

# Echo

IT WAS A BRIGHT COLD DAY IN MAY, AND THE CLOCKS WERE STRIKING THIRTEEN  
The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 37 #48 • May 10, 2023 • www.echo.net.au

## Inquests into kambo, ayahuasca-related deaths

Hans Lovejoy

Investigations are underway into two deaths in the Northern Rivers following ceremonies using the 'natural therapies' kambo and ayahuasca.

NSW State Coroner, Teresa O'Sullivan, is presiding over hearings into the death of Natasha Lechner, 39, who died at a home in Mullumbimby on March 8, 2019 following a kambo ceremony.

Additionally, evidence has been tabled at the Lismore courthouse around the the death of Jarrad Antonovich, 46, near Kyogle (see page 15).

Kambo and ayahuasca are South American traditional medicines used in purging or cleansing rituals.

Ayahuasca is commonly made from the Banisteriopsis caapi vine, and when drunk, produces psycho-active states of consciousness.

During a kambo ceremony, secretions are obtained under duress from the frog Phyllomedusa bicolor, and are applied via burns into the skin.

According to [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au), 'There is a risk of serious adverse reactions, especially if kambo enters the bloodstream'.

Pathologist, Dr Lorraine du Toit-Prinsloo, prepared Natasha's report and attended court online from Newcastle, and told the court it was the first case she had encountered.

The court heard that Natasha, who was an experienced kambo practitioner, went into cardiac arrest during the ceremony.

There was 'No evidence of pre-existing heart conditions for Natasha'.

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## Side hustle in a side street

The community came out in droves for Saturday's Blue on Burringbar Street event, which saw Mullum's streets closed for live entertainment, art installations and picnics. The day also celebrated resilience, and remembered the 2022 floods. Pictured are Shearwater wearable arts models – the Steiner school is now inviting all design artists and fashion innovators to enter the Wearable Arts performance event, to be held in November. Visit [www.shearwaterperformingarts.com](http://www.shearwaterperformingarts.com) for more info. Photo Jeff 'Side Street Bustles' Dawson

## Access granted to inspect Shire's rail corridor

Armidale based railway consultation and infrastructure management company, Northern Regional Railway Company (NRRC), has been granted a licence to access the Byron Shire section of rail corridor track, to 'Undertake costing analysis and develop a business plan to return trains'.

In a press release by Northern Rivers Rail Ltd (NRRL), they say the

12-month 'Minor Activities Licence' will allow NRRC access between Bangalow and Yelgun.

'This is a monumental achievement', said Lydia Kindred from NRRL.

'The licence will enable us to accurately cost the repair of the railway throughout the Byron Shire, and pave the way for the return of railway services'.

'We understand that this may be

a controversial issue, but NRRL and NRRC want to make it clear that we are not against rail trails. We are, however, against the removal of railway lines, especially when they can create significant financial and social benefits for regional and rural communities, like the Byron Shire.

'With over 2.21 million visitors in 2019, Byron Bay is undoubtedly one of Australia's most sought-after

destinations. However, the lack of transport services has limited the community's integration and productivity.

'The revival of the railway corridor can be a game-changer for Byron Bay, as it can connect the town with other parts of the region, making it easier for visitors to explore and for locals to commute.

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## Feros Care's development intentions investigated

Aslan Shand

Calls by residents and their families to remove Feros Care as the Crown Land Manager (CLM) for Feros Village Byron Bay have triggered an investigation by Crown Lands, who own the site on behalf of the people of NSW.

As the Marvell Street aged care facility is built on Crown Land, it must be managed 'in accordance with the reserve purpose: homes for the aged,' Crown Lands say, in a response to one of the residents' complaints.

Feros Care 'may not undertake development (i.e. proposed redeveloped as an intergenerational dwelling) on the property without consent of Crown Lands as owner of the land.'

A spokesperson for NSW Minister for Lands and Property, Labor MP Steve Kamper, told *The Echo*, 'Crown Lands [which sits] in the Department of Planning and Environment, met with Feros Care last week to discuss its plans, and [we] will be requesting further information to conduct a thorough assessment.'

*The Echo* understands

that Feros Care have now told Crown Lands that it is no longer planning an 'intergenerational' facility, and that they intend to maintain the site's focus on aged care.

Nonetheless, Feros Care management have said they still intend to redevelop the site, and all residents must find alternative placements. They say that the facility no longer meets the government's standards, including bushfire protection measures, for aged care.

A spokesperson for Feros Care told *The Echo*, 'Any redevelopment of this site will be for affordable seniors' accommodation, which is undeniably a much-needed community asset that allows for seniors to live independently while integrated within the community.'

'The decision to close the village was made, because after 33 years, it no longer meets the government requirements of a residential aged care facility. Feros Care is a not-for-profit charity committed to the Byron Bay community, just as we have been for many years.'

Three levels of government, represented by

Federal MP Justine Elliot, State MP Tamara Smith, and Byron Shire Mayor Michael Lyon, have supported the current residents in representations to the minister.

The Crown Lands spokesperson said, 'Crown Lands takes complaints regarding Crown Land Managers seriously, and is required to investigate matters fairly and impartially, including providing Feros with the opportunity to respond to concerns that are raised.'

Some members of the community pointed out that the site could sit empty for years, as Feros have yet to consult with the community, draw up plans and gain permission to go ahead with the development.

Speaking to *The Echo* on behalf of Friends of Feros, lawyer and councillor, Mark Swivel, who is representing some of the residents, said that the response from Crown Lands 'indicates no consultation and certainly no approval was obtained by Feros before announcing the closure of the facility.'

'You have to seriously question the governance process of an organisation that

seems to have overlooked the basic dynamics of Crown Land management,' he said.

'We look forward to the minister consulting with the community in line with the Community Engagement Strategy for Crown Land and the *NSW Government 2032 Crown Land Strategic Plan*.

### Procedural fairness

'The Crown Land Manager [Feros] is certainly entitled to procedural fairness, but the community is equally entitled to have its concerns and objections addressed. We hope the minister meets with community representatives who seek to keep Byron Village open for residents at a time when aged care accommodation is in crisis.'

Feros Care told *The Echo* that, 'If it is appropriate for current or past residents to live in the new development, taking into account their required level of care and circumstances, then they would, of course, be welcome to do so. In the near future, Feros Care will engage with the community on its plans to rebuild affordable and much-needed seniors' accommodation in Byron Bay.'

## Clarity sought around how govt is selling off rail assets

Paul Bibby

At this Thursday's Council meeting, two Byron Shire councillors will seek fellow councillor support to hold the NSW government to account over selling off rail assets.

A month after it emerged that the state-run Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) can sell off sections of the rail corridor to developers virtually without scrutiny, councillors Duncan Dey (Greens) and Peter Westheimer (Independent) are asking them to 'please explain'.

Under their proposed motion, Council would write to TAHE, Transport NSW and the relevant government ministers asking whether TAHE has any kind of strategic approach when selling parts of the rail corridor to ensure that minimum widths are maintained.

The bureaucrats would also be asked whether TAHE takes account of the future needs of the corridor, such as the duplication of the rail line, and the addition of a shared cycle and pedestrian path. 'Can TAHE adopt an

approach to ensure the sale or transfer of corridor assets will not prevent dual tracks between Billinudgel and Bangalow plus appropriate sidings where needed?' the motion asks.

The move follows a Development Application (DA) that came before last month's Council planning meeting effectively by accident, which involved selling off part of the rail corridor to a private developer.

The DA involved only a small adjustment to the boundaries of the corridor.

However, some councillors and community members expressed concern that there were likely to be other DAs that prepared corridor land for transfer into private hands.

'We [as councillors] need to be kept in the loop on these matters,' Cr Dey said.

'We need to strategically plan for the very likely increase in visitation and permanent population of the shire, by ensuring that the existing rail corridor is put to the best possible use in moving people, and in easing motor vehicle congestion and emissions issues.'



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## Aquarius Fest peace action

Peace activists are calling for a peace action to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Aquarius Festival, to be held at The Channon Craft Market on Sunday May 14.

Co-organiser, Harsha Prabhu encourages everyone to form a peace mandala on the grass at 12pm. Fellow organiser, Benny Zable, says, 'We will be standing united, expressing a commitment to developing a culture of peace and non-violence'.

They both say as it is Mother's Day, there will be acts to entertain all ages and the evening will end with a 'monster drum circle' and fire dancers.

For more information, visit [www.aquarius50.com.au](http://www.aquarius50.com.au).



## High tea to the strains of Mozart

Charla and Zoe took in the timeless beauty of Mozart on Sunday, performed by the newly-formed Caldera Chamber Ensemble at the Music in the Meadow event, held in Stokers Siding. Photo Jeff 'By Babbling Brooks' Dawson



## Charity ride hits Byron

On May 6, stroke survivor, Tommy Quick made it to his third point, Cape Byron Lighthouse, on his four point bike journey around the nation. Quick is now on his way to Cape York in northern Qld. Donations to the Stroke Foundation can be made via his website, [www.the4points.org](http://www.the4points.org). Photo supplied

## Rail corridor to be inspected

► Continued from page 1 It can also help ease traffic congestion and reduce the impact on the environment.

Kindred says, 'At NRRL, we are the local face of the railway. We will directly interact with the community to manage the day-to-day operations of the local railway. This includes scheduling, ticket sales, events, public relations, and asset acquisitions, such as trains and carriages, station construction/upgrades, and more. We are committed to working closely with the local community to ensure that the railway benefits everyone'.

Yet finding an operator and funding remains an obstacle for a local light rail service. A spokesperson from the Byron Bay Railroad Company told *The Echo* on March 13 this year, 'The Byron Solar Train is a not-for-profit venture. Any extension would need to be funded from other sources – be they government or private'.

Kindred says, 'We believe that the railway can help create a more integrated and productive community, and we are dedicated to making that a reality'.

For more info, visit [www.northernriversrail.com.au](http://www.northernriversrail.com.au).

## Men's shed location found, members needed!

With the growth in Men's Sheds in the region, local co-ordinator Tony Heeson says a location has been secured in Byron Bay, and all that is needed is members.

Heeson is co-ordinator of Zone 12, which covers 18 sheds in the Northern Rivers, from Tweed Heads to Grafton.

He told *The Echo*, 'A community men's shed is a community space consisting of workshops and meeting rooms, where men gather to work together on meaningful activities and projects for personal and community benefit'.

'It aims to improve the health and well-being of members, and reduce the number of men who are at risk from preventable health



Tony Heeson. Photo Jeff Dawson

issues that may emanate from social isolation.

'The recently formed Australian Men's Shed Association now has about 1,380 member sheds.

'Some small areas with sheds include Drake and

Bonalbo, with populations of under 500.

### Central Byron Bay location secured

'With Byron's population at 6,000, we have a central

location for the shed, and the necessary funding to build it.

'The Australian Men's Shed Association started in 2007, and now boasts 1,400 sheds in Australia – that's more men's sheds than McDonald's.

'There are 380 in NSW, and all sheds in the Northern Rivers are growing.

'The Bangalow Shed commenced in 2016, with 15 members, and now has 72.

'All sheds receive significant government funding. NSW sheds got over \$6 million in the last six months'.

Anyone who is interested in starting, or joining a men's shed in Byron Bay, please contact Tony Heeson on 0419 715 098, email [wallaby@nor.com.au](mailto:wallaby@nor.com.au) or visit [www.mensshed.org](http://www.mensshed.org).

## Inquests into kambo, ayahuasca-related deaths

► Continued from page 1 Dr du Toit-Prinsloo said.

On the balance of probabilities, she said that that it was 'Likely [kambo] had a causal relationship' to Natasha's death'.

The position was supported by cardiologist, Dr Mark Adams.

Natasha's father, Frank, addressed the courts, and said she was 'an old soul in a young body'

'At 11 years, she showed wisdom in her poetry' and had an 'interest in story telling and spirituality'.

He also said his daughter was 'not a risk taker'.

Frank said it wasn't made apparent to participants that you could die from kambo, and it 'should have been emphasised'.

He added that he was 'glad to see kambo has been made illegal', yet said it was 'difficult to police', and that he was disappointed

first-aid wasn't administered at the time on Natasha.

Frank became upset when describing Natasha as a 'generous, caring and soulful individual'.

'You never get over it', he said in tears.

The inquiries continue at the Lismore Courthouse.

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## Barber skills on offer at Byron Youth Service

The Byron Community Barber Program is open for trade, and will teach basic work and life skills to five young and aspiring barbers.

Christian Tancred from the Byron Youth Service (BYS) told *The Echo* the team at the Youth Activities Centre (YAC) were seeking new and creative ways to engage young men in the community, so they transformed the old board room into a fully functioning barbershop.

‘Five young men from Byron High School will be mentored in the trade skills of barbering, and learn to cut the hair of role models in the community’, he said.

‘In doing so they learn communication, self-care, and respect with a focus on positive aspects of masculinity.’

Morgan O’Hara, barber and youth mentor, said it is important to create a space that is inviting and safe for young men to socialise, learn the basics of the trade but also develop life skills around positive masculinity and self-care.

‘We’ve seen great commitment from our young barbers and it seems like



In the April 12, 2023 edition, *The Echo* ran the headline ‘Top cop sheared for a cause’, which incorrectly stated Detective Chief Inspector, Matt Kehoe, had shaved his head for charity. Inspector Kehoe actually took part in the Byron Community Barber program when it launched. Photo Jeff ‘Mixed Up Captions And Keeping The Ed On His Toes’ Dawson

having their own shop which they are responsible for is making a difference in their lives,’ he said.

Christian says role models from the community are invited into the space for a haircut and to share stories and life wisdoms with the young men.

‘This is designed to bridge generational gaps but also to foster respect, focus and a greater sense of the world around them.’

‘This community barbershop will provide

a meaningful activity, but also contributes to the self-esteem of participants and helps reposition them in the community of Byron Shire in a positive light.

### No shockers

‘Staff at The YAC are looking for volunteers to take part in the program and all haircuts will be supervised by a professional barber mentor, so there will be no shockers.’

For more information, phone 6685 7777, or email christian@bys.org.au.

## Funding obstacles for coastal walk/cycleway plan

Paul Bibby

Could the popular Ballina coastal walk and cycleway be expanded to include Byron’s famous coastline?

It’s a question which has local cyclists strapping on their shoes in anticipation, and it’s coming up for debate at this Thursday’s Byron Council meeting.

The proposal, originally put forward by Ballina Council, would see the two councils work together to secure funding for, and ultimately build, the extension of the pathway from Lennox Head to Byron Bay.

‘A similar motion was passed as a Mayoral Minute by Ballina Shire Council in March 2023, and they are seeking a sister motion from us to join forces in attempting to secure funding for this walking/cycling path,’ said Byron Mayor Michael Lyon in a Mayoral Minute, contained within the agenda of this week’s meeting.

However, the project has already hit a potential hurdle, with Byron Council’s Infrastructure Planning Coordinator, James Flockton, noting that ‘the constraints for various route options



A section of the Ballina Coastal Walk. Photo supplied

are complex and require further investigation before a route could be planned and designed.

‘Therefore, a route options assessment would be the preferred first step,’ Mr Flockton said.

A particular challenge is that the Byron leg of the pathway would have to go through or around the Broken Head nature reserve, not an easy task given the size and shape of this area.

### Lacks funding: staff

Mr Flockton also said that the proposal was only supported by staff if suitable funding could be found to fund investigations into the plan.

However, Cr Lyon said

he believed that, while the specifics of the route had yet to be determined, Council could provide ‘in-principle support for further investigation’.

Back in March, Ballina Mayor, Sharon Cadwallader described the project as ‘a perfect example of where councils can work together to deliver positive outcomes for their communities’.

Cr Cadwallader also noted that ‘the demonstration of support for this project from Ballina and Byron Shire Councils will also assist in securing grant funding, as the state and federal governments regularly prefer to fund projects that have support across multiple councils’.

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# Sex, science and songbirds

Ray Moynihan

It was standing room only at the Eltham Hotel last Thursday for a bawdy night out about Australian songbirds.

The sell-out crowd for Science in the Pub were wowed by award-winning author, Tim Low, and the warm-up act, local regeneration legend, Mark Dunphy.

Dunphy laid out the stark fact of colonisation clearing rainforests, but also celebrated the recent plantings of millions of trees in the region to help regenerate forests, bringing back the birds who sing in them.

He also lowly described a 'bird orgy' in his own regenerated backyard, as birds were constantly courting, mating, and nesting.

'It's like a conga-line of illicit sex', said Dunphy, who is vice-president of the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy. 'Sometimes, it's a bit obscene, and I have to turn my eyes.'

Biologist and author, Tim Low, confirmed that Australian birds were indeed, 'champions of promiscuity', citing evidence that most magpies have illicit fathers,



**The Lyrebird (genus Menura).**  
Photo www.britannica.com

and female fairy-wrens have 'lots of extra-marital sex, often in the 'pre-dawn light'.

On a more serious note, Low talked about the scientific evidence from DNA studies and fossils, revealing Australian songbirds have the greatest genetic diversity, and are the oldest on the planet.

Bird of the night went to the Lyrebird, identified in fossils in Australia dating back 20 million years, still heard in local forests, and regarded as the 'world's best songbird'.

Low is the author of many books, including the prize-winning best-seller, *Where Song Began*, about the global significance and impact of Australia's

extraordinary birdlife.

And he had some good news for those of us lucky enough to live in or visit this region, describing the forests of northern NSW and south-east Qld as the 'surviving epicentre of where these birds are best represented'.

The event was organised by Richmond Landcare and Lismore Council, with support from Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy.

Tim Low told *The Echo* that the role of Landcare groups, and their work in helping regenerate forests and other ecosystems, was 'really important'.

## Tree planting day

For anyone keen to plant some trees and help provide homes for those lascivious songbirds, Brunswick Valley Landcare is holding their annual Mother's Day community tree-planting day, this Sunday May 14, between 9 and 12, at 62 Yankee Creek Road Mullumbimby.

■ Ray Moynihan is a journalist and academic who organised the 2023 Regeneration festival, school workshop and plantings.

# Community dying, death and funerals expo, May 27

Celebrant Zenith Virago and the Natural Death Care Centre, along with other local and national organisations, will present a community day at the Ocean Shores Community Centre on May 27 around the services available in the Shire for dying, death and funerals.

The event follows on from the success of the last two year's expo events, and coincides with National Palliative Care Week: May 22-28.

Virago says the community dying, death and funerals expo will run from 10am till 2pm, and diverse death speakers will speak from 11am till 1pm.

'The event includes local and government palliative care and hospice services,

holistic funeral and death-care services, celebrants, counsellors, funerary manufacturers, and a not-for-profit funeral fund'.

All are welcome, Virago says, with entry by donation to cover costs. The day is supported by the Byron Shire Council grants program.

## Cooling plate

Meanwhile, Byron Shire's natural death and dying practitioners say they have taken another step forward with the recent purchase of a second cooling plate by Amityayus Home Hospice Service (AHHS) and the Natural Death Care Centre (NDCC).

The cooling plate is a compact, electrically-powered refrigeration unit

weighing about 20kg which allows families and friends to keep a person's body at home - for up to five days within NSW.

And for those interested in caring for the dying, a seven-week program is being offered by Amityayus, in partnership with the Byron Community College.

Last Aid: Caring for the Dying at Home starts May 11, and is 'designed to explore and demystify dying and death, to learn about caring for a dying person at home, after-death care and different options for funerals'.

For more information, phone Lyn Kemp on 0421 035 351 and to enrol, phone the Byron Community College on 02 6684 3374.

# Schools receive infrastructure, equipment grants

Goonengerry Public, Brunswick Heads Public, Mullum's St John's Primary School and Hinterland Christian College are four from a total of 18 north coast schools which will benefit from a federal grant to upgrade school infrastructure and equipment.

The funding will be used to install or upgrade shade structures and air conditioning, upgrade ventilation, purchase laptops and tablets, improve outdoor learning spaces and refurbish

classrooms.

Local MP Justine Elliot says the funding is part of a \$250 million commitment by the Albanese Labor government to improve school infrastructure.

'All schools across the country were invited to apply for the funding and projects were assessed by the Department of Education and selected based on need'.

'Schools were able to apply for grants of up to \$25,000 to support much needed improvements

to facilities and learning environments.

She said, 'The Albanese Labor government is delivering on our promise to invest in our schools and there is more to come.'

'Our local schools deserve great infrastructure and quality equipment to help students achieve their best.'

'The Albanese government is investing in a better and fairer education system, and this is terrific news for our local schools with more to come', Elliot said



## Byron Shire Community Awards 2023

### What makes our community great?

Do you know someone who deserves an award to recognise their achievements and contribution to Byron Shire?

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- Community Member of Byron Shire
- Young Community Member of Byron Shire
- Giving Back to Byron Shire Award
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- Caring for Country Award
- Contribution to Health and Wellbeing Award
- Creativity Award
- Access and Inclusion Award
- Open Award

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# Renew Fest's 24-hour Vigil For Grief, June 24 and 25

Renew Fest's 24-hour Vigil For Grief has been announced for June 24 and 25, and aims to be an 'open-air large-scale arts-infused event' held at the fig tree grove at the Mullumbimby Showground.

Co-ordinator Ella Rose Goninan told *The Echo*, 'The vigil will be accompanied by an online series of focused grief and gratitude circles, held throughout June and July.'

'Provided free for all communities of all backgrounds in the Bundjalung and Northern Rivers region, it is funded by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal.'

'This event, and series of circles, builds upon a similar and successful Vigil for Grief that Renew Fest held in 2019.'

'These offerings are designed to assist with collective healing and shared mental health support, to help acknowledge and process the many layers of grief, loss, trauma and



Photo from the 2019 Vigil For Grief event. Photo supplied

fragmentation that has occurred in the wake of the Northern Rivers flood crisis'.

Goninan added, 'They are also thoughtfully designed to offer safe, welcoming, collective spaces to connect with grief and gratitude and to honour and give respect to all personal and collective grief of any kind'.

Niall Fahy said of the 2019 Vigil For Grief event, 'I feel like it represents something that's been more or less

repressed in the typical Northern Rivers culture... in my experience, the new-age subculture has often been so obdurately oriented towards "light" and "positivity" that it has felt at times repressive - a negation of true expression of what it is to be human.'

'I left with an exquisite sense of communal heart-break and solidarity'.

For more information, visit www.renewfest.org.au or www.hhug.org.au.

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## Dynamic Drawing moves venue after 20-year stint



Drawing model, Shanene Balke, with Liz and Ron. Photo Jeff 'Pencil Neck' Dawson

After a marathon 20 years (2003-23) of Wednesday morning classes at Mullumbimby's historic Drill Hall Theatre, Dynamic Drawing classes have relocated to Brunswick Heads, and have recommenced their popular forum at the RSL Hall in Fawcett Street, Thursday mornings from 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Organisers, Ron and Liz, told *The Echo*, 'The Drill Hall has come under new management over the last year or two, and is about to undergo major renovations. After its long-term role as a community-based venue, it will now be largely used as a performance based space.'

The pair say the new Hall Management Committee resolved that from 2023, the Drill Hall will only be hired for activities that relate to performances.

Ron and Liz said, 'Dynamic Drawing would like to extend a really big thank you to Alex and Jill Benham, the previous well-loved and long time custodians of the Drill Hall, who tirelessly looked after the hall, managed numerous productions and events, including the historic 2016 centenary celebrations, and who were always there supportively to liaise with all those involved with the hall!'

## Byron beach erosion strategies slowly move ahead

Paul Bibby

A number of the options being considered by Byron Shire Council to protect the town centre and foreshore from coastal erosion and inundation, will result in a significant reduction in the shoreline at Main Beach, a technical assessment has found.

Councillors noted a report on the matter at their April 27 meeting, which was commissioned as part of the Main Beach Shoreline Project.

It found that three of the options being considered will result in a 'net reduction in beach volume'.

These options would also see a corresponding advance in the shoreline at Belongil. 'On average, the

estimated shoreline change for these options are in the range of minus 5m to minus 12m at Main Beach and +5m to +10m at Belongil Beach,' the report states.

One of the options, which would see the existing Jonson Street protection works moved 30 metres landward, has been rejected because of the significant loss of shoreline it would necessarily entail.

The report noted that such a shift would have economic impacts resulting from a loss of public and private assets and foreshore amenity.

In a significant understatement, the report also noted that 'the permanent change to the character of the location would be

unlikely to be perceived positively by all sectors of the community.'

The remaining options would have a far less dramatic impact on the foreshore, the report found.

It also found that these options would have little or no impact on surfing conditions at or around Main Beach, including the much-loved surf spot adjacent to the shipwreck located just north of the Main Beach carpark.

These strategies will now be further investigated to determine the way forward.

However, the report noted that none of these options would have a significant impact on the major ocean phenomena affecting the bay. 'The model demonstrates

that headland bypassing and the variability it causes to Main Beach's sand supply is the principal factor controlling shoreline dynamics along Main Beach and that is likely to remain the case irrespective of the option implemented,' the report found.

The Main Beach Shoreline Project is focused on how to modify the existing, degraded coastal protection works in a way that will give the best outcomes for the fragile beach and the adjacent streets and buildings.

The strip has suffered severe erosion over the past three years, with entire dune areas consumed by the sea, and water lapping at the footings of two beachside buildings.

## Council forges on with its 'affordable housing' car park plans

Paul Bibby

Byron Council will forge ahead with plans for an affordable housing development on a council carpark in Mullumbimby, despite criticism that the project is being undertaken on an inappropriate site and 'doesn't stack up financially'.

Council has been working with the government-owned development corporation, Landcom, on the plan that would see 32 one-and-two-bedroom units built at 57 Station Street; land that is currently in use as a car park in the centre of town.

After community housing providers rejected Council's

offer of a 49-year lease to run the project, councillors have instead elected to persevere with the plan, noting at their last meeting that a meeting to discuss alternative ways of moving forward financially will happen later this month.

'It hasn't gone according to plan so far in terms of the tender process, but we are

working through it,' Mayor Michael Lyon said.

'I'm committed to working this through with affordable housing in perpetuity'.

However, Greens councillor, Duncan Dey, strongly disagreed, saying that the project had been a poorly conceived idea from the start, and was now 'failing'.

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### Women-at-risk fundraising luncheon

Ember Restaurant, located upstairs at Mercato on Byron, are hosting a fundraising luncheon on May 26 to raise much-needed funds for the Women's Circle at Fletcher Street Cottage, in support of homeless women.

The Women's Circle provides a safe space for women experiencing homelessness, domestic violence and other related issues.

Organisers say the two-course lunch includes speakers, raffle prizes and is presented by Ember, Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce and Byron Community Centre.

Ember's owner, Troy Lister, said, 'We believe that everyone deserves a safe and supportive community, and we want to do our part in making that a reality. We invite everyone to join us for this special event and help us make a difference in the lives of women who are experiencing homelessness and other challenges.'

To book, visit [www.byroncentre.com.au/community-events/ember-fundraising-luncheon-2023](http://www.byroncentre.com.au/community-events/ember-fundraising-luncheon-2023).



### Clothes exchanged for Indian charity

Aya and Lucy, with their mum and grandmother, Wendy Royston, held a clothes swap recently, which raised money for Women's Empowerment in Indian Villages (WEIV). Wendy, together with her partner, Graeme Batterbury, have been running the charity in rural India since 2005. The charity runs a Reproductive and Child Health program, and there are eight literacy centres for adolescent girls, who would otherwise receive no formal education.

Photo Jeff 'Needing A New Wardrobe, Thanks' Dawson

### Low-cost building workshop on offer, May 20, 21

A hands-on learning workshop to build a garden wall at the Community Gardens in Murwillumbah will be held on Saturday May 20 and Sunday 28, from 8am to 12 noon.

Organisers say it is a rare opportunity to learn from Rebecca Whan, 'a world-renowned architect and expert, who is busy facilitating earth-buildings around

the globe.'

They say, 'Earth wall buildings have been used in many traditional settings universally. They have gathered interest in recent times since they greatly reduce damage to the environment, are aesthetically pleasing, and involve fewer delivery miles in their making. The same principles are used

to create houses and other buildings'.

The workshops will run on Saturday May 20 and Sunday 28, from 8am to 12 noon.

Each workshop is \$40 (non-members) and \$30 (members). Bookings are essential: [www.trybooking/CHPVQ//earthbagstructures,2484](http://www.trybooking/CHPVQ//earthbagstructures,2484)

Numbers are limited.

### Neighbourhood centre thanks its vollies



Volunteer Wayne Whitehouse, with neighbourhood centre volunteer co-ordinator, Sylvia Amoding. Photo supplied

With May 15-21 being National Volunteer Week, Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre told *The Echo* it wishes to thank all its volunteers, past and present, 'for their efforts and contribution to the centre and our community'.

'Your excellence drives

our success. We are so grateful for your hard work and dedication. Thank you for your time and patience.

'You are the change-makers and our everyday heroes, and we will never forget your contribution. We love you and so does the Mullum community!'



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**Echo**

News from across the North Coast online ► [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

**Koalas are hanging out at East Coraki**

Friends of the Koala is excited to have been granted \$199,980 from the Australian Government for its 'Hanging out at East Coraki: koalas thriving in an agricultural landscape', project and to be running the first community tree planting day on Saturday May 20.

**KRPA calls for action on legacy floodplain DAs – now**

Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association (KRPA) has called for action, rather than more talk, on the dangers of approved legacy and zombie development applications (DAs) on floodplains.

**Alert issued over dangerous counterfeit tablets**

Locals are warned against taking medications sourced via the black market following the seizure of counterfeit medications containing life-threatening substances.

**Local women surfers invited to Seas the Day at new festival**

To say that Australian surfing hasn't always been particularly welcoming to women is a tsunami-sized understatement.

**First responders and the first response to Tourettes**

Have you ever tried to stifle a sneeze? It's not easy, but it's doable. Now think about suppressing 50 sneezes a day or 50 sneezes an hour.

**Blue-green algae scums on Lake Ainsworth**

Ballina Shire Council is warning Lake Ainsworth users that there are blue-green algae scums on Lake Ainsworth that should be avoided.

**Time for breast checks in Murwillumbah**

Free mammograms with BreastScreen NSW mobile van is at Knox Park in Murwillumbah to eligible women aged between 50 and 74 and there's no referral needed but an appointment required. The van will be at Knox Park from now until 23 May.

**Koalas using newly created wildlife corridor in Northern Rivers**

Trees planted just two years ago, as part of the koala corridor being planted throughout the Northern Rivers by Bangalow Koalas with collaboration from International Fund for Animal Welfare, have seen koala poo recorded among trees.

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

# Sophie speaks of her Tourettes journey

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

**H**ave you ever tried to stifle a sneeze? It's not easy, but it's doable.

Now think about suppressing 50 sneezes a day or 50 sneezes an hour.

How do you think you'd go stifling 50 sneezes a minute? For an hour? You'd be approaching the tip of the iceberg of what many people with Tourette Syndrome (TS) live with every day.

If you are a conservative person you may find Sophie's behaviour shocking, uncouth or vulgar. If you can be very rude and uncouth yourself (like me) and have a potty mouth, you might find it endearing, or even funny, but Tourette Syndrome is no laughing matter.

The difference is, rude people can contain their language, but Sophie, who doesn't want to be rude and obscene, can't.

She doesn't want to have to avoid going to the shops because of the overt stares, comments and finger pointing that come with buying the essentials.

Sophie also doesn't want to call her own mother the worst swear insults you can't even imagine.

Her condition has isolated her to the point that at 18, she pretty much has no social life, apart from the contacts she has made among the Tourettes community and her mum.

Sophie was a fairly usual 16-year-old, living near Lismore, when she experienced the onset of TS. She was a straight A student, who excelled in math and science, and was thinking a career in aeronautical engineering might be an option in her future.



A precious moment of peace for mum Katrina and daughter Sophie, but within seconds of this shot, Sophie was mouthing at her mother's shoulder.

After a traumatic incident put her in an ambulance and a hospital bed at Lismore Base, her life changed irreversibly. She went in as Sophie, she came out as Sophie and her tics – they just appeared.

Sophie said that the 'opinions' of her tics are vastly different from her own personal opinions. 'I saw an Asian man and I [my tics] were wanting to pull my eyes sideways and start screaming at him how I hope he eats dogs and stuff.'

'I redirected it but started screaming. "I've got rice in my ears". I was like, "I'm so sorry".'

Redirection is possible some of the time and takes a visible amount of energy – Sophie redirected to 'coco-nut' (play with the letters – you'll work it out) several times during our conversation, but redirecting requires a lot of concentration and at the end of the day can make her exhausted. It's better if she doesn't have to.

Last week was Tourette Syndrome Awareness

Week, and the Tourette Syndrome Association of Australia (TSAA) are hoping the wider community can take some time to see how the condition impacts the lives of those living with it.

**Tourette Syndrome awareness week**

The theme this year is Tourette Syndrome: What's your first response?

The hope is that first responders, ambulance, police, firefighters and workers in emergency situations will become more aware of TS and ask themselves if it may be the cause of the person they are trying to help being abusive and 'violent'.

The association is also looking at the first response from the community when someone with Tourettes, particularly those who have coprophenomena (coprolalia – involuntary tics in the form of socially unacceptable words, and copropraxia, gestures) often of the type of behaviour

TS they could respond in a more appropriate manner, one better suited to the health and wellbeing of the person with TS.

The physical cost to Sophie and her mother is heavy. Sophie is covered in scratches, bruises and scrapes from her tics throwing her on the ground and self harm tics.

A trip to the bathroom to wash her hair can end up in a mouth full of shampoo.

Her house has holes in the walls and remnants of food particles in places you wouldn't expect to see them.

Katrina also wears the marks of the parent of someone with TS.

**Unsupported by NDIS**

Unfortunately, as Katrina explains, the NDIS sees TS as a childhood condition that goes away, so people like Sophie, who are now adults, have little or no support from the system designed to support people with disability.

One of the biggest problems is a society, and even a medical community sometimes, who think they are putting it on.

Sophie has some non-Tourette-related conditions and her file has even drawn the response from a doctor that she has too many rare things wrong with her and is it possible she is faking it?

Sophie is amazing. There is a lot of love and tonnes of humour in their home.

She stands at the bottom of the mountain with no way clear way up and with little supporting help, yet she and Katrina still forge onwards and upwards every day in any way they can.

Please be compassionate – there are people who live with the unimaginable.

## MP Ben Franklin embroiled in Nationals fracas for considering plum appointment

Locally-based Nationals MLC Ben Franklin is embroiled with infighting within his own party, according to *SMH* (Nine) and independent publisher *Crikey*.

Attempts to confirm the accuracy of the *SMH* story with Franklin were unsuccessful, however he did make a statement on his Facebook page on Monday night.

In 2019, Franklin ran against incumbent MP Tamara Smith (Greens) for the seat of Ballina on a large 'pork barrelling' platform of promises, yet lost.

NSW deputy premier Paul Toole was dumped by the party Monday night, just one month after he was re-elected to the role. Dubbo MP, Dugald Saunders, is his replacement.

Regarding Franklin, *SMH* reports, 'The NSW Nationals are threatening to refer one of their own members to the corruption watchdog for considering a lucrative promotion in the new parliament despite senior party figures proposing another of their own MPs for the same job'.

The report claims Franklin 'sparked fury in his party



Nationals MLC Ben Franklin pictured at the annual Parkes Elvis Festival. Photo supplied

room' for considering the plum job of upper house president, despite another Nationals MP, Wes Fang, also considering the job.

'Upper house presidential perks include a driver, staff and a salary on par with a government minister'.

*SMH* says Franklin is a close friend to Minns, and is also 'the godfather to one of Minns's sons'.

### Jobs for the boys?

Premier Chris Minns confirmed with *SMH* he would nominate Franklin for the job, which would potentially give Labor a majority in the evenly balanced upper house.

*SMH* reports, 'Minns on Wednesday denied some Nationals' suggestions that his personal friendship with Franklin constituted a case of "jobs for the boys", pointing out Labor had previously supported Mason-Cox for upper house president in the last term of parliament, and independent Greg Piper for lower house speaker'.

Franklin told his social media followers that he will nominate for the position of President of the Legislative Council, and as such, will recuse himself from the Nationals party room and the Joint Coalition party room, 'to ensure the chairing of parliamentary sessions is conducted free of partisan bias'.

He says other MPs have recused themselves from their respective parties when appointed to the role.

Franklin said he intends to remain a member of the National Party. 'I've been a devoted member of The Nationals for the past 15 years, serving as state director for seven years, and then as a Member of the Legislative Council since 2015'.

## Marie's Tibetan tales released in book



Marie Sherd has collated her Tibetan experiences into a new book, *Friends in High Places*. Photo Jeff Dawson

### Aslan Shand

In 2007, local artist, Marie Sherd, took a month-long trip to Tibet to discover for herself what conditions were like for Tibetans. The result is the book, *Friends in High Places*, and she presents it at a meet the author session at the Mullumbimby Library on June 10.

Marie says she was inspired to travel there by a friend, who is a Tibetan lama, and is based in Geelong.

'He is not allowed into Tibet because he has been vocal about Tibet and the treatment of Tibetans'.

She says her book is a 'mix of fact and fiction' and it 'is important not to forget the ongoing situation in Tibet'.

## Byron Triathlon and Lighthouse Run, May 13, 14

The Byron Bay Triathlon and Byron Bay Lighthouse Run is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14 respectively.

Saturday's 'Olympic' course, according to byrontri.org, includes an ocean swim, a lapped cycle course to Suffolk Park, and a lapped run past the Beach Hotel, finishing at the Surf Club.

The swim is 1,500m, the cycle 40km and the run is 10km. Other competitive events are also on offer.

Sunday's fun run will be hosted across 10km, 6km and 1km distances, with the funds raised going to Indigenous Carbon Australia, Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre and Safe Haven.

## Half a million cost shifted from govt to Tweed Council 'unbelievable'

### Aslan Shand

The NSW state government has sprung a 'catastrophic' Emergency Services Levy on NSW councils, leaving them struggling to fathom how they are supposed to come up with the money that the state is demanding.

At last week's Tweed Shire Council (TSC) meeting, it was revealed that the TSC had received the equivalent of a \$540,000 levy, a significant increase on what was expected, drawing a quick response from councillors at the 'bizarre' and 'unbelievable' levy that is putting Council in an 'untenable position' according to Tweed Mayor Chris Cherry.

The Emergency Services Levy is a contribution paid by all NSW councils that funds

all the emergency services across that shire. The issue for councils is that the state government has not only significantly increased the levy, they have removed the subsidy that councils were previously receiving.

'The \$540,000 represents the equivalent of a 0.85 per cent rate increase,' explained Tweed Council's general manager, Troy Green.

'That represents one-third of the special rate variation (SRV) that we've asked for.'

Council cannot use the SRV to pay for the levy as, if approved, it would have to be spent on the areas identified in the request for the SRV.

'Council unfortunately has received this notification outside our rating cycle. So we have not been able to factor this in,' said Cr Cherry.

TSC had budgeted for a four per cent increase in the emergency services levy, however, the increase by the state government for the next financial year is 24.28 per cent.

'I just found this quite unbelievable,' said Councillor Dr Nola Firth.

'We're expected as a council to run our budget, and we've done a really careful job. And then suddenly [you] have a huge amount of money that we [are] expected to find at a time when we've already gone to the community about the difficulties we are under. I'm absolutely astonished that something like this could happen.'

Her astonishment was reiterated by councillor James Owen, who told the meeting, 'It's quite bizarre.'

## Domestic gas reservation policy FOI docs blocked by Labor

### Hans Lovejoy

Federal Labor are refusing to comment on claims by former South Australian Senator, Rex Patrick, that Madeleine King's Energy Department is refusing to release details around briefings and an options paper regarding a domestic gas reservation policy.

Patrick wrote on [www.michaelwest.com.au](http://www.michaelwest.com.au) that his freedom of information (FOI) request for those documents

was denied, and large law firm Clayton Utz has been employed to defend the secrecy.

### WA's successful gas reservation policy

*The Echo* asked Minister King's office, 'If correct, what public interest arguments are there for this refusal?; Does the minister agree a domestic gas reservation policy is a good idea in principle, given her state of WA

has been successful in keeping gas prices down through a reservation policy?; and, When is there likely to be an announcement around this policy?' Minister King's office replied to *The Echo*, 'The matter is currently before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and it would be inappropriate to comment further'.

Her office referred to a press release on how Labor were addressing rising gas prices - from last December.

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**The Byron Shire Echo**  
Volume 37 #48 • May 10, 2023

## I like your conspiracies, I do not like your conspiracy theorists

**H**ere's one to get yabbering on: Dr John Campbell, a mild-mannered retired UK nurse teacher, gets huge online views with his consistent – and prolific – analysis of Covid-19 effects and the vaccines.

On Tuesday, he posted that excess deaths in UK have risen 22 per cent.

'Why is this not a national scandal?' he asks.

In another video from a month ago, he assessed a January 2021 report from Australia: TGA's *Non-clinical Evaluation Report of Pfizer's mRNA COVID-19 vaccine*.

According to [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au), the national vaccine rollout began on February 22, 2021.

He says the report was only made available after a hard fought freedom of information request, and when it was finally provided, it was heavily redacted.

Campbell says, 'The whole point of science is that we share it and open it to peer review. There are scientists all around the world who are desperate for this information'.

From the report, he asks more questions and raises his concerns around the concentration of radioactive lipid nanoparticle marker in blood plasma.

'We were told it stayed in the injection site', he said. 'We can now tell you, as this is an official government document, that the lipid nanoparticles [via intramuscular injection on rats] are widely distributed'.

'The vaccines are not radioactive,' he adds, 'but there are plenty of things that are concerning'.

'The uptake to the liver was one major concern', he said, and suggests asking those in authority why this information wasn't provided at the time, prior to the vaccine rollout.



**O**n a lighter note, NSW parliament returned on May 9.

The newly-minted Labor government has had some good lead time in changing the office decor and getting up to speed with how to run a state.

After 12 years of Labor being in opposition, we can expect a few bumpy bits until they are a finely-honed govcorp machine.

There are so many issues to get stuck into.

For example, there are over 200 urgent Byron Council road funding projects to do – many of which are unfunded.

The flood reconstruction of the region is still limping along, and appears without any real urgency.

As for representation for this area, Greens MP Tamara Smith, was

re-elected on March 25, so what can we expect? As a member of the crossbench, hopefully she can inspire Labor to commit to fixing up over 200 urgent council road funding projects – many of which are unfunded.

And how will Labor treat all the 128 local government areas (LGAs)?

So far it hasn't been great, with the emergency levy increase/cost shift being one example.

Keeping councils on their knees was a hallmark of the previous coalition government. Let's hope Labor instead provide councils with enough autonomy so they can function without endless handouts.

As we have seen, being so reliant on the state and feds for grants means potholes don't get fixed and drainage remains clogged.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

## Historical trauma, old men and suicide

**M**any years ago, I researched and prepared a descriptive and reflective analysis of Aboriginal youth suicide.

I was then, and remain now, alarmed about the rate of Aboriginal youth suicide and what drives the young to choose death over life.

I've always been concerned about the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal men in particular, and men generally, and to develop a better understanding of what men were experiencing in an ever-changing world.

I designed and hosted a number of men's gatherings, where I sat in talking and sharing circles with other men, including Dr Mark Wintong, and non-Aboriginal friends and colleagues, such as Jeff McMullen and Professor Garry Egger, to hear the stories of men's journeys as they talked openly about the low and high points of their life.

The men who attended these gatherings were sons, brothers, uncles, husbands, grandfathers and partners, and all of us were flawed in some way, filled with grief and regrets, but determined to be, and do better, as men.

The men ranged in age from late teens to older men in the 70s or 80s, some of whom were Elders with years of accumulated life experiences and wisdom.

The diversity between and within the men served to enrich us, and we worked hard to ensure that difference didn't divide us.



*'One issue that kept emerging during these gathering was historical trauma, and how it affected the mental health of Indigenous men'*

– Bob Morgan

It was a real struggle to secure funding support to host these gatherings, and numerous meetings with Aboriginal Affairs NSW and the NSW Department of Health were fruitless.

We were in fact told that there were no votes in men's health and wellbeing.

What confused and distressed us was that this message was delivered by other men in positions of political and bureaucratic power and influence; we naively thought that they, as men, would be supportive.

Funding was finally secured through Commonwealth sources, but only if we were prepared to include leadership in the focus of the gatherings.

The men who attended these gatherings were not necessarily motivated by concepts of leadership, but if including leadership as a focus of the gathering would secure funding support, then we would include it.

However, one issue that kept emerging during these gathering was historical trauma, and how it affected the mental health of Indigenous men, including associated illnesses such as suicide or suicide ideation.

How does this crisis of mental health, and suicide manifest and is it an issue across the generations?

Data from the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) illustrate a situation involving suicide and older male Australians that should be of urgent concern to all Australians.

The ABS stats show that for men over 85, the rate of suicide is more than three times the national average. Not enough work is being done to better understand why old men are suiciding at such a rate.

Perhaps it is a callous and heartless belief that old men are at death's door anyway, so why should we be overly concerned about something that is inevitable?

Of course, we are all faced with this inevitability, but surely this doesn't mean that we should not be concerned and support the aged as their mortal journey draws to a close.

■ Bob Morgan is a highly respected and acknowledged Aboriginal educator/researcher who has worked extensively throughout Australia and internationally in the field of Aboriginal knowledge and learning for over forty years.

## It's Law Week – time to lawyer up!

With Law Week upon us (May 15–21), Legal Aid NSW are hosting webinars and events on a range of topical legal subjects.

While the events are held in libraries throughout NSW, there are online events, and they can be found via [www.lawweeknsw.org.au](http://www.lawweeknsw.org.au).

Like it or not, we are one of the most over-governed nations on Earth, so a simple understanding of law can save you time and money.

Legal Aid NSW CEO, Monique Hitter, said in the press release

that community legal education is essential to equip residents with the tools to defend their rights.

'Many people don't know the extent of their legal rights and how to defend them,' she said. 'Understanding your legal rights could be the difference between defaulting on a bill or not, or losing your job or not'.

'Knowledge of the law is essential to help defend our most vulnerable and is something all people should be armed with.'

State Librarian, John Vallance, added the sessions would build on the State Library's Find Legal Answers service, a partnership with NSW public libraries, which provides legal information to answer common questions about the law.

But let's not get carried away people. Imagine if everyone had legal skills? Life would churn to a standstill and very few would get exploited.

Hans Lovejoy, editor



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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

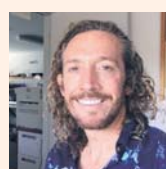


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Paul Bibby is a qualified local mindfulness and meditation educator who has helped organisations across the country boost their performance and wellbeing through the practical tools and strategies of mindfulness.

## Fake gov.com

Now that Labor has announced a new fracking (fricking) gas field in the Beetaloo Basin as part of the 'careful transition to renewables' it's clear that the government has as its priorities the continued profiteering of gas and oil companies and assisting to maintain the wealth inequity across the globe. It's no conspiracy theory, just fake, controlling government, yet people still vote for them.

While governments have available, proven, alternative technology of solar, wind, geo thermal, wave power, hydrogen and pumped hydro, and could with any sincere intention transform the planet virtually overnight. Yet worldwide they spend trillions on weaponry or going to Mars while the house burns or the oceans acidify and fill with plastic or the atmosphere fills with evermore satellites and space junk. Yet people still vote for them. It's clear our species is not as clever as we think we are.

**Rod Murray**  
Ocean Shores

## Labor shame

More than \$10 billion per year subsidy to fossil-fuel companies. Imagine what that could buy in terms of affordable housing or renewable energy.

A recent report from the Australia Institute reveals the current Labor government is still captured by corporate Australia. In a separate report they state: 'Excess corporate profits account for 69 per cent of additional inflation beyond the RBA's target'. So we lose out at both ends.

It is time we asked our local member, Justine Elliot, her views on this. Of course you will only get the standard Labor Party reply. The seat of Richmond will swing further at the next election. Justine needs to answer the questions on this injustice to the Australian people and the environment.

**George Graham**  
Byron Bay

## EV battery life

While 90 per cent of us want to reduce carbon emissions urgently, it will be a long time before EVs with some battery life left will be available at the \$5,000 or \$10,000



Cartoon by Alister Lockhart - www.alisterlockhart.net

level at which battlers tend to buy a petrol car. You have to reach \$15,000 or above to get a secondhand EV with some electrons left in its tank (battery).

So battlers have to clench their teeth and tighten their belts to get a base-level EV. Generally these secondhand EVs are best sourced from Japan with about half their battery life left. There are companies that do the importing for you.

Either you save like crazy or you get a loan. If you get a loan you can get the EV sooner and the interest on the loan is likely to be less than the money you would have spent on petrol. Either way you can expect such an EV to have a small battery (15 to 25 KWh) with 90km or more range. You cycle your battery quickly and get about an extra 50,000 to 80,000 km before the battery collapses.

So you need to plan on a four- to five-year remaining battery life during which you save enough not buying petrol (actually save that money) to pay for the original price of your EV. But then you have an EV with a dwindling battery and a pot of saved money.

Okay, then it's time to have the battery replaced with a brand-new battery costing \$10,000 to \$16,000, giving you at least ten more years of electric driving; or sell the car to someone

else to upgrade. Then buy another EV. Either way you can remove the old battery and give it a second life as a solar home battery too!

Your second EV will have a bigger capacity battery providing more range. And by such steps you climb the EV tree, funded by saved petrol costs, and supported by a cool, liveable, loveable planet.

**Sapoty Brook**  
Main Arm

## Sold out by EPA

What a bloody disgrace: The environment protection agency (EPA) sold out the Great Forest called 'Valley of the Giants' in the Doubleduke State Forest.

It appears the forestry commissions are a law unto themselves. We the taxpayers subsidise this department, just to keep a few jobs for the boys; the bloody joke is on us folks.

North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) are doing our best to stop this industry. This forest is also koala habitat. The news is koalas could be extinct in NSW by 2050.

Well folks, if Forestry have their way the koalas will be gone before that.

Would you like to help stop the koala from becoming extinct?

Then feel free to get involved in the actions NEFA are involved in. There is information on the website <https://www.nefa.org.au>,

email: [neforestalliance@gmail.com](mailto:neforestalliance@gmail.com) and throughout the windows in Evans Head.

**Paul Brecht**  
Evans Head

## Mungo's treasures

As an avid crossword puzzler I am so grateful to Mungo MacCallum for the treasure trove of puzzles he has left for us to stimulate our ageing brains and enjoy the continuity of seeing them each week in *The Echo*.

I guess he found it important to do this body of work in his later years to keep him out of trouble.

Thanks, Mungo. I often learn by cheating on the classical references but you are a legend way beyond your lifetime.

**Annabelle Sinclair**  
Suffolk Park

## Voters swing

Was always a Labor voter (power to the 'real' people stuff in those earlier times), then became a Labor/Green person and for a long time now I've been politically Green.

Watching Albanese's performance and feeling the knot in my gut getting tighter and tighter. He's just another tiny cog bowing down to the mega-machine that is run by madmen. I wouldn't piss on him if he was on fire!

What chance does the natural order of this once clean and beautiful planet have against the power of assault with the ever-increasing murderous might of so-called 'sophisticated' weaponry? Our chances are rapidly sifting through our fingers like sand.

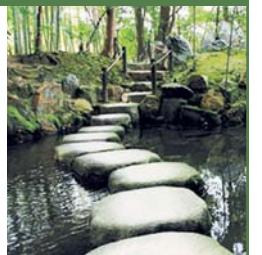
To see so many lives controlled by beings with evil,  
▶ Continued on next page

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FRI 12 MAY	GEORGIE WINCHESTER BAND
SAT 13 MAY	RICHARD NEILL & THE DRUNKEN MIDNIGHT CHOIR
SUN 14 MAY	MARSHALL OKELL DUO
MON 15 MAY	TRILLIAH SOLO
TUES 16 MAY	FELICITY LAWLESS SOLO
WED 17 MAY	ADAM BROWN SOLO

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## Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

► **Continued from page 13**  
self-interested intent is not only obvious but frightening and absolutely torturous.

**Hannah Grace**  
Ocean Shores

**Posturing politicians**

It is sickening to witness the posturing of state premiers against the Reserve Bank in the wake of the latest rise in interest rates. It is these premiers who have left the heavy lifting on housing to the private market, abdicating any responsibility for social housing for decades.

Equally sickening is what David Heilpern pointed out (*Echo*, 3 May) in context of the housing crisis: 'The obsession is exclusively with supply'. As he said, it is a 'song so well sung'. It successfully avoids looking any further as to why we are where we are.

But supply isn't as significant as is finance that continues to be the root cause of the housing crisis.

Deregulation of the banking system 30-40 years ago set in train what we have today, namely turning dwellings into financial products. This has been fuelled by the longitudinal profile of lowering interest rates and ready access to credit. Australia's banks have become the

most profitable in the world and currently hold over \$2.047 trillion in mortgages as assets on their balance sheets.

The transfer of wealth in Australia that was already in progress has recently been fuelled by embracing quantitative easing, which saw the official interest rate and that on deposits plummet. Access to virtually 'free money' meant inflation moved into equities and realty.

And in all of this the Reserve Bank's position is there is no link between monetary policy and the housing crisis. People have made choices while the Reserve Bank pulls the levers on interest rates. The result is outright home ownership is falling and mortgage debt and renting are ballooning.

So, while I witness the political circus of the premiers, all I see is failure in leadership and a determination by governments at state and federal level not to challenge the banking lobby and move to separate retail banking from investment banking. In the meantime, they are content to shore up political favours in the electorate with 'sticking plaster' solutions to the housing crisis.

**Patricia Warren**  
Brunswick Heads

**No celebration**

Your paper (12 April) carried on the front page a headline 'Byron Celebrates Anzac Day'. I was offended by this and I imagine there would be others as well by this unfortunate choice of words.

My family, among many others, suffered greatly, including the loss of life of family members in the two world wars remembered on Anzac Day. My mother's brother at the age of just sixteen was injured and imprisoned in a Turkish POW camp and never got over it, and my family lost my dad as a result of his time in New Guinea as an embedded war correspondent for the ABC.

Any suggestion that a remembrance of warfare is a time of celebration conveys quite the wrong message and is offensive to those like myself who had to live through those terrible times; many still suffer to this day. As pointed out by Simon Alderton (Letters, 3 May), few today can have any sense of what it is like to experience the whole world at war, non-stop for five years; a time when virtually nothing else mattered, then to be followed by many more years of rehabilitation and adjustment to loss. My mother never recovered and

was left with three children to raise on her own.

Anzac Day is a day for remembering those who gave up so much, who fought valiantly to protect their people, children, and families, as well as those who struggled for those many years during and after each of those terrible wars that were not of their making.

Please, everyone, remember this, and not just on Anzac Day, so that through our collective awareness and efforts, such destruction, harm, and suffering never again be brought upon us. Wars don't just happen, they are brought about, while nations of good people are peacefully going about their day-to-day business as usual.

**Dudley Leggett**  
Suffolk Park

**Accountability**

Sapoty Brook's response to my comments (Letters, 12 April) open a lot of issues people should think about.

My reasons for writing letters to *The Echo* after resigning from Water & Sewerage in October 2005 after working for Byron Shire Council (BSC) for 26 years are very simple. I was the sewer operator in charge of sewage treatment plants plus the

operator in charge of the Lavertys Gap water filtration plant. I witnessed people in positions of authority who simply had no practical experience in the field they were expected to enhance; they absolutely had no clue what they were employed to do, and some of those people have been promoted to more senior positions.

In W&S after 2002 it became a section where you either accepted your management's incompetence or suddenly you found yourself being accused by staff you had worked with for years without a problem of bullying and harassing them with no evidence whatsoever.

The people of Byron Shire who believe they have moved into a harmonious free society are wrong, if you work for BSC and have the audacity to question a decision made by someone in a position above you will pay the price in no uncertain terms. You will be made aware that if you continue to not agree, your position with Council will be at risk.

The fact that in *The Echo* (26 May), the mayor refuses to supply the names when asked by *The Echo* of the community members who

attended the Business and Industry Committee meeting is indicative of how secretive and non-transparent BSC has become. This won't change unless someone holds BSC accountable for the path they have taken.

**Alan Dickens**  
Ballina

**Stabbings**

I was born in a suburb of Birmingham and at the end of our street was the Winson Green prison. Occasionally we would hear a slowly tolling bell that indicated another hanging. You didn't publish my previous letter in regards to the heinous stabbing of the paramedic and a simultaneous one in Darwin as I had not provided my address. Since then there have been multiple stabbings with terrible results. My point is, what is the deterrent? I know, and I suspect many of your readers do. Bring it on so we can all live a little safer.

As an aside to my submission, why must taxpayers be expected to cover the cost of years of imprisonment of those proven to be guilty of their actions?

**Peter Walters**  
Ballina

► **More letters on page 18**

**BELONGIL CATCHMENT DRAINAGE BOARD**

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS BELONGIL SWAMP DRAINAGE UNION)

**2023 BOARD ELECTIONS**

Water Management (General) Regulation 2011

The Belongil Catchment Drainage Board shall be conducting elections for directors (seven positions) in June 2023. This notice is calling for nomination of candidates for that election.

The date by which nominations must be received, the nomination day, will be the 27th May 2023.

Nominations must be made using nomination forms (to be obtained by the Returning Officer).

Nominations must be signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, all of who must be eligible to vote in the election.

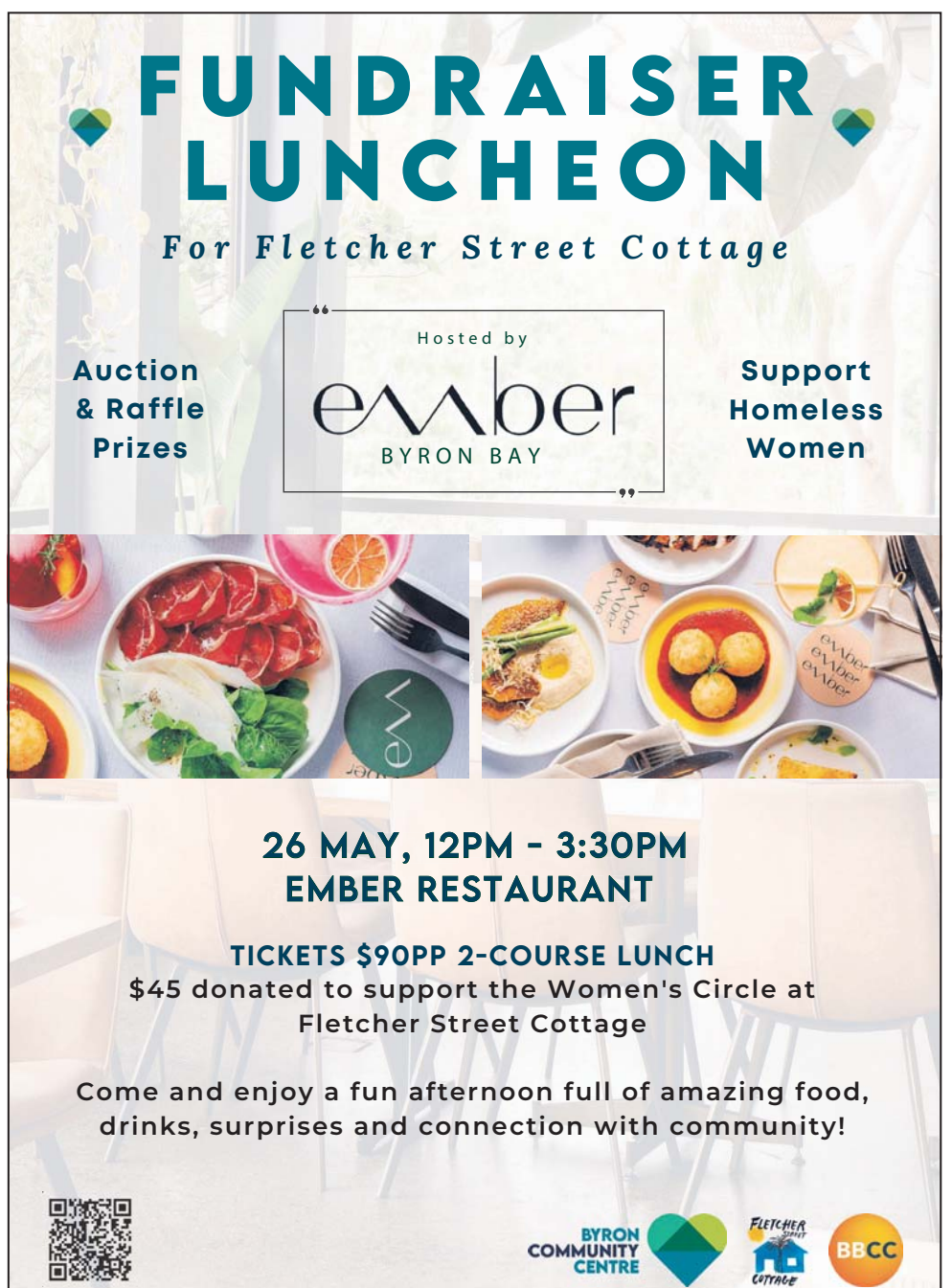
Completed nomination forms must be forwarded by either mail or email to the Returning Officer, BELONGIL CATCHMENT DRAINAGE BOARD, POBox 441, Byron Bay NSW 2481 or emailed to [belongildrainageboard@gmail.com](mailto:belongildrainageboard@gmail.com). The nomination forms must be time stamped (emailed) or post marked on or before the nomination day, 27th May 2023.

To be eligible for election to the board a nominee must be entitled to vote in this election.

A person is entitled to vote in this election if they are the holder of land within the drainage district of the Belongil Catchment Drainage Board. All persons eligible to vote in this election are listed on the Belongil Catchment Drainage Board Final Roll 2023 which is available from the Returning Officer.

If less than 7 nominations are received the election will be declared as uncontested and all nominees will be advised of their appointment to the board. If a ballot is required a general meeting will be called and voting papers shall be issued in accordance with the members voting rights contained on the Roll of Voters.

**Copies of all forms or information regarding this election can be obtained by contacting the Returning Officer Tom Vidal on 0411 826442 or [belongildrainageboard@gmail.com](mailto:belongildrainageboard@gmail.com).**



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## Inquest into death of Jarrad Antonovich begins

David Lowe

Yesterday the NSW State Coroner, Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan, continued her investigations into deaths on the Northern Rivers following the use of 'natural therapies'. The latest coronial inquest is examining the death of 46-year old Jarrad Antonovich at Arcoora Arts & Eco Retreat near Kyogle in 2021.

Two witnesses appeared at the inquest in Lismore Court yesterday; Jarrad's father Glen Antonovich, and a former kambo practitioner, Laara Cooper (kambo is an extraction from an Amazonian frog).

Glen Antonovich said that his son was always a 'gentle soul', a musically talented young man with a strong interest in spirituality. Jarrad's life changed greatly after he had a serious car accident in 1997, followed by a long period of recovery, which left him with lingering pain and other issues.

Having received a substantial amount of compensation for the accident, Mr Antonovich said his son was then targeted by people who 'came out of the woodwork looking for money'.

### Kambo and ayahuasca

Jarrad appears to have become interested in Amazonian traditional therapies after a visit to South America in 2003. Kambo was banned in Australia soon after his death.

Counsel assisting the inquest Dr Peggy Dwyer then took Mr Antonovich through the awful night when he heard of his son's death, and what followed, particularly his conversation with Lore Solaris, who had been facilitating the ayahuasca ceremony at Arcoora on the night of his son's death.

Mr Antonovich said Mr Solaris 'spoke in generalities', claiming that he and others present had done everything they could for Jarrad after he got into breathing difficulties and serious pain, although the ambulance was called late and further delayed by the remote location. Mr Antonovich said 'something just didn't add up at the time and still doesn't add up now'.

He went on to say, 'I'm of the firm belief there's been a cover up,' with no expert medical help available at the retreat, and no risk mitigation practices. 'It reminded me of the old doctors in the wild west, who sell a bottle of the spirits claiming that this cures all,' said Mr Antonovich.



Jarrad Antonovich. Photo supplied

### Other drugs

Counsel representing Arcoora and other parties then talked about Jarrad's history with other drugs, including marijuana, amphetamines and heroin, as well as questioning how closely father and son had been connected in the years leading up to Jarrad's death. Mr Antonovich said his son had given up other drugs, including alcohol, years earlier.

Next to take the witness stand was Laara Cooper, who described herself as a holistic life coach and mentor, although she had formerly been a kambo practitioner. Ms Cooper said she had no formal medical qualifications.

Counsel Peggy Dwyer asked Ms Cooper to describe the risks she had been trained to look for when considering if it was safe for a person to take kambo. She said the major concern was anything potentially contributing to hyponatremia (shortage of salt in the blood) or intensive sauna therapy, along with pregnant or breastfeeding women, and anyone with a history of stroke or heart disease.

She revealed that ayahuasca was risky for people who are bipolar, and for those using antidepressants, notably SSRI types, 'because it conflicts with the MAO [Monoamine oxidase] inhibitor aspect of the sacrament'. The other main active ingredient of ayahuasca is dimethyltryptamine (DMT).

### History with key players

Laara Cooper then explained that she had known Lore Solaris for 'a long time' and had administered kambo to Jarrad Antonovich at retreat events organised by Mr Solaris on two occasions - but not on 16 October 2021. She remembered Mr Antonovich expressing a desire to use the therapy to give up smoking.

She said that on both occasions Mr Antonovich had failed to 'purge' in the expected way after taking the drug, and had requested a

higher dose, which she had refused to provide.

On the night of Mr Antonovich's death, Ms Cooper said the person leading the kambo ceremony was a man named Cameron Kite. Ms Cooper said she arrived at the event after dark that night, long after Jarrad Antonovich had taken kambo, and spoke to him several times on the verandah as his condition worsened, from symptoms such as a swollen face and throat, lower back pain, difficulty breathing and then abdominal pain, and inability to walk. She said Mr Antonovich was adamant that he didn't want to go to hospital.

### Fatal mistakes?

Ms Cooper said none of those present were aware at the time that Jarrad was showing symptoms of a perforated oesophagus, but she was concerned his body was not expelling the toxins in the usual way. She said she had spoken at the time to Cameron Kite, who believed Jarrad needed ayahuasca on top of what was already in his system to 'bring on the purge'. While she disagreed with the other practitioner on this, she said she had relented 'because it was his client and I trusted his perspective'.

Ms Cooper said there was no one present, as far as she knew, with professional medical training.

When she eventually decided to ring the ambulance, Ms Cooper agreed that she had not mentioned kambo or ayahuasca on triple 0 or to the ambulance officers.

Counsel Peggy Dwyer told the witness that the pathology report indicated that the perforated oesophagus which led to Mr Antonovich's passing was caused by excessive vomiting, due to DMT toxicity.

Late questions revolved around the question of Jarrad Antonovich's heroin addiction, with the suggestion that if it had still been current at the time of death, then it could have been a major contributing factor. Dr Peggy Dwyer said this was not in line with other witness statements from those who had known Mr Antonovich, or the pathologist's report, which had found no drugs in Jarrad's system apart from DMT, at a toxic level.

The inquest continues, and will hear from expert medical witnesses. *The Echo* will continue coverage.

■ Read full story at *The Echo* online: [www.echo.net.au/](http://www.echo.net.au/) news.

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# Lack of housing a major contributor to women living with DV

Eve Jeffery

**A** lack of housing on the Far North Coast increases the risks of domestic violence (DV). Women are more likely to stay in DV situations, and are more at risk living on the street, because they can't find alternative accommodation.

Earlier this year it was alleged Ballina woman Lindy Lucena was murdered by her former partner Robert Huber, who was out on bail for assault charges at the time of her death. He was arrested and charged with Lindy's murder and for breaching a domestic violence order (DVO).

At the time Lucena was living in her vehicle.

Jillian Knight-Smith is the CEO of Women Up North Housing Inc. (WUN), a nationally registered social housing provider. WUN assists women and their children who have experienced domestic or family violence, or abuse, to access and maintain private or social housing.

Knight-Smith says there is just not enough accommodation and that the lack of housing is a very big problem.

'For people experiencing domestic and family violence-related homelessness, we would see approximately 750 people a year. Out of these people we probably would manage to give some sort of accommodation to about 91.'

'That's just our accommodation; we can access a small number of what they call transitional houses.'

Knight-Smith says the length of time and complexities of service that people require from WUN are variable.

'We're having to collaborate with mental health services, legal services, First Nations services, and multicultural services. The response to domestic and family violence is not a singular matter, it's a complex matter.'

'Now that we're in this post-COVID, post-flood environment people have PTSD associated with domestic violence, they have it associated with homelessness, and they have it associated with being in a disaster. So anybody who had even a mild underlying mental health issue can have a much



Jillian Knight-Smith is the CEO of Women Up North Housing Inc. Photo Tree Faerie

more challenging mental health issue to manage on top of the obligations of their family and their housing. It's just heartbreaking because we don't have anything to offer people.

'It truly is heartbreaking. And people have nothing.'

Knight-Smith says there is a shortfall of dozens of houses. 'I'd say we need about 60 houses in the region - that would take a lot of pressure off.'

## More funding

'There is a movement to bring in some further refuge funding, and there have been some further refuge spaces nominated, but refuges are only a very short stay. We also work with a lot of people who don't even go through the legal system, they don't go through any of those systems, they just come to us - and we help them rebuild.'

'People might say it's tough living in a caravan park or in temporary housing, but the reality is that people are living in their cars.'

Clearly, the floods have exacerbated the issue, but it's just not good enough to say the floods have made it worse and that's that. Just as clearly more needs to be done. Women are staying in DV situations because there is nowhere else to go.

## Government must step up

There is simply not enough housing, and not enough money, and women are dying.

Knight-Smith says that only a small portion of their funding comes from the government or grants.

'For example, we provided \$107,000 worth of financial support to women to find another property. With a bit of luck there will be some property that a woman could find, even if it's a share house.'

'We help people fix their cars. We help people get ready and get back into school and work and education - maybe about a third of that is [government] funded; the rest of that \$107,000 has come from community.'

'So for Women Up North we made the decision a few years ago to say, "Okay. We're a charity, because we can't do what we need to do on funding." It's the northern New South Wales community that's provided approximately \$60,000 worth of support to our clients. Which is incredible. It has also funded some extra caseworkers. We were very fortunate that we got some flood-related funding from the Department of Community and Justice - that's made a big difference, but that funding finishes in July. Then we won't have that funding, and we'll be very reliant once more on the funding from the community.'

## Community support essential

Knight-Smith says it's a challenge being sustainable. 'It would be really good to know what we're going to have in, say, the next three years. We're continuously

working on further developing our charitable model, because that's made all the difference to us. For instance, we got that flood funding but it took some time for the wheels of government to sort all that out. In the meantime we wouldn't have coped, except that we'd had some donations.'

'We had to make that decision to say okay, this is what we've got; we're going to spend it and we're going to fundraise. It might have come to the moment when we would have had to say we can only do our funded bare minimum, we will have to start saying "no" to people, which is just the most horrendous concept.'

'The ultimate happened here not long ago in Ballina. A woman was parked [living] in a car on the street and lost her life. In Ballina!'

Knight-Smith says it's more than tough living on the street.

'If you're a woman with children, you're at risk of losing your children. You can end up in a situation where the person who was violent has got the best [situation] as far as the family court goes on the day - because they've got a home. Then you can lose access to children. These sorts of things are really exacerbated by homelessness. Everybody's expected to have a home. But not everybody does.'

■ If you would like more information about Women Up North or if you would like to donate, visit: [www.wunh.org.au](http://www.wunh.org.au).





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Azure Bar and Grill



Pastel Designs



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### B Smoothie Bar

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### CHES by Ian Rogers

As the \$3m World Championship match in Astana neared its end, Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi wondered whether he had been cast as the villain in a movie.

His opponent, China's Ding Liren, had overcome depression, the leaking of his opening secrets and multiple desperate positions to send the match into rapid tiebreakers after 14 classical games. 'It was unexpected to have such an early lead with such ease,' said Nepomniachtchi, 32, 'and also unexpected to see how under-prepared he was, both playing and mentally. Yet despite having no real ideas, or deep preparation, Ding managed to put up a fight and I should give him huge credit for that.'

After Ding, 30, survived yet another difficult position in the last classical game, Nepomniachtchi suspected that the script writers had set him up to lose in a dramatic finale - and that is exactly what happened, Ding winning the fourth and final rapid tiebreaker to lead for the first and only time in the match and take the world title.

For a player who had fallen behind in the seventh game by freezing in a good position, letting his time run down almost to zero, Ding's victory did seem almost miraculous. Ding himself admitted that he accepted

after game seven that he would probably lose the match, but he did not want to go gently. Ding worked hard to draw the next four games and then levelled the match when Nepomniachtchi turned a winning position into dust with some poor calculation.

After the match, Ding credited Albert Camus with inspiring his never-say-die attitude: 'I remembered how Albert Camus talks about the concept of resistance. Even if you cannot win, do everything in your power to resist. And that gave me the determination I needed.'

At the closing ceremony Ding thanked his mother, grandfather and friends for pulling him out of his early-match funk, but for technical inspiration his second Richard Rapport received all the credit: 'The key was my analyst, [Hungarian world #12] Richard Rapport. He brought all the creativity that I was lacking with my openings.'

And how did Ding feel after winning the world title: 'It's a huge liberation. Before the World Championship, I told a friend that I would retire if I lost. Now I have won, I have cried a lot, I am not going to retire and life is now going in another direction.'

'I am ready for all challenges, including playing against Carlsen if he wants to recover the title, or to defend it against the young stars.'

■ **Players meet at Byron Bay Services Club, Sat 2.30pm and Mon 5pm**

## Rumour, hearsay and mis/information on the Voice

■ The debate regarding the Voice to Parliament has, as expected, degenerated into a treacherous campaign of misinformation by the naysayers. The extreme right, as usual, seems intent on just fostering more division.

I think most intelligent Australians are aware of the appalling acts that were perpetrated on Aboriginal people and the dislocation from their tribal lands, after white colonisation. Now after 235 years that can't, and isn't going to be, undone; Australia's population is now made up of people from 'all the lands on Earth' and we all 'call Australia home'.

One of the main arguments from the naysayers is 'I wasn't there 200 years ago and what happened wasn't my fault'; what an arrogant copout. None of us was there 200 years ago but that doesn't mean we now can't try new ways to rectify many longstanding problems affecting Aboriginal people who have been marginalised for years.

There has been a lot of money spent over those years on Aboriginal issues with limited results. Maybe it's time, and just makes good sense, to give Aboriginal people more say in those difficult issues that affect their wellbeing. There is an old saying that 'with responsibility comes self-esteem and success'.

Another p\*\*s-weak argument by the extreme right is 'why is Albanese rushing this referendum through, and where is the all the detail'. Well Albanese took it to the last election which he won, therefore he has a mandate to do it.

**Keith Duncan**  
Pimlico

■ Anthony Albanese's poorly conceived Indigenous Voice to Parliament proposal will not do anything to fix the issues in Aboriginal Australia that he talks about.

Government mishandling, and dishing out money to

Aboriginal Australia like it's confetti, without any accountability, is exactly how we have arrived at the situation we see in remote communities around Australia today.

Governments around Australia have spent billions upon billions of dollars on all manner of Aboriginal causes and schemes over many decades.

It poses the obvious question - 'where has all this taxpayer money gone and why hasn't it closed the "Gap"?'

Many of the same Indigenous elites who have been advising governments for decades on where to spend this money are exactly the same people who are now saying that we need to bring in this new Indigenous 'Voice' to Parliament. Because it will be so much different this time.

The past record of these people, who are already very powerful in the corridors of parliament and government bureaucracy, would clearly indicate it won't be any different this time around.

Some of these people benefit financially by keeping the wheels of the government-controlled Indigenous industry turning.

The answer to the problem is not more government bureaucracy - but less.

Australians need to reject the Indigenous Voice proposal - by voting NO.

**Matt Eggleston**  
West Perth

■ From 1883 Australia's Indigenous nations were introduced to profitable colonial business traditions. These were based on the exploitation of free resources, including labour and lands for primary production. They evolved into the most powerful profit generators in history.

We must expect some corporations to be doing their utmost to sabotage the efficacy of the Voice, since it will allow Indigenous light to

shine on new malpractices. Their ability to reverse any future legal obstacles to maximum profits must be retained above all else.

The irrational negativity emanating from coalition 'naysayers' suggests some feel severely pressurised.

Many ancestral nations were destroyed, losing language and culture. Those who remain on their lands, or wish to return, may not be equipped to negotiate a fair deal with corporate profiteers. Their knowhow and focus on environmental repair may not suit the exploiters.

Indigenous sharing of learned experiences strengthens their case in national Voice presentations to Canberra. The whole nation benefits.

As corporate rulers become nervous that their whispered voices in coalition ears are ineffective, they will seek suitable Labor ears.

There are ample instances in our history where governments have acted against the wishes of 80 per cent or more of us. Clearly 'democratic capitalism' is a misnomer. We are at risk of unfulfilled wishes for an Indigenous fair go, through corporate kidnapping of our politicians.

Don't expect the mass media to expose manipulative links to coalition targets. Their incomes depend on those corporate forces. Could there possibly be any manipulation of some politicians?

This illustrates we don't have a free press. A 'village square' with easy access for the masses, where truth and debate can thrive, is missing. Luckily there are various online platforms outside the control of corporate giants and governments, where innovative concepts are explored.

These debates would be enhanced if some investigative reporters, of all hues, dared to join in.

**Hayo van der Woude**  
Mullumbimby

Mr Cohen's heartfelt experience when faced with the sad and unnecessary death of a mother Mountain Brushie is a regular 'event' faced by dedicated wildlife carers.

When driving at night, well aware of nocturnal wildlife and abiding by road signs (often driving slower), more often than not vehicles speed by me in anger, cut me off, often beeping their horn or shouting at me. I feel that I

personally want to sue government MPs for their lack of attention to their duties and undeniable indifference and dispassion. For it is they who always put 'progress' and profit first. Our unique and incredible wildlife are relegated to the bottom of the barrel, undervalued and often demonised.

I feel ashamed to be Australian, as I have seen enough brutality/cruelty and five-star arrogance towards

■ Many Indigenous elders oppose the Voice (eg Gurnpa David Cole and 'grandmother Mulara'). The Voice will cede Indigenous sovereignty so parliament will have more power over them.

A delegation of Aboriginal Australians went to Canberra to ask the prime minister and opposition leader to hear their opposition to the Voice

Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price said: 'Secret government documents the National Indigenous Australians Agency released under FOI say "any Voice to Parliament should be designed so that it could support and promote a treaty-making process which would include a fixed percentage of the entire economy as reparation every year along with rates/land tax/royalties to the Voice"'

How will white Australians feel when they have to pay rent on land they purchased and the Australian flag is abolished?

It would create an Australia with two classes. Indigenous have privileges not for whites. This would create resentment and drive racism. We want the best for Indigenous people but this is not the way.

**Menkit Prince**  
Uki

■ Ed note: According to AAP Factcheck the statements relating to 'seeking to change the flag [and to] set aside a fixed percentage of GDP for reparation payments' were documents of the minutes from 13 'regional dialogue' consultation events held in 2016 and 2017 that were part of the national consultation process about how best to recognise Indigenous Australians in the Constitution. The documents do not show either the government nor the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) are seeking to change the flag, nor set aside a fixed percentage of GDP for reparation payments. (<https://bit.ly/41eYBZ7>).

our innocent and diminishing fauna. Speed limits must be reduced and infringements increased to slow down the bogans. Imagine the increased carnage WITHOUT potholes?

Thank the Goddess for those, who check the pouch of wildlife. Let's hope that 'Ali' has a long and healthy life.

**Lindy Stacker**  
Binna Burra

► More letters on page 20

**DEAR MARK,**

**I HOPE SHE MAKES  
YOU HAPPY YOU  
DIRTY CHEAT**

**THE WHOLE TOWN  
KNOWS YOU'RE  
A LIAR NOW,  
CONGRATS**

**FROM ROSE**

**P.S. I'M KEEPING THE JUNGLE  
GIANTS TICKETS**

# Whose truth is the right truth on the rail trail and railway line?

■ The ongoing onslaught of misinformation regarding rail service rebuilding on our corridor is mind-boggling, given that even some of our elected leaders are apparently drawn into believing misinformation too.

Cr Peter Westheimer's letter (26 April) is unfortunately no exception. It was an extraordinarily long letter, with serial erroneous points, baffling those that know the facts.

Firstly, the existing rail trail does offer a wonderful option to travel along its length.

Secondly, there was ongoing opportunity for the community to consult and be informed over the entire ten-year process of the rail corridor's prospects.

Thirdly, the building company, Hazell Bros, never said that building a second formation alongside the existing rail formation was cheaper than just using the existing rail formation! Fourthly, traversing over tunnels is usually not easy, with land procurements being one issue. Just imagine having to travel over the Burringbar Tunnel, which is

about 100 metres beneath the top of the ridge.

Fifthly, the business case for rail v trail is that rail is far, far more expensive to build, in fact the trail leaves decrepit bridges completely alone, as museum historical features; and then there's the rolling stock purchasing and maintenance and massive running costs of a rail service.

Sixthly, the NSW Government did not have 'a complete lack of foresight'; it instead had the foresight that necessitated ceasing the service way back in 2004, as projected maintenance costs went stratospheric.

Seventhly, the rail trail has never undergone 'slick campaigning'. It has simply and consistently stated facts through thorough investigation and tabling of costs via evidence, and seeking funding for best visions for this community.

Eighthly, look, Westheimer's letter goes on and on and on about train fantasies. Good luck. But the fact is, that the rail trail makes sense to all that have sense, period, and they enjoy being able to ride or walk along

in safety, to schools, seeing friends, or just being on the trail with them.

The visions for walkers, cyclists, and ebikes on a rail trail in Byron Shire is gaining increasing traction.

Doubling down on failed train fantasies is very tiresome and perplexing indeed.

**Tim Shanasy**  
Byron Bay

■ We need trains not privatisation of valuable rail land Rusty Miller (Letters, 3 May) is right. After we were assured that despite the removal of the legislation that had prevented the Casino to Murwillumbah (C-M) rail corridor land from being sold off, that's exactly what the state government is now doing.

The documented facts are: As Don Page, National Party MP for Ballina for 27 years, said of the train closure in 2004: 'approximately 133,000 people use this train each year and its termination will particularly affect the elderly and disabled.'

The Liberals/Nationals also said the social, environmental and cost

benefits of a commuter train service on the line 'would be enormous'. After promising for so long they would return trains to the C-M line, they even had cute t-shirts made saying: 'You Can Have Your Trains Back'. They are now spending so much taxpayer money destroying the line for a bike track. This is a huge injustice and betrayal of the Northern Rivers community.

When Justine Elliot, Labor MP for Richmond, promised \$150m for train services on the C-M line in 2004 she thanked all those people who fought so hard and said it was 'a great victory for our community, which has run a tireless campaign to save the train'. They're still campaigning today for the trains we need.

When the Labor Party closed the train service in 2004 they claimed it would cost \$88m over ten years. That's \$666,666 per kilometre to upgrade the line for the old heavy XPT train. In 2016 it cost \$660,000 per kilometre to repair the line in Byron for the Solar Train. The first section of rail trail cost \$600,000 per kilometre for a few fit cyclists and ('cycling tourism') which

has increased traffic not reduced it.

All North Coast councils should be demanding the state government provide the train services we were promised and have needed for so long. Otherwise, ratepayers and taxpayers will be paying hundreds of millions to build and maintain more roads to cope with the increasing traffic gridlock.

**Louise Doran**  
Ocean Shores

■ The debate over how best to use the disused rail corridor has raged for nearly 20 years and has continued to do so in the pages of *The Echo* over the last few weeks. Council continues to pass conflicting resolutions about how best to use the corridor and resolve this issue.

This uncertainty is now costing our community valuable local grants that could greatly benefit locals, including kids trying to ride to school. The last Byron Council unanimously supported using the rail corridor through Bangalow for a bike and walking path that would connect Rifle

Range Road all the way past the children's centre, through to the A&I Hall, the public school and the showgrounds. The Bangalow community came up with this project and even managed to get a grant from the state government to get proper designs done.

This grant is now being delayed because the manager of the rail corridor won't allow any design within three metres of the existing tracks or that goes under the Granuaille Street bridge. The whole point of the project is to go under that bridge and stop kids from having to cross a dangerous road. Council staff have said that Council's uncertain position on using the rail corridor for a bike and pedestrian path is what has caused this refusal.

It is time for Council to get real about the corridor and support a bike and pedestrian path that can be used by locals and rail trailers alike. It is time to get this project done so it doesn't cost our community any more than it already has.

**Cr Asren Pugh**  
Bangalow

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# Floodplain DAs remain a risk for councils as state government slow to respond to Flood Inquiry

Aslan Shand

Both the Tweed District Residents Association (TDRA) and Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association (KRPA) have recently called for a moratorium on existing legacy or zombie development approvals (DAs) on floodplains. The state government continues to say that councils have the ability to deal with these problematic DAs, but the evidence seems to say otherwise.

The failure of current legislation to stop legacy DAs is of particular concern to the TDRA which has been seeking stop work orders on the recent activity by MAAS Group Holdings at Tweed on Cobaki Creek. MAAS bought the property, with a 27-year-old legacy development approval on it, last year for \$20M+ and have started clearing the sensitive site. The Tweed Council have asked MAAS to 'cease work', but MAAS have declined leaving both Council and locals frustrated with their inability to stop the work and have the site reassessed in relation to flood and environmental impacts of the DA.

Responding to *The Echo* NSW Premier Chris Minns, who spoke to community representatives on the issue of legacy developments in the lead-up to the NSW election said, 'My office will be working closely with the planning minister as the government works on new rules to stop new developments on dangerous floodplains - having been on the ground in the region over the

past couple of years, I know how important it is to get this addressed.'

The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) told *The Echo* that, 'The government is committed to drafting new rules and streamlining planning processes to stop new developments on dangerous floodplains' yet they have thrown responsibility back to councils saying they already have the legal power to look at legacy developments.

'Councils already have legal power under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* to take action against existing zombie developments, and DPE tightened planning rules in 2020 to clamp down on new ones,' a DPE spokesperson said.

'Councils also have powers to investigate and take enforcement action if they are concerned whether physical commencement has occurred, or if any part of the development does not comply with the relevant consent.'

'DPE strengthened requirements for councils to consider flooding when rezoning land and issuing development approvals in 2021.'

## Action needed now

Peter Newton from KRPA responded to the DPE's statement saying 'it's disappointing that the department has thrown this on Council's shoulders given that it is obvious the legislation is not strong enough

**'There has been no change in Council or state policy concerning floodplain development post the 2022 floods.'**

**- Troy Green, GM, TSC**

for Council to actually prevent legacy developments from proceeding, such as Cobaki, where the Council "cease" orders have been disregarded. The legislation is not working and needs the state government to step in and commit to reform.'

Tweed Council's General Manager, Troy Green also highlighted the current failures in Council's powers to take action on these types of DAs.

'There has been no change in Council or state policy concerning floodplain development post the 2022 floods. The *NSW State Government Flood Inquiry* made various recommendations concerning floodplain development from which there have been no subsequent directions from the government,' Mr Green told *The Echo*.

'The Act requires Council as a consent authority to consider current planning legislation and policy, in terms of the merits of any current DA.'

'Council currently does have the statutory power to take compliance action against any reported breach of conditions of older development consents, and such action is guided by Council's adopted compliance policy and state legislation.'

'Whilst the department has

advised that councils have legal power under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* to revoke or modify development consents that are out of step with the provisions of any proposed local planning controls, they have failed to also advise that this power can only be exercised with the various provisions as prescribed under s4.57 of the *EP&A Act 1979 No 203*.

'That is, it must have regard to the provisions of any proposed LEP, must be done by instrument in writing, and before revoking or modifying the consent, Council must in writing inform each person who will be adversely affected by the revocation or modification of the consent of the intention to revoke or modify the consent. Those persons then have the opportunity to show cause why the revocation or modification should not be affected. If the development consent is revoked or modified, the aggrieved is entitled to recover from Council (if Council is responsible for the issue of the instrument) compensation for expenditure.'

Lindy Smith, President of TDRA pointed out the failure of current legislation to help councils stop legacy DAs telling *The Echo* that, 'The big issue is zombie developments, and I have been unable to find anything to assist the situation. The changes to the regulations 2020/2021 do nothing for the vast majority of legacy development approvals which

have come to life on the east coast post-covid, and to "back zone" is near impossible.

'The recent court ruling in March on the South West Rocks zombie development failed for the council who tried to stop it proceeding. To add, the Cobaki Creek fiasco has exposed developers [attitude to] communities and the environment,' she said.

'The question is, with the knowledge we now have today on flood and fire risks, where will the liability lie when they fail to meet 2023 standards and duty of care responsibilities?

'Also, with the Cobaki Creek development, it was approved when the airport was a small regional airport, now putting the development within a public safety exclusion area - hence, we need an urgent specific update to the regulation to properly manage the zombie developments.'

The DPE has clarified that they are 'working alongside the NSW Reconstruction Authority on a range of programs, policy changes and guidance to proactively plan and mitigate against the impacts of floods in line with the *Independent 2022 Flood Inquiry* recommendations.'

Responding, Mr Newton said that 'we are heartened by the stated commitment for policy and program changes in line with flood inquiry recommendations, however to what extent and what timeline and priority has been given, again the community deserves and expects action.'

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Byron Writers Festival	Maddie Hill	The Book Room at Byron
Cactus Hill Project	Mandy (rockstar MC) Nolan	The Hut Byron Bay
Cape Byron Distillery	Mukti Organics	The Source, Mullum
David McKay Art	Mullumbimby Hire	Wandana Brewing Co
ECHO	No Bones, Byron	Wild Byron sea safaris
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**SUN 21 MAY 2023**

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Hitting all the marks from recycling to helping others, the S.H.I.F.T. fundraising sale of preloved and new clothing is taking place on Saturday 20 May at the Byron Bay Surf Club.

The sale has become an annual event with everything from vintage and designer pieces, new clothing donated by local shops and designers, and great bargains for as low as \$5 a piece.

The S.H.I.F.T. Project aims to assist women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It is a local charity that acts in our local community helping local women actively move into new phases of their lives.

**Bay Street, Byron Bay**



## DEVICE TRADER

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Great news for crystal, mineral and gemstone lovers, Lismore Gemfest is back! Come along to the Lismore Showground on 20th and 21st May for two massive days of fun!

With over 140 tailgaters and dealers to explore, there will be something for everyone, from unexpected bargains to unusual raw specimens, stunning jewellery and spectacular, rare minerals and gems. Explore amazing displays of minerals, gems, fossils, jewellery and equipment from Australia and all over the world. A great day out for the whole family, there will also be gem fossicking on the hill, as well as food and beverage stalls and plenty of space and time to find your perfect treasure.



**Lismore Showground**  
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## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY: FORUM

International circular economy expert Professor Linda Godfrey will headline a Southern Cross University forum devoted to the acceleration of waste reduction strategies on 17 May.

South Africa-based Professor Godfrey has provided advice on waste management to the EU, UN and her own government. She will share insights on value recovery and local solutions to plastic waste. Joining her are experts from NSW EPA, local government, not-for-profits like Circular Australia and Southern Cross University experts.

The Forum is supported by Investment NSW's Boosting Business Innovation Program. It will provide policy advice, technical solutions and global best practice case studies.



Also on show is the University's ReCirculator program, connecting Northern Rivers businesses with technology to implement circular economy solutions.

**[scu.edu.au/live-ideas](http://scu.edu.au/live-ideas) or email [liveideas@scu.edu.au](mailto:liveideas@scu.edu.au)**

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Somerville Laundry Lomax welcomes Sol Ibrahim to its Local Government and Planning team.

Prior to joining the legal profession, Sol served as the CEO of a regional corporation, as a Byron Shire councillor, and as a company director. This background has given him unique insight into the workings of local government, and the challenges that businesses and individuals face.

With over 25 years of experience living and working in our region, Sol can collaborate with a wide network of town planners, certifiers and architects, enabling him to provide his clients with comprehensive pre-lodgement and post-lodgement legal advice.

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# Good Life

## Primex Expo: 11 – 13 May, Casino



Native food queen Mindy Woods and author and wellness chef Samantha Gowing will be showing off their cooking skills at the Nourish Food and Drink Festival at Primex.

PRIMEX is back bigger, better, and sooner than ever, boasting the biggest display of agricultural machinery and equipment including the establishment of three new industry hubs.

The new Health and Wellbeing Hub sees Primex working with government and other support groups to bring a range of health experts together onsite. 'People in the rural and farm sector pride themselves on their resilience and may not treat their own health as a priority,' Mr Wright said.

'Our onsite Health Hub will offer the opportunity to receive health advice and a range of checkups including general health, oral and skin cancer checks amongst a range of others.'

The Forestry and Timber Industry Collective will showcase the latest

information on regenerative farming and tree planting and the practical outcomes from plantation forestry with integration of farms and trees for long-term economic and environmental benefits.

'Not only is the timber and forestry important for sustaining the building industry, it is also part of our low-carbon future heading toward CN30,' Mr Wright said. 'Service providers will give practical advice regarding support for landowners in assessing their land and reforestation options.'

The new Affordable Housing, Home and Lifestyle Hub will showcase the best suppliers, ideas, and products for investment in the region in residential, commercial, industrial, and lifestyle sectors.

'With agri-tourism

opportunities extended, farms can now offer accommodation for up to 20 people. Farmers now have an exciting new revenue stream available to them and we have a variety of cost-effective housing options onsite to see firsthand.'

Southern Cross University will host a panel discussing 'The Future of Farming' on Friday and the Opening Day will feature the inaugural Sourdough 'Women In Business Breakfast'.

The Nourish Food & Drink Festival will showcase local food and beverage producers with cooking demos from native food queen Mindy Woods and author and wellness chef Samantha Gowing.

Other Primex highlights include the Farm Animal Nursery, Daily Wildlife Twins Shows, Battle of the Breeds, helicopter joyflights, 4WDs, and the Outdoor Leisure and Lifestyle Showcase.

■ Norco Primex 2023 runs from Thursday May 11 until Saturday May 13, 9am–4pm daily at the Richmond Valley Events Centre located at Cassino Drive, Casino.

For the full program and discounted online tickets go to [primex.net.au](http://primex.net.au).

## Harvest Deli hits a new high



### Simon Haslam

Harvest Deli is a unique European-style deli inside a converted Queenslander in the heart of Newrybar. Recently, the 'deli experience' has expanded, with a closer connection to the restaurant, new food on the menu, and the chance to dine inside the deli itself.

Deli chef Iohne Simpson, who formerly ran The Spotted Pig in Lindendale, and then in Lismore before her premises were destroyed by flood, is excited by the expanded role, especially the chance to work with the historic Harvest oven, which is around 120 years old.

While the sophisticated and popular Harvest food experience has been integral to the town's modern popularity, 'the oven is the beating heart of Newrybar', says Iohne, 'so to be able to be involved with that is thrilling. I admire it as a piece of equipment – to be standing in front of that and cooking is one of the best things about the job. I also love having the chance to be super-creative with the Harvest team; I feel very lucky to have found a home.'

'We've introduced a sit-down menu, which is available to eat in or take-away. We don't use the old oven for sourdough at the moment, but we do use it for smoked meats for sandwiches, vegetables, smoked trouts... we make as much as possible onsite.'

You can now enjoy an all-day menu 7:30am–2pm, and choose to dine in, although the options of enjoying meals on the balcony (a fantastic place for people-watching), or in the gardens are still there. There are classics like local avo on toast with smoked feta, Bangalow sweet pork and fennel sausage rolls, or heartier dishes like wood-smoked ocean trout on house rye with Harvest pickles and soft-boiled egg, and special deli rice bowls with the best of what's in season.

Iohne has also taken over running the bakery. 'We make focaccias, breads, rolls, rye breads, and pastries onsite, with the support of Bread Social for sourdough. And we have more bakery and pastry items coming out in the future,' she says.

The Cheese Room in the deli has also had to make room for a new product, salamis, which are in the testing stage right now. 'I'm pretty interested in making the salamis,' says Iohne, 'we have a fantastic gardener, Ritchie, who has shared some of his old ancestral Italian recipes for our salamis – to say they are pretty old-school is an understatement. At the moment we are using

Bangalow Sweet Pork as the base, and making very traditional salami, but we have plenty of plans to expand the range.'

Another thing Iohne appreciates about the job is the fact it's a social hub. 'When you are in the deli, and you see people just rocking up, it feels good. The deli provides a place for visitors and locals to meet and be part of the community. We've moved the coffee machine so the whole front area is prime people-watching space now. We've also had to make a bit of room inside the deli for sales, because we are making a lot of our own range, and it will grow; we're using as much local produce as possible. For example, we make our own terrines in the meat room and work with Fair Game venison to make a terrine, which is sold around the local supermarkets under the Harvest brand.'

Iohne started work in the local pub at 14, in her small town in Staffordshire, and finds it satisfying to work at Harvest as, she says, 'you do feel like you're in a small town, eating with a view of the edible garden (in what's known as the Village Green). At the Harvest Deli, you feel like you're eating simple locally sourced, but high-quality, food in the country, and I think people find that as satisfying to enjoy as I do.'

■ Harvest Newrybar, 18-22 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar Village – [harvest.com.au](http://harvest.com.au).

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MULLUMBIMBY





# Good Life

## Cape Byron Distillery wins gold

Cape Byron Whisky's single malt, called 'The Original', has won a gold medal at the 2023 San Francisco World Spirit Competition, which is renowned in the industry for its integrity and impartiality. In 2022, the competition cemented its position as the largest spirits competition in the world with nearly 5,000 entries.

Cape Byron Distillery's Single Malt 'The Original' Whisky, launched in August 2022, is matured exclusively in American oak ex-bourbon casks within the subtropical rainforest distillery in St Helena, above Byron Bay. It's the result of a shared passion of master distiller Jim McEwan and local Eddie Brook, to make a whisky that represents Cape Byron's natural environment and captures the influence of the rainforest terroir.

As the only B-Corp-certified Australian whisky distillery, situated at Australia's most easterly point, the terroir is uniquely influenced by the powerful Pacific Ocean from the east and the ancient volcanic Tweed range to the west.

Eddie Brook, co-founder and distiller, said, 'We are ecstatic to receive



the news that our Cape Byron Original Whisky has won gold. We set out to produce a world-class single malt whisky that captures the essence of our rainforest and our coastal location near Byron Bay. The San Francisco World Spirit competition is the equivalent of the Olympics for distilled spirits. To be awarded a gold medal is a huge accolade and speaks volumes to the quality of our whisky... we'll be raising a few glasses in the distillery tonight!

Cape Byron Single Malt 'The Original' Whisky is bottled at 47%ABV, non-chilled filtered and with no added colour. The palate offers soft vanilla, crème brûlée, and biscotti characters, layered over distinct notes of pear, coconut and buttery macadamia. It has a RRP of \$125.

■ All Cape Byron Whiskies are available online and direct from the cellar door at Cape Byron Distillery – [www.capebyrondistillery.com](http://www.capebyrondistillery.com).

## Off to the market for Mothers Day

Victoria Cosford

To market to market for Mothers Day delights! And there would not be many mothers who would fail to be enchanted by a little feast laid on, be it breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner. Should the weather be lovely, a picnic would make the day even more special. Here are some simple and delectable ideas, all of them based on one glorious shop at the farmers' market.

A frittata can be whipped up the day before, carved and served on your picnic rug – and pumpkin and silverbeet make a gorgeous filling. Slice a wedge of Mount Chowan pumpkin a centimetre thick, drizzle with olive oil from Grumpy Grandma's, and roast till done. Wilt a bunch of silverbeet leaves from Summit Organics, squeeze dry and chop. Soften a sliced onion



in olive oil and add a thinly sliced red capsicum from Everest Farm – toss around for about ten minutes, then cool. In a large bowl whisk together 12 eggs (courtesy of Woodland Valley Farm or Oliver's) with 300ml cream, crumble in cheese of your choice from Cheeses Loves You or Nimbin Valley Dairy, fold through all the veg and season. Pour into an oiled lamington tin and bake for about half an hour, till puffy, golden and set.

Of course you'll need bread with this so make sure to pick up a Scratch Patisserie baguette or a seedy loaf from Crabbes Creek Woodfired. Stew some Costanzo or McMahon's apples, make a simple crumble topping and there's your sweet. Champagne you'll need to source elsewhere, but Pure Melt chocolates, Ahana beeswax candles, and fat Church Farm soaps are all at the markets – just don't forget flowers from Byron Bay Blue Lotus, Glynce Creighton, or Jumping Red Ant. If that all sounds too hard, let Francisco's Table do the work, with lunch at the A&I Hall in Bangalow. Happy Mother's Day!

■ The stallholders are at New Brighton every Tuesday 8am–11am and Mullumbimby every Friday 7am–11am.

## Using bush tucker ingredients

Last Friday, Mullum Farmers Market hosted a workshop called the Bush Tucker Food Experience as part of the Northern Rivers Food Harvest Trail.

Led by three experts in native Australian foods, Auntie Delta Kaye, Mindy Woods, and Rebecca Barnes, you learnt how to forage, cook, and grow.

With climate change, ageing farmers, and a growing population, there are genuine concerns for our future food security. So why aren't we all planting bush tucker foods and cooking with these ingredients?

Mindy said she put it down to people not knowing what to do with native foods. She said that 20 years ago we all thought Asian food was very exotic, although now it's second nature to use Asian ingredients. Mindy went on to demonstrate how to make a very delicious chicken satay using all Australian native ingredients. (The recipe is on [www.mullumfarmersmarket.org.au](http://www.mullumfarmersmarket.org.au)).



Auntie Delta Kaye and Mindy Woods at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market Bush Tucker Food Experience.

Rebecca had an abundance of native seedlings and explained how easy it is to make your own edible bush tucker gardens, which are water saving, low maintenance, and chemical free. She also spoke of all the various healing properties in native foods.



■ If you would like further information, come and see Rebecca at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday 8–11am or at Mullum Farmers Market every Friday 7–11am.



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## BYRON BAY



### Loft Byron Bay

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Byron Bay  
6680 9183

Book online:  
[www.loftbyronbay.com.au](http://www.loftbyronbay.com.au)

Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.

**Happy Hour** | Daily from 4–6pm.  
\$2.50 fresh oysters, half price deli board,  
\$6 loft wine or lager, \$10 aperol spritz,  
\$14 margaritas & \$30 house win bottle

**Espresso Martini Nights** | Every day 9pm–close,  
2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini.  
**Open daily from 4pm.**



### The Italian Byron Bay

21, 108 Jonson St,  
Byron Bay

Open Monday to Saturday  
5.30pm to late

5633 1216  
[www.theitalianbyronbay.com](http://www.theitalianbyronbay.com)

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

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



### Legend Pizza

Serving Byron Bay for 30 years.  
Open 7 days.  
Delivery from Suffolk to Ewingsdale.  
2/3 Marvell Street, Byron Bay  
6685 5700  
[www.legendpizza.com.au](http://www.legendpizza.com.au)

### Byron's Freshest Pizza

Order online and join our loyalty program.  
Catering for up to 100 people lunch and dinner.  
BYO  
Locally owned and operated.  
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### Main Street

Open for takeaway daily,  
12 midday until dinner.  
Menu, more details –  
[@mainstreet\\_burgerbar](https://www.instagram.com/mainstreet_burgerbar)  
18 Jonson Street  
6680 8832

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details  
[@mainstreet\\_burgerbar](https://www.instagram.com/mainstreet_burgerbar)

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



### Success Thai

Open Lunch Wed–Fri  
12–2.30pm.  
Dinner Mon–Sat 5–8pm.  
Closed Sunday  
3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469)

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

BYO only.  
Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.

Menus available on Facebook.



### The Rocks

Brunch  
6.30am–2pm, every day  
16 Lawson St, Byron Bay  
6685 7663  
Menus at  
[therocksbyronbay.com.au](http://therocksbyronbay.com.au)  
[@therocksbyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/therocksbyronbay)

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



### QUARTZ GALLERY

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
12pm–10pm  
Upstairs at Mercato, above Woolworths, 108–114 Jonson St. Byron Bay  
Insta – [@thequartzgallery](https://www.instagram.com/thequartzgallery)  
Web – [quartzgallery.com.au](http://quartzgallery.com.au)

### Crystals and cocktails, tapas and wine

In the heart of Byron Bay this crystal gallery is a stunning visual experience and a taste sensation not to be missed. Sit amongst magnificent crystals from all over the world while sipping on crystal infused cocktails. We also offer delicious vegan tapas by No Bones, an eclectic wine list, an event space, and a view of the Byron Bay lighthouse.



### KARKALLA Byron Bay

Native Indigenous Restaurant  
Cnr of Bay Lane & Fletcher St,  
Byron Bay

Proudly Bundjalung owned & operated.

5614 8656

### Food with history, story & connection.

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from 5pm

Sunset sessions from 4pm Fri & Sat.  
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Bookings highly recommended via our website.  
[www.karkalla.com.au](http://www.karkalla.com.au) | [@karkallabyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/karkallabyronbay)



### Barrio Eatery & Bar

1 Porter Street, North Byron  
Mon–Tues: 7am–3pm  
Wed–Sat: 7am–10pm  
[www.barriobyronbay.com.au](http://www.barriobyronbay.com.au)  
[@barriobyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/barriobyronbay)  
0411 323 165

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

## BYRON BAY *continued*



### Wahlburgers Byron Bay

American style burger restaurant & sports bar  
Upstairs at Mercato on Byron, Jonson Street.  
[www.Wahlburgers.com.au](http://www.Wahlburgers.com.au)

### American & local sports played live

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**\$8 after 8**  
\$8 drinks from 8pm Thur–Sun.

**Live music Fri–Sun.**

**Open 11am to 9pm daily – dine-in or takeaway.**



### North Byron Hotel

61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay  
Ph 6685 6500

Kitchen open Sun–Thu 11.30am–8.30pm / Fri & Sat 11.30am–9.30pm  
Bar open daily 11.30am–late  
Bottleshop open daily 10am–8pm  
[hello@northbyronhotel.com.au](mailto:hello@northbyronhotel.com.au)

Step away from the centre of town and into a shimmering oasis away from crowds.

A tucked away treasure, the North Byron Hotel is a thriving mecca of good food, great music, laughter and the 'chilled Byron Bay vibes'.

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## BANGALOW



### Bangalow Bread Co.

12 Byron St,  
Bangalow

6am–3pm weekdays.  
7am–2pm weekends.

6687 1209  
[www.bangalowbread.co](http://www.bangalowbread.co)  
[info@bangalowbread.co](mailto:info@bangalowbread.co)

Stone baked sourdough, hand rolled pastries, small batch pies, house made cakes.

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

## MULLUMBIMBY



### Yaman Mullumbimby

62 Stuart St, Mullumbimby  
6684 3778  
[www.yamanmullumbimby.com.au](http://www.yamanmullumbimby.com.au)

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

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

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



### The Empire

20 Burringbar St, Mullum  
6684 2306

Open for brunch and lunch  
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum  
[empiremullum.com.au](http://empiremullum.com.au)  
Online orders:  
[mryum.com/theempire](http://mryum.com/theempire)

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

**Order and pay online!**  
Scan the QR view menu and order online. Takeaway is available on the whole menu. Phone orders also welcome.



## NEWRYBAR



### Harvest

18–22 Old Pacific Highway  
Newrybar NSW 2479

02 6687 2644

[www.harvest.com.au](http://www.harvest.com.au)  
[@harvestnewrybar](mailto:@harvestnewrybar)

### COFFEE CART

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### RESTAURANT

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

### DELI

7 days | 7.30am–3.30pm

## CATERING



### Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

E: [lizzijackson@gmail.com](mailto:lizzijackson@gmail.com)  
P: 0414 895 441

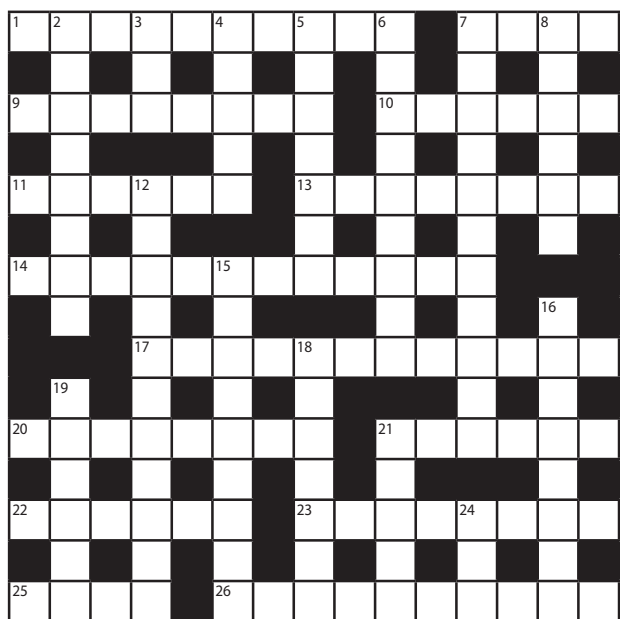
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# Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #490



## Cryptic Clues

### ACROSS

- Three today, party! But actually it was a very long time ago (3,4,3)
- Knock out crazy back (4)
- Sponsor records – but they are well behind (8)
- Notice makes old proverbs (6)
- Unruly lot had gone past their use-by date (3,3)
- Bet about cryptic code – it makes good story (8)
- Surprisingly I revere moron – the song says it's Jordan! (3,4,5)
- Much less room found in the vacation lecture course (6,6)
- What to do with a cockroach – hurry up! (4,2,2)
- Meteor boiled – and exploded! (6)
- Stick header in different places (6)
- The funny alien bar can't be ploughed (8)
- Throw to the ship (4)
- Nun with headgear female solidarity (10)

### DOWN

- A wrinkle for the top of the story (8)
- K said to raise the pack animal (3)
- A fight – well, approximately (5)
- Abandon hope of the French couple (7)
- Elevates a problem – but seers can read them (3,6)
- He learnt, and became a predecessor of 12 (11)
- Agreement, but entertainment unknown (6)
- So one mishap produces modern man (4,7)
- Memoranda about the nurses (9)
- Robe doll exotically in the brothel (8)
- Includes, and small measure follows (7)
- Boss ten at the workshop (6)
- Unimpressed by beginner in the foundation (5)
- Residue found in stashing without trickery (3)

## Quick Clues

### ACROSS

- The distant past (3,4,3)
- Kernels (4)
- Accumulations of things to be done (8)
- Maxims (6)
- Trite (3,3)
- Reminiscence; episode (8)
- James Reyne song (3,4,5)
- Classes held during the vacation (6,6)
- Get a move on! (4,2,2)
- Fireball that explodes in the atmosphere (6)
- Cling (6)
- Incapable of being cultivated (8)
- Fling (4)
- Sorority (10)

### DOWN

- Title (8)
- Babble (3)
- Concerning (5)
- Anguish (7)
- They are used to brew a popular beverage (3,6)
- Prehistoric man (11)
- Accord; pact (6)
- The species we all belong to! (4,7)
- Prompts (9)
- House of prostitution (8)
- Necessitates (7)
- Atelier (6)
- Nonchalant (5)
- Grey colour (3)

## Last week's solution #489



# The Gift

www.echo.net.au/soap-box

It's Mother's Day next week so I thought it might be timely to write a letter of gratitude to my children. The people I grew like misshapen but fucking fabulous carrots: juicy ripe produce from my mum fields. Carrots who make their choices sometimes funded by me, but independent of me. You can't tell my carrots what to do. Mine are carrots with Attitude. Carrots I love more than myself. To think I had never had any intention of growing carrots. Before I had carrots I never really liked them, and here I am with a fridge full. Turns out I'm quite the carrot grower. But the truth is, the carrots have grown me.

My children carrots are most precious. And, they're not carrots. They're people. They are the five people who saved me from a life of meaningless fun and success. Imagine being able to make choices that would have benefited my career? Imagine turning up to a job having slept. Or not having waged battle with a school refuser. Not having to organise school pickup, lunches, or live with the guilt of being the mum who doesn't do canteen or forgets to turn up to parent-teacher meetings. My children gave me a drive I never had before. They taught me to use the time I had well, because there wasn't going to be much of it. My carrots taught me discipline. And service. They taught me what it is to give continuously without acknowledgement. That is an integral lesson in humanity. I learnt selflessness. I have to admit there were times I didn't love it. Like at 3am picking up a kid from a party. It stretched that part of me that tightly guarded my own cervix of self-interest. It has made me a much more generous person. It hurt. It still does. For that I am forever grateful.

I want to thank my children who interrupted my narcissism with calls for Vegemite toast. Whose needs came before my own. Who used my body as home and then as a direct food source for 11 years and who continue to seek



my supply. It's hard to be mesmerised by your own reflection with a constant chorus of 'Mum, Mum, Mum' in the background. Their trivial requests always trumped anything I thought important. It's impossible to become a narcissist when you are too exhausted to even look at your own reflection. So for that I am forever grateful.

I want to thank my children who reshaped my body from firm and fabulous to stretched and flabby, teaching me that being beautiful is a pointless pursuit. (At least it was before Insta.) My long, lean model's body that was never the same after they'd launched. The children who gave me the humility of a tummy, and the generosity of a broad arse. The children who took my best bikini years and then had the hide to grow tall and lean themselves and taunt me with their own meaningless and fabulous beauty. They taught me to love something deeper in myself, to dig into my strength, to find my resilience and my self-belief. They taught me to love my softness. And how to find my real strengths. For that I am forever grateful.

I want to thank my children for my fierceness. The angry protective she-wolf of my womanhood. The part of me that snarls to protect my kids from danger. The part that gets more

ferocious over time, not less, as she steps out with big Mumma energy into a world that needs matriarchal fierceness more than it needs finance. My courage, my crazy, my relentless fight for what is fair comes from my deep well of maternal love. For my kids, and for yours. I snarl to protect them all from danger. For that I am forever grateful.

I want to thank my children for teaching me to let go – the hardest lesson of my mother's love. To understand that I am powerless. I have no control over anything. I have learnt to accept that and not go crazy. To have my babies in my arms, to see them grow and then to leave. Then to prowl their empty bedrooms and hold that quiet sorrow in my shadows as part of my mother love. As part of me. For that I am forever grateful.

I want to thank my children for teaching me to love.

To be quiet when I want to speak. To surrender when I want to fight. To give when I want to take. They have made me a much better person than I was before I met them.

So for Mother's Day I acknowledge the enormity of what I already have.

They are my gift. Happy Mother's Day. Love your carrots.



MANDY NOLAN'S  
**SOAPBOX**

## STARS BY LILITH

In the present power struggle between Jupiter's optimistic global dream and Pluto's collective shadow, Mercury heading direct early next week is the best news...



TAURUS THE BULL

**ARIES:** Noticed your energy patterns shifting, perhaps needing more sleep? Likely owing to Mercury retrograde pacing your nervous system to navigate the nonstop news of terrestrial turbulence. That said, this is a deeply productive transit for making headway on your passion projects this week at a less stressful pace.

**TAURUS:** Pleasure-loving Venus, your personal planet, moves this week into one of her comfort zones. Want more? Communicator Mercury's moving forward again in your sign. And because too much is just enough for Taurus, best birthday present of all is generous Jupiter powering into Taurus for the next twelve months.

**GEMINI:** Hopefully you've had a chance to recalibrate during the recent slowdown of Mercury retrograde. Mercury heading direct in the sign of practicality and determination early next week suggests there's no need to complexify problems, so ask yourself is there a simple, easy solution? The most brilliant answer could actually be hiding in plain sight.

**CANCER:** If you need more reasons to slow down, smell the roses and take it easy, how about this: Once a year Mars and Venus share a rare, intimate moment in time, and this week their warm double hug in your sign lights some intimate fires in the Crab clan's hearts and homes.

**LEO:** The current astral emphasis in your sector of career ambitions, public image, professional aspirations and reputation opens a window into the way you engage with the material world of money and possessions. Also how others see you, making this week's arguably most interesting question: What legacy will I leave this world?

**VIRGO:** If your planet ruler Mercury's recent retro has made you feel uncertain about which path to take or choice to make, its forward movement in determined, positive mode suggests asking for help or clarification where you need it, and not forgetting to reward yourself with plenty of your preferred, preferably sensual, treats.

**LIBRA:** May's scale-balancing act is between spontaneous Uranus and structured Saturn, so how does this play out IRL? In your choices between sumptuous and sensible spending, must I have it or do I really need it, dessert or salad, workout or chillout – all of which promises a hands-on week to mix, match, and enjoy.

**SCORPIO:** Last week's Scorpio full moon put certain parts of your life under the microscope and viewed others through a wide-angle lens. This week asks what do you really control? Ultimately only your own thoughts and reactions. If you're ready to lay some old agendas to rest, plenty of new opportunities await your consideration.

**SAGITTARIUS:** This week's good news story is your mentor planet Jupiter about to commence a year-long stay in Sagittarians' celestial sector of work, wellness, discipline, and discernment. Good news is services you provide are likely to be in demand, while on the flip-side the expansive planet can stack on the kilos unless you're careful.

**CAPRICORN:** Saturn's results don't always come easily but, as a persistent Capricorn, you've learned to be okay with this. This week conditions apply – don't they always – and they are to stay flexible: an exercise designed to prep you for weathering the late-month standoff between Mars and Jupiter, which might require a power pivot.

**AQUARIUS:** With whatever energy and resources are currently available, make use of the upcoming weekend moon in your sign to exercise that innovative Aquarian intellect in crafting sustainable solutions for pop-up problems, which are going to keep popping up. Who knows, you might even be able to make these changes pay.

**PISCES:** If conflicting emotions seem to have been holding you back, this week gets your imagination flowing. So bring on the brainstorming and get ready to take advantage of Saturn's cosmic momentum over the next two years promoting ethical business ideas with profitable potential: a boon for Piscean entrepreneurs.

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## SPECTACULAR NEW SHOW FROM BANDALUZIA

Led by ARIA-nominated Flamenco guitarist **Damian Wright**, Bandaluzia will present a spectacular new show that showcases contemporary flamenco dance and music while displaying the essential characteristics of the flamenco tradition. Bandaluzia are celebrated for their powerful performances, unique sound, and explosive displays of dazzling musicianship and virtuosity. Bandaluzia played WOMADelaide 2023 and are on Musica Viva's countrywide touring program 2023. Bandaluzia performed at The Adelaide International Guitar Festival curated by Slava Grigoryan and were awarded the 'Pick Of the Sydney Fringe' at The Sydney Fringe Festival. Bandaluzia performed to a sold-out Sydney Opera House Concert Hall as an invited artist to TEDX Sydney. Wright recently released his debut album *Shifting Sands*, which was the *Sydney Morning Herald's* 'Album of the week', where it was described as 'Glorious guitar playing'.

Damian was invited to perform as a solo artist at the Rajasthan International Folk Festival, India, and has performed at the Shanghai International Fringe Festival in China.

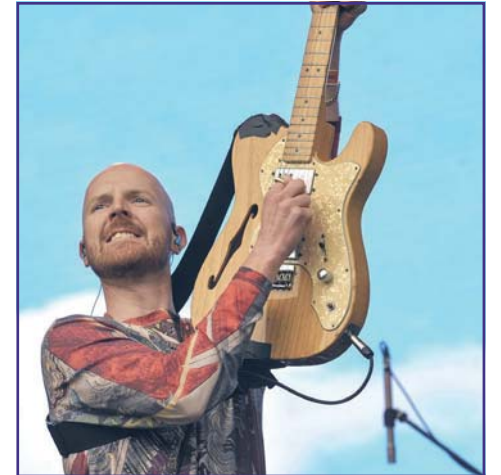


Bandaluzia also features *Dance Australia Magazine's* 'Most Outstanding Dancer' and co-winner of 'Best Dance Show' at The Adelaide Fringe. **Jessica Statham** and **Rosalie Cocchiario**, who, living in Madrid for 10 years, have performed in many of Madrid's premier tablaos (flamenco venues). Bandaluzia's outstanding percussionist **James Hauptmann** has played with the likes of James Morrison, Vince Jones, and Bluejuice.

Bandaluzia are also highly revered for their ability to mix elements of other genres into their performances, such as the rich harmonies of jazz, the exotic

melodies of the Orient, or the infectious rhythms of South America. This is an experience that ignites the senses with the grace of flamenco.

**Byron Theatre, 27 May, 7.30pm.**



## THE JUNGLE GIANTS FROM BRISBANE TO THE GOLD COAST

Absolute titans of the Australian indie world, **The Jungle Giants**, have announced a series of upcoming performances across the country following the release of new single *Trippin Up*.

For local fans, the best chance to see the band live will be **Thursday 8 June** at **The Tivoli** in Brisbane (with their Friday show already sold out), and **Saturday 10 June** at **Dreamworld** on the Gold Coast.

Known for explosive live performances, The Jungle Giants have earned a reputation for producing genre-bending music that gets people moving. *Trippin Up* is no exception, with its playful earworm of a melody that has had fans hooked from the very first listen. Vibrating between electro-pop and indie-rock, the band continues to push the boundaries of what's possible in music.

Last week, young gun **Odd Mob** brought his deft touch to the drum and bass banger with a remix of *Trippin Up*. With the original reaching number one most played at Triple J, rumour has it Odd Mob also played the remix live at his Coachella set ahead of release.

Following the success of their 2021 #1 ARIA Chart-topping fourth album *Love Signs*, The Jungle Giants have cemented their place as a dominant force in Australian music and are now seeing their reach expand globally. The last year alone has seen the band headlining festivals and selling out tour dates from hemisphere to hemisphere. So far in 2023, The Jungle Giants have played Okeechobee and M3F festivals in the United States, as well as Laneway Festival and a headline tour run through Mexico.

Lead vocalist Sam says he is thrilled with the response to *Trippin Up* and can't wait to perform it live. 'It all began with a dive into some aspects of electronic drum production that were so fun to experiment with. Can't wait to see that drop live baby.'

As the Australian music scene continues to thrive, The Jungle Giants remain at the forefront of innovation and creativity. Just ask Triple J about their triumphant 2022 Splendour main-stage performance – the Jungle Giants weren't Splendour headliners, but they sure felt like it.

**Thursday 8 June – The Tivoli, Brisbane**  
**Friday 9 June – The Tivoli, Brisbane**  
**Saturday 10 June – Dreamworld, Coomera.**  
 Tickets are available from [www.thejunglegiants.com](http://www.thejunglegiants.com).

BYRON MUSIC PRODUCTIONS  
 Presents  
**BYRON MUSIC Festival**  
 SAT 17 JUNE  
 IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER  
**ALLY PALMER • AZO BELL TRIO • BLONDIE LEE • BODHI DEY**  
**BUNNY RACKET • CARAVANA SUN • CONCRETE GOLD**  
**DA MANAGER • DONNY SHADES & THE MAJESTIC KNIGHTS**  
**DROP LEGS • DUSTY BOOTS • EMILY LUBITZ**  
**GIMMY & THE SPRING ROLLERS**  
**GROOVE TERMINATOR & SOUND OF THE SHIRE CHOIR**  
**HOLIDAY • HUSSY HICKS • JK-47 • KALIYA LEE**  
**LUKE MORRIS & THE HEAVY HITTERS**  
**MARSHALL & THE FRO • MINI SKIRT • NATHAN KAYE**  
**PASIFLOREZ • POPPY GALACTIC • RESIN DOGS • STEREO**  
**SUMMER WOODS • HAYLEY GRACE & THE BAY COLLECTIVE**  
**THE COLLIFLOWERS • THE SEA BENZ**  
**TONY VELVET • YAZMINDI**

FAMILY FRIENDLY LOCAL LINEUP FOOD & CRAFT MARKETS

DENING PARK Byron Bay BUNDJALUNG COUNTRY

BYRONMUSICFESTIVAL.COM.AU • TICKETS VIA HUMANITIX



## HUSBANDS ARE MORE THAN AUXILIARY ON MOTHER'S DAY

An all-senses feast awaits you at the idyllic riverside Channon Tavern this Mothers' Day afternoon. Under new ownership, boasting great wines, craft beers and a top-notch authentic Japanese kitchen **The Channon Tavern** is the talk of the towns. Having ditched the pokies, the Tavern is now proudly presenting a tasty live music menu. Mothers' Day Special is swing/folk super group **Husbands Auxiliary**.

Picture if you will, a band of men. Whole men, true men, bald men, woke men. Men whose sole purpose on the stage of life is to shine their light on the glorious women they love.

Fearlessly fronted by fabulous female vocalists **Tirza Abb** and **Jessie Vintila**, Husbands Auxiliary combine voices and flavours that pop and blend like fine cheese and good wine. With award-winning original songwriting and cranking quirky covers, **Dan Reade's** honky tonk piano perfection and accordion magic, and **Barry Hill's** best-in-show bass lines, splashes of jazz flute and wait, there's still more! Special guests **Dave "Sax-Sensation" Ellemor-Collins** and gorgeous diva **Monique Lewis** will join Husbands Auxiliary and the Tavern team to dish up a Mothers' Day feast to remember, and they'll do the dishes!

**The Channon Tavern.**  
**Sunday 14 May, 2-5pm.**

It's already been a big year for Don Walker and, with the release of his latest album *Lightning in a Clear Blue Sky* last Friday and his upcoming **Blues on Broadbeach** show, 2023 is just getting bigger!

Seven spoke to Walker last week about his upcoming festival appearance.

**We're very excited about see you at Blues on Broadbeach. What have you got for us?**

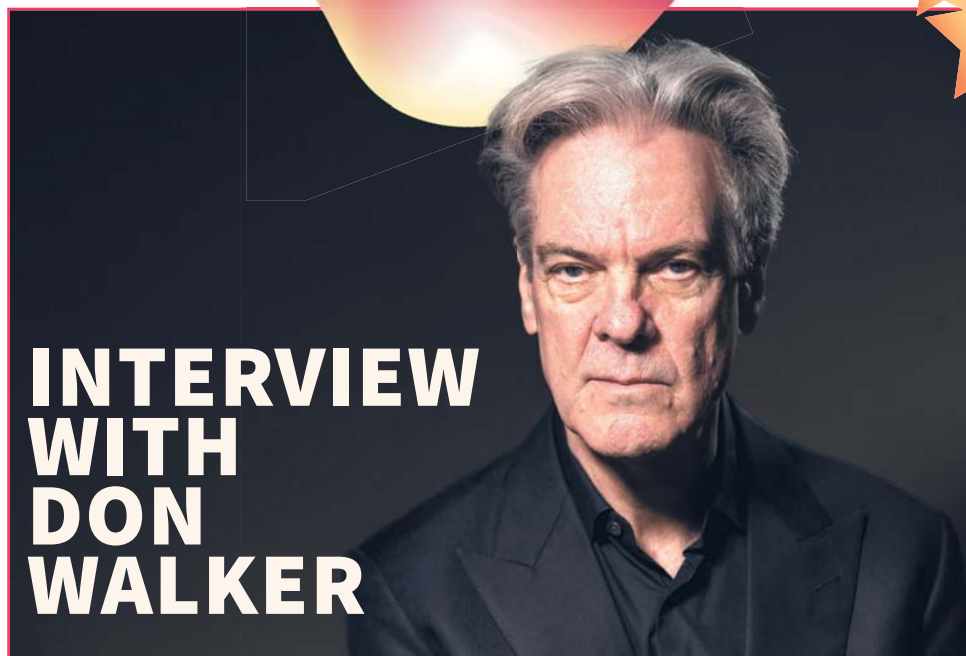
I'll be bringing the band that I've been playing with for about 15 years and I'll be doing my solo work, including songs from the new album. It's the fourth solo album that I have made over the last 30 years and I'll also be doing songs from the previous solo albums and I'll be doing one or two songs from the Tex, Don, and Charlie albums as well.

**Is is going to be bluesy?**

They are bluesy players of one kind or another – **Hamish Stewart** is a drummer from the Sydney jazz scene; **Mark Vidale** is a western swing and country and rockabilly bass player; **Garrett Costigan** is a pedal steel player, so that's more country than blues; and **Shannon Bourne**, who is our new guitar player, used to play guitar with Chris Wilson, so that's definitely blues.

**Your new album is just out. Are you still able to find fresh inspiration for your work?**

Clearly I do! I don't push it, I don't try to write souls – the songs come of their own accord,



so there must be some fresh inspiration coming out there from somewhere.

**What sort of things inspire you?**

The things that concern everybody: it's a beautiful day, it would be better if it would be better if somebody that I've loved for a long time was with me, whether that be that the kids or others, you know, the normal things of life and interests. I'm interested in a lot of things that are not in the immediate environment.

**I'd love to hear about what they are...**

Well, I'm really fascinated by the Gnostic scriptures from before the Emperor Constantine, but, while I'm intensely interested in stuff like that, I would in the broad population call it very much a fringe interest.

**When you're writing do you have a pattern?**

No, the only structured thing that I do is that I like to go out and have a coffee

in the middle of the afternoon and occasionally I use that as an opportunity to write, but it's also too easy to not do that and read the news on your phone instead.

**Do you feel that it's your duty to write songs or to create works that follow your belief systems?**

I feel that I'm under a heavy obligation *not* to do that. I wish there were some way that I could impose that heavy obligation on other people in my profession...

**You've been playing live for a long time. Are you still getting a buzz out of performing? Does it give you different things than it used to?**

I get a real buzz out of performing and was with this particular group of guys and we're augmented these days by three friends of ours who are female singers: **Erica Dunn**, **Amanda Roff**, and **Felicity Cripps** – they give it an extra dimension.

**Don Walker performs at Blues on Broadbeach on Sunday 21 May at 3.30pm.**

**Blues on Broadbeach 18-21 May. A free festival with more than 65 artists across 16 stages over four days.**

**Headliners include Tommy Emmanuel, Melbourne Ska Orchestra, Emma Donovan & The Putbacks, Chris Cheney, The Kevin Borich Express.**

[www.bluesonbroadbeach.com](http://www.bluesonbroadbeach.com).



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 Tumblegum 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](http://www.gcco.com.au)**

# BYRON BAY

## BYRON MUSIC FESTIVAL, COMMUNITY, CULTURE, COUNTRY

**Byron Music Festival (BMF)** is an all-ages, all-inclusive, multi-venue, weekend-long music festival combined with a flagship cultural placemaking event that celebrates the immense creative talent of Byron Bay and beyond.

A vision of Byron Music Shop owner and director **Nick Sergi** says, years in the making, the purpose of the event is to reinvigorate the local music industry by creating paid and exposure opportunities for Northern Rivers-based artists, and to re-establish a connection for the local music industry and wider community, as part of the long road to recovery for regionally based artists and arts workers post-pandemic.

These activities will directly and positively impact the local economy by revitalising the Byron Bay night time economy, including multiple local businesses across an array of industries, creating cultural engagement that has myriad social benefits including community connection, and contributing to the town centre's flourishing during low tourist season.

Nick Sergi says this event is essentially a gift to our community. 'As a music retailer, I witnessed firsthand how our local musicians struggled through the pandemic and felt helpless as many left the region because they couldn't afford to live here any more. We sadly haemorrhaged countless talented people who were major contributors to our cultural profile and community in general, and we're still feeling the effects. We're also losing industry professionals who create events and projects that make our area so wonderful to live in because there are so few creative employment opportunities locally. I took it on myself to create something that we can all look forward to



again, and a way for our emerging and mid-tier artists to perform and get paid again.'

Over three days Byron Music Festival hosts a diverse lineup of all-local musicians throughout venues including **Treehouse at Belongil, The Great Northern Hotel, Byron Bay Services Club, Salty's**, and an iconic beachfront event in **Denning Park**.

Spanning all genres and demographics, the program is designed to appeal to and be accessible to locals.

'We're filling the gaps between the major festivals that many locals find hard to afford or get to, while producing high-quality programming and experiences to showcase what the people of our area are capable of. It's a reminder to us all why Byron Bay is so special to live in and for us to come together in celebration again. It is the ultimate event that's 'made by locals for locals'.

**Byron Music Festival 2023. Friday 16 – Sunday 18 June**  
**Main Event: Denning Park, Byron Bay, Arakwal Bundjalung Country. Saturday 17 June, 11am – 8:30pm**  
**Find out more: [www.byronmusicfestival.com.au](http://www.byronmusicfestival.com.au).**

## BYRON THEATRE

**MAY**

- 2 CREATIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS
- 3 VERMEER | 4 THE GREATEST SURF MOVIE IN THE UNIVERSE | 12 TINA HARROD | 20 MENTAL FITNESS FOR SURF LIFE SAVERS | 23 SHEHAN KARUNATILAKA | 26 CRAIG FOSTER
- 27 BANDALUZIA FLAMENCO

TICKETS AND INFO: [BYRONTHEATRE.COM](http://BYRONTHEATRE.COM)



## SAE GRAD MIXES WITH THE WORLD'S BEST

**Vasan Alagappan's** success story is a testament to the power of education, passion, and hard work. He learnt his craft at SAE Byron Bay after travelling from India at 19. Today, he works with a portable hybrid setup, creating exceptional music on the go.

Having come to Australia at the age of 19, Vasan studied the Diploma of Audio Production, specialising in electronic music, at SAE Byron Bay.

'When I first started I wasn't that musically literate. The teaching from my lecturers at SAE was very precise and methodical, and they had such fantastic knowledge of audio and music.

Not a lot of education institutions have audio decks like the SSL 9000, and being able to learn on that and have access to every mic you can possibly imagine was fantastic – they really do have amazing facilities at SAE.

If I had to pick one thing for my sustainability and survival, aside from my immediate family, then it would have to be my days at SAE!

Recently Vasan got the chance to work with child prodigy Lydian Nadhaswaram, who won \$1 million on CBS show *World's Best*. 'After studying at SAE, I returned to Chennai. Lydian's father was someone I had met, and he was well aware of my abilities as an audio engineer.

I later taught Lydian basic audio engineering, when he was getting into recording and production. He told me he was getting ready to work on his first album, and asked if I'd like to assist him with the production and record, mix, and master the album also.'

Some of the special guests that feature on Lydian's debut compilation include jazz greats like Dave Weckl on drums, Frank Gambale on guitar, Mohini Dey on bass, and Eric Marienthal on saxophone.

Vasan had some words of wisdom on the key ingredients for a high-quality recorded song. 'You need a very good artist, with well-maintained instruments, a proper recording space to bring it all together, a good choice of microphone that goes into a very good preamplifier, and then a decent recording. If you have weak links in any of the parts, like if you haven't recorded properly... Making sure you have all the key elements before you mix and master a song will lead to a greater finished product.'

**SAE Creative Media Institute understands creators and provides students with the experience, skills, equipment, and connections to succeed in the industry. Find out more at [sae.edu.au](http://sae.edu.au).**

## SURF N' MIRTH

### It's all Froth and Fun in our May Subscriber Draw!

Subscribe to BayFM 99.9 and you could win one of these most excellent prizes!

6'4" cruiser surfboard valued at \$1,100 courtesy of Guru Boardshaper Brett Munro. It's the perfect cruiser board for any level.

Double pass for one night at Byron Comedy Festival including dinner and drinks valued at \$300.

For a chance to win just take out a BayFM subscription by 24 May 2023. Thanks for supporting your 100 per cent independent, not-for-profit community, award winning radio station.

[bayfm.org/subscriber/](http://bayfm.org/subscriber/) or scan this QR code



Winner drawn on The Sandpit radio show 4–6pm, 25 May.



**Federal FILM SOCIETY**

DINNER: **from 6pm**

SCREENING: **8pm, Sat May 13, Federal Hall**

IN SUPPORT OF: **FEDERAL LOVES REFUGEES**

[@federalfilmsociety](http://@federalfilmsociety) [www.federalfilmsociety.com](http://www.federalfilmsociety.com)



# GIG GUIDE

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



# CINEMA



## WEDNESDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JACK WILLS & GEORGIE LYONS**
- 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**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7PM **SOCIAL BALLROOM DANCE**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **LIVE POETS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **PUSH**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **DEAN DOYLE WITH SOPHISTICATION MORNING MELODIES**, BOARDWALK 5PM **HARRY NICHOLS**, LEVEL ONE 7.30PM **ALICIA BICKETT PSYCHIC MEDIUM**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **RUSTY TUNES**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **NATHAN KAYE**, 8PM **DJ FRXSTY**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **JADE STODDARD**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 8PM **AINE TYRELL - IRISH AS F\*CK NOT IRISH FOLK**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **MR TROY**
- DOLPHINS HARBOURSIDE HOTEL, TWEED HEADS, 6PM **DAVE POWER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **LOST IN MUSIC DISCO SHOW**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7PM **AIN'T THAT SWELL + KOLOHE ANDINO**, EITHAN OSBORNE AND RAGLAN SURF REPORT
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ROO MACKERRAS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **MIRUSIA**

## THURSDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE GIN BUGGS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CALLUM CREELMAN**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY (NRCG), BALLINA, 5.30PM **MAY EXHIBITIONS LAUNCH**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **MR TROY**
- DOLPHINS HARBOURSIDE HOTEL, TWEED HEADS, 6PM **DAVE POWER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **LOST IN MUSIC DISCO SHOW**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7PM **AIN'T THAT SWELL + KOLOHE ANDINO**, EITHAN OSBORNE AND RAGLAN SURF REPORT
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RICHARD NEILL & THE DRUNKEN MIDNIGHT CHOIR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **SUNDAY LEMONADE**, 9PM **DJ MY HAPPY PLACE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- FEDERAL HALL 8PM **FEDERAL FILMS - TRIANGLE OF SADNESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **THE DIRTY CHANNEL**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **INSIDE OUTLAW**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM **TURTLE BOY DUO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 2PM **GEORGIE WINCHESTER**, 7.30PM **AMBER ROSE & JACK REEVES**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 5PM **BASSIX**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **JEN CLOHER**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7PM **DRAG NIGHT WITH RUBELLA**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 8PM **IS MAN KIND**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **NOCHE FLAMENCA**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL OKELL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **PINK ZINC**, 7.30PM **JEROME WILLIAMS & KAYAL**, 9.30PM **DJ JAMIE LOWE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **ROUND MOUNTAIN GIRLS + ALBY PITMAN**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 4PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SOUTHWALL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 1PM **Q**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 2PM **HUSBANDS AUXILIARY**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 11AM **BEC LAVELLE**
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 2.30PM **GOLD COAST CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 12PM **JON J BRADLEY**

## FRIDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GEORGIE WINCHESTER BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **KANE MUIR**, 8PM **BIG WHEELS**, 8.45PM **THE COLLIFLOWERS**, 9.30PM **DEAR SUNDAY**, 10.30PM **DICE**
- BYRON THEATRE 8PM **TINA HARROD**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **OOZ**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6.30PM **PHOEBE FAYE, MORETON & AYA YVES**
- YUM YUM TREE CAFÉ, NEW BRIGHTON, 6PM **ROD MURRAY - A TRIBUTE TO JAZZ**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **BALCONY BEATS**, 8.30PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- COURTHOUSE HOTEL, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **PARADIGM VORTEX**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUMBIMBY WITH DJ ISHWARA**
- TINTENBAR HALL 7.30PM **TINTENBAR UP FRONT - THOR PHILLIPS!**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLIAH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KALAKARI**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- KULCHA JAM, BYRON BAY, 7PM **ECSTATIC DANCE BYRON BAY WITH DJ SHIAN LOVE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **KAYAL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**

## MONDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- KULCHA JAM, BYRON BAY, 7PM **ECSTATIC DANCE BYRON BAY WITH DJ SHIAN LOVE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **KAYAL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**

## TUESDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- KULCHA JAM, BYRON BAY, 7PM **ECSTATIC DANCE BYRON BAY WITH DJ SHIAN LOVE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **KAYAL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**

## WEDNESDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ADAM BROWN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CHLOE JETT**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

## FEDERAL FILM SOCIETY RELAUNCHES

The brilliant team that brought **Federal Films** to life and ran it seamlessly for over 20 years has now handed the reigns to a new enthusiastic team of locals.

Satirical black comedy *Triangle of Sadness* will be the first film for the return of Federal Film Society on **Saturday** at the **Federal Hall**.

*Triangle of Sadness* received an eight-minute standing ovation when it was screened at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival and went on to win the Palme d'Or.

This highly acclaimed and excruciatingly hilarious comedy was also nominated for three Academy Awards including Best Film.

**Woody Harrelson**, as the ship's captain, almost steals the show, but then **Dolly De Leon**, as the below-deck survivalist, was a deserved nominee for best supporting actress at the Oscars.

A gourmet Indian feast prepared by local chef Dave Ness includes his famous Pondicherry pork, pumpkin and pea dahl, basmati rice,

leafy greens, and homemade chutneys and relishes. Tea, coffee, and cake will also be on offer, with all proceeds going to Federal Loves Refugees.

**Dinner is \$17 per person and will be served from 6pm with the film starting at 8pm. For more information search Federal film society on Facebook and Instagram.**

## PALACE CINEMAS Session Times

Thurs 11 May - Wed 17 May

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	Daily: 11:15am, 1:30pm	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 (M) (NFT)
<b>IN FOCUS: THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS (MA15+)</b> Wes Anderson Retrospective Thu: 7:00pm	<b>ALL FILMS AIR (M)</b> Thu/Wed: 11:00am, 4:30pm Fri/Sat/Mon/Tue: 11:00am, 4:30pm, 7:00pm Sun: 4:30pm	Daily excl. Wed: 11am, 1:15, 4:15pm, 6:30pm, 7:15pm Wed: 11am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15pm
<b>JOHN FARNHAM: FINDING THE VOICE (M)</b> Mother's Day Screening Sun: 4:00pm Preview - Sun: 7:00pm	<b>ROYAL BALLET: CINDERELLA (C13)</b> Sun: 1:00pm, Wed: 11:00am	<b>HYPNOTIC (M) (NFT)</b> Daily: 11am, 4:15pm, 6:15pm
<b>BEAU IS AFRAID (R18+)</b> Daily excl. Sun: 3:45, 7:15pm Sun: 7:30pm	<b>SWEET AS (M)</b> Australian Made Preview Wed: 7:00pm	<b>JOHN WICK 4 (MA15+)</b> Daily: 1:15pm
<b>FAMILY FILMS</b>	<b>MAVKA: THE FOREST SONG (PG)</b> Sat/Sun: 11:00am	<b>LOVE AGAIN (M) (NFT)</b> Daily: 11:30am, 1:50, 8:15pm
<b>THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE (PG)</b>	<b>THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE (PG)</b> Sat/Sun: 11:00am	<b>MASQUERADE (MA15+)</b> Daily excl. Sun: 1:00pm Sun: 10:50am
	<b>DUNGEONS &amp; DRAGONS (M)</b> Daily: 8:00pm	<b>NOVEMBER (M) (NFT)</b> Daily: 11:15am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:15pm
	<b>EVIL DEAD RISE (R18+)</b> Daily: 8:30pm	<b>THE GIANTS (M)</b> Daily: 3:10pm, 5:30pm
	<b>INFINITY POOL (R18+) (NFT)</b> Daily excl. Sun: 3:30, 8:15pm Sun: 5:00pm, 8:15pm	<b>THE INNOCENT (M)</b> Daily excl. Sun/Wed: 11:00am

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay • Book Online at [palacecinemas.com.au](http://palacecinemas.com.au)  
Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking Validation for all Palace Cinemas customers  
Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions. \*NFT = No Free Tickets

Admission prices:	Wednesday	BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS							Tel: (02) 6686 9600
Adults: \$15	All tickets \$11	Thursday May 11 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday May 17 <sup>th</sup>							<a href="http://ballinafaircinemas.com.au">ballinafaircinemas.com.au</a>
Stud/Conc: \$13	3D Surcharge \$3	MAY	THU 11 <sup>TH</sup>	FRI 12 <sup>TH</sup>	SAT 13 <sup>TH</sup>	SUN 14 <sup>TH</sup>	MON 15 <sup>TH</sup>	TUE 16 <sup>TH</sup>	WED 17 <sup>TH</sup>
Senior: \$12		<b>BOOK CLUB 2: THE NEXT CHAPTER</b> M 108 MIN	10:05 AM 12:05 PM 3:30 PM 7:45 PM	10:05 AM 12:05 PM 3:30 PM 7:45 PM	10:05 AM 12:05 PM 3:30 PM 7:45 PM	10:05 AM 12:05 PM 3:30 PM 7:45 PM	10:05 AM 12:05 PM 3:30 PM 7:45 PM	10:05 AM 12:05 PM 3:30 PM 7:45 PM	10:05 AM 12:05 PM 3:30 PM 7:45 PM
Child: \$11		<b>GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3</b> M 150 MIN	10:20 AM 1:05 PM 3:50 PM 6:35 PM	10:20 AM 1:05 PM 3:50 PM 6:35 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:05 PM 3:50 PM 6:35 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:05 PM 3:50 PM 6:35 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:05 PM 3:50 PM 6:35 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:05 PM 3:50 PM 6:35 PM 7:25 PM	10:20 AM 1:05 PM 3:50 PM 6:35 PM 7:25 PM
		<b>JESUS REVOLUTION</b> M 120 MIN	2:05 PM 7:25 PM	2:05 PM 7:25 PM	2:05 PM 7:25 PM	2:05 PM 7:25 PM	2:05 PM 7:25 PM	2:05 PM 7:25 PM	2:05 PM 7:25 PM
		<b>LOVE AGAIN</b> M 104 MIN	11:40 AM 1:35 PM 5:30 PM	11:40 AM 1:35 PM 5:30 PM	11:40 AM 1:35 PM 5:30 PM	11:40 AM 1:35 PM 5:30 PM	11:40 AM 1:35 PM 5:30 PM	11:40 AM 1:35 PM 5:30 PM	11:40 AM 1:35 PM 5:30 PM
		<b>THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE</b> PG 92 MIN	10:00 AM 4:15 PM 6:00 PM	10:00 AM 4:15 PM 6:00 PM	10:00 AM 12:05 PM 4:15 PM 6:00 PM	10:00 AM 12:05 PM 4:15 PM 6:00 PM	10:00 AM 12:05 PM 4:15 PM 6:00 PM	10:00 AM 12:05 PM 4:15 PM 6:00 PM	10:00 AM 12:05 PM 4:15 PM 6:00 PM



**Two Bed Retreat in Exceptional Location Across from Main Beach**

🛏️ 2 🚿 1 🚗 1

- Positioned in a tightly held complex of 6 just 100 metres from Byron Bay's Main Beach, is this 2 bedroom apartment perfect for a holiday retreat
- On the ground floor of the property is the open plan living and dining area
- There are two bedrooms, each feature built-in wardrobes and have access to a private verandah through sliding doors
- Outside there is access to shared BBQ facilities in a gated garden area
- Fantastic location just 100 metres to the beach and 200 metres to town

**3/34 Lawson Street, Byron Bay**

Price Guide: \$1.5m

Open: By appointment



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield  
0400 028 594



**Hinterland Retreat with Running Creek and Separate Tiny Home**

🛏️ 1 🚿 1 🚗 3 🏠 2.7HA

- Situated on 2.7 hectares of spectacular scenery is Wyuna -an exceptional modernised, farmhouse style property in the tightly held Crabbes Creek
- The open-plan living area is sure to amaze, with floor to ceiling windows providing uninterrupted views of the stunning surroundings
- Alongside the freshwater creek are sub-tropical gardens, walking trails and four swimming holes
- 3 mins from Crabbes Creek General Store, primary school & Rail Trail

**273 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek**

Price Guide: \$1.9m to \$2.09m

Open: By appointment



Denzil Lloyd  
0481 864 049



Jane Johnston  
0466 327 375



**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 Newes Road, Coorabell**

Price Guide: \$3.55m – \$3.8m

Open: Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 12–12.30pm



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Denzil Lloyd  
0481 864 049



**Spacious Hinterland Block with D.A Approved Plans**

🏠 3,916M<sup>2</sup>

- Elevated 3,916M<sup>2</sup> 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





**Beautiful Views of the Hinterland and Minyon Falls**

3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 2 Car Spaces 2.5HA

- This ultra-private property offers a stylish main residence with high vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, a hand laid stone fireplace in main living area
- Set on 5 acres of open, park like grounds with established and easy-care gardens
- There is an enormous undercover and semi enclosed deck with a vaulted roofline and is easily accessed from several points of the home
- An additional bonus is the secondary dwelling circa 1970 with potential to become a Dual Occupancy (STCA)

**41 Federal Drive, Eureka**

Price Guide: \$2.395m – \$2.55m

Open: Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 12.30–1pm



Helen Huntly-Barratt  
0412 332 232



**Immaculate Low Maintenance Home in "Sunrise"**

4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 2 Car Spaces 623M<sup>2</sup>

- 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, 13<sup>th</sup> May 12–12.30pm



Sharon McInnes  
0408 659 649



Sally Green  
0488 030 116



**Byron Beachside Cottage Plus Development Potential**

3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 767M<sup>2</sup>

- 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, 13<sup>th</sup> May 11–11.30am



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield  
0400 028 594



Sharon's wealth of experience combined with invaluable local knowledge, excellent communication, and the latest technologies, promise to deliver the best possible outcomes to buyers and sellers alike. With close ties throughout the community, Sharon wholeheartedly loves sharing in the real estate journey with her clients.

SCAN QR CODE FOR SHARON'S CURRENT LISTINGS



0408 659 649 | sharon@byronbayfn.com



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"Longwood"

LUXURY ACREAGE ESTATE UNMATCHED IN PEACE, PRIVACY AND PANORAMIC VIEWS



**amir prestige**

📍 541 FRIDAY HUT ROAD, **POSSUM CREEK**

9 🛏️ 7 🚿 5 🚗 🏠 22.15 acres\* 🏰 Disclaimer \*= approx.

Only once in a generation will such an exquisite and exceptionally rare property opportunity present itself. Immersed within a pristine natural wonderland in Byron Bay's hinterland and sprawled across 22.15 acres, "Longwood" promises unrivalled peace, privacy and panoramic views. A uniquely secluded sanctuary with no neighbours and sweeping views, it's also an approved dual occupancy estate. The 5 bedroom, 5 bathroom plus powder room Stone House (primary residence) is a luxury architectural triumph infused with heart and soul. Wrapped in galleries of glass (including the breezeway) to ensure an ever-present connection to the magnificent outdoors, it co-exists in complete harmony with the lush landscape. Rich with history, showcasing reclaimed bridge timbers and rare convict sandstone, these pair perfectly with no-expense-spared finishes to create this consummate entertainer.

**AUCTION 27TH MAY, ON-SITE 11:00AM**

Inspection by Appointment

*Contact the Listing Agents*

**Amir Mian** 0401 470 499  
[amir@amirprestige.com.au](mailto:amir@amirprestige.com.au)

**Abbey Middleton** 0426 295 498  
[bbsales@amirprestige.com.au](mailto:bbsales@amirprestige.com.au)

[amirprestige.com.au](http://amirprestige.com.au)



**TIM MILLER**  
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tim@millerrealestate.com.au  
millerrealestate.com.au

**'Eltham Springs' 79 JOHNSTON ROAD, CLUNES**



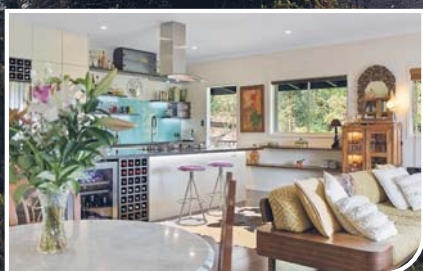
Price guide: contact agent | Inspection: by appointment 4 3 5 85.97ha

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



**Brunswick Heads**



**AUCTION: 11AM SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 2023**

8 Gin Gin Crescent, **Ocean Shores**

**MUST SELL**

4 2 2 LAND 2188m<sup>2</sup>

Moving to the Byron Shire is on the wish list for so many and finding a special timber home in the bush with privacy, abundant wildlife, minutes to the beach, river, golf course, Byron, shops as well as having an opportunity to generate income from the fully approved separate cottage, is hard to find, not anymore. Private established gardens, solid timber house with full running verandahs, quiet, elevated, flood free location.

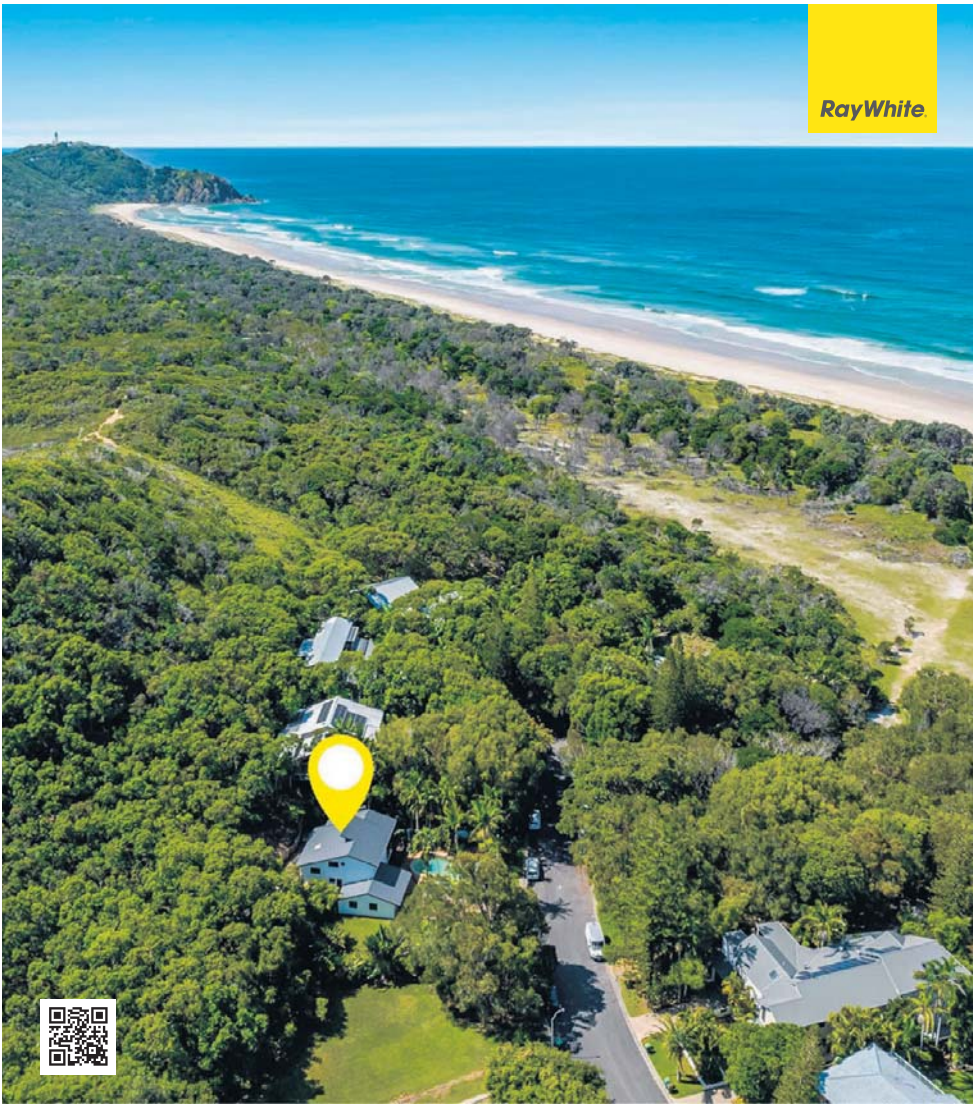
Modern contemporary internal living with the charm only a timber house has, spacious rooms, double carport and tandem storage under the house, possible future development stca (2188m<sup>2</sup> block of land). The cottage carries similar characteristics as the house with a single room & private deck to the north. The privacy is outstanding and will be here forever with a reserve at the back.

**Auction Price guide**  
**Contact**

11am Saturday 3rd June 2023  
Bidding expected to start at \$1.55mill  
**Peter Browning** 0411 801 795



RayWhite



**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

3 3 2 721sqm

**Sale**  
Contact Agent



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

**View**  
By Appointment



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

rwbyronbay.com

RayWhite



**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

1 125m2

**Sale**  
Contact Agent



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

**View**  
By Appointment

rwbyronbay.com

RayWhite



**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

3 1 2 639sqm

**Sale**  
Contact Agent



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

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



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

rwbyronbay.com

RayWhite



**SALE**

**1/3 Sallywattle Drive, Suffolk Park**  
Stylish and Spacious Beachside Living: The Perfect Family Home  
Step inside, and you'll be impressed by the well-thought-out floor plan designed with family living in mind. The open-plan living areas and dining area are bathed in natural light and feature modern finishes.

**WHY WAIT?**  
Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

4 3 2 588sqm

**Sale**  
Contact Agent



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

**View**  
Open Homes  
Sat 11.30am-12pm  
Wed 2pm-2.30pm



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

rwbyronbay.com

## When only the best will do

39 Crofton Road, Nimbin

Land: 60.95ha **\$3,950,000**



This postcard-perfect property in the desirable subtropical rainforest location of Nimbin is considered one of the district's finest farms.

A prestigious and productive cattle and horse farm, it has two creeks with swimming holes and picnic spots, amazing views of the dramatic Nightcap Ranges, Blue Knob Mountain and the Nimbin Rocks...and all of this within a stroll of the iconic tourist village. The current owners have taken a grand pre-war farmhouse and literally spent millions transforming it into what is best described as a 'Grand Design'.

The main home is filled with high-end bespoke and artisan features, as is the 3 bedroom 2 bathroom Caretakers' Cottage and the Equestrian hub. This one has to be seen to be believed, whether the new owner is looking for a top notch prestige farm or for tourist, event, commercial or accommodation opportunities. Nimbin is approximately one hour's drive to the beach and 1 hour to the Gold Coast airport.

**Inspect:** Private inspection by appointment  
**Contact:** Samara Burcher or John Wilcox 0429 806 288



## Affordable Luxury Living!

23 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow

**\$1,485pw furnished**



This amazing four bedroom furnished home has quality finishes throughout and in keeping with the delightful charm and character of the home. The living area is centrally located opening out onto the covered deck blending the indoor/outdoor living areas. The kitchen has plenty of cupboard space with dishwasher. The large main bedroom with spacious ensuite opens out onto the front deck for relaxing and pampering with the outdoor bath. The other 2 bedrooms are a good size with built-in-robies, the 4 bedroom could also be used as an additional living area.

Quality furnishings are throughout and has everything you need to enjoy living in this home.

Conveniently located only 1.2km from the main street of Bangalow that has cafes, restaurants, hotel, clothing and other stores, 14.4km to Jonson St Byron Bay.

It is time to start enjoying the relaxing lifestyle.

**Inspect:** Call to arrange an inspection  
**Contact:** Lynette Outerbridge on 0411 294 446 or rentals@c21alstonville.com



## Open For Inspection

[www.echo.net.au/ad/ofi](http://www.echo.net.au/ad/ofi)

### Atlas Byron Bay

- 35a Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30-10am
- 11/10 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 496 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 11-11.45am

### Byron Shire Real Estate

- 13 Wirruna Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 26 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4 Yemlot Court, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 8 Bower Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7/11 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 56 Tweed Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2 Berrimillah Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 7A Tathra Glen, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 7 Yackatoon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 2-2.30pm

### Century 21

- 21a Hidden Valley Cct, Goonellabah. Sat 9-9.30am
- 29 Palmvale Drive, Goonellabah. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 30 Fergusson Street, Casino. Sat 12.30-1pm

### Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 43 Bentinck Street, Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/14 Barrett Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 589 Ballina Road, Goonellabah. Sat 9-9.30am
- 22 Karalauren Court, Lennox Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/51 Gibbon Street, Lennox Head. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 10 Kookaburra Street, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 14/3-13 Sunset Avenue, West Ballina. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 36 Surf Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 10.30-11am
- 1 Bath Street, Wardell. Sat 11-11.30am
- 24 Farrelly Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1106-1108 Tamarind Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 11.30-12.15pm
- 950 Pimlico Road, Pimlico. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 30 Unara Parkway, Cumbalum. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 82 Tyumba Avenue, Teven. Sat 12.45-1.15pm
- 565 Friday Hut Road, Brooklet. Sat 1-2pm
- 8 Oakland Drive, West Ballina. Sat 2.45-3.15pm

38 The Byron Shire Echo May 10, 2023

### First National Byron Bay

- 9 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Fri 10-10.30am
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 11-11.30am
- 7 Ocean Avenue, New Brighton. Sat 9.30-10am
- 9 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/3 Milne Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 26 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 107 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 48 Massinger Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 38 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 11-11.30am
- 15 Newes Road, Coorabell. Sat 12-12.30am
- 6 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30am
- 41 Federal Drive, Eureka. 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
- 25 Kings Rd, Nashua. Sat 10.30-11am
- 447 Eltham Rd, Eltham. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 187 Cameron Rd, Mcleans Ridges. Sat 12.15-12.45pm
- 968 Dunoon Rd, Modanville. Sat 1.30-2pm

### LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 46 Mullumbimbi St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 37 Excelsior Circuit, Bayside, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 8 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 40 Byangum Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 2-2.30pm

### Ray White Byron Bay

- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 1/3 Sallywattle Drive, Suffolk Park. Wed 2-2.2.30pm
- 6 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 65 Currawong Way, Ewingsdale. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 71 Charltons Road, Federal. Fri 2.30-3pm
- 11A Myocum Downs Drive, Myocum. Fri 4-4.30pm
- 28 Springvale Road, Eureka. Sat 10-10.30am

- 6 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.30am
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1/3 Sallywattle Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 13/146 Old Bangalow Rd, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 11 Angus Kennedy Close, Lennox Head. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 65 Currawong Way, Ewingsdale. Sat 1-1.30pm

### Mana Real Estate

- 24 Rangal Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.15am
- 2 Rangal Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.15-9.30am
- 9 Buchanan St, South Murwillumbah. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2A Oba Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 60 Reserve Creek Road, Kielvale. Sat 10-10.30am
- 15 Natan Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 46 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3/1 Yalla Kool Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 21 Pacific Street, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 72 Bonnydoon Road, Uki. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 8 Redgate Road, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1/8 Yengarie Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm

### McGrath Byron Bay

- 2 Mackellar Court, Byron Bay. Wed 2.30-3pm
- 51 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 1137 Booyong Road, Clunes. Sat 9-9.30am
- 120 Federal Drive, Eureka. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2 Mackellar Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 65 Hyrama Cres, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 19/18 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 47 Tuckeroo Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 66 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 1-1.30pm

### Real Estate of Distinction

- 2 Giaour Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11.30am
- 876 Tamarind Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 9-9.30am
- 413 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 35-37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 3.30-4pm

### North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 1 Byron Street, New Brighton. Sat 10-10.30am
- 6/20 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 5 Wahlooga Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am

### Ruth Russell Realty

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

## New Listings

### Amir Prestige

- 541 Friday Hut Road, Possum Creek.
- 1980 Coolamon Scenic Dr, Mullumbimby

### Byron Shire Real Estate

- 7/11 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads

### McGrath Byron Bay

- 19/18 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay

### North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 13 Gaggin Street, New Brighton
- 6 Strand Avenue, New Brighton
- 4 Strand Avenue, New Brighton

## Auction

### McGrath Byron Bay

- 51 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Fri 3.30pm

### Ray White Byron Bay

- 71 Charltons Rd, Federal. Fri 12 May 3pm onsite
- 11A Myocum Downs Dr, Myocum. Fri 12 May 4.30pm onsite
- 65 Currawong Way, Ewingsdale. Fri 26 May 2pm onsite

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

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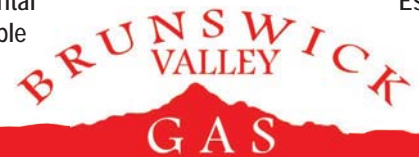
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## CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

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

### AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum Echo office:

**Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby**

### EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

**classifieds@echo.net.au**

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

Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

## DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

### RATES & PAYMENT

#### LINE ADS:

**\$17.00 for the first two lines**

**\$5.00 for each extra line**

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

**DISPLAY ADS (with a border): \$14 per column centimetre**

These prices include GST.

**Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa**

Prepayment is required for all ads.

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# Echo

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## PUBLIC NOTICES



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre  
*Connecting the Byron Shire Community*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Kitchen Hands -
- Retail Assistants -
- Drivers and Co-driver -
- Community Support Assistants -

MDNC is in needs of dedicated volunteers to be part of a big loving family. All skill sets welcome.

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### FOR LEASE

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### Face to Face Fundraiser

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### WEDDINGS

#### Barefoot Byron Bay Beach Blessing

Local girl Raphaella Rose and her British partner Alasdair Purves wed with a colourful ceremony at The Pass.

The Welcome To Country and smoke ceremony with Auntie Lois Cook was followed by a handfasting ceremony and other traditional Celtic rituals.

Raphaella is the daughter of local Sea Shepherd activist and artist Shelagh Rose and musician Aeon Matheson of Nimbin Rock.

The couple will spend most of their time in Barcelona, Spain with their 4 year old son, Charlie Atlas Purves Rose.



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is a 6 year old, English Staffy. He is an excitable boy who craves human companionship. Bruiser needs daily walks and secure fencing. Bruiser is not suitable to be rehomed with other pets or young children. M/C # 953010001248967 To foster or adopt Bruiser, please complete our online adoption expression of interest form: friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/ Interested please email Tracy: johnsontracy832@gmail.com or call 07 5524 8590



**BRUISER**

#### Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

6-month-old male Border Collie x Kelpie 'Kela' is a cutie sweetie clever affectionate boy who needs not only adequate exercise but continuing training and lots of mental stimulation. He is initially shy with other dogs but then loves to play. He is good with children, cattle and cats but will chase chickens. If you have a fenced property and can provide Kela with an appropriate lifestyle for a working-dog breed, contact **Shell on 0458 461 935.** MC: 953010006015037



**KELA**



**SIMBAH**

Simbah is simply purrfection wrapped up in ginger & white fur. His gentle affectionate nature will easily draw you in & before you know it you'll be obsessed. The future is bright, the future is orange!

To meet Simbah, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

**OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm, Thurs 3-5pm, Sat 10am-12 noon**  
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

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Here is beautiful **BELLE**. She is only just twelve months old, yet she has already had a litter of kittens... they all died. Belle was a stray and now that she is safe she can leave the trauma of her kittenhood behind and adopt a human family... she has so much TLC to give and is very playful and loving. Her gratitude for letting her adopt you will be endless. **All cats are desexed, vaccinated & microchipped.** No: 953010002741658

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- Advanced Floristry - 8th June
- Barista Training (NEW) - 8th June
- Floristry Intermediate - 9th June

\*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government. Most NSW residents are eligible - contact us for details.

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Term 2  
General Courses  
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**Mon 15th May**

- Tech Savvy Seniors

**Tues 16th May**

- Soul, Business & Creativity
- Sewing For Beginners

**Wed 17th May**

- Social Media Marketing
- Pattern Making (Beginners)

**Thurs 18th May**

- First Words 1
- Vlogging For Beginners

**Fri 19th May**

- Communication For Clarity & Connection
- Myofascial Release Massage 1

**Sat 20th May**

- Silver Jewellery (Intro)
- Triumph over Trauma
- How Music Works
- Native Plant Identification
- Solitary Native Bees
- Making Money Writing online
- Intro To Argentine Tango

**Sun 21st May**

- Follow Your Camino Dream
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### 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)
10	W	6:18 21:05	17:06 10:48	1137 1.13	0613 0.49
11	TH	6:18 22:14	17:06 11:43	0021 1.75	0720 0.51
12	F	6:19 23:22	17:05 12:30	0127 1.70	0828 0.50
13	SA	6:19 24:30	17:04 13:11	0237 1.67	0930 0.46
14	SU	6:20 0:29	17:04 13:47	0344 1.65	1024 0.41
15	M	6:21 1:33	17:03 14:20	0444 1.63	1111 0.36
16	TU	6:21 2:35	17:03 14:51	0536 1.59	1151 0.31
17	W	6:22 3:37	17:02 15:23	0624 1.54	0016 0.48
18	TH	6:22 4:38	17:02 15:57	0707 1.46	0110 0.46
19	F	6:23 5:41	17:01 16:34	0748 1.38	0200 0.44
20	SA	6:24 6:43	17:01 17:15	0829 1.30	0247 0.45
21	SU	6:24 7:45	17:00 18:01	0908 1.23	0335 0.47
22	M	6:25 8:44	17:00 18:51	0946 1.16	0420 0.49
23	TU	6:25 9:38	16:59 19:46	1027 1.11	0506 0.53
24	W	6:26 10:27	16:59 20:42	1110 1.07	0552 0.57

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

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE .....	000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay .....	131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads .....	6629 7510
Mullumbimby .....	6629 7570
Byron Bay .....	6685 9499
Bangalow .....	6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding .....	132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue .....	6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER .....	6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL .....	6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS .....	6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby) .....	6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line .....	1800 656 463
LIFELINE .....	131 114
MENSLINE .....	1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours .....	1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics .....	1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily .....	6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE .....	6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information .....	6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS) .....	6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS .....	6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE .....	6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service .....	6628 1898

## On The Horizon

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked ‘On The Horizon’ to [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au).

#### Yoga for seniors

Byron Yoga Centre, 50 Skinners Shoot Road, Byron Bay is providing free yoga for seniors on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 May till 21 June from 3.30-4.30pm. Come along, no booking required.

#### C’ty space OS open

The Hub Baptist Church has opened a new space for the Community in Ocean Shores on Wednesdays 10am-12 noon. Connect, access support, free food and lunch and free clothes. The space has games such as lawn bowls donated by The Brunswick Heads Bowls Club, card making, lunch available, and relief from cost of living pressures.

#### Cancer Support

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for six years and welcomes new participants. The

aim of the group is to provide a safe, supportive, and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and to connect with other people with cancer. Meetings take place every four weeks on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. The next meeting on Tuesday 7 March at the Byron Bay Services Club, Jonson St, Byron Bay. For more information Contact the Cancer Council on 13 11 20.

#### Biggest Morning Tea Mullum

Mullumbimby Golf Club’s Biggest Morning Tea that raises money to help those impacted by cancer will take place on Friday 26 May, 10am till 12 noon at the Mullumbimby Golf Club, 600 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullumbimby. Bring a friend, and enjoy a fabulous morning tea for a good cause.

#### AIRFNCB

The next meeting of the Association of Independent Retirees Far North Coast Branch (AIRFNCB) will NOT be held on the usual date of the first Friday of the month, but has been moved to the following Friday, 12 May. This meeting will be the 30th anniversary of the branch and will be held as usual at the RSL Club, Ballina, at 9.30 for 10am. The guest speaker will be Noel Whittaker, well known author, newspaper columnist and finance expert. The meeting will be followed by a celebration luncheon. To book your place at this function, please contact Anne on 0437 309 250. Enquiries contact John Ritchie, president/secretary on 0437 509 618.

#### Raised Voices

Raised Voices, a community group singing in support of elders whose homes are being threatened at Feros Village Byron Bay, will meet outside The Village, Marvell St, Byron Bay at 10am next Thursday to sing. Bring your heart and voice (no singing experience needed). All welcome. For info call Matijo: 0435 049 489.

#### ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents and/ or Dysfunctional Families (ACA) help & recovery group meets in Lismore every Friday 10-11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom – meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

#### End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina and Tweed Heads South, this month. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further information [www.exitinternational.net](http://www.exitinternational.net) or phone Catherine 0435 228 443.

#### Carers’ support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers’ Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Susanne 0428 716 431.

#### Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, [mazzerati2010@gmail.com](mailto:mazzerati2010@gmail.com).

#### Older adult exercise

Chair Based Older Adults Exercise Classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

#### \$5 pilates classes

Pilates for the price of a coffee! Come and join us for \$5 Pilates classes every Thursday at 8.45am in the Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads and Monday at 8.45am in Mullumbimby. It doesn’t matter what level you are, as beginner to advanced options are shown. Just bring a mat and water. My goal is to keep the Shire active and feeling great one person at a time. No need to book just show up. For more information contact Di on 0427 026 935.

#### Language exchange

Byron language exchange club runs every 2nd last Friday of the month from 6pm (alternating Ballina/ Byron). Practise other languages or help someone with your English! Find us on Facebook. Contact [byronbaylanguages@gmail.com](mailto:byronbaylanguages@gmail.com).

#### Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc

The Museum is on the corner of Myocum and Stuart Sts Mullumbimby, open Tuesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm and market Saturdays 9am-1pm. Discover your local history, join our team – 6684 4367.

#### Richmond-Tweed Family History Society

The Richmond-Tweed Family History Society holds its monthly general meeting on the first Saturday of every month at Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina, from 2-4pm. At each meeting we have a presentation. Topics for the upcoming meetings: 6 May, ‘Occupations – at what Did Your Forebears Work?’; 3 June, ‘First Clue that Sparked a Line of Enquiry’; 1 July; ‘A Photograph that Tells a Story’; 5 August, AGM plus talks on ‘The Black Sheep in the Family’.

#### Chemical Free Landcare

Byron Shire Chemical Free Landcare working bee at Saltwater Creek, Saturday 20 May, 8am until 12pm. Meet at Mullumbimby Community Garden carpark.

#### Brunswick Valley VIEW

Brunswick Valley VIEW Club on Thursday 11 May, luncheon meeting at Ocean Shores Tavern in the Shopping Village at 10.30am for 11am start. Pay \$3 at the door to cover our student. Lunch will be ordered at your choice.

#### Library fun

Baby Bounce and Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children are at: **Brunswick Heads** Library, Monday – Story Time 10.30 till 11.30am; Friday – Baby Time 10.30 till 11am. **Mullumbimby** Library, Monday – Story Time 10-11am; Tuesday – Baby Time 10-10.30 am.

#### Social sporting groups

**Mullumbimby:** Tuesday Ladies Group of Riverside Tennis Club welcomes new players 9.30am every Tuesday next to Heritage Park, for social tennis, fun and friendship. Info: Barbara 6684 8058. **South Golden Shores Community Centre** Women’s table tennis every Monday at 10am. Phone 0435 780 017. **Byron Bay Croquet** at Croquet Club next to the Scout Hall at the Byron Rec Grounds every Monday at 3.30pm. Ring 0477 972 535. **Pottsville Fun Croquet Club** at Black Rocks Sportfield.

Beginners and visitors welcome. Game starts 8.30am Tuesday and Thursday. \$5 per game. Enquiries 0413 335 941.

#### Exercise for older adults

Chair Based Older Adults Exercise Classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

#### Toastmasters

**Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters** meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6.15 for 6.30pm at Byron Bay Services Club, Byron Bay. Online attendance allowed. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters:** Mullum Magic provides a safe and fun environment for members and guests to develop their public-speaking and leadership skills. Meeting 6.30-8.30pm every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Presbyterian Church, 104 Stuart St, Mullumbimby. New members and guests welcome. Contact Bruce 0418 515 991 or Ninian 0411 629 982.

#### Meditation

**Dzogchen meditation** and study group 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month at Mullumbimby CWA Hall. Didi 0408 008 769. **Buddhist meditation** and conversation with John Allan, Mondays 6.30-8.30pm, The Yurt, Temple Byron. No fees. John 0428 991 189. **Byron yoga philosophy club** free meditation classes Monday, 7pm, 1 Korau Place Suffolk Park. Go to [www.wisdom.yoga](http://www.wisdom.yoga) or phone Kris 0435 300 743. **Byron Bay Meditation Centre**, Tuesday 6.30pm at Temple Byron. For more info: [byronbaymeditationcentre.com.au](http://byronbaymeditationcentre.com.au) or contact Greg 0431 747 764.

#### Brunswick Heads CWA

Brunswick Heads CWA Crafts Women meet Fridays 10am-2pm, cnr Park and Booyun Streets, Brunswick Heads. Join us for a chat and cuppa, bring

Please don’t forget to ring Wenda on 0449 563 580 or email [wjhunt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wjhunt@yahoo.com.au) no later than Monday before.

#### Ten years of Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens

Open Day on Sunday 28 May will celebrate the tenth Anniversary of the opening of the Lismore Rainforest Botanical Gardens. Guided walks, local native plant sales, educational and historical displays, children’s activities, book and card sales and a morning tea stall will be taking place. There will be an official celebrational gathering at the Visitors Centre at 10am. The Friends of the Gardens would love to see anyone who has been a volunteer at the gardens at any time since 1992 at the anniversary event.

#### Be connected at Byron Shire Libraries

Free one-on-one technology lessons for seniors on a range of topics including online hobbies, fun things to do with photos, internet banking, researching and booking travel online,

introduction to MyGov, health and well-being technology. Plus, many more.

Byron Bay Library: From 1 May, Monday mornings 9.30am till 12.30pm. Phone Byron Bay Library to book in 6685 8540. Mullumbimby Library: From 3 May, Wednesday mornings 9.30am till 12.30pm. Phone Mullumbimby Library to book: 6684 2992.

#### Sing in support of Feros residents

Be part of Raised Voices, a Community of Voices that are coming together to sing in support of Elders at Feros Village in Byron Bay who have been evicted by the Feros board. They wish to remain in their homel and their community until the end of their lives. Join us to sing this Thursday at Butler Reserve, behind the farmers’ market at 11.15am and every Thursday after that until we know our elders are safe in their home. Everyone welcome, for information and enquiries call Matijo 0435 049 489.

**Please note:** This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.

#### Toy Library

The Byron Shire Toy Library is open Mondays and Thursdays 9am-12 noon, at the Children’s Centre, Coogera Cct, Suffolk Park. Come and see the large range of preschoolers toys available for loan.

#### Up your skills

Come to Upskill in Mullumbimby, a free introductory building and carpentry workshop. Workshops are held every Saturday, 9am to 1pm at Shedding Community Workshop. Bookings Essential via [shedding.com.au](http://shedding.com.au). Contact Sophie Wilksch via email at [shedding.communityworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:shedding.communityworkshop@gmail.com).

#### Muslim prayer

Friday Muslim prayer. Jumu’ah service held weekly at the Cavanbah Centre at 1.30 pm. Come to the remembrance of Allah.

#### Free ESL

Free English as a Second Language classes suitable for beginners to advanced learners. Kingscliff 6674 7267.

#### Landcare

Bangalow Land and Rivercare working bee every Saturday 8.30-10.30am. Email: [bangalowlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:bangalowlandcare@gmail.com). Noelene 0431200638.

#### Soap Aid saving lives

Soap Aid is a not-for-profit organisation recycling and sending critical soap to communities facing major hygiene challenges. Please drop in your partly used household or holiday rental soap for recycling to Kim at Raine & Horne Byron Bay 39 Fletcher Street 0499 839 566. Small and large quantities welcome. <https://soapaid.org>.

#### Sex & Love Addicts Anon

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is peer-support group of men and women for whom sex and/or romance have become a problem. For details of weekly meetings, phone 0452 074 974 or visit [www.slaa.org.au](http://www.slaa.org.au).

#### Bridge club

Brunswick Valley Bridge Club meets every Monday, seated at 12.15 to commence play at 12.30. Visitors welcome. See [bridgewebs.com/brunswickvalley/home.html](http://bridgewebs.com/brunswickvalley/home.html) or for partner ring Lesley 0468 807 306. Facebook Brunswick Valley Bridge Club.

#### BV scrabble club

Brunswick Valley Scrabble Club will meet each Tuesday afternoon from 1 till 4pm at the Brunswick Bowling Club. New members welcome. Contact Steve on 0407 844 718.

#### Bosom Buddies

Ballina Bosom Buddies Support Group meets the third Thursday each month 10am-12pm at the Ballina Kentwell Community Centre. Contact Karen 0439 438 576 for further information.

## Regular As Clockwork

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked ‘Regular As Clockwork’ to [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au).

#### Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9.30am-4pm (closed from 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include: **Flood Recovery Support Service:** personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods. **Community support:** Food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders. **Listening Space:** free counselling. **Free Yoga:** every Tuesday 3-4pm. **More Than A Meal:** Free Community lunch Tuesday-Friday 1.30-1.30. **Financial Counselling** **Staying Home, Leaving Violence program:** Information, referral, and advocacy. **Gulganii affordable pantry shop:** located at 3 Bridgeland Lane **Orange Sky:** Free laundry service Mon morning & Tue afternoon. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website [www.mdnc.org.au](http://www.mdnc.org.au), or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre

#### Byron Community Centre

Byron Community Centre The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Monday-Friday. **Breakfast:** Monday-Friday, 7am-9am. **Showers and Laundry:** Monday-Friday, 7am-12pm. **Office Support:** Monday-Friday, 9am - 12pm. **Support Appointments:** Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: [www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au](http://www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au). **Byron Community Cabin:** Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9-11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: [www.byroncentre.com.au](http://www.byroncentre.com.au) Phone: 6685 6807

#### Low-cost or free food

**Food Box Thursdays** 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You

may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **Free Food Relief Bags** for anyone doing it tough, every Wednesday 10-12noon at The Hub Ocean Shores, cnr Rajah Rd and Bindaree Way. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre. **Respite Service** Byron Shire Respite Service Inc delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email [fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au](mailto:fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au), website: [www.byronrespite.com.au](http://www.byronrespite.com.au).

#### Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5-6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8-16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert’s Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 [www.al-anon.org.au](http://www.al-anon.org.au)

#### Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 – 30 meetings a week in the Shire – [www.aa.org.au](http://www.aa.org.au). Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. [www.na.org.au](http://www.na.org.au). Are you concerned about somebody else’s drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 [www.al-anon.org.au](http://www.al-anon.org.au).

#### Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: [www.standbysupport.com.au](http://www.standbysupport.com.au) or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

## Local woman qualifies for longboarding WSL

Ballina-based surfer Roisin Carolan has qualified for the World Surf League longboard tour that includes contests in El Salvador, California and Australia's Bells beach.

Roisin, a member of the Byron Bay Malibu Club, took enough qualifying points at a contest at Manly last weekend to get onto the world tour as a wildcard.

The Manly contest was won by Tully White (Sydney), who will also represent Australia on the WST.

Roisin has been longboarding since she was 11, and really started to go for a WST spot when she was 18.

'But I kind of got over it, there were four or five years of not trying,' she said.

'I did a chef apprenticeship, because there isn't much money in longboarding.

'I had a go this year and it all went well'.



Roisin did enough nose-riding at the 2023 Manly Longboard Classic to qualify for the WSL. Photo Gary McEvoy

At this stage three legs of the tour have been confirmed starting off at Bells Beach, Australia, in August before heading to the USA and El Salvador.

'I'm really excited to surf Bells, I've never been before. There'll just be two or three surfers in each heat'.

Heading to California is also a pleasure as she

has competed there before and plans to spend time catching up with friends.

The 28-year-old is not too fixated on results.

'I'm just so happy to qualify, everything from here is a bonus. I'm happy to learn from the experience. I'm not too concerned with wins,' she said.

## Byron kids become BJJ state champions

Bowie Walton (11) and Alessandro Imamura (9) have become the NSW state champions of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu after a contest held in Liverpool, Sydney last weekend.

The two competitors are trained by Blackbelt World Champion Thalison Soares, and Australian Champion Junior Crispim at The Academy in Byron Bay.

The club has a history of producing young BJJ competitors that succeed at state and national levels.

'It's been a lot of hard work, but worth it,' Bowie said.

'It was amazing to have my whole family there to support me, and I'm excited for the Nationals in Melbourne. I will be training with my team to strengthen my technique even more.'



Bowie and Alessandro train six days a week, and now have gold for the trophy cabinet. Photo supplied

Both Bowie and Alessandro will be competing for the national title this August in Melbourne, and the BJJ Australian Open (BJJAO) held in Byron Bay later this month.

Bowie and Ale currently train six days a week.



Bowie and his younger brother Auki are also mentored by the local World Champion Chilli Harel.

The BJJ Australian Open is at the Cavanbah Centre on Sunday May 21.

## Byron Magpies fly high in local AFL

The Byron Bay Magpies AFL team has had another soaring win in the North Coast competition beating Grafton 22.8.140-7.10.52.

The Magpies are undefeated for the season and are yet to be tested on the scoreboard.

They sit on top of the table just under Coffs Breakers who also have three wins, but a superior win/loss ratio.

The Magpies travel to take on Port Macquarie this weekend, before a match up with Coffs Breakers the following week at home.

The women Magpies had their first win of the season when they beat Grafton 6.5.41-3.3.21 last weekend.

### Ballina Bombers

The Ballina Bombers seniors have had a tough streak after collecting a win in the first round.

They lost last weekend 5.7.37-20.23.143, playing Bond Uni in the South East Queensland league, and they'll be tested again next week when they travel to Burleigh to take on the undefeated competition leaders.

The women Bombers are picking up steam, having won the last two games after



Ballina Bombers went hard at the ball during their game against Coolangatta at Fripp Oval. Photo Lisa Parkin

a first-round loss.

The team travels away this weekend to take on Pacific Pines, who have just one win for the season.

'The women are showing up in all the right ways this year both on and off the field,' assistant coach Laura Box said. 'We've got brand new players who have never watched an AFL game, show up and get into it. Whether they're 20 or 40 years old.

'Coach Abe has done an unreal job throughout preseason to get the women

to a position where our ball movement is really coming together and allowing us to get on the front foot and play our way.

'We were challenged in round one by Tweed, who look to be in good form. It's a battle we continue to look forward to as the season progresses.

'We're two wins from three at this point in the competition, and looking forward to continue scaffolding our learnings and bringing the heat on Saturday'

## Old nemesis thwarts Byron Shire Rebels

The Byron Shire Rebels hang on to top spot on the Far North Coast first-grade rugby ladder despite being bested by Wollongbar-Alstonville Rugby 14-8, last Saturday.

The Rebels travelled to Wollongbar for the game, a rematch of last year's grand final won by WAR.

Sol Hyde's try for the visitors was matched by the effort of WAR's Bodi Smith, and only a penalty separated the teams at half time.

But the second half went the way of the home team who added a further two



The Rebels (blue) had their first loss of the season after giving away penalty points. Photo Vicki Kerry

penalties, from the boot of Sam Kerry, to their total.

Ballina and Casuarina also had wins leaving the

top three on the table unchanged. WAR sits in fourth, well ahead of Lismore and Casino.

# CALLING ALL SPORTS

The Echo wants to support you.

Please send stories, pics, match reports, upcoming events, tall tales (not too tall mind you), results and anecdotes to [sport@echo.net.au](mailto:sport@echo.net.au).





MUKTI  
BEAUTY ROOMS

Mother's Day May 14<sup>th</sup>



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Did you experience harm because of a COVID-19 vaccine or its administration? You may be eligible for financial support. To find out more, visit [www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-vaccine-claims-scheme](http://www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-vaccine-claims-scheme).

For those keeping notes, Elon Musk told his 138.5m Twitter followers on Sunday that he did not inherit an emerald mine from his parents. He said, 'I grew up in a lower, transitioning-to-upper, middle income situation, but did not have a happy childhood. I haven't inherited anything ever from anyone, nor has anyone given me a large financial gift'.

Well done for the monarchy and mainstream media in convincing those who can't afford to pay for their food or heating bills to applaud an elderly man finally getting his first job while riding a golden carriage.

To the woman at Ozigo in Byron at about 12.30pm last Wednesday who was abused, and then had the car door of a big black ute slammed several times into the side of her vehicle, and then was abused again, if you would like to report the damage to your hire car (and the abuse) to police, there is footage of the abuser leaving the service station and a witness to the incident outside the cafe. To the guy who was the abuser - you were seen. It's time to get some help.

Psst: The chief of consulting firm PwC, which enjoys very, very lucrative government contracts, has stepped down over a tax leaks scandal. AFR (Nine) reports Tom



Keen swimmers converged on the bay last weekend for the Byron Bay Ocean Swim Classic. Around 1,200 swimmers took part in two main comps: one from from Wategos Beach to Main Beach and another from Clarkes Beach to Main Beach. The day was also a great day for fundraising, with Byron Bay Surf Club, BayFM, Byron Bay Ambulance, Byron Bay Community Centre and Byron Bay Herb Nursery just some of the beneficiaries slated to share in the funding pool. Photo Jeff 'Togs On, Cap Ready' Dawson

Seymour 'confirmed he was one of dozens of partners who received emails related to confidential Treasury information'.

Looking for a tax deductible donation that helps the community? Coorabell Hall has a DA in place and is in need of improvements such as a covered verandah and a commercial 1,000 litre grease trap. For more info visit [www.pozible.com/profile/coorabell-hall](http://www.pozible.com/profile/coorabell-hall).

A reminder that BayFM's subscriber drive is on, with prizes on offer for new and resubscribing members. To get involved by the May 24 deadline, visit [www.bayfm.org](http://www.bayfm.org). Your subscription will support a 100 per cent independent award-winning community radio station.

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