

Echo

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The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 37 #47 • May 3, 2023 • www.echo.net.au

Steps taken to support vital rescue service



The Byron Coastal Charity Walk, which celebrated its ten year anniversary last weekend, supports the vital work by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (WRHS). Organisers say more than 850 completed either a 12, 24 or 36 kilometre route along the region's picturesque coastline.

The WRHS was established in 1975, and through community support and fundraising, it has become a critical service that delivers aeromedical search, rescue, and inter-hospital transfers. There are four AW139 helicopters that operate from three bases in Belmont, Tamworth and Lismore. Photo Jeff 'Strolling Ahead Of The Pack' Dawson

Education campaign underpins Council's new leg rope policy

Paul Bibby

If a law is never enforced, is it still a law?

This is a key question raised by Byron Council's new regulation requiring surfers at local beaches to wear leg ropes.

In a development that had mainstream media frothing like groms in a cyclone last week, Byron Shire Council decided to erect signs warning surfers that they could be fined unless they are properly tethered to their boards.

Under the rules, surfers could theoretically face a fine of up to \$1,100 if they don't rope up.

However, the reality is that such a policy, while sending a message to surfers about the need to be safe in the waves, is virtually impossible to enforce.

Putting aside the fact that the rules won't come into force until signs are erected during the next financial year, there remains no practical way to enforce them, and bring about a successful prosecution if the matter is challenged in court.

'Given the comments in the staff report about the effectiveness of the signage and our inability to enforce it, I'm wondering if this is a good use of money, given our difficult circumstances,' Mayor Michael Lyon said.

'We're putting a new burden on the budget next year that is already under pressure, and putting a greater burden on our already very busy compliance officers.

'I don't think this should be a priority at all for compliance staff. I want to make sure our compliance

► Continued on page 3

IPC's holiday letting report in – how will NSW Labor respond?

Hans Lovejoy

The much anticipated report by the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) into Council's planning proposal around holiday letting was released last week, with commissioners recommending a 60-day yearly cap on non-hosted holiday letting across the Shire, instead of Council's 90-day proposal.

And Council's proposed precinct

model, which would allow non-hosted short-term rental accommodation (STRA) all year round in highly sought after visitor locations, was unsupported, and could be scrapped if the NSW Labor government adopts the findings.

And while a holiday letting levy is proposed (Recommendation 8), which could provide Council with an income stream to address severe infrastructure backlogs,

details around compliance and enforcement (page 65) were vague, with the commissioners suggesting that the STRA Code of Conduct be strengthened and 'improved'.

Additionally, a development application (DA) process is proposed, which would see Council the consent authority for 'non-hosted STRA use in exceedance of the proposed [60-day] cap'.

The Echo asked NSW Minister

for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully (Labor), when he will announce his support, or otherwise, for the 12 recommendations.

He told *The Echo*, 'I'll review the report in detail over the coming weeks. We recognise maintaining the function and character of places people live is important, while maintaining the appeal for visitors. I will consider the findings in this context'.

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Margaret's flood tales part of Blue Box project ► p5

Heilpern on growth, housing rights and the golden egg ► p10

Looking at both sides of domestic violence ► p12

Call for moratorium on floodplain developments ► p20

How will you treat your mum this Mothers Day? ► p26

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Community Update

New plan for seniors housing in Ballina

Ballina has a growing older population and it is important that seniors have quality and safe housing. This project will provide much needed seniors housing while protecting and enhancing the local environment.



GemLife has lodged a revised application with Ballina Shire Council for new seniors housing with 148 independent living homes in a master planned community.

This site is an ideal location for much needed affordable housing for seniors because of its close proximity to Ballina and essential services.

We understand there were two key concerns raised by the community about our revised proposal and the below provides some information on how we have addressed these.

The Land and Environment Court's (LaEC) ruling on GemLife's initial application identified the need for more studies and has resulted in a number of changes to the new proposal, including a reduced development footprint and an increase in land for environmental conservation.

Since the first proposal, GemLife has commissioned further studies from an ecological expert that show **17.5% of the site is clear of native forest vegetation and can be sustainably developed.**

The existing Biobanking Area has also been upgraded to a Stewardship program which means **82.5% of the site will be managed and enhanced in perpetuity.** Without this agreement, the valuable ecological areas would likely continue to degrade and become overrun with weeds.

Detailed flood modelling by water engineering experts found there will be no adverse impacts on neighbouring properties and the wider network.

This was confirmed by Council on the previous DA in accordance with the Ballina Shire Council's flood studies. The flood experts in the LaEC also accepted that the previous development would not result in detrimental increases in potential flood impacts for other properties.

The new development footprint is considerably smaller than the previous proposal with approximately 42% less fill required to be brought to site.

Flood impacts from tidal flooding and excessive rainfall have been carefully considered in the design and location of the development to **ensure that surrounding properties do not result in any additional flood impacts from this development.**

Project Benefits

- ✓ Providing much needed seniors housing for Ballina.*
- ✓ 4.5 hectares of onsite green space.
- ✓ 46.8 hectares of environmental protection.
- ✓ Environmental Stewardship program to protect and enhance the environment.
- ✓ Create local jobs during construction and provide ongoing employment opportunities.

*Contribute to meeting the housing supply demands as forecasted by Ballina Shire Council for an additional 4,400 dwellings needed by 2040. The site has been included in forward planning models as a residential zoned site to contribute to meeting this demand.

More information can be found at www.gemlife.com.au/ballina

Mullum Preschool celebrates 30 years

Mullumbimby Community Preschool will celebrate 30 years in its current location with an event on Sunday, May 7, from 9am to 12pm.

The school is located on the corner of Fern and Station Streets, near the Council chambers.

The school's Amanda McLennan told *The Echo* local businesses are involved, and a little market store will be set up in the school's car park. They will have face painting, and the local fire truck will visit.

She said, 'We will have the preschool all set up for children and families to play, and past families and staff are also invited to celebrate with us.'

Preschool history

Col and Di Davison bought the preschool together at beginning of 1977, and it was originally located at the RSL Hall on Stuart Street.

Di told *The Echo*, 'After we



The original pre-school crew, Elaine Stenner, Di and Col Davison, and current director, Amanda McLennan. Photo Jeff 'Dinosaur' Dawson

became a Community Preschool, and owing to changes in regulations and needing more space, the process began to find larger land.'

The RSL Band Hall committee was approached. They were the owners of the building leased by the preschool.

'They agreed to give us the building, as long as we moved it at our expense. We began fundraising, and the

project became the main recipient of the Chincogan Fiesta, which was held each year and raised funds for community groups.

'We had become a Community Preschool, and a committee had to be formed of parents and community members and sponsors.'

'The first committee was in control from January 1981. 'The committee, Col and

myself began to set about finding land with the help of Don Page MP, and secured the site at Fern and Station Streets, on railway land.

'Later on, when Council moved from Byron Bay to Mullum, Don Page negotiated with them for us to stay on the site, as State Rail no longer owned the land.

'The building had to be cut in half for the truck to move it to the site (from Stuart Street to Station Street) and it was moved to Station Street in 1993, with Don Page officially opening the Preschool on the land at Station Street on May 7, 1993. We are known in the community as "Dinosaurs," as we have a large dinosaur out the front.

'We are celebrating being at our site in Station Street for 30 years on May 7, and that is why we are inviting the community to celebrate with us.'

Steps taken to save our native dingoes

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire is home to dozens of dingoes that play a vital role in the health of our native ecosystems, and have a vital place in the creation stories of some of our First Nations people.

But these native animals are too often dismissed as 'wild dogs' and, in some cases, are caught up in trapping and other culling practices that target non-native species.

Now, steps are being taken to walk the fine line

between protecting our dingoes without allowing feral dogs and foxes off the hook.

Byron Council passed a motion at last week's meeting, recognising that dingoes are native to the Shire, have an important ecological role, and are worthy of protection and care.

Councillors will hold a dedicated workshop in the coming weeks to explore non-lethal tools and practices to manage dingoes on private property.

The workshop will also explore ways to avoid

trapping, baiting, shooting and otherwise killing dingoes whilst still controlling other animals that are pests or are creating environmental damage.

During the public access section of the meeting, Minjungbal descendant, Lionel Currie, spoke of the significance of the dingo in his creation story.

'The dingo is a very significant animal for my people,' Mr Currie said.

Independent councillor, Sama Balson, who moved the dingo protection motion,

described them as a 'key-stone species in the Shire'.

She told the chamber, 'When we kill and trap dingoes, we are also taking out the apex predator that helps keep down the fox and feral cat population.'

Councillor Alan Hunter, also an Independent, said that local farmers needed to be part of the conversation.

'I don't think we're truly representative here - there's not enough representation of the farmers who've had to deal with dingoes for a long time,' Cr Hunter said.

Education campaign underpins new leg rope policy

► Continued from page 1 priorities stay with animal enforcement, parking and camping enforcement and other matters that are much more effective.'

However, the mover of last week's motion, Independent councillor, Cate Coorey, said that the rules

and accompanying community education campaign were about changing Byron's surf culture.

Changing culture

'Part of how we make this happen is by changing culture,' Cr Coorey said.

'That's why a huge part

of this motion is about community education.

'Overwhelmingly I'm seeing community support for this, including from surfers.

'People say, "well, surfers are a rebellious community, and they won't support it". But they nearly all do

because they nearly all wear leg ropes.

'This is about keeping surfers safe from each other.'

The new rules come following a number of recent incidents in which surfers suffered serious injuries after being struck by boards that were not attached to their riders.

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Let's unpack the IPC's holiday letting report!

► Continued from page 1

Then Planning Minister, Anthony Roberts (Liberal), requested the IPC intervene with Council's plans the day before they were unanimously adopted by councillors on December 14, 2022.

Roberts sought advice from the IPC, 'on short-term rental accommodation (STRA) and related housing and rental affordability and availability issues in the Byron Shire local government area'.

Extensive community consultation followed.

The report, authored by Dr Sheridan Coakes (chair), Juliet Grant and Professor Richard Mackay AM, reads, 'As required, the report focuses on planning considerations that are relevant to the tension between using residential properties for non-hosted STRA and ensuring the availability and affordability of long-term rental housing in the Byron Shire'.

'The housing market and housing pressures are different in Byron Shire than in other Australian locations, and the social impact of non-hosted STRA is more significant.

'The cost of purchased and rental housing has increased

significantly, outpacing growth in regional NSW and Sydney and dwarfing average gains in household income.

'Rental properties are not affordable for lower income households, with half the Byron Shire renters experiencing rental stress.

'On the supply side, new housing stock and land releases planned under a suite of existing local and state-level housing policies have not proceeded at a rate that matches demand and community need.

'According to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 8.5 per cent of Byron Shire housing stock (approximately 1,300 properties) is currently registered for use as non-hosted STRA. This exceeds that of other urban and coastal NSW locations, even acknowledging the pre-existing use of housing in the area for holiday homes'.

'In summary, the Commission finds that within Byron Shire: STRA should be defined as a type of 'tourist and visitor accommodation' and thereby as a permissible use; Hosted STRA should continue to be exempt development; Non-hosted STRA should be subject to a 60-day

exempt development cap; Non-hosted STRA beyond the 60-day cap should be permissible with consent; Transitional arrangements should be provided to support current non-hosted STRA operators; and, these proposed changes should be subject to continuous review and improvement.

'The Commission was persuaded by submissions on the need to intensify efforts from local and state levels of government to increase supply through rezonings and other planning mechanisms, targeted programs with associated financial support and alternative models of housing that overcome affordability barriers.

'There is also scope for local government and industry collaboration to increase the availability of visitor accommodation (for example, motels and serviced apartments) as a viable alternative to the use of housing stock for STRA'.

Report welcomed by mayor, MP

Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, welcomed the 12 recommendations

and said in a statement, 'We are feeling very positive about the recommendations handed down by the IPC'.

'The report shows how closely the IPC has listened to the Byron Shire community and Council, and that they've heard us on the significant housing pressures we're experiencing and the impacts of holiday letting'.

Local NSW MP, Tamara Smith (Greens) told *The Echo*, 'I could not be prouder of our community and Byron Shire Council for making such a compelling case to the IPC'.

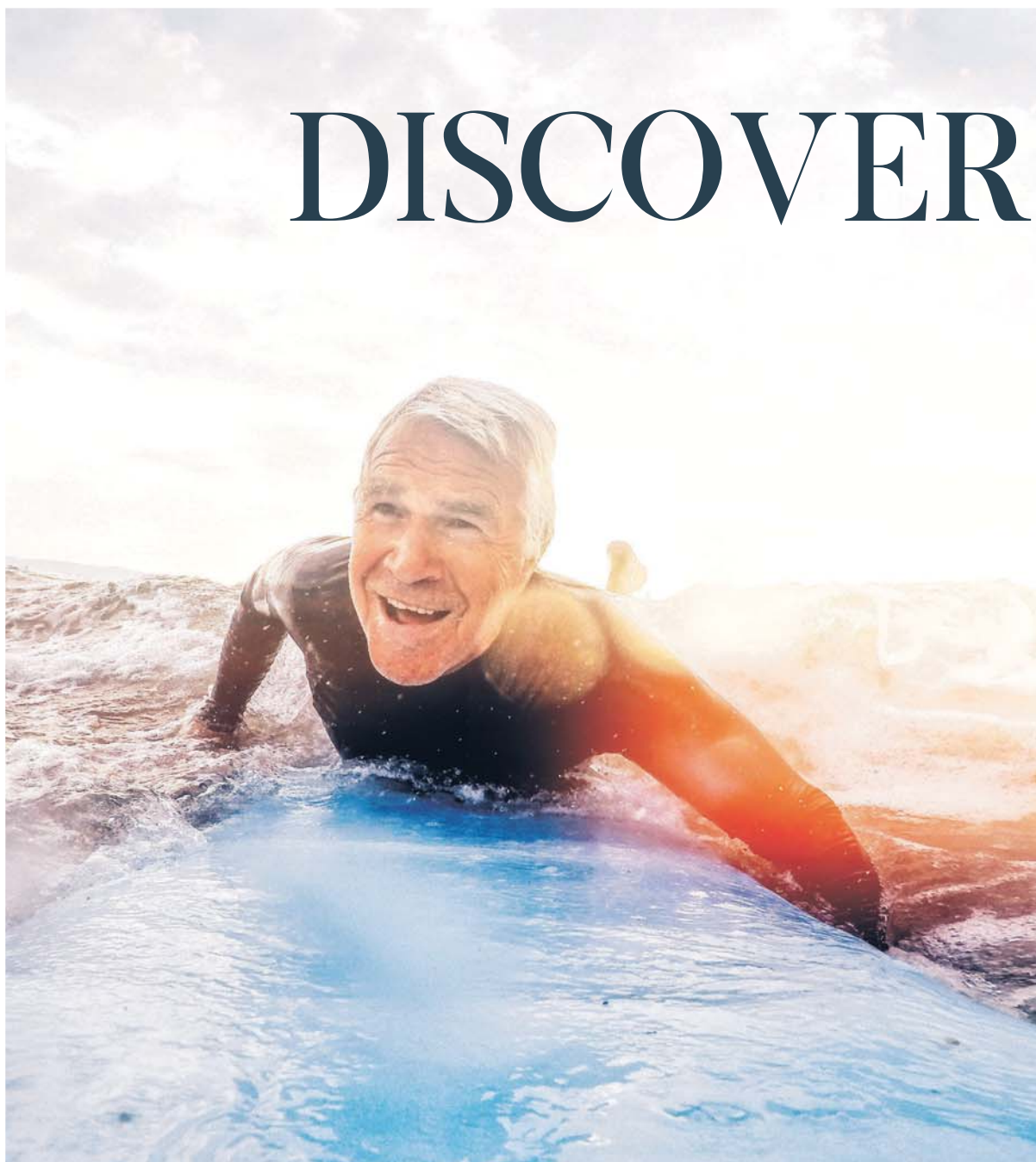
'I was genuinely surprised that the Commission backed our community, and validated our lived experience in such a decisive manner.

'This is the first time I have seen in this state such a strong message being sent from a statutory body to the powerful online players and big property developers that the gig may in fact be up.

'I believe that every council with high tourist numbers and housing scarcity will want to follow suit, if we are able to implement the commission's recommendations'.

■ The report can be found at <https://bit.ly/3Lis2DA>.





DISCOVER



THYME

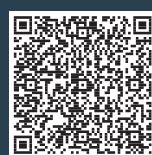
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Margaret's flood tales part of Blue Box project

Aslan Shand

When the water came like a small river into her street in 2022, 79-year-old Margaret Alderton took action.

She tried to plug the cracks around the doors, and secure her house to ensure that the water didn't come flooding in.

But the water didn't stop. 'I was amazed at the amount and force of the water coming into my home,' said Margaret. 'I've heard people in their 90s, who have lived here all their lives, say they have never seen a flood like that one.'

'The water surrounded my house, came in and went through all my furniture and electrics. It finally stopped when it got to my knees. I didn't know what to do.'

The water finally started to recede before the high tide forced it back up and into the house again, a little higher than the previous time.

'As I was sloshing around in the water, a couple of men came to the door on surfboards. I said I couldn't open it, because of the water and to come over to the window.'

They suggested Margaret climb out of the window, and offered to take her to the RSL, but Margaret pointed out that



Mullum resident, Margaret Alderton, was one of many whose homes were inundated in last year's flood. To commemorate a year on, a free community picnic will be held in the town on May 6 – see page 7. Photo Jeff Dawson

'at 79, I can't climb out the window and onto a surfboard.'

Within half an hour, the water started to go down, 'but there was about a foot of mud' left behind, said Margaret. 'I couldn't walk in it, it was slippery and slimy.'

Fortunately, neighbours, who were friends of friends, were able to get Margaret out of the house, and she was able to stay the night in a house around the corner.

Margaret was also fortunate that her son-in-law knew builders that could come around and get her back on her feet, and she was back in the house within two months. Unlike her neighbours, who

have only just moved back in, with their two young daughters, over a year later.

'I'm just so pleased that I was saved. There are so many of my neighbours who are still waiting to get back into their homes.'

Margaret's story is part of the Blue Box project, which chronicles how the flood impacted the lives of locals in Mullumbimby. It will become a book to be held at the Mullumbimby Museum.

To get involved, drop your story into the blue boxes that are located at various shops around town, or email them to stationery.mullumnews@gmail.com.

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Rates up as Council chases fiscal balance

Paul Bibby

Byron Mayor, Michael Lyon, has foreshadowed the possibility of increasing paid parking in congested areas of the Shire as one way of addressing the Council's financial woes.

Council's draft 2023-24 budget, now on public exhibition, reveals that it is becoming increasingly difficult for Council to sustainably fund its operations.

Council's operational budget will be in deficit to the tune of \$2.185M in the next financial year.

While the bean counters have managed to balance the budget overall, this has been achieved by drawing on dividends from its reserves and other funds, which is not sustainable.

Locals are also facing a 4.6 per cent rate rise.

Furthermore, according to Cr Lyon, a significant number of Council projects and works that were proposed for 2023-24 had been 'pared back to get something resembling balanced books'.

'We had something like a \$7M deficit when we started, and all of our ambitions

were put on the table,' Cr Lyon said.

'There's a lot of things that our team members wanted to do and we've had to pare that back.'

He said Council now needed to consider 'anything that it could do to increase finances'.

'That's why I'm so keen, where there are congested areas that can justify paid parking, to get that in,' Cr Lyon said.

'It's so that we can invest in services that our community wants and expects.'

The staff report states that the difficulty of balancing the

proposed budget has been compounded by increases to the superannuation guarantee, staff wages, rising insurance premiums, and an increase in payments to Rous County Council.

Council's revenue from general land rates will increase in total by 4.6 per cent in accordance with Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) approved rate peg increase for the Byron Shire.

Independent Councillor, Alan Hunter, said the budget report gave the impression that Council was 'heading for the wall'.

'I'm not confident that the state government will keep funding us the way they have,' Cr Hunter said.

'I sense the tide is turning, and at some point we need to have a good hard look at what we're doing, and where we'll have to make savings.'

The community is invited to attend an interactive online session via Zoom (access via Council's website) on Wednesday May 10, from 4pm to 6pm.

Information about the documents and how to make a submission are on Your Say Byron Shire at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/OP-Budget-24.

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Byron boarding houses to expand

Paul Bibby

Byron Council has approved the expansion and upgrading of a group of boarding houses near the centre of Byron Bay, which provide affordable accommodation for hospital-ity staff and other essential workers in the town.

The cluster of houses at Lot 2 Bangalow Road have provided single rooms at well below market rates for

nearly 20 years. The owners, brother and sister, Norman and Gail Hunt, now have approval to double the existing capacity undertake alterations and construct four new dwellings. There will also be a new manager's residence, which includes reception, community rooms, a laundry and a kitchen/cafe for residents.

The proposed development will result in a total of

80 bedrooms, with a total capacity to accommodate 108 people, plus a site manager.

Ms Hunt said this change would see rents increase on the site from around \$250 for a single person to 'somewhere in the low \$300s'.

Councillors included a clause in the approval that requires that the boarding houses 'not be holiday let or used as tourist and visitor accommodation'.

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- Events and Festival Sponsorship Program** - total pool of \$20,000 available to be split into around five grants for community-focussed events.
- Creative Public Spaces Small Grants** - seed funding of up to \$5000 (from a total pool of \$5000) for new temporary or permanent art works in public spaces in the Byron Shire.

Applications for all of these programs open on 28 April and close on 12 June 2023.

More information

More information, eligibility details and the application forms are available from Council's website:

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council-grants-2023

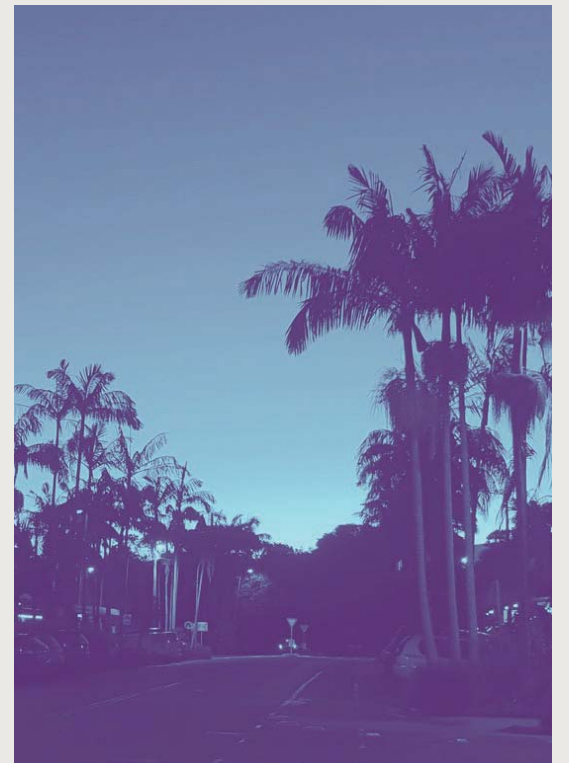
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2:00pm – 10:00pm	Burringbar Street closed to traffic for event
FORMALITIES:	
4:00pm	Opening – Paul Prior, Mullum Chamber President Acknowledgment of Country – Cr Sarah Ndiaye Mayor Michael Lyon
MUSIC STAGE:	
4:00pm – 4:45pm	PALM WINE AMBASSADORS
5:30pm – 6:15pm	WAY OUT WEST
7:15pm – 8:00pm	LOOSE CONTENT
STREET RUNWAY:	
4:45pm – 5:30pm	Wearable Art – Joel and Erik wandering commentary
6:15pm – 7:00pm	Joel + Eric Street Chats – Fire and Rescue, Police, RFS etc
LANEWAY PROJECT 1 (near Baker & Daughters)	
4:00pm – 6:00pm	Eco-arts sculpture workshop (up to 10 yrs)
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Zine workshop with Byron Youth Services (8-18 yrs)
LANEWAY PROJECT 2 (near Chinny Store)	
4:00pm – 6:00pm	Live painting display by three young local artists, also community painting space will be set up
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Hot Mess Life Drawing (14 yrs+)
BLUE CUBE PROJECT – TALKING SQUARE	
4:00pm – 7:00pm	Fire and Rescue will facilitate discussion and the telling of stories by those who choose to engage

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Echo

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

Where's the money going in Ballina?

Ballina's last council meeting was short and sweet, with no motions from councillors for the first time in memory. There were some important decisions made though.

Nimbin's cannabis law reform protest this weekend

This coming weekend will see the giant joint rolled out for the MardiGrass, Nimbin's annual cannabis law reform protest and gathering.

Shearwaters lost in the big city lights

The Currumbin Wildlife Hospital has reported they have more than 20 Shearwater birds in care after being disorientated on their annual northern migration along the east coast of Australia.

Lismore's Community Hub reopens

The Northern Rivers Community community hub in Lismore has been closed since February last year owing to the floods but today the doors are finally reopening.

Schools struggle to address the explosion in student vaping

Electronic cigarettes have been around for almost two decades now, but "vaping" has surged in popularity over the past five years, with research showing that young adolescents are most at risk.

New artistic perspectives at NRCG this month

Opening tomorrow at Northern Rivers Community Gallery in Ballina are four new exhibitions from local artists.

Ballina celebrates 140 years of the concert band

A band that began its life as the Ballina Brass Band is turning 140 years old this year. The band was first formed in 1883 and is one of the longest continuous serving bands in Australia.

Emergency Services Levy 'catastrophic' for many councils

The NSW local councils' peak body Local Government NSW (LGNSW) says the newly-elected NSW Government has kicked off its first term in the worst possible way by sending NSW council budgets into meltdown.

Ballina debates Newrybar's future

With some people still unaware that Newrybar is even part of Ballina Shire, the historic village received some focused attention at the latest council meeting.

www.echo.net.au

There's a prawn in there...

Photo & story David Lowe

Ballina residents worried about what's happening with their beloved, internationally famous Big Prawn will be pleased to hear that the restoration process is going very well behind the mysterious scaffolding.

The Echo caught up with twin sisters, Rachel and Rebecca Neill, who are hard at work repainting the giant crustacean, which stands beside the Bunnings car park in West Ballina, and has been looking a bit the worse for wear in recent months.

CraftWORK Project Management looks after the Big Prawn on behalf of Bunnings, and has subcontracted the Neills' business Set For Art to do the restoration work.

Rachel and Rebecca Neill have 27 years of experience looking after large murals, hotel art, painting scenics and doing decorative finishes for film productions, although, they explained, this is their first giant prawn.

Rebecca says, owing to the recent rain, they have had to go back and redo some bits, 'but generally we've had a pretty good run,



The Neill twins are hard at work restoring the Big Prawn.

and we've chosen the right times to work.'

The painting is scheduled to be finished within days, weather allowing.

The Neills say they used computer-matched Weathershield paints to beautify the giant prawn, which was 'a bit like working on a whale.'

They explained their painting work was preceded by other teams, who did cleaning work, and base painting, including providing a new protective coat for the reinforced metal platform, which held the prawn above the 2022 flood.

'The plan is to get it back to close to its original colour,' said Rebecca. 'We're trying to match what was there,

before it got faded and mouldy. We're making it look fresh again.'

The Neill sisters said lots of people had been stopping to chat about the prawn.

'They're quite passionate about it!'

The sisters said the views from the Big Prawn were spectacular, and they had especially enjoyed watching the weather systems move across the landscape as they worked, along with all the rainbows.

So, are they going to be restoring any more big things after this? 'Maybe! We've got a passion for restoring things to their former glory and making things last rather than just starting again!'



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A busy end to NSW's bushfire season

April 30 was the official end of the 2022-23 bushfire season for NSW, after the bushfire danger period was extended several weeks.

NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner, Rob Rogers, said the bushfire danger period was continued at the end of March in parts of the state, owing to high fuel loads and warmer than average temperatures.

'We saw an increase in activity late in the season, with significant fires in Narabri, Mudgee and Upper Lachlan LGAs,' said Rogers. 'Across the season, firefighters have worked on more than 24,800 bush and grass fires, which burnt through over 116,000 hectares.'

'March was our busiest month, with firefighters responding to over 2,800 incidents, which accounted for almost 50 per cent of the total hectares burnt across the whole fire season.'

Commissioner Rogers also reminded landholders and residents about the importance of maintaining their property throughout the year, and to be vigilant when using fire on their property.

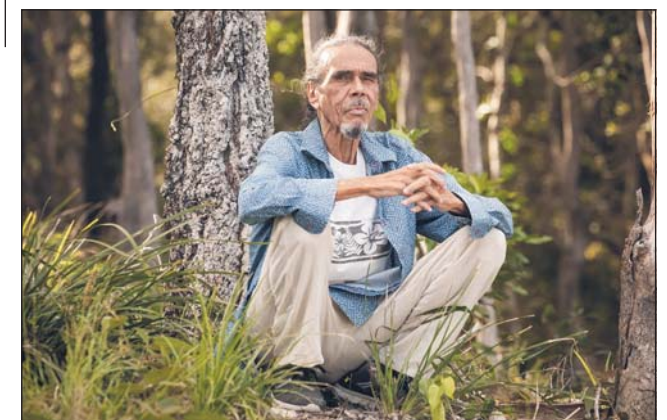
Warm and dry winter predicted

'With a warm and dry winter predicted, there is a real risk of fires occurring across the cooler months this year,' he said.

'Landholders must know their obligations if conducting burns, and know the costs if you do the wrong thing, but most importantly, if a fire does get out of hand, make sure you report it immediately to Triple Zero (000).'

Commissioner Rogers noted that the 2022-23 fire season has been the busiest period of fire activity since the 2019-2020 Black Summer fires.

Vale Magpie Currie



Magpie Currie. Photo Eve Jeffery

Supplied by family

Magpie Currie passed away peacefully last week.

Magpie was born into Kuku-yalanji (Cape York) and Minyungbal (Tweed) bloodlines, freshwater and salt water... Mother and Father.

He grew up in both areas, surrounded by extended family, and spiritual and cultural people. Magpie spent his life learning, practising and sharing Culture.

For decades, Magpie was a Cultural Consultant, artist, Elder and Songman.

Throughout his life and career, he worked for Minjungbal Museum and Cultural Centre, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park (Cairns).

He collaborated, co-organised events, sung and danced, performed smoking ceremonies and Welcome to Country for community

events such as Kinship and Renew Fest, and major festivals such as Bluesfest, Falls Festival and Splendour.

His daughter, Lillian Currie, was often under his wing.

Magpie always said: 'Our stories and songs run right through nature - so nature has always been an art teacher.'

'Over the years, my art style has evolved and as such I see myself as a snake shedding its skin, leaving behind the past and reinventing into something new and fresh.'

Magpie's prolific artworks pay respect to freshwater and saltwater dreaming stories from both his mother and father's country.

Magpie was a proud man. As new generations emerge, his family, community and our region are left with a rich cultural legacy to celebrate and uphold.

NR Reconstruction Corporation Q&A

Hans Lovejoy

How is the flood disaster reconstruction rollout going in Byron Shire? It appears very little has been done so far, yet there has been an enormous amount of taxpayer money thrown at helping flood-affected residents and councils get back on their feet.

Heading the effort is the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC).

An update on the \$700M Resilient Homes and the \$100M Resilient Lands programs, with NRRC CEO David Witherdin, was held by Zoom last Tuesday, April 18.

Hosted and facilitated by Mayor, Michael Lyon, the meeting was announced without much lead time and attracted just 30 community members.

The full video of the meeting can be seen at via <https://bit.ly/3V0dFYV>.

The Echo asked the NRRC the status of those who are flood-affected in the Byron Shire, and how the buyback, retrofitting, and house raising programs were progressing.

The Echo asked, 'Can the NRRC please advise how many people, in each category,

have been contacted in the Byron Shire? Is there a status on this that can be provided?'

The NRRC spokesperson replied, 'Homes in Byron Shire Local Government Area (LGA) are eligible for all three Resilient Homes Program streams, with approximately 13 per cent of registrations received for the program across the [Byron] LGA.'

'All residents who have registered with the Resilient Homes Program will be provided with information about their eligibility for a voluntary buyback, house raising or house retrofitting by mid-2023.'

Resilient Homes Fund dashboard

The Echo asked, 'The Resilient Homes Fund dashboard, as published on www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/northern-rivers-reconstruction-corporation/resilient-homes-fund, only provides indicative pie graphs regarding the breakdown of LGAs.'

'What is the total number of flood-affected homes in Byron Shire, and where is the NRRC sourcing this number from?'

The NRRC spokesperson

replied, 'The Resilient Homes Fund dashboard is updated fortnightly, and provides a snapshot of progress made across the Resilient Homes and Resilient Land programs, including status of valuations and offers made.'

Byron land buybacks

The Echo asked, 'Has the NRRC purchased any land in Byron Shire for the purpose of buybacks and the like? If yes, where?'

The NRRC spokesperson replied, 'More than 320 Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been received under the Resilient Land Program, with approximately 12 per cent received from the Byron Shire LGA. The NRRC has not purchased any land within the Byron Shire.'

Insurance

The Echo asked, 'For those seeking to raise their house through NRRC's program, will a householder need current insurance for it to be eligible?'

The NRRC spokesperson replied, 'Homeowners eligible for home raising as part of the Resilient Homes Program will not be required to have insurance to receive the grant.'

Mitigation/resilience measures

The Echo asked, 'Given the vast NRRC budget, will there be any money put towards assisting Byron Council in undertaking much needed drainage work? Presumably this kind of work would be much more cost effective and cheaper than all other programs being undertaken.'

The NRRC spokesperson replied, 'The NRRC is co-ordinating the delivery of recovery projects across the Northern Rivers. This includes the first tranche of projects announced by the Commonwealth government, under the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (NRRI).'

'The NRRI is a Commonwealth government program to increase resilience to future disasters. The projects under the initiative align with recommendations of the *NSW Independent Flood Inquiry*, and local floodplain risk mitigation plans. The first tranche includes a \$50 million investment across all seven LGAs in the Northern Rivers.'

■ Visit the NRRC website for more info: bit.ly/40Zsf4i.

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Volume 37 #47 • May 3, 2023

Pledging allegiance to the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha family

Fellow Commonwealth commoners rejoice, for Prince Charles is set to blossom into King Charles III at his coronation ceremony this Saturday! His wife will become Queen Camilla.

It would seem an opportune time for 'Stralia to consider its future, given the significance.

At what point does this country become a grown up, learn how to budget, cook and clean for itself and leave home?

While we rummage under the couch for a sense of maturity and identity, the Windsor family, as they are now known, have enormous influence on Australia as our 'Head of State'.

The Constitution provides the Governor-General powers to act in the interests of the UK monarch.

The GG can, and does, intervene with Australian affairs.

It happened in 1975 with the Gough Whitlam dismissal.

Current Governor-General, David Hurley, secretly appointed the former Liberal PM to multiple ministries a few years back.

This was only made public after Murdoch-employed courtier 'journalists' – Simon Benson and Geoff Chambers – went public with that info to sell their shitty book.

Hurley has avoided any real scrutiny or consequence for this act, which in a just world could be considered treason, because it undermines democracy and enables tyranny.

If that's not a good reason to abolish the position of Governor-General, then what is?

Another reason, perhaps, is that Hurley's wife, Linda, has a fondness for a bit of a sing-song at functions and insists guests participate.



Anyway back to the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha family.

King George V (1865–1936) changed his family name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor in 1917, because pledging allegiance to a German king while being at war with the Germans is a confusing message.

Thankfully, for the king, the British subjects forgot, weren't told, or just didn't care because they were busy with World War I.

Perhaps this was the greatest flaw of his faithful British subjects – they valued loyalty over common sense.

As crazy as the French are, they would never have put up with that.

A guillotine would be rolled out in a heartbeat.

The Brits, on the other hand, seem to need a figurehead to look up to, and are unwilling to search for the kingdom within.

For Saturday's king-and-queen coronation, *The BBC* reports that the public are invited to swear allegiance to the king and his heirs.

In response, The Australian Republic Movement proposes its own pledge:

'I swear that my loyalty is to the Australian people and Australian values of equality, democracy and meritocracy.

'I pledge to stand against hereditary entitlement and commit to the realisation of these values in our Constitution so that all elected offices under the law, including our Head of State are accountable to the Australian people.

'As I pledge today, I look forward to the day when Australia's Head of State is also bound to swear loyalty to us, rather than the other way around.'

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Growth, housing rights and the golden egg

What an outcome on holiday letting – it's a bit like offering \$1,000 for a horse and getting it for \$500.

Yeeha! Happy as I am about the headline outcome, Recommendation 4 by the IPC commissioners suggests opening up more land – the Ballina-isation of Byron.

This sends shivers down my spine, especially when I heard a developer promising to clear forest for suburbs because, 'people here have a right to housing too'.

And the chorus is joined by well-meaning selfless and sensible housing advocates who jump on the linguistic bandwagon of a 'right to housing'.

But housing, like health and many other needs, is not a right in any real sense. We might want it to be, but in Australia, as a question of law, it just isn't. Housing in Australia is either a commodity or a benefit. Or more accurately, a commodity and a benefit, given the tax treatment of capital gains and negative gearing. That's why we always talk of a housing market – just another widget to be part of the ebb and flow of supply and demand.

There are all sorts of rights – aspirational rights, internationally recognised rights, and human rights to name a few. But they are all worth nothing more than a limp lettuce leaf, unless they are legally enforceable. Housing is a classic example of a non-right in any legally big-stick way.

There are a number of international treaties that Australia has signed which enshrine a right to a roof over our head. For example, Article 11 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, specifically hallows a right to 'adequate housing'.

Well may you ask – if it is internationally recognised as a right, and Australia is a signatory, then why is there actually no actionable remedy for housing? Because, in the end, an international agreement, even one to which we are a signatory, is aspirational only unless it is embedded in specific Australian law. And not one parliament in Australia has done that



'Many people in Australia and on the Far North Coast don't have access to affordable, secure housing, and are often evicted into homelessness because our lopsided laws don't protect them.'

David Heilpern

with housing – even those states with a bill of rights.

It does not have to be this way. Many countries, to some extent or other, have legislated a right to housing.

The idea of making a government legally accountable for its citizens' right to housing is not radical and it has led to the development of some of the most effective anti-homelessness systems in the world – like those in Finland, France and Scotland. Even in the UK, there are statutory responsibilities on local councils for housing.

So, there it is, an aspirational right, blowing in the wind past the lighthouse, just wanting to be butterfly-net caught and made an enforceable right. But don't hold your breath.

And this means that many people in Australia and on the Far North Coast don't have access to affordable, secure housing, and are often evicted into homelessness because our lopsided laws don't protect them.

Accepting that housing is subject to the rules of supply and demand, and is no more a right than freedom from hunger, I have been diligently following the debate on housing in the mainstream press and academic landscape. The obsession is exclusively with supply.

The song is so well sung now, I know every chord by heart – open up more land (repeated ad nauseam), change the tax/planning laws, squish people in tighter and higher, government assistance for first home buyers and more affordable, social and supported housing. This is mimicked in our local area, with housing over car parks, new estates, higher density, mooted empty-house tax and maybe holiday letting crackdowns. The latter two are great initiatives.

But there is an elephant in the room. It is supply and demand. How about a bit of focus on demand for a change? Nationally, the situation is absurd. Australia will experience the biggest two-year population surge in its history, with an extra 700,000 migrants across this financial year and next.

When you factor in natural growth, this is a 900,000 plus jump in the number of newbies needing housing. I see little debate about this, because so often population limitation is associated with the hard racist right. But if we cannot house our current population, what will it be like in two years' time? Logically, if we had zero population growth, then the housing crises surely would level off.

I hear the argument for immigration equating to economic growth (read massive Ponzi scheme), but does it really make sense to have more people fighting over limited housing stock?

I guess demand is reduced as prices go up and no one can afford to rent, but that's a brutal recipe for inequality and sorrow. (Of course, I've still got a copy of *Small is Beautiful* on my bookshelf).

What does this mean for Byron? I fear we are going to continue to get swamped, no matter what we do. I've written before that you cannot build your way out of that gentrification, and can now add that Byron cannot develop its way out of national population growth.

Just trying to is likely to kill the goose that lays the golden egg – our space, our beauty, our greenery. More social housing for the homeless, less Airbnb – sure. But that's it. Perhaps, in the end, we just need to get better at resisting.

■ David Heilpern is a former magistrate and Dean of Law at SCU



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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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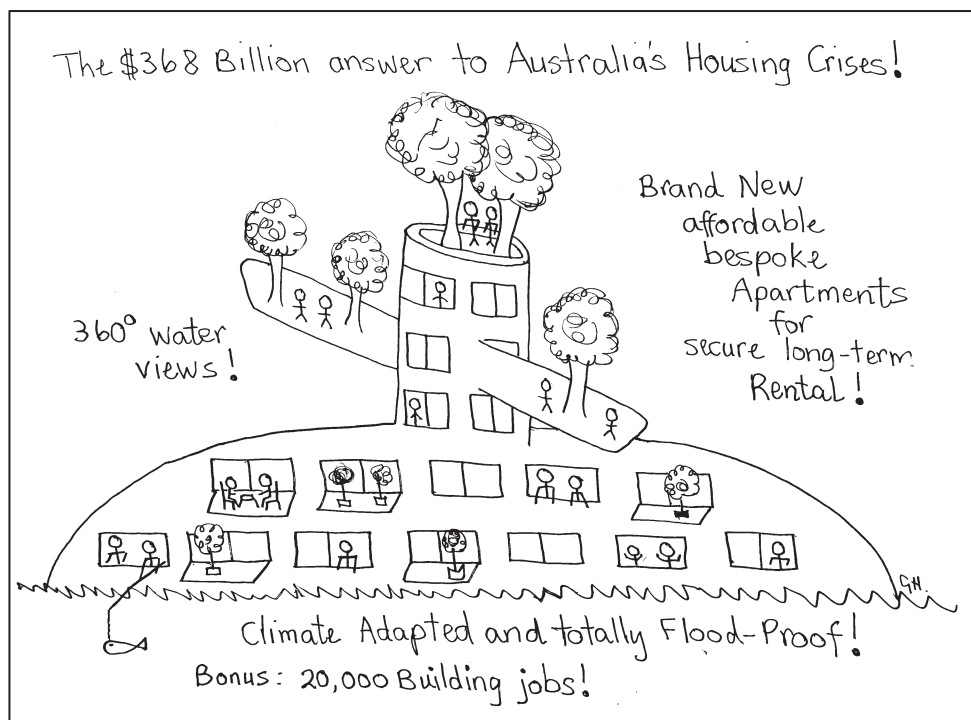
Euthanising cats

Is David Gilet's letter (April 19) regarding euthanising cats to protect wildlife indicative of the disposable society we find ourselves in? Roaming domestic cats do kill wildlife, but euthanasia is a blunt solution that doesn't strike effectively at the heart of the problem – irresponsible pet owners.

To blame cats for following their natural instincts completely absolves owners of their role in the loss of wildlife. It misses the point entirely. It's we humans who are destroying wildlife by not taking pet ownership seriously.

If we take the sentimentality out of it, as David suggests, and just let shelters 'fix' the problem, we're conveniently ignoring the cause. Maybe we could get very unsentimental and euthanise other dangers to wildlife, such as speeding idiot hinterland drivers and habitat-destroying property developers? Honestly the list would never end, and it all has a foundation in human apathy toward our natural environment.

Domestic cats should be kept indoors, or in an enclosed outdoor area, especially at night, and allowed



Cartoon by Gerda Hawke

out only under supervision. It's not difficult.

Our local shelters and rescue organisations play a vital role in our community, they provide a place where the abused, unwanted and abandoned can go, with the hope of being given a second chance at life. Shelters shouldn't be expected to perform society's dirty work, just because it saves us actually having to give a fuck.

Please support our local rescue and animal shelters. They need our help more

than ever. All our animals in need, like all humans in need, deserve a little compassion and a second chance at life!

Geoff Southward
Suffolk Park

No privatisation?

It is a promise that Labor was adamant about during this just-finished NSW election: No privatisation! Now in power it is a definite principle that there is not going to be any more 'privatisation'.

And then, shockingly, this

story in *The Echo* last week... the state agency, Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) is planning to sell a part (parcel) of our rail corridor to a private developer. So, here we go. Even the Coalition subscribed to the promise of no more privatisation when they were campaigning. To me this was progressive and we can even say that it's 'bipartisan'. Yeah. This

► Continued on page 13

Letters to the Editor

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

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Dr Russ *Harris in his intro. to *The Happiness Trap* (p13) says...

*Imagine you're an early human hunter gatherer. What are your essential needs in order to survive and reproduce?
 There are four of them, water, food, shelter and sex, but none of these things means much if you're dead.
 So the number one priority of the primitive human mind was to look for anything that might harm you and avoid it! In essence, the primitive mind was a 'Don't get killed' device, and proved enormously useful.

I would add; the need to hunt food + protect their Family/Group from other outside Males + Animals! Using bodies that apparently produced 20 Times more Testosterone than the Females as they still do 2day!
 I imagine there was no Suicide or harm done 2 Group Females by Males, as this would not fit into the objectives Dr *Russ is outlining.

Still wired-up 2 Act with Speed + Aggression!

On the back cover of Carole Hooven's book, *Testosterone, The Story of the Hormone that Dominates and Divides Us*, Prof. *Steve Stewart-Williams praises this book; *The science is clear: testosterone is a major, invisible player in our relationships, sex lives, athletic abilities, childhood play, gender transitions, parenting roles, violent crime and so much more.*
 • I just did a tot up on the National Suicide Register from 1921-2009. The av. % of Male Suicides/Total over 89 yrs = 75.42%, i.e. *3 in *4!
 • When faced with Trauma/Crisis, sadly some choose to Turn on *Some1 Else, *Themselves or BOTH, often with Quick + *Fatal outcomes!

Apart from my Hon. Degree in Counting Sheep, I've no formal qualifications, but if this isn't all linked 2 *Suicides...
 😊 *I'LLBAMONKEY'SUNCLE2!* 😊
 *Any Doctor, *Emergency 000, *Lifeline 13 11 14
 Created by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

Looking at both sides of domestic violence

Eve Jeffery

The statistics on domestic violence in Australia are staggering, but clearly not shocking enough to have more done to lower them. The courts and services are doing what they can, but the current situation is too much for both government and NGOs to handle.

The simplistic view is that you can't have a victim without a perpetrator – but sadly there is so much time, energy, and resources spent on helping those on the receiving end, that those, mostly men, perpetrating the abuse are largely bypassed – until they end up behind bars.

Michelle Lyons has been working in domestic violence (DV) for about 12 years, mostly with Legal Aid court support – the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (DVCAS).

The service is the lead agency in the New South Wales government's major program to end violence against women. It's called the Safer Pathway Program. DVCAS works with the police – who send information from every domestic violence incident that they go to overnight, to a central referral point.

DVCAS accesses that information and referral workers call those women as soon as possible. They talk to them and find out what sort of service they need, offer referrals to other services for case management and provide court support for them.

Sometimes this is helpful, sometimes not. Sometimes, for whatever reason, people who are living in a DV situation remain in the firing line, often until death parts them...

Lyons says that often the focus on the responsibility and the accountability is shifted away from the perpetrator and directed at the victim – pointing out that some people hold the belief that it's not appropriate to save a woman who may have had a number of partners who use abuse. They say that 'she makes the wrong choices'.

'That's not the right attitude,' says Michelle.

Working with the cause

'She's not responsible for this man. There can be a focus on the victim and victim blaming – it's not their responsibility, that just doesn't have any accountability in it [for the perpetrator]. They don't have to be accountable for somebody else's behaviour.'

If there were no people throwing punches, there would be no need for any of the DV services, and about three years ago Lyons decided that she wanted to work with the cause of domestic violence: the perpetrators.

It's a leap. A big leap – a hard leap. She sees the trauma and the tragedy on one side, and then she sees the person who made that happen on the other, but Lyons says for her, it was a no brainer.

'You can work with victims and provide some relief for their situation, but they're not the ones who are causing



Michelle Lyons with Bolt. Photo Tree Faerie

If you need help call:

- The National Hotline for women: 1800Respect, 1800 737 732
- Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Mullumbimby Women's Resource Service: 6684 4299 (domestic violence support)
- Momentum Collective: 1300 900 091 (housing and homelessness, DV support)
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service: 6621 1044 (DV and court support)
- Men and Family Centre: 6622 6116

'There's only an intake every 20 weeks but there is support in the meantime, either through the Men's Referral Service, Brief Intervention Service, which is a six-week over-the-phone service, or through individual contact with the men's workers, at Men and Family. They'll maintain contact with them until they can join the program, and address some of the program material prior to that.'

Does Lyons feel like she's winning?
 'I wouldn't say that. I mean, it's a huge and complex

problem that resides in the patriarchy and gender inequity. So in the absence of resolving that particular issue, it will continue to happen. It's a manifestation of a particular kind of male power. Until that's resolved, or changed, until there are some different masculinities adhered to, then things will stay the same.'

Lyons says some of the ways we can immediately start to address the problem are in schools.

'That's where it starts. It's such a complex problem. It's the patriarchy, which is not just men wolf-whistling women. It's about all those things that contribute to the gender pay gap. That's a huge issue, but things like equal pay, quotas for parliament, CEO education, and education for corporations that will encourage them to have a more equitable employment mix would begin to help address the root problems.'

But, Lyons says the clear winner in how we can help at ground zero is housing. Women are not leaving DV situations because there is nowhere to go.

'In this current climate, it's particularly critical. And post flood there are so many things combined to make it a true crisis. And there's nothing in the way of a solution. I work with a lot of the accommodation services and they're full up. There's nothing they can do, they have no resources to tap into.'

'So housing, absolutely, yes. Housing, more funding for perpetrator programs, but also primary prevention: esducation – public awareness campaigns, schools programs, and community development that includes awareness of gender inequity.'

Lyons says the Men and Family Centre often reaches capacity, especially within the context that it's a 20-week course – it's not like AA where you can pop in.

Inflated valuations?

■ I have recently received the Valuer General's Notice of Valuation for my house at Skennars Head. Having lived here for more than 20 years, I also have my corresponding valuation from 2002. In the last 20 years, the VG reports that my valuation has increased from \$273,000 to \$1,400,000. This is an increase of 25 per cent every year for 20 years.

I imagine that the numbers for Byron Shire are similar. Should my council rates increase at a similar pace, they will increase from \$3,600 today, to \$18,600 in

2042. This is a disaster for our region. Average income earners will not be able to afford to live or work here. Pensioners will be long gone. Only the mega rich and famous will live here.

Tom Newton
Skennars Head

■ I was glad to read letters last week from those shocked by the Valuer General's grossly overinflated value of their land. I don't feel so alone now.

If our Council is serious about alleviating the homeless situation in Byron Shire

they should have a quiet word with the VG to bring them back into line. Beefing up land values is exactly the kind of greedy thinking that creates homelessness.

To the VG: I appreciate that your valuations (taken last year) were your attempt at predicting the future, but now that you see how miserably you failed to predict it accurately, now is the perfect time to regain the lost trust of the community by immediately correcting your mistakes.

Michael Stavrou
Mullumbimby

► Continued from page 11 agency's decision is the first piece of what we have always feared, and even predicted, that our publicly-held rail corridor that connects all the community along the line can be 'privatised': chip, clip, chip.

This would make the first sale and set a precedent, used to leverage more sales (chopping up the corridor some more). TAHE has not identified who the buyer is and are clearly not following NSW government policy.

Thank you to our Councilor Duncan Day (Greens) who picked up on it. On the TAHE website their stated aim is: 'Our role is to lead the development of a safe, efficient, integrated transport system that keeps people and goods moving, connects communities and shapes the future of our cities, centres and regions.'

Wouldn't it be wonderful to publicly 'develop' the short piece of railway corridor from Byron Bay town to Old Bangalow Road for light rail and bike trail side-by-side: and chip, chip

away we could go in the right direction.

From a most concerned person who voted to halt 'privatisation'.

Rusty Miller
Byron Bay

Send Adani away

The traditional owners, Wangan and Jagalingou, have been fighting to protect their land for a decade. Now the site is in the Galilee Basin, Queensland. The big problem is Adani want to destroy this area for the Carmichael coal mine. Adani has been given approval by the Queensland and Australian federal regimes - why? This company gets tax breaks to invest here? Adani aren't just into coal mining but also weapons manufacturing - oh great! Good onya, Queensland and Australian regime. Maybe they have a deal going with Adani to supply weapons?

I support the traditional owners by donating money to the Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owners' corporation, BSB: 304003, Account: 278038.

I'm sure they would love you if you could make a big or small donation. Thank you.

Paul Brecht
Evans Head

Don't let history repeat

Last week's Anzac Day was a reminder of the perils that lurk within international affairs. We live in a rare time in history. A time when few people can remember global international conflict in their lifetimes.

I compare Anzac Day marches of today to those when I was a kid in the 70s. Back then, street processions would last for hours. Everyone knew of someone who'd experienced war. Today, other than the veterans of Vietnam and various peacekeeping conflicts, most participants have no memory of war. That isn't a bad thing. It's something to celebrate, but listening to the sabre-rattling of late, I wonder if it's going to last.

A comparable period in history is the years preceding

► Continued on page 14



Nominations for 2023 Maritime Medal are now open

The NSW Maritime Medal is awarded to individuals or organisations for their outstanding and sustained contributions to the maritime community.

Eligible nominees can be either a person or group who demonstrate an outstanding and sustained effort or contribution to improve the safety or marine environment for the benefit of the boating or maritime community in NSW.

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For more information on how to submit a nomination, please visit:
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► **Continued from page 13** the outbreak of WWI. The many decades before 1914 were prosperous and peaceful. Few people in 1914 could remember the last international conflict. Yet, the refusal of the old powers to accept the new kid on the block created a tense atmosphere of arms races, dangerous bravado and sabre-rattling. In 1914, the rising economic superpower was Germany. Today it's China. As we now know, events of 1914 spiralled out of control and led to the bloodiest century in history. First the imperialist stupidity of WWI and then the apocalypse of WWII.

Since 1945, memories of humanity's darkest moment have prevented a repeat. Thankfully even the Cold War remained cold! That's not to say we have eradicated

war altogether, but the wars since have, almost without exception, been localised, civil conflicts. True that the big players have either been directly or indirectly involved, but all managed to keep modern day wars contained within national conflict zones.

However, the generations that experienced the horror of global conflict have passed on, and we have, for the first time since 1945, seen the spectre of a world power invading its large neighbour with brutal aggression. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has so far been contained to Ukraine but it has shattered the post-WWII consensus. The atmosphere today is similar to that of 1914... arms races, realigned alliances and dangerous talk of 'inevitable conflict' and 'strategic nuclear strikes'.

While not condoning Russian aggression towards its neighbours, events such as Anzac Day can hopefully remind us of what's at stake, not just for Australians but the whole world. Let's keep cool heads and prevent the calamities of the 20th century. Lest we forget indeed!

Simon Alderton
Murwillumbah

Saying 'no' to war

All due respect to the victims of war, and of course 'the truth', which is always the first victim.

My grandfather (dec) reluctantly was shipped off to Gallipoli, and returned a different person - minus an eye. My father returned from Papua New Guinea in WWII, with malaria and a nervous breakdown. Neither lived a long life.

Whilst there certainly

would have been a fair amount of patriotism (nationalism), it is important to remember in that period there were two referendums (1916 and 1917), put up by then Labor Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, in support of conscription - both lost. One can only imagine the pressure put upon individuals and families with the prospect of being handed a 'white feather', to symbolise cowardice.

And where are we today, with our never-ending involvement in war somewhere, having little to do with our defence. What about the Labor Party commitment to sign/ratify the 'International Ban on Nuclear Weapons'?

Chibo, you are right to feel betrayed, there are far more urgent things we should be spending our

money on, for people and the planet. Thanks to John Scrivener and Roy Drew for their informative letters, and Hans Lovejoy for his critique on Winston Churchill (*Echo*, 26 April).

If there is ever going to be a serious discussion on 'global warming', we cannot omit the huge footprint of the military industrial complex, whilst defending our freedom of speech.

Deborah & Mick Stacey
Ballina

Fed Bridge's fluvial hydraulics

Citizens have taken to the streets in frustration at there being no report yet on flood levels experienced in the devastating February 2022 flood. We do, however, have river gauge levels at Federation Bridge. A crucial question for fluvial hydraulics in Mullumbimby was whether the Federation Bridge over the Brunswick River in the middle of town restricted the 2022 flood to spill via routes that leave the main river channel upstream of the bridge.

Turns out, it did.

The government-operated river gauge on Federation Bridge peaked at 6.43am on 28 February 2022 at a water level of 4.98m AHD. All the following levels are to Australian Height Datum (AHD). They were cross-checked via two datum sources, but are not certified by a registered surveyor.

One problem with the government gauge is that it measures water levels on the downstream side of the bridge. Water levels upstream of the bridge can get way higher - especially when the bridge opening is 'filled', which happens if the river surface touches the underside of the bridge.

Turns out, it did.

The level of the underside is about 4.8m AHD. Big floods do reach up to the underside of Federation Bridge. Gauge heights above 4.8m don't tell us what is happening upstream (west) of the bridge. This happened in 2022 and appears to have happened in 2017 too. Flood levels marked on the upstream side of the bridge indicate that levels there peaked at 5.45m in 2017 and 5.8m in 2022. This 2022 level is 800mm above the level recorded at the gauge. It explains why, in 2022, unprecedented amounts of floodwater spilled from the river channel west of Federation Bridge and flowed through precincts from

Mullumbimby High School to Dalley Street. At the high school end, Mullumbimby Creek may have contributed as well.

Duncan Dey

Flood hydrologist and Byron Shire Councillor

Ocean peril

Whilst it is acknowledged that lobbyists, developers and the state executive (e.g. parliament) appear as the long-term beneficiaries of decision-making in a fragmenting democratic system, it would appear that the imperative role of local councils is to stay ahead, inform and address imperative climate change research as we address 'the unknown' future.

Therefore, addressing issues of cultural significance and at the same time being aware of the hazards of some future development along the east coast requires application of scientific evidence.

On 28 April 2023, the ABC announced breaking news. The rapid rise in ocean temperatures has exceeded any known record and is most alarming. This fact should signal to all Byron Councilors that developments must address the precautionary principle when abiding by state/lobbyist/ developer dictates.

We witness the ongoing development on floodplains, e.g. West Byron and the lack of evacuation plans or a designated Byron evacuation centre. We are informed that there will be more development on the Indigenous culturally sensitive coastline where the trains once ran.

First Nations peoples must be consulted when addressing such developments.

La Nîa is predicted to enhance greatly global risks to life and effect sea rise globally. Byron Bay is not excluded. Furthermore, a radical statement is proffered; it is time to hand back sensitive land to First Nations peoples.

The recently released land at Kendall Street, close to a wetland, is an area where we could physically witness creative 'care for Country'.

As a former Greenpeace campaigner for ocean ecology and sentient rights I learnt that the oceans are indeed the greatest force of life; interconnected to all systems that sustain life. Homo economicus is no answer to the plight ahead and the rights of future generations.

Jo Faith
Newtown

► **More letters on page 18**

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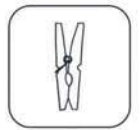
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Time to dream your dreams of the future and celebrate 50 years since the Nimbin Aquarius Festival

Aslan Shand

The Aquarius Festival was born out of the counterculture of the 1960s and 70s and as Graeme Dunstan, director of the Aquarius Festival said, 'We were cooking the counterculture of the time.'

When Graeme and Johnny Allen, director of the Aquarius Foundation, jumped in a car and came to Mullumbimby, where a range of alternative people were creating new ways of living, with the idea of the Aquarius Festival they were surprised that they weren't welcomed with open arms. In fact, the local crew of alternatives said they weren't interested in hosting the festival in Main Arm and pointed them over the hill towards Nimbin.

As the founder of *The Echo*, Nicholas Shand (AKA Dad) told me growing up, 'We said no to having it here in Main Arm but instead, some of us committed to going over for the six weeks beforehand to help the festival get set up.'

So that's how I ended up there, in utero, with my parents Jane and Nicky, brother Sebastian, Paula Morrow and her son Carlos and musician Donny McCormack and his partner Lynn who was also pregnant.

'I had been living in the banana shed at Jane and Nicky's in Coopers Lane with Carlos before we went over to help set up the Aquarius Festival,' said Paula.

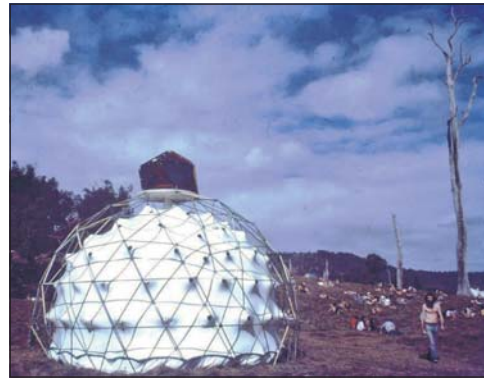


Time to rethink

'We were looking for alternatives,' explained Graeme talking about how the festival came into being.

'We didn't want to do the war culture, we were trying to rethink things. So that was the inspiration behind the festival. And the idea was that we didn't need a programme - it was "you are the festival, you be the future you want to see manifest". That was the challenge we put out to people.'

'It was just coming from everywhere - it was a real change of consciousness' said Paula.



Left: 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival signpost. Photo Chris Meagher

Above: Aquarius dome. Photo Gary Opit

'We had fought and fought and fought against the Vietnam War. It was a culmination and beginning of sorts. A survival festival. It was a part of that pivoting of consciousness.'

'It was so chaotic when the festival started. The lead up was better for me, people were building things and having meetings. At one meeting I said "we shouldn't spend all that money on paint to rainbow paint the town - which of course ended up being fantastic. I said we should be replanting these fields, because they were just so bare.'

Jan Pratz who was part of the Cosmic Song and Dance Company community (now known as Nerada) in Main Arm said their community all headed over as a group to the festival and shared a community tent together.

'There were lots of musicians and poets including indigenous poet Kath Walker, who is now known as Oodgeroo Noonuccal, and Blerta with Bruno Lawrence and Tony Barry

who was singing with them. They played and it was really rocking and blew everyone away.'

'We all felt like old hands as we were already living the dream,' Jan said with a smile.

'The Aquarius Festival was a turning point and Tuntabull Falls protests were yet to come and the big thing was the environment.'

Dreaming

'For me the Aquarius was a dreaming,' explained Graeme.

'People came together and shared their ideas of what was possible and how to turn our dreams into community.'

Jan agrees saying that a big part of why people were looking at alternative ways of living was that 'we didn't want to live in our little houses, we wanted to be a bit more tribal, help others, support one another, be free of mortgages, be self sufficient and create community.'

'It sounds corny, but dare to dream,' says Graeme. 'We had lots of dreams about how things could be, and we pulled them off. Dreams become cultural realities. We persevere. We lived our dreams, built communities, had babies.'

Join in the 50th celebration

Now it is time to redream the future at the upcoming 50-year celebration of the Nimbin Aquarius Festival from 12 to 21 May. Take the chance to dream your dream with the range of events taking place from talking politics and action to health, healing and spirituality. Check out their program online and buy tickets at: www.aquarius50.com.au.



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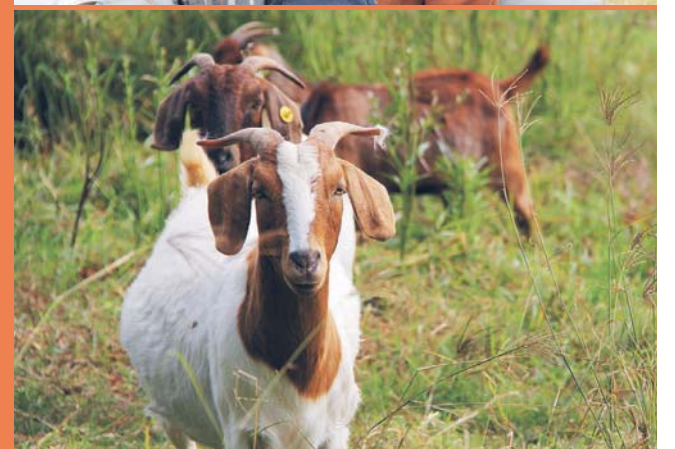
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Fantasy trains and the rail trail debate

■ In his long letter last week, Cr Peter Westheimer demonstrates how completely deluded he is about trains running again on the old north coast line. Now that the Tweed rail trail has affirmed the case for turning the disused rail corridor into a community trail, the train lobby is running a desperate rearguard action.

It's a great shame that, despite having a seat on Byron Council, Peter is so misinformed about the corridor and the scope for a commuter rail service in our Shire. To suggest that 'the line itself is still in good condition generally' is simply to proclaim that you know nothing about the situation. And if the case for new local rail services is 'as strong as ever' it is still extraordinarily weak.

I recently wrote an article in this paper about the opening of the rail trail and reached out to Peter for comment, explaining why I thought his expectations of the train's imminent return were misguided. He did not bother to respond. His fellow councillors offered views about the train wildly diverging from his.

If Cr Westheimer was



really interested in public transport he could be making a positive contribution by advocating for enhanced bus services and better cycling infrastructure. Instead, he is misleading his constituents about a fantasy train.

David Lisle
Mullumbimby

■ The publication of Peter Westheimer's lengthy anti-trail diatribe (Letters, April 26) illustrates the bias embedded in *The Echo's* editorial stance on the issue of the abandoned rail corridor. For twenty years now, the disused corridor has served as a lightning rod for division in our community, exacerbated by the indifference and ambivalence on this issue of leading influencers and

primary decision makers in the Byron Shire.

Appearing next to Peter's letter under the common heading 'What are the options for the Byron Shire rail trail?', Anna Molloy's succinct missive encapsulates the dilemma we face. Progress on this issue will not happen in the absence of political will on the part of Byron Council, and support from our local rag. But on this issue, both those organisations appear to be suffering something akin to a drug-induced coma, and I'm pretty sure I know why.

Ten years ago I penned a series of letters to *The Echo*, encompassing the history of the local railway, from its inception in the 1890s, to the reasons for its closure in 2004. The first of those

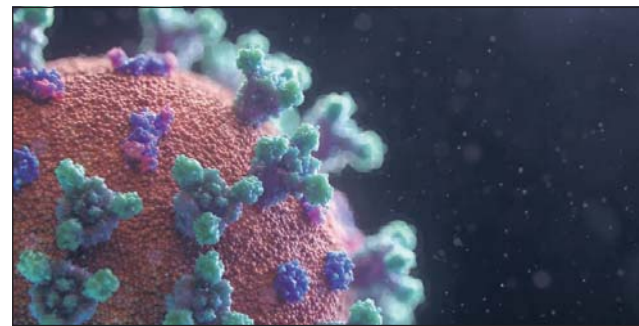
letters, based entirely on the impartial and objective findings of the NSW government's multi-million dollar studies, provoked a hostile response from opponents of the rail trail, who accused me of being 'anti-rail'.

From my reading of the correspondence on this subject that has appeared in *The Echo* over the past decade, the majority of the hostile and insulting remarks have come from those who are overtly opposed to the rail trail. None of the letters I have read or written have been overtly anti-rail, though they may, at times, have demonstrated frustration at the intransigence of the anti-trail fanatics.

The fact is, as I remarked in my last letter on this subject many years ago, the local railway has been relegated to the history books, with controversy as its bookends. No amount of endless waffle on the subject in the pages of *The Echo* will bear fruit for either side of the debate because money rules, and the money men monopolise decision-making in the Byron Shire.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Australia's COVID-19 numbers at April 28



Cosmos Magazine

The number of COVID-affected people in hospitals and ICUs around the country continues to rise despite a slowing in the number of new cases.

State and territory reporting shows almost 2,300 people are hospitalised with COVID-19, on par with figures reported in January this year. ICU admissions continue to jump – now at 71 nationwide – and are now at similar levels to the January wave.

Nationwide, new cases dipped slightly, at just shy of 30,000. That's 500 fewer than last week's report.

In the past week, NSW reported 11,745 new cases, 35 deaths, 1,285 hospitalisations and 36 people in ICU.

Victoria reported 6,255

new cases, 42 deaths, 310 hospitalisations and 17 people in ICU.

Queensland reported 3,561 new cases, 16 deaths, 287 hospitalisations and two in ICU.

WA reported 3,573 new cases, five deaths, 187 hospitalisations and eight people in ICU.

SA reported 2,674 new cases, seven deaths, 134 hospitalisations and three people in ICU.

Tasmania reported 758 new cases, four deaths, 26 hospitalisations and one person in ICU.

The ACT reported 629 new cases, two deaths, 37 hospitalisations and four people in ICU.

The NT reported 178 new cases, two deaths and 18 hospitalisations.

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CHESS by Ian Rogers

Whoever eventually wins the World Championship match in Kazakhstan this weekend, the \$3m Nepomniachtchi v Ding contest will be remembered as one of the great world title contests.

When Magnus Carlsen declared his intention to abdicate in 2022, many pundits declared that the next title match would be a charade, with the shadow of Carlsen hanging over every move.

Yet as the Chinese and Russian stars exchanged wins in games full of ultra-violence, the online match audience grew and grew and the number of streamers, Grandmasters and amateurs, offering their own post-game summary skyrocketed.

That Ding and Nepomniachtchi have been so willing to engage in hand-to-hand combat, in contrast to Carlsen's world title defences which were largely wars of attrition, is remarkable given the pressure that both players are under.

The Russian government regards Nepomniachtchi, 32, as an avatar for Russia being able to compete normally in the sporting world, with the requirement that Nepomniachtchi play under a neutral flag – a minor inconvenience.

Both Nepomniachtchi and the match have been generously sponsored by Russian oligarchs, so the pressure to bring the world crown home to Russia is enormous. Indeed, when Nepomniachtchi lost a double-edged game to Ding earlier in the match, the head of the Russian Chess Federation, billionaire Andrey Filatov, described Nepomniachtchi as 'a monkey with a grenade' – a sign that Nepomniachtchi and his team, not Filatov, are going to be the scapegoats for Russia not recapturing the crown.

After three years of mostly being unable to leave China owing to covid, Ding knows that he holds in his hands the final piece of China's 'Four Crowns' long-term chess plan, which involved winning the Open and Women's Olympiads and the Open and Women's World Championships. The Chinese delegation in Astana includes more CCF officials than helpers for Ding, with careers and promotions likely dependent on the final result.

So when spectators with access to computer assistants criticise the players' moves and declare that Carlsen would have beaten either player easily, remember that the two competitors have the weight of the world – or at least their governing regimes – on their shoulders and finding any good moves in such circumstances shows extraordinary mental toughness.

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

Call for moratorium on floodplain developments

Aslan Shand

The additional flooding risk to existing housing and infrastructure caused by new development on floodplains is a serious issue for communities throughout NSW, in particular, legacy or 'zombie' approvals. It was an issue that was particularly taken up with all parties by community representatives from Kingscliff, Tumbulgum and Chinderah in the lead-up to the NSW State election, including with Labor Party leader, and now NSW Premier, Chris Minns.

Legacy developments are development applications (DAs) that have been approved but not yet built. When developers finally decide to build them the approvals no longer meet current planning laws, including in relation to flood, environmental and cultural impacts. An example of this is the current 27 year old DA on Cobaki Creek in Tweed, that was bought by Dubbo developer MAAS last year for \$20M+, who then started working on the site in late March.

'The Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association's (KRPA) has the strong belief that there is an absolute need to stop development on low-lying, flood-prone land or, at the very least, pause any such development until state and local authorities have fully considered flood inquiry findings following the 2022 floods,' Peter Newton, President of KRPA, told *The Echo*. He had participated in discussions between locals groups; the Tweed member Geoff Provest (Nationals); Chris Minns; and Cate Faehrmann (Greens), who was a member of the Upper House 2022 Flood Inquiry in early September and October 2022.

Mr Newton pointed out that 'many members of our community were impacted by floodwaters – many in places always considered "flood-safe" had seen flooding first-hand'.

'We remain rightly concerned about the further impact that "legacy approved" developments on low-lying land will have on existing residences.'

According to Ms Faehrmann, 'From Tura Beach on the far south coast to Kingscliff in the Tweed, inappropriate and unsustainable developments are being considered by councils and Regional Planning Panels. Alongside new approvals, old ones that have lain dormant for decades are springing back to life... If they are allowed to go ahead, the cumulative impact of these developments will be devastating.'

Flood Inquiry said no more

After the 2022 flood the NSW Flood Inquiry clearly stated there should be *no more developments on floodplains*. Yet legacy approvals, such as the Tweed one on the floodplain next to Cobaki Creek and Tweed River, are being pursued aggressively by developers, and there are currently no means for local councils to call a halt to or seek reassessment of them.

Frustration at lack of action

While all the parties seem to agree that there needs to be action taken on the issue little has yet been done which is especially galling for communities like the one at Cobaki Creek said Lindy

'The time is right for the new Labor government to call in land subdivisions like West Byron and Coabaki Creek because they are on floodplains and we are setting up future disasters if we let these go ahead.'

Smith, president of the Tweed District Residents Association.

Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin (Labor), Mr Provest, Member for Ballina, Tamara Smith (Greens), Federal Member for Richmond, Justine Elliott, and Greens MP Sue Higginson, spokesperson for planning, have all told *The Echo* that they support taking action on and reassessing DAs on floodplains.

'The Albanese government believes stronger planning laws are needed to stop building in disaster-prone areas,' Mrs Elliott told *The Echo*.

'This is an issue that's been in the too-hard basket for too long and we're all paying the price of that now. We've all seen the impact of many past development decisions.'

'Many communities across the nation are keen to see action taken on this, and that's why we've put it to National Cabinet.'

Ms Saffin said that, 'the independent flood inquiry (O'Kane and Fuller) recommended no more developments on floodplains, and all agree, but it has yet to find its way into implementable public policy.'

'The NSW Labor government will have this on their plate to work through along with a plethora of long-left-untouched issues. The issue of so-called zombie projects is one that will have to be worked through.'

'Land banking should not take place in any case, but it has to date, and there can be both facile and compelling reasons for it.'

'My approach would be to have secure public policy settings on future development, then with legacy issues to do a review of them, and then some would have to be case by case. I would imagine the lack of insurance may also be a deterrent for a lot as well.'

Immediate action

Tweed MP, Mr Provest, told *The Echo* that he would be pushing for action as soon as the new NSW parliament was sworn in.

'Once the polls have been declared and the 58th parliament has been sworn in, I will seek an urgent meeting with the new minister for planning to push for immediate action on this issue.'

'I do not have any preconceived ideas as to how this should be done. These are issues that are longstanding and will require careful study as it will most likely require legislative change and possible compensation. It needs to be viewed through a lens of what is sustainable, environmentally sensitive as well as mitigating any impacts on housing availability and affordability. This is a state-wide issue – it is not limited to floodplains on the Far North Coast. Other states are also facing the same issues and it is not something that should be rushed without proper consideration and consultation.'

The Greens are calling for an inquiry into these developments and have been

working with communities in Tweed, Byron, South West Rocks, and Yamba to call attention to the issue.

Ms Higginson told *The Echo* that 'developments that are at risk of fire and floods, or that propose to clear endangered

or critically endangered ecological communities, should be subject to new approvals as soon as the changed circumstance is identified.'

Ms Smith told *The Echo* that, the time is right for the new Labor government to call in land subdivisions like West Byron and Coabaki Creek because they are on floodplains and we are setting up future disasters if we let these go ahead.'

'Approved developments in areas that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change should be reassessed and councils should be empowered to require new approvals for developments after a certain amount of time.'

'I am working with communities up and down the coast to activate their issue within the parliamentary system. We are examining strategic petition campaigns as well as bringing together different community networks to build a state-wide alliance. Throughout this term of parliament, The Greens will be prioritising reform of the planning system and hope to conduct an inquiry into zombie DAs and climate vulnerable developments,' she explained.

'The detail of the planning reform should be informed by an inquiry, but it is clear that development approvals should have trigger functions whereby a new approval is required after a certain threshold is passed. That might be a timed trigger but it should also include natural disasters and changing status for endangered species. Councils should also be empowered to develop planning proposals for vulnerable land without the fear of reprisals from developers.'

Call for immediate moratorium

For many people who live in these areas there is significant frustration at the fact that there have been plenty of words but little or no action taken to immediately put a hold on these DAs as the government looks at a way to reassess them.

'These developments, like the one on the Cobaki Creek in Tweed, are putting current housing and infrastructure at risk,' Ms Smith told *The Echo*.

'We need an immediate moratorium on this and other DAs that are on the floodplains so that the NSW government has the opportunity to look at how the legislation can be updated to stop development on floodplains.'

'One immediate action that could be taken to further update the policy is on deemed commencement; to require a DA to have substantial development work that has commenced on the site. If that had been the case it would likely have stopped the Cobaki Creek DA from going ahead at this point.'

'The current situation is like the 2022 catastrophic disaster never happened, rather than learning from that event. We need the new NSW Labor government to take immediate action with a moratorium.'

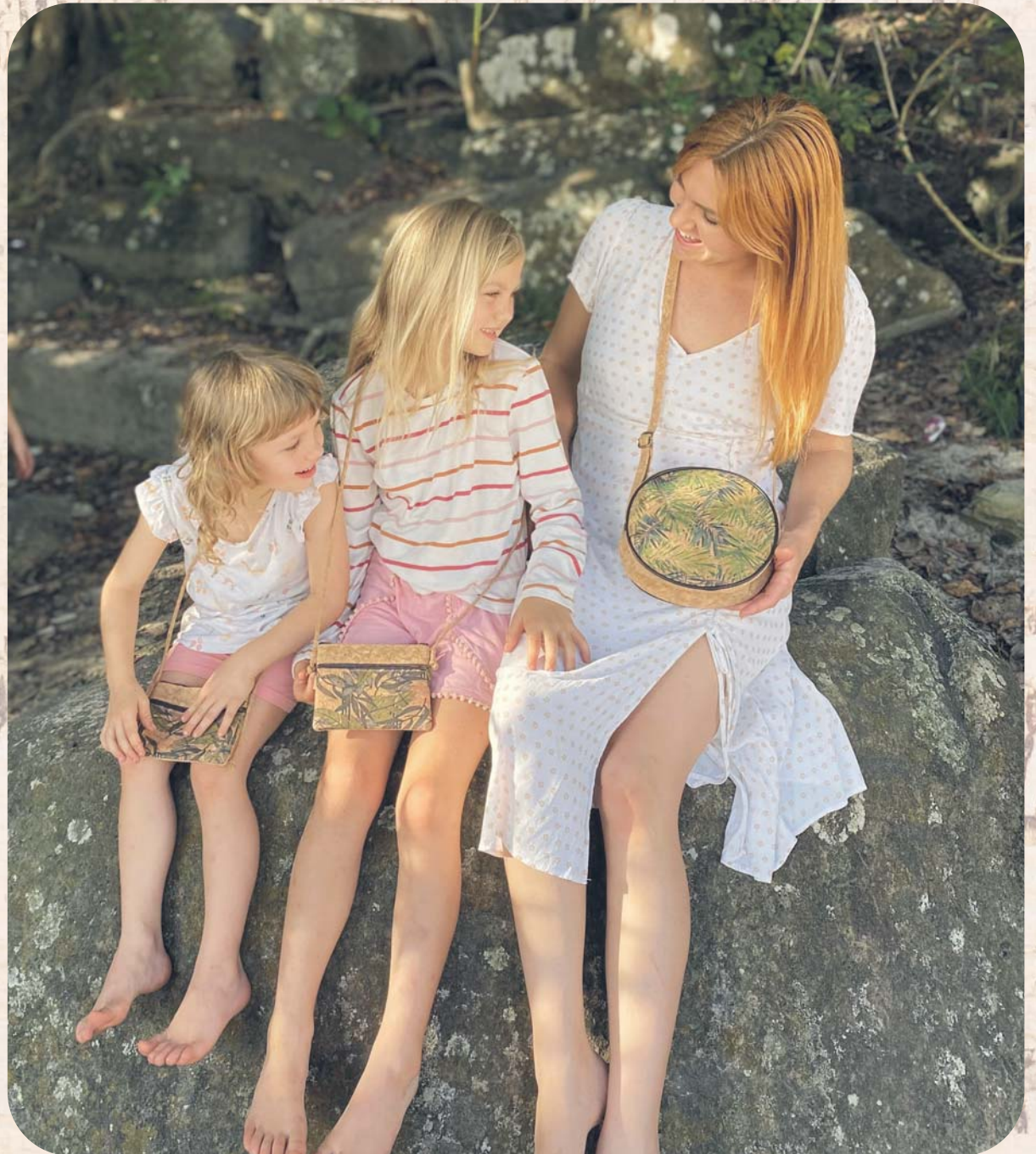
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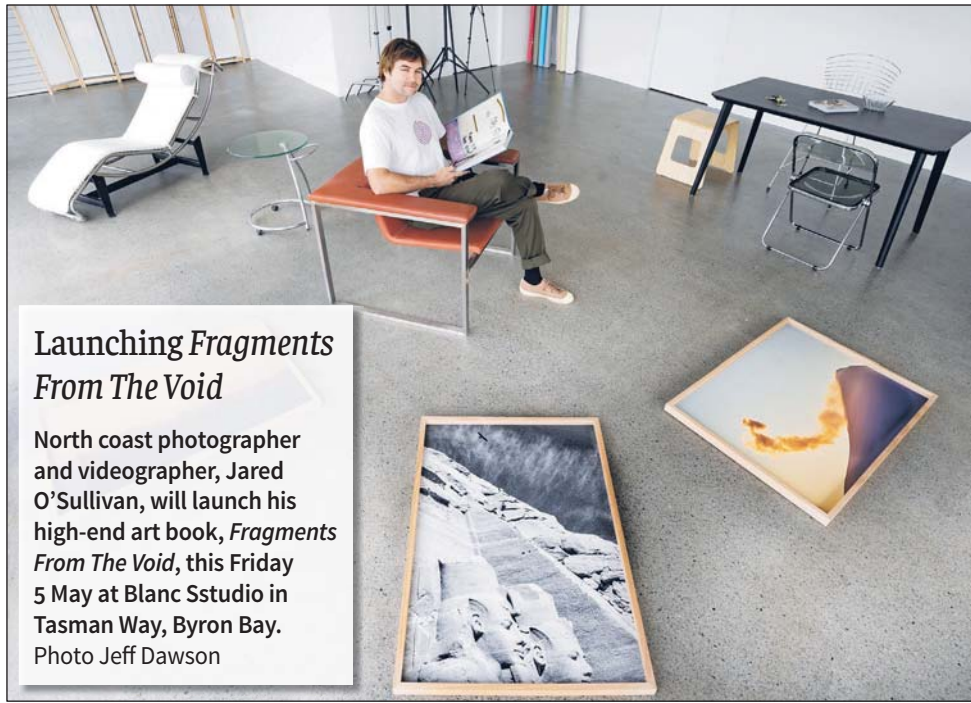
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Launching Fragments From The Void

North coast photographer and videographer, Jared O'Sullivan, will launch his high-end art book, *Fragments From The Void*, this Friday 5 May at Blanc Sstudio in Tasman Way, Byron Bay. Photo Jeff Dawson

Queensland and Papua New Guinea among regions most at risk from record-breaking heatwaves

Cosmos Magazine

Every region in the world needs to be prepared for extreme heatwaves, according to a new paper in *Nature Communications* – but Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, and Central America are particularly at risk.

Climate change is already causing an increase in mortality from heatwaves, and this is predicted to become worse as the climate warms more.

The UK team of researchers used a technique called extreme value statistics and global climate data to identify regions that are statistically likely to have record-breaking heatwaves.

They found that 31 per cent of the regions they assessed had recorded 'statistically implausible extremes' between 1959 and 2021.

These extremes included the 2021 heatwave in western North America, where some

temperature records were broken by almost 5°C.

The researchers identified eight regions that were most likely to experience a record-breaking heatwave.

The most vulnerable region were Central America, Afghanistan, and Papua New Guinea.

The other five regions were far eastern Russia, Central Europe, northwestern Argentina, Beijing in China, and Queensland in Australia.

Doubleduke charges case adjourned

Eve Jeffery

A protester who suspended herself in a tree on a 25m high platform by a rope attached to three NSW Forestry machines in Doubleduke State Forest in April has had her case adjourned until next week.

Lismore law student and forest protector Kashmir Miller faced court on Monday, 1 May, after stopping work in Doubleduke State Forest near Woodburn earlier this month. The forest was then placed under a stop work order by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Protesters say, however, in a move that shocked many community members who have visited this ancient forest gully and seen its significance for themselves, Forestry Corp NSW were given the green light to continue logging this iconic forest after they were deemed to have met the EPA's mapping requirements.

Before her court appearance today, Kashmir Miller said when she was up in the tree she could hear the cries of many animals.

'I could see the logging trucks, the bulldozers and



Kashmir Miller outside Lismore Courthouse. Photo supplied

all the logs that were these animals' homes.

'We cannot continue native forest logging – it is accelerating the climate crisis, and the extinction crisis. Every tree cut down is a step further along the extinction crisis.

Unique biodiversity of Doubleduke

'We need to preserve the amazing, unique biodiversity of Doubleduke for our own sake, as well as for the wildlife.'

Ms Miller is facing a number of charges related to entering the forest and interfering with timber harvesting equipment. The matter has been adjourned to Ballina Courthouse on Thursday, 11 May.

The Echo spoke to Miller after her court appearance. She said the stop work order currently in place in Doubleduke State Forest shows that this logging is unlawful and unjust.

'The community have had to step in to protect native species too many times, as the state government continues to fail us.'

Forest advocates are planning to set up an info stall this coming Thursday at the Lismore market. They will be encouraging letter writing, engaging existing public support for ending native forest logging, offering info on endangered species and ecological communities, and information on how people can speak up for forests.

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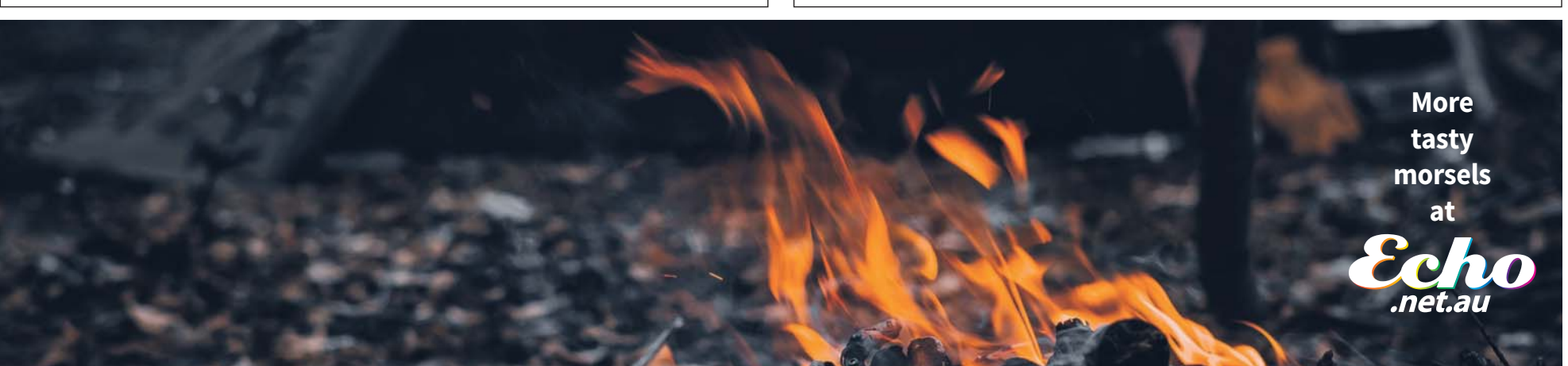
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Good Life

Bombay to Byron

Simon Haslam

Locals love this Indian restaurant, perhaps because Rahul and his wife Radhika were locals themselves for five years before they decided to bring the flavours of Bombay to Byron Bay. While Bombay itself (now officially called Mumbai) is on the west coast of India, it is very diverse in culture as people from all over the country have come to call Mumbai their home, and along with that, they have brought their local food.

Mumbai, like the Bombay to Byron restaurant, has many influences from northern India, southern India and all along the western coast of India. Dishes on the menu like Mutter Paneer, Palak Paneer, Butter Chicken, Lamb Rogan Josh and Lamb Korma are amongst the restaurant's most popular dishes. Their lunchtime menu includes the popular Masala Dosa, Chicken Dosa, and Uttapam from the southern part of India and kathi rolls from Lucknow.

'My wife and I both are from western state of Gujarat. Radhika's maternal family is from Bombay, and hence the influence' Rahul explains. 'We started in June 2014 with an aim to provide the best quality, authentic



Indian food, that is affordable, enjoyable, and value for money for the locals.

We are very grateful for the support and love that our community has shown us for the last nine years.'

In January, the restaurant was forced by impending redevelopment to move across the road from the North Plaza to 93 Jonson St, a move which Rahul said has worked out really well for them, with increased visibility and foot traffic they haven't lost any of their local trade in the move.

'We've got a stable staff, and we're often in the restaurant ourselves, so we've been able to build a real connection with our guests, most of whom are regulars. We know what they like, where they like to sit, and they know who's out the back cooking for them,' Rahul says.

The restaurant prides itself on having a lot of vegetarian and vegan main courses, as well as entrees. 'Being vegetarian ourselves, we saw sometimes we wouldn't get many options to choose from in other



cuisines, or in other restaurants. So, we make sure that our menu reflects plenty of vegetarian and vegan options.'

'In particular we have a range of vegetarian entrees, something many restaurants don't offer, like Palak Patta Chaat, Papadi Chat, Hara Bhara Kebabs, Jodhpuri Chilli Poppers, Achari Mushrooms and Paneer Tikka Saufiana.

'For meat lovers, we have got everyone's favourite Butter Chicken, Chicken Tikka Masala and Goat Curry, and all the meat is halal-certified. For seafood lovers we have got you covered with Tandoori prawn, Andaman Fish Curry, Goan fish curry, or the Bengali Prawn Curry (Chingari Malai), traditionally from Kolkata, made with mustard oil in a creamy coconut sauce,' says Rahul.

And, whatever you're eating, and wherever you come from in the local area, you can also be sure that Rahul and his team are pleased to have you in their restaurant. After all, they set it up to bring the taste of Bombay to Byron locals like you!

■ Bombaytobyron.com.au
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Harvest Food Trail this weekend



Held over the weekend of May 6-7 this year, with a special taster event on Friday 5 May, the NRF Harvest Food Trail is guaranteed to be a very Northern Rivers experience, reflecting on and celebrating the distinctive provenance of our region's food.

The Harvest Food Trail offers a unique opportunity for you to meet with local farmers, producers, growers, distillers and chefs to celebrate and experience all the incredible food and beverages the Northern Rivers has to offer. It includes farm tours, behind the scenes insights, free tastings, chef workshops, fine-dining, barbecue lunches, distillery and brewery tastings and so much more!

Just a few of the events:

Tweed:

The Oyster Shed overlooking Birds Bay is offering the fresh oysters with local finger lime paired with a drink. Multi-award winning Potager restaurant is offering a lazy Sunday lunch with a three-course menu. At Tweed River House you can enjoy an afternoon soiree on the riverside lawns taking in the river and hinterland views. The Gin Experience is featuring handcrafted cocktails along with a tapas style menu and gin masterclass at Eungella. Mavis' Kitchen at Uki has a family fun and barbecue day

with garden tours, barbecue breakfast and lunch from the smoker, chef talks and cocktail bar.

Lismore:

The Nimbin Bush Theatre Café have a three-course lunch, featuring produce from their garden, with members of their food community providing insight into food production and a local musician entertaining guests. Nimbin Valley Dairy is offering a tasting of their cheese range, along with a talk and farm tour and an explanation of the Australian artisan cheese industry. Kids can enjoy a sausage sandwich, yoghurt and fruit on the farm tour.

Byron Shire:

Santos Organics in Mullum and Byron have a farm-to-plate experience with an organic seasonal sample plate while showcasing their favourite local producers and artisans offerings. The Farm in Ewingsdale in collaboration with Three Blue Ducks offer a unique behind-the-scenes tour. Stone and Wood and 100 Mile Table invite you to their Beers and Bites experience. Barrio have a special barbecue event featuring local pork from Bangalow Sweet Pork, and at Lord Byron Distillery you can drop in to visit the family owned distillery

and taste their world class rums with a special food pop-up.

In Bangalow, Common People Brewing Co. have a specially designed Harvest Food Trail set menu. You can enjoy a thoughtfully curated menu of three delicious courses with perfectly paired beers or wines. Harvest in Newrybar have a special Sunday lunch overlooking the gardens with some of the finest food, Australian wine and cocktails in the region. At Zentveld's Coffee Farm you can start your busy day with a coffee on an actual coffee farm. Enjoy full Barista service with pastries on the deck and a guided walk through the coffee rows. Also in Newrybar, Duck Creek Macadamias are offering free tastings with their farm gate open.

Ballina:

This year there is a special finale event at Sugar Beach Ranch in Ballina with a fun-filled afternoon featuring a special performance by The Buckleys. Tickets include access to the ranch, a delicious plate by The Gin Experience and welcome drink from Winding Road with bar service available. BYO picnic rug, umbrella and chairs.

■ For full info see: northernriversfood.org/harvest-food-trail/

We have a winner

Ballina RSL Club offers member discounts in all areas of the club, all of the time. Each year they have a larger 'members' promotion. Given the current economic times, the board and management decided to make the prize a cash draw this year. The promotion ran for almost three months and 185,378

entries were in the barrel for the big draw last week.

Ballina RSL member Craig was the lucky winner of the members' draw and received a handshake from Ballina RSL CEO Bill Coulter - along with a rather large \$25,000 cheque.



Good Life

Start of the Harvest Trail: 5 May

The Mullum Farmers Market will kickstart the Harvest Food Trail by offering a little taster on Friday 5 May 2023.

You will be able to learn all about foraging, cooking and growing Australian native foods with three of the most formidable and talented local women. The cooking and growing workshops will take place at the fabulous Mullum Farmers Market – which showcases the region’s finest local producers and artisan products.

With six breakfast stalls cooking up locally grown produce, plenty of seating under the giant fig trees, live music and kids entertainment, it’s no surprise that it’s the weekly gathering spot for our colourful and alternative community. What better way to meet 70 local growers and producers in one venue?

The Bush Tucker Forage, Cook and Grow Experience is a collaboration with:

- Auntie Delta Kay (Explore Byron Bay) an Arakwal Bundjalung woman who is passionate about sharing Aboriginal culture – explorebyronbay.com.au.

- Mindy Woods (Karkalla Restaurant – Masterchef winner and first Indigenous female chef hat winner) – karkalla.com.au.

- Rebecca Barnes (Playing With Fire – 23 years’ experience with bush tucker foods and runner up in the 2017 Rural Woman of the Year Award) – playingwithfire.com.au.



- Mullumbimby Farmers Market (*delicious* magazine’s ‘Most Outstanding Farmers Market in Australia’) – mullumfarmers-market.org.au.

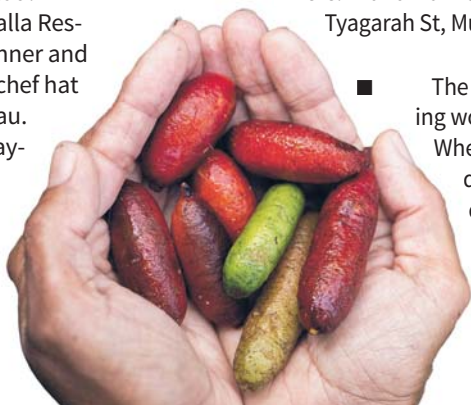
- Booking in for the bush tucker experience is essential. Please book via Explore Byron Bay: www.explorebyronbay.com/harvest-food-trail When: Friday 5 May, 8–9am.

Where: Brunswick Valley Heritage Park – 1 Tyagarah St, Mullumbimby,

- The cooking demo and growing workshops are free.

When: Friday 5 May, cooking demo at 9.30am; growing demo at 10.30am.

Where: Mullum Farmers Market, Mullumbimby Showgrounds, 62 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby 2482



Vince Devine: 50 years a butcher

Brian Mollet

Popular Mullumbimby businessman Vince Devine has sold-on the butchery he has owned and operated for 33 years in town. After more than 50 years in the trade his decision to pull up stumps seems to sit well with him, although he was quick to add that he will still be an active part of the transition to the new owners, and more than likely do some work for them.

So shoppers in Mullum will still be able to share a chat and a few quick quips with the affable and witty Vince for some time to come. On Saturday he put on a free sausage sizzle outside the shop and it was a pleasure to watch an endless stream of happy friends and punters shake his hand and wish him well.

Vince was born in Whian Whian and his family moved to Main Arm when he was ten, where he attended the now-inactive Durrumbul school. ‘My eldest brother was a butcher, and my twin brother was a butcher. I had done some plumber’s labouring and banana work, but my mother showed me an ad in the paper



for a butcher’s apprentice in Knight’s butchery in Lismore.

‘My hands were calloused and stained with banana sap so I was trying to hide them, but the first thing the boss asked me was to show him my hands’. Needless to say, Mr Knight saw some good potential work in those hands and took Vince onto a team of 22 butchers. ‘The trade was very different back then’, he adds. When asked what he thought made his shop a winner he said ‘behind any successful person or business is a powerhouse and supportive woman’, referring to his wife Karen.

Vince and Karen met when he was 15 at the Empire Theatre, which was located above the current Empire Cafe. Four years later they were married. His retirement plans were brought forward a year ago when he was diagnosed as having a blocked aorta valve. ‘Quite ironically I had a cow’s valve transplanted into my heart and I’ve never felt better’, he said. His future plans include slowing down, painting his house and travelling to Peru where his son and grandchildren live.

The Mullumbimby community wishes him well.



Primex

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CASINO, NORTHERN RIVERS NSW

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Local Land Services





Face Yoga, Holistic Eye - Fitness Retreat

Spoil yourself or mum with a three-day immersion in a carefully balanced eye-fitness program to relax, unwind and improve eye health, and eyesight, naturally. This tranquil retreat at the Clarence River offers a unique experience to escape the hustle and bustle. It is the perfect place to take time out to reconnect, breathe and restore. Retreat includes;

- Three-day eye-fitness program
- Gift pack
- Digital detox
- Restorative stretching (starts each day)
- Three nights at deluxe accommodation, incl. meals
- 1 x Ayurvedic or Remedial massage
- Sound bath

www.faceyogaaustralia.com/eye-fitness-retreat/

Charmaé

An independent Australian designed and owned luxury resort fashion brand. Sustainable fashion, exemplary construction and size inclusivity from 6-22. At Charmaé you will find a touch of luxury elevating your everyday looks.

Xhayl collective is their luxury loungewear made from nature's gift of pure linen and beechwood, ethically sourced from farmed beech trees using environmentally conscious processes in sizes XS to XXL in fibres that allow your body to breathe.

Charmaé's flagship boutique located in the heart of Brunswick Heads.

Spoil mum this Mothers Day with a 20 per cent discount and complimentary luxury wrapping until 14 May.

Live luxury everyday with Charmaé: 7 Fingal St Brunswick Heads.
Breathe and exhale with XHAYL: Riverside, 2 The Terrace, Brunswick Heads.



Haven Botanical

Want to honour your mother this Mothers Day? At Haven Botanical they know what will make mum's heart sing. Let them create a bouquet of stunning flowers; choose from their extensive collection of artisan chocolates, luxury body products, divinely scented candles and unique treasures. They'll be delivering love and gratitude all day across the Northern Rivers region. Order your Mothers Day flowers and treats online, pop in to the store or give them a call. Get in quick to secure your home deliveries. They can't wait to help you spoil mum!

0407 721 317

The Laneway, 59A Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby.
www.havenbotanical.com.au

Ozone Beauty

Gift vouchers available online and instore.

All skincare and gift voucher sales in May go in the draw to win a 90-minute Spa Facial & Massage Treatment.

All skincare product sales over \$300 receive a free Oxygen Spa treatment gift voucher.

For the month of May all HiFu treatments for face and body sculpting are half price.

3D & 4D HiFu Face Lift, normally \$2750, now \$1375.

Arm tightening, normally \$1800, now \$900.

Stomach tightening, normally \$3000, now only \$1500.

Butt and thigh cellulite reduction; tighten and tone from just \$500 POA.

Free consultations, online bookings and interest free payment plans available

Call Kirsty the Celebrity Facialist to the Stars on 6685 1145

www.ozonebeautymedispa.com.au



Celebrate the special women in your life this Mother's Day

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Your local florist

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Improve your eyesight naturally.

2nd - 5th of November 2023

Focus - Balance - Peace

www.faceyogaaustralia.com

14th May

Amore Mullumbimby

Happy Mothers Day to all the wonderful mums, grandmothers, great grandmothers, aunts, godmothers, carers etc! The Amore team wish you all a great day and lots of pampering, with an extra big shout out to the sole parents!

As always, Amore has lots of great gift ideas and free gift wrapping available.

Drop in and browse their fantastic range of gifts galore, including homewares and furnishings, women's clothing, indigenous items, art (local and beyond), candles, quality incenses, lamps, rugs, jewellery, scarves, accessories, local massage oils, essential oils, soaps, oracle cards, perfumes, crystals, cards, ceramics, linen, festival wear, velvets and lace knitwear, quality pre-loved, vintage and retro, collectables and much more! You never know what interesting items you'll find. Open Mothers Day for last minute shoppers!

0409 570 229

24 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby.

FB / Insta: AmoreMullumbimby

www.amoremullumbimby.com.au

Clay Organic Beauty

Clay Organic guarantee mum will float out of the salon feeling nurtured, revitalised and refreshed with their Signature Mindfulness Facial. It is like nothing you've tried before, and in fact, it is literally the first of its kind. This unique experience features a guided ten-minute meditation mindfulness session (through large, soft headphones) that will allow you to forget the noise of the outside world and focus on calming, refreshing and inspiring your mind. It's ultimately an opportunity to relax and focus on you – your attitude, your gratitude and feeling the best version of yourself.

Gift vouchers available.

97 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby

6684 6532



Scarab

Scarab has a wonderful range of beautiful, distinctive jewellery, all at 50 per cent off, lace clothing at 50 per cent off and unusual giftlines at 20per cent off. Byron Bay candles, diffusers, perfumed and essential oils, incense & more round out their collection. Mothers Day gifting couldn't look better!

Scarab – exotic, extraordinary, enlightening! Be quick, the camel train is about to leave.

Shop 2b/6 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

من اخلص يا حبيبك
تدرك الابلان...

"My darling - for your love - a thousand camels... all the silks of Persia, the rarest oils of India, the finest silver of Egypt..."

My love we don't need to travel the world. We can get it all at Scarab

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www.ozonebeautymedispa.com.au

Mother's Day at

LINGERIE N° 5



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

Happy Mothers Day



LINEN HOUSE

Looking for the perfect Mothers Day gift? Look no further than Linen House Mullumbimby! Their gingham collection includes the coveted Springsteen loungewear, which is made from beautifully soft, washed cotton that's perfect for autumn.

Pamper mum with everyday luxuries, including silk eye masks and pillowcases for better sleep, silkier hair, and radiant skin. The TEMPL sacred rose body oil is a light, smooth formula with a delicate hint of roses that's rich in pure botanicals and nourishing oils to rejuvenate busy mothers.

Set the tone for cosy, autumn sleep-ins with bamboo cotton quilt cover sets and sheets. The luxury Haven collection will make any mum feel pampered. And with up to 70 per cent off, you'll find countless ways to spoil yours this Mothers Day.

33 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby

North Byron Hotel

Hey there, brunch-loving mamas! This Mothers Day treat yourself to a delicious spread at North Byron Hotel. Their breakfast menu is available from 7am, and their popup mimosa bar and Brookie's Gin bar will make your day extra special. Their menu is jam-packed with all your faves, plus, with a range of delicious cocktails on offer, you can cheers to being the best mum ever (or at least trying your darndest).

Ready to brunch like a boss? Check out their menu online to see what's on offer. And book your spot ASAP so you don't miss out on the brunch of your dreams! Bring your mum squad, your mum jeans and your mum jokes they can't wait to celebrate with you. Happy Mothers Day!

Book now: www.northbyronhotel.com.au



Visit Us At Our Mullumbimby Outlet

LINENHOUSE
OUTLET

33 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby






info & bookings

i'm not your mother today

MOTHERS DAY

brunch

MAY 14th | FROM 7:00am
ANIMAL VENTURA LIVE

61 Bayshore Dr, Byron Bay NSW 2481

[THENORTHBYRONHOTEL](#)
[THENORTHBYRONHOTEL](#)
 02 6685 6500
 WWW.NORTHBYRONHOTEL.COM.AU

The ARTS

ASH, MUD & TEARS



Trio by Michelle Walker

In *Ash, Mud & Tears*, Jude White and Michelle Walker present an exhibition of artworks capturing the energies and turmoil in the aftermath of fires and floods in the Northern Rivers. Images of burnt trees, mud-stained houses and impacted landscapes are fragmented, scaled and remixed, depicting a time of great upheaval. Each artwork considers how our relationship to the landscape, and a sense of place and home can emerge during this time of recovery.

NRCG, Cherry Street Ballina
Opening, Thursday 11 May, 5:30pm
Artists Talk, Saturday 17 June, 2pm
All welcome!

THE OFFERING

The Offering highlights iconic works from Stockdale's extensive practice and includes her most ambitious work to date – a large sculpture of a masked, pregnant and barefoot bushranger on a horse the size of Phar Lap. Collectively the works in this exhibition demonstrate the power of imagination and transformation, told through the lens of Stockdale's formidable storytelling. Jacqui Stockdale is represented by Olsen Gallery in Sydney, Australia.

Tweed Regional Gallery
2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah South.

ARTIST IN FOCUS

DANIEL BROAD

Daniel Broad is an author and artist from South East Queensland. In his first novel, *The Bridge*, he explores the mystery of this world and beyond through the lens of Michael, the lead character, in breathtaking and bohemian beauty.

Having spent years travelling the world and exploring extraordinary places, incredible cultures and traditions, Daniel delivers a story encapsulating the human experience like no other.

Byron Bay remains one of his favourite places to visit regularly, which led to *The Bridge* being set in the region, before expanding into an epic and thrilling journey across the world – and other dimensions.

In his distinctive writing style, Daniel uses the voice of the narrator to guide the reader through an action packed, high romance, breathtaking, daring, and suspense-filled journey. The story is infused with poetry and concepts that are a result of years' passionately studying music and the artistic movements and traditions of surrealism, impressionism, and symbolism.

The Bridge was released in March internationally through his publisher Austin Macauley and is available through all major online retailers. Daniel will be participating in this year's Byron Writers Festival.

www.danielbroad.com



ART AND CRAFT SHOW

BACCI's fun art and crafts exhibition is in Ballina on 6-7 May. The art group is exhibiting quality original paintings and unique, locally handmade ceramics, jewellery, weaving, woodwork, silk art, printing, resin work, pet portraits, cards, lampshades, plant decor, crochet and more, all for sale.

Entry is free. The raffle, fundraising for the local Marine Rescue, has two major prizes: passes to the Crystal Castle, plus \$250 to spend in their gift shop and a beautiful equine sculpture by local and international artist Sue Fraser, and more.

Enjoy their popup cafe stocked with sweet and savoury homemade treats.

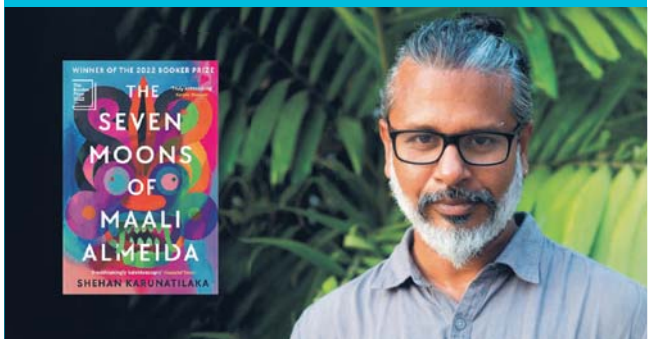
Open 9am-3pm both days at the Masonic Centre, 56 Cherry Street Ballina.
Plenty of free parking. www.bacci.com.au



The Offering by Jacqui Stockdale

Shehan Karunatilaka: The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida

BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL



Join ABC Radio National's Paul Barclay for an exhilarating exploration of modern storytelling with one of Sri Lanka's most brilliant minds, Shehan Karunatilaka.

LIVE EVENT
6pm
Tues 23 May
Byron Theatre

Bookings essential via byronwritersfestival.com



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Available at **HAMMER & HAND**
 Jewellery & Metal Collective (Bangalow)
 10 Station St, Bangalow | HammerAndHandBangalow



ART EXHIBITION Ash, Mud & Tears

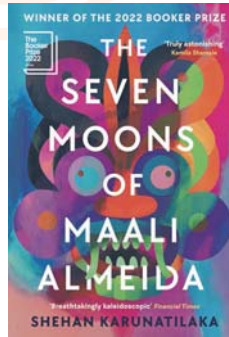
an exhibition by Jude White & Michelle Walker

Opening Thurs 11 May 5:30pm
Artists Talk Sat 17 June 2pm
Exhibition 3 May-25 June | NRCG, Ballina





BETWEEN THE COVERS WITH SHEHAN KARUNATILAKAS



This May, Shehan Karunatilaka will sit down with ABC Radio National's Paul Barclay at Byron Theatre for what's set to be an exhilarating exploration of modern storytelling.

Regarded as one of Sri Lanka's most brilliant minds, Shehan Karunatilaka lifts the lid on his country's dark and brutal past with his Booker Prize-winning novel *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*.

Part murder mystery, part political satire, part love story, set amidst Sri Lanka's civil war in the '90s, it follows a week in the afterlife of Maali; a gay, atheist, photojournalist who has seven moons to uncover the truth behind his death whilst reckoning with his past exploits and the death squads he was hired to expose. What unfolds is a dark and fearless, yet hilarious, trip through the underworld.

Don't miss this special out of season event, presented by Byron Writers Festival.

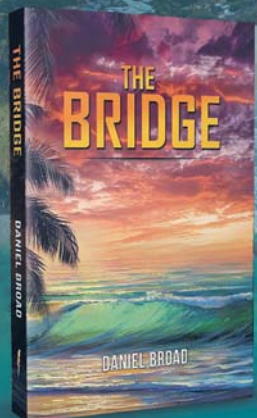
Tuesday 23 May at Byron Theatre, 6pm.
Bookings essential via byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on



Escape, relax and rejuvenate.

The Bridge, a mystical, magical, suspense filled thriller, that encapsulates Byron Bay like no other novel before.

True to Byron's enigmatic and bohemian spirit, *The Bridge* infuses and intertwines the town's beaches, people, streets and landscape in a collage of surrealistic symphony.



Order now from Amazon and other major retailers, or get the Ebook from Kindle, Google Books, or Apple Books.



More information at: danielbroad.com

ART GALLERIES

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www.artkind.com.au

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www.janrae.com.au

ARTIST'S HOME GALLERY BYRON BAY

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BS'A PROJECT SPACE

112 Dalley St, Mullumbimby
0487 362 141
byronschoolofart.com/exhibitions

GALLERY COSMOSIS

Visionary Art
22 Brigantine St, Byron Bay
Open Wed-Sat 10.30am-4pm
or by appointment
0431 331 205
gallerycosmosis.com
linktr.ee/gallerycosmosisbyronbay

H'ART GALLERY

Local art in the heart of Mullumbimby
Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre
60 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
0401 647 325

HEALING ART DESIGN & NEW AGE GALLERY

Azura Kingscliff
Shop 2B, 60 Marine Parade
0408 868 793

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

Bangalow Studio
By apt: 0414 822 196
karenawynn-moylanart.com

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY — POP-UP SPACE

46 Magellan Street, Lismore NSW 2480
Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Thursday until 6pm
6627 4600
Email art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au
www.lismoregallery.org

LONE GOAT GALLERY

28 Lawson Street, Byron Bay.
Wed to Sat: 10am-4pm
lonegoatgallery.com

MACKAY HARRISON GALLERIES

79 Bayview Drive, East Ballina
Welcome by appointment
Artist/Sculptor David Harrison
0412 664 284

MIST GALLERY

Shop 1B-51 Tweed Coast Rd, Cabarita Beach
0419 870 305
mist.gallery.cabarita@gmail.com
FB & Insta: @mistgallery

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

Drill Hall Complex,
2 Jubilee Ave, Mullumbimby.
Open Thurs-Sat: 10am-2pm
mullumclayworkers.com

MZ GALLERY

57 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay
0468 718 045
Byron Bay Contemporary Artspace
www.byronartspace.com.au

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

47 Cullen Street, Nimbin, NSW 2480
Opening Hours: 10am-4pm daily
6689 1444
www.nimbinartistsgallery.org

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

Cnr Cherry & Crane Sts, Ballina
Open Wed-Fri: 10am-4pm
Sat/Sun: 9.30am-1pm
02 6681 0530
nrcgballina.com.au

PEEK GALLERY

Check website for opening hours.
7/8 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
0488 646 464
hello@peekgallery.com
@peekgallery
www.peekgallery.com

STUDIO SUVIRA CERAMICS & SCULPTURE GALLERY

Home gallery and sculpture garden.
28 Left Bank Rd, Mullumbimby.
0402 125 922
(call/sms first)
suviramcdonald.com

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

Gallery hours: 10am-5pm (Wed to Sun)
Cafe open: 9.30am-4.00pm
2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah
6670 2790
artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

BACCI ART & CRAFT SHOW

6 & 7 MAY
9am-3pm

MASONIC CENTRE
56 CHERRY ST, BALLINA

FREE ENTRY

Fundraiser for Marine Rescue Ballina



The Offering Jacqui Stockdale

5 May – 29 October 2023

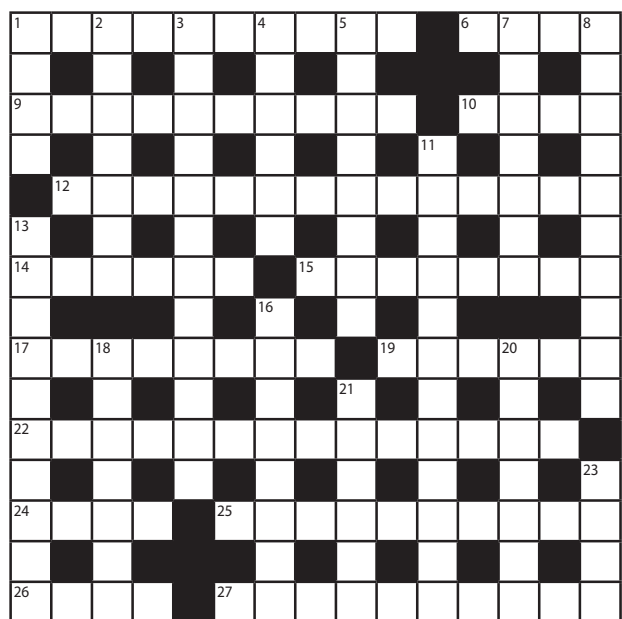
Jacqui Stockdale *Selfie (detail)* 2013
lightbox, wood and acrylic, 100 x 50 x 9 cm. Made in collaboration with Studio Sideshow USA
©The artist Jacqui Stockdale is represented by Olsen Gallery in Sydney, Australia.

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is a Tweed Shire Council Community Facility and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.
Open Wed – Sun | 2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah South | gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #489



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Hog's binge, reprov'd Spooner, indicating the man ostentatiously splashing the cash. (3,7)
- Firm master, but a state of unconsciousness (4)
- Mutter 'rape' incoherently – we need a hearing aid (3,7)
- Study unknown? Say it isn't so! (4)
- Uppercase correspondence from Canberra (7,7)
- Vegan unmasked – English get even (6)
- Two idiots and one new killer (8)
- Docked to follow in the performance (8)
- Clumsily encase the Roman Stoic (6)
- Meteorological manifestations – Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos, said Spooner of the fighters of little mass (14)
- Dines in every thoroughfare (4)
- Fish comes in for the woodworkers (10)
- Act, act – but it's proverbially very dead (4)
- Masses sent wild by the audit (10)

DOWN

- Worker right for an ale (4)
- Clothes, a long time rubbish (7)
- Average ruler, not heavy, with a warning to motorists stopped by the road (7,5)
- Mammal found senseless over Australian territory (6)
- Setter, they say, with good woman – you need a telescope! (8)
- First two batters need paper knives (7)
- Haile Selassie, perhaps, to gorge with Thorpe (10)
- Eminent sages dismantle old locomotives (5,7)
- Tantrum over open land used to grow rice (5,5)
- Private places about special occasions (8)
- Cooked and drank (7)
- Maximum boundary? (7)
- Part of the head church (6)
- Rider on road? Be quiet! (4)

Quick Clues

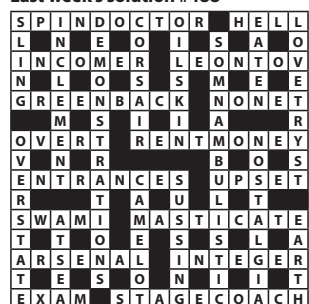
ACROSS

- Frequent large purchaser (3,7)
- Stupid (4)
- Funnel-shaped listening device (3,7)
- Contradict (4)
- In texts they indicate strong feelings (7,7)
- Pay back; punish (6)
- Murderer of a prominent person (8)
- Thorough; accurate (8)
- A member of the Iroquoian Native Americans (6)
- In the lightest boxing division (14)
- Consumes (4)
- Chippies! (10)
- Extinct bird (4)
- Appraisal (10)

DOWN

- Alcoholic drink (4)
- Junk (7)
- It provides visibility of your car when stationary at night (7,5)
- Endangered Australian insectivorous marsupial (6)
- Monocle (8)
- Beginnings (7)
- Cat breed of African origin (10)
- They were patented by James Watt (5,7)
- Flooded land for growing various crops (5,5)
- Withdraws (8)
- Saluted (7)
- Utmost; intense (7)
- Place of worship (6)
- Sound used to get attention (4)

Last week's solution #488



Peace 2.0

www.echo.net.au/soap-box

Instead of spending \$368 billion on weapons, why don't we spend \$368 billion building friendships?

Are we heading towards war? According to some media outlets, a war with China could be as little as three years away. Politically, banging the drums of war is a great way to control your population. Scaring your citizens with threats of capture, torture, death and annihilation reinvigorates nationalism, ups those calls for intervention and makes people much more susceptible to propaganda. With the threat of war, a population with a shitty deal on their housing spend will accept a \$368 billion spend on nuclear submarines.

Let's face it, as a peacetime population, most of us have no concept of what war even looks like. It's something that happened to past generations and to refugees. Not us. Historically, where there is war, there is the peace movement. In the past, citizens appalled by the pointless loss of human life have powered movements of peace and nonviolence when states or nations engage in violent conflict. The effects of war are widely spread and can be long-term or short-term. Soldiers experience war differently than civilians. Although both suffer in times of war, women and children suffer atrocities in particular. In the past decade, up to two million of those killed in armed conflicts were children.

War is stupid. Peace is smart. Yes it's binary, but when it comes to navigating what has been pitched to us as a complex adversarial and potentially dangerous future, I think it's time we revisited the peace movement. It's much more affordable and life-affirming than the nuclear alternative. Give me nonviolent action any day.



MANDY NOLAN'S
SOAPBOX



It's bizarre we even call that 'radical'.

And surely, as human intellect and innovation propels us into a future capable of AI and space travel, maybe we are finally mature enough not to create conditions where the only solution to our problems is to kill some other country's population. War is mass murder. And we've just accepted a \$368 billion murder weapon.

Dust off the peace flags, get out the talking stick, it's time to engage in long talks and campfire sing-alongs about nonviolent resistance. Ironically the Aquarius Festival turns 50 this year, maybe it's a sign that instead of ridiculous expenditure as the response to conflict forecasting, we could engage in building better relationships in the South China Sea, the Pacific, and beyond. Instead of talking about 'The China Threat', why aren't we talking about 'The China Opportunity'? Instead of spending \$368 billion on weapons, why don't we spend \$368 billion building friendships? Maybe it's time Australia redefined our relationship with America, because it is unequal. It's a relationship that serves US interests politically, economically, militarily and culturally. With that power differential it's not an alliance – it's coercive control.

Peace and nonviolence aren't just hippy hashtags. It's a mindset. It's a strategic approach. Remember Grace Tame? Remember the power one woman had when she didn't smile at the prime minister? That was nonviolent action. And what lipstick was she wearing? Passive Resistance Red. It was a small example of the power of holding your line. Of exercising withholding consent. One non-smile had a lasting impact. It told us clearly that when it came to justice and creating a safe workplace, Prime Minister Scott Morrison had failed the women of this country.

Radical peace and nonviolence is the only way forward. And here's something that you may not know; research by Erica Chenoweth of Harvard University looked at hundreds of nonviolent campaigns over the last century and found that nonviolent campaigns were twice as likely to succeed as violent campaigns. Chenoweth showed that it took 3.5 per cent of the population to be actively participating in nonviolent protest to ensure political change. This is the 3.5 per cent rule. A small minority can change the world.

And they don't need to spend \$368 billion to do it.

STARS BY LILITH

Welcome to the zodiac's most indulgent and stubborn month...



TAURUS THE BULL

ARIES: Best approach for this week? One measured step at a time, which will get you further, faster and easier than the Aries-preferred quantum leap. If tensions escalate, or you unexpectedly step into a psychological minefield, don't buy in and lose your cool. Composure is currently your greatest asset and biggest challenge.

TAURUS: While Mercury retro in your sign for the first half of May mightn't be the most comfortable birthday scenario, you can balance it by avoiding conversational triggers, lavishing yourself with extra helpings of your favourite treats, and keeping in mind that beauty is not an optional ingredient in life for Taureans, it's essential.

GEMINI: Eclipses usually stimulate change, and if this week's full moon eclipse shines its penetrating beams on an area of life no longer workable in the way it has been, use this opportunity to flip the script and reset any beliefs or ideas that could be making it difficult for you to move forward.

CANCER: This down to earth month issues an invitation; to slow down and come back to your senses – your physical body – in order to savour sensations and everyday pleasures you might normally cruise through on autopilot, because full moon eclipse on 6 May in the zodiac's sultriest sign issues a celestial imperative to make music, art and/or love...

LEO: Feeling like May is dragging its heels already? Then enjoy that while it lasts, which won't be long. Your majesty's recommended note-to-self this month is to lead with your heart and accessorise from there, because it's no secret that generous enthusiasm is more appealing than demands or ultimatums.

VIRGO: Virgo is a mutable sign, which means having the ability to mutate; a handy superpower with your guiding planet Mercury retrograde till midmonth in the zodiac's most stubborn sign. If a situation won't resolve with the usual tactics, look for a beautiful solution – the more artistic and aesthetic the better.

LIBRA: This Venus-ruled, luxury-loving month, initially a little slow-moving for your liking, isn't particularly auspicious for getting projects off the launch pad – at least not yet. But slow can be sweet, so relish the pause that refreshes, take it nice and easy until midmonth switches the communication green light on again.

SCORPIO: Eclipses activate the X-factor, and this week's annual full moon eclipse in your alchemical sign suggests that relinquishing something you previously believed was fundamental could uncover possibilities that may have been obscured by your views of what needed to be done and about who you needed to be.

SAGITTARIUS: This week's astral emphasis in your zone of health and organisation advises cancelling anything that seems too much. If progress-driven insistence on new regimes meets equally strong lobbying for common sense and traditional methods, then channel your inner mediator and do your best not to add to the cacophony.

CAPRICORN: Eclipses can be uncomfortable, while at the same time offering new possibilities. However, Saturday's full moon eclipse plays out on a personal level, the most reliable way of maintaining steadiness and stability during this month's fluctuations is by sticking to regular routines, keeping up nourishing rituals and sharing simple pleasures.

AQUARIUS: Nothing you can do about Pluto going retrograde in Aquarius, so focus on what is possible this month, which is getting proactive. How? Rejig routines that have grown ho-hum and predictable. Keep plans grounded and pragmatic, while keeping your adaptable self poised in readiness for any quick-change eventualities.

PISCES: This month's strategy-loving Saturn in your sign is both sensual and sensible, suggesting you take stock of life's practicalities: budgets, schedules, expenses. While crunching numbers and researching facts mightn't be your favourite activity, with a tangible plan in place, those Neptunian dreams

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WOMEN'S COMEDY FOR MUM

'If you can laugh at something you can survive it'. That's a quote attributed to Richard Pryor, but I reckon he stole it from his mum. No one knows better how to survive adversity with humour than your mum. Laughing at the hard stuff is what women do best, and at this year's Byron Comedy Fest some of the country's best funny women are lined up to stand and deliver.

Catch **Kirsty Webeck** and **Mel Buttle** in *Double Trouble* – a double feature that showcases the prolific award-winning talents of these two powerhouse comedians. Kirsty is a gifted storyteller who regularly sells out shows at the Melbourne Comedy Festival, has been a special guest on ABC's *Tonightly with Tom Ballard*, Channel Ten's *How to Stay Married* and a headliner on Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Roadshow. Kirsty is joined by Mel Buttle,

the standup comedian and social media phenomenon with hundreds of thousands of followers. Her mum/Lyn character has almost literally blown up Tik Tok. She has been a regular on *Hughesy We Have a Problem*, *The Weekly with Charlie Pickering*, and pretty much every high rating comedy panel show. Mel is dynamite. *Double Trouble* plays **Friday 2 June at The Byron Surf Club at 9pm**.

If you want a showcase that gives the flavour of some of the hottest comics in the biz, then *Women*



on Top is the show. Hosted by much-loved local legend and comic laureate, **Mandy Nolan**, and featuring **Mel Buttle** and **Kirsty Webeck**, along with last year's RAW comedy winner **Alexandra Hudson** fresh from her season at this year's Melbourne Comedy Festival (MCF) as hand-picked emerging talent. After four decades as a midwife and now a flourishing standup comedian, winner of MCF's

2022 *Deadly Funny* competition, **Janty Blair** brings her stories centrestage, alongside **Vanessa Mitchell**, star of *Tears on My Dildo*, the smash hit success of the Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festivals. Singaporean born **Ting Lim** also brings her savage wit to the stage. *Women on Top* is on **Saturday at 7.45pm**.

If you can't get enough of **Mandy Nolan** – grab a ticket to the fastest selling show at the festival – *The Candidate*. This is Mandy's deep dive on her run for politics at the last federal election; told with honesty, insight and outrage!

So, if you want to get mum something that truly honours the woman she is, get her tickets to see some of these amazing women in comedy. All part of the exciting program for **Byron Comedy Fest at Byron Surf Club, 1-4 June**.
Tix on byroncomedyfest.com.

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Best of British, Akmal, Kirsty Webeck & Mel Buttle

or

Saturday June 2nd

Best of British, Women on Top, Paul McDermott



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SYDNEY'S HOTTEST BLOKES IN MULLUM

Look out ladies, the hunks from Sydney Hotshots are back to sizzle and seduce for one night only with a brand-new killer show.

The two-hour production is a visual feast, choreographed and developed by Australia's leading professionals. The Hotshots hand-picked selection of dreamy guys will have the ladies up from their chairs, screaming for more, all night long.

With a totally interactive production, *The Secret Fantasies* tour is the perfect night out with the girls!

A high energy production, the show boasts the perfect mix of killer dance routines, eye-catching costumes, acrobatics, and jaw-dropping athletic male physiques. A smorgasbord of sexy guys are selected from hundreds of men

nationwide and put through an intensive 'Hotshots Bootcamp', all graduating with an A+ in hip thrusting!

The fellas come from various backgrounds, including tradies, cops, farmers and even firemen who tour Australia to entertain the ladies.

Hosted by seasoned professional Paul Reynolds (original cast member of *Manpower Australia* and a Las Vegas headliner), Reynolds' showmanship and cheeky banter with audiences makes for an extra entertaining evening. It's the most fun a girl can have standing up.

The Sydney Hotshots have graced television screens, appearing on *Studio 10*, *Sunrise*, *AGT* and *Good Morning New Zealand* to name only a few.



See this hot show at Byron Bay Services Club, Friday from 8pm, and at the Evans Head Surf Club on Thursday 26 May, from 7.30pm. Tickets at: [eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au).

AINE TYRRELL
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THE REGENT
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byron music society
ACACIA QUARTET
 St Mary's Anglican Church | Cnr Bennet & Norton Streets, Ballina
 Sunday 21 May | 3pm | Tickets [byronmusicsociety.com](https://www.byronmusicsociety.com)

THE AUDITION MASTERY FUNDAMENTALS

Kate Jaggard and Diva Cory of The Actors Room Byron Bay are bringing another powerful masterclass opportunity for actors in the Northern Rivers – *The Audition Mastery Fundamentals: The Intensive with Ben Mathews*.

Mathews has taught extensively at Acting Mastery, NIDA, Screenwise, The Hub Studio, AMAW Sydney and the BA and Masters Programs at AFTRS.

He is also an acting graduate of The Atlantic Theatre Company NYC and a directing graduate and screenwriting graduate of AFTRS. His work has received over 25 awards.

His clients have booked roles in a myriad of films, television shows, commercials and theatre projects, including, and just mentioning a few; *Thor Love And Thunder*, *Shang – Chi*, *Nine Perfect Strangers*, *The Maid*, *Last King of The Cross*, *The Wilds*, *Faulda*, *Young Rock*, *Mr Inbetween*, *Bump*, *Eden*, *Clickbait*, *Australian Gangster*,

Wentworth, *Home and Away*, *Love Child*, *Puberty Blues*, *Tomorrow when the War Began*, as well as theatre productions for The National Theatre in London, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir Street, Queensland Theatre Company, and The Malthouse. Convinced yet?

This is an intensive three-day audition class designed to leave actors feeling deeply empowered with the tools and mindsets necessary to book work. Exploring the fundamentals of auditioning, both in the



room and through self-tapes, the intensive gives actors a wide range of tools they can rely on.

The course is more than a tutorial in successful auditions, it is also designed to uncover any limiting belief systems that might be holding actors back, eliminating these and replacing them with a transformed outlook that leaves actors feeling free, powerful, and fully self-expressed.

***The Audition Mastery Fundamentals: The Intensive with Ben Mathews* is limited to 14 students and runs: 2-4 June.**

Deadline for applications is 19 May, 2023
For more info visit www.actorsroombyronbay.com or email actorsroombyronbay@gmail.com

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MARGARET BLADES AND THE GOLD COAST CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra will be presenting *Souvenirs*, the first concert series for this year.

This is a delightful program of timeless works will be conducted by Marco Bellasi with guest soloist Margaret Blades.

Blades' bio is longer than a thoroughly rosined bow and includes a career as a teacher and chamber musician after having spent many years as a leader and violinist of various orchestras, including the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, and others.

As a soloist, she has appeared just about everywhere across the country, across 'the ditch' and in the US where she performed the *Mozart Sinfonia Concertante* with Emerson String Quartet violist, Lawrence Dutton.

She has performed on stage with some of Australia's finest artists and in numerous broadcasts for ABC Classic FM and last week she spoke to *The Echo* about her upcoming guest spot with The Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra.

Do you find that most people like chamber music or do some people need convincing?

I guess it's a matter of being exposed, or introduced to it. Good chamber music is something unique to listen to, and once a person has been introduced to a live performance, I believe (I hope) they want to hear more.

What is it that you love most about chamber music?

I love to play in smaller groups, and the GCCO are a fantastic bunch to play with. Chamber orchestras are much smaller than symphony orchestras, and there is a certain amount of personal freedom in your interpretations – it's more like a conversation between friends, rather than a dictatorship!

Do you have a favourite piece that you enjoy playing?

Nothing beats playing music by JS Bach. As a violinist, there is nowhere to hide technically, but the deeper spiritual aspect of the music brings one back, time and time again.

What inspires you both musically and in general?

I get inspiration by listening to the great artists of the past, and also the incredible amount of new talent on the scene. Musicians who not only are brilliant technicians, but who also take risks and by doing this, gain new audiences. I am also greatly inspired by nature – the beach is my favourite place.

Do you get the chance often to go and see live music? If so, what sort of things do you see?

I love hearing local folk musicians at local pubs actually!

What is the most satisfying aspect of your work?

I love the whole journey, from learning a piece, and nutting out interpretation, to performing it and enjoying the reaction of the listeners. As a teacher, there is nothing better than having students who practise, and watching them fly.



And the most challenging?

Some students don't practise nearly enough.

What would you hope the audience would take away from the Murwillumbah performance?

A sense of being part of the creation and the delivery of a great work of art, and also a sense of community by supporting artists and their vocation.

***Souvenirs* will be performed at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre, 10-14 Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah on Sunday, 14 May at 2.30pm.**



Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra in residence with Bond University are delighted to present their:

1ST SEASON OF CONCERTS FOR 2023



Margaret Blades



Daniel Kowalik

Vivaldi's Concerto for 2 Violins and String Orchestra RV 523 will be performed by two of Australia's leading Violinists.

First Concert will be held at Murwillumbah Civic Centre, 10-14 Tumbulgum Road.
Date: Sunday 14th May 2.30pm

Second Concert will be held at Bond University, University Drive, Varsity Lakes.
Date: Sunday 21st May 2.30pm



Tickets: Adults \$45 | Concession \$40 | Students \$20 | Students under 18 free

Purchase online at www.gcco.com.au



**ACACIA QUARTET:
VERSATILE AND INVENTIVE PROGRAMS**

In the past 12 years Acacia Quartet have won great respect for their versatile and inventive programs. Acacia have recorded twelve albums, with *Blue Silence* earning them a nomination for an APRA-AMCOS Art Music Award for Excellence.

Acacia are passionate about supporting Australian composers, working with young musicians, and sharing their love of music with audiences of all ages. Their performances feature regularly on radio stations around the world.

Acacia's engagements in Australia include the Sydney Opera House, City Recital Hall Sydney, Melbourne Recital Hall, as well as extensive touring through regional NSW and Victoria.

Acacia had their international debut in Vancouver, Canada, at the Roundhouse in June 2016. The following year, Acacia Quartet were invited by the Christine Raphael Foundation to give their European debut, where they performed concerts in Berlin and recorded a CD with three string quartets by Günter Raphael.

'The audience was completely overwhelmed by the exceptional quality of the performance,' said Janine Collins of Music in the Regions, NSW.

Acacia Quartet is proud to be the Ensemble in Residence at the Orange Regional Conservatorium.

Byron Music Society (BMS) presents Acacia Quartet on Sunday 21 May, 3pm at St Mary's Anglican Church, cnr Bennet and Norton Streets, Ballina.

Enquiries; Nicholas Routley, President BMS, 0410 065 281.



BLUE ON BURRENBAR STREET GETS LOOSE

Loose Content will be headlining the fun and family friendly **Blue on Burringbar** this **Saturday in Mullumbimby**. Loose Content are an indie/alt rock group from Mullumbimby.

MillLa (bass/vocals), **Sam Sanders** (guitar) and **Aquila Porter** (drums/backing vox) make up this three-piece who formed during high school in 2018, soon after winning the Mullum Music Fest Youth Mentorship and releasing their debut EP, *A Poem for Alix* in 2021.

The group have since gone on to play some of Australia's most highly regarded festivals, as well as gigging interstate and tour-support slots for big Aussie names including Magic Dirt, The Vanns, Rum Jungle, Maddy Jane, and Emily Lubitz.

Following Loose Content's crowning as winners of the Bluesfest Busking Comp in 2022, the band spent the summer in Melbourne on their own run of headline shows.

With a second record in the works, an exemplary slot on the main stage at Bluesfest 2023, radio play around the country and a contract with Nick DiDia (producer of Pearl Jam, Bruce

Springsteen, Rage Against The Machine and Powderfinger) the next 12 months is anticipated to pilot a very important chapter for this great group, and you can see them this weekend from **7.15pm** at Blue on Burringbar Street.

Blue on Burringbar Street is an event to celebrate resilience, sharing stories and honouring the flood-recovery efforts in Mullumbimby.

On Saturday, part of Burringbar Street will be closed to become the venue for this wonderful event.

It's a community picnic, sharing circle, Blue Box Project, creative play space with performance, live art and music – and what a lineup!

As well as Loose Content there will be a set from the **Palm Wine Ambassadors** and **Way Out West** – wherein Warren Earl teams up with Diego Zaragoza to bring you a true representation of American Roots with a combo of western swing, rockabilly, jazz and rhythm and blues.

Joel Salom will MC the fun. Check out the Chamber's facebook page for more info: facebook.com/mullumchamber.



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MAY

TICKETS AND INFO: BYRONTHEATRE.COM

Hashimoto's Cactus
Plus support *The MoonShip*

Sat May 6th, 6.30pm | The Citadel, 21 Queen Street, Murwillumbah

NOT IRISH FOLK

Irish singer-songwriter, **Áine Tyrrell**, is breaking down the stereotypes surrounding her music and heritage as she embarks on her *Irish as F*ck, Not Irish Folk* national tour, traversing three states, with 12 shows across major cities and rural centres.

As part of the tour, Tyrrell will be performing locally at the **Regent in Murwillumbah**.

Tyrrell, an Irish multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, activist, and mother, and is incredibly proud of her heritage, despite ongoing connotations surrounding Irish music as being Irish Folk, and the many assumed 'Irish behaviours' associated with the heritage.

Hailing from a rich Irish lineage of music, Tyrrell's artistry cannot be confined to a single genre, as she rejects the limitations imposed by the music industry's narrow definition of Irish Folk.

Instead, she is redefining her rise through her unique genre, 'Irish as Fuck' blending spoken word, hip hop, acoustic guitar, and powerful vocals. A reflection of the brave new world we are entering, one that is post-genre, post-pandemic, post-colonial, and post-traumatic.

As Tyrrell explains, she got the inspiration for this tour from a close friend. 'The name of this tour came after a discussion where I could see how the industry was placing limitations



on the folk genre and because of such assumptions, placing unfair boundaries on my creativity as an artist'.

'In discussion with my genre-busting dear friend, Jen Cloher, who so eloquently stated that "Irish Folk" was damaging me and quite frankly could never contain me, but that I was "Irish as F*ck," said Tyrrell. 'It felt like the perfect way to describe me, and I could feel it in my bones. I run deep, like my culture, I write complex – like my upbringing – and I sing with the strength of my ancestors.'

Catch Áine Tyrrell at the Regent in Murwillumbah on 12 May at 8pm.
For details and tickets visit: ainetyrrell.com/tour.

HASHIMOTO'S CACTUS PLUS THE MOONSHIP

Echoing the poetic sincerity of song-writing greats of the '60s folk revival, local songstress, Shani Forrester, has a growing reputation for captivating audiences with her intimate, soulful performances. As a soloist and as vibrant frontwoman of Luna Junction she has appeared at a range of venues and festivals, including Woodford Folk Festival, Byron Bay Bluesfest, Brisbane Jazz Club, Brisbane Powerhouse and the Old Museum (alongside Katie Noonan, as part of the Joni Mitchell tribute *Back to the Garden*).

The latest vessel in Shani's musical odyssey is *The MoonShip*. Join her in cooking up a tasty mix of soulful, psychedelic, bluesy, folk-country pop – blurring boundaries and evoking phantom memories of yesteryear, with a sound somehow both nostalgic and brand new.

For Shani's first hometown show she is honoured to be warming up the stage for **Hashimoto's Cactus** – whose music is said to be hatched from a core of simple, yet complex, melody and rhythm. Band member, **Stephen Lovelight**, we're told, was the mushroom that ate a misty night and spewed out the stars and dark matter that begat **Michael DiCecco**, the finger licking man on drums, and **Hans Lovejoy**, the super hands behind the bottom end of this weird foetus.

Bring your dancing shoes and an appetite for awesomeness to The Citadel in Murwillumbah from 7.30pm on Saturday.



MAY THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink: The Ultimate Party with a Conscience continues in May. This is a community event that was awarded Community Event of the Year in 2020.

Get ready to be dazzled and delighted by a spectacular lineup of DJs who will be playing treasured sounds for the community.

Headlining the event is **Kate Monroe**, aka the 'First Lady of House' and one of Australia's most pre-eminent house DJs, with over two decades of experience ruling dance floors around the world.

She will be joined by **DJ Chantal**, a rhythm specialist known for her dynamic house, funk and disco, and **DJ Dreamcatcher**, a creative director and curator whose musical selections are consistently weird and wonderful.

These three DJs, along with one of Cunning Stunts' resident DJs, **Lord Sut**, will be sure to raise the roof and keep the dancefloor packed all night long.

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink is not just a party, it's a FUNdraiser providing essential



connection, charitable support, and warming of spirit for all who attend.

This month's event will continue to support locally-based registered NFPs assisting our local communities during these challenging times.

This event is sold out – to ensure you get advance notification of ticket sales for all events, sign up to our e-newsletter at: www.cunningstunts.com.au/subscribe.

Remember, the only legitimate site for purchasing any tickets available for resale is via tixel.com.

Nudge is on at the Billinudgel Hotel this Saturday from 4pm and is an 18+ event.

CUNNING STUNTS
nudge nudge Wink wink
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DREAMCATCHER
LORD SUT**
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BLIND WILLIE WAGTAIL HAVE GOT THE UPBEAT BLUES

Blind Willie Wagtail brings together four highly respected Australian blues musicians into a high energy take on authentic retro-blues and rockabilly. Blind Willie Wagtail get their inspiration from the styles of Blind Willie McTell and Blind Willie Johnson – the pre-war blues slide guitarists of the 1920s and '30s.

Combine this with the electric edge of 1950s blues stylists like Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf and an added twist of magic from rock'n'roll legends Chuck Berry, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis – and you've got it all.

Between 'Scrubby' Pete Hurcombe, Dirk Dubois, Matt Elliott and special

guest, Declan Kenrick, Blind Willie Wagtail have performed and recorded with a plethora of musicians including Chain, Kevin Borich, Lil' Fi, James T and many more. Dubois has even jammed with Taj Mahal, Joss Stone, Spectrum, Billy Thorpe and Sugar Ray Norcia!

Get yourself down to the Ballina RSL for a spin with Blind Willie Wagtail, and guests Trombone Kellie, from 2.30pm.



PALACE CINEMAS **Session Times**
Thurs 4 May – Wed 10 May

2023 GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL - TICKETS NOW ON SALE - STARTS MAY 4!
Visit website for details

SPECIAL SCREENINGS
IN FOCUS: RUSHMORE (M)
Wes Anderson Retrospective
Thu: 7:00pm

A THOUSAND LINES (CTC)
Opening Night - German FF
Thu: 7:00pm

NOVEMBER (M)
Advance Screenings
Fri-Sun: 4:00pm

ROYAL OPERA: THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (CTC)
Sun: 1:00pm Wed: 11:00am

FAMILY FILMS
MAVKA: THE FOREST SONG (PG)
Daily: 11:00am

THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE (PG)
Daily excl. Sat/Sun: 11:00am, 2:15pm
Sat/Sun: 11:00am, 1:10pm, 2:15pm

ALL FILMS
80 FOR BRADY (M)
Daily excl. Thu/Sun: 11am
Thu: 11:00am, 1:30pm

A GOOD PERSON (MA15+)
Thu: 1:15pm, 3:45pm
Fri/Sat/Mon/Tue: 1:15pm

AIR (M)
Daily: 11:15am, 1:40pm, 8:15pm

BEAU IS AFRAID (R18+)
Daily excl. Thu: 11:30am, 3:15pm, 7:00pm
Thu: 11:30am, 3:15pm, 7:15pm

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS (M)
Thu: 4:30pm Fri-Sun: 7:15pm
Mon-Wed: 4:30pm, 7:15pm

EVIL DEAD RISE (R18+)
Daily excl. Sat/Sun: 1:10pm, 8:20pm Sat/Sun: 8:20pm

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 3 (M) (NFT)
Daily: 11:15am, 1:15pm, 3:15, 4:15pm, 6:15pm, 7:15pm

JOHN WICK 4 (MA15+)
Daily excl. Tue: 1:20pm

MAFIA MAMMA (MA15+)
Daily excl. Sun: 11:00am

MASQUERADE (MA15+) (NFT)
Daily: 1pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm

POLITE SOCIETY (M)
Daily excl. Thu: 11am, 8:20pm
Thu: 11:00am

THE GIANTS (M)
Daily excl. Sun: 3:50pm, 6pm
Sun: 11:00am, 6:00pm

THE INNOCENT (M)
Daily: Sessions vary - check website for specific times

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Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions. *NFT = No Free Tickets

MAY	THU 4 TH	FRI 5 TH	SAT 6 TH	SUN 7 TH	MON 8 TH	TUE 9 TH	WED 10 TH
80 FOR BRADY M 95 MIN	10:05 AM 3:30 PM	10:05 AM 3:30 PM	10:05 AM	10:05 AM	10:05 AM 3:30 PM	10:05 AM 3:30 PM	10:05 AM 3:30 PM
AIR M 112 MIN	11:55 AM	11:55 AM	11:55 AM	11:55 AM	11:55 AM	11:55 AM	11:55 AM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 M 150 MIN	10:20 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 4:40 PM 6:30 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 4:40 PM 6:30 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 4:40 PM 6:30 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 4:40 PM 6:30 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 4:40 PM 6:30 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 4:40 PM 6:30 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 4:40 PM 6:30 PM 7:25 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 MA 15+ 169 MIN	7:05 PM	7:05 PM	7:05 PM	7:05 PM	7:05 PM	7:05 PM	7:05 PM
MAFIA MAMMA MA15+ 101 MIN	1:35 PM	1:35 PM			1:35 PM	1:35 PM	1:35 PM
POLITE SOCIETY M 104 MIN	11:40 AM	11:40 AM			11:40 AM	11:40 AM	11:40 AM
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 92 MIN	10:00 AM 5:20 PM	10:00 AM 5:20 PM	10:00 AM 1:35 PM 3:25 PM 5:20 PM	10:00 AM 1:35 PM 3:25 PM 5:20 PM	10:00 AM 5:20 PM	10:00 AM 5:20 PM	10:00 AM 5:20 PM

GIG GUIDE

It's free to list your gigs in the gig guide.
gigs@echo.net.au w: echo.net.au/gig-guide

WEDNESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BEN WALSH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **PABLO LAVERDE**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **VERMEER: THE BLOCKBUSTER EXHIBITION**
- CASA LUNA, BYRON BAY, 8PM **KARAOKE HOSTED BY LUCINDA LIGHT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **SIP AND PAINT / OLE FALCOR**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 8PM **BASS TEMPLE FT. TEMPLE STEP PROJECT, SHAI SHRIKI & EMPRESS KATIA**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **STAND UP COMEDY WITH KYLE LEGACY**
- NIMBIN TOWN HALL 5PM **ECSTATIC DANCE NIMBIN WITH TEMPLE STEP PROJECT**

- 7.30PM **GRUNGE NIGHT - VIOLET, GUTTERFIRE, MATCH BREAKERS & TOTAL BUZZKILL, 8PM DJ BOZ**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **KINGS OF COUNTRY**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 9PM **LIMP BIZKIT & LINKIN PARK TRIBUTE NIGHT**

- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **JACK WILLS & GEORGIE LYONS**
- SCOUT HALL, BYRON BAY, 2PM **BYRON HARMONY FESTIVAL**
- BYRON COMMUNITY MARKET 9.30PM **JESSE MORRIS TRIO, MEL SCARLETT & STEAM**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **WILD MARMALADE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- MULLUMBIMBY UNITING CHURCH 6PM **30 MINUTES FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM**
- MASONIC CENTRE, BALLINA, 9AM **BACCI ART & CRAFT SHOW**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 10.45AM **THE BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB - FEAT. SMOKEHOUSE, 2.30PM BLIND WILLIE WAGTAIL WITH TROMBONE KELLIE**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **BOURBON STREET**
- THE MEADOW, STOKERS SIDING, 2PM **MUSIC IN THE MEADOW**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM LISMORE JAZZ CLUB **DEVIL'S ADVOCATES + PLYWOOD**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **JOE O'KEEFE**

SATURDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DJ KENNY BEEPER, 9.30PM MOOD SWING & CHEVY BASS + THE FUNK HUNTERS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 2.30PM **THE WILDLIFE TWINS, 7.30PM MUFASSA**
- MULLUMBIMBY 4PM **BLUES ON BURREINGBAR STREET**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **FAULTY TOWERS DINING EXPERIENCE**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK - DJS KATE MONROE, CHANTAL, DREAMCATCHER & LORD SUT**
- LENNOX HEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE 3PM **BALLINA SHIRE CONCERT BAND WILL BE HOSTING A 140TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**
- MASONIC CENTRE, BALLINA, 9AM **BACCI ART & CRAFT SHOW**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **MONKEY AND THE FISH, 8PM DJ DEEP FRYER**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **LAURA DOOLAN**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **THE MOONSHIP AND HASHIMOTO'S CACTUS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BLAKE EVANS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 8PM **THE DREGGS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **PAUL MCCARTNEY TRIBUTE SHOW**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **BREAD GANG**

THURSDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JESSE MORRIS**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **THE GREATEST SURF MOVIE IN THE UNIVERSE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **TAHLIA MATHERSON**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**

FRIDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE YEAHNAHS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **YHAN LEAL, 8.30PM BOOTLEG RASCAL**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MXNTANO, BODHI DEY, WIZZ, D.A.S.H., SLIQ MICK**
- BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB 8PM **THE SYDNEY HOTSHOTS**
- BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 8.30PM **JON J BRADELY**
- HARVEST, NEWRYBAR, 6PM **THE VERSACE BOYS + DJ TONY VELVET**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **LIVIN' IN THE '70S**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **BALCONY BEATS, 8.30PM KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **TIM STOKES**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM **GIRLS NIGHT OUT COMEDY HYPNOSIS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE,

MONDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SARAH GRANT**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**

TUESDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADELY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **MICKA SCENE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **RUSSELL CROWE'S INDOOR GARDEN PARTY**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**

WEDNESDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **RUSSELL CROWE'S INDOOR GARDEN PARTY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **LIVE POETS**

SUNDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1PM **MUFASSA, 4.30PM SOUL MOVERS, 7.30PM DU EAST**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, **JOSH LEE HAMILTON**

TIM MILLER
REAL ESTATE

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

A classic cottage in the heart of Eltham

447 ELTHAM ROAD, ELTHAM



4 beds 1 bath 1 car 430m²

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 6 MAY 11.15AM - 11.45AM
PRICE GUIDE \$860,000 - \$940,000

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millerrealestate.com.au

A spacious family home in a central village location

4 - 6 GEORGE STREET, BANGALOW



4 beds 2 baths 1 car 674m²

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 6 MAY 9.30AM - 10AM

TIM MILLER
REAL ESTATE

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tim@millerrealestate.com.au
millerrealestate.com.au

'Eltham Springs' 79 JOHNSTON ROAD, CLUNES

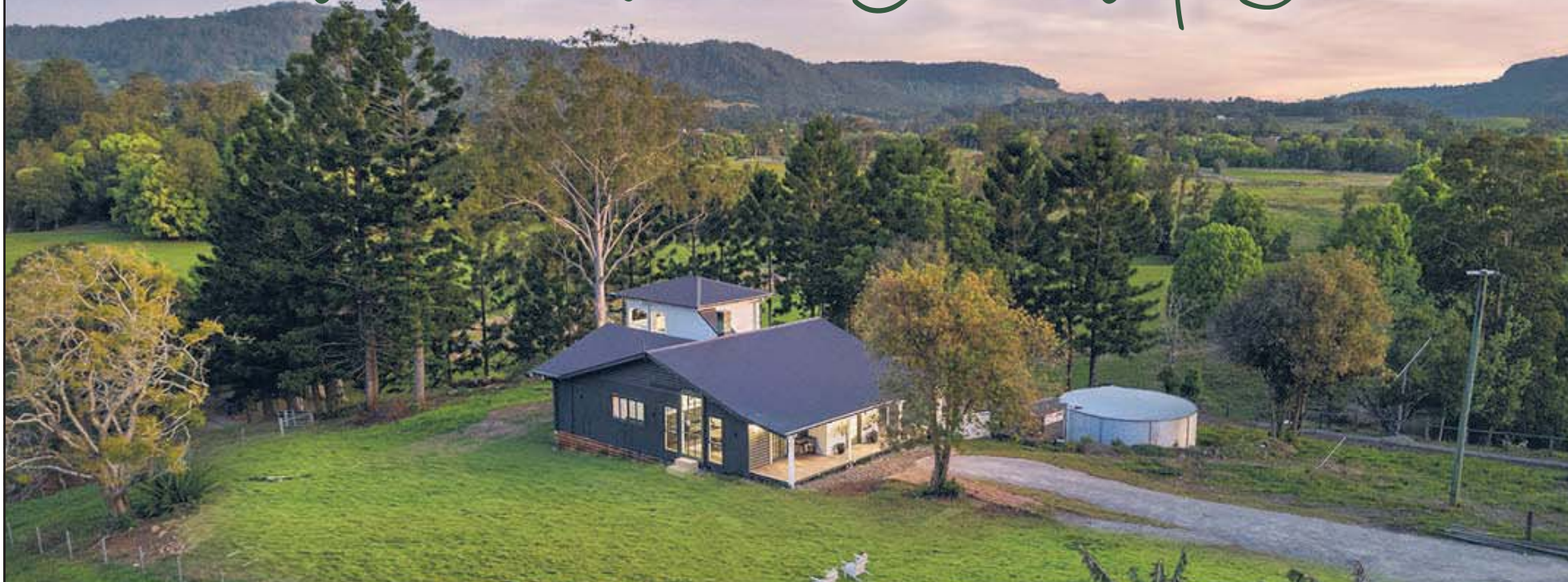


Price guide: contact agent | Inspection: by appointment 4 beds 3 baths 5 cars 85.97ha

An exceptional, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire 212 acres of some of the most beautiful land in the Byron Bay hinterland
Perfect aspect with 360-degree panoramic views

Income producing carbon credit contract covering 27 ha of koala habitat regeneration
Rainforest remnant, walking paths and two sparkling spring fed creeks




When Only The Best Will Do



John Wilcox
0428 200 288



Samara Burcher
0429 806 288

 7
  4
  60.95ha
 \$3,950,000

- ☯ "ARRUNGA FARM"- a postcard-perfect property
- ☯ Prestigious and productive cattle and horse farm
- ☯ Two creeks with swimming holes and picnic spots
- ☯ Grand pre-war farmhouse now masterly renovated
- ☯ Second dwelling or 3 bed 2 bath caretakers cottage
- ☯ Equestrian Hub with superb features for horse-lovers
- ☯ Commissioned Artisan works both indoors and out
- ☯ **Event Potential** for Weddings or Equestrian days

"Nimbin is a cultural haven in a sub-tropical rain forest setting - surrounded by National Parks with mountain climbs, numerous waterfalls, and breathtaking panoramic scenery. Networked by creeks and rivers, it is a franchise-free and inclusive community with a leaning toward alternative lifestyles, sustainable and low-carbon footprint living. Nimbin prides itself on the embracing of differences. Hand-in-hand with its alternative communities is a large and highly productive farming community"



NIMBIN HILLS
REAL ESTATE

0266 891 498 | www.nimbinhills.com.au

39 Crofton Road, Nimbin

SALE

3/1 Yalla Kool Drive
Ocean Shores

3 Bedrooms
2 Bathrooms
1 Car Garage

Breathe it in - inspiring artistic retreat

As soon as you step inside, the creative energy of this bright, bold, and vibrant space envelops you. Featuring a private, sunny courtyard and open living area, this double-storey, three-bedroom townhouse in Ocean Shores hits all the right notes. The large modern kitchen has everything a foodie loves, with plenty of cupboard space, a gas cooktop, dishwasher and stone top benches.



Just Listed

Julie-Ann Manahan
0411 081 118
jam@manare.au



SALE

8 Redgate Road
South Golden Beach

2 Bedrooms
2 Bathrooms
3 Car Spaces

Walk to the beach from this fabulous family home

This beautiful double-storey home in South Golden Beach is the epitome of seaside living. Freshly painted throughout, the upstairs living area is light and bright with gleaming polished floorboards leading to a huge entertaining deck overlooking the tropical garden. The modern kitchen has everything you need with plenty of bench and cupboard space.



Contact Agent

Julie-Ann Manahan
0411 081 118
jam@manare.au



SALE

15 Natan Court
Ocean Shores

3 Bedrooms
1 Bathrooms
1 Car Spaces

Private waterfront haven

this gorgeous property at the end of a cul-de-sac in Ocean Shores is a picturesque playground, ready for family fun. The light and bright home has been designed to embrace the environment and bring the calmness of outside in. The open plan living space encapsulates the spectacular outlook. The reflection of the sun glittering on the water streams through the large windows. Prepping meals in the kitchen will be a treat overlooking the nature reserve.



Just Listed

Julie-Ann Manahan
0411 081 118
jam@manare.au



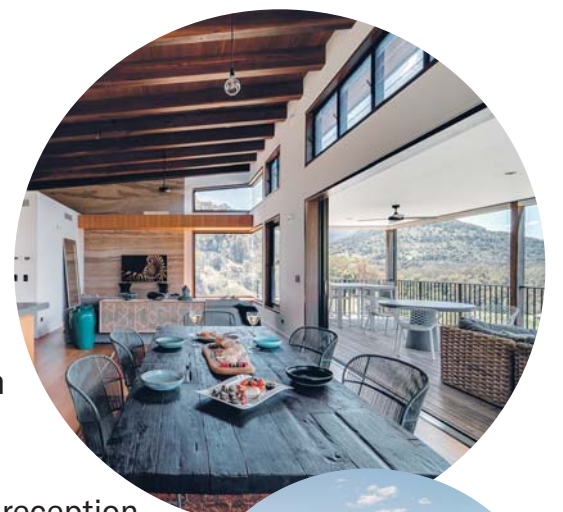
SALE

351 Zara Road, Zara

3 Bedrooms
2 Bathrooms
4 Car Spaces

A lush hidden valley with endless opportunities

With a sustainable home, reception centre and a relocatable yurt (on wheels) set on 139 acres with natural springs, mesmerising views, dams, wild food, and a productive manuka honey plantation, Zara Springs is a true patch of paradise. Go for a stand-up paddleboard on the lake and glide past the waterlilies and fountain. The house is completely off-grid and designed with insulation and ventilation in mind.



Contact Agent

Julie-Ann Manahan
0411 081 118
jam@manare.au





AUCTION – Newrybar Village's Cheapest Property?

- Circa 1911 "The Old Church" is situated on a lovely leafy quarter acre block and is ideal for a holiday letting investment or as a beautiful holiday home
- There is DA approval for a substantial extension of 600sqm of habitable space with a full set of detailed and coordinated construction drawings
- The property showcases original features throughout including stained glass windows, arched walkways, polished timber floors and pressed metal ceilings
- Only a 150m walk to town to enjoy Harvest Cafe and Deli

5 3 4 1,012M²

14 Brooklet Road, Newrybar

Auction Guide: \$1.7 – 1.85m

Open: Wed 3rd May 10–10.30am and Thurs 4th May 1.30–2.30pm

AUCTION Onsite and Online Thursday 4th May at 2.30pm



Scan QR code to complete the online bidder registration form. Registration is Open Now



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



Architecturally Designed Hinterland Treasure – Two Homes

4 3 3 2.02HA

- Positioned on an expansive 5 acres of well-maintained gardens is this stunning mid-century modern masterpiece with breathtaking views and multiple vistas
- The office/studio has access to the pool and is ideal for working from home
- Across the 5 acres are open paddocks, perfect for a couple of horses
- The secondary dwelling is extremely private and features one bedroom, bathroom, separate laundry, and fully equipped kitchen plus a private deck

15 Neues Road, Coorabell

Price Guide: \$3.55m – \$3.8m

Open: Saturday, 6th May 12–12.45pm



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



Spacious Hinterland Block with D.A Approved Plans

3,916M²

- Elevated 3,916M² block with a beautiful rural outlook that offers a rare opportunity for you to build your dream home
- D.A approved plans for an ultra-modern home and pool
- There are engineers drawings and certifications so there is no time to be wasted to proceed to a constructions certificate, so you can get ready to build!
- The site offers lots of space to add veggie patches, and chicken pens
- Positioned in the beautiful hinterland only a 3 minute drive to Federal village

7/19 Teak Road, Federal

Price Guide: \$895,000 – \$980,000

Open: By appointment



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232



Spacious, Modern Family Home with Vast Outdoor Living Space and Sparkling Pool

- Award winning, luxury designed home with multiple living spaces
- Grand outdoor entertaining area equipped with an outdoor kitchen, alfresco dining area, and built in fire place and views of the sparkling pool
- The gourmet kitchen features a butler's pantry, stone benchtops, quality appliances, an island, and plenty of storage
- Established, manicured, tropical gardens across the large corner block provide shade, privacy, and a lush green outlook from every window

5 3 2 1,905M²

2 Oakwood Drive, Ballina

Price Guide: Contact Agent

Open: By appointment



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232



Byron Beachside Cottage Plus Development Potential

3 2 767M²

- This superbly located property offers a great beachside home with development potential to create a dual occupancy or duplex (STCA)
- The home is in its original condition and a freshen up would offer a simple, yet charming 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with open plan living
- Featured is a wide deck, perfect to enjoy the expansive natural backdrop
- Easy stroll to the beach, Top Shop Cafe, town centre and restaurants

48 Massinger Street, Byron Bay

Price Guide: \$2.8m - \$3m

Open: Saturday, 6th May 1-1.30pm



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



Immaculate Low Maintenance Home in "Sunrise"

4 2 2 623M²

- Positioned in the sought after Sunrise location on a large block is this easy-care brick and tile home, walking distance to local supermarkets and beaches
- The home offers a light-filled open floor plan with multiple living options
- Large sliding doors open through the living room onto the large, paved patio which is easy maintenance and the perfect place to entertain
- Featured are 4 spacious bedrooms the main with a private ensuite
- Convenient location close to supermarkets and beaches

6 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay

Price Guide: \$1.595m - \$1.75m

Open: Saturday, 6th May 10-10.30am



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



Sally Green
0488 030 116



The Springs – Elevated, Modern Architectural Masterpiece with Spectacular Mountain Views

- The Springs' is a Master Builders Association multi award winning home featuring swathes of glass, sleek polished concrete and soaring ceilings
- Stunningly set on an elevated ridgeline overlooking 37 acres of verdant pasture including fruit trees, bamboo rainforest and farming land
- The home has an intelligent layout that flows out to the north facing horizon pool and breathtaking mountain panoramas beyond
- A state-of-the-art kitchen boasts quality appliances with ample benchtops and storage while louvred windows and bi fold glass doors promote breezes
- A separate self contained studio completes this unique, luxurious offering

4 3 4 15.26HA

77 Robinsons Lane, Wilsons Creek

Price Guide: \$4.5m – \$4.95m

Open: Saturday, 6th May 10.30 -11am



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



Commercially Zoned Rare Opportunity in Brunswick Heads

3 2 1 613M²

- Spacious block with commercial zoning giving you endless possibilities
- The large block offers an existing 3-bedroom dwelling, but there is opportunity to redevelop or redesign in the best CBD position in the mecca we call Bruns
- The home offers a spacious floorplan with a large living and dining area that adjoins the kitchen with ample storage space and a large, level yard with dual lane access
- Central location walking distance to everything Brunswick Heads has to offer including the Brunswick River, world class beaches, cafes and fine dining

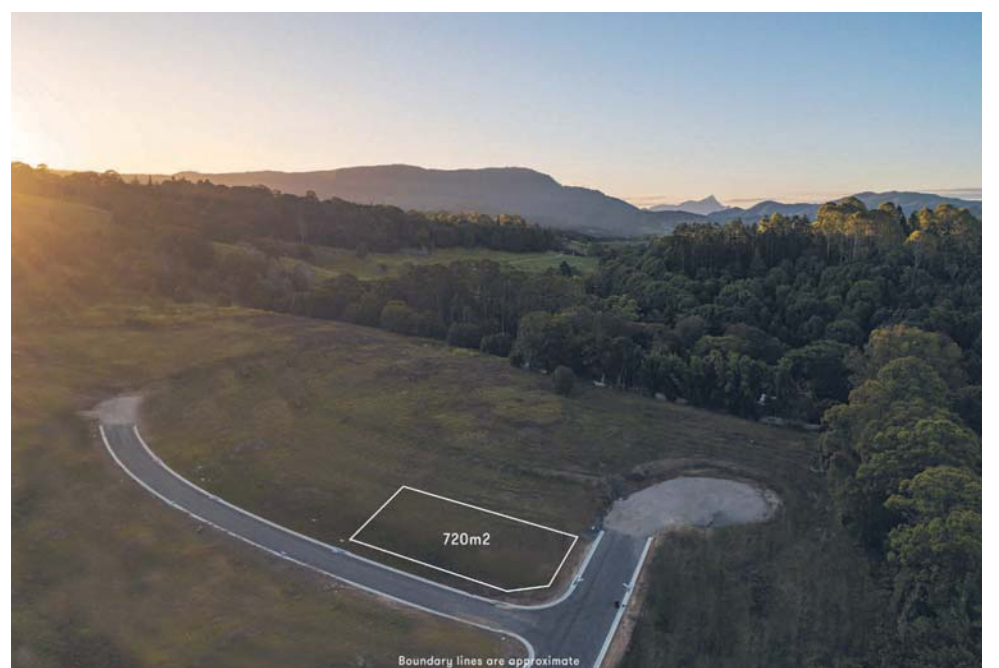
23 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads

Price Guide: \$2.395m – \$2.595m

Open: Saturday, 6th May 9–9.30am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Vacant, Level Land with Abundance of Opportunity

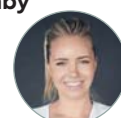
720M²

- Rarely does the opportunity arise for you to create your dream home in the highly desirable Tallowood Ridge Estate on level, vacant land
- Two separate vacant lots are on offer, in a family friendly neighborhood
- Each lot is level with views out to Mount Chincogan
- Elevated position, did not flood during the February 2022 event
- Close to tennis court, basketball half-court, full size football field, community gardens and there are endless paved walkways and cycleways

Lot 227 & 229, Tallowood Ridge Estate, Mullubimby

Price Guide: \$549,000 – \$600,000

Open: By appointment

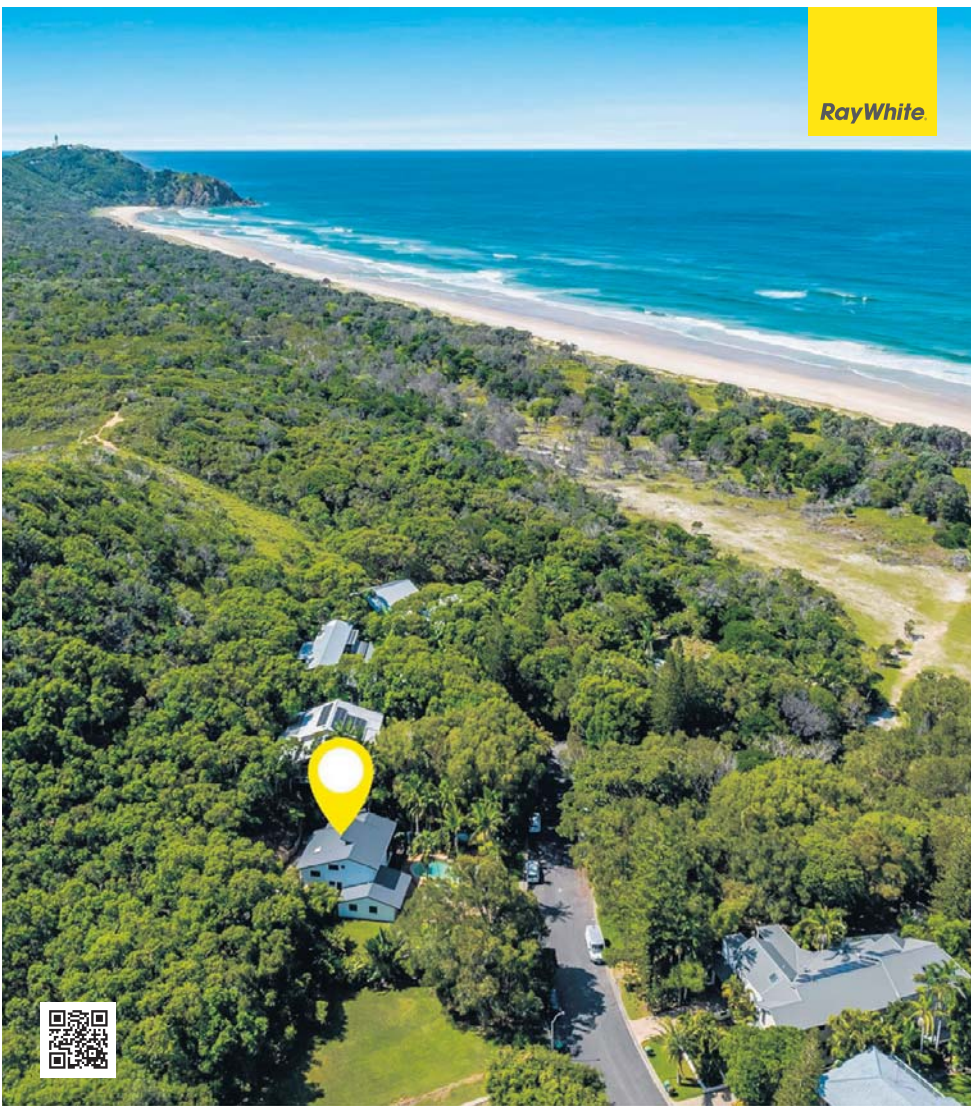


Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668





SALE

31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay
 Located in a highly desirable enclave amidst the breathtaking Arakwal National Park and just opposite Tallow Beach, this property boasts a prime position. Within a mere minute, you can find yourself on the soft sands of Tallows, ready for a swim or morning stroll.

WHY WAIT?
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

Sale
 Contact Agent

View
 By Appointment

3 3 2 721sqm

Damien Smith
 0418 123 393
 damien.smith@raywhite.com

April Nicolson
 0457 451 094
 april.nicolson@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com



SALE

9/19-21 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
 Strata title small factory outlet in the Mecca Centre Byron Bay. The property is well set up as a hassle free investment with current tenants in place till December 2023. Total floor area 125m2.

WHY WAIT?
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

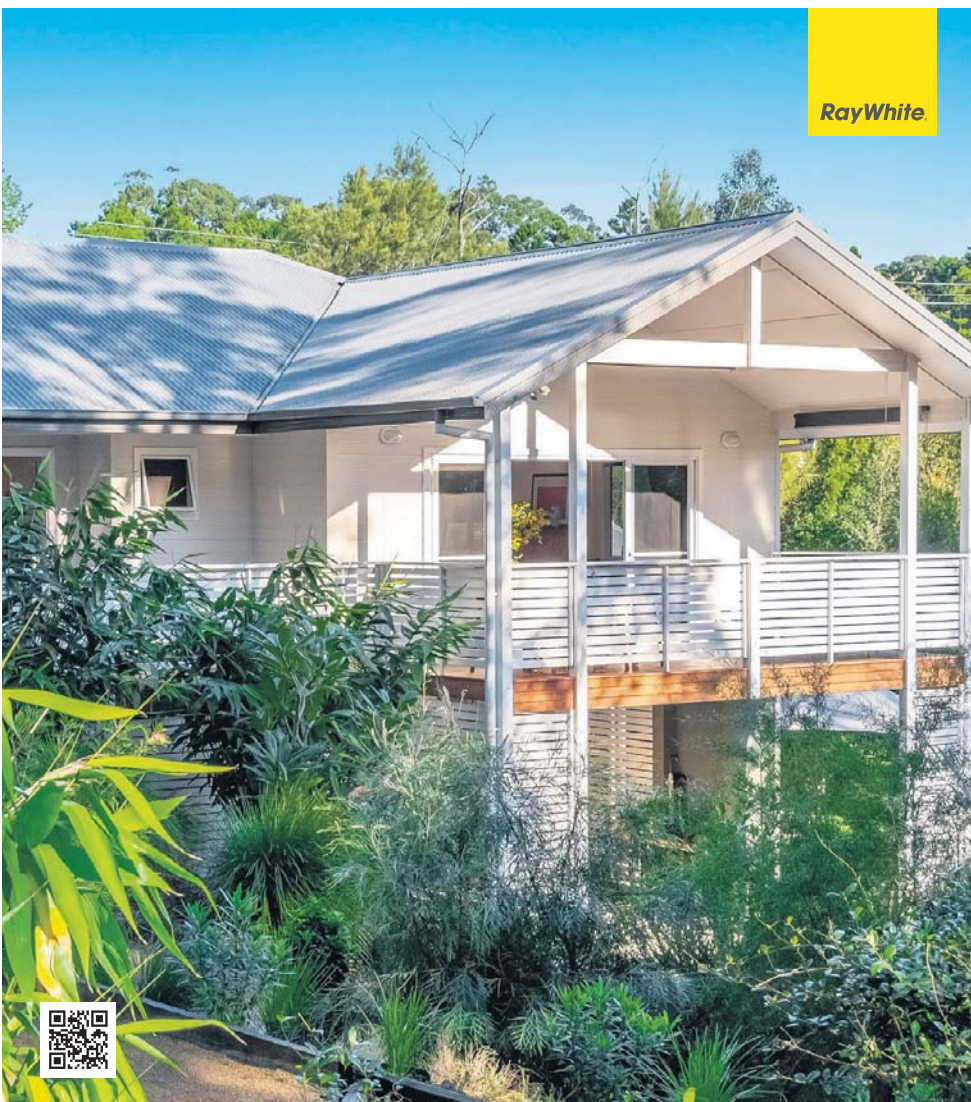
Sale
 Contact Agent

View
 By Appointment

1 125m2

David Gordon
 0418 856 222
 david.gordon@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com



SALE

13/146 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
 Stunning Byron Bay home on 2,750m2 of land in the coveted "Woodlands Estate". With flexible living space and outdoor entertaining, minutes from the centre of town and Tallow Beach.

WHY WAIT?
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

Sale
 Expression of Interest

View
 Open Home Sat 10am or
 By Appointment

5 3 2 2750m2

Damien Smith
 0418 123 393
 damien.smith@raywhite.com

April Nicolson
 0457 451 094
 april.nicolson@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com



SALE

6 Philip Street, South Golden Beach
 This charming 100-year-old former school house, boasts a rich history and unique character that is very hard to find in the quiet beachside community of South Golden Beach. Wonderful position with loads of potential.

WHY WAIT?
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

Sale
 Contact Agent

View
 Wed 4pm-4.30pm
 Sat 10am-10.30am

3 1 2 639sqm

Nick Russo
 0405 977 049
 nick.russo@raywhite.com

David Gordon
 0418 856 222
 david.gordon@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com



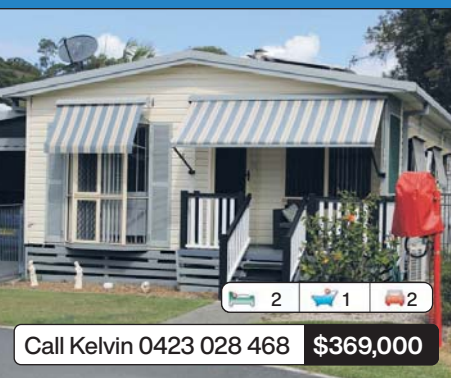
Mr Property Services

Tweed Billabong Park – Tweed Heads South



Call Kelvin 0423 028 468 **\$189,000**

The Palms Village – Tweed Heads South



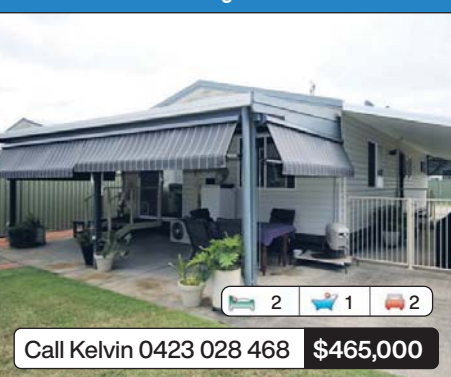
Call Kelvin 0423 028 468 **\$369,000**

Banksia Waters – Tweed Heads West



Call Kelvin 0423 028 468 **\$399,000**

Tweed Broadwater Village – Tweed Heads South



Call Kelvin 0423 028 468 **\$465,000**

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Atlas Byron Bay

- 35a Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30–10.00am
- 11/10 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am

Byron Shire Real Estate

- 7/11 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 9–9.30am
- 13 Wirruna Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 4 Yemlot Court, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11–11.30am
- 75 Orana Road, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 7 Yackatoon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 2 Berrimbillah Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 2–2.30pm

Century 21 Plateau Lifestyle Real Estate Alstonville

- 29 Palmvale Drive, Goonellabah. Sat 11.30–12pm.

First National Byron Bay

- 14 Brooklet Road, Newrybar. Wed 10–10.30am
- 14 Brooklet Road, Newrybar. Thurs 1.30–2.30pm
- 9 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Fri 10–10.30am
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 11–11.30am
- 9 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Sat 9–9.30am
- 68 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 23 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 9–9.30am
- 7 Ocean Avenue, New Brighton. Sat 9–9.30am
- 6 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 38 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 10–10.30am
- 28 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 20 Tincogan Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 77 Robinsons Lane, Wilsons Creek. Sat 10.30–11am
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30am
- 3/9 Colin Street, Bangalow. Sat 11–11.30am
- 5/16 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 15 Newes Road, Coorabell. Sat 12–12.45pm
- 26 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 48 Massinger Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 273 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 1.30–2pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 22 Karalauren Court, Lennox Head. Sat 9–9.30am
- 14/3–13 Sunset Avenue, West Ballina. Sat 10.15–10.45am
- 10 Kookaburra Street, Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am
- 36 Surf Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 10.30–11am
- 8 Oakland Avenue, West Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am

- 108 Pimble Valley Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 11–11.30am
- 7 Crandon Court, Goonellabah. Sat 11–11.30am
- 24 Farrelly Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 11–11.30am
- 565 Friday Hut Road, Brooklet. Sat 12–1pm
- 30 Unara Parkway, Cumbalum. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 82 Tyumba Avenue, Teven. Sat 12.15–12.45pm
- 2/14 Barrett Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 2/51 Gibbon Street, Lennox Head. Sat 2.15–2.45pm

JET Real Estate

- 25 Stokers Road, Stokers Siding. Wed 11–11.30am
- 1 Tombonda Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30–10am
- 28 Eyles Avenue, Murwillumbah. Sat 10.30–11am
- 1061 Smiths Creek Road, Stokers Siding. Sat 11–11.30am

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 46 Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11–11.30am
- 8 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 40 Byangum Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 2–2.30pm

Mana Real Estate

- 46 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 9 Buchanan Street, South Murwillumbah. Sat 9–9.30am
- 60 Reserve Creek Road, Kielvale. Sat 10–10.30am
- 4/4 Halyard Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 15 Natan Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30–11am
- 33 Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 8 Redgate Road, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 21 Pacific Street, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 72 Bonnydoon Road, Uki. Sat 11.30–12.00pm
- 3/1 Yalla Kool Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30–1.00pm
- 1/8 Yengarie Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick Heads

- 17 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.45am.
- 1 Byron Street, New Brighton. Sat 10–10.30am
- 6/20 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 11 Waranga Crescent, Burringbar. Sat 10.30–11am
- 5 Wahlooga Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am

Ray White Byron Bay

- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 1–1.30pm
- 6 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 4–4.30pm
- 71 Charltons Road, Federal. Thus 4–4.30pm

- 121 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Fri 1–1.30pm
- 65 Currawong Way, Ewingsdale. Sat 9–9.30am
- 3/14 Sunrise Boulevard. Sat 10–10.30am
- 6 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.30am
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 11A Myocum Downs Drive, Myocum. Sat 11–11.30am
- 13/146 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 71 Charltons Road, Federal. Sat 12–12.30pm

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- 2 Giaour Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 35–37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 3.30–4pm

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- 11 Quail Way Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.45am
- 54 Main Arm Road Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30–1pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 8 George Street, Bangalow. Sat 9–9.30am
- 4–6 George Street, Bangalow. Sat 9.30–10am
- 1 Flatley Drive, Clunes. Sat 10.30–11am
- 447 Eltham Road, Eltham. Sat 11.15–11.45am
- 187 Cameron Road, Mcleans Ridges. Sat 12.15–12.45pm
- 968 Dunoon Road, Modanville. Sat 1.30–2pm

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- 1 Byron Street, New Brighton. Contact Agent
- 6/20 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. \$1,075,000
- 13 Gaggin Street, New Brighton. Just Listed
- 6 Strand Avenue, New Brighton. \$2,400,000
- 4 Strand Avenue, New Brighton. \$1,375,000

AUCTIONS

Ray White Byron Bay

- 121 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Friday 5 May 2pm onsite
- 71 Charltons Road, Federal. Friday 12 May 3pm onsite
- 11A Myocum Downs Drive, Myocum. Friday 12 May 4.30pm

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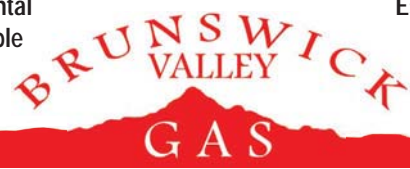
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Road Closure

Blue on Burringbar Street Saturday 6th May 2023 Event Commences at 4pm and finishes at 8pm.

Road Closures - Burringbar St. between Dalley St. and Stuart St. between 2pm and 10pm.

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O'MOORE

Rory Thomas Patrick
9/1/1951-20/04/2023

Beloved husband of Helen. Cherished father of Claire and Kathleen and father-in-law of Adam. Proud and loving grandfather of Sienna and Ella. Brother of Denis and Tim.

Always in our Hearts. A Service for Rory will be held on Friday 5th May 2023 commencing at 10.30am in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Watsons Bay, followed by a private interment at Waverley Cemetery.

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Applications close 9am Monday 29th May 2023. Position description and application process available capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

FUNERAL NOTICES

Allan Ray Harwood
24/03/1933 - 23/04/2023



Passed away peacefully in Byron Bay, aged 90 years. Doting husband of Betty (dec). Loving father and father-in-law of Susan and Michael, and Garry. Eternally loved grandfather and great-grandfather of Rachel, Matthew and Brooke, Rylan and Curtis.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend Allan's Funeral Service to be held at Parkview Funeral Home, 21 Kalinga St Ballina NSW 2478, 11am on Monday the 8th of May.

A celebration of his life to follow from 1pm at his favourite place, Byron Bay Golf Club.

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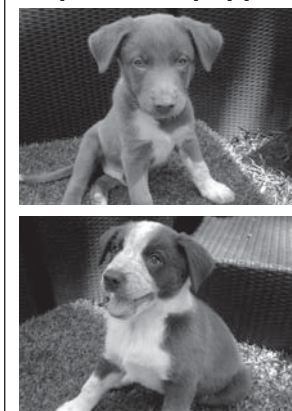
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MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0406 724 323	4th SUN Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
1st SUN Byron Bay	6685 6807	4th SUN (in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta	
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333	5th SAT Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498
2nd SAT Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498	5th SUN Nimbin	0458 506 000
2nd SAT Woodburn	0439 489 631	5th SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807
2nd SAT Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS	
2nd SUN The Channon	6688 6433	Each TUE New Brighton	0424 168 672
2nd SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807	Each TUE Organic Lismore	6628 1084
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141	Each WED 7-11am M'bah	6684 7834
2nd SUN Coolangatta		Each WED 3-6pm Nimbin	0475 135 764
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	6684 3370	Each WED 4-7pm Newrybar Hall	
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0413 804 024	Each THU 8-11am Byron	6687 1137
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina		Each THU 2.30-6.30pm Lismore	0450 688 900
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757	Each FRI 7-11am Mullum	0424 168 672
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150	Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow	6687 1137
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT 8-11am Duranbah Rd (Tropical Fruit World)	6679 5530
4th SAT Evans Head	0439 489 631	Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki	
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
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764		

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.

SUN, MOON & TIDES

- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (April/May)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
3	W	6:14 17:12	15:44 3:29	0636 1.53 1914 1.56	0027 0.54 1244 0.37
4	TH	6:14 17:11	16:14 4:25	0713 1.51 1950 1.67	0108 0.49 1313 0.32
5	F	6:15 17:10	16:47 5:24	0750 1.48 2029 1.75	0150 0.45 1344 0.29
6	SA	6:15 17:09	17:24 6:27	0829 1.42 2108 1.82	0234 0.42 1416 0.28
7	SU	6:16 17:08	18:08 7:32	0908 1.35 2149 1.84	0321 0.42 1451 0.29
8	M	6:17 17:08	19:00 8:40	0952 1.27 2234 1.84	0412 0.44 1529 0.34
9	TU	6:17 17:07	19:59 9:46	1040 1.19 2324 1.80	0509 0.46 1613 0.40
10	W	6:18 17:06	21:05 10:48	1137 1.13 2410 1.12	0613 0.49 1704 0.48
11	TH	6:18 17:06	22:14 11:43	0021 1.75 1247 1.10	0720 0.51 1809 0.55
12	F	6:19 17:05	23:22 12:30	0127 1.70 1410 1.12	0828 0.50 1930 0.60
13	SA	6:19 17:04	13:11	0237 1.67 1528 1.21	0930 0.46 2055 0.60
14	SU	6:20 17:04	0:29 13:47	0344 1.65 1633 1.33	1024 0.41 2212 0.57
15	M	6:21 17:03	1:33 14:20	0444 1.63 1730 1.47	1111 0.36 2317 0.52
16	TU	6:21 17:03	2:35 14:51	0536 1.59 1820 1.60	1151 0.31 2413 0.48
17	W	6:22 17:02	3:37 15:23	0624 1.54 1905 1.71	0016 0.48 2228 0.28

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

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Term 2 General Courses ENROL NOW!

Mon 8th May

- Spanish For Beginners (Lv2)
- French For Beginners (online)

Tues 9th May

- Tarot Reading (Beginners)
- Guitar For Beginners

Weds 10th May

- Parlez-Vous Francais
- Psychic Development & Healing
- Spanish For Beginners
- Radio Broadcasting
- Guitar 2

Thurs 11th May

- Hand Building Ceramics Intro

Thurs 11th May

- So French Lv 2 - online
- Tarot Intermediate
- Last Aid (Caring For The Dying At Home)
- Guitar 3

Sat 13th May

- Bicycle Repair & Maintenance
- Fruit Art & Sculpture
- Reiki Level 1
- Crochet For Beginners

Sun 14th May

- Crystal Awakening Lv 1
- Tropical Painting With Oils

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Term 2 Courses ENROL NOW!

TERM 2 FEE-FREE* Skill Set Courses

- Introduction to Floristry - 5th May
- Healthy Soil For Farm & Garden - 6th May
- Visual Art: Dreaming In Colour 2 - 9th May
- Visual Art: The Art Of Juxtaposition 2 - 10th May
- Visual Art: Breathing The Land 2 - 11th May
- Barista Training (NEW) - 11th May
- Sustainable Fashion (NEW) - 26th May
- Advanced Floristry - 8th June
- Floristry Intermediate - 9th June

*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

Local basketballer takes another leap forward

Byron Bay basketballer Jackson McCabe has been awarded one of this year's Commonwealth Games NSW Athlete Grant Awards worth \$1000.

Jackson was one recipient among 40 from 20 different sports.

'These 40 young athletes have demonstrated tremendous ability in their respective sport pathways. I have no doubt many will be chosen to represent Australia in future Commonwealth Games,' CGNSW Chief Executive, Peter Tate, said.

The athletes were nominated by their respective state sporting organisations.

'This is incredible news,' Byron Basketball media manager, James Short, said.

Jackson recently represented NSW country in a national U/18s tournament, and said he would use the grant money to help with travel costs.



Jackson (white) is on the Commonwealth Games pathway thanks to a NSW Athlete Grants Award. Photo supplied

'I'm so grateful, it's really amazing to be recognised for all the training and effort I'm putting in,' he said.

Jackson didn't make the U/16 representative side two years ago, but is really happy that he is starting to see the results of his hard work.

The next step is to try for

the U/20s NSW side. 'It'll be tough, but I'll do my best'.

Ultimately, representing Australia is his goal.

This is the fifth edition of the CGNSW Athlete Grants, which first commenced in 2016. There have been 129 recipients over that period of time.

Byron Shire Rebels on top of first grade rugby

The Byron Shire Rebels have extended their lead at the top of the Far North Coast first-grade rugby ladder after beating Casuarina 24-12, playing at home last Saturday afternoon.

Both teams were undefeated going into the game after the first two rounds of the competition.

Playing their first game at home on Shultz Oval the Rebels scored four tries to two and were ahead at half time. Byron Shire Rebel Benji Clarke scored three while Joel Little also crossed the line. Dominic Tydeman kicked two conversions.

For Casuarina, Webb Lillis was the hero; scoring two and converting one.

Dan Cupitt Shield

Meanwhile the Ballina Seahorses have jumped in front of Wollongbar-Alstonville Rugby (WAR) on the ladder after beating



WAR (red) and the Ballina Seagulls had a real tussle for the Dan Cupitt Shield at Lyle Park. Photo Vicki Kerry

them at home 24-22.

It was a big fight-back from the Seahorses after being 17-0 down at the halfway mark.

The win was especially sweet for Ballina as the game was also being played to determine which club would hold the Dan Cupitt Shield for 2023.

Dan's parents were at the game and mother Marg said: 'The spirit in which the game

was played was fabulous'.

The bottom of the table clash between Casino and Lismore was also an arm-wrestle of a game that ended in a 34-all draw.

The tie gave both teams their first competition points.

Byron Shire Rebels now sit on top of the table with 15 points, a win clear of Casuarina (9), Ballina (9) and WAR (8). Lismore and Casino are on three.

Malibu Classic rocks Byron Bay

The 42nd Byron Bay Malibu Classic took place last weekend in sizeable but challenging swell at Wategos beach.

'It was a great weekend of surfing and socialising. We had over 100 competitors, some coming from New Zealand, others from Noosa and up and down the NSW north coast,' Byron Bay Malibu Club President, Jy Pendergast said. 'There was also a strong family influence this year, and I'm glad to say 14 junior competitors'.

The nine-foot and over single fin contest has been operating since 1980, and is arguably Australia's oldest.

The weekend included a raffle and music night on Saturday where a surfboard designed by Brett Munro was the official prize. Brett



Friendly competition and good weather were hallmarks of the 42nd Malibu Classic last weekend. Photo Ciaran Carolan

has been donating boards for well over 20 years, and was rewarded with a lifetime membership to the club.

Winners included: Dennis Sheriff (over 80s), Eric Walker (over 70s), Mike Pimm (over 60s), Steve Mills (over 50s),

Jy Pendergast (over 40s), Louie Tiernan (over 40s and open women's), Rider Worthington (junior boys) and Danielle Burty (junior girls).

Over the life of the contest over \$300,000 has been raised for various charities.

Leaders emerge in local football

The Bangalow Bluedogs sit on top of the Far North Coast premierships ladder despite playing a 1-1 draw against Maclean last Saturday in Maclean.

The Bluedogs are still undefeated for the season and have ten competition points, putting them a nose in front of Byron Bay who have three wins and a loss for the season.

Byron Bay beat Goonellabah 4-3 last Sunday.

The competition front-runners go head-to-head this Saturday in Bangalow.

South Lismore and Goonellabah round out the top four.

In the Champions League, Byron Bay are also among the front-runners sitting on top of a congested table alongside Ballina and



Miniroos action from Lismore. Photo supplied

Richmond Rovers who are all on 13 competition points, with four wins each.

Last weekend Ballina had a 5-1 win over Alstonville while Byron Bay cruised to an 8-0 win over Goonellabah, playing at home.

In the women's premier league Richmond Rovers are undefeated with four wins from four starts and sit

on top of the table with 12 points. Alstonville are close behind on ten points while Lennox Head's firsts and seconds round out the top four.

Miniroos

Miniroos football kicked off across the region last weekend with a total of 334 teams, including 44 all-girl teams.

CALLING ALL SPORTS

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MardiGrass is on this weekend in Nimbin! The yearly event is a great reminder that perhaps the most versatile and beneficial natural product known to humans is vilified by the ruling bureaucratic elites for dumb and selfish reasons. The full program is on www.nimbinmardigrass.com.

Community choir, Raised Voices, will meet outside Feros Village on Marvell Street, Bryon, this Thursday from 10am to sing in support of the elderly residents facing eviction by the Feros Board. Phone Matijo 0435 049 489 for more info.

A class action by a Qld law firm is underway for those injured by three Covid-19 vaccination manufacturers: Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna. According to www.covidvaxclassaction.com.au, the respondents are the Australian government, Dr Brendan Murphy, and John Skerrit.

Stroke survivor, Tommy Quick, is close to completing his third leg of a 'four point' cycling tour of Australia to highlight the incidence of strokes in young people. As of Tuesday, he had left Tenterfield, and is on his way to Byron Bay. From there, he will head to Cape York to compete his 9,000km ride. For more information, visit www.the4points.org.

While federal Labor appears to have no appetite for Julian Assange's release, <https://assangedefense.org> continues to remind us that journalism is not a crime. Academic and activist, Noam Chomsky is quoted on the site, 'Julian Assange shouldn't be the



Billed as 'The longest running single fin longboard competition in Australia', the Byron Bay Malibu Classic held its event at Wategos last weekend. Pictured in foreground is Kai Ritchie. For more info, visit www.byronbaymalibuclub.org. Photo Jeff 'Knee Me A Rope' Dawson

subject of a grand jury hearing, he should be given a medal. He's contributing to democracy.'

Those interested in Australian songbirds, and how to support them, may be interested in biologist Tim Low's presentation at The Eltham Hotel on May 4, from 5.30-8.30pm. For more info, visit <https://bit.ly/3AJJzS>.

The 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival is about to turn 50, and photos of the festival by Peter Derrett will be on exhibition from May 12-20 at the Nimbin School of Arts (47 Cullen St, Nimbin). Other celebrations of radical free thinking are planned - how does it compare with this 'modern age' in 2023?

At last week's meeting, councillors deferred the decision on what to do with the disused railway, again, until June. If you are masochistic by nature, you can listen to over two hours of just that excruciating debate at www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

Isn't it odd that ICAC's corruption investigation of former NSW Liberal premier Gladys Berejiklian just disappeared?

Psst: The Byron Music Festival is back on at the Denning Park, June 17 - visit www.byronmusicfestival.com.au for early bird tickets.

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