Echo

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM DRAWING A DICK ON YOUR BALLOT PAPER AS LAST TIME HE WON

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 36 #49 • May 18, 2022 • www.echo.net.au

Final meet before Saturday's big vote

With the federal election looming Saturday, candidates put themselves before the public on Monday night at the Byron Community Centre. All candidates were present, except 'ghost' One Nation candidate, Tracey Bell-Henselin. Pictured from left: Terry Sharples (Independent), Monica Shepherd (Informed Medical Options Party), David Warth (Independent), Rob Marks (Clive Palmer's United Australia Party), Justine Elliot (incumbent Labor MP), moderator Mia Armitage (BayFM), Simon Haslam (*The Echo* timekeeper), Mandy Nolan (Greens), Nathan Jones (Independent), Kimberly Hone (Nationals) and Gary Briggs (Liberal Democrats). For a wrap up of the night, see page 13. Photo Jeff 'Last Supper Since 33AD' Dawson

Homelessness hub under immense pressure

Paul Bibby

A new homelessness hub in Byron Bay has been so inundated with requests for help, that the service already needs additional staff to meet the demand.

Just 21 days after opening, Fletcher Street Cottage has had 570 visits from local people seeking assistance, including 170 individual appointments with its community support team. At the same time, the newly renovated service and its volunteers have served up 630 breakfasts, facilitated 220 showers and 80 laundry uses.

'I don't even know the right word to describe the housing situation any more… an emergency, a crisis…' said Jenny Ryan, the homelessness projects manager at the Cottage.

'We're just dealing with the situation day-to-day.'

Ms Ryan said those coming to the Cottage had a diverse range of needs. 'We are seeing those people who are sleeping rough in and around town, but also flood affected people coming in for brekkie and then asking about broader support'.

'There's a huge range of requests, from people coming in to get their identification documents sorted, others seeking housing support, while some are just seeking a bit of respite from the wet weather – somewhere dry to get a cuppa and chill out for a while.'

Staff at the Cottage have been run off their feet and reinforcements may be needed to keep meeting the demand.

'I'm looking at staff going "We need more people on the ground"', Ms Ryan said.

The Byron Community Centre, which is responsible for the overall management of the Cottage, is asking for donations from the community to help them employ an additional social worker.

No government support, donations, staff needed

'We don't receive any government funding, so we rely on the generosity and support of the community,' the Community Centre's General Manager, Louise O'Connell said.

'We would love some additional support so we can hire another staff member to help out at Fletcher Street.'

The renovation and reopening of Fletcher Street itself was the result of a huge community effort.

Locals donated more than $400,000 to bring the space back to life after it was forced to close six years ago owing to a lack of funding.

Scores of tradies also donated their time and expertise, transforming the run-down Council-owned building into a welcoming space that has been specially designed to help those experiencing homelessness feel safe.

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Vale animal conservationist, Tony Gilding ▶ p9

Profile of a marketing man unable to govern ▶ p14

Dave Lisle's take on how the election plays out locally ▶ p19

Engineering 'solutions' won't solve Lismore's flood dilemma ▶ p21

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A positive change for Bruns River

With the floods still on the mind of those impacted in the Shire's north, a local charity and its partners have launched an interactive online map of the Brunswick River to raise awareness and hopefully bring it back to full health.

Degraded riverbanks are just one factor which is known to contribute to increased flooding levels, and over decades, the river has become more polluted.

The River Warriors project is in partnership with government agencies, local environmental groups and Positive Change for Marine Life (PCFML). PCFML have expanded from its Byron Shire projects and now also work on international projects around waterway remediation, waste management and marine pollution.

From the River Warriors report on the Bruns River: 'Large swathes of riverbank remain in a perilous state, and restoration alone will not ensure the long-term health of the river'. Photo supplied by PCFML

12-month project

Northern NSW Wetlands and Coastal Programs Coordinator for PCFML, Dane Marx, says the 12-month Bruns River project involved kayak-based surveys of the river banks, which established mapping of erosion, access points and native and exotic vegetation.

He told *The Echo*, 'Water sampling and marine debris hotspots were also monitored and included in the mapping. The Brunswick River Warriors Storymap is the product of this work, and provides an interactive online map of the ecological health of the waterway'.

'It highlights the many threats that it currently faces, as well as solutions to some of these pressing challenges'.

From the online report, it reads: 'The Brunswick River today is fringed by a mixture of both native and exotic species, although invasive camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) dominates much of its banks. There are several sections that have been replanted with native species, and stretches of mangroves remain intact in some areas'.

PCFML River Warriors Project Officers, Eddie Bedingfield (right), and Lorena Woortman (left), get ready for a survey on the Brunswick River with Dane, PCFML Wetlands and Coastal Programs Coordinator. Photo supplied by PCFML

Data-sharing

Mr Marx says the collaboration included data-sharing with a number of project partners, including representatives from government, business and recreational users. All contributors heavily influenced the final mapping platform, he says, 'including NSW DPI Fisheries, Byron Shire Council and Brunswick Valley Landcare'.

'It supports a wide range of actions to improve the health of the waterway – including an online form that allows anyone from the community to upload photos and information on issues along the river in real-time, utilising GPS technology'.

The new mapping tool, says Mr Marx, has already resulted in securing part-funding for a new community-based restoration project, that will commence in the latter half of 2022.

Visit www.pcfml.org.au/bruns-storymap for more information.

Echo
The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 36 #49 • May 18, 2022
Established 1986 • 24,500 copies every week
www.echo.net.au

Phone: **02 6684 1777**
Editorial/news: **editor@echo.net.au**
Advertising: **adcopy@echo.net.au**
Office: **Village Way, Stuart Street, Mullumbimby NSW 2482**

General Manager **Simon Haslam**
Editor **Hans Lovejoy**
Deputy Editor **Aslan Shand**
Photographer **Jeff Dawson**
Advertising Manager **Anna Coelho**
Production Manager **Ziggi Browning**

Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

Disclaimer: *The Echo* is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of advertisers, letter writers, and opinion writers are not necessarily those of the owners or staff of this publication.

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

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Contribute to Council's flood inquiry submission

Byron Shire Council is making a submission for the NSW Flood Inquiry and invites community members to share their experiences online:
www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/floodinquiry

Share your story by 15 May 2022 so that we can make Byron Shire Council's submission to the inquiry by 20 May.

The community is encouraged to also make individual submissions to the NSW Flood Inquiry.

Byron Shire Council 70 Station Street Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Echo

The heart of a community is its vollies, and it's your week!

Paul Bibby

As the owner of a local pizza restaurant in the heart of Byron Bay, Denise Woolsley has witnessed the challenges faced by the local community first hand.

So when the newly opened homelessness hub, Fletcher Street Cottage, advertised for volunteers she jumped at the chance to get involved.

Since then, the local mum has spent at least one morning a week helping to cook and serve a free breakfast for community members in need.

'I've been speaking to people over the past two months since the floods about what happened,' says Ms Woolsley, who owns Earth n Sea Pizza.

Pictured centre is Denise Woolsley, who owns Earth and Sea Pizza, with fellow vollies Megan (L), and Maddie (R). Photo supplied

Huge flood impacts

'It's so hard to speak to families and mums who've got nowhere else to go.'

'It's a huge issue.'

As the country celebrates Volunteer Week (May 16–22), the vital role being played by Ms Woolsley and millions of other volunteers across the country is more vital than ever.

A new report by Volunteering Australia reveals that volunteers are essential to Australia's crisis resilience, providing a skilled workforce that includes over 200,000 volunteers in fire service organisations and around 25,000 volunteers in State and Territory emergency services.

A further 200,000 volunteers are engaged in over 1,000 registered emergency and relief charities.

On top of this are the tens of thousands of 'invisible' volunteers who help informally and spontaneously to support communities before and after crises.

'Volunteers across the country have stepped up to help their communities through bushfires, floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic in a most practical demonstration of Australian community spirit,' the CEO of Volunteering Australia, Mark Pearce, says.

'They contribute significantly across crisis prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in many key roles.

'Volunteers provide support to those affected by crises, including in mental health and suicide prevention services, which typically experience a surge in demand during and after disasters.'

In addition to the contribution volunteering makes to the community is the benefit it provides to the volunteers themselves.

'I've loved meeting all of the people there volunteering,' Ms Woolsley says.

'It's great to be part of a fabulous, happy and enthusiastic team. And to be honest, it's also nice not to have to be the boss for a change!'

■ To learn more about volunteering opportunities in your area contact your local neighbourhood or community centre or visit www.volunteeringaustrali.org.

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THE GREENS

Authorised by Bec Talbot for The Greens NSW, Suite D, 263-279 Broadway, GLEBE NSW 2037.

Gathering momentum in community for flood action

Hans Lovejoy

Another Ocean Shores Community Association (OSCA) flood meeting was held at the Ocean Shores Country Club last Tuesday, May 10, with a good turn out of residents keen to work out how to mitigate further flooding in their towns.

It preceded other public meetings; Mullum Residents Association held a meeting on Monday night at the Ex-Services Club.

OSCA Chair Community Flood Response, Francesca Esposito, told *The Echo* that her group are calling on Council to put the rebuilding or 'jacking up' of flood-affected houses ahead of non essential DAs for pools and the like.

She told *The Echo* she is just one resident of SGB whose home was flooded twice in the recent rain events.

The following is a Q&A with Ms Esposito.

What were the actionable outcomes from the meeting, and where do you see it going from here?

'The main outcome from the community meeting last Tuesday is that a Steering Committee has been set up for the North Byron District Activation group'.

OSCA Chair Community Flood Response, Francesca Esposito. Photo Jeff Dawson

'We represent eight suburbs: Ocean Shores, South Golden Beach, New Brighton, Billinudgel, The Pocket, Yelgun and half of Wooyung.

'We now also represent Brunswick Heads. This encompasses 12,000 residents and about 5,000 houses. We are assembling this Steering Committee with our best technical resources, including hydrologists, geologists, surveyors, civil engineers and earth scientists'.

Ms Esposito says the committee, so far, comprises herself as Chair, North Byron District Activation, Community Flood Response, (SGB resident); Ziwar Sattouf, senior development consultant with a background in civil engineering (OS resident); Robert Crossley, natural resource scientist and New Brighton Village Association President; Robyn Bolden, New Brighton Village Association Executive, former Byron Council Flood committee member.

Ms Esposito continued, 'We have also activated a conversation with other specialists in the bathtub – hydrologists, surveyors, geologists, weather experts – the talent in our locale is spectacular. We will have more sitting on the North Byron District Flood Steering Committee soon. This steering committee will guide Council with regards to what community wants, and will ask the right questions.

'The other main outcome was that we had representation from all levels of government turn up – Council, State and federal. All are taking our action points away to help us make progress. This is a very positive step forwards.

Extensive damage

'The range of damage to houses in our area is extensive.

'There are a number of houses which will be condemned and will need to be rebuilt.

'The majority will also need to be upgraded with waterproofing materials and perhaps even elevated.

'We have asked all levels of govt to work out a way to subsidise all of these measures that the flood-affected houses will require'.

You say around 2,000 homes may be damaged – is there any source *The Echo* can follow up with that?

'I have been collecting flood impact statements from the community, and I am still collecting. We don't have a total number as yet regarding the number of total houses which have been flooded in the North Byron District, but we are estimating anywhere between 1,000 and 2,000'.

***The Echo* understands that at the meeting, there seemed widespread support for hastening up Council's DA process, with Logan in Qld being cited as an example with a two-week turnaround.**

'We have asked Council a number of times that the DA process needs to be fast-tracked for flood-affected houses. Houses that need to be rebuilt or raised should get into a priority queue.

'Non essential DAs such as pools, driveways and commercial should be deprioritised. This will free up staff to work on the most important DAs which will yield accommodation and assist with quality of life.

'We don't support cutting corners. All DAs still need to go through the proper due diligence. But Council staff are under the pump. We are thus asking Council to put the housing DAs at the top of the very big pile. All DAs that will yield accommodation and help with quality of life should be Council staff's primary priority. Rebuilding flood-affected houses or jacking them up should be at the head of the queues.

'[This should be] Followed by a very close second of any DA which will yield any type of housing – the housing crisis has only worsened now that we also have thousands of flood evacuees looking for somewhere to call home.

'We have folks sleeping in sleeping bags in their stripped out houses in suburban Ocean Shores, and others sleeping in tents in their backyards.

'Then there's those lucky enough to find a rental, but they're paying through the nose. I am hearing about rentals which are an average of $1,200 to $1,600 per week for a standard suburban house'.

■ Recordings of the both community meetings are available – contact Ms Esposito by phone 0411 881 717 or email francesca@summerhills.com.

Echo

Sarah's new book of *Big Magic*

Paul Bibby

After writing three successful novels for adults, local author Sarah Armstrong could have been forgiven for staying on the same path with her fourth offering.

Instead, the Mullumbimby local chose the path less travelled and delved into the world of children's fiction.

The result was *Big Magic* – a tale about an 11-year-old girl's attempt to harness her full magical powers to find her mother who has disappeared.

'When I grew up, we didn't have a TV or anything and I read a lot – probably a book a day,' Ms Armtrong says.

'I felt a joy and an immersion that I kind of lost when I graduated to adult fiction.

'So I thought "The next book I write I want it to be a kid's book – I want it to be part of that world, that joy"'.

Author Sarah Armstrong. Photo Jeff Dawson

Familiar surrounds

Big Magic explores themes of family, matrilineal magic and parallel universes.

And it's set in a town that local readers may find strikingly familiar.

'The town it's set in is called Malimba, but it's really Mullumbimby,' Ms Armstrong says.

'The landscape and the nature, it just hit me so hard when I moved here, it changed me.'

'All of my books are pretty much set here.'

When she's not writing books, Ms Armstrong also teaches others to do so – running numerous workshops, many of them connected to the Byron Writer's Festival.

'My number one teaching tool for writers is free writing,' she says.

'Writing without stopping or planning anything, and without allowing that inner writing critic to come in'.

'It's a great way to loosen up and see what ideas emerge. I do a few local workshops, so if you're interested, check out my website.'

And if you're interested in getting a copy of *Big Magic* you can find one at The Book Room in Byron Bay or Lennox Head, or go to www.sarah-armstrong.com.

Bluesfest one of the world's best

Trade publication for the concert and live music industry, *Pollstar*, has listed Bluesfest among the top ten festivals of the decade for 2021.

The winner was US-based festival, Coachella, with the UK's Glastonbury festival and Rock in Rio included in the list.

Bluesfest director, Peter Noble OAM, said, 'It is just incredible after the past two years to see the Bluesfest name sit at number one on industry Bible Pollstar's *Global Live Box Office Reports* for the highest grossing worldwide sales this week'.

'It is a grand salute to the Australian music industry as a whole that Bluesfest, with its predominantly all-Aussie lineup, can sit proudly on top of the world.

'We are already looking forward to Easter 2023 – and it's going to be an incredible coming together of the world's best creative artists'.

He says Bluesfest 2023 will run for five days over the Easter long weekend – Thursday April 6 through to Monday, April 10.

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Knitting Nannas say 'Vote 1 our Planet!'

Eve Jeffery

The Knitting Nannas Against Gas and Greed visited the Lismore pre-poll last week at Southern Cross University to spread a very important message.

'120 years ago, women finally got the vote in Australia. Now, the planet needs your vote.'

Nanna Dot said that the suffragettes had a tremendous fight to win the right to vote in Britain.

'Here in Australia, although it was also a long battle, things were a little more civilised, with several key people pushing successfully for adult suffrage. Judith Brett's book *From Secret Ballot to Democracy Sausage*, tells us that Australian women were made full citizens in the *Franchise Act* of 1902. South Australia led the way, and soon after the other states followed.'

The planet doesn't have any rights to vote – Knitting Nannas Den, Jally, Rosie and Dot want us to vote for it. Photo Tree Faerie.

Nanna Dot said that the Knitting Nannas have always kept an eye on election processes.

'We have often been seen in recent years, outside polling booths, knitting and observing the goings-on – around pre-poll in particular. "Nanna manners" has been our mantra for these occasions as some more raucous political types are frowned upon and there can be much tutting as needles fiercely click.

'Always being respectful at the polling booths is required and always supported by the Knitting Nannas.'

Nanna Dot said at this election, more than ever, the 'Elephant in the Room' is climate change. 'None of the big parties wants to engage with this topic – it's too hot to handle.

'The Knitting Nannas are asking the Page electorate to consider their vote carefully.

'The planet, which is our home, is heating up.

'We need leaders who will take us into a future that will be a good one for our children. We need to reduce our carbon emissions now, not in the future'.

Lismore's One from the Heart concert brings unity

Eve Jeffery

With a lineup including Grinspoon, Lime Cordiale, Paul and Dan Kelly, Sheppard, Jon Stevens and Daryl Braithwaite, Lismore's One from the Heart concert went ahead on Sunday in patchy weather and mud, mud and more mud.

Yet in the lead-up to the event, many locals said they were disappointed as they missed out on an allocation. Within 12 hours of free entry becoming available on April 27, all 10,000 tickets had been exhausted, with a further 2,000 released the following day. These too were snapped up. But still, the show went on, and the punters coming through the gates looked very happy to be there.

Aunty Thelma James gave a Welcome to Country, and finished by thanking her ancestors for their strength, wisdom, knowledge and the history that they have passed through.

'There is a tomorrow, there is survival, and we'll all come out better than ever. And be one together.'

Aunty Thelma told *The Echo* that this type of event showed people it was okay to ask for help. 'I know a lot of people who haven't gotten to that point to say "I need help". Some might see it as a weakness but it's not – it's a strength, and if you feel like you haven't done anything in your life to pay back those people then it's always a good time to start volunteering.'

Lismore Mayor, Steve Krieg, told *The Echo* that he hoped the event would be a morale boost and thanked the organisers. 'This is a chance for us to look forward – now we've mourned the loss of our town and our possessions, and hopefully after today, we can look forward to the rebuild and the reconstruction.'

Cr Krieg, who lost his business and his home in the floods, said he and his family have lived through floods before. 'We're putting in flood-proofing measures like concrete floors, rather than timber floors, we're bricking up the walls rather than plasterboard. All of these changes take a long time to do. We'd rather do it now while we have the opportunity'.

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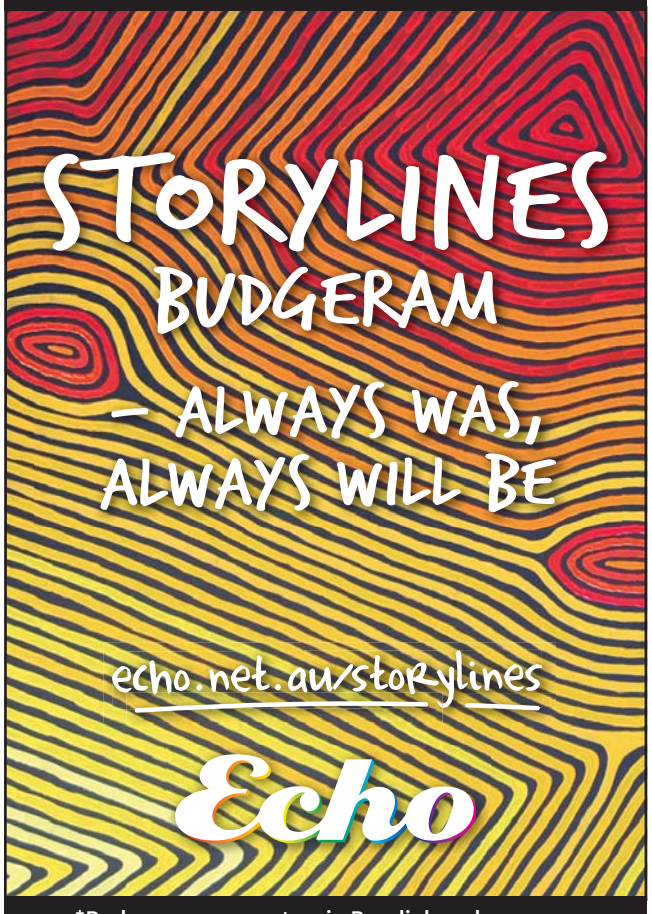

*Budgeram means *story* in Bundjalung language.
Thank you to Ninbella Gallery for supporting this monthly column.

Echo
News from across the North Coast online ▶
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Farm tours, tastings and horse riding – confusion over State agritourism SEPP

A lengthy debate took place at the last Tweed Shire Council planning meeting (5 May) around the issue of agritourism controls that ran the gamut of opting in, opting out, and then seeking urgent clarification on the proposed State legislation.

Saffin seeks $7.5 million for Lismore townhouse developments

Lismore MP Janelle Saffin has made a special request to the NSW Government for $7.5 million to enable two townhouse developments in East Lismore and Goonellabah, which she says would add 66 flood-free, affordable units to the city's housing stock.

First residents move in to Wollongbar housing pods

The first residents displaced by the flooding disaster have now received the keys to their temporary housing pods at Wollongbar, Ballina Council says.

Busy time for Ballina Region for Refugees

BR4R has not let the floods and covid slow things down, with lots of recent happenings and more planned for the future.

Primex 2022 postponed owing to floods and wet weather

The Primex 2022 Sustainable Farming and Primary Industries Expo due to take place 19–21 May has been postponed following both the recent flooding and predicted adverse weather conditions.

Lismore Council votes to workshop temporary dwellings

With so many prongs currently on the disaster response fork, it's hard to know if Lismore Council is robbing Peter to pay Pauline as voting on leapfrogging issues means there is a possibility that everyone could lose – or win.

All smiles at Ballina pre-poll

People were queued out the door at the pre-poll booth in Ballina Indoor Sports Centre yesterday, with brightly dressed volunteers and AEC officials offering assistance to voters.

www.echo.net.au

If you're serious about getting rid of Scott Morrison, you need to **vote Justine Elliot locally.**

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

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Vale animal conservationist, Tony Gilding

Former Macadamia Castle owner and fierce advocate for wildlife conservation, Tony Gilding, died in Japan on May 7 after a battle with cancer.

After 14 years as the Macadamia Castle owner, Mr Gilding sold the business in September 2021 to not-for-profit company, Wildlife Recovery Australia (WRA).

Mr Gilding was well known and much loved in the community, and after the sale of the castle in 2021, he told *The Echo* he would follow his 'big passion' of helping orangutans while also helping to establish the Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital.

Tony Gilding. Photo www.nrwh.org

Orangutans

He was also president of Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS), an organisation that assists orangutans learning survival skills in the wild.

Mr Gilding told *The Echo* in September 2021, 'I've got major infrastructure projects happening in Borneo – $5 million construction projects, and they're all coming to fruition at the moment'.

'Every night I am on conference calls for an hour or two and we go through the budget stuff. [We are] getting it all done, because I can't physically visit there'.

The Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital paid tribute to Mr Gilding on www.nrwh.org.au by saying, 'Tony was a committed environmentalist and advocate for conservation'.

'He was a founding director of the Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital in January 2019, but even well prior to that, the establishment of a permanent 'bricks and mortar' facility delivering quality veterinary care to endangered wildlife in the region had been front-of-mind for Tony.

Wildlife Hospital pays tribute

'In fact, a lot of legwork on potential sites had been pioneered by Tony and others well before 2019.

'Nevertheless, with the support of a group of like-minded professionals and community leaders in the region, NRWH was formed and is now very close to receiving permission to commence building.

'NRWH was very dear to Tony's heart, and that has been acknowledged by his family who have kept us informed of his situation.

'The NRWH has extended its condolences to Tony's family at this difficult time'.

New shifts with new threads

Kaiya Ellis, Mandy Peters and Michael Ackerly take a moment from bargain hunting, to fulfil their media obligations at Saturay's SHIFT fashion fundraiser. Photo Jeff 'Shifted And Projecting Since 1986' Dawson

$29,000 was raised for the SHIFT Project at a preloved fashion sale, held at the Byron Surf Club on Saturday.

The SHIFT Project helps vulnerable woman pivot to secure housing and work.

On behalf of the organising team, Annette Campbell, Leslie Ford and Linda Grace told *The Echo*, 'It was a huge success – we raised $29,000'.

'This was a huge community effort, and 100 per cent of the proceeds go to the SHIFT Project.

'We would like to thank everyone who donated clothes; from individuals, to local clothing stores, and brands, the Byron Bay Surf Club, who donated the space and everyone who came to help'.

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'When it comes to Scott Morrison, what you see is what you get. Unless polling indicates that you want something else, in which case I can totally change'.
– Scott Morrison's parody Twitter account

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

Secret agreements and done deals

Government and Byron Council refuses to explain details around temp accom plans

Hans Lovejoy

Attention Bayside Bruns residents, located around the Lilly Pilli Community Preschool, you are about to have new neighbours who are in need of urgent temporary accommodation.

At their planning meeting last Thursday, Byron Shire councillors agreed in principle to enter into leases for two sites: one at the former Bruns STP, located down the road between the Bowling Club and the skate park, and another two smaller vacant land lots around Excelsior Circuit in Bayside.

But the process, and decision making, all remain secret, with Resilience NSW refusing to answer questions around whether their consultation will be meaningful, given it appears a done deal.

Additionally, the other potential 16 locations handpicked by Council staff remain secret, without any explanation.

Mayor Michael Lyon is yet to reply to questions from *The Echo* around the process, such as whether Council-operated holiday parks were put forward as site options, and why the 'draft ground leases' for both sites are confidential, given the leases are between two supposedly transparent and elected bodies.

Regarding the former STP site location at 125 Tweed Street, *The Echo* asked Cr Lyon whether Council will be providing any reports, such as soil contamination, to Resilience NSW to ensure that it is a safe site for habitation. The question around flooding was also asked, given the former STP site is right next to Simpsons Creek.

320 people

A Resilience NSW spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'The two sites will have the capacity to provide up to 62 temporary modular houses, comprising of studio, one, two and three bedrooms designs to suit the community's needs, with a combined capacity to house more than 320 people'.

When asked, 'Will sewerage infrastructure be built for these projects, with every pod having its own facilities? What will the accommodation look like?', the Resilience NSW spokesperson replied, 'The temporary modular houses come in various configurations, and will be co-located with supporting infrastructure and amenities.

'Before the commencement of site works, local residents will be notified and invited to contact Resilience NSW if they have any questions or comments'.

'124 motorhomes are located at three holiday park sites at Casino, Lismore and Ballina'.

During Thursday's debate, councillors appeared to lack curiosity around how the project would work, and appeared happy to rely on staff's directions. The project is being driven, along with staff, by Resilience NSW.

Only one amendment was adopted, moved by Labor's Asren Pugh, which was, 'That Council requests Resilience NSW to undertake consultation with nearby properties, in such a way that doesn't delay the project'.

That amendment was opposed by Crs Sama Balson (Independent) and Sarah Ndiaye (Greens). Cr Ndiaye told the chamber she was concerned that consultation with neighbours would slow down the process.

Consultation delay

'There will be 12 new dwellings potentially', she said, 'Having gone through similar consultation in Bayside, this could add months'.

She said that the concept of putting the community first was either putting the community that live there above those in dire need or vice versa.

The length of lease, as adopted in the motion, will be three years, with '2 x 1 year options to renew'.

The report from last week's agenda reads, 'A community housing provider will be appointed as site manager of each of the sites to ensure appropriate selection and management of occupants, alongside Resilience NSW as the land manager for the length of the lease'.

Mayor Michael Lyon (Independent) is yet to reply to questions around the temporary accommodation plans in Brunswick Heads.

What does the law say?

Legislation that permits temporary housing falls under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*.

Yet there is no legislation around maintaining secrecy with processes.

Under Part 10 of the SEPP, it reads, 'Temporary emergency accommodation, development consent is not required for temporary emergency accommodation provided that the development is carried out on land that is:

(i) is supplied with water and electricity, and

(ii) is provided with sewerage and drainage services, and

(iii) has access to communal amenities.

There also appears a sunset clause where the temporary accommodation needs to be 'removed from the land within five years of being installed or placed on the land'.

'Otherwise, development consent under the Housing SEPP and council approval (section 68 of the LG Act is required)'.

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Australian Financial Review 18 April 2022

"Anthony Albanese said he would welcome jobs related to new mega-mines mooted for Queensland's Galilee Basin"

Daily Mail Australia 13 April 2022

"Anthony Albanese said he would not prevent new coal mines in Australia."

The Australian 21 August 2021

LABOR TO BACK $50 MILLION GRANTS FOR FRACKING

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NSW councils call for social, affordable housing

With 'Intergenerational inequality growing dramatically', the peak body representing NSW councils has issued an open letter to all federal election candidates, calling on them to commit to a four-point housing plan.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) President, Darriea Turley AM, said the State's 128 councils are asking candidates for 'Substantial federal investment to deliver an additional 5,000 social housing dwellings per year, for the next decade; Investment in a far greater supply of affordable rental housing, for hardworking Australians increasingly facing housing insecurity; A plan to improve rates of home ownership without supercharging demand and contributing to even higher household debt and worsened affordability; and, a Royal Commission into the affordability and future of housing in Australia'.

'Councils continue to see low- and middle-income workers being priced out of local housing,' Cr Turley said.

'There has been a continued fall in home ownership rates since the mid-1990s, as house prices soar and more and more people are forced into an increasingly unaffordable rental market.

'The knock-on effect has driven homelessness to unprecedented levels.

Needs new approach

'And yet all we are hearing is the same old simplistic, developer-driven approach: cut red tape and increase supply'.

Let's Talk Menopause May 25

Following a sold-out menopause event in 2021, organisers say they are bringing the menopause conversation back on May 25 for those who missed out, and those who want to return.

Let's Talk Menopause will be MC'd by Ellen Briggs, a comedian, public speaker, author and committed feminist, who is currently on her own menopause journey.

Ellen will be in conversation with Dr Jane Reffell, a general practitioner who specialises in women's health, Michelle Loschiavo, a senior compounding pharmacist and Muriele Tesauri, the founder of Wholesome Lives.

The event will be held May 25 from 5pm at the Byron Theatre.

For tickets visit byroncentre.com.au.

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Lighthouse Run raises $3k for Headspace

Headspace Lismore has thanked the Byron Bay Lighthouse Run for a $3,000 donation that has gone towards the creation of youth-friendly mental health materials.

Not-for-profit organisation, Social Futures, delivers Headspace in Lismore. Program Manager, Simone Balzer, said the youth mental health service was grateful for the contribution from the charity fun run organisers, especially as the Lismore office has been affected by flooding.

'A big part of our program is making mental health support and information as accessible as possible to young people and their families', Ms Balzer said.

'This donation has been used to produce self-care and health literacy packs for young people and schools in our more isolated communities in the Northern Rivers.

'This information will be in a language and style that resonates with young people and is a great asset, given the challenges young people have faced in the pandemic and floods.'

Byron Bay Lighthouse Run organiser, Lisa Parkes, with Headspace's Katie Thomas and Simone Balzer. Photo supplied

The Byron Bay Lighthouse Run charity event has been going for 15 years, and attracts on average 800 entrants to Byron Bay, but last year was held virtually owing to the pandemic.

'Sadly, we couldn't all get together at the foot of Byron's lighthouse in November to do either a 6km walk or 10km run up and back,' Byron Bay Lighthouse Run organiser Lisa Parkes said.

'But the event still went ahead and raised funds for worthy causes, like Headspace and Indigenous Carbon Australia. We invited people to do either the walk or the run in their own neighbourhood, anytime over two weeks in November. That meant anyone in Australia could take part.

'In 2022 we will again be holding the event at Byron's beloved lighthouse. It's been scheduled for Sunday, October 16 so start getting your team together now.'

To access Headspace Lismore contact 6625 0200. Headspace Lismore has a range of services available to support young people.

Candidate offended at *Echo* profile

Richmond candidate and retired accountant, Terry Sharples, has sent a 'letter demand and defamation concerns notice' to *The Echo* following the publication last week of 'Who is Richmond candidate Terry Sharples?'

Mr Sharples claims *Echo* editor, Hans Lovejoy, deliberately ignored his request that 'any publication of the words One Nation… would be regarded as defamatory and unfair'.

A concern raised among Mr Sharple's long list of grievances was that he had no opportunity to respond to the claims made regarding his former association with One Nation, and said the excerpt cited from Margo Kingston's book, *Still not happy, John*, is 'totally untrue' and 'has no foundation in truth'.

Mr Sharples then accuses *The Echo* of running a nasty and deliberate smear campaign, which is 'highly offensive'.

Mr Sharples claims from the article, 'the following implications are obvious: a) I am a 'fraud' and b) I'm a donkey not worth voting for'.

The term 'donkey vote' referred to being listed as the first candidate on the ballot.

The Echo does not consider Mr Sharples a 'fraud'.

Proceedings

Mr Sharples ends with, 'I am entitled to commence proceedings against you seeking urgent interlocutory relief [to] have your internet blog remove [*Sic*] this damaging article'.

The Echo replied to Mr Sharples, stating the online article will not be removed, and rejected his assertions and imputations.

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Council under pressure with $400k budget deficit

Paul Bibby

Byron Council's coffers have been significantly affected by the recent flooding disasters, with a budget deficit of nearly $400,000 predicted for the current financial year.

The Council's budget review for the first quarter of this year, to be discussed at this week's Finance Advisory Committee meeting, paints a fairly bleak picture of its finances.

Though staff describe the Council's short-term position as 'satisfactory', they acknowledge that times have been tough.

'Council is now in a challenging financial environment, not only impacted by COVID-19 during the course of the current financial year, but also now responding to the devastating flood events during February/March,' Council's Manager of Finance, James Brickley said in a report on the matter.

'There may be costs Council has incurred that it may not be able to recover through Natural Disaster Funding, so this will need to be considered at the 30 June 2022 Quarterly Budget Review.'

Perhaps the most concerning statistic is that Council's unrestricted cash balance – the money that is readily available to spend on any given day – is predicted to fall to $126,500 by June 30.

Unrestricted cash needs to be $1m

This is a fraction of Council's goal of maintaining $1,000,000 in unrestricted cash. Mr Brickley said in his report that one major impact influencing the budget outcome was Council's contribution to flood recovery works, which were predicted to be $182,300.

The other significant impact was a reduction in interest on investment revenue, which will cost the Council $150,000.

Also of concern was the financial situation of Council's Sewerage Fund.

'Aside from the General Fund, Council must also monitor the level of the Capital Works Reserve in the Sewerage Fund,' Mr Brickley said.

Sewerage reserve running out

'This reserve is estimated to be more or less completely exhausted at the end of 2021/2022, which is not ideal.'

'It is likely the end of year position will be better than expected, given the size of capital works in [the area of] sewerage still budgeted that may not be completed.

'That being said, this reserve needs to be monitored.'

Council staff have proposed a series of adjustments to the budget to reflect the Council's changing needs and responsibilities.

These proposals will be discussed at the Finance Advisory Committee meeting, and will then come before the full Council for debate.

How did that 'Meet the Candidates' meet go?

Hans Lovejoy

With the federal election looming Saturday, candidates put themselves before the public at *The Echo*/BayFM 'Meet the Candidates' on Monday night in Byron.

All candidates were present, except 'ghost' One Nation candidate, Tracey Bell-Henselin.

As to be expected, there was furious agreement around most issues, such as the lack of affordable housing, bringing Julian Assange home, and a federal ICAC.

The nuances as to how an elected candidate could achieve such goals, however, are easily glossed over in a two hour format.

There's simply no time for follow up questions and deeper analysis when nine candidates are on stage.

Additionally there seemed to be some confusion by candidates as to whether federal government can influence state- and council-run planning policies.

As the most experienced political actor, Ms Elliot was the most polished performer of the night – she rapidly fired statistics and well-honed talking points while many others dithered.

Greens candidate Mandy Nolan (www.greens.org.au) spoke passionately about the urgent need to address climate change and affordable housing. She said that, if elected, she would undo all the tax breaks that encourage housing investments.

Nationals candidate, Kimberly Hone, spoke of the need to support local business owners, yet wasn't asked about her Christian beliefs or deleted tweets – something which has been a prominent issue online.

The most awkward question for the minor parties and Independents was at the end of the night. All Independent and minor party candidates, except Terry Sharples, have a 'How to Vote' card, which places the Nationals above the Greens and Labor.

Explaining her rationale for her preferencing decision, Monica Shepherd from Informed Medical Options Party said her decision was to support candidates that support 'human rights' the most.

'We want to see a new person in Richmond', she added.

David Warth also said that human rights was his motivation to place the Nationals above Labor and the Greens.

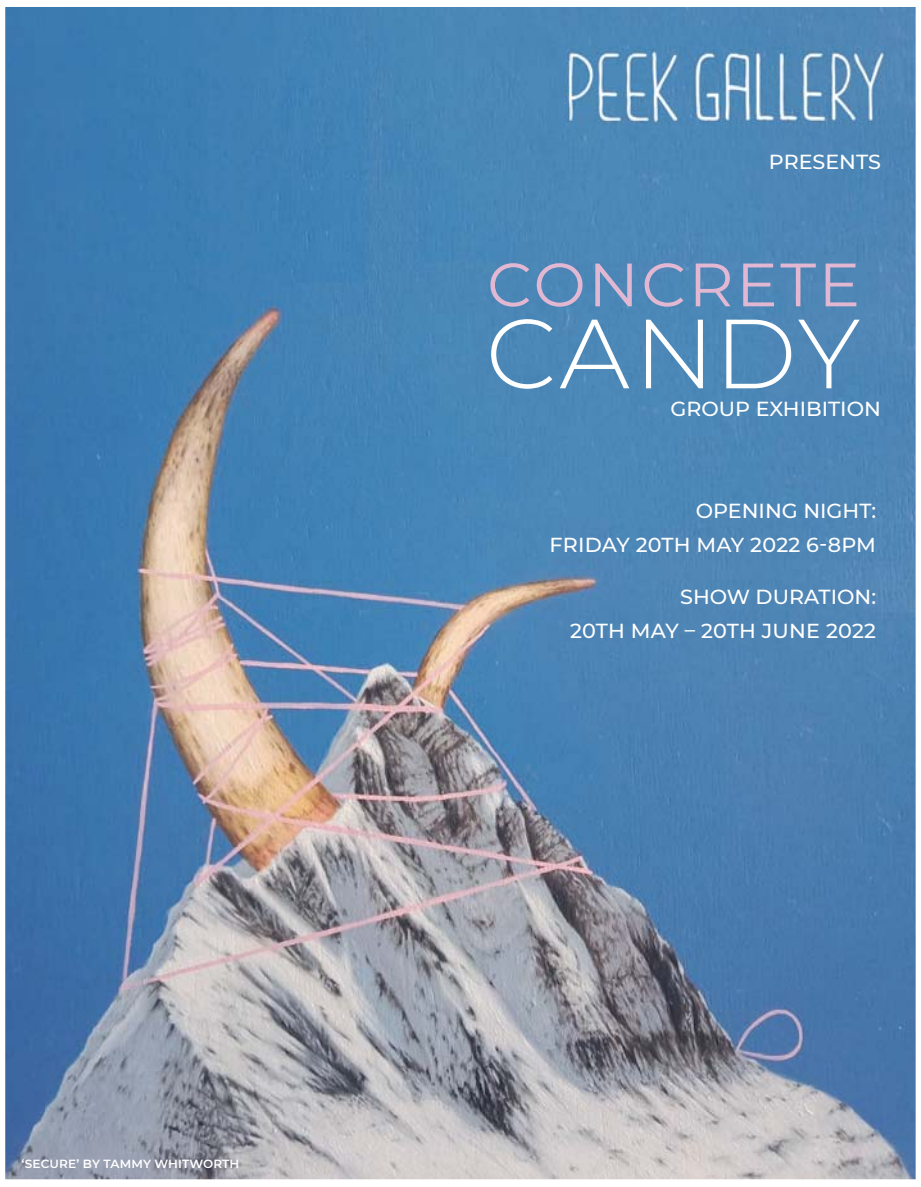
Another factor was that Labor state governments had enacted lockdowns.

Council chamber works begin

Work began on Monday to restore the flood-damaged Council chambers, yet staff told *The Echo,* they 'do not know when the work will be finished, but we are hoping it will be in time for the planning meeting in August'.

Since the chambers were damaged over two months ago, meetings have been held in a much smaller conference room that excludes public spectator attendance.

The reduced public participation in recent months also allows councillors to go into confidential sessions without having to ask if the public object or not.



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Fires, floods, plagues, election!

Echo co-founder, David Lovejoy, examines the PM's shady character and a nation held captive by the selfish uber rich

Scott Morrison is rattled.

With only days to go to the election, the polls say that the Australian people are preparing to hose this pestilence out of office.

By any rational, humane measure, Morrison has debauched the nation too viciously and too visibly to survive another judgment from the voters.

Only billionaires and bigots will benefit from a Coalition victory, but the billionaires own most of the newspapers and all of the television, the public channels have been cowed into subservience lest they lose more of their funding, and the loudest voices on social media are the craziest.

Morrison could still get his miracle. He has convinced enough people in the past that he is not a lying grifter, despite the pork barrelling rorts, blind trusts, dodgy grants, malicious leaks, blatant misogyny, and the transfers of millions to mates and greedy corporations.

How many water bomber planes could the nation have bought with the money now being spent on technology that has already been surpassed by drones?

Grifters come in all shapes and sizes, from all kinds of backgrounds

This one is used to skipping just a step ahead of impending disaster and exposure. Many times in marketing and politics, which he sees as identical pursuits, his nimble lies have saved his career.

One of the many things Scott refuses to be responsible for.

When all else fails, he wraps his personal inadequacy in wife Jenny, or the smoke and mirrors of religion.

Losing government and leadership of the Liberal Party now looms large in his path, and his only platform has been going the full Trump with lies and alternative facts.

His plan to swamp the Coalition with Pentecostal Christians has not turned out well either, as that brand of gormless God-bothering has proved as prone to financial and sexual scandals as the major faith groupings.

Indeed, Richmond voters should feel insulted to be offered such a shallow candidate by the Nationals Party.

The PM's inspiration comes from former Hillsong pastor Brian Houston, a man who the ABC reported as having resigned in March after an internal investigation found he behaved inappropriately towards two women.

It followed Mr Houston stepping down in January as the director of all Hillsong boards, to defend a criminal charge that he concealed his father's child sexual abuse.

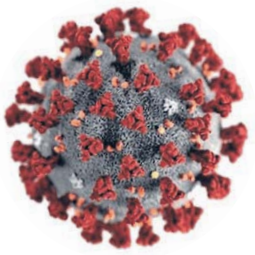
Nevertheless, Morrison persists in bullying transgender children and pretending transgender women are lining up to interfere with women's sport. It may be an electoral dog whistle intended for the ears of right-wing bigots, but the kind of man who puts troubled kids in harm's way for his personal advantage is precisely who Scott Morrison is.

This man, whose humanity is so withered that he cannot feel the evil of rape without his wife's guidance, had a moment in the campaign that emphasised his pathological lack of compassion when he was asked about the minimum wage.

For ten years, we have had the Coalition suppressing wages and overseeing a mammoth transfer of wealth from workers to employers.

Pay rises were always on the horizon, but they never arrived, and the finances of poorer people stagnated and went backwards. One reason to deny income increases was the fear of inflation, but inflation has happened anyway, without wage rises.

After stuffing up the NBN and getting knifed by his own party in 2018, former PM Turnbull said that the Great Pentacostal Marketer PM is known to be a liar. Shame Turnbull put his personal ambitions ahead of the country by not telling us earlier.



Inflation hurts everyone, but the wealthier you are the more you lose. If you have a billion dollars and the inflation rate is five per cent, you effectively lose $50 million.

If the 'Liar From The Shire' prevails, Australia's influential super-rich assholes will demand the traditional 'austerity' remedy for reducing inflation, which requires the poor to endure cuts to social services and wages, while the rich continue to amass more money than they can ever spend.

If there is change of govenrment on Saturday, the turning point may have been Morrison's instinctive rejection of a tiny rise in the basic wage, based on a bullshit inflation argument.

It's okay to lose billions reneging on a submarine deal, fine to pour unaudited millions into the pockets of the likes of Gerry Harvey, good policy to spend taxpayers' money on buying votes for the Coalition, but a dollar an hour rise for our poorest citizens would bring the economy crashing down.

Morrison's reaction showed how clearly this government has been taken over by interests far removed from the welfare of ordinary Australians.

The mining, gaming, corporate media and financial industries currently support the Coalition in order to control its direction, and they have been spectacularly successful in this project of capturing the Australian state.

The main benefit to these corporations has been to keep their taxes low, to shield them from regulation, to derail attempts at lowering carbon emissions, and to keep gaslighting the public about climate change measures, while the world continues to burn.

Political standards have sunk to new lows

What is finally so unforgivable about Morrison's term as Prime Minister is how he has reshaped political standards in Canberra. The trend has been there for decades, but this – hopefully outgoing – government has set a new benchmark in destructive selfishness.

The angle has been: if there's no *specific law* preventing us from embezzling taxpayer funds, appointing party hacks to public posts, conspiring with media, to deceive the voters, awarding unadvertised contracts, torturing the unemployed, leaking confidential information, etc, etc – then we *can* do it, without shame.

In the past, the reason these things were not done was the shared concern – by all parties – to preserve parliamentary integrity, together with the knowledge that not every situation can be covered by law, and that sometimes political institutions need a tradition of honourable behaviour in order to survive.

Scott and his thugs have trashed all that over nine long years. We will soon see whether in trying to destroy democratic norms they have also seriously damaged the Liberal Party. #Firetheliar.

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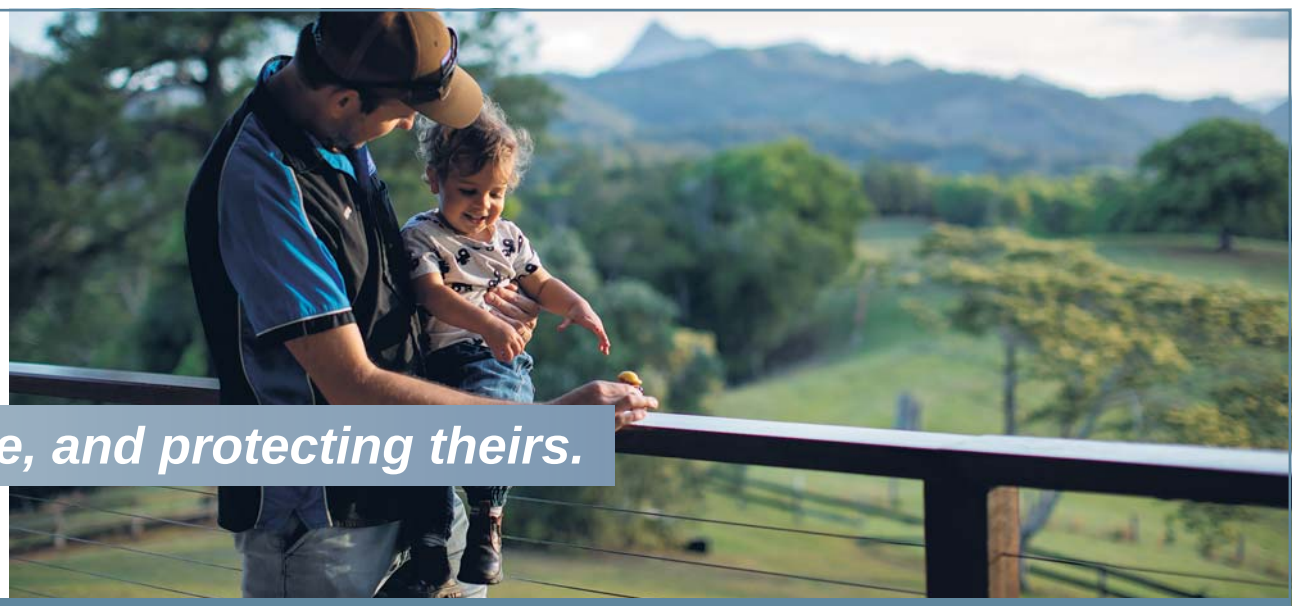

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Get me a DA

In response to the recent flood meeting held at the Ocean Shores Country Club on Tuesday 10 May, a worrying notion was proposed that seemed to have widespread support.

The hastening of Council's DA process was presented as a quick fix; Logan being cited as the exemplar with a two-week turnaround.

Let's think about that.

Logan is a city with a massive financial base, thus enabling many staff to be employed. Michael Lyon pointed out that although Byron Shire Council would like to employ more staff to speed up the process, the housing crisis means there is nowhere for them to live. This problem is prevalent across the region.

The idea of replicating the sad, cookie-cutter, cheap builds characteristic of Logan is not what has driven locals to choose to live here. Lack of variety and imagination would completely destroy the unique appeal of this Shire.

Additionally, reducing the time taken to assess DAs would allow open slather corner-cutting by unscrupulous developers and certifiers, to everyone's disadvantage.

However, if the fast-track process was limited to the raising of existing dwellings, with no increase in footprint or accommodation density, then the existing character of this locale has a chance of being preserved.

With our pro-development State government, housing will remain a difficult issue to resolve, but blanket fast-tracking is not the solution.

Catherine Lane and Linelle Stepto
Ocean Shores

Corporate beach

Tallow Beach is a great place to walk your dog and it has got a lot busier over the last couple of years with all the 'pandemic puppies'.

I was just thinking the other day how friendly and chatty everyone is – until I noticed the tell-tale AirPods in their ears. They weren't talking to me at all, they were on their phones.

Most of the conversations seemed to be peppered with business jargon such as 'merchandising opportunities', 'synergies' and 'key performance indicators (KPIs)'.

I let one bloke know that his dog had done a poo, to which he responded, 'Excuse me, I'm in a sales meeting'. Clearing up his dog's poo is clearly not one of his KPIs.

Patrick Campbell
Suffolk Park

Everyone reads *The Echo*! Photo Renee Engl

Recalcitrant dogs

I could be a lot richer collecting $1 from all those who have told me to 'get f****ed' with their 'companion animal' being where they're not supposed to be, or exhibiting inappropriate behaviour even where they are allowed their freedom.

It seems to me that so many animals have not had any sort of training, apart the occasional 'on leash'.

We have had our chickens harassed, one killed in our front yard, with nothing more than a good behaviour 'bond' put on the dog. No compensation, no apology from the owner – refer to my opening line. As of this consequence we've not felt confident to have our own chickens again.

Where are Council rangers in all this? Ms Norley's figures quoted (*Echo* 4 May) says it is all about the inadequacy of policing the Shire's policies pertaining to the Companion Animal Act.

I've lived in South Golden Beach since 2000 and have seen the ranger three, possibly four times.

A rumour abounds that the head of that Council department is a dog owner, could this be a cause for…?

Ralph Johnston
South Golden Beach

Give up your fire

Mandy Nolan's article (4 May) suggesting (among other things) we try to avoid heating to reduce emissions is sensible.

A separate *Echo* article mentions that burning wood produces 50 per cent more greenhouse gases compared to burning coal. I wonder if those folks with wood burning combustion heaters or open fireplaces consider this?

Especially those with the big 'Vote Mandy' placards in their front yards or attached to their fences.

C Davies
Mullumbimby

Coal convoy?

I always preference Greens second to Labor, but can I suggest that after the debacle in 2019 that helped Morrison gain another turn we learn something from it?

If some imbecile suggests organising another anti-coal convoy to central Qld, how about you turn right at Rocky, drive into the ocean and build your own fucking reef?

Paul Taylor
Murwillumbah

The Richmond conundrum

The forthcoming federal election presents the Richmond electorate as an interesting conundrum. I do not believe the current leaders of the major parties are well accepted on their own merits and therefore will equally polarise the vote with no winner. Morrison is not trusted, and Albanese is simply not up to it. Therefore, the quandary.

Voters could vote on party lines similar to the 2019 election where Justine Elliot (Labor) was elected with the benefit of 86 per cent Green second preferences.

If that was to be repeated in 2022, we would end up with an MP who has mostly been a backbencher (last 12 years) and, in close to 20 years, has made little difference to our standard of living despite being in government for some of that time. Further, when she was needed to pressure her own party to open the Queensland border during covid, she went MIA.

Clearly, she has little sway in her party currently, and that is likely to remain. This does not help Richmond.

If we want progress, realistically speaking, we are left with two viable MP possibilities in this electorate: The representatives from The Greens or The Nationals. Both are women who help this electorate actively, unlike the incumbent MP who is a ghost around Ballina.

The Greens will support Labor through preferencing and the Nationals will poll strongly if history is a guide. Greens will not be in government under any circumstances but will continue to be disruptors regarding legislation while the Nationals have a chance of governing as a coalition.

Nothing happens in any electorate progressively and/or specifically unless the local MP is part of government and has sway. So, who to vote for is a conundrum if we want practical improvements in this electorate?

At present, amongst many other things, we need major road infrastructure, improved hospital, ambulance and police services to cater for our burgeoning community of Ballina and environs. Which one of the candidates is most likely to achieve this is hard to foresee.

But what I do know is that repeating the same thing, time and time again, and expecting different results, will not prove to be productive or progressive in Richmond. We need effective change to occur in our region rather than purely and solely an expression of viewpoint based on party lines.

Stephen McIllhatton
Skennars Head

It's (beyond) time

Seventy-three per cent of respondents to a recent ABC Vote Compass question on whether the constitution should be amended to establish a representative body to advise parliament on laws affecting Indigenous people said, 'Yes'.

That was Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt's, firm position soon after being sworn in, in 2019… and that it should happen 'before the next election', ie; the one we are about to have.

By November 2020, Minister Wyatt had gone cold on the idea of changing the Constitution. Instead, he was saying 'legislation' to create an Indigenous Voice to parliament 'should pass

► **Continued on next page**

Bangalow Aesthetic

Bangalow Aesthetic is a doctor-led, locally owned, new cosmetic clinic offering customised beauty treatments including **injectables, HIFU Ultraformer III and skin therapy**.

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MONDAY 23 MAY
JON J BRADLEY

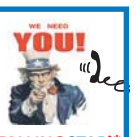
TUESDAY 24 MAY
KANE MUIR

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY
FINTAN

Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

Suicide Prevention



Every 3 hours 1 *Good Aussie* Suicides.
Every Day! Every night!
3,139 in 2020. ABS Stats. *2CATCHAFALLING*STAR*!*

CATCH ME – I'm FALLING!

Precious Lives hanging on Slender Threads!

• Why is it so hard to Prevent Suicides? With Physical Health issues there's always an Xray/test/scan/procedure, something to measure, assess, diagnose, with a clearly defined set of treatments!
• While the Acute Emotional *Pain which causes Suicides can remain *hidden *4ever, with no outward signs; until it's 2 late!

Catching Ourselves B4 We Fall!

• As Charley *Mackesy *says* in *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*; *'What's the bravest thing you've ever said,' asked the Boy. 'Help,' said the Horse.* With ❤, Care, *Help/Support from those around U;
• UCAN get through the toughest, darkest, Emotionally *Painful times!

Catching Others.

• In J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, the *Catcher* is a person who catches little children as they R about to fall off of a cliff.
• Notice those around U. Especially those who've had/R having Trauma e.g. Loss, Separation, Bullying, Family Law, Loneliness, Sex/Assault, Career/Substance/Other Legal/Gambling issues; this list is endless!
• U don't have 2B an expert! Google Lifeline's truly excellent 4p.*Tool Kit 4 helping someone at Risk of Suicide.* N.B. #4 p1; 'Unless someone tells U, the only way to know if a person is thinking about suicide is to ask; Talking about suicide will not put the idea of Suicide into their head, but encourage them to talk about their feelings.'

Give UR Self/that Sum1, the ❤/Caring U *BOTH deserve!
Remember; What the Horse said to the Boy.
Lifeline's *Tool Kit* printed/hanging in UR Kitchen???
That *Catcher in the Rye*!
☺ *CATCHAFALLING*STAR*!* ☺
*Any Doctor, *000, *Emergency 000, *Lifeline 13 11 14.
Created by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

'The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day; a movement is only people moving.'
– Gloria Steinem

► Continued from page 15

parliament before the next election', ie; the one we are about to have.

So, what's the difference between creating a 'Voice' by referendum or by legislation?

Well, referenda questions are harder to 'land' because of the 'majority of voters in a majority of states' requirement. Whereas legislative proposals require basically a simple majority 'Yes' vote by only the federal politicians.

But a legislated change is much easier to overturn (by parliamentary vote) than a change by referendum, which change would require another referendum. So, a change by referendum is the way to go if a bedrock principle of the nation's ethos is in play.

Regrettably, I'd have to say that there hasn't been enough committed support for a referendum from those people who have been in positions of power, including the erstwhile and present PM (who prefers a wishy-washy approach to the question). And the hard-right members of his party are dead against real change. So, we have to have the referendum before the (next) election; that is, the election after the election we are about to have.

Frank Lynch
Wilsons Creek

Give and take

In what has to be described as an act of bastardry, the State giveth and the federal government taketh away!

Confirmed by the investigative work done by Council, the Back to Home Grant is assessable income. This means it will be taxed at your marginal rate, plus the Medicare Levy. The implications are painful for those trying to recover from the floods.

I'm of the understanding that tenants and property owners in receipt of social security incomes and applying for the Owner-Occupier and Owner-Investor grants, will need to declare this income to Centrelink and have their pensions adjusted accordingly.

For tenants in shared accommodation, where a one-off $5,000/household can be applied for, it will be a nightmare. They will need to work out who is going to make the application and how much is left after the taxes are budgeted for before distributing the residual.

A person renting a room in an owner-occupied dwelling is not eligible to apply for the $5,000 grant. This leaves it to the property owner to make a discretionary call about any compensation. I would encourage owners in this situation to consider the spirit and intent of what the government is trying to do with these grants and give the $5,000, less tax, Medicare and loss in pension by the applicant if applicable, to the flood-affected tenant.

In contrast, the $3,000/person etc. given by the federal government is not taxable but must appear on the individual's tax return as 'exempt income'.

Patricia Warren
Brunswick Heads

Who gets a voice?

After my tirade (*Echo* 4 May), against proposed changes to the Code of Meeting Practice at Byron Shire Council, I thought I better look at the details again.

Sure enough, there was another sneaky little clause that I hadn't noticed: the number of times a member of the public may speak during public access is to be reduced from three to two. Currently you can make one speech for or against a single item on the agenda (which is itself an unwarranted constraint), plus one general submission (two minutes), plus one question (this question is proposed now to be limited to items on the current agenda only, a provision squarely aimed at my good self).

Where do the sneaky little proposed constraints come from? What, didn't you know that it's the cutely named 'Strategic Planning Workshop' (SWP) that secretly makes all the tentative decisions these days, even on policy matters?

So, who is the SPW? Well there's the rub: we the proletariat are not allowed to know which councillors and which staff members participate in this workshop or what its decisions are. All we know is that whatever happened on that day will appear later as recommendations in a 'staff report'.

I don't know what's happened to transparency and accountability in the Shire. But, I would really like to know who it was that put forward these proposals. No councillor will tell you, because they're all too dumb to realise that the proceedings of the SPW are not confidential. That is, there has been no vote by Council (as far as I know) to declare confidentiality and if there has been one I'd be curious to know what the stated reasons might be; you can't declare confidentiality on a whim.

Of course, I'm quite certain that it's the staff who are responsible; they're always interfering in decision-making process.

Your elected mushrooms are either too witless to see what's going on, or too gutless to do anything about it. One or two of them on the other hand will support anything that staff put forward; anything to silence criticism and enhance their ambition.

Members of the public can congregate to observe a virtual meeting. These virtual meetings are happening with increasing frequency at the drop of a hat, meaning that that provision is important for democracy.

John Anderson
Coorabell

Corruption

Morrison is the loose unit with the economy! Here's some excerpts from a long, long list of corruption by the LNP – see *The Chaser*/Mathew Davis:

Bought water rights for 50 times more than many valuations, and double the price of the seller's valuation.

Cut $14 million from national audit office budget after it discovered substantial improprieties and wasteful spending (such as the sports rorts, and paying ten times too much for land for the new Sydney airport).

Drastically increased the amount of government money spent without a proper tender process, up to $34 billion per month.

When not required to, paid $39 million to a naval boat manufacturer (donors to the LNP) who failed to fulfil contract clauses.

Hid a report by the governor-general showing that the government paid twice as much as necessary for new combat vehicles, because such publicity would be bad for the private overseas manufacturer's future profitability.

Chose not to mention an $882 million payout to News Corp when outlining a $16.8 billion budget black hole. The payout was the single biggest item in the black hole.

Spent $900,000 in just two months on private jet flights for ministers.

Spent $27,000 on travel expenses for politicians to attend free sports events, thousands on taxi rides to the opera, and over $140,000 for five ministers to travel to a country we have no trade or diplomatic ties with.

Deliberately hid the cost of the $4.45 million renovations on The Lodge and also spent $50,000 on upgrades of curtains and upholstery for the prime minister's office.

Refused to release a report into covid policy communication strategies, which cost over $500,000.

Abandoned standard tender processes when awarding a $423 million contract to a company with $50k in funds, little experience, no phone number, no mail address, housed in a shack.

Handed out $17.1m to private TV stations for a grant they didn't ask for, without offering the money to the public broadcaster.

Proposed an exemption so that Australia's richest companies no longer have to publish basic information about how much tax they are paying.

How could anyone want to support this self-centred, bully!

Christina Henry
Bangalow

Rorts unlimited

Commuter car park rorts, sports rorts, emissions reduction scheme rorts (that don't reduce emissions) and bike track rorts. The Morrison government can spend billions of taxpayers' money on their rorts, they can

► Continued on page 18

If you're serious about climate action...

If you're serious about a federal ICAC...

If you're serious about housing affordability...

If you're serious about changing the government, vote Justine Elliot locally.

ON YOUR SIDE

Labor

VOTE JUSTINE ELLIOT

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

▶ Continued from page 16

waste $5.5 billion cancelling submarine contracts, billions can be found to upgrade train services from Sydney to Newcastle and from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast – but not a cent from Morrison, or Labor, for the restoration of the Casino to Murwillumbah (C-M) train line. They ignore thousands of locals who, for almost twenty years, keep turning out to meetings, rallies, and signing petitions calling for a sustainable, traffic busting and carbon reducing train service to provide public transport for locals and millions of tourists. If just twenty-two kilometres of line is built, local towns, and the region, will be connected to the Queensland rail system and the Gold Coast airport.

The National Party has treated locals with contempt and lied about the cost of returning train services to the C-M line.

In one of the fastest growing regions in the country with over six million tourists, Morrison and the National Party can spend millions of taxpayer funds on the criminal destruction of the line, worth billions, to replace it with an expensive bike track for a few fit cyclists. This bike track is costing as much as repairs to the train line in Byron for a train. This is an outrage when there's plenty of room along the rail corridor for trains and bike track.

Locals despair that the Labor Party is happy to support this destruction and wicked waste of taxpayers' money, while claiming they will stop the rorts and are serious about reducing carbon emissions. Should Labor be elected, the waste of taxpayers' money destroying this train line should be one of the first things to be referred to their Federal Integrity Commission.

Some say 'green' electric vehicles will provide transport. Turns out the critical minerals needed to build these 'green' vehicles is likely to start another mining boom, including mining pristine wilderness people have fought to protect. How green is that?

Much greener to use the train line we already have, which stayed high and dry in the flood. No need for more mines and environmental destruction.

If you care about this beautiful region we are fortunate to live in, our children's futures and the survival of the planet, be careful what you vote for on the 21 May.

Louise Doran
Ocean Shores

CHESS by Ian Rogers

Last week's U2 concert in Kyiv was an attempt to show that culture could raise spirits during wartime.

A similar attempt was made during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s, with a GM tournament in the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo scuppered at the last minute by the United Nations.

In 1993 GM Predrag Nikolic then living in the Netherlands devised a plan to bring some joy back to his home town, which had a long tradition of hosting top level events.

Nikolic, a Bosnian Serb, had already become a hate figure in the Serbian media for his role in ensuring that UN sanctions were observed at the 1992 European Teams Championship.

His tournament, which was to be combined with a film festival, needed to overcome substantial logistical hurdles. Serbian forces in the hills above Sarajevo were shooting at anything that moved. With all scheduled flights to Sarajevo cancelled, Nikolic arranged for the players to be transported in a supply plane from the military base in Ancona, Italy. They would be sitting alongside the film festival's Daniel Day-Lewis, Vanessa Redgrave and Jeremy Irons, as well as essentials for the city residents who had been under siege for more than 500 days.

Finding players willing to enter a war zone was not easy, but Nikolic secured them, as well as two Antipodean arbiters, 72-year-old Kiwi legend Bob Wade – whose meticulous card index helped Bobby Fischer win the 1972 World Championship – and Cathy Rogers.

However, just before Cathy and I were due to head down to Ancona, the United Nations declared that no civilians were to be allowed on the flight into Sarajevo, deeming the trip too dangerous. The tournament was cancelled and no major chess event was held in the city until 1998. Nevertheless, the Bosnian Serbs did host a series of their own master tournaments in the hills above Sarajevo.

Later it emerged that the United Nations were worried that the film festival in particular would provide a worldwide platform for those who claimed that the UN was not doing enough to help the citizens of Sarajevo.

In 1994 Nikolic led Bosnia to an historic silver medal at the Chess Olympiad in Moscow with an ethnically mixed team. The war continued unabated.

■ **Play chess at Byron Bay Services Club, Sat 2.30 & Mon 6.00**

Easy equation

In terms of the economy. Billions of dollars spent on armaments and the supporting structures, at the expense, the sacrifice, of the basic needs for living for Australians.

Most people understand the saying 'love your neighbour as yourself'. In today's political climate have the MPs forgotten what the saying means? The actions and expectation of the Australian government does not fit with this saying. One hand promotes the value of the words, the other hand ensures it doesn't manifest in the nation's economy. Name and fame and possessing more than others is what the MPs do with the economy. Are weapons and maintaining the fear of others in the population required to be alive?

Doesn't it all begin when we wake up to another day – weapons are not required for waking up. MPs seem to have forgotten a simple fact of life, and it's against the law to not vote for them. That is just the tip of the iceberg, of their instructions of how to love your neighbour. A government formed with Independent MPs would be a start in establishing a democratic government.

Robert Podhajsky
Ocean Shores

Temporary Protection Visas

As part of their pre-election strategy, Ballina Region for Refugees (BR4R) has been working to raise awareness of the destructiveness of Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEVs), which do not allow refugees to settle permanently in Australia.

The government has found that more than 19,000 people are in need of refugee protection, but has granted them only TPVs or SHEVs. These visas prevent these people from ever becoming Australian citizens and reuniting with their families. They're also barred from most forms of financial support, are unable to attend English classes, and have no access to emergency housing. After three or five years they are required to re-apply for protection and to engage in a full reassessment of their refugee needs. As refugees are already traumatised, this system creates a cycle of poverty and disadvantage that in turn creates more psychological trauma and distress. It is especially difficult for refugees who have been kept in detention for many years.

The current policy has a theoretical pathway to permanency which, in practice, few refugees can complete.

Permanently settling refugees and enabling them to reunite with their families is the most effective way to build a cohesive society in which they can feel productive and proud of the contribution they're making to their new home.

The Refugee Council of Australia asserts that even if current legislation is not repealed, the Australian government can reform the visa pathway requirements to enable refugees on temporary visas to access permanent options. This can be done by amending the existing Skilled Independent (Subclass 189) visa to create a stream for TPV and SHEV holders who have demonstrated a commitment and contribution to the Australian economy and society, so they can live and work in Australia permanently.

Australia desperately needs a bigger workforce. Fruit growers are crying out for help and every second hospitality business is displaying a 'staff wanted' sign. There are also many refugees with high levels of education and valuable skills.

Let's vote in a government that, instead of demonising and incarcerating refugees, allows them to settle permanently, recognising their potential contribution to the nation.

Lisa Dillon
Ballina Region for Refugees

Vote Green

In response to John Jennings, Numinbah (12 May), 'Who shall I vote for?' Simple answer – The Greens. From their website: 'The Greens plan to fix our health services and make dental and mental health care free for all who need it, not just those who can afford it.

'The Greens will… reinvest the private health rebate back into the public system so we can slash wait times and remove out of pocket costs. By taxing the billionaires and big corporations… everyone can get the care they need, when they need it.'

John, you don't have to vote for one of the major parties; every vote for The Greens counts. Help get more Greens into the Senate to make your voice heard.

M Morgan
Mullumbimby

Hydrogen hoax

This is very serious. Last year expert scientists published a warning via *The Society of Chemical Industry*: 'blue hydrogen', using natural gas, was shown to be a fossil fuel industry scam with continuing carbon emissions. The methane emissions negate the carbon capture, and the emissions are WORSE than just burning the original natural gas. If it is allowed to proceed, the IPCC carbon emissions danger limits will be exceeded and climate change will be more catastrophic.

'Green hydrogen', using renewable energy electrolysis of water, is a safe, valid means for industrial, and fuel, chemical requirements.

The fossil fuel industry is trumpeting 'green hydrogen' as a little side distraction so it can use existing equipment and facilities for the vast bulk of production of 'blue hydrogen'. Once they have their foot in the door it will be 'greed before green' as usual... but worse!

For planetary survival we must not let deceptive 'blue hydrogen' projects be set in stone – humanity's *gravestone*.

How green is blue hydrogen? See https://youtu.be/2EA4tDYwNYo by Howarth and Jacobson.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Harm Labor

Much as I respect Richard Jones' opinions on many things, I can't agree with his conclusion last week ('Election views from a former NSW MLC') that an election victory by Mandy Nolan would be unlikely to harm Labor's chances of forming government.

Given how close the numbers are I believe it could.

Labor really can't afford to risk losing any seats if we want to have the best chance of getting rid of this truly awful government.

Jenny Coman
Bangalow

Pension protector?

Powerful Protector of the Pension? Well, not exactly…

ABC Fact Check has looked closely at claims made by local MP, Justine Elliot, that the Coalition plans to 'force all pensioners onto the cashless welfare card'. Ms Elliot has spearheaded an expensive advertising campaign around these claims. Meanwhile, Queensland MP, Brittany Lauga, was forced to withdraw similar statements about the government's intentions and apologise in Queensland parliament 'if she had unintentionally misled the House'.

So – what did Fact Check find?

1. The whole campaign claiming pensioners are to be forced onto a debit card system was based on ONE anonymous Facebook post.

2. It is NOT in the government's policy platform or in their plans. Ms Elliot has campaigned relentlessly on this issue spending thousands of taxpayer dollars to broadcast it. She has published links to a social media site full of spurious, unsubstantiated claims on the issue.

3. The Cashless Welfare Card (CDC) – what is it? and who uses it?

Instead of welfare payments made in cash, 80 per cent of the payment is placed onto a debit card controlled by the Australian government. The scheme aims to minimise community harm by preventing spending on drugs, alcohol and gambling. Its use has almost totally targeted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the Northern Territory and other states. All working-age recipients are forced to use it whilst those on 'age' or 'veteran' pensions are given the option of volunteering for the program. Understandably – few have. Department of Social Services data from January 2022 showed there were a total of 24 age pensioners using the card across all sites – mostly voluntarily.

It is bemusing that Ms Elliot and the Labor party are so focussed on this angle. Although the scheme is now widely viewed as being harmful and punitive, for age pensioners, it is a non-event.

Even more bemusing is the fact that Labor supported this program when it was introduced by John Howard in 2007 as part of the Northern Territory 'Intervention'. Once in government they continued

▶ Continued on page 22

Echo

Mandy for Richmond: 'I'm there to break things'

David Lisle

I am deeply curious about whether Mandy Nolan can unseat Labor's Justine Elliot and win Richmond for the Greens in Saturday's election.

Prediction might be a low form of journalism, but I believe the Morrison government will be turfed out.

Labor could form government in its own right but a Labor minority government would be far more interesting. A crossbench of Greens, 'Teals' and garden variety Independents could tame Labor's worst instincts and push for actual change, like in 2010 when the Gillard government was forced by the Greens to enact meaningful climate legislation.

But can Mandy win? My assumption was that Richmond was not yet ready to go Green, despite the star candidate. Demography is driving the progressive trend in our electorate and this cycle seemed too soon.

Labor's Justine Elliot holds Richmond on the back of Green's preferences: in 2019 she received 31,807 first preference votes, the Greens 20,384, the Nationals 36,979, the various Independents 11,150. There were 8,061 informal votes. After preferences, the result was Labor 54 per cent; Nationals 46 per cent (the 2016 numbers were very similar).

The Nationals have fielded a new smiling female candidate and will likely benefit from the flow of Independents' preferences. But the Coalition is on the nose – especially here where a well-established progressive trend has been amplified by covid refugees fleeing the cities, and we've just been whacked by a disaster most associate with climate change.

Mandy Nolan

Justine Elliot

To win in Saturday's three-way contest, Mandy must out-poll Justine. The Greens vote would need to rise from around 20,000 to 26,000. A big task. And if the swing came purely from the Nationals, the seat would remain Labor's, all other things being equal.

But all things are not equal. Candidates matter. As does mood. Our region is rattled by the floods, and Mandy is not your average candidate. Her name recognition, according to Greens campaign manager, Bec Talbot, is 'off the chart'. In Ballina, where many people mistakenly believe their local member is Kevin Hogan, Mandy is known by four times as many people as Justine Elliot, their member of 17 years.

In 2019, the Greens put forward Michael Lyon, then a Byron councillor, as their candidate. Michael was pedestrian, at best, compared to Mandy, and certainly no harbinger of change. Mandy is a loved local brand. An actual activist. Her profile is stratospheres above that of Tamara Smith, who won the State seat of Ballina from the Nationals in 2015 with a 30 per cent swing when the key issue was coal seam gas and she was a quiet school teacher.

Mandy and her team have had conversations with 6,000 people in the community and believe there's a real chance of victory. Housing and climate are the dominant concerns out there and the Greens think they can deliver solutions from the crossbench.

When I ask Mandy how she's faring a week out from polling day, she says she's been at it for 14 months, working really long hours, noting how the challenger 'must work twenty times as hard'. But the incumbent is clearly worried. Justine Elliot is mimicking Mandy by wearing pink clothes and sporting blonde hair while accusing the Greens of being 'as untrustworthy as Scott Morrison'.

I know Mandy well from her writing, performance, and by osmosis, but before speaking on Saturday, our most meaningful interaction was years ago when I nearly got between her and a glass of free champagne at an art launch. This time we had a good chat. I was left with the impression of someone pretty committed to the cause. Her desire to 'break things' involves breaking the two-party system, overcoming climate inaction and 'cleaning up what's happening in politics'.

When I reference another comedian turned politician, President Zelensky of the Ukraine, whose leadership has captivated the world, I get this reply: 'Well I'm not Zelensky, but I appreciate the question because it's about a style of leadership that is missing, and I think when you look towards the arts you start to see bravery and courage and collaboration and vision… We need new ways of doing politics and if that means having comedians, well, so be it'.

If I were a betting man, Sportsbet's odds of 5:1 for Mandy winning Richmond would be tempting.

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Photo: Cassandra Scott-Finn
@SOFT_URGE__

Echo

Engineering 'solutions' won't get us out of this mess

Nan Nicholson

Engineering works have been proposed to mitigate the extreme flooding experienced in Lismore in February and March 2022. Here are the suggested options:

Build a higher levee

The cost of raising the levee is as yet unknown but could be expected to be many millions, if not billions. The money is not yet sourced or assured.

Enormous disruption would be caused by the removal of existing infrastructure and houses, by the extensive excavations required for the site, and by the transport of earth and rock from other areas to provide fill for the levee. The construction would devastate efforts to rehabilitate the current levee area.

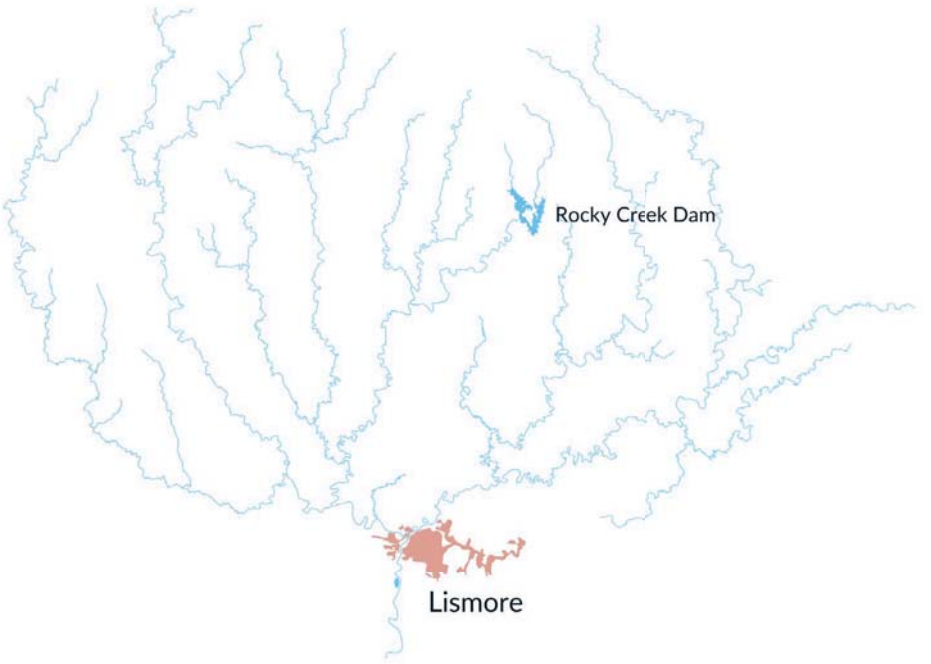
The gross inequity involved in attempting to protect only the CBD and flood-prone parts of East Lismore is unacceptable. A higher levee would:

(a) signal the abandonment of South and North Lismore, and significantly intensify their flood hazards and problems.

(b) speed up and magnify the flood effects on downstream farmers and townships such as Coraki.

Now that climate change and its damaging consequences are beyond all doubt we have to ask how high the next major flood will be. It could be 18m or 20m or 30m. There is no known limit – all we know is that more frequent and bigger floods are assured. Spending huge amounts of money in an attempt to alleviate, but possibly worsen, a threat of unknown size is the height of poor planning.

We need to admit that the existing levee was an expensive failure, which merely protected parts of Lismore from small and medium floods. It has made major floods much more dangerous and destructive for both the 'protected' areas and the remainder of Lismore. We must not compound this blunder by repeating it and subjecting more people to greater peril and heartbreak.



Map of Lismore catchment printed with permission from Dr Rob Garbutt.

Construct 'containment ponds', aka dams, on upstream tributaries

The proposed Dunoon Dam (the DuD), below the existing Rocky Creek Dam, has been advocated by some, although not Rous County Council (RCC), as the prime candidate for supposed flood mitigation in Lismore.

Apart from the intractable problems of destruction of (a) nationally significant Indigenous heritage and (b) internationally significant rainforest, this dam would provide no flood mitigation and would, in fact, increase risk to downstream residents.

Ineffectiveness of upstream containment dams.

As the map above shows, the catchment of Rocky Creek, on which the DuD would be built, contributes very little to the flood waters that inundate Lismore. Figures provided by RCC show that Rocky Creek catchment above the DuD is 50km^2, or 3.57 per cent of the 1,400km^2 catchment above Lismore.

Even in the extremely unlikely event that Rocky Creek Dam and the DuD were empty at the beginning of the rain event, they could not intercept more than 3.57 per cent of the flood water heading for Lismore. A second flood within a month, as happened in March 2022, would be even less able to be contained as there would be no possibility of emptying the DuD into an already flooded landscape.

This would be true of any other dams constructed on other tributaries with the aim of holding back flood waters. They could not provide mitigation, their cost would be astronomical, and their construction would entail large-scale loss of farmland and native vegetation.

Increase in downstream risk

The downstream risk from a large dam is explained in the 2012 Environmental Flows Assessment (EFA), commissioned by RCC. It states that the most extreme floods may be exacerbated in the 3km immediately below the dam wall.

'Modelling shows that the magnitude of the largest floods may be increased, with the largest flows in the natural regime of 17,280 ML per day shifting to 20,456 ML per day with Dunoon Dam operating'. This is an increase of 18.3 per cent on the largest flood.

The additional impact is explained by the surface area of a large dam. 'When full, the dam acts to increase catchment runoff efficiency, with all rain that falls directly onto the water surface delivered directly into downstream flow when the dam is spilling. This phenomenon results in increased peak magnitude of the modelled flood events when these conditions are met.'

This phenomenon on Rocky Creek Dam already increases the flood peak downstream. On February 28 the following text was sent to all residents below Rocky Creek Dam, including The Channon village and parts of Keerrong:

'NSWSES DAM FAILURE EVACUATION ORDER ROCKY CREEK DAM. People at your home address BELOW ROCKY CREEK DAM should evacuate now to higher ground'

What warning would the SES have to send if there were another dam with an even larger surface area located only 3km above The Channon village? And at 3.5 times the volume of Rocky Creek Dam, what would happen if that dam did indeed fail?

Modify rivers by straightening bends, cutting diversion channels or deepening river beds

Any modification which hastens the flow of flood water past a town can only compound the problems for downstream people, towns, farms and land. It is a moral issue. Prioritising one community for protection over another is intolerable.

Dredging the river, as done in the past to keep channels open for shipping, would have no effect on floods. The river at Lismore is tidally influenced so a deeper channel will always be full of water and will have no capacity to hold flood water.

In conclusion, it is clear that Lismore will continue to flood in ever-escalating cycles in the years ahead. Whatever the solutions are, attempting to control with engineering remedies the colossal natural forces at work is at best childish and at worst criminally negligent.

■ Nan Nicholson is a founding member of WATER Northern Rivers.

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▶ Continued from page 18

and expanded compulsory income management to those on Newstart, Youth allowance and Parenting Payments.

It is great to now see a complete turnabout in their stance as numerous independent evaluations show there is little evidence of benefits from the scheme whilst it is discriminatory, paternalistic and intrusive for participants. Labor have finally come around to The Greens' position. From the very start The Greens opposed the Cashless Welfare Scheme owing to inconclusive evidence that it reduces social harm – citing studies showing that poverty and child health in the Northern Territory are often adversely affected by the scheme.

So, if you truly want to protect pension schemes in Australia look, to the party who has consistently called for a living payment, the party with a policy to increase payments to $80 per day so people can eat and pay the bills.

You won't find that in Justine Elliot's 'Pension Paranoia Politicking'.

Marion Riordan
Farrants Hill

Assange – election

As we think about where to put our mark on the ballot paper in this election, spare some time to do a little research into where candidates stand on freedom for Australian citizen Julian Assange.

Julian is now entering the fourth year of incarceration in Her Majesty's High Security Prison, Belmarsh, in Boris Johnson's UK – without charge, at the behest of Joe Biden's US government.

Assange was dragged out of the Ecuadorian Embassy by London police, violating his political asylum rights, months before the last Australian general election.

The Morrison government has been complicit in his persecution ever since, claiming that Assange 'must face the music' for his actions and that British 'justice' must be allowed to take its course.

Anthony Albanese at one stage, in a Labor Party meeting, apparently has said that 'enough is enough', but as far as I know has not mentioned Julian Assange once during the election campaign.

Although his name and that of our local Member of Parliament, Justine Elliot, do appear as supporters of the Andrew Wilkie initiative, The Parliamentary Friends of Bring Assange Home Group.

So, we appreciate that and look forward to that support being taken further, especially if the Labor Party wins the election.

We have received confirmation from Mandy Nolan that The Greens are fully supportive of the freeing of Assange. We have seen their words backed up by action with the sterling work of Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson, from Tasmania, and Senator Janet Rice, of Victoria, in the parliament attempting to hold the government to account on the issue over the years.

We trust Greens advocacy for Julian will continue over the next term of parliament.

It is no exaggeration to say that the violation of Julian Assange's rights is a violation of our rights. If it is Julian today, who will it be tomorrow?

So, in the final week of the campaign, please consider Julian Assange's situation as you prepare to vote.

Roy Drew
Mullumbimby

Lismore flood

I walked around the Lismore CBD and whenever I came to a crossing, an oncoming car would stop gently as if it was important to be careful. I would smile and wave to thank them for stopping and they would smile and wave back at me and it felt like we were connected in caring for our poor, beloved town.

As I walked around I had tears down my face and an ache in my heart. The CBD is destroyed with the empty, still muddy and damaged shops, even the walkways sometimes pulled up and destroyed by flood waters, like a giant has waved a hand and wiped them away. A giant flood.

Second flood in Lismore on March 30, 2022. Photo David Lowe

I'm still glad that so many were saved from the water that destroyed so much. But this is not like any flood before. It's climate change. It's disturbing to see how the Liberal government has ignored this obvious warning about climate change and continues to provide funding and support to fossil fuel companies. Is Scott Morrison simply incapable of seeing what's happening? Or does he just not care?

We need to vote for people who have a heart and will act on climate change rather than supporting companies who have already made billions. Please vote for The Greens or the Climate Independents and Labor.

Beth Shelley
Booerie Creek

Never again

It seems to me that the floods became a 'never again' moment in time for Lismore and to a lesser extent Mullumbimby. It is no longer tenable for people to lose everything and expect, and be expected, to claw their way back.

Everyone knows that with climate change this will happen again, and again, so it is clear to me that the time has come for serious engineering solutions. I, and probably many others, have been thinking a lot about the Mullum flooding and have come up with a plan.

First of all the Brunswick River, and all of its feeder streams, need to be dredged to allow faster movement of water downstream and out to sea. The soil dredged can be used to raise the height of the banks of the river and creeks.

We need to be able to temporarily extract large volumes of water from the system, so the second step involves digging a billabong on the flooding farmland bounded by the rugby club, the river and Argyle Street, behind the iconic LOVE sign.

Let's say, if Mullum floods to half-a-metre deep over a square km, significantly higher than this flood – this amounts to 500,000 cubic metres. A 10-hectare billabong five metres deep can absorb all of that water and release it at next low tide, or when it is safe to do so.

The 500,000 cubic metres of displaced dirt could conceivably be used to raise the level (two metres high over 25 hectares) of the paddock opposite for conversion to a possible housing estate, providing of course that strong water management policies are in place to not exacerbate flooding for existing houses, maybe via engineered waterways.

These properties would need to be purchased at a fair price. It would take a long time to dig and have the inconvenience of dirt-laden truck traffic. But it is better than a repeat of what happened. Open to discussion, markobrien23@gmail.com.

Mark (O'Brien) Alok
Montecollum

Coalition policy

It should be obvious to everyone by now that the Coalition's insistence that 'technology' will drag us across the line of net zero emissions by 2050 is just a code for their much beloved 'market forces'.

We could be excused for being cynical, as market forces seem to have achieved sweet FA for hospitals, the environment, wildlife, affordable housing, and providing essential support for pensioners and the unemployed.

The fact that the government has virtually absolved themselves of responsibility for the environment means there is no security for any business that wants to invest in renewable energy.

David Gilet
Byron Bay

Passports

I have been subscribing to *The Echo* since my daughter moved to Mullumbimby late last year and I visited her over Christmas. Your newspaper is so informative and encouraging for locals and gives the rest of Australia some insight into how beautiful the area is and some of the challenges the people have faced, particularly this year.

That brings me to what some might consider to be a first world problem but for me I think it is a right of our citizens to have their own passport – proof of identity, which is not only used for travelling to fun places overseas.

My daughter's passport was severely damaged in the floods and she has been trying to replace it. However, it is impossible to get through to anyone at the passport office on the phone – when you call them you are put through a series of number clicking only to be told that they are too busy to take your call and then they hang up. A person can't just go to the passport office because they expect people to process applications online first and go through Australia Post. This is not supposed to be the process for damaged passports since she has her old one but cannot use it.

She decided to just apply for a new passport as though it were lost – however, as I said, this has to go through Australia Post, but they won't do it because she needs an original copy of her birth certificate (which I have now decided to mail to her as I am in Victoria). Australia Post tried to help when she went there but they were on the phone to the passport office waiting for over an hour – no response on the phone.

Angelique Brown
Croydon Vic

Echo

Echo Northern Rivers 2022 Flood Donation Appeal

Thanks to the generosity of *Echo* readers we have raised and distributed over $86,000 to local grassroots organisations to assist flood-affected residents of the local community.

The money has gone to flood-affected people in Lismore, Mullum, Ballina and Murwillumbah who are really needing financial and other assistance.

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An even chance we'll have a 1.5°C hotter year or two, before 2026

The World Meteorological Organization says passing the 1.5°C threshold is temporary – for now.

Cosmos Magazine

The world has a 50 per cent chance before 2026 of experiencing at least a year of global average temperatures 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

This would be a temporary increase: a warm year over the next five.

'A single year of exceedance above 1.5°C does not mean we have breached the iconic threshold of the Paris Agreement, but it does reveal that we are edging ever closer to a situation where 1.5°C could be exceeded for an extended period,' explains Dr Leon Hermanson, a researcher at the UK's Met Office and leader of the *WMO's Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update*.

The WMO also says there's a 93 per cent chance of at least one of the next five years being the warmest on record. The previous warmest year on record was 2016.

In 2021, global temperatures were 1.1°C above average. Back-to-back La Niña events had a mild cooling effect on global temperatures, but this provided only temporary relief. A corresponding El Niño year, like 2016 was, would likely be much warmer.

Waterways were running dry throughout the Northern Rivers as the drought continued to impact the region before the 'unprecedented' Black Summer fires of 2019-20. Photo Aslan Shand

The impact of increasing carbon in the atmosphere is increasing global average temperatures, causing the predicted floods and fires that this region has experienced. Photo David Lowe

Harmful impacts

'The 1.5°C figure is not some random statistic,' says WMO Secretary-General Professor Petteri Taalas. 'It is rather an indicator of the point at which climate impacts will become increasingly harmful for people and indeed the entire planet.

'For as long as we continue to emit greenhouse gases, temperatures will continue to rise.

'Arctic warming is disproportionately high and what happens in the Arctic affects all of us.'

The report also predicts that Australia, on average, will experience a wetter 2022.

'This update highlights how fast we are warming the planet. It's only six-and-a-half years since the Paris Agreement was adopted and we're already seeing forecasts that we may experience brief exceedance of the 1.5°C global warming limit in the near future,' says University of Melbourne climate science lecturer Dr Andrew King, who was not involved with the report.

Worrying trend

'While the Paris Agreement is about keeping global warming well below 2°C and preferably below 1.5°C in the long term, the possibility of surpassing the 1.5°C threshold, even if only for a year, is worrying,' adds King.

Professor Steven Sherwood, from the ARC Centre for Climate System Science and the University of New South Wales, who also was not involved with the report, agrees.

'To actually exceed the target, we'd have to be above 1.5C even in a 'normal' year, and that is much less likely. But the report reminds us that we are getting uncomfortably close to this target,' says Sherwood.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's predictions, global emissions must peak before 2025 and fall rapidly after that to remain within 1.5°C of long-term warming.

'Our greenhouse gas emissions are still at near-record highs, and until we get emissions down to net zero we're going to continue to see global warming,' says King.

'Rapid and drastic emissions reductions are needed urgently if we are to have any chance of sticking to the Paris Agreement.'

■ You can read more science stories from *Cosmos Magazine* online on *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au/category/articles/science-goes-viral.

▶ More Articles on page 47

Join the community conversation

We want to hear from you!

The Draft Delivery Program 2022-26 and Operational Plan and Budget 2022/23 are on public exhibition until 10 June.

The Delivery Program is Council's commitment to the community about what it will deliver during its term.

The annual Operational Plan details the actions to be undertaken in 2022/23; together with the related budget, statement of revenue policy, and fees and charges.

MORE INFORMATION

Join us for an interactive online community conversation **5.30-7pm on Monday 23 May**

Read the documents, make a submission, or register for the community conversation at **yoursaybyronshire.com.au/dpop**

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BodyLux

BodyLux has recently opened in Byron Bay offering non-surgical face lifts, body sculpting, skin rejuvenation and anti-ageing skin treatments. An expansion of Byron Beauty Bar, Nehara Shai (General Manager) says "There is a pent-up demand for non-invasive, no downtime anti-ageing beauty treatments in Byron Bay. We're excited to offer some of the most advanced treatments on the market and are offering 40 per cent off all treatments for a limited time to celebrate our launch."

BodyLux is located in the Arts & Industry Estate in Byron Bay, with bookings strictly by appointment. You can find out more at bodylux.com.au

Bangalow Headache Clinic

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

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

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

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

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Rooftop dining in the centre of Byron

Simon Haslam

Last Friday I went up for a few drinks with friends at the relatively new rooftop dining area in the centre of Byron at Mark + Vinny's Place (MVP), at the end of the Byron Pier arcade just near the first roundabout. There's a hidden staircase down the end of the arcade, which leads to the Amalfi coast-style rooftop area where you can enjoy a candlelit spaghetti and spritz, under the stars (or marquee depending on the weather).

It's all painted white, with colourful striped umbrellas, and a succulent and cacti garden. Owing to the shape of the top deck, it's very reminiscent of a boat, and apparently there is a 'Titanic Painting Couch' with sketch board where you can replicate the Jack and Rose sketch scene from the movie.

As part of the restaurant's mission to reduce its carbon footprint, the rooftop has a custom built algae wall which contains around 200 litres of microalgae that are soaking up carbon dioxide from the air and is powered by natural sunlight, reducing the restaurant's carbon footprint and returning fresh oxygen into the atmosphere. I must say, in the excitement of ordering my first cocktail from the friendly staff, who must be quite fit from climbing stairs all night, I somewhat overlooked the algae.

According to Mark + Vinny, they 'have infinite gratitude to the Byron community for supporting them through this difficult first year,' during which a strong takeaway following has helped them get through the quiet times. 'With the COVID limitations and the impact of the floods, the extension of the rooftop dining area has been a welcome addition,' they say.

Whilst on the night we visited the crowd was 'adults only', apparently kids and family groups enjoy playing with the giant Jenga/ Connect 4. It's also a very romantic space for date nights where guests eat spaghetti, *Lady and The Tramp* style.

The first thing that occurred to us was how wonderful this would be for a group celebration, and apparently this is pretty popular, with groups settling in for a night of Margarita cocktails (mine was fantastic) and Margherita pizzas (especially popular owing to the $39 three-course set menu option).

Given its 'secret' location down the laneway, the rooftop is often stumbled upon for a post-dinner nightcap and tiramisu, but now you're in the know too!

At their Sydney venue Mark and Vinny say their spritz dominates the drinks menu, in Byron Bay however the Chilli Margaritas have become the fan favourite, and are heavily featured with eight different styles on the menu. Speaking of chilli, their chilli oils range from 'hot' made with Calabrian red chilli to 'extremely hot', made with Carolina Reaper chillis available on the side of any dish and now stocked locally at specialty supermarkets, including at Baz & Shaz in Suffolk Park!

While the rooftop is casual, fun and romantic, they regard the food as serious business, saying that, 'the restaurant is dedicated to the real MVPs – the 'most valuable producers: of Byron Bay. The artisans, the growers, the pioneers who are demonstrating what a more sustainable food system can look like. The food is sourced sustainably, in-season and from farms with full traceability and integrity. Mark + Vinny have spent years perfecting their signature dishes, and as much effort is put into the plant-based and gluten free dishes as the traditional family recipe dishes.'

U7 7 Lawson St, Byron Bay. Dine-in hours: Monday–Sunday 5pm–late.

Fighting food waste

Did you know that wasting food is a greater contributor (6 per cent) to total greenhouse gas emissions than flying (1.9 per cent), plastic production (3.8 per cent) and crude oil extraction (3.8 per cent)?

About a quarter (26 per cent) of global greenhouse gas emissions come from food, which isn't hard to understand because food is everywhere, and it's a basic human need. But about a quarter of the calories produced are never eaten – that means that food wastage, whether that happens in transit, at the restaurant or at home, accounts for around 6 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.**

There is an economic loss to this as well – food waste is estimated to cost the Australian economy approximately $20 billion each year, occurring across the food chain, from agriculture, post-harvest to processing, distribution and food services. ***

The Northern Rivers food industry is stepping up to fight the war on food waste.

As part of the NSW Government's Love Food Hate Waste program, North East Waste and member councils are working with Northern Rivers food manufacturers and other food service providers to learn about their existing practices and assess the extent of food loss at each stage of their production – from harvesting and product grading through to processing and packaging, also considering inventory, infrastructure and transportation issues.

Tristan Grier from Harvest takes care to minimise food waste.

The Northern Rivers has a well-deserved reputation as a clean, green food bowl, underpinned by a highly collaborative food community focused on environmental sustainability. Reflecting this character, North East Waste has uncovered many examples where local producers and food manufacturers work together to minimise their food waste, particularly by diverting it to other food producers as animal food, compost and fertiliser.

Many of our local food manufacturers already have as 'business as usual' strategies to minimise their food waste: carefully considering their product inputs, ordering strategically and rotating stock, auditing their processing systems to identify where food may be lost during preparation, monitoring their storage and refrigeration to reduce spoilage, and keeping an eye out for innovative packaging solutions.

With the North East Waste project running over the past two years – while the region has been recovering from bushfires, dealing with the impact of the covid pandemic, and most recently managing the catastrophic impact of floods – it's been particularly remarkable to see how effectively food manufacturers across the Northern Rivers have adapted these strategies to minimise their food waste.

We've identified businesses proactively addressing fluctuations in product demand – developing new product lines, adjusting their processing schedules and seeking out alterative distribution channels. Rather than send food to landfill, they've supported the broader community by donating ingredients and excess product to local food recovery organisations like Liberation Larder.

Recognising the critical impact food manufacturers can have in food waste reduction, as well as the environmental and financial benefits on offer for food manufacturers themselves, North East Waste has been identifying and promoting effective strategies and solutions.

Another component of this project has been working more broadly with food service providers, including pubs, clubs and restaurants to identify simple ways to reduce food loss at the end of the day – whether through smaller portion sizes, offering a 'doggy bag', and similar principles to the manufacturing project through stock control. To learn more about the project or to sign up to be involved see: https://newaste.org.au/ybif/

*Source: WRI: World GHG Emissions 2016 & www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0459-z

** Searchinger, T. et al. (2018). Creating a Sustainable Food Future—A Menu of Solutions to Feed Nearly 10 Billion People by 2050. World Resources Institute.]

***fightfoodwastecrc.com.au

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All organic, antibiotic and hormone free.

NOW OPEN IN BYRON BAY

130 Jonson St, Byron | 6685 6261
Mon-Fri 6am to 5pm / Sat 6am to 1pm

70 Dalley St, Mullumbimby | 6684 2137
Mon–Fri 6am to 5pm / Sat 6am to midday

Radiance Kitchen

Victoria Cosford

I can imagine how radiant the smiles were when Dexter Chou and Linda Hung resumed their stall recently at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market. Radiance Kitchen and its dazzling display of dumplings had, like many in the region, been victims of the recent floods; their base, home and garden for the past 11 years in Mullumbimby was inundated to the point where the couple were forced to flee. Currently in South Golden Beach, they are waiting for repairs to enable them to return, and to be able to revive their garden, the source of many of their dumpling fillings.

For now, it's back to business as usual. Dexter and Linda's exquisitely hand-rolled dumplings, in their variety of colours – dyed naturally using turmeric, butterfly pea flower, kale powder and dragon fruit – owe much of their success in the region to the fact their skins are gluten free. Unsurprisingly, given the region, the most popular filling is the vegetarian one, followed by shrimp, chicken and pork. Dexter tells me that the best way to eat them is to wait a couple of minutes after steaming, as 'the dough will be more elastic and tasteful after the skin cools a little.' He says he finds joy in new flavour discoveries and new visual appeal and, his customers will be pleased to hear, he doesn't think he will ever stop, 'creating new filling fusions or dumplings.'

Dexter Chou and Linda Hung from Radiance Kitchen are shining again. Photos Allie Godfrey

You can buy takeaway packs of their frozen dumplings – a great idea for instant meals – though most people buy them freshly steamed, placed on a tray and provided with their homemade gluten free kimchi and soy sauce.

As for that laborious, delicate handiwork– the rolling, folding, pleating, pinching of the silken dough – Dexter says he never gets bored, that the process, 'heals my body, mind and spirit.' Being from Taiwan, he continues, dumplings are already an important part of their lives. 'The gluten free dumplings we make are exactly (how) we give dumplings a brand new start so that more people can enjoy them, and we hope that we can shine on this path like our name, Radiance Kitchen.'

You can find them at Mullum Farmers Market every Friday from 7–11am.

'Dining in the Dark' at Forest, Byron

To celebrate the North Coast Festival of Flavour, Forest restaurant is turning off the lights so you can turn up your senses, and let your tastebuds lead the way.

In this one-of-a-kind and unforgettable culinary journey, blindfolded guests will enjoy a tasting menu expertly designed to incorporate the other four senses – sound, scent, taste, and touch. Set on their sprawling verandah, guests will be treated to an immersive rainforest experience. The event is supposed to be intimate, so space is limited to only forty people.

'Studies have shown that your sense of taste is heightened by your loss of sight,' said Jordan Staniford, Executive Chef at Forest. 'So, we're giving our guests the opportunity to let their less-used senses take over. It's going to be incredible.'

Staniford will guide guests through the evening and each of the courses. Slip on your luxe silk eye mask from Slip (yours to keep) and let your senses take over.

'Leave your phone in your pocket, or bag, and come with an open mind. This is a chance to connect with the food on a truly different level,' adds Staniford.

Staniford is no stranger to creative and unique events – he leads the culinary vision for Forest, the Verandah,

Blue and all the events and conferences at Crystalbrook Byron. His menus highlight the abundance of the Northern Rivers' region – produce from the soil of our local farmers, sustainably sourced seafood, native ingredients grown in the surrounding rainforests and along the dunes, and a focus on seasonal produce with a twist. Staniford continues to drive Forests' sustainable and ever-evolving culinary journey.

Tickets for Dining in the Dark are $150 per person, and include an indulgent, 90-minute meal, plus creative, sustainable drink pairings with each course.

Set next to a lush rainforest oasis, Forest Byron Bay celebrates sustainability by working hand-in-hand with local farmers, growers and artisans. Passionately local, over 80 per cent of Forest's ingredients come from within a three-hour drive of the resort. The environment sits close to heart, with the restaurant using only sustainably sourced seafood and free-range proteins, and doing their bit to grow, consume and compost with on-site herb gardens, four beehives and seven Subpods®.

The details: Saturday, 4 June, 7pm–10pm. Tickets are $150 per person, which includes a complimentary Slip Silk Eye Mask valued at $55, book via: www.crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/special-offers.

Sculpture distilled at Husk

The inaugural outdoor exhibition, Sculpture Distilled, opens this week at Husk Farm Distillery and promises the opportunity to get up close and personal with the work of nine contemporary artists from the Northern Rivers and Gold Coast regions.

The exhibition will run for six weeks until 12 June and will form part of the Murwillumbah Arts Trail.

Wander the beautiful grounds, drink in hand, as you experience these stunning sculptures. Sited in the ultimate outdoor gallery, you'll be able to explore the mediums these works are made from up close – including steel, stone, plastic, ceramics, and natural fibres.

Let nature add to this truly immersive experience as you imagine what inspired the nine artists to create their works while adding your own interpretation.

Sculpture Distilled is an exhibition of contemporary outdoor sculptures curated by Annie Long which address a range of themes. Daniel Clemmett explores the theme of 'development' in his large-scale beaten metal tricycle; Mealie Batchelor's reef installation examines the impact of plastics on the environment; while Rae Saheli has captured the kinetic energy of gunshots in her aluminium cylinders.

Reflecting on Australian fauna, John Walters has created a gorgeous mob of wallabies; Christina Khumari tackles the theme of 'time', and Wendy Johnson uses natural fibres to comment on the state of the environment. Annie Long considers our ability to adapt in the current times; Marie France Rose contemplates stillness, and Damien Lucas seeks beauty and simplicity in his abstracted forms.

Connect with all these works at Husk Farm Distillery in Tumbulgum, Wednesday–Sunday 4 May–12 June, from 11am. Table bookings are

essential on weekends and holiday periods. You can combine your sculpture experience with a cocktail, snacks, and a tour of the distillery.

Artist Talks | Saturday 28 May | 4–6pm | Free | As part of the Murwillumbah Arts Trail the artists will be with their work from 4–5pm, followed by a Q&A Panel to discuss the value of public art, artist inspiration and process.

Husk Distillery: 1152 Dulguigan Rd, North Tumbulgum, NSW 2490. PH (02) 6675 9149 huskdistillers.com

New hinterland whiskey

Winding Road Distillery is based in Tintenbar, and early next week they are due to release their first single malt whiskey, initially to members of their Distillers Circle group. If you're interested, have a look at their website.

It's great to see new local products and businesses in the area, and if you try hard enough, you can even feel virtuous for drinking whiskey – after all, you are supporting some locals getting their business off the ground.

I asked distiller Mark Awad why he thinks drinkers value 'local' unique smaller batch products such as his? 'Through local small batch products, consumers can often connect with producers directly,' he said. 'They can learn about the inspiration, passion, and craft that underpins these premium products and ties them to the region. Through

that, consumers can identify with the brands, knowing their patronage supports local families and the community.'

windingroaddistilling.com.au

Local rum

Lord Byron Distillery is located right in the Byron Arts & Industry Estate, making it super-easy to visit the distillery if you're in Byron. In fact, it's so local you could practically walk to it. If you like rum, you might be interested in the imminent release of Lord Byron Distillery's fifth barrel of Pure Single Rum, which will come out in a collectable numbered bottle (if you're planning on collecting it, not drinking it!).

They say that this rum is from 2019 cane harvest molasses aged in a 190 litre first fill bourbon cask, then bottled in 2022 at cask strength. The double pot distilled spirit marries well with the vanilla notes of the bourbon barrel. Lord Byron Distillery's Pure Single Rum was awarded a gold medal in the London Spirits

They even have 'Make Your Own Gin' classes at Lord Byron Distillery.

Competition, obtaining a score of 92 out of 100, the highest score for any rum entered from Australia, Lord Byron Distillery was one of only six distilleries in Australia to achieve a gold medal for any spirit type at this prestigious and highly competitive contest.

Lordbyrondistillery.com.au

Fresh Oysters

$2 ea

Oysters delivered daily from our local supplier, Michaels Seafood.

EVERY DAY 4-6PM

4 Jonson St, Byron Bay 02 6680 9183

Book online: loftbyronbay.com.au

@loftbyronbay

Happy Hour

EVERY DAY 4-6PM

$6 HOUSE WINE

$6 HOUSE BEER (SCHOONER)

$14 MARGARITAS - CHILLI OR CLASSIC -

$10 APEROL SPRITZ

loft

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY

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.

Chupacabra

Eat in or take out.

Shop 12A, 3 Clifford St,
Suffolk Park
6685 3059

www.chupacabra.com.au
@chupabyron

Fresh authentic Mexican in a relaxed atmosphere.
This is food made with love, all produce sourced locally.
Margaritas and tacos all night long!
Family friendly totally GF menu.

Dinner 5–9pm
Wed–Sat

Book via Resy

Legend Pizza

Serving Byron Bay for 30 years.
Open 7 days and nights.
Delivery from Suffolk to Ewingsdale.
90-96 Jonson Street
6685 5700
www.legendpizza.com.au

Byron's Freshest Pizza

Order online and join our loyalty program.

Catering for up to 100 people lunch and dinner.

BYO

Locally owned and operated.

Scan code for menu.

Main Street

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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar

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

Success Thai

Mon–Fri lunch & dinner, closed Sundays.
Lunch 12 noon–3pm.
Dinner from 5–8.30pm.
3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay
www.facebook.com/pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469

All your favourites, every lunch and dinner.
Experienced Thai chefs cooking fresh, delicious Thai food for you.
BYO only.
Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.

Menus available on Facebook.

The Rocks

Brunch
6.30am–2pm, Fri–Mon
16 Lawson St, Byron Bay
6685 7663
Menus at therocksbyronbay.com.au
@therocksbyronbay

The Rocks is back in business!
We have a range of freshly sourced dishes, Byron Bay coffee, and hand-made juices and smoothies at locals prices.
Fully licensed, all day brunch and happy hour from 11am.
Check out our new dishes on Instagram!

KARKALLA Byron Bay

Native Indigenous Restaurant

Cnr of Bay Lane & Fletcher St,
Byron Bay

5614 8656

Food with history, story & connection

DINNER, THURSDAY–MONDAY
Early sitting from 5pm | Second sitting from 7.30pm
Bookings highly recommended, via our website
www.karkalla.com.au | @karkallabyronbay

HOLIDAY CLOSURE IN JUNE
We will be closed from the 1st of June until the 16th of June for a holiday break. We will be reopening on the 17th with a new menu and are excited to see you then!

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, wood-fired meats and cocktails.

Keep an eye on our socials for daily specials.

The Coop Rotisserie and Larder

91 Jonson Street,
Byron Bay.

Ph 5628 7021

Open Sunday to Friday,
11am to 7pm.

Serving succulent local free range chicken,
salads and hot vegetables to go.
Catering available.

Swaay

Open 7 days
Mon–Wed 7am–2.30pm
Thurs–Sun 7am–10pm

11 Marvell Street,
Byron Bay
swaay.com.au

SWAAY is a new cafe / bar / restaurant offering an 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.

BYRON BAY continued

No Bones

Vegan Bar and Kitchen.

11 Fletcher Street
0481 148 007

Book online:
www.nobonesbyronbay.com.au

OPEN 7 NIGHTS FROM 5PM
Happy Hour from 5–6pm
$12 cocktails / $5 beers / $7 wines
Live music every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Changing the Earth one Brussels sprout at a time.
#BRUSSELSNOTBEEF

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

Espresso Martini Nights | Every day 9–11pm
2 for $20 Classic Espresso Martini.

Open every day from 4pm till late.

MULLUMBIMBY

Yaman Mullumbimby

62 Stuart St, Mullumbimby
6684 3778
www.yamanmullumbimby.com.au

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

Coffee, malawach rolls, pita pockets, falafel, traditional Yemenite spices and all your favourites, always freshly made.

Drop in for an authentic atmosphere.
Dine in or takeaway.

The Empire

20 Burringbar St, Mullum
6684 2306

Open 7 days 9am–3pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
empiremullum.com.au
Orders: mryum.com/theempire

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

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

Paséyo

Corner of Stuart and Tincogan Streets,
Mullumbimby
0498 010 881

Monday–Friday
6.30am–2.30pm
Saturday 7am–2pm

Healthy, fresh, balanced and nutrient dense meals that create a sensory delight for our customers.

Buddha bowls, smoothies, coffee, cold-pressed juices, and so much more.

NASHUA

Frida's Field

76 Booyong Road,
Nashua.

Open 12–4pm Fri–Sun.

Bookings via our website
www.fridasfield.com

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

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

NEWRYBAR

Harvest

18-22 Old Pacific Highway
Newrybar NSW 2479

02 6687 2644

www.harvest.com.au
@harvestnewrybar

RESTAURANT
Lunch | Wed–Sun | 12pm–2.30pm
Dinner | Fri & Sat | 5.30pm–8.30pm

DELI
Mon & Tues | 8am–2pm
Wed–Sun | 8am–3pm

COFFEE CART
Mon & Tues | 6.30am–2pm
Wed–Sun | 6.30am–3pm

CATERING

Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

E: lizzijjackson@gmail.com
P: 0414 895 441

GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS AVAILABLE

Issue# 36.49
May 18–24, 2022
Editor: Eve Jeffery
Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
Copy deadline: 5pm each Friday
Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
P: 02 6684 1777
W: echo.net.au/entertainment

Seven

ENTERTAINMENT

DAVID BOWIE'S HIGH WIRE REBEL

Rebel is a glittering glam rock non-stop circus Bowie party! 'Bowie' like you've never seen him, *Rebel* is a live circus rock tribute to the original rebel, David Bowie. Stage dive into the mosh pit for a night of live music, glittering glam rock, phenomenal acrobatics, breathtaking aerials and spectacular heart stopping sideshow.

Live music combined with circus and comedy brings to life an incredible body of work that spanned over 50 years, and an aesthetic that broke ground and inspired generations.

Headlined by the incredible multi-award winning **Stewart Reeve**, and featuring a rockstar band of artists from across artistic genres and co-created by Highwire Entertainment, *Rebel* is a live energy circus rock 'n' roll party.

Friday, 1 July at 8pm.

For more info, to book tickets and to see the teaser trailer, go to www.byrontheatre.com.

CAN ART REDEEM US?

Can art forgive the unforgivable? Art history is overflowing with stories of artists behaving badly, and while our greatest artists leave a legacy that is a rare gift to the world, for those closest to them, this gift often comes at a great price.

This month, **The Drill Hall Theatre Company** brings to life Leo Bailey, Australia's greatest living artist, whose genius battles to survive the effects of alcohol and self-loathing.

Directed by former NIDA teacher and actor, **Liz Chance**, and written by **Debra Oswald**, creator of the celebrated television series *Offspring*, ***Mr Bailey's Minder*** is a funny and moving play about friendship, ego, and art, which reveals the luminous inner beauty of ordinary men and women scarred by their life's experiences.

Featuring powerful performances by **Abby Green**, **Gregory Aitken**, **Kasadevi Curtis** and **Tom Davies**, and stunning production design by **Toni Appleton** and **Claire Atkins**, the play runs from **9–26 June** and includes three free performances for flood relief.

NSW Dine & Discover Vouchers are also welcome. Visit www.drillhalltheatre.org.au to book and for full details. Enquiries contact 0420 986 570.

LISMORE EISTEDDFOD CANCELLED

Owing to covid the Lismore Musical Festival Society's 2020 and 2021 Lismore Eisteddfods were cancelled. After two years organisers thought nothing would stop them going ahead with their 110th Eisteddfod, which was planned for August and September this year.

They didn't anticipate the most devastating flood to hit Lismore in recorded history. All their venues were severely damaged and it will take months to repair them.

The Society's supply of prize banners and trophies has been destroyed. All their perpetual trophies, which were displayed in the Lismore City Library, were water damaged, some beyond repair.

Over 100 years of Lismore Eisteddfod records and memorabilia were swept away by the flood.

The Lismore Eisteddfod has continued to showcase our local amateur talent for over 100 years, despite interruptions caused by two world wars, two pandemics and a world depression – and now a catastrophic flood. The overall structure of the Eisteddfod is sound, but the Society have been left with no option but to cancel the 2022 Lismore Eisteddfod.

Each year they receive entries from dance and music studios, schools and individual competitors. They look forward to welcoming you all once again, at the Lismore Eisteddfod in 2023.

Ways to listen to your local radio station

You choose. Listen from your device at bayfm.org or via free apps like TuneIn, Radioau, iHeart and Community Radio Plus. Drive around the Byron Shire and tune in at 99.9FM. Listen to any show, at a time that suits you at bayfm.org/guide. Select the day your fav show is on, find your show and sit back and relax.

Win Angus Stone's Rose Pink Cadillac

The good folk at Dope Lemon have extended their offer. Subscribe to BayFM (including renewals) by 31 May – and you'll get:

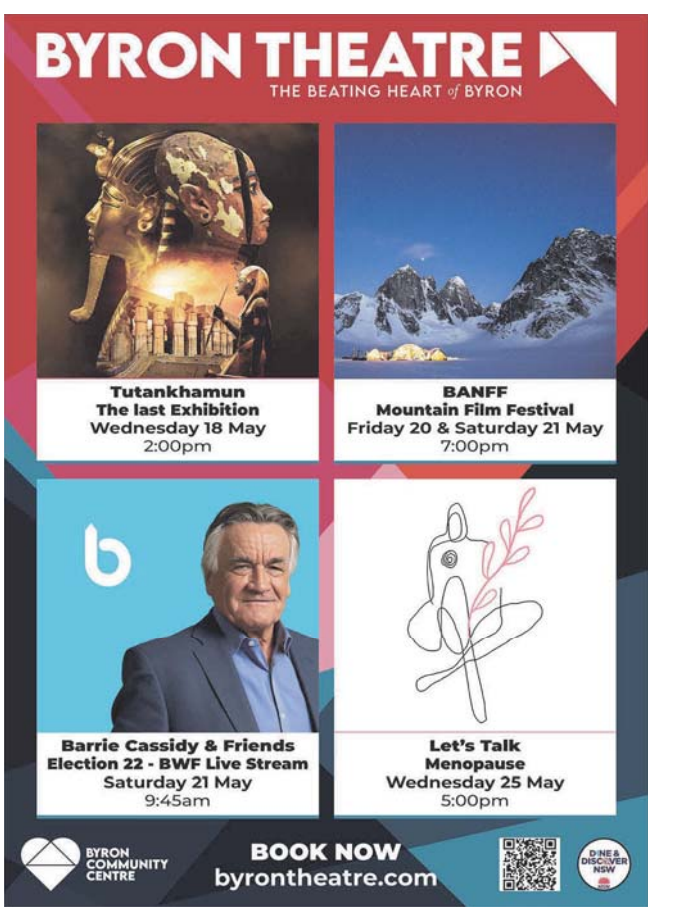
A free download of Dope Lemon's Rose Pink Cadillac album.

Meet Angus Stone at BayFM's live broadcast at Fallen Broken Street on 26 May 2022.

A chance to win a real 1960 Rose Pink Cadillac as part of a national promo.

BYRON BayFM 99.9 FM

bayfm.org
Listen like a local.



Seven

WE ALL NEED A GOOD LAUGH

Byron Comedy Festival returns for 2022 with more than 20 artists to tickle your funny bone.

It's ideal timing because we all need – and deserve – a laugh.

Let's face it, with covid and floods, 2022 hasn't been the funniest of years. It might not seem like the biggest priority right now to take time to be entertained by a comedian, but this festival wants to remind you that laughter is a much-needed release when times are tough.

Laughter increases our intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates our hearts, lungs and muscles, and loads our brains with feel-good endorphins. So, phone a friend and book in some live laughs.

Choose from **Sammy J's** politically-infused songs, **Melanie Bracewell's** Kiwi-accented wit, **Lawrence Mooney's** dulcet-radio-voice gags, **Adam Zwar's** musings on whether you can be both woke and funny, **Sam Simmon's** unconventional silliness, **Sean Choolburra's** high-energy *Black Fella Yarns*, **Lindsay Webb's** warm-up-guy skills, **Chris Ryan's** laconic newcomer magic, and **Damien Power** and **Jacques Barrett's** double-dynamite show.

Mandy Nolan and **Ellen Briggs** will perform *Women Like Us* – yep, even if Mandy is a fully-fledged politician, and there's a great lineup of local comedians in the Local Flavours Comedy Smorgasbord, including Ballina's **Alexandra Hudson**, with more to be confirmed.

The festival doesn't forget the kids. There are three kid-friendly shows at the **Surf Club** on **Sunday 12 June:** *A Bit of Blue* is a wonderful and captivating detective-story puppet show; *The Magical World of Crazy Science* will open eyes in wonder at columns of elephant toothpaste and mountains of slime, and; **Rebel Bingo** is a family-friendly game of bingo crossed with a twister-fuelled dance class. A **Sunday Family Fun Pass** gives you access to all three shows for a puppetry-science-bingo- filled afternoon.

Can't decide? We hear you! Festival Passes give you access to multiple shows, with a sizable discount. **Friday and Saturday Night Passes** are new to the festival menu and will let you push the fun-dial to max!

Another option is to take pot-luck at the **Best of the Fest** closing gig. Who will be in the lineup? You'll find out on the night and can guarantee laughs from host Mandy Nolan. This show was voted the 'most hilarious' in 2021.

Thursday to Sunday, 9–12 June, at the Beach Hotel and Byron Bay Surf Club.
For more info visit: www.byroncomedyfest.com
Single tickets from $20–$50, Festival Pass $55–$299.

IT DOESN'T GET MUCH FUNNIER THAN AKMAL

This month the **Big Gig Comedy** event at **Ballina RSL** features **Akmal** with support **Bron Lewis** and a guest MC.

Akmal returns to Ballina RSL by popular demand. Although we're not sure who made these demands and how popular they were. Akmal is one of the funniest comedians in the world. The fact that he has written this blurb does not take away from his genius.

He will be doing a 'best of' show, bringing comedic gold selected from the previous 25 years. Some people have suggested that he's doing this because he is lazy and could not be bothered writing a new show. These people are ignorant and most likely lesser comedians who are jealous of his talent and good looks. Happy ending guaranteed (for an extra 20 bucks).

No kids, no real estate agents, no refunds.

Supporting Akmal is Bron Lewis – Bron is a Brisbane-based comic, who is desperately trying to shed her Melbourne skivvie collection to fit in up here. She shifted careers from being a high school teacher to a stand up comedian when she realised the money was worse and the audience could swear at her more. She has three kids – one, an infamous covid baby – and she accepts rent from them in the currency of singular socks and eye-rolls. As you can tell, she only makes the most questionable of decisions, but she does them with a confused smile and dry wit.

Bron is a four-time winner of the internationally acclaimed The Moth Storytelling Night, and she is set to take the stage for the Grand Slam in Melbourne. Her love for storytelling brought her to comedy, where she has delighted in combining the two.

The fun begins Ballina RSL, 26 May. Doors 7.30pm, show 8pm.
Tickets: Member $17, Guest $20.

Lismore Musical Festival Society presents
110th Lismore Eisteddfod
29th August to 14th September 2022
CANCELLED FOR 2022
Drama / Spoken Word
Instrumental
Dance
Vocal
Schools
lismoreeisteddfod.com.au

THE JEZABELS × PRISONER
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
WE LOST THE SEA
THURSDAY 09 JUNE
THE NORTHERN
TICKETS AT LIVENATION.COM.AU
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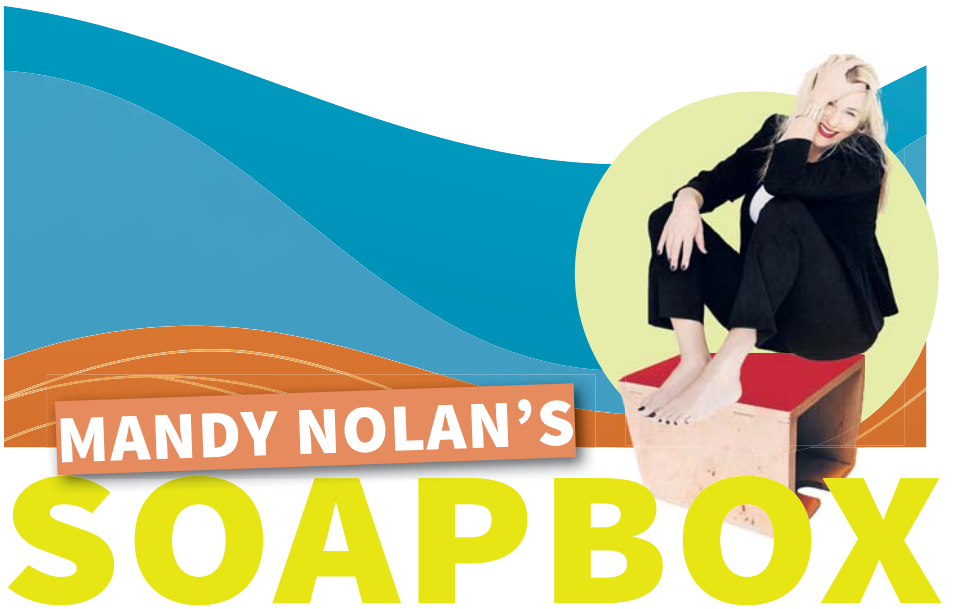


MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

INSIGHTS FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

The election is almost here. Hooray.
It's time we got down with Elvis Presley's suggestion of 'A little less conversation, a little more action, please.'
I'm a big fan of action.

I've been at this for 14 months, and as a writer who holds the ear of the community each week I've been cognizant not to turn this into a hostage situation. For twenty years I've talked about politics and social issues and shared insights into my personal experiences, but this is one journey where I've had to keep you locked out.

I've been mindful of what I should write about. Trying only to touch on general issues that I would always write a response to, and to not use the privilege of a column as a chance to push policy. So I thought, instead, in this last week that I might share a few insights on the journey thus far.

It's been another wonderful opportunity to find the right line and practise ethics.

Which, by the way, is Insight Number One: Being ethical in politics makes you a target for people who don't seem to have any. It's a relentless attempt at a 'Gotcha!'.

So you're a Greenie – what kind of car do you drive? What are you eating? What is that made from? What kind of undies are you wearing? Are they free trade? Locally sourced? Do they have a picture of Adam Bandt on the front?

Insight Number Two: Most people don't understand preferencing. This is self-explanatory. A lot of people are cranky about the mandates and want to send a message to the government; ironically, as it happens, by giving their votes to parties who channel their preferences to the same government who brought in the mandates! Go figure.

Insight Number Three: Don't even consider politics unless you have some serious stamina. This is not a choice for someone who likes to sleep in or needs an arvo nap. I've been getting up at 4.30am most mornings and putting in 16-hour days for months. Instead of beating myself up for not going to the gym, I like to think of my membership as a business support – kind of like sponsoring a kid through World Vision, except I'm sponsoring a missing woman at a pump class. As a candidate, when you go through probity to check you don't have a criminal record they should do an energy probity as well. If you don't have capacity to work for long stretches without any downtime then I don't think this is your gig. Fortunately, as an artist in a regional area, I've had to create my own work which has a similar energy footprint. And I've raised five kids. I know what it's like to put in long hours when everyone is asleep and to be constantly unappreciated.

Insight Number Four: Some people will be very nasty. You expect that. What gets a bit creepy is when they obsess, when it's 'nasty love' and they can't get enough of you. Social media is a wonderful platform for angry people full of hate who want to say mean stuff. I'm glad I am able to help them.

Insight Number Five: There are lots more people who are wonderful and amazing. People who stop me in the street and hug me and say 'Thank you!' and tell me they believe in me. It's really beautiful and it keeps me going. Don't stop.

Insight Number Six: Even though there are so many more people who appreciate me, some days you can't help but focus on the haters. It's like being covered in ants. I remind myself to shower myself in the love and positivity of my community. It washes the ants down the drain. If you're trolling me on this, please note – this *is* personal. I am talking to *you*. And you've just gone down my plughole. Sorry. I still feel for you. I'm relentlessly empathetic. It's why I don't block you.

Insight Number Seven: You can't know everything in the world. Stepping into politics has been like trying to get your head around EVERYTHING. All that *has* happened, all that *just* happened, *and* how you want to change it. It's exciting, and immense, and overwhelming. This is when I defer to experts. Thank god for science (that's an ironic statement btw).

Insight Number Eight: Family and friends are everything. When you expand to reach out to your community – they expand to support you. The thrill of speaking truth to power with the wind of your people at your back. It's quite an incredible feeling.

Insight Number Nine: You need more undies. It's the best advice for anyone entering politics. The washing machine and I were once in intimate embrace. Now we are estranged. So you go get a back-up supply, that way you always have your big girl undies on!

Insight Number Ten: Change is possible. But you have to make it happen. Make the change.

GIG GUIDE

WEDNESDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **CHRIS DEL MAR**, 5.30PM **JEROME WILLIAMS**
- BYRON THEATRE 2PM **TUTANKHAMUN: THE LAST EXHIBITION – ART ON SCREEN**
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 6.15PM **REGGAE AND RAINBOW FEAT. BOMBACLOCK**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6.30PM **MUSICAL BINGO**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6PM **STEVEN MICHAEL**

THURSDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 2.30PM **ALEX TILLY**, 8.30PM **SOPHDEXX**, 9PM **PEKING DUK + NYXEN**
- OCA, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MAYRA CORTES**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 6.30PM **ACID BLEED**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **KIRTAN BY TEMPLE OF THE SACRED SOUND**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM **ARC – LET IT BE**
- VARIOUS VENUES, GOLD COAST, **BLUES ON BROADBEACH**
- SERENE EARTH SANCTUARY, MYOCUM, 6PM **DOCTORS OF DEVOTION FOR BHAKTIATSU KIRTAN**

FRIDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE WHISKEYS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 12.30PM **HAYLEY GRACE**, 3PM **KARUAH**, 6PM **LUKE HAYWARD**, 9.30PM **BILLY OTTO**, 10.30PM **DJ QUENDO**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2022**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **COLBY + OFF DUTY**
- LONE GOAT GALLERY, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **CAITLIN REILLY – 'STREETS OF THIS TOWN' EXHIBITION OPENING**
- PEEK GALLERY, BYRON BAY, 6PM **CONCRETE CANDY – EXHIBITION OPENING**
- OCA, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JAYEN & PASSANDO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **ASHER BEAU**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SPIN SISTA**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **BONES & JONES+ BABY COOL**
- ROCHDALE THEATRE, LISMORE, 7PM **A PROPERTY OF THE CLAN**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MIKE WINKWORTH**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM SCREENING **'LITTLE TORNADOES' AND Q&A WITH DIRECTOR AARON WILSON**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BRETT HEALY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **VANESSA AMOROSI**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 8PM **BRITISH INDIA**
- VARIOUS VENUES, GOLD COAST, **BLUES ON BROADBEACH**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **JUSTIN JONES**, 9.30PM **OILS – ANGELS – DIVINYLS**

SATURDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GOODRICH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **WOMEN IN THE FRONT**, 12.30PM **YASMINDI**, 3PM **DONNY SHADES**, 5.30PM **SOFIA ISELLA**, 6.46PM **STEREO,** 8PM **DANI TEVELUWE,** 9PM **LOOSE CONTENT,** 10PM **LOCAL SAFARI,** 11PM **JAGUAR JONZE**
- BYRON THEATRE 9.45AM **BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL LIVE STREAM: SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL LIVE & LOCAL PRESENTS BARRIE CASSIDY & FRIENDS: ELECTION 2022,** 7PM **BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2022**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **GREAT GABLE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ SOLOMON DASS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **THE GIN BUGGS**
- CLUB LENNOX 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM **KAILEY PALLAS**
- ROCHDALE THEATRE, LISMORE, 2PM **A PROPERTY OF THE CLAN**, 7PM **A PROPERTY OF THE CLAN**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **SUNSET SOIREES WITH BILL JACOBI**, 8PM **HATZ FITZ & CARA**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **DR BAZ**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7.30PM **RUSSELL MORRIS**
- VARIOUS VENUES, GOLD COAST, **BLUES ON BROADBEACH**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **JETHRO,** 9.30PM **REMEDY**

SUNDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MAJESTIC KNIGHTS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **GOODRICH**, 10PM **DJ SLIM RUSTY**
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 5PM **MARK CHAPMAN**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **RICKI WOOD**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **BEARFOOT**
- SACRED HEARTH SANCTUARY, MAIN ARM, 5.30PM **NIENKE & DAVID**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **ANDY JANS-BROWN**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, **SABOTAGE**
- ROCHDALE THEATRE, LISMORE, 2PM A **PROPERTY OF THE CLAN**
- VARIOUS VENUES, GOLD COAST, **BLUES ON BROADBEACH**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 1PM **STEVEN MICHAEL**, 5PM **LISA HUNT**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM **GREGG PETERSON**

MONDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JOHN CROSBIE**

TUESDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **KANE MUIR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- OCA, BYRON BAY, 6PM **IGOR & LEO CIGANO**
- BYRON SCHOOL OF ART, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **OMAR MUSA: KILLERNOVA**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **DENISE DRYSDALE**

WEDNESDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FINTAN**
- BYRON THEATRE 5PM **LET'S TALK MENOPAUSE**
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 6.15PM **REGGAE AND RAINBOW FEAT. BOMBACLOCK**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **6.30PM MUSICAL BINGO**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6PM **ROB RHODES**
- EUREKA HALL 7PM FESTIVAL OS SMALL HALLS – **ASH BELL & SARA TINDLEY AND MELANIE HORSNELL**

Seven ENTERTAINMENT

CONCRETE CANDY AT PEEK

Peek Gallery presents *Concrete Candy* featuring a selection of local and international artists.

Concrete Candy is the second major group show for Peek Gallery, following *East of Everywhere* in 2021.

The exhibition features landscape, portraiture, abstraction and representation, alongside sculpture, miniatures and textile art, in what is set to be a stunning exhibition.

Artists are included in the show are from the Peek Gallery stable: **Gabrielle Pool**, **Davide Uliana**, **Bill Undery**, **Libby Pool**, **Warren Fox**, **Cameron Foggo**, **Ben Hellewell**, and a select list of feature artists: **Johnny Romeo**, **Tammy Whitworth**, **Victoria Rose Richards**, **Sam Lucas, Freya Tripp**, **Rhonda Armistead**, **Jane Couttie**, **Cassandra Scott-Finn**, **Gabrielle Leonard**, **Rachael Dalzell**, **Kate Konstantina**, **Christian Palmer**, **Chilli Evans**, **Indii Evans** and **Dylan de Kantzow** and **Ash Thomas**.

Artist and mother, **Tammy Whitworth**, communicates pressures that surround her every day through a process that is intentionally small, heavily detailed and controlled. Sensory overwhelm, noise, commotion and mess are transformed into something both beautiful and strange in her stunning work *Secure*.

Contrasting minutiae is *Smoke Spin* by internationally acclaimed contemporary pop artist Johnny Romeo. Soar through the heavens and breathe in the sweet, crisp air of good vibes with childhood icon Smokey Bear in this gleefully quirky ode to optimism.

A Solitary Lifestyle (*And I Like It That Way*) is a nine-inch embroidery by artist Victoria Rose Richards, from the other side of the globe. Textile artist Victoria Rose Richards creates embroidered artworks based on the rural English landscape. Rendered in clusters of french knots and long, straight satin stitches, each highly detailed piece looks like an aerial view of the countryside.

Working in a more organic way, Italian born painter, **Davide Uliana**, paints mainly abstracts and abstract landscapes in oil and acrylic. Working on multiple pieces at a time, the artist relies on emotions rather than subjects and lets the painting process dictate direction; big moody brushstrokes normally prevail. *Nothing To See Here* by Uliana will be on show from 20 May at Peek Gallery.

Peek want to extend a warm winter welcome to locals and out-of-towners looking to enjoy some eye candy and relax with a beverage.

Opening night event 20 May, 6–8pm, is proudly sponsored by Karkalla Byron Bay, Frankies Gelato Naturale, Byron Bay Spirits Company, and Palm Valley.

***Concrete Candy* opens 20 May in the gallery at 7/8 Fletcher St Byron Bay. Please contact Peek Gallery to receive a digital catalogue www.peekgallery.com.**

CINEMA

FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE SECRETS OF DUMBLEDORE

The sequel to *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (2016) and *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwal*d (2018), *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore* is the third instalment in the *Fantastic Beasts* film series and the eleventh overall in the Wizarding World franchise.

The ensemble cast includes **Eddie Redmayne**, **Jude Law**, **Ezra Miller**, **Dan Fogle**r, **Alison Sudol**, **Callum Turner**, **Jessica Williams**, **Katherine Waterston**, and **Mads Mikkelsen**.

Set several years after the events of its predecessor, the film sees Albus Dumbledore tasking Newt Scamander and his allies with a mission that takes them into the heart of dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald's army.

This time the story takes viewers to Kweilin, China, in 1932. Newt Scamander helps a Qilin – a magical creature that can see into one's soul as well as the future – give birth. Gellert Grindelwald's acolytes, led by Credence Barebone, has other ideas for the future of the newborn Qilin (pronounced 'Chillin').

Albus Dumbledore recruits Newt, his brother Theseus, Ilvermorny Charms teacher Lally Hicks, Senegalese-French wizard Yusuf Kama, American No-Maj Jacob Kowalski and Newt's assistant Bunty Broadacre, to thwart Grindelwald's plan for world domination – and the adventure begins!

You can see *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore* at Byron's Palace cinema this week.

FIRESTARTER

Firestarter is a science fiction horror film directed by **Keith Thomas**, from a screenplay by **Scott Teems**, based on the novel of the same name by Stephen King. It is a remake of the 1984 film adaptation of the same name.

Firestarter tells the story of a couple desperately trying to hide their daughter, Charlie, from a shadowy federal agency that wants to harness her unprecedented gift for turning fire into a weapon of mass destruction. As Charlie turns 11, the fire becomes harder and harder to control. When a mysterious operative finally finds the family, he tries to seize Charlie once and for all – but she has other plans.

The opening credits show the parents talking to a doctor in a clinical trial, who explains to them that they will be injected with an experimental chemical drug known as Lot-6, which unbeknownst to them will give them supernatural powers – one gaining telepathy, and the other, telekinesis.

The movie begins with a flashback of baby Charlene (Charlie) McGee in her crib as she spontaneously sets the room on fire with her pyrokinesis powers.

The film stars **Zac Efron**, **Ryan Kiera Armstrong**, **Sydney Lemmon**, **Kurtwood Smith**, **John Beasley**, **Michael Greyeyes**, and **Gloria Reuben**.

You can see *Firestarter* this week at Ballina Fair Cinema.

PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times: Thu 19 May - Wed 25 May NFT = No Free Tickets

SESSION TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Check online for all live session times

SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL Encore Screenings! Sessions: www.spanishfilmfestival.com

SPECIAL SCREENINGS
MAIGRET (M) Thu: 11:00am # Fri-Sun: 2:00pm @
TWENTY ONE PILOTS CINEMA EXPERIENCE (PG) Thu: 7:00pm
THE BOB'S BURGERS MOVIE (PG) Tue: 6:30pm @
TOP GUN: MAVERICK (M) Wed: 6:00, 6:30^, 7:00, 7:30, 8:30pm@

FAMILY FILMS
PINOCCHIO: A TRUE STORY (PG) Daily: 11:00am
THE BAD GUYS (PG) Thu: 4:00 Fri-Sun: 11:10, 12:00, 4:00pm Mon-Wed: 11:10, 4:00pm

ALL FILMS
DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS (M) Daily except Wed: 11:30, 1:30, 2:15, 4:50, 6:40, 7:30 Wed: 11:30, 1:20, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 8:20pm
DOWNTON ABBEY: A NEW ERA (PG) Thu/Wed: 11:00, 1:00, 3:30 Fri/Mon/Tue: 11:00, 1:00, 3:30, 6:40 Sat: 11:00, 1:00, 6:40 Sun: 11:00, 12:50, 6:40
EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE (MA15+) Thu/Mon: 11:20, 1:20, 4:00, 5:45, 8:20pm Fri-Sun: 1:20, 4:00, 5:45, 8:20pm Tue: 11:20, 1:20, 4:00, 5:45, 8:30pm Wed: 11:20, 1:20, 3:50, 5:45pm
FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE SECRETS OF DUMBLEDORE (M) Daily: 1:30, 8:30pm
THE INNOCENTS (MA15+) Daily except Wed: 11:10, 6:10pm Wed: 11:10, 3:45pm
FAREWELL, MR. HAFFMANN (M) Daily: 11:00, 4:10pm
FATHER STU (M) Daily except Wed: 3:45pm
FIRESTARTER (MA15+) Thu/Sat/Sun 8:20pm Mon/Tue: 6:15, 8:20pm
HOW TO PLEASE A WOMAN (M) Daily: 11:15, 1:30, 3:30, 6:15pm
LAST SEEN ALIVE (M) Thu/Mon: 2:00, 4:20, 6:20 Fri-Sun: 4:20, 6:20 Tue/Wed: 2:00, 4:20pm
OPERATION MINCEMEAT (M) Daily except Wed: 1:15, 3:50, 6:30 Wed: 1:15, 3:50, 6:00pm
THE DROVER'S WIFE: THE LEGEND OF MOLLY JOHNSON (MA15+) Daily: 11:00, 1:15, 8:30pm
THE NORTHMAN (MA15+) Daily except Wed: 8:30pm

MORNING TEA @ PREVIEWS ^ GRAND OPENING

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay Book online: palacecinemas.com.au
Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking validation for all Palace Cinemas customers

Admission Prices:
Adults: $15
Stud/Conc: $13
Senior: $12
Child: $11

Wednesday All tickets $11

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS
Thursday May 19th to Wednesday May 25th

Tel: (02) 6686 9600
ballinafaircinemas.com.au
We accept the Dine and Discover $25 vouchers

MAY	THU 19TH	FRI 20TH	SAT 21ST	SUN 22ND	MON 23RD	TUE 24TH	WED 25TH
ALINE M 126 MIN French with Subtitles		7:00 PM					
DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS M 126 MIN	12:10 PM 2:30 PM 5:10 PM 7:25 PM	12:10 PM 2:30 PM 5:10 PM 7:05 PM	12:10 PM 2:30 PM 5:10 PM 7:05 PM	12:10 PM 2:30 PM 5:10 PM 7:05 PM	12:10 PM 2:30 PM 5:10 PM 7:05 PM	12:10 PM 2:30 PM 5:10 PM 7:05 PM	12:10 PM 2:30 PM 5:10 PM 7:05 PM
DOWNTON ABBEY: A NEW ERA PG 125 MIN	10:20 AM 2:50 PM	10:20 AM 2:50 PM	10:20 AM 2:50 PM	10:20 AM 2:50 PM	10:20 AM 2:50 PM	10:20 AM 2:50 PM	10:20 AM 2:50 PM
FAREWELL TO THE NIGHT M 102 MIN French (subtitled)				2:00 PM			
FAREWELL, MR. HAFFMANN M 116 MIN French (subtitled)			5:00 PM				
FIRESTARTER MA15+ 94 MIN	8:00 PM	4:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	4:30 PM
HOW TO PLEASE A WOMAN M 107 MIN	10:10 AM 12:40 PM 4:50 PM 7:00 PM	10:10 AM 12:40 PM 4:50 PM 7:30 PM	10:10 AM 12:40 PM 7:30 PM	10:10 AM 12:40 PM 7:30 PM	10:10 AM 12:40 PM 4:50 PM 7:30 PM	10:10 AM 12:40 PM 4:50 PM 7:30 PM	10:10 AM 12:40 PM 4:50 PM 7:30 PM
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2 PG 122 MIN			11:50 AM	11:50 AM			
THE BAD GUYS PG 100 MIN			10:00 AM	10:00 AM			
THE DROVER'S WIFE: THE LEGEND OF MOLLY JOHNSON MA15+ 109 MIN	11:50 AM 6:00 PM	11:50 AM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	11:50 AM 6:00 PM	11:50 AM 6:00 PM	11:50 AM
THE DUKE M 96 MIN	10:00 AM 2:00 PM	10:00 AM 2:00 PM			10:00 AM 2:00 PM	10:00 AM 2:00 PM	10:00 AM 2:00 PM
THE KITCHEN BRIGADE 97 MIN French (Subtitled)			2:00 PM				
THE LOST CITY M 112 MIN	3:55 PM		3:55 PM	3:55 PM	3:55 PM	3:55 PM	
THE YOUNG LOVERS M 113 MIN French (Subtitled)				5:00 PM			
TOP GUN: MAVERICK M 130 MIN Advanced Screening							7:15 PM

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

58 Helen Street, **South Golden Beach**

GOING TO AUCTION SAT 28/05/22 – 1.30pm

4 2 2

Current dual rental income plus DA approved for third dwelling.
Don't miss out on the rare and unique opportunity. This property is a compelling reason why you should buy in South Golden Beach today!
The large 1111m² beachside property with 2x2 bedroom homes and DA approval for further development.
Quiet, end of the road, waterfront position and 500m from the pristine beach.
Highly sought after South Golden beach, offers a peaceful, relaxed, seaside lifestyle with a friendly community.
- Spacious living areas and bedrooms, north facing outdoor living, huge level garden.
- Only minutes to the beach, 5min to Brunswick Heads, 15min to Byron bay.

Inspect 18/5/2022: 10–10.30am & 2–2.30pm
25/5/2022: 10–10.30am & 2–2:30pm

Contact **Jordan Byrnes**
0493 122 415

@ljhookerbrunswickheads

ljhooker.com.au | 6685 0177
Residential | Commercial | Rural | Finance

Mr Property Services

Tweed Billabong Park - Tweed Heads South

Palm Lake Resort - Banora Point

Banksia Waters - Tweed Heads West

The Palms Village - Tweed Heads South

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

Katrina Beohm
real estate

coastal & hinterland sales

Lismore Office has Re-Opened!

With our three offices now operating again, we would love for you to come in & say "Hi", or contact any of us on the phone numbers below.

Katrina Beohm 0467 001 122 ***Christopher Plim 0467 000 222*** ***Rachael Jenkins 0499 066 087***

Jemma McInerney | Zoe O'Reilly | Gail Beohm | Rachael Jenkins | Katrina Beohm | Christopher Plim | Hayley Beohm | Emily Hughes

"From our first contact Katrina was completely committed to selling my property. Her entire team and staff including photographers, were professional, friendly and very competent. All my queries and questions were taken care of promptly and I felt great confidence throughout the process. I thoroughly recommend Katrina to anyone selling their home."
Alison - Vendor

0459 066 087 BALLINA | BYRON BAY | LISMORE kbrealestate.com.au

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

Spacious, Private Home – Great Location

4 | 2 | 2 | 853M²

- Situated on a generous 853m2 block overlooking acres of bush
- The home features a unique floor plan with indoor and outdoor living being a key focus, with 3 access points to the outdoor entertaing areas
- Excellent location within walking distance to Tallow Beach, schools, Roadhouse cafe and only a short 5-minute drive to Byron Bay's Township and world-renowned beaches
- High cathedral ceilings and large windows bring character to the home

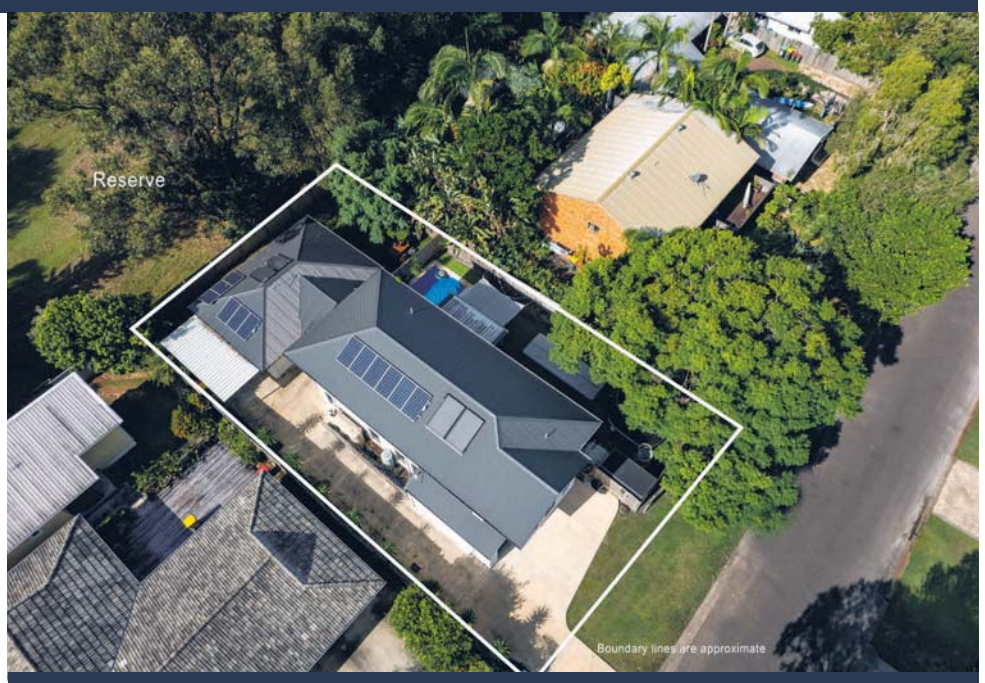
16 Blueberry Court, Byron Bay

Price: $1.95m – $2.1m

Open: Saturday 21st May 1–1.30pm

Su Reynolds
02 6685 8466

Luke Elwin
0421 375 635



Two Self-contained Dwellings in Central Sunrise Location

5 | 3 | 3 | 700M²

- 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: $2m – $2.2m

Open: Friday 20th May 3–3.30pm
Saturday 21st May 11–11.30am

Oliver Aldridge
0421 171 499

Paul Banister
0438 856 552

Hinterland Lifestyle in Tranquil Tintenbar

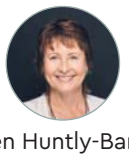
3 | 2 | 2 | 3364M²

- Only 400m to Teven-Tintenbar Public School, 2-minute drive to Tintenbar General Store and a 6-minute drive to Killen falls
- The home includes a 4th multi-purpose room perfect for a home office, childrens room or yoga studio
- Flooded with natural light that reaches every inch of the open floor plan
- Covered alfresco dining space featuring an outdoor BBQ area
- Level 3364qm block creates endless opportunity to explore renovations (STCA)

6 Hillcrest Drive, Tintenbar

Price: $1.475m – $1.6m

Open: By Appointment



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232

Olivia Coates
0408 966 098

Immaculate Family Home with Stunning Luxury Finishes

4 | 2 | 5 | 765M²

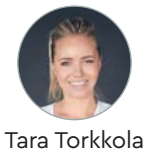
- Recently undertaking an extensive renovation with a Scandinavian influence this home offers a relaxed coastal lifestyle, moments to local cafes and local beaches
- Greeted by wide Blackbutt timber floors with soft matt finish, custom timber joinery throughout and seamless flow to the wide wraparound 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: By Appointment

Olivia Coates
0408 966 098



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698

35 FLETCHER ST, BYRON BAY NSW 2481
PH: 02 6685 8466

SALES@BYRONBAYFN.COM
WWW.BYRONBAYFN.COM.AU

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

Quality Craftsmanship in New Architecturally Designed Home

5 | 3 | 2 | 654M²

- Built by a 5th generation local builder with superb craftsmanship and featuring quality finishes and brass tapware
- Outside showcases the entertainers dream with an inducted outdoor BBQ and kitchen area overlooking the exquisite resort style pool
- The home offers ultimate privacy, yet in Byron Bay township and minutes from world renowned beaches
- Equipped with 5 generous bedrooms and 3 bespoke bathrooms

8B Seaview Street, Byron Bay

Price Guide: Expressions of Interest

Open: Saturday 21st May 9.30–10am

Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698

Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049

Dream Country Escape in Gorgeous Byron Hinterland

3 | 2 | 4 | 2.5 ACRES

- This property offers a separate fully self-contained studio, workshop and large garage, making this versatile home full of potential
- The main residence is a solid brick and timber home and showcases gorgeous high pitched ceilings, polished timber flooring, VJ walls and French doors
- Situated on 2.5 acres of land with lovingly maintained gardens, established trees and colourful tropical flowers
- Wraparound verandas encouraging alfresco living

788 Friday Hut Road, Binna Burra

Auction Guide: $2.35m

Open: Wednesday 18th May 10–10.30am
Saturday 21st May 10–10.30am

Oliver Aldridge
0421 171 499

Lee Grimes
0400 462 312

Large Home Plus Secondary Dwelling in Idyllic Lennox Head

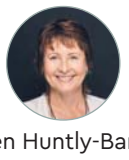
4 | 2 | 4 | 1,913M²

- This property includes a 3-bedroom, 1-bathroom main residence, and additional second fully-approved 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom dwelling
- Located in an established and central precinct in Lennox Head, only a short walk to the vibrant town centre and famous surf breaks
- The main residence is ripe and ready for some renovation making a perfect opportunity for someone to add their personal touch

13 Stonehenge Place, Lennox Head

Price: $1.625m – $1.725m

Open: Wednesday 18th May 12–12.30pm
Saturday 21st May 12–12.30pm



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4 | 3 | 3 | 919M²

- This private and spacious sanctuary is located on a large 919sqm block in one of New Brighton's most desirable streets and is only a 3 minute walk to the golden sands of New Brighton beach
- The property features 4 spacious bedrooms, one of which is a large self-contained studio complete with kitchen and bathroom
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Coast to Country

148 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park

4 3 7

Exceptional Beachside Home/Business Premises

Check out this incredible opportunity to purchase and reap all the income-producing benefits of an amazing beachside holding set in the much sought-after, welcoming coastal community of Suffolk Park.

- Rare, level 1284 square metre lot with unlimited development potential (STCA).
- Beautifully presented family home, ideal for relaxed coastal living.
- Great outdoor entertaining deck with built-in spa and tranquil views of the reserve.
- Ceiling fans throughout, solar hot water and bore water on the property.
- Detached 90 sq.m. workshop with office, bathroom, storeroom and separate driveway.

Agency declares interest

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Sale
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Adrian Hoferek
0477 112 640
adrian.hoferek@oceanshores.rh.com.au

1/25 Strand Avenue, New Brighton

5 3 2

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.

Gate onto The Esplanade for direct beach access.

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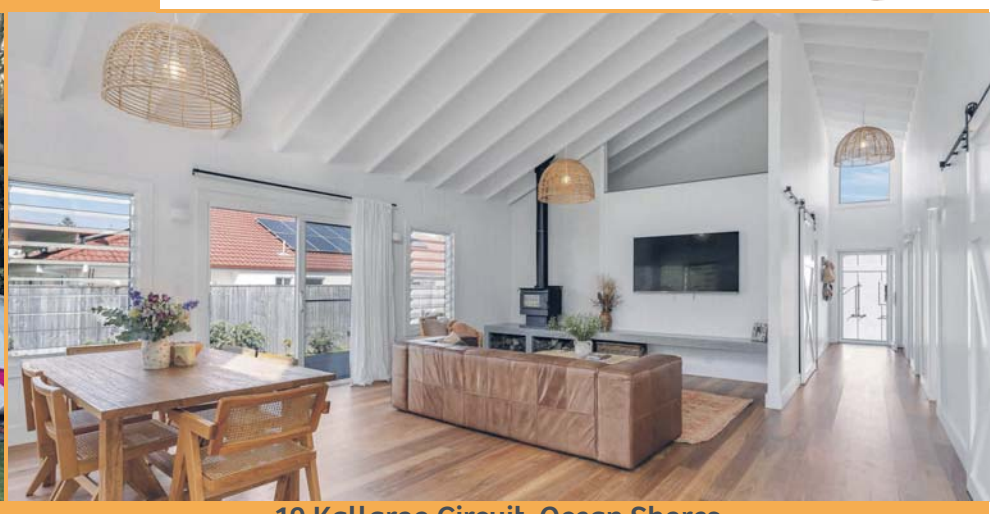

19 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores

4 3 2

750m Stroll to Beautiful South Golden Beach + Approved Granny Flat

Nestled in a quiet corner of exclusive North Ocean Shores, this superb new build captures the very essence of contemporary coastal living.

Fully fenced yard with DA approval for a pool.

Deep freestanding bathtub and rain shower in the family bathroom.

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Elizabeth Hickey
0409 812 229
elizabeth.hickey@murwillumbah.rh.com.au

1 Elanora Avenue, Pottsville

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Invigorating Coastal Lifestyle

Embracing the invigorating coastal lifestyle and set in one of the most desirable, tightly-held pockets of the Tweed Coast, this multi-level executive home strikes an artful balance between traditional elegance and sophisticated modern luxuries.

Conveniently located under half an hour to Gold Coast airport and set on a huge wide block of approx. 841sqm.

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0400 351 311
brett.mcdonald@oceanshores.rh.com

39 Yalla Kool Drive, Ocean Shores

4 2 3

Contemporary Coastal Lifestyle Home with Ocean Views

From its desirable elevated position, this stylish, contemporary family residence showcases stunning ocean views which stretch to Cape Byron and its iconic lighthouse.

Large, sumptuous master bedroom with ensuite, walk-in robe and stacker doors opening to lower timber deck.

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Adrian Hoferek
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adrian.howe@oceanshores.rh.com.au

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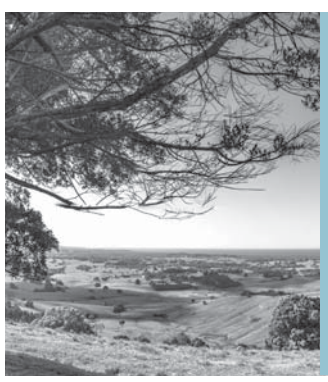

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Open For Inspection

Byron & Beyond Real Estate
- 6178 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 10.30am
- 21 Philip St, South Golden Beach. Sat 12–12.30pm

Elders Real Estate, Brunswick Valley
- 10/2 Arika Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 70 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 7/11 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11–11.30am

First National, Byron Bay
- Unit 17/18 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Tue 12–12.30pm
- 788 Friday Hut Road, Binna Burra. Wed 10–10.30am
- 13 Stonehenge Place, Lennox Head. Wed 12–12.30pm
- Unit 17/18 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Thu 12–12.30pm
- 24 Hillcrest Drive, Tintenbar. Fri 10–10.30am
- 39 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Fri 3–3.30pm
- 8b Seaview Street, Byron Bay. Sat. 9.30–10am
- Unit 17/18 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 788 Friday Hut Road, Binna Burra. Sat 10–10.30am
- Unit 29/6–8 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1576 Hinterland Way, Bangalow. Sat 10.30–11am
- 39 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30pm
- 27 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30pm
- 13 Stonehenge Place, Lennox Head. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 19 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 4 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 16 Blueberry Court, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 2 Citriadora Drive, Ewingsdale. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 21 Carlyle Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 1d short Street, new brighton. Sat 2.30–3pm

Harourts Northern Rivers
- 3/33 Mckinnon Street, east ballina. Sat 9–9.30am
- 22 Isabella drive, skennars head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 37 Catherine crescent, ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 497 Bagotville Road, Meerschaum Vale. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 76 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.45am–12.15pm
- 17 Fitzroy Street, Wardell. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 2 Higgins Place, Cumbalum. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 16 Bannockburn Court, Cumbalum. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 82 Riverside Drive, Tumbulgum. Sat 3–3.30pm

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads
- 58 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 10–10.30am & 2–2.30pm
- 1 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 15 Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 40 Kolora Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 14 Terrara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay
- 8 Blackbutt Place, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 27 Rankin Drive, Bangalow. Sat 9–9.30am
- 53 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 12 Scenic Vista, Ewingsdale. Sat 5.30–6pm
- 45 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 46/12 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk park. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 4/27 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30am
- 6 Hibiscus Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 3/77c Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 26/5–7 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties
- 67 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Wed 12–1pm
- 17 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.45am
- 46 Kallaroo Circuit, North Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.45am

Raine & Horne, Ocean Shores
- 5 Martin Way, Murwillumbah. Wed 11.30am–12pm
- 1417 Kyogle Road, Uki. Fri 11–11.30am
- 27 Manuka Road, Banora Point. Sat 9–9.30am
- 60 Yamble Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30–10am
- 39 Yalla Kool drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 41 Booyong Place, Nobbys Creek. Sat 10–10.30am
- Lot b 6 Binya Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–11am
- 5 Martin Way, Murwillumbah. Sat 11–11.30am
- 177a Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 27 Rangal Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 59 Riverview Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 1 Elanora Avenue, Pottsville. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 148 Broken Head Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30–1.30pm

Real Estate of Distinction Byron Bay
- 35–37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 10–10.45am
- 199–201 Middle Pocket, Middle Pocket. Sat 12.30–1.15pm

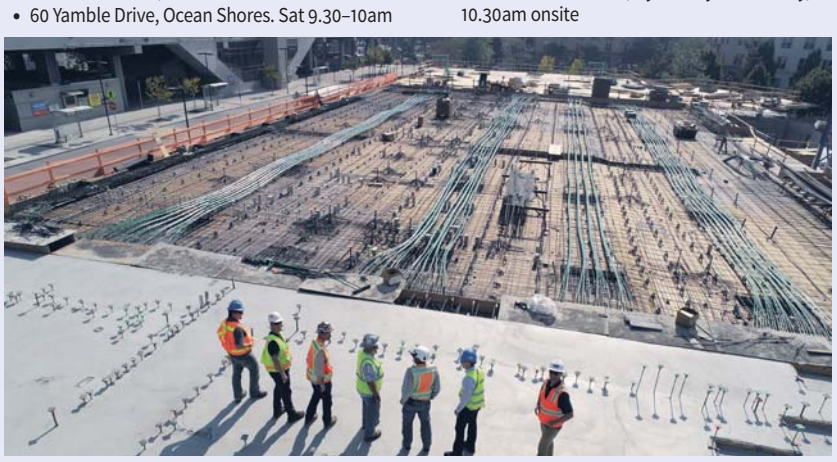
New listings

Raine & Horne Ocean Shores
72 Boonydoon Road, Uki

North Coast Lifestytle Properties
- 46 Kallaroo Circuit, North Ocean Shores

Auctions

First National Byron Bay
- 39 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 28 May, 10.30am onsite



7+ Acres plus panoramic views

21 Fig Tree Lane, Myocum

6 2 2 **$4.9million**

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.

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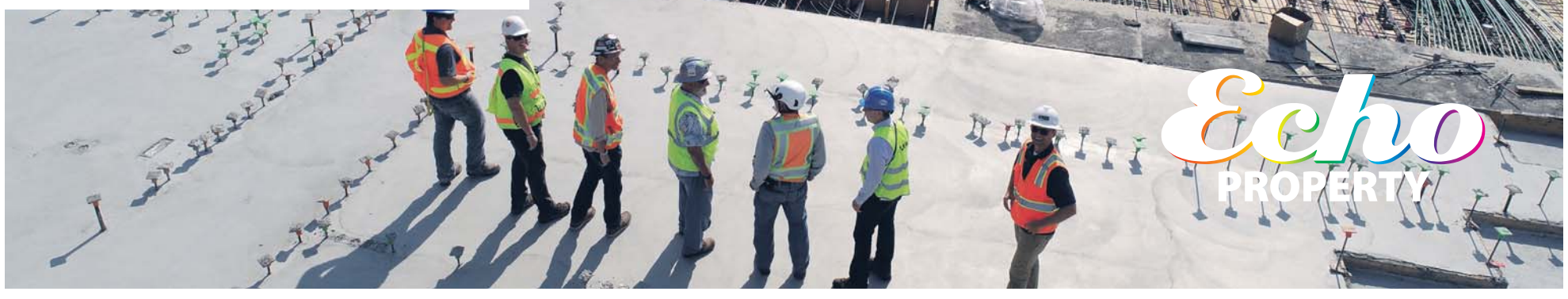

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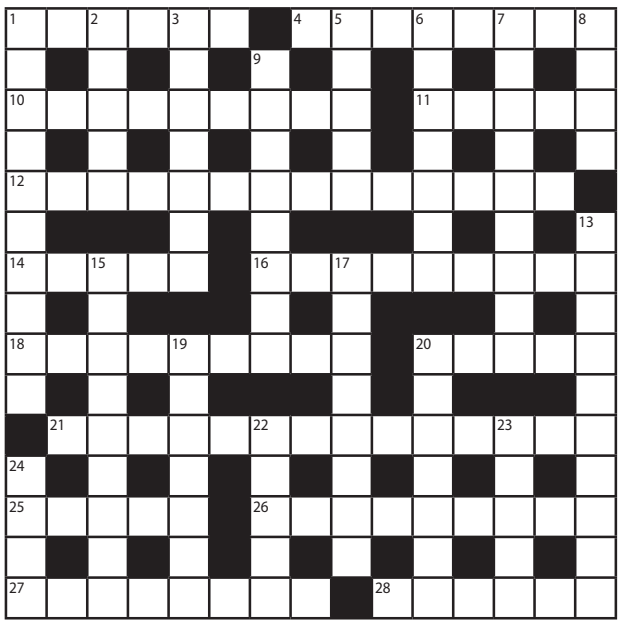
N439



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Irish doctor: I exist to drink (6)
4. Popular Journalist with unbridled bile – not fit for consumption (8)
10. Dryad ambles around about same silly fantasies (9)
11. Small, long and they say it should be stiff (5)
12. Bay, and robust – a funny combination! (6,3,5)
14. Throws out actors (5)
16. Unpleasant crawler to train around jagged rock (9)
18. They sound like hunters – but they're dumb! (9)
20. Medico to listen – but it's depressing (5)
21. Italian city, circle and turn 51 in a fast plane – a tragic combination (5,3,6)
25. 100 competent with a rope (5)
26. Demote, defeat class (9)
27. Jumble of gab (5,3)
28. Burnt out mineral landed (6)

DOWN

1. Gesture around the Spanish – a bit crude (10)
2. Inlet, or French lagoon? (5)
3. Kegs has both hands around English watering holes (7)
5. Smelled journalist following numbers (5)
6. No hope from the French couple (7)
7. Led bandit astray to an assignation from Tinder, perhaps (5,4)
8. Ancient lady, new level (4)
9. Graduate cuts – but they are about equilibrium (8)
13. Article about that place – it's supposed to be comforting (5,5)
15. Exhibition about PR on TV – good training for a fight! (6,3)
17. Actors with feathers are discouraged (4,4)
19, Previously inclined? Fake! (7)
20. Disability Employment Services include illicit drug for unwilling workers (7)
22. Problem, dear – a genus of herons! (5)
23. Setter's a turn with a mature butterfly (5)
24. Mac's back – but he's a con (4)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Take in liquid (6)
4. Unpalatable (8)
10. Reveries (9)
11. Backbone (5)
12. Comedy duo of 1920s–1950s (6,3,5)
14. Selects performers (5)
16. Scavenging insect (9)
18. Monks who remain silent (9)
20. Gloomy (5)
21. Play by Shakespeare (5,3,6)
25. Hawser (5)
26. Reduce in importance (9)
27. Assortment (5,3)
28. Aground (6)

DOWN

1. Tactless (10)
2. Marshy body of water (5)
3. Casks (7)
5. Pried (5)
6. Anguish (7)
7. A meetup, sight-unseen (5,4)
8. Flat (4)
9. Maintains steady position (8)
13. Said to make someone feel better (5,5)
15. Spar with imaginary opponent (6,3)
17. Crestfallen (4,4)
19. Make-believe (7)
20. Plodders (7)
22. Girl's name meaning fire (Greek) (5)
23. Final insect stage (5)
24. Fraud (4)

Last week's solution N438

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STARS BY LILITH

The sun joining Mercury in Gemini makes this week mega-chatty – though with communications planet Mercury retrograde, tending towards argumentative...

ARIES: Material wealth matters less this year than more important values, like, is what you do making a worthwhile contribution? Aries engineer their own opportunities, and if the recent eclipse in your money sector brings unexpected closures, look for new openings surfacing in the midst of this week's delays and complications.

TAURUS: Taureans use comfort to cope with the chaos of life, grounding themselves in material surroundings that restore their natural serenity. As you increasingly appreciate the value of what you already have this week, and discover more untapped resources, the newly invigorated you that emerges might surprise others. Might surprise yourself…

GEMINI: Best news this week? The Sun joining Mercury in Gemini for this year's celebration of you. So happy birthday to all you social cross-pollinators vigorously sharing your ideas with the world. Considering Mercury's retrograde, best have plenty of Plan Bs up your sleeve for party arrangement twists and pivots.

CANCER: Don't believe all you hear this week. Or all you think. Or try to force answers when they're not forthcoming. Or push yourself to make decisions if you're feeling unsettled. When making changes, be clear about what you're prepared to do to maintain them. Resist promising what you may not want to honour later on.

LEO: With Mercury reversing into its second retrograde for the year, this week's call is the thoughtful pause before speaking, posting, sending or signing. Yes, it's an auspicious time to set powerful intentions, but you also need to remain completely flexible as to how those intentions may play out.

VIRGO: The recent lunar eclipse coupled with your planet ruler Mercury in retrograde sounded a celestial prompt to start prepping for way more personal engagements when Mercury turns direct in June. And that's not all; for the next five months Jupiter in Aries jazzes up your social life, so get busy initiating those overdue catchups.

LIBRA: Things are likely to come in couples this week, so if one encounter dents to your confidence, the next could reboot it. Maintain a light heart by working with the present twin energy via *Excellent Adventure* duo Bill and Ted's two simple philosophic principles: a) Be Excellent To Each Other and b) Party On.

SCORPIO: Is something in your life, a relationship or way of working, feeling a bit ho-hum? Eight planets in their final degrees are winding some things to a close. The current eclipse-o-grade transitions get a turbo-charge from Jupiter in Aries thrusting you into a new 12-year cycle. Uncomfortable? Confronting? Maybe. Exhilarating – definitely.

SAGITTARIUS: If this week's signals scrambling and systems skewing have you spewing, use the HALT check: are you hungry, angry, lonely, tired? Then it's time for a dose of self-love to restore your equilibrium. And time to follow what soul wants; quite a pleasant kind of assignment as autumnal weather heads into winter.

CAPRICORN: Set against a backdrop of escalating collective tension, this week ignites some plans, dissolves others. But it's still receptive to your ideas – so make calls, follow up contacts, revamp what's feeling lacklustre. As a Capricorn you like situations sorted in order to move forward, so do that by taking smaller, simpler, bite-size steps.

AQUARIUS: The current Saturn/ Uranus placements are about deconditioning. Value systems and priorities are changing around how you make money, do relationships and live in community. Certain things that used to define you in the past may no longer be relevant. Consider this week's triggering moments and button pushers as part of this growth process.

PISCES: When this week's Mars/ Neptune conjunction sees the planet of personal will surrender to the principle of divine guidance, the message is: don't try and force anything. Listen instead to subtle messages; watch for signs, be open to divine guidance and insights. In other words, do more of what you do naturally anyway...

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PUBLIC NOTICES

KENDO–WAY OF THE SWORD
6 week beginner class $150 incl. 'shinai' Starts Tues 31 May. Byron Bay Kendo Club (est. 1997) Book/info: 0412958447

WOMEN SONG GROUP
CHIXONG
Singing for women in Brunswick Heads. Wheel of Life Studio. Wednesday 7pm. Group singing for beginners to pros. $10. www.ByronBaySinging.com

AGMs

FEDERAL COMMUNITY CTR AGM
Mon 30 May, 7pm, at Ant's Shed 3 Federal Drive. All welcome.

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DENTURES
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Free consultation. **SANDRO 66805002**

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ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

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PHONE ADS
Ads may be taken by phone on **6684 1777**

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE
Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum *Echo* office:
Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS
Display classies (box ads): **adcopy@echo.net.au**
Line classies: **classifieds@echo.net.au**

Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend. Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

Publication day is Wednesday, booking deadlines are the day before publication.

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:
$17.00 for the first two lines
$5.00 for each extra line
$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border):
$12.85 per column centimetre
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Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa
Prepayment is required for all ads.

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Sat 8.15–9.30am Yogalates
Wed 6–7.15pm Yin Rejuv Yoga
Wed & Fri 6.30-7.15am NEW Barre Sweat

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Wed 6–7pm Hatha Slow Flow

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Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES.
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Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal
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Vistara Primary School

Primary Teacher Yrs 4, 5 ,6
Maternity Leave
20 June to 20 December 2022

Vistara is seeking a vibrant, dedicated primary school teacher to join our wonderful team. We are a not-for-profit, Independent Primary School with 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 (see www.vistara,nsw.edu.au) 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, applicants must submit the following:
1. CV – incl. full contact details, DOB, previous schools, year levels taught, duration at each school, 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 requested before an interview.

Email application to Administrator: visps@bigpond.net.au
Applications close: May 27th 2022.
Vistara Primary School, 41 Richmond Hill Rd, Richmond Hill. NSW 2480

FOR SALE

MIELE WASHERS
Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

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SUPER HUGE SALE! Local potter leaving for Tassie. Handmade pots, plants, household, garden, camping, Indian fabrics, furn, linen, clothes and freebies. Fri & Sat. 2 Hibiscus Pl, Mullum.

23 COOLAMON SCENIC DR, MULLUM Sat 8am. Furniture, building materials, h/hold, fabrics, records, antiques, clothes and loads more. Zero flood affected.

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

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club

CONTRACT CATERER

The Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club is seeking expressions of interest for a new operator for its stable and popular food operation. The Club's dining room has a facility for 80 patrons and an auditorium that can seat up to 250 people. We are offering a fully operating kitchen and equipment along with an attractive **RENT** and **UTILITIES FREE** period to ensure that you can get your business up and running without the stress of having to pay rent & utilities during start up period.

Expressions of interest should include the following:
- Detailed history of relevant & current catering experience along with references.
- Suggested menus & pricing.
- Indication of commencement availability.

For further information please contact the General Manager
02 6684 2533 or gm@mullumexservices.com.au

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SOUTH GOLDEN BEACH 1 June to 1 August. Modern open plan kitchen, dining and living. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fully furnished. $1,000 pw. Suit family or professionals. Phone Steve 0421440461.

House for sublet
6 weeks,
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2 beds • Indoor and outdoor shower •Garden • Bath • Wi-Fi • Piano

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WANTED TO RENT

EVICTED BY THE FLOOD this part-time, self-employed, easy-going 81yo Great-Grandad is seeking a kind person to share his or her home with, or rent a studio from, located on a rural property in or around Mullumbimby, my home town. Contact Theo on mobile 0420 209 675 and by email 4engeltenaer@tpg.com.au

TO LEASE

CONSULTING ROOMS, BANGALOW Avail 2–6 days pw in lovely premises with kitchen, waiting room, Wi-Fi. Suit professional, independent health practitioner. Call 0414861653.

POSITIONS VACANT

PORTABLE SAW MILL OPERATOR required Mullum. Please call Wayne 0423218417

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3+ years experience, full time position. Must be available school holidays.
To apply please go to www.crystalcastle.com.au/workwithus

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Seeking a massage therapist with health fund rebates to join our fantastic team in Bangalow and Ballina.
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Product Coordinator Position

Would you like to be part of an innovative startup, helping the bees and using business to create positive impact? We're looking for a Product Coordinator to join our already established team. Please apply only via our website:
www.honeyflow.com.au/jobs
Applications close: Tuesday 31st May 2022

byron community college
50% discount* for flood affected residents

Sat 28th May
- Playful Painting Weekend
- Making Handmade Paper and Tealights

Wed 1st June
- The Art Of Grief Care

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

POSITIONS VACANT

DONA CHOLITA is a tortilla and corn chip manufacturer based in the Murwillumbah Industrial Estate. We are seeking hard working, motivated workers for production line, 25–30 hours per week, Mon–Fri. Experience with food advantageous. Apply by email: jobs@donacholita.com.au

BYRON BAY BANGALOW MULLUMBIMBY

The Echo now has a contract position to insert, fold, bag (wet weather) & deliver *The Echo* to the following areas:

BYRON BAY (Wategos, Clarkes Beach, Paterson St, Shelley Dr, 500 papers)
BANGALOW (1100 papers)
MULLUMBIMBY (540 papers)
ALL STARTING ASAP - 25 May

The successful applicant(s) will have an ABN, a covered area in which to work, and a reliable vehicle and, to make it more profitable, live within a short drive of the distribution area. They will collect the papers in Byron A&I on Wednesday morning around 10.30am and have delivered all the papers by 5pm on Wednesday. On some weeks it might be possible to deliver first thing Thursday morning. Suit mature or stable person/couple with a strong throwing arm for throwing the papers to residential premises. Some delivery to cafes requires walking around with the paper.
Email simon@echo.net.au
or phone 0409324724

DISABILITY SUPPORT WORKER Private after school care, Lennox Head. Looking for enthusiastic workers to join our team. Must have qualifications, WWCC, First Aid, driving licence and own vehicle. Experience working with children with ASD a plus. 0475242593 or email resume info@byronbaycare.com.au

Sales and Brand Development Byron Bay

Looking to change it up?

We're on the hunt for a sales representative who thinks of customers first, communicates confidently and represents our brands in the simple, down to earth style we value so much.

If you're interested apply at https://stoneandwood.com.au/work-with-us/

Applications close Thursday 26 May.

STONE & WOOD

SCT

National Transport & Logistics company looking for **experienced HC** or **MC drivers** at Condong Broadwater or Harwood Sugar Mill sites. Excellent seasonal pay & conditions.

Send resume to
Wendy.Keel@sctlogistics.com.au

THE EMPIRE NEEDS YOU

POSITIONS AVAILABLE, APPLY WITHIN...

...COME JOIN THE DARK SIDE.

Empire Cafe, Mullum.
Send your deets and resumes to:
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STRUCTURAL LANDSCAPING LABOURER Experience in construction industry essential. NOT a gardening/horticultural position. Please forward your interest to sanctumlandscaping@bigpond.com

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE at Coopers Shoot, weekly/casual, $35 p/h. Exp with brushcutting and chainsaw a must. Local pref. Ph 66853012 from 9am–6pm only.

WETLAND MAINTENANCE MANAGER Building Forest Designs, 'Seapeace', Ewingsdale. 3–5 days pw. Must have good native plant knowledge, chem cert, ability to manage small team & work independently under site manager. Apply tony@tonykenway.com

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

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

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MYSTICA JEWELLERY STORE is looking for a Sales Assistant to help at the local markets on weekends. Minimum of 3 days per month and you MUST have a car. Hourly rate starting from $25 to $40 per hour, sales dependent. For more info contact us on Insta @mysticajewellery or via email hellomysticastore@gmail.com

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SPANISH TEACHER WANTED

A Spanish teacher willing to work with a professional man of Cuban background.

Wishing to improve my Spanish reading, writing and conversational skills to university level.

Can host in Coorabell and willing to travel nearby.

All enquiries please telephone
0402 756 997

MUSICAL NOTES

GUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI
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LOST & FOUND

FOUND: MAN'S BIKE Grey, Reid. Found in Brunswick Heads. 0417098653

DEATH NOTICES

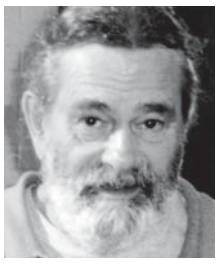
CAMPBELL, IAN DAVID

Passed away peacefully at home with his loving wife Kristina at his side.

Loved brother of Marion and Julie.

Ian will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

MICHAEL CURRIE FUNERALS
6684 6232



William Julian Rawlinson

1 June 1944–29 April 2022

Bill was a long-standing member of the Orchid Society at Byron Bay.

Passed away suddenly in Brunswick Heads.

A good friend to many people in Brunswick Heads.

Will be missed by all.

R.I.P.

FUNERAL NOTICES

In loving memory of
Barry Booth

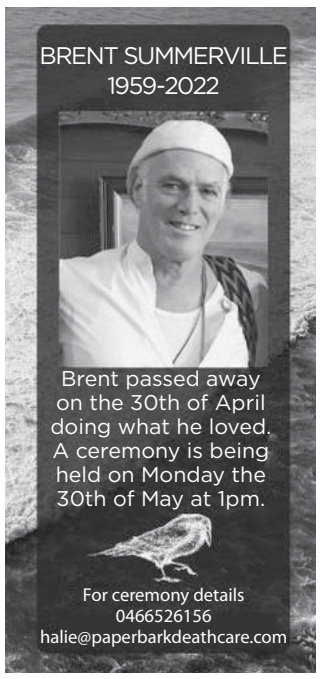
Passed away at home on Friday 13 May.
Aged 87

Much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather, husband, brother and friend.

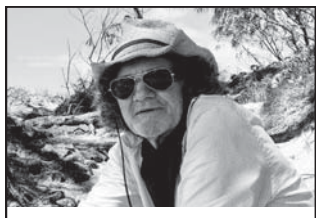
Late of Dunbible, Canberra and Palmwoods, Main Arm, Barry was born at Sunnyside, Murwillumbah.

A service will be held for Barry at Tweed Valley Crematorium Monday 23 May at 11am.

Friends and family are warmly invited to attend.



LIFE CELEBRATIONS

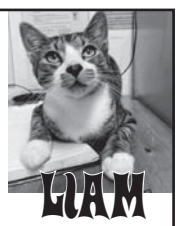


Graham John Chambers
01/10/1952 - 12/05/2022

Graham (Jerry) passed away peacefully at home on the 12 of May.
Loving husband to Christine.
Father to Roseanna.
Stepfather to Marina, Heidi and Naomi.
Friend to many.

Friends are invited to come celebrate Jerry's life with his family at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club this Thursday the 19th from 2pm.

PETS



Liam
Purrsworth is a gorgeous young boy whose goods looks are admired by ladies both human and feline alike. He is blissfully unaware of his good looks and he is simply content with being loved and petted. Surely there's room on your sofa and in your heart for this heart throb?
To meet Liam and our other cats and kittens, 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.

Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

Very handsome, sweet-natured, desexed male 10-month-old Cattle Kelpie x "**Crosbie**" is looking for an active new companion or family.

Crosbie really is a sweetheart. He's very shy around new people but once he feels safe and loved, he is super playful and affectionate.

He is great with other dogs and will blossom with some dedicated training.

Crosbie would suit property or an active companion. **Please contact Shell on 0458461935.**
MC: 934000090261180

LUNA

Luna is a 14 month old Wolfhound X Bull Arab Female. She is a lovely friendly girl who is used to kids, cats and dogs. She is an indoor/outdoor dog. She needs secure fencing.
M/C # 991003000835024
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.
Interested?. Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.
https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/

The kitten delivery stork continues to be busy despite the never ending rain....maybe the stork is actually a large duck !....so the shelter is still full of cutenesses. Many have gone to forever homes, but as fast as they go new ones arrive. Lots of warm fuzzies and fun await you.

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.

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Please make an appointment
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petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

IN ANCIENT TIMES CATS WERE WORSHIPPED AS GODS; THEY HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THIS.

- TERRY PRATCHETT

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VENUE CHANGE TO

COMMUNITY DYING, DEATH & FUNERALS EXPO

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE, 2022

OCEAN SHORES COMMUNITY CENTRE

10AM–2PM

Sponsored by

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.

Welcome & Speakers
11am – 1pm including
Pallative Care & Medical Services
Local Hospices
Trusted Funeral Directors
End of Life & After Death Care Services
Celebrants
Death Cafe
And More

Food available
Entry by donation

Natural Death Care Centre

contact - zenithvirago@gmail.com

SUN, MOON & TIDES
TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (May)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
18	W	6:23 17:01	18:50 8:26	09:44 1.31 **22:26 1.96**	04:02 0.34 **15:20 0.27**
19	TH	6:23 17:01	19:55 9:35	10:37 1.23 **23:18 1.91**	05:02 0.37 16:09 0.35
20	F	6:24 17:01	21:03 10:37	11:36 1.16	06:06 0.41 17:03 0.44
21	SA	6:24 17:00	22:12 11:30	00:16 1.83 12:45 1.13	07:11 0.44 18:08 0.53
22	SU	6:25 17:00	23:18 12:15	01:19 1.74 14:03 1.15	08:15 0.46 19:25 0.60
23	M	6:25 16:59	12:53	02:25 1.66 15:17 1.22	09:14 0.46 20:46 0.64
24	TU	6:26 16:59	0:20 13:27	03:29 1.59 16:22 1.32	10:07 0.44 22:01 0.63
25	W	6:27 16:58	1:20 13:58	04:26 1.53 17:17 1.44	10:53 0.41 23:07 0.61
26	TH	6:27 16:58	2:17 14:28	05:17 1.48 18:05 1.54	11:31 0.38
27	F	6:28 16:58	3:13 14:57	06:02 1.43 18:47 1.63	00:04 0.58 12:07 0.36
28	SA	6:28 16:58	4:09 15:29	06:43 1.37 **19:26 1.70**	00:54 0.55 12:39 0.34
29	SU	6:29 16:57	5:05 16:02	07:21 1.32 **20:02 1.74**	01:39 0.53 13:10 0.34
30	M	6:29 16:57	6:02 16:39	07:58 1.28 **20:37 1.77**	02:21 0.51 13:41 0.35
31	TU	6:30 16:57	6:58 17:21	08:33 1.23 **21:11 1.77**	03:02 0.50 14:12 0.37
1	W	6:30 16:57	7:54 18:07	09:10 1.19 **21:46 1.76**	03:42 0.50 14:44 0.40

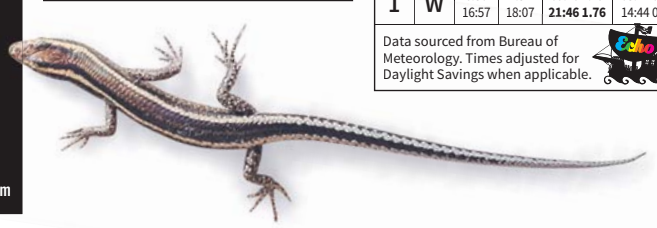
Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0406 724 323
1st SAT	Alstonville	0429 019 407
1st SUN	Byron Bay	6685 6807
1st SUN	Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333
2nd SAT	Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498
2nd SAT	Woodburn	0439 489 631
2nd SUN	The Channon	6688 6433
2nd SUN	Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159
2nd SUN	Lennox Head	6685 6807
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	6684 3370
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN	Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT	Evans Head	0439 489 631
4th SAT	Wilsons Creek	6684 0299
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyogletogether.org.au
4th SUN	Bangalow	6687 1911
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
4th SUN	(in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta	
5th SAT	Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498
5th SUN	Nimbin	0458 506 000
5th SUN	Lennox Head	6685 6807

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE	New Brighton	6677 1345
Each TUE	Organic Lismore	6628 1084
Each WED	7-11am M'bah	6684 7834
Each WED	3-6pm Nimbin	0475 135 764
Each WED	4-7pm Newrybar Hall	
Each THU	8-11am Byron	6687 1137
Each THU	2.30-6.30pm Lismore	0450 688 900
Each FRI	7-11am Mullum	6677 1345
Each SAT	8-11am Bangalow	6687 1137
Each SAT	8-11am Duranbah Rd (Tropical Fruit World)	
Each SAT	8am-1pm Uki	6679 5530
Each SAT	8.30-11am Lismore	0466 415 172
Each SAT	8.30-12am Blue Knob	
Each SUN	7-11am Ballina	0493 102 137



Review of community response called for as challenges recognised

Aslan Shand

The recent 'unprecedented' floods that hit the east coast of Australia saw people in local communities stepping forward to help each other as they were confronted by devastation and loss both personally and within the broader community. That was seen here as the community once again came together to help each other respond and recover from the impact of losing homes and businesses.

Local community members stepped forward to help coordinate and respond to the disaster; from people getting into boats and kayaks recusing strangers in Lismore to cordinating local response hubs in the hinterland ands local towns.

'Since the last flooding with ex-cyclone Debbie, there has been significant work that has gone into building a network of organisations and groups that work collaboratively, apply best practice to support the community through incredibly difficult times. We learnt what not to do after the 2017 floods,' said Julie Williams, manager of the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre Inc (MDNC).

One of those organisations was Resilient Byron who stepped in to help facilitate coordination and assistance in the immediate response phase of the flooding, along with other local services.

'I was not in Mullumbimby during the first few days of the flood response as I was working with Fire and Rescue NSW primarily in Lismore,' said Dr Jean Renouf who, at that time, was co-chair of Resilient Byron with Ella Goninan.

'However, I was able to take an information-sharing as well as coordination role with Resilient Byron by bringing together a range of individuals and organisations.

'When I was able to get to Mullumbimby [later that week] we had taken on a number of new roles.'

Dr Richard Hil, board member of Resilient Byron and services and social work academic told *The Echo*, 'In the immediate aftermath of disaster, it's extraordinary people in local communities who respond most directly and effectively.

'That's been the case for as long as we've had natural disasters. But things are changing in terms of the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.'

Challenge of finding their place in response

However, as the immediate response moved into the recovery phase, challenges arose for Resilient Byron as they sought to find their place within the framework of services and response groups led by a mixture of local and government service providers.

'It is difficult when organisations or groups, with the best of intentions, don't understand where they fit in the system, or network,' explained Ms Williams.

'Attempting to do everything only increases the gaps and risk to community. Services and groups are like everyone in community, none of us can do it alone, we all need each other collectively.

'If there are new groups looking to engage in a response to disaster, they need to look at how to fill the gaps in service and support provision and not try to duplicate it or take over the roles of other service providers. There is nothing to be gained by duplication.'

Cultural difference

Dr Renouf said he recognised that 'In the heat of a disaster, disagreement is normal and good communication is therefore essential. We all have to be able to work together in the face of these disasters and for this we need to have better systems in place'.

Ella Goninan has now resigned as co-chair of Resilient Byron.

'Ella does not work with Resilient Byron anymore and is working within Holding Hands Under Ground (HHUG), the organisation she and Luke Jaaniste run. HUGG is continuing to host the hands-on flood response. There were cultural differences in the way we worked and actions have been taken to move forward.

During the second flood on 30 March, bridges in Main Arm were once again destroyed by floodwater. Photo Katherine Leggett

'I am now in the process of reaching out with humility to those people who feel that there were issues interacting with Resilient Byron. I am keen to hear any issues people and organisations had and have with Resilient Byron and look toward working together in the future.'

Preparation needed

Dr Hil agrees, reminding the community and government that 'we have to be much better prepared (and we might have been had Abbott, Hunt et al not abolished a number of key agencies established for just this purpose). Services need to be better resourced and coordinated. The SES, RFS and other volunteer organisations need to be expanded and better supported, and we need carefully thought-out inter-agency planning and collaboration.

Review of community response needed

'What we've learned from recent events is that there are gaps and lack of coordination within and between various services. My hope is that the upcoming review – and I trust there is one – addresses and acts upon these concerns. It's not helpful to have folk saying, as they have done at the most senior levels of Resilience NSW, that everything went well in terms of the crisis response. It didn't. People on the ground in local communities know that. Blind Freddy knows it,' he said.

'So, let's have honesty and clarity. But let's also be respectful, humble and prepared to listen to each other. Let's not dismiss "red tape", denigrate the efforts of others and position ourselves as "all knowing" We're not. None of us.'

Ms Williams has highlighted that there needs to be appropriate training for responders and the supply of resources.

'If a response group is saying they can supply certain services, they need to have had the training in that area to supply that service. Otherwise, it is the people they are seeking to help that suffer. Everyone needs to work together but also do what they are best at. There were some amazing efforts all round. Now is the time for honest evaluation, for real and authentic learning to serve us all well into the future.'

Acknowledging failures

'I have met with all sorts of people and humbly listened to their experience of the flood response as these conversations shed light on what worked and what could be improved. My own views about community resilience have been challenged and I'm keen to do the deep work. This is the century of the climate crisis and massive biodiversity loss, and we have no choice but to find ways to work together,' said Dr Renouf.

'Beyond Resilient Byron, there are clearly many lessons in what occurred in the immediate aftermath of the flooding events, and thereafter. Questions around coordination, strategic response, resourcing, lines of responsibility etc are critical to any ongoing discussions. I'm hoping there will be a general review of the response, a lot of listening, understanding and the potential for healing.'

'It is a very diverse community and system,' says Ms Williams. 'If we respectfully communicate, we can maximise the outcomes for the community. My hope is that we can build on the learnings of this time.'

'One of the main principles in community development is "never assume you have all the answers". Also, make sure you ask people what they need and want before leaping in,' says Dr Hil.

'In times of acute crisis, we need calm and an abundance of mutual respect. We need to think about what we're doing and why, and who and what should guide our decision making. Acting on impulse or out of a sense of high moral purpose may not cut it. Above all, we need genuine respect for each other's views.

'New initiatives need to work alongside more established community organisations, rather than coming over the top of them. We need everyone to be flexible and adaptable: a combination of established process and informed spontaneity.

'Good faith, humility, cooperation, a preparedness to listen and learn are all essential ingredients in community disaster responses. The research evidence has long told us so.'

■ *The Echo* reached out to Ms Goninan who told *The Echo* that 'at the moment HHUG is working cooperatively through a number of issues with Resilient Byron and it would not be appropriate to respond to these questions until these issues are clarified and resolved. Once I am in a position to respond to your questions I will do so.'

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to editor@echo.net.au.

Flood grants

The Rotary Club of Mullumbimby has another $20,000 in grants for flood affected people and businesses in postcode areas 2482 and 2483. Grants of $500 will be given on ta needs basis. Please visit the Rotary Mullumbimby website: https://rotarymullumbimby.wordpress.com and select the Flood Grant application form. Applications close 30 May.

Biggest Morning Tea

The Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea is being held on Friday 20 May, 9.30–11am at the Mullumbimby Golf Club. All are welcome to join special guest Ellen Briggs. Come along for raffles, lucky door prizes, fun games and a cuppa or two and support the Cancer Council's biggest morning tea. Contact Lynnette 0416 178 592.

Botanic Gardens Open Day

The Lismore Botanic Gardens Open Day is taking place on Sunday, 29 May. There will be a native plant stall at the nursery, guided walks, book and card sales, and morning tea stall 9am till 1pm. Bookings essential for walks with limited numbers. Email: publicity@friendslrbg.com.au with the walk you would like to do. Available walks are: 9.30am Useful Plants Garden, 10.30am The Gardens Regeneration, 11am Uncommon Plants Garden, 11am Native Bees As Pollinators, 11.30am Hoop Pine Forest, 12 noon Wilson's Park Species Garden, 12 noon Useful Plants Garden, 12.30pm Encounters 2020 Garden.

Annual Byron Shire Book Fair

Friends of the Libraries are excited about once again hosting their annual Byron Shire Book Fair from 1–3 July at the Byron Bay Surf Club, Byron Bay, 9am–4pm each day. This will raise much needed funds for the Byron, Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads libraries. We have a mountain of second hand books in very good condition and a multitude of genres, such as art, fiction, non fiction, history, geography, childrens, health, spiritual, to name a few.

Story Time event

A special Story Time event will be a heartfelt celebration of family, community and the seasons of life as we read this year's National Simultaneous Story Time Book by Australian Author Josh Pyke. This Story Time will feature Byron Taiko, Ambyr bellydancer and Anna from Aloha Hula. This is a musical event, celebrating culture and community with our special guests who will each bring something unique and exciting through their performance! Wednesday, 25 May at 11am.

Old and Gold Market

Brunswick Heads CWA Old and Gold Market and Devonshire tea stall, Saturday 11 June, 8am–3pm (or till sold out). Cash only. CWA Rooms, crn Park and Booyun Sts Brunswick Heads.

Please note: This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. If you have any sort of Centrelink card you may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **Free Food Relief Bags** for anyone doing it tough, every Wednesday 10–12noon at The Hub Ocean Shores, cnr Rajah Rd and Bindaree Way. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details.

Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service Inc delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au,

Please note: This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.

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Anyone interested slightly in good governance should be aware councillors passed a motion last Thursday, which had very little transparency and accountability, and could cause more harm than the intended good for those impacted by floods. See page 10.

■ ■ ■ ■

Congrats, artist Blak Douglas, whose portrait of Lismore artist, Karla Dawes wading through the recent floods, makes him only the second Indigenous artist to take out the coveted Archibald Prize.

■ ■ ■ ■

Vale Jerry. A celebration of the life of musican Graham John Chambers, aka Jerry Munga, will be held Thursday May 19 from 2pm at the Mullum Ex-Services Club.

■ ■ ■ ■

Is there someone in the community who deserves a bit of recognition and love for the tireless work they do? If so, email editor@echo.net.au with your nominations. It's generally the quiet achievers that do the most to keep the fabric together.

■ ■ ■ ■

Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, was murdered by Israeli forces last week, and a video showed Israeli forces aggressively attacking mourners at her funeral. Other state sanctioned murders of journalists have been committed by Saudi Arabia, Russia and China. Meanwhile, Australia, the UK and the US are slowly murdering Julian Assange.

■ ■ ■ ■

The Norco Primex team has made the difficult decision to postpone their event owing to recent floods – it was scheduled to be held at Casino from May 19–21.

Vivienne and Taylor Diamond get some hands-on training at the Byron fire station's open day, held last Saturday. Photo Jeff 'Fired Up And Hosed Down' Dawson

■ ■ ■ ■

NASA reported last month that, 'The average global temperature on Neptune unexpectedly fluctuated during a recent 17-year period, according to a new study published by the American Astronomical Society in *The Planetary Science Journal*. Scientists had expected seasons would change slowly on Neptune, because it takes the planet so long to orbit the Sun – 165 years'.

■ ■ ■ ■

Go New Zealand! The ABC reports New Zealand's government 'will help pay for lower-income families to scrap their old gas guzzlers and replace them with cleaner hybrid or electric cars as part of a sweeping plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions'.

■ ■ ■ ■

Refugee advocate, Shane Bazzi, has thankfully won an appeal in the Federal Court against a defamation decision, which was to order him to pay Liberal Minister, Peter Dutton, $35,000 over a now-deleted tweet. It's a good reminder that thin skinned potato looking thugs abuse their privileged positions. Now if only the spud loses his seat on Saturday as well…

■ ■ ■ ■

Community organisations are invited to apply for grants of up to $5,000 as part of Council's Community Initiatives funding program: visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/ to apply.

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POSITIONS VACANT
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Due to our growth, we are currently seeking applicants for the the following positions:
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- eCommerce Assistant
- Warehouse Assistant
- Kitchen, Cafe, Shop Assistants
- Assistant Shop Managers
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