

Byron Council's \$10,000 emergency housing response

Paul Bibby

A team of volunteers who have helped hundreds of locals left homeless by the floods find temporary accommodation will finally be paid for their work, after Byron Council promised to find \$10,000 in funding.

The volunteers sprang into action almost immediately after the first flood struck on 28 February, setting up at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall to help match people with suitable emergency accommodation.

More than two months later, the team, which is now operating under the auspices of the Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre, continues to be among the most effective emergency housing and accommodation services in the

Funding for ten weeks

At last Thursday's Byron Council meeting councillors unanimously passed a motion to support this

This included allocating \$10,000 from a 'suitable grant funding source' so that the team could be paid for the next ten weeks, and providing help with communications.

'The best way for us to help is to provide financial support,' Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, told the

'We're hoping to see some of the temporary housing pods promised by the State government arrive within the next four to eight weeks, so this allocation will at least

support the Neighbourhood Centre until then.'

How to limit short-term holiday letting?

In addition to this promise, councillors resolved to once again explore whether the Council had legal powers to limit short-term holiday letting in the Shire as a way of moving these dwellings into the Shire's desperately understocked long-term rental market.

This is not the first time Council has pursued this course, with previous attempts largely proving fruitless.

Councillors spent nearly two hours debating the question of how the Council could best assist the efforts to provide housing to those affected by the floods.

Independent Councillor Mark Swivel moved a much larger and more extensive motion on the issue, which included the use of community and church halls as temporary accommodation, and developing a model for community organisations and private landowners to provide accommodation for up to ten people without a development

'Trying to avoid people sleeping in their cars is what motivates this proposal,' Councillor Swivel said of his motion.

'We need to do everything we can to keep these members of our community close to home and close to work.'

But Councillor Swivel's motion was voted down by a majority of councillors.



Linda Grace with some of the fine fashion that will be on offer at the SHIFT Project pre-loved fashion sale fundraiser at the Byron Surf Club, Saturday, 14 May between 8am and 1pm. The SHIFT Project supports women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They are still accepting good quality donations at Belle and Ford and Red Ginger in Byron and Bangalow. For more information call Annette Campbell on 0425 371 786. Photo Jeff Dawson

Pause logging contracts for north coast forests

Aslan Shand

The State government's own report warns that there is a risk of 'serious and irreversible' harm to the environmental values of the State's public forests from the combined impacts of the 21019–20 fires and ongoing unsustainable logging. Yet the NSW Forestry Minister, Dugald Saunders, is currently in the process of negotiating the extension of north coast logging contracts. This is prior to the government responding to its own report and while the Inquiry into the long-term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry

is underway with hearings at Coffs Harbour held last week.

Independent NSW MP, Justin Field, who is a member of the Parliamentary Inquiry, is calling on Minister Saunders and Forestry Corporation to 'press pause' on the negotiations until the Government has responded to this important report and there is more certainty about the wood supply affects of the fires.

This is supported by recent research by the Australian National University that has found logging native forests increases the risk of catastrophic bushfires. The study's authors warn that logging is not

just increasing the risk of severe fires, but also the risk to human lives and safety.

According to the lead author Professor David Lindenmayer, 'Logging increases the probability of canopy damage by five to 20 per cent and leads to long-term elevated risk of higher severity fire. On the other hand, if disturbance due to logging is minimised, canopy damage can be reduced, in turn reducing the risk of uncontrollable fires.'

Nature Conservation Council Organiser, Wilson Harris said, 'The arguments in support of ending ► Continued on page 9

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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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Flooding – northern Byron Shire community groups call meetings

Aslan Shand

The north of Byron Shire was, once again, seriously impacted by recent flooding and there are several community groups taking action and calling meetings to look at possible solutions and the development of resilience in these communities.

Around 200 people came together at the Ocean Shores Country Club last Tuesday, 26 April to discuss the effects of flooding in the north of Byron Shire hosted by Ocean Shores Community Association (OSCA).

'The focus of our meeting was to gather both the "flood affected" and the "flood concerned", to activate our community on a positive pathway forward, and to kick off a coordinated approach towards working with both Council and State government,' said Francesca Esposito, spokesperson for OSCA.

'This group has asked Council to kick into action any immediate steps that they are able to take to help mitigate imminent flooding, including clearing drains, which haven't been fixed for years, fixing sewerage pipes, dredging the waterways and opening outlets to the sea.'

The potential mitigation of flooding by dredging, dune openings, and removal of rock walls was investigated following the Ex-Cyclone Debbie flooding in 2017 in the North Byron Floodplain Risk Management Study 2020 (NBFRMS). Unfortunately, the modelling did not support the desired reduction in flood impacts expected by the community from these actions.

Dune openings

Four dune openings were investigated at Wooyung, two at South Golden Beach (SGB), and one south of New Brighton. The study found that reductions in flood levels 'are not substantial and range from approximately 0.05m in Brunswick Heads and New Brighton to 0.1m in Ocean Shores. Furthermore, during an oceandominated event, flood levels may in fact increase as a result of the openings'.

Rock walls

Like the dune openings, the rock walls at the mouth of the Brunswick River are often suspected of increasing flood

levels by slowing the release of flood water. However, it is important to recognise that the walls also act as a barrier to sea surges coming into the rivers and increasing flooding.

The NBFRMS found that 'In the one per cent AEP [Annual Exceedance Probability] event this option [rock wall modification] had no impact on flood levels'.

Dredging

Dredging was considered for 3km along the Brunswick River at Mullumbimby and for approximately 7.5km along Marshalls Creek.

The Study noted that 'dredging is a temporary solution and to be effective requires considerable ongoing costs to dredge on a regular basis... Dredged material can be hazardous... and environmental impacts can include disruptions to the natural ecosystem such as affecting the health of aquatic species, water quality and also impact bank stability increasing potential erosion'.

Coupled with this was the minimal impact it would have on the actual flood

The dredging of Marshalls Creek showed 'a maximum

decrease in flood levels of potentially up to 0.05m in Ocean Shores and New Brighton and 0.01m in South Golden Beach'.

The next OSCA run community meeting is on Tuesday 10 May at the Ocean Shores Country Club from 6pm.

Community resilience meeting

The community resilience network for SGB, New Brighton and Ocean Shores, who coordinated a community volunteer flood response hub at SGB Hall, are calling a community flood meeting 15 May at Ocean Shores Public School Hall at 3pm for local residents.

'This is about creating a voice to engage with the response and recovery agencies who are really open to community-led responses.'

The resilience meeting will start with small focus group discussions. There will be kids and youth spaces with craft and sports activities. A catered dinner will conclude the evening. Zoom options are available. Call Rebecca on 0412 933 212 or email: beckmcn@ hotmail.com.





Join the 11th annual Mother's Day planting

The annual community Mother's Day tree planting is near Durrumbul this Sunday, 8 May, 9am to 12noon.

This year Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) are celebrating 11 years of the community coming together to plant 1,000 trees in the Brunswick Valley catchment.

'We always choose species suited to the site, and previous plantings have now grown into valuable wildlife corridors and habitat,' said the Brunswick Valley Landcare organisers.

'This is a wonderful way of honouring our mothers, especially our Mother Earth.'

The event involves all the usual delights, such as President Pete's delicious barbecue, homemade cakes and sweets, and amazing local musicians will be



The Tyrrell family: Mum Aine with Tullan, Kalloni and Taylor at a previous Mother's Day planting. Photo Jeff Dawson

playing music during and after the planting.

Make sure you wear a hat, sunscreen, gloves, wet weather boots and bring some water and a BYO coffee cup.

'Bookings are appreciated so we have an idea of numbers for catering,' say organisers. Details of where to go will be given via email once you have registered at: mothersdayplanting2022. eventbrite.com.au.

Your chance to ask Richmond candidates your question

Mia Armitage

Nearly all ten candidates for the federal seat of Richmond have confirmed their attendance at a Meet the Candidates forum in Byron next month.

Independent local media *The Echo* and Bay FM Community Radio have again teamed up to host the event from 6pm on 16 May in the Byron Theatre, with tickets to become available via the venue soon.

The Nationals' candidate Kimberly Hone has confirmed she'll be there, representing the incumbent government, along with incumbent Labor Member Justine Elliot, who has held the seat for seventeen years.

They'll be seated in a panel alongside The Greens candidate, popular comedian and journalist Mandy Nolan; United Australia Party candidate Robert Marks; Liberal Democratic Party candidate Gary Biggs; and Independents David Warth, Nathan Jones and Terry Sharples.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation candidate Tracey Bell-Henselin and Ocean Shores-based Informed Medical Options Party candidate Monica Shepherd were yet to confirm.

Members of the community are invited to put questions to the panel as part of live broadcast and streamed event at bayfm.org; if your community group or cause has a question related to federal policy, please email communitynewsroom@mail. com with subject: 'Richmond Meet the Candidates'.

Bay FM's Community Newsroom will be featuring interviews with candidates in the lead-up to the forum: tune in via the website or on 99.9 at 11am each Friday.

What happened to telecommunications during the flood?

Paul Bibby

The loss of telecommunications and power supply during the floods will be among the issues considered by Byron Council in its submission to the State Government's Flood Inquiry.

During last week's Council meeting councillors selected a raft of issues that they would like the government to consider as it seeks to improve its response to future floods and other natural disasters.

Among those is the extended loss of internet and phone reception in the immediate aftermath of the 28 February floods.

This outage, which has still not been fully explained by Telstra and the other telcos, significantly hindered the initial recovery effort, including the ability of people in difficulty to ask for help and the coordination of human and material resources.

Calls for a temporary solution appeared to fall on deaf ears – part of what has been widely seen as a failure by government to respond quickly and effectively in the early days of the disaster.

Call for Inquiry to hold local meeting

Other issues that Council will ask the State Government to consider are the adequacy of evacuation centres and post-flood recovery centres, the impact of the floods on tenants and landlords, and the impacts on buildings from flooding and landslips.

Councillors also asked the co-chairs of the Inquiry to hold a community meeting somewhere in the



Tweed-Byron area within the next four weeks.

At this stage the only public meetings in relation to the ilnquiry are being held in Lismore and Tumbulgum – both of which were held on 4 May.

The Inquiry, announced back in March, is to be an independent investigation examining the causes of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from the floods.

Headed by Professor Mary O'Kane AC, and Michael Fuller APM, the Inquiry will report on a range of matters, including the causes of and factors contributing to the floods and their intensity.

It will also report on the response to the floods – particularly measures to protect life, property and environment – and the recovery

effort, including housing, clean-up, financial support and longer-term community rebuilding.

Public submissions to the Inquiry are now open and can be made via the flood Inquiry website: www.nsw. gov.au/flood-inquiry.

Byron Council's own response to the disaster was also debated at last week's meeting. Independent Councillor, Mark Swivel, moved a motion proposing a significant overhaul of Council's corporate governance so that councillors can respond more quickly to a crisis, and to encourage greater accountability and transparency in Council's operations more generally.

'The reality of a crisis like this is that it exposes how things operate as business as usual,' Cr Swivel said.

'In the crisis as it unfolded

the experience was that the habit of the organisation was not for councillors to meet separately from management. That surprised me.

'We as councillors didn't meet for two-and-a-half weeks after the first flood. It just reflects the habit of the organisation. I think we should get into the habit of meeting separately from management so that we can get used to meeting as a group.' But this motion was voted down.

Mayor Michael Lyon,
(Independent), and Deputy
Mayor Sarah Ndiaye
(Greens), defended the Council's immediate response to
the floods. In the end councillors resolved to develop a
'communications protocol
for immediate meetings
and communication among
councillors in the wake of a
disaster or emergency'.





Far from Common – much loved community space says farewell

Paul Bibby

For five years a warm glow has emanated from a small cluster of buildings and greenery near the Mullumbimby Showgrounds on Main Arm Road.

Known as The Mullumbimby Commons, the space has been home to an incredible array of community-focused offerings, ranging from homeschooling activities to the famous Repair Cafe and (literally) everything in between.

But times are changing in the Shire and The Commons has had to close its doors this week.

'It's been a huge and incredible journey,' the co-founder of the space, Bex Horsfall says. 'We're sad to go, but we're celebrating all of the amazing things that have happened here.'

Bex and her partner Tom Jackson took on the space in late 2016 when it was vacated by the Shearwater Steiner school.

'Within a month we'd taken on this massive dream lease powered by a strong vision.'

That vision was to create a multigenerational community learning centre that



Having fun at The Commons. Photo supplied

could provide a space and a base for the large, local homeschooling community.

It came from an incredible journey that took Ms Horsfall and her young family around Australia and the world to better understand alternative education.

'I'd proposed this crazy research trip - that we would sublet the house and go down the east coast [of Australia] and visit every alternative school and offering that we could find with our one and four-year-old in tow,' Ms Horsfall says.

'We then spent time overseas immersing ourselves in what was happening.

'It was fascinating to be out in the world and looking through that lens and seeing that a lot of people were dissatisfied with the educational options on offer, and

realising that it's the way we view our young people that

needs to change.

This core value was a thread that ran through life at The Commons over the next five years. For two years a local collective known as Wildspace called it their home, bringing a unique mix of education and activism.

The homeschooling activities continued after Wildspace moved on, running in parallel with a wide array of workshops, men's groups, ceremonies and creative offerings.

Not long after, another innovative offering arrived in the form of Community Shedding Workshop - a grassroots organisation offering inclusive workshops focused on teaching people creative and practical skills through practising positive

mental health.

'It was amazing to watch it grow,' Ms Horsfall says.

It was through Shedding that the Repair Café found a new home on the site - a weekly space where locals could bring damaged or malfunctioning household items and be shown how to fix them.

'They were absolutely incredible during the floods,' Ms Horsfall says. 'They took on a huge amount of repair work with salvaged household items that got damaged – especially the whitegoods. It was a thriving little hub of people all being able to contribute.'

Fortunately, Shedding and the Repair Café have found a new home, for now - moving to the shed next to the old Mullumbimby railway station. Not so for The Commons.

But the many moments of learning, growth and connection will be long-remembered by young and old alike.

'We as a family just need to take a breath, take a moment and see what's going to come next,' Ms Horsfall says. 'We're so grateful to everyone who's been a part of The Commons and supported the journey.'

Flood Stories Northern Rivers

The flooding in the Northern Rivers has been significant and there are plenty of stories that need telling and Antoinette Ensbey is gathering local stories for her podcast Flood Stories Northern Rivers.

'After the flood events we keep hearing an endless stream of stories,' said Ms Ensbey.

'It seems everyone has a story to tell, about risky rescues that went on all night, losing beautiful hand made furniture, a buckling timber floor underfoot, homes destroyed that had been lovingly restored over years, and about rescuing pets'.

Recording the stories

Ms Ensbey is looking to record stories from the flood anonymously for the future.

'The stories about the flood disaster need to be told and kept in the record books. The stories are part of who we are, part of what shapes our lives, our kids' futures and what puts us on the alert.'

Flood Stories Northern Rivers is inviting people to share their stories of the March 2022 flood disasters. 'The idea now is to collect, compile, and publish these stories by you, the community members who wish to share their experiences,' Ms Ensbey explained.

'Over the coming weeks I will be collecting stories. Once I get a reasonable compilation, I will produce a special podcast series over several weeks from June 2022.

You can email or record your flood story on your phone. Emailed stories will be narrated by Ms Ensbey for the podcast.

Written pieces and poetry detailing your experience are all accepted.

Local music

Ms Ensbey says she is also looking for local musicians and singers to contribute to the project.

'If you are play an instrument or sing and are willing to contribute your skills it would be nice to put some local music to the stories,' she said.

'Flood Stories Northern Rivers: talk about it, share the experience. Heal gently with storytelling.'

Email your contributions to: oimstories@gmail.com.

Electric car expo looks to bulk buy EVs



These two classic VWs have been resurrected as electric powered Kombis (zzzombis?) converted by Alex Bosin's, (left) EV Classic conversions, and Anthony Broese van Groenou from The Good Car Company. Councillor Duncan Dey and Enova's Managing Director Felicity Stening also pictured. These VWs and many more contemporary vehicles were part of last Saturday's electric vehicle Expo at Stone & Wood in Byron. Photo Jeff Dawson

Don't get smoked! Fire and Rescue NSW open day

There may have been a lot of water around lately but house fires are a very real threat as we head into winter and start to get those fires and heaters going.

Throughout autumn and winter there is a ten per cent increase in the number of house fires with many of them starting in bedrooms and loungerooms owing to heaters and electric blankets.

'Each year, approximately 20 people die in NSW from fires that could have been prevented,' said Kimberly Waldron from the Mullumbimby Station of Fire and Rescue NSW.

'Each death is a tragic loss for families, friends and the wider community. Additionally, for each fire fatality, there are also hundreds

more people who survive a fire but suffer life-changing health consequences.'

Open Day – check your smoke alarm

On 14 May between 10am and 2pm the Mullumbimby Fire Station is running an open day for people to come and find out what they do, how they respond and even have a go on a fire hose.

'Open day is an oppportunity to show people that firefighters do so much more than fight fires. We respond to fires, road crashes, hazardous material incidents, natural disasters urban search and rescue;, our crews are prepared for anything and ready to help anytime, anywhere,' said Ms Waldron.

'This year we are focussing on the importance of having a working smoke alarm in your home.'

During the day they will have a range of fun demonstrations taking place including a scenario showing what happens when they respond to a fire call. They will also be showing how strong the combi tool (jaws of life) is and cutting some 'car like' materials to demonstrate how effective they are at rescuing lives.

'We will also have displays inside the station, firefighters on hand to answer any questions, and kids can have a go on the fire hose and get in the truck. There is also a barbecue with the money going to local flood relief, said Ms Waldron.

Nationals fail to respond to Friends of ABC survey three elections in a row

The Northern Rivers have had no shortage of need for reliable emergency broadcasting from the ABC. From the Black Summer bushfires in 2019–20 to the pandemic and the recent 'unprecedented' floods, the source Australian's turn to for emergency broadcasts is the ABC.

'The ABC is the most trusted source of news in Australia. It is crucial to the health of our democracy. While China has ramped up its spending in recent years throughout the Asia/Pacific, the ABC's international services have been starved of funds,' explained Jennie

Hicks from ABC Friends Northern Rivers.

'\$700m worth of funding cuts since 2014 have already forced valued programs and services to be dropped or reduced. In addition, ministers have too often ignored the recommendations of the officially appointed panel

in making appointments to the ABC Board, and have attempted to interfere in decisions about programs, potentially detrimental to their interests.'

Leading up to the last two elections, and again for this election, the ABC Friends Northern Rivers have

surveyed the three major Northern Rivers political parties in Richmond and Page electorates on their support for the ABC.

'Both the ALP and the Greens candidates have committed to a strong, wellfunded and independent national broadcaster. For

three elections the Nationals have declined to respond.

'We ask of the National Party representatives in Richmond and Page electorates – when will you take a stand for the people of the north coast and against your Coalition partner's resolution to privatise OUR ABC?'



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Authorised by Justine Elliot, ALP, 107 Minjungbal Dr Tweed Heads South





News from across the North Coast online www.echo.net.au

NEFA rally at Coffs **Council Chambers**

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) held a rally outside the Coffs Harbour Council Chambers, before the Coffs Harbour hearing of NSW Upper House, Portfolio Committee 4, 'Inquiry into the long-term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry'.

M1 and flooding: **Tweed Council writes** to minister and class action gathers steam

The old Pacific Highway was dangerous, narrow and needed to be upgraded but in the process of building the M1 the government didn't just cut coastal koalas from hinterland koalas, they also appear to have created flooding issues according to many locals from Woodburn to Tweed.

Ballina SES site to be upgraded despite flood risks

Hopes for new State Emergency Services (SES) headquarters in a floodfree part of Ballina are on hold while the local council proceeds with plans to upgrade existing facilities.

Logging blockade underway in Girard **State Forest**

The blockade is taking place in the Girard State Forest, one of the last significant wildlife corridors between the Border Ranges National Park and the Bundjalung National Park.

Uncertainty over future of Council funds delivered through strictly confidential government lease

It's unclear what the NSW government is paying in rent for its first 'mini-village' for disaster survivors, but one suggestion for spending the Council revenue is being heard today.

Man charged with Kyogle murder

About 10am on Tuesday (26 April), emergency services were called to a unit on Curtois Street, Kvogle, following reports the body of a man had been located inside.

www.echo.net.au

Hinterland koalas need protecting say Tweed Council

Koalas and their habitat were a key focus at the last Tweed Shire Council meeting, where they voted to write to the NSW Premier, Minister for Environment and Heritage, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Agriculture to protect Tweed's hinterland koalas from the NSW Koala SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policy) 2021.

The SEPP excludes private native forestry (PNF) from the operation of the NSW Koala SEPP 2021, which means that critical koala habitat can be logged

without assessment.

Addressing the other councillors, Cr Brinsmead said, 'In 2012 koalas in NSW were listed as vulnerable. In February this year they were officially listed as endangered after a rapid decline in numbers due to land clearing and the catastrophic bushfires shrinking their habitat. Koala conservation is key to their survival'.

'The Koala SEPP 2021 exempts rural, agricultural and forestry lands... from being subject to the protections under the Koala SEPP 2021. Under the current proposal it has been identified

that critical and significant areas of koala habitat would be able to be logged without assessment, consent or controls – noting in the Tweed the target tree species and size class for forestry are the same trees most critical to koala habitat conservation,' she said.

The motion was supported by Crs Firth, Dennis, Owen and Cherry who emphasised the importance of protecting Tweed's hinterland koalas as well as the coastal koalas.

'What we are asking here in Tweed is completely congruent with pillar two of the NSW Koala Strategy. [It] says

that the State government wishes to assist councils with undertaking koala habitat mapping; I quote "strategically conserve koala habitat in their local area". That is what this is about,' said Cr Firth.

'We know for sure that the hinterland is not protected. We know koalas are there. When we are protecting koalas... we are protecting all species, including the threatened species that are there.'

No pink koalas

Cr James Owen (Liberal) who seconded the motion pointed out that the coastal

koalas and hinterland koalas weren't different and therefore needed protection as well.

'I just can't get my head around the fact that there are different SEPPS for different koalas in different areas. That there are coastal koalas and hinterland koalas - it's not as if they are different colours and one's pink and one's brown, they are all koalas and they should all be protected and looked after.'

■ Read full story on The Echo online: www.echo.net.au/ hinterland-koalas-need-protecting-say-tweed-council

Will Wardell CORE be forced to move on while it is still providing an essential service?

David Lowe

Wardell's Community Organised Resilience Effort (CORE) has been one of the stand-out good news stories following the devastating floods, but now CORE has been asked to leave the Wardell War Memorial Hall.

The Wardell community was hit very hard by the March floods. CORE sprang up in response to the crisis, with the hall becoming a central distribution point for goods and services, food and emotional support.

Although this crucial support role is ongoing, and has been acknowledged

at local and state levels, Wardell CORE has now been told to vacate the hall prior to the federal election. The lease on the building expires in the middle of the year, with Ballina Shire Council expected to return the hall to the control of the Wardell Progress Association, who say maintenance work is required on the building.

Recovery ongoing

Yesterday, The Echo spoke to CORE's Venetia Scott and Joel Orchard.

Ms Scott says there's still a 'never ending' stream of things being dropped off and being collected.

Joel Orchard says the donations are a 'shifting landscape', with less food and general supplies coming through, and more furniture and larger items to replace what's been lost by locals. Mr Orchard says CORE's looming eviction from the Wardell War Memorial Hall has added more stress for all.

'It's increasing pressure to have us wind up and move on without being provided

with any suitable alternative as the first step,' he said.

The suggestion is that CORE relocate to Ballina, which is a fair way from Wardell at the best of times, although part of the same council area, and even more inaccessible with many people having lost vehicles in the flood.

Mr Orchard says other buildings which are being offered to CORE are far more flood-affected than the War Memorial Hall.

He said he was concerned about divisions deepening in Wardell following the flood crisis, particularly between those who are relatively comfortable and those who are doing it tough.

■ Read full story online: www.echo.net.au/willwardell-core-be-forced-tomove-on

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Local News

Pause logging

► Continued from page 1 native forest logging keep mounting. We already know that local economies and wildlife stand to benefit enormously by ending native forest logging. This research confirms earlier studies that show recently logged forests pose a huge risk of intense fires that sweep through the canopy. This is quite contrary to what many people might expect, but it has now been confirmed by several scientific studies.

'The message is quite clear – ending native forest logging will reduce risks to life and property, as well as, to koalas and other wildlife.

MP Justin Field has said that there needs to be 'an honest discussion about the future of the timber industry on the North Coast and the future of our forests'.

'Recent Budget Estimates hearings revealed Forestry Corporation was negotiating a five year extension of wood supply contracts on the North Coast despite the fact the NSW Government is yet to respond to a major report recommending substantial changes to logging rules to mitigate the impact of the 2019-20 fires including a



Brett Haylock and Chris Chen with members of the Cheeky Cabaret and Nationals MP and NSW Minister for the Arts, Ben Franklin, celebrating a fabulous six years of, and the reopening of, the Brunswick Picture House. 'We are very proud of what's been achieved with the renovation, and the end result has exceeded our wildest expectations,' said Chris and Brett. 'This little theatre now boasts world-class facilities, and is finally fully accessible.' Mr Franklin acknowledged the work of Chris and Brett at the recent reopening, saying that he was 'excited to see the innovative shows and events they produce over the next few years. The Brunsnwick Picture House is an iconic part of our creative Northern Rivers Community.' Photo Aslan Shand

moratorium on logging in some forest areas,' said Mr Fields in a press release.

'Despite the significance of the report, the NSW Government has continued to refuse to explain how the risks identified in the report will be managed and Forestry Corporation has continued logging in areas described as facing "extreme" and "high" risk. It is continuing to negotiate to extend existing contracts at pre-fire levels for another five years to 2028 despite evidence logging at those levels would be unsustainable.

'Forestry Corporation are currently planning to log in high risk areas under pre-fire rules that have been shown to be totally inadequate at Ellis, Wild Cattle Creek, and Clouds Creek State Forests.

Those plans should be put on hold until the government responds to the report.

'Industry needs certainty about their future, but there is no certainty in signing up to contracts that Forestry Corporation cannot deliver and that our forests cannot sustain.

'More than ever we need clear-eyed planning for our forests and the timber industry.'



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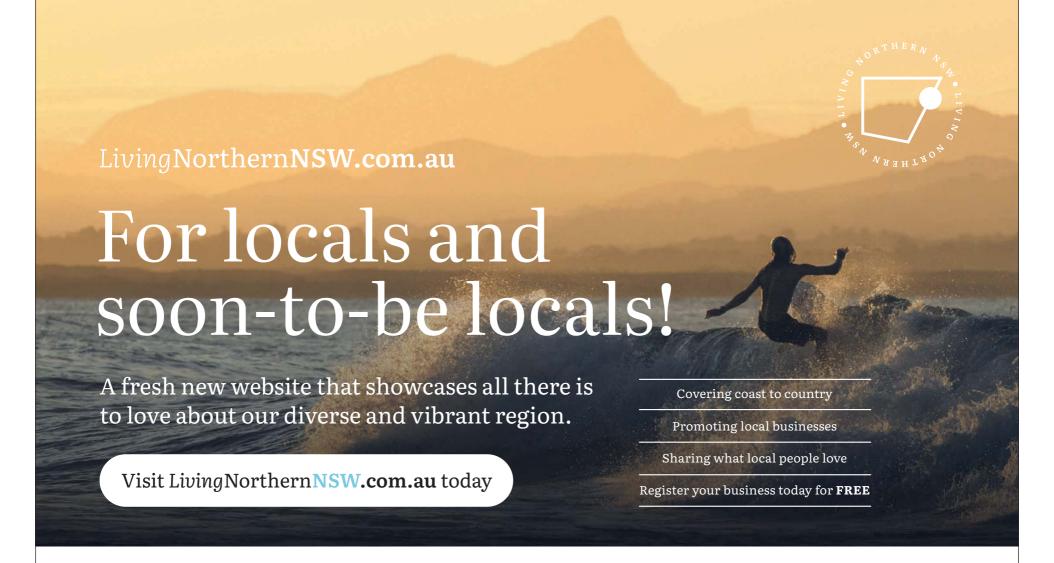
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What are your Richmond candidates standing for in this election?

We hope it is no surprise that there is a federal election taking place on Saturday, 21 May. We asked the ten candidates for the hotly contested seat of Richmond a few pertinent questions about who they are and what they represent. Seven of the ten responded, which probably tells you something to begin with.

Herewith are the questions and below are the candidates' truncated responses...

QUESTIONS: 1. How long have you lived on the Northern Rivers and why are you running?

- 2. What is your political experience? Are you, or have you been affiliated with a political party?
- **3.** What is your experience outside politics?
- 4. What are your top three key issues?
- 5. What key strategies will you pursue to mitigate global warming?

Nathan Jones Independent

1. I holidayed here from 1985 and moved here in 2017.

People want an honest politician to represent them. My business and economics skills will create genuine

debate about important reforms. A strong crossbench of Independents in Canberra will force the major parties to debate bills rather than give all the power to the PM and the executive.

- 2. I've not worked for any politician and have never been a politician or a member of a political party.
- 3. I was an accountant in both the public and private sectors. I found being an accountant meant that many of the nations' brightest minds were trying to minimise the taxes paid by the wealthy.

I have also been a teacher for 15 years (high schools and universities) teaching business, legal studies and economics.

4. Federation reform – we are living in a system designed by men in the 1890s. My economic model, after years of research, shows we waste \$75 billion a year in excessive administration. We need to put that money into frontline services.

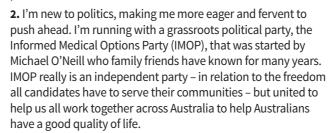
Cost of living issues, in particular the housing crisis.

A strong federal Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC). People need to know the government is working for the public interest not politicians', lobbyists', and donors'.

5. Two words: 'Electrifying Everything'. Solar is now the cheapest form of electricity. We should subsidise domestic production and installation of solar panels, inverters and batteries. Wind farms and some pumped hydro will also help.

Monica Shepherd – IMOP

1. I grew up just over the border and visited the Northern Rivers frequently. I've lived here for 18 months. I'm running because this is an important area and the most beautiful community. It needs to be protected and cared for.



- 3. I have a degree in Complementary Medicine and I'm a mental health specialist. I'm passionate about connecting people to the environment and the environment to people; the two are intricately connected. Health on an individual level and community level has seen me run many community projects, be interviewed on many podcasts and write for many different publications.
- 4. Protect human rights.

Protect the environment.

Protect job security.

5. Start by scrutinising all government approved policies that negatively impact on the environment and their affect on all ecosystems.

David Warth - Independent

1. I have lived in the Northern Rivers for 22 years. I am standing because I absolutely love this place and I could not stand by and watch my community suffer and see our nation destabilised.



2. I have no previous political experience and I have never been affiliated to any political party.

3. I have a broad experience of life. I have worked in farming, professional fishing, commercial abalone diving, tourism, owned three scuba diving centres, filmmaking as a multi-award winning wildlife and environmental filmmaker.

4. Housing and homelessness.

Making the government accountable and stopping government overreach into our lives.

Restoring the economy and paying off our trillion dollar debt to provide employment and wage growth that will counter inflation and allow pensions and the NDIS to be increased.

5. Global warming has been over simplified and as important as it is to transition away from fossil fuels this is not the whole story. There are major environmental factors involved in climate change that are not being addressed.

I will propose that every home has solar power. I will look to clean wind and solar power generation. I will promote the location of geo-thermal sites. I will move to stop subsidies to, and ban, fracking altogether. I will improve public transport, and pathways for cycling.

I will promote localised economies, talk with vehicle manufacturers about more affordable electric vehicles and providing charging stations. I will promote energy saving construction innovations.



Local News

Echo

Gary Briggs - Liberal Democrats

1. Born in Murwillumbah, educated in Richmond, small business operator in Richmond, Lam runnin

in Richmond. I am running in response to the increasing authoritarianism.

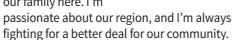
- **2.** Political experience is nil, but I learn quickly. I am the endorsed candidate for the Liberal Democrats.
- **3.** 30+ years optimising systems to make small business more efficient.
- **4.** Restoring the proper functioning of our democracy to be a free country again. Reduce the impact of over regulation on the productive sector. Defend the people's freedom to travel. The government does not have the right to reduce your liberty without absolute evidence that you are harming somebody else.
- **5.** Before we destroy what we've worked for, for centuries, by cutting off everybody's 24/7 electricity and hurting, possibly starving millions, I think we need more absolute evidence that the extreme end of IPCC forecasts will actually happen.

I checked our local dam and it is full. If we accept the midpoint of IPCC we are facing a slow moving event which is easily manageable.

What we do not do is allow the world to descend into a total control dictatorship on a global scale – being ruled over by elitist tyrants. We definitely need to allow the investigation of the feasibility of the nuclear option in Australia.

Justine Elliot – Labor

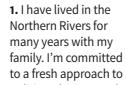
1. I've lived on the NSW North Coast for thirty years, and my husband Craig and we have raised our family here. I'm



This election is crucial for Australia's future. It's time for a change – and only Labor can form government to deliver that change.

- 2. I'm proud to be your local Federal Labor MP and to have delivered more than \$2 billion for local jobs, schools, health, roads and community resources for our community.
- **3.** Before becoming a Federal MP, I was a frontline police officer, and have also worked as a Youth Justice Convenor with the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice.
- **4.** We need to change the Government on 21 May to address a range of urgent issues in our community. These include addressing the cost of living, investing in more local housing, tackling climate change.
- **5.** The only way to get real action on climate change is to change the government and vote Labor. Labor's plan will create jobs, cut power bills, reduce emissions by boosting renewable energy, and kickstart \$76 billion of investment. Labor is the only party ready to form government that has a fully detailed plan to cut emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.

Kimberly Hone - Nationals



politics where consultation and cooperation replaces criticism and conflict.

- **2.** I am a first-time candidate. I am with the Nationals because only they are exclusively focused on regional areas. An MP's job must be getting things done for Byron families and communities.
- **3.** As a local small business owner I know how to get things done. Volunteering with the SES and other community support organisations boosts my passion for our community. In my previous environmental role as an interpretational ranger for Queensland Parks and Wildlife I've learnt how to make positive choices for the future of our planet.
- **4.** Stronger regional health, providing people and small businesses with cost of living and tax relief and more positive choices for all.
- **5.** Banging on about global warming does nothing to fix it. The Nationals in NSW Government are building the north coast's largest ever rooftop solar system on top of Byron Central Hospital. That positive choice is real and I'll be pursuing more of that.

Mandy Nolan - The Greens

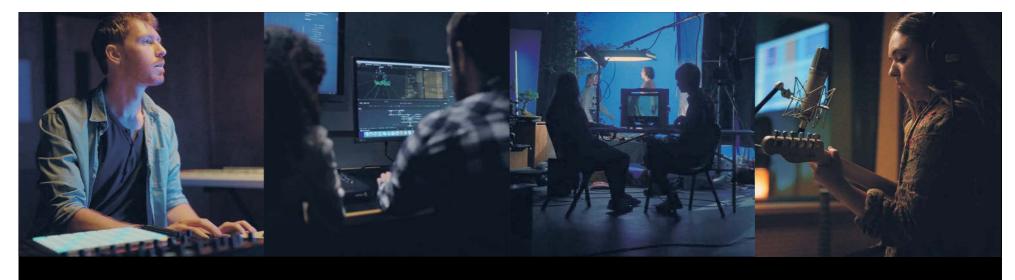
1. I've lived in the Northern Rivers for 32 years. I have spent decades volunteering time to community



organisations to raise money to operate. I have seen first hand how under resourced we are. I have been writing about our housing crisis now for ten years. On the crossbench, I can be a voice for this region.

- 2. I've not previously been affiliated with a political party. I've been an independent voice involved in activism on social justice and environmental issues since my late teens. I joined the Greens not because I had an intention to enter politics but because their policy and platforms aligned with mine.
- **3.** I am a comedian, an opinion writer, an artist, a teacher. I created a program for people with dementia and have taught over 2,000 people comedy. It's about how to find your voice. Ironically, what I am doing now is about community voice.
- **4.** The Greens don't make up the key issues they are informed by community: 1) Climate change 2) Housing, 3) The corrupting influence of political donations.
- **5.** Net-zero by 2050 is an empty slogan for 'someone else's problem'. We don't have another three years to waste. We need to shift electricity generation to renewables and storage. Increase electricity production to allow the electrification of all households, businesses, transport and industry. Move to negative emissions by protecting our forests and landscapes and reforming our agriculture.

Page candidate Q&A will be availble on Monday, May 9 on *The Echo* online. www.echo.net.au



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The Byron Shire Echo Volume 36 #47 • May 4, 2022

Community must drive housing

It is easy to have a knee-jerk reaction to the need for housing on the Northern Rivers at the cost of both the environment and the amenity of the region.

Yes, there is a need for housing, but it is important to remember that the State government has driven this crisis by facilitiating the shortterm holiday letting (STHL) industry and ignoring long-term planning structures that set aside areas of housing for long-term residents. Before the craze of Airbnb and other short stay housing platforms, for a house that was in a residential area to be converted into a 'holiday let' or 'bed n breakfast' it had to, among other things, get an approved development application (DA), pay business rates, supply parking and meet health and safety standards.

The process of getting a DA meant that other residents in the area had a right to comment either positively or negatively on the potential impacts of turning long-term homes into short-term accommodation and the impact this might have on the location and its amenity. For councils it meant that there were extra rates and other restrictions in place to ensure that they could manage the development for the residential environments to the benefit of residents, consistent with the long-term strategies of the regions they managed.

The advent of short-term holiday letting platforms ended council's ability to effectively manage the balance between short- and -long term rentals in their local governement areas (LGAs). Supported by the State government these platforms have successfully removed restrictions to their operation in residential areas. This has seen continuing pressure build with rising rents as more and more housing is bought up by investors and moved out of the long-term rental market into the highly

profitable holiday letting market.

This, now combined with recent flooding and thousands of people being made homeless in the 'unprecedented' flooding, has seen the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) being put in place by the State government. There are significant and major decsions that need to be made across the region in relation to how we respond to flooding, create housing, and manage the future development of the region. But must not be done at the cost of what so many have fought for, for so long.

The State government failed to support local councils who tried to stop the move from long-term housing to STHL. It would be wrong to compound that errort by forcing ugly, high-density housing on LGAs as part of the flood response.

The Northern Rivers should not become a developers playground with things like height restrictions disreguarded, building on all available green spaces pushed through, and high impact, high density buildings thrown up. This should not facilitiate developers who are seeking to get around long-term environmental and amenity regulations that have been put in place for good reason.

At the end of the day it needs to be a community-driven process that enhances our living, green and environmentally sensitive spaces. Perhaps the first step the State government really needs to take is to reinstate the residential areas for residents and drive out the profiteering carpet baggers who have descended on the region to suck out every last sou because really, our streets are not made of gold, and locals shouldn't be driven out by the greed of developers and opportunists who have been preying on the region for so long.

Aslan Shand, acting editor

The role of truth warriors: people who see wrong and try to right it

Bob Morgan

Thistleblowing is defined as: 'The disclosure by a person, usually an employee in a government agency or private enterprise, to the public or to those in authority, of mismanagement, corruption, illegality, or some wronging.'

I've never been comfortable with the term 'whistleblower' because, for me, the term seems to conjure up the notion that 'whistleblowers' are individuals who have committed a wrong, an act of deviance or betrayal rather than a search for truth and an act to expose a wrong and a call to right it. In my world, rather than seeing individuals as 'whistleblowers' I prefer instead to think of them as 'truth warriors'; people who see wrong and try to right it.

History is filled with incidents involving individuals, 'truth warriors', who bravely risk their careers, and sometimes their lives, in search of truth.

The United States of America have given us a litany of 'truth warrior' incidents and one of the more famous one involves the political scandal that became known as 'Watergate'.

The truth warrior in the Watergate scandal became known as Deep Throat and supplied critical information of clandestine and often illegal activities of US President Nixon's administration to Washington Post journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. The information provided by Deep Throat, plus voice activated tapes of conversations in the White House Oval office, led to numerous criminal convictions and the resignation of President Nixon.

Conjecture surrounding the identity of Deep Throat has been rampant in America's public, political and media circles for many years and the mystery was finally solved in 2005 when lawyers acting for retired (FBI) Associate Director, Mark Felt, identified him as Deep Throat.

In more recent times Frances



'History is filled with incidents involving individuals, 'truth warriors', who bravely risk their careers, and sometimes their lives, in search of truth.'

Professor Bob Morgan

Haugen, a product manager at Facebook (now known as Meta) left the social media giant and took with her documents that exposed alleged Facebook activities including that Facebook knew that its products, including Instagram, were damaging teenagers' mental health, that Facebook was being used to foment ethnic violence in countries such as Ethiopia, and that it had taken little to no action to check or remove misinformation on its platform before the January 6 Washington riots.

In October 2021 Haugen was called before US senators on Capitol Hill and one of her memorable statements was an accusation that Facebook puts its 'astronomical profits before people'. In 2020 Facebook was reported as having a net profit, of \$US29bn. To give this some perspective, a study that looked at the question: 'How large would Tech companies be if they were countries?' reported that Faceboo, with its net worth of '\$763 billion, that it is wealthier than Switzerland, Sweden and the UAE combined'.

Australia too has its share of truth warriors. In 2003 the Australian government decided to send troops to fight in the Iraq war, a decision based on what Independent MP Andrew Wilkie claimed to be a fatally flawed and deceitful case. Wilkie was concerned that the Australian government knew that Iraq did not possess weapons of mass destruction and that its 'program is very disjointed and contained by the regime that's been in place since the last Gulf War'. He added that 'there is no hard intelligence linking

the Iraqi regime to al-Qaeda in any substantial or worrisome way.'

Writing in the Tasmanian press about his experience as a truth warrior, Wilkie wrote that 'There were death threats... I lost a great many friends, including some who dumped me for what I had done. Others, I walked away from because I discovered during all of this that we did not share the same values, or because they did not understand the risks to them by continuing their association with me.'

The UK conducted its own Inquiry into the decision taken by then British PM, Tony Blair and his Cabinet to join the US in the war against Iraq. Chaired by Sir John Chilcot the final report of the Inquiry is scathing of the decision to send British troops to Iraq, declaring; 'We have concluded that the UK chose to join the invasion of Iraq before the peaceful options for disarmament had been exhausted. Military action at that time was not a last resort.'

The claims that Iraq likely did not possess weapons of mass destruction, was not a threat to Western powers, and was not a haven of al-Qaeda have been vindicated by the findings of the final report of Britain's Chilcot Inquiry.

Truth Warriors are vital to any human setting, without them social and political discord, plus human misery, grows exponentially.

Someone once said; 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men [and women] to do nothing.' The old ones taught me to never be silent in the face of injustice.





Letters

Utterly disappointed

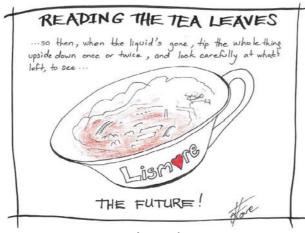
I am, along with many residents across NSW, utterly disappointed with our State government's response to the need for truly affordable housing.

The 'affordable housing' boarding house in Bayside Brunswick will give us 42 boarding rooms, and out of those we get three (only!) rooms at the supposedly significantly discounted rate of the SEPP, ie; 20 per cent less than the going rate. My problem with such logic is this: if only three rooms can be deemed as affordable using the SEPP parking ratio of just half a car park per room, then this should add up to be one-and-a-half of the parking ratio for

This means to me that the developer gets to provision the rest of the development with the same measly half a car space per room, even though the rest of the rooms are not considered to be at the same affordable rate as the three rooms. The undesirable result will be huge numbers of overflow vehicles parking on the streets of our residential areas of NSW.

affordability.

This is just one of the



Cartoon by Francie Lowe

undesirable outcomes of these so-called affordable housing developments.

> Annie Radermacher Brunswick Heads

Thoughts on development

Coastal engineer Angus Gordon's thoughts on development and flooding in the Ocean Shores/New Brighton/ South Golden Beach area don't explicitly answer the question posed in the headline 'Can residents be protected from the next heavy weather event' (*Echo*, 13 April), but clearly identify the basic problem: '...it should never have been developed in the first place.'

Why was this flood-prone

coastal floodplain allowed to be developed? It might have something to do with a gullible small-town council being easily swayed by smoothtalking developers whose '... liberal time payments and gorgeous lithographs will populate localities one day doomed to represent the dark valley of the shadow of death.' (A. Meston, *Northern*

Star, 18/2/1993).
There is nothing new in this, but I'm sure it wouldn't happen these days, would it? (Who's that whispering 'West Byron' in my ear?).

People who have bought in these areas have every right to be concerned, but should be wary of seemingly easy answers that have circulated in the area. Part of this is the claim, attributed in the article to Jan Mangleson, that 'Council ordered Princess Properties to block the outlet...', referring to a temporary flood outlet built through the dunes by the developers in 1973.

The reality is that at the Council meeting on 25/5/1976 the President, as the Mayor was then called, referred to '...the imminent close-down of the company's operations', and Council resolved that 'Princess Properties Pty Ltd be requested to restore the access along the mining road to the north of the subdivision.'

At the Council meeting on 27/7/1976 the Shire Engineer reported that 'Further to Council's request to restore the old mining track in the vicinity of the temporary flood outlet north of New Brighton, a letter has been received from the Company indicating the method of construction proposed...', and Council resolved 'That the Company's proposal to block the temporary outfall from the Yelgun catchment be approved by Council.'

► Continued on next page

Letters to

the Editor

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



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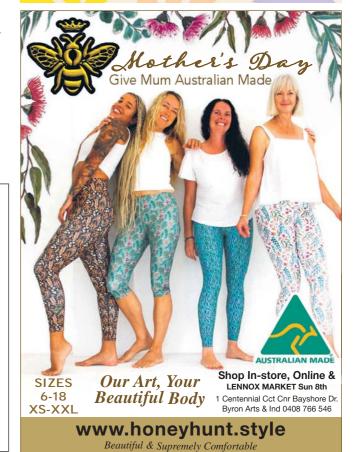






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STEPHEN LOVELIGHT

TUESDAY 10 MAY

JASON DELPHIN

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY

JAMIE ASHFORTH

HEY MA, I'VE BEEN CONFUSED BY ALL THE VOTING CAMPAIGNS AGAIN!

SHOULD I JUST VOTE MAJOR PARTIES LIKE BEFORE? THEY'RE SAYING THEY'LL BUY OUR HOUSES AND PROMISING THINGS THEY THINK WE WANT TO HEAR.



Support if you were affected by recent floods

Services Australia has staff on the ground in service centres, Mobile Service Centres and other locations to help you and your community.

We can help you claim a disaster payment or access other services, including Centrelink, Medicare and social work support.

You can update your details, get help with myGov and learn about other support that's available.



For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/disasterevents





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*If everybody had an ocean, across the U.S.A Then everybody'd be surfin', like Californi-a... Chuck *Berry's Surfin' USA. As sung by The Beach Boys, 1963.

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us significantly, if we have Trauma like Violence, Loss, Separation etc. *SUR*FIN'* the *Waves* of our Lives!

A corny analogy! But the residents of Esperance, W.A., wouldn't think so; after losing 3 of their precious own in 3 yrs. to sharks! ABC Landline 25.9.21. • 1 of their Ocean Lovers said 'When the surf's down 4 a few days, U can feel the whole town getting itchy!

• A couple, 2 Ocean Lovers, were diving off Cull Island. She thought she saw a whale tail. Next thing she was trying to hit a 6M White Pointer on its nose, as it killed her Husband!

We get besotted; by PEOPLE, form powerful bonds and have children of our own; by THINGS like Oceans, Mountains, Heights, \$\$\$, Power, Substances Fame. Many of us R attracted by RISK and DANGER!

WE can B attacked physically and emotionally by sharks like Loss/Grief, Violence/Sex Assault, Family Law; this list is as endless as Ocean waves! Lives of ♥/Bliss/Dreams, come with Emotional Pain! IT'S a SURE BET! Will Community Education **Emotional Intel?**

😃 * IT'SASUREBET2!* 😃

*Any Doctor, *000, *Emergency 000, *Lifeline 13 11 14.__O_Q_Q Created by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

This land is your land and this land is my land, sure, but the world is run by those that never listen to music anyway.

- Bob Dylan

► Continued from page 13

Past Councils must take the blame for many aspects of development of these areas in the first place, but ordering the closure of the flood outlet is not one of them.

> **Matthew Lambourne** Mullumbimby

Live export ships no cruise

The reopening of Australian ports to cruise ships took me back to my first cruise as a child of 'ten pound Poms' in 1958. Although I was only six, I remember our five weeks on the rusty old SS Orontes. Our family sweated across the equator and lay sleepless and nauseous as the ship tossed and groaned interminably.

The memories of our (in retrospect) slight discomforts come back to me when I think of the appallingly cruel live export trade, which sends millions of Australian sheep and cows on hellish journeys to Southeast Asia and the Middle East each year. These terrified animals are crammed onto ships many storeys high for a gruelling trip across thousands of kilometres in all weather

More than 2.5 million animals have died on live-export

ships before reaching their destination, often from heat stress or starvation - they don't recognise the pellets they're given as food. Those who survive the excruciating journey are taken to filthy markets, where their throats are often slit while they're still conscious.

If you oppose this unbearable suffering, please call or write to your federal politicians and let them know it's well over time to stop live exports.

Desmond Bellamy Special Projects Coordinator PETA Australia

Sad Anzac Day

Sad Anzac Day to see train tracks ripped up by Tweed Shire Council. Fathers of our Anzacs built, with bullock teams, the line that opened in 1894 between Murwillumbah and Casino

At the time, there was no such thing as the dole and so many people had no work. Building the train track put food on the tables of Australians and people from Ireland, China etc...

There were men who lost their lives while building that train track. What a disgrace and a total waste of extremely valuable rail infrastructure, owned by the people of NSW, to rip it up for a bike path and sell the steel overseas. Come on Tweed Shire Council and North Coast politicians – WAKE UP!

Marie Luxford Murwillumbah

Assange abandoned

Julian Assange is an Australian citizen and award-winning journalist. The US government intends to prosecute Julian under US espionage laws for his award-winning journalism. The Australian government has abandoned Assange to appease Washington, which seeks to apply US laws against anyone anywhere in the world. This exercise in extraterritorial jurisdiction just reeks of imperial hubris.

This attitude on the part of US rulers is emblematic of their 'rulers-based order', in which they see themselves as rulers of the whole world. They make the rules, they don't need to heed them. Hence they routinely violate international law with impunity, disregard multilateral conventions and exhibit contempt for the rights of others. Their foreign policy is best described as belligerent exceptionalism.

The US regime aspires to full spectrum dominance, but its real weakness is exposed by the vicious,

vindictive methods it uses to silence critics. If the US felt secure on the world stage, it wouldn't fear a free press, or kidnap and torture a journalist in an attempt to prove its might and conceal its crimes.

A nation's hard power is its ability to prevail militarily and win wars, soft power is its ability to prevail morally and win approval. The Taliban broke America's hard power and Assange has demolished its soft power.

> John Scrivener Main Arm

Dear George

I sometimes wish I was possessed of the humour and talent of GB Shaw, the great Irish wit and polemical playwright. He seemed able to find the humour in the most serious of situations and used a mordant wit and incisive intelligence to present his arguments. Maybe it's a gift of the Irish. I had an old Irish friend who would say, 'Don't be so serious and miserable, me boy. It's all a joke.' Alas, I don't accept that it is all some cosmic joke.

I have never made any secret of my belief that Byron Bay has been, and continues to be, in the process of being 'done over'. I have watched the process over some

► Continued on page 16







Escape to Milan.... this Mother's Day with a special lunch menu of dishes

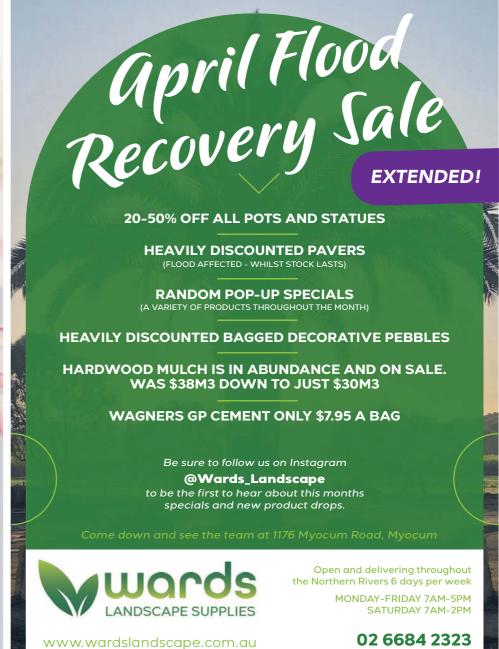
Two course menus (lunch & dessert) Members \$25 Visitors \$30

Includes complimentary drink and entry to win a Mother's Day hamper.

\$10 kids menu also available.

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Council's Fear Of Questions = Fear Of Being Found Out

By Fast Bucks

Readers have until 8 May to make submissions as to what provisions should and shouldn't be included in the next version of the Code of Meeting Practice. This code sets out various procedures regarding how councillors, staff and members of the public are meant to proceed at Council meetings.

The Code of Conduct applies at all times but only to Council officers (i.e. councillors and staff), while the Code of Meeting Practice applies to everyone present, but only when a meeting is officially in progress.

I have three main areas of concern in relation to which changes should be made. Some of these proposals are merely reversions to how things were in the 'good old days'; i.e. they are not radical at all.

- 1. For obvious reasons I deplore Council resolutions which purport to expel a person for 'disorderly conduct' without giving the expellee a chance to defend or explain the behaviour complained of. Both former Mayor, Simon Richardson at his last meeting, and current Mayor, Michael Lyon at his first meeting, succumbed to group hysteria in order to expel a person without due process. That person just happens to have been a strident critic of both these chaps and of their good mates the Council staff. (The lynch mob mentality is alive and well in Byron Shire, as Cr. Duncan Dey could no doubt attest.)
- 2. The Council staff and their pseudogreen lapdogs have a terror of questions, especially my questions, and at the first meeting of the new Council in January 2022, staff proposed to ban public questions altogether. In response to a subsequent question from me, Ralph James purported that staff had 'derived' this banning idea from the State government's model. This is nonsense; the Model Code of Meeting Practice does not even broach the subject of public questions. In other words the staff blatantly interfered in a policy debate while hinting at non-existent official blessing. Subsequently, the matter went to the so-called 'Strategic Planning Workshop' where a 'consensus' emerged that **only** questions pertaining to the current **agenda** should be permitted. This is what the draft Code now proposes for community comment

Clearly fear of questions = fear of being found out. Our Council staff do have a lot to fear. See for example last week's *Echo* story explaining how staff sold out the community on the West Byron issue; essentially by sabotaging a court case. If the current draft version of the Code is successful no one would be able to ask a question about that matter until West Byron is next mentioned in the agenda – which may be years away.

It should be remembered that one question per meeting per person is itself an historical compromise.

How long will it be before questions are compromised out of existence altogether, as they were in 2013 as the result of a sneaky manoeuvre by Simon Richardson? The right to information is a cornerstone of democracy. Choice without reliable information to base it upon is meaningless. Those who withhold reliable information are antidemocratic and would fit in well in Putin's Russia

3. The 'Strategic Planning Workshop' ('SPW') is a rort, a device set up by staff. They call it a 'workshop' rather than a 'committee' so that staff can participate while keeping the public out, and keeping the outcome a secret. In other words, so that staff can quietly partake in the decision-making process in policy matters where bureaucrats should simply butt out altogether. The Code of Meeting Practice needs to make it clear that the wishes of staff are not wanted unless specifically asked for. This is especially true in relation to policy matters such as the Code.

The role of staff is twofold: (i) to enact the decisions of those elected to make such decisions and; (ii) to make sure that those decisions are based on reliable and fulsome advice and information and provided by staff acting in good faith. The role of staff is **not to** systematically undermine councillors' decision-making for the benefit of those who favour unlimited development, mates rates, procedural shortcuts and wastage of public funds.

At the last meeting of Council I asked Cr. Mark Swivel to explain how, why and when normal committee processes came to be partially replaced by the SPW. His reply, shorn of its camouflage, was essentially 'I don't know'. This is lazy and pissweak considering he has the staff at his fingertips to explain dates, relevant Council resolutions, Council delegations, restructuring and anything else thought relevant. Mark went on to describe me as 'obsessive' for asking two questions on the same subject! How dare I probe deeply when Mark only flutters about on the surface of things... Furthermore I could hardly have "confused" the SPW with the Community Strategic something-or-other when I had never even heard of the latter until Mark mentioned it.

I must say I found it quite amusing to be further told that I 'profoundly misunderstand' the relationship between staff and councillors. Mark is quite courageous for a guy who's been around all of five minutes, isn't he? On the one hand he moved motions suggesting that councillors should hold some informal meetings without the presence of staff, yet on the other he sees no problem with staff wilfully intervening via the Strategic Planning Workshop.

Now here's a thought for Mark. When I was on Council, you simply lodged your notice of motion and it was up to you to do the research and develop the arguments. The staff stayed out of it. Some time in the last 12 years staff snuck in this idea that they were entitled to comment on and analyse a councillors proposal. Not only that, but they were entitled to make a formal recommendation as to how councillors should vote. (The latter was subsequently abolished but the commentary remains).

I note that when Mark, at the last meeting, proposed that councillors should on occasion meet without the presence of staff, the staff comments were (surprise surprise) not only highly negative but quite misleading. In this way they were indirectly able to tell Cr. Lapdog how he and his ilk should vote – which they did, including unfortunately Cr. Dey.

My specific proposals

- 1 (i) The Strategic Planning Workshop is not to be used as a source of so-called consensus on any issue i.e. as a de facto preliminary decision-making body. 'Workshop' = training or familiarisation.
- (ii) The SPW is to be restricted to strategic planning issues only, consistent with normal English language usage.
- (iii) The Council must decline to debate staff recommendations issuing from the SPW. The Local Government Act explicitly prohibits said body from making even preliminary decisions. A "consensus" is a de facto "decision" if it results in a specific course of action. Ralph James's word games don't change that.
- 2. Decisions as to whether a particular proposed change to the Code of Meeting Practice (however minimal) or to any other Council policy, should be publicly exhibited or not, it should be made by the elected Council, not by staff.
- 3. Council during public access allow questions from members of the public that pertain to general Council business, whether on the current agenda or not.

- 4. Whether or not a particular public question is to be 'allowed' or 'disallowed' is to be decided on the day by a vote of Council, not secretly by the mayor or by staff prior to the meeting as is presently done.
- 5. In the event of an alleged 'act of disorder' by anyone present, the accused is to be given the opportunity to defend or explain himself/herself prior to any vote for expulsion, for any demand for an apology or for any other sanction.
- 6. A corporate entity that is a ratepayer or is the owner/operator of a business within the Shire, is permitted to protect its interests or the public interest by asking questions in the same way as a member of the public, a corporation being legally a person.
- 7. In the event that the answer or response to a legitimate question put to Council does not, by evasion or other device, produce the information sought, Council, will upon complain, vote as to whether the questioner is entitled to ask the same question (or variant thereof) again at the next meeting in addition to the normally permitted question for that meeting.
- 8. Wilful failure by a staff member or councillor to answer a legitimate question, by the use of evasion, misdirection, irrelevance, misrepresentation or similar technique is considered an act of disrespect and a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- 9. Staff will not participate in debate by offering comments upon or analyses of Notices of mMotion unless specifically requested by the mover.

Occasionally The Echo has published letters from Oliver Dunn, the former Shire President (i.e Mayor). I remind him and others that he was my mentor and specifically advised 'ask questions, ask questions, and ask questions.' He also alerted me to the existence of the 'staff man', in those days usually a yokel farmer, who thought that anyone wearing a white collar was automatically to be admired, trusted and followed. These days we call them lapdogs.Oliver was also primarily responsible for the demise of Max Eastcott, the bureaucrat from hell. But that's another story...

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► Continued from page 14 decades and nothing, in my opinion, seems to have changed. The worst thing is that the process seems inexorable, and there seems little to be done to prevent developments that would seem not in the best interests of the place. We see the amount of time, energy and money expended over the West Byron DAs, as the most recent example.

Paul Kingsnorth in his getting what they want and going ahead and doing it

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England, the Battle against the Bland describes the process we go through as asking the public for their opinions and feedback on a proposed development project, (thereby being seen as paying lip service to some kind of democratic process), but ignoring feedback for the most part and then simply

anyway. And pouring large amounts of cash into the process is seen as the lubricant to achieve their ends.

I shake my head in bemusement over The Echo's article on the appointment of a former mayor of Byron to the Northern Regional Planning Panel at a recent Council meeting. But, as my late Irish friend would say, 'Don't be so miserable...'

I voted for Fast Buck\$ for Mayor at the last Council election.

> **David Morris** Byron Bay

Safe as houses

We live in a safe seat. Isn't it wonderful to feel 'safe'. The downside is that we will never be promised a multi-storey car park for Mullumbimby railway station or any of the other magnanimous gestures that arrive in a pork barrel.

It is estimated that about thirty-four seats are up for grabs this election to be decided by four million people. This means the votes of about 13.5 million people don't really matter because they are in 'safe seats'. Perhaps it is time we turned the seat of Richmond into an 'unsafe seat' so we too can dip into the pork barrel.

> **George Graham** Byron Bay

Plant a seed

Wonderful for The Echo to give the space for Grade three student, Leo Turnbull, to write about his flood experiences. It is refreshing to read an honest account. Often we make unconscious decisions based on traumas or exciting occasions which carry over to adult life. I hope Leo sees the impact he has made as a writer and I hope this is added to his CV whatever the size!

Only time will tell if and what he will take from this event to help himself and others in the future.

> **Raphael Lee Cass** Byron Bay

Transparency and open government

Like Adrian Gattenhof (Letters, 13/4), I voted for Council candidates I believed would really represent the community interest and employ common sense where required. It was bad enough when they failed to support a time limit on holiday letting, but then came the fining of the woman who dared to paint her house purple (lilac?) in the heritage area. This was ridiculous and obviously harmful to the woman in question – Council should retract that decision or

► Continued on page 24

The election this month

■ My excitement about the electoral result is rising fast! This is a stellar chance to reconstruct our democracy to deliver for all people. Anger and boredom are mounting steadily, the result of campaign lies and irrelevance that stoke fears.

A raft of Independents can deliver as follows: love over fear; peace versus warring factional troops; intelligent, balanced individuals with compassion for all, versus irrational partisan empathy for some; welfare of locals versus corporate agendas.

Let's bolster democracy with new laws that value Independents over dangerously manipulated political parties. Undemocratic partisan foundations of sand have always caused instability and wars.

The biggest challenge of all will be legislation to bring to heel globalist corporations with unsavoury agendas for humanity. They are, even now, manipulating our media to pump out propaganda favouring established parties.

Absent transparency, parties direct mountains of public money to favour selected corporations - great economic managers indeed!

So be courageous, vote with your heart first, and place big parties last. Hayo van der Woude Mullumbimby

■ So, now our 'Independent' advocates of 'transparent government' are holding important meetings that affect the fabric of our beloved town (Mullum) behind closed doors.

C'mon guys, you can do better than this. Only Duncan Dey answered my pre-election concerns openly and only he agreed to be filmed by esteemed filmmaker David Bradbury. I'm disillusioned with the Greens, and all party politics, as are most people I know, but Duncan has the authenticity to walk his talk and I'm glad we have him on Council.

Do we really want a large block of flats in the centre of town? It would be a big change for little Mullum and what's left of the car park will no doubt be taken up by residents' cars.

Let's look at long-term solutions and not go for a quick fix. There's acres of land on the edges of town - a healthy walk from amenities.

And how about involving those you claim to represent with open process? We'd appreciate that.

> L Grace Wilsons Creek

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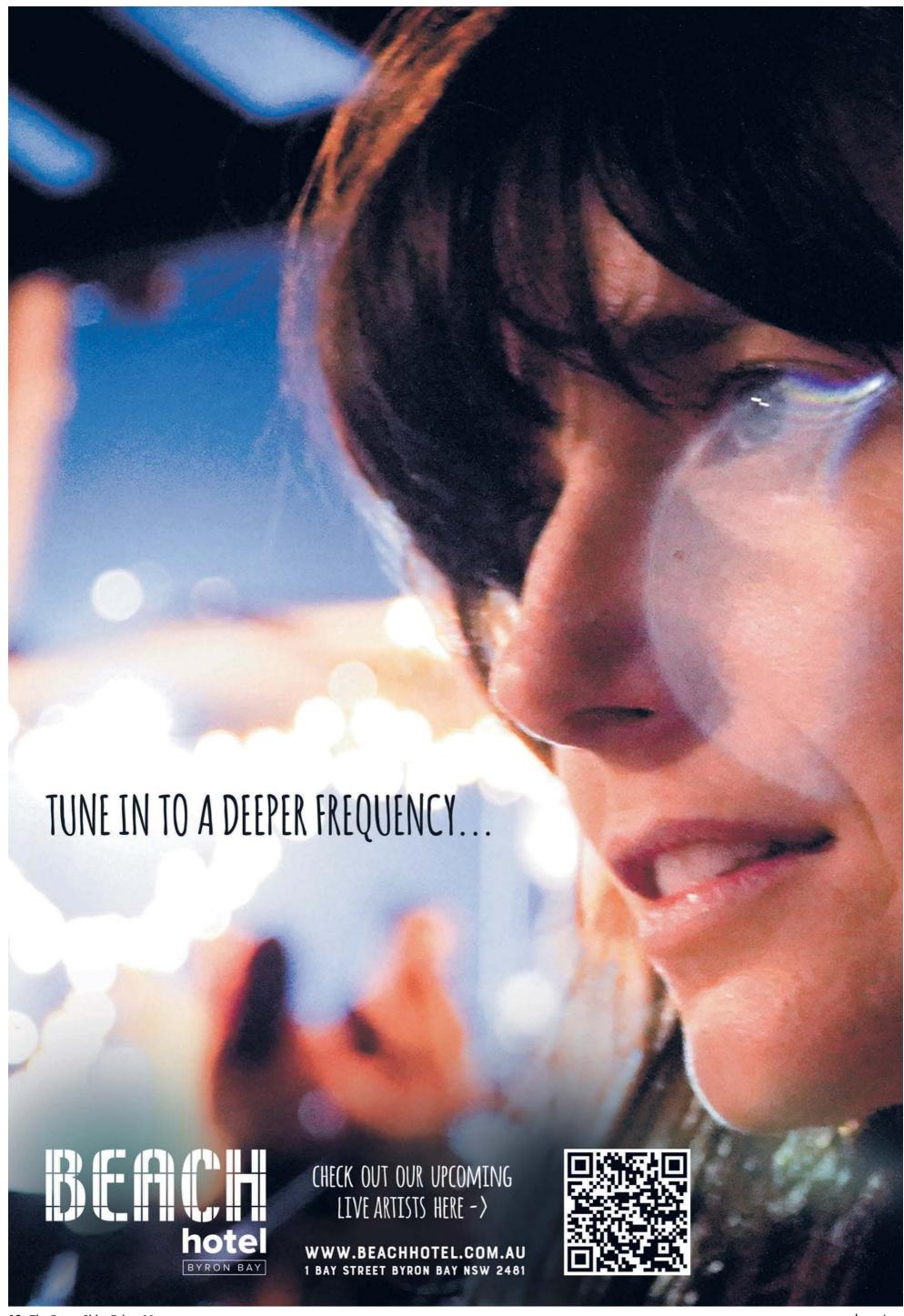
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18 The Byron Shire Echo May 4, 2022 www.echo.net.au

Rectifying an atrocious injustice by the Morrison Government

In March 2022, Liberal Party MLC, Catherine Cusack announced her resignation from parliament (effective in August) over the federal government's handling of the flooding disaster on Australia's east coast.

Catherine Cusack

t saddens me to realise that, having served 19 years in NSW Parliament, one of my best achievements has been accomplished by quitting and surrendering five years remaining in my term as a Liberal MP. I am not sad to be going – just dismayed that such a drama should have been necessary to rectify the atrocious injustice in the Morrison Government's politicised funding for flood victims.

I am most sad to realise many young journalists, public servants and citizens accept such unethical behaviour by a federal government as being 'normal politics' – when in fact it is not normal at all. It is completely unacceptable and I have spent considerable time trying to understand how it can even be legal to discriminate between flood victims who suffered catastrophic losses on the basis of their location rather than their need?

A legal fiction

The only plausible explanation suggested is that it was made legal by the Emergency Declaration belatedly announced by the Prime Minister during his Lismore visit – allegedly to cut red tape. They constructed a legal fiction about 'badly flooded' Local Government Areas (Lismore and other LGAs in the federal seat of Page) and excluded what they call 'lesser flooded' LGAs, including Tweed, Byron and Ballina (in the federal seat of Richmond).

At first I naively assumed the whole policy was a terrible mistake and tried for a week to explain it wasn't LGAs that flooded – it was river systems and rivers that flooded. So for example, the massive body of water that surged through Lismore did not vanish inside that LGA - no, it travelled to sea through river towns like Coraki, Woodburn and into Ballina Shire villages like Cabbage Tree Island, Wardell and Ballina. It was the same water - if



Former Liberal Party MLC, Catherine Cusack assumed office in 2003 and retired in the aftermath of this year's flood.

anything, it was more water because, for the first time since official records began, the Richmond and Wilsons Rivers rivers were both in flood when they converged at Coraki.

A deal for Page

When it became apparent they would not give up on this ridiculous notion of 'lesser flooded LGAs' I reached the sickening realisation that it was not a mistake, it really was constructed to meet the political needs of the government, not the financial needs of victims. It was a special deal for Page voters because it's a coalition government seat, without the unwanted expense of including victims in the Labor seat of Richmond.

The federal government was unresponsive during that week I spent frantically trying to work this out.

Fun fact; the Office of the Federal Minister for **Emergency Services phone** rang out maybe 50 times and she doesn't have an answering service. The Nationals MP for Page, Kevin Hogan did not reply to my message. Incompetence? Or deliberate evasion? I raised the issue with the NSW premier and the Liberal Party head office. It was only when every button I tried to push proved floppy, that I

accepted it really was as bad as it looked, and I gave up in complete disgust.

Appalling attitude

This appalling attitude towards thousands of our flood victims aggravated an already growing sense of anger that our community was being treated as second class. It really took hold during the lockdown phases of the pandemic when we were pretty much abandoned to endure Queensland's border closures. The chaotic vaccination rollout saw us deprived of fair access - so that when Sydney came out of lockdown, our vax rate was too low, resulting in our young people who were last in line for the jab, and had followed all the advice, finding themselves barred from cafes, swimming pools and libraries. We were branded an anti-vax community and instead of being given understanding or an apology we were told it was our own fault.

Both major parties have mistreated us, and our federal Labor MP who was useless during the border closures has capitalised politically on the floods but achieved nothing by way of pledges to rectify any of these injustices. Where is the hope?

I have turned away from Party considerations

Op Shop



hoping we can send a rocket to Canberra by electing

Mandy Nolan. Ugh, she is a

Green - but the times and

the situation is such that

in spite of my economic

conservatism, I can cope

We need to put her

our lives with humour

for years - and I deeply

and her environmental

Truly, it's time for Richmond to put ourselves

forward into the Canberra limelight and have an

authentic voice articulating

who we are, what's really

happened here, and insist on justice for our flood

This election for me is a

personal integrity first. She

has been a friend, lightening

admire her authenticity and

passion for our community

with that.

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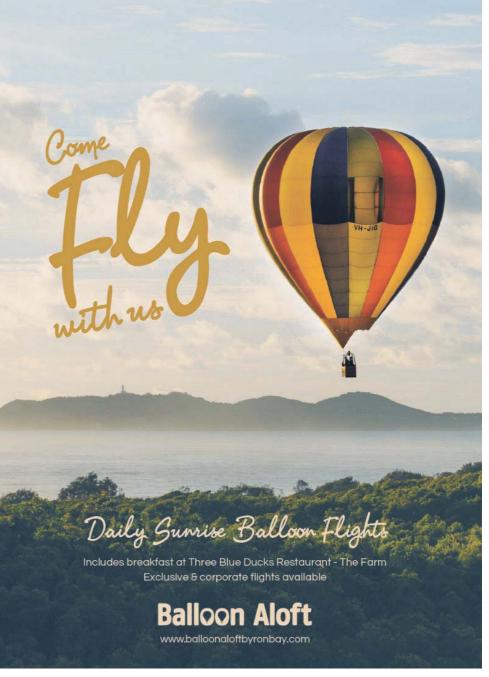
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Echo

Thanks to our donors, the Echo **Northern Rivers Flood Donation** Appeal has raised \$86,319 to 2pm on Tuesday 3 May for organisations helping flood-affected people.

We will leave the appeal open, as the impacts of the flood will be long-lasting and we are still being approached by grassroots organisations needing funding, but the swift response of private donors to our fund has enabled money to flow when it was most needed.

To donate scan this QR code, go to GoFundMe and search for "Echo Northern Rivers 2022 flood donation appeal"

CHESS Ian Rogers

When former World Champion noticed that another Grandmaster was also added to the list - a Frenchman!

study Soviet chess literature. (and are now under sanctions). (Chess books from the USSR were

which involved convincing five the dominator Garry Kasparov.

then parlayed his knowledge of bank itself to its officials. like to bring my business partners assets in the US can be seized.

Anatoly Karpov was placed on a firm 'Russia Goes Global', which US sanctions list in March, few specialised in buying, merging, and selling Russian companies. He worked with some of Russia's biggest firms, the billionaire leaders Joel Lautier learned to read of which make up much of the Russian at the age of 12 in order to Russian Chess Federation's board

incredibly cheap and Lautier's friends. After the annexation of built up a chess library with many complain about the 'demonisation' books in Russian.) complain about the 'demonisation' of Russia and urged Europe to The rewards of Lautier's efforts expand business links with Russia.

Russian into an entry to the Fortunately for Lautier, the Russian finance world, his chess European Union has not followed skills opening plenty of doors. ('I suit, which means that only his

There's something about Mandy!

■ There's something about Mandy! You either love her or hate her. She is incredibly polarising in our community.

On the love-her side, there are hundreds of people Mandy has helped make massive breakthroughs in confidence, self-expression, and self-esteem by participating in her comedy courses. There are thousands of people she has brought to tears of laughter with decades of comedy gigs. As well as the many *Echo* readers that bear a Mandy-induced smile each week owing to some amusing insight in her column.

Over on the hate-her side, there are loads of people that absolutely despise her. They deride her as crazy, provax, man-hating, man-loving, not funny and all manner of other slurs I choose not to include in this letter.

Now that she's running for The Greens, the polarisation couldn't be more apparent.

A disclaimer: I love Mandy, we are friends, I have done several of her courses. I think she's funny and intelligent. But on politics, we differ. Given that she is a comedian, Mandy is not someone I would initially choose to represent me or this community when it comes to something serious like politics. But in this instance, it's a no-brainer.

You see, we have a unique opportunity to have our Richmond representative be someone who actually lives where we live in Mullumbimby. Mandy doesn't live in Ballina or Tweed Heads or Byron Bay – none of the big centres. She lives right here in Mullumbimby, right in the heart of Richmond.

Her family is here, her community is here, her interests are here. Finally, we could have someone that understands our community's wants and needs and is able to take them to a federal even though I prefer Labor to platform.

And they will listen. Why? Because they'll have to.

Mandy, a big woman with a big mouth will be using the full weight of her words to have our message heard.

She won't tolerate deaf dickheads saying stupid shit at her; she's had to deal with hecklers her whole career. She knows how to communicate effectively; she's maintained a weekly column longer than most of us have held jobs. Most importantly, she's fearless and will go for the jugular. That's why *I am* voting Mandy for Richmond.

> Obi McDonald-Saint Wilsons Creek

Greens, Labor & LNP

■ I support Mandy Nolan for Richmond and I also urgently want Albanese to be our PM. Actually, after Adam Bandt's brilliant address to the Press Club, I'd prefer him for PM! Alas, it's not possible. I will vote as I generally do: 1 Greens, 2 Labor and LNP last. Preferential voting means a vote for the Greens is NEVER wasted.

We have become used to uninspiring, out of touch politicians more concerned about their sponsors than we the people. But it doesn't need to be that way. I've been volunteering for Mandy, because I feel excited about being represented by someone I admire and am deeply aligned with. Mandy only needs a 4–5 per cent swing to get in. We have a golden opportunity for progressive change.

Labor have approved well over 100 new coal mines, even after urging the coalition to transition faster. Labor are not planning to raise income support above the poverty line, address affordable housing or make refugee policies more humane. So

the LNP, to me there is little point in a Labor government without enough progressives to keep them accountable on important issues.

I met Justine when I went to her office with Stop Adani Byron Shire to deliver a petition. She met with us, was polite and supported us in principle. But her party didn't, so she had to vote with them to expand coal and gas, and her position may have put her on the backbench.

With Mandy alongside Adam in the lower house, the Greens' policies will be debated, so many more progressive bills can make it through to the Senate.

Vote 1 Mandy Nolan for Richmond and 1 David Shoebridge in the Senate.

> Jenni Cargill-Strong Ballina

Government MIA

■ It's beginning to look like a pattern: Government support gone missing when it is most needed. Whether it's holidaying in Hawaii in the midst of devastating bushfires, stuffing up tracing apps and vaccines during a pandemic, or leaving people to organise their own emergency response during floods. The message is: 'you're on your own - deal with it'. Looks like gross incompetence right? But what if this is actually incompetence by design?

Are we supposed to lose faith in the government safety net altogether?

If we listened to Morrison as Social Services Minister in 2015 saying that 'welfare must be a good deal for investors' things become clearer. We pay taxes to enable the government to provide for infrastructure, emergency services, support for the disadvantaged and much more. By making this

support dependant on being 'an attractive proposition for business' the government is essentially breaking its pact with us. It's saying that providing for the collective good of society is optional and not to be relied on.

So, we may ask, what are we then paying taxes for? This is beyond the ideology of 'small government' or 'cutting red tape' so business can get on with things. This is undermining our faith in the role of government altogether.

What we've seen is a willful trashing of the brand of government in Australia - regardless of who's in charge. In America that was happening at speed under Trump. People must fend for themselves – many are only one misfortune away from living on the street.

Do not be led down this path, do not lower your expectations of what a government should be capable of. Yes – we do deserve competent management of pandemics, extreme disasters, access to housing and an effective transition to a renewable economy. Do not turn your back this election, instead, look with open-eyed scrutiny. Who is merely offering photo ops, PR stunts and soundbites, and who has policies, financed by fair taxes on billionaires, to restore Australia to a place that values looking out for each other? This is what we teach our children. They deserve a better place to grow up.

Mandy Nolan has a proven record of working for and advocating for a fair go for all. The Greens are the only party in Australia who do not accept 'donations' from corporate interest groups with 'special demands' that must be repaid once in office.

Marion Riordan Nunderi

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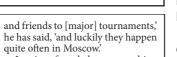
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Lautier founded a consulting

Lautier went all in with his new father, a 2200 rated player, had Crimea, he used an interview to

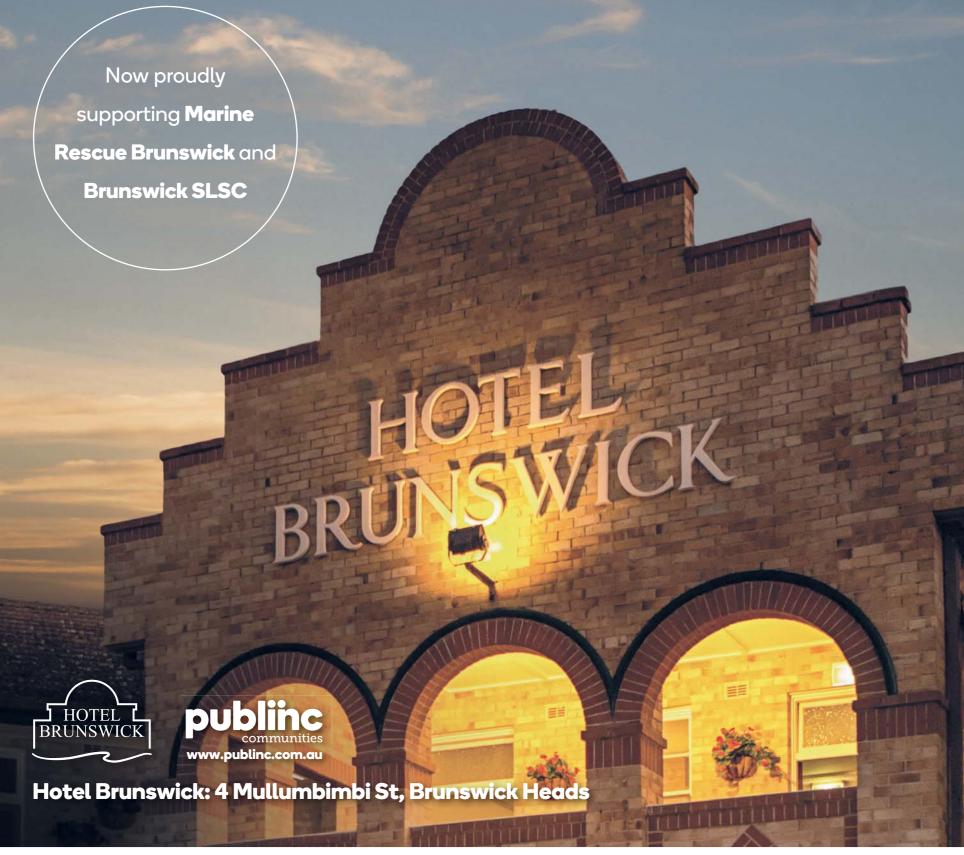
He was also a director in a school friends that they wanted to number of companies including learn Russian so that his school Sovcombank, which became one of would employ a teacher of the the first banks sanctioned by the US language – were considerable. the day after the Ukraine invasion Lautier won the 1988 World began. (Sovcombank was deemed to Junior Under 20 Championship in be a key bank enabling Vladimir Adelaide aged only 15 and later Putin and his associates to enrich become an elite player, one of the themselves.) A day later Lautier few to enjoy a plus score against resigned from the board of directors but, because such a resignation After his retirement from chess could only become official after a in 2006, aged 33, Lautier moved to shareholder meeting, he was still a Moscow and studied at Wharton director when in March the US and Skolkovo business schools. He extended the sanctions from the





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Vale Main Arm's Ray Goodwin

Brian Mollet

Mullumbimby, Main Arm, and music lost an elder statesman last week with the passing of Ray Goodwin; guitar maestro, collector of curiosities, raconteur, a gentle giant remembered for his virtuosity, generosity and positivity.

Ray fought off one bout of cancer but the second round claimed him at the age of 72. Born in Aukland New Zealand, he came to Australia in 1972 as a 23-year-old founding member of the well known band, Dragon.

Ray's early years were tough – he left school at 16 to care for his mother and younger sister, taking a job

at the local meat works. His Father battled with alcohol and violence and Ray had to stand up to him and care for his family.

Lightning sharp, but lost to the academic world, music became the place to express his many talents. While in Sydney he met and befriended some of the founders of the early multiple occupancy sites in Upper Main Arm. This is what eventually brought him to the area.

Ray never banged on about politics but as a proud Polynesian man (his mother came from Tonga) he did volunteer work for some of the early lawyers and activists who worked to have Indigenous people's war records



recognised. At the same time he also worked as a session musician and was jamming live with everything from big bands to his own projects, and could name-drop like few others, although he was never one to boast – after sufficient prodding he would disclose some of the people he had worked with.

Ray actively supported young musicians in the area with his extensive contacts in the music industry, advice, and sometimes even obtaining good quality instruments for them.

With a good eye for a bargain Ray assembled a library of unique and interesting objects by buying from garage sales and the like for film shoots and the theatre. Sadly much of this was lost when the recent local floods caused a landslip that knocked down Ray's house in Upper Main Arm while he was in the last stages of cancer.

Ray remained a peaceful and positive warrior to the end.

Ray's life will be celebrated in a memorial to be held at Durrumbul Hall on the 9 May at 2pm.

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PUBLIC MEETING ABOUT MULLUMBIMBY'S FUTURE



Living with Flooding?

When: Monday 16 May, 6pm to 8pm Where: Mullum Ex-Services Club Auditorium, Dalley Street Mullumbimby

Mullumbimby residents, landholders and friends are invited to discuss our town's future in relation to flooding. Council's 2020 North Byron Floodplain Plan offers a suite of ideas.

A post-flood review of the Plan is underway.

This community meeting is for sharing ideas and assessing which ideas we want implemented or changed. The ideas revolve around flood-warning, evacuation, house-raising, wet-proofing and buy-back.

We'll need to work together to make anything happen, and to make clear to government how it can assist.

> Sonia Laverty, for MRA sonia.laverty@bigpond.com

Vale Paddy Dawson 19/09/1945 – 23/04/2022

Paddy Dawson was born in London to unconventional parents who travelled from Adelaide in the 1930s, overland through China, Mongolia and Russia - no mean feat for those times. They made a life for themselves in Hampstead, and Paddy grew up in a bohemian environment, immersed in theatre and the arts, and with Hampstead Heath as his backyard. He was such a unique character - charming, political and entertaining.

The Dawson family returned to Australia in 1955 when Paddy was ten. They lived in Mosman, he went to North Sydney Boys High and Sydney University.

Paddy was one of the unmissable characters at Sydney Uni back in the 1960s. He rode on the Freedom Bus in 1965 and was at every anti-Vietnam War demonstration and university sit-in. He burned his draft card on the steps of the Federal Court, supported Women's rights, Gay rights, and the Anti-Apartheid, Anti-Nuclear, and Anti-Uranium mining movements. You could never miss him. Tall, lanky, blonde-haired. Hard not to hear him too as he was always up for a discussion on politics or music in those years. Then,



Paddy's son Joe, his partner Jenny and stepdaughter Lanie, and about 80 friends and relatives gathered at the Billinudgel Hotel, last Sunday to remember a much loved, and respected, trouble maker.

his politics were libertarian socialist, and his models would have been from Spain and the revolutionary anarchosyndicalist movement, or anywhere else where revolutionary and democratic change came from the bottom up. His music then was Dylan and the early American hard rock bands. He was a charismatic regular at the inner-city leftie drinking holes, a fully-fledged member of the 'Drinkers for Peace and Disarmament' and a founding member of the 'Unemployed Peoples Union'.

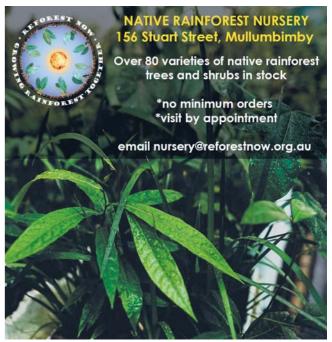
Paddy left Sydney in the early '70s and travelled overseas, spending time in the USA at the height of the Vietnam war protests and Watergate, but it was outback Australia that won his heart and soul. After many adventures in the wilds of the Northern Territory and Far North Queensland he finally settled in Byron Shire in 1986. He, and his partner Kaylene, slipped into the Huonbrook Valley scene and later, New Brighton. Together they raised their muchloved son, Joe, and remained close friends until the end.

True to form, Paddy was always active in the community - writing for the Northern Star, involved in local issues, studying for his second

degree, working as a Planning Consultant for Byron Shire Council and, more recently, a member of the Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley ALP. For the last 16 years he has been living the good life with his partner Jenny, who was always by his side – staunch, caring and loving throughout. Today, he would possibly qualify as a local with 36 years in the Shire. He was as well known here as he was in Sydney. The music was different in recent years (opera, classical, June Tabor and the Pogues) but his open, determined, radical self, remained to

RIP Paddy - you will be missed.





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Nathan Jones Independent for the seat of Richmond How I compare to the main political parties

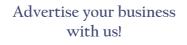


Do you see any real differences in the candidates?	Nathan Jones Independent	Labor, Lib/ Nat, other parties
Supports a national convention on federation reform in the next year - how to improve our system of government with the goal of improving delivery of frontline government services in all levels of government	Yes	No
Understands that our three layers of government collectively spend \$900 billion each year and \$75 billion is wasted on excessive fixed costs and administration duplication across the six states and two territories.	Yes	No
Wants efficiency and productivity reforms so we spend \$75 billion less on administration (fixed costs) in the state and territory capital cities and \$75 billion more on frontline services (variable costs) Australia wide which will bring significantly more money and better services to the regional areas of Australia.	Yes	No
Billions more in funding for Affordable housing, Defence, Emergency Services, Aged Care, Child Care, Disability Care - NDIS, health, hospitals, mental health, education, TAFE, Schools, our public facilities to be world class, better pay and conditions for all frontline staff "without adding to our public debt or increase taxes".	Yes	No
Can fully fund the recommended \$5 per hour pay rise for all aged care workers that will cost the budget \$5 billion per year and can do this through federation reform and not increase taxes or government debt	Yes	No
Significantly reduce state premiers powers so they will no longer be able to close our internal borders like at Tweed -Coolongatta in 2020 - 2021.	Yes	No
Reduce the number of politicians in all states/ territory and federal parliaments from 850 to around 650. Improve and empower public service departments and rely less on untrained political staffers for advice to government ministers.	Yes	No
Support our young people by repaying our debt earlier so our children and grandchildren have less public debt, less interest expense each year and a better future of public services. Let us quickly end this terrible intergenerational theft that is getting worse each year.	Yes	No
Maximising efficiency and productivity of our public sector leads to maximising compassion in getting more essential services to more Australians. With more hospital beds, nurses and doctors for example, there will be better ratios of patients to nurses and lower hospital waiting lists for surgeries.	Yes	No
A national consistent set of laws and regulations and overall lower taxes for all Australian businesses. This will give business more certainty to expand their operations, employ more staff and invest more in our economy.	Yes	No
Believes that we should get to a net zero emissions in Australia by 2050 and earlier if possible. Billions invested in renewable energy technology with investment rising each year.	Yes	Mostly Yes
Need institutional reform. We need a strong Independent Commission against Corruption, ICAC. We need Political donation reform so elections cannot be 'bought by the richest candidate or party'	Yes	Mixed Responses

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► Continued from page 16 somehow refund the fine.

Now Council has refused to allow internationallyrecognised filmmaker, David Bradbury, to film a Council meeting; whatever happened to transparency and open government? (Thank you Duncan for your stand.)

Possibly most of these Councillors don't know that way back in the '90s some of us stood for Council to stop the rampant development happening at the time, notably in rural areas. David made a film, The Battle for Byron, which helped us enormously and in turn helped preserve some of the features of this shire which most of us value so much.

I can only offer a sincere apology to David.

> **Jenny Coman** Bangalow

Ordinary and ugly

Well one thing you can say about the proposed Council housing affordability project is that it's bloody ordinary and ugly. How Council, who persecuted a woman for painting her house the 'wrong' colour, could now think that their current suggestion is acceptable is beyond me. It totally clashes with Mullumbimby's push towards being a heritage

town – and is it acceptable to house people above petrol fumes just because they happen to be poor?

> **David Gilet** Byron Bay

Keep the change?

At the meeting held at Ocean Shores Country Club organised by OSCA to discuss the flooding issue in the North of Byron Shire, it was revealed that the 2021 budget for stormwater was \$350,000 but only \$94,000 had been spent. Mayor Lyon has given a commitment to finding out what has happened here.

This should be of concern to all the elected Council - why did not the Director of Infrastructure pick up on this non-expenditure or the General Manager?

This should raise some very serious questions as to how money is being spent by Council departments and what checks are in place?

The problem exists that directors are able to say an expenditure comes out of an operational budget, and therefore when asked no explanation needs to be given.

This was evident after the 2005 augmentation of the West Byron Waste Water Treatment Plant (WBWWTP) when substantial changes were made to the constructed wetlands. When the then Director of Water & Recycling (W&R) was reportedly asked by two councillors what the changes to the constructed wetlands cost, they were told that the money came out of the operational budget so they did not need to know. The question is: who actually knows the amount that was spent? The original tender

for the augmentation of WBWWTP was twenty-two million dollars but after various claims by the John Holland Group the final figure was \$29 million dollars, so the cost of the changes to the constructed wetlands became a significant budget issue but the Director of W&R was able to not disclose it.

The inflow infiltration investigation has gone to over one million dollars per year, when originally only \$500,000 was put by W&R to the Water Waste & Sewer Advisory Committee (WW&SAC) for their recommendation to the elected Council who endorsed the committee's recommendation. This still has over a year to run, so is that million dollars plus on top of the \$500,000? Did the committee or the elected Council endorse this? What improvements to the infrastructure and its performance have been shown to justify this expenditure?

> **Alan Dickens** Ballina

Please explain

In regards to the lost West Byron court case I understand that Council adopted a legal position to concede contentious points in the DA regarding flooding, drainage, sewer, traffic etc. on the advice of independent expert witnesses.

I would like one of those expert witnesses to explain to me how it is okay to import approximately 600,000 tonnes of fill onto a floodplain next to a highly sensitive wetland.

Just to make this clear: that is approximately 80,000 truckloads of fill. Assuming

there is a truck going in every ten minutes, five days a week, excluding holidays, that equates to eight years of infilling of West Byron.

And that alone that is sheer madness.

> Tom Vidal Byron Bay

Urban water supplies

I am grateful for the support of my fellow Councillors, who resolved last Thursday to turn what I consider is a 'first sod' towards NOT building the proposed new urban water supply dam known as the DuD (Dunoon Dam). On-stream dams are an outdated way of harvesting water from the environment. If the DuD is built, the dam wall will obliterate an area of significant First Nations heritage on a pristine reach of waterway. I'm reminded of the Jugun Caves in WA.

Despite the majority of councillors on Rous (our regional bulk water supplier) favouring the DuD, our Shire has an opportunity to lead the way by not increasing its draw on Rous' water. That decreases the incentive for the DuD

Byron Council took step one last week towards retaining our Shire's internal (non-Rous) water source, at Lavertys Gap, which currently supplies 14 per cent of this Shire's urban water. There are various scenarios for the future of the Lavertys Gap source. They range from closing it down to expanding it - adding an off-stream

The more of our own water we provide, the less incentive Rous has to build the DuD. It's that simple.

> **Duncan Dey** Main Arm

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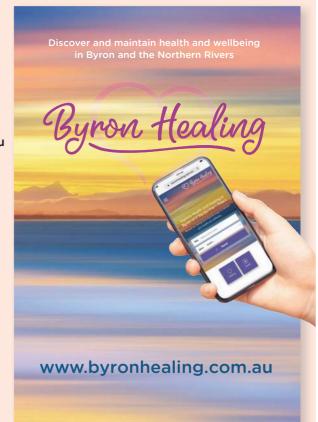






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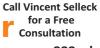
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2 Sustainability

Sustainability 2022

- an *Echo* supplement



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Corporations must pick up the cheque

'Corporation, n. An ingenious device for obtaining individual profit without individual responsibility.' – Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*.

Not much has changed in the arrogance of many corporations since Ambrose Bierce published those words in 1911. For us individuals, however, the world has become a much more dangerous place.

There's no more 'do you believe in climate change?'. It is now a matter of working out how, and at what speed, we can respond to and mitigate the worst aspects of global heating. An essential part of that is corporate responsibility.

Insurance groups, banks, or other businesses that underwrite and develop the next gas or coal project – egged on by a careless government – endanger our future and should be held to account. But the past follies of corporations need to be examined as well.

In an April 2021 report The Australia Institute estimated that in 2020–21, 'Australian federal and state governments provided a total of \$10.3 billion worth of spending and tax breaks to assist fossil fuel industries. The \$7.8 billion cost of the fuel tax rebate alone is more than the budget of the Australian Army. Over the longer term, \$8.3 billion is committed to subsidising gas extraction, coal-fired power, coal railways, ports, carbon capture and storage, and other measures.' – https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/fossil-fuel-subsidies-in-australia.



Scott Morrison in 2017 nursing his much-loved lump of coal in Australian Parliament saying 'this is coal, don't be afraid'.



Coal mining in the Hunter Valley. Photo MaxPhillips/ flicker.com

Not only are we paying billions of dollars in handouts to these companies, they walk away with massive profits to fuel their high-carbon-cost lifestyles, which include private jets and super yachts. In the meantime they appear to expect the lowly taxpayer to foot the bill for climate disasters.

And we are footing the bill right now. The costs of the 'uprecedented' Black Summer bushfires and now the 'unprecedented' 2022 flooding are being paid for not only through our rates and taxes but in the destruction of our homes and towns as well as in our experiences of trauma. This is a direct result of companies, businesses, governments, and individuals denying the science of climate change. They

have fuelled the 'culture wars', leading to doubt and fear and a failure to take the essential actions required to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Those who have behaved in such a reckless manner with our lives should be held legally and financially responsible.

People are dying, many of us have lost homes and livelihoods – and that is here on the north coast of NSW and on the east coast of Australia. Other people are losing even more; their entire countries are sinking below the rising seas. Now is the time to stand up and make your voice heard for change.

- Aslan Shand, editor

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Community action success celebrates 25 years

Aslan Shand

wenty-five years ago on Sunday, March 9, 1997 the **Green and Clean Awareness** Team (GCAT) launched in Byron with the aim to provide an 'ongoing program of clean-up sites and recycling' to 'clean up the Bay' and it is still going strong.

The principle behind the GCAT was bringing together locals and businesses who had a passion for cleaning up Byron Bay and maintain the beaches and dunes.

'We had some years with Tidy Towns, but saw the new model of GCAT better suited our community,' said one of the founders and continuing member, Veda Turner.

'We wanted community volunteers being supported by a team of local businesses and government to bring about environmental repair and renewal. We have had 25 years support from several businesses including the Beach Cafe, The Cellar, and Meads Meats.'

The GCAT have been involved in numerous campaigns over the years including 'Bin Ya Butts', 'Show your heart's in Byron', the 'Waste Cart' as well as cleaning up the Belongil Creek and more.

'Seeing the continuing support we have from volunteers and businesses has been awesome,' said



The Green and Clean Awareness Team celebrating 25 years of successful environmental action and rehabilitation in Byron Bay. Photo Jeff Dawson

'We have many volunteers who have been coming for close to 20 years, so the social benefits and positive friendships are a great support in a town that is becoming more fragmented by tourism

Beach and dune regeneration

While they have had limited engagement with the younger demographic, Veda said they have had the support of and worked with Byron Rangers and Positive Change, who have been working

with younger environmentally driven people locally.

'The protection and regeneration of the dunes at Clarkes and Main Beach is our only project at this moment,' explained Veda.

'The dune camping was a big problem for regen of the dunes, and when we lost the dunes last year there were truckloads of waste left in there that volunteers, Council, and Marine Parks dealt with.

'Our success in regenerating a diverse environment along the hind dunes in Byron with lots of assistance from our wider "team" has been a source of pride. The recent erosion has had a big impact, but

25 years in the trees and other plants transforms the visit. It is our creation to a degree, and we love it!'

> there remain the bones of what we had achieved and our spirit remains to protect and expand the diversity that is left.

'Many GCAT stalwarts are also involved with the Paterson St Hilltop Reserve, which is protecting an area of dwarf heath near the water tower. Many in our group where also part of the campaign to prevent development on the hilltops. This led to the Arakwal NP expanding and the Hilltop Reserve being created.'

The GCAT say that their principal focus for the group now is 'responding to nature's cycles at Clarkes and Main Beach' and they are hoping to bolster their current program with grant funding for the 'big job ahead of returning the dunes to a more resilient state'.

'From our perspective, this will include establishing dune grasses on the foredune, and planting out some areas of Dening Park behind the Main Beach dune to re-establish the buffer area,' Veda explained.

'For me and many group

members, the sense of belonging to these beautiful landscapes is a massive personal positive. To go to the beach and see our 25 years in the trees and other plants transforms the visit. It is our creation to a degree, and we love it! It is practical "looking after country" and it also looks after us of course.'

The GCAT is always happy to welcome new members of all ages to come and get involved in the work they continue to do maintaining the dunes and beaches.

'For anyone with an interest in environmental action, we provide an opportunity to work with a group of committed locals and create new friendships while enhancing the wonderful local environment,' said Veda.

The GCAT meets on the third Sunday of every month. They gather at 9am behind the Beach Cafe in the small park; their tall green banner is visible, and moves with them as they move through their work site throughout the morning.

'Our activity sign-on is important to attend as we plan the morning and then spend some time cleaning litter in the area before beginning the regen work at 10am. At 12 we have our free volunteers' BBQ lunch and prize draw of sponsored goodies,' said Veda.



Sustainability

'Unprecedented' but not unpredicted - we are now suffering from our failure to

Dr Willow Halgren

s Australians head into another election season iust as many parts of the east coast are recovering from 'unprecedented' flooding since February, and the national psyche is still reeling from the trauma of the 'unprecedented' Black Summer bushfires before that, it is critical now more than ever to vote according to your environmental conscience and fear for the future. Now is the time for widespread recognition that for the last 30 years, our political parties (and the coalition in particular) have so far spectacularly failed to fully recognise the then emerging (and now blindingly obvious) climate crisis, and to act in a way that is in any way proportionate to the dangers that we faced, and are now living through.

Predictions of more extreme drought, fire and flood are here

For indeed, what we are currently witnessing is the ramping up of the frequency and severity of natural disasters that was predicted by scientists over thirty years IPCC predicted that the near-term ago. In 1990, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) First Assessment Report warned that 'climate change causes increased

frequencies of droughts and fires', and that 'losses (of forests) by wildfire will be increasingly extensive'. It predicted that 'fire severity will increase', and also stated that 'the predicted changes in climate may also affect the frequency and intensity of coastal storms and hurricanes'.

In 1995, the Second IPCC Assessment Report identified many potentially serious climate change impacts and confirmed that 'warmer temperatures will lead to a more vigorous hydrological cycle; this translates into prospects for more severe droughts and/or floods in some place'. It reported that 'several models indicate an increase in precipitation intensity, suggesting a possibility for more extreme rainfall events', and predicted 'an increase in the occurrence of extremely hot days and a decrease in the occurrence of extremely cold days' owing to global warming. The report also predicted 'an increase in some regions in the incidence of extreme high-temperature events' and that all these different impacts would have 'resultant consequences for fires, pest outbreaks, and... primary productivity'.

Twenty-seven years ago, the impact of climate change on ecology, society, and the economy would be as a result of changing the intensity, seasonal timing,



The 'unprecedented' Black Summer fires of 2019-20. Photo Ewan Willis

and spatial distribution of storms, floods, and droughts. On the coasts, it stated that 'climate change clearly will increase the vulnerability of some coastal populations to flooding and erosional land loss.' It also stated that 'coastal ecosystems, such as coral reefs, were particularly at risk from the impacts of climate change', and predicted that 'changes in these ecosystems would have major negative effects on tourism, freshwater supplies, fisheries, and biodiversity'.

A mere three years later, in 1998, the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) experienced its first widespread mass bleaching of corals, coinciding with the first global mass coral bleaching event that year, which was owed to a particularly strong El Niño event (which is typically associated with hotter, drier weather in eastern Australia).

One stitch in time is now nine...

Two decades into the 21st century and we have witnessed so many of these predicted natural disasters that have occurred on an unprecedented level - either in terms of intensity or spatial extent. Only three years ago, many parts of Australia were in the grip of the most severe drought on record – in 2019, our rainfall was the lowest since records began;

many towns ran out of water and had to truck water in. This drought, along with 'unprecedented' extreme heatwaves, saw much of eastern Australia burn in the Black Summer bushfires, the extent and ferocity and impact of which were 'unprecedented'.

Fast forward two years (through a global pandemic!) and so far this year is currently the wettest on record in many parts of Australia. 'Unprecedented' rainfall has contributed to widespread, devastating floods along the already La Niña-sodden east coast, not once, but twice in a period of just over a month. While no single flood is directly attributable to climate change, physics dictates that as our atmosphere warms, its capacity to hold moisture increases (at an increasing rate) – it can hold around seven per cent more moisture per degree of heating. As Australia has warmed by 1.4 degrees since temperature measurements began this means that weather systems are being supercharged by all that extra heat and moisture in the atmosphere.

The oceans are also heating at an alarming rate. Recently, the Great Barrier Reef experienced its sixth mass coral bleaching event and the fourth mass bleaching event in the last six years. This should set some pretty loud alarm bells ringing, since scientists have established that





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listen to scientists' predictions of the impacts of climate change 30 years ago

▶ damaged coral reefs need at least 9–12 years to fully recover from bleaching events and an insufficient gap between recurring bleaching events will hinder the full recovery of a coral reef.

What's even more concerning than the unprecedented frequency and scale of coral bleaching events seen so far is that, for the first time since records began, this year's bleaching occurred under La Niña conditions, which usually means cooler, wetter conditions on the east coast. This points to just how much the heating of the planet has warmed the oceans that a cool, wet La Niña summer could result in another reef-bleaching event. Only the stout-hearted would enquire about the odds of the reef not bleaching for long enough to allow it to fully recover on our current emissions trajectory.

This observed increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters that we are currently enduring is very good evidence that our climate has already changed, and the scientists' predictions of 30 years ago (https://bit.ly/3rYNBjA) are now our lived reality.

What's more, the same scientists who first predicted these impacts of global warming are telling us that unless we dramatically reduce carbon emissions as fast as possible, and change the way live on this planet, things are only going

to get worse. If we continue on the same path, there is a danger the impact of the term 'unprecedented' on a disaster-weary population will be (has been?) dulled through overuse. It would be a pity if the increasing use of the language of disaster actually led to a numb complacency and stymied muchneeded action.

Split-brained, alienhanded climate policy in Australia

Of course, it would have been much easier, and far less costly, to avoid these impacts of climate change if we had listened to the scientists 30 years ago and acted appropriately. But we, the voting public, have been subjected to, and have largely lapped up, the lies, spin, and propaganda of the fossil-fuel industry and the vested interests within our political class, whose modus operandi has been to deny the science for as long as politically convenient. When denial was no longer politically feasible, the current government has striven to be seen to be doing something while getting away with doing as little as possible (https://bit.ly/3ETDPES).

Except for actual emissions reduction from Gillard's carbon-pricing mechanism (www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-26/



TAMARASMITH.ORG.AU

Roads were washed away in Main Arm during the 'unprecedented' floods of 2022. Photo Jimmy Priestly

Right: Seeking refuge during the second flood in 2022. Photo Paul Balckmore

carbon-tax-has-come-back-to-haunt-the-government/100322396), Australia has frittered away three decades during which we could have been steadily working to smoothly veer our society onto a climate-sustainable path. Instead, despite both sides of politics being initially on board with the idea of taxing carbon, we have failed to act with the appropriate urgency and now find ourselves trying to save our civilisation from the approaching raging inferno with a gardenhose-grade climate policy.

A policy which – in an expensive exercise in deckchair rearrangement – has seen the current federa

A policy which – in an expensive exercise in deckchair rearrangement – has seen the current federal government commit a billion more dollars to saving the Great Barrier Reef from everything from poor water quality owing to runoff, to crown of thorns starfish and illegal fishing but not committing to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Meanwhile, the NSW government has indeed committed to this, and even committed to a 50 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030, which is in line

with what the science says is necessary – but then recently approved a \$400m coal mine expansion in the state's northwest that would result in almost half a billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

If ever there were a time to close the gap between politically feasible climate action, and what the overwhelming majority of climate scientists deem necessary to avert a climate catastrophe in the coming decades, this is it. The scientists are telling us 'it's now or never'. Without 'immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors... it will be impossible to limit global warming to 1.5°C (https://bit.ly/3vO6Hdl). The next few years are critical, so this coming election is the one where we must demand that our politicians act according to what the science says needs to be done.

Else, one could well characterise the 30 years of IPCC reports as the scribblings of a Cassandra figure (cursed to utter true prophecies to disbelievers) in an evolving Greek tragedy set on a planetary stage, where a deeply flawed protagonist (Humanity) is either unwilling or incapable of averting a looming climate crisis, and only gradually gains the courage to act decisively after the possibility of changing the course of events has passed. These sorts of plays tend not to end well. We have been warned...





Sustainable alternatives to leather now and in the future

David Lowe

he leather industry is an environmental disaster. Consider that it takes 17,000 litres of water to make 1kg of leather, with every tannery a toxic time bomb and cattle ranching contributing heavily to global deforestation. Tannery workers face poisoning risks from chromium, formaldehyde, and arsenic, with vegetable-based options little better. It's been estimated that a pair of leather boots have a climate footprint equivalent to 66kg of CO2.

While many people still regard leather as a 'natural' product, which would otherwise be wasted, both the meat and dairy industries earn income from leather sales, which they describe as a 'co-product'. In many places leather supply chains run in parallel to meat supply chains, affecting primarily very young animals. The level of cruelty depends on the jurisdiction, and the cheapest suppliers have the worst animal and worker protections.

Leather is incredibly useful stuff though, and for a long time there were no real alternatives. Fortunately this is no longer true. In 2022 there is a profusion of other options on the market, with more on the way.

Isn't it just plastic?

The first leather alternatives were indeed oil-based, starting



López Velarde and Marte Cázarez with cactus leather. Photo Desserto

with vinyl and then diversifying into a bewildering range of products, some virtually indistinguishable from the 'real thing' and able to breathe. Better for the vegan conscience perhaps, but not exactly sustainable. While pioneers in this space like Melbourne's Vegan Wares are sadly no longer with us, there are other local businesses focused on re-using waste products to do the job of leather, such as Byron Bay's own WozWaste, which uses fair trade relationships to create wallets, handbags and many other items from things like old tyres and industrial belts. Recycled sails can be used to make bags and camping

One of the biggest problems with animal leather (and fossil-fuel-based alternatives) is waste, with these products taking many

years to break down, owing to the impermeability that makes them so useful, so anything that keeps them out of landfill is a win for the environment.

Organic alternatives

Imaginative designers are looking both forwards and backwards for alternatives to animal skins. Since ancient times, the bark of the cork tree has been valued for its flexibility and sustainability (the tree is not killed when the cork is harvested, and has to be nurtured for the long term, ie 300 years). Cork is now being used for everything from hats to handbags, and ticks a lot of boxes. It's lightweight, water resistant, vegan, and recyclable. The Cork Shop at Byron Bay is full of surprising cork items.

For products where durability is

of primary importance, like shoes, designers are using leathers made from otherwise wasted by-products of crops including pineapple (commercialised as Piñatex), coconut, apples (using cores and skins), teak, palms, nettles, and bananas (using treated leaves). You can even make leather from the grape waste products of wine production. The Italian company Vegea is doing this now.

Ugandan fig-tree bark, once used to make leathers for royalty, is now being exported to the world as a product called Barktex, and is suitable for clothing, footwear, and furniture.

Waxed canvas and organic cotton are making a comeback for some leather-like applications, as is hemp, which is stronger and more durable while requiring fewer chemicals and less water for its production.

Spiky stuff

In Sri Lanka, fine fibre agave 'leather' has been woven for centuries and is now being exported, creating sustainable bags and fashion accessories.

Cactuses such as the prickly pear plant (which once devastated Australia) are now being used in Mexico to create a fantastic array of products with similar durability, flexibility, and strength characteristics to leather, but without the drawbacks.

The Desserto cactus product,

literally a green leather, was brought to market by brilliant brothers Adrián López Velarde and Marte Cázarez. It has already been shown at leather fairs and been made into numerous products. The brothers point out that cacti fields require little water and are also major carbon sinks, with only the mature leaves being harvested.

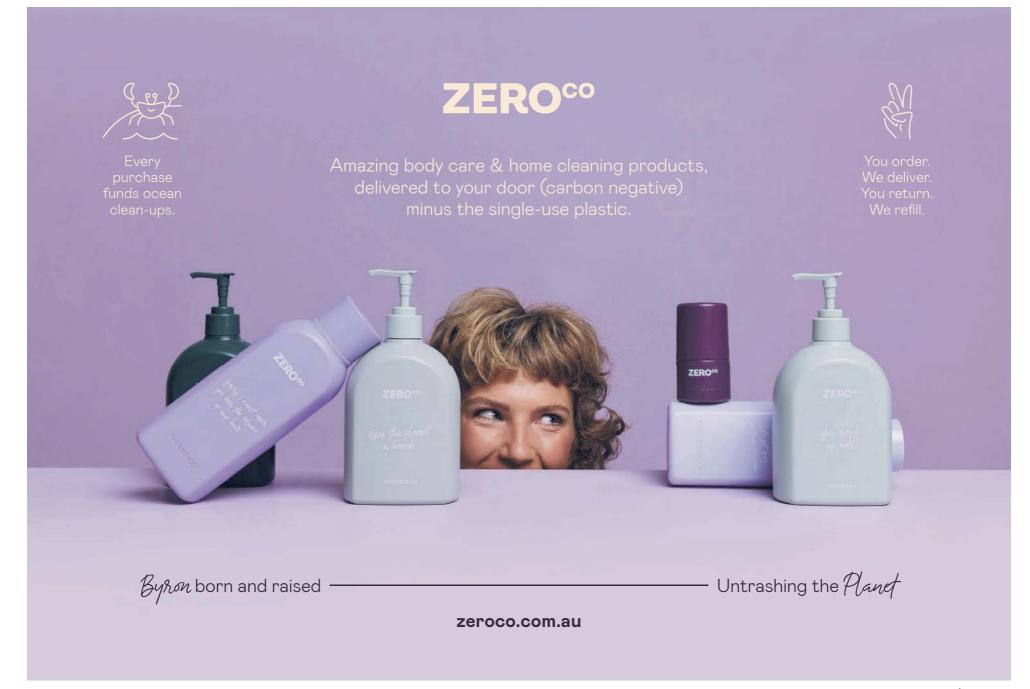
Fans of the *Vikings* TV show, starring Australian Sam Corlett, who is a vegan, might be surprised to know all his leather-looking costumes are actually made of cactus.

Leathers of the future

Lab-grown leather is now a reality, using stem-cell engineering to build bespoke leather, minus the cruelty. American company Modern Meadow argue that their product is far more sustainable than traditional leather.

Meanwhile the ever-versatile fungi family of organisms is bringing us mushroom leather. Marketed under such names as MuSkin, this is an entirely organic textile, which has the additional advantage of being grown to the specific size and shape needed for designs, minimising waste and needing few energy inputs.

Softer than suede, breathable, antibacterial, and able to be waterproofed without harmful chemicals, mushroom leather might be the next big thing!



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What does the current federal government solar discount mean for you?

The Federal Government provides a solar discount to home owners and businesses in Australia that install a small scale renewable energy system (solar, wind or hydro under the **Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme** (SRES) to help with the purchase cost. Installing an eligible system allows the creation of Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs). The number of STCs created is based on:

- the amount of renewable electricity the system produces or the amount of electricity consumption it reduces
- the climate region where it's installed.

Under the package, the Federal Government will pay around \$300 per kilowatt towards cost of a solar system.













Let's break it down

Pamela and Daniel are considering a 5.85kW solar system, supplied and installed by ProSolar for \$7,900. The federal government discount for this system is \$2,592 (at time of publishing). This brings their system cost down to \$5,308 saving them \$1,750 per year enabling them to pay back their investment in 3.03 years!

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ProSolar has designed three great deals to help you take advantage of the federal government discount.





4.68kW Solar System

- 12 x JA 390W panels with a 15-year product and 25-year performance warranty
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- Cost \$6,350
- Less federal government discount of \$2,088
- Total cost after discount = \$4,260

6.66kW Solar System

- 17 x JA 390W panels with a 15-year product and 25-year performance warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 5kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$8,500
- Less federal government discount of \$2,952
- Total cost after discount = \$5,548

8.58kW Solar System

- 20 x JA solar 390W panels with a 15-year product and 25-year performance warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 8.5kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$11,600
- Less federal government discount of \$3,816
- Total cost after discount = \$7,784

The above prices include supply, installation (standard installation on a tin roof) and GST. The Federal government discount is subject to change at anytime.

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8 Sustainability

Online sustainability: is it doing anything?

Adel Pheloung

he contemporary environmentalism movement has certainly gained ground since its inception in the 18th century. In the past few decades, social media have aided in garnering worldwide attention for the cause of saving the planet. Take, for instance, Greta Thunberg: within a year of photos of her standing outside of Sweden's Parliament for a school strike for climate change being circulated online, seven million students were joining her across the globe to protest unsustainable laws enacted by world leaders.

Online 'challenges' that have spread through social media have assisted the environmentalism movement in encouraging community participation. Trends such as #TrashTag, which peaked in 2019, challenged social media users to go outside to a polluted location, and then take before and after pictures of the cleanup that they performed. Social media posts are able to promote positive action to be taken for the environment, and can access the insides of people's homes, where protests cannot go.

While social media have created platforms for movements, such as environmentalism, to potentially reach millions of people, it has also given birth to 'clicktivism' or

Social media use can be a double-edged sword when it comes to creating change. Photo www.flickr.com/stretchpay

'slacktivism'. Slacktivism is defined by the Urban Dictionary as 'the selfdeluded idea that by liking, sharing, or retweeting something you are helping out'.

Slacktivism has affected all social movements, and environmentalism has been no exception. Most social media users will have encountered some sort of infographic post that asks for reshares and likes 'to help spread awareness' about the issue; whether that be a post about an endangered animal species, the dangers of single-use plastics, etc, resharing it creates a sense of satisfaction. You assisted in spreading understanding around an important issue, after all. But how much are these

online resources actually helping the movement?

Just one click

There was a recent (2021) Instagram movement that involved a 'sticker' one could add to a story. It said 'We'll plant 1 tree for every pet picture'. There ended up being around four million photos shared under this sticker. The company behind this sticker, Plant A Tree Co, however, has a past of sharing images, asking for reshares in exchange for donations to be given/trees planted, and then deleting these posts, with no proof of donations etc. The company then started a fundraiser, so that they could 'actually plant 4 million

Slacktivism — the self-deluded idea that by liking, sharing, or retweeting something you are helping out

> trees'. There is still no proof of Plant A Tree Co having ever followed through on their promises.

Not only has slacktivism been created through social media, but so has the commodification of 'sustainability'. Metal water bottles, metal straws, metal takeaway containers, bamboo clothing; the popularity of these items has surged alongside the sustainability movement. The idea of traditionally single-use items being recreated as reusable, of clothing made without plastic and with less water, is brilliant - in theory. Unfortunately, the push of 'sustainable' products through online influencers has created a new problem in and of itself. People are throwing out items that are usable and functional, to replace them with a more sustainable version. Which is only adding to landfill problems and mass production.

The online sustainability movement has flaws other than slacktivism and increasing consumerism.

The lack of accessibility within the

movement is huge. Eco-friendly alternatives are heavily pushed by influencers, yet tend to be timeand money-consuming.

Sustainable products and lifestyles, within western society at least, are significantly more expensive than their less eco-friendly counterparts. Non-sustainable items, such as clothing made from synthetic materials, single-use plastic, etc, are used by businesses because they are inexpensive, pumped out of a factory by underpaid workers; profit can easily be made and yet retail prices can remain low. This sad reality means that many lower-income families are financially unable to buy handmade hemp outfits, to fork out \$\$ for a set of metal straws. And so the sustainability movement excludes others by pushing an entirely dedicated lifestyle, rather than making small suggestions that can easily be incorporated into anyone's life.

Social media certainly have benefits for environmentalist activists. Their companies have global platforms that don't require large gatherings of people to get attention, and activists can reach everyone through fun challenges. However, to ensure that the positives outweigh the negatives, online activists need to participate in more than just liking/sharing posts that appear on their feeds.



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10 Sustainability

Getting hands on to help strengthen communities in response to climate change

Aslan Shand

t is about working with nature and bringing agriculture and culture together in a way that works with, rather than against, nature. It's permaculture, and the not-for-profit Northern Rivers Permaculture Network (NRPN) is currently being created.

'On 28 February we had a meeting where we invited anyone within the permaculture industry (professionally and not professionally) to come and brainstorm ways in which we as an industry can help plan and prepare for future events such as what we just experienced,' said Lauren O'Reilly, who teaches Permaculture at the Byron Community College.

'If we learned anything from the floods it's that there is power in unity.

Ms O'Reilly has also encouraged a number of students and former permaculture students to get involved with the NRPN and its development.

The fledgling group has put together a charter and a Permaculture Response to Climate. Their charter states that 'In the face of escalating environmental challenges with widespread social and



Lauren O'Reilly and other local permaculture practitioners came together to begin forming the Northern Rivers Permaculture Network in response to the recent 'unprecedented' flooding in the Northern Rivers. Photo supplied

economic impacts, the local permaculture community recognises the dire need for forward-thinking solutions toward our region's longterm resilience.'

Meeting the challenge

The NRPN has identified a range of challenges faced by the community when the local towns and hinterland flooded, including the need for emergency housing, mental health plans, and emergency procedures.

'As an industry we are particularly prepared for and are trained in helping with challenges such as these. As we train we learn how to

observe and understand nature so that we can best work with her. We are analytical, creative, think outside the box and make use of both low- and high-tech technologies,' they state in their recently developed mission statement.

'We are community focused and, most importantly, we are trained to design and build for resilience. This word can mean many different things but, from a bigger picture, permaculture perspective this means we can help our communities to be able to adapt to and minimise the impacts of the challenges that are to come in the future.'

Part of the response is to look at

providing 'training and courses to the community in permaculture and general "resilience-based" courses such as food security, survival information,' said Ms O'Reilly.

Education key

'Education is key to how well we fare in future events, so the college and the Centre for Permaculture will be a main player in helping us to provide [that] training'.

They also recognise the importance of working with and alongside with other like-minded partner organisations and aim to serve as a hub for a wide range of permaculture activities including

networking, planning, project development, consultation, education, and knowledge

Permaculture garden developed as

part of the Byron Community College

permaculture course. Photo supplied

'Ultimately, the NRPN seeks to organise and provide structure to a growing permaculture industry at the forefront of sustainable design.'

The Byron Community College offers a range of accredited courses in permaculture from beginners to advanced if you are looking for a hands-on understanding of permaculture design. If you would like to get involved in the NRPN then call 0473 372 825 or email Lauren O'Reilly at: freerangechange@ gmail.com.

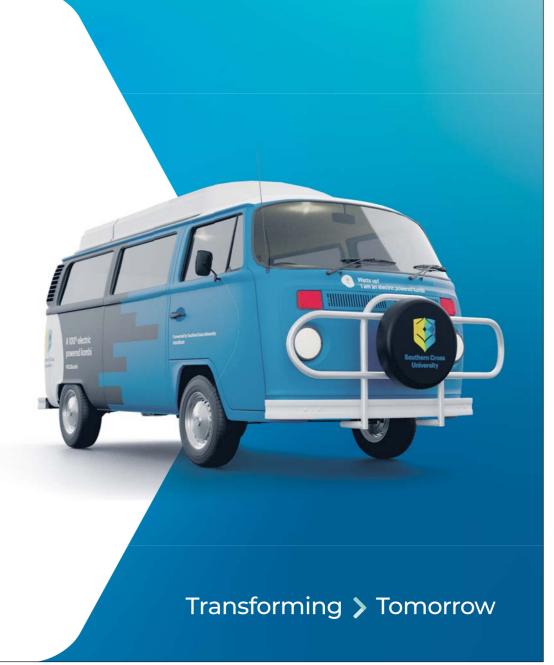


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First Nations sustainability - creating the future

Belle Budden

umans were once the apex predator, the top animal in the food chain, and we relied on this mentality for survival. Since then humans have evolved, fashioned, tools, culture, luxuries; we have observed nature and learnt about natural systems and transferred this knowledge generation to generation.

We evolved to custodians, caretakers, responsible for maintaining the balance of Country and all of life within it. In this role we not only survived; we thrived. We worked cooperatively - sharing the work, sharing the bounty, maintaining the balance in a relationship with Country. We held the responsibility as sacred and built our societies, laws, culture, and beliefs on holding this responsibility to be custodians. This is the framework of First Nations cultures, an intergenerational responsibility to understand the cycles of the past to ensure Country would continue to sustain life for all species for generations into the future. First Nations people have always known that if we care for Country then Country cares for us; this is Lore.

The current dominant human paradigm on Earth has turned its back on our role as custodians and begun to exploit the earth for



Painting Belle Budden

personal gain. Societies are driven by individual profit and ignoring our collective responsibilities to consider outcomes of our choices on other life forms around us and on the planet that sustains us. We have enjoyed unprecedented luxury of choice while others experience unprecedented poverty and suffering; we have caused destruction and extinctions. We

have damaged Country in ways we cannot fully comprehend, and we have broken Lore.

Operating as a whole

The cornerstone to First Nations approaches to sustainability is the awareness that all things are connected. The western system tends to break things down and examine things at micro levels. We hear how government often operates in silos; life is separated and isolated out in an attempt to understand it. First Nations peoples look at the interconnectivity of all life and it is these connections that are essential to understanding balance required for meaningful approaches to sustainability. This is how we care for Country.

A major barrier to this is an holistic approach to sustainability and for Aboriginal people this means housing. For us the idea of owning Country is ridiculous. We belong to Country; it could never belong to us. It is against our culture to try to own land; many of us have been forced to break this belief to provide security and sustainability in our families.

Intergenerational oppression

It perplexes me how many Australians don't understand the intergenerational financial oppression against our people that has prevented the accumulation of enough wealth for us to have the financial options to participate in the housing market. Australia is facing a housing crisis of enormous proportions, which is affecting many Australians who would have assumed it their birthright to one day own a house. For First Nations people this has been the case since invasion in 1788. First Nations housing needs to be prioritised to restore the balance that was upset through invasion and the successive government policies that were acts of genocide against our people.

Old ways the new ways

Despite colonisation, environmental injustices, and human rights violations, indigenous peoples representing five per cent of the world's population protect 80 per cent of global biodiversity according to National Geographic. This statistic provides powerful evidence of the inherent priority of sustainability to First Nations cultures globally. We know that preserving biodiversity is also key to turning around the climate crisis, as many of these areas protected by First Nations peoples are major carbon sinks.

First Nations culture is trending. Following the devastating bushfires in 2019 there was a flurry of interest in traditional fire management techniques and more broadly a theoretical interest in other traditional land-management practices. Aboriginal people have been living here in this country for thousands of years; we have stories and sites that predate the Ice Age; there is a considerable body of knowledge to learn from.

Increasingly, First Nations people are being asked to support the strategies for change and solutions to the complex problems we face from climate change. Here in Australia, First Nations people have fought hard to fulfil our cultural obligations to care for Country; it's a relief to have a voice in the conversation but it has come at a huge cost. Successive Australian governments have assumed that our people are savages and have devalued our cultural knowledge and practices that have been developed over thousands of years in a sacred relationship with Country. Our wellbeing has been affected by the violation of our sacred places, our totems, the waterways, and all life on Country, our mother. Yet the generosity of First Nations people is enduring; we want to work together to combine ancient knowledge of Country with technology to find solutions.

FOREST







Set next to a lush rainforest oasis, Forest is passionately local with over 80% of ingredients coming from within a three-hour drive of the restaurant. The utmost care for the surrounding landscape has been woven throughout the menu, with only sustainably sourced seafood and free-range $proteins used in the menu. \ Guaranteeing \ transparency \ in \ regard \ to food \ sourcing, Forest's \ wet \ and \ dry \ aged \ beef \ is \ farmed \ at \ Crystalbrook \ Station.$

Through Climate Calories, icons alongside each dish, diners can immediately see which ingredients in their dish are locally sourced, sustainably grown or caught, have an indigenous connection, consciously reduce waste and were delivered to the restaurant in eco-friendly packaging.



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12 Sustainability

Will cryptocurrencies benefit or damage the environment?

Ewan Willis

old mining is an environmentally rapacious and toxic business; but what about mining bitcoin, commonly known as digital gold? Bitcoin mining is computationally expensive and therefore energy hungry. Increasingly bitcoin mining facilities, such as the proposed site at Condong, are positioning themselves to use either surplus energy production or renewable energy as a power source.

So, how do cryptocurrencies compare to traditional currencies?

Well, let's face it; the value we ascribe to currency is arbitrary. Gold has a long history of being a sweetheart in systems of money largely on account of its being scarce enough to provide a degree of control on the supply but not so scarce as to prevent it being minted into coins. We are so used to thinking of gold as being valuable that it can be easy to forget that, as metals go, it is fairly useless.

Historically there are some weird and wonderful examples of currency such as the Micronesian society that used huge disks of carved limestone and relied on the community to know who owns which disk at any given time as the disks themselves were more or less immovable.

One of the central ideas that



Are cryptocurrencies the way of a sustainable future? Photo pxhere.com

makes a currency viable is the common belief that it represents an authentic and stable store of value. Fiat currency, the little plastic rectangles we carry around in our pockets, have no value other than our belief in our government when they tell us that these things are money.

Given the combined market value of around two trillion US dollars we might reasonably conclude that cryptocurrencies are no less silly than any other currency and it looks like they are here to stay.

Many cryptocurrencies including Bitcoin and Ethereum are underpinned by verifying the validity of transactions using the concept of 'proof of work'. Essentially this means that a complex numerical problem needs to be solved for every transaction that is to be added to the public distributed ledger more commonly known as the blockchain.

Race for zeros

The blockchain is fundamental to the operation of Bitcoin and provides a permanent and unmodifiable history of every Bitcoin transaction that has ever been enacted. It is therefore fundamentally important that transactions are verified as accurate. In the case of Bitcoin this is achieved by performing a cryptographic hash of transaction data together with a tunable number called a 'nonce' to generate a sequence of 64 hexadecimal characters with the requirement that the first 17 digits are all zero.

For each and every transaction

'One of the central ideas that makes a currency viable is the common belief that it represents an authentic and stable store of value.'

a small fee is paid to whomever is first to come up with a nonce that satisfies the required number of leading zero. This is the energy-intensive computation that Bitcoin miners race to achieve using reasonably large compute facilities. The goal is to transform excess and/or renewable energy directly into economic value in the form of cryptocurrency.

Globally the energy consumption for this processing is estimated to be huge: larger than that of entire countries such as Poland or the Netherlands. The high energy footprint is what dictates the need to utilise cheap and likely renewable sources of energy in order to be cost competitive. Not all cryptocurrencies are so squanderous but Bitcoin and Ethereum certainly are by design.

Validating cryptocurrency transactions does not need to be so energy hungry and alternative models are becoming increasingly relevant such as 'proof of stake' and others.

In the case of sites such as Condong that use biofuels it is not clear this method actually reduces the carbon footprint of energy generation. The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesperson Susie Russell says that burning trees in power stations and calling it renewable, clean, and green is false and misleading. 'Burning wood in a power station produces more - about 50 per cent more - greenhouse gases compared to that emitted by burning coal,' said Ms Russell. 'It not only pollutes the atmosphere, it destroys the only working method that we have to remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it - in trees.'

Notwithstanding these problems cryptocurrencies may yet have a role to play for the good. Cryptocurrencies have large communities of enthusiasts behind them. Sure, many of these enthusiasts are excited about getting rich but there is a bigger picture: cryptocurrencies threaten to do away with central banks and there is an ever larger raft of traditional financial products such as lending and insurance that are becoming decentralised.

Cryptocurrencies are about more than just replacing fiat currency; they are also creating a major disruption to a financial system that systematically fails to value the environment and routinely rewards profligacy.



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We pay our respects to the people of the Arakwal and Bundjalung nations and the broader community who support us and make the Northern Rivers such a special place to live and work.

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Council roundup - What has your council been

Eve Jeffery

ouncils on the Far North Coast have had plenty to keep them busy over the last few months but they are still aware of the need for working sustainably to keep the region healthy.

Ballina Council

Ballina feels that as they continue to recover from this year's flood event, the need to create a more sustainable future for our community is clear. Ballina Shire Council has a long history of taking action on climate change and in 2021, following community consultation, they adopted a new Climate Change Policy.

The updated policy sets organisational emissions reduction targets and provides a framework for progressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies for Council and the community. The targets are more ambitious than the NSW and Australian governments'. The aim of these targets is to rapidly cut operational greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero emissions by 2030. and use 100 per cent renewable electricity for Council operations by 2030. Ballina Shire Council is now working on an action plan that outlines how they will reach these ambitious targets by 2030.



One of the best innovations of local councils in the last 20 years is the 'tip shop', a place where your trash can become someone's treasure. Photo supplied

Most councils have some sort of 'tip shop' and Ballina's Salvage Shed is a resource-recovery shop that aims to divert material that can be recycled or reprocessed from landfill. It is operated by Momentum Collective, a not-forprofit community organisation, and the shop supports their programs.

Items for the Salvage Shed in Ballina must be taken over the weighbridge and enter the Waste Management Centre. This prevents the Salvage Shed being inundated with unwanted goods illegally dumped at the front of the premises and assists their staff to focus on resource recovery.

Ballina Council is proud that the Salvage Shed saves tonnes of reusable materials from entering landfill each year, provides sustainable options for everyday items, and reduces the environmental impact of buying new.

The facility also has a Kids Salvage Shed Treasure Hunt Activity with a downloadable activity sheet to keep the kids entertained while encouraging them to value sustainability through reuse. You can also pick a sheet up from the Salvage Shed front counter. Don't forget to take your pencil!

For more information, visit: www.ballina.nsw.gov.au.

'The transition to circular economy will improve our sustainability and the local economy.'

Lismore Council

Lismore Council is working hard to ensure financial sustainability and their waste strategy has a focus on reprocessing recyclable materials into useful products and setting up repair cafes – this could be a real opportunity for new businesses.

Lismore City Council has put its Draft Lismore Resource Recovery and Residual Waste Strategy 2022 to 2032 on public exhibition. The strategy aims to improve the community's knowledge about recycling.

The strategy was endorsed by Council at its November (2021) Ordinary Meeting and is based on consultation with the community and local businesses, and is aligned with the new NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy.

The 10-year strategy will see Lismore and its villages move beyond management of waste and towards a circular economy approach.

Lismore City Council Business Manager of Commercial Services, Kevin Trustum, said the transition to circular economy will improve our sustainability and the local economy.

The strategy includes four key initiatives that are to transition to a circular economy: build a Community Circular Economy Hub in Lismore with strong links to the villages; build a new regional Materials Recovery Facility with modern technology to support a growing regional population and create redundancy in the recycling system; and lastly to establish a Circular Economy Precinct at the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Facility that will process waste products back into materials that can be reused locally.

For more information visit: lismore.nsw.gov.au.

Tweed Council

Tweed Shire Council is tracking well on reducing its impact on the Tweed's internationally significant environment highlighted in its *Environmental Sustainability Performance Report* for the 12 months to July 2021, which highlighted a six per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the previous year.

52kW of new solar and replacement of 6,400 streetlights with LED lightbulbs have been major contributors to the decrease in Council's emissions.



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doing to build sustainability into our lives?

More energy efficiency, solar, and batteries projects are underway to meet its target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its electricity use by 25 per cent by 2022 and 50 per cent by 2025.

Sustainability is also at the forefront of road operations with 90 per cent of material excavated from infrastructure worksites being repurposed, particularly roads material.

The Tweed Organics Processing Facility has been receiving food and garden materials collected from green bins since August 2021. More than 10,000 tonnes have been diverted from landfill since the facility opened.

Protecting and restoring the Tweed's unique and significant biodiversity is also being promoted through Council's Private Land Conservation Program. There are currently 30 projects restoring 20 hectares of habitat helping to protect numerous threatened plants and animals and almost 200 environmentally minded landholders are now registered to the Land for Wildlife Scheme.

Tweed Shire Council actively manages threats to Bush Stonecurlews (Burhinus grallarius), listed as Endangered in NSW. Loss of habitat, and fox predation, are the main causes for this groundnesting bird's decline.

Through a monitoring program,



The Tweed Shire is home to many unique and wonderful wildlife species including coastal ground-nesting birds such as the Bush Stone-curlew. Photo David Charley

remaining 40 per cent is being sourced from certified GreenPower projects. Council has also upgraded the

electric-vehicle charging station under the solar in the Mullumbimby car park. The new charger is a dualport 22 kW station that can charge two cars simultaneously. However, you now have to pay for it!

Byron Shire Council's work with rural communities in the last 18 months is paying massive dividends for property owners, and more importantly, for the environment. As part of its support for farmers, Council was successful in obtaining a grant as part of the Australian Government's 'Combatting

Pests and Weeds During Drought' project, which has benefitted more than 280 farmers and landholders in the Byron Shire.

More than \$70,000 in funding from the NSW Government will be used by Council to develop longterms plans to protect and improve biodiversity in the Byron Shire. The funding will be spread across four projects: updating the mapping of vegetation and areas of high environmental value; identifying open forest ecosystems that will benefit from the reintroduction of ecological fire management; auditing threatened plant species along Council roads; and studying the impact of recreational use on

coastal biodiversity, wildlife, and habitats.

You can book Byron Council's trailer by calling

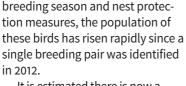
the Resource Recovery Hotline on 1300 652 625.

Photo supplied

A free trailer is now available for Byron residents so they can drop off bulky waste to the Byron Resource Recovery Centre (BRRC), take home a bargain from the secondhand shop, or purchase some quality mulch for their gardens. The trailer service is one of several prevention strategies that Council is putting in place to reduce the amount of illegal dumping in the Byron Shire.

People can book the trailer by calling the Resource Recovery Hotline on 1300 652 625.

For more information, visit: byron.nsw.gov.au.



strategic 1080 baiting of foxes prior

to the commencement of their

It is estimated there is now a minimum of 128 Bush Stone-curlews on the Tweed Coast, now the most significant population in NSW.

For more information, visit: tweed.nsw.gov.au.

Byron Council

Byron Shire Council is now sourcing 60 per cent of its total electricity needs from one wind farm in the NSW Southern Tablelands. The

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16 Sustainability

Sustainable transport and the double-edged sword of electromobility

David Lisle

seems synonymous with electric vehicles. But planetary salvation is less simple than swapping your internal combustion engine Ford Falcon for a battery-powered Tesla. A more thorough reimagining of how we live, involving low-tech solutions like bicycles and old-school notions like restraint, is probably in order.

A local climate activist recently spoke about the need to 'transition from an energy system born of rape of the earth, to one born of the sun and the wind and the sea'. I have great sympathy with this sentiment. But unfortunately, the energy system we're slowly transitioning towards – whether we call it renewable, clean, green, or whatever – involves an orgy of earth rape.

The mining industry will not disappear in the era of ubiquitous renewable energy; it will diversify. Wind turbines and solar panels, as well as the electric vehicles and other modes of electromobility they power, are complex amalgams of metals and minerals. As fossil fuel use declines and green energy proliferates, the production of rare earths like neodymium, and metals such as lithium, copper, graphite, cobalt, nickel, platinum, and



Do we need to re-imagine the future rather than expecting to continue as we are and assuming that technology will allow endless supplies of electricity with no consequences? Photo David Lisle

bauxite will massively expand.

Clean energy has dirty sources and the flood of new mines required to bring about a transformation of global energy supply will surely involve environmental and social consequences. Mineral deposits in the poor global south will be exploited so that people in rich countries might wear the halo of sustainability.

The electrification of transport is akin to a double-edged sword. It is great in terms of carbon emissions, especially where transport is public and well patronised. Even a private

electric car, when charged with renewable energy, might only emit a quarter as much greenhouse gas as a fossil-fuelled vehicle over its lifecycle. But the extraction and processing of rare earths and other minerals required for clean energy is an expensive, chemically complex process, requiring vast quantities of energy, water, and acid, often leaving radioactive waste.

Shifting the burden

Don't get me wrong: the world is on fire and we desperately need to stop burning fossil fuels.

'Clean energy has dirty sources and the flood of new mines required to bring about a transformation of global energy supply will surely involve environmental and social consequences.'

My overriding concern is that the objective of transitioning to renewable energy without decreasing our overall energy use merely shifts the burden. The transport sector exemplifies this conundrum.

The best thing we can do for the planet is use less energy. Yet conservation and energy efficiency measures are dull. It's much more glamorous to drive a Tesla. And it's big business too. The world's two richest men, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, are heavily invested in electric vehicles. Bezos recently acquired a large stake in Rivian, maker of electric pickups and SUVs.

Promoting electric vehicle uptake, while laudable, reinforces the status quo of mobility centred on the private car, something we must abandon. Mobility problems will not be solved by giving everyone a car. Even if we deal with clean energy's dirty sources, traffic

congestion, carparks and unequal access to opportunity will remain. Making transport sustainable, rather than simply decarbonising it, involves a suite of challenges. We must travel differently and less. We could even practise localisation.

Veteran environmentalist Bill McKibben recently wrote in *The* New Yorker: 'As hard as it will be to rewire the planet's energy system by decade's end, I think it would be harder - impossible, in fact - to sufficiently rewire social expectations, consumer preferences, and settlement patterns in that short stretch'. He's probably right. We focus on techno-fixes like reducing vehicular emissions because our lifestyles are considered non-negotiable. Climate activists fight for renewable energy for all so we don't have to change the way we live.

The car's flexibility offers us the freedom of the road and encourages expansive mobility. But I really don't think you need a two-tonne electric SUV to drop the kids at school or fetch groceries, tasks that can be adequately accomplished by school buses and bicycles – which, incidentally, are now available in electric versions.

Most car journeys would never be made by public transport or with human power. When you hop the bus or travel by bike, it's remarkable where you don't go.



NET ZERO

We have achieved 100% renewable energy target already this year.

Byron Shire Council has entered into a two year contract, sourcing 60% of its total operational electrical needs from one windfarm in the NSW southern tablelands. The remaining 40% is sourced from certified Australian GreenPower projects.

By entering into this contract council is now directly supporting NSW's transition to renewable energy sources and reducing the amount of carbon emissions released into the atmosphere as a consequence of generating electricity.

This is a significant step towards achieving our net zero emissions goal for council operations by 2025. Staff will continue to focus on electricity and improving efficiencies through upgrades including LED lighting retro fits and new pump stations.

WASTE AND LITTER

We've kicked some goals through our various campaigns over the years including 'Butt Free Byron Shire' and 'Make the Switch':

- 78% reduction in cigarette butts
- 58% reduction in ALL litter
- 21% reduction in illegal dumping so far
- Over 50 food businesses making the switch from single-use plastics

Litter is a major threat to wildlife. When rubbish is not disposed of correctly it can be consumed by animals or they may become entangled, causing a range of health issues.

Did you know that 80% of the rubbish floating in our oceans comes from the land?

Our next few big goals are:

- Source to Sea: A stormwater litter project aiming to stop litter from entering our waterways
- Bring it Back Bruns: A reusable container system to shift away from single-use. Takeaway litter continues to increase.
- A 30% reduction in illegal dumping in the shire through ongoing prevention strategies



oe and Sarah from Council's Resource Recovery Team

MORE INFORMATION

Sign up to our

Sustainability e-newsletter:

- byron.nsw.gov.au/Community/ Sustainable-living
- sustainability@byron.nsw.gov.au
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www.byron.nsw.gov.au



Top health researchers highlight threat of climate change

The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences says climate change is an urgent health priority

Cosmos Magazine

limate change is one of the greatest threats to human health and wellbeing in the 21st century, according to the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS).

'A growing body of scientific evidence demonstrates unequivocally the risks of a warming climate, revealing potentially devastating health impacts on the people of Australia, our region, and the world,' they say.

Their statement came on World Health Day 2022, which had the theme of 'Our planet, our health'.

'It is no longer time for healthcare as usual,' says Warwick Anderson, co-chair of the AAHMS Climate Change and Health Steering Committee. 'Our health and wellbeing are under immediate threat.'

The statement outlines key priorities for the health and medical research sector, which include: promoting recognition of the health impacts of climate change; delivering research that advances knowledge of these impacts and how to manage them; and collaborating with First Nations communities and experts to amplify First Nations voices and learn from Indigenous knowledge.

The AAHMS spent two years reviewing evidence and facilitating expert discussions on the impacts of climate change on health.

Impacts of extreme weather deadly

'Climate change and its associated pressures have a huge impact on human health,' explains Fran Baum, co-chair of the AAHMS Climate Change and Health Steering Committee.

She points to the negative health impacts of extreme weather events such as floods and heatwaves, the spread of diseases such as Japanese encephalitis to new regions, and the loss of homes to rising sea levels – and that's just the

'The WHO (World Health Organization) says that 13 people die every minute around the world from conditions related to air pollution, like lung cancer, strokes and heart disease – and the pollution is essentially from fossil fuels,' says

'And of course, all these pressures have a mental health impact on people too.'

Baum, an expert in the social

What good is it to cure people and send them back into an increasingly unsafe environment?

health, highlights how the risks of climate change fall disproportionately on people and countries who are already less advantaged.

'Many old people living in poverty will say, "I can't afford to turn the heating on in winter or the air conditioning on in summer", and we know that those extreme temperatures have an impact on people, particularly if they have an existing chronic disease.'

More effort is needed, she says, to make buffers against climate change impacts, such as insulation and solar panels, available to all, regardless of income.

Zero carbon healthcare

The AAHMS statement also stresses the need to make healthcare itself more environmentally sustainable. According to the statement, Australia's healthcare system is responsible for about seven per cent of the country's total carbon

hospitals and the pharmaceutical industry.

The United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS) has already set a target to achieve a net zero health system by 2040, and created a role of chief sustainability officer to support this goal.

'It's a bit more complicated in Australia because of the states.' says Baum. 'We need agreements between the federal and the state [governments], giving incentives to hospitals to help them to reduce their carbon emissions.'

Strategies could include the introduction of electric cars, installing solar power, and high environmental standards for new healthcare buildings. Baum also highlights the need for investment in positions, similar to the [UK] NHS chief sustainability officer, who can take responsibility for leading and implementing these strategies across the sector.

Altogether, changes in both attitude and action will be needed to meet the challenges of climate change.

'It's really important to care for people, obviously, but we also have to care for the planet and for future generations,' says Baum.

and send them back into an increasingly unsafe environment? That's what we're doing at the

Planning essential

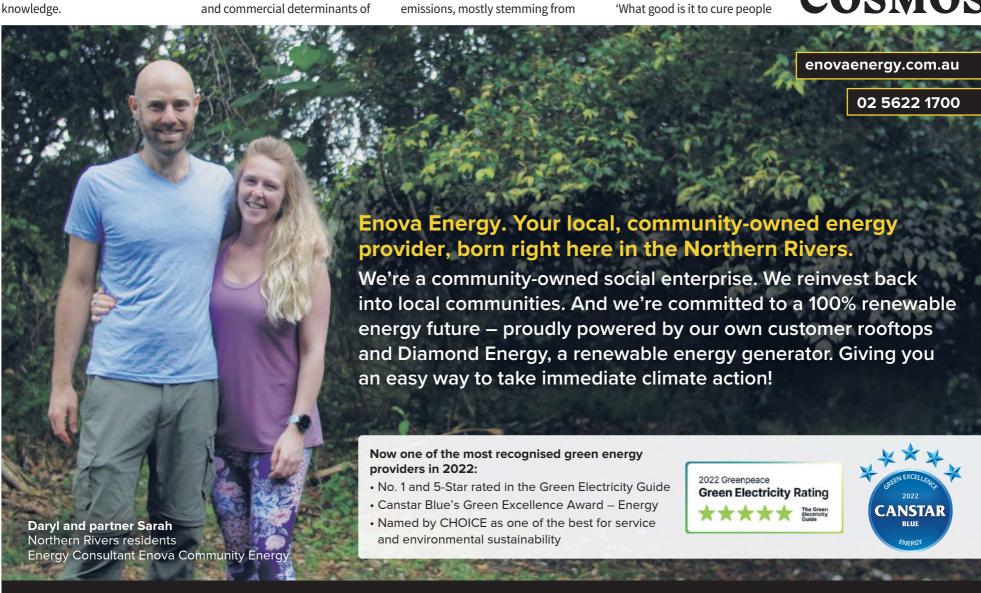
'A well-defined, quick, and staged path to a net-zero world is needed to ensure the health and wellbeing of all Australians,' says Ingrid Scheffer, president of the

'The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences is committed to supporting this endeavour, and this statement outlines specific steps we will take to ensure we are playing our part.'

'We know what measures will mitigate and alleviate climate change,' Baum says.

'Can we imagine in 20 years' time, where we're building buildings that are more in keeping with our environment; where we have lots and lots of jobs in renewable energy and the restoration of environments; where individuals are much healthier ... I think we need to offer people this vision of a much better society.'

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18 Sustainability

Aussies talking dirty – it's time to bring it down

Mandy Nolan

hen it comes to carbon emissions, Aussies are talking dirty.
We are one of the highest per capita CO₂ emitters in the world.
The average household of 2.6 people has an annual carbon footprint of 15–20 tonnes of CO₂ per year.
To limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees by 2050 we have to bring this down to two tonnes per year.

Sometimes it feels too big. But we can do something. And something is always better than nothing. I'll be honest - it's going to take more than a \$100 metal lunch box and riding your bike to work to impact our overall carbon emissions. It's going to take systemic change. But while you're waiting, why not be the change you want to see? Making the changes in your home may have minimal impact on our overall carbon emissions but it's the beginning of a cultural change. Where we communicate to our community and our government that there are better ways of living. It's not just good for the planet, it's good for us. It's the carbon-neutral diet!

Do you really need it?

It's basically about more of 'less'. The capitalist economy thrives on addictive consumer behaviour. We buy too much. And therefore we throw away too much. One of the first things we can do is to be conscious of what we buy. Don't buy fast fashion. Don't buy mass-produced goods. Be mindful of where things are made, how they were made, and how people were paid. Do you need it? The best way to ensure a low carbon footprint is to buy local – from local producers and artisans. And if you don't need it, don't buy it.

Grow veges. Producing your own food is key. We've become dependent on a system that is unsustainable, and become deskilled from some of our primary human survival skills: growing food. It's not just a great way to have an impact on emissions, it's healthier. It's not contaminated with spray, it hasn't been transported from overseas, or frozen for long periods of time.

A diet where you eat fewer animals is another good way of reducing your carbon footprint. Eating no animals at all is probably best. Agriculture is a significant contributor to carbon emissions. But this doesn't work for everyone, so as with everything, eat locally. Meat produced from local farms is going to have fewer food miles. If you can't manage a vegetarian or vegan diet, just have a few animal-product-free days.

Reduce your single-use plastics. This can be hard, because plastic usage has become embedded with our fast-paced lifestyles and our need for convenience. Have you ever tried to take sliced bread home in a paper bag? It means buying bread from bakeries, or somewhere they aren't pre-wrapped. It means having your own drawstring bags for vegetables or loose items (my 12-year-old has just made us a set). We've all got pretty good at eliminating single-use shopping bags and straws, so now it's time to go in deeper. Could you remove all plastic from your life? Try it for a month. It's a great challenge for your family.

Turn off the lights and get your ugg boots

Here's my husband's favourite: turn off the lights. Yeah, hate to say it. He's right. And less light actually helps you sleep better. You can also turn off your computer when it's not in use, and other appliances. And try to avoid heating. Whack on a jumper and ugg boots. In summer, sleep nude under a mozzie net on the balcony. Our desire for temperature 'comfort' is killing us – and ironically it's creating a planet with unliveable temperatures!

A big impact on reducing your

carbon footprint is installing a standard household solar photovoltaic system. Taking construction into account it will reduce your household emissions by about half a tonne of CO₂ per year.

Here's something none of us like that much. Re-think travel. Use public transport, bikes, walk, car pool... and if you can afford the transition, get an EV. Flying is a massive emitter so make sure it's a direct flight... and maybe rethink where you are going and why. This is hard for me as my kids live in Melbourne. I have to offset my travel.

Plant trees. Lots of them. Trees sequester carbon. It's the obvious solution. Reducing our carbon footprint has to go hand in hand with protecting wild spaces, and planting trees where there has been deforestation.

Everything I have suggested is expensive. You have to be affluent to do all this. It's the privilege of the middle class to be able to afford \$100 metal lunch boxes and solar panels and electric vehicles and locally produced food. That's because our entire system, taxes and tariffs, is all hinged around climate change-causing mass consumption. It shouldn't be geared this way. And it doesn't have to be.

The best way to impact your carbon footprint is to change the

system. The only way to change the system is about who is in government and what their policies are.

According to data from the Cop26 in Glasgow, on a per capita basis Australia has the highest greenhouse gas emissions from coal power in the world, nearly double those in China. This takes a while to sink in. How can China be doing better than us? China is the world's top emitter. The country that contributes a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas! But China pledged to reduce coal and has been the biggest investor in renewable energy over the last decade. They're engaged in forestry programs to reduce soil erosion and pollution. And what are we doing? Turning up at Cop26 holding hands with Santos, a fossil-fuel company.

So we're coming up to a federal election. Maybe it's time to think about our emissions.

There are currently 114 new projects in the pipeline approved by both major parties. And we're on our hands and knees planting trees and growing vegetables?

It's time to demand an end to all new coal and gas projects. Let's be world leaders, not world bleeders.

■ If you want to hook up with a community of people trying to reduce carbon footprint try Zero Emissions Byron – zerobyron.org.



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Hours: Monday to Friday: 8am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday: 8.30am - 11.30am



For more information call Byron Shire Council on 02 6684 1870 or visit www.newaste.org.au/crc



The North Coast has so much to offer when it comes to divine local produce.

Nourish Food Fest will be held at Norco Primex (May 19–21) for the first time this year, celebrating and showcasing this amazing industry. Come along and sample craft beverages, relax with a plate of delicious food and listen to performances by local musicians.

Secrets from the chefs

The kitchen stage will be a hive of activity with daily cooking demonstrations from the Ballina RSL's executive chef, Stephen Mills. Watch as he creates stunning dishes that bring out the best in our local ingredients – and then taste the result! He'll also bring other local chefs onto the stage to share some of their best tips and techniques. This is a true paddock to plate experience that brings farmers and foodies together.



Supporting our producers

Nourish is part of the "comeback" process for many food and beverage producers who were hit hard by the devastating floods. These local businesses can't wait to share their products with you as they prepare for a brighter future. Some of them you already know and love, but

there are new ones to discover. Exhibitors include Two Mates Brewing, Winding Road Distilling Co, Norco, Critters Distillery, OMG Donuts Lismore, Cape Byron Distillery, Lambruk Pantry, Nimbin Valley Dairy, and JunkYard Barbeque, to name just a few!







Music to soothe the soul

Food and drinks go hand-in-hand with live entertainment to create a relaxed vibe. Over three days, you'll hear from talented local musicians, including:

- Luke Yeaman with his beautiful acoustics and unique reinterpretations of modern and classic songs.
- JESA, a folk pop songstress who uses her music to shed light on social injustices with messages of hope.
- Ben Kuhl, who originally hails from Byron Bay and has performed at venues across Australia with internationally acclaimed artists.
- Glenn Massey and his popular mix of rock and roll, country, pop and bluegrass.
- Roo, who has been entertaining crowds on the North Coast since the 1980s.



People's Day and discounted tickets

Northern Rivers residents will be able to attend Norco Primex, including the Nourish Food Fest, for free on People's Day, Thursday, 19 May. After the tragic effects of the floods, this is an opportunity to come together in a positive environment, relax with family and friends, and heal as a community. People's Day tickets are only available online, for people in eligible postcodes (2469–2490 and 2450–2464). Ticket holders must provide proof of residency at the gate.

Discounted early bird tickets are also available at www.primex.net.au

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How now sans cow? Is eating meat so bad?

Aletha Zylstra

hat action can we take right now that will help to radically reshape our relationship with nature on a societal scale? Many good folks will say the answer is simple: Go vegan. But many who raise and care for the animals whose products society benefits from will say 'It's not the cow, it's the how'. They are referring to how livestock can be managed to help restore the environment we all live in.

The documentary *Cowspiracy* (2014) presents a convincing case that ending all animal agriculture (AA) is the most immediately impactful means to address climate change. To make this case it focuses on North American practices of *industrial* AA (IAA).

Is veganism the answer?

In 2017, a study by Robin R White and Mary Beth Hall concluded that a mass shift to veganism would not produce the greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions aspired to. Their models also focused on US IAA and suggested that without it, their total food production would increase (23 per cent) and agricultural GHG would decrease (28 per cent), but the changes would only achieve a 2.6 per cent reduction of total US GHG emissions overall.



Regenerative farming seeks to ensure that animal agriculture contributes to combatting global warming rather than be a contributing factor. Photo Jeff Dawson

The disappointing final figure in GHG reduction, explain White and Hall, is because of three consequences of removing animals from all US agriculture: the need to synthesise fertiliser in a system without animals; the need to dispose of the human-inedible portions of crops previously used as feed for animals; and the inputs (of chemicals and energy) required to produce additional crops on land previously used by animals. Their results are not surprising given that the US is the 'poster child' for everything that's wrong with industrial, monoculture,

petrochemical-reliant farming.

Meanwhile, feedlots (how the majority of American cattle are raised) are not how the majority of farmers around the world raise large ruminants (grazing animals with more than one stomach); they are the exception, not the rule.

According to Peter (surname withheld), a second-generation cattle farmer in the Northern Rivers, three quarters of beef cattle in Australia are grass-fed. The industrial feedlot farms that raise the other quarter tend to be owned by large corporate entities, whose operations, much like the mining

industry, would not be financially viable without government subsidies – such as the diesel fuel excise.

A more effective way to address the impacts of Australia's AA on climate change, Peter argues, would be for government support to focus on education and implementation of regenerative agriculture (RA). Through this process, he says, the majority of farms with large ruminants have great potential for carbon sequestration, increasing biodiversity, and improving soil water retention, and possibly increased profitability, through very achievable changes in grazing practices.

How to move forward

Peter feels that IAA and 'old-school' colonial grazing practices have a lot to answer for – and they have to stop. He is among the swelling ranks worldwide of regenerative farmers whose relationship with nature is a world away from those critiqued in *Cowspiracy*. I asked Peter to consider the same question as Hall and White: 'What would happen – locally, and more broadly – if we stopped all AA?'.

'For starters', he says, 'how would we do it? Do we slaughter them all at once? Do we just let them go – not a good idea – or do we just stop breeding them? But then how do farmers afford to

look after them till they all die of something?'.

Animal rights' activists disregard the reality that 'When a regenerative farmer raises a cow, or any animal, they're 100 per cent invested in that animal's wellbeing. But the fact is, everything dies, and in nature things eat other things for the cycle of life to continue. In a regenerative farming system, animals have a really good life, then just one really bad day. It's a lot tougher for animals in the wild,' says Peter.

What if no cows?

On the question of local effects from not having cows around, Peter points to how much bigger the problem with invasive weed species would become. 'We've seen it already with the loss of all our small dairy farms. Invasive species like camphor are among of the biggest threats to our biodiversity. Grazing can be managed in ways that restore the environment; and it's not harder, it's just different'.

A whole-of-society shift to veganism is not going to be the easy fix that is desired, bringing with it a range of other environmental and animal-welfare issues. When considering the options before us, RA offers systemic change with improved outcomes for the environment and for animal welfare.

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22 Sustainability

What are the options for building our energy future?

Aslan Shand

have to admit that I was a little envious of people who had their own solar set up when our electricity went out during the recent flooding; at least they were able to keep the lights on!

And that is the thing about renewable energy, from small scale to large there are myriad options out there and something for everyone. From large-scale businesses and organisations putting solar panels on their roofs to reduce energy costs to Byron Hospital's 720 kilowatt system that will be the largest rooftop-mounted PV (photovoltaic) installation on the north coast to individual homes.

But the key here is that we need to transition away from fossil fuels that are fuelling rapidly increasing global heating, and fast. Renewable energy options include solar, wind, hydro, tidal, biomass, thermal, and the emergence of hydrogen. The geographical location, and size of project, are key to the type of renewable energy consumption an individual or business develops and utilises. For example in the UK they are now predicting that 11 per cent of their energy needs could be supplied by tidal energy.

Like any country it will take a wide range of renewable energy generation for a successful mix of



An aerial view of Byron Central Hospital that will soon have the largest photovoltaic installation on the north coast. Photo supplied

renewable energies to power the

from coal and gas.

future in Australia as we shift away

A key development that is cur-

rently taking place is in the area

of hybrid systems that combine

renewable energy with battery

'It is going to be all sizes of

renewable energy required from

large scale down to households

working alongside each other to

ensure that there is enough energy

in the grid,' said Enova Community

Energy Managing Director, Felicity

Market Operator (AEMO) predicts

one in two households will have

'We know that Australian Energy

solar and battery installations by 2050 in Australia and the uptake of battery systems are expcted to surge.Rooftop solar in coming decade will increase by three to nine times and possibly as high as 82 gW by 2050. Residential solar is expected to grow by 37 per cent by

Should I still get solar panels at home?

'In terms of rooftop solar, given that the price of selling excess is going down and continues to go down it is still worthwhile. People were [historically] over sizing their solar rooftop systems to take advantage of tariffs. However, we recommend that people size their systems appropriately for their home, house, and family needs. Adding a battery is very beneficial. We recommend that people install batteries so they can store the energy and use it overnight.'

More change needed to accommodate the future

Ms Stening said that Enova Community Energy and others are looking at micro grids and community batteries and are currently advocating for rule changes for micro-grids on the ground to ensure that they are able to

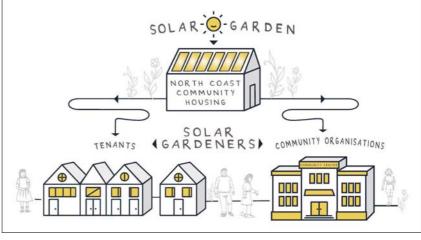
function effectively both within the broader energy network and at a community level.

'There are a lot of solutions: for example solar gardens for people who are locked out of owning solar and batteries and demand management for households and business to manage and control their energy.'

However, Ms Stening says it is still vital that we look at how we use energy in our lives from how we build and retrofit our homes and businesses as well as how we use in other industries like

'The greenest electricity is always the energy we didn't use.'





Solar Gardens are a way for people who have no roof to put solar panels on to access renewable energy. Image Enova Community Energy

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOWCASE

Ethical social enterprise Good Car Co have teamed up with Enova Community Energy to offer quality new and used electric vehicles through the EV bulk buy. Save significantly compared to the price of a new vehicle.

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Morrison's gas-led recovery and climate action

Jim Beatson

ost Australians know the news, or have had firsthand experiences themselves, of two years of floods, fires, coastal erosion, and storms, both here and overseas. In fact Australia has warmed on average by 1.44 ± 0.24 °C since national records began in 1910.

Scott Morrison, and Angus Taylor, minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, say they will meet the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) agreed targets of zero greenhouse emissions 'in a canter' by 2050, and 'reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to 26-28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030'.

What policy will achieve this? A quick reality check shows we are heading in the wrong direction. Last year, Australia overtook Qatar, becoming the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG). We're already the world's second-largest exporter of thermal coal, and largest for metallurgical

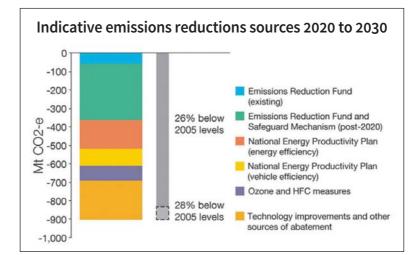
The IPCC says global emissions must peak within three years to have any chance of keeping warming below 1.5°C. The IPCC's Australian vice-president, Professor Mark Howden, says 'global emissions must fall 50 per cent by

2030 and reach net zero by about 2045 to limit warming to between 1.5 degrees and under 2 degrees', which is even beyond Labor's

So how will a 'gas-led recovery policy' actually work? The development of Australia's policy has profoundly changed. Government policy is now 'made on the run' combined with favours for allies. Morrison was pushed by both the IPCC's COP26 meeting as well as facing action demands over our recent catastrophic floods. So unilaterally Australia's parliamentary policy-making process for the past 120 years was sacrificed.

Previously high-level policy options in particular areas were produced by senior ministerial staff working directly for the prime minister or a minister. In Foreign Affairs or Defence these papers are called White Papers. Policies are then discussed by the party's relevant committee and parliamentary committees and then finally adopted by Cabinet or the 'Inner Cabinet' - a small group of the most-senior Cabinet members.

Once the Country Party became the National Party and switched from representing rural interests to one representing mining interests, the tail began wagging the dog, a system enabling the coalition to



govern. And the Nationals made big demands for its support. The price for Nationals electorate 'sweeteners' was \$A15 billion, forming a significant part of the coalition's cash-splash announced just before the election.

The result is the 'gas-led recovery' and its twin, 'the hydrogen gas revolution'. The PM said there is 'no credible energy transition plan for an economy like Australia that does not involve the greater use of gas' following the coronavirus recession. He repeated this in a National Press Club address in February 2022.

Morrison's government has 10 new gas projects lined up, totaling around \$A56 billion, due to come online within the next five years.

But our Australian Energy Market

Operator regulator (AEMO) says new gas-fired power is less likely to be affordable than like-for-like alternatives that can provide dispatchable power, such as large government batteries, pumped hydro, domestic rooftop-fed batteries, and demand response programs that pay consumers to reduce consumption at peak times.

Hydrogen is a wonderful fuel for energy and moving vehicles. But there are two ways to produce it: with renewable energy or with non-renewable energy. Morrison has chosen the latter, ie use nonrenewables to produce renewable

Here's the Morrison's government's previous official policy mechanism for achieving their 2030 target (see graphic).

The largest carbon reduction of over one-third comes from the Emissions Reductions Fund, a scheme where rural landowners plant forests on unused land who can then on-sell their carbon offsets commercially to polluters.

This system has recently been subject to media attacks by Australia's Climate Council as a scam. They claim that many billions of dollars paid by Australia's government to some farmers are for land so dry the planted forests quickly die. Or for trees that are not new trees but just existing ones.

The Climate Council remains Australia's foremost climatechange expert body, which previously was funded by government but defunded by the Abbott government in 2013. It is now a non-profit headed by IPCC contributors Professors Will Steffen and Tim Flannery.

The next largest source, offering just under one-third of our planned emissions reduction, are the National Energy Productivity Plans. However, there appears to be no additional funding specifically allocated for implementation.

With policy 'made on the run', little wonder children are taking to the streets and some newlyweds are abandoning the idea of giving birth without action on climate





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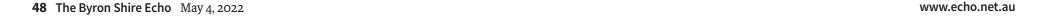
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The Good Life

Hooper's in Mullumbimby

Mullumbimby locals might have noticed a few changes taking place at 55 Station Street recently. After a brief stint as La Familia (during the difficult times of COVID lockdowns and floods), the much-loved outdoor venue is now open and operating as HOOPER'S Craft Bar & Eats. This is the second HOOPER'S venture by owner Jack Wright, whose sister cafe in Brunswick Heads has been serving up burgers and fish & chips to its loyal following for many years

Expanding on the Brunswick Heads model, the Mullumbimby HOOPER'S offers a big selection of burgers, fish & chips, salads and treats like popcorn cauliflower, chicken wings and cheesy jalapeno balls. In addition, the Station Street establishment has a well-appointed bar offering a solid range of local craft beers, cocktails, wines and spirits. And for those who want a night in, they're doing take-away food too.

'We're sticking with what we know works,' says Jack Wright.



'After some really tough times for our community, we reckon good, unpretentious food and a few drinks with family and friends is just what's needed.'

Family is an important theme for Mullumbimby-born Jack, who named HOOPER'S in honour of his brother after he passed away in 2009. With his mother and sisters involved in both restaurants, too, the local, family spirit is a key part of the HOOPER'S ethos.

'Nothing beats getting around a table with your loved ones and having a great feed,' says Jack. 'We want HOOPER'S to be a place where people

gather and enjoy the good things in life. We know that's the way Hooper himself would have wanted it to be.'

Licensee and General Manager Millie Oats is excited by the prospect of Mullumbimby

having a new place to eat and drink.

'This is arguably the nicest venue in Mullum,' says Millie. 'Set in beautiful gardens, with lots of seating and little nooks to enjoy a cocktail in, it's hard to beat. We're already getting plenty of great feedback about how much this kind of place was needed.'

Millie says HOOPER'S in Mullumbimby will focus on ensuring their menu has options for all tastes and needs, from healthy salads to grilled fish, to crowd-favourite burgers and Cajun fries. And the bar will source from local brewers and distillers where possible.

HOOOPER'S at 55 Station Street will be open for dine-in and takeaway, Tuesday to Saturday 11.30am-9.00pm

Free entry to Primex People's Day

As Norco Primex 2022 gears up to be the biggest event in years, organisers have revealed Northern Rivers' residents will be able to attend for free on opening day.

The first ever People's Day will be held on Thursday, 19 May, with tickets available online.

Primex director Bruce Wright said after the tragic effects of the floods, this was an opportunity to come together in a positive environment, relax with family and friends, and heal as a community.

'We know many of the businesses who are our exhibitors and friends have experienced heartache because of these floods,' he said.

'However, the message from them is very clear - Primex has to go ahead as a celebration, and a means for these businesses to relaunch and rebuild by engaging with their customers.

'We know how important Primex is for our farming and rural communities, but also the dedicated and resilient companies and family businesses who operate, supply, and deliver throughout the North Coast every day of the year.'

New features, events and attractions at Primex will reinforce all the amazing things we know and love about the Northern Rivers. This includes the new Nourish Food Fest,



which will showcase the region's world-class food and beverage industry.

Primex 2022 will have about 400 exhibitors and is expected to attract 30,000 visitors over three days from 19-21 May, injecting an estimated \$5 million into the local economy.

Primex People's Day

- Free entry to all North Coast residents on Thursday 19 May.
- Tickets are only available online and must be purchased prior to entry.
- Eligible postcodes include 2469-2490 and 2450-2464.
- Ticket holders must provide proof of residency at the gate (drivers' licence etc).

Discounted early bird tickets are also available online. Further updates and program information will be available leading into the event and on the Primex website: www.



Enjoy the nightlife before Council builds its cheap housing

Simon Haslam

How cool to have another venue in the middle of Mullumbimby that's family-friendly, where you can also get a pretty decent range of wine and craft beers, including local Wandana Brewery beers, some cocktails and non-alcoholic drinks as well as decently priced burger-style meals.

Whilst there have been many incarnations at 55 Station St, judging by the number of people at Hooper's last Saturday night they might have hit on a winning and sustainable formula for casual night-time drinks and food at the site. There was also a bit of an 'up' vibe owing to the music – not too loud but just enough, at least from where we were sitting.

There were noise complaints after night-time events under previous owners, but every town needs a range of night-time options to keep it alive, to augment the pubs, which are not for everyone, or every family. Hooper's also presents a low-key 'plants and wood' façade to the entry to town – it looks inviting.

Every car park was full at 5.30pm on a Saturday night - indicating that with all the shops shut the car park is full of people creating some vibrant nightlife in the centre of Mullum.

Enjoy it while it lasts, because surely as soon as Council builds its cheap housing above that car park, all those car parking spots will be lost, the entry to Mullumbimby will now become an unsightly multi-storey block of condos, noise complaints from neighbours between Milk & Honey and Hooper's will kill the nightlife, and the Hooper's site will be redeveloped to become yet another block of flats.

Hopefully, since the proposal will only house a measly 50 people, and won't be completed until 2024 at best, Council will come up with a more meaningful solution to the affordable housing situation, in a more suitable location that doesn't wreck the entrance to town and enables the centre of town to become a vibrant shopping and nightlife area.

Mother's Day market feast

We have always talked about flowers and chocolates as a t dition for Mother's Day, a lovely gift to be sure. But why not whip around the Mullumbimby or New Brighton farmers' markets instead, and put together a simple but elegant little feast, as an experience, just for her, not a mass-produced 'thing'. Here's a three-course meal inspiration that's quick and easy, yet simply delicious - and please feel free to share your ideas too!

Where better to start than with Noel Baggaley's oyster shots, from Brunswick Seed Oysters; a mouthful of plump briny oysters suspended in



a spicy liquid of Noel's own devising, a luxe Virgin Mary although six would be better than one!

For the main course how about smoked fish pasta? You can pick up your fresh egg pappardelle from either Woodland Valley Farm or Gourmet Pasta, then head to The Bay Smokehouse for smoked mullet; this will be the foundation for your main course.

Smoked fish pasta: onion softened in olive oil (from Grumpy Grandma's), capers, then white wine, creme fraiche (from Deb Allard's Cheeses Loves You) brought to a gentle bubble then the flaked fish added, simmered and folded through the silky strands of drained pasta, reduced till glossy, adorned with parsley and lemon rind (Rancho's for lemons, herbs from Iona herbs, Summit Farm, Kennedy Lane, Forrest Organic). Serve this with mixed leave to go alongside (Gourmet Salad Hut, Summit Farm, Organic Forrest, Wiccawood Farm), and a breadstick (from either Scratch Patisserie or Crabbes Creek Woodfired), slathered with Deb's cultured butter perhaps

(Cheeses Loves You) – this is a special occasion after all!

For the dessert be inspired by those huge and glorious autumnal Gala apples, three to a kilo, to be layered into a lemony Sicilian Apple Cake along with Marsala-steeped raisins, eggy batter, roast walnuts and topped with cinnamony pine nuts, baked till gold. You can find the recipe for Sicilian Apple Cake on www. mullumfarmersmarket.org.au

Why not accompany it all with a pretty bunch of chemical-free flowers (Summit Farms, Organic Forrest, Glenyce Creighton & JRA), all in honour of the person to whom we owe our very existence. Happy Mother's Day!

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Team Karkalla thank you for your support and kindness during this challenging time.



Barrio

1 Porter St, North Byron **Opening Hours** Mon-Sat: Breakfast 7am-11pm; Lunch 11am-3pm Thu-Sat: Aperitif Hour 3pm-5pm; Dinner 5pm-late @barriobyronbay

Barrio takes its inspiration from locally sourced produce and Middle Eastern cuisine.

Offering daily bakes, breakfast cakes, classic sandwiches, vibrant salads, smoked fish, woodfired meats and cocktails.

Keep an eye on our socials for daily specials.



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experience of great food & drinks, quality service and good music. Come dine inside on one of our leather banquettes, hang amongst the plants at the bar, or chill outside and enjoy afternoon happy hours with one of our signature cocktails. Our ever evolving menu is focused on modern cuisine using only the best seasonal local produce.

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The Italian Byron Bay

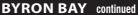
21, 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay Open Monday to Saturday 5.30pm to late

5633 1216

www.theitalianbyronbay.com

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

OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY. BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE BY PHONING OR THROUGH OUR WEBSITE. WALK-INS VERY WELCOME.





Loft Byron Bay

4 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

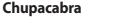
6680 9183

Book online: www.loftbyronbay.com.au Incredible cocktails, locals beers & all-day snacks and food to share, with ocean views.

Happy Hour | Every day 4–5pm \$6 Loft lager or wine, \$10 Aperol Spritz, \$14 Margarita

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Scan the QR code to view menu and order online through Mr Yum. available on the whole menu.

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www.echo.net.au 50 The Byron Shire Echo May 4, 2022



IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY WITH **ASH GRUNWALD**

Following his top ten-ranked collaboration with Josh Teskey, 2020's Push The Blues Away, Ash Grunwald delivers his most personal album yet with Shout Into The Noise.

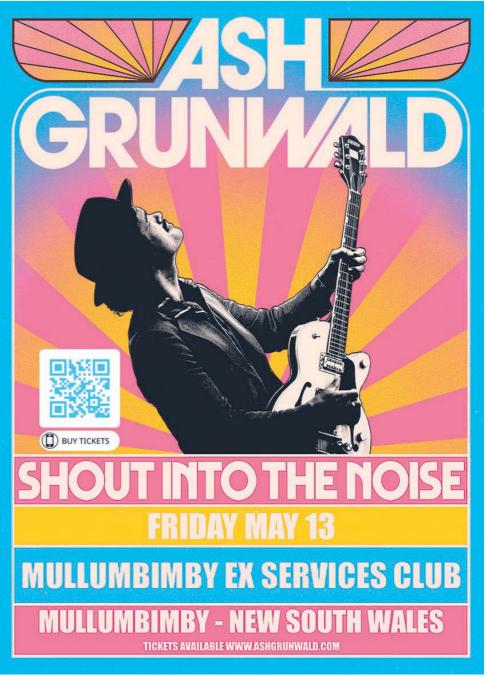
Working with Grammy-nominated songwriter and producer Lachlan Bostock from Mansionair, Ash has crafted the finest album of his career.

Ash Grunwald is now one of Australia's most successful blues musicians ever, with six top 50 albums and two APRA Awards. In addition, he's been nominated for five ARIA Awards and four AIR Awards, and he was named Best International Act at the LA Music Critic Awards in 2014. In 2019, Ash published his first book, Surf by Day, Jam by Night, which combined his two passions music and surfing.

And you're in luck, because on Friday 13 May, Ash plays the Mullum Ex-Services Club at 8pm.









THE MOTHERS WE MISS

For some Mums, Mother's Day is a reminder of a deep pain. In the shallow story we tell on Mother's Day so many women's experience is missing. This day of cuddles and breakfast in bed and slippers and hand made cards is for some a brutal day of loneliness and sorrow. We don't tell these women's stories because they contradict the mythology. They don't match the 'good selfless mum' story so we silence them. We really need to share their stories.

This thought occurred to me when my son told me about a woman he was working with. He teaches older people how to use technology. The other day he turned up at a woman's house and she told him about her son who has a heroin addiction. About her estrangement from her daughter. She started to cry, so he hugged her. He told me she cried so hard he hugged her for half an hour. I was proud that my son had the compassion to know how to sit with her pain, and the insight to know that kindness in that moment can be transformational.

It's Mother's Day on Sunday. For many mums this is a hard day. So I want to acknowledge the mums who have suffered. The women who've tried so hard to have a baby but it didn't happen, either because of fertility, or timing or circumstance. The women who've lost a child, or miscarried, who have had to bury a baby and then live with a silent perpetual grief; such stories of children they can never share.

I want to acknowledge the mums who have survived domestic violence and those still surviving. Those mums who live with a dangerous mixture of fear and

hope. Those mums who live with the anguish that their choices have hurt their kids.

I acknowledge mums who have struggled with their mental health. Mums who have battled to find their sense of self in the role of motherhood. Mums who feel guilty for loving their kids but not loving the role. And mums who have substance and addiction issues.

I think about the mums in our community who face homelessness. The mums who drive to their secret locations in their cars or vans and put their children to bed. Only to wake at first sunlight to make breakfast and dress the kids for school. I wonder who celebrates them and their courage and struggle?

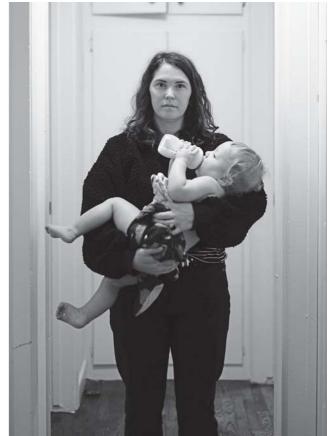
I acknowledge the mothers who are estranged from their kids. Those who have lost connection. The mums who live with the regret of trauma-informed decisions that will haunt them their entire lives.

I think about mums who are in jail. Those who live with the stigma of being incarcerated.

I think about mothers who struggle to show love and affection because of what happened to them when they were kids. I think about difficult mothers. About grandmothers who have become grandparent carers.

I think about the mums who have arrived as refugees. Those who struggle to find a safe place for their family. For the mums who have risked everything to find home in a country that doesn't make them welcome.

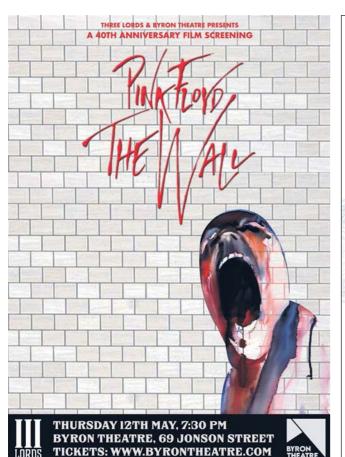
Happy Mother's Day to *all* the mothers. This complex role of nurture is so unappreciated, so deeply



embedded into our sense of worth, so important to how we conduct our relationships, how we feel about ourselves.

So here's to the stories we don't see. The mothers who exist in the margins.

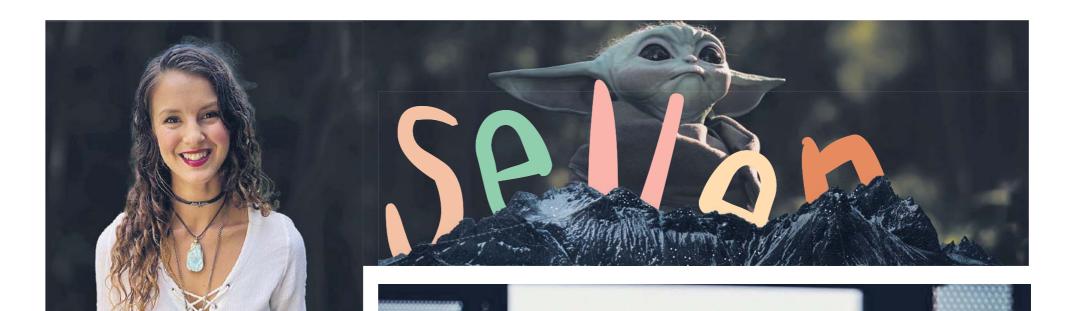
I see you. We see you. Happy Mother's Day.







52 The Byron Shire Echo May 4, 2022 www.echo.net.au



SING TO THRIVE

A fun weekly community singing circle is starting up in May in Ocean Shores with **Maddy Monacelli**. These weekly mini workshops will teach you how to connect to your power voice and radically improve your tone, pitch and colour. So, if you want to sing in freedom, learn vocal technique, get better at singing harmonies and feel confident to improvise – then get your beautiful self to these weekly classes, because they are designed to help you become a confident, charismatic and powerful singer.

Now, more than ever, we need to be raising our vibration and staying positive to boost our immune system and improve mental health. Singing in a group triggers the communal release of serotonin and oxytocin, the bonding, happy hormones, synchronising our heart beats and connecting us to a strong network of like-minded people, which is a powerful antidote for depression and anxiety.

There will be no judgement, no ego and no comparing. Maddy also offers private tuition for all ages. You can choose from mobile singing lessons – where she comes to you – or sing up a storm at the **Byron Music School** or online via **Zoom**.

Weekly Adult Group is held every Thursday, 1–2.15pm in Ocean Shores. Casual rate is \$18 per class.

Visit the website singtothrive.com to find out more.



Win Angus Stone's Rose Pink Cadillac!

To celebrate Dope Lemon's latest release, much-loved local muso Angus Stone has teamed up with your favourite radio station to make a special offer to everyone who subscribes to BayFM (including renewals) by 11 May 2022. You'll get:

A free download of Dope Lemon's latest album, Rose Pink Cadillac.

An exclusive invitation to BayFM's Live Broadcast at Fallen Broken Street on 12 May, 4–6pm, joining Angus Stone and Danny from the Sandpit.

A chance to win a real rose pink Cadillac – yep, an actual car, and it's stunning – as part of a national promo be drawn later in the year. Get down to bayfm.org and hit 'SUBSCRIBE'.



bayfm.org Listen like a local.



The Wollumbin Art Award (WAA), worth \$30,000, is the Tweed Regional Gallery's new biennial award open to artists living in the Tweed, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle and Scenic Rim Shires, as well as Lismore and Gold Coast City. The Award, named after the mountain the Gallery overlooks, celebrates the calibre and diversity of artists of the region. There is no theme and artists may submit works in any medium.

The Wollumbin Art Award winner will receive a \$15,000 prize, which includes a two week residency at the Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio at Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre.

The **WAA Bundjalung Award** is a \$10,000 prize for First Nations artists and includes an exhibition at Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, and this award is sponsored by the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd. The WAA also offers an Emerging Artist Award of \$5,000.

The 2022 WAA Judge is **Alison Kubler** – she has over 20 years' experience working as a curator in museums and galleries in Australia. She has held full-time curatorial positions at QUT Art Museum and Gold Coast City Art Gallery, and in a freelance capacity developed programs for the Art Gallery of South Australia, amongst other institutions. Alison is a Member of the Council of the National Gallery of Australia, and an Ambassador for the Institute of Modern Art. Alison is a regular contributor to art journals and magazines on the subjects of art and fashion. She is currently the Editor of *VAULT*.

The WAA Pre-Selection Panel for 2022 includes the TRG&MOAC Gallery Director and Exhibitions Curator, and a First Nations representative.

Entries for this award are open now, and close at 5pm on Sunday 17 July. The exhibition dates are from Friday 30 September to Sunday 20 November 2022.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALL

It's time to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the film adaptation of *Pink Floyd: The Wall*, where a confined but troubled rock star descends into madness in the midst of his physical and social isolation from everyone.

Based on Pink Floyd's 1979 album *The Wall*, this liveaction/animated psychological horror musical film was directed by Alan Parker in 1982. Like the album, the film is highly metaphorical, and is full of symbolic imagery and sound. The film is mostly driven by music and features little dialogue from the characters.

Despite its turbulent production and the creators voicing their discontent about the final product, the film received generally positive reviews and has an established cult following.

Earning two British Academy Awards for Best Sound and Best Original Song, film critic Roger Ebert reviewed *The Wall* on the television program *At the Movies* in 1982, describing it as 'a stunning vision of self-destruction' and 'one of the most horrifying musicals of all time... but the movie is effective. The music is strong and true, the images are like sledge hammers, and for once, the rock and roll hero isn't just a spoiled narcissist, but a



real, suffering image of all the despair of this nuclear age. This is a really good movie.'

Presenting the event are Byron-based entertainment company, **Three Lords**, who host local events with locally-based artists. Their aim is to provide a wide range of experiences to bring people together and celebrate popular and iconic culture.

Hano Kotevski from Three Lords, says 'the film will forever be culturally relevant, and as the ongoing effects of recent worldwide events continue to change us, perhaps a wall or two does need to "come down"."

This is a stunning piece and you can see it at the Byron Theatre, Thursday 12 May, 7.30pm.

Tix: www.byrontheatre.com.au



WHO LET THE SNIFFER DOG OUT?

The new single from **Sniffer Dog** sees the anarchic masked canine running amok through his own backyard. Sniffer Dog hails from the Northern Rivers area of NSW – West Mullum to be exact. Having misspent his youth in various Australian inner city regions pissing off authorities and rallying against the relentless dumbing down of art and culture, Sniffer Dog took his young litter up to the hinterlands of the Byron Shire where he has continued to challenge those who put profit before community and fear ahead of tolerance and love.

Previous incarnations of Sniffer Dog include: Be Kind To Beavers, Fred Nihilsts, Non Bossy Posse, PuSs, Vibe Tribe, Organarchy Sound System, Fatty Acidz, Fatty Vs Mo and Economy Class Syndrome.

After the successful fundraising track 'Greta Calling' which threw some attention and dollars the way of the fire-stricken community of Wytaliba in the North Eastern part of NSW, his latest track 'Underground' continues to raise awareness and funds for locals

currently devastated by the Northern Rivers flood event.

All proceeds from sales of the track will go towards Sniffer Dog's local Kohinur Hall relief fund in an attempt to get the updates required to help the venue back on its feet.

Dance floor friendly acid breakz mixed with an acerbic post punk snarl make this new release a must for conscious groove hedz, whilst showcasing a potpourri of beats and tweeks aimed at the giddy heights of the peak dance floor experience.

Every dollar helps so please head over to Bandcamp and make a donation and all proceeds from the sales will go to the Upper Main Arm Kohinur Hall Flood Appeal.

Please support the rebuild of this devastated area in a small way by heading over to Bandcamp and buying the track.

Much love and thanks – WOOF!

Bandcamp Download: https:// snifferdog.bandcamp.com/track/ underground-2.



WEDNESDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, SIMON MEOLA
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 6.15PM REGGAE AND RAINBOW FEAT. BOMBACLOCK
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6.30PM MUSICAL BINGO
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM NOT QUITE FOLK JAM
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6PM
 STEVEN MICHAEL

THURSDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, MARSHALL OKELL DUO
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 2.30PM HAYLEY GRACE, 5PM STEPH STRINGS, 7.30PM JEROME WILLIAMS
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM HOCKEY DAD WITH THE GROGANS
- SERENE EARTH SANCTUARY, MYOCUM, 6PM
 BHAKTIATSU KIRTAN WITH DOCTORS OF DEVOTIONS

FRIDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, SOUTHWALL
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON
 BAY, 12.30PM JOSH LEE
 HAMILTON, 3PM KANE
 MUIR, 5.30PM TIM STOKES,
 7.30PM GARY COLLOCOTT
 BAND, 8.15PM SODA
 SIMULATOR, 9.15PM
 DEADSHOWWS
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM HOPE D WITH NOAH DILLON & PLATONIC SEX
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ ARUANDA
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM
 ECSTATIC DANCE BYRON
 BAY WITH DJ ISHWARA
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM **CHOIRBOYS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM MARTIN WAY
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 8PM JEX LOPEZ
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM JASON DELPHIN

- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM KATCHAFIRE + BOBBY ALU + RAYJAH 45
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL
 5PM CASEY FOGG, 9.30PM
 STRICTLY ACOUSTIC

SATURDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, TYLER DURDENS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, HARVEY SUTHERLAND
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM CROCODYLUS W/ RADIUM DOLLS & POWER DRILL
- COORABELL HALL 7.30PM
 30 MINUTES FOR
 FREEDOM
- BANGALOW BOWLO 6.30PM UPBEAT
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM

DJ JACOB JON

- LENNOX COMMUNITY
 MARKET 4PM NUDGE
 NUDGE WINK WINK DJS MONSIEUR DIOP, SHAMUS,
 DALE STEPHEN & LORD
- CLUB LENNOX 6PM TWO TEARS IN A BUCKET
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM TROMBONE KELLY GANG
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM
 BANANAGUN + MYLEE
 GRACE
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM STAGE 2
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM JON J BRADLEY
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM OH WHAT A NIGHT
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM BOB FITCHETT, 9.30PM RAMJET

SUNDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, MATTHEW ARMITAGE
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, EPIC, 12.30PM **DONNY** SHADES
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 4PM **THE NEW LANGUAGE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **SOFIA ISELLA**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM DUDU MARTINS

- STOKERS SIDING MEMORIAL HALL 10AM ART FAIR AT STOKERS SIDING
- ELTHAM HOTEL 3PM SLIM PICKINS
- CHILLINGHAM MARKET
 OCTAVIA ROBINSON
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 3PM LIME CORDIALE
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM MIRUSIA
- LENNOX COMMUNITY
 MARKET 9AM BRUNO BAH
 & FRIENDS
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 1PM STEVEN MICHAEL, 5PM THE SMASHED CRABS
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM JON J BRADLEY
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM NATHAN KAYE

MONDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, STEPHEN LOVELIGHT
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **GUY KACHEL**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM SOCIAL LATIN DANCING INC. FREE CLASSES WITH SASSY SALSA CLASS

TUESDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, JASON DELPHIN
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM HAYLEY GRACE, 8PM ANIMAL VENTURA DUO
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, JAMIE ASHFORTH
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM JOSH LEE HAMILTON, 5.30PM JESSE WITNEY, 8PM FELICITY LAWLESS DUO
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON
 BAY, 6.15PM REGGAE
 AND RAINBOW FEAT.
 BOMBACLOCK
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6.30PM MUSICAL BINGO
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM IRISH FOLK JAM
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6PM ROB RHODES

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MORNING OF THE EARTH

Celebrating 50 years of the film that inspired a generation, Albert Falzon's 1972 Classic, Morning of the Earth, has been meticulously remastered in 4K. This film is internationally renowned as one of the greatest surf films of all time, consistently in the top five in the world. Its psychedelic imagery and audio-visual tour de force captured the spirit of a generation and became an instant benchmark of avant-garde cinema.

A fantasy of surfers living in three unspoilt lands and playing in nature's oceans, Morning of the Earth tells the story of a group of friends exploring the measures of all things beautiful: searching for virgin waves in Bali, Hawaii and Australia, shaping their own surfboards, building their own homes and living off the land in harmony with nature. With G. Wayne Thomas' billboard-topping soundtrack (the first Australian soundtrack to go gold, that has just been re-released) and surfing that features some of the world's best, Morning of the Earth is a must-watch for any surfer or cinephile worth their salt.

Morning of the Earth was the first film to capture surfing in Bali, and its two surfers, Stephen Cooney and Rusty Miller, became the first to ever surf the now world famous point break, Uluwatu.

The film stars some of the world's best surfers, including champions Nat Young, Terry Fitzgerald, Michael Peterson, and Gerry Lopez. But the film goes far beyond personalities.

Special Guests at the event are **Albe Falzon** (Zoom Q&A), Stephen Cooney and Rusty Miller. Music from the film will be performed by Beau Young, with Rusty Miller, Gyan, Simon Greaves and Tim Gaze accompanying.

Tickets from the Byron Bay Community Centre website: byroncentre.com.au.



THE NORTHMAN

The Northman is an American epic historical fiction film directed by Robert Eggers, who co-wrote the screenplay with **Sión**. Based on the legend of Amleth, the film stars Alexander Skarsgård (who also produced), Nicole Kidman, Claes Bang, Anya Taylor-Joy, Ethan Hawke, Björk, and Willem Dafoe.

Alexander Skarsgård had wanted to make a Viking film for several years, and Eggers decided to make the film his third project after the pair met to discuss possible collaborations.

In AD 895, King Aurvandill War-Raven returns to his kingdom on the island of Hrafnsey after his overseas conquests, and is reunited with his wife, Queen Gudrún, and his son and heir, Prince Amleth. To prepare Amleth to one day be king, the two participate in a spiritual ceremony overseen by Aurvandill's jester, Heimir. The next morning, masked warriors led by Aurvandill's brother, Fjölni, ambush and murder the king. After seeing his village massacred and his mother taken away screaming by his uncle, Amleth flees by boat swearing to avenge his father, save his mother and kill Fjölnir.

Amleth is found by a band of Vikings and raised among them as a berserker. Years later, after an attack in the land of the Rus, Amleth encounters a Seeress in the temple of Svetovit; the Seeress predicts that Amleth will soon take revenge on Fjölnir, and that his path is intertwined with a Maiden-King. Amleth finds out that Fjölnir was overthrown by Harald of Norway and lives in exile in Iceland. Posing as a slave, Amleth sneaks aboard a ship headed to Iceland.

What follows is a story as epic as the names of the characters in it.

The Northman is screening at Palace Cinemas this week.



THE BAD GUYS

The Bad Guys is a computer-animated crime comedy film produced by DreamWorks Animation. The film was directed by Pierre Perifel (in his feature directorial debut) from a screenplay by **Etan Cohen**, and is based, generally, on the children's book series of the same name by **Aaron Blabey**.

The voices behind The Bad Guys are Sam Rockwell as Mr Wolf, a pickpocket gray wolf, Marc Maron as Mr Snake, a sarcastic safe-cracking eastern brown snake, Awkwafina as Ms Tarantula, a sharp-tongued expert hacker, Craig Robinson as Mr Shark, a childish and sensitive masterof-disguise, **Anthony Ramos** as Mr Piranha, a Bolivian red-bellied piranha, Richard Ayoade as Professor Rupert Marmalade IV, a pompous guinea pig philanthropist, Barbara Goodson voices an old woman that Mr Wolf intended to pickpocket, Zazie Beetz as Diane Foxington, **Alex Borstein** as Misty Luggins, the hot-tempered human chief of police, and Lilly Singh as Tiffany Fluffit, a local human news reporter.

The Bad Guys tells the story of the group of criminal animals who, after a lifetime of legendary heists, get caught. To avoid a prison sentence, the animal outlaws must pull off their most challenging con yet – becoming model citizens. Under the tutelage of their mentor, Professor Marmalade, the dubious gang sets out to fool the world that they're turning good.

Marmalade invites the Bad Guys to his home, but his lessons prove a struggle, with them seemingly unable to adapt to the concept of good behavior. After a 'heist for good' to rescue a herd of guinea pigs from a research lab fails - owing to Mr Wolf's second-incommand, Mr Snake, eating them – the experiment is called off and lots of fun ensues.

You can see The Bad Guys at the Ballina Fair Cinemas.

PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times: Thu 5 May - Wed 11 May

NFT = No Free Tickets

SESSION TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Check online for all live session times SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL

Visit spanishfilmfestival.com for all Film Festival sessions SPECIAL SCREENINGS THIS MUCH I KNOW TO BE TRUE (M) Selling Fast Wed: 7:00, 7:30pm

OPERATION MINCEMEAT (M) Previews Sat/Sun: 3:30pr SUNDOWN (MA15+) Movie Club Screening

FAMILY FILMS RABBIT ACADEMY (PG)

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2 (PG) THE RAD GUYS (PG) Daily except Sat/Sun: 11:0 Sat/Sun: 11:00, 12:50pm

www.echo.net.au

ALL FILMS DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS (CTC) NFT Daily: 11:00 12:00 2:30, 3:30, 6:30, 7:00, 8:00pm

THE DROVER'S WIFE: THE LEGEND OF MOLLY JOHNSON (MA15+) NFT Daily: 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00pm

AFTER YANG (PG) Daily: 4:00pm DOWNTON ARREY:

A NEW ERA (PG) Thu/Fri/Mon/Tue: 11:00, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 Sat/Sun: 11:00

EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE **ALL AT ONCE (MA15+)** Daily except Wed: 1:10, 4:30, 8:30 Wed: 1:10, 4:30pm

FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE SECRETS **OF DUMBLEDORE (M)** Daily except Wed: 1:40, 7:15 Wed: 1:40 FAREWELL, MR. HAFFMANN (M) Thu/Fri/Mon: 12:00, 6:10pm Sat/Sun: 2:00, 6:10 Tue/Wed: 12:00

THE BATMAN (M) Daily except Wed: 8:15pm THE DUKE (M) Daily: 11:00am

THE LOST CITY (M) Daily except Wed: 3:00, 5:30pm. Wed: 2:45, 5:00pm THE NORTHMAN (MA15+) Daily except Sat Sun: 11:15AM

1:00, 6:00 Wed: 11:00, 1:00, 3:30 4:20, 7:15 Sat/Sun: 4:20, 7:15 THE UNBEARABLE WEIGHT OF

MASSIVE TALENT (M) Daily except Sat/Sun: 2:00, 8:30pm Sat/Sun: 8:30pm

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay Book online: palacecinemas.com.au Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking validation for all Palace Cinemas customers



Admission Prices: Adults: \$14 Stud/Conc: \$12 Senior: \$11 Child: \$10 S10 S10 S10 S10 S10 S10 S10 S10 S10 S		FAIR 5 th to We			V	Tel: (02) 668 Ilinafairciner Ve accept the Discover \$25	nas.com.au Dine and
MAY	THU 5 [™]	FRI 6 [™]	SAT 7 TH	SUN 8 TH	MON 9 [™]	TUE 10 [™]	WED 11 [™]
DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS M 126 MIN	10:00 AM 12:20 PM 2:40 PM 5:00 PM 7:20 PM	10:00 AM 12:20 PM 2:40 PM 5:00 PM 7:20 PM					
DOWNTON ABBEY: A NEW ERA PG 125 MIN	10:20 AM 12:40 PM 3:00 PM 6:35 PM	10:20 AM 12:40 PM 3:00 PM 6:35 PM	10:20 AM 3:00 PM 6:35 PM	10:20 AM 3:00 PM 6:35 PM	10:20 AM 12:40 PM 3:00 PM 6:35 PM	10:20 AM 12:40 PM 3:00 PM 6:35 PM	10:20 AM 12:40 PM 3:00 PM 6:35 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS 3 M 142 MIN	3:55 PM	3:55 PM					
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2 PG 122 MIN			12:40 PM	12:40 PM			
THE BAD GUYS PG 100 MIN			10:10 AM 2:05 PM	10:10 AM 2:05 PM			
THE DUKE M 96 MIN	10:10 AM 2:05 PM 5:15 PM	10:10 AM 2:05 PM 5:15 PM	5:15 PM	5:15 PM	10:10 AM 2:05 PM 5:15 PM	10:10 AM 2:05 PM 5:15 PM	10:10 AM 2:05 PM 5:15 PM
THE LOST CITY M 112 MIN	12:00 PM 7:00 PM	12:00 PM 7:00 PM					











Byron Beach House with Approved Second Dwelling & Studio















- Situated on an elevated North facing 645m² block
- Undeniable premium location, with no drive through traffic, at the top of a culde-sac and only a short stroll or bike ride away to the buzzing town centre
- Beautiful Byron cottage home PLUS fully approved secondary dwelling PLUS
- This property underwent a complete landscape revamp and is surrounded by tropical plants and pathways

5 Mott Street, Byron Bay

Price: Contact Agent





Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698



Jasmin McClymont 0434 029 668



⇒ 3 700M² 3

- Fantastic convenient and easy-care investment opportunity
- 2 self-contained dwellings in the heart of Byron Bay's Sunrise district
- Main residence ideal for entertaining with open plan living, well-appointed kitchen, undercover alfresco areas, pool and low-maintenance gardens
- Perfect for potential income and growing families
- Easy walk to Sunrise or Belongil Beach, shops or bike to Byron's town centre

39 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay

Auction: Saturday 28th May at 10.30am Onsite

Auction Guide: \$2.3m - \$2.5m

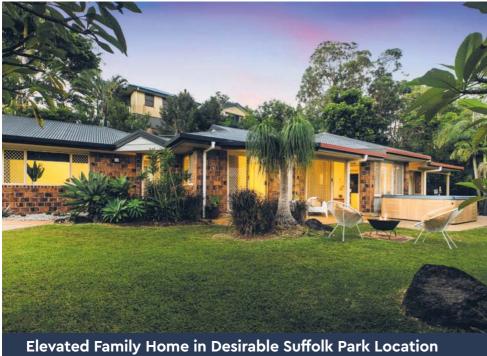
Open: Friday 6th May 3-3.30pm Saturday 7th May 11-11.30am



Oliver Aldridge 0421 171 499



Paul Banister 0438 856 552















- Set on an elevated East facing block, this fantastic home is perfect for those looking for peace and tranquillity
- The East verandas feature a fire-pit and jacuzzi perfect for entertainers to revel in gathering with friends and family
- All four generous size bedrooms feature built-in wardrobes, ceiling fans and access to the outdoor entertaining areas

19 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park

Price Guide: \$1.975m - \$2.17m

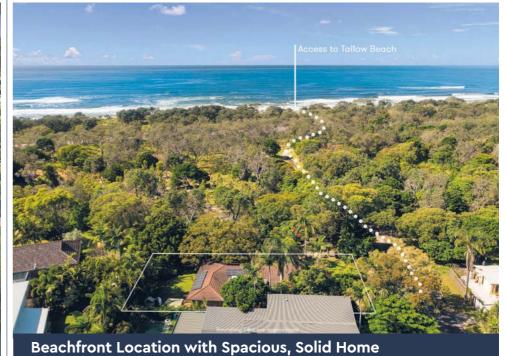
Open: Friday 6th May 1–1.30pm Saturday 7th May 12.30-1.00pm



0421 171 499



0421 076 813















- Superbly positioned, outstanding beachfront location bordering the gorgeous Arakwal National Park with direct access to Tallow Beach
- Set on a private, level 727sqm block the large backyard is secure and fully fenced
- · Large sliding doors open out to the expansive covered outdoor entertaining areas on both sides of the home. These spaces create seamless indoor -
- The home boasts 4 generous bedrooms, each complete with ceiling fans

3 Ocean Street, Byron Bay

Price: Contact Agent

Open: Saturday 7th May 11-11.30am



02 6685 8466



0421 375 635

35 FLETCHER ST, BYRON BAY NSW 2481 PH: O2 6685 8466

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Easy Living Tropical Oasis in Ewingsdale









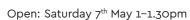




- Great home in family friendly and popular Ewingsdale set on just under 1 acre
- Plenty of room for families and pets and to grow your own veggies in the large north facing yard
- Beautiful Crema Travertine floors throughout and a sleek modern kitchen
- Bi-fold windows from the kitchen open to create an outdoor bar area, which then leads to the covered outdoor living and dining space
- 6km to the centre of Byron Bay

60 Parkway Drive, Ewingsdale

Price Guide: \$2.5m





Su Reynolds 02 6685 8466



Luke Elwin 0421 375 635



Immaculate Family Home with Stunning Luxury Finishes











765M²

- Recently undertaking an extensive renovation with a Scandinavian influence this home offers a relaxed coastal lifestyle, moments to local cafes and local
- · Greeted by wide Blackbutt timber floors with soft matt finish, custom timber joinery throughout and seamless flow to the wide wraparound verandahs
- Crisp white interiors capture the natural light flooding from all directions accentuated by the Velux skylights

33 Coomburra Crescent, Ocean Shores

Price Guide: \$1.395m - \$1.530m

Open: Saturday 7th May 1-1.30pm



Olivia Coates 0408 966 098



Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698



Charming Family home in Booming "Sunrise Beach" Byron Bay















- Recently renovated family home just 3 minutes drive to the beach
- Open plan kitchen and dining area leading onto a covered veranda • Multiple outdoor entertaining areas and easy to maintain north facing yard
- Well-appointed kitchen with modern appliances, breakfast bar and storage
- Single lock-up garage features loft-style storage space for surfboards and bikes
- Walk to local shopping centre and restaurants
- 5-minute drive to centre of Byron township

4 Palm Place, Byron Bay

Price: Contact Agent



02 6685 8466



0421 375 635



Sought-after Suffolk Park Home











- Set in the desirable suburb of Suffolk Park this home with a flexible layout is the perfect home or investment - 950m to Suffolk Park Tavern, bakery, shops.
- The main house centres around the open living area and kitchen which opens to the covered patio and yard with mature garden
- Free standing studio bedroom with ensuite, perfect for a home office, teenage retreat or for guests
- The bedrooms are all generous, the main with walk in robe and ensuite

8 Heritage Court, Suffolk Park

Price Guide: \$1.65m to \$1.8m

Open: By Appointment



02 6685 8466



0421 375 635

Open: Saturday 7th May 12-12.30pm

SALES@BYRONBAYFN.COM WWW.BYRONBAYFN.COM.AU



Echo Property

Raine&Horne® Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads & Murwillumbah











Scan QR Code Contact Agent



Adrian Howe 0477 222 457

adrian.howe@oceanshores.rh.com.au

1/25 Strand Avenue, New Brighton

Striking Dream Beach House with Ocean Views

Situated directly opposite the beach with stunning ocean views, this outstanding, brand new coastal retreat offers you all the tranquillity and privacy of the ultimate beach house, plus an idyllic lifestyle in an undeniably irreplaceable location. Property set within a landscape of commerce and living.

- Two levels of spacious, thoughtfully designed living and entertaining spaces with wide stacker/bi-fold doors cascading back for effortless indoor/outdoor
- Two expansive entertaining decks for your enjoyment - downstairs with access to pool and large yard and upstairs with those gorgeous ocean views.
- Chef's kitchen upstairs with quality European appliances and walk-in pantry.
- Expansive, turfed and fenced yard, ideal for children or pets to play safely.

02 6680 5000

Your health is our priority, so we are complying with the NSW Government's Covid Safety Plan which is adjusted accordingly as updates arise.

Raine&Horne

LJ Hooker

Maclean 6645 2222





4 🕮 2 😓 2 🝙

Feature Filled Home in Prime Position 5 Palm Terrace, Yamba

This timeless designed home in Yamba, on a rare Sale level 1081m² allotment, follows the fundamental principles of the evolving modern home.

- Private patio entry to spacious foyer.
- Office immediate to entrance allowing business without interruption.
- Tiled traffic areas, plush carpet to bedrooms and timber flooring in the sunken lounge. Vaulted ceiling and strategically positioned
- high set windows and sky lights. Visually appealing garden courtyard that merges into the house

Contact Agent

View By Appointment

Ken Giese 0429 664 312 Angus Suttor 0436 006 717

LJ Hooker Maclean 6645 2222 229 River Street

Mr Property Services









View over 50 homes at www.mrpropertyservices.com.au

Email: kprice@mrpropertyservices.com.au 139 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South Phone: 07 5523 3431 Mobile: 0423 028 468

Raine&Horne® Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads & Murwillumbah











Scan QR Code \$2.6M - \$2.86M





Adrian Hoferek 0477 112 640 adrian.hoferek@oceanshores.rh.com.au

148 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park

Exceptional Beachside Home/Business Premises

Check out this incredible opportunity to purchase and reap all the incomeproducing benefits of an amazing beachside holding set in the much soughtafter, welcoming coastal community of Suffolk Park.

- Rare, level 1284 square metre lot with unlimited development potential
- Detached 90 sq.m. workshop with office, bathroom, storeroom and separate driveway private access.

Agency declares interest







Scan QR Code Just Listed





Brett McDonald 0400 351 311 brett.mcdonald@oceanshores.rh.com

14 James Street, Girards Hill

A Girard Historic Home

Thought to be part of the original Girard family estate, this majestic home is outstanding. Full of style and charm and welcoming too.

- The builders of this home were spoiled for choice with local timbers teak. black butt, rosewood and cedar used.
- Painstaking effort has been put in to restoring original features and details such as French doors, high ceilings with spectacular pressed tin and dado-paneled walls.















Craig Griffin 0476 911 127 craig.griffin@oceanshores.rh.com.au

119 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby

MASSIVE MULLUMBIMBY **OPPORTUNITY**

Set on a prominent corner allotment, just metres from the heart of Mullumbim CBD, this classic Queenslander home with commercial zoning presents a golden opportunity to purchase and reap the

- Council-approved, modern selfcontained unit with private access.
- Three-bedroom main house features high ceilings, wide verandas and hardwood floors.









View Scan QR Code Sale Contact Agent





Elizabeth Hickey 0409 812 229

elizabeth.hickey@murwillumbah.rh.com.au

60 Yamble Drive, Ocean Shores

Charming Family Home on 1038 sqm

Set on a large block of land amongst characterful family home offers a relaxed family lifestyle in the popular coastal town of Ocean Shores.

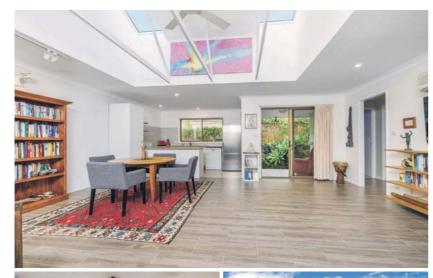
- Light-filled open plan living and dining areas with loft reading area/
- Wraparound verandas on both levels.
- Easy care timber flooring throughout.
- Storage / kid's play area downstairs with adjoining wet area.

02 6680 5000

Your health is our priority, so we are complying with the NSW Government's Covid Safety Plan which is adjusted accordingly as updates arise.











4/27 Coolamon Scenic Dr, Mullumbimby

2 beds 1 bath 2 cars

An oasis of serenity, this revitalised home hums with charisma and is perfectly situated to enjoy sweeping hinterland views. The small complex of four is set within a five minute walk of shops, cafes and schools.

FOR SALE Private Treaty

WELCOME

Saturday 7 May 11am-11.30am

AGENTS Heidi Last 0416 072 868 Stuart Aitken 0419 242 432

McGrath







35 Years of Quality Products

'Premier Meats', Tenterfield, NSW

- Offers expansion for an existing business & opportunity for a new butcher looking for a lifestyle change
- 35 years of providing consistent quality products
- Increased profits & turnover
- High Street Smokehouse award winning bacon & smallgoods. Proven profits & return on investment
- Figures available on request

raywhitetenterfield.com.au

Contact Agent

Libby Sharpe 0429 362 080

Ray White Rural Tenterfield

*approx.



Katrina Beohm real estate

coastal & hinterland sales







BALLINA

6 Kestrel Street \$1.35 million - \$1.485 million Inspect: By Appointment















MODERN HOME IN PREMIUM ESTATE

- + Spacious single level family home with fully enclosed yard perfect for growing or multi-generational families
- + Large open living spaces, plus a dream kitchen with a six-burner gas stove, dishwasher & a walk-in pantry
- + Generous master suite offers air-con, walk-in robe & ensuite, plus a guest bedroom with ensuite & built-ins
- + Convenient location with Aldi, Ballina Fair/Cinemas & the airport close by. Within minutes to multiple beaches

Christopher Plim 0467 000 222



66

Great Professional Advice

I can highly recommend Chris, he is an outstanding real estate agent. Chris was considerate, supportive and very easy to talk to during the stressful time of selling my home.

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Auction Inspect Contact 11am 7th of May To inspect call Peter **Peter Browning** 0411 801 795



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3 Ewandale Close, Clunes



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7+ acres with panoramic views from the mountains to Cape Byron. This beautiful private estate situated on Fig Tree Lane with rolling paddocks, overlooks the hinterland and out to the blue ocean of Byron Bay.



The property has a large two storey family home with pool and also features a separate studio and bails. The home is spacious and open plan catching the ocean and hinterland breezes and views from every direction.

The house is perfect for entertaining with indoors that flow on to the landscaped gardens and pool areas or upstairs with large open decks capturing the beautiful sunsets. The paddocks have been mowed to form a small golf driving hole.

Located minutes to Byron beaches, Bangalow, Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby.

Open: Open by appointment **Contact:** Ian Daniels - 0457 341 111

Susan Whyte - 0478 010 735 McGrath Byron Bay 6639 1200 LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads



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Open: Contact agent for inspection **Contact**: Greg Price 0412 871 500 Ray White Rural Bangalow





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- 21 Philip St, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm

Elders Real Estate Brunswick Valley

- 70 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7/11 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11–11.30am

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- 13 Stonehenge Place, Lennox Head. Wed 12–12.30pm
- 36 Stanley Street, Maclean. Fri 11–11.30am
- 6A Sunart Lane, Maclean. Fri 12–12.30pm • 19 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park. Fri 1–1.30pm
- 39 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 13/1-3 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 24 Hillcrest Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1576 Hinterland Way, Bangalow. Sat 10.30–11am
- 3 Ocean Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 39 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 36 Stanley Street, Maclean. Sat 11–11.30am
- 27 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 10 Ballina Road, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 5 Mott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 4 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 6A Sunart Lane, Maclean. Sat 12–12.30pm • 13 Stonehenge Place, Lennox Head. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 19 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 60 Parkway Drive, Ewingsdale. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 33 Coomburra Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 3/33 McKinnon Street, East Ballina. Sat 9–9.30am
- 2/188 Winton Lane, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 22 Isabella Drive, Skennars Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 37 Catherine Crescent, Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 22 Garden Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30am • 76 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.45am–12.15pm
- 17 Fitzroy Street, Wardell. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 8/2 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 2 Higgins Place, Cumbalum. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 14 Bath Street, Wardell. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 82 Riverside Drive, Tumbulgum. Sat 2–2.30pm

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 58 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 10-10.30am & 2-2.30pm
- 14 Terrara Court, Ocean Shores. Thu 12–12.30pm
- 14 Terrara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 37 Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat
- 15 Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 40 Kolora Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 8 Blackbutt Place, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 53 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 12 Scenic Vista, Ewingsdale. Sat 10–10.30am

- 1/6 Firewheel Place, Suffolk Park. Thu 2-2.30pm
- 5/19 Megan Crescent, Lennox Head. Sat 10.30–11am
- 8/3 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Wed 1–1.30pm
- 8/3 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 8.30-9am

- 45 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 3/146 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 1 Tyagarah Street, Mullumbimby. Wed 3.30-4pm
- 1 Tyagarah Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm • 4/27 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat
- 2-2.30pm
- 6 Hibiscus Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30am
- 3/77C Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. 12–12.30pm
- 46/12 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30-10am

Raine & Horne Ocean Shores

- 20 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Thu 12.30–1pm
- 119 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. Thu 4–4.30pm
- 77A Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. 9–9.30am
- 39 Yalla KoolDrive, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30–10am
- 59 Riverview Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30–10am • 41 Booyong Place, Nobbys Creek. Sat 10–11am

- 3/146 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 4-4.30pm • 30 Somerville Circuit, Murwillumbah. Sat 10.30–11am
 - 27 Rangal Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30–11am

• 148 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat

- 20 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30–11am
- 119 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30–11.30am
- 27 Manuka Drive, Banora Point. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Martin Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 1/25 Strand Avenue, New Brighton. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 9 Inderwong Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–1pm
- 125/685-707 Casuarina Way, Casuarina. Sat
- 60 Yamble Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 2/36 Buckingham Drive, Pottsville. Sat 1.30–2pm

Real Estate of Distinction Byron Bay

- 35-37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 10-10.45am
- 199-201 Middle Pocket Rd, Middle Pocket. Sat 12.30pm-1.15pm

New Listings

First National Byron Bay

- 6A Sunart Lane, Maclean
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay
- 13 Stonehenge Place, Lennox Head

Raine & Horne Ocean Shores

- 2/10 Whitton Court, Ocean Shores
- 6153 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar

Auctions

First National Byron Bay

• 39 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Saturday 28 May, 10.30am onsite

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

• 15 Byron Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11am

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Cryptic Clues

- 1. Current, peculiar winners around new social contacts (13)
- 8. Pig pen, English, causes eye infection (4)
- Circular: bird needed for tournament (5.5)
- 10. Suspend proceedings in favour of a scoundrel (8)
- 11. Refuge with gold for Agamemnon's counsellor (6)
- 13. Same agents, different titles for the theatre (5,5)
- 16. Finished? Balls! (4)
- 17. Robin's cowl (4)
- 18. Woman from Chennai for a big, old company (4,6)
- 20. Lewis's lion territory off kilter (6)
- 22. Money and the Italian aunt for Ms Borgia (8)
- 24. Hermits in the dilapidated chain store (10)
- 26. Idriess's charges (4)
- 27. Their lot loses broken carapace

DOWN

- 2. Our monarch not new, but right –
- 3. Orange car released that's selfimportance (9)
- 4. As a menu, awful after the ad it
- produces vomiting! (7) 5. Australian lair, but a great poet (5)
- 6. Angry term you're in the middle of it! (9)
- Footwear for Italian yes, about a thousand (3)
- 12. Musical play nothing in bad
- Latin, but it's working! (11)
- 14. Sponsor Mafia boss (9) 15. Ports, appropriate for legal
- hearings (9)
- 19. Cooks gently, around fifty -
- greetings! (7) 21. Rocky hill, lie a chest (5)
- 23. Eastern hat turns up top people (5)
- 25. Big weight raised? Negative (3)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- 1. People you know (13)
- 8. Eyelid lump (4)
- 9. Competition in which everyone plays everyone else (5,5)

N437

- 10. Bring an end to a parliamentary session (8)
- 11. Legendary king of Pylos (6)
- 13. Pseudonyms used by actors (5,5)
- 16. On top of (4)
- 17. Bonnet (4)
- 18. 17th century English trading company (4,6)
- 20. Sloping (6) 22. Legendary heroine of ancient
- Rome (8)
- 24. Extremely strict reclusives (10)
- 26. Charged atoms (4)
- 27. Type of spectacle frame (8,5)
- DOWN
- 1. Modifications (11) 2. Odd (5)
- 3. Haughtiness (9)
- 4. Combined with 'ad' means to an excessive degree (Latin) (7)
- 1. Changes sorry tale with shares (11) 5. Famous British-American poet (5)
 - 6. Popular puzzle (9)
 - 7. It can be done on water or snow (3)
 - 12. Functioning (11)
 - 14. He has responsibility for a child's
 - religious education (9)
 - 15. Valises (9)
 - 19. Acknowledges (7)
 - 21. Upper body (5)
 - 23. Upper class (5)
 - 25. Nay (3)

Last week's solution N436

BY LILITH

0401 208 797

Vixen Venus vamps into Aries this week, flashing a fiesta of F-words: fierce, fiery, feisty, funny and full-on...



ARIES: Flammable Venus in Aries has her red dress on, so don't be surprised if temperatures rise – on every level. But keep your composure Rams. Because Jupiter's trailblazing move into Aries next week is about to fire the starting pistol on your most fortunate cycle since 2011. To be continued...

TAURUS: Stomach acid can dissolve razor blades, and anxiety makes it even more caustic. A pretty compelling incentive to find a comfort zone with your name on it and put your hooves up, wouldn't you say? Lessen stress levels even further this week by hanging out with people who aren't hard work.

GEMINI: Taurus time can sometimes burden Geminis with the unbearable heaviness of being. If existential malaise hits, tune into this week's sensual rhythms, schedule affectionate get togethers with upbeat others, and lavish yourself with the personal TLC and treats we all need to see us through challenging life cycles.

CANCER: This autumnal month centres around creature comforts and the pleasures of the senses, table and home - just the way Cancerians like it. Be prepared to initiate most of the communicating, though... It's also an excellent time for the annual lifestyle colonic: clearing away workplace accumulations, domestic congestion and free floating mess.

LEO: A little bit of drama goes a long way this week, so aim for elegant understatement in all interactions. With the indulgence factor pumping, stringency's advised. Not feeling it? Here's the deal: there's really no need to extend yourself when it makes more sense to build on what you've already got.

VIRGO: This week's about values: what you value, what you're valued for, where best to invest your valuable energy and expertise. It's also about your inner worth: with the emotional storms and awkward interactions of recent weeks on the wane, it's time to exchange unhelpful trains of thought for more positive personal perspectives.

LIBRA: This month's abfab for the sort of Venusian sports Librans adore: beautifying, socialising, decorating, shopping, doing lunch and of course, amour. It offers quite the smorgasbord of ingredients for you to balance, because while Venus ignites some volatile chemistry guaranteed to banish bedroom boredom, her flipside can be an argumentative and demanding cranky pants.

SCORPIO: During this week of duties, demands, obligations and responsibilities, factor in some fun time with upbeat others to celebrate the delights of simply being alive on our planet of the senses. Because if you enjoy something, aren't others likely to want some of whatever you're having? Some astute schmoozing never goes astray.

SAGITTARIUS: This week serves up a hearty helping of home truths, rendering them palatable through ordinary joys, unexpected pleasures and hearty belly laughs. There's plenty of horsepower available for whatever passionate project you're involved in – balance it with tolerance for those whose views run contrary to your own.

CAPRICORN: This no-nonsense, takingcare-of-business month offers solid results you can measure and assess. It's let's-get-physical vibes lavish you with so much stamina and staying power you're likely to be making lots of love or money. Knowing you, both. Take a break before you ache.

AQUARIUS: This week's superbly suited to pruning dead wood in the form of expenditure or involvements that drain your resources – and the planet's – then finding alternatives that support you accessing your imaginative, artistic and spiritual riches. You started life with nothing, so anything you have now is a

PISCES: Wildcat Venus erupting into adventurous Aries could certainly rocket you out of any doldrums. Think Xena the zodiac's warrior queen – she's up for a tussle. Worth it if you have the energy to stay the distance in this week's engagements, probably not if you prefer a more peaceful week.



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Your duties over four days a week include:

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- produce monthly reports
 Preparation of monthly accounts / BAS for various businesses
 - Pay creditors / assist with invoicing / debtors - Reconcile bank
- Prepare ad hoc reports (Excel essential) - Assist with financial management of stud farm & building operations at Possum Creek.

It is imperative that you can operate independently. Hours flexible to suit. Car essential

Contact: Donald W de Boer on 0477 924 888 Email resume: ddb@tlim.com.au



Sat 14th May

- Silver Jewellery
- Webdesign with Wordpress
- Blogging Bootcamp - Online Class

Sun 15th May

Writing For Wellbeing

Mon 16th May

• Face Yoga

Tue 17th May

- Golf For Beginners
- Sewing For Beginners

Wed 18th May

- Power Pinterest - Online Class
- Stretch Sewing

Fri 20th May

- Lomi Lomi Massage Training
- Communication For Clarity And Connection
 - Online class

Use promo code 50FLOOD at checkout when enrolling online, thanks to NR Flood Relief Fund. *50% off the full fee for general courses only, one course per person, first in first served until funding runs out.

02 6684 3374

byroncollege.org.au

Vistara Primary School Primary Teacher Yrs 4, 5, 6

Maternity Leave: From 20th June 2022 to December 20th 2022

Vistara is currently recruiting a vibrant, dedicated primary school teacher to join our wonderful team. We are a not for profit, Independent Primary School. There are three multi staged classrooms delivering the NESA NSW syllabus. Our classes are small and we aim to maintain a creative and dynamic approach to teaching and learning. Our school's ethos and Neo Humanist philosophy (refer to the school's website www.vistara.nsw.edu. au) which is integrated in to the NESA NSW Syllabus. If you love to work in a beautiful rural setting, with a progressive educational philosophy based on ecology, we want to hear from you. The salary is based on the Association of Independent Schools NSW Hybrid Multi Enterprise Agreement.

To be considered to for an interview, it is essential that applicants submit the following:

- 1. CV including full contact details, date of birth, previous schools, year levels taught, duration at each school. Include two referees from two previous schools.
- 2. A copy of your Dept. of Education Approval to Teach letter
- 3. Working with Children check number
- 4. NESA number and level of accreditation

Additional information may be asked for before an interview. Email your applications to: visps@bigpond.net.au Attention: Administrator

Applications close: May 20th 2022.

Vistara Primary School, 41 Richmond Hill Rd, Richmond Hill. NSW 2480

TUITION

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MUSICAL NOTES

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PERSONAL

SINGLE vegetarian man wants to find single, futuristic life-partner who studies the future and talks much on enlightenment. To reply ph 0427 493 954

FUNERAL NOTICES

O'DONNELL, **BARRY JOHN**

Passed away peacefully at Coolamon Villa. Much loved husband of Jan (dec). Loved father of Bruce, Scott, Gavin, and Tracey.

Loved brother of Edward (dec), Carmel, Bernadette, and Peter. Much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Barry will be sadly missed

Relatives and friends to attend a funeral service to be held at St John's Catholic

MICHAEL CURRIE FUNERALS 6684 6232



COMMUNITY DYING.

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE, 2022



Zenith Virago of The Natural Death Care Centre with other local and national organisations present our 2nd community day to discover and explore the incredible services available in our Shire for dying, death and funerals.

Local Hospices

Trusted Funeral Directors

End of Life & After Death Care Services

Death Cafe

And More

Food available Entry by donation

DEATH NOTICES



MARGARET CHRISTINA

Margaret will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

MICHAEL CURRIE FUNERALS 6684 6232

09.02.1938 - 26.04.2022

by all family and friends.

are respectfully invited Church, Mullumbimby on Friday (May 6, 2022) commencing at 10.30am.

large yard or property with good fencing and

DEATH & FUNERALS EXPO

MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 10AM-2PM



Welcome & Speakers

11am - 1pm including

Pallative Care & Medical Services

Celebrants

contact - zenithvirago@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM



HOWATSON,

Passed away suddenly at home in Brunswick Heads. Much loved wife of Sam.

Tilemachos (Archie) **KORIALOS**

April 1912 – 4 May 1997



You had many challenges in your life's journey, and yet you overcame them quietly. We are inspired to honour your efforts and hard work

Though 25 years have passed, your spirit is with us always. Love from your family.

PETS

Jack is the liveliest bundle of fun you could ever wish to meet. He and his siblings are just 16 weeks old and so excited to find their new

homes. Playful, loving, and first class purrers, these little fur balls will have you smitten in seconds. How can you resist his little face? To meet Jack and his siblings, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street.

Mullumbimby. OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm Thurs 3-5pm, Sat 10am-12noon. Call AWL 0436 845 542.

AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation ANIMAL Number: R251000222

ZEPHYR

is a 7.5 yo American Staffy who will need a

gate. 1.8 metres high. He's had obedience training in foster care. He prefers the great outdoors. He's an independent dog, okay to be left alone. Teens are okay, but no children or other pets. He is very protective of his home. M/C # 943094320606517 If you can give Zephyr a loving home. Contact Tracy on (07) 5524 8590. www.friendsofthepound.com/

adoption-expression-of-interest Visit **friendsofthepound.com** to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338

All cats are desexed vaccinated and microchipped. PETS FOR LIFE

MONTHLY MARKETS

	Brunswick Heads Alstonville	0406 724 323 0429 019 407
	Byron Bay Lismore Car Boot	6685 6807 6628 7333
	Flea Market, Bangalo Woodburn	w 0490 335 498 0439 489 631
2nd SUN 2nd SUN	The Channon Tabulam Hall Lennox Head Coolangatta	6688 6433 0490 329 159 6685 6807
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby Murwillumbah Salt Village Marke	
3rd SUN 3rd SUN 3rd SUN 3rd SUN	Uki Lismore Car Boot	0433 002 757 0487 329 150 6628 7333 0422 094 338

0439 489 631 4th SAT Evans Head 4th SAT Wilsons Creek 4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyog

4th SUN Bangalow 6687 1911

4th SUN Nimbin 4th SUN Murwillumbah 0475 135 764 0413 804 024 4th SUN (in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta 5th SAT Flea Market, Bangalow 0490 335 498

5th SUN Nimbin 5th SUN Lennox Head 0458 506 000 FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE New Brighton 6677 1345 Each TUE Organic Lismore Each WED 7-11am M'bah 6628 1084 0475 135 764 Fach WED 3-6pm Nimbin Each WED 4-7pm Newrybar Hall Each THU 8-11am Byron 6 .. 6687 1137 Each THU 2.30-6.30pm Lismore 0450 688 900 Each FRI 7-11am Mullum 6677 1345 Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow 6687 1137

Each SAT 8-11am Duranbah Rd (τ

Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki 6679 5530 Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore 0466 415 172 Fach SAT 8 30-12am Blue Knob Each SUN 7-11am Ballina 0493 102 137

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other dogs, chills at home, and loves to run at the beach He's a big strong boy who responds well to commands but will need further training.

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

2-year-old

desexed male

Staffv x Bull

Terrier **Oreo** is an

absolute sweetie;

playful, charming,

and loving. He's

excellent with

Oreo suffers from noise-triggered anxiety, but with a stable, calm, and loving environment, he is settling beautifully.

For adoption enquiries about this rather special boy, please **contact Shell on 0458 461 935.** MC: 991003000303485



continues to be busy and the shelter is still full of kitten cuteness. Many have gone to forever homes, but there are still plenty of lively little furries just longing to play with their own human family. Lots of warm fuzzies and fun await you.

SUN, MOON & TIDES

TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

SUN MOON HIGH RISE / RISE / TIDES, SET SET height (m) W 17:11 9:06 10:08 1.20 04:35 0.54 19:24 22:45 1.69 10:45 1.13 23:23 1.63 6:15 10:00 17:10 20:12 05:20 0.58 16:18 0.52 5 TH 6:15 10:52 11:30 1.07 F 06:10 0.62 16:58 0.59 00:09 1.57 12:25 1.03 **SA** | 6:16 | 17:08 07:07 0.65 01:03 1.51 6:17 12:21 08:11 0.65 8 SU 17:08 22:55 13:42 1.02 19:00 0.72 6:17 13:00 17:07 23:52 02:08 1.48 09:14 0.63 03:14 1.48 10 TU 17:06 16:14 1.16 21:39 0.70 6:18 14:07 04:13 1.51 10:51 0.50 11 W 17:06 0:50 17:06 1.29 22:42 0.63 6:19 14:39 1:48 05:04 1.54 11:29 0.42 12 TH 6:20 15:10 05:51 1.57 13 F 12:05 0.34 17:04 2:47 18:36 1.57 6:20 15:44 06:36 1.56 00:29 0.47 SA 3:49 **19:19 1.71 12:41 0.27** 6:21 17:03 16:21 4:54 15 SU

17:01 8:26 **22:26 1.96 15:20 0.27** Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

6:21 17:04

16 (M)

TU

18 W



08:07 1.48 02:12 0.36

20:49 1.92 13:57 0.20

6:22 17:53 08:54 1.40 03:05 0.34 17:02 7:14 **21:36 1.96 14:37 0.22**

6:23 18:50 09:44 1.31 04:02 0.34

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www.echo.net.au May 4, 2022 The Byron Shire Echo 71









It's been a bit wet of late, apparently, and someone decided to make a point about the impact of developing wetlands and floodplains on the way into Byron, another recently flooded Northern Rivers town. Photo Supplied

A District Court judge has overturned the harsh threemonth jail sentence on Andrew George for his non-violent environmental protest. As part of a Fireproof Australia protest Mr George did an NRL pitch run with a smoke flare. 'This ruling sets a precedent for other NSW magistrates that will have climate protesters in their courts, and wish to do the State's dirty work and punish them with draconian sentences that are absurd,' say Fireproof Australia. 'The penalties and conditions being imposed on non-violent Fireproof Australia supporters are harsher than many violent criminals face'.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union National Secretary Mark Diamond said that, 'Five per cent inflation is Scott Morrison's Stupidity Tax, and all Australians are paying it'. He explains: the five per cent inflantion includes 'a 13.7 per cent increase in total transport costs, and whopping 35.1 per cent increase in the cost of automotive fuel over the past 12 months. Blind Freddy could have seen that petrol prices would inevitably go up, so a sensible government would have promoted alternative fuel vehicles and invested in public transport infrastructure to give commuters affordable alternatives.'

Building of the new skate park in Byron Bay will begin in June – it's only taken 20 years and 'hundreds of community meetings and design workshops'. The project includes a new amenities block as well as cultural planting and artwork, yarning circles, shaded seating, barbeques, a bouldering wall and a table tennis table.

A reader sent in a link to an ABC story on how Logan, south of Brisbane is turning human waste into renewable energy. 'Water is taken out of the sewage sludge, which is then dried out before going into a furnace where it is burnt, and the gases produced are used to power the facility.' Do you agree that this is what we need for the next incarnation of the Byron and Mullum sewage works?





BREAKDOWN

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