

Echo

Everyone
needs a home

Soil dumping on Marshalls Creek found to be Council's 'stockpile'

Hans Lovejoy

Calls to immediately act after a large amount of fill was dumped on the Middle Pocket section of Marshalls Creek fell on deaf councillor ears at last week's meeting.

The environmental impacts of dumping soil fill in, or on, creeks and waterways can include in a loss of fish habitat, sedimentation, erosion, and can attract large fines.

Cr Duncan Dey told *The Echo* that the fill was being 'stockpiled' for use by Byron Council, on private land at 295 Pocket Road, The Pocket.

Cr Dey's urgency motion seeking rapid removal of the fill was voted against by Mayor Michael Lyon, Crs Mark Swivel, Peter Westheimer and Alan Hunter.

Those in favour were Crs Dey, and Asren Pugh.

Crs Sarah Ndiaye and Sama Balson were absent, while Cr Cate Coorey has taken leave until 2023.

Cr Dey said, 'The matter was already under an "Order to Restore" by staff, which sees the landowner escaping a fine and having four months to remove the fill'.

He says the issue was first raised by concerned residents on October 20 and 21, 'but there was no action' by Council staff.

After asking Council staff



The owner of 295 Pocket Road, The Pocket, has been given four months to remove fill placed on Marshalls Creek. Remarkably, no fine was issued, and the soil was intended for Council projects. Photo supplied

about the issue on October 31, Cr Dey says they then inspected the site, issued stop work and restoration orders, giving the landowner until April 7, 2023 to remove the fill from the floodplain.

Cr Dey said, 'I was elated that staff acted swiftly on this environmental vandalism, but then saw the end date in April'.

Staff order delayed removal, no fine

He had also asked whether the machinery stationed on the fill was involved in any Council projects.

'I was shocked to learn that the fill itself was involved'. He said, 'This alone is reason to rush the removal of the fill, before the wet

season when floods would be likely to wash it into Marshalls Creek'.

Echo questions were put to Council staff to confirm Cr Dey's comments.

A reply is expected next week, and will be published when received.

The questions are: 'Why are staff allowing the landowner over four months to remove this soil (given the landowner has the equipment for removal)?'

'Aren't staff concerned that this poses an immediate pollution risk to the creek?'

'Are there any reports that underpin the decision to allow such a delayed removal?'; and,

'*The Echo* understands no fine was issued – if so, why was that?'

Mullum High School celebrates high academic results

Despite one of the school's most challenging years, Mullum High School is now among the top 20 high schools in the state, and the only regional one.

Mr Greg Armstrong's Principal's Report outlined the achievements of students and teachers, and said the school received an award of commendation from the Minister for Education, Sarah Mitchell, which recognised 'all that our leadership team, staff, students and families have done to ensure our HSC students could be awarded the marks they worked hard

for, in the face of immense challenges owing to flooding'.

HSC achievers

Distinguished student achievers in their HSC include Max Biermann (third in NSW for Hospitality); Daisy Morgan; Charlotte Archibald; Nalani Farrell; Eivissa Sydney; Ginger Clarke; Hamish Pitman; Hugh Morgan-Foxon; Noah Klugman; John Harry; Matilda Thornton; Scar Michie; Frankie Sanderson; Briana Foster; Nikki Fuller and Adel Pheloung.

Mr Armstrong also made

special mention of the school's P&C, led by their President Mr Damien Farrell.

He said they worked 'so hard this year to support our school with the incredible post-flood fundraising, with over \$40,000 raised for our students through "Just Giving", a \$50,000 grant for wellbeing initiative to benefit families and staff'.

Tennis court upgrade

Additionally, the school was recently successful in a grant to upgrade the tennis courts to competition level surfaces.



The annual fun run for South Golden Beach residents was held Friday on Clifford Street, and was a combined Christmas Party with the Shara Community Gardens. For more, see page 55. Photo Jeff 'Held Up The Race Because He Went to Wrong Clifford Street' Dawson

Shire's house prices plummet

Paul Bibby

House prices have plunged further in Byron Bay over the past year than in any other regional town or suburb in NSW, according to data from Core Logic.

The company's annual Best of the Best report shows that prices fell 20.5 per cent in the town during 2022, as a combination of floods and rising interest rates hit the town hard. The Shire's other large population centres were not far behind, according to the data.

Suffolk Park was second on the list of regional towns/

suburbs that recorded the biggest fall in values, at -18.5 per cent, with Mullumbimby coming in fourth (-18.2 per cent), Bangalow in fifth (-16.6 per cent) and Ocean Shores in seventh (-15.7 per cent).

COVID boom

'The COVID-induced boom for Australia's regional housing market has burst, with several regional markets that had the strongest value growth through the upswing now among the fastest declining markets,' CoreLogic Head of Research, Eliza Owen, told the *Australian Financial Review* (Nine) last week.

'Unlike the capital city markets, regional housing markets have suffered ongoing extreme weather events, which have compounded the impact of rising rates on housing demands.'

However dramatic the falls may have been, they are far from undoing the dramatic upsurge in prices that occurred during the early years of COVID-19.

During 2020, Byron Shire house prices leapt by 56.5 per cent. Byron Bay remains high on the list of most expensive suburbs in regional NSW at number three, with a median house price of \$2.30m.

This week's cover illustration

The artwork on the cover this week is by *Echo* artist and talented illustrator, Tamsin Smyth. It is an homage to the many unique and wonderful native plants and animals that call the Byron Shire home, serves as a reminder of what we stand to lose if we don't care for the precious natural environment that we are blessed with.

With so many local vulnerable species to choose from it was tricky selecting just a few to feature in the artwork. Can you recognise them all?

From top, the animals are: Australian fritillary butterfly, Richmond birdwing butterfly, koala, brush-tailed phascogale, squirrel glider, Mitchell's rainforest snail, spotted-tail quoll, Albert's lyrebird, Loveridge's frog, comb crested jacana, and Lamington spiny crayfish.

Plants featured include the Mullumbimby plum (Davidson's plum), Nightcap oak, coolamon tree, and a special mention for the area's many beautiful orchids.



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No accountability around pod villages

Aslan Shand

Claims of violence at a number of pod village sites across the Northern Rivers have been brought to the attention of *The Echo*, raising concerns over the safety of residents and staff at pod sites.

In response to the floods that left people homeless earlier this year, emergency powers were enacted – which bypassed normal development processes – to allow Resilience NSW to develop a number of cluster pod villages on the north coast. The free accommodation comprises two bedroom units with shared laundry and toilet/shower facilities.

The claims of violence also raise questions around the operation of the Mullumbimby and Ballina pod sites that opened on December 19.

A number of people involved with the sites, who asked not to be identified, have said there is ongoing violence at some pod sites that is endangering staff and residents.

Yet despite those claims, specifically at the Lismore SCU site on December 6, police say there are no major problems with the pods in the Lismore area.

Duty officer for Lismore/Richmond Local Area Command (LAC), Inspector Nigel Howard, told *The Echo*, 'It's not a daily occurrence to be called out, and appears a similar workload to before the floods'.

Additionally, the duty officer from Tweed Byron Police district also told *The Echo* that there are no problems with the pod villages in the areas that they cover.

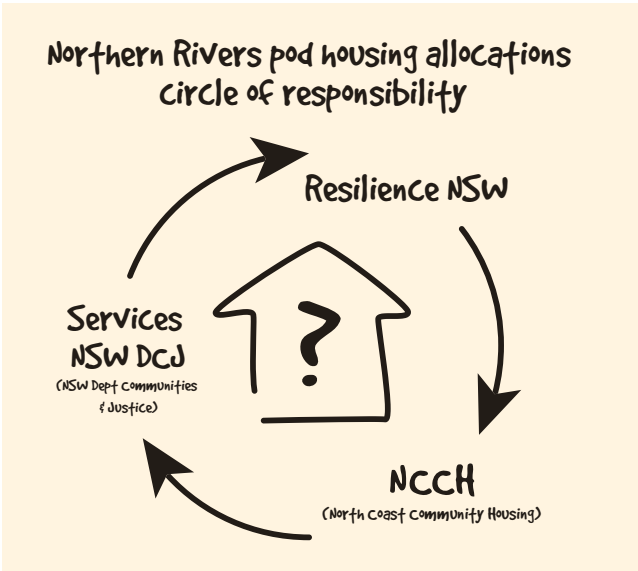
Not flood-affected residents

The Echo was told that the NSW Department of Community Justice (DCJ) has been putting forward people who are homeless rather than directly flood-affected, some of whom have violent criminal histories, and then overriding site managers who said they didn't think they were a good fit for their site.

'It is the residents who aren't flood-affected that are the problem,' *The Echo* was told. The source alleged that, 'The DCJ has a priority list; their priority is to get their existing clients out of temporary accommodation like hotels/resorts etc, so they are prioritising these clients over flood victims. I know people who are living



Drone photo of Mullum Pod Village, which, like all pod villages, was rushed through as an emergency development and lacked normal oversight. A flood report later confirmed that it will negatively impact surrounding flood-affected homes.



in tents or cars waiting for pods, and I believe they are not getting placed because they are currently not costing the government any money.'

The Echo has been told that there are a number of residents that are drinking from early in the day, which is often leading to the anti-social behaviour.

Resilience NSW responded to questions about the management of who gets placed at the sites, telling *The Echo*, 'We are partnering with local community housing providers who are responsible for resident allocations and day-to-day management of the site.'

No accountability

However, Executive Manager Housing Services for North Coast Community Housing (NCCH), Ray Mackeen, who manages sites at Ballina, Evans Head, Kingscliff, Lismore, Pottsville and Wollongbar, said that 'Any matter pertaining to the registration of individuals for temporary housing should be directed to Service NSW and DCJ'.

The DCJ said they had passed on *The Echo*'s enquiries regarding who is being placed at the pod sites to Resilience NSW.

Sources have told *The Echo* that approximately one-third of the residents at

the SCU Lismore pod site are not directly flood-affected.

Responding to questions on the allocation of pods to non flood-affected residents, a spokesperson for Resilience NSW said, 'Residents register for temporary housing before going through an assessment and eligibility process to gain access to the program. Part of this assessment is verifying that they were flood-affected, with priority given to those based in the local area.'

One of *The Echo* sources said, 'Everybody deserves to have a safe home regardless of their background, but they need to be set up and supported appropriately. [Potentially] putting criminals next to vulnerable, flood-impacted families is just not how this process should be handled.'

'The site management don't appear to have the right to say no and refuse recommended clients for housing, regardless of their failure to fit criteria, and that they create an unsafe environment.'

Not enough staff

It is understood that each pod village is meant to have a social worker, case worker, site manager and community event workers but that the housing providers

NCCH are not currently able to provide adequate staff on existing sites.

'They don't even have enough staff to manage the villages they have let alone two more,' one of the people who had contacted *The Echo* said, referring to the opening of the Mullumbimby and Ballina sites.

Mr Mackeen from NCCH told *The Echo* that, 'NCCH is working to ensure that the most appropriate and qualified staff are employed on-site to support residents. In this regard, NCCH has undertaken a comprehensive recruitment process to source candidates – which has been achieved within the context of a challenging labour market.'

'NCCH continues its recruitment phase – with this process to be completed early in the new year – with local applicants encouraged to apply. All villages continue to be supported.'

One source concluded that, 'There are many really positive things that are, and could be coming out of these spaces. It is the ineffective management by NCCH, DCJ and ResNSW that is leaving these people vulnerable.'

Let down by govt

Local MP Tamara Smith (Greens) told *The Echo* she was concerned that extremely vulnerable people in the community were continuing to be 'let down by the agencies that are in place to support them.'

'People in our community who are being housed in these pod villages need to be set up for success – not further traumatised.'

'That goes for the neighbourhoods that are hosting the pod villages. The Perrottet government have gone on holiday at a time when we need the most support.'



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Lib-Nats govt breaks election promise on 90-day rental cap

Aslan Shand & Hans Lovejoy

The Liberal-Nationals Perrottet government has broken their election commitment to Byron Shire on controlling short-term rental accommodation (STRA), the day before councillors voted unanimously on lowering the rental cap, in some parts of the Shire, from 180 to 90 days.

Intervention

The NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) will now intervene to 'provide advice' to the government and, 'whether the government should allow the proposed changes to go forward'.

Public hearings will also take place.

In the lead-up to the last election, the Liberal/Nationals Minister for Planning, Anthony Roberts, said, 'following advocacy from Nationals senator Ben Franklin [and local election candidate]', he had, 'decided to issue a ministerial direction which invites Byron Shire to lead the way by proposing 90-day thresholds in the most impacted towns of the LGA (local government area)'.

Despite record pork barelling and promises to the electorate, Franklin lost the 2019 election to incumbent Tamara Smith (Greens).

Since then, the Byron Shire Council has jumped through all the hoops that the state government had insisted on – from community consultation to economic forecasts.

Not only had Anthony Roberts promised Byron Shire that 'he would be open to all solutions, including limiting the number of weekends that were available for renting as a holiday let'; the importance of affordable housing in the region and support for the approach by Byron Shire had



Former PM John Howard staffer and NSW planning Minister, Anthony Roberts, has reneged on a promise to Byron Shire residents. Photo supplied

been confirmed by former NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and current Premier Dominic Perrottet.

Local Ballina MP Tamara Smith decried moving the goalposts at the eleventh hour as 'outrageous'.

She told *The Echo*, 'We have been through countless consultation processes on this issue, and the community has repeatedly said "we want homes to live in for residents, workers, and the workers in frontline agencies that serve our communities"'.

'[Premier] Perrottet has kowtowed to the bullies in his own coalition and the revolving door in Macquarie Street of powerful lobbyists and corporations with vested interests,' she said.

The reneging on their election promise comes following a campaign from vested interests in the STHL industry who have lobbied against the 90-day cap.

Disappointed mayor

Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, said, 'I am surprised and disappointed because we have been working towards this for several years, and our proposal to cap areas for STRA to 90 days in parts of the Byron Shire is a modest one seeking balance, in the best

interests of our community'.

'We have done a comprehensive engagement and consultation process and the majority of feedback received supported Council's proposal, with many feeling it doesn't go far enough.'

In June 2022, the NSW government's Department of Planning and Environment gave Council permission to seek community feedback on a planning proposal to reduce the number of days of non-hosted short-term rental accommodation in parts of the Byron Shire from 180 days to 90 days.

Council received more than 1,500 different forms of feedback, including 784 written submissions and 766 responses to surveys. One of these submissions was a petition containing over 1,000 signatures.

NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Deputy Secretary of Planning, Marcus Ray, said the IPC would provide advice on the Council's planning proposal to reduce the cap on non-hosted short-term rental accommodation in parts of its area from 180 to 90 days.

Significant impacts

He said, 'In light of the 1,500 pieces of feedback received by the Council on the proposal through formal submissions, an online survey and a petition, and the potentially significant economic impacts such a change could have on local businesses, the government has asked the IPC to not only advise on the proposal but also whether the government should allow the proposed changes to go forward,' Mr Ray said.

Nationals candidate for Ballina in 2023, Josh Booyens told *The Echo*, 'Short-term rental reform is a crucial

Saturday protest

A rally against the NSW government's backflip on holiday letting will be held this Saturday, December 24, from 10am at Byron's Apex Park (opposite the Beach Hotel).

Organisers say, 'We must push back and show the state government how Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) is corroding our neighbourhoods'.

MC is Mandy Nolan, with speakers local MP Tamara Smith, Mayor Michael Lyon, Cr Cate Coorey and community members.

■ **This is a police approved protest event.**

component of that solution, and I support regulating the industry to return the right balance of housing stock to the private rental market. We need homes for families and workers in our community'.

Must rely on IPC, says Nats candidate

Booyens says the announcement by the DPE to defer Byron Shire Council's planning proposal for 90-day caps 'is no doubt a delay in the policy reform that our mayor and Council have been working towards to create a solution in this space'.

Asked if he agrees asking the IPC to advise the government is a broken election promise by the Liberal-Nationals, he replied, 'As a candidate, I'm committed to working with the cards we've been dealt, looking to our future and to working on a world class, whole of community solution'.

'There are some great components of the mayor's proposal. However, there is too much of an impact on people's livelihoods and our community to not get this right. On the broken election

promise, that is a question for our local member and the relevant minister'.

Booyens also stands behind the IPC's track record, despite them recommending a large increase of patrons to 50,000 for Splendour in The Grass in 2019, which led in part to this year's event being a washout with congested traffic impacting residents.

He said, 'We've seen the quality of the IPC output in the NSW Flood Inquiry – world class recommendations borne from professional advice and public hearings.'

'I have every confidence in the IPC, chaired by Mary O'Kane AC'.

The Echo also asked, 'Isn't it expected that the IPC will provide the government the answers it wants, and again sideline the community's wishes?'.

Booyens replied, 'This is a time we must rely on an independent, non-political process'.

'Mary is a well-respected expert and I have every confidence in her ability to listen across our community. The inclusion of public hearings and putting our community

voices on record means community voices will be heard and considered'.

Nats untrustworthy, says Labor

Labor candidate for Ballina, Andrew Broadley, says the state government's backflip on capping holiday letting proves they are untrustworthy.

He said, 'You can't trust the Nationals or their election commitments. The 90-day cap was promised by the Nationals Party in the lead up to the last state election. Yet they continue to do everything they can to walk away from this commitment.'

'We already had a housing crisis in the region but, with the loss of so many properties due to the floods, the situation is now even more desperate. There are simply not enough properties available for long-term rental and the only effective way to combat this in the short term is to reduce the number of houses disappearing into the holiday letting market.'

'Byron Shire Council have done a good job in ensuring that locals have had a say in developing this planning proposal, but yet again the Nationals Party are taking away the voice of the community by putting more and more roadblocks in place.'

'I welcome Byron Council's decision today to continue to put the housing needs of our community first. Short-Term Holiday Letting is threatening the permanent rental market, and if elected I will work with both Byron and Ballina Councils to address the problem.'

'I support the decision by Byron Council and stand with our community to properly regulate Short-Term Holiday Letting in a way that puts local residents first.'

Resilient Homes Program open now

If your home was damaged by the floods, you may be eligible for the Resilient Homes Program.

Eligible homeowners may be offered funding for Home Raising or Home Retrofit to improve the resilience of homes in high-risk flood areas, or a Home Buyback.

The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation is engaging with homeowners in the Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, and Tweed LGAs now.

To find out more and to register for the Resilient Homes Program, go to nsw.gov.au/resilienthomesprogram



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Mullumbimby Automotive left without car parking



Mullumbimby Automotive owner, Sam, outside his workshop. He says recent road line markings by Council have resulted in a loss of parking spaces, making it hard for the business to operate. Photo Jeff 'Crossing The Line Since 1986' Dawson

Hans Lovejoy

Despite the residents having to fight hard for a zebra crossing in Mullumbimby recently, in Council's haste, the decision has impacted Mullumbimby Automotive.

Employee Aaron told *The Echo* that the mechanics have lost ten parking spots as a result of the new line

marking and zebra crossing, leaving customers having to walk long distances to leave their cars for repair.

No consultation

He said, 'Council did this with no consultation – parking officers came in and told us as they were spraying the markings'. Aaron added, 'We need three spots out the front

of our business to operate – there are now "no parking" signs around our business.

'We contacted Council for assistance, but have not heard back'.

The Echo asked Council staff whether they will be helping Mullumbimby Automotive with their issue.

A reply is expected for next week's edition.

Busking policy to be revised

Paul Bibby

They are known by some Byron Bay locals as the 'super buskers' – street performers with professional PA systems pumping their high-decibel offerings into the evening air.

Some say they add to town's night-time vibe, while others feel that they dominate the soundscape on Jonson Street to the point that acoustic buskers, and even those wishing to have a conversation on the street, are completely drowned out.

These competing positions

will be weighed up by Byron Council in the coming weeks, as it undertakes a review of the Shire's busking policy with a particular focus on the use of large speaker systems, and busking in non-designated areas.

'I've had representations from people who live in the town centre and, particularly along Jonson Street, there are some super buskers, young gents, playing the same music night after night,' Mayor Michael Lyon told last week's Council meeting while moving a motion on the issue.

'Having walked in the town centre recently just to check things out, I can attest to the size of these speakers. The volume that's coming from some of them is quite extraordinary.'

'And to be honest, I'm not sure that it's in the spirit of busking, especially when you get two or three of these performers competing for sound. I really support the provision of busking in the town centre.'

Cr Lyon suggested that Council could find a way to control or limit the use of extra-large speakers on Jonson Street.

Govt lobs \$1.2m at Old Byron Hospital

The NSW government have provided Byron Shire Council with a \$1.2m grant towards the redevelopment of the old Byron Hospital site.

In Monday's announcement by Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, he said the funds will contribute to the construction costs of the building. Council bought the 3,000m² site on the outskirts of the CBD in 2019 for \$1, 'with the aim of turning the property into a multi-use

community space'.

Three precincts

There will be three main precincts on the location, said Cr Lyon: 'an education precinct which will be home to one of Australia's leading universities; a community precinct providing access to essential services such as mental health, family support and youth services; and a commercial precinct offering professional space

for socially minded health, wellbeing, and other businesses and potentially a social enterprise cafe'.

'The project recently received development consent and Council is hoping the building will be finished and open in early 2024'.

When the redevelopment is complete, Council says the site will be managed by Lismore-based community services provider, Social Futures.

Extra Christmas bin collections

From Monday 26 December to Friday 9 January, you can place all bins at the kerbside for weekly collection.

Put your bins out the night before and make sure the lids are closed.

Collections will run every day including public holidays.

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Bangalow’s first Christmas Tree Festival

A forest of Christmas trees, created by local Bangalow community groups, are now on display in Bangalow’s heritage-listed Uniting Church.

The church’s Corinne Nash says, ‘Schools, the Red Cross, a medical centre, preschools, even NSW Police have created trees for the inaugural Christmas Tree Festival, which is open to the community every night from 6pm to 8pm until December 23’.

The Uniting Church’s Rev Phil Dokmanovic added Christmas trees are a universal part of the festive season.

‘I love that the Christmas trees on display are so different – one looks a bit like a Christmas-tree-shaped bookshelf,’ he said. ‘You can stand the ornaments in it.’

Ms Nash says, ‘There is also an insight into our collective experience with natural disasters across the Northern Rivers this year’.

Ms Nash says she came up with the idea after a visit to England. ‘Towns and villages across the UK have held festivals like this for years, and it provides connections in their communities, so we felt the Northern Rivers could do with a Christmas Tree Festival’.



The Bangalow Uniting Church’s church secretary, and Christmas Tree Festival organiser, Corinne Nash and Rev Phil Dokmanovic Photo Jeff Dawson

Byron Visitors Centre hosts Christmas Day

The Byron Visitors Centre management say that calls early in November about what was planned in Byron Bay for Christmas Day, prompted manager, Deb McBride, to offer an alternative to expensive banquets and the beach.

Deb says, ‘Given the serendipitous weather we can experience, it may rain, be cold, windy or even too hot. We are organising an alternative event for visitors, orphans and anyone who may be looking for something to do with other people on Christmas Day.

‘Christmas on the verandah will see local and ex-local musicians performing between 10am and 12.30pm and you can engage in your own form of expensive banquet by purchasing a lamb shoulder sausage. BYO sourdough bread!’

‘All are welcome to join the celebration at 80 Jonson Street, Byron Bay.

‘There is plenty of space to bring camp chairs, or rugs to throw on the grass. Kids are welcome, and please keep your dogs on a leash’.



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Tamara Smith MP Presents

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Join Tamara for an evening of conversation with Bob Brown as he shares stories about the ongoing struggle to protect our environment and how the Bob Brown Foundation supports action campaigns across Australia. With climate change here, now more than ever, Bob’s story reinforces the power of community to protect our future.

The Greens are powered by community, not corporate donations. All funds raised will support Tamara Smith’s campaign for the 2023 NSW State Election.

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Disused rail to become part cycleway in Shire's north

Paul Bibby

The long-awaited construction of a cycleway between Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads has taken a significant step forward, with Byron Council selecting a preferred route and commencing the design investigation process.

Creating a safe cycle link in the Shire's north has been a topic for discussion for over a decade, but meaningful action in relation to the plan has been a long time coming.

At last week's Council meeting, councillors received the results of a community survey that demonstrated clear support for the project as a whole and for the first of two route options.

'The people of this Shire, particularly those in the northern towns, want it and they need it,' Labor councillor Asren Pugh said of the project.

'I think we need to stop mucking around and meet our community's expectations about getting this happening.'

The chosen Mullum to Bruns route, known as Option 1, will also take in Ocean Shores and surrounding areas.

Beginning at Mullumbimby Station, the route



Council's cycleway plan Option 1 (top) has been adopted, which will see the cycleway run along the disused railway north of Mullum then turn right at Synotts Lane.

heads north along the rail corridor until Synotts Lane, where it heads east through adjoining properties, the Brunswick Valley STP and connects to Brunswick Valley Way just north of Rajah Road at Ocean Shores.

In the recent community survey, 61 per cent of participants said they wanted this option, compared to 26 per cent who preferred the southern option that went via Saddle Road and McAuleys Lane.

The remaining 13 per cent were either unsure or didn't support either option.

Cr Pugh said the advantages of Option 1 were that it would make use of the existing rail corridor, which removed the need for

infrastructure duplication, and opened the door to possible government funding.

'We've had broad level support for funding the rail trail in this part of the Shire [from the state government],' he said.

Mayor Michael Lyon then sought to address the argument that building a cycleway on part of the rail corridor would prevent any future return to rail travel in this part of the Shire.

'From Mullum north along the rail corridor, the idea of bringing the trains back is gone,' Cr Lyon said.

'The dream of any imminent return of rail north of Yelgun is over.

'But I don't think it's over for the long term, and I

strongly agree with the argument that holding that corridor in public hands keeps the option open for a return to rail use in the future.

'Utilising it as a cycleway corridor keeps it in public hands.'

Not unanimous

But the choice of Option 1 did not receive unanimous support from councillors.

Greens Councillor Duncan Dey argued that councillors should keep their options open, at least in the preliminary planning stage.

'The northern route involves going through more bush than the southern route,' he said.

'I don't know whether we've consulted with police, but I think that's a big step that needs to be done, because it may be that we're required legally to provide vehicle access or a level of surveillance to ensure safety.'

'I also think that with putting a path through that bush there's some ecological issues.'

Crs Dey and Peter Westheimer put forward an alternative motion that would have seen Council staff investigate both options, but they were voted down.

Splendour organisers fined over 2022 event

Splendour in the Grass organisers, Billinudgel Property, have been fined \$100,000 for failing to comply with its traffic management plan at the 2022 event.

The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) said in a press release on Tuesday that ten local schools within a 10-kilometre radius of the venue will receive \$10,000 each as part of the compliance action.

A DPE spokesperson said the money 'would be used at the schools' discretion to make improvements'.

'Traffic queuing [at the event] resulted in short term,

but significant traffic delays to the community, including school children travelling home from school on Thursday, 21 July 2022,' the spokesperson said.

'After considering all of the options available to us, we have decided that the best outcome for the community is for the company to contribute financially to improvements to nearby schools through an enforceable undertaking.'

The DPE have also asked for Splendour organisers to submit its independent audit early next year, a year earlier than expected.

Tiny home proposal knocked back

Councillors have supported a staff recommendation at last week's meeting to reject a proposal to 'use and occupy Council-owned land for a movable tiny house cluster and permaculture garden' at Vallances Road, just outside Mullumbimby.

The former sewage treatment plant (STP) site is located off Coolamon

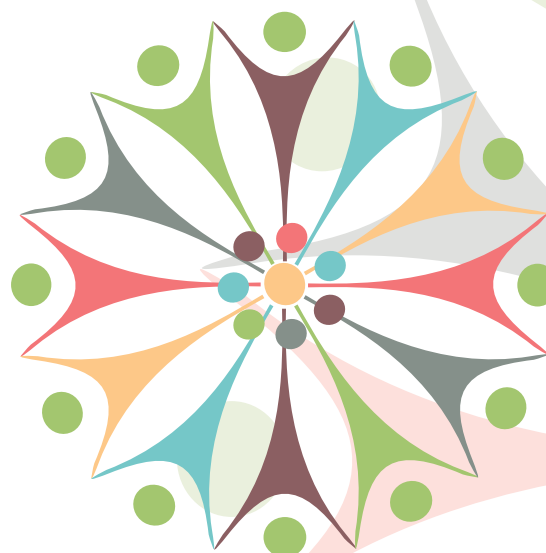
Scenic Road, and was found recently to be unsuitable for a natural burial site, despite lengthy consideration by Council.

One Roof proposal

The 'unsolicited' proposal by incorporated community association, One Roof, was rejected, in part, because it lacked enough detail.

Floods 2022

Recovery Support Service



The MDNC Recovery Support Service provides personalised, long-term support

Your own personalised recovery support worker.

Who can use these services?

Anyone directly impacted by the floods.

- Damaged or destroyed homes
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- Link to programs and services

How can I access these services?

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***Note: call 0499 864 218 if you need emergency support over the Christmas break between 23rd Dec and 8th Jan.**

Community Engagement Strategy adopted

Seven submissions were provided for Council's *Draft Community Engagement Strategy*, which was adopted unanimously by councillors at their Thursday meeting.

Councillors have also asked staff for a report around the possible employment of a community engagement/liaison officer.

Among the seven submissions, there were supportive comments, and others who were critical of Council's engagement with the public.

One person wrote, 'People in the community are complaining that Council no longer advertises DAs in *The Echo*... It was a valuable and important service to this small community that has intense pressures of development and tourism on them 24/7'.

Staff replied with, 'Council's website and the DA Tracker provide continually updated information about development applications lodged in the Byron Shire. Engagement and consultation for planning matters, including development applications, is outlined in the Community Participation Plan.'

Scrub up Mullum – there's a new bathhouse in town



Owner Brenden Lawless with manager Carlee Bufalino. Photo Jeff 'Already In My Togs' Dawson

Curious to know what lies behind the walls of the former bank in Mullum?

The Banya opened last week, and features a marble tiled pool, two large hot mineral pools, a wood-fired sauna, a steam room and a cold plunge. There are also five treatment rooms and a sundeck upstairs, along with dining and a bar on the ground floor which offers wine, cocktails and health elixirs.

It's described as a 'modern experiential twist on a traditional European bathhouse' by owner and local publican, Brenden Lawless. He says he wanted to breathe new life into the space, while preserving the original building.

Social experience

'In Europe, going to the banya is a social experience, it's in their blood. While we might go to the pub or a restaurant, they'll go to the banya for a few hours: it's food, it's drinks, it's wellness and connecting'.

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



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

Bulga Plateau locals blockade forest

Locals from the Bulga Plateau have vowed to resist attempts by what they say is the state-owned logging corporation's carnage in Bulga State Forest, and to that end they recently blocked access to the logging zone.

Wollumbin Stakeholder Advisory Committee meets

The issues surrounding Wollumbin and its use were highlighted yesterday during the first meeting of the Wollumbin Stakeholders Advisory Committee whose aim is to provide a forum for key stakeholders, including local government and the tourism industry, to provide input to future decisions regarding Wollumbin.

Fears quarry will endanger lives at Bentley Community Preschool

The Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) made the decision last week to approve the Bentley Quarry, but local farmers and families opposed to the project have not taken the news well.

Independent, Meredith Dennis, new Deputy Mayor of Tweed Council

Independent Councillor Meredith Dennis OAM has been appointed as Deputy Mayor of Tweed Shire until December 2023, following a Deputy Mayoral election at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council.

Ballina Council pauses plans for affordable workers' housing

Ballina Shire Council plans for affordable workers' housing in Wollongbar are on pause pending consultation with state agencies on projects elsewhere.

Kingscliff Primary donates to the Chinderah Donation Hub

The Kingscliff community has come together again to support the Chinderah Donation Hub which has been providing meals and support to flood victims since the February/March 2022 floods.

Rebuilding Wardell's village centre

Wardell was hard hit with flooding earlier this year and the Ballina Shire Council have allocated \$900,000 from the NSW Government's Local Government Recovery Program to develop a Draft Master Plan to revitalise the Wardell village centre.

www.echo.net.au

NSW Reconstruction Authority established

As part of the NSW government's response to the independent Flood Inquiry, a new bureaucratic corporate body has been established, called the NSW Reconstruction Authority, which will subsume around 100 staff from troubled government agency, Resilience NSW.

Michael Cassel has been appointed acting Reconstruction Authority CEO while a permanent CEO is found.

Acting CEO

According to the government press release, Cassel is currently the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

The press release reads, 'With the announcement of the acting CEO, Resilience

NSW staff will transition into the NSW Reconstruction Authority and other NSW government agencies. This builds on the recommendations of the Flood Inquiry.'

Not accountable

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is a government run corporation, and like the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation, is not accountable to the public and lacks the normal transparency and accountability that government departments adhere to.

The press release reads, 'The NSW Reconstruction Authority is a statutory corporation reporting to the Minister for Planning, and the Minister for Emergency

Services and Resilience and Minister for Flood Recovery'.

'The NSW government is working to transition Resilience NSW's functions, staff and budgets in a way that will maximise the government's response and recovery capability in the current storm season'.

Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, Anthony Roberts (Liberal), said, 'The authority's remit represents a new and unique alignment between disaster and strategic planning, which does not currently exist'.

Resilience NSW has been roundly criticised as being a bloated, unaccountable bureaucracy, and is responsible for the pod villages across the region.

Lismore panel to oversee house raising

Another layer of bureaucracy has been added to the government's flood response, with a 'local planning panel' being established, aimed at a 'faster planning pathway to enable homes to be raised in parts of Lismore sooner'.

According to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/lismore-recovery-package, the four panelists will comprise 'independent experts and Council, or community representatives that determine development applications on behalf of Council'.

'A minister-appointed chair with expertise in law

or government and public administration' will join 'two independent experts appointed by Lismore City Council (from a minister-endorsed pool of candidates)', along with a 'community representative appointed by Lismore City Council'.

Minister for Planning, Anthony Roberts (Liberal) said, 'This new pathway will allow for homes to be raised in Lismore without needing a development application, if standards set out in the policy are met'.

More than 6,000 homes in the Northern Rivers were

damaged or destroyed in the 2022 floods, says the government.

Damaged homes

'We've also made it easier to subdivide land and build new homes outside of flood-prone areas, to help speed up the relocation of homes and communities'.

The planning pathway and independent panel is expected to come into effect from February 2023.

For more information, visit www.planning.nsw.gov.au/lismore-recovery-package.

Native Title granted in North Coast

The Federal Court of Australia have recognised that the Widjabul Wia-bal hold native title over approximately 11,700 hectares around the Lismore area.

After the special sitting in Goonellabah on Monday, the decision means the traditional owners now have the rights to carry out a number of cultural activities on non-freehold land, such as national parks and crown

land across multiple local government areas. According to the ABC, the claim was first filed almost a decade ago, in June 2013, and is the 18th in NSW since the *Native Title Act* came into effect in 1993.

Coexisting rights

'The determination recognises non-exclusive native title rights, meaning public access will coexist with Widjabul Wia-bal's rights', say the ABC.

Housing SEPP changes proposed

Changes to a NSW government policy that aims to 'Further incentivise the uptake of the in-fill affordable housing provisions to help increase the delivery of affordable housing dwellings' is on public exhibition until January 13, 2023, having been extended from the previous deadline of December 19, 2022.

Revised definitions

According to www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/housing-policy-eie, 'An Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) [is] seeking feedback on proposed amendments

to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021 (Housing SEPP)'

If adopted, the changes aimed at affordable housing would see 'Increasing the in-fill affordable housing floor space bonuses available by 25 per cent and lowering the floor space ratio (FSR) threshold associated with calculation of the FSR bonus from 2.5:1 to 2:1.'

Under the revised policy, definitions of group homes and hostels, boarding houses and 'Seniors independent living units' would be amended.

Lismore appoints new Council GM

Jon Gibbons is the new General Manager of Lismore City Council, the fourth GM in that role in less than two years. Controversial General Manager Shelley Oldham was sacked in February 2021.

Oldham was replaced by interim GM Michael Donnelly and he was replaced by interim GM John Walker in February this year. Gibbons will start his five-year term from February 9, 2023.

Media protocols improve for the DPE

Hans Lovejoy

After inquiring why the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) regularly replies to *Echo* questions with 'On background (not for quoting)', it appears that protocol has now been dropped.

A DPIE communications media spokesperson

told *The Echo* that, "on background" information is generally a common way all levels of government in NSW, including DPE, provide extra information to help clarify, place the subject matter in context, and indicate timelines etc'.

'The actual response provided and attributed to a

spokesperson is that which the relevant department or agency respectfully requests be used by the relevant media organisation. As far as the reference to (*not to be quoted*) – we can't speak on behalf of other departments but, this is something that has been addressed within the Planning group and has been removed'.

REGULAR ONLINE COLUMN FROM THE INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

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Fed Sheds DA rejected

Paul Bibby

A proposed light industrial development that divided the community of Federal has been knocked back by Byron Council, leaving a cloud of doubt over the plan.

The Fed Sheds development came before last week's Council meeting, with Davgav Pty Ltd proposing to replace the old house opposite Federal Hall with three buildings housing a total of eight light industrial tenancies.

The \$2.8m development, which lies within the Federal Village Heritage Conservation Area, would also have included 19 parking spaces, two service bays and its own stormwater and sewage treatment facilities.

The Development Application (DA) that came before Council was an amended version of the original plan, with the developer making a number of changes in a bid win over Council and opponents within the community.

There were myriad concerns, including the size and scale of the proposal, the use of a novel sewage and waste water system, and the impact on the amenity of the town and its village character.

'It's a good design, but it's all about context, and in context I think the size and scale of this proposal is a significant issue,' said Independent Councillor Mark Swivel, who moved the motion to refuse the application.

'It's about having the buildings talk to each other in a little village, and this proposal doesn't achieve that in my opinion.'

But one of the developers, Gavin Elterman, said that he and his colleagues had gone 'back to the drawing board' in a bid to alleviate these and other concerns.

'We moved the building back from Federal Drive by between seven and ten metres,' Mr Elterman said.

'We changed the parking to 19 spaces which is three more



'Of greatest concern is the absence of suitable area for a conventional OSMS [Onsite Sewage Management System] disposal system'
- Goets Bickert, from the Federal Community Centre Steering Group

Concept plans from Davgav Pty Ltd. Photo supplied

Those voting to refuse the development were Mark Swivel, Peter Westheimer, Duncan Dey, Asren Pugh and Alan Hunter.

Those voting against the refusal motion were Mayor Michael Lyon and Deputy Mayor Sarah Ndiaye.

Cr Sama Balson was not present for the vote.

than required for compliance.'

'The community access plan allows for... the public to access 60.35 per cent of the total footprint we're building.'

Deputy Mayor Sarah Ndiaye also spoke in support of the plan, noting the quality of the design and the workmanship that would be provided.

'I get that there's a lot of hesitation from some in the community,' Cr Ndiaye said.

'But I've had contact from quite a few people in Federal who've said they're in favour of it, but they don't want to speak up because the opponents have been so vocal.'

'I think change is always resisted, and sometimes it's for the right reasons and sometimes it's not.'

A key sticking point for other councillors, and local opponents of the plan, was the use of a new type of sewage management system that had barely, if ever, been used in Australia.

'The constraint of greatest concern is the absence of suitable area for a conventional OSMS [Onsite Sewage Management System] disposal system,' said Goets Bickert from the Federal Community Centre Steering Group.

'The devil is in the detail, and it's beyond my comprehension why staff recommended approval of this highly problematic DA. Without a conventional OSMS, it leaves you, as Council, with liability as this is prone to failure.'

Ayla Rinsky-Bryant excels with her HSC result

Year 12 students at Cape Steiner School have performed well in their HSC, according to co-guardian of the class of 2022, Alix Johnson.

Johnson made special mention of student, Ayla Rinsky-Bryant, who excelled in this year's HSC, 'achieving outstanding results across the spectrum from humanities to STEM subjects'.

Ayla unmatched

'She received excellent results in Maths Extension II, English Advanced Extension I and II, Physics and Spanish, making her the most successful candidate in the 31-year history of the school.'

'Ayla succeeded in her application to study Mechanical Engineering at Coopers Union in New York in 2023.'



Ayla Rinsky-Bryant with her family. Photo supplied

'Cape Byron students also excelled in the creative and practical arts: Drama, Music, English Extension II and D&T.'

'In this year's Drama class of eight students, nine performances were nominated for best-in-state. Krystal Pierce received 99 for her Drama exam, as well as being

nominated for her individual performance and selected for her group performance, which she will perform at the Enmore Theatre in Newtown during February, with five of her classmates.'

'Congratulations to all HSC students and their dedicated, passionate teachers.'

FALLS

ARCTIC MONKEYS - LIL NAS X - PEGGY GOU
CHVRCHES - JAMIE XX - AMINÉ
OCEAN ALLEY - CAMELPHAT - SPACEY JANE
DMA'S - G FLIP - PINK PANTHERESS
RICO NASTY - AMYL AND THE SNIFFERS
MALL GRAB - BEN BÖHMER (LIVE)
DJ SEINFELD - GENESIS OWUSU - TSHA
CC:DISCO! - YOUNG FRANCO - ANNA LUNOE
LUUDE - LASTLINGS - MAY-A - CHOOMBA
THE VANNIS - KING STINGRAY - PEACH PRC
BEDDY RAYS - JEAN DAWSON - TELENOVA
BISCITS - BARRY CAN'T SWIM - ELKKA
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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 37 #28 • December 21, 2022

Quick, someone else grab the policy lever

With 2022 wrapping up, there will hopefully be some much needed time for everyone to pause and reflect on the year, and to take time out to do what's most important – spending time with friends and family.

What's also important is spending time in nature.

This region, and Byron Shire in particular, is lucky to be home to some of the most unique biodiverse flora and fauna in the nation.

This was recently outlined by a report to Council titled *Byron Wildlife Corridor System 2022*.

The authors, Landmark Ecological Services, found 27 major and 26 minor corridor connectors in the Shire, in combination with the network of riparian buffers.

According to the report, this Shire is recognised as being home to endemic species, which are those 'with restricted and/or patchy distributions and species most at risk from processes that threaten their long-term viability'.

The greatest risk to these species, according to the report, are 'habitat loss, fragmentation and isolation caused by vegetation clearing, and habitat degradation'.

The Shire's natural environment is estimated to have 'maintained [a] relatively stable rainforest habitat over at least the last 120,000 years, and the rainforest species often have ancestry going back to the ancient supercontinent of Gondwana'.

With such precious lands to manage, it's important that awareness of all this drives decision-making and future planning.

It's not just up to individual land-owners to be conscious of our environmental credentials; those who create and enact policy – Council and

'Is this government telling this electorate that it won't win this seat back in a hurry?'

the NSW government need to lead on this front.

Open, transparent governance is needed more than ever, because as powerful entities, they set the tone.

Yet as we have seen over the nine years of the NSW Liberal-Nationals government, they have shown little regard for the natural environment.

It's been treated as an endless resource to be trashed by the highest bidder. Planning powers have been systematically taken away from locally elected councils, and a Sydney-centric vision placed upon us.

It happened again this week around the housing shortage, when the NSW government told Council it would not honour its agreement on holiday letting, and instead asked a planning body to intervene, to presumably make a decision that the government wants.

Is this government telling this electorate that it won't win this seat back in a hurry?

All the issues that have led to a national shortage in housing stock, particularly affordable and social housing, land squarely at the feet of the NSW and federal Liberal-Nationals governments.

The policy levers – negative gearing and the like – are pointed at those who already own homes.

In many cases, a lot of homes.

It's time the levers are handed to those who understand society is a complex mix of human endeavours, and not just speculating property investors.

Hans Lovejoy, editor
News tips are welcome:
editor@echo.net.au

A peek into the Tweed gambling cartel

Tweed MP, Geoff Provest (Nationals), worked in licensed clubs for 27 years, including 14 years as general manager of the Tweed Heads Bowls Club.

At one stage, he was responsible for over 340 poker machines. He has lots of letters after his name, the preeminent being 'CCM'. I had to look that up, not being a qualification I was overly familiar with – it apparently stands for Certified Club Manager, which is a certificate level thingy barely recognised outside clubland managementsville.

Geoff CCM is the Parliamentary Secretary for Police.

This means he is paid extra to assist the Minister for Police.

One would have thought that a condition of this role is to support law enforcement and investigators in their fight against organised crime, and money laundering in particular.

\$95B gambled last year

The Crime Commission, with assistance from several government agencies, including the NSW Police, have recently released a report which found that in 2020–21, approximately \$95 billion was gambled through pokies in pubs and licensed clubs in NSW.

To put that in perspective, that is three times the size of the whole NSW health budget.

Of this, billions were the proceeds of crime, or 'dirty money'.

The investigation, over years, included coercive hearings, surveillance and hard research culminating in the comprehensive report.

NSW Crime Commissioner, Michael Barnes, said poker machines offered criminals one of the last remaining safe havens where cash from criminal enterprises could be 'cleaned' or gambled with virtual impunity.

He said, 'At the moment, serious offenders can enter NSW pubs and clubs, sit down next to patrons in gaming rooms, and openly feed large sums of cash from their crimes into poker machines with no real fear of detection... it is clear from our investigations it involves many billions of dollars every year'.

The introduction of a mandatory cashless gaming card is the first and key recommendation.



'Tweed Heads clubs, in the six months from December 2021 to May 2022, made \$42 million profit from 1,600 machines. That's profit, not turnover'.

– David Heilpern

The card is like a credit card, linked to each player's bank account and verified by identity.

It ensures that the gambler is only able to use their own money, and suspicious funds can be traced back.

There is no cash for winnings or losings. Now what could be the downside of that?

Tweed Heads clubs, in the six months from December 2021 to May 2022, made \$42 million profit from 1,600 machines. That's profit, not turnover. Pubs made \$10 million.

With an industry standard payout percentage of ten per cent, that's a turnover of \$500 million.

Tweed Shire Council has an entire budget about half of that.

To make my view plain, if you are against the cashless gambling card, you are supporting a range of criminal activities causing untold harm in our community.

Also, the cashless gambling card has a real chance of reducing harm for problem gamblers.

Oh, and that is not just my view, NSW Premier Dom Perrottet said he was keen 'to stop money laundering occurring in poker machines and ensuring that problem gamblers are not throwing their life savings down a pokie machine'.

What is the reaction of the local member?

He is reported on ABC as saying, 'I do not believe criminals are laundering money through Tweed Heads poker machines', and he does not, accordingly, support the cashless gambling card.

We are all relieved that there is a bubble around the Tweed, that prevents such activity so rife everywhere else.

Clearly, there is no drug/sex abuse/slavery/criminal money in the Tweed to be laundered, not even dribbling down from the Gold Coast,

and if there is, it is just spent on something else. Things. And stuff.

But not in Geoff Provest's clubs on the Tweed river, where butter would not melt in their mouth.

Maybe he's put up a hand-written sign on the notice board next to the bowls roster, forbidding money laundering?

Or maybe it is just rank hypocrisy.

Here are a couple of quotes from Geoff CCM in parliament:

'We also must give police and the Crime Commission the powers they need to combat organised crime...'

Being located on the border, my electorate is often a pipeline for illicit activities coming from Qld into NSW and vice versa.'

And – 'As each month goes by, large amounts of cash are being seized at our borders and on our streets. When I am out on the street with our local police, it is at times quite overwhelming to see the devastation, particularly the breakdown of family units, as a result of criminals prostituting our youth for their own benefit and with no regard for their wellbeing'.

Giving back?

And please, before you can say 'yes but Clubs give back to the disadvantaged through community grants', let's look at the evidence.

For example, Club Tweed in its latest annual published cash grants gave \$33,000 in total to 11 community groups.

And \$482,000 to itself for 'bowls green maintenance'.

That's largely returning a skerrick of pokie profits to one very select needy group in the community. Bowlers.

And here is the really big question – how can Geoff Provest CCM remain Parliamentary Secretary for Police, when his views are so diametrically opposed to NSW law enforcement, and those of the premier?



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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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Liz Rankin, LLB, FDRP

Chimp the kelpie

Given the continued wanton destruction of native habitat and wildlife perpetrated by that crazed foaming-at-the-mouth hominid known as human I demand, for the sake of the very survival of the planet, an immediate emergency order enforcing a 23-hour human lockdown, ensuring this invasive species is confined to their dwellings.

When out for their one-hour walk, these dangerous creatures should be manacled by the ankles to restrict their facility to subdivide and clear great swathes of native habitat, to pollute the rivers and to poison the air and soil, as they are wont to do when left to their own devices.

Any breaches of these laws should initiate Council confiscation of ALL assets pertaining to the infringer along with permanent garnisheeing of the totality of any future earnings, until death. Only then will we get a handle on this recidivist pest and save our habitat from destruction.

Chimp the kelpie
Mullumbimby

Crimes in chalk

Good to read the reports in last week's *Echo* on the climate emergency and NSW's ridiculous protest laws. In Mandy Nolan's article she notes that Extinction Rebellion activist Daisy Nutty faced charges for chalking the pavement outside MP Kevin Hogan's office.

Really? The ER crew in my home town regularly chalks the pavement with pithy comments and no-one seems to feel the need to call the cops, and this is in National Party heartland. Perhaps Mr Hogan is allergic to chalk, or to the bleeding obvious.

I could see the need for the police to check the chalk for grammatical errors, in the style of John Cleese's Roman officer in *Monty Python's The Life Of Brian*. Other than that, why bother? One of the Northern Rivers' tremendous storms will wash it away in no time.

Incidentally, those interested in chalk might like the 'underfoot ephemeral impossibilities' of Michigan artist David Zinn: zinnart.com.

Michael McDonald
Bairnsdale VIC



We were delighted to receive a very 'Murray' Christmas from Janet and Ross Murray and thought you might enjoy it too!

STRA outrage

As I finalise another submission on another state government push for higher density development (gifting to developers) to address their failure to deliver on social and affordable housing, they do a backflip on Byron's short term rental accommodation (STRA).

Our council and MP Tamara Smith are supporting our community but not the government. This issue has gouged our community for 20 years. STRA of entire homes was previously unlawful because the LEP defined tourism as prohibited in a residential zone. Councils won court cases, then the ALP state government stepped in and advised it was 'looking into it' after pressure from commercial interests.

The coalition made it easier for STRA while at the same time imposing increased housing densities. Our community has suffered, locals have left as neighbourhoods are turned into tourism areas. How many tourists is Byron Shire meant to accommodate?

Property prices have escalated as houses become a commercial investment, not a home. Government raises the economic impact defence but it's clear they don't understand the value of community. So who's there for disasters? Not government; it's community. The state doesn't value community - who live, work, spend, volunteer, and contribute to our social capital. Instead they cave in to pressure from

a commercial sector.
Surprised - NOT, outraged - ABSOLUTELY.

Jan Barham
Broken Head

Protection racket

The flurry of articles by Richard Jones, Mandy Nolan, and one reprinted from *Cosmos Magazine* in last week's *Echo* have each reminded us of the enormity of the ecological crisis we now face, and the predictable reaction of powerful entities in seeking to protect the destructive profiteering of fossil fuel and other companies.

And it's only the beginning: the lines of civil unrest and state repression are being rapidly redrawn. The treatment of Violet Coco is an indication of things to come. As the *Cosmos* piece makes plain, the climate changes predicted for 2030 are here already, with more regular and intense extreme weather to come.

The truth is that the protesters are fighting for all our lives; for the life of the planet. Sounds cheesy? I might have thought so once upon a time, but no longer. Words like *emergency* and *crisis* suggest there's a way out of this almighty mess. I'm not so sure. But even in the face of the worst, we have a moral duty to act. Nonviolent protest, mass civil unrest, and changes to how each of us lives are the only ways of curtailing the actions of polluters and their enablers. Acting now is the right, moral thing to do.

Dr Richard Hil
Mullumbimby

Insects

I looked at a couple of stunning insect pictures in a lovely photography book by Jean Paul Ferrero.

Recently I saw a huge flock of white butterflies, but other than that the book made me realise that I see very few insects around now.

When I was a kid in inner Sydney and also the nearby suburbs, we had a good variety of insects including praying mantis, dragonflies, rhinoceros beetles, elephant beetles and, around December/January, an assortment of beautiful multicoloured iridescent Christmas beetles.

Are they still around or have we poisoned them all? Happy Christmas.

Hannah Grace
Ocean Shores

Heads in the sand

I found the cartoon (7 December) depicting those who object to an Indigenous Voice as having their heads

in the sand to be offensive.

The Voice is a contentious matter that, arguably, has serious consequences for all Australians. It should be debated in a fair and balanced manner. Ridicule, in a closed forum, of those who have an opposing viewpoint from their own does not measure up.

Bert Carter
East Ballina

Unaffordable

Today I went into Byron. I dropped into the op shop first, but when I couldn't see any clothing under \$15 (and most much higher cost) I walked out. I must have missed the memo whereby they converted to an upmarket recycling shop.

I then walked over to the cinema to see a film, only to find that the pensioner concession price was nearly

\$20. I was disgusted and offended.

Like most longtime locals I'll be giving my money to Lismore and Ballina and giving Byron the flick.

Lynn Burdon
Eureka

Fed Sheds refused

Overdevelopment got a serve last Thursday when a majority of councillors supported refusal of the long-equivocated Development Application for 'Fed Sheds' in Federal. I proposed refusal in August but lost the vote then, with the majority preferring to send the local community in to bat for a compromise with the proponent. That failed and four months later we got there.

While the idea of a light-industry hub in Federal village has merit, this site
► Continued on page 15

WHAT'S YOUR HOME
Worth IN THE RIGHT HANDS?

Harcourts BYRON BAY
BALLINA
LISMORE
P 6686 1100 harcourtsnr.com.au

BYRON BAY FRIENDLY BAR

RAILS AND THE FAMOUS RAILS KITCHEN

THURS 22 DEC	NATHAN KAYE
FRI 23 DEC	SAM BUCKLEY / PINK ZINC PRESENTS
SAT 24 DEC	DAMIEN COOPER 1-4PM THE RANDALLS 4.30-7.30PM EPIC 8-11PM
SUN 25 DEC	XMAS DAY
MON 26 DEC	DONNY SHADES 4-7PM RAGGA JUMP 8-11PM
TUES 27 DEC	LOANSOME BOATMEN
WED 28 DEC	MATT ARMITAGE

86 JONSON ST, BYRON BAY | 6685 7662 | THERAILSBYRONBAY.COM

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.

So, were we wrong to protect Byron Shire? A 30-year perspective

Jan Barham

So, were we wrong to protect Byron Shire? This question is often asked as our efforts have created a 'desirable' location but delivered extreme pressure on our community and environment.

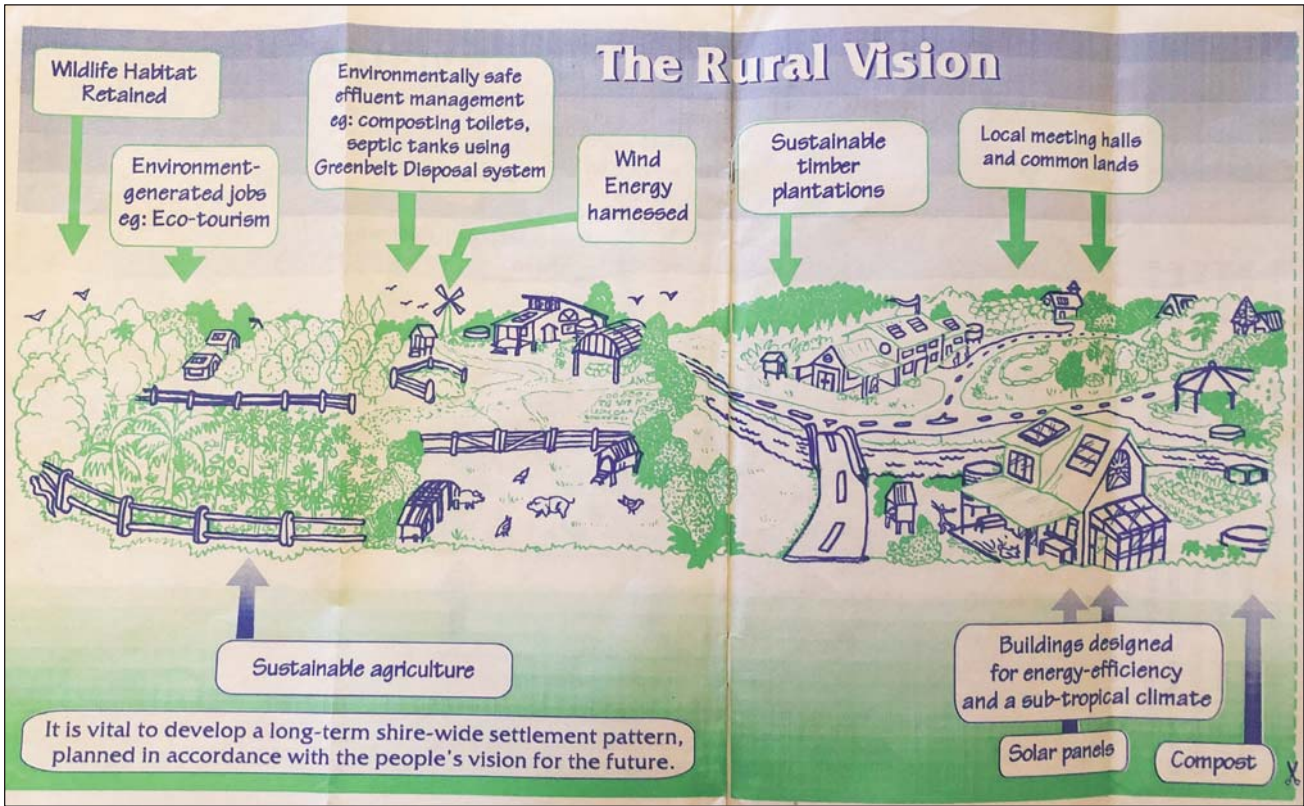
There appears to be no end to the number of people who want to come here, or invest – and how much they will pay to visit or own.

But was it wrong to try to protect our home? My answer is always 'No'. The community intent to protect a special place, to counter overdevelopment and ensure that biodiversity, farmland, community amenity and culture are preserved was, and is always, right.

Ecologically Sustainable Development

In the early nineties, with a Coalition state government and a council granting approvals for Club Med, Broken Head quarry and inappropriate subdivisions, there was opposition and vision. The community response to the foreseeable risk of a future in the style of development to the north was to present an alternative.

In June 1992, the United



The BEACON 'Vision Statement' developed in 1992 as part of a community vision for a sustainable future.

Nations convened the Earth Summit which adopted the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and recognised the future risks of climate change. In December the same year, the Australian Government produced the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development and COAG (the Council for Australian Governments) endorsed it. ESD is a simple concept, it defines the principles of environmental protection

and the 'do no harm', precautionary principle and prescribes decision making that considers intergenerational equity. These are the elements that should define good governance, they are embedded in legislation, but unfortunately are mostly ignored.

BEACON

Locally, environment group, Byron Environment and Conservation Organisation (BEACON) developed an ESD-informed 'Vision Statement' in September 1992, it presented an alternative for Byron Shire's future. Community workshops, a comprehensive planning document and a leaflet that

went to every household in the shire, provided the background to encourage optimism. The leaflet featured a future vision that presented environmental protection and sustainable growth that included solar, rainwater tanks, cycleways, wildlife corridors and farmland protection.

When a new progressive council was elected in 1995, it initiated a program of reform. But in 1997 it was revealed that the council was \$7m in debt. Despite state government threats of amalgamation the community instead supported a tightening of expectations and struggled on. The council and the community pursued a

rigorous program of research and consultation that delivered the 'Greenprint for a Sustainable Future'. It was a strategic planning document that defined and embedded ESD into the Local Environmental Plan (LEP), before it was in state legislation. NSW laws still include ESD but governments don't enforce it, or perhaps they just lack the commitment.

State weakens Byron's protections

Over time Council's well-informed and community-supported strategies and plans were developed to guide appropriate development. All was going well, an empowered community and Council was able to determine our future and stand up to rogue developers with the force of our planning instrument recognised by the courts. In 2014, the state government ended councils' planning autonomy and imposed the Standard Instrument LEP, which essentially means the same rules apply here as for every other council in the state.

It's been disturbing to witness how Byron's efforts to protect this place and avoid destroying what is valuable and irreplaceable being eroded by government. However, it's become a destination of choice for many politicians, celebrities and those who seek quality of life. Also, an investors' paradise. Despite external pressures the

community remains vigilant, making submissions, protesting and countering the inappropriate with informed and detailed arguments and alternatives.

Remain vigilant

It's a reality that many of our rights and powers have been taken away.

Do we have to wait for our shire and community to be irreversibly transformed before the powers that be recognise the impact of their interventions and admit that they were wrong?

But was it wrong for the community to be forward thinking and optimistic, to expect that in a democracy we would be permitted to define our future? No, the state government betrayed local government and the community. The reasons why are unclear, however, we can speculate. Is it a case of government being less informed or is it that they caved into the commercial pressures?

Vibrant community

What's clear is that the Byron Shire community, despite being over-ridden and undermined, still continues to present strong opposition to short sighted, ill-informed and commercially driven oppression. We are vigilant and we are right to do everything we can to protect our home, biodiversity, neighbourhoods and our future survival.

Sadly, governments aren't what they used to be, they've been dumbed down and are hostage to commercial interests. They have forgotten their role as defined in the State Constitution to 'have power to make laws for the peace, welfare, and good government of New South Wales'.

Good government should respect our 'welfare', our right to be self-governing, especially when we attempt to uphold the laws as they exist and particularly when governments don't.

Democracy is not at its best at the moment, but the Byron Shire community are on the right side of history. We try to preserve the welfare of the people and the environment. For that commitment and retaining optimism we should all be proud of our efforts and achievements. Despite the disappointments, Byron Shire is still an amazing place with a vibrant and vigilant community.

Suicide Prevention

Protecting ***YOURSELF** and ***OTHERS**.
Over ***Christmas** and ***New Year...**

DON'T LIVE IN FANTASY LAND!

***80% of 39% of R known 2 *Rape, Abuse & Network*. USA.**

FANTASY Vs REALITY

- World War 1 ended a century ago after killing around 20 Million. It was then said **2B The War to end all Wars**. Listening 2 any current International News bulletin **quickly connects us with reality!** Despite the efforts of so many **good people** 2 stop Domestic/Sexual Violence; like wars, this criminal activity just **isn't *going *away**, anytime soon!
- While Women/Girls and minority Gender Groups R the traditional, more common targets; as I found out, Christmas of 1967, at age 15, a very significant # of us Males R targeted 2!

MY BODY'S NO BODY'S BODY BUT MINE!

- Parents/Caregivers should ensure younger children have an age-appropriate concept of their **body boundaries** e.g. **Say NO. RUN. TELL some1 U Trust!**
- Older children have the **Basics well in Place** around **Consent**.
Caregivers have systems in place 2 know where kids R, who they R with and what they R doing, online as well!

While ***000** is 4 when Life is in ***Immediate *Danger...**

Remember 24/7, Lifeline on ***13 11 14** in **ANY Situation** 4 Talk and Advice, or Google **Fact Sheets Lifeline Au**, 2 have one of these **Emotional TOOLKITS** on UR screen in seconds!

STAY SAFE. AND ALIVE. THINK SMART!

PICKUPURPHONE!

***Kids Helpline 1800551800. 24/7 Mensline 1300789978.**

Created by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

CHESS by Ian Rogers

In recent years, sponsorship deals for chessplayers tended to emphasise their abilities as streamers rather than over the chessboard.

It is therefore pleasing that this week saw the announcement that Arjun Erigaisi, the 19-year-old Indian rising star, had signed a \$6m five year agreement with Singapore financial trading firm Quantbox – after which time Quantbox expects that Erigaisi will be a genuine world title contender, if not World Champion.

Certainly Erigaisi, now world #26, has had a sensational 2022, winning the Indian Championship, the Delhi Open and the Wijk aan Zee Challengers tournaments just in the first three months of the year.

Yet such is the strength of India's current generation of youngsters that Erigaisi is not even the highest ranked Indian teenager on the world rankings! However, although 16-year-old Dommaraju Gukesh is two places higher, it could be argued that Erigaisi has earned his position the hard way, coming from

Telangana rather than chess-crazy Tamil Nadu, the home of Viswanathan Anand and super-coach Ramachandran Ramesh.

Erigaisi, like many of his peers, is happy to live his chess life on the edge, as can be seen in the position below from November's Tata India Rapid in Kolkata.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Black to move, tried the queen sacrifice **26... g3!** Erigaisi decided that **27.Nd6+(!) Rxd6 28.Rxc5 gxf2+ 29.Kh1 Nxc5** was just what his opponent wanted and preferred **27.hxg3**. He survived the attack after **27...Rxc4 28.Qxc4! Qxf2+ 29.Kh1 Nxc3+ 30.Kh2 Qf7?! 31.Kg1!** and went on to win five moves later, via **31...h5 32.Ra3 Rg4 33.Qc2 Qe7 34.Rc3 c5 35.Rd1 Qh4 36.Rxc5+ 1-0** However, as Erigaisi had realised immediately after making his 27th move, Mamedyarov missed **27...Rd1+!!** leading to a speedy victory after **28.Rxd1 Qxf2+ 29.Kh2 Rxc3**, etc.

Players meet at Byron Bay Services Club, Sat 2.30 and Mon 5.00

Buoyancy NSW embraces seachange

Shred Potomac

After the clusterfuck that was Resilience NSW in 2022, premier Dominic Parrottoe recognised the need to face up to the wet future, especially for the Archipelago of Byron Shire.

The premier-for-life, a fashion imported from China and accompanied by large men with guns, arranged for Buoyancy NSW to be set up for water-treading locals after all the viable real estate development opportunities had been shuffled off to Liberal Party mates.

The new government agency proved phenomenally successful, especially in providing swimming lessons to the accompaniment of disco beats. Private enterprise also played its part with, for example, the Mullumbimby Woolworths chaining up the nearby floating rescue pods to its supermarket yacht, and offering dispossessed residents a ten per cent discount on sliced cheese, brought all the way on wind-powered barges from the last remaining dairy farms in the Himalayas.

The former land-bound Byron Shire found itself with more money than it knew what to do with, apart from snorting some of it up in powder form on glass-top coffee tables in the Station Street compound. The new Archipelago required no roadmaking and no pothole-filling, and bin collection was arranged by dolphins that had some secretive



Most of the islands of the Archipelago of Byron. The lighthouse was in for repairs on the day the photo was taken. Photo Lux Tonnerre – flickr.com/photos/luxtonnerre

underwater project in mind.

Councillor Duncan Dey, a man who knew about water and the fact it ran downhill, was appointed Chief Aquanaut. He introduced a cost-effective island-hopping ferry service and floating tennis courts, a pet hobby of his inspired by years of lobbying back and forth urgency and rescission motions among councillors chiefly interested in keeping their seats warm during torrential downpours.

Some of the famous Byron traditions continued in renewed forms. Airbnbs became Seabnbs. Drumming circles were performed in underwater capsules, much to the delight of residents who strangely had no interest in loud drumming. The Hemsworth Museum of Curiosities featured an exhibition of taxidermied unrestrained dogs that drowned in the deluge of 2023, and that was visited

daily by relieved wallabies and nesting seabirds.

Up in what was once the hills, the last of the 1970s new settlers elaborated upon their conspiracy narratives and posted them to Wetbook, the social media platform that took over from the bankrupt Twitter and the Metaverse that disappeared up some cosmic rectum, not accounted for by the lyrical musings of Brian Cox. The NSW Police Marine Force decided not to investigate the settlers' crops when they realised they were often guarded by meth-enhanced bull sharks.

Apart from the climate emergency and the welcome interventions by Buoyancy NSW, life in the Byron Archipelago continued much as it always had. People laughed, people cried, people danced, and others had scars on their hands from trying to open oysters with dodgy knives.

► Continued from page 13 can't carry the quantum of building that was proposed. The proposal's failure was in taking an urban approach to a rural site.

'Urban' means sending sewage and stormwater off the property to municipal systems designed to accept them. 'Rural' means dealing with them within the property boundaries.

The onsite sewage proposal was experimental but there would have been no manager to watch the system; no reserve area as backup in case the system failed; no capacity for any trade wastes (despite food and drink trades being banned); and inadequate buffers to the downhill boundary. The effluent application system would have been unique in not having access to a natural surface for

evapotranspiration – it was to be beneath the car park.

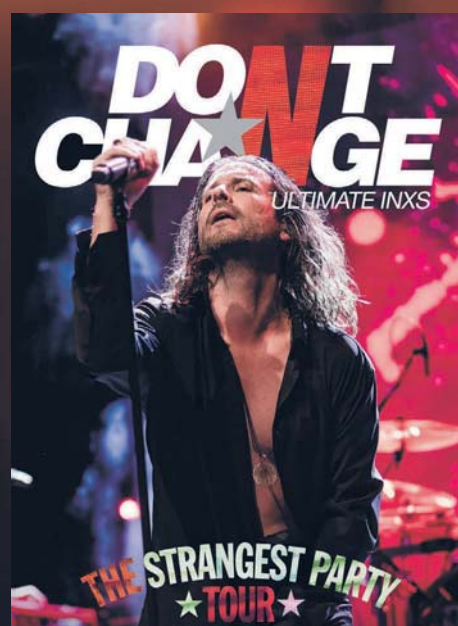
The stormwater proposal included mandatory onsite detention but that design is based on the short-duration storms falling on the 4,000 square metre property itself. The peak storm flow gets reduced by detention, to be lower than the pre-development peak, but the volume of runoff still increases. More water leaves the site, just spread over a longer period. Sadly, the maths ends at the pipe outlet in Coachwood Court. That area already has insoluble flood problems. Those problems are caused by longer-period storms than those to which the developing property is sensitive, because the catchment to Coachwood Court is bigger (call this principle Hydrology 102). Delaying the flood off the smaller catchment

actually compounds flooding on the larger one, i.e. in Coachwood Court.

Stormwater design that does not consider impacts all the way down the catchment (to Stoney Creek in this case) may be compliant, but it falls way short of dealing correctly with impacts. The stormwater system serving Coachwood Court is defective and adding problems to it would have been wrong.

A reduction in built area in the proposal would have left room for correct treatment of sewage and stormwater from that more modest proposal. Let's hope the developer takes that approach in a future DA, rather than running to court to roll the dice on whether experts can't grasp what I've written above.

Duncan Dey
Byron Shire councillor



Saturday 7 January

Doors: 7.30pm

Show: 8.00pm

Tickets: \$40

18+ Event

General Admission

Considered to be the most authentic INXS tribute

Scan to book Tickets



Saturday 14 January

Doors: 7.30pm

Show: 8.30pm

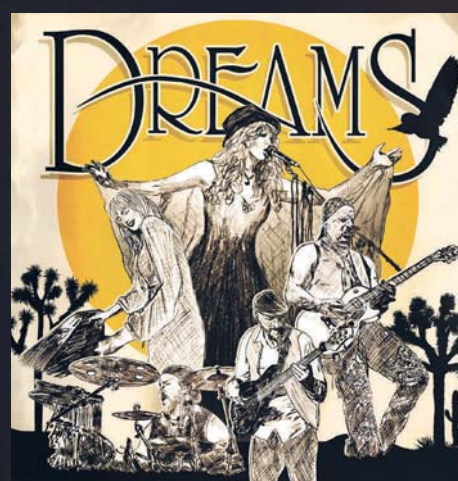
Presale: \$45

Doorsale: \$50

18+ Event

Performing all their hits... This is it, folks, over the top!

Scan to book Tickets



FLEETWOOD MAC & STEVIE NICKS TRIBUTE SHOW

Friday 20 January

Doors: 7.30pm

Show 8pm

Presale: \$36

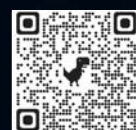
Doorsale: \$41

(post 6pm)

18+ Event

First Ballina Performance!

Scan to book Tickets



Saturday 21 January

2pm & 7pm Shows

All Ages

Under 14: \$49.90

Group 8+: \$49.90

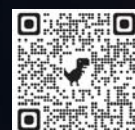
Member: \$49.90

Concession: \$54.90

Adult: \$65.90

Family (2 adults and 2 kids): \$199

Scan to book Tickets



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Is there an alternative to exploitation to sustain us in our luxury?

Alejandro Aleman

It is interesting to note how the energy transition and decarbonisation plans have been gaining prominence in the media for some time now. We can see it on the front pages of newspapers, in political debates, in governments' strategic energy transition plans and in companies' apparent climate commitments.

We would think that after last year's IPCC report warning that the world is on track to exceed 2°C by 2100 owing to inaction and lack of global commitment, awareness of the terrible crisis in which we are immersed, and the obligation to do something about it, we would have been awakened.

But the reality of the continued mediatisation of the concepts of energy transition and renewables, far from being an honest commitment to fight the climate crisis, is a reflection of the desperate search for new sources of profitability and the stabilisation of the economic growth of a system that is beginning to see its energy and material base begin to decay.

It is not a moral gesture of the system towards the planet to meet the Paris goals of limiting the temperature to 1.5 degrees; it is a transition forced by the depletion of the profitability provided by fossil fuels.

Fossil feast

With the peak production of most non-renewable fuels now over, fossil capitalism heavily dependent on a continuous flow of energy is seeing the exit of major supply-side players (whether for reasons of war or declining production) shaking up a global system in need of price stability. 'The era of abundance is over,' said French President Macron.

Now that the fossil feast is coming to an end, renewable energies are reappearing to, in a very simple equation for the system, replace polluting energy with 'clean energy', in ambitious decarbonisation plans with various phases and an end date of 2050.

There is a widely understood idea in the environmental movement, which is the question of limits. For us it is a concept that helps us understand that possibilities do not always lie in the ability of human beings to develop a technology or perfect a system, but that outside our control there are elements that limit our ability to act.

The laws of entropy described by Georgescu-Roegen, for example, help us to understand the limits set by thermodynamics in terms of energy and materials, and ecological economics helps us to



Child labour is widespread in production of cars and electronics.
Photo www.somo.nl

understand that we cannot grow unlimitedly with finite resources.

Equity of energy

With this idea of limits that neoliberal economic orthodoxy omits, we carefully analyse the real possibilities of developing an energy transition, understanding the metabolism of our system. And the intended transition faces serious risks of not being able to cover the over-demand for energy in our society.

The limitations of renewable systems, the scarcity of critical materials, and the current high price of energy make it difficult to replace the fossil energy matrix with a renewable one, and above

all, calls into question whether the transition can be global and fair.

For the system, for the economic actors involved, the only thing that matters in this transition is whether it offers profit margins. And the overall picture shows that profit margins can be reduced by those limitations that diminish the possibility of finding pockets of profitability in an industry with so many uncertainties. Faced with this situation, the market will look for solutions to boost the development of these technologies and will find ways to reduce costs to make the product attractive and viable.

Therefore, news such as the one published by *The Guardian* recently warning of the use of slave labour,

child labour, prison inmates, and illegal immigrants in the production chains of the renewable industry gives us clues as to how companies are coping with the rising cost of materials and energy.

Such practices are not new; they happen with every major industry because it is capitalism's way of reproducing itself, through the exploitation of labour and natural resources. But it is undoubtedly very important to recognise the new dynamic that is being reproduced in this transition that will only be possible for a few at the expense, once again, of the most impoverished social majority and the plundering of the resources of the least developed countries. From the Republic of Congo for its cobalt mines to Bolivia for its lithium, our energy transition will be based on a voracious neo-colonialism to sustain the consumerist delusions of capitalist society.

It is our duty to demand that this transition is not just based on imperialism and exploitation. Conflicts over strategic minerals will multiply and threaten to displace communities, undermine the sovereignty of countries, and deepen the gap of growing inequality. We need to decide where our ethical boundaries lie. No transition is possible for all without energy degrowth.

Changing the world

With reference to Mandy Nolan's article 'Changing the World with Non-violent Action' *Echo*, (14 December).

We wholeheartedly support Daisy and others in their non-violent direct actions. However, we would like to point out, that there is nothing to be ashamed of to be referred to as 'radical'. In these so-called enlightened days, it doesn't take much; one only has to think outside the square to be at odds with the norm.

The governments and corporations themselves could be referred to as 'radical', with their self-serving greedy practices on our planet (the English language is complex). And when it comes to being an 'extremist', ask the 'Green Extremist' Ian Cohen.

Criticism of others for taking their radical action only weakens one's cause. There's nothing that governments like more than to divide people. So keep focused. Isn't freedom of speech and choice what our ancestors struggled for?

Love is the answer. Happy solstice.

Deborah & Mick Stacey
Ballina

Dog areas

Good to see a citizen group asking Council for more proactivity around the dog problem.

Our personal experience as responsible dog co-owners has been pretty er... awful.

My partner had her leg broken by an uncontrolled dog on Belongil. Six months in bed. A friend had her back broken on Seven Mile by a large uncontrolled dog, the owner quickly disappearing.

Our son's dog was saved from a homeless man's pit bull when the pit bull had the chi's head in his mouth. Only a human-dog attack saved the chi, leaving him with a pierced neck and severe shock.

Another friend's chi was recently killed by a staffy cross, owned by an itinerant van owner.

We've talked a lot about it and we do recognise the problem of the travelling single (usually) man who sees his dog as his protector. Our ranger has expressed his frustration at the inability to effect change for many reasons: the owner disappears, the owner lies about his identity, the law is too onerous to follow through, getting

evidence in a highly charged attack moment is almost impossible.

Sadly, Belongil Beach is where most attacks and accidents happen.

We are grateful for everything council has done so far but frankly, the homeless-owned dog is a problem I cannot see being easily improved, loaded as it is with psychological trauma and violence issues.

Every time we drive past Cavanbah Sports Centre we look at a semi-treed area just near the road and think 'Dog Exercise Area!' It's accessible, it's the right size, it has enough trees for dogs to pee on... all it needs is a fence.

I would love to make contact with the people working with Council and I'm sure many other dog owners would too!

Ian Blair Hamilton
Byron Bay

Mote and Beam

We are hypocrites. We criticise other countries, China and Qatar for example, for perceived breaches of human rights when our own record is poor at best and that of our closest ally is woeful.

► Continued on page 22



NO BONES

VEGAN KITCHEN AND BAR





CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2022

FIVE COURSE BANQUET

TWO SEATINGS: 12-2.30 / 3-5.30

\$120PP - LIMITED SEATING



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W: NOBONESBYRONBAY.COM

Storylines – Upcycle the festive season

Belle Budden

Here comes Christmas, the festive season; the year is drawing to a close and we put the icing on the year with the biggest celebration in our collective calendar. For many it's a problematic time of year with conflicting values, grief and isolation. It's a busy time at the end of a busy year as we collectively draw a deep breath to get through the expectations of the season.

No matter what your belief system, the festive season is a time of connection, a special time where we stop to prioritise spending time with our loved ones, perhaps sharing gifts to affirm love and appreciation. We invest our energy on intentional kindness and connection with family, friends, and community. It's a season to celebrate connections and hopefully strengthen them for the year to come.

Connection and giving

For many the festive season is also about giving, demonstrating our appreciation for others through gifts. The joy of giving is an expression of special connections. This has been a practice across many cultures throughout the world. Through careful construction and reconstruction of our social norms



More than 890m³ of man-made and natural flood debris has been removed from the Tweed River following the floods in February and March 2022.

and iconography, capitalism has hijacked the season to make it all about spending. Where once we had an experience to celebrate sharing, we now have a season of over-consuming. One many of us cannot afford, and Country, our Earth cannot afford to support.

After exposure to the waste from the devastating floods this year I have found it difficult to justify the consumption. Still reeling from the visual impact of seeing the mounds of water-damaged waste and knowing it was destined for

Country, Bundjalung Country and beyond to Yuggera Country in southeast Queensland.

According to the Environmental Protection Authority website, after the floods in 2022, 22,000 truckloads of waste were cleared from flood-affected communities and 940 cubic metres of debris removed from beaches and waterways across the Northern Rivers region.

A total of 4,340 cubic metres of debris was removed from impacted waterways across all of NSW. Almost a quarter of that came from the

Tweed, Richmond, and Wilsons rivers and the beaches around Ballina. That doesn't include the household waste that was collected. It is estimated to be a year's worth of landfill going back into Country.

Capitalism has driven Christmas to be a season of waste; celebrations in the festive season involve over-filled bins spilling over with discarded packaging, wrapping paper and crackers, single-use items and the remnants of over consuming. It's time to collectively consider how we can upcycle Christmas, our festive season, to be a season of sustainability. Focus on conversations with our nearest and dearest on how we can put Country back at the centre of our celebration and recreate a culture that focuses on caring for Country.

The good news is that we are shifting our consumption patterns and driving the business to make change. The 2022 report released by Monash Business School's Australian Consumer and Retail Studies (ACRS) research unit *Spotlight on Sustainability* found that Australian consumers are seeking sustainable products and are increasingly looking for more environmentally conscious shopping options.

Key findings of the report included:
85 per cent of survey

participants said that durability and repairability (73 per cent) were priorities when making non-grocery purchases

- 38 per cent have reduced the number of new products purchased
- 45 per cent are willing to pay more for ethically produced products

- 42 per cent would pay more for products packaged in recycled material.

Critically the report found that the Australian consumer is driving the sustainable change through their everyday purchases and lifestyles and wanting businesses to enable this change. This is a great shift in our consumption patterns, especially through this period.

Consumption patterns are the beginning. We need to shift the way we celebrate and what we prioritise, to put caring for Country and our communities at the centre of our celebration. To give small things with big love, to make, remake or upcycle objects for gifts, to give our time and energy and experiences that celebrate and connect us to Country. It's time to upcycle our festive season to celebrate connections and honour and care for Country.

■ Storylines is made possible by Nimbella Gallery and *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.

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Eight billion reasons to rejoice, or panic



David Lowe

Images David Lowe with Midjourney AI.



Last month, while the world was distracted by a stray missile landing in Poland, Donald Trump announcing another presidential attempt, and NASA returning to the moon, humanity passed a significant milestone right here on Earth. The global population clocked over eight billion.

Twelve thousand years ago, there were fewer people on the planet than now live in Sydney. In 1922, there were a quarter as many humans as there are now – we'd made it to two billion. Despite countless calamities, twelve years ago there were seven billion of us. That sounds like an exponential curve – and in nature that's normally a sign of something being seriously wrong – but demographers point out that the population growth rate has been falling slightly since the 1960s.

Still, cities have never occupied as much territory as they do now, and the strain on our fellow species is unprecedented, as humanity demands an ever-greater share of what remains of a

limited pool of resources.

So, what is the 'carrying capacity' of our world, in terms of homo sapiens? And how many of us might there be?

Nine, ten?

By 2037, the United Nations is expecting nine billion humans to be living on the planet, but based on current trends, demographers say there will never again be more children alive than there are right now, with fertility rates falling across the world. At the same time, longer human lifespans mean that forecasters are anticipating a peak of ten billion or more before numbers start to creep back down.

Population density varies massively, with 1,315 people per square kilometre in Bangladesh, and an incredible 8,000 people per square kilometre in Singapore (that's 2,000 times as dense as Australia). Across the board though, fewer babies are dying, more women are being educated and surviving pregnancy, and technological innovations are

extracting more food from less surface area. At the same time, deserts are expanding, global fish populations are crashing, pollution is worsening, and waste of all kinds is growing out of control.

Population growth across the planet is far from uniform, with India set to take over from China as the most populous country in the next few months. Other fast-growing population centres include Pakistan, the Philippines, and five countries in Africa; all places in the firing line of a rapidly warming world, while the populations of a number of 'first world' countries are already in retreat.

As has often been noted, humanity theoretically grows and kills enough food to feed itself, but problems of inequity and distribution continue to mount, raising the spectre of unprecedented famine, along with record human population.

Considering technological change, it also seems likely that there will be less and less work for a growing human population to do, and little enthusiasm among most governments to get their people off the growth and consumption merry-go-round that fuels the profits of the world's corporations.

A simultaneously ageing and growing human population, living within a threatened biosphere, means fewer taxes to pay for multiplying problems, both within countries and externally, as inequities fuel wars and revolutions. Disease is likely to be a growing problem, particularly for the poor. Ecological collapse appears to be around the corner in many parts of the globe, and the nuclear threat remains with us too.

The meaning of life?

Meanwhile, and in spite of everything, for the great majority of human beings, reproducing remains the central priority. Children are the principal source of joy, meaning, hope and comfort in old age, for almost everyone.

The selfish gene doesn't care if it's living in a Petri dish – its goals are more shortsighted than that, and for most of human history that has served us well, as we've learned to live in the most inhospitable corners of this planet, and adapted to our own destructions and stupidities as well, at least in the short term.

The fact remains, however, that despite the efforts of a few billionaires to reach beyond this world, there are limits to growth, and human population, and these are not just physical.

As we expand, we are an increasingly lonely species, crowding out our fellow life forms from the only biosphere we know. We have less time and space for other earthlings, and we hunger to replace them with virtual equivalents.

Wild animals are steadily being swapped for animal slaves, and plants (which created the conditions for us and all other animals to exist on this planet) are too often honoured only for their short-term human uses.

As our numbers grow, an epidemic of mental illness swallows the young. Diversity in all its forms is under threat. The places that our ancestors loved are being destroyed to create energy and homes for more humans.

One question is never answered as we multiply: How much is enough?

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Collective effervescence on the dance floor

David Lisle

In the months after the flood, with Mullumbimby rattled and reeling, I started dancing on Friday nights. The ritual is now firmly entrenched and will not be easily abandoned.

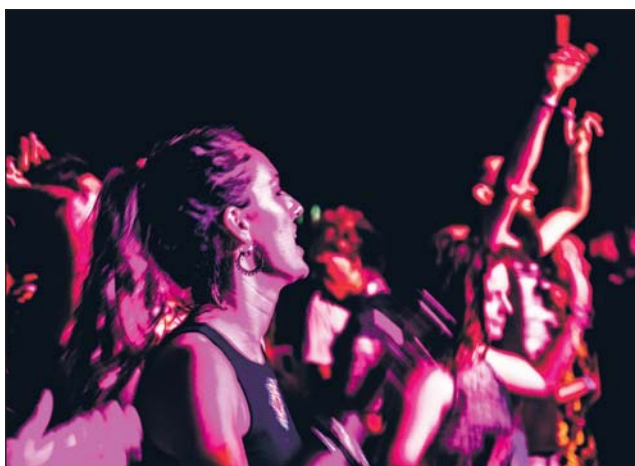
Dance is a pure form of celebration and I attended that first dance with a certain reluctance, given the distress around town. But that night I experienced a joyous abandon totally at odds with the difficulties of the previous months and rode home flooded with a profound sense of wellbeing. And there was this unexpected and rather intense sense of connection to my fellow dancers.

Communities have engaged in ritual dance ceremonies and celebrations since the dawn of time. When, in the early twentieth century, pioneering French sociologist Émile Durkheim wrote about 'collective effervescence', he was describing the energy and sense of harmony people experience when they gather around a shared purpose.

Durkheim was not referring specifically to dance; however, the very nature of dance enhances the effect. Synchronisation blurs the perception of 'self' and 'other', while exertion releases endorphins, whose analgesic and reward-inducing qualities are thought to be at the root of social bonding.

Collective effervescence was conspicuously absent from many people's lives during the COVID lockdowns. Emotions are the glue of solidarity and are, like viruses, socially contagious. The intense shared experience of merging with a group's flow and becoming part of a seamlessly intermingling mass of bodies on a dance floor, leads to changes in brain chemistry producing potent emotional states. The result is euphoria or even ecstasy.

The word *ecstasy* derives from the Greek *ekstasis*, meaning standing outside oneself, or the mind or body removed from its proper place. It is used to describe an overwhelming feeling of happiness; or a frenzied experience of mystical



Mullum Music Festival, 2019.

self-transcendence; or a party drug associated with the dance scene whose active ingredient, MDMA, is a powerful euphoriant.

A chance to surrender

The dance I attend is called Ecstatic Dance. It aspires to be drug and alcohol free, although I am uncertain how fully this aim is realised. According to the blurb, 'we dance as we are. No Drugs/Alcohol, No Phones, etc.' It is a 'freeform movement journey, held in a safe and sacred container.'

A live DJ supplies electronic dance music. The idea is abandonment – to surrender to the beat and give oneself over to the moment, removing the mind from its 'proper place' as dictated by society.

Ecstatic Dance (in capitals) is in the lineage of 'conscious' dance practices and is related to 5Rhythms, a trademarked meditative 'dynamic movement practice' founded in the 1970s that draws upon the ancient tradition of (lower case) ecstatic dance, such as practised by Sufis, shamans, and their ilk.

The dancers on Friday

nights are a diverse crowd but certain trends are clear: the large millennial cohort, abundant yoga practitioners, and a marked tendency to dress in active wear. There are some familiar faces, yet the crowd is largely alien to me. Nevertheless, after dance I buzz with kindly feelings towards all fellow humans – an odd sensation for an avowed misanthrope – and wake on Saturday mornings bone tired, feeling calm and enchanted.

I suspect collective effervescence is at play here. Which got me thinking about another notable dynamic – namely, the way our community, which was divided, quite bitterly at times, by discordant attitudes towards COVID mandates and masks, suddenly united as we gathered together in response to the floods.

Durkheim was preoccupied with how societies maintain their integrity and coherence and came to the view that collective effervescence played a key role in fostering social solidarity. He developed the idea after studying the reunification

of Aboriginal tribes at corroboree, observing how 'a sort of electricity is formed by their collecting which quickly transports them to an extraordinary degree of exaltation'.

I remember with great fondness how Mullumbimby would pulse with joy during the Mullum Music Festival and reckon a little part of town died when the festival went into hiatus in 2019. The sublime live performances and unrestrained dancing throughout town made the festival, in my view, the cultural highlight of the year. Perhaps the main appeal was how one could naked dance in the street without being regarded as drug addled or otherwise mentally deranged.

We should probably not hold our collective breath awaiting the Mullum Music Festival's return. But we can be grateful for the plentiful opportunities to gather together and express ourselves in dance. I'd prefer to dance in the street like some lunatic but if I have to do it in a sacred container, then that's okay too.



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SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER

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7:30PM - WEAR THE FOX HAT

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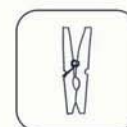
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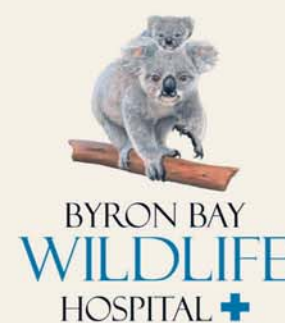
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Where locals support locals

► Continued from page 16

Our treatment of Indigenous Australians, including the disproportionate incarceration rates, weigh heavily on our human rights record. Our performance is shameful.

Australia's inhumane treatment of asylum seekers, including prolonged incarceration offshore and prolonged detention of children, were criticised by the UN Human Rights Council as were our prosecution and jailing of children as young as ten. In addition some of our military have apparently committed war crimes in Afghanistan.

Our close ally the United States of America's human rights breaches are numerous: some 8–10 million dead through their illegal wars, invasions, and sanctions plus many

more millions wounded; numerous war crimes; use of chemicals in war (Agent Orange and depleted uranium weapons resulted in thousands of stillbirths and deformities); kidnapping and torture; indefinite detention without charge or trial; murder by drone; incitement of coups; and illegal collective punishment of entire populations (Venezuela being just one example). These are among the many grievous breaches of human rights routinely carried out by our ally. America is arguably the most violent, aggressive, and belligerent nation on Earth and probably the world's worst human rights abuser.

And yet we and America have the gall to criticise other nations' human rights records.

As it says in the Bible, 'Thou hypocrite, first cast the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye'. [Matthew 7:5] We are this hypocrite.

Foreign minister Penny Wong said that she raised human rights issues with China 'consistent with our values'. What does ignoring America's and our own human rights abuses while we criticise others' say about these 'values'?

Warren Kennedy
Mullumbimby

Fake government and the environment

Following the fake federal environment minister's recent announcement of alleged 'new environmental laws', which predictably won't be in place for at least

another 12 months, a few quotes from Bob Brown during a recent interview.

1. The reform package is 'anything but that' and it will be 'business as usual'.

2. The new federal EPA 'has not made any changes contrary to existing state agreements' or '[brought] regional forest agreements under federal control'.

3. 'There is no indication the new EPA will have any control on native forest logging and in fact endorsed the forest industry.'

4. 'We already have enough forest plantation.'

5. The environmental watchdog is starved for funds.

6. The government has 'no climate trigger' while set to approve an extraordinary number of new coal and gas projects.

7. 'There was not one

full-time environmental lobbyist in Canberra.'

Labor continues to spout their intelligence yet lock up young people for over a year for trying to protect animals and the environment from lazy, substandard, and draconian policies at the behest of mining industries.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

State election

The last two state elections held here in the Ballina electorate indicate clearly it's a mathematical impossibility for the Nationals to win the seat. This is owing to the fact that the Labor and Green primary votes together easily overwhelm the vote of the Nationals. It is only the Labor Party, by running third and preferencing the Greens, that has enabled the Greens to claim victory.

The political party with the wherewithal to replace a Green with a representative for Ballina who can serve in the government is the Nationals. Not by voting National but by engaging in what is termed 'tactical voting'. 'Tactical voting' was used to great effect in those Victorian federal seats lost to the Teals in May this year. Here an elector casts a vote against the party they would normally support and for the party with the best chance of defeating an incumbent. So Labor and Green voters voted for Teal candidates in order to defeat the sitting Liberal. And so if National supporters 'tactically voted' for the Labor candidate then bye-bye Green and we would have true representation here in Ballina.

Alan Veacock
Cumbalum

ECHO FEATURE

BUSINESS MATTERS

■■■■ The Year in Business

Simon Haslam

This calendar year has been a varied one for business, with October 2021 (dubbed 'Freedom Day') marking the end of COVID lockdowns in Sydney and much of NSW. However, just a few months later the Northern Rivers region was thrown into chaos by what seem to be the biggest floods ever over the region from Murwillumbah in the north, Mullumbimby, Lismore and down to further south than Ballina.

The devastating floods not only destroyed businesses, but many business owners also experienced damage to their own homes. Adding to the chaos, telecommunications stopped completely in many places. Ten

months later, the plans for Lismore's CBD are still not clear, and many in the community are still struggling after the floods.

Rising interest rates have put additional financial pressure on many in the second half of this year. The withdrawal of all temporary measures related to COVID has led to an increase in insolvencies in 2022 compared to 2020 and 2021, according to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission data.

The ATO has increased its enforcement action, using Directory Penalty Notices for directors of companies which have outstanding taxation liabilities – directors of companies which have not lodged their BAS IAS and superannuation guarantee

statements within three months of the due date may have personal liability for debts even if the company subsequently goes into liquidation.

The situation in Ukraine has led to pressure on global food supply and energy shortages, and energy price hikes. Post-covid supply chain issues, inflation and interest rate rises are particularly affecting building and construction industry businesses working on fixed-price contracts. Lack of labour supply and worker mobility, including housing unaffordability in the Northern Rivers region, mean it's not unusual to see cafes closed when you'd expect to see them open.

Accountants Mayberry Meldrum Anderson of Murwillumbah point out that 30 June 2023 is the last day businesses can claim temporary full expensing of the business portion of the cost of depreciating assets.

There is no limit to the amount or number of assets a business can claim; new and secondhand assets are eligible, provided they are first used or installed ready for use by 30 June.

Peter Wotton, president of Destination Byron, the local tourism body, says that a lot of businesses took the opportunity provided by the COVID arrangements, regarding breaking leases that were put in place by the government. A lot of longstanding Byron businesses are gone, but they have been quickly replaced by businesses from north Qld, and also Sydney and Melbourne. In terms of the visitor economy, Peter says, 'our state of play is back intact now, and we are looking forward to January and February. We just look for good weather, and in Easter the accommodation bookings are already almost full, owing to the strong Bluesfest lineup'.

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Camilla Reynolds
– shopped at Mullum Newsagency

Renelle Harries
– shopped at Santos

Sasha – shopped at IGA

Gail – shopped at Devine Meats

Jo Spice
– shopped at Hooked & Cooked

Miriam Neuenschwander
– shopped at Paséyo Cafe

Syl McDonald
– shopped at Liberty Mullumbimby

Janelle Essery
– shopped at The Source

Bernie – shopped at Devine Meats

Matt – shopped at Courthouse Bistro

Mary-Lou and Melody
– Mockingbird Vintage

Cindy Squire
– Byron Pork and Meats

Samuel Anthony
– Wards Landscape

Gwen Parsons – Bridglads

Kristie – Hooked and Cooked

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Kristen Stokes – Mullum Mac

Trish Campbell – Mitre 10 Mullumbimby

Olivia – Devine Quality Meats

Quinn – Dino's IGA

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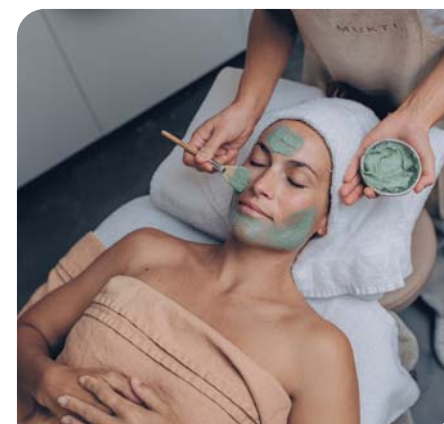
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Good Taste

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



Barrio Eatery & Bar

1 Porter Street, North Byron
Mon-Tues: 7am-3pm
Wed-Sat: 7am-10pm
www.barriobyronbay.com.au
@barriobyronbay
0411 323 165

Barrio brings together the local community in a relaxed environment for all-day dining.
The wood-fired oven and open-flame grill is the heart of the restaurant.
Keep an eye on socials for daily specials.
Now open for Sunday lunch from 11.30am-3pm



Supernatural

9 Bay Lane,
Byron Bay
0477 629 271
@supernaturalbyronbay

A Slice of Paris in Byron Bay
Come find us down the laneway for delicious share plates, natural wines, cocktails and potions.
Open from 5pm Tuesday to Saturday.



Wahlburgers Byron Bay

American style burger restaurant & sports bar
Upstairs at Mercato on Byron, Jonson Street.
www.Wahlburgers.com.au

American & local sports played live
Family Offer
Buy 1 kids meal, get 1 free.
\$8 after 8
\$8 drinks from 8pm Thur-Sun.
Live music Fri-Sun.
Open 11am to 9pm daily - dine-in or takeaway.



North Byron Hotel

61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
Ph 6685 6500
Kitchen open Sun-Thu 11.30am-8.30pm / Fri & Sat 11.30am-9.30pm
Bar open daily 11.30am-late
Bottleshop open daily 10am-8pm
hello@northbyronhotel.com.au

Step away from the centre of town and into a shimmering oasis away from crowds.
Like tucked away treasure, the North Byron Hotel is a thriving mecca of good food, great music, laughter and the 'chilled Byron Bay vibes'.
Eat Drink Discover



No Bones

Vegan Kitchen & Bar.
11 Fletcher Street
0481 148 007
Open 7 nights from 5pm
Book online via website
nobonesbyronbay.com.au
#BRUSSELSNOTBEEF

JOIN US FOR OUR 5 COURSE CHRISTMAS BANQUET
Two seatings: 12-2.30pm / 3-5.30pm
Tickets \$150pp. Book here...
HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 5-6PM
\$12 Margarita / Lychee Martini
\$8 Tap Beers / \$7 Natural Wines



Loft Byron Bay

4 Jonson Street,
Byron Bay
6680 9183
Book online:
www.loftbyronbay.com.au

Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.
Happy Hour | Daily from 4-6pm
\$6 Loft beer or wine, \$10 Aperol Spritz, \$14 Margarita & \$2.50 fresh oysters
Espresso Martini Nights | Every day 9pm - close 2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini.
Open weekdays from 4pm and weekends from noon.



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 PHONE OR THROUGH OUR WEBSITE. WALK-INS VERY WELCOME.



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, 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

Open Lunch Wednesday - Friday 12-2.30pm.
Dinner Monday - Saturday 5-8pm. Closed Sunday
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.

BYRON BAY

continued



The Rocks

Brunch
6.30am-2pm, every day
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, Reverence 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!



SOU Byron Bay

8/4 Bay Lane,
Byron Bay
02 6685 6136
Open at 12-3pm
Instagram @soubyronbay

Newly opened Japanese lunch spot.

We mainly serve Japanese ramen at Izakaya Kura at lunch time. (We also do pop-up ramen night!!)
Please check our social media for more details.



BANGALOW

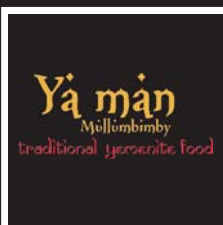


Bangalow Bread Co.

12 Byron St,
Bangalow
6am-3pm weekdays
7am-2pm weekends
6687 1209
www.bangalowbread.co
info@bangalowbread.co

Stone baked sourdough, hand rolled pastries, small batch pies, house made cakes.
Your local artisan bakery, specialising in all things sourdough. Serving Old Quarter coffee along with freshly made sandwiches using our own sourdough bread, hand rolled pastries, award winning pies and a variety of house made cakes.

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.



NEWRYBAR



Harvest

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

COFFEE CART
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RESTAURANT
Lunch | Wed-Sun | 12-2.30pm
Dinner | Fri & Sat | 5.30-8.30pm
DELI
7 days | 7.30am-3.30pm

OCEAN SHORES



No Bones Little

84 Rajah Rd, Ocean Shores
0422 355 928
OPEN TUES-SUN
108 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
0479 121 614
OPEN 7 DAYS
noboneslittle.com

NO BONES OCEAN SHORES NOW OPEN!
LUNCH 12-4PM
DINNER FROM 5PM
HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 5-6PM
\$12 COCKTAILS / \$7 WINE / \$6 BEER

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

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

GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS AVAILABLE



Byron's farm-fresh festive fare

Whether you're after a fabulous food hamper as a gift or the freshest ingredients for your Christmas Day feast, the farmers and producers at Byron and Bangalow Farmers Markets have you covered.

While the farmer's markets are well known for fresh locally grown produce, they are also home to some of the best locally made food and drink products – many of which are highly acclaimed not only in the Northern Rivers, but nationwide.

'We're really spoiled for choice in this region when it comes to food,' says Byron Farmers Market manager Tom Carey. 'Not only are our farmers able to grow such a wide range of seasonal produce, but we're also home to some amazing food artisans.'

This prompted Byron Farmers Market to introduce a new Local Food Artisan category so the market was able to include non-farming producers and showcase the best foods and drinks the region has to offer. These local food artisans produce everything from fermented foods, spreads, dips, and



Katrina from Pyewackets Traditional with her shrubs.



Krauts and salts from Byron Fermentary.



Byron Farmers Market.



Natural cordials from Rancho Relaxo.



Puremelt Chocolate treats.



Award-winning spirits from Winding Road Distilling Co.



Joel from Thanks Darl with his dahl bars.



Sauces from Church Farm General Store.

sauces to shrubs, spirits, and cordials. All perfect for popping into gift hampers!

Byron Fermentary and Lovemore Fermentary both offer a range of fermented foods and drinks, while Church Farm General Store has small-batch sauces and curries. New kid on the

block, Byron Bush Food, has a Davidson's plum powder that is great sprinkled on seafood, cake, or added to a festive cocktail.

Those with a sweet tooth should check out Puremelt Chocolate's handmade treats or, if savoury is more your thing, dahl bars from Thanks

Darl, and spicy dips from Byron Spice Palace are great options.

If you're trying to cut back on alcohol over the silly season, it's worth trying some of the shrubs and tonics from Pyewackets Traditional. But if you prefer the hard stuff to toast with,

Winding Road Distilling Co has some award-winning gins and rums.

And there are more award-winning offerings at the farmer's market, including Cheeses Loves You and Nimbin Valley Dairy cheeses, The Bay Smokehouse fish rillettes, Rancho Relaxo lime

cordial, Marlival Farm pecan spread, and Rainforest Foods Davidson's plum jam. Enjoy!

■ **Byron Farmers Market is held every Thursday 7–11am at Butler Street Reserve and Bangalow Farmers Market is every Saturday 7–11am behind the Bangalow Pub.**

A farmers' market Christmas

Victoria Cosford

Despite best-laid plans, for most Christmas rears up suddenly, catching us off guard, too much to do, stress running rampant, time running out. However. Draw deep breaths and head instead to the farmers market, a one-stop shop for so many festive-season needs and a hub to cosily commiserate with your community. There's beautiful free-range hams and pork from Esperanza Farm and Hayters Hill. There's Warren's Dorper lamb, legs and shoulders for long slow roasts. If it's poultry you seek, there's Misty Creek Farm for their grass-fed chickens. Bake



We love Mullum! Merry Christmas from everyone at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market.

up a big tray of vegetables: Dutch creams and pumpkin chunks, sweet potato and

carrots, or go Mediterranean with eggplant, zucchini, capsicum, cherry tomatoes:

Jumping Red Ant, Summit Organics, Everest and Mornings Farms all positively dazzle with choices.

Not forgetting all the lush bunches of salad leaves and herbs from Forest Organics, Summit Organics, and Gourmet Salad Hut. Treat yourself and your guests with magnificent heritage tomatoes from Coopers Shoot tomatoes. Thickly slice and layer with equal widths of Cheeses Loves You's mozzarella, a gloss of Grumpy Grandma's EV olive oil, a stew of aniseedy basil. Grumpy Grandma's plump smoked olives make a stylish nibble along with Spice Palace or Baraka dips – and bread of course; Scratch Patisserie's or Crabbes Creek Woodfired. Last-minute gifts needed? Consider fragrant

chunky Church Farm soaps or boxed spicy sauces, or beautiful beeswax candles from Ahana.

Something sweet is mandatory, one option being Sarah Wheeler's gorgeous Puremelt chocolates – or, meltingly lovely, a simple case of creaming together 250g unsalted butter and 80g

caster sugar, folding through 100g toasted chopped macadamias and 250g plain flour then baking in teaspoonsful at 170C for about 15 mins. Scatter generously with icing sugar, and that's Christmas sorted!

■ **Mullumbimby Farmers Market: each Friday 7–11am.**



The Olive Place: Byron



The Olive Place is a cafe and deli inspired by the south of France. Ideally situated in Byron Bay's Arts & Industry Estate, it caters to locals and visitors alike with Mediterranean fare and flair.

It all began when Antoine Quezel, a native of French Provence, founded Byron Bay Olive Co in 2015. Following in his parents' footsteps, he started selling his own marinated olives, antipasto, and charcuterie at local markets throughout the Northern Rivers. A few years later, La Cuisine deli and takeaway cafe was born. Although just a little hole in the wall, it quickly became the go-to neighbourhood spot for Provençal sandwiches, olives, and deli goods. In October 2022, Antoine took over the much more spacious cafe next door and from there he created The Olive Place. Step inside and be transported to the South of France, or dine al fresco in the sunny garden.

Locally renowned French chef Bruno Pouget leads the kitchen, crafting authentic dishes with flavours true to the Mediterranean. The menu evolves with the seasons and includes sandwiches filled with Byron Bay Olive Co products, salads rotating daily, mouth-watering pastries, and the best quiches you'll ever taste. Their philosophy is to work with Northern Rivers-based farmers and producers to source the best quality ingredients.

The coffee, chemical-free and certified organic, is roasted by the legends at Marvell Street based just up the road. If you're not a coffee drinker, grab a chai or a tea blended by their neighbours over at Mayde Tea.

No visit to The Olive Place is complete without a taste of Byron Bay Olive Co



products. Have a gander at the deli fridge for marinated olives and antipasto, free-range pork sausissons, a variety of tapenades, and a curated selection of artisanal French cheeses. The knowledgeable deli staff will sort you out with everything you need for your next apéro hour.

Cooking up an epicurean feast or just curious to explore Mediterranean cuisine? The pantry section is brimming with specialty products and French market staples. Escargots, confit de canard, pâtés and terrines line the shelves alongside locally made artisan sauces, vinegars, biscuits, and bonbons.

A breezy, inviting space, The Olive Place is a gathering place for all to enjoy. Open Monday through Saturday for breakfast, lunch, and afternoon tea, seating is plentiful indoors and out in the garden. Take a seat, relax in the French Mediterranean ambiance and watch the world go by.

■ **Byron Bay Olive Company**
2/29 Brigantine St, Byron Bay
byronbayoliveco.com

Red Ginger Asian Emporium, Byron Bay and Bangalow



Stepping into the Red Ginger stores in Byron and in Bangalow will transport your senses to the lanes of old Shanghai and open your eyes to the many delights that are Red Ginger.

Sitting in the beautiful Byron store, or on the verandah in Bangalow, eating delicious handmade dumplings or Portuguese custard tarts and sipping green tea has become a quintessential experience for locals and for visitors, who make Red Ginger an essential stop when they visit the area.

It's a grocery store selling every Asian ingredient you will need, from fresh local kim chi (made by a Korean family on the Gold Coast), miso, fresh noodles, roasted barbecue ducks and pork, locally foraged seaweed, locally brewed soy sauce, the very best fish sauce, rice and spices, curry pastes, fresh herbs, and more from every corner of Asia. With nothing but the best brands available.

Red Ginger is so much more than an Asian grocery store; it is a beautifully curated colourful Asian emporium of rich delights



for the kitchen and for the home. Within it you will find Japanese ceramics, teas and teapots, colourful market baskets, Chinese beaded slippers, recipe books, furniture, and wonderful

curiosities to delight your senses.

■ **2/111 Jonson Street, Byron Bay.**
38 Byron Street, Bangalow.
www.redginger.com.au

Calling all food & beverage producers in the Northern Rivers region!

You are invited to join Northern Rivers Food (NRF), a member based food & beverage industry group.

NRF helps connect people in the local food & beverage industry by providing regular industry events, workshops & networking opportunities.

NORTHERN RIVERS FOOD

For more info email: info@northernriversfood.org or join via our website: www.northernriversfood.org/become-a-member

THE PATCH

5AM – 11AM EVERY DAY
49 BURRENBAR STREET,
MULLUMBIMBY

BEST BOUTIQUE BOTTLESHOP BYRON

LIQUOR MERCHANTS

[THE NORTH BYRON HOTEL](https://www.facebook.com/thenorthbyronhotel)
[@NORTHBYRONHOTEL](https://www.instagram.com/northbyronhotel)

Festive Season

Christmas Message 2022

"Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you good news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!"

Truly, with the continuing pandemic, the cruel military campaign in Ukraine, climate change and with so many other destabilising aspects in human social and economic affairs, we have much to be afraid of!

Yet, Christmas is a reminder that many of us have never so much had to place our trust and hope in the Lord, lest we truly be ruled by fear!

With heartfelt JOY and HOPE, be kind to each other this Christmas and truly celebrate His peace in the New Year 2023!

Fr David Gilbey PP

Holy Spirit Catholic parish Bangalow/Byron Bay

The Anglican Parish of Byron

The Anglican Parish of Byron is excited to offer worship in each of their five churches at a variety of times this Christmas. After so many challenges it will be good to gather as community together. For the third year, three of their church buildings, All Souls Bangalow, St Martin's Mullumbimby and St Paul's Byron Bay will be lit with the message of Hope, Peace and Love. The uplighting began as an encouragement to our communities during times of lockdown. The positive response has encouraged them to continue again this year.

'However we choose to form community, our prayer is that we are able to share a sense of hope which fosters peace and love for all. With every blessing, Byron Anglicans.'

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH
BANGALOW/BYRON BAY

Christmas Eve
24th December

Christmas Day
25th December

St Kevin's
Catholic Church,
Deacon St,
BANGALOW

5.30pm

7.30am

St Finbarr's
Catholic Church,
50 Tennyson St,
BYRON BAY

St Finbarr's
Catholic Church,
50 Tennyson St,
BYRON BAY

8pm

9.30am

St Kevin's
Catholic Church,
Deacon St,
BANGALOW

Byron Bay Parish Office: 6685 6260

Anglican Parish of Byron CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

23 December Friday

6pm St Thomas' Brunswick Heads

Holy Communion, Christmas Eve Worship a day early.

Family worship and Holy Communion

21 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads

6pm St Columba Ewingsdale

Holy Communion, Christmas Eve Worship a day early.

Family worship and Holy Communion

William Flick Lane, Ewingsdale

24 December Saturday Christmas Eve

6pm St Paul's Byron Bay

Family Worship, Holy Communion

14 Kingsley St, Byron Bay

6pm All Souls Bangalow

Family Worship and Holy Communion

1 Ashton Street, Bangalow

8.30pm St Martin's Mullumbimby

Family Worship, Holy Communion

38 Stuart Street Mullumbimby

25 December Sunday Christmas Day

7.30am St Thomas' Brunswick Heads – Holy Communion

21 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads

9am All Souls Bangalow – Holy Communion

1 Ashton Street, Bangalow

9am St Martin's Mullumbimby - Holy Communion

38 Stuart St, Mullumbimby

9am St Paul's Byron Bay - Holy Communion

14 Kingsley St, Byron Bay

byronanglicans.org.au
66 843 552

Festive Season

Virtual Golf Centre Ballina

Looking to try something new and different in Ballina?

Come along and visit this state-of-the-art-indoor, air-conditioned virtual golf facility, with an amazing atmosphere.

Fully licensed and ready to cater for your next work or family function.

Family friendly.

Great for the seasoned golfer, the beginner, or those just wanting to have some fun with mates.

Come play some of the best golf courses in the world, like St Andrews and Augusta.

Also plenty of virtual golf games for the non-golfers, like putt putt and target golf games.

They welcome you to bring your own clubs. If not, they have clubs for you.

Gift vouchers and lessons available.

Open from 10am till 10pm, 7 days a week.

14 Ascot Rd Ballina

www.virtualgolfcentre.com.au

Happy Festive Season from Byron Community College!

The future is looking bright for Byron College students as they complete their qualifications and head out into the world with new skills and career possibilities.

2023 is going to be another big year with over 100 courses in Term One to choose from, including their highly regarded Permaculture, Horticulture, Massage, Community Services & Individual Support courses which offer fee free and subsidised places*.

They'll be taking a break from Friday 23 December and reopening on Tuesday 3 January, 2023. You can still enrol online during the break though!

The College wishes everyone a safe and fun-filled festive season, and hope to see you in the new year!

*subsidised by the NSW Government, most NSW residents eligible.

Contact www.byroncollege.org.au

02 6684 3374

RTO: 90013



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COME AND LEARN WITH US IN 2023!

TERM 1 COURSES NOW OPEN FOR ENROLEMENT

ENROL ONLINE OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

 **byron community college**

RTO: 90013
02 6684 3374
byroncollege.org.au



Festive Season

Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club

Christmas raffles come to an end this week. Wednesday 21 December is the last ham raffle and Friday 23 December is a \$2000 Seafood raffle. Tickets sell from 5.30pm and the raffle is drawn at 7pm.

On New Year's Eve they have a double header with two free bands! Them Culprits kick off at 7.30pm with Shybaby seeing in the new year. Them Culprits are a new band born out of Mullumbimby and Shybaby are truly among the top echelon of north coast cover bands. They've been wowing audiences along the east coast since 2011.

Yokos Bistro will be fired up and ready to provide anything from a small snack right through to a casual evening feast.

Come celebrate the New Year at the best location in Mullum.
58 Dalley St, Mullumbimby
Ph: 02 6684 2533

Mullumbimby Newsagency

Mullumbimby Newsagency would like to thank customers who supported their small business throughout the challenges of this last year and to wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

There are plenty of Christmas gifts for all ages in store now. Jenelle, Helen or any of the friendly staff can help you find what you need.

It's your one stop shop for all school needs, with educational and School Zone products, and they also stock a wide range of gifts, cards, toys, trading cards (Pokemon) and puzzles for all ages.

Now accepting Service NSW back to school vouchers.
44 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby
PH: (02) 6684 2127

Christmas Raffles

Wednesday 21st Xmas Raffle

Hams, Meat Trays & Gift Cards

Friday 23rd Xmas Seafood Raffle



Tickets on sale from 5:30pm, drawn 7:00pm

MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB





Mullumbimby Newsagency

High School Year 7 Back to School Packs

Available Here Only \$40

*Include all your stationery requirements.

Government Vouchers Accepted




Festive Season

Get better acquainted with osteopathy at BOMI

For those not yet familiar with osteopathy, the holistic practice focuses on the body as a whole; including soft tissues, spine and nervous system, and integrates a variety of hands-on methods tailored to individual concerns. Techniques range from gentle approaches (craniosacral therapy and energy testing included), suitable for all ages, from newborns right through to those with complex medical conditions. BOMI plays host to a collection of accredited osteopaths with ample experience in the field and a variety of different specialties. BOMI Byron Bay's current collection of Osteopaths include:

Dr Choppy Somjee

Dr Alex Dawson

Dr Jeremy Hack

Dr Tara Walker

Book an appointment with a member of the Osteopath team today via www.bomi.com.au.

Reach out today:
www.bomi.com.au
 0449 254 140
info@bomi.com.au



Linen House

Summer at Linen House looks incredibly stylish.

Alfresco dining deserves stylish pure linen napery in fresh hues that look marvellous mixed or matched. The Nimes collection enjoys an effortless drape that looks divine in any setting. Styled with Daisie – a vivid, modern floral print – and Holloway sand and Serra mint vases, your table will exude garden-party charm.

Captivate your guests and enjoy mixing and layering up your table tones using napkins, placemats, runners and tablecloths.

Mullumbimby's friendly homewares experts love helping you find just the right dining aesthetic – it's inevitable you'll leave with treats that will transform your status from everyday host to dinner-party guru.

With up to 70 per cent off rrp. Steal yourself some stylish goodies at 33 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby, 02 4334 4876.

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 0468 442 932



LINENHOUSE
 OUTLET

Visit us at our Mullumbimby Outlet
 33 Burringbar Street

Festive Season

Balloon Aloft

Spring into summer with family and friends this season on a special morning adventure! Hot air ballooning is a great way to celebrate the region, drifting aloft with the vast hinterland and treetops below. From above, you will get to see the rolling hills of the Northern Rivers and the first rays of Australia's sunrise.

Enjoy a breakfast after the flight at Three Blue Ducks restaurant, The Farm.

www.balloonaloftbyronbay.com

Byron Bay Camping & Disposals

Your one-stop shop for Christmas and your next outdoor adventure.

If you need sleeping bags, tents, work boots, knives, lighting, kitchenware, stoves, mattresses, rainwear, snorkelling and fishing gear – they have it!

They are a locally owned and operated family business of over 40 years now located in brand new premises in the Byron Bay Arts and Industry Estate, with plenty of parking available.

Go in and meet the team. Their staff will give you friendly, expert advice, no matter whether your next adventure is a campout, bush school, fishing trip, multi-day hike, or you need Christmas present inspiration.

1/1 Tasman Way, Byron Bay

Ph 0439 212 153

www.byron-camping.com.au

theteam@byron-camping.com.au

Retreats Byron Bay: day pass

Tune in, turn on, drop out.

#holistichedonism: the pursuit of pleasure that's good for you!

Soak in the saltwater pool, or take some time in the Far Infra Red Sauna with Colour Therapy.

Have a psychic reading, book an experiential www.l-of-RA.com/experientials

Feed your creative spark at the drawing table, play a game, or just be amongst the beautiful flora and fauna. Enjoying amazing food from www.aliveandwild.com to awaken a jaded palate and satisfy the hangry.

Available Wednesday to Saturday, 12 noon until 4pm.

Bring a friend or come alone.

Also available to hire for small gatherings, team building, special events.

Bookings essential as numbers are limited.

www.retreatsbyronbay.com/day-pass

Email stay@retreatsbyronbay.com

Text 0412 400 085

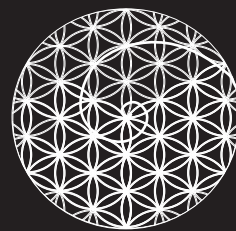
Come
Fly
with us



DAILY SUNRISE BALLOON FLIGHTS

Includes breakfast at Three Blue Ducks restaurant - The Farm

www.balloonaloft.com | 1300 723 279 | [@balloonaloftbyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/balloonaloftbyronbay)



RETREATS BYRON BAY

WWW.RETREATSBYRONBAY.COM/DAY-PASS

SWIM IN THE SALT WATER POOL
SOAK IN THE FAR INFRA RED SAUNA
HAVE A PSYCHIC READING, PLAY A GAME
FEED YOUR CREATIVE SPARK AT THE ART TABLE
OR JUST BE AMONGST THE BEAUTIFUL
FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE HINTERLAND
ENJOYING AMAZING FOOD TO
AWAKEN A JADED PALATE
AND SATISFY THE HANGRY

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY INCLUSIVE

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

[STAY@RETREATSBYRONBAY.COM](mailto:stay@retreatsbyronbay.com)

OR TEXT 0412 400 085

Festive Season

Honey Hunt Style

Honey Hunt would like to THANK YOU for all your incredible support. "The way locals have shared the word about our fashion has been incredible, we are so grateful for their support" said founder/artist Jules. "Our vision is to dress the outer woman in colour, pattern and design, and nurture the inner woman with self-care and self-love. Our offer is simple: making it easy to buy well made clothes that last and are beautiful to wear." Call into their beautiful Byron store and you'll see why women are sharing the word about this ever so comfortable women's wear. You'll also find them at a market near you, where you can meet the makers and hear their story. Fashion made locally, by women, for women.

Shop 2, 1 Centennial Cct, Byron Arts & Industry
0408 766 546
www.honeyhunt.style

Wandana Brewing co.

With a family friendly tap room and beer garden, local brewery Wandana is the perfect place to kick back with friends whilst gazing out over the paddocks at the iconic Mt Chincogan.

Lovingly crafted small batch beers are made on-site, and you might get to taste an upcoming brew directly from the tank! There's also a range of wines, cocktails, their famous Ginchai (chai spiced ginger beer) and non-alcoholic options.

A large roster of local DJs and musicians set the scene for sunset. (Get your tickets for the NYE bash!)

The ever-changing lineup of delicious food trucks offers culinary treats from around the world.

Take-away beers and growler fills available. Open every day till 9 January (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day).

www.wandanabrewingco.com.au
20 Manns Rd, Mullumbimby
0437 363 649

WISHING YOU A
Sweet



Christmas

and a GORGEOUS 2023

*Thank you for your amazing support
and for shopping locally made &
Australian Made fashion.*

Jules x

**HONEY
HUNT STYLE**



Bangalow Market Xmas Eve

1 Centennial Cct Cnr Bayshore Dr. Byron Arts & Ind 0408 766 546
Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat 11-3
Shop In-store & Online

www.honeyhunt.style



BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

CAMPING GEAR • TRAVEL ACCESSORIES & LUGGAGE • KITCHENWARE
FISHING BAIT AND TACKLE • WORKWEAR AND BOOTS • TOOLS AND KNIVES



BLACK WOLF
ESCAPE | EXPLORE | DISCOVER



AVANTI



PHONE: 0439 212 153 THETEAM@BYRON-CAMPING.COM.AU
WWW.BYRON-CAMPING.COM.AU



**WAN
DANA**
BREWING CO.

THE FESTIVE SEASON OPEN 7 DAYS
(except Xmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day)

DJs and Live Music, Daily Food Trucks

NYE PARTY - Ticketed Event

wandanabrewingco.com.au
20 Manns rd, Mullumbimby





Toyworld

For children, toy stores are magic places. At Toyworld you'll find everything you need to make your child's Christmas truly magical, with a huge range of high-quality toys that are made to endure, from beautiful rattan dolls' furniture to organic soft dolls and Jellycat Rabbits in all the colours of the rainbow. Toyworld has all of your favourite brands. It's hard to go past the range of beautiful wooden infant toys or the extensive range of walkers, ride-ons and scooters to keep kids active.

For the games buff you will find all of your childhood favourites, along with hard-to-find games and quality puzzles for the whole family. For the creative child there are art and craft and science kits to fuel the imagination and teach while they play.

Shop 2, 103 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

6680 8811

64 Woodlark Street, Lismore

6621 3473

Mytoykingdom.com.au

The Cork Shop

Cork is harvested from the bark of the cork oak tree. It is 100 per cent natural, sustainable, recyclable, durable and waterproof. Cork is also hypoallergenic, microbial and is not prone to stretches or tears. It is an amazing, organic raw material.

Cork is also very soft, smooth, flexible, and incredibly lightweight, which makes it comfortable to wear. Cork is a great vegan alternative to leather. The cork oak tree is unique in that its thick bark can be harvested every nine years or so, and cork oak trees can live up to 250 years.

Cork is used to make many beautiful items such as handbags, shoes, wallets, jewellery, sunglasses, homewares, toys and more. Choosing cork is great for our environment.

thecorkshop.com.au

Byron Arcade, 13 Lawson Street, Byron Bay

0422 262 675

**We help make kids
Christmas dreams
come true!**



There's real Christmas magic in all our stores! Our range of fun, quality and educational toys provide meaningful play that lasts! Let our expert and friendly Christmas elves help you choose the perfect gift to make this Christmas the best one yet! www.mytoykingdom.com.au

LISMORE

64 Woodlark St Ph: +61 6621 3473

[@toyworldbyronbaylismore](https://www.facebook.com/toyworldbyronbaylismore)

BYRON BAY

2/103 Jonson St Opp Woolies Ph: +61 6680 8811

[@toyworld_byronbay_lismore](https://www.instagram.com/toyworld_byronbay_lismore)

TOYWORLD
where the best toys come from

BYRON BAY
**the
cork
shop**
CORTIÇA

Vegan
Organic
Eco-friendly
Sustainable

**Natures alternative
to leather**



**A variety of great gift ideas for
ladies, men and children:
Handbags, wallets, jewellery,
accessories, shoes, toys, homewares
and more**



thecorkshop.com.au

online orders & click & collect

Byron Arcade, 13 Lawson Street, Byron Bay

Open Mon-Sat 10-3pm

Ph:0422 262 675



Festive Season

Ocean Shores Happy Herb Shop

"It's the festive season again at Ocean Shores Happy Herb Shop and we are overflowing with an abundance of stock for your gifting needs. What a year it has been, and it has been an honour and a pleasure to have served our wonderful community throughout, with the deepest appreciation and gratitude from the team here for your support, suggestions and loyal custom," they say.

Besides offering a wide range of natural herbal products to support optimal health, vitality and wellbeing physically, mentally and spiritually, they also have a wonderful and eclectic collection of gifting ideas – natural incenses, intriguing books, tarot/oracle cards, clothes, jewellery, natural perfumes and body oils, children's toys and delights from their felted fantasyland, ceremonial tools, singing bowls, musical, fire and circus gear. Come explore!

**Ocean Village Centre
Rajah Rd, Ocean Shores
0468 853 774**

Kiva Spa

A gift voucher from Kiva always makes a great present, but with the tough year our community's had, it's a better choice than ever!

Mullum's OG bathhouse and massage hub, Kiva revives and restores even the weariest among us. Set in lush tropical gardens in the centre of town, the bathhouse features four magnesium-enriched hot pools, a cold plunge pool, a steam room and the sacred space of their wood-fired sauna. Combine a bathhouse session with a full-body massage from one of their dedicated therapists for a next-level experience. Available as a \$120 package, it's their most popular gift voucher option.

Vouchers start from \$30 and are available online or from their friendly front desk. They look forward to looking after your loved ones.

**www.thekivaspa.com
McGoughans Lane, Mullumbimby**

kiva
spa

Mullum's OG bathhouse and massage hub,
set in lush tropical gardens in the centre of town.

Gift vouchers start from \$30.

Available online or from their friendly front desk.



**www.thekivaspa.com
McGoughans Lane, Mullumbimby**



FOR ALL YOUR XMAS NEEDS

Mon–Fri 9am–6pm | Sat 9am–4pm | Closed Sundays

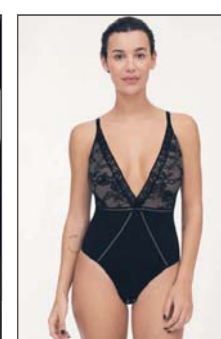
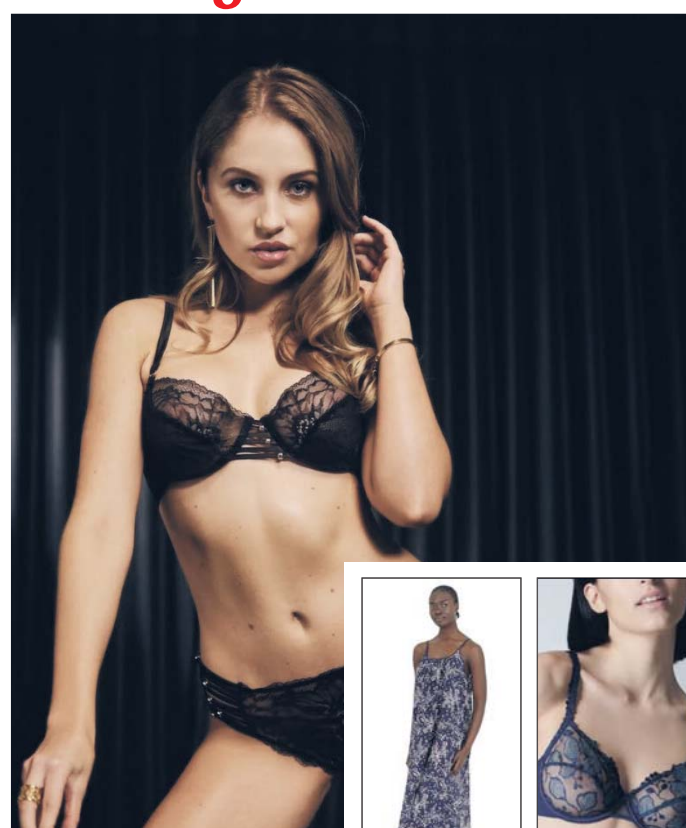
Ocean Village Centre 0468 853 774.



HAPPY
HERBco

Leading a botanical revolution for
Healthier Happier Humans.

Merry Christmas!



Gift vouchers and wrapping available

LINGERIE N° 5

PROFESSIONAL FITTING SERVICE

Mon–Fri 9–5, Sat 9–3 | 151 River Street, Ballina | 6686 2353 | www.lingerieno5.com.au



Easter Long Weekend

THURS 6TH - MON 10TH APRIL 2023

**WISHING EVERYONE
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE BLUESFEST TEAM!**



LARKIN POE

JUST ANNOUNCED!

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

THE ANGELS

ASH GRUNWALD

BACKSLIDERS

THE BROS. LANDRETH

EUGENE "HIDEAWAY" BRIDGES

PAOLO NUTINI

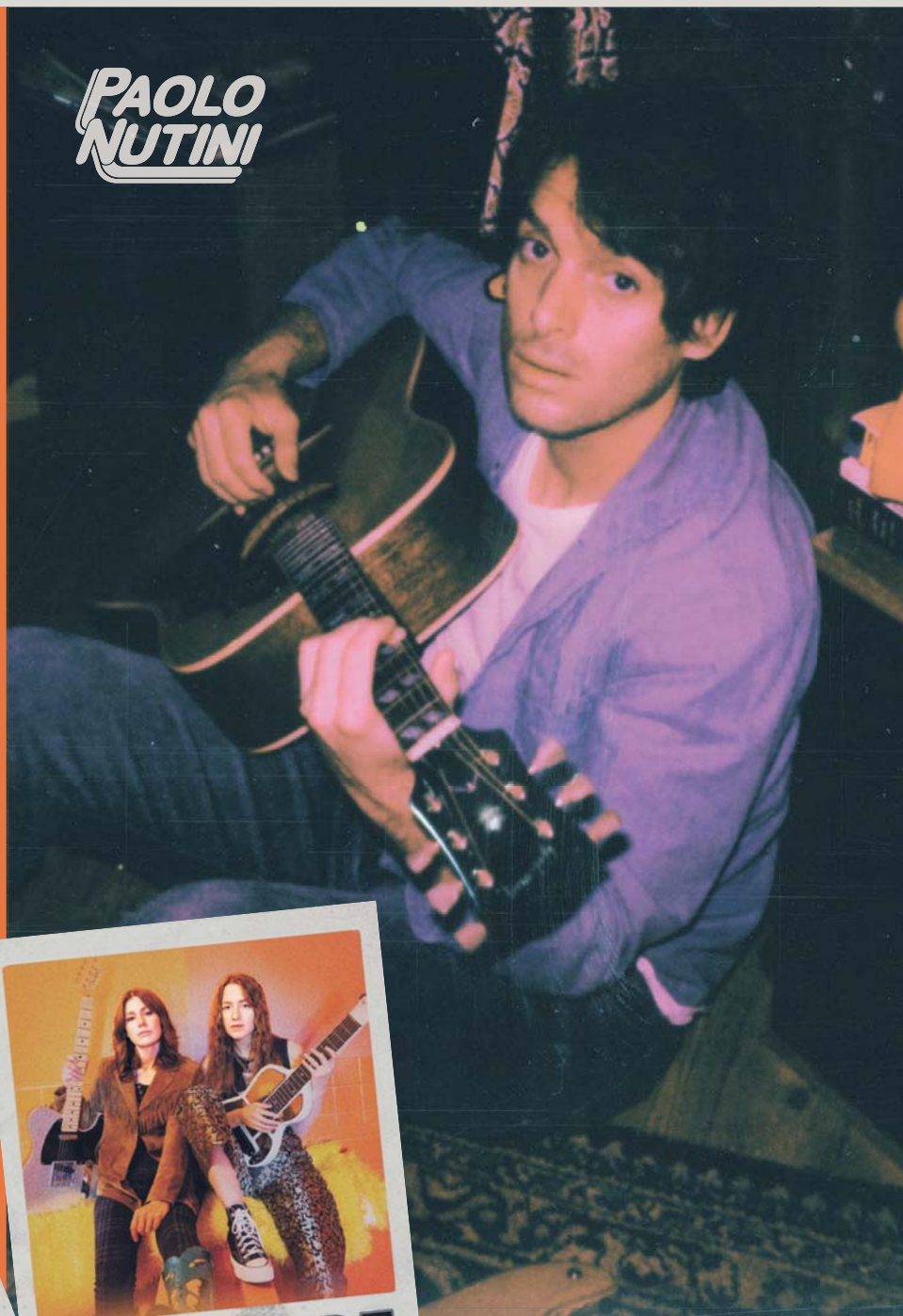
**TROMBONE SHORTY
& ORLEANS AVENUE**

YIRRMAL

MORE ARTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COME!



Ash Grunwald



**PAOLO
NUTINI**

Buddy Guy



GANG OF YOUTHS

1, 3 OR 5-DAY FESTIVAL TICKETS

ALL AGES EVENT. PATRONS UNDER THE AGE OF 15 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT.

- CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER ARE FREE AND DO NOT REQUIRE A TICKET.

VIP TICKETS

OUR VIP LOUNGE IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO HANG OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS. THIS SPECIAL TICKET GIVES YOU ACCESS TO THE EXCLUSIVE BLUESFEST VIP LOUNGE — ENJOY THE BEST FOOD, SIP ON TOP-SHELF SPIRITS, WINES, AND CRAFT BEER. HANG OUT, ENJOY AND RELAX ON OUR COMFORTABLE LOUNGES... YOU'LL ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO PREMIUM RESTROOMS. 18+ ONLY! THIS TICKET DOES NOT INCLUDE FESTIVAL ENTRY.

CAMPING OPTIONS

5-DAY, 3-DAY AND 1-DAY CAMPING AVAILABLE. THIS TICKET DOES NOT INCLUDE FESTIVAL ENTRY.

5 DAY TENT MOTEL

FOR A HASSLE AND STRESS FREE BLUESFEST, BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION IN ONE OF THE POPULAR TENT MOTELS — PRE-SET UP TENTS, COMPLETE WITH AN AWNING, CARPET, 12V LIGHT, STRETCHER BEDS AND ROLL UP WINDOWS- ALL YOU NEED TO BRING IS YOUR BEDDING.

5 DAY RAINBOW TIPI VLLAGE

EACH TIPI INCLUDES COMFORTABLE SINGLE FOAM MATTRESSES ON A QUALITY STRETCHER CAMP BED, A FLOOR, A BEDSIDE TABLE AND AN LED LANTERN - JUST BRING YOUR OWN BEDDING.

LARGE VEHICLE CAMPING

CAMPERS BRINGING A LARGE VEHICLE CARAVAN, CAMPERVAN OVER 6 METRES IN LENGTH OR CAMPERS WHO ARE TOWING ANYTHING

**BOOK NOW AT
BLUESFEST.COM.AU**

*CONDITIONS APPLY

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED!

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

19-TWENTY • ALLISON RUSSELL • BECK
BETH HART EXCLUSIVE • THE BLACK SORROWS • BONNIE RAITT
BUDDY GUY THE FINAL TOUR OF AUSTRALIA • THE CAT EMPIRE
CHAIN • CHRISTONE 'KINGFISH' INGRAM • COUNTING CROWS
THE DOOBIE BROTHERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS • ERIC GALES
FEMI KUTI & THE POSITIVE FORCE • GANG OF YOUTHS
GREENSKY BLUEGRASS • JACKSON BROWNE
JASON ISBELL AND THE 400 UNIT
JOE BONAMASSA EXCLUSIVE • JOE CAMILLERI TRIBUTE TO THE GREATS OF THE BLUES
JON STEVENS • KALEO • KEB' MO' BAND
KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD
LACHY DOLEY & THE HORNS OF CONVICTION • LARKIN POE
LP • LUCINDA WILLIAMS • MARCUS KING • MAVIS STAPLES
MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD
NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATS
NIKKI HILL EXCLUSIVE • ROBERT GLASPER • ROCKWIZ LIVE
ST PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES
THE SOUL REBELS WITH GZA, TALIB KWELI & BIG FREEDIA
SOUTHERN AVENUE • SPINIFEX GUM FEAT. MARLIYA
STEVE EARLE • TASH SULTANA
VINTAGE TROUBLE • XAVIER RUDD



BONNIE
RAITT



BECK



Festive Season



Reer Endz - organic cotton men's underwear

Reer Endz, underwear makers of eco-friendly men's underwear crafted from GOTS-certified organic cotton, are based in Lennox Head.

They are an underwear label that cares about you and the planet.

Their goals are simple. They want to eliminate waste, conserve energy and water, avoid chemicals, and wear organic cotton as much as they possibly can.

Organic cotton is a natural, biodegradable and renewable resource. Organic cotton is grown without the use of harsh chemicals and requires less water than conventional cotton.

The Reer Endz team are committed to making the least negative impact on the planet possible, learning more every day, and making as many positive changes as they can along the journey.

#COVERYOURZ

www.reerendz.com.au



Wellbeing and movement gift vouchers.

The Corner New Brighton offers an array of beautiful and grounding services and treatments.

From Reformer Pilates to Acupressure; quality, varied yoga practitioners to Kahuna bodywork; biodynamic massage to counselling; energetic healing to private yoga/Pilates sessions; reflexology to non-manual physio, The Corner offers qualified, grounded practitioners and teachers whose unified focus and commitment is to support and extend their client's mental and physical wellbeing.

Their fundamental aim is to provide a safe environment, where all clients are accepted as they are, with respect and compassion.

The Corner's gift vouchers are a unique and holistic offering for loved ones as they cover a wide range of options for anyone seeking or needing self-connection or deep relaxation time.

Contact The Corner for a personalised gift card creation.

6 Strand Avenue, New Brighton, 2483.

Web: thecornernewbrighton.com.au

Email: info@thecornernewbrighton.com.au

Ph: 0400 808 248

IG: [thecorner_newbrighton](https://www.instagram.com/thecorner_newbrighton)

Shack Palace

Shopping at Shack Palace is a truly unique experience where you can sample a selection of organic teas, elixirs and cold drip coffee whilst you browse their curation of high quality artisan homewares, objects, skincare and apothecary items. They also offer complimentary gift wrapping in-store for all purchases. This is the perfect place to pick up a unique gift for someone who has it all!

Find Shack Palace in the Habitat shopping precinct in the Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate.

8/1 Porter Street, Byron Bay

www.shackpalace.com

Instagram: [@shackpalace](https://www.instagram.com/shackpalace)



SUPPORT ARTISAN MAKERS THIS SEASON.



SHACK PALACE

In Store

Shop 8, 1 Porter Street
Byron Bay (at Habitat)

Online

www.shackpalace.com
[@shackpalace](https://www.instagram.com/shackpalace)

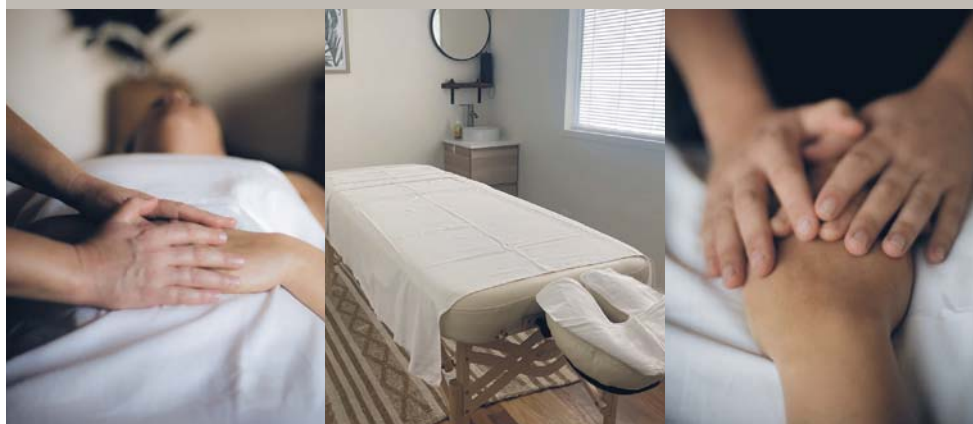
the corner new brighton

KAHUNA BODYWORK ~ ACUPRESSURE ~ MASSAGE

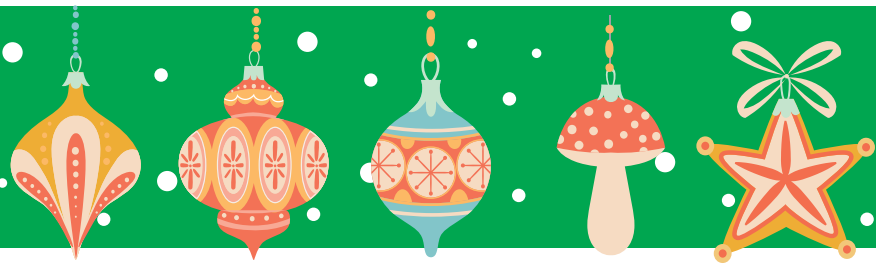
GIFT VOUCHER

*this is just a little gift voucher
for you to say thank you so much!*

YOGA ~ MEDITATION ~ REFORMER PILATES



www.thecornernewbrighton.com.au



Byron Bay Pork & Meats

It's that very merry time of year again and the butchers at Byron Bay Pork are preparing the finest cuts of Christmas meats and selections for customers.

Your local family-owned business in Mullumbimby and in Byron Bay, they source premium quality pork, beef, lamb and goat from their family farms. All meats are antibiotic and hormone free.

They have locally-sourced and smoked leg hams along with free range chickens, ducks and turkeys. Their specialty sausage range includes a gluten-free variety, salami and they stock a range of locally produced smallgoods, sauces, spices and products.

Come in and see the friendly staff, or place an order on the phone, for all your festive season needs.

Open Monday to Saturday.

**70 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby or 130 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
6684 2137**

Dispensing musical medicine

Son of Drum is a candy store for adults – alive with the sounds of musical instruments you can try out and taste with your ears! They have musical instruments and accessories for all ages and skill levels and to suit any budget. Their range is constantly evolving and improving, so it's worth swinging by regularly to keep up to date with what's new. They also carry out instrument repairs and arrange tuition. They pride themselves on their helpful and intimate local knowledge. Oh yeah, and their prices are pretty competitive too! Drop in and see what they can do for you before you buy anywhere else, including online. You may be pleasantly surprised! They're fully stocked for Xmas.

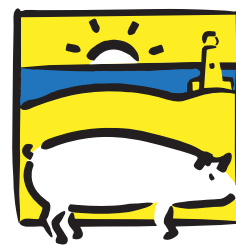
Shop 1 / 31 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby

6684 1742

www.sonofdrum.com.au

Festive Season

BYRON BAY PORK & MEATS BUTCHERY



BYRON BAY PORK

Come in and see our friendly staff for a choice of local, grassfed, organic and free-range meats.

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**

son of drum Musical Instruments

Taste with your ears!



**20% off
ukuleles**
mention this ad

Ph. 02 6684 1742
Shop 1 / 31 Burringbar St
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

www.sonofdrum.com.au

[@son_of_drum_store](https://www.instagram.com/son_of_drum_store)

reerendz™

organic cotton men's underwear

SHOP LOCAL THIS XMAS

STEWART'S MENSWEAR - MULLUMBIMBY

WALLACE & CO - BALLINA

OXLEY & MOSS - KINGSCLIFF

SUNSHINE TRADER - BRUNSWICK HEADS

CHEMPRO CHEMISTS - LENNOX HEAD

GO VITA - BYRON BAY

BOLT & BUCKLE - MURWILLUMBAH

GO VITA - BALLINA

DON'T TELL MUMMA - BANGALOW

A Christmas gift that won't cost the earth

www.reerendz.com.au



Festive Season

Bolt + Buckle

When it comes to buying gifts for the men in your life, you've probably uttered the words "men are so hard to buy for". Well, that problem is solved with Bolt + Buckle in Murwillumbah, they're the self-proclaimed "men are so hard to buy for" store.

A great range of the latest casual men's fashion from brands like Industrie and Levi's, and some pop for the festive season from John Lennon shirts will have you covered. Will+Bear hats for up top, and Wild Rhino footwear for down below and your outfit is complete from head to toe.

Add to that an incredible array of gift ideas and leather bags and your men's Christmas list is complete. Say hi to the team at Commercial Rd Murwillumbah.

Cnr Commercial Rd & Proudfoots Lane, Murwillumbah

Device Trader

Device Trader Byron Bay continues to evolve after more than 7 years of repairing and selling mobile devices in the Byron Shire.

Founder Duane Tutchten says, "We now offer great deals in-store and online across a wide range of products. We've got a huge range of mobile phones, laptops, tablets and accessories available, and you can even trade in your old device with us!

With Macbooks, Apple Watches, AirPods and virtually every current iPhone, from \$149 to \$1499 and everything in between, we really do have something for everybody! We spent a lot of time building our online store and it has paid off. You can now see all of our products and services online and find huge discounts on refurbished devices and repairs."

**1/ 130 Jonson Street Byron Bay,
www.device trader.com.au
02 6685 5585**



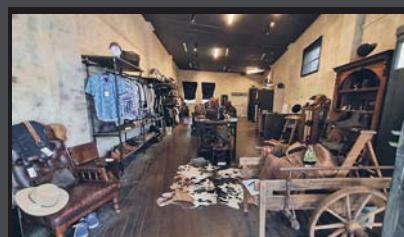

DEVICE TRADER
MOBILE PHONES & ACCESSORIES

 iPhone 8 From \$269	 SE 2020 From \$339	 iPhone XR From \$399	 iPhone X From \$449
 iPhone XS From \$489	 iPhone 11 From \$549	 11 Pro From \$749	 Pro Max From \$899
 12 Mini From \$649	 iPhone 12 From \$799	 12 Pro From \$1199	 Pro Max From \$1349
 13 Mini From \$1029	 iPhone 13 From \$1249	 13 Pro From \$1499	 13 Pro Max From \$1769

**Order Online - Free Shipping - device trader.com.au
12 Month Warranty On All Devices!
02 6685 5585 1/ 130 Jonson Street Byron Bay**

BOLT + BUCKLE

The
" **MEN ARE
SO HARD TO
BUY FOR** "
store.



Men's Fashion, Gifts & Leather Goods

Commercial Rd, Murwillumbah

Follow us on   @boltandbuckle

Festive Season



Ninbella

Ninbella Gallery exhibits a fine range of work by First Nations Australian artists alongside paintings by Northern Rivers artists.

They represent highly sought-after, award-winning artists and work directly with wholly Aboriginal owned art centres in remote communities such as Ampilatwatja, Yuendumu, Yirrkala and the Tiwi Islands. Collectable Western and Central Desert artists include Willy Tjungarrayi, Makinti Napanangka, Mitjili Napurrula, Naata Nungurrayi and Dorothy Napangardi.

Among their other contemporary Indigenous artists are Kurun Warun, Gloria Gardiner, Ethan-James Kotiau, Gabriella Possum, and Melissa Ladkin.

Local artists Vlad Kolas, Hilary Herrmann, Lae Oldmeadow, Tanith Kershaw, Beryl Miles and Leah Anketell are also represented.

The gallery is a member of the Australian and New Zealand Fair Trade Association and stocks a range of Better World ethical giftware.

ninbella.com

grant@ninbella.com

19a Byron Street, Bangalow

02 6687 1936



The Brunswick Heads Record Fair

Matt the Vinyl Junkie is back with another 5-day mega record sale in Brunswick Heads. With close to 30,000 records in stock the Vinyl Junkie fairs are some of the best in Australia, filled with amazing tonnes of wax in every genre. There will be DJs on the decks most days so come and have a listen and have a dig. The fair starts on Wednesday 28 December and runs till Sunday 1 January. Open 10am-6pm every day.

Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall
Fingal Street, Brunswick

NINBELLA



19a Byron Street, Bangalow

02 6687 1936

www.ninbella.com

The Vinyl Junkie
PRESENTS

BRUNSWICK HEADS RECORD FAIR

MEMORIAL HALL
FINGAL STREET

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28TH

TO

SUNDAY JANUARY 1ST

10AM TO 6PM EVERYDAY

OVER 40000 RECORDS



The Banya

A modern experiential twist on a traditional European bathhouse – The Banya is a first of its kind in the heart of Mullumbimby.

'In Europe going to the banya is a social experience... it's food, it's drinks, it's wellness and connecting', says owner Brenden Lawless.

The Bathhouse features a lap pool, two hot mineral pools, a wood-fired sauna, a steam room and a cold plunge. There are five massage treatment rooms and a rooftop sundeck for post-treatment relaxation.

After the Bathhouse, guests are encouraged to stay for lunch or enjoy drinks with friends. The bar and dining focus on casual refinement with share plates and nutritious staples. Wine, cocktails and health elixirs round out the offering – all designed to enhance the bathhouse experience. Gift vouchers available for Christmas!

www.thebanya.com.au

02 6698 6104

35-37 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby

Art classes for kids, teens and adults

Byron Bay Contemporary Artspace is an independent art school located in lovely heritage premises in central Byron Bay.

They offer studio art classes for kids, teens and adults. Small relaxed classes ensure individualised mentoring style support. Their after-school term, Saturday and School Holiday workshops are structured to suit different age groups and abilities. MZ Gallery is a boutique art gallery presenting an exciting and diverse program of exhibitions and events. It's a friendly environment to view and select artwork.

Current exhibition includes work by senior Australian artists like John Olsen, Judy Cassab and Jamie Boyd and contemporary works on paper by Michele Zarro.

57 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay

0468 718 045

www.byronartspace.com.au

The BANYA

AN IMMERSIVE SOCIAL, BATHING, & DINING EXPERIENCE.

The Banya is a modern experiential twist on a traditional European bathhouse — a first of its kind in the heart of Mullumbimby.

"In Europe going to the banya is a social experience. While we might go to the pub or a restaurant, they'll go to the banya for a few hours: it's food, it's drinks, it's wellness and connecting" - Brenden Lawless



NOW OPEN

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS!

02 6698 6104
35-37 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby
www.thebanya.com.au

Byron Bay Contemporary Artspace

ART CLASSES FOR KIDS, TEENS & ADULTS

Saturday & after school School Holiday Workshops

Small classes (max 6)
with NSW registered teacher
Covid safe
Creative Kids vouchers welcome

MZ Gallery
Current Exhibition - Private Collection -
Important Art Historical Australian Artists
Michele Zarro - 'Works on Paper'

Contact Michele on 0468 718 045
or email info@byronartspace.com.au
www.byronartspace.com.au

MZ Gallery



Byron Photo Magic

For all your photography needs Byron Photo Magic is the place to visit. They cover printing instore or online as well as large-format, canvas printing, photo books and calendars.

They have full 35mm/120mm film Colour - BW processing and printing services, batteries, memory cards, camera bags and the largest range of Fujifilm Instax & Polaroid Cameras, along with the full range of GoPro and accessories.

They now handle old video tapes, and Super 8mm film to USB. They stock frames, photo albums and an extensive range of Promaster photographic accessories, tripods, filters, binoculars and the largest range of 35mm film on the north coast, as well as pre-owned 35mm film cameras. Passport photos are covered professionally instore; just call in and see Stephen, Karen, Alanna and Molly.

www.photomagic.com.au
 Shop 20, Mercato on Byron, 108-114 Jonson St, Byron Bay
 02 6685 5877

No Bones Little

No Bones Little in Ocean Shores is the sister business to No Bones in Byron, which opened its doors in April 2018 with a mission to change the way people think about vegan food. Now after the past few years, they want to do better for our community and planet. Their goals are to become 100% carbon neutral across their businesses and to make sure they're using as much Australian made/grown produce and products as they can, to reduce their environmental impact.

As you may know, a plant based diet goes a long way towards fighting climate change and every meal counts.

Ocean Shores is open Tuesday – Sunday.

Lunch 12–4pm
 Dinner from 5pm

Join them on their expedition to save the Earth one brussel sprout at time.

#brusselsnotbeef
 noboneslittle.com
 82 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores
 0422 355 928

Byron Photo Magic

All Your Gift Ideas

The Gift of Memories

Shop 20 Mercato on Byron, 108 - 114 Jonson St,
 Byron Bay NSW 2481 - Ph 0266855877

NO BONES

Little

OCEAN SHORES

NOW OPEN!

LUNCH 12 - 4PM
 DINNER FROM 5PM

P: 0422 355 928
 W: NOBONESLITTLE.COM



THE BEACH HOTEL'S OFFICIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

As we farewell 2022, the only way to welcome 2023 is a party at the Beach Hotel in Byron Bay, celebrating with our friends from Balter Brewing.

The Beachy – recently recognised as 'Best Entertainment Venue' in Australia* – is proud to host an outstanding local lineup this New Year's Eve, bringing you the best party vibes Byron has to offer.

**Beach Hotel awarded 'Best Entertainment Venue' at the 2022 AHA National Awards of Excellence.* • 1 Bay Street, Byron Bay • www.beachhotel.com.au

LINEUP FEATURING LOCAL BANDS AND DJS ALL DAY

Jerome Williams and His Much Bigger Band
DJ My Happy Place

Pre-sale tickets available online now \$65+BF via Beach Hotel website or Oztix. Northern Rivers locals tickets available to purchase now at the Beach Bottleshop for \$50+BF. Open till 1.30am

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE IN BYRON BAY AT SOUL STREET

Everyone's invited to Soul Street – the family-friendly, community New Year's Eve event being held in central Byron Bay. Soul Street caters for all ages with two main areas of free entertainment:

- Jonson Street – live music on the sound stage, roving performers and children's activities from 4pm till 8pm.
- Denning Park – lighting installations and entertainment on the main stage 6pm to 12.30am.

Soul Street is a zero-waste event. BYO cups, plates and cutlery.

A section of Jonson Street will be closed to traffic, along with the Lawson Street south car park and the Main Beach car park. All roads will reopen early on New Year's Day. There will be no parking on Bay Street.

See Council's website for more information.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au



THE PARK HOTEL

See in the New Year with legendary local band **Reloader** on the deck at The Park Hotel. The dance floor will be pumping and cocktails will be flowing with their Casamigos Bar so make sure you book a table, come down early and enjoy some great food. Tell your friends where you'll be and enjoy a great start to 2023!

223 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park
6685 3222
www.parkhotelmotel.com
[@theparkhotel_suffolkpark](https://www.instagram.com/theparkhotel_suffolkpark)

NYE AT WANDANA BREWING CO.

If you haven't made your mind up yet for NYE, how about this: Wandana is throwing a magical dance party that is shaping up to be an absolute cracker.

Wandana is a small micro-brewery nestled in Mullumbimby. They produce fantastic beers and have a unique beer garden that features a roster of DJs and live music on a weekly basis.

They have cherry-picked some of the best local DJs this area has to offer; these guys have a reputation of getting the dance floors moving. Supported by live performances, not to mention lasers, projections, and a great sound system.

Wandana offers a huge selection of beers, wines, cocktails and more.

Join them to say good riddance to 2022!

Scan the QR code for tickets or visit Humanitix.

20 Manns Rd, Mullumbimby
www.wandanabrewingco.com.au

MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB

Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club wishes wish all of their members, guests and suppliers a Happy New Year.

Celebrate the New Year at the best location in Mullum. They have two great free bands on the one night, kicking off with **Them Culprits** at 7.30pm, a new band born out of Mullumbimby that will ensure an exciting and memorable rock'n'roll experience for all. **Shybaby** will hit the stage from 9pm to see in the new year. With decades of experience they provide a hard-rocking, authentic experience for young and old alike with a fabulous selection of classic hits from the '60's through to now.

Yokos Bistro will be fired up and ready to provide anything from a small snack right through to a casual evening feast.

58 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby
02 6684 2533
www.mullumexservices.com.au

NYE

AT WANDANA



X U J A
J A S O N L E W I S
B H A K T I (D A S G O O D E)

DJS
LIVE PERFORMANCES
AV VISUALS
BODY ART
COCKTAILS
CRAFT BEER
DRESS: SPARKLY!



31.12.22
6pm - 1.30am
Wandana Brewing Co
20 Manns Rd Mullumbimby



FREE BAND

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sat 31th December



THEM
CULPRITS

7:30PM



SHYBABY

9PM UNTIL THE NEW YEAR

MULLUMBIMBY
EX-SERVICES CLUB



SATURDAY DEC 31
FROM 4PM

SOUL STREET

NEW YEAR'S EVE

BYRON BAY

FREE family-friendly entertainment, food trucks, markets stalls, roving performers and activations

soulstreetbyronbay.com.au

Jonson St and Denning Park



rova

Traffic and Parking Byron Bay New Year's Eve

31 December 2022

Roads closed

From 6am on 31 December

- Main Beach car park
- Jonson Street between Marvell Street and Lawson Street
- Lawson Street south car park

The Byron Bay bypass will remain open to traffic

Expect traffic delays

Parking and public transport

- **Taxi rank** – Jonson Street near Marvell Street intersection
- **Pay parking** in Byron Bay town centre from 9am – 6pm



For more information

NYE in Byron Bay is a community and family-friendly event

- Byron Bay town centre is an **ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE**
- **NO ALCOHOL** allowed on the streets. On-the-spot fines apply.
- **ZERO TOLERANCE** for anti-social behaviour.
- **ZERO WASTE** – Remember BYO cups, plates, cutlery.



Mungo's Crossword

N470

1		2		3		4		5			6	7		8
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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Verbal idiosyncrasy – watching birds perhaps (10)

6. Time with Jolson cool – but take a powder! (4)

9. Mole found in scenic attraction (6,4)

10. Side of beef, perhaps, spoiled (4)

12. Angry raccoon bit sort of giant snake (3,11)

14. Promotion with Australian conservatives ... but they're made up on the spot (2,4)

15. Question turn – clumsily avoids epic movie (3,5)

17. Bounder evinces a groan, OK? (8)

19. Nectar produced by King Minos (6)

22. Sit, droop miserably when merchant is around – but it's deadly! (8,6)

24. Top primate cross (4)

25. Fool one friend about the Italian – but become part of the mob! (10)

26. Experts, the tree people! (4)

27. Saxons, for instance – or that's what they said! (3,7)

DOWN

1. Distraught boss bursts into tears (4)

2. List of winners – said to be working really well (2,1,4)

3. Observe directors – they spread the news! (6,6)

4. Transmitted again? Show displeasure (6)

5. Dismiss urger – it's an armed confrontation! (5,3)

7. Warned: beer right with Turner (7)

8. Policeman gaining promotion over Bond's boss – and making up! (10)

11. Trouble in evil girls' inn – but there's hope at the end! (6,6)

13. Shopping aid – a crate, broke and useless (6,4)

16. Huge deficit in fossil fuel (8)

18. Dined in refuge – most organised (7)

20. Hit game devised for wise men (3,4)

21. Hope for a steeple (6)

23. The net? I object – be quiet! (4)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Speech error resulting from switching the first sounds of two words (10)

6. A soft, fine-grained mineral (4)

9. Dark facial mark (6,4)

10. Crew; gang (4)

12. Snake that kills its prey by squeezing (3,11)

14. Improvised words (2,4)

15. Where are you going? (Latin) (3,5)

17. Australian jumping marsupial (8)

19. Inhabitant of the largest Greek island (6)

22. Burrowing arachnid common in Sydney (8,6)

24. Pinnacle (4)

25. Absorb; take in (10)

26. Tall, Middle Earth creatures (4)

27. Great Britain's earliest language (3,7)

DOWN

1. Cries noisily (4)

2. Having a prolonged lucky period (2,1,4)

3. Where bulletins can be displayed (6,6)

4. Begrudge (6)

5. Decisive gun battle (5,3)

7. Cautioned (7)

8. Composed of (10)

11. Every cloud has it! (6,6)

13. Nervous wreck (6,4)

16. Massive (8)

18. Tidiest (7)

20. They brought gifts to the nativity (3,4)

21. Crave (6)

23. Web (4)

Last week's solution N469

P	L	U	T	O	C	R	A	T	S	C	R	A	P	
E	N	V	E	R	U	O	R							
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Putting their money where our house was

In the Christmas story, pregnant Mary rides into Bethlehem. There is no room at the inn, so her partner Joseph finds a barn. If she were in the Byron Shire she'd be sleeping on her donkey, because people here pay big money for barns.

We have the worst housing crisis in NSW and the state government couldn't give a rats.

In fact, the state government have told our region that we don't deserve secure housing.

Our businesses are closing their doors, not because of a lack of customers: it's a lack of staff.

They have sentenced our community to homelessness and housing stress.

They have sent women and their kids back to their cars.

They have told businesses they won't have staff.

In the lead up to a state election they have chosen sides. And it's not ours.

They have backed the money NOT the people. Why are we surprised? It's the coalition. They always back the money. They put the money where our house was.

Housing is a human right. It is a social determinant of health and wellbeing. The more precarious your housing situation the more precarious your health. If you want to address the rise in mental health-related conditions, then start by housing your community. That's what we have been trying to do here in the Byron Shire. For years our local Council and our state MP have worked collaboratively towards a shared outcome: to limit the amount of days for unregulated short-term holiday rentals.

It was one issue in our local politics where there was consensus. The state government had given our local Council the planning powers to go ahead and make the decision. With some of the worst housing affordability

in the state, rental availability rates below 0.1 per cent, international attention on the fact our relatively tiny population had homeless numbers second to Sydney, businesses in staffing crisis, and many people, a lot of them women and children, living in their cars it's clear to the whole bloody world that our region is in a housing crisis.

One that can only be addressed by first regulating holiday accommodation. You can't build your way out of our housing crisis without first addressing the hole in the bucket. That hole is short-term holiday letting. There is no guarantee that new houses built, even those under the guise of addressing 'affordability', won't just end up on the short-term holiday market. There is no water in our housing bucket, and there won't be until we plug the hole. Our Council was just about to do exactly that.

When the state government took back our power to make meaningful change in our housing market one day before the Council vote, they sent families back to their cars, and businesses to the wall.

They took away our capacity to impose a 90-day cap in some areas in Byron Shire. This does not apply to residents who live on the premises they let. Just absentee landlords. Investors. People who profiteer at the expense of our community. People who own multiple properties and who use our region like a Monopoly board. People who mainly don't live here. Who are these faceless owners? I want to see them. I want to ask them if they know how they are hurting us.

But the real issue is the state government. They have failed us. In a region that got smashed by flooding, where many still don't have housing options, they took away our local planning authority on our most important issue. Why?

I want to ask that the state government declare any conflict of interest. How many investment properties do MPs or their partners own in the Byron Shire? Or their friends? State government staff?



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

The campaign to protect unregulated letting in our region messaged that it would damage our visitor numbers. That it was bad for business. What bullshit. You know what damages our visitor numbers? Our inability to service visitors because our businesses have no staff.

One business owner I interviewed told me he had advertised for staff with Tursa for two years and he'd had two applications. He was left to appointing 16-year-olds, junior staff, to watch the grill where he would once have had mature, experienced staff. He's had to close early to shorten opening hours. It has given him permanent anxiety and meant his family business has run his family into the ground. He is not alone. Every business owner I speak to is hurting. The lack of housing means they don't have staff. Our businesses are closing their doors, not because of a lack of customers: it's a lack of staff. They don't have the capacity. It's part of the supply chain they just can't control. Capitalism is eating itself.

Our community deserves housing. We demand the state government give our council back their planning authority on this issue. And if not, that they have the balls to follow through with the 90-day cap. If you want to solve a problem that impacts on individuals, you have to stop thinking as individuals and act as a community.

Please join us this Saturday at Apex Park in Byron Bay at 10am for a rally to tell the state government what you think. I will be the MC and will be joined by Greens MP for Ballina Tamara Smith, Byron Shire Mayor Michael Lyon, Councillor Cate Coorey, local resident Gyan, and local business and community members.

(For those worried about NSW protest laws, this is a legal assembly with police consent.)

STARS BY LILITH

It's beginning to feel a lot like solstice with this week's sun, new moon, Venus and Mercury in Capricorn, the sign of tradition, wishing all readers a cool Yule...



CAPRICORN THE MOUNTAIN GOAT

ARIES: What is Jupiter resetting its astral satnav into Aries good for? Among dozens of other benefits, this week it helps maintain a positive, solution-oriented attitude no matter what the festive season presents. Since what you focus on is now going to expand even more than usual, make it magical.

TAURUS: The current can't-stop-won't-stop celestial scenario in can-do Capricorn suits your hard-working, down-to-earth practicality. But enough is enough, and this week calls a halt. Delegate and outsource where you can, then kick back and indulge in some well-earned, replenishing, restorative luxury as this long year winds down.

GEMINI: While retro Mars in your sign continues its valuable lessons in energy management, play to your personal strengths this festive season through your superpowers of communicating, connecting and coming up with creative compromises. Remember that what you say is what you get, and express your thoughts accordingly.

CANCER: Yes, it's a busy, buzzy, boisterous week, and your reward for all of December's effort arrives when this year's new moon of organisation and powerful planning kicks in to coordinate Cancerian talents for orchestrating family, friend and community gatherings into a yuletide triumph. After which, it's definitely time to relaxez vous...

LEO: Mars retro in your social zone plus this week's astral emphasis in your self-care sector could reframe how you set about making merry. Which may exclude divas, drama queens, and food comas in favour of more laidback meetups in old-fashioned facetime. Best festive strategy? Expect the best, forget about the rest.

VIRGO: This week's earthy elements recommend focusing on the simple, essential things that make life special. Prioritising what you love, and only doing enough of that to delight your friends and family without stressing out. As Virgo declutter master Andrew Mellon says: Here's to less stuff and more love...

LIBRA: This week's best gift to yourself and the general festivities? Resisting overstretching yourself. Finding the compromise between could do and should do. Bridge-building Venus in her most authoritative placement will assist you to shift and uplift edgy energetics, defuse and reframe champagne-fuelled meltdowns into inclusive amusements.

SCORPIO: Mars the firestarter of the zodiac makes it easy to get carried away this week, so your biggest ask is reigning in the impulse to overcommit. No easy task with articulate Mercury and charming Venus mobilising your social sector to its most engaging and entertaining peak, but give it your best shot.

SAGITTARIUS: Jupiter's forward move in another full-on fire sign unleashes a tsunami of exciting ideas, so by all means aim your sights high, but don't press agendas. Set them on simmer to brew and distill through the annual anniversary whirl of hearty partying. If it feels right, run them by trusted confidantes for feedback.

CAPRICORN: Your peak power point ignites at this week's midsummer solstice, with five planets kicking up their heavenly heels in Capricorn: Mercury, Venus, Pluto, sun and new moon all filling your party glass to overflowing. This is your golden moment for sharing with loved ones your dearest dreams, highest hopes and long-term goals.

AQUARIUS: Had your fill of socially conscious spending, Xmas shopping for eco-friendly, ethically sourced presents till you're dropping? Now the season of unreason's take-on-too-much star scenario needs you to chillax and keep up your levity levels and joie de vivre. If negative nellys try to lower them, don't allow it.

PISCES: Pisces' collaboration and community zone scintillating with the astral fairy lights of flirty Mercury and convivial Venus for the rest of December pretty much appoints you entertainment directors for the festive season. In which case, your most pertinent advice for happy holidays is to cut the fluff and keep it simple.

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TWEED MUSEUM'S UP LATE

Tweed Regional Museum's Up Late events over the summer will surprise and delight. On **Saturday 28 January 2023**, the museum is having a **Street Party!**

The **Diprotodons** are back for the final Museum Up Late event for Capturing Nature. It will be the biggest of them all! The museum will expand into surrounding streets with activities, music, food stalls, and pop-up bars. You can drop into workshops with eco-warriors, artists, and animal experts, have your face painted, learn from curators, experience the process of wet-plate photography, and dig for fossils.

Follow ancient giants from a forgotten time as they roam the museum and surroundings, lost in a jungle made of concrete, finding food, and interacting with humans along the way. Let your imagination soar as you experience this exquisite, one-of-a-kind open-air puppetry performance from Australian visual theatre masterminds **Dead Puppet Society**.

The museum has a jam-packed program of fabulous kids' school holiday activities to explore. Subscribe to Museum e-News to be the first to hear about them and have access to early bookings.

Tweed Regional Museum, 2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am–4pm.

Visit: museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au for more information and follow [@TweedRegional](https://twitter.com/TweedRegional) Museum for more details.

The last minute gift that lasts all year

Need something quick for that hard-to-buy-for someone in your life? Well, they love music and community, right? So get them a gift subscription to BayFM, your local 100% independent, volunteer-run, not-for-profit community radio station.

To make sure it's a surprise, complete the subscriber form with their name but use your own email. That way you can spring it on them on the 25th. Sorry, no fancy wrapping or card – just a great feeling that lasts all year!

Subscribe at bayfm.org/subscribe

bayfm.org
 Listen like a local.



MEDHANIT AT FALLS BYRON ON NYD

Medhanit is no stranger to festival stages, having toured with Australian electronic legends Pnau. Medhanit is looking forward to in presenting her own show on the Falls Byron stage. *Seven* caught up with Medhanit so see what she has for Byron

I am so excited to present my own set at Falls Festival Byron Bay thanks to Triple J and the Unearthed team! I am bringing a high-energy set with a blend of different sounds: introspective lyrics matched with beats to dance to, various genres ranging from indie/soft-rock to afrobeat, and definitely the live version of my latest single *Friends*.

You've also teamed up with Holy Holy for Triple J's Like A Version (covering Post Malone). How did that come about?

I did! Tim Carroll from Holy Holy and I both live in Tasmania, or did so at the time, and I played at a beautiful festival he runs A Festival Called PANAMA. After playing, he asked if I might like to join his band Holy Holy onstage to sing Lorde's *Green Light* to close another Tassie festival we were both playing. I was beyond floored and already so nervous immediately after saying 'Yes'. But it was the most heartwarming and memorable experience; I'll never forget it. Months later, he phoned me out of the blue and asked if I might join Holy Holy in Sydney for their *Like A Version*, and I couldn't say 'Yes' fast enough. Tim, Oscar, Ryan, and Graham have been so incredibly generous, supportive, and kind to me always and I am infinitely grateful.

Is collaboration with other artists something you'd like to pursue more? Who would be your dream collaborator?

I find collaboration to be such an artistically stimulating and emotionally engaging side to creating, and I'm always eager to work with new people. My dream collab list is endless, but it includes Angie McMahon, Tkay Maidza, Kwame, Fred Again, and Amine.

Are there any artists that you're looking forward to seeing at Falls?

I am so sonically in love with Amine, and originally had a ticket for Falls Byron for the 31st so I could see him! He's one of my favourite musicians, rappers, visual-makers, and inspirations, and he's also Ethiopian (like me) so I am all the more head over heels. I am so keen to see Young Franco, DMA's, Peach PRC, and Genesis Owusu.

What inspires you?

Botanic gardens, the human condition, grand pianos and 808s, and the people I love most.

What is one of the important lessons you've learned as an emerging Australian artist?

Nerves, fear, and anxieties are not synonymous with being undeserving – you can be both good at (and love) your job and simultaneously find elements of your career truly challenging. When you get up close, most people you're sharing the stage with are a little bit scared too, and that is so very okay.

For more info about Falls, visit: fallsfestival.com.

BYRON THEATRE

January 2023



Liquidelic
 Tuesday 10 January, 7:00pm



She Will Rock You - Presented by Livewire Touring
 Saturday 21 January, 7:30pm



BOOK NOW
byrontheatre.com



FLOW MUSIC & BURN BYRON BAY

THE PORTAL

PERFORMERS
 THE SPACE COWBOY
 ZOE L'AMORE
 STELLA KINESIS
 EPIC CREATIONS

DJS & ARTISTS
 DAVE DINGER
 ROGER GRASSI
 BHAKTI
 EFFI
 DARPAN
 SKYE WALKER

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30TH
 69 JONSON STREET, BYRON BAY

6:30PM - 3AM
THE BYRON THEATRE
 INFO - CORR@FLOWMUSIC.ONE TICKETS - BYRONCENTRE.COM.AU



GIG GUIDE

It's free to list your gigs in the gig guide.
gigs@echo.net.au w: echo.net.au/gig-guide

WEDNESDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JESSE JOHN HIGGINS DUO**, 9.30PM **DJ SOOTY**
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **TONY AND THE THIEF**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **BEN MITCHELL**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6.30PM **COL GERMANO**

THURSDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **NATHAN KAYE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **TIAGO FREITAS**, 9.30PM **DJ MADAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **LISA HUNT**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 8PM **COUNTRY WITCHES ASSOCIATION**

FRIDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SAM BUCKLEY**, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 9.30PM **DJ GENE ENGLISH**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- BYRON TWILIGHT MARKET 5PM **MICKA SCENE**
- OCA, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARILANE & BRAZILIAN SOUND WAVES**
- YUM YUM TREE CAFE, NEW BRIGHTON, 6PM **ROD MURRAY – A TRIBUTE TO JAZZ**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM MIDDLE PUB **BALCONY BEATS WITH DJS ROB SYDNEY & CORQI**, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE**

SUNDAY 25

- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 5PM **MARK CHAPMAN**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **SUNDAY JAM**

MONDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4PM **DONNY SHADES**, 8PM **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 2.30PM **NOY BEN AMI**, 5PM **SAM BUCKLEY**, 10.30PM **BAG RAIDERS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **EPIC**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **PUSH**, 5PM **DJ TWOSINC**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 3PM **ROB RHODES**, 7.30PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK**

TUESDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 12PM **MARK CHAPMAN**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **JETHRO**

WEDNESDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATT ARMITAGE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SUCK MY DISCO**, 12.30PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- FOXY LUU'S, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **TONY AND THE THIEF**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEATURING: FEATURING: CHRIS RADBURN WITH SPECIAL GUEST: VANESSA MITCHELL AND MC MANDY NOLAN**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6.30PM **COL GERMANO**

SATURDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1PM **DAMIEN COOPER**, 4.30PM **THE RANDALLS**, 8PM **EPIC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **RAGGA JUMP**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 5.30PM **TAHLIA & CHEV**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, **DJ SLINKY**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **THE HUSTLER & SOUNDMEN + DJ PAUL THE MAD HATTER**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6.30PM **BROADWATER DUO**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM **STAGE 2**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **BILL JACOBI**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 4.30PM **THE BIG DUO**, 8.30PM **TO THE SKIES**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM**

COURTHOUSE HOTEL, MULLUMBIMBY, 5.30PM **BEN MITCHELL**

- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 5.30PM **ALEX MCLEOD**, 8PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM BAND**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **BLAKE EVANS**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **MIKEY EDWARDS**, 10PM **GLORY DAYS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **DONNY SHADES DUO**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **JOSEPH BROWN**

THE LARGELY OVERLOOKED, LARGELY GREAT, LARGER-THAN-LIFE AUSTEN TAYSHUS



By Larry Buttrose

One afternoon in 1983, I returned to the Surry Hills home in Sydney my then partner Mandy and I shared with rock magazine editor Donald Robertson.

Donald came rushing downstairs clutching a radio saying, ‘Listen to this! It’s Austen Tayshus, doing *Australiana*. It’s out as a single and people have been calling in all afternoon getting the DJ to play it over and over.’

I listened and instantly recognised the basso boom of Tayshus, a comedian I’d seen once or twice onstage. The ‘new comedy’ was suddenly everywhere in those days: Los Trios Ringbarkus, Mary Kenneally and Rod Quantock, Funny Stories. I’d found Austen Tayshus big, brash, and full-on, but that was his shtick, the act after all, and I enjoyed it, and we later became friends.

Australiana came out soon after the election of the Hawke government in 1983 as a new wave of Aussie nationalism was sweeping the country. *Australiana* surfed that nationalist wave. Penned brilliantly by Billy Birmingham and honed in performance to dazzling timing and inflection by Austen Tayshus, it was a sensation, the biggest record of 1983.

But after that, Sandy Gutman started to find the going harder. Other singles and videos failed to repeat the success of *Australiana*, and Austen Tayshus gradually slipped from the radar...

These days he finds himself in his latter decades, touring hard across the country, to sometimes

lukewarm responses from his often-meagre audiences on the night. There’s little place for a shit-stirrer and professional ratbag in the Culture of Correctness of the Australia of 2022: Hannah Gadsby, Courtney Act, and Joel Creasy are the fashion of Now; Tayshus was Then.

Comedy truly of the edge is an endangered species. Sandy Gutman is literally beating along the fringes, forever trying to wrench laughs and provoke some response, anything, from stray punters... a Sisyphean task.

The question then is does Austen Tayshus have any relevance or appeal today? Is his day done? After all, he’s insulted bookers, club and hotel managers, and audiences across the length and breadth of our wide

brown land. His base is diminishing. So? you might ask – what did he expect?

Austen Tayshus sees Australia as having a lot of dunces. He delights in violating not so much social mores per se, as does his audience members – whom he sees as emblematic of stupid and tedious convention. He’s not afraid to play the man either, or woman, and the phrase *ad hominem* is Greek to him. He’s a hurricane on stage. He can start slowly enough, rather measured, almost gentle, but once he crosses his own Gulf of Mexico and builds up his puff and bluff he can whack an audience with the force of Katrina.

Can you handle the force? Austen Tayshus is coming your way in January and this is a show not to be missed – really!

Monday 9 January, 8pm Byron Bay Services Club.
Tuesday 10 January, 8pm Currumbin RSL.
Wednesday 11 January, 8pm Bangalow Bowling Club.
Thursday 12 January, 8pm Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.
Friday 13 January, 8pm Federal Hall.
For more information, visit: mandynolan.com.au.

PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times
Thurs 22 Dec – Wed 28 Dec

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

ROYAL BALLET: THE NUTCRACKER (CTC)
Thu: 11am, Sat: 1pm.

FAMILY FILMS

LITTLE EGGS: AN AFRICAN RESCUE (PG)
Thu: 1:45pm, Fri: 2:10pm.

LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE (G)
Mon, Tue, Wed: 10:30am, 12:45pm, 4:30pm, 6:15pm.

PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH (PG)
Mon, Tue, Wed: 10:30am, 1:15pm, 3:45pm, 5pm, 6pm.

STRANGE WORLD (PG)
Thu, Fri, Sat: 11:15am, 1:30pm, 3:50pm.

TAD THE EXPLORER: THE MUMMY ADVENTURE (CTC)
Thu: 10:30am, 1:50pm.
Fri, Sat: 10:30am, 1:40pm.

*Please note: We will be closed Xmas day.

ALL FILMS

AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER (M)
Thu, Fri, Sat: 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:15pm, 3:15pm, 4:15pm, 6pm, 6:30pm, 7pm, 7:30pm, 8pm.
Mon, Tue, Wed: 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 6:15pm, 7:15pm.

BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER (M)
Thu, Fri, Sat: 3:45pm, 8:15pm.
Mon, Tue, Wed: 10:15am.

BONES AND ALL (MA15+)
Thu, Fri, Sat: 1:30pm.

KOMPROMAT (M)
Thu: 11:10am, 3:50pm, 6:30pm, Fri: 4pm, Sat: 11am, 4:10pm.

MARGRETE: QUEEN OF THE NORTH (MA15+)
Thu, Fri: 11am, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, Sat: 10:30am, 4:15pm, 6:45pm.

VIOLENT NIGHT (MA15+)
Thu, Fri, Sat: 1:30pm, 8:15pm

SERIOUSLY RED

 (M)
Thu, Fri, Sat: 11:20am, 6pm

SHE SAID (M)
Thu: 11:15am, 4pm.

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN (M)
Mon, Tue, Wed: 10:45am, 1:15pm, 3:45pm, 6pm, 7pm

THE LOST KING (M)
Mon, Tue, Wed: 11am, 1:20pm, 3:40pm, 6pm, 8:30pm

THE MENU (MA15+)
Thu, Fri, Sat: 11:15am, 1:30pm, 3:45pm, 6pm.
Mon, Tue, Wed: 3:45pm.

TRIANGLE OF SADNESS (M)
Fri, Sat: 10:30am, 3:45pm, 6:40pm, Mon, Tue, Wed: 10:15am, 1:30pm, 3pm, 6:45pm, 8:15pm.

I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY (M)
Mon, Tue, Wed: 10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:15pm

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay • Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au
Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking Validation for all Palace Cinemas customers
Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions. *NFT = No Free Tickets

Admission Prices: **Wednesday**
Adults: \$15 **All tickets \$11**
Stud/Conc: \$13 **3D Surcharge \$3**
Senior: \$12
Child: \$11

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

Thursday Dec 22nd to Wednesday Dec 28th

Tel: (02) 6686 9600
ballinafaircinemas.com.au

DECEMBER	THU 22 ND	FRI 23 RD	SAT 24 TH	SUN 25 TH	MON 26 TH	TUE 27 TH	WED 28 TH
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER M 192 MIN	12:00 PM 3:30 PM 7:00 PM	12:00 PM 3:30 PM 7:00 PM	12:00 PM 3:30 PM	CLOSED	9:30 AM 1:50 PM 6:50 PM	9:30 AM 1:50 PM 6:50 PM	9:30 AM 1:50 PM 6:50 PM
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER 3D M 192 MIN	9:30 AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM 8:00 PM	9:30 AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM 8:00 PM	9:30 AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM		1:00 PM 4:30 PM 8:00 PM	1:00 PM 4:30 PM 8:00 PM	1:00 PM 4:30 PM 8:00 PM
BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER M 161 MIN	3:15 PM 6:30 PM	3:15 PM 6:30 PM	3:15 PM				
I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY M 144 MIN					4:10 PM 7:25 PM	4:10 PM 7:25 PM	4:10 PM 7:25 PM
LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE G 105 MIN					10:10 AM 12:10 PM	10:10 AM 12:10 PM	10:10 AM 12:10 PM
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 102 MIN					9:55 AM 11:55 AM 2:10 PM 5:25 PM	9:55 AM 11:55 AM 2:10 PM 5:25 PM	9:55 AM 11:55 AM 2:10 PM 5:25 PM
STRANGE WORLD PG 102 MIN	10:05 AM 11:40 AM	10:05 AM 11:40 AM	10:05 AM 11:40 AM				
TAD THE EXPLORER: THE MUMMY ADVENTURE PG 89 MIN	10:00 AM 1:35 PM	10:00 AM 1:35 PM	10:00 AM 1:35 PM				



PRIME COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT - "3 WAYS"

78-82 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby \$2,450,000

- Three established tenancies
- All services available
- VG land value \$1,320,000
- Rental return \$115,215 PA (excl GST)
- Land tax \$3,300 approx
- Lettable area: 261m² (47m² common)
- Land area: 693m² (including carpark)
- Zoning: B2 Local Centre
- Rates: \$6,477.77 PA
- New roof

Call Mark Cochrane for detailed information on 0416 142 663
or email: markc@nclp.com.au



**North Coast
Lifestyle**
PROPERTIES

81-83 Burringbar Street,
Mullumbimby
P: 02 6684 2615
E: sales@nclp.com.au
www.nclp.com.au

BYRON SHIRE REAL ESTATE

byronshirerealestate.com.au

FOR SALE

CALL TO
INSPECT



14 Warina Place, Mullumbimby

3 1 1

- Quiet cul de sac location close to town
- Single garage plus carport
- 567m² block, fully fenced yard
- House did not flood
- Full of original retro features
- Stroll to Mullum Farmer's Markets

Inspect
By Appointment
NEW Price
\$850,000

Todd Buckland 0408 966 421
Gary Brazenor 0423 777 237

FORTHCOMING SALE

20 Fawcett Street, Brunswick Heads

Great central location, overlooking Banner Park
and the Brunswick River

- 5 Bedrooms
- 3 Bathrooms
- Double lockup garage
- Off street parking
- Rear lane access
- 841m²



Paul King
0428 639 987
paul@paulkingrealestate.com.au

Paul King

REAL ESTATE

www.paulkingrealestate.com.au

PRD. REAL ESTATE
Northern Rivers



Classic Hinterland Gem
719 Friday Hut Road, Brooklet

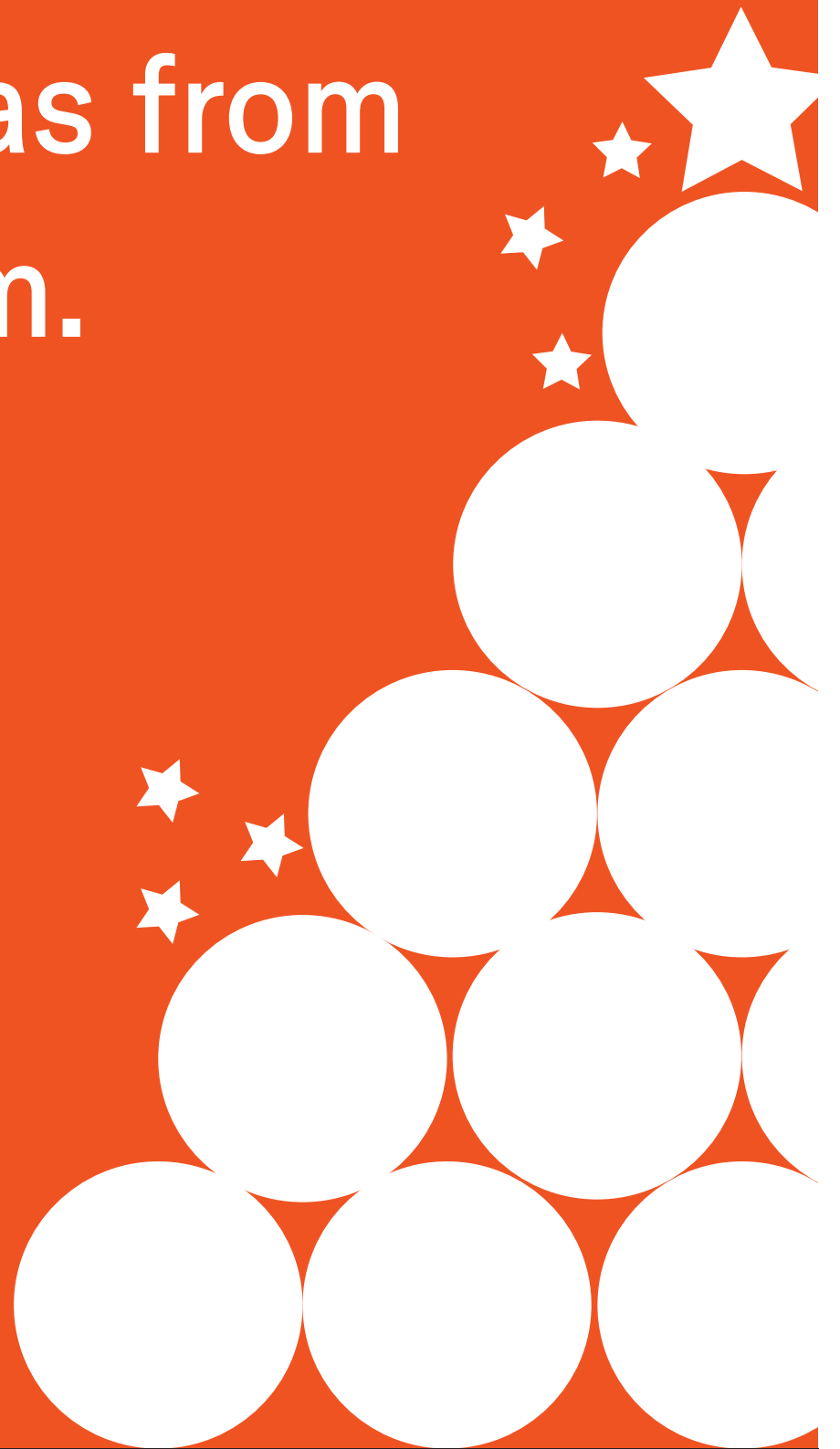
- 1.2 acres (approx.) 8km to Bangalow / 20km to Byron Bay
- 3 bed plus sunroom, timber kitchen, indoor/outdoor living
- Built circa 1892 with additional living space added in 1950s
- Garage, double carport, workshop/shed

For more information or to arrange a viewing, contact
Dana Vasterink 0490 870 115 | dana.vasterink@prd.com.au



Merry Christmas from the MANA team.

You're the best! Thanks
for your support this year.
We couldn't have done it
without you. Have a great
festive season.



New year, new home?

Find out what your property is worth.
Simply scan the QR code to find out more.



manare.au





Light Filled Apartment + Pool in Tightly Held 'Botanica'

 3  2  2  130M²

- This superior unit is in a tightly held complex of only five units with a lot to offer
- Featured is a north facing covered veranda with views of the pool
- On the upper level, the spacious main bedroom features an en-suite, large walk-in-robe, private balcony, and access to the rooftop
- Only a 5-minute walk to the turquoise waters of Clarkes Beach
- This property would make a great home, holiday home, or savvy investment

2/24 Paterson Lane, Byron Bay

Price Guide: Contact Agent

Open: By Appointment



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668



New Substantial Quality Family Home in Beachside Location

 4  2  2  660M²

- Outdoors boasts an undercover alfresco dining patio adjoining the firepit area which is framed with large sandstone boulders – perfect for entertaining
- The stylish black kitchen includes quality appliances and a butler's pantry with 2nd sink and dishwasher
- The home offers three separate living areas and additional study
- Main bedroom features ensuite, walk-in-robe and a private balcony
- The low maintenance yard has tropical plantings and a timed watering system

16 Omega Circuit, Brunswick Heads

Price Guide: Contact Agent

Open: By Appointment



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Luke Elwin
0421 375 635



Magnificent Riverfront Oasis

 3  2  4  1.36HA

- Featuring a flexible floorplan with multi-purpose living spaces, a central resort style pool, spa and courtyard area linking the outlying pavilion style buildings
- The home features a gourmet chefs kitchen with butler's pantry
- Large double garage, double shed, and under home covered storage space
- The property has been designed around 2 natural lily-pad filled ponds with run off traversing an organic watercourse to the river away from the home

510 Old Ferry Road, Ashby

Price Guide: Contact Agent

Open: By Appointment



Lee Grimes
0400 462 312



Gorgeous Hinterland Property on Serene 7ha Parcel

 2  2  10  7.04HA

- Resting on an expansive, private 7ha enclave in the Byron Hinterland with usable fertile land and shaded by palms is this gorgeous cottage
- Hardwood timber floors, high, pitched ceilings and VJ walls throughout
- Pavilion style cottage offering two spacious bedrooms
- Featured is a organic veggie garden, 9m x 6m tractor shed and horse paddock
- Potential to add an additional dwelling for extra income potential (STCA)

279 Huonbrook Road, Huonbrook

Price Guide: \$1.7m – \$1.85m

Open: By Appointment



Paul Prior
0418 324 297

thank you!



Chris Hanley OAM
PRINCIPAL | LICENSEE



Su Reynolds
DIRECTOR | SALES | CULTURAL OFFICER



Helen Huntly-Barratt
DIRECTOR | SALES



Tara Torkkola
SALES MANAGER | SALES



Paul Banister
SALES



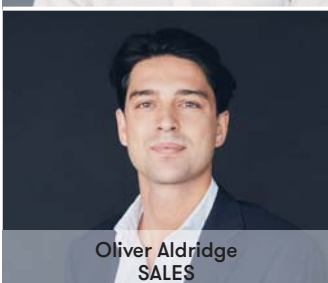
Luke Elwin
SALES - SU REYNOLDS TEAM



Paul Prior
SALES



Denzil Lloyd
SALES



Oliver Aldridge
SALES



Lee Grimes
SALES



Renee Schofield
SALES ASSOCIATE FOR SU

Thank you to all our fantastic clients who trust us to buy and sell their homes.



Jasmin McClymont
SALES ASSOCIATE FOR TARA



Sally Green
SALES ASSOCIATE FOR TARA



Olivia Coates
SALES



Jane Johnston
SALES ASSOCIATE FOR DENZIL



Kate Stanford
CLIENT CARE FOR SU



Samantha Denyer
PROJECT MANAGER



Claudette Martin
FINANCIAL CONTROLLER



Tammy Prior
SALES ADMINISTRATION



Alex Angus
SALES ADMINISTRATION



Bridie McKelvey
MARKETING MANAGER



Sophie Foley
MARKETING



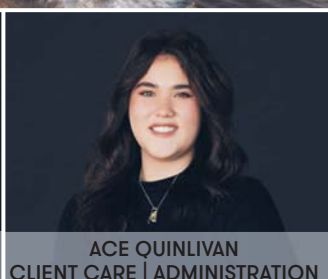
Oli Ayo
PHOTOGRAPHER



Tianna Podesta
SOCIAL MEDIA



Becky Lefel
MARKETING | CLIENT CARE



ACE QUINLIVAN
CLIENT CARE | ADMINISTRATION



Matt Boggis
CHIEF DELIVERY OFFICER



Thank you to this wonderful community who continue to support us year after year.

From the First National Byron family to yours, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and a safe, healthy and successful 2023!



BLISSFUL BEACHSIDE SANCTUARY ON 2.9 ACRE ALLOTMENT, 500M FROM UNSPOILT BEACHES



amir prestige

📍 100 REDGATE ROAD, **SOUTH GOLDEN BEACH**

8 🛏 7 🚿 8 🚗 11,735m2* 🏠

Contact Agent

Some things never go out of style – like this blissful beachside sanctuary. Sitting pretty on a level 2.9 acre allotment and a mere 500 metres from the unspoilt sand and surf of South Golden Beach, it's a heavenly pocket of paradise that restores your senses, soothes your soul and can even offer an enticing income. Featuring a charming primary residence with lush grounds and a sparkling pool, it also spoils you with a cosy 3 bed, 2 bath self-contained cottage. Ideal as an Airbnb, it can be used in conjunction with the American-style barn with a wet bar - perfect for parties and functions.

Inspection by Appointment

Contact the Listing Agents

Amir Mian 0401 470 499
amir@amirprestige.com.au

Rochelle Lamers 0407 460 522
rochelle@amirprestige.com.au

amirprestige.com.au





"SKYFALL" SPRAWLING ACROSS 15 LUSH ACRES, WRAPPED IN SWEEPING COASTAL AND COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS



amir prestige

📍 29 BROWNS CRESCENT, MCLEODS SHOOT

5 🛏 5 🚿 6 🚗 60,702m2* 🏡

\$9,500,000

In the pursuit of property perfection, one residence rises above them all: Skyfall. Right at home in what locals lovingly refer to as Gods country and the Golden Triangle, this spectacular estate in the Byron Shire hinterland promises privacy, prosperity and a life of pleasure. Sprawling across 15 lush acres and wrapped in sweeping coastal and countryside views, an architectural masterpiece awaits at its heart. Perfectly poised atop the ridge line to capture shot gun barrel views of the iconic Byron lighthouse and accessed by a sealed, private driveway, Skyfall represents unrivalled living and entertaining. Spanning two luxurious levels and embracing galleries of glass to invite in the stunning views, it boasts a spacious chefs kitchen with quality finishes.

Inspection by Appointment

Contact the Listing Agents

Oliver Hallock 0419 789 600
oliver@amirprestige.com.au

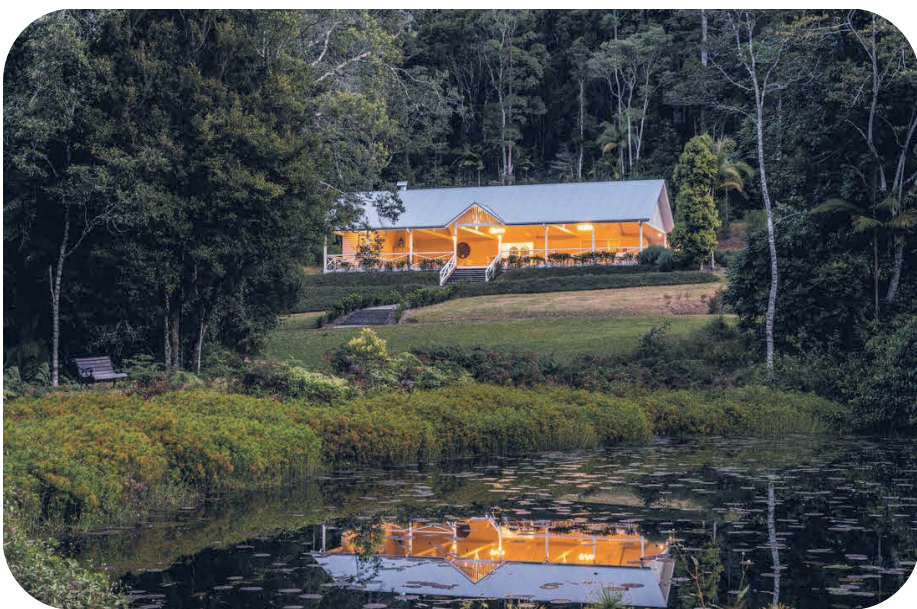
Amir Mian 0401 470 499
amir@amirprestige.com.au

amirprestige.com.au






"NIGHTCAP RIDGE" SPANNING 67 PRISTINE ACRES WITHIN A WORLD HERITAGE LISTED NATIONAL PARK



amir prestige

📍 416 NIGHTCAP RANGE ROAD, WHIAN WHIAN

27,1139m2* 

\$4,750,000

Cocooned within the lush Byron hinterland, "Nightcap Ridge" is the ultimate rarity. Spanning 67 pristine acres, this is the only place in Australia where you can buy land within a World Heritage Listed National Park. Protected by UNESCO for its significant cultural and natural beauty, it also represents the opportunity to secure a coveted lifestyle, home and thriving business rich with untapped future potential. Nestled approx. 30 minutes from Byron Bay, "Nightcap Ridge" is renowned as an eco-luxe, nature-based tourism destination. Steeped in serenity, three charming off-grid cottages grace the rolling greenery, proudly boasting high occupancy rates.

Inspection by Appointment

Contact the Listing Agents

Amir Mian 0401 470 499
amir@amirprestige.com.au

Oliver Hallock 0419 789 600
oliver@amirprestige.com.au

amirprestige.com.au



www.echo.net.au



NORTH-FACING PEACEFUL AND PICTURESQUE ACREAGE PARADISE MINUTES FROM BYRON TOWN



amir prestige

📍 15 PIPECLAY ROAD, MYOCUM

5 🛏 3 🚿 4 🚗 🏡 🏠 10 Acres * 🏡

Rejuvenate your senses with a picturesque rural paradise that promises to impress. Nestled within 10 undulating acres, where Mount Chincogan looms large in the distance and panoramic Brunswick Valley and Myocum Downs vistas sprawl across the landscape, you won't feel more at home than here. Fully renovated main house + self contained cottage and massive storage shed, the gardens, entryway and cottage area are fully irrigated, plus the acreage benefits from an onsite dam, promising plenty of potential to create your own hobby farm or run cattle. Tucked away in tranquillity in the subtropical Byron Hinterland, the best of both worlds beckons. Peace and privacy are paramount, yet in under 5 minutes your fix of cafes and culture awaits in the Mullumbimby town centre.

www.echo.net.au

AUCTION 24TH JANUARY, IN-ROOM 5PM
ONWARD AT THE LANGHAM HOTEL, GOLD COAST

Inspection by Appointment

Contact the Listing Agents

Rochelle Lamers 0407 460 522
rochelle@amirprestige.com.au

Amir Mian 0401 470 499
amir@amirprestige.com.au

amirprestige.com.au





Commercial Hotel / Motel,
Broadwater
11 beds 10 baths 15 cars

Once the social hub of Broadwater and surrounding areas, the popular Broadwater Hotel/Motel and adjoining bottle shop is ready for its next chapter. A prime re-development opportunity for astute investors, the 6,115sqm block comprises the original pub, nine room motel, two bedroom manager's residence and a large multi-purpose shed.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Close Monday 16 January 5pm

WELCOME
By appointment

AGENTS
Adam Gaiter 0405 494 271
Maxine Gaiter 0405 496 911

McGrath

TIM MILLER

REAL ESTATE

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

3/4A RAYNER LANE, LENNOX HEAD



Ultimate beachside living | Inspection: by appointment

5 4 2

A luxurious beach residence with beautiful ocean views from the living area, main bedroom and balconies

Self-contained studio, private courtyard with heated pool and internal lift

TIM MILLER

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millerrealestate.com.au

TIM MILLER

REAL ESTATE

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

17 IVORY CURL PLACE, BANGALOW

8 GEORGE STREET, BANGALOW



4 2 2 621m2

3 1 1 675m2

A beautiful Bangalow home with hinterland views

PRICE GUIDE \$1,500,000 - \$1,600,000
INSPECTION BY APPOINTMENT

An original home in the heart of town

PRICE \$1,795,000
INSPECTION BY APPOINTMENT



88.63 Waterfront Macadamia Farm

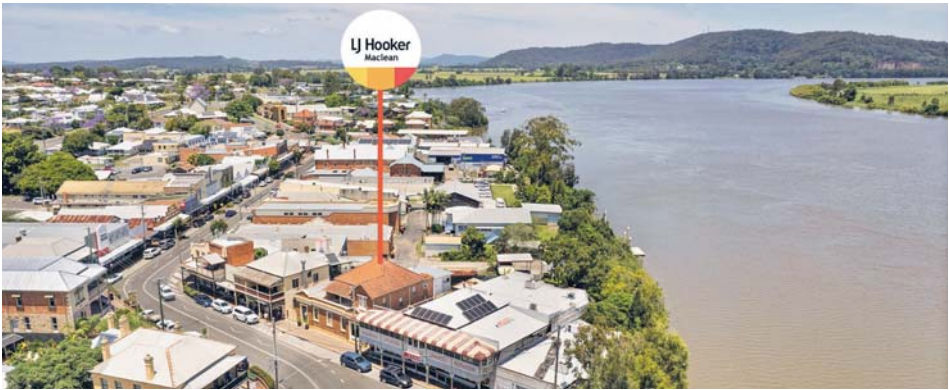
396 Chatsworth Road,
Chatsworth Island

- Approx. 23,000 of multiple varieties of macadamia trees in total bisected by the Pacific Highway.
 - Approximately 62.9 hectares of trees east of Pacific Highway and approximately 19.8 hectares of trees west of Pacific Highway.
 - Two waterfront dwelling entitlements on the bank of North Arm of the Clarence River.
 - 26m x 22m machinery shed with power, water and septic connected.
 - Located midway between the coastal playgrounds of Yamba and Iluka.
 - A wonderful opportunity to combine a waterfront lifestyle block with a commercial Macadamia farming pursuit.
- Price:**
By Negotiation

View:
By Appointment

Agent:
Grant Neilson 0429 664 312
- LJ Hooker Maclean 6645 2222
Web ID ljhooker.com.au/ TG6F6G

Maclean 6645 2222



Prime Commercial Space with Rooftop Residence

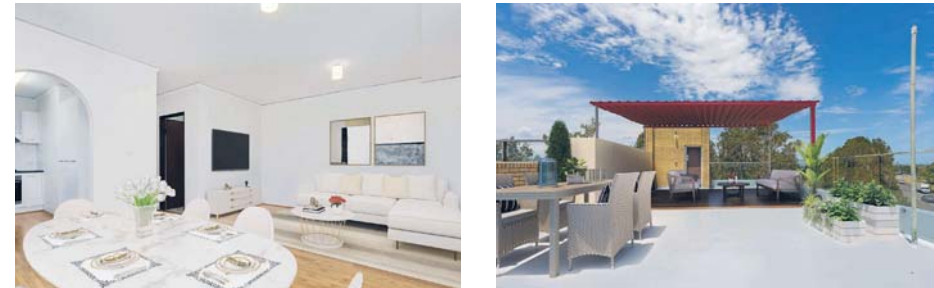
6 River Street,
Maclean



- Built in 1906 the home combines original Federation features with splashes of Art Deco and contemporary upgrades to the upstairs residence that needs to be experienced to be fully appreciated. The 180-degree Clarence River views from the kitchen, the township and river views from what the owners call their "rooftop bar". The stunningly renovated residence in keeping with the heritage themes already in-place is perhaps the main highlight. As many as 3 or 4 separate commercial spaces downstairs with one long term tenant already locked in. It's a grand slice of Maclean CBD history with a bright future ahead.
- Price:**
By Negotiation

View:
By Appointment

Agent:
Grant Neilson 0429 664 312
- LJ Hooker Maclean 6645 2222
Web ID ljhooker.com.au/ U4UF6G

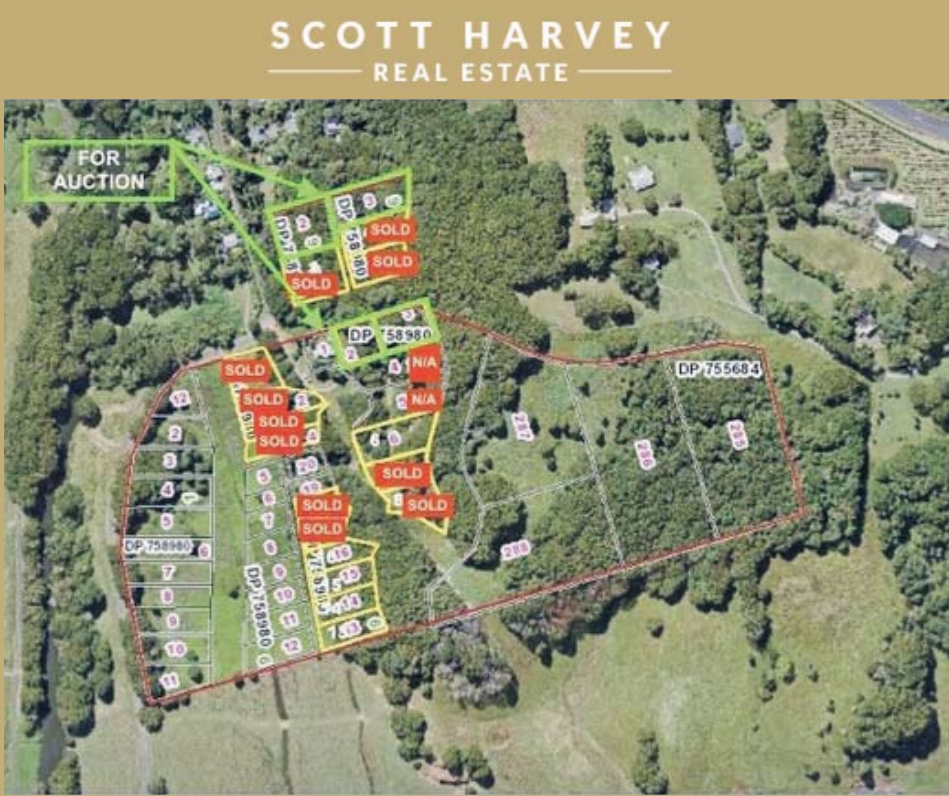


11/19 Namitjira Place, Ballina 2 1 1 Offers Invited

Enjoy the multiple water views of the picturesque north creek river & serpentine beach from your natural light filled living areas and roof top. This is the perfect lifestyle property presenting so much opportunity including your own exclusive rooftop level where you can create the ultimate entertaining area or enclose to allow for an additional living space/office (S.T.C.A and STRATA).

Contact The Agent

Alyce Field 0417 439 230
alyce@byronpropertyhub.com.au
www.byronpropertyhub.com.au



SCOTT HARVEY REAL ESTATE

VACANT BUSH LOTS IN TINTENBAR

Here is an opportunity to purchase vacant land in the popular hinterland village of Tintenbar.

Now released for sale by Auction are lot 2 (2023 sq mts) & lot 3 (1821 sq mts) in Section 9 and lots 2 (1252 sq.mts) & lot 3 (1518 sq. mts.) in Section 10 of this subdivision off George Street Tintenbar. The lots zoned RU1 Primary Production are elevated and there is town water and electricity in George Street. They do not have a dwelling entitlement.

Well located, with quick access to the Hinterland Way and Motorway and only a short walk to the Tintenbar Medical Centre and General Store with its Post Office, Fuel and Coffee Cart.

10 minutes to the Ballina/Byron Gateway Airport, 20 minutes to Byron and only 7 minutes to the famous Harvest Café & Deli in the quaint village of Newrybar.

To be auctioned on site Saturday 28th January 2023 at 11am.

Price Guide from \$160,000 per lot.

There will be an agent on site for viewing on Sat 31st Dec 7th Jan 14th Jan & 21st Jan at 11am.

Price Guide from \$160,000 per lot

Contact Scott on 0412 296 872

0412 296 872 | scottharveyrealestate.com.au



coastal & hinterland sales

Katrina Beohm

real estate



BYRON BAY

2 2 2

18 Porter Street

Habitat Townhouse; Shopfront + Residence

- + Prime frontage for your shop/business with kitchenette, WC & a prominent high profile under-awning sign. Internal door separating the home space from the commercial space
- + Open plan living, dining and kitchen flows to the outdoors through timber stacker doors onto a covered space and fenced yard
- + Upstairs are the laundry and two bedrooms, both have high ceilings, ensuites, ceiling fans, built-ins & balconies
- + Solar hot water. Ducted air conditioning throughout, louvres & screens. V-Lux skylights provide beautiful natural light inside & feature over each shower
- + 25m pool, therapy pool, BBQ area, bike storage & meeting places. Fitness facilities, shops & cafes on your doorstep

Price: \$1.75 million - \$1.85 million

Inspect: By Appointment

Agent: Katrina Beohm 0467 001 122



THE CHANNON

5 3 10 11ha

1441 Keerrong Road

A Country Dream

- + Boutique country lifestyle property meticulously maintained for nearly 100 years. Pretty as the pictures. Ideal for multi-generational living with multiple spaces for the extended family
- + Beautifully renovated home, polished timber floors, timber windows, 10-foot ceilings, picture rails & ducted a/c. There is a separate lounge with a fireplace, dining, study & sunroom
- + Separate guest house with open-plan living, wood heater, bedroom, bathroom & kitchenette
- + 6.6kW of solar power & solar hot water, chook pen, machinery shed, beautiful cottage gardens, veggie beds, five large fig trees, fertile paddocks, timber stockyards, two creeks & a dam
- + 5 mins to village, 20 mins to Lismore & 48 mins to Byron

Price: \$1.75 million

Inspect: By Appointment

Agent: Katrina Beohm 0467 001 122



Laine Palmer

Zoe O'Reilly

Gail Beohm

Rachael Jenkins

Katrina Beohm

Christopher Plim

Sarah Gaggin

Emily Hughes



0459 066 087

BYRON BAY | BALLINA | LISMORE

kbrealestate.com.au

AGENTS



We felt fully supported through out the whole process. Tara and her excellent team went the extra mile, helping & guiding us right from the start and continued right through settlement. Tara is a joy to work with yielding formidable results.

TARA TORKKOLA - SALES | SALES MANAGER
INTERNATIONAL MULTI MEDIA SELLING AGENT
0423 519 698 | tara@byronbayfn.com

@taratorkkolafirstnational @taratorkkola_realestate
Contact Tara to discuss your property or career at First National Byron

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON WWW.BYRONBAYFN.COM.AU



No #1 SALES AGENT
for First National Australia Wide

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and all the crew from the offices in Byron Bay, Ocean Shores & Tweed Heads would like to thank everyone for their support throughout 2022. Our offices will close from 1 pm on Thursday 22 December 2022 so we can regroup, refresh and recuperate to be back on deck at 9 am on Monday 9 January 2023.



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INDEX

Accountants & Bookkeepers	64	Insurance	66
Acupuncture	64	Landscape Supplies.....	66
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration.....	64	Landscaping	66
Antennas & Installation.....	64	Locksmith	66
Architects	64	Painting.....	66
Automotive.....	64	Pest Control	66
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters .	64	Photography.....	66
Bricklaying.....	64	Physiotherapy.....	66
Building Trades	64	Picture Framing	66
Bush Regen & Weed Control	64	Plastering	66
Carpentry & Joinery	64	Plumbers	66
Carpet Cleaning	64	Pool Services.....	66
Chiropractic	64	Property Styling.....	66
Cleaning	65	Removalists	66
Computer Services	65	Roofing.....	67
Concreting & Paving	65	Rubbish Removal	67
Decks, Patios & Extensions.....	65	Self Storage	67
Dentists	65	Septic Systems	67
Design & Drafting.....	65	Solar Installation	67
Earthmoving & Excavation.....	65	Television Services	67
Electricians	65	Tiling	67
Fencing.....	65	Transport	67
Flooring.....	65	Tree Services	67
Floor Sanding & Polishing.....	65	Upholstery.....	67
Furniture Maker	65	Valuers	67
Garden & Property Maintenance.....	65	Veterinary Surgeons.....	67
Gas Suppliers	65	Water Filters	67
Graphic Design	66	Welding	67
Guttering.....	66	Window Cleaning.....	67
Handypersons	66	Window Tinting	67
Health	66		
Hire	66		

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INDEX

Birthdays.....	69
Caravans.....	68
For Sale.....	68
Funeral Notices.....	68
Garage Sales.....	68
Health Notices.....	68
Lost & Found.....	68
Musical Notes.....	68
Only Adults.....	69
Pets.....	69
Positions Vacant.....	69
Professional Services.....	68
Public Notices.....	68
Short Term Accommodation.....	68
Social Escorts.....	69
To Let.....	68
Tradework.....	68
Tree Services.....	68
Tuition.....	68
Wanted.....	68

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

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

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

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Echo Classies also appear online:
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Echo

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★ Launches ★
★ 1 October ★

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GET 1 FREE

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LOST & FOUND



LOST: BLACK, YOUNG, MALE CAT Missing from Kennedys Ln, Myocum area 6 Dec. Answers to 'Essence'. De-sexed & micro-chipped. Reward offered, desperate for his return. Veronica 0422287163.

FUNERAL NOTICES

STANFORD, Frank

Passed away peacefully with family at his side on Thursday 15th December. Loved husband of Shirley. Loved father, father-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to many. Frank will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral service to be held at St Andrew's Anglican church, Zodac St, Lismore on THURSDAY (December 22nd, 2022) commencing at 11.00am, followed by burial at East Lismore Cemetery.

Michael Currie at
BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
6684 6232

PUBLIC NOTICES



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Baristas –
- Gardeners –
- Food Sorters –
- Cleaners –

The team at MDNC are searching for some dedicated volunteers to help us continue to support our community.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kaz

Wednesday – Friday
6684 1286

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH



FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
- Coffee & tea • Fruit Salad

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come one come all and join us in a meal or just a chat. Takeaway most welcome: COVID safe rules apply. Frozen takeaway meals now available.


10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall

Corner of Cherry & Crane. Just behind the Presbyterian Church.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Ross



love the drudges.

POSITIONS VACANT

THE ECHO LENNOX DELIVERY
The Echo has a contract position delivering papers to:

LENNOX HEAD: 1000 PAPERS++:
possibility to expand run. Folding, inserting and if necessary bagging papers then driving around in a car throwing accurately

This job would suit a semi-retired or underemployed person/couple who just wants a reliable job to do at their own pace at the same time every week. The successful applicant for this run will have an ABN, a reliable vehicle, a strong throwing arm, and ideally they will live near the distribution area. They will collect the papers/inserts from Ballina or Mullumbimby or Byron A&I Estate mid-morning on Wednesday and will have delivered all the papers by 6pm Wednesday. Suit mature or stable person.

Commencing asap.
Email simon@echo.net.au or phone/text 0409324724

QUALIFIED NATUROPATH/HERBALIST
4-12hrs p/w, Bangalow. Email CV peter@herbalwisdom.com.au

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

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mullumbimbypsychology

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 byron community college

Fee-Free* Skill Set Courses In 2023:

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- Building Healthy Soils - 3rd Feb
- Backyard Food Production - 4th Feb
- Visual Art - Dreaming In Colour 1 - 7th Feb
- English Skills For Work & Study - 7th Feb
- Visual Art - Plant Life Drawing 2 - 8th Feb
- Visual Art - The Art of Paper & Print - 9th Feb
- Introduction to Floristry - 17th Feb
- Floristry Intermediate - 2nd March
- Grow Harvest & Store - 4th March

*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.
Most NSW residents are eligible - contact us for details.

RTO: 90013 02 6684 3374 byroncollege.org.au

 byron community college

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- Community Services
- Permaculture
- Massage
- Individual Support

*Course Fees are fully subsidised for eligible NSW students.
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All cats are desexed, vaccinated & microchipped.
No: 90007900092228

Please make an appointment
0403 533 589 • Billinudgel
petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

DOTTI is a five-year-old, high energy staffy x cattle dog, who needs a stay-at-home person and room to run around. She is friendly towards other dogs, once introduced the correct way. **Dotti** is well-mannered with perfect recall and has been obedience trained. She loves the beach - or any water play, and she is ball and toy mad.
M/C # 900079000338916
Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.
<https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

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

CLAUS

Claus is as good as they come. He lays like a baby in your arms, purrs like a steam train & loves kisses. Chilled out is the best way to describe this young bundle of fun. If you would like the purrfect kitten in time for the festive period, Claus is for you! To meet Claus, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm, Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

5-year-old desexed female English Staffy x Ridgeback 'Nala' is looking for a forever home. Strong, loving, playful, big-beautiful-eyed Nala needs patience & stability due to past trauma and resulting mistrust. She's good with children, cats and cows. She gets very excited around other big dogs and suffers fear aggression. Nala needs a loving but firm handler who can provide her with further training and socialisation.
Please contact Shell on 0458 461 935.
MC: 991001000924234

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SUN, MOON & TIDES					
TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS					
DATE	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
21	W	5:44 19:42	3:21 17:23	0734 1.65 1928 1.23	0036 0.21 1351 0.42
22	TH	5:45 19:43	4:06 18:34	0823 1.78 2022 1.22	0119 0.15 1447 0.33
23	F	5:45 19:43	5:00 19:45	0912 1.88 2115 1.20	0205 0.12 1542 0.26
24	SA	5:46 19:44	6:03 20:51	1002 1.94 2208 1.18	0252 0.10 1635 0.22
25	SU	5:46 19:44	7:14 21:50	1052 1.96 2300 1.17	0341 0.11 1727 0.20
26	M	5:47 19:45	8:27 22:39	1143 1.93 2355 1.16	0432 0.15 1819 0.22
27	TU	5:47 19:45	9:38 23:20	1232 1.85	0527 0.22 1910 0.25
28	W	5:48 19:45	10:46 23:57	0053 1.16 1322 1.74	0624 0.32 2001 0.29
29	TH	5:49 19:46	11:49	0155 1.17 1413 1.60	0727 0.43 2052 0.32
30	F	5:49 19:46	12:50 0:29	0303 1.21 1504 1.45	0837 0.54 2142 0.35
31	SA	5:50 19:46	13:48 1:00	0414 1.27 1600 1.31	0956 0.61 2231 0.35
1	SU	5:51 19:47	14:46 1:31	0519 1.37 1700 1.20	1116 0.64 2318 0.35
2	M	5:51 19:47	15:45 2:03	0616 1.46 1800 1.13	1231 0.61
3	TU	5:52 19:47	16:43 2:38	0706 1.55 1857 1.09	0003 0.33 1333 0.56
4	W	5:53 19:47	17:41 3:16	0750 1.61 1945 1.08	0046 0.32 1423 0.50

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0406 724 323	4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764
1st SUN Byron Bay	6685 6807	4th SUN Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333	4th SUN (in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta	
2nd SAT Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498	5th SAT Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498
2nd SAT Woodburn	0439 489 631	5th SUN Nimbin	0458 506 000
2nd SAT Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159	5th SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807
2nd SUN The Channon	6688 6433	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS	
2nd SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807	Each TUE New Brighton	0424 168 672
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141	Each TUE Organic Lismore	6628 1084
2nd SUN Coolangatta		Each WED 7-11am M'bah	6684 7834
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	6684 3370	Each WED 3-6pm Nimbin	0475 135 764
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0413 804 024	Each WED 4-7pm Newrybar Hall	
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina		Each THU 8-11am Byron	6687 1137
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757	Each THU 2.30-6.30pm Lismore	0450 688 900
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150	Each FRI 7-11am Mullum	0424 168 672
3rd SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333	Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow	6687 1137
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT 8-11am Duranbah Rd (Tropical Fruit World)	
4th SAT Evans Head	0439 489 631	Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki	6679 5530
4th SAT Wilsons Creek	6684 0299	Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore	
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au	Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob	
4th SUN Bangalow	6687 1911	Each SUN 7-11am Ballina	0493 102 137

The Echo updates this guide regularly, however sometimes markets change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch if you want to advise us of a change.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Please stick this by your phone

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE000

AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay131 233

POLICE Brunswick Heads6685 1277

Mullumbimby6684 2144

Byron Bay6685 9499

Bangalow6687 1404

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding...**132 500**

BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue.....**6685 1999**

BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER.....6685 0148

BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL.....6639 9400

BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS.....6622 7022

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby)6684 1286

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line.....**1800 656 463**

LIFELINE131 114

MENSLINE.....1300 789 978

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours**1800 423 431**

AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics**1300 252 666**

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily**6680 7280**

NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE.....6687 2520

HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information**6622 1555**

ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS).....6622 1881

NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS.....6628 1866

KOALA HOTLINE6622 1233

WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service...6628 1898

WISHING YOU AND YOURS A
**MERRY AND A
PLANET-FRIENDLY
Christmas**
LOVE THE ECHO DRUDGES



Regular As Clockwork



DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked ‘Regular As Clockwork’ to editor@echo.net.au.

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday–Thursday 9am–4pm and offers a range of services and activities. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy art, music, games, great food and more. Call reception on 6684 1286 and discover what is on offer. MDNC services that are running include: **Community support/emergency relief:** Food parcels, meals, assistance with electricity and Telstra bills. **Listening Space:** free counselling. **Staying Home, Leaving Violence program.** **Integrated Domestic & Family Violence program.** **Financial Counselling:** outreach available Thursdays & Fridays **Financial Counselling:** free service funded by the government, offering advocacy & assistance to find options to address debts. **Information, referral and advocacy.** To enquire about accessing any of these services call 6684 1286 or fill out an online enquiry form.

Byron Community Centre

Byron Community Centre The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Monday–Friday. **Breakfast:** Monday–Friday, 7am–9am. **Showers and Laundry:** Monday–Friday, 7am–12pm. **Office Support:** Monday–Friday, 9am - 12pm. **Support Appointments:** Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Community Cabin:** Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9–11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: 6685 6807

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. 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. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

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, website: www.byronrespite.com.au.

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5–6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8–16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert’s Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au

ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents and/or Dysfunctional Families (ACA) help & recovery group meets in Lismore every Friday 10–11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom – meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 – 30 meetings a week in the Shire – www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. www.na.org.au. Are you concerned about somebody else’s drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 www.al-anon.org.au.

Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: www.standbysupport.com.au or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

Carers’ support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers’ Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Susanne 0428 716 431.

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzzerati2010@gmail.com.

Language exchange

Byron language exchange club runs every 2nd last Friday of the month from 6pm (alternating Ballina/ Byron). Practise other languages or help someone with your English! Find us on Facebook. Contact byronbaylanguages@gmail.com.

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc

The Museum is on the corner of Myocum and Stuart Sts Mullumbimby, open Tuesdays and Fridays 10am–12pm and market Saturdays 9am–1pm. Discover your local history, join our team – 6684 4367.

Library fun

Baby Bounce and Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children are at: **Brunswick Heads** Library, Monday – Story Time 10.30 till 11.30am; Friday – Baby Time 10.30 till 11am. **Mullumbimby** Library, Monday – Story Time 10–11am; Tuesday – Baby Time 10–10.30 am. **Byron Bay** Library, Tuesday – Story Time 10:3–11:30am; Wednesday – Baby Time 10.30 till 11am

Exercise for older adults

Chair Based Older Adults Exercise Classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am

in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6.15 for 6.30pm at Byron Bay Services Club, Byron Bay. Online attendance allowed. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters:** Mullum Magic provides a safe and fun environment for members and guests to develop their public-speaking and leadership skills. Meeting 6.30–8.30pm every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Mullum Ex-Services Club. New members and guests welcome. Contact Bruce 0418 515 991 or Ninian 0411 629 982.

Meditation

Dzogchen meditation and study group 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month at Mullumbimby CWA Hall. Didi 0408 008 769. **Buddhist meditation** and conversation with John Allan, Mondays 6.30–8.30pm, The Yurt, Temple Byron. No fees. John 0428 991 189. **Byron yoga philosophy club** free meditation classes Monday, 7pm, 1 Korau Place Suffolk Park. Go to www.wisdom.yoga or phone Kris 0435 300 743. **Byron Bay Meditation Centre,** Tuesday 6.30pm at Temple Byron. For more info: byronbaymeditationcentre.com.au or contact Greg 0431 747 764.

Story Dogs

Read with Story Dogs at Byron Bay Library every Wednesday 3–5pm. This is a flexible and inclusive reading program that gives readers the chance to practise reading one on one with the Story Dog in a calm and motivating environment. If your child would like to read to our Story Dog regularly or as a one off, come along or book a slot in advance on 6685 8540. Can’t wait for you to meet our Story Dog!

Brunswick Heads CWA

Brunswick Heads CWA Crafty Women meet Fridays 10am–2pm, cnr Park and Booyun Streets, Brunswick Heads. Join us for a chat and cuppa, bring along your craft projects including sewing, knitting, crocheting, or quilting. Beginners welcome. Gold coin donation for morning tea.

Lions Club

Interested in making new friends and helping our community? Lions Club of Brunswick Mullumbimby meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm Ocean Shores Country Club. Info: Joan Towers 0400 484 419.

Byron Gem Club

The Bryon Gem and Lapidary Club is open weekly to members new and old. Visitors welcome to view club facilities. Activities semi-precious and gemstone cutting, shaping and polishing, gem faceting, silver work, gem setting and jewellery making etc. Facebook @ Byron Gem Club. Club workshed located past Sky Dive Byron at Tyagarah Airfield. Contact 6687 1251 or 0427 529 967 for more info.

Craft group

The Uniting Craft & Social Group meets every Monday 9.30am–2.30pm at the Uniting Church in Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Bring lunch and whatever else you need. Small cost. All welcome. Do you prefer patchwork and quilting? Come along on Monday evening same place at 6pm. Enquiries Tilly 6685 5985.

Op shops

Uniting Church Op Shop, Dalley St, Mullumbimby – open each Saturday 9am–12 noon. **Byron Bay Anglican Op Shop** opens Tuesday to Saturday 9am–1pm. Volunteers needed. Enq Cathy 0432 606 849. **Mullumbimby Anglican Op Shop** opens Monday to Friday 9am–4pm, Saturday 9am–12noon. Volunteers needed, enq to shop 6684 4718. **Mullumbimby Seventh-Day Adventist Op Shop opens** Tuesday to Friday 11am–3pm. **Companion Animals Welfare Inc**

(CAWI) op shop Brunswick Heads (next to supermarket) open Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat 9am–1pm, Sun closed.

Mullumbimby Potters & Sculptors

Mullumbimby Clayworkers Gallery in the Drill Hall complex is open every Thursday to Saturday 10am–2pm with pottery and sculpture from community members for sale. Applications for studio membership open in January. All details at www.mullumclayworkers.com.

CWA Bangalow

Bangalow CWA has reopened and our hours are Monday–Friday 10am–2pm and Saturdays 8am-12 noon.

Toy Library

The Byron Shire Toy Library is open Mondays and Thursdays 9am–12 noon, at the Children’s Centre, Coogera Cct, Suffolk Park. Come and see the large range of preschoolers toys available for loan.

Landcare

Bangalow Land and Rivercare working bee every Saturday 8.30–10.30am. Email: bangalowlandcare@gmail.com. Noelene 0431200638.

Bridge club

Brunswick Valley Bridge Club meets every Monday, seated at 12.15 to commence play at 12.30. Visitors welcome. See bridgewebs.com/brunswickvalley/home.html or for partner ring Lesley 0468 807 306. Facebook Brunswick Valley Bridge Club.

BV scrabble club

Brunswick Valley Scrabble Club will meet each Tuesday afternoon from 1 till 4pm at the Brunswick Bowling Club. New members welcome. Contact Steve on 0407 844 718.

Bosom Buddies

Ballina Bosom Buddies Support Group meets the third Thursday each month 10am–12pm at the Ballina Kentwell Community Centre. Contact Karen 0439 438 576 for further information.

Emerge Australia

Emerge Australia Inc is a not-for-profit charity supporting those with myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. For more information see the EmERGE Australia Website at http://emerge.org.au/.

Bruns tennis

Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays 5–7pm. \$7, all welcome. Enquiries Linda 0449 825 108. Coaching available.

Bruns Progress

Residents, come and have your say at the Brunswick Heads Progress Association. We meet on the first Monday of every second month at the Brunswick Heads Community Centre at 6pm. Find us on Facebook.

Bruns CWA

Brunswick Heads CWA Crafty Women meets each Friday, 10am to 2pm. All women welcome to come along with craft projects or learn new skills, have a cuppa, biscuit and a chat. Saturday 9 April, Easter Stall: Cakes, jams, handmade clothes, plants and bric-a-brac. Cash only. CWA Rooms, cnr Park and Booyun Sts, Brunswick Heads.

\$5 pilates classes

Come and join us for \$5 Pilates classes every Thursday at 8.45am in the Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads and Monday at 8.45am in Mullumbimby. It doesn’t matter what level you are, as beginner to advanced options are shown. Just bring a mat and water. My goal is to keep the shire active and feeling great one person at a time. No need to book just show up. For more information contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Prostate Cancer Support

We invite men who have had or are newly diagnosed to join this active prostate cancer support group at these meetings held on the third Monday of each month at 10am at Ballina Cherry Street Bowling Club – partners or carers are most welcome to attend – This is a great opportunity to share, learn and benefit from other people’s experiences. Meetings also held on Wednesday nights in Lismore. Enquiries phone Bob 02 6628 1527

Hearing Voices Group

Hearing Voices Peer Support Group in Mullumbimby. Anyone with present or past experience of voice hearing (or visions) is welcome. Offer your experience, gain support, knowledge and explore meaning in a safe accepting space. Every first Friday of the month. Info call 6687 1111.

Up your skills

Come to Upskill in Mullumbimby, a free introductory building and

carpentry workshop at Shedding Community Workshop. Bookings Essential via shedding.com.au. Contact Sophie Wilksch via email at shedding.communityworkshop@gmail.com.

Overeaters Anonymous

Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you are not hungry? Do you binge, purge or restrict? Is your weight affecting your life? Brunswick Heads Uniting Church Fridays 5–6pm cnr Fingal/Byron St. www.oaqlld.org

Australian Shareholders Association

ASA meets the third Tuesday at 10am at Ballina Surf Life Saving Club. Learn about shares and investing. Guest presenters discussing news and current trends in the market. Any questions 6686 4144 or www.australianshareholders.com.au.

Ocean Shores Seniors Tennis

Mixed tennis at Waterlilly Park every Monday and Wednesday from 8.30–11.30am.

Soap Aid saving lives

Soap Aid is a not-for-profit organisation recycling and sending critical soap to communities facing major hygiene challenges. Please drop in your partly used household or holiday rental soap for recycling to Kim at Raine & Horne Byron Bay 39 Fletcher Street 0499 839 566. Small and large quantities welcome. https://soapaid.org.

Sex & Love Addicts Anon

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is peer-support group of men and women for whom sex and/or romance have become a problem. For details of weekly meetings, phone 0452 074 974 or visit www.slaa.org.au.

Muslim prayer

Friday Muslim prayer. Jumu’ah service held weekly at the Cavanbah Centre at 1.30 pm. Come to the remembrance of Allah.

Please note: This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina and Tweed Heads South. Attendees must be Exit Members. Philip Nitschke will hold a workshop early next year on the Gold Coast, to discuss the ‘Voluntary Assisted Dying’ Laws, and how they may affect you, plus other important Information. For further Information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443.

Falls Festival tickets

Volunteer in exchange for Falls Festival Tickets! Join us at the ‘Taking Care of Bruns During Falls Festival’ project to help mitigate any negative impact of the festival on Brunswick Heads, from Friday 30 December through to Monday 2 January. In return, you’ll receive a three-day Falls Festival ticket. Or, you could volunteer and gift your ticket to a family member or friend. Call Belinda on 0435 228 443.

Play chess

Tireless chess promoter Peter Hanna, who has already started a successful group of players at the Byron Bay Services Club (Saturdays 2.30pm and Mondays 5pm), is now trying his hand in Ballina. The first meeting is due at 5pm on Wednesday 7 December at the Ballina RSL Club. All chess players, beginners or experts, are welcome.

Lennox Head XI wins NSW championship

The Lennox Head Primary School XI team won nine games of cricket in a row to finish state champions in the statewide knockout primary school competition.

It was the first time a team from the school has ever won a NSW sporting championship.

'I'm so proud of the team, not just for the success, but more for the way they played the game. They were really encouraging to each other, but also supported the other team's achievements as well. They played for each other,' coach and teacher Lee Robb said.

'They are an absolutely phenomenal team.'

'The school principals and parents also provided ongoing resources and support,' he said.

The competition got started back in February and had its scheduling put under pressure by floods all over the state.

After winning their quarter final, they had just three days to organise accommodation to get down



The Lennox Head Invincibles: Front row (L to R) Archie Barnes, Ed Neto, Billy Baxter, Tully Churton, Beau Gohl, Max Pollock. Back row (L to R) Mr Lee Robb (Teacher), Joel Willesee, Harry Ranyard, Zac Duncan, Kobe McLoughlin, Henry Rose, Hayley Acret. Photo supplied

to Bathurst for the finals. The town had been under water just two weeks before.

The team won the semi and the championship comfortably, but had some really tough contests along the way.

'We saved our best cricket for last,' Lee said.

Against Junction (from The Hunter) both teams scored 106, but the game went their way as they had lost just five wickets, as

opposed to their opposition's six. They also had a last wicket win along the way, and earlier in the season won a game with just three balls to spare after chasing down 150 off 25 overs.

The knockout competition included 300 teams from across NSW.

The team included players from years four, five and six. The players also enjoy Saturday cricket with their local clubs.

More frivolity as Clifford Street sprinters race to the top

Damian Farrell

Last Friday the Fastest Runner in Clifford Street annual event combined its low brow piece of community entertainment with the very vibrant and friendly Shara Community Gardens Christmas party.

Around sixty kids and neighbours gathered to enjoy each other's company and await Santa's arrival with his vegan lollie bags.

Then it was time to bluetooth the Chariots of Fire soundtrack and get ready for the annual Fastest Runner in Clifford Street race.

Many of the stalwart winners from previous years were unavailable owing to work or recreational commitments.

This opened the field for some fresh faces.

Trophy winners

Ryo Matsumoto (nine



Despite a limited number of trophies on offer everyone is a winner at the Clifford Street race. Photo Jeff Dawson

years old) was fastest boy, while Penny Russell (age four) was the fastest girl.

Jack Aisbett took out the fastest man award and Rebecca (Bec) McNaught has the fastest woman trophy on her shelf.

Penny, accompanied by mum Kathryn, said that after last year she dreamed

all year that she was going to win, and psyched up seriously for two weeks prior. Penny's dream came true and the next thing she wanted was 'hot chocolate'.

Bec McNaught was thrilled to win her first ever sporting trophy and commented that it is never too late to give things a crack.

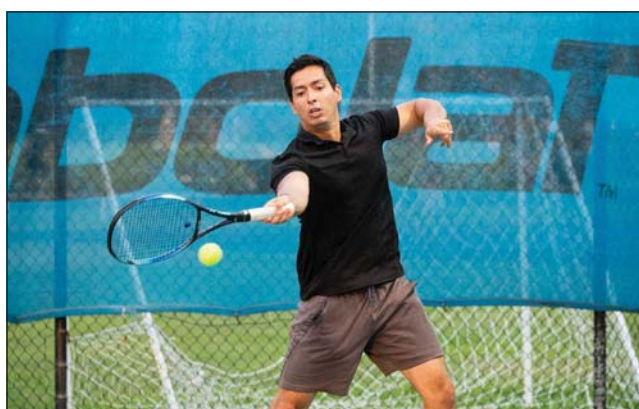
Byron Bay celebrates social tennis

Tim Lanyon

Social tennis at Byron Bay wrapped up their year in style last Tuesday, with their Social Singles Award Presentation night.

Former arm-wrestling champion Cesar Banzer flexed his muscles to top the table, while Conor Reid and Ami Shoesmith narrowly finished in second and third place.

There was over 75 participants for the semester that saw Frank Schultheiss remain undefeated while his wife Ulrike Schmidt was the Most Improved Female player.



Cesar works his forehand magic. Photo Ryan O'Hehir

Baz Davison was a giant killer throughout the competition to take out Most Improved Male.

The most prestigious Spirit Award Trophy went

to Ozi Uger for the amazing contribution and flair he brought to all the social tennis evenings.

Social Singles returns January 17 2023.

Strong sailing on the Tweed River

Monique Smith

A perfect day with, a north-easterly wind of 10-14 knots made a great day for race three of the Class Championships of the Tweed River Sailing Club.

Fourteen dinghies started the race including Corsairs, Impulses, Lasers, a Hobie and one Pacer.

First to the top mark were the Impulses, Adam on his new dinghy *Puddy* and Dave on *Matchbox*. Peter on *Mr Plow* tried a port tack, leaving him well back in the fleet.

A bit of ruckus soon occurred, including apologies, at the rounding as Mark on *Keenas* came in on port to Monique on *Rolling Stone* (on starboard), who had to



An eventful start for the last race of 2022. Photo supplied

change course to avert a collision.

Meanwhile *Mr Plow* overtook *Matchbox* on the second run and was level with *Puddy* by the end of the third run.

Then Adam took an unscheduled swim near the bottom mark, leaving Peter

and Dave to come first and second respectively.

An unfortunate day for Michael and crew, sailing Corsair *Exhale*, with the block and fibreglass being ripped out of the hull.

Exhale had to retire, but will be back in 2023.

Craig Watson Soul Pattinson Chemist Mullumbimby

We would like to wish everyone a

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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Gentle, pleasant, and polite tradies from around the Shire downed tools last weekend and spent time on the green. The Cavanbah United Nice Tradesman's Society end-of-year cricket match has been traditionally held on West Byron land, but this year, like the flora fauna, they faced being bulldozed and were forced to flee to another location. This time it was Mullum's green patch. Photo Jeff 'No Acronyms Please (NAP)' Dawson

Let's all just pause and reflect on the fact that police now need to 'approve' protests and public gatherings. Mandy Nolan will lead an 'approved' rally this Saturday around the government's holiday letting backflip promise. See page 4.

The wealthiest corporation on the planet that few have heard of, Blackrock, says 'Get ready for a recession unlike any other'. Makes perfect sense, given they are probably about to cause it.

Last week, the Royal Commission into Scott Morrison's Robodebt fiasco rolled awkwardly on. And while it's expected that Morrison would always deflect and play the victim under questioning, it's the bureaucrats behind this tragedy that the public should keep an eye on. They too avoided answering straight questions, which included explaining which

section of the *Social Services Act 1991* outlines/supports the reversed onus of proof, that was a component of the scheme which ultimately resulted in suicides.

It was a special day last Monday as the Federal Court of Australia gathered in Goonellabah and granted native title to the Widjabul Wia-bal people. The area covers 1,559 square kilometres across the north coast. See page 10.

If you need some helpful info around online safety, a resource to educate parents, seniors, and young people is available at www.esafety.gov.au.

Ironically this week, Council staff put out a press release saying there is 'no tolerance for illegal dumping', while also being asked to confirm why no fine was issued for a large dump of soil onto the

Marshall's Creek floodplain. Apparently a contractor was stockpiling the soil for later

use by Council - see page 2. A reply is expected next week.

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