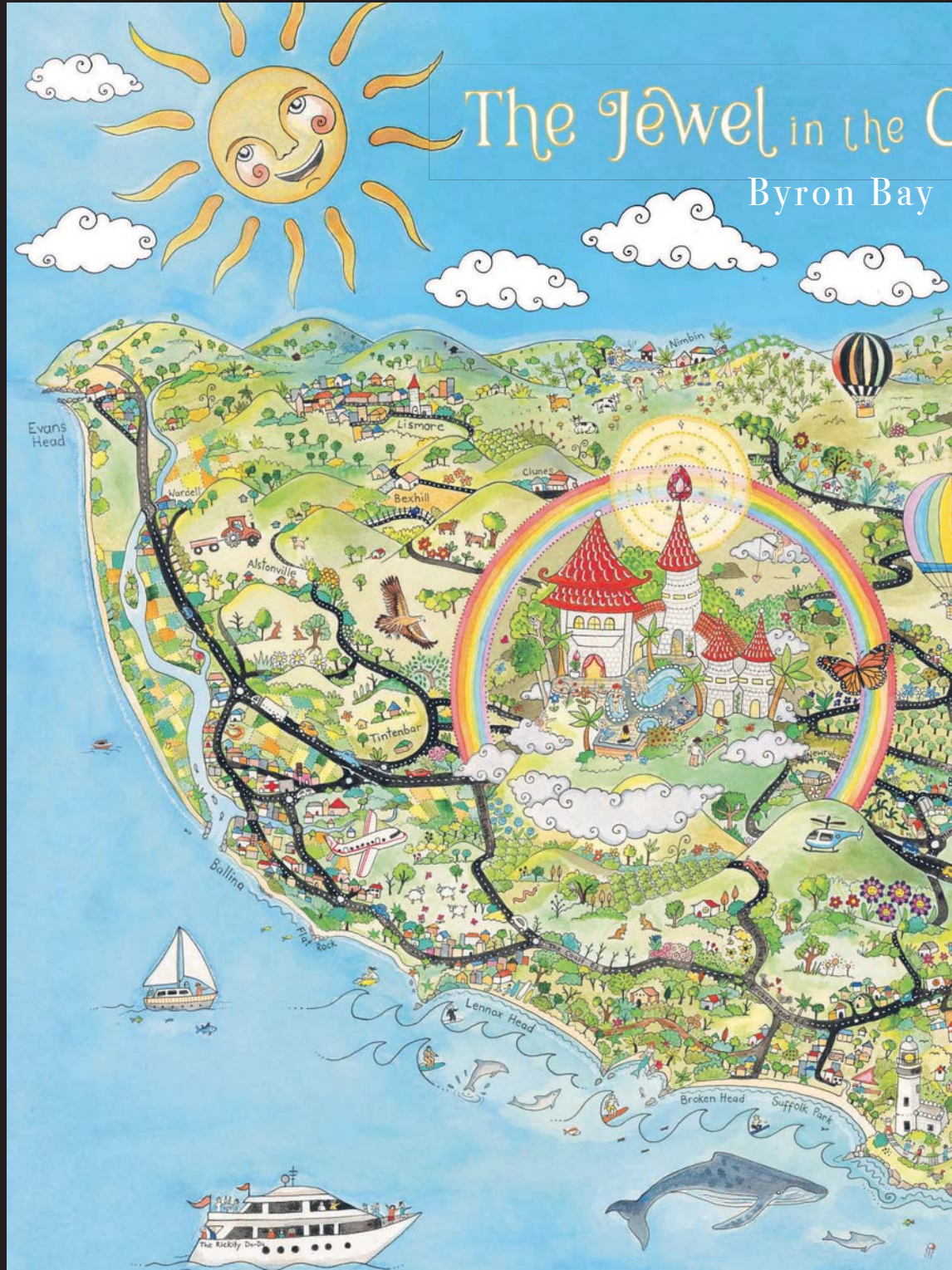
Address: **21 Fig Tree Lane, Myocum**

Price Guide: \$4.6m – \$5m

Open: Saturday, 10th April 2.30pm – 3.00pm

Auction: Saturday, 10th April at 3.00pm

Enquiries: Oliver Aldridge 0421 171 499, Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698





#### IMPORTANT STUFF



### Bedrooms

5 double bedrooms all with breathtaking outlooks



### Bathrooms

5 x marble bathrooms  
All with outdoor hot/cold showers and gardens



### Decks/Outdoor areas

Numerous sweeping decks  
Walled gardens  
Cosy corners



### Wildlife

A pit stop for an abundance of bird life and Australian native animals



### Stables

Fully serviced timber stables with horse arena



### Long Winding Driveway

Elegant winding driveway through manicured grounds



### Water

Liquid gold! Fully automated bore sourcing pristine water from deep below  
Very rare and important!  
2 x extra large in-ground concrete water tanks



### Incredible views

Pure, 360 degree uninterrupted beauty



### Resort style swimming pool

Large deep pool, heated party spa, plunge pool and waterfall



### Close distance from

Beaches 5 minutes  
Ballina airport 15 minutes  
Gold Coast International airport 45 minutes  
Byron Bay 12 minutes  
Bangalow 5 minutes  
Newrybar 2 minutes



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DISTINCTION

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Real Estate of Distinction Byron Bay  
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www.reodbyron.com.au

Shop 9/15 Fletcher St (entrance Lawson)

www.thejewelbyronbay.com.au

## 70 Foxs Lane Tyagarah

**8** BED    **5** BATH    **4** CAR

### Tuscan-style Hinterland Home; Views, Orchid & Acreage

Picturesque family home with spectacular 360-degree views of rolling green mountains, separate accommodation/s, well-established exotic orchid and only a short distance to Byron Bay and Mullumbimby.

**Michael Coombs**

0407 980 443  
michaelcoombs@atlas.com.au

**Jacqui Wansey**

0402 448 383  
jacquiwansey@atlas.com.au



# ATLAS



Vanessa  
Coles

0433 836 755  
vanessa.coles@atlas.com.au

Helene  
Adams

0412 139 807  
helene.adams@atlas.com.au



Delightfully charming renovated cottage on a picture perfect five acre block with original semi converted dairy, 18 minutes from both Bangalow and Ballina.

**47 Tuckombil Road Tuckombil**

4 bed | 2 bath | 2 car

[Contact Agent](#)

**Vanessa Coles**  
0433 836 755

**Helene Adams**  
0412 139 807



Stunningly restored & renovated 1920s character cottage located in one of Mullumbimby's best streets. DA approved studio at the rear of the property with lane access.

**5 Dalley Street Mullumbimby**

4 bed | 1 bath | 1 car

[Forthcoming Auction](#)

**Vanessa Coles**  
0433 836 755

**Helene Adams**  
0412 139 807



Iluka Woombah

FOR SALE

BY

openn negotiation

ONLINE AUCTION



Approximate Boundary Only



AUCTION

Woombah 25 Ibis Close

An Idyllic Waterfront Sanctuary

4  2  2 

ONLINE AUCTION via  
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FINAL BIDDING STAGE commences  
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Inspect

By Appointment

Agent


Earl Cochran 0431 193 063

sales@ilukawoombah.com.au

www.iluka.com.au

5/42-44 Charles Street


Iluka NSW 2466



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2  1  1+1

Call Kelvin 0423 028 468 **\$335,000**


Palms Village – Tweed Heads South




2+1  1  1+1

Call Kelvin 0423 028 468 **\$229,000**


Banksia Waters – Tweed Heads West





2  1  1+1

Call Kelvin 0423 028 468 **\$240,000**

Tweed Broadwater Village – Tweed Heads South



2  1  2

Call Kelvin 0423 028 468 **\$295,000**

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Phone: 07 5523 3431 Mobile: 0423 028 468

**Echo**

VIGILANT SINCE 1986

28 The Byron Shire Echo April 7, 2021

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)



## AUCTION THIS SATURDAY



### 41 Broken Head Road, Newrybar

Under instructions from Transport for NSW

We are pleased to offer 41 Broken Head Road, Newrybar – Lots 1–4 DP 1229946, and Lot 1 DP 123291, for public Auction.

Located in the Newrybar hinterland with sweeping rural views, this property consists of 5 lots totalling 19.25 hectares and could be the tree change you have been searching for.

The property is improved with:

- A single level family home with 3 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, open plan living area, outdoor entertaining area, and double carport.
- An in-ground swimming pool.
- A 4-bay machinery shed with one bay converted into an unapproved studio.
- Approximately 3000 macadamia trees.

All this only minutes from Newrybar and Bangalow villages.

**Auction:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 10am on-site

**Agents:** Glen Irwin 0418 604 080

Peter Yopp 0411 837 330

**View:** Contact agents  
Saturday 9.30am–10am

3 2 2



Shop 4/31 Lawson Street, Byron Bay  
02 6685 7300 [www.byronbayrealestateagency.com.au](http://www.byronbayrealestateagency.com.au)

AUCTION  
SAT 24 APRIL 1.30PM

OPEN  
SAT 12PM



## LOCATION, VIEWS & CHARM

3 1 1+1

1 Ann St, Mullumbimby

Auction Price Guide \$820,000–\$865,000

Nestled on the edge of town with a beautiful rural backdrop is this charming Mullum home. Original weatherboard always in style with all the character and charm you will be delighted to come home to and enjoy. Relax on your front covered patio and enjoy the sweet quiet serenity that this perfect location has to offer.

- Beautifully renovated combined dining and kitchen with stone tops and s/s appliances.
- 9ft ceilings with decorative cornices. Original timber floors under floor coverings.
- Good sized backyard with side carport and single garage/workshop.
- Beautiful and peaceful rural vista with just a short walk to the town centre.

This classic home with its unique charm is waiting to be enjoyed or ready for you to take to the next level with polished timber floors, a big rear verandah or possibly a studio STCA.



**North Coast  
Lifestyle**  
PROPERTIES

**View:** Saturday April 10  
12–12.45pm

**Contact:** Paul Eatwell  
0414 466 111  
[paul@nclp.com.au](mailto:paul@nclp.com.au)

Mullumbimby Office: 6684 2615

81–83 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby



## Open for inspection

### Elders Real Estate Brunswick Valley

- 2/10 Halyard Court, Ocean Shores. Thu 4–4.30pm; Sat 10–10.30am

### First National Byron Bay

- 80 Huonbrook Road, Huonbrook. Wed 1–1.30pm
- 1/3 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Wed 2–2.30pm; Sat 11–11.30am
- 2/83 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay. Wed 3–3.30pm; Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/16 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Thu 2–2.30pm; Sat 10–10.30am
- 36 Garden Avenue, Mullumbimby. Thu 4–4.30pm; Sat 11–11.30am
- 12 Killarney Crescent, Skennars Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 91 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 6 Killarney Crescent, Skennars Head. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 602 Friday Hut Road, Possum Creek. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 35 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 8/140 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 21 Fig Tree Lane, Myocum. Sat 2.30–3pm

### McGrath Byron Bay

- 44 Byron Street, Bangalow. Sat 9–9.30am

### North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 9 Moffatts Road, Billinudgel. Sat 11–11.45am
- 1 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12–12.45pm

### Raine & Horne Ocean Shores/Brunswick Heads/Murwillumbah

- Panorama Estate, 2981 Kyogle Road, Kunghur. Wed 9–11am; Fri 9–11am; Sat 12–2pm
- 143 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–10am
- 100 Hills Estate, Murwillumbah. Sat 9–11am
- 8 Mimosa Ave, Cabarita Beach. Sat 10–11am
- 11 Regency Crescent, Goonellabah. Sat 10.30–11am
- 751 Commissioners Creek Road, Commissioners Creek. Sat 10.30am–12.30pm

### Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 204 Eureka Road, Eureka. Sat 11–11.30am; Tue 11–11.30am
- 298 Dorroughby Road, Corndale. Sat 1–1.30pm; Tue 1–1.30pm

## New Listings

### First National Byron Bay

- 2/83 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
- 1/16 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park
- 6/84 Lawson Street, Byron Bay
- 602 Friday Hut Road, Possum Creek

### North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 35 Hardy Avenue, Ocean Shores. NCLP Brunswick Heads
- 1 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. NCLP Mullumbimby

### Raine & Horne Ocean Shores/Brunswick Heads/Murwillumbah

- 8 Mimosa Avenue, Cabarita Beach
- 110 Youngs Road, Limpinwood
- 143 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores

## Auction

### First National Byron Bay

- 21 Fig Tree Lane, Myocum. Saturday 10 April, 3pm onsite
- 2/83 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay. Friday 30 April, 11am
- 35 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Saturday 1 May, 10am onsite
- 6 Killarney Crescent, Skennars Head. Forthcoming Auction
- 43 Myocum Downs Drive, Myocum. Forthcoming Auction

### North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 9 Moffatts Road, Billinudgel. Saturday 10 April, 12pm onsite
- 35 Hardy Avenue, Ocean Shores. Saturday 24 April, 12pm onsite
- 1 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Saturday 24 April, 1.30pm onsite

## FOR SALE

17 MEADOWS CLOSE, BANGALOW

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 10 APRIL 10.00AM - 10.30AM  
AUCTION ON-SITE SATURDAY 10 APRIL 10.30AM

A beautiful and light-filled home combining traditional character with fresh, modern design



4 2 1 645m<sup>2</sup>

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## AGENTS



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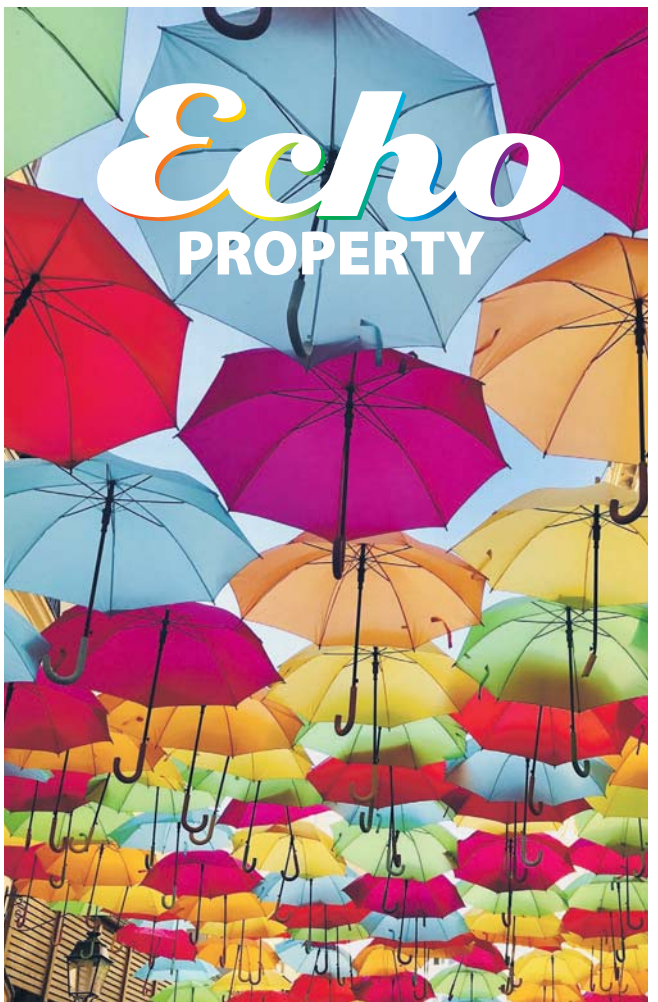
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**Echo**  
PROPERTY





## 204 Eureka Road, Eureka

5 2 2

- Hobby farm lifestyle property – so handy to Bangalow and Byron Bay
- Over 9 acres of rich, frost free paddocks ideal for orchards and grazing
- Beautiful Benny's Creek along the eastern boundary with huge dam frontage
- Solid family home overlooking the private acreage and pool setting
- Huge machine shed/workshop, established grounds and gardens plus a choice of alternate homesites
- Just minutes scenic drive to schools, towns and coastal beaches

**On-site Auction**  
Saturday 24 April at 2.00pm  
  
Inspect Saturday and  
Tuesday 11.00 - 11.30am  
  
**Greg Price**  
0412 871 500

[raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au](http://raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au)



## "Ascot Grove" - 298 Dorroughby Road, Corndale

3 2 2

- Stunning restored timber homestead boasting immaculate detailing and presentation
- Over 80 acres of elevated plateau country running down to postcard pretty Mick's Creek
- Character and atmosphere exude from every room as formal and open plan living mingle seamlessly
- Established macadamia orchard and well-watered grazing paddocks provide handy income
- Plenty of irrigation water with an approved bore, powered machine shed and a home orchard provide a great start to your new rural lifestyle

**On-site Auction**  
Saturday 1 May at 1.30pm  
  
Inspect Saturday and  
Tuesday 1.00 - 1.30pm  
  
**Greg Price**  
0412 871 500

[raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au](http://raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au)

# The Good Life

## Wooing the discerning gin drinker with Husk Botanic

Husk founder, Paul Messenger, introduces his new Husk Botanic – a fresh cane spirit, designed to be mixed with tonic water to woo the discerning gin drinker and demonstrate the versatility of rum.

‘This is a new direction in Australian rum, a botanical cane spirit distilled with tangy grapefruit, fresh lemon myrtle and native strawberry gumleaf grown in and around the Caldera Coast,

from Lennox to Burleigh; our backyard.’

Husk Distillers, who are the makers of the fabulous, and now famous, Ink Gin, are pioneers in the craft rum movement. Since

2012, they’ve been making Cultivated Australian Rum, or *rhum agricole* for those with a French connection, from freshly crushed cane juice on the family farm in Tumbulgum.

Head Distiller, Quentin Brival, says that cane spirit (unaged rum) is a new concept in Australia. ‘Here rum is traditionally made from molasses – back home in Martinique we predominately drink unaged over aged rum, in Ti Punch.’

In a nation of gin lovers with no cultural ties to white rum, Ti Punch can be challenging because it’s a short drink with a high alcohol content. So Husk Distillers created Botanic to appeal to the Australian gin drinker.

‘I have been observing a growing trend in Europe for botanical rums, and it’s a concept we’ve been developing for many years,’ said Brival. ‘As distillers of both gin and rum, botanical rum made perfect sense to show off the diversity of the rum category.’

With their paddock-to-bottle philosophy, there are no shortcuts to producing a premium tippie. ‘Each glass of B&T (Botanic and tonic), is the result of countless hours of cultivating our land and planting our cane, a 12-month growing season, four days of harvesting, crushing and fermenting, more than 50 hours preparing botanicals, five days of distillation, months of resting and blending, and days of bottling.’

Brival also says that there are 89 micro distillations taking place to finalise the botanical blend recipe.

Stay tuned for more release news from Husk Distillers in 2021 as they enter their ninth year patiently crafting their new expression – Cultivated Australian Rum.

Husk Botanic is definitely emerging as the new taste of Australian rum.

For further information visit [www.huskdistillers.com](http://www.huskdistillers.com).



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SCHOONER

\$6

HOUSE WINE

\$10

APEROL  
SPRITZ

\$14

MARGARITA





The Scratch family love very big croissants

# Irresistible pastries you can't go past

Story & photo Lisa Machin

Scratch Patisserie is a household name in the Northern Rivers, and it's a rare individual who can walk past one of their pastries without stopping.

Since opening the doors to Scratch ten years ago, Greg and Angie Wilton have underpinned their family business with one simple mantra: make it fresh, make it from scratch.

The Northern Rivers is now renowned for its small batch, artisan offerings, and Scratch Patisserie is a favourite of Mullumbimby Farmers Markets (every Friday) and New Brighton Farmers Markets (every Tuesday).

It's been a year since Greg and Angie chose to close their shop and focus solely on the markets in the region.

Greg said it's a decision they couldn't be happier with.

'By scaling down we can ensure we keep things as local as possible,' he said.

'We can get things through the markets and focus on what fruits and vegetables are in season.

'There are people who have been making great products for a long time around here, who aren't always in the limelight, and this allows us to contribute to the local food chain and connect to our local community.'

One new product being cooked up in the Scratch kitchen is their fig, pecan and honey scroll.

The pecan paste is sourced from fellow marketeers Nimbin Valley Pecans and Rice, and the honey comes from a local family of third generation honey farmers.

'They've been producing great honey for years, and in fact our fathers used to play football together, so it's a great local story!' Greg said.

Scratch employs two local staff who prepare the baked goods, making the dough and making the pastries during the daytime.

Angie and Greg then work in partnership to deliver the fresh products to their local communities.

On market days Greg's day starts at midnight, as he begins baking the products that have been prepared that day.

After a morning of baking before the sun comes up, he packs up and heads into the markets to set up the Scratch stall.

'It's the best part of the day,' Greg says.

'The sounds, the smell, the way the weather changes – a lot of people who rise early in the morning know the changeover – that cold, crisp change, when the wind starts to drop.'

And for those who head to the local markets, the smell of a fig, pecan and honey scroll is now also on the air!

The New Brighton Farmers Market is on every Tuesday from 8–11am, and the Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday 7–11am.




**BALLINA**  
**Wharf Bar & Restaurant**  
Ballina  
FB/Insta: wharfbarmallina  
12–24 Fawcett St, Ballina  
**6686 5259**  
**EVERY DAY  
HAPPY HOUR  
4–6PM**  
Dine in and takeaway  
Great summer menu  
[www.wharfbarmallina.com.au](http://www.wharfbarmallina.com.au)


**BANGALOW**  
**THE BOWLO KITCHEN**  
**Bowlo Kitchen**  
The Bowlo, Bangalow  
**6687 2741**  
Open Wed–Fri 12–2.30pm & 5–8.30pm;  
Sat 12–8.30pm; Sun 12–7pm.  
Club open Wed–Sun from 12 noon  
[www.bangalowbowlo.com.au](http://www.bangalowbowlo.com.au)  
@bangalowbowlo @thebowlo  
Family friendly, tradies' local, restaurant quality.  
Wednesday to Friday happy hour, midweek specials,  
excellent wines, foodies delight, creative cocktails,  
local produce, massive kids' space, welcoming staff,  
and COVID Safe.  
**Come along to the Bangalow Bowlo  
and find out.**

**BYRON BAY**  
**Loft Byron Bay**  
4 Jonson Street,  
Byron Bay  
**6680 9183**  
**Book online:**  
[www.loftbyronbay.com.au](http://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.**

**Fishheads**  
Byron Bay  
1 Jonson Street,  
Byron Bay  
**6680 7632**  
@FISHHEADSBYRON  
**GREAT SUMMER MENU  
Indulge in one of our new creations!**  
We are proud to say, that for over 20 years, we have been serving  
the Byron community fresh, local seafood and ingredients.  
To improve your dining experience, we have developed  
a smaller plate menu, designed to be shared,  
and enabling you to try a greater variety of dishes.  
**Enjoy! The Fishheads Family**

**St Elmo Dining  
Room & Bar**  
Open Thursday–Sunday  
5–10pm  
Cnr Fletcher St and Lawson  
Lane, Byron Bay  
**6680 7426**  
[www.stelmodining.com](http://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.

**CHUPACABRA**  
Eat in or take out.  
Shop 12A, 3 Clifford St,  
Suffolk Park  
**6685 3059**  
[www.chupacabra.com.au](http://www.chupacabra.com.au)  
@chupabyron  
**Fresh authentic Mexican in a relaxed atmosphere.**  
**This is food made with love, all produce sourced locally.**  
**Margaritas and tacos all night long!**  
**Family friendly, totally GF menu.**  
DINNER 5pm–9pm  
WED–SAT  
Book via Resy

**FOREST**  
77–97 Broken Head Rd,  
Suffolk Park  
**6685 4969**  
[www.crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest](http://www.crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest)  
@forestbyronbay  
Set next to a lush rainforest oasis, Forest celebrates  
sustainability working hand-in-hand with local farmers,  
growers and artisans.  
Serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and just-drinks...  
the perfect place to feed your soul.  
**Stay awhile.**  
As a Byron Bay Crystalbrook Local you get to enjoy 15% off  
food and drinks when you sign up online.

**Oma  
Food and Wine**  
6 Lawson Street,  
Byron Bay  
**8960 7478**  
[www.omafoodandwine.com](http://www.omafoodandwine.com)  
Who needs chocolate Easter eggs when you can have  
Oma's famous ramen eggs... with a side of house made  
focaccia, followed by whole prawns in citrus butter, then  
lamb shoulder washed down with a special cocktail –  
The Hot Cross Bun Sour. We are not doing Easter in  
halves at Oma. Book now so you don't miss out.


**LEGEND PIZZA**  
Open 7 days  
9am till after midnight  
Shop 1 Woolworths Plaza  
90–96 Jonson Street  
**6685 5700**  
[www.legendpizza.com.au](http://www.legendpizza.com.au)  
**FRESH PIZZA  
BYRON STYLE**  
**Check us out on**  
[facebook.com/byron.legendpizza](https://facebook.com/byron.legendpizza)  
Scan code for our menu!  
BYO  
Home delivery 7 days  
**Established 1992**



# 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  
mainstreetburgerbar@gmail.com  
for reservations.



**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.



**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, Tues, Sat  
7am–8.30pm Wed, Thurs, Fri  
1 Porter St, North Byron  
Booking via our website  
barriobyronbay.com.au

Barrio's canteen takes its inspiration from locally sourced produce with moorish cuisine.  
Offering daily bakes, breakfast cakes, classic sandwiches, vibrant salads, smoked fish and grilled meats.  
Book via our website for lunch and dinner in the restaurant at [www.barriobyronbay.com.au](http://www.barriobyronbay.com.au)  
Walk-in tables available.



**Saltwater Social Club**  
A gathering place for all  
32 Jonson St,  
Byron Bay  
saltwatersocialclub.com.au

**Open 4pm until late Monday through Sunday for sundowners, dinner, and late-night drinks.**  
Lazy weekend lunches with sandy feet, rowdy dinners with family and friends, and late night drinks and DJs are the standard. Laid back vintage vibes and classic coastal style create an eclectic feel, complemented by our menu of shareable snacks, locally-sourced salads and hand-stretched sourdough pizzas, as well as beers on tap, organic wines and hand-crafted cocktails.  
**GOOD TIMES ~ HIGH VIBES ~ LATE NIGHTS ~ HIGH TIDES**




**No Bones**  
Vegan Bar and Kitchen.  
11 Fletcher Street  
**6680 7418**  
Book online:  
www.nobonesbyronbay.com.au

Join us on our expedition to save the Earth one Brussels sprout at a time.  
**HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 5–6PM**  
**\$6 BEERS / \$12 COCKTAILS / \$7 WINES**  
Open every day from 5pm till late  
For any events of up to 30 people please email  
nobonesbyronbay@gmail.com



**Karkalla Byron Bay**  
Café, Bar & Restaurant  
Corner of Bay Lane and  
Fletcher St, Byron Bay  
**5614 8656**  
www.karkalla.com.au  
@karkallabyronbay

**Seasonal, local & native indigenous inspired menu.**  
Brunch Thursday–Monday 8am–2pm  
Dinner Wednesday–Monday from 5pm  
Thursday Night 'Locals night' 5.30–7pm \$35 curry & glass of wine.  
Seafood & Champagne \$200 per couple.  
Deluxe fresh & cooked seafood platters  
& glass of Bollinger Champagne.  
Bookings via our website.



**The Italian Byron Bay**  
21, 108 Jonson St,  
Byron Bay  
Open 7 days from 5.30pm  
**5633 1216**  
www.theitalianbyronbay.com

The Italian, Byron Bay, provides a bustling atmospheric restaurant, dishing up contemporary inspired Italian cuisine and some of Byron's finest cocktails and wines.



**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.  
**MAKE YOUR OWN BOTTLE OF GIN**  
- book online. **Gin Making Gift Vouchers available.**  
**LORDBYRON.COM.AU**  
📞📧📱 LordByronDistillery



### LENNOX HEAD



**Krill Bar**  
Lennox Head  
47 Ballina St,  
Lennox Head  
www.krillbar.com.au  
**6685 5538**  
📞 KRILLBARANDRESTAURANT

Open Thursday 5pm–10pm; Friday 3pm–11pm;  
Saturday 12pm–3pm, 5pm–11pm; Sunday 4pm–9pm  
**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**  
Online booking preferred

### MULLUMBIMBY




**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.**



**The Empire**  
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.



**Paséyo**  
Corner of Stuart and  
Tincogan Streets  
Mullumbimby  
**0498 010 881**  
Monday–Friday 7.30am–3pm  
Saturday 8am–2pm

Healthy, fresh, balanced and nutrient dense meals that create a sensory delight for our customers.  
Buddha bowls, smoothies, coffee, cold-pressed juices, and so much more.

### NASHUA



**Frida's Field**  
76 Booyong Road,  
Nashua  
Open 12–4pm Sat, Sun  
6.30–10pm Fri  
Bookings via our website  
www.fridasfield.com

**Long Lunches & Friday Dinners**  
Contemporary country dining from award-winning chef.  
Seasonal produce-driven set menus  
with multiple dishes shared amongst your booking.  
Beautiful eco-farm location, just 10 minutes from Bangalow.  
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.


### NEWRYBAR



**Harvest**  
18-22 Old Pacific Highway  
Newrybar NSW 2479  
**02 6687 2644**  
www.harvestnewrybar.com.au  
@harvestnewrybar

**HARVEST RESTAURANT, DELI + BAKERY**  
Culinary creativity that harnesses the connection between food and nature.  
Lunch: Wed–Sun 12–3pm  
Dinner: Wed–Sat from 6pm  
Baked goods at Sourdough  
Weekends : Sat + Sun 8am until sold out  
Deli 7am–3pm daily


### 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  
• HANDCRAFTED SPIRITS • TEQUILA AND MEZCAL  
• HOME DELIVERY  
Open 7 Days 10am–8pm Monday to Sunday

### CATERING



**Celebrations Catering By Liz Jackson**  
Celebration cakes  
Personal catering services  
Event co-ordination and management

E: lizzijackson@gmail.com  
**P: 0414 895 441**

### FOOD DELIVERY BYRON BAY – CUSTOMER



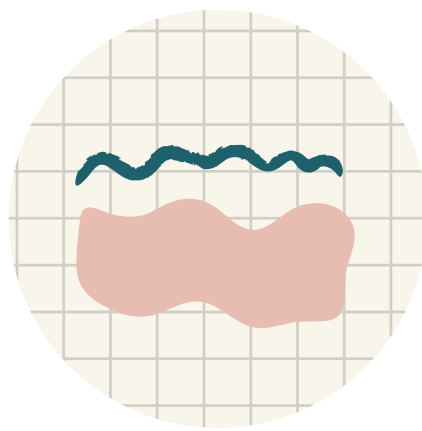
**Delivery Byron Bay**  
DELIVERYBYRONBAY@GMAIL.COM  
**0421 414 664**  
**0481 259 296**  
www.deliverybyronbay.com

**Your favourite Byron restaurants delivered to your door.**  
We're your number one local food delivery company covering Suffolk Park to Ewingsdale.  
Check out our website for the full list of participating Byron restaurants and takeaways.  
Contact-free delivery available.



## MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

www.echo.net.au/soap-box



### THE MASK OF FREEDOM

Wearing a mask is not an imposition on my freedom. A year in and the 'I won't wear a mask' attitude has the same schoolground contrariness of the kids who won't wear a school hat. Or people who fought against seatbelts or bike helmets. Just wear it. There are so many bigger issues to push back against. Pick your battles. If you are protesting wearing a mask you need to get some perspective.

A mask isn't government control. It's disease control. Whether you 'choose' to believe it or not, it doesn't matter. The world is in the grip of a global pandemic, and your belief system has little to do with fact. A great many people all over the world have died, or are at risk of dying. I witnessed a conversation between a woman who implied the whole pandemic was an elaborate hoax and a friend from New York who listed of all the people in her family who had died from COVID-19. The woman says 'I'm just saying it's not as bad as we've been told.' My friend says 'No it's not. It's worse.'

So we have been asked to wear a mask.

It is the simple act of covering one's mouth and nose. Your respiratory area. It's not a perfect solution to disease control, but it's a good start.

It is a simple action that can be taken by all to protect against a disease that is transmitted through respiratory droplets. It is a first line of defence against this disease and the good news is, it's chemical free, immediate and generalised throughout the community. Except for people who won't wear masks.

Today in Mullumbimby I witnessed a woman blowing bubbles on people. She was walking with her dog and blowing bubbles over passers-by. What is usually the magical work of the fairy tribe, today it had a kind of aggression. The bubbles weren't by accident. This was a 'Fuck You' to mask wearing. A fuck you to people wearing masks. A fuck you to the existence of this coronavirus. The woman was sending her water droplets, encased in soapy bubbles, down the street. You might have your own opinion – but how can anyone think that's an okay thing to do at this time? For someone who's clearly so entrenched with their own personal liberties, why would they impede on the liberty of others? Other people believe something she doesn't. How does their choice to wear a mask impact on her?

This conversation around mask wearing is so banal. Every time I see a post about people's right *not* to wear a mask I am appalled. Can't we respect the wellbeing of others? There are vulnerable people in our community whom we show care for every time we wear a mask when we're asked to. Whatever happened to the concept of the greater good? When I travel into temples and I am asked to cover my shoulders and head, I do it. It's respectful to the culture of others. The idea that wearing a mask somehow impacts on 'our freedom' makes me feel nauseous. This is rampant individualism. Is that really the most we privileged white first-worlders have to worry about? FFS.

Do you know what an imposition on freedom actually looks like?

Having a bunch of people turn up in a boat and steal your land and then tell you that you weren't there and you weren't 'doing anything with it'. Then they create a history in which you basically aren't included, but when you are – your culture is diminished and misrepresented. Consequently you live in a country where your people are incarcerated 12.5 times more than any other group. Oh, and they also die younger than everyone else. That's an imposition on freedom worth fighting against.

You know another imposition on freedom? Being told, as a woman, you shouldn't be on the streets at night because then it's your fault if you get raped or murdered, when actually you're more likely to be murdered at home. That's an imposition on freedom worth fighting against.

You know another imposition on freedom? Living in a country where billionaires aren't taxed fairly on their massive profits, and then the most vulnerable in our community are expected to get by on benefits way below the poverty line. That's an imposition on freedom worth fighting against.

I don't like wearing a mask. I agree that it's uncomfortable, and breathing your own breath isn't overly pleasant. But I do it, because I'm not that special. I don't need to make a scene about the importance of my liberty over the health and wellbeing of others. I don't have to know who you are to care about you.

Be a decent human being. Wear a mask when it's asked of you.

### GIVING DANCING A NUDGE

Fingers crossed that things return to normal in our area and the good people of **Nudge Nudge**, **Wink Wink** get to host their much loved party with a conscience at the **Billinudgel Hotel** on **Saturday**. This 18yrs+ event is a fresh dance restart with a line-up of fave Nudge and Curious DJs, along with residents **Dale Stephen** and **Lord Sut** and special guest international star DJ, **Phil Perry**, and local ARIA awarded artist **DJ Crucial D!**

**There are still some tickets available**  
 – visit [cunningstunts.com.au](http://cunningstunts.com.au)



### BYRON SCHOOL OF ART PRESENTS ITS LATEST

BSA is offers a program of short courses and weekend workshops starting in April. Over eight weeks Ceramic Sculpture with **Kat Shapiro** Wood teaches students the potential of clay.

Working with Metal, with **Edward Blower**, presents an understanding of core techniques, processes and finishes when working with metal – offering a deep knowledge and experience of metalwork

practice. For those wanting to delve more into their abstract painting, there is a six week course with master abstractionist **Michael Cusack**, and Drawing into Painting with **Rene Bolton**, running for eight Mondays, and Life Drawing with **Belle Bassin** running for six Wednesday evenings. If you are into large scale prints, **Christine Willcocks** shows you how to use multiple plates to create large scale work. There are two weekend workshops; Hyper real Sculpture, using recycled material, with **Susan Gourley**, and Clay as Canvas with **Stephen Bird**.

**For more details go to [byronschoolofart.com](http://byronschoolofart.com)**

### ACTING WORKSHOPS!

**NORPA, the region's leading theatre company, is offering two sets of acting workshops in April: a School Holiday Acting Intensive for young people (ages 12–16 years) and Open Acting Workshops for adults (18+).**

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn acting with acclaimed actor and NIDA teacher **Scott Johnson**, NORPA Artistic Director **Julian Louis** and leading professionals in NORPA's fully equipped Studio and Theatre. The School Holiday Intensive runs over three consecutive days from **Tuesday 13 April to Thursday 15 April, 9am– 3.30pm daily**. Early Bird cost is \$220, standard \$270. \$100 Creative Kids Vouchers from NSW Government can be used. The Open Acting Workshops for adults runs on **Tuesday nights: 13, 20, 27 April and 4 May, from 6.45–8.45pm**. Cost is \$150 for the four classes. Drop-in rate is \$50 per class.

**For more information and bookings visit [www.norpa.org.au](http://www.norpa.org.au).**



### CALLING YOUNG MUSICIANS!



In the first week of the July school holidays, scores of young musicians from across the region will converge on the Northern Rivers Conservatorium to become the **Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra 2021**. The three-day orchestral workshop will culminate in a finale concert at **Lismore City Hall** at **6.30pm on Thursday 8 July**.

Now in its ninth year, after a covid-enforced hiatus in 2020, the Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra 2021 program will extend regional music students by providing the

opportunity to experience the social and educational benefits of playing together in a large ensemble. Be assured, as with all NRC activities, strict COVID Safe protocols will be in place to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment.

**For more info and to enrol in NRYO 2021, head to the NRC website [www.nrcac.edu.au](http://www.nrcac.edu.au). Be sure to take advantage of the early bird discount that closes on 31 May. Creative Kids vouchers can be used for participation in NRYO 2021.**

### IRON CREATIVE

**Musicians and artists invited to join new Iron Creative.**

Northern Rivers musicians and artists are invited to put their talents and imagination to the test in a new initiative set to deliver a lot of fun, and some truly original works.

The brainchild of Northern Rivers Conservatorium's Resident Creative Artist, **Sean O'Boyle AM**, the *Iron Creative* plays on the idea of the popular Japanese TV show, *Iron Chef*, where chefs are challenged to make dishes based on unusual secret ingredients.

In the case of the *Iron Creative*, six teams will have three hours to create a new 5–8 minute performance work – from scratch – using a list of ingredients assigned to them.

The *Iron Creative* is free for all participants and open to anyone with an interest in creative expression.

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium has engaged six mentors to work with the teams in the six weeks prior, to teach them how to successfully collaborate within the parameters of an *Iron Creative* event.

The inaugural *Iron Creative* event will be held on **Sunday 23 May 2021**. Teams will create and rehearse their works at the Conservatorium during the morning, then present them at a public performance at **2pm** at **Lismore City Hall**, where the winners will be announced.

**Applications close on Friday 23 April. Musicians and artists can register their interest online at [enrol.nrcac.edu.au](http://enrol.nrcac.edu.au)**

**CONTINUED ON P36 ▶▶▶**

## BY GEORGE – IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

Mandy Nolan presents, *Am I Who I Say I am?*; a comedic memoir about one father and four surnames. This is storytelling at its best, AWGIE award-winning satirist, writer and academic **George Catsi** immerses you in his tales of multiple names, a wayward father and how hopeless he is at being Greek. He delves into an identity pulled together by multiple Greek diasporas, upheavals and revolutions and tells a ripping yarn centred around his father, which balances absurdity with pathos, journeying from Crete to Cairo to Detroit to Sydney. The result is a funny, lively and heartfelt evening of stories that has delighted his audiences.

A light-hearted way of pulling the threads of family and seeing where it unravels. Presented at the Sydney Comedy and Sydney Greek Festival – and now touring to the Northern Rivers.

**17 June at Federal Hall, 18 June at the Citadel in Murwillumbah, and June 19 at the Bangalow Bowlo. Tix on [mandynolan.com.au](http://mandynolan.com.au) or [humanitix.com](http://humanitix.com).**



## DRAWING ON LENNOX



Drawings by the Lennox Head community will be etched and printed onto footpath pavers to be installed during the Ross Park upgrade later this year. The *Leave Your Mark in the Park* paving art project is part of a larger suite of art interventions being implemented by Ballina Shire Council as part of the Lennox Village Vision project. The Lennox Arts Board invited the local community to express what they love about Lennox Head through art making. The theme *What does Lennox Head mean to you?* saw participants draw water dragons, banksia flowers, waves, sunshine, and lots of friends and ice creams.

**Melissa Wright** and **Kellie O'Brien** from the Lennox Arts Board facilitated the production of more than 150 drawings by families, adults and children. They have selected 70 of the best, which Council

will have etched and printed onto clay pavers and install as part of the footpath for the Ross Park upgrade.

**For more information about the Lennox Village Vision project, including the Ross Park upgrade, visit [ballina.nsw.gov.au/LennoxVillageVision](http://ballina.nsw.gov.au/LennoxVillageVision).**



### WEDNESDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **BEN WALSH**
- KIKI ON BYRON 7PM **NOY BEN AMI**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **SARAH GRANT**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7PM **MULLUM UKE NIGHT**

### THURSDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ADAM HOLE DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM BEN WHITING, 7.30PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- KIKI ON BYRON 6PM **SAFIRE & GEORGIE**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **OOZ**
- WANDANA BREWERY, 5PM **OPEN MIC**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 8PM **BRAD COX**

### FRIDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **OLE FALCO**, 6PM **JACK MILLIGAN**, 9PM **FELICITY LAWLESS AND PAUL GEORGE**
- BYRON THEATRE 11AM **A LITTLE BIT OF BLUE**
- KIKI ON BYRON 7PM **MAJESTIC NIGHTS**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **MATTY ROGERS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **JIMI DOBBS**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 6PM **ANDY K DUO**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **OOZ**
- WANDANA BREWERY, 4.30PM **DJ FIESTY**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE – DJ BEN TEMPLESTEP**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **DR FREUDELSTIEN**
- TINTENBAR HALL 7.30PM **TINTENBAR UP FRONT – TONY KOELLNER, MAUREEN BUCKINGHAM, SPIDER AND THE BEAR, NICCI PALMER, JOSIE DEMPSEY & LUKE ROBINSON**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB MAIN LOUNGE 7PM **NOY BEN AMI**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 11AM **IMAGINITIS WITH SHORTY BROWN**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM **MIKE WINKWORTH**

- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 8PM **JASON KAFOA BAND**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5.30PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM **JORDAN MCROBBIE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 8PM **JOHNY LAYTEX**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7.30PM **DUSTY RICH - WTFIGO**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **STEVEN MICHAEL**, 9.30PM **MARK BONO**

### SATURDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **EB FUNDRAISER – FEAT THE SCREAMIN' EAGLES**
- BYRON THEATRE 11AM **A LITTLE BIT OF BLUE**, 8PM **PACO LARA – THE ANDALUSIAN GUITAR**
- BYRON BEACHSIDE ARTISAN MARKET, 8AM **JESSE MORRIS BAND, DIDGERA AND TIM STOKES**
- KIKI ON BYRON 1PM **NOY BEN AMI**, 7PM **JAZZ JAM**
- BYRON TWILIGHT MARKET 4PM **WILL HENDERSON**
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **GROOVE & BAO – STEEZY DANIELS**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **JAMES SCOTT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **THE DIRTY CHANNEL**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **DR FREUDELSTIEN**
- MULLUM EX SERVICES CLUB, 6PM **CURIOUS QUIZ NIGHT**
- WANDANA BREWERY, 3PM **DJ'S KAI NOON AND RIA LISTIC**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK – DJ'S PHIL PERRY, CRUCIAL D, DALE STEPHEN & LORD SUT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM **JOCK BARNES**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 8PM **NIKKI & JEREMY DUO**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM & 7.30PM **PHIL GUEST**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5.30PM **MR TROY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM **THE JACKS**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **DUBBARRAY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 7PM **CHICK FLICK, THE SHOWROOM 8PM NOW WE'RE SWINGIN'**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **JASON DELPHIN**, 9.30PM **LOCKY**

### SUNDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1PM **MATTY ROGERS**, 5PM **MOSES PARKER JAZZ TRIO**, 9PM **JAMIE ASHFORD**
- KIKI ON BYRON 5PM **LOKI HOUGH**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DR FREUDELSTIEN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 5PM **JOSH LOVEGROVE**
- WANDANA BREWERY, 3PM **BEN WHITING**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 2PM **BRIAN PAMPHILON**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM **LISMORE JAZZ CLUB – SHARNY RUSSELL QUARTET**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 2.30PM **ADAM BROWN**
- CHILLINGHAM MARKET 8AM **LYRICA BLUE**
- TYALGUM HALL 3PM **THE LIMPINWOOD ENSEMBLE**
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, 4PM **INTO THE MOMENT**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 4PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK**

### MONDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **RICHIE WILLIAMS**, 8PM **BILL JACOBI**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **TIM DEGAN**

### TUESDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SUNSTONE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ALISHA TODD**, 8PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **OOZ**
- EWINGSDALE HALL 8PM **ECSTATIC DANCE – DANCING TIGER**

### WEDNESDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LEIGH JAMES**, 8PM **SARAH GRANT**
- SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **MARK CHAPMAN**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7PM **'B' UKE NIGHT**
- THE QUAD, LISMORE, **LISMORE YOUTH FESTIVAL**



## LESS TALK MORE MUSIC

A night of alternative music is happening soon in **Burringbar Hall**. Enjoy good conversation, share an open bottle and enjoy some DIY electronic and acoustic tunes from a variety of local and interstate bands.

**Featuring Tralala Blip, Lackadasies (Bris), Amber Rose, and Millie Ivaschenko. Burringbar Hall, May 29 from 6pm. Tix on [oztix](http://oztix), or at the door \$18.**

**CONTINUED ON  
P38 ▶▶▶**

## WHAT'S ON

**A LITTLE BIT OF BLUE  
BY LITTLE WING PUPPETS**  
Friday 9 and Saturday 10 April, 11am  
Adult \$20 | Child U13 \$15 | Family of 4 \$50



**SHADOW PUPPETRY WORKSHOP  
WITH LITTLE WING PUPPETS**  
Friday 9 April, 12.30pm  
\$35



**PACO LARA  
THE ANDALUSIAN GUITAR**  
Saturday 10 April, 8pm  
\$44.50



**CCR + FRIENDS  
CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL SHOW**  
Friday 16 April, 8pm  
Single \$44.50 | Family of 4 \$89



**BUNNY RACKET LIVE!**  
Saturday 17 April, 2pm  
Single \$20 | Family of 4 \$65



Arrive early and enjoy a drink at the Theatre Bar

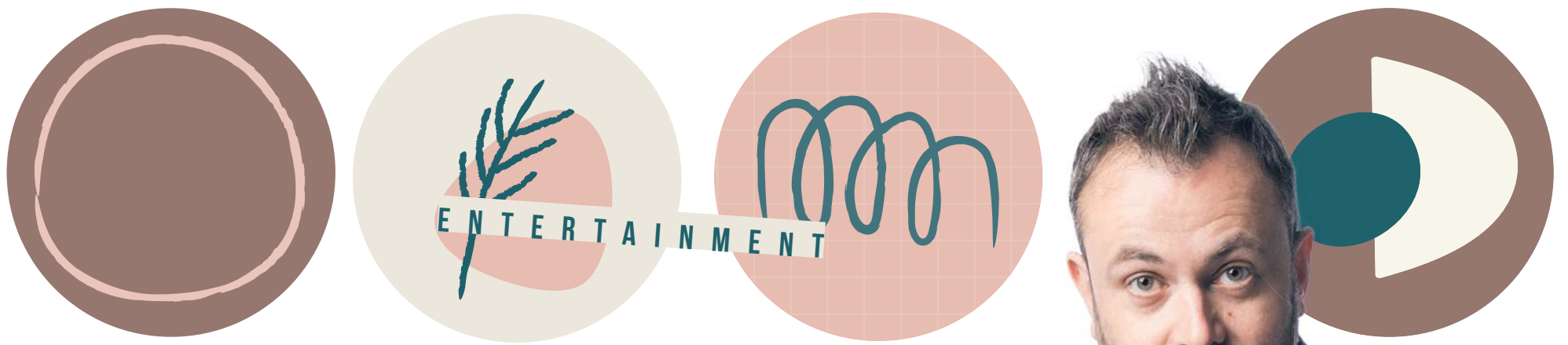
Byron Theatre & Community Centre  
69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay  
[byroncentre.com.au](http://byroncentre.com.au) [f](https://www.facebook.com/byrontheatre) [@](https://www.instagram.com/byrontheatre) [byrontheatre](https://www.youtube.com/byrontheatre)



The Gig Guide is  
supported by Byron Music

144 Jonson St Byron Bay  
02 6685 7333  
[info@byronmusic.com.au](mailto:info@byronmusic.com.au)  
[www.byronmusic.com.au](http://www.byronmusic.com.au)

**SALES . REPAIRS . TUITION . HIRE**



# BRIT COMEDY FOR BYRON

Dan Willis brings Best of British back to the Byron Comedy Festival. It was a sellout last year, with the audience confirming it as one of the favourite shows of the program. Dan is back – this time with Rory Lowe and John Flynn, and spoke with *The Echo*...

## Coming back to working again...

Coming back to working again I had no idea people actually had proper jobs, that had been paying them wages, what kind of strange world do we live in, that this happens? I thought *everyone* just bounced from venue to venue, telling stupid stories... but apparently such things as 'teachers' and 'accountants' exist, this shouldn't have really been a surprise to me, my wife is a teacher. I am, of course, an idiot...

## Adelaide Fringe was...

Adelaide Fringe was great, it was the first time I've achieved a month in SA without seeing a V8, or an excessive number of fans of V8s. These are apparently 'Supercars', which seems strange to me, as I consider comfort and mileage as crucial to making a car 'super', and I've heard these things do about 2km to the gallon and are so uncomfortable that you have to wear a helmet to drive them.

## Melbourne Comedy Festival is...

Melbourne Comedy Festival is one of my favourite Comedy Festival's based in Melbourne, it does exactly what it says on the tin. I also like the Melbourne Beer festival, and most festivals that involve beer and comedy.

## Being one of the few 'internationals' at this year's festival circuit I have found...

That I'm a bit exotic; a white middle-aged English speaking male comedian really stands out from the crowd!

## When I get in front of an audience I think...

What if they're the nervous ones, and they're imagining me naked? Which worries me, I've seen me naked...

## I started in IT but what people don't know...

If I'd stayed in IT, I would now be financially secure, and the concept of stability scares the hell out of me. If you're not living life on the edge, you're taking up too much space!

## The biggest misnomer around comedy is...

You need to be wacky, obscure, completely different. If you're simply being funny, there's still plenty of room for you in comedy. Just do what you, yourself, find funny and make it as funny as possible, don't worry about getting kudos from the rabble.

## What I love most about live performance is...

Instant gratification, pain, agony or ecstasy – with live performance you don't have to worry about waiting for feedback, you know how well you've done within moments.

## The serious side of the funny business is...

Admin exists. And this distresses me. If only a magical fairy diary wizard would simply organise my life for me... No matter how funny you are, if you don't keep ahead on the admin, you're gonna end up sleeping in your car.

## As a British boy living on the Gold Coast I often worry...

That I will never experience a decent pub crawl again. There are two decent pubs near me and they're five miles apart. That's not a crawl, it's a trek. From my mum's window in Newcastle Upon Tyne I can see seven decent pubs!

## Australians love Brit comedy because...

There's a lot of it. And we invented being grumpy. Grumpy is what Brits do best. And Grumpy is something Aussies don't see enough of – it's hard to be grumpy in paradise!

## This year's line up features...

Three top headline acts from the other side of the world! Which is not an easy thing to achieve, given that the borders are closed and British comedians tend to remain caged in the UK at the minute...

## People should come to the Best of Brits because ...

It's back-to-back laughs, no messing, no nonsense laughs. And that's what we've been missing this year.

Grab a ticket, come along, leave the talking to us for 90 minutes and have a great time.

**Friday 14 May at 5.30pm. Tickets \$45 on [byroncomedyfest.com](http://byroncomedyfest.com)**



## The Murwillumbah Citadel Tickets selling now;

Thursday 8th April  
**Bill Chambers and Anderson Lane**  
Sunday Jazz 18th April  
**Nassner/Fennell Ensemble**  
Friday 30th April  
**Cigany Weaver Gypsy Jazz**  
Friday 1st May  
**Waterwall CD launch**  
Saturday 8th May  
**Jeff Lang-Guitar Virtuoso**  
Book launch, Concert (and Workshop)  
AND  
**A whole lot more coming up at The Citadel**

Enjoy The Citadel's intimate setting and licenced bar  
book tickets through [humanitix](http://humanitix.com) or  
<https://thecitadel.com.au>

ACOUSTIC CLUB presents

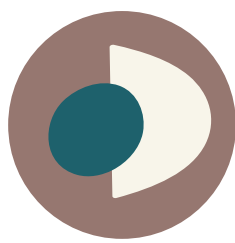
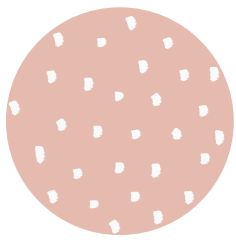
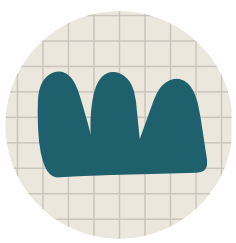
Produced by Dom Grenot & Deebee Bishop

"HE CAME TO STAY FOR THE WEEKEND  
HE STAYED THE REST OF HIS LIFE"

# THIRST

Story-telling theatre with original music  
Written & performed by Deebee Bishop

**DRILL HALL THEATRE MULLUMBIMBY**  
**Sat 17th April 6PM / Matinee Sun 18th April 3PM**  
Tickets \$20pp includes booking fee <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/R1XK0> more info [www.deebee.net.au](http://www.deebee.net.au)



seven  
ENTERTAINMENT



## THE TRUTH AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOTTLE

*Thirst* is the story of Stan Adams, as told by **Deebee Bishop**. He was one of six housemates who lived with Stan in a broken-down share house when he'd walked away from his life to live rough. Decades later, Deebee tells the story.

**What was it about your experience living with an older man with a serious addiction issue that impacted so greatly on you and your friends?**

We were all very young 19 to 21 year olds. Obviously obsessed with our own lives.

This old fellow, Stan Adams, just came to visit for a weekend. But his personality, his stories, his gentle manner were intoxicating. He had us all laughing. He was so interesting to be around that he stayed.

**Were you aware at the time of how sad the situation was?**

Yes, we could see that he was suffering in many ways. He was always bright and funny, even when he was very sick. I had an uncle who was an alcoholic when I was a little boy. I could see similarities in their nature.

**Why did you let him stay? Many wouldn't have...**

My good friend Dom Grenot, nicknamed Thrasher (who is the producer of *Thirst* and was one of the housemates) was a youth worker at 19 years of age. Thrasher would arrive back at the Manor most Friday nights with what we used to call 'strays'. That's how this old bloke came to stay with us. Just a weekend respite, like everyone else who came.

It was no big deal to us. We were not saints, we just got on with it.

**What did you learn in particular from the situation?**

I had just finished an apprenticeship as a ships carpenter. I started to teach myself how to play the guitar. I was busking as a way to earn money. I had lots of time on my hands. The old bloke, who we called Wingy, and I spent a heck of a lot of time together. When I look back at those days I realised he taught me how to see life from



other people's points of view. Wingy had a big life, he had this chronic addiction, but no matter how bad he felt, he seemed to always put other people first. Laughter was a very important part of his life.

**What made you decide to turn your personal experience into a show?**

Many things fell into place at once. I am a songwriter, I fell in love with songwriting many years ago. I am a performer as well, but it's always the writing that makes me feel complete, and dare I say *happy*!

I am older now than Wingy was at that time. It seemed the natural thing to do... write it all down.

**In the staging of *Thirst* how do you tell all the stories?**

*Thirst* is told by stories, good old fashioned yarns. Also by song. When I was 19 teaching myself how to play

guitar, sitting in the sunshine with an enormous amount of time on my hands, I would write poems. [About] anything that interested me. A lot of one-liners that Wingy used to use. He was one of those old blokes who spoke in riddle and funny one-liners. I wrote it all down in poems or short stories. I used to post them all to my dear old mum. She died in 2007. [When] cleaning her home after she passed I retrieved a big folder with all those poems and stories. This was 27 years later. I had forgotten all about them. She had kept them all, bless her. It's a gem finding all of this material.

**What should audiences expect?**

I believe the greatest way to anyone's heart is via music and humour. I also believe in a call to action. It's all very fine to tell the story about homelessness and mental illness but what can we all do about it? Believe it... the answer is very simple. Come to the show; I'll do my very best to offer a couple of solutions.

Finally, I have performed the show in smaller venues for quite a long while [but] I am always amazed; everyone has a story to tell about alcohol issues.

**Drill Hall Theatre in Mullumbimby on Saturday 17 April at 6pm and Sunday 18 April at 3pm. Tickets \$20 at [drillhalltheatre.org.au](http://drillhalltheatre.org.au)**

## PACO LARA AND HIS ANDALUSIAN GUITAR IN BYRON, AFTER SELL OUT OPERA HOUSE GIG

► CONTINUED FROM P36

Acclaimed Spanish flamenco guitarist **Paco Lara** is currently on his 2021 Australian tour for his new album – *The Andalusian Guitar*.

Fresh from his packed-out concert at the Sydney Opera House, the maestro himself and his amazing ensemble will play one concert only at the Byron Theatre on 10 April.

Paco Lara boasts a distinguished career in Europe and Australia. *The Andalusian Guitar* is his first solo album – featuring some of the finest musicians from Spain and Australia. Embodying the unmistakeable, toque sound of Spanish, (Jerez) flamenco

guitar playing, Paco Lara presents flamenco guitar in all its authenticity, culture, and artistry.

*The Andalusian Guitar* interprets themes from some of the greatest guitar classics of all time from composers including Paco de Lucía, John Williams, Joaquín Rodrigo and Chick Corea.

Paco Lara has a professional career of more than 30 years playing alongside some of the leading Spanish artists. He has toured internationally alongside Maestro Paco Cepero (one of flamenco's most legendary guitarists and composers), Mercedes Ruiz (dancer), and Isabel Pantoja. He has also been at the vanguard of Flamenco Fusion with hugely successful groups such as El Barrio and Los Delinquentes.

Apart from his skill as a formidable soloist, Paco is also revered for his ability as an accompanist in the specialised world of flamenco singing (cante); having recorded and performed for many years with flamenco's most significant singers including: Beni de Cádiz, Juan Moneo "El Torta", El Capullo de Jerez, La



Macanita, Remedios Amaya, Jose de los Camarones.

The live performance will feature **Deya Miranda Giner** (flamenco dancer) **Byron Mark** (percussion and piano) and **Carlito Akam** (second guitar).

**This is an experience not to be missed!**

**Paco Lara, *The Andalusian Guitar*: 8pm, 10 April, Byron Bay Community Centre. This show sold out at the Sydney Opera House in two days – so get your tickets fast. [byroncentre.com.au](http://byroncentre.com.au).**

## Invest in the future of independent radio

For 30 years BayFM has been the independent voice of our community, spreading news, views, info, and great music. As a not-for-profit organisation, we run on a tiny budget. After 30 years our broadcasting kit is just about cactus. Your donation can help us get set for a future where we know we'll be needed.



[bayfm.org](http://bayfm.org)

Listen like a local.



## Little Wing Puppets Presents

Vol. XI - No. 329 ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2011

### A Little Bit of Blue A detective story with puppets



Come and help puppeteer Jenny Ellis solve the mystery and learn why the Bowerbird, an extraordinary Australian creature, is so fascinated by the colour blue.

"THE CHILDREN WERE ENTHRALLED FROM BEGINNING TO END. 10 OUT OF 10"  
Flinders Early Learning Centre, VIC

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BIRD?

**BYRON THEATRE**  
FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - 11AM  
SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - 11AM  
ADULT \$20 | CHILD U13 \$15 | FAMILY \$50  
[WWW.BYRONCENTRE.COM.AU](http://WWW.BYRONCENTRE.COM.AU)

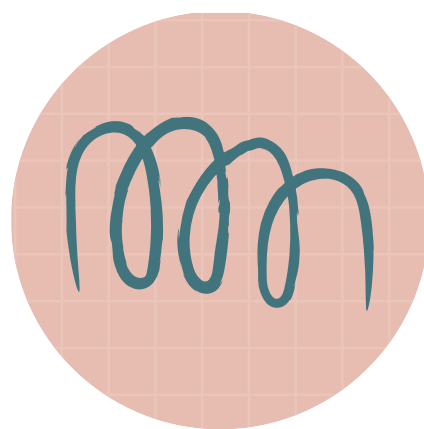
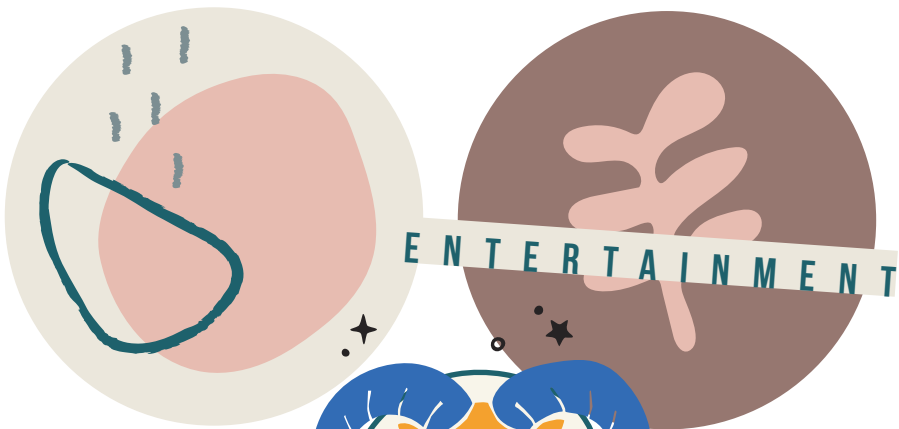


Australian Government  
This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



**Bookings:**

**[trybooking.com/BNGSB](http://trybooking.com/BNGSB) 9, 10 & 11 April**



## STARS BY LILITH

As Venus, Mercury, Chiron, Sun and next Monday's new moon in Aries press the start button for the zodiac's new year, 2021 kicks into gear...



♈ **ARIES:** As first sign of the zodiac, your power hour is when you wake. Use this space of clarity and fresh energy to tune into April 12 Aries new moon – your personal firestarter lunar liftoff – for revelations, inspirations, divine downloads and lightbulb insights about how to burgeon without burnout for the coming twelve months.

♉ **TAURUS:** As plot twists drop out of the blue this week, your stability-seeking sign will be first to find sustainable solutions. The current dynamic star scenario recommends getting the to-do list done and dusted, so when Venus sashays into your tactile sign next week you'll have a clean slate ready to heap with earthly delights.

♊ **GEMINI:** Trailblazing Mars and live-wire Mercury make this your favorite kind of brainstorming week, so share any pioneering ideas you have about a new project. Uranus suggests that by letting go attachment to things being done a certain way, exciting possibilities arise for Geminis who love to spread their wings and try new things.

♋ **CANCER:** As this energetic, enterprising week gets the ball rolling on rejigging and reorganising daily life, the mental merry-go-round's in full exhilarating swing, which is likely to include exuberant enthusiasts making extravagant promises they may not make good on. But no need to rely on others; run your own race.

♌ **LEO:** As humanity experiences a communal loss of the rhythms and dance routines we've grown accustomed to, we're all having to learn completely new choreographies. Thanks to a helpful assist from three power planets, this week's cosmic chemistry offers a set of transitional steps that might feel like Implode, Explode, Unload and Reload.

♍ **VIRGO:** Try not to take it personally if this demanding, argumentative week works your nerves and leaves you feeling a bit fried. Consider its positives; the cosmic power surge of Aries energy brings renewed optimism, initiative and enthusiasm for different approaches and changeovers to ways of living that don't cost the Earth.

♎ **LIBRA:** April's volatile vibes are rather like being parked on top of an active volcano, so in this week's inevitable dust-ups, power plays and who's-boss-of-what control issues, focus on common ground rather than controversy, compromise over competition, and all the other important money-can't-buy things that make your heart sing.

♏ **SCORPIO:** Does life really have to always be so serious? Saturn, our solar system's second largest planet, says absolutely, but largest planet Jupiter says not necessarily. The fun factor certainly isn't lacking this week with lusty Mars in spunky mode, and Venus a turn-on too, playing feisty firecracker. Carpe diem, Scorps.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS:** This tricky time requires straightforward Archers to ask themselves if honesty really is always the best policy. Whether to deliver the brutal truth, or would nothing be the wiser thing to say? This reactive week responds better to asking than telling, provided you can pose questions without putting others on the defensive.

♑ **CAPRICORN:** April's major takeaway is its insistence on rethinking things you took for fact, reassessing what gives your life meaning and purpose. With this excitable, exasperating week's sense of urgency set to try even your famous patience, curbing competitive urges is the recommended route to keeping your Capricorn cool.

♒ **AQUARIUS:** The symbol of Aquarius is two waves travelling together, indicating the gift Aquarians can offer this week's I-me-mine agendas; which is emphasizing mindsets that include collective concerns and community initiatives, because like it or not, we are all in this together. Tread gently though, because Saturn in your sign says only fools rush in.

♓ **PISCES:** Will this eruptive week heat Piscean waters to boiling point? It's possible. But with intuitive Neptune in Pisces, you know better than anyone we are all part of an invisible emotional economy, and anxiety management isn't a one-size-fits-all thing. This week favours a back to basics approach of keeping things simple and uncomplicated.

## LISMORE YOUTH FESTIVAL – BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

Lismore Youth Festival is back, bigger and better than ever! Three days packed with music, performance, art and workshops to entertain and inspire young people. Lismore Youth Festival will take place across multiple venues in Lismore **14–16 April**. And it's all free!

Kicking off the festival on **Wednesday 14** at **NORPA, Lismore City Hall**, Bundjalung hip-hop sensation and 2020 Triple J Unearthed Winner of the Year, **JK-47** will headline an awesome line-up of music by local acts. Then on **Thursday 15 April** and **Friday 16 April**, **The Quad** and surrounding buildings will come alive with a half-pipe, skating comps, DJs, comedy, light sabre dance-offs, and a huge workshop program that offers everything from street art to bush survival!

The half-pipe will be set up by the **Popsgood Skateboarding**

**crew** and their coaches are hosting free learn-to-skate clinics and comps for all ages, genders, and abilities. There'll be prizes for the top three riders in each division, as well as fun skate jams to practise new tricks. Bring the picnic blanket and relax on the grass, listening to **The Northern Rivers Conservatorium's youth Jazz Orchestra** on **Friday afternoon**. Check out the super special public art installation by the Quad-based student crew from **New Choices** (Rivers Secondary College), and Lismore Regional Gallery will feature youth art exhibitions by **Defiant / Beyond Empathy** and **The Rainbow Collective** (LGBTIQ Youth Group).

**All of Lismore Youth Festival events are free but bookings are required for some workshops and events as numbers are limited. Jump onto [www.lismorequad.org.au](http://www.lismorequad.org.au) for full program and details.**

## CINEMA



### THE PALACE – BYRON BAY – ANTOINETTE IN THE CÉVENNES

An Official Selection of the 2020 Cannes International Film Festival, writer/director **Caroline Vignal's** hilarious and life-affirming comedy sensation *Antoinette In The Cévennes* stars the wonderful **Laure Calamy** (*Call My Agent!*, *Aurore*) as a woman who finds herself on a journey of self-discovery in somewhat unexpected circumstances.

40-something primary school teacher Antoinette (Calamy, in a career-making turn) has been eagerly looking forward to a long-planned weekend escape with her married lover Vladimir (*C'est la vie!*'s Benjamin Lavernhe), the father of one of her pupils. However, their plans are upended by his wife's booking of a surprise hiking trip in the picturesque Cévennes mountains in the South of France (a six-day trek made famous by best-selling author Robert Louis Stevenson). Completely unversed in the ways of the wilderness, the spurned Antoinette impulsively decides to follow them, and once paired with an unlikely companion – an obstinate, but evidently wise, grey donkey named Patrick – discovers much, much more than she bargained for...

Carried by the remarkable Calamy, Vignal's wonderfully mischievous film offers both Antoinette and audiences an uproarious and poignant reminder of the virtues of independence, and that the journey, not the destination, is often the reward. Buoyed by rave reviews and phenomenal word of mouth, this understated, heartfelt charmer outperformed several US blockbusters, becoming one of France's biggest hits of the year.

**Screening starts Thursday 8 April.**



## PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times: Thu 8 Apr - Wed 14 Apr NFT = No Free Tickets

<b>ALLIANCE FRANCAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL</b> 24TH MARCH – 14TH APRIL SESSIONS ONLINE  <b>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</b> <b>SIX MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT (M)</b> <i>Golden Member Preview</i> Wed: 11:30AM <b>SUPERNOVA (M)</b> <i>Adv Screenings</i> Sat, Sun: 4:30 <b>UNCLE VANYA (LIVE FROM LONDON) (CTC)</b> <i>Special Event</i> Sat, Sun, Wed: 1:30PM  <b>FAMILY FILMS</b> <b>PETER RABBIT 2 (G)</b> Daily except Wed: 11:30AM, 1:45, 4:00, 6:30PM Wed: 11:00, 1:45, 4:00, 6:40 <b>TOM &amp; JERRY: THE MOVIE (G)</b> NFT Daily: 11:00, 12:00, 2:10, 6:00	<b>RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (PG)</b> Thu, Fri, Mon, Tue: 11:00AM, 1:30, 6:00PM Sat, Sun, Wed: 11:00AM, 6:00PM <b>TWO BY TWO: OVERBOARD! (PG)</b> Daily: 11:30AM  <b>ASCENDANT (MA15+) NFT</b> Daily except Wed: 1:30, 8:40PM Wed: 3:40, 8:40PM <b>FIRESTARTER (M)</b> Thu, Fri, Mon, Tue: 10:50AM Daily except Wed: 1:40, 8:30PM Wed: 1:40, 8:40PM <b>GODZILLA VS. KONG (M)</b> Daily: 1:30, 3:50, 6:15, 8:15	<b>HIGH GROUND (MA15+)</b> Daily: 8:20PM <b>NOBODY (MA15+) NFT</b> Daily except Wed: 11:30AM, 4:15, 6:15, 8:45PM Wed: 11:00AM, 4:15, 6:15, 8:45PM <b>NOMADLAND (M)</b> Thu, Fri, Mon, Tue: 4:10, 8:15PM Sat, Sun: 8:15PM Wed: 4:30, 8:15PM <b>PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (MA15+)</b> Daily: 3:40PM <b>THE COURIER (M)</b> NFT Daily: 1:20, 4:00, 6:15PM <b>THE DRY (MA15+)</b> Daily: 8:20PM <b>THE FATHER (M)</b> Daily: 11:00AM, 4:00, 6:15PM <b>VOYAGERS (MA15+) NFT</b> Daily: 1:15, 6:30, 8:40PM
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Session times are subject to change. Please check online for all live session times

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Admission Prices:  
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<b>GODZILLA VS. KONG</b> M 113 MIN	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:50 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:50 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:50 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:50 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:50 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:50 PM	12:25 PM 4:40 PM 6:50 PM
<b>NOBODY</b> MA15+ 92 MIN	2:00 PM 7:35 PM	2:00 PM 7:35 PM	2:00 PM 7:35 PM	2:00 PM 7:35 PM	2:00 PM 7:35 PM	2:00 PM 7:35 PM	2:00 PM 7:35 PM
<b>PETER RABBIT 2</b> G 93 MIN	10:00 AM 1:45 PM 5:30 PM	10:00 AM 1:45 PM 5:30 PM	10:00 AM 1:45 PM 5:30 PM	10:00 AM 1:45 PM 5:30 PM	10:00 AM 1:45 PM 5:30 PM	10:00 AM 1:45 PM 5:30 PM	10:00 AM 1:45 PM 5:30 PM
<b>RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON</b> PG 107 MIN	10:20 AM 3:25 PM	10:20 AM 3:25 PM	10:20 AM 3:25 PM	10:20 AM 3:25 PM	10:20 AM 3:25 PM	10:20 AM 3:25 PM	10:20 AM 3:25 PM
<b>THE COURIER</b> M 111 MIN	2:35 PM 7:15 PM	2:35 PM 7:15 PM	2:35 PM 7:15 PM	2:35 PM 7:15 PM	2:35 PM 7:15 PM	2:35 PM 7:15 PM	2:35 PM 7:15 PM
<b>TOM &amp; JERRY THE MOVIE</b> G 101 MIN	10:10 AM 12:05 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM	10:10 AM 12:05 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM	10:10 AM 12:05 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM	10:10 AM 12:05 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM	10:10 AM 12:05 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM	10:10 AM 12:05 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM	10:10 AM 12:05 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM

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Mungo's Crossword N381

1		2		3		4		5	6		7		8
9								10					
								11					
12		13											14
15						16							
17				18					19				
20													
21													
22								23				24	
25								26					

**Cryptic Clues**  
**ACROSS**  
1. Footballers dine in a subordinate role (4,4)  
5. Reins in people from Prague, they say (6)  
9. Partners for criminal types (8)  
10. Hold up the queen? That's suitable! (6)  
12. Turns or actors – the French royal residence (7,6)  
15. Row around grand feline (5)  
16. Strong charge follows stolen firm – have a comforting drink! (3,6)  
17. Distribute booze – it's an excuse (9)  
19. Encounters setter and aliens (5)  
20. *The Wreck of the Sunny Endeavour* – a 1960 movie with Melina Mercouri (5,2,6)  
22. Sparse but welcome, agree about it (6)  
23. Frying pans, polish off in places (8)  
25. Inseminated, look over, it's said (6)  
26. Nuncio as provider for South American capital (6)

**DOWN**  
1. Muddy after 3 down, but places of peace and quiet (10)  
2. Is able for only half a dance (3)  
3. Spoons over right godmother (7)  
4. The fatter are confused about the kind of snack that ends the play (5,7)  
6. Hamlet's mate Nelson (7)  
7. Policeman on cleared ground – Dickens favourite (11)  
8. Slave to the waves, they say (4)  
11. Kansas letter decoded – could be deadly! (12)  
13. A bird – dark and surrounded by strong wind (11)  
14. Place turns up with no directions and affirmative notices (4,4,2)  
18. Heads for Russian river poetry (7)  
19. She was asked to come into the garden, but nothing came back – overly sentimental, perhaps (7)  
21. Current morning rider (4)  
24. Lie around English city (3)

**Quick Clues**  
**ACROSS**  
1. Position of less importance (4,4)  
5. Looks over (6)  
9. Associates (8)  
10. Appropriate (6)  
12. English royals' residence (7,6)  
15. Top predator (5)  
16. High temperature caffeine drink (3,6)  
17. Fundamental reason (9)  
19. Comes face-to-face (5)  
20. 1960 movie set in Greece starring Melina Mercouri (5,2,6)  
22. Scanty (6)  
23. Flat bottomed pans (8)  
25. Sown (6)  
26. South American capital (6)

**DOWN**  
1. Isolated places (10)  
2. Metal container (3)  
3. Supporter (7)  
4. Post surgery (5,7)  
6. Character in *Hamlet* (7)  
7. Famous American magician (11)  
8. Feudal labourer (4)  
11. North American pit vipers (12)  
13. Founder of modern nursing (11)  
14. Observes (4,4,2)  
18. Front side of coin (7)  
19. Mawkish (7)  
21. Measure of current (4)  
24. Biblical figure (3)

**Last week's solution N380**

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

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

## THE BIG SING

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- Telstra regards the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility under the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 based on the description above.
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2018 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Clinton Northey, Senior Town Planner for Visionstream (on behalf of Telstra), 0439 180 205, clinton.northey@visionstream.com.au by 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.



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Removal

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GOOD,  
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FOR  
\$\$ CASH \$\$

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**Ballina Car Centre** DLN 19950  
**6686 5586 / 0418 676 274**



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**Nth Ocean Shores**  
4 bed 2 bath \$950neg

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**South Golden Beach**  
5 bed 2 bath \$850

**Brunswick Heads**  
1 bed 1 bath \$400

**L.J. Hooker Brunswick Heads**  
**6685 0177**

5/16 The Terrace, Brunswick Heads

## WANTED TO LEASE

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

**POSITIONS VACANT**  
**DISABILITY CARER.** Full-time live in. Carers pension + supplements. Free accommodation. Ph. Allan 0478560432

**CHEFS, WAIT STAFF AND COCKTAIL WAITERS WANTED** for occasional weekend work. 2-3 days per month. Come and join our friendly wedding catering team and make some extra money. Call Leela 0439656063 or email resume info@yourgourmet.com.au

**CASUAL HOUSEKEEPERS** East On Byron Resort, experienced cleaners required to work in a team. Weekday and weekend shifts available. Call 66807555 or email admin@eastonbyron.com.au

**PROFESSIONAL HOUSEKEEPERS** for boutique Byron Bay hotel. Casual Mon-Sun shifts available. Approx 10am-2pm. Must be reliable and have an eye for detail. All training and products provided. Call 66809577 or email resume cath@thebowerbyronbay.com.au

**EXP MATURE SWIM TEACHER** Casual, ongoing. Immediate start. Established business Ocean Shores. Ph 0448649150.

**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

**LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+** Casual or permanent work available in busy adult parlour. 66816038 for details.

**EROTIC MASSAGE STAFF** reliable and friendly for Gentlemen's Relaxation Centre 18+. Tweed. Grace 0418185791

**TAXI DRIVERS WANTED**  
**COMMISSION BASED**  
Please send enquiries to operations@byronbaytaxi.com

**FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST** for Glen Villa Resort, 86 Butler St, Byron Bay. Must be a hands on, passionate person with very pleasant and professional attitude with excellent customer service skills. Only apply in person.

**DENTAL NURSE** Experienced, personable and reliable Dental Nurse required for part-time position at friendly Byron Bay practice. Please send CV to byronbaydental@gmail.com or call 66857026.

**CLEANERS WANTED**  
**for Bay Motel**  
**IMMEDIATE START.**  
**Great conditions.**  
**Call 6685 6121**

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**TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS/ TEAM LEADERS**  
**ALTUS TRAFFIC - BALLINA**  
Come be part of our team. We have work available for an upcoming major event and other ongoing work in the Ballina and surrounding shires.  
Must have Traffic Control Tickets  
Good hourly rate + loadings + super + uniform and PPE provided  
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altustraffic.com.au/careers  
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www.thinkblinkdesign.com

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**Happy Birthday lovely Tirza!**  
Much love from your Echo family.

**FELIZ CUMPLEAÑOS VICKY!**  
  
LOTS OF LOVE FROM THE ECHO CREW XX

**LIFE CELEBRATION**  
**BRISTOL Deborah Julie**  
Passed away 28 March 2021 after a brief illness.  
Private cremation to be held on Friday 9 April 2021, to be followed (COVID permitting) by a celebration of her life at 6 Wilfred St. Billinudgel from 2pm, to which friends are invited.  
For further information ring 0409 507 099.  
**DOLPHIN FUNERALS**  
Ben & Emma Little 1300 678 443

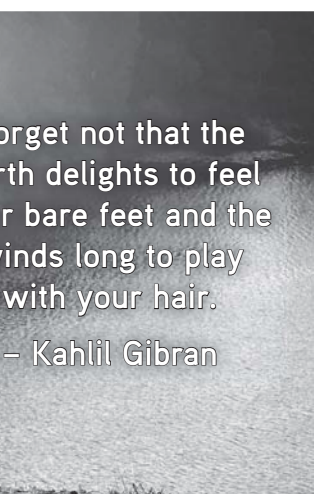
  
**Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.**  
- Kahlil Gibran

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**PHYLLIS GRACE FLICK (nee Wraight)**  
**29/3/1916 - 11/4/2020**  
  
In loving memory of our beautiful mother, nana, aunty and friend  
Rest in peace in God's Garden of Flowers  
Much loved and forever in our hearts  
We will see you in our dreams  
Your loving family members  
**Amazing Grace**  




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**Dream work ~ Energy Balancing**  
*"Kate is able to immediately sense what is needed in a healing session. I arrived feeling tense and fearful and left with a sense of calmness and optimism which lasted for days. I gained great insight into my own condition during the session. I can't recommend Kate highly enough".*  
- Emma Cottrell  
  
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crystalsanddreaming.com.au ♦ 0413 003 301

**Celebrating the life of Jane Shand**  
A memorial for Jane is being held for family and friends on Saturday, April 10 from 1pm. Gather at Jane's home in Coopers Lane to celebrate her life. Bring a plate and a flower to place on her grave.



**SUN, MOON & TIDES TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS**

DATE (April)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
7	W	5:59 17:37	1:10 15:08	05:15 1.61 17:48 1.24	11:52 0.46 23:27 0.54
8	T	6:00 17:35	2:10 15:45	06:05 1.63 18:34 1.34	12:32 0.41
9	F	6:00 17:34	3:07 16:18	06:48 1.63 19:14 1.43	00:17 0.48 13:06 0.37
10	SA	6:01 17:33	4:03 16:48	07:25 1.62 19:49 1.50	01:00 0.44 13:35 0.35
11	SU	6:01 17:32	4:57 17:18	07:59 1.59 20:22 1.56	01:39 0.42 14:03 0.33
12	M	6:02 17:31	5:50 17:47	08:30 1.54 20:54 1.61	02:15 0.42 14:30 0.33
13	TU	6:02 17:30	6:42 18:17	09:00 1.48 21:26 1.64	02:52 0.43 14:56 0.34
14	W	6:03 17:29	7:36 18:48	09:30 1.41 21:59 1.65	03:29 0.46 15:22 0.36
15	T	6:03 17:28	8:29 19:23	10:00 1.33 22:32 1.64	04:07 0.50 15:50 0.40
16	F	6:04 17:27	9:24 20:02	10:34 1.24 23:10 1.61	04:48 0.55 16:19 0.46
17	SA	6:05 17:26	10:19 20:45	11:11 1.15 23:51 1.56	05:34 0.61 16:51 0.53
18	SU	6:05 17:25	11:13 21:33	11:56 1.08 24:27 1.52	06:29 0.66 17:30 0.60
19	M	6:06 17:24	12:05 22:26	12:57 1.02 25:04 1.51	07:36 0.68 18:27 0.66
20	TU	6:06 17:23	12:54 23:24	13:54 1.02 25:42 1.48	08:53 0.67 19:48 0.70
21	W	6:07 17:22	13:39 24:17	15:51 1.09 26:21 1.49	10:01 0.61 21:15 0.67

Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

**Murphy** makes up one of the **MMM** trio of kittens. He is a super sweet boy with a luxurious jet black coat. All of these older kittens are now ready to find their forever homes. They are well socialised, playful and affectionate and would make wonderful additions to loving homes. To meet **Murphy** and his friends, 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!  
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**MONTHLY MARKETS**  
1st SAT Brunswick Heads 0408 239 273  
1st SAT Alstonville 0429 019 407  
1st SUN Byron Bay 6685 6807  
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot 6628 7333  
2nd SAT Flea, Byron YAC  
2nd SAT Flea Market, Bangalow 0490 335 498  
2nd SAT Woodburn 0439 489 631  
2nd SUN The Channon 6688 6433  
2nd SUN Tabulam Hall 0490 329 159  
2nd SUN Coolangatta  
3rd SAT Mullumbimby 6684 3370  
3rd SAT Murwillumbah 0413 804 024  
3rd SUN Federal 0403 577 694  
3rd SUN Uki 0487 329 150  
3rd SUN Lismore Car Boot 6628 7333  
3rd SUN Ballina 0422 094 338  
4th SAT Evans Head 0439 489 631  
4th SAT Wilsons Creek 6684 0299  
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyogletogogether.org.au  
4th SUN Bangalow 6687 1911  
4th SUN Nimbin 0475 135 764  
4th SUN Murwillumbah 0422 565 168  
4th SUN (in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta  
5th SUN Nimbin 0458 506 000  
**FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS**  
Each TUE New Brighton 6677 1345  
Each TUE Organic Lismore 6628 1084  
Each WED 7-11am M'bah 6684 7834  
Each WED 3-6pm Nimbin 0475 135 764  
Each WED 4-7pm Newrybar Hall  
Each THU 8-11am Byron 6687 1137  
Each THU 2.30-6.30pm Lismore 0450 688 900  
Each FRI 7-11am Mullum 6677 1345  
Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow 6687 1137  
Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki 6679 5530  
Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore 0466 415 172  
Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob

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

**PETS**  
  
**MURPHY**  
  
**SID**  
  
**SYLVIA**  
Sid is a 9-month-old desexed male Great Dane x. He is a good looking boy who needs an experienced owner to get the best out of him. Good with older children and as the only dog. If you can give Sid a permanent, loving home please contact **Pam on 0421 017 461**. Microchip no 900113001715424  
Visit [friendsofthepound.com](http://friendsofthepound.com) to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338  
Meet one larger-than-life character, **SYLVIA**. Amongst her many endearing qualities is her range of facial expressions. Got to be seen to be believed. Here she is now, right in your face. Simple message, 'I've chosen you, so hurry to pick me up'. Loveable and friendly. A great girl with that extra something!  
All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.  
No: 953010004926996  
  
**Please make an appointment**  
**0403 533 589 • Billinudgel**  
**petsforlifeanimalshelter.net**

## On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to editor@echo.net.au.

### Survivors of childhood sexual abuse

At Heartfelt House we run programs for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. We are running Pathways to Healing, an eight-week program for female survivors of childhood sexual abuse. It is being run at Heartfelt House on: Tuesdays 4 May until 22 June, Thursdays 6 May until 24 June. All sessions run 10am till 12.30pm. Registrations essential, email beth.cronin@norwacs.org.au or call 0432 889 665 or 6628 8960.

### BV Probus Club

The Brunswick Valley Probus Club is on Tuesday 6 April at 10am at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Guest speaker is Brett from the Ocean Shores Pharmacy talking about our medications. Enquires phone Margaret on 6680 3316.

### Byron Artisan Market

The Byron Beachside Artisan Market is on Saturday 10 April at 8am till 3pm. Showcasing quality products from over 200 creative artists from our local region, handmade, hand-baked or hand-grown. Live music by Hayley Grace and the Bay Collective, DidgeEra, and Tim Stokes.

### BBHS membership drive

The Byron Bay Historical Society is seeking new members to join our local history group. We are urgently in

need of people who have the desire to research and or transpose into Word documents some of the history we have obtained. You may wish to research and record new aspects of local history. New members don't need to get involved in committee meetings but instead can direct their energies to expanding and refreshing our website. If you have an interest go to [byronbayhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://byronbayhistoricalsociety.org.au) for contact details or email: [president@byronbayhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:president@byronbayhistoricalsociety.org.au).

### Tweed Hospital Aux

After a year of COVID restrictions the United Hospital Auxiliaries branch of the Tweed Hospital has begun its activities again. The Gift Shop is operating with restricted hours, raffles will be held, and stalls will appear in shopping centres. The annual fete will be in October. The branch's annual Night Full of Trivia will be held on Wednesday, 14 April at the South Tweed Community Centre on the Cnr. Heffron Street and Minjungbal Drive. Book a table via John Mills: 0421 085 985.

### Chemical Free Landcare

Byron Shire Chemical Free Landcare next working bee will be at Saltwater Creek, on Saturday 10 April, from 8am until 12pm. To find us, walk through the Mullumbimby Community Garden's gate and follow the main path, looking for us on the north side of the path, along the creek. We will need many hands, so if you are available, please come. The task

will be to cardboard and mulch the 500 trees planted on the site from January 2020. Spare wheelbarrows, pitchforks to load mulch and more cardboard will be appreciated.

### Lennox Head Evening VIEW Club

The club is holding their April Dinner Meeting on Tuesday 13 April at the Beef and Beach (Lennox Hotel) from 6.30pm. Cost \$30. Guest speaker will be Bernadette Kelly from Ballina Public School, who will speak about the rewards and impacts of volunteering on both students and volunteers. This is a fundraising event – Lennox Head Evening VIEW Club currently sponsors two Learning for Life students. To attend phone Sue Brennan no later than Friday 9 April on 0409 728 814.

### Bangalow Land and Rivercare presents...

A free community workshop on *The Importance of Rainforest Riparian Restoration* with Bob Smeuninx, Director Bushland Restoration Services. Everyone from Bangalow and surrounds are invited to attend. The workshop will be held on Sunday 18 April, and will provide an overview of why riparian restoration is so important now; including its role in providing habitat for wildlife and overall creek health; we will look at case studies (what can be achieved); and discuss the importance of best practice regeneration techniques. The workshop will involve a walk-and-talk around the Byron Creek restoration site – initially planted in 2014. Meet at Bangalow Heritage House Museum veranda at 10.30am. Workshop concludes 1.45pm. Tea/coffee/biscuits will be provided. Visit: [bangalowlandcare.org.au](http://bangalowlandcare.org.au) for tickets.

### Circus arts free online performance course

A free eight-week online video course designed for kids and adults which teaches the principles and techniques of performing on stage, working with space, music and the audience. Visit: [circusarts.com.au](http://circusarts.com.au).

### Tracey Kristiansen

Friends of Libraries Byron are once again hosting their annual Byron Shire Book Fair: 2 July to 5 July 2021. Secondhand or new books in good condition of all genres, such as fiction, non fiction, art, children's, history, including DVDs and games, all are needed and greatly appreciated to ensure a bigger and better Book Fair for this year. Please call Beryl 6685 3030 or Janene 0407 855 022, who can arrange collection points.

### Young Farmers Connect

Join us for the upcoming Young Farmers Connect – Northern Rivers field day at The Peach Farm and Solum Farm. Meet the growers and hear their stories about their successful business strategy for small scale farming in this region. Farm walks and lunch are included. This is a free event but tickets are essential. Please book through the Young Farmers Connect website. [www.youngfarmersconnect.com/events/](http://www.youngfarmersconnect.com/events/) the-value-of-value-adding.

### Pottsville Fun Croquet

Pottsville Fun Croquet Club will have a new starting time after daylight savings stops. We will commence at 9am on Thursday 8 April. We play at Black Rocks Sportsfield at Pottsville. New members are welcome. For more information call Jean on 0431 606 375.

## 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

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday–Thursday 9am–4pm and offers a range of services and activities. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy art, music, games, great food and more. Call reception on 6684 1286 and discover what is on offer. 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.

### Low-cost or free food

**Food Box Thursdays** 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. If you have any sort of Centrelink card you may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa.

**Food Relief Bags** for anyone doing it tough, every Wednesday 10–12 noon at The Hub Ocean Shores, cnr Rajah Rd and Bindaree Way. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details.

### Byron Community Centre

**Homeless Breakfast:** 7.30–9am Wednesday. **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.

### Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service Inc delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email [fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au](mailto:fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au), website: [www.byronrespite.com.au](http://www.byronrespite.com.au).

**Please note:** This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.

## Local teams head north under new set-up for women's AFL



Local women's AFL will have a shake-up this year as the Lismore Swans join the Northern Rivers league while Byron Bay and Ballina are set to join division two of the Queensland Football Association Women's (QFAW) competition.

Last year these teams, along with Tweed Coast, played in their own four-team competition under Queensland AFL.

For Byron Bay, Ballina and Tweed Coast the 16-round home and away season gets underway on ANZAC week-end and will be followed by a top six final series.

The QFAW will see the addition of seven new teams altogether with the Northern Rivers teams joining the QFAW south division.

'With the continued growth of female football

across all levels, it's fantastic that we are now able to expand division two across the region,' QFAW competition manager, Joanna Main said.

Local teams will take on competitors from Broadbeach, Burleigh, Labrador, Beenleigh, Jimboomba, Robina and Surfers Paradise.

For their first outing Ballina travel to Burleigh, while Byron Bay hosted the Tweed Coast.

The Lismore Swans have joined AFLNSW for season 2021. The move comes after spending 10 years in the regional AFLQLD competition with the Swans deciding to look south for their weekly football.

The Swans will take on teams from Grafton, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie, among others.

## Winter cross-country up and running in Ballina

The Ballina Athletics Club has started its winter series of weekly cross country runs at Shelley Beach and is expecting up to 300 regulars in its 41st year.

'Our first run was at the end of March and 200 runners registered. We expect this to build up to 300,' the club's Janice Saxby said.

'We have three distances: one, three or six kilometres that take in the beach and some hills. The long run goes out to Flat Rock and takes in some of the new shared path as well.

'People are welcome to walk or run any distance, and we have a handicap system to determine the results

across all distances.'

Janice has been with the club since it reformed in 1980 and is looking forward to celebrating its 41st birthday, after cancelling last year's activities owing to COVID-19.

'We used to take our children along in the early days, and we just kept going on with it,' she said.

The runs take place each Sunday, rain, hail or shine.

'Sometimes it can get a bit trying, but people know it is always going to be on,' Janice said.

All are welcome to join in and are encouraged to bring everything they will need on Sunday mornings from 8.30am.



Steven and Madeline Pride enjoy a Sunday run with the Ballina Athletics Club. Photo Janice Saxby

## Brunswick Heads surf lifesaver wins gold



Long time Brunswick visitors Dale and Sandy Penman with Paul and the new boards.

Brunswick Heads surf lifesaver Paul 'Punchy' Davis won gold in the 600m paddle board race, from a group of 18 finalists, at the Queensland Masters Titles recently held in Tugun. Paul also won bronze in the iron man.

Other strong performances in the water, from Brunswick, were from Kiri Olsen who won silver in the iron woman event, and bronze in the single ski event.

Margo Madden won silver in the beach sprint and

beach flags events. Dave Quemard won silver in the one kilometre beach run.

The Queensland Titles are a prelude to the Australian Titles to be held in Maroochydore later in April.

Brunswick SLSC is expecting another strong performance from members.

Paul and others attributed their performance to new Force Field Boards made and shaped by Crabbes Creek legend craftsman 'Ra'.

**Afends.**



# SAMPLE SALE

Thurs - Sat  
8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> April  
9:00am - 4:00pm

Afends HQ Car Park  
1/7 Brigantine St,  
Byron Industrial Estate

## Byron Beachside Artisan Market

Saturday 10 April  
Main Beach Foreshore  
8am - 3pm

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**Bake it**  
**Grow it**

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COVID-19 – quick to appear then quick to disappear, thanks to immediate collective action. Yet this latest outbreak appears to be the result of incompetent governments and poor procedures. Where are the outbreak quarantine facilities for international travellers, and why is the vaccine roll out so slow? The new world odour is upon us.

In the interests of adding a touch of beauty to the backpage, herewith is John Donne's 1624 poem, *No man is an island*:

*No man is an island,  
entire of itself;  
every man is a piece of the  
continent,  
a part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by  
the sea,  
Europe is the less,  
as well as if a promontory  
were.  
as well as if a manor of thy  
friend's  
or of thine own were.  
Any man's death diminishes  
me,  
because I am involved in  
mankind;  
and therefore never send to  
know for whom the bell tolls;  
it tolls for thee.*

The Northern Star website will be subsumed into a 'dedicated section' of The Daily Telegraph website on April 28, says tax avoiding Newscorp. Apart from taking taxpayer media grant millions and then reducing news content across the nation – will there be local job losses from this move? On the bright side, Murdoch's publishing arm has just bought the rights to George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and 1984!

Good riddance, NSW Nationals MP, Michael Johnsen. Getting sexually aroused in question time on your phone, while those around you discussed



Syd Crossman helped The Vinyl Junkie sell many of his thousands of classic and contemporary albums over the Easter weekend. The great record sale was held at Ewingsdale Hall, and coincides with Bluesfest, Splendour and Falls each year. Photo Jeff Dawson

a crippling drought that was ravaging your electorate, pretty well sums up modern Liberal-Nationals politics in Australia.

With Dr Naomi Wolf's videos of views on vaccination passports being taken down by Youtube, here's a freedom of speech quote by Noam Chomsky: 'There are basically two positions: you defend it vigorously for views you hate, or you reject it and prefer Stalinist/fascist standards'.

'Journalist' Peter Van Onselen says he is a friend of former Attorney-General Christian Porter. Last week, Van Onselen opined in the Murdoch papers that sexual assault is a 'debate' and that while there's 'plenty of anger', there are 'surprisingly few ideas'. For the record Peter, sexual assault is not a debate, it's a crime, and a sexual assault report with 55 recommendations sat on Porter's desk for over a year. So ideas are not the problem. The problem, ahem, may well be Rupert Murdoch, and Porter's enablers. See Margo's

wrap on page 10.

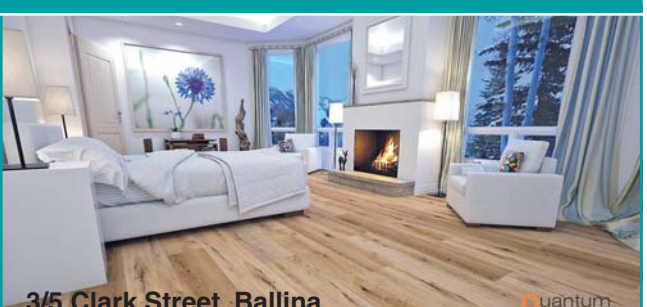
Psst – Opening new coal mines is incompatible with protecting

the #greatbarrierreef. It's on its last legs thanks to anthropogenic induced climate change.

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