

Feet up, it's Drop Legs



Byron's beachfront was filled with local music and punters for Saturday's Byron Music Festival. Organiser and Byron Music co-owner, Nick Sergi, told *The Echo* it was a beautiful family day. 'There was a strong local crowd, and the quality was there with 65 bands performing'. One of those was Byron reggae/rock band, Drop Legs, who formed in 2014. Photo Lyn McCarthy

Premier coy over second tranche of flood-funding

Pressure is being applied to the NSW Premier and the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) by local political leaders around the \$750M Resilient Homes program (RHP).

The program is aimed at assisting flood-affected residents with house raising, retrofits and buybacks.

Lismore MP, Janelle Saffin (Labor), released a co-signed letter to the media last week, which calls on her own government to do more around its delivery.

The June 15 letter is addressed to NSW Premier, Chris Minns, and contains the signatures of four north coast MPs, and seven mayors.

It reads, 'The Resilient Homes program was initially given funding of \$750 million, but when officially drawn up and presented to cabinet, the figure stood at \$1.5 billion.

'A decision was made by cabinet to fund the first tranche and any commitment to the second tranche would follow.'

NRRC on notice

Apart from requesting more certainly around funding of the programs, the letter asks that the co-signed discuss with the premier 'the NRRC and its remit'.

It reads, 'It is fair to say we were disappointed with their "maps" release'.

Last week, NSW Premier Chris Minns (Labor) told Sydney-based journalists that he was 'willing to look at a second tranche of flood-funding', but said that only \$90M had been spent of the initial \$750M in funding.

He said, 145 offers had been issued, around 1,000 homes could

be bought back, while eight offers have been settled.

'There's a long way to go, and we need to make sure the money committed is getting out the door', he said.

When asked by a journalist if the rollout was moving too slowly, Minns replied 'I don't think it's too slow', but admitted he was not across all the detail.

Member for Page, Kevin Hogan (Nationals), said in a press release on Monday, 'We still have no answers on why the original 2,058 homes identified for buyback in our region has been halved to just 1,091'.

'Labor didn't even have the decency to be upfront about the cutback, letting the news slip out via the release of barely legible maps from the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.

'In the same week, Labor let the bad news out that the buyback numbers for Lismore and our region had been halved, Federal Emergency Services Minister, Murray Watt, announced the same scheme in his home state of Qld would be boosted by another 300 homes,' Mr Hogan said.

'There seems to be a disturbing pattern here, with Minister Watt earlier in the month announcing \$250 million for flood warning systems, with Qld getting priority on that as well.

'I shouldn't have to remind the prime minister that he promised to govern for all Australians and that we are still trying to get back on our feet after the biggest disaster Australia has seen this century.'

■ See related story, page 4.

Old hospital refurb moves ahead, at a cost

Paul Bibby

The plan to turn the old Byron District Hospital site into a community hub is set to take a significant step forward this week, with councillors to debate and vote on the multi-million-dollar refurbishment of the site on Thursday.

Four years after NSW Health sold the dilapidated site to Byron Council for \$1, the plan is to turn the site into a multipurpose hub, featuring education, community and commercial precincts.

But the project's budget has blown out by an additional \$650,000, forcing Council to once again draw on its reserves, which

will worsen its already shaky financial position.

This week councillors will vote on a recommendation by staff to accept a tender from Blaze Projects to undertake the refurbishment of the site at a cost of \$6,531,578.

\$650K over budget

While the Blaze proposal was the cheapest of the five tenders received by Council, the report in this week's Council agenda reveals that it is still \$650,000 over budget.

Staff have recommended that the money be taken from developer contributions currently being held by Council.

This is money that Council puts

aside to spend on basic community infrastructure.

'All compliant tenders were over the initial budget,' Council Project Officer, Michael Crosbie, and Development Planning Officer, Christopher Soulsby, said in their report.

'This is a very tight construction program that carries significant risk with respect to meeting the [state government] grant deadline.'

'Other risks associated with the project are the potential for unforeseen variations caused by building deficits that are not immediately visible until construction has commenced.'

The refurbishment of the site
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Will Council offer up freehold title of busy public car park? ▶ p6

Coastal Hazard Assessment report not up for public scrutiny ▶ p9

Fresh Eyes on Byron Bay ▶ p16

Our region is a Mecca for healthy living ▶ p20

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Celebrating Nightcap, 40 years on

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

On Sunday, a group of invited guests were treated to a very special event as part of the 40th anniversary of Nightcap National Park at the Rummery Park campground near Minyon Falls.

The event was a chance to celebrate the people, place, history and Widjabul Wia-bal traditional owners, which together, make Nightcap such a special place.

Stories about the history and music of the protest movement that was a catalyst in the protection of rain-forest, old-growth forest and wilderness around the world were delivered from the likes of Nan Nicholson, Dailan Pugh and Hugh Nicholson, and included pre-recorded messages from Bob Brown and Bob Carr.

Nan Nicholson said it was great to be a part of the event and celebrate a win.

'That's what we were here for. But, I think we need to remember that there are a lot of losses along the way.'

'It's good to look at the victories and pat ourselves on the back, but think about those failures and what we



Conservation giants Dailan Pugh, Nan Nicholson and Hugh Nicholson spoke of both the history and the future of protecting our environment.

need to do to keep going despite all those failures'. Dailan Pugh said the Gondwana refuge was created over 20 million years ago.

He said, 'It was degraded by a century of logging. It's been protected over the last 20 to 40 years.'

'But I think it's facing its biggest threat in the next 20 to 40 years because of climate heating, and we've got to save it again. And that requires all of us doing something to achieve that.'

John Roberts Jnr spoke emotionally of his father, Uncle Goongie, John Roberts Snr, well known for his efforts to protect the natural places on Widjabul Wia-bal Country.

Holds all our stories

'My grandfather Lyle told my father that we have to get this place protected as it holds all our stories', he said.

Other speakers and presenters included Tricia Waters, musicians Neil Pike,

Terri Nicholson, Ray Flanagan and Nina Saunders. Dr Rob Kooyman spoke, as did Dave Milledge, Dave Newell, Steve Axford, Catherine Marciniak and John Grant.

NPWS rangers, Andrew Rogers and event organiser and team leader, Matt Wiseman, gave updates on flood recovery works. The event closed with a screening of *Give Trees A Chance*, a film about the Terania Creek protests presented (in the film) by Jack Thompson.

Echo

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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.

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

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Filmmaker chronicles Wilsons Creek Road

Filmmaker David Bradbury, based in Wilsons Creek, has put together a short film on the poor condition of the valley's road, 16 months after the 2022 floods.

Bradbury says, in the video, for the rates he pays

being in the hills, he receives no sewage, water services or a decent road, but 'gets the garbage taken away and the grass cut by the side of the road'.

'My rates will go up from \$1,746 a year to over \$1,800'

he told *The Echo*.

12 months after the mayor and senior Council staff held a meeting in Wilsons Creek with residents, Bradbury says nothing much has progressed.

To see the video, visit youtu.be/f1ACbDINxUw.

Feds promise \$2B on social housing

The announcement by the federal Labor that they will immediately inject \$2 billion into social housing 'shows clearly what the Greens can do', Mandy Nolan says.

As Greens candidate for the federal seat of Richmond, Nolan is contesting the local seat, which has been held by Labor MP, Justine Elliot, for nearly 20 years.

The \$2B promise is the latest in ongoing negotiations between federal Labor and the Greens, the opposition and cross bench, which has seen Labor's Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) stall in the Senate. The bill was again blocked by the Greens and coalition on Monday, and will now be debated in October.

On Saturday, PM Anthony Albanese made the announcement and told the Victorian Labor Conference,

'The last decade has seen the proportion of social housing decline from 4.7 per cent to 4.2 per cent of households'.

'Demand for social housing has increased almost three times as fast as the growth in population'.

Last week, Labor announced there would be guaranteed annual funding from the HAFF, relenting to Greens pressure that the market-based fund may not disburse any money at all, if it did not make a return in a given year.

Guaranteed funding

The ABC reports that the federal housing minister has offered to guarantee a \$500 million yearly spend on housing in return for crossbench support.

The Greens have been demanding Labor invest more

in public and affordable housing immediately 'not after the next election, as Labor's Housing Australia Future Fund, the HAFF, would do'.

'Thanks to the work of the Greens, thousands of new public and social housing homes will become available in the next two years' says Nolan.

'The Greens pressure is paying off, but we'll continue our push for relief for renters. They cannot be forgotten.'

The Greens are calling for a nationally-coordinated freeze and limit on rent increases, to help the millions of Australian renters facing endless rent rises.

Nolan adds, 'Labor have shown that they won't act on big issues, like housing and climate, without pressure from the Greens. That's why I'm running, to push for better.'

Facing up and adjusting to the ecological crisis

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

An organisation committed to empowering local young people with the skills and knowledge to face climate events, like the 2022 flood, say they know how to provide support.

Founder of Plan C, (formerly Resilient Byron), has a vision where communities are prepared for adversity.

Dr Jean Renouf says, 'Part of this work is training community leaders in disaster preparedness'

'Just as important though is confronting the personal and social experiences.

'It's a holistic approach to preparedness, which includes healing from the trauma we've already experienced as a result of climate events.'

Clive Hamilton event June 28

Supporting that preparation is Facing Up, a series of trauma-informed conversations that focus on the social, economic, cultural, political, emotional and spiritual consequences of the ecological crisis.



Founder of Plan C, Dr Jean Renouf.

The next event will see Clive Hamilton and Mandy Nolan take on the psycho-social impacts of climate change.

Esteemed professor of public ethics, Clive Hamilton, will offer insights into the complex issues surrounding the climate crisis, and its impact on our collective wellbeing.

He will be joined by local comedian Mandy

Nolan who will serve as the evening's MC, injecting her unique blend of warmth, compassion and wit into the proceedings.

The event promises to warm hearts and ignite rich conversations with the help of warm refreshments and a diverse gathering of individuals.

Plan C invites the community to join them for an engaging evening of

dialogue and reflection.

Facing Up will be held at the Brunswick Picture House on Wednesday June 28 from 6pm.

Food will be available from 5.30pm, creating time to connect before the conversation unfolds. Please note that the event is suitable for ages 12 and above.

Tickets are available at <https://events.humanitix.com/facing-up-june>.

Old hospital refurb moves ahead, but at a cost

► Continued from page 1 will see the entire roof on the northern section of the main building replaced, and major internal work undertaken inside.

All internal partitioning is to be demolished and the building repartitioned into a series of discrete tenancies comprising a mix of sizes and configurations to meet the varying needs of future tenants.

These include a small university campus for up to 175 local students and staff, at least one local

welfare service, and an arts organisation.

The dilapidated hospital kitchen will be turned into a modern commercial kitchen, which will be available for hire, with priority given to not-for-profit groups providing food to community members in need.

Council deficit \$435K

The financial risks identified by Council staff take on greater significance given the significant financial difficulties the Council is facing.

The agenda to this week's

meeting also reveals that Council's overall budget is set to go into deficit to the tune of \$435,000 in the 2023-24 financial year.

This is a consequence of a surprise increase in the emergency services levy (ESL) foisted on Council by the state government, Council's decision to crack down on infringements such as illegal parking, dangerous dogs and van camping, and a modest pay increase for councillors.

'It is suggested Council should consider its

longer-term financial position,' Council's Manager of Corporate Services, Heather Sills, and Finance Manager, James Brickley, said in their report.

'The budget projections demonstrate the difficulty Council has absorbing additional costs without corresponding revenue increases.'

'Council must carefully consider the long-term implications on its finances when it is considering the addition of a new asset or service or current service expansion.'

'Honesty without kindness is brutality, and kindness without honesty is manipulation'
- Unknown

Reconstruction Corp needs to be held accountable

Hans Lovejoy

In the wake of ‘maps’ released last week by the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC), which illustrate a priority list where homes are likely to be bought, raised or retrofitted, flood-affected residents contacted *The Echo* to express their disappointment and personal experiences dealing with the government-run corporation.

All expressed that they have no confidence in the NRRC, which is led by CEO and career bureaucrat, David Witherdin.

Accountability measures are unclear and appear non-existent with the NRRC, given its corporate status excludes them from parliamentary scrutiny.

Echo requests for information from the NRRC are not forthcoming, and there is yet to be a reply to questions put to the MP responsible, NSW Labor Planning Minister, Paul Scully.

Echo questions also remain unanswered by the NSW Department of Regional NSW, who are the other body responsible for the NRRC.

Absurd offers

One Byron Shire resident, who did not want to be named, told *The Echo*, ‘I have a buyback offer which is half the value of my property, once my insurance payout has been taken out’.

‘However, I wanted to speak up on behalf of countless others who have been made an absurd offer to buy back their land at “low ball” prices. If you accept the offer, it’s not enough to buy elsewhere.’

‘If you lodge an appeal, you get nowhere, offers are currently not being increased, and worse, nobody gets back to you. So while our

comments and questions are not being replied to by NRRC, we all wait in limbo, as our lives perish, mental health diminishes, and we all go broke paying double rents and mortgages, funding repairs ourselves and living with PTSD’.

No ombudsman

‘The biggest problem is that there is no ombudsman to keep NRRC accountable. Who do we complain to?’

The NSW Ombudsman won’t take our complaints, saying that we have to escalate our issues through NRRC itself, or via the Department of Regional NSW. Who, by the way, administer the NRRC, so how objective is that investigation going to be?

‘The second-biggest problem is that the appeals panel in NRRC is the same panel that issues the offers in the first place.’

‘So how is this going to be an objective review process?’

‘There is also no negotiation process, there is nobody to talk to, most case managers are powerless puppets, devoid of any meaningful advice, which means that any questions or comments end up in a black hole with no reply.’

‘Timeframes are tight, but one-way – you’re given 14 days to make comments or 30 days to accept your offer.’

‘And yet, when you make contact with NRRC, there is no reply from them. At. All.’

‘So it seems that this prompt timeframe that we have to adhere to doesn’t apply reciprocally to NRRC. Again, where is the accountability in this?’

‘Thirdly, NRRC are deducting insurance payouts from all offers. Our question to NRRC is – when did you start paying our insurance premiums to warrant your deducting our insurance payouts?’



Is the NRRC doing enough to help those who lost everything over 16 months ago? Photo Simon Haslam

‘And if NRRC wants to deduct the insurance payout, then why aren’t they deducting the cost of the premiums which is hundreds of thousands over decades for most households?’

‘Fourthly, the NSW State government has so far refused to waive the stamp duty on a new purchase for those that have to buy again.’

‘The fifth-biggest problem is that the state government has used so-called

‘independent’ valuers to value each property. Let’s also shine a light on the fact that these valuations have included incomparable properties, which bring property values down. This means that property valuations are coming in at 30-40 per cent less than what they should be. This is a rather convenient ‘low-ball’ approach that warrants a Royal Commission investigation.’

‘We were promised buyback offers at pre-flood market value, not post-flood market value, and not Valuer General. So for NRRC to be engaging an army of valuers who all seem to be pulling the same tricks to favour the NRRC purse, is not only hideous, but we can also see straight through this stunt.’

‘It’s a rort. Historically, in Brisbane and New Zealand, victims

post-disasters have been paid out within weeks.’

‘But 16 months later, and the majority of the victims of the Northern Rivers 2022 floods are still either waiting for a phone call from NRRC to advise if they are eligible for anything, or have been made a low-ball offer.’

‘One has to wonder how the state government expects folks to recover at all from these disasters? Or do they even care?’

Lismore flood-affected resident, John Stewart, says that the NRRC should be held accountable for the misinformation and inaccuracy within the flooding maps released last week.

Living in attic

Stewart approached *The Echo* to tell his story, having lived on Magellan Street since 1978, and said that the NRRC are not doing a good job of flood-recovery, and are not being upfront about their plans.

After 6m of water ran through and over his Magellan Street home, his home is still unliveable, he says, 16 months after the 2022 floods.

‘I camp in the attic’, he said, and ‘the progress of recovery is slow’.

‘The trauma is still very real for everyone around the

area’, he says. ‘It’s not going very well for Lismore.’

Stewart says his flood-affected neighbour, six doors down, committed suicide three weeks ago.

‘He was renting, and he had nowhere to go. I knew him for 30 years... His funeral was the saddest I had ever been to. I felt so sorry for his friends and family.’

Stewart says, when the flood hit last year, no one was prepared for the scale of it, and everyone thought the water would stop rising and the levy would hold.

Except it didn’t.

‘An 80-year-old woman drowned in her home around the corner’, he said.

As for the NRRC maps, which include revised flood data and a list of ‘priorities’, he says all of priority 1 for Lismore is where no homes are located, as they are all mapped along rivers and creeks.

Another long-term resident of Lismore, Avinash Ayres, contacted *The Echo* and provided a long list of unanswered questions for the NRRC.

Ayres asked how the “expert advisory panel” was chosen, ‘and why no local experts were appointed to the panel who have a lived experience of the area?’

‘I note that the panel is made up of ex-bureaucrats, who have retired in some cases, or the overwhelming majority of the panel are experts in business.’

‘Only two of the eight live in the Northern Rivers region; none are currently living in Lismore. I do understand that there needs to be policies and procedures in place as we are dealing with government money’.

Ayres also asked: ‘Why was there no initial survey of

residents affected?’

‘There was no data supporting types of housing required or wanted by the people concerned i.e. no survey that people could effectively participate in. Please explain’.

As for the recently-announced lands identified for greenfield development to fast-track housing supply, Ayres was ‘baffled by the choice of land’.

‘I cannot believe the [lands] are tacked on to the ends of already approved suburban developments. Where was the consultation with the community? How many times, apart from the two locals, did the panel visit Lismore? How was this information received by the panel and how were decisions made?’

Bigger view needed

Ayres questioned why a sustainable template for disaster resilience is not being formulated.

‘Why not take a bigger view of this area as we know that more extreme weather is going to happen? Let’s take the view that water, and the preservation of this precious commodity, could be our biggest problem’.

Finally, Ayres asks why new technologies and innovations are not being embraced, ‘instead of continuing with 20th century solutions’.

‘Given the scarcity of our regular building materials, we have an opportunity to rebuild houses with fire retardant materials that also have insulating properties. Many of these new materials have been used in this area as well as overseas. Hempcrete comes to mind as it is fire retardant – it is non-toxic and has great insulating properties. There are many other suitable building materials’.




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Seed swap group meets this Friday

A new seed swap group has formed, and will have their first swap this Friday June 23 from 7am till 10am at the Mullum Farmers Market, located at the showground.

Byron Hinterland Seed Savers members Celine, Abby and Jia told *The Echo*, 'We are excited to continue this wonderful and important work in our local area'.

'We are in the process of replenishing the seed bank.'

'If you have some good local seeds that you'd like to donate to us, then please bring them along.'

The group also thanked Rasa Dover and Paul Crebar 'for their work in keeping the seed bank alive and active'.

For more info, visit www.byronseedshare.org.

Writers Fest offers discounted locals pass



Sunday locals' passes to the Byron Writers Festival are on sale from June 22. Supported by First National Byron, the discounted ticket is for entry to the festival on Sunday August 13 and is priced at \$90, a saving of \$45 on the full ticket price. The offer is available to residents of the Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed Council areas. Pictured is Chris Hanley, CEO of First National Byron and Byron Writers Festival founder, with festival Partnership Co-ordinator, Aarna Hudson. Photo Tree Faerie

Council staff put squeeze on buskers with new policy

A draft busking policy is up for debate at this week's Council meeting, with staff recommending in the agenda that the policy should require street performers to prove they have a \$20M public liability insurance policy.

Dylan Johnstone, Development Investigations

Lead, also recommends that councillors support the 'Requirement for buskers to submit a passport-sized identification photograph when making application for a permit, and to display the photograph while busking, so that authorised officers are able to identify that the

person busking is the holder of a permit'.

His long list of recommendations to the policy also includes regulating busking to specified hours and at designated sites, and 'clear conditions that busking must not be repetitive in nature and must not result in

offensive noise'.

A 'requirement for a busking group to be limited to a maximum of four performers' is also recommended by Johnstone.

The policy will be tabled by councillors before a vote. If adopted, it will go before the public for exhibition.



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Council may offer freehold title of busy public car park for 'affordable' housing

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council could offer full ownership of a public car park in central Mullumbimby to local community housing providers in return for an agreement that affordable housing will be built on the site.

As the Shire continues to struggle with an acute housing crisis, Council will this week decide whether or not to offer the freehold title to its car park at 57 Station Street (located between the Pink Lotus restaurant and the former Hooper's restaurant) in order to attract an affordable housing developer.

Council has been pursuing the plan for 32 one and two-bedroom housing units on the site since the beginning of 2022.

Initially, the plan involved building the units above the existing car park, but now the proposal is to build the units above ground floor

shops. The loss of parking will be offset by two new parking areas.

Late last year, it put the project out to tender, offering the region's community housing providers a 49-year lease for the site.

But with no housing providers taking up the proposal, Council may have to compromise by offering full ownership of the land in return for an agreement that it will be used for affordable housing in perpetuity.

Secret meetings

A final decision in relation to the site will be made at this Thursday's full Council meeting, with the matter set to be debated in confidential session, because it involves discussion of commercially sensitive information.

Byron Mayor, Michael Lyon, told *The Echo*, 'In order to get community housing providers to invest the required equity, we need to offer them freehold title.'

Cr Lyon said that Council would only hand over ownership of the car park to a housing provider that agreed to retain the site for affordable housing in perpetuity.

The provider would also have to meet certain design standards for the use of the site, and there would be an as yet undisclosed financial benefit that would come back to the Council.

However, if it elects to hand over the freehold title to the land, Council will still have to give up ownership of a piece of public land located in the centre of the town, a move that may be unpopular in some sections of the community.

'It won't be just any private ownership, it will be a community housing provider,' Cr Lyon said, when asked about the decision to give up ownership of public land. 'They're not-for-profit organisations, so it will remain in not-for-profit hands.'

'We don't do Council

housing these days, so this is the modern-day version.'

The decision to conduct the discussion in relation to 57 Station Street behind closed doors at this week's Council meeting has raised eyebrows among some sections of the community.

Meanwhile, Council has now reached in-principle agreements with the state government to build two new car parks in Mullumbimby to offset the loss of spaces.

The first would be built on vacant rail corridor land opposite the old Tony Carsburg site.

The second would be located on vacant rail corridor land located next to the old Mullumbimby Station. This site had previously been slated for housing, but has subsequently been deemed inappropriate for this purpose.

It is understood that Council will hold leases for each of these sites.

Get your dogs and cats desexed: AWF

National Desexing Month runs during July each year to encourage desexing of dogs and cats before the spring breeding season.

President of the Animal Welfare League, North Coast Branch, Alana Crangle told *The Echo*, The National Desexing Network approaches vets and organisations throughout Australia to promote desexing by offering discounted prices for the month to all pet owners.

She says, 'Animal Welfare League NSW North Coast Branch (AWL) contacts all veterinary clinics in our region, encouraging them to participate.'

'A desexed female dog or cat will live a healthier life owing to not breeding numerous litters throughout their lives, and a desexed male dog or cat is less likely to be injured in fighting over territory.'

'For Centrelink or DVA cardholders, AWL can assist towards the cost of desexing by offering a voucher to the value of \$50 for cats and



Three-month-old Gravy, who is looking for a new home. Photo awlnsw.com.au

\$100 for dogs during October through to May each year.

'AWL supports responsible pet ownership, including desexing, microchipping, collars, ID tags, and cats being kept inside at night to protect our native wildlife, and encourages owners to contain their cats by building a "catio" attached to their homes. Anyone who adopts from us does not have to pay a registration fee.'

To find out more visit them at the shelter at 124 Dalley St, Mullum or on Facebook @AWLNSWNorthCoast, or call them on 0436 845 542.

Annual strata reporting for 2022 is now due

Are you on a strata committee?

Do you own a strata title duplex?



Strata schemes including strata title duplexes must report key information to the NSW Government every year. If you haven't completed your 2022 report, it's easy to submit your information via the NSW Government Strata Hub.

Reports must be completed by 30 June to avoid a **fine of up to \$5500**.



Scan the QR code, visit **nsw.gov.au** and search 'strata reporting' or call **13 32 20** to find out more.



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Echo

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

Murder charges dropped over Simone Strobel's 2005 death in Lismore

The 2005 murder of German backpacker, Simone Strobel, at the Tourist Caravan Park in Lismore led to the extradition of her then boyfriend, Tobias Moran, from WA in July 2022. But charges have now been withdrawn.

Ballina Council legal advice over alleged unauthorised land clearing kept secret

The Ballina Shire Council has kept secret details of legal action it may be taking against a developer over alleged unauthorised land clearing at Lennox Head.

Community forum to address online safety for youth

Are you a parent, carer, teacher, or youth worker? Or maybe you have another support role in a young person's life?

Australia/Invasion Day controversy continues at Ballina

Last month's Ballina Council meeting saw a decision to move the Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony, to be held at Lennox Head Cultural Centre, from the controversial date of 26 January 2024, to the evening of 25 January. This amendment to an earlier motion was moved by Cr Simon Chate with the support of Cr Stephen McCarthy.

Appeal for info after man assaulted in Lismore

NSW Police are appealing for information after a man was assaulted and robbed in the South Lismore area in March.

Teenager missing from Coffs Harbour

NSW Police are appealing for public assistance to locate a boy missing from Coffs Harbour.

Learning about the plants in your region

The Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens (LRBG) runs guided walks every fourth Sunday at 2pm for people to look at, and learn about, the amazing range of range of local plants from the region.

www.echo.net.au

Syrian refugees welcomed into community

Photo & story Aslan Shand

Seven-year-old Kurdish refugee, Rahaf, moved to the area just over a year ago with her parents and younger brother. They are refugees from Syria and are supported by the Ocean Shores 4 Refugees (OS4R) group.

Her grandmother, Rabiaa, was able to join them at the beginning of this year.

'We were so excited to be the first group to welcome people here under CRISP (Community Refugee Sponsorship Program),' said Isabelle Borrelli, who is a member of the OS4R group, and Vice President of the Ballina Region 4 Refugees (BR4R).

'It started in our street. Then went to our networks and we had up to nine women



Back row: Isabelle from OS4R, Essam (dad), Rahaf's teacher Abelia Hissink from Brunswick Heads Public School, Rabiaa (grandmother), Kikki (OS4R), BHPS Principal Jodie Ridegeway. Front row: Kate (OS4R), seven-year-old Rahaf who moved here with her family from Syria, Douua (mum) and little brother Drgham.

come on board,' she told Monday's gathering at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre.

Governor General, David Hurley, was at the celebration of Refugee Week and

World Refugee Day, reminding Australians that CRISP is about 'helping people move from trauma to triumph'.

He said, 'People have to reach out and connect

people together. That is what CRISP is doing. Creating people-to-people links.'

Integral

After just a year at Brunswick Heads Public School, Rahaf is already interpreting for her family, as they are supported to become an integral part of the local Ocean Shores and Brunswick Heads communities.

'It takes drive and organisation,' said Isabelle.

'But we can do it. If you are thinking of setting up a group to assist with refugee settlement then get in touch.

'We have got so much from Essam, Douua and their family being here as part of our community.'

You can find out more at: www.br4r.org.au.

New social and affordable housing rules introduced

The NSW Labor government have announced new planning rules that 'will prioritise the delivery of social and affordable housing in places where people want to live, closer to jobs and accessible to people who need it most'.

Planning Minister, Paul Scully said in a press release on Monday, 'The major reforms will provide the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) and the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) with an expanded State Significant Development (SSD) approval pathway for projects with more than 75 homes, or more than \$30M capital investment'.

The changes announced today will take effect later this year, Scully said.

Handover for Ballina's Meals on Wheels

Eve Jeffery

The Ballina Shire Meals on Wheels has been operating as a community-based not-for-profit food service since 1967.

While age and disability may reduce some people's capacity to get out and about, Meals on Wheels volunteers help make it possible for many to stay home and maintain their independence by delivering meals, social interaction and a friendly check on wellbeing.

Service Coordinator of Ballina Shire Meals on Wheels, Meleta Wood, is retiring after 16 years of service, and Dan Davidson is stepping into the role this month.

Meleta has overseen the growth of the service and the recent inclusion of a social support/activities program for people 65 years and over.

Meleta says she has seen many changes over the years, including moving to the new site at 62 Crane



Dan Davidson is taking over where Meleta Wood left off after 16 years of service. Photo supplied

Street, in 2008. Her dedication and hard work and service will be missed by staff, volunteers and clients.

New Service Manager, Dan, has a background as a business owner/ head chef and working as a Service Co-ordinator in aged care services.

He told *The Echo*, 'I'm looking forward to working with the dedicated team of staff and volunteers and

continuing on with the vital community service'.

To keep the service thriving we're hoping to attract some new volunteers as meal deliverers and to help at the services' social activities'.

For more information about receiving meals, volunteering or their social activities contact the office on 02 6686 2636 or email bsmow@bigpond.com.au.

Changing farming practices to regenerate the land

Karin von Behrens

'We can't keep doing what we're doing - it's suicide and it's madness.'

These were the words of filmmaker, Damon Gameau, as he co-hosted a large field day on Farming for Climate Resilience and Productivity at Banyula last Friday.

Banyula, a 900-acre property just outside of Clunes, is managed using regenerative farming practices and reforestation plantings.

It was selected as a field day location owing to these regenerative practices, as well as their large-scale Big Scrub extension project, and koala habitat plantings.

Gameau is calling for subsidies for farmers to grow better food and look after our soils.

The event was an initiative of Northern Rivers Net Zero, produced in partnership with Southern Cross

University's Regenerative Agriculture Alliance, the Primary Industries Education Foundation and Banyula.

It was well attended by farmers, bush regeneration and wildlife experts, agriculture industry professionals, government officials, as well as agriculture students and teachers. The day provided an opportunity to network and learn from experts in the field, literally.

These experts included soil scientist, Dr Lukas Van Zwieten, from the NSW Department of Primary Industries. His soil regeneration tips included ways to minimise erosion, cover cropping and building biodiversity in your soil.

For more information visit <https://bit.ly/Banyula>.

■ Karin von Behrens is Communications Officer, Strategic Projects, from SCU

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Coastal Hazard Assessment Study not up for public scrutiny, say Council staff

Hans Lovejoy

Council staff have rejected a request by a councillor to be better informed around a major technical investigation that will underpin the Shire's Coastal Management Programs (CMPs).

Surprisingly, both councillor and/or public knowledge on the important document is considered by staff as being potentially 'influential' which is 'not the function of the community nor members of Council's Coast and ICOLL Advisory Committee'.

According to www.environment.nsw.gov.au, CMPs set the long-term strategy for the co-ordinated management of the coast, with a focus on achieving the objectives of the *Coastal Management Act 2016*.

Byron Council has a long history of CMPs that have failed to be adopted by the state government, for various reasons.

Within the upcoming June 22 Council agenda, Cr Duncan Dey, who is a hydrologist, put a motion



Coastal erosion works at Belongil. Photo Jeff Dawson

forward which asks that, 'Council seeks advice from the Coast and ICOLL Advisory Committee, on the soon-to-be-released *Coastal Hazard Assessment (CHA) Study* prior to adopting the Study'.

That study, according to staff, 'aims to quantify the coastal processes operating on the Byron Shire coastline and the nature and extent of exposure to coastal hazards and threats to public and private assets (both natural and built)'.

'The CHA study is the third major investigation into coastal processes, sand

movements and hazards in the Byron region'.

In reply to Cr Dey's motion, Chloe Dowsett, coast and biodiversity coordinator, said, 'It is not statutorily required for "consultation or public exhibition" during the staged process of CMP development'.

Not legally required

The *Echo* asked Ms Dowsett why she does not support the public being given an opportunity to review and comment on this document prior to adoption by Council.

As of going to press, there was no reply, despite the question being acknowledged by Council's media spokesperson.

Dowsett also said in the report, 'The draft report is presently being technically peer reviewed by a coastal expert and the Department of Planning and Environment. Review comments on the draft will be considered by Bluecoast, with the final report expected in July 2023'.

The *Echo* also asked for the name of the 'coastal expert'.

Versed in 'coast'

Cr Dey writes in the agenda, 'The idea that councillors can determine the suitability of the *Coastal Hazard Assessment Study 2023* without canvassing the views of our community flies in the face of transparency'.

'The community of Byron Shire is deeply versed in "coast".'

'I recommend a different approach, one where we listen to the views of our community (as diverse as those views might be)'.

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Giving hope through native restoration

Content Warning: this column was written without the assistance of ChatGPT. It includes strong environmental themes, over-used metaphors, and a large dose of shameless positivity.

Many readers will already know the joy of planting trees to help regenerate the region's lost forests. Few will know that more and more local school students are being offered a chance to connect directly with this most positive of narratives.

Late last year, I helped co-ordinate a series of short hands-on workshops in public primary schools across the Byron Shire, where kids got to propagate and nurture native seeds and seedlings. Banksias, black beans and Davidson plums were among the favourites.

The responses from students, schools and principals were overwhelmingly positive, with surveys finding over 80 per cent of kids wanted more.

'I loved how we got dirty and planted seedlings,' said a Year Three student from Main Arm.

'The workshop was awesome,' said a Year Four student from Mullumbimby. 'I would love it if this happened every Friday,' said a Year Six student from Byron Bay.

The seed workshops were followed by a multi-school tree-planting on Council land in Mullumbimby. Again, close to 80 per cent of students reported they wanted to do more. One teacher proclaimed he wanted a student tree-planting 'once a month.'

There are so many positives it's hard to know where to start. Alongside the ecological benefits of bringing back forests and habitat, from carbon capture to biodiversity, these plantings are off-line hands-on fun for kids, far away from screens and social media.

'Engaging our students in tree planting helps foster a sense of responsibility towards the environment, empowering them to fight climate change and to make a difference locally,' said Main Arm Principal, Virginia Pavlovitch, who enthusiastically joined her students in their planting.

The big picture vision here is to enable every school student in this



'The vision is to enable every student to engage with the positivity of ecological restoration in a cycle of propagation and plantings'

– Ray Moynihan

region to engage with the positivity of ecological restoration, routinely, in a seamless annual cycle of propagation and tree-plantings, changing their life narrative, fundamentally, forever, as the new forests grow.

My nine year old, and the many children already engaged in these workshops and plantings, will be able to say, for the rest of their lives: 'We helped plant that forest.'

The great news is that the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy, with support from the local Rekindle Foundation, has just decided to fund more of these workshops, with more school plantings, reaching bigger numbers of kids, and this time with guided rainforest walks.

While there's a great hunger for this now, none of it is new. It grows from existing environmental education, and from all the fights to save and restore the forests over the past 50 years. Most importantly, it builds on tens of thousands of years of the wisdom and practice of the Bundjalung nation, who witnessed Country decimated over a few short decades of 19th century colonisation.

Regeneration is such a positive story, because it's something we can do together to right past wrongs. As one author of the State of the Environment Report, Dr Ian Creswell, said recently, one of the best responses to a degraded environment is to join others and fix it. 'We have amazing organisations already existing in Australia, like Landcare, like wildlife rescuers... and I'd encourage everybody to participate.'

This region boasts many Landcare groups, including Brunswick Valley Landcare and the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy, and millions of trees have been planted by them. The local Banyula farm project – with Re-Forest Now – is currently planting a staggering 300,000 trees. In addition to its

bush regeneration work, Byron Shire Council has mapped critically important wildlife corridors, and the state government is funding repair of local creeks and rivers.

But along with all the positive news, there are, of course, challenges and controversies. There's a debate about whether too many eucalypts are being planted for koalas on land that was rainforest, contrary to principles of ecological restoration. There's simmering concern about too much chemical use in the weed control that follows tree-plantings. And in this state, the obscenity of land clearing and native forest logging continues.

Nationally, the Nature Repair Market Bill is before a Senate committee. Some hope the proposed market-based scheme will fund genuine restoration. Others argue it's recycled Morrison government legislation that won't work, and should be replaced with direct large-scale government investment.

There's little doubt we need much more coordinated and fewer piecemeal responses to the climate crisis and massive infrastructure-type regeneration, in this, the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, 2021–2030.

But as always, the inspiring words of British thinker Raymond Williams seem salient: 'To be truly radical is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing.'

With new generations of children getting their hands dirty and helping regenerate our lost forests, I reckon there's good reason to be hopeful.

■ Dr Ray Moynihan is coordinating school workshops and plantings with colleagues and Firewheel nursery. Author and journalist, he's an honorary assistant professor at Bond University, and former Harkness fellow at Harvard University.

Let us talk of rainbows and unicorns

An unusual thing happened last week – it was almost like unicorns exist!

Lismore MP, Janelle Saffin, gathered signatures of other local MPs and mayors and put the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) on notice for their poor performance (see page 1 and 4).

And she told her boss, NSW Premier, Chris Minns, to get on with assisting those devastated by the 2022 floods. Unfortunately, Minns sounded fairly tone-deaf and uninformed when asked directly about the NRRC's performance.

The answer of course, is to sack the NRRC. At the least, stripping them, and the NSW Reconstruction Authority, of their corporate status, would provide more accountability.

Anyway, when politicians make the public aware that, for example, the NRRC are terrible, it sends a strong signal to within the ruling elite.

It is not the way politics is usually done, but should be.

There is generally a cosy relationship between those who create policy (the elected) and the administrators of that policy (the bureaucracy).

Together, they form a large rainbow tent of governance, and they operate at the local, state and federal level. This collection of large, secret and unwieldy tents are heavily guarded by both those elected, and the bureaucracy.

Only a few voices are strong enough to last inside the tent, while also poking their head out to tell us what's going on.

Those inside the large and unwieldy tent say confidentiality is required, so they can have frank and open discussions. Or that the discussions contain sensitive

commercial information.

Yet any argument based on hiding information from the public because you can only express yourself honestly in private, or are too lazy to redact the bits with dollar amounts, is more likely about hiding poor governance, or worse.

This week's Council agenda is again filled with secrecy and questionable staff reports – it is dutifully reported in this week's news pages.

On page 5, *The Echo* reports that Council staff are putting the squeeze on buskers with new policy.

On page 6, *The Echo* reports on Thursday's secret meeting that will consider handing over freehold title of a major Mullum public car park for 'affordable' housing. If this is such a great idea, why can't it be a public debate? It's a public asset after all.

General Manager, Mark Arnold, refused to release the relevant documents to *The Echo* upon request, despite that request including that the commercial in confidence details be redacted.

And on page 9, *The Echo* reports Council staff rejected a request by a councillor to be better informed around a major technical investigation that will underpin the Shire's Coastal Management Programs.

So – do you believe councillors are working for *your* interests?

Which councillor/s are doing the heavy lifting, and asking informed questions, and who are the light-weight seat-warmers who seem to treat public office as a boost to their shallow and frail egos?

Who is poking their head out of the tent and telling us what the hell is going on? (NB – it's not the mayor).

To find out, tune into the meeting this Thursday.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Are you interested in staying healthy while you age?

The NatMed Research Unit is investigating the use of a natural marine product on body composition and muscular strength in women.

We are seeking non-smoking generally healthy volunteers (aged 40-65 years of age) for our 20 week clinical trial. Participants will be asked to attend 3 clinics at Southern Cross University, Lismore.

This trial will NOT suit those with a shellfish allergy, are vegan or currently peri-menopausal.

This clinical trial has approval from the Southern Cross University Human Research Ethics Committee (ECN: 2020-117).

If you are interested in participating, please contact the clinical trial coordinator Shelley Robinson.

Email marine2023@scu.edu.au



Southern Cross University





Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

Bangalow paths

I am writing to give my opinion on the proposed new shared pathway for Raftons Road and Leslie Street in Bangalow. This pathway is urgently needed.

Raftons Road and Leslie Street are a frequently used important connection to Bangalow town centre for the residents who live on the western side of town. Cars are fast going downhill and fast going up. Pedestrians and cyclists have to negotiate the busy road, walk and cycle around parked cars while keeping close to the curb.

There is a childcare centre at the bottom of Raftons Road. I meet mums walking, rather than driving, to drop off or pick up their kids seeing it as an opportunity to get some exercise.

On the day of the Billy Cart Derby we walked into town with our two dogs. Our older dog got the privilege of riding in the dog stroller.

I realised how pushing a stroller must be a challenge for mums and dads on these roads. Leslie Street was chock-full with parked cars leaving only a narrow space for the young families with kids on scooters and many pedestrians to walk on the roadway that is a blind spot for the oncoming traffic – risky indeed!

I wished for the safety of a pathway more than ever. A week later, I noticed with delight Council's announcement about building the shared pathway and asking for community opinion. In my submission I also mentioned the necessity of a pathway for Rifle Range Road, which is commonly used by school children.

We enjoy a friendly neighbourhood community in this part of town. Walking opens up the occasion for social exchange. Since the distance into town is easy, designated pathways promote leaving the car at home. I wholly

welcome the footpath proposal for the support of community life, safety and healthier living.

Antoinette Ensbey
Bangalow

Compliance

I would like to let other rate-payers know about the treatment I have received from the Byron Shire Council (BSC) compliance department.

A house was built beside my house in Orana Road, Ocean Shores. The roofing put on the house is called 'Surfmist' a silver colour that is highly reflective. Surfmist does not meet the DCP (development control plan) or the Australian Standard.

I complained to the BSC compliance department and at an onsite meeting I was told by the compliance officer that the roof was grey and called 'Windspray'.

A video was done and now the compliance officer has agreed the roof colour is actually Surfmist, but it

still remains, the reflection from this roof into my house is terrible.

I have continued to ask questions as to what will be done. As a result, the head of the BSC compliance department told me if I continued she would have me classified as an unreasonable and persistent caller, which would result in me not being able to contact Council or being contacted by Council.

This whole process that I have been through seems to say to me that Byron Shire Council's compliance department is more interested in supporting private certifiers rather than representing their own compliance regulations.

I find it quite absurd that the head of the compliance department felt the need to threaten me rather than investigate the issue and make an informed decision.

Sharon Kelly
Ocean Shores

Free press

Umm Catherine, there is an important omission in your excellent article on the importance of a free press (*Echo*, 7 June).

Julian Assange is now entering his fifth year in a UK prison at the behest of that bastion of free speech, the US government.

Assange certainly deserves recognition alongside those other examples you quoted. The public depends on brave people such as Bernard Collaery and the journalists who exposed the truth about Ben Roberts-Smith and PwC.

Cecily McGee
Mullumbimby

► More letters on next page

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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

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It's an EMERGENCY

Thanks to *The Echo* for the Sustainability Feature recently. While many feel that there is a sad and terrible slowness in our responding to the climate emergency, the good news is we don't have to wait for the government and industry to save the planet, we the people, we householders can! Smart and positive people like Saul Griffith (Rewiring Australia) say that if households electrify now we can meet our targets.

We need to change, adapt, this is not business as usual. We have to learn about new ways, new technology and choices, know our carbon footprint and decarbonise our lifestyles. We are the solution. Australia's per person emissions are more than three times the world average; we punch above our weight in creating this climate emergency.

As Saul Griffiths points out, to electrify is a bonus for people in terms of efficient use of electricity and will lead to cash savings to individuals and the community. We have had a 40kW Nissan Leaf for almost four years, bought second hand from Japan for \$36,000. We have spent \$1,345 (six new

tyres, one set of windscreen wipers), \$0 on maintenance. We have *not* spent at least \$17,000 on petrol. Almost 100 per cent of our charging is at home using our rooftop solar; power that was previously dumped by our system is now going into our car. One of the fears around EVs is battery life but the Leaf is now almost six years old and battery capacity is down only 10 per cent. But many people's first comment to us is 'I can't afford one'. While many cannot afford the initial outlay, or require four wheel drive for work, many could easily get an EV.

Post pandemic, people are resuming overseas travel. This source of greenhouse gases is rising and it is us, the industrialised countries, producing it. 80 per cent of the world's population do not fly. If you have to fly you should work out your carbon footprint, reduce it, buy into carbon credit schemes, plant a lot, *a lot*, of trees.

The Fijian villagers who, with profound sadness, have to move their homes away from sea level rises, are now asking us for compensation (See 'Fiji: the Last Resort' *Dateline* 6/4/2023).

Your one-way economy ticket to London means you will produce about

two tonnes of CO₂, more than Fijian villagers would produce in a year. Look closer to home on the north coast for heaps of evidence of an emergency; thousands are still homeless 16 months after the worst climate-induced disaster we have seen in Australia. There is so much that individuals need to do. Embrace the 'great transformation' (Tony Sebu) we are lucky enough to have. Just as most would agree Australia cannot dodge its obligations, individuals cannot either. Stop the strollout! Let's act like this is an emergency.

Mary McBride
Broken Head

Cormac McCarthy

An obituary for Cormac McCarthy in the style of Cormac McCarthy:

He was a New Mexican despite hailing from New England and coming to age in Tennessee. He never drank, and he never owned a computer, and read Proust and James, and it was agreed he was too tough to die.

For most of his life he wore a moustache and was the best unknown writer in America, and for the rest he was known. The workings of his heart and the things that made him a man were

not documented, except in the contents of a conversation he once had with Oprah. Then one day the writer ceased writing and the writing became written.

At any time his personal possessions featured a 100-watt bulb and a \$50 typewriter, and a wallet that was empty except for some photos.

Tom Glassey
Canberra

Not for your pleasure

An ad in last week's *Echo* advertising a business that employs sex workers contained, as part of a sentence '...men, ladies available for your pleasure ...'

What the freaking hell? Women are NOT on earth for men's pleasure. I have a close relative who works in the sex industry and I support and love her. It makes no difference to me how she earns her money, but in no way, shape, or form is she fundamentally here on earth for 'men's pleasure'! I really thought we had moved past that, especially in the Northern Rivers.

And while I'm presenting this tangent, what about articles in newspapers that refer to 'men having sex with a child'? Consenting adults 'have sex' – men do not have sex with a child – that's called rape. These differences with words are not even subtle attempts to undermine equality and safety. And as for women being 'available for men's pleasure' – whichever business placed this ad – you should be fucking ashamed of yourself: one for denigrating women, and two for being so stupid when you could and should be enlightened.

Sunflower
Mullumbimby

Tax cuts again

I was pleased to be reminded in Richard Jones' observation in last week's political column that Phillip Lowe is a Morrison appointee. Since the Great Depression, economic theory has oscillated between Keynesian economic theories and 'market force' ideas (market force theories are just late 19th century *laissez faire* theory dressed in an Armani suit). Advantaging the rich instead of the poor also seems perilously close to belief in the long-discredited trickle-down economic theory. As Adam Bandt recently observed, the people of Australia are being used as cannon fodder in the fight against inflation.



As for the tax cuts they have the precedent of Labor icon Paul Keating who declared his prospective tax cuts as L.A.W. law but was flexible enough to change his mind when there was a change of circumstance.

Recently the financial commentators on both the ABC and SBS produced charts that indicated that inflation is currently due to excessive profit taking more than any other factor. But then attempting to control profit rates would be an absolute no-no in terms of market force theory and cause great distress to sensitive souls in the Institute of Public Affairs.

David Gilet
Byron Bay

How low can you go?

How invigorating to hear from Mr MacDonald once again. Have you been licking your wounds and recuperating from the hidings the Labor Party and just about everyone else have been dishing out to your pathetic corrupt Coalition?

But sadly, it seems your demeanour has not improved at all. Me, a rusted-on Labor supporter... my, my, you are so perceptive, your level of expertise is simply astounding. And by the way, have you ever managed to convince anybody besides yourself that anthropogenic climate change is a hoax and it is only a conspiracy perpetrated by the UN in order to establish a 'New World Order'?

And you can't be serious saying, 'the Coalition has never, and would never stoop this low'. My God, whenever they are

in government they keep lowering the bar, Labor has to keep raising it every time we kick them out. You don't seem to remember the infamous 'Robodebt' debacle: this insidious scheme was introduced, even though the relevant ministers knew it was illegal, and it resulted in over two thousand deaths linked to the trauma it caused to some of the most vulnerable people in Australia. It would be near impossible to go any lower than that appalling effort. And trust me, we are not done with the perpetrators.

Keith Duncan
Pimlico

Class action


Australians who believe they were injured by covid jabs in April filed the first ever class action lawsuit against those who promised 'safe and effective' vaccines. For those interested, see www.covidvaxclassaction.com.au.

Respondents in the matter will be Commonwealth of Australia; Greg Hunt, the former Federal Health Minister of Australia; John Skerritt of the TGA; Paul Kelly, Australia's Chief Medical Officer; and Brendan Murphy, the secretary of the Department of Health.

The applicants allege that the respondents' actions to advance the acceptance and use of the various approved COVID-19 vaccines constitutes negligence and/or misfeasance and they seek compensation for personal injury; health care expenses; additional out-of-pocket expenses; economic loss; the need for gratuitous care and non-economic loss.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

DID YOU KNOW DAY
Improving Outcomes for Families
 THURSDAY 29 JUNE | BALLINA SURF CLUB



Do you work in or alongside the family law system and want to achieve better outcomes for separating and separated families?




Do you want to build relationships and referral pathways with others in the sector?

Are you interested in learning about a more considered approach to ADVOs or about the Specialist Indigenous List recently introduced in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Lismore and Coffs Harbour registries)?

If the answers to these questions is "Yes", then the Family Law Pathways Network (Northern Rivers) invites you to our "Did You Know Day – Improving Outcomes for Families" event on Thursday 29 June at the Ballina Surf Club.

Our presenters are from the Family Law Service for Aboriginal Communities (FamAC) at Legal Aid, Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited, Ngunya Jarjum, Northern Rivers Women's Domestic Violence Court and Advocacy Service and the FCFCOA.

Book at trybooking.com/CISSV and learn more at www.northernrivers.flpn.com.au

A farewell to *The Echo's* chess column

Our chess column, which has run for more than two decades, has come to an unfortunate end. It was reprinted from the *Canberra Times*, and is the victim of cost-cutting at that paper. Grandmaster Ian Rogers here writes his last column.

Grandmaster, Ian Rogers

To my great regret, this will be the final chess column in the *Canberra Times* [and reprinted in *The Echo*], ending a 55-year tradition.

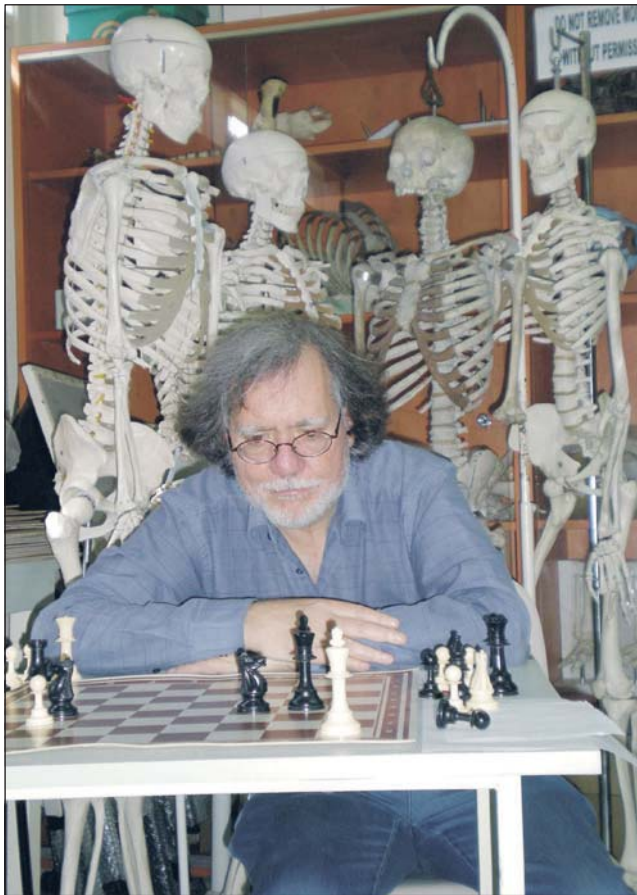
I have had custody of the chess column for nine days short of 30 years and would like to thank the readers who have faithfully followed the column through those years. I was always gratified by the numbers who entered the competitions, wrote to pick me up on an error, or detailed the lengths they went to in order to buy the *Canberra Times* when living outside the ACT.

Cease and desist

The chess column was briefly available online, until I learned that the columns were often being republished under another person's name in *The Scotsman* (and under my name without permission in Spain). As cease and desist requests were ignored by *the Scot* (apart from the concession 'Maybe I should have changed a few more words'), the column has stayed unGoogleable ever since. So its loyal readers in Canberra and interstate have always had to pay for the newspaper to read the column – and I am grateful so many have done so.

Magnus Carlsen

To finish my overview of the previous 30 years in chess, the last decade has belonged completely to Magnus Carlsen, who



Chess Grandmaster, Ian Rogers. Photo supplied

deigned to compete in and win the World Championship title in 2013 and then defended it successfully four times before his recent abdication.

The Norwegian has also been the world's top ranked player for the entire decade, although his results in the just-completed Norway Chess tournament suggest that at 32 he may already be past his peak.

Nonetheless, Carlsen's achievements in the past decade have caused him to be spoken of in the same breath as Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov as a candidate for the greatest player of all time. (Fischer had an extraordinary peak, Kasparov had extraordinary longevity and Carlsen has a bit of both.)

Grandmaster title

In Australia, the decade has seen a generation of young players who feel as if earning the Grandmaster title is a feasible ambition – and quite a few have done so, including the first Canberra-born GM, Anton Smirnov.

In part this is because Australia began hosting regular tournaments where

GM 'norms' were possible: the revamped Australian Masters, Canberra's Doeberl Cup and more recently the Gold Coast Open. However, it is still true that overseas competition is essential, with no Australian GM achieving all their qualifications at home.

Extraordinary numbers

In 2023 Australian chess tournaments are witnessing record entries, though the truly extraordinary numbers are seen online. Lichess, the smaller, open source competitor to chess.com, sees a million games played on its server each day, and there are plenty of Australian flags visible among those players.

The reasons for the chess boom are varied: lockdown leisure, *The Queen's Gambit*, Carlsen's media profile, the rise of streaming, Chess's (alleged) educational benefits, etc. Tournament organisers and administrators have struggled to keep up.

To conclude, thanks again to my readers. Saying goodbye is not a decision of my making.

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The Voice referendum could be a major step towards constitutional and electoral renewal

Professor Klaas Woldring

The referendum proposal became law on 19 June when it was passed in the Senate: 52 for, 19 against.

In the 1967 referendum, Section 51 of the 1901 Australian Constitution was altered so that Indigenous people were, for the first time, recognised as 'people of any race for whom is deemed necessary to make special laws' by deleting 'other than the aboriginal race in any State'.

Section 127 was removed altogether. It stated that 'Aborigines not to be counted in reckoning population'. Over 90 per cent supported the amendment. There wasn't a 'No' option.

Although then regarded as fully fledged citizens Indigenous representation in our parliaments did not follow.

Why do we need a Voice today?

Some people, who are wondering now why the proposed Voice would be

desirable, are saying 11 Indigenous people are actually parliamentarians in Canberra. Correct, but formally they are representing parties and their platforms, not the specific interests of Indigenous people. Others are saying, 'Well they only comprise 3.2 per cent of the population, so why should there be specific representation of any kind just for this 3.2 per cent?'

The frank answer is 'To make up for the lack of any serious representation of Indigenous people since the establishment of the British colony in 1788'



New South Wales co-ordinator for the 'Yes' campaign, Charline Emzin-Boyd, when she met with 'Yes' vote supporters in Brunswick Heads last week. Photo Tree Faerie

Constitutional reform needed

This essentially racist attitude by the settler population has increasingly been found to be plainly wrong. Yet, when reflecting on the high levels of incarceration of Indigenous people and deaths in custody, these racist attitudes linger on regardless.

One could argue that Indigenous people are also victims of Australia's archaic Constitution. In 2018 the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) was asked to consider laws and legal frameworks that contribute to the high incarceration rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The *ALRC Report* was released in March 2018 and includes 35 recommendations, some of which still have to be addressed.

It concluded: 'Law reform is an important part of that solution. Reduced incarceration, and greater support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in contact with the criminal justice system, will improve health, social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and lead to a safer society for all.'

Time to get uncomfortable with the status quo

The NSWCC First Nations Justice Committee strongly supports the proposed *Constitutional alteration Bill*.

Teela Reid, Wiradjuri and Wailwan woman, lawyer and human rights activist and a member of the committee, says that 'if NSW is serious about protecting civil liberties, then it is time to get very uncomfortable with the status quo.'

In considering the journey of Australia's First Nations peoples, NSWCC

President Nicholas Cowdery AO QC, believes 'we need to understand the history of colonialism and dispossession that has led to the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities'. In order to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders 'in a movement of the Australian people for a better future', as the *Uluru Statement* invites, then we also must acknowledge the resilience of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Cowdery further commented: 'Australia's First Nations peoples constitute the world's oldest living culture – over 65,000 years. Colonisation took away their land, languages and many traditions and has left them almost without a voice to power. That process has created social disadvantage leading directly to over-representation in prisons around the country.'

Electoral reform

The reality of this situation also brings us to the altogether serious inadequacy of the Australian electoral system used for all lower houses of parliament, except Tasmania.

The 'single-member-system' results in an unrepresentative, adversarial two-party system. Continued oppositionism is the hallmark of this system. It also results in the under-representation of several other minorities. A much more democratic system would be 'proportional representation' (PR), especially the 'party list' variety used in 85 countries. Australia does have proportional representation in Tasmania, the Senate, some upper houses in state legislatures and the ACT. Its strongest advocate in the past was Andrew Inglis Clark, statesman and leading

academic in late 19th and early 20th century Tasmania.

However, even PR may not provide representation to the 3.2 per cent of the Indigenous population. Therefore, the Voice would indeed be the best way to overcome the lack of attention inherent in the current system. If the referendum proposal does not gain sufficient support the Albanese government should move to immediately legislate the Voice.

Common law inadequate

The fact remains that the Australian Constitution is almost totally deficient in the areas of social justice and human rights. The framers of that Constitution chose to rely on the operation of the common law, but it is now quite widely accepted that this is inadequate.

A republic not enough

'The Constitution suggests that Australia is not an independent nation', argued Professor George Williams. This is the very opposite of an independent republic. The mere creation of a republic also doesn't fix any of the many shortcomings.

For instance, there should be a full recognition of the reality of political parties and how these should be organised. Should there not be a bill of rights? Not a word about recognition of the growing importance of the environment and provisions for the urgent need to combat climate change.

There is no provision for the appointment of Cabinet ministers either, as is the case in most European countries and in the United States. Why should they be chosen from MPs? Australian governments have long

suffered greatly from sheer ministerial incompetence.

This system requires outstanding Heads of Departments, but decline in the quality at that level in the neoliberal period is now another major problem. The Constitution does *not* even state that the government derives its authority from the people's sovereignty either. Constitutional conventions should *all* be codified for them to be widely accepted.

The position of women and the issues of equality between the sexes and of gender in Australian society is *not* addressed anywhere in the current Australian Constitution. Given the continued discrimination against women in management and executive roles – and in political parties – this issue surely needs constitutional recognition. Both major parties have failed to tackle the gross inadequacy of the Constitution after the unsuccessful attempts by PM Whitlam, already 50 years ago!

The LGBTQI+ group of people should also be recognised and protected constitutionally. A democratic electoral system needs to be stated and explained in the Constitution. Amending the Constitution should be easy and not be avoided on account of likely failure, as again currently is feared. The example of New Zealand in this regard is worthy of copying: an ordinary national majority.

The Australian Republic Movement has had basically nothing to say about this major problem. What is really the point moving of towards a republic with a Constitution that is so enormously out of date?

Passing the Voice referendum could well be a major first step towards Constitution renewal.

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That ridiculous 'flood map'! Yes, I know I live in a flood zone, I can handle a flood, but...

Lisa Rea

This may not mean much to anyone apart from those living in Lismore who received yesterday's ridiculous 'flood map'. But I need to vent.

In February 2022 I prepared for the flood – really well. The best flood prep you could manage.

I then watched the river levels rise to wipe out the second storey of my home, taking everything with it. I was shocked and bewildered. I had no insurance because I couldn't afford the \$20k.

I returned home to manage the cleanup. Add exhausted and traumatised.

I cleaned up enough space to move back in... camp style... add broken to the ever-increasing list.

I registered with the NRRC (Northern Rivers Reconstruction Commission) to make sure my property was considered for a potential buyback/landswap/ house raising/ resilient material (retrofit) funding.

I live in a flood zone

I waited, but couldn't put my life on hold so began the rebuilding process. I was still shocked, bewildered, exhausted, traumatised, broken, and now depressed. Oh, and getting broke... it costs a lot to rebuild a house.

I had to sit and listen to people, outside the trauma, express their intellectually rounded opinions on the fact that, well, 'you knew you lived in a flood zone'. That made me furious. And I'll explain why.



Lismore in flood during the February-March 2022 natural disaster. Floods reached a new high of 14.5m, 2.5m higher than any previous flood. Photos David Lowe

Yes, I know I live in a flood zone. But, man, I can handle a flood. I have handled a flood. I've lived here for a long time now. But I can't handle a natural disaster...

Would you blame someone whose house was destroyed in a cyclone? No! What about an earthquake? No! Then why, tell me why, we are being penalised for this catastrophic event just because it floods here?

We are prepared – we're not idiots!

We know what to do in a flood. We move everything up. We tie up the bins. We take off the hoses. We weight down any toilets and drains downstairs to stop the sewage backflow. We stock up on water and food. We grab batteries for the radio. Get the gas bottle filled so we can cook if the power goes out. We check the torch. We fill up the bathtub with drinking water. We check the canned goods. We move the cars. We ship out our pets to friends. We make sure the hoses are handy to get the cleanup underway.

Our farmers have a whole other routine. There's stock to consider and farm equipment. And our businesses have another set of routines they manage. We're not idiots. Far from it. And when the water recedes we wash off the mud, we regroup and we get on with life. Because we're seasoned flood veterans. But what none of us are, are seasoned disaster survivors.

So stop pushing this back on us, please. Stop changing the goal posts please government. Stop halving the number of houses being considered for buyback. Stop giving half-arsed information about land swaps and buybacks. Stop thinking it's okay to have people living in caravans, tents and pod villages 16 months after the disaster!

Stop issuing maps that are illegible and confusing. Stop expecting business owners who have lost their livelihoods to apply for 20 jobs every, what? fortnight, to receive benefits? Whatever it is, it's ridiculous in a region that has been devastated



tiring. There's so much that needs to... just... stop.

You want to move North and South Lismore residents out of the area? Then, fine. Get the land, subsidise the fuck out of it and come to the table with a reasonable offer. Don't expect people to accept a pre-flood housing price that doesn't allow for people to buy back into the market, because, well again, it's a historical figure that now means jack shit!

Where will we live?

Stop expecting people to accept an offer without knowing where they will live.

Is it so hard to fathom that there is now a housing shortage? And there's always been a land shortage. Is it hard to fathom that since the flood, rental properties and saleable stock is reduced, which, by my basic economics education, has pushed demand and therefore prices up through the fucking whazoo?

It's like giving 2,000 people a \$50 voucher and sending them off to the Sheraton Mirage that only has one penthouse suite on offer. See how appealing and successful that approach is?

Timely help needed

All I wanted was a considered and reasonable response that was well-communicated, with sensitivity, in a timely fashion. And in the meantime, I just needed help. Help to put up my walls. Help to paint. Help to plumb. Help to lay some flooring. Help to rebuild the deck and stairs. Labour and help, instead of having to rely on friends and partners and chip away at those relationships.

Instead all I've received is half-arsed enticements, filtered through informal channels, with a gross lack of humanity, after so long that you can only believe there must have been a hope we'd all just either leave Lismore or give up and rely on volunteers and community support to begin the rebuild.

The 2022 flooding disaster in Lismore is the second worst disaster event in Australian history behind Cyclone Tracy.

The Australian government should be ashamed of their fractured, under-funded, poorly communicated response.

I know I am.

by floods where there are no jobs, especially if you've reached the ripe old age of 60. Jesus!

Stop expecting Year 12 students to be unaffected, even though they're living in unfinished work zones, with borrowed clothes and parents who are too tired to engage in school interviews and pushing homework schedules after working 40 hours a week whilst also rebuilding houses out of their own pocket and dealing with their own trauma.

Put a reasonable offer on the table

I could go on. The list is long. It's frustrating. It's



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Fresh Eyes on Byron Bay

A word from the Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce

Local Byron businesses gathered last week at our first Arts & Industry Estate Twilight Tour, an opportunity to discover the unique boutiques, start ups, art galleries and businesses that make the Arts & Industry Estate a quintessential Byron experience.

The Arts & Industry Estate will become an important epicentre for Byron businesses now and into the future as we are seeing a changing landscape with many legacy and unique Byron businesses relocating from Byron CBD. Due to rising costs of commercial leases and real estate development such as The Bonobo by RAES on Jonson St, the Byron Bay CBD is changing and will look very different after completion in the next couple of years.

The Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce is a diverse mix of businesses dedicated to supporting collaboration and innovation. Head to our website to read about becoming a member www.byronbaychamber.com

Jason Bentley - President, BBCC



Jason Bentley

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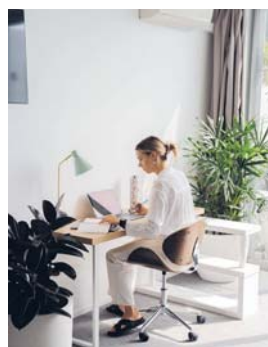
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www.legendpizza.com.au

Byron's Freshest Pizza

Order online and join our loyalty program.
Catering for up to 100 people lunch and dinner.
BYO
Locally owned and operated.
Scan code for menu.



Main Street



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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details @mainstreet_burgerbar

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

Success Thai



Open Lunch 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

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

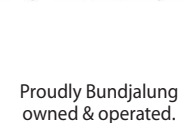


Brunch 7am-1pm, every day
16 Lawson St, Byron Bay
6685 7663
Menus at therocksbyronbay.com.au @therocksbyronbay

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!

KARKALLA Byron Bay



Native Indigenous Restaurant
Cnr of Bay Lane & Fletcher St, Byron Bay
Proudly Bundjalung owned & operated.
5614 8656

Dinners from 5pm Thursday - Monday. Bookings highly recommended via our website.
Re-opening June 29 with local, seasonal and native inspired cuisine.

Connecting our community with First Nations culture through food.

Local and live music Sundays 6-8pm.

www.karkalla.com.au | @karkallabyronbay

BANGALOW

Bangalow Bread Co.



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

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

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

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www.yamanmullumbimby.com.au

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.

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

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empiremullum.com.au
Online orders:
mryum.com/theempire

New winter menu just dropped!

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

Order and pay online: Scan the QR code to view the menu and order online.



NEWRYBAR

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Newrybar NSW 2479
02 6687 2644

www.harvest.com.au
@harvestnewrybar

COFFEE CART

7 days | 6.30am-3.00pm

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
P: 0414 895 441

GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR

Local Byron legend's 20 years

Kenrick Riley has been a local fixture at Byron Farmers Market for two decades now and in that time he has gathered a dedicated following.

His colourful stall, which is packed with an amazing range of herbs, spices and leafy greens, as well as some weird and wonderful produce, has proven popular with both families and local chefs. 'There are 20-year-olds out there who have grown up eating our food, which feels pretty good,' Kenrick says.

Kenrick puts his popularity down to a few things: his stall's display, along with the flavour, quality and freshness of his produce.

'We spend a lot of time dressing up our stall and making the produce look nice,' he says, 'we also harvest in the dark - around 3am - so our produce is always picked when it's fresh and erect, which means it lasts longer, and it's full of flavour. It's taken us years to build up the quality of the soil and that has resulted in improved flavour.'

Kenrick and his partner, Maree, have built their market garden at Georgica from scratch, and it now includes produce you won't find in any supermarket.

One of those is 'jicama', an unusual root crop from Central America. 'Jicama has a multitude of uses. It's sweet and crunchy so you can use it raw in salads or as a snack, but it can also be cooked and used

like a water chestnut. It will stay crunchy and take on the flavour of whatever you cook it with and still be sweet.'

'And from a health point of view, it has probiotic properties and is also used as a hangover cure as it's full of sugar and protein. That sells it!'

You can find Kenrick and his amazing array of produce at Byron Farmers Market every Thursday morning.

Byron Farmers Market is held Thursdays 7-11am at Butler St Reserve. Bangalow Farmers Market is Saturdays 7-11am behind the Bangalow pub.



Local farmer, Kenrick Riley, at Byron Farmers Market.

Good Life



Views, brews, cocktails, beats and eats in Lennox Head



Located in the breathtaking coastal town of Lennox Head, New South Wales, Lennox Pizza has established itself as a culinary hotspot, offering not only delicious pizzas, ribs, wings, pastas and nibbles, but also stunning views, a funky interior, and entertaining amenities that make it a standout destination.

One of the unique features of Lennox Pizza is its picturesque location, which provides diners with stunning views of the ocean during lunchtime. Situated in close proximity to Lennox Point, patrons can indulge in mouth-watering pizzas while soaking up the beauty of the pristine beaches, rolling waves, and breathtaking sunsets. The combination of delectable flavours and awe-inspiring vistas creates an unforgettable dining experience that truly captures the essence of Lennox Head's coastal charm. Dine-in, or order online to pick up.

Inside the restaurant, guests are greeted by a funky and fun interior that sets the stage for a lively and enjoyable atmosphere. The vibrant colours, playful décor, and eclectic artwork create a welcoming space where diners can relax, unwind, and immerse themselves in the vibrant energy of the surroundings. The hip ambiance perfectly complements the modern and innovative approach that Lennox Pizza takes in crafting their pizzas.

In addition to the delightful atmosphere, Lennox Pizza offers a fantastic amenity that adds an extra element of entertainment – a free pool table. Patrons can engage in friendly competition and show off their skills while waiting for their pizza, beers and cocktails to arrive. The inclusion of a pool table adds a touch of fun and excitement, making the dining experience at Lennox Pizza not only delicious but also interactive and enjoyable.

Of course, the main attractions at Lennox

Pizza are their tantalising food and cocktail menus, which feature a wide variety of pizzas, ranging from classic favourites to unique and creative combinations. Each dish is expertly crafted with high-quality ingredients, ensuring a perfect balance of flavours and textures. And watch out for the Canadian influence of one of the owners, with loaded fries, 'Poutine', and the classic Canadian cocktail The Caesar on the menu.

Lennox Pizza in Lennox Head is more than just a pizzeria, it's a destination that combines mouth-watering cuisine, stunning views, a unique interior, and a showcase of local musos and DJs every weekend. So book a table, stay late and enjoy some sweet beats with your favourite pizza or pasta. Whether you're seeking a delicious meal, a memorable dining experience, or simply a place to relax and unwind, Lennox Pizza delivers on all fronts. Come and savour the flavours, immerse yourself in the coastal beauty, and embrace the lively atmosphere at Lennox Pizza.

The Organic Avocado

Victoria Cosford

Kate Thompson's Avocado Salsa is, she tells me, one of her signature dishes. She makes it on a regular basis, serving it up simply as a dip or alongside Ballina prawns ('it's fantastic!', she enthuses.) Spring onions, lime juice, roasted ground cumin, fresh coriander – and her own gorgeous creamy organic avocados, ripe but firm, diced, and all of that tossed in salt and pepper and olive oil.

Of course, we agree, a perfectly plain, unadorned, spooned-from-its-symmetrical-half avocado is the ideal, the truest way to consume this fruit. Thriving in the conditions she cultivates them – red volcanic soil, rainforest, good drainage, Alstonville plateau – Kate's avocados have been a constant and comforting presence at local farmers' markets for many years, within the window of late April till the end of November, in which they grow.

And yet, she tells me, they 'aren't an easy crop to grow.' If you start with a seed, she continues, it may never grow. She herself buys the best grafted trees available in Australia, but has many customers who are on to their fifth – or even tenth – tree, still trying and still failing. 'A good grafted tree is the best way to start', she says, offering advice to anyone wanting to grow their own avocados; 'Lots of organic matter and plants. Rainforest conditions. No chickens scratching around – they break up the little roots.'

We chat a bit more about other culinary uses for avocados, aside from the predictable and ubiquitous guacamole. Recently a customer told Kate about a broccoli soup she'd made; blending an avocado through at the end to render it creamy. An avo mashed into mayo to bind a potato salad – dill, lime – is another lovely idea. That rich butteriness is why avocados were



Kate Thompson and Bubaloo Fahy

once called 'Midshipmen's butter' when they were taken aboard sailing ships as food for crews!

The Organic Avocado is at New Brighton on Tuesdays from 8–11am and Mullumbimby on Fridays 7–11am.

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

Book a table today



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AUTHENTIC INDIAN FOOD

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

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

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

NORTHERN RIVERS FOOD

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

THE PATCH

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

LENNOX PIZZA

WE ARE OPEN

IN OUR BRAND NEW VENUE AT
4/74 BALLINA ST,
LENNOX HEAD

SCAN HERE TO SEE OUR NEW MENUS

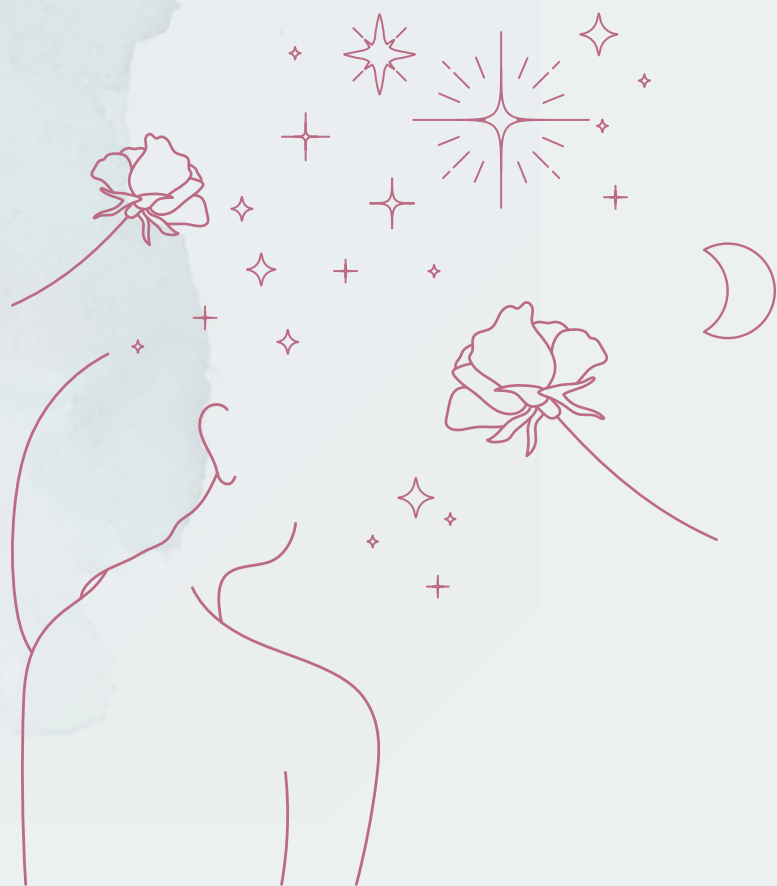
BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
PLEASE BOOK A TABLE WITH US ONLINE
CALL 6687 7080 FOR TAKEAWAY ORDERS ONLY

COME AND JOIN US FOR SOME
VIEWS, BREWS, COCKTAILS,
BEATS AND EATS!!

LENNOX PIZZA

LENNOXPIZZA.COM @LENNOXPIZZA

health & healing



Byron Bay Detox Retreats

Byron Bay Detox Retreats is a beachfront sanctuary where you can purify, reconnect and rejuvenate. Experience a life-changing transformation on an exclusive group retreat, rejuvenate during a personalised one-on-one retreat, escape for a weekend reset, or book and visit their beachside clinic for wellness treatments. Their wide range of holistic offerings encompasses the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual benefits of wellness, leaving you glowing from the inside out!



Now in their fourteenth year of running retreats in Byron, Byron Bay Detox Retreats know how to facilitate your journey to good health and happiness.

Founder and facilitator, Natalie Purcell, has supported thousands of clients on their wellness journeys and is passionate about being of service to assist clients to heal and awaken to their true potential.

0458 633 869
info@byronbaydetoxretreats.com.au
www.byronbaydetoxretreats.com.au
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Belle is a passionate Herbalist and gut specialist. As a certified GAPS™ practitioner she works with all areas of gut health, inflammatory conditions, hormonal imbalances, auto-immunity, mental health issues, women embarking on the wise woman stage of life experiencing menopause symptoms, and much more.

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The bright side - your trusted GP and skin cancer clinic in Byron Bay!

Are you looking for a trusted local doctor for your regular health checks, chronic disease management, or skin cancer screening? The Bright Side Medical & Skin Cancer Centre has welcomed a new female GP to their team to better serve you and your family!



Dr Alara Areli has practised in the local area for the past several years, with a focus on preventative medicine, mental health, and women's health. She joins the friendly and skilled team of doctors, including Dr Doug Mouncey, Dr Carlota Cunha, Dr Joanna Hutcheon, and Dr James Haslam, who provide a range of health services for your physical and mental wellbeing.

Book at The Bright Side Medical & Skin Cancer Centre (at Byron Bay Fair) on 6680 7788 or thebrightsideclinic.com.au.

Gaia Retreat & Spa

Introducing the inaugural three-night culinary immersion at Gaia Retreat & Spa, featuring award-winning author and sustainability champion, Alice Zaslavsky, alongside sensationally seasonal Gaia Head Chef duo, Dan Trewartha and Mitch Griffin.

Settle in on July 28-30 for a rare opportunity to learn, cook, and linger with like-minded guests and new-found friends.

Alice is one of Australia's friendliest voices in food, using recipes to connect people with what they love, and ideas that matter – something we know that time spent immersed in our hinterland surroundings will only encourage. An award-winning author, broadcaster, and self-appointed 'vegelante', Alice brings flavour, community and conversation to homes across the globe.

Don't miss this never-seen-before opportunity to experience Alice's cherished recipes, and celebrate them with Gaia's soulful hospitality.

Discover more: gaiaretreat.com.au/alice-in-residence/ or call 02 6687 1216



Easy Access Psychology

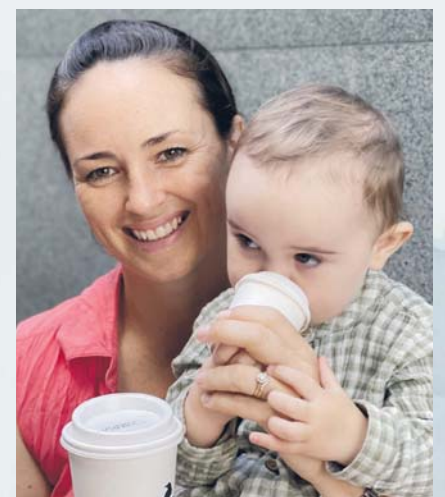
Working in the field of psychology and early intervention for the past 15 years, Easy Access founder and director, Shannan Connell, had a vision to have an in-house collaborative, multidisciplinary team consisting of psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists. This team is now up and running.

They are passionate about their work with individuals and families, and come together to create and design intervention plans collaboratively.

The team supports individuals of all ages and across the spectrum of neurodiversity. They have offices in both Lismore and Mullumbimby and will also come to you.

Get in touch to find out how they can support you.

info@easyaccesspsychology.com
0499 217 442



health & healing

The cheapest massage in town!

Not many local folks know, but Byron Community College's student massage clinic is one of the best places in the Shire to get yourself an affordable, relaxing and therapeutic massage. \$25 for a one-hour massage!

The well-trained hands of the 'Certificate IV in Massage Therapy' students get the opportunity to put the learnings gained from their industry-experienced professional tutors into practical on-the-job experience!

Offered each Wednesday at the College's Byron Bay campus, book in now to soothe your aches and pains, and ease away the stresses and worries of your day.

You won't find a better deal at \$25 for a dreamy one-hour session.

Book online (only) at www.byroncollege.org.au or call 6684 3374. RTO: 90013



Bangalow Headache Clinic

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

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

At Bangalow Headache Clinic they quite often find an overlap between headache and dizziness and/or headache and jaw problems.

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

72 Byron Street, Bangalow
www.bangalowheadacheclinic.com.au



byron healing



byronhealing.com.au

Byron Healing is your guide to maintaining health and wellbeing in Byron and the Northern Rivers.

New listings recently added to Byron Healing: National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine, and Wybalena Organic Farm - visit the website for full details on these businesses.

The *Byron Healing Vol. 6 2023-24* magazine is out now! If you missed your copy keep an eye out for copies around the usual spots, or collect one from the *Echo* office in Mullumbimby.



Byron Healing celebrating International Day of Yoga

Celebrated on 21 June, International Yoga Day celebrates the physical and spiritual prowess that yoga has brought to the world stage. While it is an important source of exercise and healthy activity millions join in and practice on a daily basis, for many, these routines are also a way to connect the body, mind and soul in a way that has existed for centuries.

The primary objective of the International Day of Yoga is to raise awareness about yoga as a holistic practice for mental and physical wellbeing. This observance holds great importance in shedding light on the importance of psychological and physical wellness in today's world.

Byron Healing features some amazing Yoga teachers in the Northern Rivers region.

Go to the 'Yoga' tab on www.byronhealing.com.au



UPCOMING BYRON HEALING CLIENT EVENTS

ReSurfacing workshop

Held by Avatar

Date: 24-25 June

Time: 8.30am-1pm daily

Address: on Zoom

Booking contact: Monique

0411 643 935

moniquej@avataroceania.com

healing.echo.net.au/listing/the-avatar-course-learn-to-live-deliberately/

Forest bathing outing

Held by Byron College events

Date: Saturday 24 June

Time: 9am

Address: Booyong Nature Reserve

Learn more www.byroncollege.org.au

or call 6684 3374. RTO: 90013

Healing 'The Critical Voice'

Held by Byron College events

Date: Saturday 24 June

Time: 9am

Address: Byron Campus, Level 1
107 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

Learn more www.byroncollege.org.au
or call 6684 3374. RTO: 90013

Alice in residence

Held by Gaia Retreat & Spa

Inaugural three-night culinary retreat, featuring award-winning author and sustainability champion, Alice Zaslavsky, alongside our very own sensationally seasonal Head Chef duo, Dan Trewartha and Mitch Griffin.

Date: 28-30 July

Address: 933 Fernleigh Road
Brooklet NSW 2479

Tickets: www.gaiaretreat.com.au/alice-in-residence/

Sound healing

With rhythm & drums

Held by Lakshmi Sound Healing

Date: Saturday 24 - Sunday 25 June

Time: 9.30am-4.30pm each day

Address: Tanglewood Drive, Tanglewood,
5 mins from Cabarita Beach.

Booking contact: Annie Ridgway,
Lakshmi Sound Healing
0417 242 978

[www.academyofsoundhealing.com/
workshop-courses-australia/level-1-
rhythm-drums-sound-healing-myocum](http://www.academyofsoundhealing.com/workshop-courses-australia/level-1-rhythm-drums-sound-healing-myocum)

seven

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21-27 June, 2023

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Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au

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P: 02 6684 1777

W: echo.net.au/entertainment

7 DAYS OF
ENTERTAINMENT

WIGGLE'S GOT IT IN SIXES

It's time to wiggle in the winter for six hours in a six DJ adventure with local legends – **Dakini, R.I.A., Nick Taylor, Gez & SiClone B2B, Halo & Pob.**

This show is an epic world-class production with **Void sound system**, next level moving head lightshow, projection mapping and lasers c/o **Crystal Grid** and **Spectacle Art**.

Feel free to have some fun with the dress code – **fur & sparkles** – get some Orchid Angles face paint, try some **Discopig** smoking teapot mocktails, check out **Rady J Blackcrab's** live art, hang by the bonfire, and catch up and wiggle with friends.

Winter Wiggle – Solstice Tribe Connect is happening Saturday @ Durrumbul Hall from 6pm til midnight. This is an 18+ event – bring ID if you look young.

Limited tickets \$45 + bf at [Humanitix: events.humanitix.com/winter-wiggle-ddu9immg](https://events.humanitix.com/winter-wiggle-ddu9immg)



BYRON THEATRE

1-3 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
7 TOKYO STORIES | 9 TAJ
FARRANT | 10 S.A.S.H.
15-17 BAKERSFIELD MIST
24 THE TEENY TINY STEVIES
24 THE HONEY SLIDERS
30 YAMA AND OBSESSION

BYRON THEATRE



TICKETS AND INFO:
BYRONTHEATRE.COM

Friends of Libraries, Byron Shire

4 DAY BOOK FAIR!

Fri 30 June - Mon 3 July
9am to 4pm

Byron Bay Surf Club

Ignite Studios
Ballina
Mon 26th June
4.30-6.30pm

Youth Post Floods



Photography
Exhibition

FREE EVENT

For more information
pyiadmin@uniting.org



YOUTH POST-FLOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

The Uniting Church ran a photography competition for young people living in the Northern Rivers. The theme of the competition was 'Youth Post-Floods' with the aim of the competition being to help young people in our community reconnect – to themselves and to the people around them.

Highly acclaimed and local photographers, **Cait Miers** and **Duncan Macfarlane**, judged the entries, and the winners will be announced at an exhibition on **Monday 26 June**, from **4.30pm to 6.30pm** at **Ignite Studios** in Ballina where photographs taken by the finalists and winners will be on display.

Everyone is welcome to attend the exhibition, enjoy some delicious mocktails and nibbles, and view some up-and-coming young local talent.

PHOTO DAVID LOWE



DERIVES

MUSIC WITH A SPICY EDGE

Jesse Witney was one of those young kids you see on groovy parents' shoulders at festivals. His family has a strong musical pedigree, with both his parents being musicians, as well as festival producers of the Imbil Folk Festival for over 15 years. His older brother Matty Witney, who he performed with in The Brothers Witney, is currently a Chicago resident musician.

Jesse started singing at an early age, with an obvious talent. At 13 years he picked up a bass guitar and helped form the punk band, Better than Britney. By 16 years old he was winning music competitions, including the George Hoya Tribute Award, and getting a name for himself in the surf-music scene. He moved to Lismore to study guitar performance at Southern Cross University with Jim Kelly.

One day, Doug de Vries, the leading exponent of Brazilian guitar in Australia, gave a lecture about Brazilian guitar music and 'a light came on' for Jesse. He began to study Brazilian music with a passion. By the age of 20 he had learned the language and by 21 he was in Brazil, gigging as much as possible across the country and recording with a plethora of Brazilian talents, including producer Marcelo Müller.

His deep appreciation of and immersion into, the Brazilian tradition has been a constant in his musical journey, and infuses his music with a spicy edge.

You can see Jesse on Sunday at The Rails.



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That means your dollars go further when you support BayFM with a donation. And believe us, every dollar helps keep us on air.

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So we win – but you win too!

To help us out, go to bayfm.org/donate or scan this QR code



You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.

Maya Angelou



ALL THE FUN OF THE BOOK FAIR

Friends of Libraries Byron Shire have announced their annual **Book Fair** for 2023, which once again covers four huge days. This outstanding event attracts both regional and interstate book lovers with over 15,000 secondhand books, magazines, and CDs on sale. As usual there is plenty to choose from, all donated and in excellent condition. This collection offers a rare chance to find gems from many categories. Be it fiction, children's, art, coffee table, history, cooking, or rare and old editions.

Friends of Libraries are a not-for-profit organisation that tirelessly raises funds to support the Byron Bay, Brunswick and Mullumbimby libraries. The Book Fair is definitely the major fundraiser for the year. The funds raised go towards purchasing new books, supporting special programs and events, and also supplying much needed equipment and capital improvement.

The Byron Bay Surf Club has generously supported the Book Fair since 2015. This historic venue has very much contributed to the Book Fair's ongoing success in raising much needed funds.

The annual Book Fair has become a landmark event for the year and is extremely popular with all ages.

Libraries of Byron Shire Book Fair, Friday 30 June to Monday 3 July, from 9am to 4pm at the Byron Bay Surf Club.



GIG GUIDE

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



WEDNESDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

THURSDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL OKELL DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BYRON BAY HIGH SCHOOL 7PM **BYRON HIGH YEAR 11 DRAMA - STORIES IN THE DARK**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROD MURRAY - A TRIBUTE TO JAZZ**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **EAST OF WEST**

FRIDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 8PM **FELICITY LAWLESS**, 10PM **DJ MY HAPPY PLACE**
- BYRON BAY HIGH SCHOOL 7PM **BYRON HIGH YEAR 11 DRAMA - STORIES IN THE DARK**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **DEMI CASHA, SALT & STEEL**, **SIERRA HOTEL**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **SAMUEL BUCKLEY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7PM **MULLUM FOLK ORCHESTRA W/ SPECIAL GUEST ARTE GITAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- OCEAN SHORES COMMUNITY CENTRE 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUMBIMBY WITH DJ LO QI**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ BALA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **BALCONY BEATS**, 8.30PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **MATT BUGGY**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **THE DIRTY CHANNEL**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, **JOCK BARNES**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **WATTY THOMPSON AND THE TOTAL FIRE BAND**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **LEGLESS LIZARDS**, 8PM **DJ MAGNUS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 6.30PM **CREEKFEST - CHUTNEY, THE COLLIFLOWERS, SHAG ROCK & DJ COREY HOTLINE**

SATURDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3.30PM **TYLER HAMILL**, 6.30PM **KANE MUIR DUO**, 7PM **DJ WAX ADDICTS, DJ YAZMIN, DJ FAUV SCOTT, DJ JAMIE LOWE**, 8.30PM **DJ SOPHDEXX**
- BYRON THEATRE 10.30AM **TEENY TINY STEVIES**, 8.30PM **THE HONEY SLIDERS PLAY NEIL YOUNG**
- LONE GOAT GALLERY, BYRON BAY, 2PM **ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION ANTHONY J. WALKER AND ROBERT APPO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **GIRL & GIRL**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **ABE STEWART**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 2PM **BENNY O'DWYER**, 7PM **UNCLE BOB DUO**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS MEMORIAL HALL 5.45PM **BYRON KIRTAN WITH GUESTS EDO + SUDANSHU SHARMA**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ ROB SYDNEY**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **TIN PARLOUR**
- DURRUMBUL HALL 6PM **WINTER WIGGLE - SOLSTICE TRIBE CONNECT**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **RICHIE WILLIAMS DUO**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, **DONNY SHADES**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7PM **'DISCO' WITH DJ THE WHO'S WHO**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 8PM **DJ NAT WHITE**, 8.15PM **EGGS FOR BREAKFAST**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **JADE STODDARD**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BLACKBOI**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, **SHMONE**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 2PM **CREEKFEST - GREER SULLIVAN, JOSH LEE HAMILTON, BIRREN, ALIVAN BLU, GEORGIA HOWREAU, BUTTERED, ASH GRUNWALD, DJ VICES**

SUNDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JESSE WHITNEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1.30PM **INO PIO DUO**, 4.30PM **EPIC**
- BYRON THEATRE 5PM **THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT - HANDBOOK LAUNCH**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **IS MAN KIND**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 3PM **SOULFUL SPEED DATING - TONY & THE THIEF**
- CLUB LENNOX 3PM **HARRY NICHOLS DUO**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, **THE JACKS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 9.30AM **STUKULELE'S 'STRUM 'N' SING'**, 2.30PM **BLUES CLUB - TROMBONE KELLIE GANG AND GUY KACHEL**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 3PM **THE BATTLE OF THE HORN BANDS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **SLIM PICKENS**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **BRUCE WORRALL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 4PM **HAYDEN ASHTON**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 8PM **SETH SENTRY**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 12.30PM **CREEKFEST - AMY JOHN ROBERTS, SAM, MCGOVERN, SUNNY LUKE, DUSTY BOOTS, TIJUANA CARTEL, STEPH STRING, SONS OF THE EAST**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM **FAT ALBERT**

MONDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS FISHER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ANDY JANS BROWN**, 8PM **SHMONE**
- IGNITE STUDIOS, BALLINA, 4.30PM **'YOUTH POST FLOODS' PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION EXHIBITION**

TUESDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PHIL & TILLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**, 8PM **DUDU MARTINS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **SHMONE**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**

WEDNESDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE MAJESTIC NIGHTS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **PABLO LAVERDE**, 8PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **ROD PAPP**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **FACING UP**



ELEMENTAL MY DEARS

Set in a world inhabited by anthropomorphic elements of nature, *Elemental* is a great PG rated Romeo and Juliet trope where fire element Ember Lumen and water element Wade Ripple (see what they did there?) meet and fall in love...

When flammably named fire elements Bernie (Ronnie del Carmen) and Cinder (Shila Ommi) Lumen immigrate to Element City, they face xenophobia from other elements and struggle to find a home. They and their daughter, our 'Juliet', Ember, eventually establish a convenience store called the Fireplace, setting up a Blue Flame that represents their heritage and traditions and attracting many fire element patrons over time.

Ember dreams of taking over the business once Bernie retires, but must first control her fiery temper. When Bernie allows Ember to run the shop on her own, she becomes overwhelmed by

the customers and rushes to the basement where her fiery outburst breaks a water pipe, flooding the basement and summoning 'Romeo' Wade Ripple, a water element health inspector. Wade hesitantly notes the faulty plumbing and leaves for City Hall to report the violation to his air element employer, Gale Cumulus, (yes the puns go on and on) who will promptly shut down the Fireplace.

Ember pursues Wade, but will it be too late? Will Gale help the soon-to-be love birds? Will Bernie and Cinder let true love prevail? Will things get steamy between Ember and Wade? That's PG rated steam of course.

The school holidays are almost upon us - this is a definite treat for the kids!

See Elemental at Ballina Fair Cinema and Palace Cinema Byron Bay.

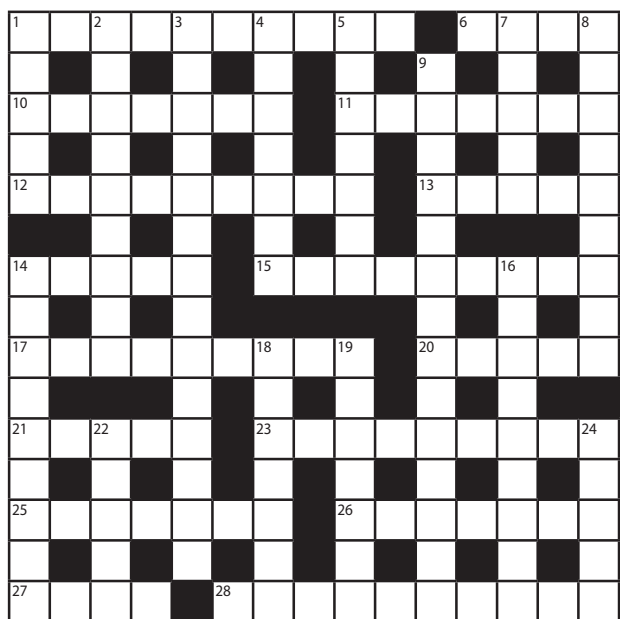
PALACE CINEMAS Session Times

Thurs 22 June - Wed 28 June

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG)	Daily: 11:30am, 4:00pm, 6:10pm, 8:20pm
IN FOCUS: THE FRENCH DISPATCH (M) Wed: Anderson Retrospective Thu: 7:00pm	Thu: 11am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm Fri/Sat/Mon/Tue: 11:00am, 1:20pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm Sun: 11am, 4:15pm, 7:00pm Wed: 4:15pm, 7:00pm	Daily excl. Wed: 11:20am
GRATEFUL DEAD MEET UP 2023 (PG) Thu: 7:00pm	INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY (M) Wed: 11am, 1:20pm, 3:50pm, 8pm Grand Opening Event - 7pm	ONE FINE MORNING (MA15+) Daily excl. Wed: 11:20am
ROYAL BALLET: THE SLEEPING BEAUTY (CTC) Sun: 1:00pm Wed: 11:00am	THE LITTLE MERMAID (PG) Daily excl. Wed: 11:30am, 1:40pm, 3:50pm, 6:30pm Wed: 11:00am, 1:10pm	RED, WHITE & BRASS (PG) (NFT) Daily excl. Sun: 11:30am, 4:10pm, 6:00pm Sun: 11am, 1:45pm, 7:00pm
FAMILY FILMS CATS IN THE MUSEUM (G) Daily: 11:15am, 2:20pm (NFT)	ALL FILMS DRIVING MADELEINE (MA15+) (NFT) Daily excl. Thu: 4pm, 6pm Thu: 4:00pm, 8:00pm	THE FLASH (M) (NFT) Daily: 1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:15pm (Wed = no 1:30pm)
ELEMENTAL (PG) (NFT) Daily: 11:00am, 1:20pm, 3:40pm	ROYAL BALLET: THE SLEEPING BEAUTY (CTC) Sun: 1:00pm Wed: 11:00am	THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY (M) Daily excl. Sun: 11:10am, 1:45pm Sun: 11:10pm
	FAST X (M) Daily excl. Thu/Sun: 8:00pm	TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS (M) (NFT) Daily: 1:45, 4:20, 6pm, 7pm
	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 (M) Daily excl. Thu/Wed: 8:00pm	YOU HURT MY FEELINGS (MA15+) Daily: 1:45pm, 8:30pm
	NO HARD FEELINGS (MA15+) (NFT)	

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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 June 22 nd to Wednesday June 28 th							ballinafaircinemas.com.au
Stud/Conc: \$13	3D Surcharge \$3	JUNE	THU 22 ND	FRI 23 RD	SAT 24 TH	SUN 25 TH	MON 26 TH	TUE 27 TH	WED 28 TH
Senior: \$12		ELEMENTAL PG 109 MIN	10:10 AM 1:40 PM 6:15 PM	10:10 AM 1:40 PM 6:15 PM	10:10 AM 1:40 PM 6:15 PM	10:10 AM 1:40 PM 6:15 PM	10:10 AM 1:40 PM 6:15 PM	10:10 AM 1:40 PM 6:15 PM	10:10 AM 1:40 PM 6:15 PM
Child: \$11		INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY M 154 MIN							10:05 AM 4:55 PM 7:40 PM
		JOHN FARNHAM: FINDING THE VOICE M 95 MIN	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
		NO HARD FEELINGS MA15+ 103 MIN	11:45 AM 5:45 PM 8:15 PM	11:45 AM 5:45 PM 8:15 PM	11:45 AM 5:45 PM 8:15 PM	11:45 AM 5:45 PM 8:15 PM	11:45 AM 5:45 PM 8:15 PM	11:45 AM 5:45 PM 8:15 PM	11:45 AM 5:45 PM 8:15 PM
		SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 140 MIN	12:50 PM 4:55 PM	12:50 PM 4:55 PM	12:50 PM 4:55 PM	12:50 PM 4:55 PM	12:50 PM 4:55 PM	12:50 PM 4:55 PM	12:50 PM
		THE FLASH M 144 MIN	10:15 AM 3:40 PM 7:30 PM	10:15 AM 3:40 PM 7:30 PM	10:15 AM 3:40 PM 7:30 PM	10:15 AM 3:40 PM 7:30 PM	10:15 AM 3:40 PM 7:30 PM	10:15 AM 3:40 PM 7:30 PM	3:40 PM
		THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 135 MIN	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM
		TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS M 127 MIN	12:10 PM 3:25 PM 7:45 PM	12:10 PM 3:25 PM 7:45 PM	12:10 PM 3:25 PM 7:45 PM	12:10 PM 3:25 PM 7:45 PM	12:10 PM 3:25 PM 7:45 PM	12:10 PM 3:25 PM 7:45 PM	12:10 PM 3:25 PM 7:45 PM



Cryptic Clues

- ACROSS**
- Surprise audits – observe, and tell Franz Kafka and Bedrich Smetana (4,6)
 - Search, report to Punjabi (4)
 - Frequently mixed for teen (7)
 - Puzzle minus? (7)
 - Computer device, back part – they say if you build a better one, the world will come to your door! (9)
 - Sense refinement (5)
 - Alternative piece of circuit (5)
 - Psychological ploys to look after sports (4,5)
 - An actor for every ex-lover (9)
 - Playboys in the garden (5)
 - Clumsily name a purge (5)
 - A sound of contempt for a fruit (9)
 - Cap account for varnish (7)
 - Propositional term, strange around unlikely tale (7)
 - Confuse periods of time (4)
 - Scams, theft, criminal collusion (10)
- DOWN**
- Tumult for Melbourne NRL team (5)
 - Unconscious and the one who causes it to muster superior forces (9)
 - Nunnery charge over mate, according to traditional custom (14)
 - Dull hesitation, complained Spooner – he could hear through it (7)
 - And he added: penalise the family – the top man (7)
 - Runs the motor out of gear – they call them heroes! (5)
 - Entertain chicane bends on aeroplanes? (9)
 - Fiercely grab Italian aid for the wife of the great Italian general (5,9)
 - Holds down to work on printing machinery (9)
 - At a Kmart a jumbled Indigenous treaty (9)
 - Instant resistance over firm rising and falling in North West Africa (7)
 - Again changes types of holiday destinations (7)
 - Antagonist in war-torn Yemen (5)
 - Wise, they say, to include confused mum – delicious! (5)

Quick Clues

- ACROSS**
- Skin cancer examinations (4,6)
 - Member of one of the Indian religions (4)
 - More commonly (7)
 - Bemuse (7)
 - Rodent catcher (9)
 - Flavour (5)
 - Planetary path (5)
 - Tactics used to manipulate or deceive (4,5)
 - Entertainer (9)
 - Smooths the ground prior to planting (5)
 - Colonic irrigation (5)
 - Bronx cheer; snort (9)
 - Resin secreted by a beetle (7)
 - One of the objects between which a relation is said to hold (7)
 - 24-hour periods (4)
 - Plot; intrigue (10)
- DOWN**
- Tempest (5)
 - Exceed (9)
 - As a matter of course; routinely (14)
 - Tympanic membrane (7)
 - Bigwig (7)
 - Does nothing (5)
 - They entertain guests (9)
 - The wife of the great Italian general (5,9)
 - Persecuted (9)
 - Commission proposed in the Uluru Statement (9)
 - North African country (7)
 - Turns to for assistance (7)
 - Foe (5)
 - Luscious (5)

DOWN

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- Foe (5)
- Luscious (5)

Last week's solution #495



YES

I will be voting 'Yes' at the referendum on a Voice to Parliament.

I cannot comprehend waking up in a country that has said 'No' to the Voice. A country of over 96 per cent non-Indigenous people who have told this country's original people that they do not recognise them as First Peoples who walked and cared for Country for over 60, 000 years.

I cannot imagine the pain of those racist wounds being reopened, of the mandate of white voice being seen as the all-encompassing elixir of cultural dilution. I cannot imagine the pain for those elders who were taken from their parents, as they are taken again – this time by the rest of us. I cannot imagine the shame to be the only Commonwealth country who hasn't signed a treaty with its Indigenous people. I cannot bear the thought that the first step towards Treaty in this current political process – the Voice – would be gone.

That's why I believe every non-Indigenous Australian needs to vote 'Yes'. It is about recognition and agency for Indigenous Australians, for non-Indigenous people like myself it's the least I can do to right the racist wrongs. It's how I can take responsibility for what happened in this country, and what continues to happen: overrepresentation in our prison system and in poverty statistics; poorer health outcomes and lower life expectancy. The political system that allows policy makers to legislate without input and insight directly from Indigenous communities continues to retraumatise and criminalise Indigenous Australians. It's not fair. And as a country that leans solidly into the concept of fairness, 'Yes' is the fairest solution.

The majority of Indigenous Australians support the Voice, 83 per cent in fact. The idea was created in 2017 by thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, from a range of perspectives, and became the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. It states 'We seek reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.'

The generosity of that statement reminds us that this is a process, a kind of restorative justice that returns self-determination to Indigenous Australians, and a framework for our system – and for non-Indigenous Australians – to address the harms of colonisation and move towards healing our nation.

MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



I am cognisant that there are some voices within the Indigenous community that are saying 'No' or are unsure. Around 17 per cent. It's part of a conversation that is both radical and nuanced. That conversation does not belong to non-Indigenous Australia. It is an important ongoing discussion within Aboriginal communities. But thanks to the Murdoch media, that conversation has been colonised to push Dutton's racist agenda; an ex-cop who wants to keep his boot on the neck of Indigenous Australia (metaphorically speaking of course).

Like the 'Yes' vote for the same sex marriage plebiscite, the Voice will profoundly impact the people for whom it is intended and have little to no impact on the lives of people it isn't designed for. That means non-Indigenous people's lives won't be adversely affected by Indigenous recognition. In fact, it's quite the opposite – our lives will be enriched.

Thomas Mayo and Kerry O'Brien have created a book called *Voice to Parliament* – and I recommend reading it. While disinformation is off and running it's important to come back to what we are actually talking about.

The Voice isn't about unequal treatment. 'Its sole purpose is to decide whether to write into our national rule book – the Constitution – that because of their occupation of the continent as a continuous civilisation for over 60, 000 years and because of the deep injustice of their colonial dispossession, Indigenous peoples have a right to be heard through a Voice to national Parliament.' (Mayo & O'Brien)

It's about being recognised and having a say in legislation and policy that impacts Indigenous people. We've seen what bad policy does: Stolen Generations, the 2007 Aboriginal Intervention, the 544 Aboriginal deaths in custody since the Royal Commission.

A referendum must approve a change with a nationwide majority, as well as majorities in at least four of six states. This requirement of a 'double majority', plus Australians' inherent constitutional conservatism, has meant that only eight of 44 proposed changes have been successful since 1901. The most successful referendum in our history, however, was in 1967 with an affirmative vote of 93 per cent that empowered government to make laws in respect of Indigenous people in an attempt to address inequalities.

Now Indigenous Australians would like a say in those laws. If you are a non-Indigenous Australian, I ask that when you see this referendum statement:

'A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Do you approve this proposed alteration?' That you please vote 'Yes', because in the end, in the greatest irony of all, it will be non-Indigenous Australians who decide if our Indigenous community has a Voice.

If you want to be part of the 'Yes' campaign – sign up on yes23.com.au and choose Richmond.

STARS BY LILITH

With its briefest appearance in 2023 at winter solstice, this week's Sun shines its happy birthday light on the Crab clan...



CANCER THE CRAB

ARIES: Mercury's in the sign of over-sharing, but this week's sensitive Sun cycle definitely favours the micro dose approach, so rein in the urge for those 'full Monty' TMI responses, and you'll be glad you did. Trust your gut instincts and rely on your emotional intelligence when decision-making.

TAURUS: If certain things come to their natural conclusion at this week's winter solstice because it's their time, remember that life is fluid and there are always options. No matter how often doors close, don't try to reopen old ones. Keep moving, and you're likely to find that life is actually working in your favor.

GEMINI: Use this final week of efficient, clear-thinking Mercury in your sign to take care of business, stop procrastinating and decide what you need to do while the astral force is with you, and do it before this year's outer planetary back-peddaling starts up. Do it now, don't put it off. Is that clear enough?

CANCER: Welcome to the Sun moving into your home-loving sign to announce this year's Cancerian season for quality nesting, guesing, resting and hosting cosy gatherings with heart-to-heart, bonding conversations, and lashings of comfort tucker as you power down in the Crab cave for your month of being loved up.

LEO: Your sign's ruling planet, the radiant warmth-giving Sun, is at its farthest point away from Earth this week. Which is all the more reason to shine your love and courage even brighter; the courage that it takes to get up on stage and show the world how to celebrate life.

VIRGO: No matter what your communication style, this week's Mercury in Gemini has the capacity to enhance it to its most articulate and eloquent expression, especially during weekend Virgo moon. But it comes with a call to check your internal dialogue; are your thoughts being kind to you? Could they be more loving?

LIBRA: The position of this week's planetary transits suggests that it's time to step back and take a break – a pause to rest and repair; to reinforce your commitment to self-care; to ask yourself, 'is this really worth expending cortisol on?'. Take time to break down important decisions into manageable steps.

SCORPIO: At the half-way point of 2023, the shortest day and longest night of the year, the negative expression of this week's Mars and Venus might act like an arrogant, entitled drama queen. And the positive expression of this week's Mars and Venus will feel like love, warmth, joy, generosity and courageous behaviour.

SAGITTARIUS: This week's astro advice comes via recently departed Sagittarian, Tina Turner: 'We always have a choice, even if it feels as if we don't. Sometimes that choice may simply be to think a more positive thought. If a negative thought arose, I'd repeat a positive one eight times in a row to counteract it.'

CAPRICORN: Planet Pluto revisiting your sign asks 'What do you want to do differently in the next 20 years of your life?'. Give yourself permission to not know the answers or perfect responses right away. Let your ideas and desires marinate. Clarity is more likely to arrive with time, not urgency.

AQUARIUS: Every change of circumstance is an opportunity for something better if you can leave behind prior expectations and reframe your perspective. This week's astral activity poses the question: What would you most like to do with your gifts? And how can you put your versatile skills to the best use?

PISCES: The value of planetary retrogrades goes something like this; with Saturn retrograde in your sign, try just stopping in the middle of a daily routine you do on autopilot and taking notice of your surroundings, your feelings, things you wouldn't normally have noticed otherwise. What's the message waiting for you?



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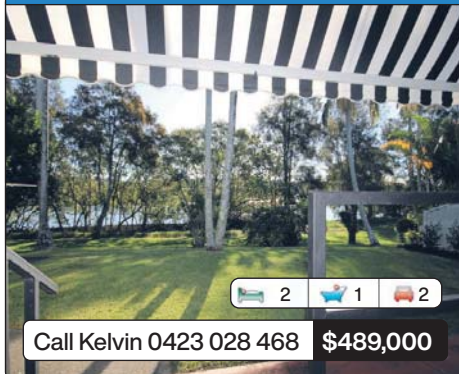
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But words are things, and a small drop of ink,

Falling like dew, upon a thought, produces

That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think...

- Lord Byron

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Don't miss your chance to secure this exceptional hinterland acreage property, now on offer after being held tightly by one family for over half a century and passed down from one generation to the next. This rare and unique estate offers the ultimate in country living, consisting of 18.8 acres of prime rural land, over 300 metres of river frontage, 3 dwellings, a farm/machinery shed and the opportunity to build your own dream hinterland estate.

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Jason And Barbara Ward
0424 731 063
wardteam@amirprestige.com.au

amirprestige.com.au





Private, Secluded Townhouse Adjoining Reserve

- Three bedroom townhouse adjoining lush bushland reserve, with beautifully landscaped courtyards on three sides, including a professionally landscaped Japanese water garden
- The ground floor living area flows from a large private front courtyard through light, airy indoor living
- Upstairs, two large double bedrooms open onto a north facing balcony flooding both rooms with natural light. The third bedroom includes a treehouse view of the adjacent nature reserve
- Immaculately presented, spacious and conveniently located a short stroll to the beach and local Suffolk Park shopping center

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 car

17/58 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park

Price Guide: Contact Agent

Open: Saturday 24th June 11:00-11:30am



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



Character Queenslander located in Federal Village

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 4 cars, 1526M²

- Panoramic rural views, offering the tranquillity of a private retreat with the convenience and community of village living
- Turnkey ready with plenty of development potential
- Generous main living space, with an open plan living, dining and kitchen
- Large verandah on two sides of the property allows you to take full advantage of the spectacular hinterland views to the North and East

2 Coachwood Court, Federal

Online Auction: Thursday 27th July 2:00pm

Starting Bid: \$950,000

Opens: Friday 23rd June 2:00-2:30pm

Saturday 24th June 11:00-11:30am



Scan QR code to make a bid on our secure selling platform or register to follow this property



Paul Prior
0418 324 297



Sally Green
0488 030 116



Casa Luminosa – Private Hinterland Escape with Ocean Glimpses

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, 1.59HA

- A private sanctuary situated in the picturesque hinterland on established grounds with ocean glimpses
- Original farmhouse has been extensively renovated and thoughtfully designed with a blend of original and modernist architectural finishes
- An entertainers dream with a spacious, poolside entertaining deck with views of the luxe infinity pool and mountain ridges
- The spacious floorplan offers a large living room with fireplace and reading nook

832 Federal Drive, Goonengerry

Price Guide: Contact Agent

Open: By appointment



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Charming Barn Style Five Bedroom Home in Picturesque Hinterland Location

- The charming wood and iron property has breathtaking views of rolling hills and a myriad of entertaining and relaxation areas to choose from
- Featured are grand full-height ceilings and the open plan design provides versatility and the freedom to make the space your own
- To the rear of the property is a generous covered verandah, which overlooks a stunning ten metre pool and uninterrupted hinterland views
- This is a grand 5 bedroom home with additional outbuilding/studio

5 bedrooms 3 bathrooms 5 cars 9357M²

45 Myocum Ridge Road, Myocum

Price Guide: Contact Agent

Open: Saturday, 24th June 10-10.30am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



Mediterranean Inspired Beachside Home

5 bedrooms 3 bathrooms 2 cars 550M²

- With a Mediterranean-inspired design and less than 200m to the beach, this is the perfect place to experience a slower pace of life
- There is a combined living and modern kitchen adjoins a dedicated dining space
- The main bedroom features an ensuite and a large deck which backs onto Arakwal National Park with paths through to the Ti-Tree Lake and Broken Head
- An added bonus to this property is a beautifully designed one-bedroom freestanding studio offering additional space for guests

30 MacGregor Street, Suffolk Park

Price Guide: Contact Agent

Open: Saturday 24th June 11:30am-12:00pm



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



Yarraga – Heavenly Historic Sanctuary in the Byron Hinterland

6 bedrooms 5 bathrooms 2 cars 34.02HA

- Spread over 84 gently sloping acres populated with exquisite seasonal gardens, this original and pristine 1907 homestead enjoys absolute privacy and serenity
- Soaring 13 foot ceilings, stained glass windows, ornate fretwork, hardwood floors and wide decks
- Impressive pool and European pergola covered in vibrant wisteria
- Stunning established gardens and an income producing macadamia orchard

388 Repentance Creek Road, Federal

Price Guide: Expressions of Interest

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- 413 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 1-1.30pm
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- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Fri 1-1.30pm
- 2 Coachwood Court, Federal. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3+4/75 Stewart Street, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 18 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 20 Tincogan Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 45 Myocum Ridge Road, Myocum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 48 Massinger Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 64 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 17/58 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2 Coachwood Court, Federal. Sat 11-11.30am
- 73 Lagoon Drive, Myocum. Sat 11-11.30am
- 30 MacGregor Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 26 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 38 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 41 Bottlebrush Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 1.15-1.45pm

Mana Re

- 72 Bonnydoon Road, Uki. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 72 Bonnydoon Road, Uki. Sat 11.30am-12.30pm
- 1/6 Boondoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/6 Boondoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 66 Castle Field Drive, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 46 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 86 Castle Field Drive, Murwillumbah. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 15 Natan Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4 Jarrah Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 8 Redgate Road, South Golden beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 10 Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2 Clifford Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm

Byron Shire Real Estate

- 2 Berrimillah Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 9 Quail Way, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am

Atlas Byron Bay

- 2/30 Brandon St Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 496 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 11-11.45am

Ruth Russell Realty

- 54 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 8 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
 - 32 Kolora Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
 - 3/72 Harbour Way, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
 - 2/38 Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 40 Byangum Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 2-2.30pm

Century 21

- 2/15a Shores Drive, Yamba. Sat 10-10.30am
- 29 Palmvale Drive, Goonellabah. Sat 12-12.30pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 4-6 George Street, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 25 Kings Road, Nashua. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1 Flatley Drive, Clunes. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 447 Eltham Road, Eltham. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 146 Cameron Road, Mcleans Ridges. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 968 Dunoon Road, Modanville. Sat 1.45-2.15pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 2/3 Jackwood Court, Suffolk Park. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 20 Wallaby Close, Ewingsdale. Sat 9-9.30am
- 680 Cawongla Road, Larnook. Sat 9.30-10 am
- 5/111 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/3 Jackwood Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 5/174 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 38 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 10 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45-12.15pm
- 58A Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.45-12.15pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 11/183-205 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Wed 3-3.30pm
- 4 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Wed 4.30-5pm
- 11/183-205 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 65 Currawong Way, Ewingsdale. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 13 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Mullumbimby

- 414 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 2/1 Peninsula Street, Hastings Point. Sat 9-9.30am
- 6/20 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 11 Waranga Crescent, Burringbar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 6 Waranga Crescent, Burringbar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 34 Gloria St, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm

New listings

First National Byron Bay

- 64 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay
- 2 Coachwood Court, Federal
- 18 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay

McGrath Byron Bay

- 6 Giaour Street, Byron Bay. Contact Agent

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Mullumbimby

- 59 Dry Creek Road, Upper Main Arm. \$800,000-\$850,000
- Lot 207, Tallowood Ridge Estate, Mullumbimby. \$480-\$520,000
- 414 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Contact Agent
- 3 Argyle Street Mullumbimby. \$850,000-\$935,000

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 2/1 Peninsula Street, Hastings Point. Contact Agent
- 2 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. \$1,025,000
- 34 Gloria St, South Golden Beach. \$1,290,000-\$1,320,000
- 2 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores. \$1,250,000
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Contact Agent
- 6 Waranga Crescent, Burringbar. Contact Agent
- 11 Waranga Crescent, Burringbar. Contact Agent

Auctions

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- 11/183-205 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Frid 30 June 2pm onsite

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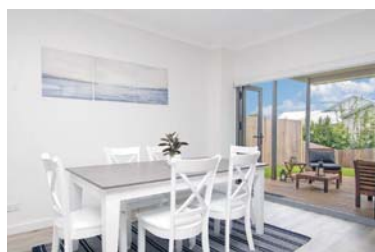
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Monday 26th June

- Welding Introduction
- Self-Publishing Overview
- Sushi For Beginners

Thursday 29th June

- Excel As A Database

Saturday 1st July

- Painting With Natural Pigments
- Natural Building Introduction

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BIRTHDAYS



Happy 7th Birthday **Marli Luna**

Happy Birthday!

to the legendary comedian, ukulele player, and Echo stalwart, **Brian Mollet**



DEATH NOTICES

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN (1946-2023)

Passed away peacefully at Byron Bay Hospital after a short illness. He will be greatly missed by his loving family, wife Sonia, son Benjamin, daughter Ellie, brother Sam, sister Eva, sister-in-law Lesley, brother-in-law Ed and grandchildren Mason, Rocco & Yindy.

BRIMSON, Mary Ethel (May)

Passed peacefully on June 15th, aged 97. Reunited with her beloved husband, Fred.

Mum. Nan. Aunt. Friend.

Forever missed and forever cherished.

We will gather for a celebration of her life at a later date.

FUNERAL NOTICES

McSPEDDEN, Valerie May 'Val'

Passed away suddenly. Late of Mullumbimby and formerly of Taree. Adored mother and mother-in-law of Mark & Shell, Kym & John and Chriss. Loved sister to Lyn, Joy, Fred (dec), Rob and Sue. Loved Mar to Lee, Sarah, Jamie-Lee, Jonty, Jacinta, Kyla-Jay, Alicia; Layne and Chase.


Val will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Aged 79 years

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a funeral service to be held at the Eastgate Church, 20 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay on THURSDAY (22nd June, 2023) commencing at 1.00 pm.

Michael Currie at
BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
6684 6232

IN MEMORIAM



MOTT David. 'Motty'

Aged 52 years

Devoted father, cherished son, and beloved brother, to their families and all those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with him.

'You left a lasting impression on everyone you met, with your endless positivity and easy-going nature. You will be missed!'

Family and friends are invited to attend a celebration of Dave's life to be held at Mullumbimby Showgrounds on MONDAY (26 June, 2023) commencing at 10.30am.

Michael Currie at
BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
6684 6232

IN MEMORIAM



RONALD SWINBOURNE
10/10/1927-21/6/2012

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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: 95301006015037



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MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0406 724 323
1st SUN Byron Bay	6685 6807
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333
2nd SAT Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498
2nd SAT Woodburn	0439 489 631
2nd SAT Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159
2nd SUN The Channon	6688 6433
2nd SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN Coolangatta	
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	6684 3370
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT Evans Head	0439 489 631
4th SAT Wilsons Creek	6684 0299
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN Bangalow	6687 1911
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
4th SUN (in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta	
5th SAT Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498
5th SUN Nimbin	0458 506 000
5th SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE New Brighton	0424 168 672
Each TUE Organic Lismore	6628 1084
Each WED 7-11am M'bah	6684 7834
Each WED 3-6pm Nimbin	0475 135 764
Each WED 4-7pm Newrybar Hall	
Each THU 8-11am Byron	6687 1137
Each THU 2.30-6.30pm Lismore	0450 688 900
Each FRI 7-11am Mullum	0424 168 672
Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow	6687 1137
Each SAT 8-11am Duranbah Rd (Tropical Fruit World)	
Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki	6679 5530
Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore	
Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob	
Each SUN 7-11am Ballina	0493 102 137


The Echo updates this guide regularly, however sometimes markets change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch if you want to advise us of a change.

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (June/July)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
21	W	6:38 16:57	9:05 19:30	1006 1.13 2238 1.71	0441 0.49 1534 0.45
22	TH	6:38 16:57	9:44 20:26	1046 1.12 2315 1.66	0517 0.51 1615 0.50
23	F	6:38 16:57	10:18 21:21	1130 1.12 2354 1.60	0556 0.52 1700 0.56
24	SA	6:38 16:57	10:48 22:15	1221 1.12	0637 0.53 1750 0.63
25	SU	6:39 16:58	11:16 23:08	0036 1.53 1321 1.15	0721 0.53 1849 0.69
26	M	6:39 16:58	11:43 23:58	0121 1.45 1427 1.20	0806 0.52 1959 0.74
27	TU	6:39 16:58	12:11 0:01	0213 1.38 1531 1.29	0852 0.49 2113 0.75
28	W	6:39 16:59	12:40 0:56	0309 1.32 1630 1.40	0937 0.46 2226 0.71
29	TH	6:39 16:59	13:12 1:53	0407 1.28 1721 1.53	1021 0.41 2333 0.64
30	F	6:39 16:59	13:50 2:55	0504 1.25 1811 1.67	1106 0.36
1	SA	6:39 17:00	14:35 4:00	0601 1.23 1900 1.79	0033 0.55 1151 0.31
2	SU	6:39 17:00	15:29 5:09	0657 1.23 1948 1.89	0128 0.46 1238 0.26
3	M	6:39 17:00	16:32 6:17	0750 1.23 2038 1.96	0220 0.37 1327 0.22
4	TU	6:39 17:01	17:43 7:21	0844 1.24 2127 2.00	0311 0.31 1417 0.21
5	W	6:39 17:01	18:56 8:18	0937 1.25 2215 1.99	0400 0.28 1508 0.22

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

COLES, GORDON HAROLD
08. 09. 1924 ~ 13. 06. 2023



Formerly of Coorabell Scenic Drive for over 94 years, late of Byron Bay. Carrier and farmer who loved to dance and enjoyed many happy hours over a cup of tea and a chat. A man devoted to his family and community. Dearly beloved husband of Ellen 'Nell' Coles - nee Bottrell (dec). Son of Percy and Elizabeth (both dec). Father of Pamela, Nola, June, Jeffrey (dec), Susan and Harvey (dec). Grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Gordon's Funeral Service to be held at All Souls Anglican Church, Ashton Street, Bangalow on THURSDAY (June 22, 2023) commencing at 11.00 am. After the service the cortege will leave for Bangalow Cemetery.

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POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510

Mullumbimby 6629 7570

Byron Bay 6685 9499

Bangalow 6629 7500

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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

Thousands take in Women's Surf Festival

The LEBA Ladybirds have won the U/18s Shortboard division of the inaugural Seas The Day women's surf festival held at Kingscliff Beach last weekend.

The Snapper Rocks Surf Riders Club also had a good weekend winning both the Open Women's Shortboard and the Salty Girls U/12 Mini Shredders division.

LEBA Ladybirds scored the best wave in Open Women's Shortboard but it wasn't enough to overcome Snapper Rocks SRC.

More than 200 women and young girls got into the water for the festival, billed as the world's biggest female participation surf event.

Competitors were surfing for a share of \$50,000 in cash and giveaways.

About 12,000 people attended the festival, according to organisers who are planning to run the event annually.

'Imagine this being your first experience of women's surf competitions. It has been so special. It wasn't like this for all of us who surfed growing up,' said Beth Nevill, whose five-year-old daughter, Ailish, was among those competing.

'It was a very different culture and it's so nice to



LEBA Ladybirds on the podium at the Seas The Day festival: Leihani Kaloha Zoric (L), Rubi Muir and Mia Baker (R). Photo Surfing Australia/ Hannah Jessup

have this. All these boys and families coming down to support the girls. It's just amazing. That's what blows me away.'

The weekend also included a free program of inspiring talks, film screenings and workshops.

'There's so much energy. It's epic. All the girls are really pumped. I was paddling out with a woman who has never surfed a contest. This was her first event and she was so excited,' former world champion Layne Beachley said.

Results

Open Women's Shortboard: Snapper

Rocks SRC 1 (12.17), LEBA Ladybirds (9.77), Kingscliff BRC 2 (8.07) and Kingscliff BRC 1 (6.60).

Open Women's Longboard: Noosa Malibu Club (13.67), Salty Girls Surf (9.20), Girls Boardriders Fraternity (7.93) and Coastal Abode Lady Loggers (5.63).

U18 Women's Shortboard: LEBA Ladybirds (13.40), Alley Kittens (13.07), Snapper Rocks SRC 2 (7.00) and Snapper Rocks SRC 1 (6.06).

Salty Girls U12 Mini Shredders: Snapper Rocks SRC 1 (12.74), Coastal Abode Shredders (10.93), Salty Girls Mini Shredders (7.61) and Byron Bay BRC - Coral Seas (7.60).

WAR too strong for Byron Shire Rebels

Wollongbar-Alstonville Rugby (WAR) have broken away at the top of the Far North Coast first-grade rugby ladder after defeating the Byron Shire Rebels 33-17 last Saturday at the Byron Recreation Grounds.

The home side posted the first points through a penalty, and then had a good run of possession from a strong showing at the scrums. Just before halftime they were awarded a penalty try that gave them a 10-5 lead at the break.

But as WAR got into their rhythm, augmented by a strong reserve bench, they were soon dominating set play and providing plenty of running opportunities to their backline, which was more than prepared to take everything on offer.

The sides traded tries early in the second half but as time went on, and



WAR (red) settled the argument in their favour in first-grade at the Byron Recreation Grounds. Photo Vicki Kerry

the Rebels conceded more penalties, including a sin-binning, WAR achieved the ascendancy. A dominant last 20 minutes and two unanswered tries sealed it for the visitors.

The results were better for the home side in the earlier games where the second-grade Byron Shire side beat WAR 29-7.

The Byron Shire women's 12 side also had their first win

of the season beating Casuarina Beach 19-7.

WAR (37) leads the first-grade table ahead of Byron Shire (30), Casuarina (25) and Ballina (24).

In second grade the Byron Shire are on top with 35 points, ahead of Casuarina (30), WAR (25) and Casino (24).

Next week the Byron Shire return to Shultz Oval in Bangalow to play Lismore.

Send us your sport stories!

We would love to run all kinds of local sport on these pages so please send your photos and stories to sport@echo.net.au.

Red Devils hang on for well-deserved rugby league victory



The Red Devils' defence stayed true and repelled a final 20-minute onslaught from Mullumbimby. Photo Elna Nelson

The Byron Bay Red Devils had enough resolve to hold off a late charge from the Mullumbimby Giants to win their NRRRL first-grade clash 24-22.

The visitors looked in control of the game deep into the second half but a fight back from the Giants saw them score two late tries, and put the home crowd on the edge of their

seats. But gritty defence right into the 80th minute ensured the Red Devils took home the competition points.

Byron Bay also collected the local derby honours in second grade, winning 40-4.

The Giants got their own back in the U/18s, winning 44-12.

The Giants ladies touch side won 26-6, their second win on the trot.

Marcia Crichton wears minor single's crown

Marcia Crichton has claimed the open minor singles championship for 2023 at the Brunswick Head's Women's Bowling Club.

In the final, played on Tuesday June 13, Marcia played a relatively new bowler, Pauline Foster.

Marcia is turning 87 in November and has experience on her side, considering she has been a member of the BHWBC for over 30 years.



Pauline (L) and Marcia played the final of the open minor singles at the BHWBC in perfect sunshine. Photo supplied

She plays bowls at least twice a week, plus every mufti day (the last Sunday of each month) at the club.

'Marcia has tried for many years to win the open minor singles, so was thrilled to do so this year,' the club's publicity officer Kerry Dexter said.

'And Pauline did a great job to bowl her way into the final,' she said.

The club's minor pairs championship will take place this week.

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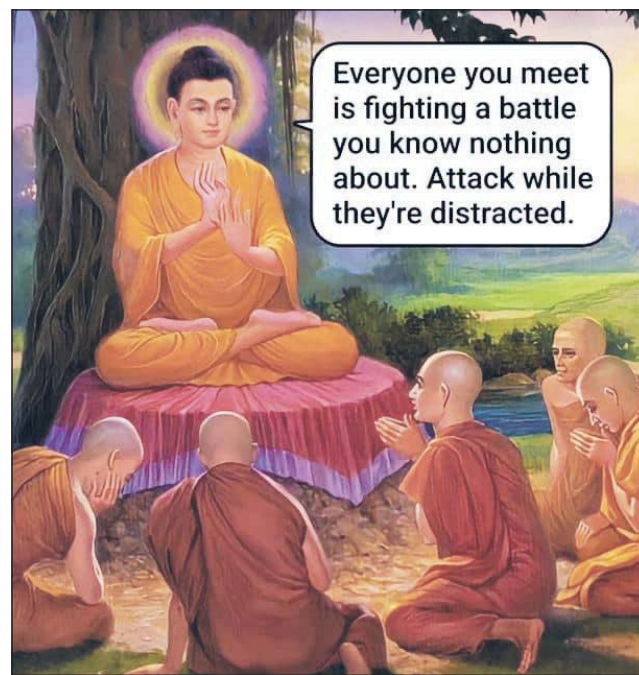
On Sunday, the LOVE sign on Argyle Street, Mullum, will be removed. But don't fret! The Paddock people told *The Echo* that they've raised enough money to replace it with improved materials and design. So watch that space! ■■■■

More accolades for Council staff! Their Butt Free Byron Shire campaign was awarded a Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Award, in the Litter Prevention Category. Zoe White, Council's Resource Recovery Education and Compliance Officer, says key achievements from this campaign included a 72 per cent reduction in cigarette butts, and a 40 per cent reduction in litter volume in the Byron Shire. ■■■■

A new resource for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse has been launched: www.nationalcentre.org.au Organisers say they aim to support and promote strategic research and address knowledge gaps on the issue of child sexual abuse. ■■■■

Now that any social housing reform has been delayed until October owing to a locked federal Senate, how will Labor MPs navigate the next few months? It's unlikely mainstream media will force them to explain their opposition to rent freezes in a housing crisis. Instead, it will be likely more talking points around how the Greens didn't accept Labor's emissions trading scheme in 2009. Have the Green's negotiation skills improved since then? ■■■■

To celebrate Australian Yoga Week, a free event led by local yogi teacher, Bec Isaacs, will be held Thursday, June 22, from 9am till 10am at



No one expects an enlightened inquisition. From the internet

the grassed area, lighthouse side of Byron Surf Club on Main Beach. Organisers say, 'It's been a rough few years for the Northern Rivers community. This free 60 minute practice by the beach is designed to rest our busy minds and find a moment of calm. Open to all ages and all yoga levels.' ■■■■

BreastScreen NSW is providing free breast screening to women to support the early detection of breast cancer, and will be in Mullum until July 13. The mobile van is located at Dalley Street, near the fire station and Cenotaph. An appointment with BreastScreen NSW is free, takes less than 20 minutes and no doctor's referral is needed. ■■■■

Tweet from Professor of Marine Biology at Qld's James Cook University, Terry Hughes, on June 19: 'The Galápagos Islands are cooking... Probably enough to kill most of the remnant corals'. ■■■■

Tweet by Dr Thomas Smith, Assistant Professor in Environmental Geography at the London School of Economics:

'Parts of the North Sea are >6°C warmer than usual for this time of the year. It's probably the most anomalously warm body of water on the planet. There are severe storm warnings in place for much of western Europe'. ■■■■

Photographers based in regional Australia are invited to enter a new comp with the theme of celebrating and preserving contemporary photography from the bush. The inaugural Galah Regional Photography Prize is 'the largest prize of its kind with a total prize pool of \$27,500'. Organisers say the prize will be judged by Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre director Susi Muddiman OAM, along with photographic media artist Tamara Dean. Visit www.galahpress.com for more information.

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