

Echo

IF SILENCE IS GOLDEN THEN DUCT TAPE IS SILVER

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Renters and landlords speak of trying times

Paul Bibby

Challenging times seem to bring out the best and the worst in people, and Byron's small business landscape appears to be seeing plenty of both during the current COVID lockdown.

A series of interviews with commercial tenants and landlords in the Shire reveal tales of selfishness, generosity, and everything in between, as both groups try to navigate the stormy seas of the global pandemic.

The experience of the much-loved Pure Melt chocolate shop and cafe in Mullumbimby highlights some of the highs and lows of small business ownership in these uncertain times.

After six years serving organic coffee, chocolatey treats and ice cream to locals, Pure Melt's owner, Sarah Wheeler, has had to close the cafe side of her business after being asked to pay 53 per cent more in rent.

'It was within their rights to do it, but it feels wrong to me, given what's going on in the world and all the effort I've put into the business,' Ms Wheeler told *The Echo*.

'I thought "What's going to happen to Mullum if I agree to this?"

'What would I need to charge for a cup of coffee to pay that kind of rent?'

'It's going to set a precedent, and I don't want to be a part of that happening in Mullum.'

But Ms Wheeler's landlords see things differently.

They say that the rent she was paying was quite low compared to other similar businesses in the

town, and that the 53 per cent increase would have brought it into line with a similar business nearby.

'We're surprised at what the local rental market is throwing up at the moment,' said the landlords, who asked not to be named.

'We knew that we were heading into a storm [by increasing the rent], but decisions have to be made and we're doing our best to navigate a way through, like everyone else.'

Ms Wheeler disputes the claim that other, similar businesses in the town are paying \$891 a week in rent, as she was asked to pay.

Difference of opinion

There is also a difference of opinion between the two parties over whether Ms Wheeler was given the chance to negotiate a new rental agreement or not.

Regardless of this, she has found a way to make the best of her situation – accelerating her plans to take the business to the next level, significantly improving her online presence and rolling out national distribution, while still supplying local shops and markets.

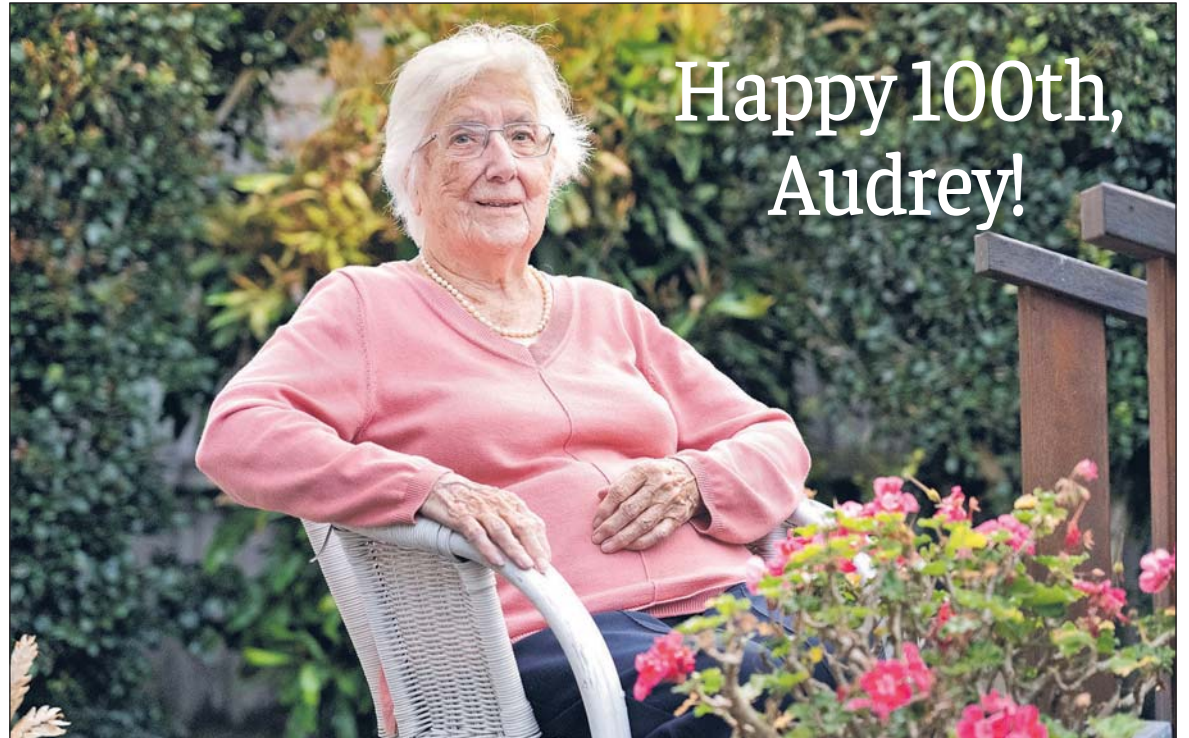
'A lot of love and care goes into my products, and I want them to be available nation-wide,' she says.

'If there's one good thing to come out of this it's that I now get the chance to focus on doing that.'

One of the biggest causes of consternation, and in some cases conflict, between commercial landlords and tenants, is the issue of rent freezes and reductions.

Commercial landlords can access significant financial support

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Happy 100th, Audrey!

Twenty six years ago in 1997, *The Echo* ran a story on Earnest Kingsley and the celebration of his 106th birthday. Last Sunday, Earnest's daughter Audrey, turned a very youthful 100. Originally from Gloucestershire, Audrey moved to Byron Shire in 1987 to be with her son David, and daughter-in-law Maree. Maree is known to many from Red Ginger in Byron, and various cafes, including the Byronian and The Mex among others. In the early '90s, Audrey founded the Byron Probus Women's Club, where she ruffled a few feathers with her idea of a Probus Float for Byron's last Oleander Festival. Audrey lives independently in a flat attached to David and Maree's home in Suffolk Park. Photo Jeff 'Inching Toward 100 Since 1886' Dawson

Fletcher St cottage becomes a reality

Paul Bibby

Locals have raised \$250,000 for the renovation of the Fletcher Street homelessness hub in Byron Bay, with half the money coming from local entertainment industry couple Chris Hemsworth and Elsa Pataky.

Despite the crowdfunding campaign being launched on the first day of COVID-19 lockdown in the Northern Rivers (August 9), locals still managed to dig deep, reaching the funding target with 10 days to spare.

'With an increasing demand for our services, this one stop shop for Byron's homeless is needed

now more than ever,' says Louise O'Connell, general manager of the Byron Community Centre.

More locals needing help

'The impact of COVID-19, the housing crisis and job insecurity means that we are seeing more locals reach out for help every day.

'Meals, showers and laundry in a safe place are a first step to providing wraparound services to address our community's needs.'

Among those donating to the project were Byron fashion business, Spell, and family foundations including the Knappick and L & R

Uechtriz Foundations.

Mr Hemsworth and Ms Pataky agreed to match the community contributions of \$125,000, bringing the total to \$250,000 in the space of around three weeks.

Mr Hemsworth told *The Echo*, 'It is exciting that, as a community, we now have the opportunity to support a much-needed local resource for people experiencing homelessness.'

He added, 'A huge thanks to everyone involved in the relaunch of Fletcher Street Cottage, and the incredible work that has gone into getting it off the ground.'

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Greg Sheehan's rhythms and diaries released ► p4



Heilpern's open letter to those down the rabbit hole ► p8

Are PCR tests accurate? *Cosmos* explains ► p11

Show your support for the local business community and shop locally! ► p13 & 16-17

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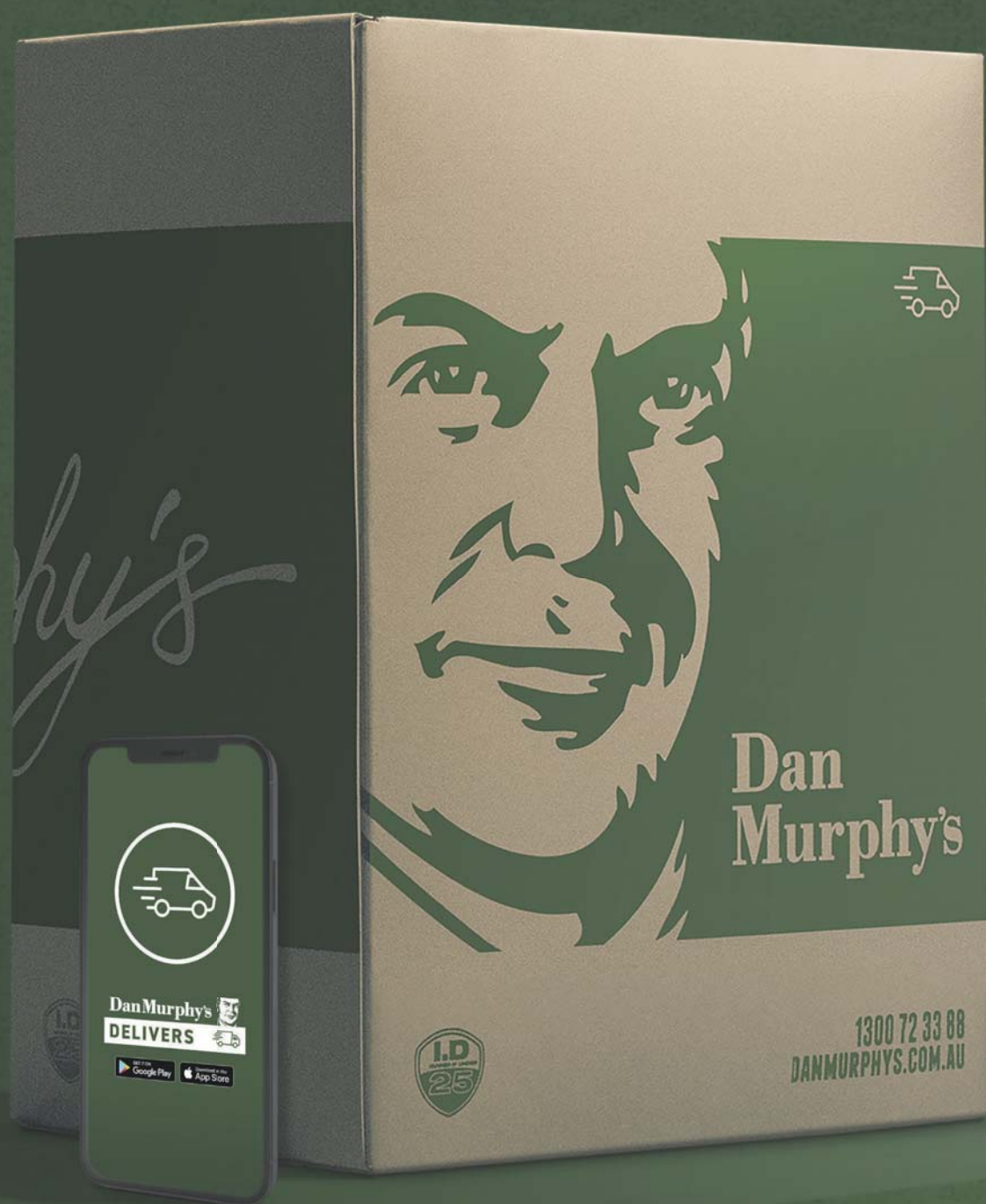
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Renters and landlords speak of trying times

► Continued from page 1 from the State government in return for waiving or reducing rents.

However, some local landlords have chosen not to help their tenants out.

'The people that own the clinic I work at didn't offer any COVID-19 rent support, despite us not being essential workers and not being able to see clients in the space', one local healer said.

'After weeks of not having work, I couldn't afford to keep paying rent for my house and to rent the work-space with no income.

'It's very unfortunate, as I would think they would be getting government help. Anyway, I gave four weeks' notice and no longer work there.'

Other landlords have taken the opposite approach. Artist Caitlin Reilly – owner of Gallery 3 in Ewingsdale and

Container 13 in Bangalow – has taken to calling her landlord 'Saint Bart'.

'During the first round of lockdowns, he said just pack up go away for a couple of months rent free', she says.

'Then, two weeks prior to this lockdown, with the border shutting, I was starting to feel the pinch.

'I sent him a text saying "would you consider a rent reduction?" and left it at that.

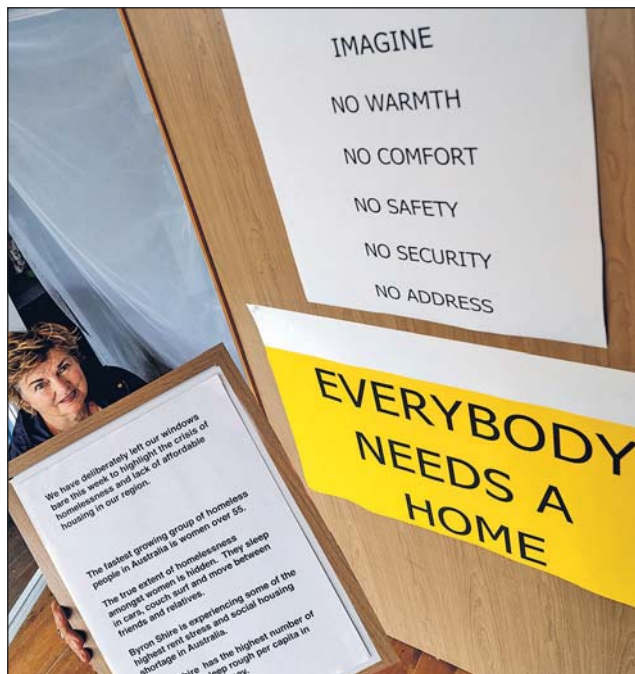
'He called me 10 days later when the lockdown was announced and said, "I just wanted to let you know that we're going to have six-week suspension of rent".'

'He said, "The only way we're going to get through this is as a community".'

'He's such a generous soul. He's kept us alive.'

Caitlin added, 'It's worth letting the community know that there are landlords who are selfless and kind'.

CWA get behind social housing



Wendy Edwards is pictured in the minimalist window she designed for the Bangalow CWA. The window's bareness highlights the plight of our Shire's homeless, particularly women, and even more specifically, older women. It's part of this year's Awareness Week campaign by the NSW Country Women's Association. The emphasis this year is on the 'social and affordable housing need in rural and regional NSW, as well as on women over 55 who are the fastest growing cohort of homeless people in Australia'. For more info visit www.cwaofnsw.org.au. Photo Jeff Dawson

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'This morning I had the honour of explaining to a room full of women what women's safety is all about'

Tweet by Scott Morrison PM of Australia (parody)

Budget Direct taken to court over misleading information

Paul Bibby

It's a nightmare scenario for any surfer or beach-lover.

You return to your car after being out in the waves to find that it's no longer there.

Despite carefully placing your keys in a lock box before heading out, thieves have somehow managed to break in and are now halfway to Bellingen.

This is exactly what happened to Andrew Grantham and his wife earlier this year.

But the nightmare was far from over.

When the couple made a claim with their insurance company, Budget Direct, they were told they wouldn't receive a single, salty cent.

Despite having been told

prior to signing up that they would be covered if this scenario took place, when it came to the crunch, the company denied the claim.

'Surfers like me are constantly being told misleading information regarding car key security, only to have our claims rejected owing to vague wording of policies and PDS [product disclosure statements]', Mr Grantham said.

'That way of securing your car has been endorsed and recommended by local Police and lifeguards. But more to the point, my own insurance company openly advised me that I'd be covered'.

Mr Grantham has screenshots of an online chat with Budget Direct in which a representative of the

company assures his wife that he would be covered if a thief broke into the key box and stole his car.

'But when I made a claim it was denied', Mr Grantham said.

Phone advice invalid

'Their response was, it doesn't matter what we tell you and others over the phone, or online regarding key security, our PDS covers us if your key is "In the vicinity of the vehicle"'

'New car, surfboards, wedding rings, wallets, phones – all gone, never to be found, and my insurance company put the final dagger through us.'

In a battle reminiscent of David and Goliath, Mr

Grantham is now taking Budget Direct to court.

'My case has been filed in the Southport District Court and proceedings are on the way,' he said.

'I have gathered a lot of evidence to support my case and I am hoping to raise awareness of this issue affecting so many others.'

'My own investigations have found many other local surfers have also been caught out and had their claims denied.'

Budget Direct did not respond when contacted by *The Echo*.

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Donation enables homeless cottage reno

► Continued from page 1

Brandon Saul, director of Creative Capital, which co-ordinated the campaign said, 'While polarisation grows over other topics, the issue of homelessness seems to have galvanised people from all walks of life: rich and struggling, famous and anonymous, vaxed and unvaxed, locals and blow-ins.'

'So far, we've received more than 150 individual donations, and I personally know a lot of people on that list are doing it tough at the moment, so it's inspiring to see people digging so deep.

It just confirms my belief that Byron's still a really generous and caring community'

When Fletcher Street Cottage has been renovated and the doors reopened, it will still need continued funding to provide its essential services.

'While the \$250,000 will renovate the cottage, fit it out with furniture, build a commercial kitchen, add showers and laundry, and turn the front and backyard into a safe and welcoming refuge, it's only the beginning', Ms O'Connell said.

'Without any government support, we're relying on Byron's community spirit

and generosity of heart to keep this homelessness hub going,' Ms O'Connell said.

'Please continue to spread the word and give generously where you can, so the lights can stay on at Fletcher Street Cottage long into the future.'

Donations welcome

The campaign is still live and accepting donations until September 10.

With the building secured, Creative Capital and the Byron Community Centre are now focused on resourcing the myriad of services at the centre.

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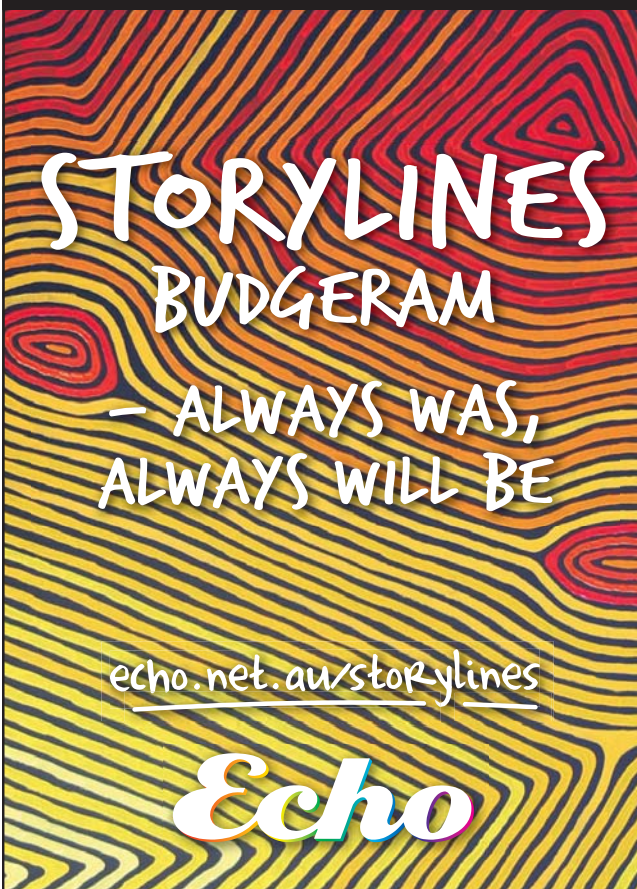
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Echo

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

Greg's rhythms and diaries released

Hans Lovejoy

Greg Sheehan has released a book!

I first saw Greg perform when I was in my 20s. At the time he was leading Utungun Percussion, a group of highly entertaining and accomplished drummers. Frequently performing in carnivalesque marching band format, their explosive grooves and wildly exciting gear changes were unlike any other percussion group before or since.

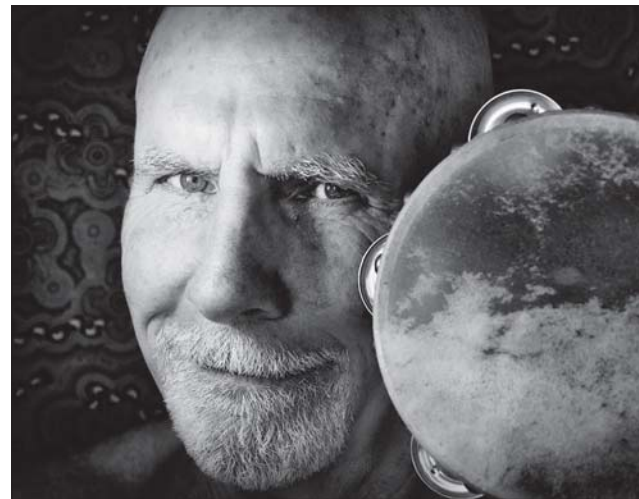
Wherever they played, the buzz they created was huge, and it's fair to say Greg's career has maintained that dynamic throughout.

Many in Byron Shire are aware – and are in awe – of Greg's enormous talent and generous nature – he was part of the community here for over 20 years, before moving eventually to Bellingen around two years ago.

While his career has spanned live performances and studio recordings, he is also a well known educator and mentor to many of the best musicians in the country.

His *Rhythm Diamond* system is taught in many music conservatories, just for starters.

At nearly 70 years old, Greg says he has been preparing *The Rhythm Diaries* for around 20 years, which is both a



Greg Sheehan. Photo supplied

handbook for creatives and a legacy for his children.

'I had a bicycle accident last year and broke both elbows', he says, which, turning something negative into a positive, gave him the time to focus on completing the book with collaborator Naomi Jean.

'I can't hold drumsticks properly at this stage of my recovery, but can at least play other percussion instruments.'

His optimism seems eternal, and his life's dedication is evident in the book. It contains more than 300 pages of original techniques, musical notes and number charts created over decades of a rich and colourful musical career.

Along with rhythmic

systems, there are a wealth of artworks, games for all ages, and life stories detailing how Greg's visionary approach to playing and teaching came about.

Nature's lessons

'I get many music lessons from nature,' he says.

'When in Byron, I would go to the beach and play percussion along with the rhythms of the ocean. As a wave would break it would "conduct" my playing dynamics. I find patterns inspiring – in flowers, shells, fruits, stars, or even flocks of birds. We all have numbers in common, and there is geometry everywhere in nature.'

A chapter titled *Nature*, examines these refreshing perspectives, as well as the

Fibonacci principle, which 'describes mathematical patterns and growth sequences of natural forms'.

While the book delves into advanced phrasing, and composing with numbers, the book also gives inspiration for kids, with a chapter titled *Rhythm For Kids*. 'It's a proven method' he adds.

Throughout the book, there are contributions from fellow musicians, such as Ben Walsh, Steve Berry, Matt Goodwin, Mat Ledger, Barry Hill, Josh Bennet, Si Mullumby and Simon Barker. Testimonials and words of love and support come from Harry James Angus, and Blue King Brown's Nattali Rize, to name a few. World renowned composer and conductor, Nigel Westlake, wrote the foreword for the book.

Westlake says, 'Whether the context be improvisation, formal composition, classroom music instruction, rhythm workshops, body percussion classes or massed conference events, *The Rhythm Diaries* serves as a reference and an invaluable tool for musicians and practitioners of music from all disciplines'.

■ Greg's self-published book, *The Rhythm Diaries*, is available through www.gregsheehan.com.au.

Byron to Uluru by bike raises over \$6,000

Eve Jeffery

Forty-one days and hundreds and hundreds of dusty kilometres later, Sam Lewis and her husband Paul approached the biggest red rock in the country and completed a cycling trip that started on a whim.

The Byron Bay to Uluru ride also raised \$6,700 (so far) for Byron's SHIFT Project, smashing their \$5,000 goal. The SHIFT Project assists local women at risk of homelessness.

Sam and Paul left Byron on July 14, and say that it was a trip of little goals, such as making it over the Toowoomba Range, to Boulia, then Gem Tree and finally Uluru.

'For me it was getting to a point somewhere, knowing, "You got this" – knowing you have everything you need and no phone reception!'

Both Sam and Paul thought it would be hard to get on the bike each day and motivate themselves to ride,



Sam and Paul Lewis. Photo supplied

but Sam said you just get up and get on with it.

Averaging about 85km a day, the couple had a few short days at the start of the trip. The longest day in kilometres was 167km from Winton to Middleton (to the pub in the middle of nowhere) and the longest day, in time, was about nine hours.

Sam said that the hardest part was dealing with the headwind.

'You can't fight it and

it breaks your soul when a four-hour ride becomes an eight-hour ride, but the scariest part was having to check each others bum blisters and the prospect that bum blisters could be the thing that ended the ride at Toowoomba.'

Their support for each other was also important and they didn't want to kill each other even once.

'Never! We even had our anniversary camping in the

bush on the Plenty Highway – who knew a wet wipe shower and a packet curry could be romantic'.

Both Sam and Paul, who met some really beautiful people along the way, said that they are 100 per cent happy they did the trip and would definitely do it again, and have some advice for others who would like to attempt the same ride.

'Never underestimate the things you can do and if you can help others along the way even better. If you're going with others, make sure you like them.'

'Have fun and don't put pressure on your chakras to align – you will change by accepting your own challenges even if you don't realise it. Pack light. And I recommend butt cream from day one.'

The GoFundMe page is open until September 15 for anyone who would like to donate: www.gofundme.com/f/a-slightly-crazy-bike-ride.

Eco tourism biz needs your 'staycation'

Wendy Bithell from Byron Bay Eco Tours describes the current climate as 'like being trapped underwater, and the only air you can breathe is through a straw'.

She is one of many local tourism-based industries that are doing it tough, and she says NSW government assistance isn't cutting it.

She told *The Echo*, 'I've been running my small eco-tourism business for the past 14 years, and things have never been so tough. Not in the last lockdown, the bushfires, floods or the GFC'.

'I am getting some help from the state government, but it's not enough. I'm literally haemorrhaging money at the moment'.

And while the federal JobKeeper last year helped to keep many afloat, she says the JobSaver payments 'are barely covering my home and office rents'.

'On top of that, I've been handing out thousands in refunds, and other bills like insurance and rego just don't stop'.

'This is even more infuriating with the [ABC] 7.30 Report, highlighting that some big companies who have received hundreds of millions of dollars in JobKeeper have doubled and tripled their profits'.

She says that like other businesses, she adapted to find new revenue streams



Wendy Bithell. Photo Jeff Dawson

since the pandemic and bushfires. Prior to that, she says, '70 per cent of my customers were international'.

'I repositioned my tours, creating new tours like Bush Tucker Walks with Aunty Delta, three day luxury hiking experiences, and giving locals a 30 per cent discount on our Night Vision Walks'.

And the changes were working, she says, with the 'international/domestic split [being] reversed'.

She says, 'I know some readers will say, "Boo hoo, poor old tourism operator", but I am an award winning, advanced eco-tourism accredited business, who conducts sustainable, ethical eco tours'.

'I work with local Arakwal woman Delta Kay. Together, we are helping people live with respect on Country'.

'All of my guides are either environmental scientists or traditional owners, all with education backgrounds'.

'We don't just take people to places of natural beauty, or to see wildlife, we explain its significance, its science, and ensure that we protect it'.

Bush tucker walks

She says, 'What I'm asking is, when we are all released from lockdown, why not have a staycation?'

'Use your dine and discover vouchers (which have been extended to June 2022). Experience some of

the best eco-tourism in the state. Byron Bay eco-tourism businesses have won best eco-tourism in NSW, every year since 2016'.

'Do a bush tucker walk, a night vision walk, see wild platypus or koala, do the Nightcap Historic Track, go on a cruise on the Brunswick River, go kayaking with dolphins. Calculate your carbon footprint and find out about local tree planting events. Support your local eco-tourism businesses, so we can support the local community and environment'.

For more info, visit www.visionwalks.com.au.

Local businesses that are doing it tough are welcome to contact *The Echo*.

Ballina chemist's natural disinfectant gets US approvals

Local chemist Ross Macdougald has invented anti-microbial protection that is claimed to be more effective than alcohol/ethanol based products.

His concoction of botanical extracts - chamomile and native lemon bush - is non-irritant and an anti-microbial surface spray and a hand sanitiser. It has just been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to export to the USA.

Mr Macdougald says he was inspired to create



Ross Macdougald. Photo supplied

ViroCLEAR for his wife Lucy, who suffers from eczema. He says, 'Surface

disinfectants and hand sanitisers typically contain high levels of ethanol, alcohol and other chemicals which are really tough on hands'.

Daniel Seldon, Managing Director of Aussie Pharma Direct, who distribute ViroCLEAR, says most people don't realise that 80 per cent alcohol/ethanol alone does not kill COVID - that is only possible if the disinfectant or hand sanitiser also includes hydrogen peroxide, and that formulation can take up to 10 minutes to kill

the COVID-19 virus.

He says, 'Being able to kill the virus within 90 seconds makes all the difference, as in reality, no one is going to hang around and wait 10 minutes to be protected', he says.

'ARTG listed ViroCLEAR works so well because the formula is positively charged, so it acts as a magnet to attract and quickly kill negatively charged germs and viruses'.

For more information visit www.viroclear.com.au.



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Controversial Evans Head Iron Gates development before NRPP

The controversial Iron Gates development for 184 lot subdivision including 175 residential lots, and 3 residue lots at Evans Head, goes before the Northern Regional Planning Panel.

Australia's largest clinical trial of CBD oil for sleep begins at SCU

Southern Cross University researchers have commenced Australia's largest clinical trial investigating the efficacy of an over-the-counter botanical cannabidiol product to help with sleep disturbance.

Richmond Valley Council: 'give us a break'

Richmond Valley Council Mayor, Robert Mustow, said the current lockdown requirements were crippling local communities and it was time to take a more common-sense approach to the restrictions.

National Summit on Women's Safety

Financial security, policing and justice responses, sexual violence and challenges facing diverse members of the Australian community will be key topics discussed at the National Summit on Women's Safety 2021.

Fatal motorcycle crash on M1 at Clothiers Creek

Police say a man has died after a single-vehicle motorcycle crash at Clothiers Creek.

Hiromi Tango sculpture a centrepiece at Tweed Valley hospital

For several years Northern Rivers artist, Hiromi Tango, has been weaving and threading her magic across the region, and now her work will be an amazing centrepiece for the new \$673.3 million Tweed Valley Hospital.

www.echo.net.au

Keeping children safe in the online playground

National Child Protection Week (NCPW), now underway, highlights unwanted contact, grooming and child sexual abuse online.

NSW Crime Stoppers has again partnered with the eSafety Commissioner to promote awareness of the dangers of the online playground, and create a safer environment for children.

During 2020, the eSafety Commissioner's Cyber Report team say they received 21,000 public reports, the majority of which involved child sexual abuse material.

They say, 'This was the most in the scheme's 20-year history and a 90 per cent increase compared to 2019.'

NSW Crime Stoppers CEO, Mr Peter Price AM said unwanted contact, grooming and child sexual abuse online continues to



Photo www.childrescuecoalition.org

be a devastating issue, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Many parents would not leave their child alone in a playground, and we want parents to think the same about the online playground', he said.

'The internet is not "fenced off" like in a community playground, and even

with parental controls, sexual predators can still find ways to connect with children online.'

Mr Price added, 'Until we can build a safe online playground for our children, we just ask parents to be vigilant around their child's online activity and report anything you see, hear or suspect.'

eSafety Commissioner,

Julie Inman Grant, says 'Parents and guardians have a role to play in keeping children safe online and we encourage parents and guardians to be actively involved in their children's online lives'.

'This can include ensuring children use devices in open areas of the home, talking regularly with children about the potential dangers online and helping them build the critical reasoning skills they need to make good decisions'.

Fact sheets

A fact sheet with a range of prevention strategies to help keep children safe online can be downloaded via www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au, and for information and tips on how to keep your child safe online, visit www.esafety.gov.au/parents.

School chaplaincy program expansion rejected by union

The Australian Education Union has fiercely rejected the suggestion of the expansion of the school chaplaincy program, after Liberal MPs suggested they could provide mental health and wellbeing support to students owing to COVID-19 impacts.

Federal President, Correna Haythorpe, said, 'School chaplains are not qualified to provide mental health and wellbeing support to students. They are not subject to the rigour of professional registration requirements that school counsellors, psychologists and mental health professionals are'.

She added that the \$60 million a year that goes to the program, 'Would be far better used for the employment of qualified and accredited school counsellors in public schools'.

Neighbourhoods tackle food waste with phone app

A new phone app is tackling the problem of food waste by connecting people with their neighbours, local shops, and cafes, to share leftover food in their community.

OLIO says it is the world's only neighbour-to-neighbour food sharing app. Users with unwanted food take a photo and upload it to the app, while neighbours who

live nearby receive an alert, request what they would like, and pop by to pick it up.

Local academic, Sian Lewis, says she and her neighbours have been exchanging fresh produce from their gardens; pawpaws, bananas, citrus fruits, cobs of corn, baked goodies, herbs and so on. 'For us, this is a satisfying reassertion of community

and caring in response to our streetscape becoming dominated by excessive displays of materialism'.

The Swedish phone app was one of the winners of the 2018 UN Climate Action Awards and was the world's first neighbour-to-neighbour food sharing app.

For more information, visit www.olioex.com.

Govt offer free courses to upskill

An additional 3,000 training places are now on offer to upskill at home during lockdown, says NSW Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, Geoff Lee.

'An extra 60 short courses are now on offer to study for free including business skills, mental health, marketing, finance and IT skillsets'.

'The free courses are

available to anyone across the State who is unable to work owing to public health orders.

'Training will be funded through the JobTrainer program, which has already seen more than 120,000 people in NSW skill up since it was announced in October last year'. For more information and to see full eligibility, visit www.bit.ly/37DYSVq.

Residential tenancy support to increase

The NSW Government say they will increase the Residential Tenancy Support Package up to \$4,500 per tenancy, and have extended the eviction moratorium until November 11, 'giving increased security to residential tenants impacted by COVID-19'.

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Kevin Anderson, said 'Following the moratorium, for the period 12 November 2021-12 February 2022, transitional measures will apply and will limit when terminations can occur for rental debt accrued during the moratorium'.

'If you have agreed on a repayment plan, a landlord will only be able to terminate your tenancy for this debt if you have failed to make two or more consecutive repayments; and it is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

Good faith

'If you have not been able to agree on a repayment plan, a landlord will be able to terminate your tenancy for this debt if the landlord has tried, in good faith, to negotiate a repayment plan through Fair Trading, and it

is fair and reasonable in the circumstances. Tenants and landlords are encouraged to enter into negotiations in good faith, but if you are unable to resolve the issue privately, you can contact Fair Trading who will act as a mediator'.

For more info, visit www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/lodge-tenancy-complaint-nsw-fair-trading.

Learning from home support offered

Guided learning packs in NSW public schools and additional training for teachers have been introduced owing to the extended COVID-19 lockdown.

Minister for Education Sarah Mitchell says the packs 'include a full week of learning activities with stage-specific video content which includes teacher

guidance, open-ended activities and wellbeing checks'.

'The packs are not mandatory but provide a great way for teachers to supplement what is already working for them'.

For more info, visit www.education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home.

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TV productions upset neighbours, politicians

Aslan Shand

Locals are questioning the criteria for filming Coke ads and *Love Island* in Byron Shire, claiming film companies ignore regulations around shooting drone footage and perform illegal earthworks.

The shooting of a Coke advertisement between The Pass and Main Beach in Byron Bay was noted by locals on the beach last week, who said the crew were not following COVID-19 safety protocols.

'I approached the crew, and asked if they had permission to be shooting with a drone on the beach, and they said they had permission from both Byron Shire Council (BSC) and National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)', said local Alison Drover.

'I saw one of the crew with the drone in hand walking on the The Pass side of the Clarkes Beach Cafe, as well as the Main Beach side'.

Responding to questions from *The Echo*, Mayor Michael Lyon said that the

filming of the Coke advertisement did not require Council approval, because 'the activity was regarded as an "ultra low impact shoot"'

'Owing to its low impact rating, Council had no ability to influence it', said Cr Lyon.

A Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DoPIE) spokesperson confirmed with *The Echo* that, 'A filming permit would have been required if they were filming within the Cape Byron State Conservation Area (SCA), which includes Clarkes Beach... and that NPWS did not receive any applications, or give permission, for filming on Clarkes Beach during August 2021.'

Love Island shoot

Meanwhile, illegal earthworks at 28 Blackbean Lane in Federal over the last three weeks alerted neighbours in the quiet neighbourhood that something was afoot.

Enquiries led to the revelation that the *Love Island* reality TV show was set to be filmed at the site, with

an expectation that over 100 crew will, or have, arrived in the area from Sydney for the production.

'One of the issues about the *Love Island* production was the lack of information provided, and the assumption it would just be waved through', Cr Lyon told *The Echo*.

According to neighbours, around five acres have been cleared illegally, with up to 20 people on site each day with no apparent COVID-19 safety measures in place.

They also pointed out that there had been no consultation with the local community for filming, that will apparently start early morning and go into the night.

Cr Lyon added the company is now attempting to satisfy all the requirements, including COVID safety, 'while no approval has yet been given'. He called the unauthorised earthworks 'outrageous'.

Local councillors and state MPs have all expressed their concern at the fact that people are being allowed

to travel from COVID-19 hotspots to a COVID-19 free area like Byron Shire, for non-essential work.

Inane TV rubbish

Independent councillor Cate Coorey told *The Echo*, 'I cannot believe that, when genuinely essential workers can't move around freely, people aren't able to leave their LGA, kids are home from school, and we are all in lockdown, that inane rubbish like *Love Island* or a Coca Cola ad are allowed to proceed, crewed by people from Sydney'.

Ballina MP Tamara Smith said that while she is a huge supporter of the film industry, it is 'hard to understand that at the moment, under the regional lockdown, no more than 10 people can attend a funeral, tens of thousands of people can't go to work, and thousands of businesses can't trade, supposedly because of health advice... but a film production crew can fly in from Sydney and shoot a TV show!'

Mullum's bollards get thumbs down

Temporary changes on Burringbar Street in Mullumbimby have received mixed public comment, say Council staff.

The Talking Street project is aimed at slowing traffic and 'making the town a safer place for people to relax, enjoy and shop'.

Project Planner, Isabelle Hawton said the trial runs until the end of December 2021.

'So far, we're hearing lots

of positive feedback about the new pedestrian crossing near the Commonwealth Bank, but people are strongly disliking the look of the temporary white safety bollards'. She stressed that the bollards are temporary and Council 'are looking to modify or remove them during the trial period'.

Feedback can be made via www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/talkingstreettrial.

Front Views of Main Beach

11/24-26 Bay Street, Byron Bay

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Critical Conversations events kick off Sept 14

'What is the role of truth in an era of radical uncertainty?'

This is the question being asked in the first *Critical Conversations* event, to be held September 14.

Critical Conversations is a series of public seminars aimed at addressing the knowledge crisis we find ourselves in today.

Hosted by Dr Richard Hil and MCD by Mandy Nolan, the series will tackle some of the most pressing questions of our times: 'Who can we believe or trust? How can we find common ground? How do emotions and social identities impact knowledge?'

The first seminar, held



Julian Baggini.

Photo reasonandmeaning.com

in conjunction with Arts Northern Rivers, is a free, online event featuring Julian Baggini, English philosopher and author of *A Short History of Truth: Consolations for a*

Post-Truth World.

Dr Hil says, 'More and more of us have strayed away from reliance upon mainstream news sources, preferring instead to believe in what internet-based "opinion leaders" have to say'.

Along with a number of colleagues, he says he felt compelled to start this seminar series as a response to cultural divides made worse by the global pandemic.

'The more we experience information overload, the less certain we are about experts, democratic institutions, political leaders, and opinion makers'.

'Everything seems uncertain, fragile, precarious.

We need to find common ground, a way forward out of this mess'.

Julian Baggini's presentation will tackle the first theme of Truth, with Freedom and Reason to follow in the coming months.

Dr Hil says, 'Critical Conversations is a space where together we can listen, ask questions, share, learn - and act on that learning'.

The first Critical Conversations event will take place online on Tuesday September 14 at 6.30pm, via Zoom and facilitated by Arts Northern Rivers. Book your virtual seat for the online event at: critical.convos.bookings@gmail.com.

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Briefs



Cosmos funding

While there are many *Echo* readers who appear happy to be reading articles from Science mag *Cosmos* within *The Echo*, there are a few who have questioned their funding source. *Cosmos* editor, and the daughter of the late, great Mungo MacCallum, Gail MacCallum, says *Cosmos* is published by the charity The Royal Institution of Australia (RIAS). She says, 'While RIAS received startup funding back in 2012 from the Commonwealth, the State of South Australia, and Santos Ltd, those orgs have nothing to do with what the people at *Cosmos* think, say, or do in 2021. The only things we're influenced by are the facts and research coming out of the amazing world of science, and support from readers, which reminds us we're doing something important'. To help with their important work, visit www.rius.org.au/give.

Joe Rogan treats COVID-19 with Ivermectin

Minds are exploding all over the globe with the news that the world's most popular podcaster, Joe Rogan, beat COVID-19 with a cocktail of medications and – Ivermectin. He posted on Instagram that he threw everything at COVID-19, including, 'Monoclonal antibodies, Ivermectin, Z-Pak, Prednisone... And I also got an NAD drip and a vitamin drip'. Meanwhile, hospitals are reporting patients are overdosing on Ivermectin, which is best known for treating river blindness in Africa. It is also used to treat heartworm disease and intestinal parasites in animals.

According to the NSW Health 'interim guidance on use of antiviral and immunomodulation therapy in COVID-19', the 'Specific disease-modifying medicines' listed for 'conditional recommendation' are Dexamethasone, BARICITINIB, Tocilizumab, SARILUMAB, CASIRIVIMAB PLUS IMDEVIMAB (REGEN-COV), SOTROVIMAB. Antiviral therapy Remdesivir is also listed as a 'conditional recommendation'. Not recommended is Azithromycin, Colchicine, Convalescent, Plasma, Favipiravir, Hydroxychloroquine, Interferon Beta-1a and Lopinavir/Ritonavir. Ivermectin is considered as an 'other potential therapy', and is 'not recommended'. No natural remedies are listed by NSW Health for the treatment of COVID-19.

NSW Police under pressure in Estimates

The NSW police persecution of the producer of comedian Jordan Shanks, by the secretive Fixated Persons Unit (FPU), was highlighted in a recent Budget Estimates hearing (available on Youtube). NSW Police Deputy Commissioner, Dave Hudson, admitted he didn't think 'appropriate processes were properly followed' after Kristo Langker was physically attacked and dragged away from his home and horrified family back in June.

The arrest was a result of Langker approaching Deputy Premier John Barilaro (Nationals) in public, twice – once was regarding the defamation lawsuit Barilaro is pursuing against Shanks. All interactions were filmed.

While the Unit's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) remain secret, Assistant Commissioner Mark Walton said violence was a threshold for investigations, as was the mental health of a fixated person, and the threat of terrorism. David Shoebridge (Greens MLC) asked Walton, 'Is making public criticisms towards a member of parliament a role or matter within the perimeters for the fixated persons unit?' He replied 'No'. Should be an interesting court case!

Hans Lovejoy, editor

An open letter to those in the rabbit hole

I slept with ash in my mouth last night, after our harsh words.

After all the seas we've crossed, holding hands capsized in a monstrous storm, speaking heart to heart about children, partners, fear and loss.

I thought then, if I were to die, who better than with you?

We've fought on the same side of so many battles, intuitively trusting each other's judgment, morals and perspective. And here we are, distant and sour over COVID-19.

This is the only letter I will write to you, I will not raise it again.

I guess we will not speak for a while. I hope we can meet over coffee and memory when this shit-storm passes.

I fear the chasm is too deep.

Friend, at the bottom of every COVID-19 related rabbit hole you've voiced is a conspiracy so vast, it is highly improbable. When you combine them, the hypothesis is so impossible it beggars rational belief.

You have, quite simply, gone mad. Let's deal with just four of many.

The first is that the death rates from vaccination are being underreported.

I was a coroner for 21 years, and I understand how comprehensive and resilient our death reporting processes are. Of course, they are not flawless (I once recorded a death as onanism, when it was actually aneurism), but to believe that there are thousands of deaths being covered up in Australia would involve tens of thousands of health professionals, public servants, police, independent contractors and even some judicial officers deliberately lying on a raft of reporting measures.

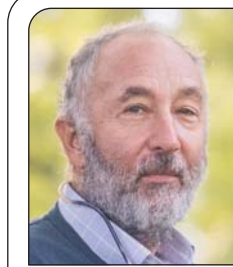
If caught, any one of these doctors and nurses and administrative staff would be sacked or prosecuted.

And what is their incentive for putting their entire careers and incomes on the line?

And why would they not put their patient's wellbeing at the forefront like they do every day by diligently reporting any such drastic adverse reaction?

And where is the evidence of some overarching international agency pressuring them to commit fraud?

And all this in an environment where deaths are being reported for blood clots, and vaccines that mask other diseases are rejected – despite



'In my experience, doctors genuinely and diligently report the cause of death even where there is great pressure to do otherwise – think suicides.'

David Heilpern

the cost. So, the conspiracy somehow permits reporting of one cause [of death], but not all the others? Beyond a reasonable doubt; improbable.

The second, is that deaths from COVID-19 are being over-reported. In other words, the rabbit hole says that many of those who are *not* dying with COVID-19 *are* being reported as dying from COVID-19.

If this were true, then the argument goes, COVID-19 is pretty harmless – not as bad as the flu.

So, in every country in the world, from Russia to Finland, United States to China, India to New Zealand, millions of times, doctors, when asked to place the cause of death on a certificate, are deliberately telling an untruth.

And it is just coincidental that the death rate is pretty similar in all first world countries.

Again, what's in it for them to be lying?

In my experience doctors genuinely and diligently report the cause of death even where there is great pressure to do otherwise – think suicides.

And how do these doctors get communicated these messages to commit crime and lie every day?

Again far-fetched and improbable.

The third is that lockdowns and masks don't work to suppress the virus, and that the government is lying to us about the effectiveness of these preventative measures.

So, that's the Libs, the Nats, Labor and the Greens, the entire mainstream media, and the AMAs around the country are all part of a vast collective and deliberate misinformation campaign, in an effort to curtail the liberty of every citizen, for no reason at all except the exercise of control.

Thereby throwing the country into recession, forcing people out of work, closing businesses – all for nothing (except control).

And this determination is being made by governments in every country in the world – and every one of them are part of this massive pile-on of deceit.

What are the chances of that?

Finally, the rabbit hole says that these laws and rules are all illegal, that individuals don't have to follow them because of sovereign rights.

Which means that every single cantankerous obstinate defence lawyer I know, and all the judges and magistrates, and the Council for Civil Liberties, and Legal Aid and the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Community Legal Centres and the Law Society and Bar Association are all wrong, and they know they are wrong, and they are suppressing a legal perspective that immediately liberates us all from these rules.

And with no internal dissent. Really, what are the chances of *that*?

But here is the thing – if you combine those four improbabilities above, like you do, then it equates to impossibility. It is utterly impossible that all those four scenarios are happening.

And believing in impossibility is delusion.

And maintaining those beliefs and speaking of them with such red-faced anger and capital letters is frankly scary. In a desperate effort to make something threatening be less so, you cannot resist or choose dishonesty and delusion to rule your greater guides.

The only people in power who maintain these views are on the hard, extreme right.

This is Craig Kelly and Pauline Hanson's ultra-nationalist territory, and that is not where I live. It is not even where you used to visit.

That is not who I spend my time with. So, dear friend, to use my favourite sailing term and our hilarious in-joke, may you 'scandalize the gaff' and point true in good health and calmer seas.



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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au

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Office: Village Way, Stuart Street, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager Simon Haslam

Editor Hans Lovejoy

Deputy Editor Aslan Shand

Photographer Jeff Dawson

Advertising Manager Angela Harris

Production Manager Ziggi Browning



Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

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'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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IPCC Report

In recent times, there has been significant media coverage of discussion around climate change.

Published letters include those authored by some who do not believe the climate has changed, or that it will continue to change without a change in human behaviour. These authors direct readers to read the work of Scientist 'A'. A few weeks ago, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its *Sixth Assessment Report* on the state of the climate globally. This Report was authored by 234 scientists from 66 countries who volunteered their time, over and above their commitments to their day jobs.

These 234 highly scientifically-qualified individuals gave their time, over three years and thousands of hours, to evaluate more than 14,000 research papers published since 2013. The resulting comprehensive Report then went out for two rounds of expert and government review. After these two reviews, the scientists – in their own time – responded to 78,007 technical queries, which included meetings across several time zones, to ensure the final Report was accurate.

I quote Dr Joelle Gergis, from the Australian National University, a lead author on *IPCC Sixth Assessment Report*: 'Our latest Report is a terrifying catalogue of how climate change is now affecting every continent and ocean on Earth. Warming unseen in 125,000 years. Ocean acidification reaching depths of 2,000 metres. Melting glaciers in densely populated lands... Carbon dioxide levels the highest they have been in at least two million years.'

Dr Gergis adds, 'Recently observed extremes, such as the devastating conditions experienced in northern Europe, China and India in July, are exactly what we expect as climate change continues to play out. Close to a year's worth of rain fell in just three days in... Southern China.'

This resulted in catastrophic flooding that affected 14 million people. In spite of this unprecedented effort to ensure a current, comprehensive and accurate Report, the scientific reality seems to be far from the 'reality' espoused by many



We drink 4 per cent of tap water, the rest goes down the drain.

of our political decision makers.

Here, I'm thinking of the 'blurtings' of Matt Canavan (the fires have not started owing to climate change), George Christensen (arson is to blame for the bushfires), Barnaby Joyce (it's just the oscillation of the seasons. There's a change in the magnetic field of the sun).

While Scott Morrison might say his government's Climate Policy is 'evolving', no policy change can be achieved without the support of the abovementioned outspoken deniers. One wonders how far ahead these individuals are thinking beyond the next election. Are they truly even thinking about the lives of their children, grandchildren and future generations? Sadly, I think not.

M Perkins
Wollongbar

Just a note

Would it be okay if all anti-vaxxers, anti-maskers, etc signed advanced care directives that they will not take priority over ANYONE who needs a respirator or an ICU bed for any reason? Fair enough?

Ron Stinson
Brunswick Heads

COVID

I am not a local – I've only lived here since 1972. As one of the 'alternatives' I know we freaked out the locals when we arrived, but over time but we got along just fine – eventually.

We built our houses and started businesses that helped the ailing economy thrive. We enjoyed our combined community events like the Gymkhanas and Chincogan Fiestas.

For some time now I have thought we are so lucky to be living here while COVID rages worldwide, but now I'm not so sure. This morning I had to go uptown and it was disturbing to see so many unmasked people around. Particularly as the COVID updates on ABC now have representatives from the frontline workers citing their experiences.

The paramedics who have to wear uncomfortable PPE (personal protection equipment) all through their shifts to go into homes where parents are struggling to breathe and their kids may not have anyone to care for them. Ambulances queued up at hospitals because the systems are getting overloaded with COVID patients – so many of them unvaccinated.

The ICU nurses who also have to wear uncomfortable PPE all through their shifts and go one-on-one with patients, and take care of all their bodily needs because there's nothing they can do for themselves except keep up the struggle to breathe. And ICU nurses hold patients' hands while they die.

These people risk their lives to care for COVID patients and then they have to go home to their own families and I can't imagine the

lengths they go to to decontaminate themselves. These amazing people are pleading with us to wear masks and get vaccinated. No one is immune from this dreadful disease, and it will continue to mutate and live on.

I know everyone has the right to exercise their free will, but in these extraordinary times one should consider the welfare of everyone and not be so bloody selfish. A disease like this rampages through populations, and the easiest precaution to take is to wear a fucking mask and get vaccinated.

You'd be doing all those frontline paramedics, nurses and doctors a huge favour. They're the ones who'll be looking out for you when you might be taking your last breath.

Marie Sherd
Mullumbimby

Share the dignity

It was good to see a wide coverage regards affordable housing. The situation is critical with so many homeless people living rough, living in their cars and, if lucky, some couch surfing.

Weekly I meet people, mainly women, who ask 'do I know of any affordable accommodation for rent?'

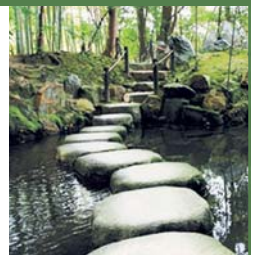
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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

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- A rare chance to enter the coastal market in a great family-friendly town with a home so close to the beach.

View: Contact Agent
Contact: Katrina Boehm - 0467 001 122

► **Continued from page 9**
It is shocking that many of these women are in their late 60s or early 70s.

Homeless women in our region are grandmothers, mothers, daughters, sisters who, owing to circumstances often beyond their control, are enduring a situation that is impacting on their health (mental), through social isolation and poverty.

The Bangalow CWA is launching Share The Dignity this month. We are calling on donations to make life a little easier. We want to distribute 60 to 70 dignity bags to women with essentials like shampoo, toothpaste, hand sanitiser, insect repellent, feminine hygiene and anything people can think of to bring some comfort to their stressful situation.

Any donations can be left at the Bangalow CWA rooms (between 10am-2pm weekdays and 8am-12noon Saturdays) and at the local Bangalow newsagent.

Rhonda Ansiewicz
Federal

Face masks

I was just wondering if anyone has the answer to this question:

If face masks have the ability to contain so many germs, viruses etc then how

come we don't have biosecurity bins to safely deposit our used face masks in?

They are often seen floating along the streets in the breeze, and imagine the dire health consequences that the 'garbos' and tip workers must be in if they actually came in contact with them. Any decent germaphobe should be outraged... surely!

I know if I believed this, I would be!

Karen Bradley
Wilsons Creek

Puritanical wellness

■ I am getting a little tired of the sweeping statements trotted out about the 'allopathic medical establishment' and its 'obedience to the pharmaceutical industry' (Nerada Vantari, letters, 25 August).

Suffice to say that this does an enormous disservice to the countless medical professionals who have devoted their lives to improving and indeed saving people's lives, not least during the pandemic. I'm also peeved about the smugness that accompanies the self-actualised claims of those committed to 'alternative lifestyles' who invariably look down on those lesser

mortals who fail to toe the line of health puritanism. There appears to be little understanding here of the complexities of people's health status and its link to matters of power, wealth, income and education. Looking after oneself is of course desirable, but the ability to do so is far from equitable in today's Australia.

Relatedly, referring to questionable data alleging that the majority of those dying from COVID are 'over 70' or suffer from 'pre-existing conditions' can, if not fully explained and contextualised, run dangerously close to eugenicist thought.

Richard Hil
Mullumbimby

■ Narada Vantari, I am over 70, have a pre-existing inherited condition, (no amount of healthy living could have avoided it) and I have to share my community with many who share your views.

It seems, from your letter, that you'll be happy for me to die in the gutter, or at least on the end of a ventilator, so that you can avoid any restriction on your social life.

You seem to have drunk the kool aid espoused by guru Pete Evans. He

questions, as you do, that COVID deaths are the fault of those who have not cared for their immune systems with herbs and vegetarianism (and he's making millions out of it).

From this perspective the responsibility for an early death from COVID rests entirely with the dead person and no effort should be made by the community to lessen the risks of contagion, and wearing a mask is much too much of a sacrifice.

You also question the legitimacy of the diagnosis at all. Copious quantities of information published in peer reviewed journals provides detailed analysis of the virus and how it is transmitted. For you this is not legitimate, you'd rather obtain your information from 'influencers' who are laughing all the way to the bank.

I have, of course, had both doses of a vaccine because I do believe in science so hopefully I will be able to avoid that terrible death, gasping for air, that you seem to believe I deserve because I'm too old or I didn't eat the right food.

Jenny Bush
Wilsons Creek

A matter of opinion...

■ Australia has indeed been 'the lucky country' in the COVID-19 pandemic until recently, yet 'run mainly by second rate people' as the original quote continues.

Our federal and state governments have squandered our advantage by not creating safe quarantine hubs, by not ordering enough vaccines, by not creating more positions, better pay and working conditions for healthcare workers, by not having a succinct and clear vaccination campaign and by not enforcing timely lockdowns.

Luckily most Australians are community minded, smart, willing and able to hold a hose when there's a fire, taking things into their own hands, as they do with battling bushfires and climate change. There are just some things we need our government to do for us and it would be nice if we didn't have to drag it into action kickin' and screamin' every time there's a crisis.

Dr Ulf Steinvorth
Specialist in General Practice/
Emergency Medicine
Dunoon

■ As a medical doctor of 30 years, and citizen, I have watched the last 18 months

with confusion.

Initially we were all worried about the unknown virus. Then we mostly agreed with slowing the curve of infections through some border controls etc. Then we mostly agreed to some short-term 'lockdowns' to stop local outbreaks.

With varying degrees of compliance and willingness we have gone along with having our every movement tracked and wearing masks in public.

But really, folks! When does it end? How much are we prepared to accept? How many businesses have to go broke? How many isolated people have to suffer depression or even suicide? How many days do children need to stunt their social/emotional development by being isolated? How many people need to die, with their loved ones unable to visit before we say 'enough'!

I have resisted the pull of the Byron Shire conspiracy mongers for nearly 20 years, but more and more the question 'What's going on here?' needs to be asked. And never more so than about this latest idea, to vaccinate children! This is wrong!

I believe the risk to



children from covid is not zero, but it is minuscule. While the risk of these new vaccination technologies, based on what we know already is significant, the protection is weak, and short lived.

No one could say I'm 'anti-vax'. I've vaccinated hundreds of people. I believe vaccination is perhaps the best achievement western medicine has ever devised. But never before have we vaccinated young people to protect old people, and never with a vaccine with this many adverse effects.

When the ship goes down, we save the women and children first, the able bodied next and the elderly last of all. It has always been this way and rightly so. I am over 50, and I do not want any young person getting vaccinated to protect me!

Isn't it time we stopped panicking and accepted that covid is here to stay? And that it's okay to reduce risk, but impossible to make the world safe?

Dr Tim Devine
Medical Practitioner
Brunswick Heads

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How reliable are PCR tests?

Brought to you by *The Echo* and *Cosmos Magazine*

We've received lots of letters questioning the use of PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests. They claimed that PCR tests are manipulated to inflate COVID-19 numbers. Or that the PCR cycles have been sped up and are therefore unreliable. So how reliable is PCR testing?

Manipulating the results

This is a good question, especially because we often hear about false or weak positive results from people who've never had COVID-19.

PCR was first invented in 1985 and is a well-established, common, standard laboratory practice for molecular biology, genetics and medical diagnostics. PCR is highly accurate and sensitive and is considered the gold standard DNA/RNA identification and SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis.

The technique is so accurate at building the right DNA strand that it is used to build DNA for use in CRISPR and other cloning techniques.

Occasionally, false negatives or positives will arise. Regardless, the rates are extremely low and usually happen because of a low quality or old sample – the problem is the sample collection, rather than the test itself. One study of PCR SARS-CoV-2 tests found that just five patients in 96,000 came back with a false negative result.

Thankfully, it is usually easy to flag which results might be a false negative because low quality samples are visible to experts, and they are able to retest the sample. This means that the actual number of false negatives upon COVID diagnosis is even lower.

The test is also very sensitive and only needs tiny volumes of sample, such as what is on a swab, where as other techniques need a higher volume (eg blood).

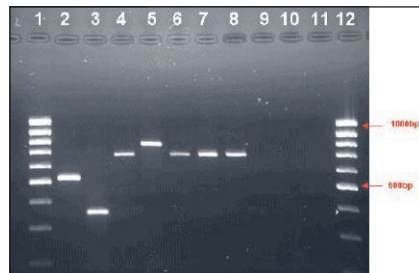
It is also a relatively quick test. It only takes a couple of hours to run, and multiple samples can be run together.

The speed, ease, sensitivity, and accuracy of PCR is very fine-tuned, and is therefore an unshakeable standard in the world of molecular biology. It has been used for decades and will continue to be used for decades to come.

Speeding up cycles

We'll expand on that to answer the questions about whether the cycles can be sped up.

When a PCR process is completed, it is visualised through a technique called gel electrophoresis, which looks like this:



A standard gel electrophoresis. Image Hirzahoseini et al., 2009

At the top, there are numbers that denote different samples. On the left and right there's a kind of molecular ruler – called a ladder – that shows examples of standard molecules with a known size.

In the middle, the white lines show different samples after PCR; we can compare the location of that piece of DNA to the ladder and estimate the size of the DNA fragment.

We already know what size we're looking for, so this is a good, quick way of determining a positive or a negative. If it's the wrong size, it's probably not covid.

Of course, there is some of margin error, but it's very, very low.

Is PCR still reliable if we speed up the process?

PCR has three main stages: breaking the DNA open so it can be read; attaching the molecules that read and amplify the DNA; and growing the DNA chain for observation.

Each of these has a specific temperature and time it needs to run.

The last stage is the most flexible because it depends directly on the length of the DNA fragment you are trying to read. If you made this step shorter, the DNA won't grow all the way to its correct length.

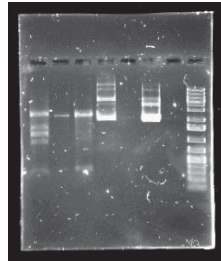
Think of it like a cake: a big cake needs more time in the oven. If it isn't in the oven for the right amount of time, it won't cook properly.

This means the final PCR can sometimes show the wrong result if

the timing is wrong and the fragment is thus smaller than expected.

If the final stage usually takes 40 seconds and you lower it to 30 seconds, the final gel electrophoreses will not look very clear, and you'll end up wasting time to repeat the test.

A gel electrophoresis with unclear samples that have multiple bands. Image Chegg



Instead, you might get a gel that has extra bands, like the picture above:

To get more samples through the system, more machines are used, but they will all maintain the same cycles.

However, the process isn't deliberately sped up, and we do know how long is needed, so if there is an unclear result, it is usually because the original sample was poor quality, not because of a change in PCR timing.

The PCR technique has been perfected over the past five decades and further optimised for COVID-19 since its emergence in 2020. That means there are standard temperature and time protocols specifically for SARS-CoV-2 tests.

A gel electrophoresis showing a bright ladder (marker), but a faint band. This could be a false or weak positive. Image BioRad



Finally, when a band is really faint, like in this image, the sample is retested.

This means the faint sample will be tested multiple times, and if it has the same result, it will be sent off for sequencing to confirm. Sequencing of a sample is time intensive, and so is only done for positive, or sometimes indecipherable, results.

Altogether, this means that PCR testing is very accurate and undergoes multiple confirmations, so numbers are unlikely to be inflated.

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CHES by Ian Rogers

My obituary of Evgeny Sveshnikov a fortnight ago omitted the great innovator's most famous/infamous achievement: resigning the same game, twice!

Two decades ago Sveshnikov was, at 51, already one of the oldest players in the Russian Championship, and his opponent in round nine was the 15-year-old rising star Ernesto Inarkiev from Kyrgyzstan. The teenager managed to grind down his veteran opponent and after 61 moves Sveshnikov resigned.

However, before the scoresheets were signed, Sveshnikov noticed a stalemate trick that would leave Inarkiev with rook and knight against rook, an endgame which can be drawn with perfect play by the defender.

What happened next is hard to believe: Sveshnikov withdrew his resignation! Inarkiev of course was outraged, but the arbiter (incredibly) ruled in Sveshnikov's favour, declaring that a resignation is not final unless the scoresheets are signed to confirm the result. An appeal committee upheld the reversal and so the game continued!

Sure enough, Inarkiev could achieve nothing better than rook and knight versus rook and kept trying to win until move 122, at which point Sveshnikov was entitled to claim a draw by the 50 move rule. (A game may be declared a draw if 50 moves have been played without a piece being captured or a pawn moved, on the claim of either player.)

But having proved that he could defend the endgame successfully for 50 moves, and possibly feeling remorse for his earlier behaviour, Sveshnikov stunned the watching crowd – and his opponent – by resigning again!

The standout feature of the whole incident is how little criticism, let alone sanction, Sveshnikov suffered. 'What happens in Elista, stays in Elista' appeared to be the rule.

Today, with top games being broadcast, the wrath of social media will descend on the transgressor – as Inarkiev discovered when he tried some sharp practice in a World Blitz Championship in 2017 against Magnus Carlsen. Unfortunately for Inarkiev, who lost the game and with it his reputation, it is all on YouTube.

Homelessness

The Bangalow CWA branch is way more than tea and scones. The branch has a strong commitment to the CWA of NSW's call for urgent action on homelessness in regional areas.

In 2018 the branch took a motion to the State Conference seeking the policy of CWA of NSW: to campaign for specific housing options for older women faced with homelessness or a housing crisis. The motion was passed unanimously and is now CWA policy. The 2021 State-wide Awareness Week campaign calling for urgent action on social and affordable housing options in rural and regional NSW is owing, in part, to the work and advocacy of Bangalow CWA branch.

On a practical level, over the past six years the branch has donated significant funds to local services supporting people living in vulnerable housing circumstances. The branch financially assists SHIFT, Liberation Larder, One Roof Byron and the Winsome Hotel Soup Kitchen in Lismore on a regular monthly basis. We have also contributed to the newly formed Women's Village Collective and the Fletcher Street Hub. These substantial funds, are all raised through the sale of members' handmade goods and homemade treats (including scones).

If you would like to join the CWA of NSW, find a branch near you on cwaofnsw.org.au

Rebecca Dickson
Bangalow CWA

COVID choices

The virus isn't going anywhere – it's here to stay. There are three real solutions.

1. Let the virus run its course without intervention
 2. A perpetual police state
 3. Mass vaccination
- What do you choose?

Nick Chapman
Ocean Shores

Comedic paranoia

Despite Peter Olsen's limitless comedic ability, perhaps it's time for *The Echo* to curtail his paranoid multi conspiracy theories conspicuous in his letters.

Really, if you can't sustain your argument without resorting to lies (can't go to the beach from Federal, concentration camps etc), then it means your argument doesn't hold much water, because it's shot through with holes.

Peter is living truth to the old fascist/Trump maxim that says if you lie/misinform

Up for a little yarn bombing?



The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce is looking for creative knitters and those who like to crochet to make colourful sleeves for the new 'Mullumbimby Poles'. To get involved drop in to the Mullum Newsagent or call 6684 2127.

enough, the gullibles and idiots in society will eventually believe you. This has led America to the brink of the end of a great democracy.

Unfortunately for Pete, Australians usually don't go for bullshit. Until now. The crap that some of Peter's anti-vax cohort believe is absolutely ridiculous. Just read his letters for evidence.

The only conclusion that can be drawn is that these people have no idea of community, or the moral contract involved in keeping society, as a whole, safe. Because their precious bodies are obviously more important than the vast majority of people, and us sheeple have just got to wear it. They know more than any professional. That's obviously why they rely on fantasy that resides on the internet to support their arguments. Wake up.

John Donnellan
Ocean Shores

Not enough ICU beds

My best mate lives in a country town in the UK. Over the last year, she estimates around 10 per cent of her community have had COVID-19, including her Nan who died, and our friend from school who, at 47, now has long covid. That friend's kid tested positive without symptoms.

With Australia now on a similar 'let it rip' trajectory to the UK, we can reasonably expect 10 per cent of Mullum to contract the Delta variant of covid. That's a conservative guess, and you all know why. But at 10 per cent, 360 of us will get it, a couple of dozen will need hospital care and three or four will die.

So where are we going to access that care? Lismore won't be able to service everyone in the region. Tweed is already struggling with 60 per cent of its staff Queensland-based and not allowed across the border. And as for Queensland itself? It may as well be a different country. If a double vaccinated health

worker can't come to work here, you sure as hell can't get a bed there.

ANY kind of medical attention will be hard to access, so if you have a heart attack or car accident, surviving it will be a dice roll.

For those of you thinking 'but this attitude comes from fear!' you're exactly right.

Look, Mullum is my heart's home: I generally DO come from a place of love, I am a lifelong optimist, and I am not prone to catastrophising.

But pondering this scenario generates a fear within which challenges everything I thought I knew about myself – my very identity. And so it should! After all, healthcare collapse is just one exhibit in the COVID shit-show museum. What a time.

Sam Leader
Mullumbimby

Transparency

Byron Shire Council (BSC) is not transparent despite what the former Mayor or BSC's senior management would like the community to believe.

You cannot claim that the Council is transparent when waged staff are threatened with dismissal if they are seen talking to certain members of the community.

I was shocked when I stopped beside a waged employee on stop-go and said hello, the staffer became very uneasy and stated 'I cannot be seen talking to you, I will lose my job'. I was also made aware, by a retired W&R employee that W&R 'waged staff' were made aware that if they were seen talking to me during working hours or outside of working hours their job would be at risk.

Why are W&R so uneasy about staff talking about what they do in their working day? As a member of the Water, Waste & Sewer Advisory Committee (W&R) I had the audacity to contact the Coordinator of W&R and ask for information on recorded inflow figures for

Brunswick Valley STP. I was contacted by the Director of Infrastructure who informed me I could not talk to staff.

My experience is that when you ask for any information from W&R staff they seem to immediately become defensive and secretive – why?

The information I sourced should be freely supplied, it is quite concerning that W&R is so secretive with what should be easily accessed operational information.

Alan Dickens
Brunswick Heads

Ruinination

I wholeheartedly agree with Brian Mollett (Letters 18 August). Until very recently Burringbar Street was a true representation of an iconic Northern Rivers coastal country town main street; complete with palm trees and a few remaining classic buildings. It has always been very photogenic.

Recent installation by Council of a forest of thin, tall, yellow/white bollards at every street junction on Burringbar Street along with 'what-colour-is-it-anyway?' road paint has truly put paid to that. What on Earth was Council and Infrastructure Management thinking?

In addition to that, we now also have a new pedestrian crossing going from the Commonwealth Bank corner over to the Cactus Hill side of the road. The previously existing crossing over to Council Chambers is completely visible as you approach town; this new crossing is definitely not clearly and immediately visible as it is slightly around the bend into Burringbar Street. What a driver sees first is 'Keep Clear' paint on the road not the crossing itself. Who will be the first pedestrian skittled on that new crossing?

What do people think about in that building on the corner?

Clive Jeffery
Mullumbimby

Wise practice

For all the travels of the world, cultural habits are slow to share.

The Japanese sneeze and cough into their elbow which is now a practice we adhere to. In Thailand, masks are worn for a cold and sore throat to avoid infecting others. Also, masks are worn owing to pollution problems.

Seems like the wise practice to me.

Dee Taminiau
Ballina


► More letters on page 19

Suicide Prevention

Q. How many Aussies ***ATTEMPT*** Suicide every Day?


A. ***178***

Source: **Lifeline Data and Stats: 'Over *65,000* every year.'*



STOP

When **HOPE** goes ***AWOL***



RESET

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Q. Why is Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, published 1597, ***the most famous love story in the English literary tradition.***

A. ***The play focuses on romantic love, specifically the intense passion that springs up at first sight between Romeo and Juliet. (This) love is a violent, ecstatic, overpowering force that supersedes all other values, loyalties, and emotions.*** Source: **www.sparknotes.com**

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Q. Why it's no surprise **HOPE** can go ***AWOL***?

A. People in Emotional ***Pain** can feel isolated/lonely, and filled with eg: **Desperation, anger, sadness, grief, revenge, shame, fear, self-hate: and so much *endless *pain they just want it 2 *STOP*!**

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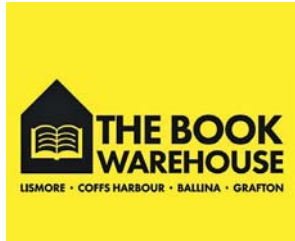
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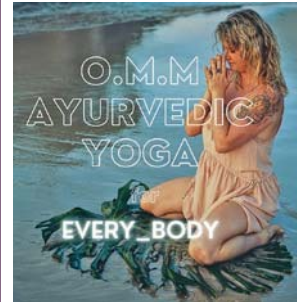
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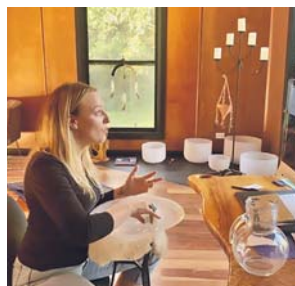
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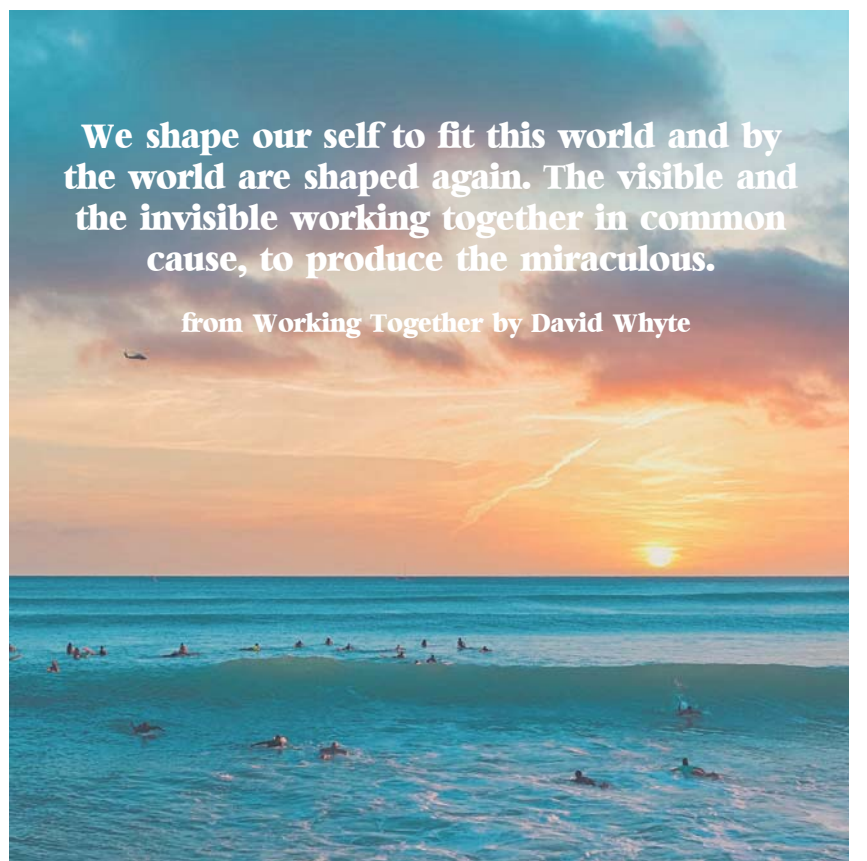


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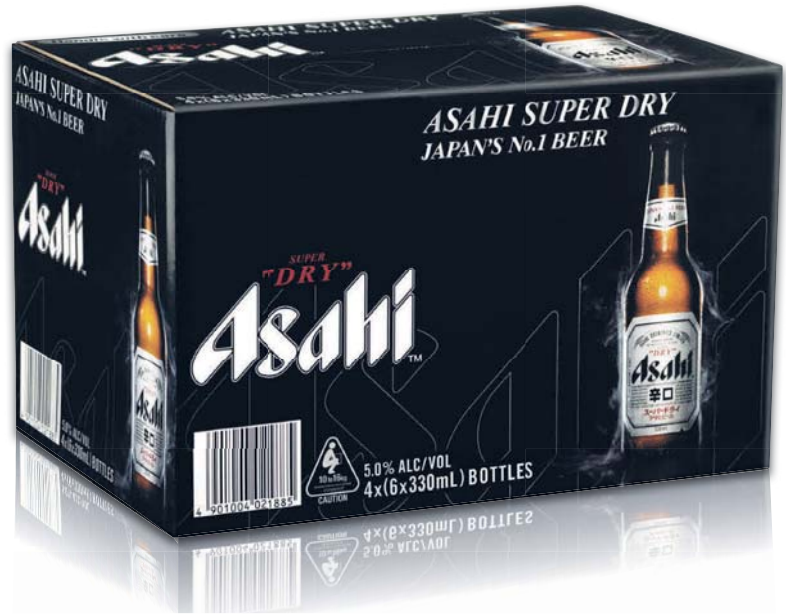
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MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB

Open: Part
Hours: Monday closed Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday 12pm-6pm Wednesday and Friday 2pm-8pm
6684 2533
58 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby
Open for takeaway only.

MULLUMBIMBY LEAGUES CLUB

Open: Yes
Hours: Wednesday and Friday nights from 4.30pm for takeaway food and alcohol sales.
6684 1400
25 Manns Road, Mullumbimby (end of industrial area). Please pre-order food. Golf course open seven days.

ROCK AND ROLL COFFEE COMPANY

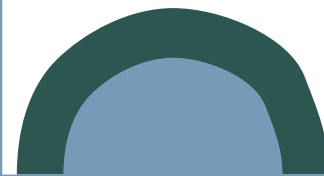
Open: Yes, part time
Hours: Wednesday to Saturday from 8am-1pm
6684 4224
3/55 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
www.rockandrollcoffee@gmail.com
Open for takeaway only.

SPICE IT UP THAI

Open: Yes
Hours: From 4.30pm Wednesday to Sunday
6684 1383
103 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
Open for takeaway only.

THE OTHER JOINT

Open: Yes
Hours: 8am-1pm Monday to Friday 8am-12pm Saturday
6684 2220
72 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
Working from a restricted menu, with a few breakfast and lunch options. Can phone ahead to order.



BIMBI COFFEE SHOP

Open: Yes
Hours: 6-11am (lockdown hours)
Instagram: @bimbi_coffee_shop
Stuart Street Arcade, Shop 6/108 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
Open for takeaway only.



NORTH COAST LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES MULLUMBIMBY

Open: By appointment only
Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm
6684 2615
81-83 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
Sales/Property inspections by appointment only.

TIMBER SLAB FACTORY

Open: Workshop operating, showroom closed
Hours: 9am-4pm Monday to Friday
6684 3661
1651 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullumbimby
Workshop is open 9am-4pm Mon-Fri. Phone ahead for contactless pick up.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC MUSEUM

Open: No, but handling online sales & enquiries
admin@mullumbimby museum.org.au
17 Myokum Street, Mullumbimby
For sales and research requests use our website www.mullumbimby museum.org.au

THE ORGANIC CERAMICS CO

Open: No
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm Saturday 10am-2pm (phone appointments)
0493 035 807
5B Ross Estate, 22 Mill Street, Mullumbimby
organicceramics.co
Currently not open to walk in customers. Enquiries and orders can be made via website and Instagram.

BRIDGLANDS BETTA HOME LIVING

Open: Part
Hours: Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm Saturday 9am-12pm
6684 2511
106 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby (collect from rear car park)
Click / phone and collect OR contactless delivery only.

BRIDGLANDS FURNITURE ZONE

Open: Part
Hours: Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm Saturday 9am-12pm
6684 2511
69 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby (collect from Betta car park)
Phone and collect for contactless delivery only.

MADE IN MULLUM

Open: Yes, part. By appointment for click & collect
Hours: 2-3pm weekdays
0407 579 378
22 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
Order or buy via: @madeinmullum Instagram
42 local and handmade businesses in one shop.

SON OF DRUM: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTATION

Open: Part
Hours: By appointment
Email: info@sonofdrum.com.au
1/31 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
We may also be contacted via our FB and Insta pages. Limited range also available on our website: sonofdrum.com.au

STEWART'S MENSWEAR

Open: Part
Hours: Phone during normal business hours
0421 216 547
52-54 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
www.stewartsmenswear.com.au
Offering click & collect sales, phone orders and online sales.

AMORE MULLUMBIMBY

Open: Part open
Hours: 1-5pm Monday to Friday (until lockdown finishes)
0409 570 229
24 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
amoremullumbimby.com.au
For click & collect or any specific items. Website orders available too.

SUPPORT MULLUM

Many local businesses have been doing it tough during the current lockdown. The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce is supporting its local businesses by letting the community know when and how they are open and can be accessed.

'It is essential that we support each other and our local businesses during this challenging time,' said Chamber president Jenelle Stanford.

Ms Stanford also reminded shoppers that each shop has its own rules in relation to mask wearing.

'Please be respectful of everyone,' she reminded the community.

'We are in this together. Shop assistants and shop owners are people just like you. They are putting themselves on the front line to stay open and whether you agree with their mask policies or not they are just trying to do the right thing by their staff, customers and the community,' she said.

Chinny Charge

The famous September charge up Mt Chincogan has had to be postponed but

the Mullum Chamber is busily planning to run the event now in March.

'It took us 16 years to come back, so we aren't going to be defeated by COVID-19,' said Ms Stanford.

Refunds can be provided or you can roll your entry on to next year.

Community colour

Shearwater students have used their creative flair to decorate the parklets on Stuart Street in Mullumbimby, so take the chance for a peak if you happen to pass by while getting your essentials.

Yarn bombing

Do you have a penchant for a bit of knitting or crocheting? While some people are not happy with the new white poles that have been put in place in the centre of Mullum, the Mullum Chamber is calling for anyone who is interested to do a little yarn bombing of the poles.

'We are hoping to get a group of creative knitters together to make these a truly Mullum addition! Drop in to the Mullum Newsagent or call 6684 2127 to get involved.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

JAMES HARDWARE MITRE 10

Open: Yes normal trading hours
Hours: Monday to Friday 7.30am-5pm
Saturday 8am-2pm
Sunday 9am-2pm
 6684 2083
 101 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
www.mitre10.com.au
 Offering click & collect.

MULLUM MAC

Open: Yes
Hours: 9.30am-5pm Monday to Friday
 6684 6235
 61 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
 Apple computer sales and support.
 Please observe COVID rules. Mask and QR check in required.

FACE YOGA AUSTRALIA

Open: Yes - Online
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by appointment
 6684 3070
 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
faceyogaaustralia.com
 Classes, workshops, personal coaching programs, and one-on-one consultations are all offered online.

CLAUDINE GERTRUDE

Open: Yes
Hours: by appointment
 0425 273 173
 Address via zoom or phone
 Transpersonal and somatic based counselling for women.
 My desire is to support women in creating more capacity to be with life as it unfolds in its many ways.

MULLUMBIMBY PSYCHOLOGY

Open: Yes (combination of face-to-face and telehealth services)
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday to Friday
 6684 4748
 113 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
www.mullumbimbypsychology.com.au
 Both phone and video telehealth appointments available.

SUPERFEAST

Open: Yes
Hours: 9.30am-4pm
 1300 769 500
superfeast.com.au
 Online only.
 At SuperFeast we find potent tonic herbs and mushrooms, grown in the wilds of China, and from their original source. We want only the best herbs for our families and for yours - and we're willing to go the extra mile for it!

MULLUMBIMBY NEWSAGENCY

Open: Yes
Hours: 6am-4pm weekdays
6am-2pm Saturday
5.30am-12pm Sunday
 6684 2127
 44 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
 Offering a wide range of products including newspapers, magazines, and stationery.

DEVINE QUALITY MEATS

Open: Yes
Hours: Monday to Friday 6am-5pm
Saturday 6am-12.30pm
 6684 2015
 64 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
 Devine Meats takes advantage of its rural location to source meat from local farms.

MAIN ARM STORE & BOTTLO

Open: Yes
Hours: 7am-6.30pm Monday to Thursday
7am-9.30pm Friday (Pizza Night)
8am-6.30pm Saturday & Sunday
 6684 5588
 890 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby
 Open for takeaway only.

BYRON BAY PORK & MEAT

Open: Yes
Hours: 8am-5pm weekdays
8am-12pm Saturday
 6684 2137
 70 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby

MULLUMBIMBY BAKERY

Open: Yes
Hours: Monday to Friday 6am-4pm
Saturday 6am-1.30pm
 6684 1062
 57 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
 Locally owned bakery that bakes on site. Perfect for morning tea, lunch, or a holiday treat.

MULLUMBIMBY (& BANGALOW) WASH HOUSE

Open: Yes
Hours: 7am-7.30pm Seven days a week
 0439 001 545
 1/74 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby

MULLUMBIMBY ENGINEERING

Open: Yes
Hours: 7am-3pm weekdays
 6684 2325
 17 Towers Drive, Mullumbimby
 Open for steel sales by prior appointment only, call the office to place your order.

MULLUMBIMBY HIRE & SALES

Open: Yes
Hours: 7.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday
8am-12pm Saturday
 6684 3003
 73 Station Street, Mullumbimby

MULLUMBIMBY PRINTWORKS

Open: Part
Hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am-4pm
 6684 3633
 1/18 Manns Road, Mullum Industrial Estate

CJ & NA THEODOSSIOU ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Open: Yes
Hours: Monday to Friday 8am-4pm
 0428 845 439
 Mullumbimby

TONY CARSBURG MOTORS

Open: Yes
Hours: 8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday
 6684 2066
 2 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby
www.tonycarsburgmotors.com.au

the SCOOP

Device Trader

Device Trader Byron Bay continues to evolve after 6 years of repairing and selling mobile devices in the Byron Shire. The company now offers a full range of new and refurbished devices in store and online. Founder Duane Tutchen said, 'Like most businesses we've been hit pretty hard during the COVID lockdowns, but it has allowed us to focus on our new website and we now offer great deals in-store and online across a wide range of products. You can even trade in your old device! Device Trader now offers Macbooks, Apple Watches, Airpods and virtually every current iPhone. They really do have something for everybody! You can now see all products and services online and find huge discounts on refurbished devices and repairs.'

1/ 130 Jonson Street Byron Bay www.devicetrader.com.au 66855585



The Book Warehouse

The Book Warehouse stores in Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Ballina and Grafton are a locally owned family business. They've been an active presence in the Northern Rivers for many years and like so many other local businesses they're now fighting to flourish in this tough lockdown.

Their website allows you to choose and purchase online and their dedicated and knowledgeable staff are available by phone, email and Facebook Messenger to advise and process your orders.

'Our heartfelt thanks to our many valued customers who are rallying around to purchase our fantastic selection of books, art supplies, games and puzzles, gifts, greeting cards and wrap and we hope fervently to be able to welcome you in person soon.'

The Book Warehouse really is more than you imagine.

<https://thebwh.com>



Byron Community College

Ready to get out of the house, explore your creativity and meet new people? Byron Community College still has great courses on offer this term!

The ever popular Sculpture Introduction course starts this weekend. Learn to work with your hands and unleash your creative skills as you experiment with wire, clay, carving, construction, found object art and other forms of sculpture.

Courses also not to be missed are Enamel Pendant Workshop, Hand Tied Posy, First Aid, and Smartphone Photography For Social Media. All classes will abide by NSW Gov restrictions. If lockdown continues, classes will be rescheduled or students will receive a full refund.

Enrol online today at www.byroncollege.org.au or call 6684 3374

Youth Care UPA

Youth Care UPA is a not-for-profit foster care agency located in Alstonville on Bundjalung country. Their mission is to provide a therapeutic out of home care program that creates opportunities for, and empowers, children and young people.

There is a great need in NSW for many different types of foster carers who can provide a safe and nurturing home for vulnerable children. Foster carers are not alone in their caring role and work in collaboration with the agency and are provided a tax-free allowance, training opportunities, 24/7 trauma-informed assistance, clinical and behavioural support and respite.

If you have ever thought about making a difference in a child's life, now is the time to contact Youth Care UPA on 6620 4400 or carerintake@youthcareupa.org



Mr Mac: Serving the Byron Shire since 2001

Dave Carnovale is 'Mr Mac': Byron Shire's go-to Mac support service.

Specialising in Apple computer related issues, Mr Mac offers upgrades, fine-tuning and system optimisation. Often the solution involves software updates, application upgrades or iCloud activation and setup.

For certain models, enhancements such as extra RAM or storage can improve your computing experience. He can also offer advice on system upgrades that best suit your needs.

Items needing physical repair or attention can be dropped off at the Mr Mac lab in Brunswick Heads for system recovery, upgrades, software installation and specific repairs. Items are thoroughly cleaned on arrival and prior to pickup.

Go to www.mrmacintosh.com.au
Fb (Mr Macintosh), Instagram (@mrmacbyronbay) or text 0418 408 869 for bookings.



Wallace and Co

Locally owned and steeped in family history, Wallace and Co is situated right in the heart of River Street Ballina.

Offering good old fashioned customer service and expert advice, they specialise in men's and ladies' clothing and footwear fit by their expert staff; with an emphasis on providing quality products and brands sought after the world over including Birkenstock, Dr Martens, Skechers, R.M Williams and Crocs.

While it is not always easy to find good

quality men's clothing, you are spoilt for choice at Wallace's. Shop the biggest range of linen and bamboo clothing from Industrie, Kingston Grange, Gazman and Blazer, as well as famous Australian brands like Akubra Hats and R.M Williams clothing and boots.

During lockdown you can shop online and they are open for click and collect only seven days a week from 9am-1pm.

109 River Street, Ballina
6686 2081 Wallaces.com.au

TIME FOR BYRON COUNCILLORS TO STAND UP TO 5G

It's now or never for Byron Shire Council to be on the right side of history. Byron Council is the only one in Australia that has called for a moratorium on a proposed 5G tower upgrade. Northern Rivers for Safe Technology (NRST) is urging Council to reignite momentum on a 5G moratorium in Byron Shire.

This comes on the back of two wins for the movement including 1) independent market research showing 48% of Shire residents agree 5G should be a last resort as there are other viable alternatives like fibre optics 2) a landmark legal win in the U.S exposing negligent mobile phone safety testing.

To get involved & take a stand email: nrforsafetech@protonmail.com



Letters

Definition

I really like *The Echo's* new word invention:

Freedumb (noun)

1. The belief that your right to personal freedom outweighs others' rights to personal safety.

Onya!

Burkhard S Waltrup
Crabbes Creek

Moving on

In my seventy-eight years I've seen many changes, not only in Mullumbimby. The thing I notice most is how we now dance to the tune of the biggest idiot.

I personally am very lucky, have had ups and downs but now I'm on the home straight. One of my four sons has bought the property that I was battling to save for their inheritance, what a blessing.

That's not my only luck lately. Early in 2020 I returned from my usual abode and family in Northern Thailand, the day before the borders were closed because of COVID.

As I intended to stay only a few weeks this would seem a disaster, but what happened next saved my life.

I complained to a doctor that I felt very strange and within weeks was on the operating table for the neurosurgeon to remove a golf ball sized tumor from my brain. Thanks to the amazing medical teams here in Mullum and up at the Gold Coast I've returned to my usual self, a hater of injustice.

As well as the injustice I see inflicted upon people in other countries, I see it here in Mullumbimby. Why can't all local kids buy a home in the area, why is not more land released for housing, why can't you live in a humpy if it's safe and clean, why can't a capable person fix a light switch without a licence... and it goes on and on.

Where has common sense and personal judgment gone? Seems like we all have to dance to the tune of the biggest idiot. Don't fix your own roof because you might be an idiot and fall off and that's why it's illegal because you might be an idiot, and so it goes on. I must say it again, I am so lucky.

Len Hend
Mullumbimby

Courage

Mask mandates are flawed orders that violate the human right to informed consent. Businesses that demand their customers wear a face mask and provide personal details do so in what I consider to be a

violation of privacy rights. I would have thought small businesses had suffered enough already owing to government's overbearing overreach.

Face masks impede the flow of air into and out of your body. They trap exhaled air and restrict the inflow of fresh air. They also trap moisture, creating ideal conditions for breeding bacteria. Within seconds of donning a face mask, carbon dioxide levels exceed OSHA safety limits and oxygen levels drop below OSHA safety limits. This is not opinion, it's empirical fact that can be readily proved and independently verified see YouTube.

I believe face masks create an unsafe atmosphere and are therefore a health hazard. According to the EPA, health effects of excessive carbon dioxide and reduced oxygen include headache, increased heart rate, shortness of breath, dizziness, sweating, rapid breathing, mental depression, shaking, and visual or hearing dysfunction. If you experience these symptoms you should remove the mask.

A lot of people seem to think democracy requires a servile citizenry that resorts to unquestioning obedience and obliging compliance in response to autocratic decrees. Oblivious to the incremental evisceration of basic human rights and equally culpable for the erosion of freedom, democracy and the rule of law, they'd like to silence all opposition to the imposition of this billionaire sponsored global faux-medical tyranny.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

On being prepared

In recent commentary on the Commonwealth's proposed quarantine facility in Brisbane, Simon Birmingham said, 'Whilst it will be used for any ongoing quarantine requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic it will also be there in the years to come to support responses to natural disasters or other crises.' Sort of begs the question doesn't it?

As Finance Minister, Senator Birmingham seems to be heading off possible criticism for the spend on the Brisbane facility given that the Qld government and the Wagner family are contemporaneously developing the Wellcamp quarantine facility.

The language is interesting... Senator Birmingham has had a sudden awakening...

he is now focussed on 'supporting responses to... [future] crises'. WTF? (What To Finance?). How long has the pandemic been going on, Senator Birmingham? The 'stuff-ups' have been monumental and the attempts at salvaging some credibility, downright embarrassing.

Frank Lynch
Wilson's Creek

Next disaster

I am impelled to bring to your attention the next environmental disaster. We've had plastic bottles, single use plastic bags, disposable nappies, balloons, and now we have disposable masks!

They are everywhere; these masks are primarily made in China from thermoplastic polymer and polypropylene. They take hundreds of years to break down and the elastic straps pose a big problem for our wildlife when they entangle their legs.

Worryingly, for those who wear them all day, breathing in the vapors from these sterilized masks may pose a long-term health issue. We need to stop wearing them. Make cotton masks – they take five minutes to make and are reusable and last for years. I have a simple pattern with instructions, you can make them with your children. I'd like to share the pattern free of charge to get the message out there. Text me your email address on 0468 771 196 and I will email it to you to share with your friends and family.

Christina Bandini
Mullumbimby

No jab, no jive?

No jab, no jive if you want to go to a festival, what the?

This is blackmail by the health department and regimes.

This country is turning into a police state. I thought I saw the last of that regime when Jo ruled Queensland.

No it's SloMos turn and isn't his regime doing a very good job of it folks?

Its bad enough having to wear a mask and being locked down, it's a human rights violation to us all – if we still have those rights folks?

Paul Brecht
Evans Head



Mezcal more than just a worm

Julz Recsei

Mezcal, commonly thought of as tequila's ugly little brother, is in actual fact culturally more significant, and has more variety and depth than common tequila.

My last trip to Mexico in 2019 was a true eye opener to this significance. Oaxaca, the home of mezcal in central Mexico, was one of my favourite booze related destinations. Mezcal has been top of my spirits list ever since a Mexican friend, Jose, introduced me to it in

2016. Mezcal has so much emotion and connection, with the terroir and with the individual distiller's personality creating key components of the finished product.

A friend in Australia, Jorge, put me in contact with Usiel, a Mexican who served as my guide, and we headed off to Santiago – about an hour's drive from Oaxaca City. After being pulled over by the police and paying the obligatory bribe, we made it to Santiago to the El Jolgorio Distillery (Palenque) on the outskirts of the town. There I was introduced to Jose number 2, a softly spoken and passionate local, aided by a regular companion street dog named Dog, who showed us around the rustic Palenque. It was here that my senses were enticed by the mezcal, which gradually revealed its story throughout the experience.

The agaves used in the making of the mezcal are grown close to the Palenque where they are harvested, then cooked/smoked using local timber in an underground oven (similar to a hangi, for our Kiwi friends) for up to 10 days. This slow cooking process releases the sugars and instills the smoky flavour that mezcal is famous for. Next the agave hearts are crushed using a giant grinding stone, then fermented in open barrels. Finally, the agave beer is run through a copper still to finish the process. Mezcal is traditionally unaged, so the rawness of flavour is prominent.

Mezcal is created using a vastly different array of local agave plants, some cultivated and some wild, whereas tequila is made with just the blue agave. Mezcal is the wine of spirits made from 30 different agaves such as espadin, tobaziche, and jabali, from different areas in Mexico, and each mezcal made exhibits its distiller's personality. Mezcal is a very sustainable industry and most Palenques plant two agaves for every one they harvest, including the wild grown agaves that grow up in the mountains. The focus is on handmade small batches and each edition has its own story and taste.

So how does the worm crawl its way into this mix? Well... the worm in the bottle was a marketing gimmick, and no mezcal worth its weight in salt would be released with an insect contaminating the product.

My favourite mezcal of those I tried – Tobaziche. The Tobaziche agave takes upwards of 12 years to grow, and the spirit is made by mezcalero Pablo Vasquez Garcia. He was not at his Palenque when we visited, however his 9-year-old daughter sold me a bottle, her ambitions of becoming part of the growing number of female mezcaleros written all over her face. Usiel and I shared the Tobaziche at a very special spot in the hills while munching on Oaxacan cheese and chili fried grasshoppers, morsels traditionally enjoyed with mezcal. I can still taste the rich smokiness today and still feel a warm connection with this magical place where the remnants of a three hundred year old Palenque are carved into the stone where we sat.

So next time you want to try some handcrafted Mexican goodness, ask for Mezcal, the gourmet Mexican spirit.



Julz Recsei 'Purveyor of good booze' tasting mezcal in Mexico



The Good Life



Classy Wategos coffee cart

S Haslam

The pandemic, and the beautiful spring weather, has made Wategos even more popular than ever, and now visitors have the chance to get some delicious, healthy, natural and local snacks (or just a danish and local coffee, for \$7!) at what must be the most exclusively-located pop-up coffee cart around at Victoria's At Wategos.

I was there this week, on a beautiful day, and one of the benefits of having the excellent coffee under their shady pandanus, apart from the sparkling waves in the distance, is the entertainment provided by the spectacle of the Wategos competitive parking event.

Victoria's Coffee and Snack Cart opened at the start of the current pandemic, a sign that pretty much everyone has had to adapt and diversify this time around. But it's got a pretty good location, nestled in the lush grounds just 50 metres from the beach under the famous Cape Byron Lighthouse, and it also has the same kind of thoughtfulness in supporting the local community, and locally-sourced healthy food choices, that you might expect. If you're after an iceblock, their Pure Pops are all natural tropical ice pops. Cofounder Georgi Larby did her hospitality internship with Victoria's and now runs this successful local business. The coffee is the only locally grown coffee around (Zentveld's), who have been supplying Victoria's since they started, almost 30 years ago with the first Victoria's at Ewingsdale.

The free-range eggs in the Bacon and Egg Rolls come straight from Victoria's own chooks, and you can get homemade treats like tahini cookies, or danish pastries baked on the premises each day.

Of course, it's never been a better time to stay the healthiest you possibly can, and as far as I could see on my recent visit, Wategos is the home to some of the healthiest-looking people on the planet. The cart stocks acai bowls and protein shakes if you are looking for something extra health-conscious. To take it up a notch even further, the cart is also an outlet for BBOSS (Byron Bay Organic Supplement Services), a new local business producing gym and lifestyle supplements – vegan and organic where possible.

And as for parking, you can drive right in for full driveway service, order online via the HEY YOU app, or phone ahead for immediate pick up. Open seven days a week from 7am until 4pm.

More info: Ph 66 855 388



Easy, if many do it

Simon Haslam

We The Many on the surface are a maker of healthy, delicious cereals, but looking further they are not only a carbon neutral business but an innovator in a business model that intends to exponentially support and increase positive climate action.

They start with the products themselves which have specific health properties – the range of breakfast cereals that they created have some unique benefits. Some specific health properties arise from: beetroot used as an energising element and antioxidant; turmeric for recovery and its anti-inflammatory effects; and prebiotic green banana starch for gut health. Founder Will Brook (of Brookfarm) reveals that, 'In the product development beetroot was the most surprising to me, there are scientific studies showing that it increases muscle endurance during exercise, it really has some unexpected benefits.' He explains, 'We are ultimately looking to sustain the planet, and the people on it in the healthiest possible way'.

We The Many integrate business and sustainability – the entire range of their products is carbon neutral. They achieve this by their choice of suppliers, buying local, having solar-powered facilities, offsetting the carbon created in the manufacturing processes and their prevailing sustainable practices.

As well as their own independent environmental operations, We The Many are investing 50 per cent of their profits into projects that also specifically work towards reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. However, instead of making one-off donations to environmental causes, they invest in carbon reduction projects with businesses that will make further profits, which can then be re-invested in similar businesses. By integrating business and sustainability together in this way, the very foundation of the enterprise creates a positive cycle that increasingly supports sustainability and the potential for positive environmental impact can keep growing.

We The Many hope that their ground-breaking model will be used as an example of what other businesses and individuals can adopt to make a very profound and effective positive change for the environment. Brook explains, 'there is nothing wrong with merely donating to carbon-reducing projects, but under our model the continued profits being increasingly invested in sustainable businesses, is designed as a self-sustaining project'. Examples of suitable profit-generating projects are carbon farming, conversion of conventional farming to regenerative farming, and new technology.

We The Many have already made their first investment of profits, which has been in green bonds, owing to the transparency of the underlying investments funded by the bonds. The parameters for their investments are quite rigorous and must include good business choices, reducing atmospheric carbon and they must be ethical.

Ultimately, for Brook it's about growing the affirmative model. 'We want people to be responsible, not to export that responsibility to government. We want people to stand up and make an impact, not just with what they buy on the supermarket shelves, but in their investments too. We'd like to pull people along with us, any business that is investing, if we pulled everyone's money together and the criteria for investment was that it must be sustainable, the impact would be incredible', he says. As well, returns from sustainable investment compare well to the tiny returns from traditional, what Brook calls 'incumbent', assets.

Even if you are not a business you can contribute to helping the planet in an easy way with the choice of breakfast cereal you make. We The Many launched only this year and their delicious products are now more available locally, including the Byron Supa IGA, and they are now offering free shipping during lockdown online. For more information contact us at wethemany.com.au.



Revival of the kitchen garden

In the midst of a second extended lockdown, one of the positives has been a huge resurgence of interest in backyard kitchen gardens.

The Northern Rivers is a dedicated community of foodies. We are lovers of quality, nutrient rich food and are rightly also concerned about where it comes from and how it is grown. With COVID lockdowns and more time on our hands, we find ourselves staying within our homes and becoming increasingly aware of food security and self-sufficiency. Looking for positive projects to keep us busy, we are seeing a new enthusiasm in establishing edible gardens.

Enter Seedlings Organic at the Mullumbimby and New Brighton Farmers Markets.

Established by Luke Sansom, Seedlings Organic have been an important part of the local food chain for over 15 years. They produce edible flowers, vegetables and herbs from their five acre nursery in Tintenbar. While Luke has moved on to focus on the wholesale side of things, son Kyan is now heading up their Market operations. Kyan has spent 15 of his 19 years in the nursery and is more than happy to pass on his knowledge to marketgoers.

'I feel really privileged to have grown up this way and to work alongside my Dad, to see the benefits of growing a product that is inspiring people's lives in so many positive ways,' says Kyan.

'I love the Markets, being involved, and the connection with the customers one-on-one. To discuss the seedlings and know that they will grow into food producing plants is great, and I love receiving feedback directly from the customers.'

The difference between purchasing locally-grown seedlings and seedlings from a commercial nursery is that Kyan's seedlings are certified organic with no petrochemical inputs, and they work with the best seed breeders to provide the optimal varieties for our region.

'We have really great partnerships and the dedication to fine-tune our process, we are intimately involved in the way our seedlings are grown and can ensure the highest quality'.

Kyan's best advice when planting his seedlings: 'stay clear of liquid fertilisers, you're much better off sowing Green Manure Crops, or using a good quality compost if you're short on space, and make sure there



Kyan had a break during the winter and is now back at the markets – luckily for us!

is plenty of air in the soil!

The current enthusiasm has been really inspiring for Kyan who is receiving huge interest in his mixed seedling trays and lately has been selling out at every market.

Kyan's next project is to launch a certified organic seed arm of the business with high quality seeds that aren't available elsewhere in Australia.

New Brighton Farmers Market is on Tuesday mornings and Mullumbimby is on Friday mornings from 7-11am.

Welcome to Mullum Indian Restaurant

MULLUM
INDIAN
RESTAURANT



Open for takeaway. **Vegan available**
Wednesday to Saturday 4-8:30pm

Mullumbimby Golf Club, 1600 Coolamon Scenic Drive
T: 02 6684 2273 (Option 3) M: 0448 300 684

Victoria's At Wategos
COFFEE & SNACK CART

OPEN 7 DAYS. 7AM – 4PM
No parking issues, driveway service, phone ahead or order online via the HEY YOU app.



1 Marine Parade,
Wategos Beach,
Byron Bay.
6685 5388



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
f 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

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.




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Eat in or take out.
Shop 12A, 3 Clifford St, Suffolk Park
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www.chupacabra.com.au
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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



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BYO
Locally owned and operated
Scan code for menu





Main Street
Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.
Menu, Phone and more details -
@mainstreet_burgerbar
18 Jonson Street
6680 8832

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu, Phone and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar

'Make a meal of it'
Add chips and a drink, just \$5



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.



Daughter in Law
22 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
@dil_byron
www.daughterinlaw.com.au
Reservations via website, and half of the restaurant is reserved for walk-in's

Not your typical Indian joint.
Jessi Singh's 'unauthentic coastal Indian' cuisine using local Northern Rivers ingredients.
Open Thursday to Saturday for takeaways only
30% off Pick up orders only
Free meal to people who are affected by current lockdown



Barrio
1 Porter St, North Byron

Take away breakfast & lunch Monday-Sunday 7am-2pm
Take away dinners Thursday-Friday pick up 5-7pm
Take away cocktail hour Thursday-Friday 4-7pm

Barrio's canteen takes its inspiration from locally sourced produce and moorish cuisine
Offering daily bakes, breakfast cakes, classic sandwiches, vibrant salads, smoked fish and wood fired meats.
Keep an eye on our socials for weekly changing dinner menus.
Pre order dinners on 0411 323 165



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


We have temporarily closed during lockdown but...
Good news - we've opened 'Little No Bones' in front of Woolies
Serving ready-made meals, sandwiches, salads, coffee, juices and smoothies.
Open 7am-6pm every day
108 Jonson Street - 0479 121 614 - @Littlenobones

BYRON BAY continued



Lord Byron Distillery
4 Banksia Drive, Byron Bay
8646 4901
www.lordbyrondistillery.com.au

Take Away Cocktails & Bottle Sales
Lockdown luxury for the home. Takeaway made easy - drive through and contactless. 10% off bottle prices and 25% off bottled cocktails including their Pina Colodas.
Naturally Better!
Free from added artificial flavours and colours.
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The Italian Byron Bay
21, 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay
Open 7 days from 5.30pm
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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.

CLOSED FOR SEPTEMBER

COORABELL



Gentlemen Noodle
Japanese pop-up Noodle Shop
Coorabell Hall
565 Coolamon Scenic Dr, Coorabell
RAMEN PRE-ORDER TAKEAWAY!
During COVID lockdown, we are open for pre-order takeaway!
Please check our new takeaway menu on Instagram.
Order now and pick-up on Thursday!

We serve a Home Pack Ramen kit to cook your own Ramen at home.
Great Fun activity!
Also we have dumplings and some rice dishes.
@GENTLEMENNOODLE
Takeaway order: text 0434 570 933

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.

Currently open for takeaway, feel free to call ahead with your order.

Open 7 days from 9am-8pm
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner




The Empire
20 Burringbar St, Mullum
6684 2306
Lockdown hours:
Tues-Sun 9am-3pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
empiremullum.com.au
Orders: mryum.com/theempire

Something for all tastes from epic burgers to vegan delights. Enjoy delectable treats and good vibes at this Mullum icon.

Order and pay online!
Scan the QR code to view menu and order online through Mr Yum.
Phone orders welcome. Takeaway is available on the whole menu.





Paséyo
Corner of Stuart and Tincogan Streets, Mullumbimby
0498 010 881
Monday-Friday 7.30am-2.30pm
CLOSED ON SATURDAY DURING LOCKDOWN

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.


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Weekends: Sat + Sun 8am until sold out
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P: 0414 895 441

MANDY NOLAN'S

SOAPBOX

THE EMPIRE
20 BURRENBAR ST
MULLUMBIMBY
TAKEAWAY PHONE ORDERS: 6684 2306
LOCKDOWN HOURS: TUES-SUN 9am-3pm
empiremullum.com.au | EmpireMullum
ORDER ONLINE: mryum.com/theempire



PUTTING SAFETY TO BED

I love my bed. Right now, during the pandemic, I love my bed more than ever. It's become what I look forward to most. Every night, it's my end destination. It's the place I know I am going. It's the warm hug that restores me. These are stressful times.

There is division. There is uncertainty. There is anger. There is grief. There is loss. There is the aching pain of missing the people you love who you cannot see. As I changed the sheets on my bed the other day I became intensely aware of the restorative power of sleep. My mental health is maintained by my bed. It's my greatest ally.

My beautiful comfortable bed is my privilege. I recognise my immense privilege. I also recognise that this safe place, this basic requirement in maintaining a robust and resilient mental health is a human right. So many people who are struggling don't have a safe place to sleep. That may be because they are living in domestic violence, are in housing stress or are homeless. Access to safe and affordable housing is one of the key issues in keeping women and children safe. Lack of housing is why many women return to violence. This week, women, policy makers, allies and interested parties gather in Canberra for the two day National Summit on Women's Safety. This comes the week after the federal government rejected 49 of the 55 recommendations by Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins in her extensive *Respect @ Work Report* (2020) proving once and for all that the Morrison government is not interested in protecting women. Having the federal government host a Safety Summit is like having a children's birthday party at a paedophile's house. It's a cynical exercise in public relations. They have not addressed the culture of rape and misogyny within their own workplace, in fact their refusal to take on the spirit of Jenkins' report, which firmly places the onus of safety on the employer, shows a deeply embedded investment in the status quo that entrenches women as victims of harassment and violence. It is not in the interests of privileged

and powerful men for women to be safe. True safety involves changing culture. It requires the dismantling of a system that enshrines the privilege of the entitled, and not the other way around. We are so used to minimising violence against women, we forget the litany of abuse. That plays well for Morrison. I mean, if the Coalition were a person, all Australian women would have to take out a restraining order. Let's reflect on what has been revealed, just this year, in Mr Morrison's workplace: the alleged rape of Brittany Higgins on the Defence Minister's couch, a Liberal staffer masturbating on an MP's desk, the historical rape of a young woman by the former Attorney General, Andrew Laming's dodgy photo of a woman stacking a drinks fridge, Nationals MP Michael Johnsen accused of raping a sex worker in the Blue Mountains... And they are hosting a Women's Safety summit? With Scotty giving the keynote? Need I say more? Domestic and family violence cases have increased during covid lockdowns. Twenty-nine Australian women have been murdered so far this year, on top of 56 last year. To keep women and children safe we need a change of culture. We need safe workplaces. We need access to safe homes. To a safe place to sleep. In the meantime we need fully funded refuges. The most dangerous time for women at risk is when they leave an abusive situation. If they are going to be murdered, this is the highest risk time. Refuges are key to keeping these women safe. I'm the Ambassador for the Ballina Women and Children's Refuge. The same government hosting a Women's Safety Summit defunded the Ballina Refuge as of 1 July this year. That's how much they care about women's safety. It's up to us to create change. You can be an ongoing donor, or, if you can, donate through attending the comedy event I am hosting online with super stars Steph Tisdell, Ellen Briggs, Katrina Davidson, Jenny Wynter, Ting Lim, Vanessa Mitchell and Alex Hudson: on Thursday 16 September at 8pm. Please buy a ticket on ballinarsl.com.au. All the proceeds go to the Refuge. Because some of us just don't pay lip service to women's safety. We do something.

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STARS BY LILITH

Under this weekend's Scorpion moonlight, Venus moves into Scorpio. Watch out for that sting in her tail...



VIRGO
THE
VIRGIN

♈ **ARIES:** Difficult as it might seem to stop your brain obsessing over a specific outcome or fixating on doing things a certain way, tunnel vision won't take you where you need to go this week. Nor will insisting on full frontal confrontations, so consider alternative entry points and more strategic approaches.

♉ **TAURUS:** This week asks if, after you take care of your own body, mind and spirit, can you bring love into politics, nature consciousness into commerce, and make plant-based recipes palatable? And as Venus veers a tricky course between less-is-more and too-much-is-just-enough, can you enjoy the ride?

♊ **GEMINI:** This meticulous week doesn't favour shortcuts or cutting corners, but it can be powerfully productive. That adminstrivia you never get around to could suddenly be more easily done than procrastinated about. It's not all hard slog either, as vixen Venus shifting from fizzy to sizzling favours getting up close and personal.

♋ **CANCER:** Cancerians are resistant to getting rid of things, but consider the modern phenomenon of stuffcating: the material equivalent of obesity, where people hire sheds to store their excess. If that doesn't get you clutter-busting, then think of downsizing as clearing an inviting space for spring to do its thing.

♌ **LEO:** No question September's instant experts will be harping on the room for improvement - don't they know Leos aren't interested in self-diminishing narratives? Turn this week's Mercurian critiques into a personal learning curve by locating the positive potential, however it's offered. Because if anyone can find a silver lining, it's you, your majesties.

♍ **VIRGO:** With less disposable income circulating, your down-to-earth, sensible expertise is valued, appreciated and very much in demand. Just go easy on the rest of us, please, as this week celebrates the birthday of Virgo poet Mary Oliver, who wrote: *May I never not be frisky / May I never not be risqué...*

♎ **LIBRA:** Before the current logjam of indecision can burst free, it will first tighten and build up pressure, so think of this as a week of creative contraction, to be followed by a breakthrough. And the other good news? Weekend Venus vamping into the dramatic sign of fetish and fantasy - *vavavoom!*

♏ **SCORPIO:** With weekend moon and Venus teaming up in Scorpio, use your superpowers responsibly, as in, try not to leave scorch marks. As this week's astral alliance hones your time-management skills, your presentation's impressive and your organisation is awesome. What designer triumph can you plate up from these ingredients?

♐ **SAGITTARIUS:** As expressive Mercury begins an extended trip speaking up for what's right, aim for mutual benefits and balanced solutions that take all parties' needs into consideration. Even if it takes longer to find resolution, the long-term payoff will be worth it. Finalise legalities and official business if possible before Mercury goes rogue on 27 September.

♑ **CAPRICORN:** Getting lectured on ethics, health, community responsibility and commitment as this month wholeheartedly embraces its inner critic? Aren't we all... But don't give in to this week's overpoweringly divisive dynamic; raise the vibe and let Mercury's extended tenure in diplomatic Libra power-search the perfect response.

♒ **AQUARIUS:** This week rewards simplicity, structure, persistence, patience and efficiency, as well as supporting difficult decision-making. If that's all sounding like the no-fun zone, does it help to know this month Venus shape-shifts from scintillating and seductive to slinky and steamy, so you can either take your pick or vive la difference.

♓ **PISCES:** Disciplined, down-to-earth Virgo vibes are the perfect counterbalance to your boundless Piscean imagination. As industrious Mars gets busy in your partnership zone and Venus moves into your house of teamwork, it's best to ditch multitasking this week and devote yourself to doing one thing at a time, and doing it well.

seven ENTERTAINMENT



FLOW MUSIC CELEBRATES 100 MIXES WITH 333 SESSIONS

Flow Music and their Australian-focused subsidiary, 333 Sessions, has risen out of the disruption of the pandemic to become a mainstay and vital supporter of the Australian electronic music scene.

Corr Piccone runs Flow Music, a media company and record label based in Byron Bay, with his two sons Chay and Jai Piccone (Tora). They've brought the very best extended electronic mixes from Australian and international producers to grateful ears worldwide.

Flow Music is now celebrating 100 mixes and more than 2,220,000 streams since their formation 18 months ago, not only providing an important promotional boost to the struggling industry, but a booming platform to spotlight established and up-and-coming DJs and producers.

Piccone says, when the festivals stopped happening, he realised that the artists were going to be severely affected. 'We started Flow Sessions to create a new outlet for creativity during the worldwide lockdowns.'

Piccone says the concept was to host mixes running for three hours and thirty three minutes, inspired by iconic festival sets. 'Why 3:33? I have always been obsessed with the number 333. When I see this number, I instantly feel that I am on the right path at the right time. To me 333 represents the universe sending you positive energies, so embrace them! We're the only long-format mix series in the world and 3:33 seemed the perfect length to give artists the opportunity to express themselves and use the time during lockdown to keep their creativity flowing!'

Corr says they decided they wanted to do something specifically for Australian and Melbourne artists in particular after that second lockdown hit, so they started the 333 Sessions. 'We are coming up to 100 mixes, which is 35, 333 Sessions, and 65 Flow Sessions. The Flow Sessions series is a mix of Australian and international artists, while the 333 Sessions mixes are all Australian. 'We wanted to be able to feature more Australians, as for many of them, having their own mix series as a creative outlet has been a god-send,' said Corr.

333 Sessions has proven a runaway success, equalling the popularity of Flow's international mixes.

Through Flow Music's combination of a record label and flourishing music media publication, Flowmusic.one, Piccone wants to be able to forge a flourishing electronic community, using the blog as a promotional tool for artists involved with the label and mix series.

Flow Music wishes to invite music producers to send in demos and bios for review to: corr@flowmusic.one. For more information visit: flowmusic.one.



COVID put the world on hold, but it ain't stopping BayFM

17 new shows since the pandemic kicked off
We're keeping things fresh at BayFM. Over a quarter of all our programs didn't exist before 2020.

New music, more genres, more choice
From garage to jazz, medieval to metal - plus heaps of new music from our local talent.

Challenging chat that gets inside local issues
Provocative interviews that draw from every corner of the crazy patchwork of Byron Shire life.

Not listened for a while? Surprise yourself and check back in to Byron Shire's 100% independent, volunteer-run, not-for-profit community radio station. Online at bayfm.org and on air at 99.9FM.



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Listen like a local.

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COMING UP

SYDNEY COMEDY FESTIVAL SHOWCASE
The Festival's funniest in one hilarious night!
Friday 12 November, 6pm & 8.30pm



AKMAL LIVE
Come and witness one of Australia's best comedians in full flight!
Saturday 27 November, 8pm



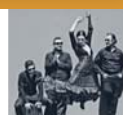
THE WAR ON 2021
From The Chaser & The Shovel comes a show that will make you laugh and cry!
Monday 29 November, 6.30pm



JOHN WATERS THE JOHN LENNON SONGBOOK
With Stewart D'Arrietta & the Liverpool Band celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Imagine
Thursday 2 & Friday 3 December, 8pm



BANDALUZIA FLAMENCO
A virtuoso showcase of contemporary flamenco dance and music
Friday 17 December, 7.30pm



Arrive early and enjoy a drink at the Theatre Bar

Byron Theatre & Community Centre
69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
byrontheatre.com

THEATRE NOV / DEC



THE Arts

COVID WILL NOT STOP ART

The Brunswick Nature Sculpture Walk (BNSW) is a not for profit arts collective that connects professional artists and the local community through sculptural installations, multi-media artforms, nature walks and workshops along the foreshore of Brunswick Heads...

This year, sadly, our onsite event will be postponed.

We believe art and nature are what humanity really needs right now. We value everything art brings by raising awareness of environmental, cultural and global themes.

So from the 20–30 September, we bring you the wonderful work by 50 nationally recognised artists online and onair at BayFM.

View their sculptures, installations, and performances. Learn about some of the artists' practices, the concepts behind their work and why they are so passionate about the environment and what they do.

www.brunswicknaturesculpturewalk.com

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Available at HAMMER & HAND
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WE ARE NOT SURE IF
LOCKDOWN WILL BE
LIFTED AT THIS STAGE
SO PLEASE CHECK
WITH THE GALLERIES
BEFORE YOU VISIT.

ART GALLERIES

ARTIST'S HOME GALLERY BYRON BAY

Landscape inspired works
imparting a 'spirit of place'.
Open by appointment
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jaypearse.com

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

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0409 604 405
janrae.com.au

ART & BAO GALLERY

Foxy Luu's Cafe art corner
Art Exhibition all of September '21
ART & BAO
feat. Ece Altunc at Bozukluk Art
Mon–Sun: 11.30am–8.30pm
90–96 Jonson St,
Byron Bay NSW 2481

BILLINUDGEL PICTURE FRAMING & PICCOLO ART GALLERY

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billinudgelpictureframing.com.au

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byronschoolofart.com/exhibitions

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www.karenawynn-moylanart.com

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

Wed–Sun: 10am–4pm
Thurs: 10am–6pm
Mon & Tues: Closed
11 Rural St, Lismore
6627 4600
lismoregallery.org

LONE GOAT GALLERY

28 Lawson Street, Byron Bay
Thurs, Fri: 10am–4pm /
Sat: 10am–12pm
Charmaine Davis exhibition
9 July–21 August
Closed during exhibition changeover
lonegoatgallery.com

MACKAY HARRISON GALLERIES

79 Bayview Drive, East Ballina
Open Wednesday – Saturday: 11am–5pm
Artist / Sculptor
David Harrison
0412 664 284

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Cabarita Beach, NSW
Thursday to Monday: 9am–2pm
(or by appointment)
0419 870 305
www.mist-gallery.com.au

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

Drill Hall Complex
2 Jubilee Ave, Mullumbimby
Open Thursday–Saturday: 10am–2pm
www.mullumclayworkers.com

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

Cnr Cherry & Crane Sts, Ballina
Open Wed–Fri: 10am–4pm
Sat/Sun: 9.30am–1pm
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nrcgballina.com.au

PEEK GALLERY

Open Tuesday–Sunday
7/8 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
0488 646 464
hello@peekgallery.com
www.peekgallery.com
[@peekgallery](#)

STOKERS SIDING ART GALLERY

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0407 417 169

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0402 125 922 (call/sms first)
suviramcdonald.com

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Gallery hours: 10am–5pm
Cafe open: 9.30am–4.00pm
2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah
6670 2790
artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

BRUNSWICK NATURE SCULPTURE WALK

COVID WILL NOT STOP ART.
Brunswick Nature Sculpture Walk 2021
will be online, on air and ongoing.

ONLINE From 20th to 30th of September, online catalogue showcasing 50 artists and their work. Be involved – Purchase or commission an artwork; help judge the People's Choice Award – voting online, kindly sponsored by our local sculptor Christina Khumari.

ON AIR Artists interviews on BayFM through September.

ONGOING

- **INSTALLATION OF ACQUISITIONAL SCULPTURE**
- **CULTURAL WALK**
Establishing a Walk in Brunswick Heads
- **COMMUNITY TILE MAKING WORKSHOPS**
into 2022
- **NATIVE PLANTINGS – BVLC, BSC, BNSW, BHPA.**
- **ONSITE EVENT 2022**



Thanks to our generous sponsors and volunteers for helping us to make this happen.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and head to the
brunswicknaturesculpture.com.
Support ART NATURE COMMUNITY.

TIM MILLER
REAL ESTATE

0411 757 425
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millerrealestate.com.au

28 RUSKIN STREET, BYRON BAY

A beautiful original character home in Byron Bay's Golden Grid



3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 1 car 505m²

PRIVATE INSPECTIONS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT
PRICE GUIDE \$3,500,000 - \$3,850,000
AUCTION SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 10.15AM ON-SITE

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0411 757 425
tim@millerrealestate.com.au
millerrealestate.com.au

22 COLIN STREET, BANGALOW

A lovely outlook in a central location



4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2 cars 965m²

PRIVATE INSPECTIONS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT
PRICE GUIDE \$1,250,000 - \$1,350,000
AUCTION SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 11.15AM ON-SITE

TIM MILLER
REAL ESTATE

0411 757 425
tim@millerrealestate.com.au
millerrealestate.com.au

17 PALM-LILY CRESCENT, BANGALOW

Contemporary charm and character in a peaceful part of Bangalow



3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2 cars 653m²

PRIVATE INSPECTIONS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT
PRICE GUIDE \$1,450,000 - \$1,550,000
AUCTION SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 12.15PM ON-SITE

TIM MILLER
REAL ESTATE

0411 757 425
tim@millerrealestate.com.au
millerrealestate.com.au

1 PALM TREE CRESCENT, BANGALOW

A fantastic Bangalow home on a large corner block



3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2 cars 1169m²

PRIVATE INSPECTIONS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT
PRICE GUIDE \$1,250,000 - \$1,350,000
AUCTION SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER, 10.15AM ON-SITE



RayWhite

11/24-26 Bay Street, Byron Bay

2 2 1

Ocean Views - Front row on Main Beach, Byron Bay

• Enjoy incredible ocean views from your lounge room, this luxury, self-contained, first-floor apartment has everything at its fingertips - ideally located within the tightly held Bay Royal Apartments, directly across from beautiful Main Beach and only a short stroll into the bustling heart of Byron Bay.

Land: 124m²
Price: Contact Agent
Open: By Appointment



Damien Smith
0418 123 393



April Nicolson
0457 451 094

rwbyronbay.com



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Your property deserves elite service



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5 3 2

Give yourself the lifestyle you deserve

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- Generous, sun drenched, covered outdoor entertaining area taking in the beauty of the surrounding bushland
- Within a setting oozing of relaxed sophistication, the property is a contemporary example of classic Australian design principles matched with understated convenience and comfort.

Land: 5.7 acres
Price: Contact Agent
Open: By Appointment



Damien Smith
0418 123 393



April Nicolson
0457 451 094

rwbyronbay.com



RayWhite

59B Kingsvale Road, Myocum

4 2 4

Private acreage with beautiful views

- North facing 5.7 acres with beautiful views
- The home enjoys a wide covered deck with spectacular mountain views
- Open plan living space connects to the alfresco entertaining area
- Shaker style kitchen with exquisite marble benchtops & chef style gas stove.
- Architecturally designed barn, resort-style pool, open paddock & rain forest

Land: 5.7 acres
Price: Contact Agent
Open: By Appointment



Brett Connable
0408 155 931



Nick Russo
0405 977 049

rwbyronbay.com



RayWhite

7 Myocum, Downs Drive, Myocum

4 2 2

Quintessential Small Scale Hobby Farm

- Beautifully presented architecturally designed home
- Timber floors, high ceilings, and plenty of natural light
- Open plan kitchen, dining, and lounge with A/C and wood fire adjoining front & rear covered decks
- Open paddocks with cattle-yard, spring-fed dam, small creek & extensive organic vegetable gardens
- Ample room to extend the home or build a secondary dwelling (STCA)

Land: 2.33 Hectares
Price: \$2,795,000
Open: By Appointment



Nick Russo
0405 977 049



Brett Connable
0408 155 931

rwbyronbay.com



RayWhite

Sold

5 Cypress Court, Byron Bay

4 2

Sold Sunrise Home

- Low maintenance brick and tile home
- Private backyard with a lush outlook
- Backing to SAE bushland
- Sealed bike track to the centre of Byron Bay
- Flat walk or cycle to the beach, Tavern and shopping centre

Area: 430M2 Block
Price: Contact Agent



Michael Gudgeon
0419 495 494



Matthew McCormack
0400 468 587

rwbyronbay.com



RayWhite

139 McAuleys Lane, Myocum

4 3 4

Amazing Views, Amazing Lifestyle

- Ocean, Lighthouse and Julian Rocks views throughout the home
- Solid Anstey home w/ vast high ceilings and natural light
- Neat 2 acre parcel w/ manicured gardens & veggie gardens
- Large lagoon pool, covered inset spa
- Outdoor entertaining over multiple decks, gardens and pizza oven

Area: 8,896m²
Price: Contact Agent
Open: By Appointment



Nick Russo
0405 977 049



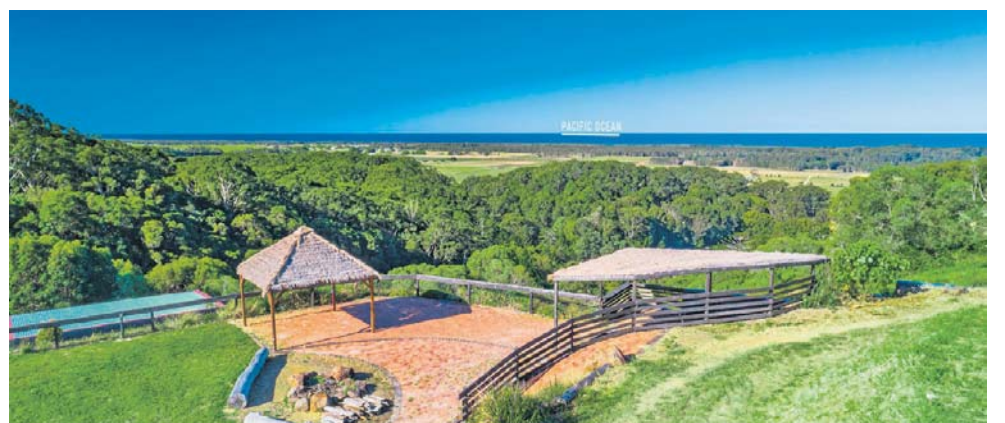
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"Treetops", at North Byron

5  4  8 

D.A. Approved Rural Subdivision

- Over 100 acres of scenic splendour... from blue Pacific vistas to the magical mountains
 - Council approved 9 coastal lifestyle acreage lots amidst a natural wonderland
 - Several existing dwellings with underground power connected a bonus
 - Huge central wildlife dam surrounded by acres of lush bushland
 - Sooo close to miles of unspoilt beaches, thriving villages and regional airports
- Investors and like minded community groups should take note of this very rare offering.

Auction

Sat 2 Oct 1pm

View

By Appointment

Greg Price

0412 871 500

raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au



185 Goremans Road, **Eureka**

3 1 6

Quintessential Byron Hinterland Farmlet

- 25 acres perched on the edge of prime Eureka Plateau country
- Panoramic Stony Creek valley outlook running down to postcard pretty swimming holes
- Huge home paddock of rich, level red soil ready to establish your self sufficiency ambitions
- Rustic timber cottage and serviced studio offer accommodation while building your dream homestead
- Established productive orchard, irrigation license, machine shed are a bonus for this amazing property

Auction

Sat 2 Oct 11:30am

View

By Appointment

Greg Price

0412 871 500

raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au



"The Grove", **Fernleigh**

4 2 5

Hinterland Lifestyle plus Income

- 22 acres of lush, fertile land boasting easterly views across rolling hinterland landscapes
- Large craftsman built home with in-ground swimming pool, machinery sheds and double garage with loft
- 1800 macadamia trees - a mixture of varieties and ages producing high quality yields and income
- Peaceful country living with easy access to boutique villages, surf beaches and airports

Auction

Sat 2 Oct 11am

View

By Appointment

Trent Stana

0447 301 660

raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au



Ocean Shores 17 Benjamins Lane

0.71Ha

Coastal & Private Acreage Lifestyle in Ocean Shores

Highly sought but rarely found setting on a quiet cul-de-sac & arguably on one of the best coastal acreage streets of Ocean Shores is this beautiful 7074sqm block of land.

Offering the greatest of both worlds, the block is set amongst a wonderful rural community just off the picturesque Coolamon Scenic Drive. Enjoy all the benefits of idyllic rural living while you're only minutes' drive or a short bike ride to beautiful Beaches with easy access to the M1 and all the amenities in Ocean Shores. The land overlooks the crystal clear creek and backs onto the stunning rainforest. There are many established fruit trees, birds & wildlife plus natural freshwater spring. This is perfect for anyone looking to build their dream coastal acreage property.

View: By Appointment 7 Days

Price: Contact Agent

Steven

Call Steven Liu M 0423 115 778

E steven.liu@harcourts.com.au



Goonengerry 385 Repentance Creek Rd

13.35Ha  3  2  2 

33 Acres of Hidden Hinterland Dream, Bordering Federal

Once-in a lifetime opportunity is this rural oasis offering a perfect lifestyle for those wanting peaceful and relaxed living on 33 acres in our beautiful Byron hinterland. Situated on the sought-after Goonengerry Ridge between Byron Bay and Mullumbimby, bordering Federal. This architecturally designed 3-bedroom house has a grand central lounge with pagoda style vaulted ceiling and hardwood polished floors that spill out onto the entertaining area that wraps around the in-ground pool with Asian inspired class throughout.

Features:

- Large open & forested creek areas throughout the acreage bring balance & harmony.
- Elevated up the hill is a level of parcel of land approximately 10 acres with privacy and

magnificent views block ready to build your dream house (STCA)

- 2 Yoga Studios
- 1 Arthouse
- The property is highly energy efficient with off the grid stand alone power.
- Large water tanks and composting toilets.
- Roads have been cut in throughout the property.

View: By Appointment 7 Days

Price: Contact Agent

Steven

Call Steven Liu M 0423 115 778

E steven.liu@harcourts.com.au





Private Resort-Style Oasis in Tightly Held Ewingsdale

- This stunning home is set within a private oasis in the tightly held enclave of Ewingsdale
- Fabulous covered outdoor dining space, perfect for entertainers and families to relax
- Enjoy the lagoon-style in-ground pool, level open lawns and lush tropical gardens
- Multiple indoor and outdoor living areas make entertaining easy anytime of the year
- The eastern wing was specifically built as a parents retreat or guest wing with a main bedroom, bathroom, study, third living room and kitchenette

 6  4  3  4041M²

5 Tasha Close, Ewingsdale

Price: Contact Agent

Inspection by private appointment only



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Luke Elwin
0421 375 635

 Chris Hanley OAM PRINCIPAL/LICENSEE 0419 662 338	 Su Reynolds DIRECTOR / SALES / CHIEF CULTURAL OFFICER 0428 888 660	 Helen Huntly-Barratt DIRECTOR / SALES 0412 332 232	 Tara Torkkola SALES MANAGER / SALES 0423 519 698	 Paul Banister SALES 0438 856 552	 Luke Elwin SALES TEAM SU 0421 375 635	 Paul Prior SALES 0418 324 297
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 Charlie Moorhouse CLIENT CARE MANAGER TEAM HELEN 0407 695 921	 Jasmin McClymont SALES ASSOCIATE TEAM TARA 0434 029 668	 Sally Green SALES ASSOCIATE TEAM TARA 0488 030 116	 Samantha Denyer CLIENT CARE MANAGER TEAM TARA 0488 699 933	 Jane Johnston SALES ASSOCIATE TEAM DENZIL 0466 327 375	 With a wealth of experience, our dedicated sales team are here to advise you on anything real estate related. Please get in touch if you need anything. We are here to help.	



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PROPERTY



coastal & hinterland sales

Katrina Beohm

real estate



MULLUMBIMBY

1 Nightcap Court

Price: \$1.85 million

Inspect: By Appointment

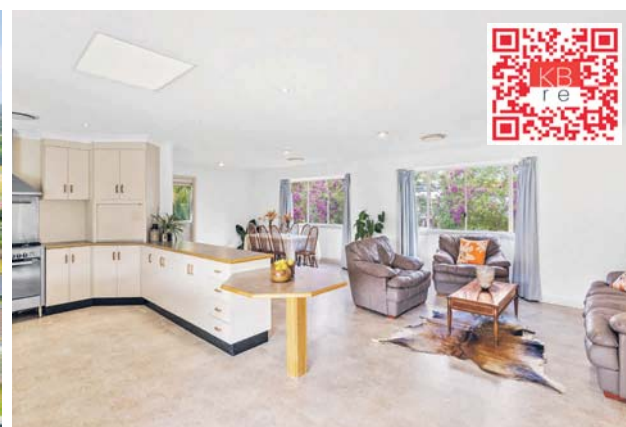
7 3.5 3 1265.7m²



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Christopher Plim 0467 000 222



Katrina Beohm
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James, vendor

0459 066 087

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AGENTS *continued*



Vanessa Coles
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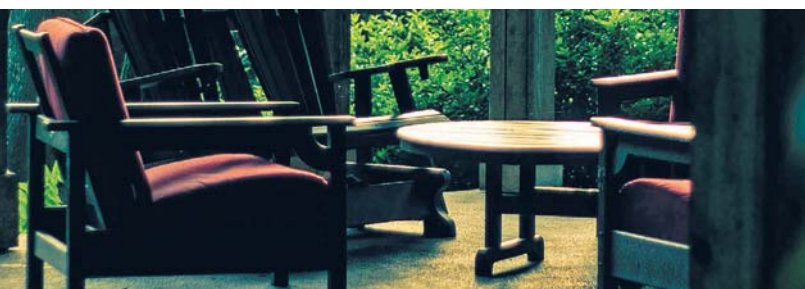
Open homes are banned during the lockdown period.

Private inspections are still allowed by appointment but are limited to one real estate agent and one buyer at a time. Face masks must also be worn.

There is also a ban on in person auctions.

Contact the listing agent to discuss organising an inspection.

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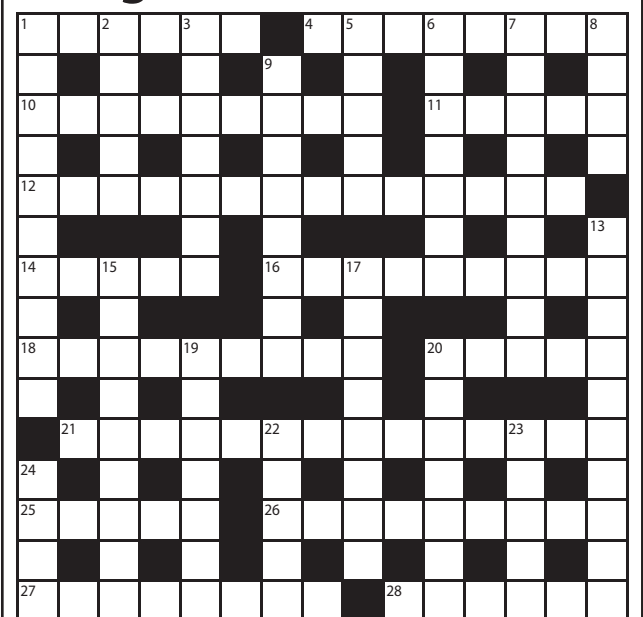
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Mungo's Crossword

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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- American author a jerk - but lyrical! (6)
- Mummy and dead bodies - it's the dogs! (8)
- Pasta devoured past eight (9)
- Scent goes to my capital, says the man from Verona (5)
- Retailers and us combine to produce a classic adventure featuring 21 (8,6)
- English bound to escape (5)
- Treat dole with contempt - or put up with it (9)
- Publicity attired and stated (9)
- Raid where the actors are (5)
- Winter underwear for liver complaint for one-legged pirate (4,4,6)
- Directions, mate - reverse error! (5)
- Took ship - but a note goes awry (4,2,3)
- Balls finished? Excessive! (8)
- Trade in islands a standard of excellence (6)

DOWN

- Dip around for Col the bowler (4,3,3)
- Wipe out time over south east (5)
- Popular heats abandoned quickly (2,5)
- A conservative politician - I claim to be somewhere else (5)
- Short promotion for a caravan, perhaps (7)
- Legend observes annotations (9)
- Take a guess at small bill (4)
- Repeats flawed treaties (8)
- Ladies riot shamelessly over leaders (11)
- CUL - an unlikely pairing (3,6)
- English in forced landing while taking on loads (8)
- Intellectual E (7)
- Left out order one time with Hughes (7)
- Instrument from the heart (5)
- View permission to travel around territory (5)
- Singer with a big time band (4)

Quick Clues

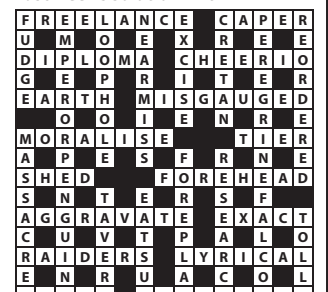
ACROSS

- In verse (6)
- Very large English dogs (8)
- Italian staple (9)
- Fragrance (5)
- Pirate's traditional bolthole! (8,6)
- Abscond (5)
- Endured (9)
- Spoken to (9)
- Beginning (5)
- Fictional character occupying 12 across (4,4,6)
- Failing (5)
- Became a sailor (4,2,3)
- Exaggerated (8)
- Principles (6)

DOWN

- Solicit donations (4,3,3)
- Delete (5)
- Hurriedly (2,5)
- Proof of absence (5)
- Film preview (7)
- Postscripts (9)
- Skewer (4)
- Says again (8)
- Newspaper columns (11)
- Unlikely match (3,6)
- Place a burden on (8)
- Thinker (7)
- Excluded (7)
- Body part (5)
- Panorama (5)
- Lowest female voice (4)

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APPLE IPAD MINI 4 128GB, WiFi Plus, IDB-691089, 6 months unused, \$500. Brunswick Heads. 0415499690.

MIELE WASHERS

Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS

Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES. Phone 66845517, 0418481617

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

HAMBLY'S FIREWOOD

Delivery available
Mark 0427 490 038

ITEMS UNDER \$100

FREE: FIBREGLASS POOL 9x4m. Must fully remove. Ballina. 0412448334

GARAGE SALES

MULLUM 42 Morrison Ave, Sat 8am. Washing mach, fridge, dining table chairs, bedroom suites, kitchenware, tools, plants.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

MOTOR VEHICLES

SUBARU FORESTER 2002 6mths rego, VGC, serviced / garaged, mech. sound, no rust 267,000kms \$5800ono 66875727

MOTOR BIKES

VESPA 125 4 months old, 650km. Has extras. Cost \$7800, sell for \$6200 ono. As new, not a scratch on it. 0431683374

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We buy, sell & consign.
All makes & models.
0408 758 688

BUSINESS FOR SALE

NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS successful business (Ayurveda). Established 30 years, complete or partial sale. Call 66847630.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

FIRST TIME ON MARKET IN OVER 20 YEARS
C1950's character house on 9 acres with Wilson's Creek frontage. Established gardens & gravity fed spring water.
Close to town, school and Liliun Cafe. Bus at front door. Excellent potential to generate substantial income. \$2.5m negotiable. Owner is motivated to sell. For further details pls call 66840170.

TO LET

Summerland Storage Bangalow
From \$105 to \$290 per month
Call GNF Bangalow 66872833

HOUSE TO RENT, suitable for 1 person, furnished. 1 outgoing: power. New house. \$570pw. Ph 0402061110

LOCAL REMOVAL

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

WANTED TO LEASE

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

POSITIONS VACANT

SWIM TEACHER Qualified or training provided. Regular, ongoing, commencing Term Four. Established business in Ocean Shores. Ph 0448649150.

GARDENER Bangalow area. All outdoor work. Ph 0402061110

EROTIC MASSAGE STAFF reliable and friendly for Gentlemen's Relaxation Centre 18+. Tweed. Grace 0418185791

LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+ Casual or permanent work available in busy adult parlour. 66816038 for details.

CARER Reliable, strong, caring, female, 20-40 years old to assist quadriplegic man with personal care and household duties. No experience necessary. Mornings 8am-12pm &/or evenings 4.30-7.30pm. \$34p/h, \$44p/h Sat, \$54p/h Sun. Must have Tax File no. Ocean Shores. Please email your detailed application to wheelgoodservice@hotmail.com

Cape Byron Steiner School

Full Time Primary School Teacher
See ad on page 3.
capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

WORK WANTED

CLEANER AVAILABLE Bruns, Mullum, Byron, O/S. Reliable. \$20ph. 0415499690

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DEATH NOTICES



MARK 'TUBBY' TAYLOR
24/08/1955-02/09/2021
Brother Mark, may you surf your way to Heaven. From brother John, and Glenn and family.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CALL OUT ART INSTALLATION



To anyone who wants to help create a COVID inspired art installation for my BSA grad show at the end of Nov. Ideally I'd like to have 200 toilet roll sculptures by end of Sept for our catalogue pictures, otherwise by end of Nov. I would send you a video with instructions and pay you in drawings you can see on Instagram: @priaclinkbyronbay
Contact me if you're interested: priaclink04@gmail.com
It's a very calming, meditative process which you might enjoy at this time. I thank you in advance! Priya.

Byron Community Centre Free counselling for Byron Shire residents

Offering solution-focused brief therapy, crisis support, and problem management and opportunity development. Sessions can be conducted face to face, by phone, or via Zoom.

For appointments please contact Stephen Howard.

Phone 0456 686 027 or email counselling@byroncentre.com.au

PROF. SERVICES

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LOOK GOOD
FEEL GOOD

Free consultation. SANDRO 66805002

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KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. Ph 0403125506
SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

COMMUNICATION FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS
Be heard. Be understood. Be valued. Couples and individuals. Ph 66847262

WaterNSW Bangalow Area Water Source

WaterNSW has received an application from **Serenitas Communities Pty Ltd** for an approval for a **Water Supply Work**, for an excavation and 80 mm pump with a capacity of 4.5 ML/year at Lots 1, 2 and 3 DP1238103, Parish Riley, County Richmond. The application relates to Richmond Coastal Sands Groundwater Source, subject to The North Coast Coastal Sands Groundwater Sources 2016.

Objections must be submitted in writing to **WaterNSW, PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124** or customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au Objections must specify the grounds of the Objection and contain the name, address and signature (or authentication) of the Objector. You may use the Objection form waterNSW.com.au/advertising-and-objections. All Objections should reference Application Number **A27350**. Objections must be lodged with WaterNSW within 28 days of this Notice, please refer to the NSW Water Register ("closing date" column) for the final date to lodge an Objection. For enquiries contact **Louise Cady, Water Regulation Officer**, on 1300 662 077 or by email customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au.

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- 6687 2880**

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SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas
6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

EDWARD 'TED' RICHES
10/04/1933-03/09/2021
Aged 88 years. Passed away peacefully after a short illness. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. A private service was held as per his wishes. Memorial when permitted.

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGIA MADELEINE ENTER



22/06/1994-13/09/2013

My Darling Georgia,
My love for you is limitless - it reaches across the universe, through the night sky and wraps itself around you. Wherever you are, my love morphs around you. I know you are in all the consciousness of the #MeToo campaign, in all our awareness of power and inequality. You are there in the challenging of the erosion of human rights and in freedom of thought and ideas. You are always there. I delight in the fierceness of who you are. Eight long years have passed and I am eight years closer to finding you and never again being apart. I love you my Darling with all my full and fractured heart.
Love Always, Mum

MUSICAL NOTES

GUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI
WE BUY AND SELL 66851005

PETS



WHISKEY

Can you help to mend a broken heart? **Whiskey's** owner sadly passed away leaving him sad and confused. When he arrived his fur was a bit of a mess and he had to be given a shave, therefore he's not looking his usual handsome self. Whiskey really misses his human and he'd love nothing more than to be settled in a new home where he can be cherished once more. Can you open your heart to Whiskey? **Please call AWL on 0436 845 542**

Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R25100222



HARLEY

Harley is a 21 month old desexed male Kelpie x mastiff. He is an active, good natured boy, fine with other dogs, and needs a peaceful spot to call home and suitable exercise for his breed and age. If you can give Harley a loving home please contact Pam on 0421 017 461. Microchip No 953910003738654.

Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

9-year-old desexed male German Shepherd X Kelpie 'Esha' is looking for a kind caring forever home.



ESHA

After losing his fleas, mites, ear infections, being bathed regularly for chronic dry skin, and responding well to some pain relief and supplements for his achy hips and hind legs, sweet Esha is looking fabulous and is enjoying a new zest for life.

Please contact
Shell on **0458 461 935**.
MC: 900032000348831



KITTENS

Yes! It's that time of year again, so if you are interested in adopting your future furry companions, then please give us a call. We are starting to receive regular deliveries!

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.



Please make an appointment
0403 533 589 - Billinudgel
petsforlifeshelter.net

ONLY ADULTS

EXQUISITE

Be impressed with my hot body and warm hands. Tweed area. 0438573677

BALLINA EXCLUSIVE

34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late. In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted
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COVID SAFE

SOCIAL ESCORTS

LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In & out. 7 days. Ladies always wanted. 0266816038. COVID SAFE

SUN, MOON & TIDES

TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Sept)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
8	W	5:52 / 17:35	6:44 / 18:47	09:07 1.41 21:26 1.74	03:01 0.17 14:50 0.15
9	TH	5:51 / 17:35	7:18 / 19:50	09:49 1.47 22:03 1.66	03:36 0.15 15:35 0.19
10	F	5:50 / 17:36	7:53 / 20:54	10:33 1.51 22:43 1.53	04:12 0.16 16:25 0.26
11	SA	5:48 / 17:36	8:29 / 22:00	11:21 1.52 23:26 1.37	04:49 0.20 17:19 0.36
12	SU	5:47 / 17:37	9:10 / 23:08	12:15 1.52	05:30 0.26 18:27 0.47
13	M	5:46 / 17:37	9:55 / 23:18	00:15 1.21 13:18 1.50	06:16 0.33 19:52 0.53
14	TU	5:45 / 17:38	10:47 / 0:15	01:21 1.07 14:36 1.50	07:16 0.40 21:27 0.53
15	W	5:44 / 17:38	11:44 / 1:20	02:50 0.99 15:57 1.53	08:33 0.44 22:50 0.46
16	TH	5:42 / 17:39	12:46 / 2:21	04:21 1.01 17:06 1.60	09:54 0.42 23:50 0.37
17	F	5:41 / 17:39	13:51 / 3:15	05:30 1.09 18:03 1.66	11:05 0.36
18	SA	5:40 / 17:40	14:55 / 4:02	06:23 1.19 18:51 1.70	00:37 0.29 12:02 0.29
19	SU	5:39 / 17:40	15:57 / 4:42	07:08 1.27 19:33 1.71	01:15 0.23 12:51 0.24
20	M	5:38 / 17:41	16:57 / 5:19	07:49 1.35 20:11 1.68	01:50 0.20 13:34 0.21
21	TU	5:36 / 17:41	17:54 / 5:51	08:28 1.40 20:45 1.62	02:22 0.19 14:14 0.22
22	W	5:35 / 17:42	18:50 / 6:22	09:03 1.43 21:15 1.54	02:51 0.19 14:53 0.26

Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0410 785 554	4th SUN Bangalow	6687 1911
1st SAT Alstonville	0429 019 407	4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764
1st SUN Byron Bay	6685 6807	4th SUN Murwillumbah	0422 565 168
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333	4th SUN (in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta	
2nd SAT Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498	5th SUN Nimbin	0458 506 000
2nd SAT Woodburn	0439 489 631	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS	
2nd SUN The Channon	6688 6433	Each TUE New Brighton	6677 1345
2nd SUN Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159	Each TUE Organic Lismore	6628 1084
2nd SUN Coolangatta		Each WED 7-11am M'bah	6684 7834
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	6684 3370	Each WED 3-6pm Nimbin	0475 135 764
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0413 804 024	Each WED 4-7pm Newrybar Hall	
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757	Each THU 8-11am Byron	6687 1137
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150	Each THU 2.30-6.30pm Lismore	0450 688 900
3rd SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333	Each FRI 7-11am Mullum	6677 1345
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow	6687 1137
4th SAT Flea, Byron YAC		Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki	6679 5530
4th SAT Evans Head	0439 489 631	Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore	0466 415 172
4th SAT Wilsons Creek	6684 0299	Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob	
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar	kyogletogogether.org.au	Each SUN 7-11am Ballina	0493 102 137

But words are things, and a small drop of ink,

Falling like dew, upon a thought, produces

That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think...

- Lord Byron



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All North Coast mayors are calling for the border restrictions to be eased. Sounds fair? Unfortunately it's an age of unscrupulous and terrible political actors on all sides who put their party above the common good. More pressure is probably needed, such as a public petition. By way of comparison, the French have a subtle tradition of leaving large guillotines outside their parliament houses.

Rural residents who live without a kerbside bin collection now have to make an appointment with Council to drop off their rubbish. The Byron Resource Recovery Centre and Tip Shop in Myocum is shut because of COVID-19. Call 1300 652 625 for an appointment. Perhaps the new crop of councillors after the December 4 election will actually be interested in serving the community and not Council staff? Reinstating rural kerbside collection would be a start.

Ballad of a hollow man:
 'He doesn't wear a mask, and he doesn't hold a hose. He doesn't order vaccines, because he'd rather strike a pose. He doesn't act on climate, the weather 'aint his role. And he doesn't read the science, lest it hurt his mates in coal. He doesn't ponder rape claims, he leaves it to his men. He doesn't talk to women, he just takes the word of Jen. He doesn't answer questions, and he doesn't feel the shame. He'd rather take the credit, and let others take the blame. He doesn't lead the nation, that isn't what he's for. He's there for uncle Rupert, till we send him out the door' – anon.



Anton Nootenboom, aka the Barefoot Dutchman, was in town last weekend to raise awareness and funds for men's mental health. The young man is undertaking a world record barefoot walk from Cairns to Sydney. For more information, visit www.thebarefootdutchman.com Photo Jeff 'Feet In My Mouth Since 1986' Dawson

It's magpie swooping season – An Echo reader says they received a large bleeding gash across their cheek from an aggressive magpie in the pine trees opposite the Brunswick Pub. 'It is a very busy thoroughfare with many children. I was on my bike. This could be an eye next'.

Congrats former Byron Bay High School student Mia Thom, whose semi-autobiographical short fiction piece *Balun Budjarhm*, was one of 18 chosen for the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) annual Young Writers Showcase. For more info visit <https://bit.ly/3jizr2u>.

AGL has been delisted from the ASX-50, after multi-billion dollar losses. The Australian Stock Exchange made the announcement last week in response to a September quarterly review. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) reported in July, 'In failing

to realise its early green ambition, AGL Energy, one of Australia's biggest electricity generators and retailers,

wiped over 70 per cent off its market value in just four years, destroying A\$12 billion in shareholder wealth'.

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